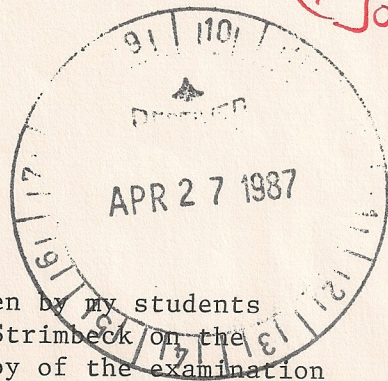


# The University of Vermont

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY  
MARSH LIFE SCIENCE BUILDING  
BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05405-0086 U.S.A.

2/3  
Al.  
FYI  
Return to  
John.

April 23, 1987



Mr. John Gallegos  
Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge  
RFD #2  
Swanton, Vermont 05488

Dear John:

Enclosed are four draft copies of the reports written by my students Virginia Scharf, Mark Gershman, Brett Engstrom, and Rick Strimbeck on the natural history of Maquam Bog. I have also included a copy of the examination questions they were answering in these reports.

In reading these reports, please keep in mind that they were researched and written in only eight days. While the reports all have been passed without need for revision, they are draft documents. Typographic and stylistic errors need correcting in each manuscript. In a few cases, the graduate committee disagrees with minor points raised in these draft reports.

I hope you find these reports of value for your understanding of this unique area of your refuge. The major finding of these reports that is relevant to your management decisions is that the Maquam Bog is probably the largest open peatland in the State of Vermont. Further, the pitch pine community that grows in the bog is of great biological interest because of its large extent (largest stand in state?), and pristine nature. The presence of the Virginia chain fern and the few-seeded sedge (see Engstrom's report), both rare plant species in Vermont, add to the area's natural significance. The bog's potential as a nesting area for the marsh hawk and short-eared owl, both species recognized as threatened in the U.S., add further to this significance. A general conclusion of all these reports, and one which I heartedly agree with, is that Maquam Bog possesses natural qualities of state and national significance that require careful consideration in any management decisions affecting this portion of the Missisquoi Refuge.

The students and I are looking forward to talking in further detail about the natural values present in Maquam Bog next week and to hear from you the management perspective on this area. Perhaps we can discuss in depth the management-related portions of the examination question at that time.

Thank you and Allan for your help in this examination. It has been of great interest and value to the students.

We will see you at headquarters next Thursday between 9:00 and 9:30 AM. Bring your lunch and hipboots.

Sincerely,

Dr. Daniel H. Mann  
Field Director  
Field Naturalist Program