



North Carolina Wetland Assessment Method (NC WAM) and Training Course

September 19-22, 2023



Class Location:

Class taught in the first-floor auditorium of the NCDOT Highway Building at 1 South Wilmington Street across the street from the southeast side of the Capitol.

919-522-6364 (Dorney cell)

919-270-9306 (Smith cell)

Registration Fee:

\$805 for NCAEP members or \$830 for non-NCAEP members

Conducted by:

NC Association of Environmental Professionals

Taught by:

John Dorney, Sandy Smith, and LeiLani Paugh

Introduction: This 4-day lecture and field course will focus on the North Carolina Wetland Assessment Method (Version 5) (NC WAM) that was implemented by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District (USACE) in a public notice dated April 21, 2015 and is the standard method for wetland assessment in NC. The USACE intends to utilize NC WAM for internal reviews of permit applications, including decisions regarding the amount and type of compensatory mitigation, avoidance and minimization of impacts, or other decisions pertaining to aquatic resource quality and functions. Environmental consultants, federal and state agency personnel, and local government staff members who deal with regulatory programs related to wetlands are encouraged to attend. Emphasis will be on identification of North Carolina general wetland types, determination of evaluation areas, discussion of evaluation concepts and functional assessment metrics, experience using the computer rating calculator, and field exercises in both undisturbed and disturbed wetlands and wetland complexes. The course will conclude with a written test, and successful students will be presented with a Certificate of Training. Though the method is specific to North Carolina, this course may also be useful for professionals who work in neighboring states. Continuing education credits have been requested and approved for Foresters (SAF), Engineers (NCBELS), Landscape Architects (NCBOLA), Erosion & Sediment Control (CPESC), and Storm Water Quality (CPSWQ). In addition, others can be sought upon request. Applicants who are interested in continuing education credits must notify us by e-mail so appropriate arrangements can be made.

Instructors:

John Dorney: Senior Environmental Scientist, Axiom Environmental, Inc. For the previous 12 years, Mr. Dorney worked at two other environmental consulting firms after he retired from the N.C. Division of Water Quality, Wetlands and Stormwater Branch. Mr. Dorney worked with the Division of Water Quality for over 28 years, was actively involved in the development of NC WAM, as well as the N.C. Stream Assessment Method (NC SAM), and has taught courses in these methods for more than 12 years and has co-authored several papers on the method. He is an expert in wetland and stream functional assessment, isolated wetlands, as well as wetland and stream permitting and is a lead editor (and chapter author along with Sandy Smith and LeiLani Paugh) for a publication by Elsevier Scientific in 2018 entitled "*Wetland and Stream Rapid Assessments: Development, Validation, and Application*," edited by John Dorney, Rick Savage, Ralph Tiner, and Paul Adamus.

Sandy Smith: Senior Project Manager, Axiom Environmental, Inc. Mr. Smith has worked as a private environmental consultant in North Carolina for 35 years, was actively involved in the development of NC SAM, as well as NC WAM and has taught courses in these methods for more than 12 years. He is an expert in wetland delineation, functional assessment, and permitting.

LeiLani Paugh: Mitigation and Modeling Group Leader, N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT), Highway Division, Environmental Analysis Branch Unit. Ms. Paugh has worked for NCDOT for 25 years, was actively involved in the development of NC WAM and NC SAM, and has taught courses in these methods for more than 12 years. She is an expert in wetland delineation, functional assessment, mitigation, and permitting.

Logistics: The lecture portion of the course will be conducted in a classroom setting each morning, while field exercises will be conducted at various locations on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons. All field trips will depart from the classroom site, using your own vehicles. Field trips are conducted in all weather conditions except unsafe weather. If field trips cannot be conducted due to weather, the class or a portion thereof will be rescheduled. Knee boots or hiking boots will be adequate for the field trips.

The registration fee includes the NC WAM User Manual, class paper supplies, lunch (one), as well as field snacks and drinking water. **Liability waivers must be signed upon your arrival to class.**

Registration: Class enrollment is set at a minimum of 20 registrants and a maximum of 30 registrants. Payment can be made to the N.C. Association of Environmental Professionals (NCAEP) by check or credit card at <https://ncaep.wildapricot.org/event-5363590>. All checks will be held until we are certain that the minimum number of students is achieved for the class. Registration fees must be received by NCAEP no later than September 8, 2023. Cancellations prior to September 8, 2023 will receive a full refund. Cancellations after

September 8, 2023 will receive a refund of the registration fee less a \$100 administrative fee. Paid registrations may be transferred to another individual upon written request.

Message Regarding Coronavirus – Updated August 2023

It is difficult to say what the status of the COVID-19 pandemic will be in September 2023. The statement below assumes that the status of the pandemic will remain the same as it stands at the time of writing in August 2023.

It is our top priority to look after the safety of our instructors and workshop participants during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The facility at the DOT Highway Building provides sufficient room for widely spaced seating. This space is large enough to accommodate the workshop and allow for adequate social distancing. Wearing of masks or face coverings is recommended for those individuals who either request it or are more comfortable with it. Participants will be asked to drive company or private vehicles to our outdoor field trips to minimize exposure. Hand sanitizer will be made available to workshop participants. We ask that if you or any member of your household has exhibited COVID-19 related symptoms or received a positive COVID-19 test within two weeks of the start date of the workshop to please notify us and a refund will be issued. If it is determined by the NCAEP or the instructors that the workshop cannot safely proceed, participants will be offered a refund, or their registration will be saved for a later workshop when the pandemic situation has become safer.