

**ERIC R. SORENSON**

Natural Heritage Inventory  
Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department  
5 Perry Street, Suite 40  
Barre, Vermont 05641  
**802-476-0126**

**EDUCATION**

**1983-1986** Master of Science in Botany, Wetland Ecology  
University of Maine, Orono, Maine

**1977-1981** Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources, Wildlife Ecology  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**1996-present** Natural Community Ecologist, Natural Heritage Inventory, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Barre, Vermont.

Responsible for developing and refining the classification of Vermont's natural community types and coordinating decisions on classification with other state ecologists in the northeastern United States and eastern Canada; promote the principles of conservation biology to be used in policy formulation, land and habitat management decisions, and planning for conservation of landscapes, natural communities, plants, and animals; oversee and conduct statewide inventories of natural communities to identify the best examples, collect ecological data to be used in refining the classification, and to conserve the best examples by working with landowners and partner organizations; conduct field investigations, including vegetation sampling, soils, breeding bird surveys, and collection of ecological data; conduct environmental review for the Department on natural community, habitat, rare plant, fragmentation, and connectivity issues under Act 250, Act 248, and Vermont Wetland Rules and provide written and oral testimony when necessary; represent the Department on state and regional conservation planning projects such as the Vermont Biodiversity Project, The Nature Conservancy's ecoregional planning, and the Vermont Wildlife Action Plan and promote the natural community and habitat approach on these projects; coordinate conservation planning efforts including the Department's Habitat Block analysis and the Agency's Natural Resources Mapping Project (BioFinder); establish data quality standards for the 2,000 natural community records entered into the Department's Biotics database and ensuring these standards are consistent with those of NatureServe; represent the Department of various committees relating to natural communities, conservation, and land management; provide technical assistance and outreach on natural communities and conservation of biological diversity; manage federal grants.

**1989-1996** State Wetlands Assistant Coordinator, Department of Environmental Conservation, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Waterbury, Vermont.

Responsible for full implementation of the Vermont Wetland Rules in the five counties of eastern Vermont, including site review, wetland delineation, functional assessment, identification of important wildlife habitat, and permit decisions; review projects under Act 250 for potential effects on wetlands and their functions; evaluate proposals for wetland compensation and develop wetland restoration plans for enforcement cases; represent the Agency through written comments and expert testimony at public hearings and court cases; responsible for the development of the 1993 Vermont Wetlands Conservation Strategy; develop applications and administer federal grants; conduct wetland education and outreach programs.

**1989** Consulting Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy, Natural Heritage Program, Waterbury, Vermont. Contractor for the Natural Areas Inventory of Essex County, Vermont; conducted landscape analysis, interviews with local experts, aerial reconnaissance, and field work to identify significant upland and wetland natural communities and rare plant and animal species in Essex County; prepared project report for distribution.

**1986-1988** Wetlands Specialist/Senior Biologist, IEP, Inc., Northborough, Massachusetts. Delineated boundaries of inland and coastal wetlands based on analysis of vegetation, soils, and hydrology; assessed wetland functions and wildlife habitat and potential effects from site development; designed and oversaw construction of wetland compensation and restoration projects; prepared state and federal wetland permit applications; managed environmental consulting teams for wetland related projects.

**1986** Herbarium Curator, University of Maine, Orono, Maine. Organized herbarium collections after recent relocation; catalogued and filed the entire bryophyte collection.

**1985-1986** Consulting Ecologist, State of Maine, Executive Planning Office, Critical Areas Program, Augusta, Maine. Identified, researched, and prepared a report on the distribution, vegetation and water chemistry of patterned fens in northern Maine; conducted extensive field work to remote areas to sample vegetation, identify rare plant species, and conduct wildlife surveys.

**1983-1985** Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Maine, Orono, Maine. Instructed laboratory classes in plant taxonomy, dendrology, introductory biology, and School of Forestry spring camp.

**1982** Naturalist, Woldumar Nature Center, Lansing, Michigan. Developed and presented programs in environmental education for school children ages 4 through 14.

**1980-1981** Forest Manager, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Harvested and thinned forest lots; operated skidder.

## **RELATED EXPERIENCE**

**1996-2002** Calais Conservation Commission, treasurer for two years

**1991-1996** Vermont Endangered Species Subcommittee, Cryptogams

**1989-1991** Vermont Wetlands Association Board of Directors

**1986-1988** Princeton Conservation Commission, Massachusetts

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Sorenson, E., R. Popp, B. Engstrom, M. Lapin, and D. Farrell. 2010. Softwood Swamps of Vermont: Distribution, Ecology, Classification, and Some Sites of Ecological Significance. Natural Heritage Information Project, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Waterbury, Vermont. 259 pp.

Sorenson, E. and R. Popp, 2006. Limestone Bluff Cedar-Pine Forests of Vermont: A Statewide Inventory. Nongame and Natural Heritage Program, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Waterbury, Vermont. 90 pp.

Thompson, E.H. and E.R. Sorenson. 2000 and 2005. *Wetland, Woodland, Wildland: A Guide to the Natural Communities of Vermont*. Published by The Nature Conservancy and Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, distributed by University Press of New England. 456 pp.

Sorenson, E., R. Popp, M. Lew-Smith, B. Engstrom, M. Lapin, and M. Ferguson. 2004. *Hardwood Swamps of Vermont: Distribution, Ecology, Classification, and Some Sites of Ecological Significance*. Nongame and Natural Heritage Program, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Waterbury, Vermont. 332 pp.

Sorenson, E., M. Lapin, B. Engstrom, and R. Popp. 1998. *Floodplain Forests of Vermont: Some Sites of Ecological Significance*. Nongame and Natural Heritage Program, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Waterbury, Vermont. 175 pp.

Sorenson, E., B. Engstrom, M. Lapin, R. Popp, and Steve Parren. 1998. *Northern White Cedar Swamps and Red Maple-Northern White Cedar Swamps of Vermont: Some Sites of Ecological Significance*. Nongame and Natural Heritage Program, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Waterbury, Vermont. 261 pp.

Sorenson, E.R. 1994. *Vermont Wetlands Conservation Strategy*. Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. 121 pp.

Sorenson, E.R. 1992. *Vermont Wetland Rules Classification System*. In *Proceedings of the National Workshop on State Perspectives on Wetland Classification (Categorization) for Regulatory Purposes*, Washington, D.C.

Thompson, E., C. Fichtel, and E. Sorenson. 1990. *Exceptional Natural Habitats and Rare Plant and Animal Species of Essex County, Vermont*. Nongame and Natural Heritage Program, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Waterbury, VT. 186 pp.

Sorenson, E.R. 1986. *The Ecology and Distribution of Ribbed Fens in Northern Maine*. Maine Executive Planning Office, Critical Areas Program, Augusta, Maine. Planning Report No. 81, 171 pp.

Lowry, D.J., E.R. Sorenson and D.M. Titus. 1986. *Wetland Replacement in Massachusetts: Regulatory Approach and Case Studies*. In *Proceedings of the Fourth Connecticut Institute of Water Resources Wetlands Conference*, Storrs, Connecticut.

Sorenson, E.R. 1986. *The Vegetation and Water Chemistry of Two Patterned Fens in Northern Maine*. Department of Botany, University of Maine, Orono, Maine. Unpublished Master's Thesis.

## **AWARDS**

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department Annual Commissioner's Award of Excellence (BioFinder Team), 2012

Canute Dalmasse Award, Agency of Natural Resources, 2011

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department Annual Commissioner's Award of Excellence, 2001

New England Wildflower Society Vermont State Award, 2001

Xi Sigma Pi, National Forestry Honor Society, University of Michigan, 1981