

ERIC R. SORENSON

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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

1996-2021 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, Section 248, and Vermont Wetland Rules and provide written and oral testimony when necessary; represent the Department on state and regional conservation planning projects and promote the natural community and habitat approach on these projects; coordinate conservation planning efforts including the Department's Forest Block analysis, and the Vermont Conservation Design; represent the Department before the Vermont legislature; establish data quality standards for natural community records entered into the Department's Natural Heritage Database and ensure these standards are consistent with those of NatureServe; represent the Department on various committees relating to natural communities, conservation, and land management; provide technical assistance and outreach on natural communities and conservation of biological diversity, including review of all Ecologically Significant Treatment Areas under the Use Value Appraisal Program; 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.

1989 Consulting Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy, Natural Heritage Program, Waterbury, Vermont.
Contractor for the Natural Areas Inventory of Essex County, Vermont. Conducted inventory and prepared report.

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.

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, Critical Areas Program, Augusta, Maine.
Identified, inventoried, and prepared a report on the distribution, vegetation, and water chemistry of patterned fens in northern Maine.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

2023-present Board of Directors, Northeast Wilderness Trust, Montpelier, Vermont

2023-present Bryophyte Species Advisory Group (Secretary), supporting the Endangered Species Committee

2010 Calais Unmapped and Unmaintained Roads Committee

2003-2008 Calais Conservation Commission

PUBLICATIONS

Thompson, E.H., E.R. Sorenson, and R.J. Zaino. *Wetland, Woodland, Wildland: A Guide to the Natural Communities of Vermont* (2nd ed.). 2019. Published by Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, The Nature Conservancy, and Vermont Land Trust. Distributed by Chelsea Green Publishing. 509pp.

Sorenson, E., and R. Zaino. 2018. Vermont Conservation Design: Maintaining and Enhancing an Ecologically Functional Landscape. Summary Report for Landscapes, Natural Communities, Habitats, and Species. Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and Vermont Land Trust. Montpelier, Vermont. 38 pp.

Zaino, R., E. Sorenson, Morin, D., J. Hilke, and K. Thompson. 2018. Vermont Conservation Design. Part 2: Natural Communities and Habitats Technical Report. Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and Vermont Land Trust. Montpelier, Vermont. 72 pp.

Sorenson, E., R. Popp, M. Lew-Smith, D. Farrell, and C. Hohn. 2016. Vermont's Dwarf Shrub Bogs and Poor Fens: Distribution, Ecology, Classification, and Some Sites of Ecological Significance. Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Montpelier, Vermont. 85 pp.

Sorenson, E., R. Zaino, J. Hilke, and E. Thompson. 2015. Vermont Conservation Design: Maintaining and Enhancing an Ecologically Functional Landscape. Part 1: Landscape Features Technical Report. Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and Vermont Land Trust. Montpelier, Vermont. 24 pp.

Sorenson, E., and J. Osborne. 2014. Vermont Habitat Blocks and Habitat Connectivity: An Analysis using Geographic Information Systems. Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Montpelier, Vermont. 48 pp.

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