



# *MassDEP's Wetlands Circuit Rider Program*

## *Accomplishments from January to December 2018*

Wetlands Circuit Riders (CR) provide technical and regulatory assistance, training and outreach to conservation commissions, other local officials, wetland permit applicants and their consultants, environmental groups, watershed associations and state and federal agency staff. Since January 2019, MassDEP now has a Wetlands Circuit Rider in every region; Mark Stinson is in the western region, Kimberly Roth is in the northeast region, Judith Schmitz is in the central region and she also serves as the statewide Wetlands Data Manager. Andrew Poyant is the **new** southeast regional Wetlands Circuit Rider. Nancy Lin serves as the program manager providing guidance and support to the program and to the wetlands and waterways division.

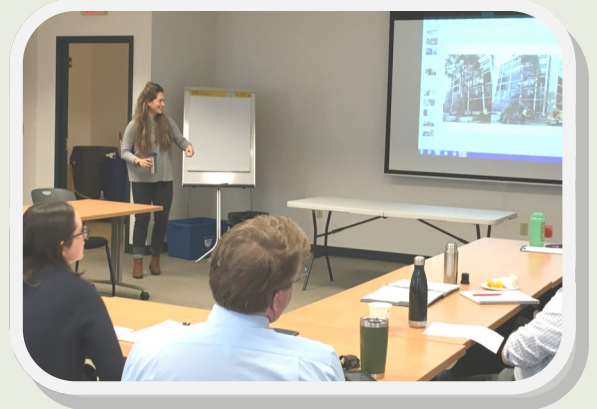
### Training and Outreach Topics Presented in 2018.



1. Fundamentals of the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA).
2. Emergencies and Snow Disposal Under the WPA
3. Stormwater Management
4. Hydrology Basics
5. Forestry and the Wetlands Protection Act
6. Agriculture and the Wetlands Protection Act
7. The Chapter 91 General License Certification Process for Small Residential Dock and Piers
8. Regional Wetlands Forums with MACC

Circuit Riders assist regional wetlands staff with permitting review and act as MassDEP representatives for task forces, regional networks related to wetlands outreach/

training. Some groups and organizations that they have worked with include: MA. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, MA. Division of Ecological Restoration, MA. Dept. of Fish and Game, MA. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, MA. Assn. of Conservation Commissions, MA. Assn of Municipal Conservation Professionals, Assn. of MA. Wetlands Scientists, MA. Dept. of Transportation, MA. Dept. of Energy Resources, MA. Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MA. Marine Fisheries, Federal Emergency Management Act, National Park Service, MA. Emergency Management Act, MA. Congress of Lakes and Ponds, U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Services, MA. Environmental Policy Act, MA. Envirothon, MA. Dept. of Agricultural Resources, Federal Emergency Management Agency, MA. Emergency Management Agency, SuAsCoShaw Network Group, Northshore Network Group, Mass Audubon and the Society of Wetlands Scientists, Assn of MA. Wetlands Scientists, Long Lake Association, Organization for the Assabet River (also Sudbury and Concord Rivers), SuAsCo Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, Central MA. Regional Planning Commission, Lake Shirley Improvement Corp., MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership, U.S. Forest Service, Opacum Land Trust, MA. High School Science Fair, the Environmental Business Council.



### Wetlands Circuit Riders' Accomplishments by the Numbers

#### **6,719 Responses to e-mails, phone calls and to walk-in requests on wetland related questions**

Circuit Riders answer a wide variety of questions ranging from the simple to the complex on technical, procedural, or regulatory implementation of the Wetlands Protection Act.

#### **246 Conservation Commission Meetings and Site visits**

By invitation Circuit Riders to attend regularly scheduled Commission meetings to provide them with regulatory, technical, and procedural assistance. Commissions receive tailored assistance ranging from presentations on specific topics of interest to informal Q & A sessions. They also provide technical assistance at field sites upon request.

#### **56 Regulatory, Policy ,Technical Workshops and Network Meetings**

The Circuit Riders conducted wetlands related workshops throughout the state in the past year, many of which go beyond the fundamentals of the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) regulations.

#### **1,790 Regional Wetland Permitting and Related Activities**

Circuit riders support the work of the regional wetland permit activities where needed and due to their extensive work with conservation commissions, they are able to provide the perspective of the commissions that they serve.



**8 Task Force Meetings and Conferences Representing MassDEP**

**38 Organizations and Agencies Coordinated With (see the above list)**



# MassDEP's Wetlands Circuit Riders

## *Who We Are—How to Reach Us*

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdeps-wetlands-circuit-rider-program>



**Boston:** Nancy Lin manages the Wetlands Circuit Rider Program and created the Program in 1995. Since 1988 Nancy has overseen the technical assistance, regulatory outreach and training for MassDEP's Division of Wetlands and Waterways, including grant writing and project management. Nancy also writes and reviews technical and regulatory guidance, policies and procedures for the Division's three programs. Prior to MassDEP, Nancy worked at the MA. Water Resources Authority; was the Director of the City of Cambridge's Conservation Commission; managed staff training for the New York City (NYC) Park Ranger program; and served as a naturalist/instructor at a National Environmental Education Landmark in NYC. Nancy is a certified Professional Wetlands Scientist (PWS) and can respond to Circuit Rider inquiries and questions when the regional circuit rider is unavailable. **Contact Nancy at: [nancy.lin@mass.gov](mailto:nancy.lin@mass.gov) or by phone at 617-556-1109**



**Western Region:** Mark Stinson is the Western Regional Circuit Rider. Mark holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and has also taken Masters level courses in Forestry Management at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. He has over 13 years of experience at the conservation commission level as a commissioner, chair and agent for a Western Massachusetts community. **Contact Mark at: [mark.stinson@mass.gov](mailto:mark.stinson@mass.gov) or by phone at 413-755-2257**



**Central Region:** Judith Schmitz is the Circuit Rider for the Central Regional Office. Prior to working at MassDEP, Judy was the Conservation Agent for the Town of Middleton for three years. She also served for 12 years as a conservation commissioner for the town of Barre, including four years as their chair. Judy holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering with a concentration in Environmental Engineering from Duke University. She has taken graduate courses in botany, environmental science, and wildlife habitat. Judy has had extensive experience consulting for municipalities and applicants, and is knowledgeable in numerous wetland related topics including: wetlands delineation, wetlands replication and restoration, wildlife habitat analysis, pollution impact assessment, stormwater management and hydrology, erosion control monitoring, river determination, and vernal pool studies. She is also a certified Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) from the Society of Wetland Scientists. In addition to her duties as the wetland circuit rider, Judy also provides support to the wetlands program as the statewide Wetlands Data Manager. **Contact Judy at: [Judith.Schmitz@mass.gov](mailto:Judith.Schmitz@mass.gov) or by phone at 508-767-2722**



**Northeast Region:** Kimberly Roth is the Circuit Rider for the Northeast Regional Office. Prior to joining MassDEP, Kim was the program manager for New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission's (NEIWPPC) wetlands projects. This work included coordinating the Wetlands Workgroup and the New England Biological Assessment of Wetlands Workgroup (NEBAWWG), groups that bring together representatives from state and federal agencies and other individuals to address issues of shared concern. NEBAWWG is one of many regional groups across the country working toward improved approaches for wetlands monitoring and assessment. Before NEIWPPC, Kim was an intern for MassDEP's Wetlands Program, providing support in wetlands compliance and enforcement, and in the Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup, where she researched information on site history and contamination. She also worked at the Mystic River Watershed Association on tasks related to watershed protection, brownfields, open space, water quality monitoring, and stormwater management. Kim currently serves as the vice-chair of her local conservation commission (which is not in the Northeast region). **Contact Kim at: [kimberly.roth@mass.gov](mailto:kimberly.roth@mass.gov) or by phone at 978-694-3234**



**Southeast Region:** Andrew Poyant is the Circuit Rider for the Southeast Regional Office. Prior to joining MassDEP, Andrew was a Town Planner and Conservation Agent for the Town of Rehoboth. Andrew also worked for ten years as an Environmental Scientist for the consulting firm of CDM Smith, with extensive experience in the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, 401 Water Quality Certification, Chapter 91 Waterways, Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Act, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. He has broad field experience in wetland delineation, wetland functions and values assessments, vernal pool monitoring, and wildlife habitat assessments, construction monitoring of wetland restoration and replication, erosion and sedimentation control inspections, stormwater management and post construction wetland monitoring. Andrew holds a BS in Biology from UMass Dartmouth and a MS in Plant and Soil Science from UMass Amherst. He is a certified Professional Wetlands Scientist (PWS) from the Society of Wetlands Scientists and a Certified Wetland Scientist (CWS) for the State of New Hampshire. **Contact Andrew at: [andrew.poyant@mass.gov](mailto:andrew.poyant@mass.gov) or by phone at 508-946-2845.** Wetlands technical questions for the Southeast Region can also be directed to their Help Line: 508-946-2800