Northeast Regional Collegiate Soil Judging Contest

The University of Maine at Orono's (UMO) Soil Judging Team won first place in the Northeast Regional Collegiate Soil Judging Contest on Oct. 22, 1977. The UMO team had eight members ranking in the top 10 contestants.

Teams from the Universities of Maryland, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Rutgers, Cornell, Pennsylvania State, and Delaware Valley College also were contestants in the regional meet at Sugarloaf Mountain in Kingfield, hosted by the UMO team. Maine's team score was 1299 with Maryland, 1275, and Penn State, 1147, in second and third places, respectively.

Maryland has won the competition for eight consecutive years, losing nine years ago to another UMO team. Both Maryland and Penn State will be eligible to attend the national competition with UMO at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces in April.

UMO team members with rankings in the first 10 were David Sleeper of Bangor, Maine, first; Greg Howard of Yorktown Heights, N.Y., third; Maynard Sweeley of Old Town, Maine, fourth; James Blanck of Huntington, Conn., fifth; Rene Bernier of Pejepscot, Maine, sixth; Norman Scott of Cornish, Maine, ninth; and Paul Sonntag of Warren, N.J. and Michael Mather of Island Falls, Maine, tied for tenth. Other members of the team are James Gragnolati of Windsor Locks, Conn.; Wendy Leonard of Bangor, Maine; Sylvia Michaud of Brewer, Maine; and Peter Wiswell of Topsfield, Mass (Fig. 1).

Thomas Saviello, instructor in plant and soil sciences, was assisted in coaching the team by graduate students Dean Gall, Albert Frick, Glen Angell, and Terry Bourgoin.