**Invitation to participate in WVWRAM training**

WVDEP would like to invite you and your wetland specialist colleagues to join us this summer for training in the new **West Virginia Wetland Rapid Assessment Method (WVWRAM).**  We anticipate that this method will replace the current **Clean Water Act** mitigation ratios (3:1 forest/shrub, 2:1 emergent) for wetlands, probably beginning in June 2020.  The method is under current consideration for use with **Food Security Act** activities also.

Participants should, at a minimum, have the **skill level of a wetland delineator**, that is, they should be able to identify wetland plants, recognize soil textures and organic soils, and field-map using a GPS.

WVWRAM is not a wetland delineation method, but rather a **functional assessment** method, with field and GIS metrics combined to estimate water quality benefits, flood attenuation, habitat, and ecological integrity functions of a wetland.

We are planning **five two-day training workshops** for WVWRAM this summer, with an **optional extra day of wetland plant identification** for participants who would like to refresh their skills.  Training will be **limited to 20 participants per venue**. There is no cost for the instruction.

**Dates and venues**

* + **June 11-13: Charleston: WVDEP office**
  + **June 25-27: Morgantown: Percival Hall (WVU Evansdale Campus)**
  + **Aug 13-15: Charles Town: Claymont Society**
  + **Aug 27-29: Fayetteville: WVDEP office**
  + **Sept 10-12: Elkins: WVDNR office**

**Registration**

Please submit the registration form at:

<https://forms.gle/GvDo4yRM6RfRvw5RA>

Due to the limited number of training slots, we ask organizations to limit their participation to 4 people. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. You may register for more than one plant refresher class, but you may not register for the plant refresher classes unless you are also registered for the WVWRAM training.

**Who should attend?**

Environmental consultants, state and federal agency staff, and groups engaged in active wetland assessment or wetland monitoring will benefit from this training. All participants must have the requisite background in wetland plants, soils, and GPS mapping.

**Agenda**

Day 1 (Tuesday) Optional plant ID refresher

8:00 Boot decontamination station open

8:30-4:30 Refresh participants’ knowledge of the common wetland plants of West Virginia.  This is an opportunity to go to the field with expert botanists. Participants will create their own “personal gallery” of wetland plant photos, notes, and drawings.

Day 2 (Wednesday) WVWRAM

8:00 Boot/equipment decontamination station open

8:30-10 Introduction to WVWRAM

10-2:30 Field: Demo of field assessment at a simple site with instruction for each field metric, then break into groups of 2-3 for assessment of simple site with roaming instructors.

2:30-4:30 Enter data into WVWRAM database, map polygons, run GIS tool, and generate final WVWRAM score.

Day 3 (Thursday) WVWRAM

8:00 Boot/equipment decontamination station open

8:30-9:30 Review previous day’s scoring and questions.

9:30-2:00 Field: Instructor review/demo of selected metrics.  Small group field assessment of a more complex site with roaming instructors.

2:30-4:30 Enter data into WVWRAM database, map polygons, run GIS tool, and generate final WVWRAM score. Final question & answer period.