



# SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

SNEC – SWCS, P.O. Box 487, Belchertown, MA 01007  
(413)213-6885

June 2013

[www.swcssnec.org](http://www.swcssnec.org)

## President's Message

### Tom Akin

Hi Everyone,

The sun is finally shining, unexpectedly so, since the weather gurus were calling for 4 straight days of rain yesterday. Now the forecast is 4 straight days of sun... Go figure. But at least it's not 129 F as Death Valley is experiencing today! This climate change stuff is scary. I keep thinking about and fearing what our part of the world is going to be like for our kids and grandchildren in 50 years. Will they ever be able to experience a normal New England spring or fall? Will cranberries and maple syrup become things of the past as sugar maples and bogs migrate north? The scariest part is the ferocity of the storms like Hurricane Sandy and Hurricane Irene. How can you plan for 20-foot ocean storm surges? Or 12" of rain in four hours? Climate change is an incredibly complex subject, but we can all make our part of the world a little more resilient. Planting more trees, building healthy soil, composting, consuming less fossil fuel energy, conserving water: it all adds up! Ok, enough of the rant, and now on to some business.

This past February we had a very successful winter meeting on wetland mapping and functional assessments. I want to thank Sue Provost, our CT State Director, the members of our winter meeting committee, and the vendors who supported the meeting. A special thank you to Northeast Utilities for their generous support and access to their wonderful facilities! It was a great meeting; please see Sue Provost's full report inside this newsletter.

Also inside, you will find information on the

Chapter's upcoming Summer Meeting along the banks of the Blackstone River in Grafton and Uxbridge, Massachusetts on Friday, August 9th. Peter Coffin, Executive Director of the Blackstone River Coalition, has arranged tours of the "Eco-Machine" (a series of biological treatments for removing bunker oil from the waters of one of the canals) and erosion/sedimentation control projects and aquatic invasive plant removal projects in the restoration of Rice City Pond at the Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park in Uxbridge. It should be a fun day; we hope to see you all there!

The Chapter continues to sponsor review sessions for several of the professional certification programs of the EnviroCert, Inc, (formally CPESC, Inc) program. As I write this column, Jeff Anliker, our Executive Director, has just finished proctoring one of the exam sessions for the Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC), Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality (CPSWQ) and Certified Erosion, Sediment and Storm Water Inspector (CESSWI) credentials. Another review session and exam session are scheduled for this coming September and October respectively. If you are interested in one of these sessions, please visit our Chapter web site to see our calendar of events for more information.

Every year we continue to look for members (and new members) to become involved in our Chapter. As always at this time of year we are looking for members to help the Chapter by serving as an officer on the Board. Inside of this newsletter you will find the ballot with this year's nominations, and you will notice an opportunity to put in your name or someone you know as a "write-in" candidate. We hope you will consider offering SWCS some of your professional skills and time. Thanks for all you do!



The Southern New England Chapter of the SWCS is a non-profit scientific and educational organization dedicated to promoting and advancing the conservation of soil, water and all natural resources.

Contributions and articles for the SNEC-SWCS Newsletter are welcome and will be printed as space permits, subject to editorial policy. Please submit articles to: Nancy Ferlow  
USDA-NRCS  
344 Merrow Road  
Tolland, CT 06084  
[nancy.ferlow@ct.usda.gov](mailto:nancy.ferlow@ct.usda.gov)

#### Board Members

President – Thomas Akin, MA  
Past President – Liz Rogers, RI  
President elect – Carol Grasis, CT  
Vice President – Mickey Marcus, MA  
Secretary/ - Mark Hood CT  
Treasurer – Richard Starkey, MA  
CT Director – Sue Provost, CT  
MA Director—Timothy Randhar, MA  
RI Director – Christine Odiaga, RI

#### Committees

Awards  
Membership  
CPESC  
Newsletter  
Nominations  
Publicity

#### Student Chapter

UConn Advisor – Gary Robbins, CT  
UMASS Advisor—Timothy Randhar, MA

#### Executive Director

Jeff Anliker  
413-213-6885  
[anliker@charter.net](mailto:anliker@charter.net)

## Executive Director's Report

Our Summer meeting “Blackstone River Watershed Tour—Fisherville Eco-Machine and Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park” will be held on Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am to 3 pm at Mill Villages Park, 61 Main Street in Grafton, Massachusetts. (See separate Article on Summer Meeting). The registration form is included in our newsletter. It can also be found on the Chapter website at [www.swcssnec.org](http://www.swcssnec.org) or by contacting Jeff Anliker, SNEC Executive Director at 413-213-6885 or [anliker@charter.net](mailto:anliker@charter.net).

Our EnviroCert International remaining programs (exam review sessions and exam) for 2013 are the Certified Erosion, Sediment and Storm Water Inspector (CESSWI) Review Session on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. The CPESC, CESSWI and the Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality (CPSWQ) Exams are on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. The Review Session and Exams will be in Amherst, Massachusetts. For additional information on these sessions, go to our website at [www.swcssnec.org](http://www.swcssnec.org) or the EnviroCert International website at [www.envirocertintl.org](http://www.envirocertintl.org). In addition to our regular scheduled review sessions, we can provide training and/or exams to public or private sector organizations that would like to host internally within their organization. If you are aware of a business, organization or agency that could benefit from our training programs, please let me know or give them my contact information.

If you have any suggestions, questions or comments, please contact me at 413-213-6885, [anliker@charter.net](mailto:anliker@charter.net) or through our website.

Jeff Anliker

## 2013 Annual Conference

### 68th Annual SWCS International Conference

July 21-24, 2012 | Reno, Nevada

### Resilient Landscapes—Planning for Flood, Drought and Fire

Consider joining your fellow conservationists from around the world at the 68th Annual SWCS Conference. The conference will be held in late July in Reno Nevada. The topic is a timely one with all of the disasters we have had in the past few years. Visit the web site at [www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org) for further information and watch our newsletter in Spring for more details.

**SAVE THE DATE— Summer Meeting—August 9, 2013**

## SNEC-SWCS 2013 Winter Conference

### “Erosion and Sediment Controls - Getting it Right the First Time”

Nearly 100 people attended the SNEC-SWCS Winter Conference that was held at the Northeast Utilities auditorium in Berlin, CT on February 15, 2013.

Guest speakers included professionals in erosion and sediment control planning, construction, soil preservation, low-impact development and groundwater flow. Their presentations represented expertise from the construction industry, private sector and state and federal agencies.

The attendee’s responses were very positive commenting that they appreciated the diversity of the speakers, the flow of the presentations, and the content of the conference. We received 44 evaluations (46% return rate). The table below shows the distribution of responses to the rated evaluation questions (on a scale of 1 to 5; 5 being most positive) with an average score shown in the far right column.

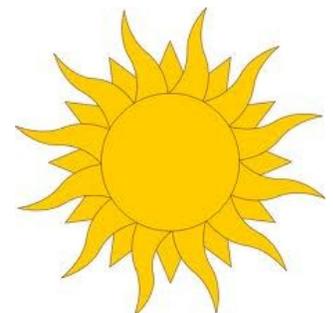
Responding to Question 3, all 44 participants said “yes,” they learned something new about E&S controls or the protection of natural resources.

Topics suggested for future meetings included “winter stabilization issues,” E&S requirements – challenges and resolution,” “impromptu E&S,” “stream bank stabilization,” “invasive/wetland litigation, case studies/project specific – electrical transmission,” “State/Federal requirements,” “more information on sediment control in water bodies and waterways,” “hydric soils,” “soil health,” “more applied real-world presentations. Many expressed an interest in future conferences with a field component.

We consider the conference to be a great success.

\* M=Missing

	M*	1	2	3	3.5	4	4.5	5	Average
Q1. How easy was it to register for the conference?	1					3		40	<b>4.93</b>
Q2. Did the conference hold your attention?				2		15	1	26	<b>4.56</b>
Q4. Did the information presented at this conference give you new ideas about preventing erosion and sedimentation?			1	5		16		22	<b>4.34</b>
Q5. Overall, how would you rate the conference?	2		1	1	1	13		26	<b>4.54</b>



## Summer Meeting 2013

### **Blackstone River: Eco-Machine at Fisherville Mill Complex, Grafton, MA & River Bend Farm Visitors Center, Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, Uxbridge, MA**

The Blackstone River has been called the “Birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution” as well as “America’s Hardest Working River.” It has suffered its share of pollution indignities over the years, from industrial dumping during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-centuries to contaminated runoff from industrial fires. The Blackstone River is still not swimmable, and faces many challenges, but it is on the rebound!

Please join us on Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 3pm for the 2013 Summer Meeting of the Southern New England SWCS along the banks of the Blackstone River. Peter Coffin, Executive Director of the Blackstone River Coalition, will be our guide for the day as we tour the “Eco-Machine” at the Fisherville Mill complex in Grafton, MA and restoration projects at the Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park in Uxbridge, MA.

At our first stop in Fisherville, a village of Grafton, we will learn of the history of the contamination of the Blackstone, and we will get a tour of the “Eco-Machine”, a series of biological treatment mechanisms that is removing bunker oil contamination from the canals of the Blackstone River. More information on the “Eco-Machine” and its designer Dr. John Todd can be found here: <http://toddecological.com/>

The second stop on our tour will be lunch at the scenic River Bend Farm Visitors Center in Uxbridge, MA. Following lunch, Peter Coffin and the MA Dept of Conservation & Recreation staff will lead us on a tour of the restoration project of Rice City Pond; topics will include best management practices for reducing erosion from the historic canal towpath and sedimentation into the pond, as well as removal of invasive plants (*Phragmites sp.* and Water Chestnut) from fresh water systems. More info on the Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park can be found here: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-central/blackstone-river-and-canal-heritage-state-park.html>

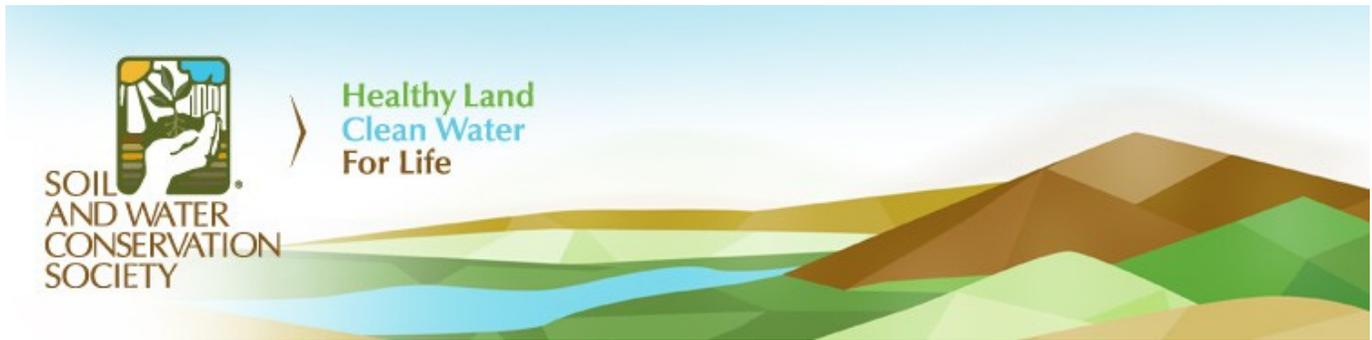
The day will conclude with the member’s meeting wrapping up around 3pm. For registration information, directions, and parking information, please see the summer meeting registration form in this newsletter. Hope to see you all there!

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## Save the Date

Our Chapter is working in partnership with the Northeast Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association NE IECA for their 2013 Annual Conference. The conference “Keeping Pace With the Changes: The Demand for Excellence in Erosion Control, Sediment Control and Stormwater Management” will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI on November 19-21, 2013. There is a call for abstracts. Additional information can be found at [www.ieca-nechapter.org/nec2013warwick.html](http://www.ieca-nechapter.org/nec2013warwick.html).

For additional information, call 413-213-6885 or send an email to [anliker@charter.net](mailto:anliker@charter.net).



**Registration Form—Blackstone River Watershed Tour—Fisherville Eco-Machine and Canal Heritage State Park**

**Friday, August 9, 2013 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (Registration opens at 9:30 am)**

**Tour starts at 61 Main St, Rt. 122 A, Grafton, MA 01560**

**We will go RAIN or SHINE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 SWCS Members/ Co-Sponsors

\_\_\_\_\_ \$45 Non-Members or

\_\_\_\_\_ \$115 Blue Light Special (includes 1 year SWCS International and the Southern New England Chapter Membership at \$90) per person

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Student Photocopy of valid student ID required. (Please bring your student ID to meeting)

**Lunch is included with your registration. Please check one:**

**Traditional** \_\_\_\_\_ **Vegetarian** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other dietary restrictions** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Certificate for three (3) Continuing Education Units (CEU) or Professional Development Units (PDU) will be available after the conference upon request.**

**Please submit this form with check payment to SNEC-SWCS, PO Box 487, Belchertown, MA 01007, or fax with credit card information to 413-323-1113. Payments must be received by August 2, 2013.**

For additional information, call 413-213-6885 or send an email to [anliker@charter.net](mailto:anliker@charter.net).

## **2013 – 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES**

### **President Elect – Michael Marcus, MA**

Mickey is a Principal, Wildlife Biologist, and Professional Wetland Scientist for New England Environmental Inc. B.S. in ornithology/biology. M.S. in Zoology/Wildlife. Training in fluvial geomorphology. Professional Wetland Scientist # 1635; Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control #1504; Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality #248. Massachusetts Certified Aquatic Applicator #30027. Over twenty-five years of natural resource assessment and permitting. Work includes wetland and river restoration, salt marsh and coastal bank/dune restoration, bank stabilization and bioengineering, pond management; ecological restoration, recreational planning, wildlife habitat assessments (birds, mammals, turtles, salamanders, dragonflies), environmental permitting, sediment and erosion control plans, and control of invasive species. Mr. Marcus has served as a wetland expert in Superior Court, Land Court, Federal Court, Grand Jury, and in adjudicatory hearings.

### **Vice President – Susan Provost, CT**

Sue has a master's degree in Natural Resources Management from the University of Connecticut and has worked for Northeast Utilities as an environmental scientist permitting projects and conducting environmental inspections for over 5 years. Prior to her environmental work, she was a certified cash manager and worked for the State of CT for 15 years at both UConn and the CT State Treasurer's Office. Her interests include the protection of soil and water resources, the preservation of biodiversity, control of invasive species, organic gardening, and landscaping with native plants.

### **Secretary – Mark Hood, CT**

Mark graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1998 with a B.A. in Journalism. After graduation, Mark gained experience through paid positions and volunteer opportunities with the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area; Olympic National Park, Resource Protection Division; USGS, Biological Resources Division, Las Vegas, Nevada; and the U.S. Forest Service, North Conway, NH. After working as a laboratory technician at the U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Center for Forest Health Research in Hamden, CT Mark went back to UConn to earn a M.S. in Natural Resources Management in 2005. Following graduation Mark spent a year in Estonia studying urban stormwater pollution as a Fulbright student. Mark worked for Pennoni Associates Inc, a multi-disciplinary engineering firm, in Philadelphia for 2 years before returning to his home state of Connecticut in 2008 to pursue a career as an environmental analyst with the CT Department of Economic and Community Development. Mark currently lives in Connecticut and enjoys spending time hiking, biking, kayaking and gardening.

### **Treasurer – Richard Starkey, MA**

Dick, a native of Iowa, received a BA in Philosophy from Drake University, a Bachelor of Divinity degree in Sociology of Religion from University of Chicago, and a MS in Library and Information Science from Simmons College in Boston. Dick was employed by the University of Chicago Libraries, Central YMCA Community College in Chicago, and the Cranbrook Schools in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. He also worked as Library Director for the Troy Public Library, Troy New York and the Wilbraham Public Library in Wilbraham, MA. He was Head of Instructional Media Services at Elms College, Chicopee, MA and Widner University, Chester, PA. Dick currently manages a small tree farm in Greenfield, MA having previously operated a small tree farm and raised Highland Cattle in Brimfield, MA. His recent activities include serving on the Franklin Conservation District and Chair of Division V, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire Districts. He served as Chair of the State Commission for the Conservation of Soil, Water and Related Resources, the State Technical Committee of the USDA NRCS and the Massachusetts Food and Agriculture Council. He served as Secretary Treasurer for the Berkshire-Pioneer Resource Conservation Council, Inc. He served a one-year appointment to the Greenfield, MA Conservation Commission.

### **Connecticut Director – Devleena Ghosh-Brower, CT**

Devleena Ghosh-Brower received her Bachelor's in Environmental/Marine Sciences from Pine Manor College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts and recently finished her Masters in Environmental Management with a concentration in Ecology from Harvard University. Originally from New Delhi India, Devleena worked with the Tokyo Engineering Co. Ltd which oversaw the Yamuna Action Plan, a major river cleanup project for River Yamuna (a tributary to the Ganges), funded by the Asian Development Bank. During her undergraduate studies,

Devleena gained experience through internship opportunities with the Toxic Actions Center and The Boston Harbor Association in Boston. Post graduation, she started her career with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc as an Environmental Scientist specializing in wetlands and various permitting efforts for numerous transportation and land development projects. Since her relocation to Connecticut, Devleena works for Tighe and Bond, Inc. in their Wetlands and Ecological Services Group. Her primary focus areas include wetland delineation, mitigation and restoration, habitat assessment and client/applicant coordination. She is heavily involved in several Northeast Utilities projects as their full time compliance monitor. Devleena is scheduled to teach a FYI 100 Resource Conservation course at Eastern Connecticut State University in Fall 2013. She currently lives in Manchester with her husband and enjoys traveling, hiking and pottery.

**Rhode Island Director – Christine Odiaga, RI**

Christine Odiaga is a contractor for the MassDEP Wetlands & Waterways Program, working as the Circuit Rider for the Southeast Region since July 2005. She has a BS in Biology and minor in Marine Studies from Northeastern University, and worked as Conservation Agent in two municipalities. Christine did NPDES field work on the Central Artery/Tunnel project for six years (“fascinating!!”), which included revising the BMP section of the SWPPP for renewal of the nation’s first Individual NPDES Construction Permit. Christine is a Certified Professional in Erosion & Sediment Control®, and served as President of the Northeast Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association from 2006-2010. Her hobbies include travel, dinner parties and dancing to live music.

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***BALLOT***

***2012-2013 SNEC-SWCS Board of Directors***

**President Elect** (1 Year Term)

\_\_\_\_\_ Mickey Marcus, MA  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President** (1 Year Term)

\_\_\_\_\_ Susan Provost, CT  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary** (1 Year Term)

\_\_\_\_\_ Mark Hood, CT  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer** (2 Year Term)

\_\_\_\_\_ Richard Starkey, MA  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CT Director** (3 Year Term)

\_\_\_\_\_ Devleena Ghosh-Brower, CT  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Rhode Island Director** (1 Year Term)

\_\_\_\_\_ Christine Odiaga, RI  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Please return ballots by Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.***

**To vote, you can either fax this Ballot to 413-323-1113, mail it to SNEC-SWCS, PO Box 487, Belchertown, MA 01007 or email it to [anliker@charter.net](mailto:anliker@charter.net).**

**YOUR NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_