



SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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

May 2009

NOTE NEW WEB SITE: www.swcssnec.org

President's Message **Eric Scherer**

I am taking a break to look out my window to see if the rain started yet. Not that I am going anywhere today, just like to keep track of what is going on outside of my office from time to time. Is it just me or is this one of the longest and coldest springs in recent memory? Maybe it's just me.

Well, a lot has transpired since this time last year. We have a new President and with that, a whole new administration in Washington, DC. For those members who are employed by the federal government, this has meant a lot of changes and for those of you who are in state or local government, and even in the private sector (and I hope all of you are well employed), that you too are seeing/feeling the effects of this new administration. The news today is much different then it was a year ago – but I know that almost everyone I talk to, they are busier then they were a year ago – I have quit saying it cannot get any busier. Because it always does.

As you may have noticed, we have made some very significant changes in this past year. We now have an Executive Director (Jeff Anliker) for the Chapter and he has done a tremendous job in pulling business and Chapter activities together. Look for his update in this newsletter. Jeff has been a long time fixture in Southern New England and a huge Chapter and Society supporter. He brings with him years (and years) of experience. Jeff was instrumental in getting the Chapter By-laws updated and through the review and approval process, so I am happy to say we now have an approved version on the website. Speaking of the website, make sure you take a minute to visit it (<http://www.swcssnec.org/>) – it's still a "work in progress", and continues to improve. Suggest you bookmark it and consult it from time to time.

We had a very successful winter meeting on wetland mapping and functional assessments. I want to thank all of our Chapter members who helped organ-

ize it and a special thanks to the Soil Science Society of Southern New England for helping to co-sponsor the event.

Every year we continue to look for members (and new members) to become involved in our Chapter. I am glad to report that our membership numbers are not falling, we have lost some members and gained some. 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 giving us some of your time.

Also inside you will find information on the Chapter's upcoming Summer Meeting to be held in Rhode Island. The Chapter continues to sponsor exam review sessions for several of the professional certification programs of the EnviroCert, Inc, (formally CPESC, Inc) program. This year we will again sponsor three exam sessions for the designations Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC), Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality (CPSWQ) and the new designation, Certified Erosion, Sediment and Storm Water Inspector (CESSWI). If you are interested in the one of the upcoming review or exam sessions go to the Chapter web site and look at the calendar of events for more information.

Finally, the Chapter membership approved updates to the By-Laws and policies that were posted on the Chapter website (<http://www.swcssnec.org/>). I want to thank Board members and Chapter members who provided input and a special thanks to Jeff Anliker for getting these on the web and through the review and approval process.

We have tried to include as much in this newsletter and on the web site as we could. As always, your comments, your help, any questions and thoughts are most welcomed - please ask any Board member what we can do to help you in your work and how the Chapter can best serve you as a member.



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
139 Wolf Den Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234
nancy.ferlow@ct.usda.gov

Board Members

President – Eric Scherer, RI
Past President – Barbara Miller, MA
President elect – Elizabeth Rogers, RI
Vice President – Melissa Bailey, MA
Secretary/Treasurer – James Hyde, CT
CT Director – Eva Szigeti, CT
MA Director—Tom Akin, MA
RI Director – Jessie Dyer, RI
Executive Director—Jeff Anliker, MA

Committees

Awards
Membership
CPESC
Newsletter
Nominations
Publicity

Student Chapter

Advisor – Jack Clausen, CT

Executive Director's Message

Jeff Anliker

This is just a reminder that the Southern New England Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SNEC-SWCS) has a NEW address and phone number. The address is PO Box 487, Belchertown, MA 01007, telephone number of 413-213-6885. There is also a fax line at 413-323-1113. The Chapter website at www.swcssnec.org is consistently updated. There is now a calendar, an info@swcssnec.org link and current contact information. The membership button takes you to the SWCS membership page. Additional changes and improvements will be forthcoming. PLEASE check it out.

Our Winter Meeting held on Thursday, February 26, 2009 was very successful with approximately 70 attendees. The theme was “Wetlands—The Status of Wetlands Delineation and Assessment in New England.” Experts throughout the region addressed various facets on the theme. I have received many emails and a few phone calls on how well the conference went.

As part of our effort to provide professional development:

10 individuals attended a CPESC review session held in January from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

15 individuals from the same states took CPESC/CESSWI/CPSWQ exams in February.

Currently 12 individuals from the same states are registered to take CPESC/CESSWI/CPSWQ exams on April 24th.

The following dates have been set for additional Review Sessions and Exams:

Exams for Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC), Sediment and Storm Water Inspector (CESSWI), and Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality (CPSWZ) for certification: July 24 and October 23, 2009.

Review Sessions (these will help prepare individuals to take the exams) for:
CPESC on June 29, and
CPSWQ on September 18, 2009.

Locations and additional information for these sessions are on our website at www.swcssnec.org as well as on the CPESC website at www.cpesc.org.

Since the last newsletter, the following individuals have renewed their SWCS membership or have become new members:

New Members: Tom Morris, CT

Renewed Members: Alexis Cherichetti, Howard Denslow and Walter Stapleton, CT; and Karro Frost, MA

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 413-213-6885, anliker@charter.net or through the website.

Grant Applications!

Due by June 1, 2009

See Application Form on the SNEC SWCS Web site

www.swcssnec.org

RI Director to Submit Poster to SWCS 2009 National Meeting

The SNEC SWCS RI Director has been selected as the delegate for the 2009 SWCS national meeting in Dearborn, Michigan. She will be presenting a poster titled "Are We Fooling Ourselves? Eelgrass and Subaqueous Soils as a Refuge for Fecal Indicator Bacteria". In October 2008 a partnership was forged between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the University of Rhode Island to complete the study.

The study was conducted to determine if fecal indicator bacteria can utilize eelgrass and subaqueous soils to persist in water systems. Fecal indicator bacteria are harmless bacteria that are found with pathogenic bacteria. Fecal indicator bacteria are easy and cheap to detect and die soon after entering a water body, allowing for their presence to be related to a specific contamination event. Therefore, if fecal indicator bacteria were able to persist in water systems it could lead to false positives for fecal contamination in coastal waters. The presence of fecal indicator bacteria causes beach closures as determined by the EPA. Beach closures can cost a coastal community upwards of \$37,000 per closure.

Bluff Hill Cove in Point Judith, Rhode Island was the study location. Subaqueous soil and eelgrass samples were collected. Each sample was analyzed for Fecal enterococci and *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*. Fecal enterococci was analyzed because the EPA has suggested that it is the best indicator of human health risk in salt water used for recreation and shell-fishing activities. *Bifidobacterium adolescentis* exists only in the human system. Nucleic acid analysis of *Bifidobacterium adolescentis* was completed. If *Bifidobacterium adolescentis* were present in the sample then the fecal contamination would have been from human sources.

FE were present in both the eelgrass and subaqueous soil samples, with a higher concentration found in the latter. By contrast, *B. adolescentis* was not detected in either soil or eelgrass samples. These results suggest that FE bacteria may not be a reliable indicator of recent human fecal contamination, since soil and plants both appear to serve as refuge for these organisms in coastal environments, and thus a potential source of these bacteria to the water column. This information warrants a reanalysis of Fecal enterococci as an indicator of pathogenic bacteria.

2009 SWCS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Dearborn, Michigan

Are you coming to Michigan? The preliminary program is complete and online registration is now active for the 2009 Soil and Water Conservation Society's 2009 International Annual Conference on July 11-15 in Dearborn, Michigan.

This year the overarching theme of the conference is Delivering Conservation, Today and Tomorrow. We will explore the challenges facing the delivery of conservation planning, policy, and practices today and the issues that must be resolved in order to deliver sustainable soil and water conservation tomorrow and into the future.

Conference highlights include a screening of Dirt! The Movie (and a Q&A session with one of the directors), 24 symposia, more than 150 oral and poster sessions, eight tours, and a variety of additional networking opportunities.

Download the preliminary program, register, make your hotel reservations and more at www.swcs.org/09ac

Thanks as always for your continued membership and support of the Society. We hope to see you this summer.

Sincerely,

Jeff Strock, Program Committee Chair
Dwayne Johnson, Professional Development Director, Kelly Goward, Michigan Chapter President

YOUR ONLINE COMMUNITY FOR THE SWCS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

There is now a group on the SWCS Network to help you network with fellow attendees at the SWCS International Conference. Visit the community at <http://swcsnetwork.ning.com/group/2009annualconference> to communicate with colleagues, make new friends, give feedback on the program and hear updates on sessions and events. Join us and start your own conversation!

2009 – 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

President Elect – Write-in Candidate

Vice President – Melissa Bailey, MA

Melissa Bailey is a PhD candidate in the Agriculture, Food and Environment Program at Tufts University where her research focuses on the intersection of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) with livestock production systems and water quality practices. At Tufts, she is a "Water and Health" doctoral trainee fellow through the National Institute of Health (NIH) and a candidate to receive a certificate from the interdisciplinary program in Water: Systems, Science and Society (WSSS). Melissa holds a B.S. in Biology from Northeastern University and a M.S. in Public Policy from Tufts University's School of Veterinary Medicine. She currently serves on the Town of Holliston Agricultural Commission and is a Senior Fellow of the Environmental Leadership Program.

Secretary/Treasurer – James Hyde, CT

I grew up in Lincoln, NE, but having been my grandpa's shadow on a beef/grain farm in Northwest IA, I came to love the farmer's life and their connection to the land. I graduated with a B.S. degree emphasizing ecology from Nebraska Wesleyan University, followed by a M.S. with a focus on soil phosphorus from the University of Connecticut. Since then I've worked on soil nutrient management planning for UConn and NRCS, as well as an additional two years of schooling in soils from the University of Delaware. I am currently working for the USDA-NRCS in Windsor, CT doing farm and conservation planning.

My main purpose in running is to support this professional organization through actions rather than words. I believe strongly that if everyone carries a little bit of the load, much more work can be accomplished

Massachusetts Director – Thomas Akin, MA

Tom Akin, originally from Minnesota (next town over from Lake Wobegon) holds a BA in English from St. Thomas University in Minnesota and a MS in Plant and Soil Sciences from UMass Amherst.

Tom has been a Conservation Agronomist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services in Amherst, MA since November 2003. He was formerly Assistant Superintendent of Grounds & Internship Coordinator at the Arnold Arboretum from 1998 to 2003 and the IPM Coordinator at Weston Nurseries from 1995 to 1998.

Tom has also worked as an Extension Educator with UMass working with dairy farmers on nutrient management and conservation tillage and worked with the Peace Corps for six years in the Central African Republic. His interests include landscaping/gardening in the big city and trying to squeeze in a round of golf every once in a while. As MA Director, Tom would like to see SWCS collaborate with urban landscaping organizations to improve water quality in more developed areas of Massachusetts.

BALLOT

2009-2010 SNEC-SWCS Board of Directors

President Elect

Secretary/Treasurer

_____ James Hyde, CT

Vice President

_____ Melissa Bailey, MA

Massachusetts Director

_____ Tom Akin, MA

Please return ballots in enclosed envelope by June 10.

Please do not include your Summer Meeting Registration in the envelope with the ballots. Thank you.

2009 SNEC SWCS Summer Meeting!

Come join us on Thursday June 18th for a boat tour and clambake in southern Rhode Island! SNEC SWCS's summer meeting is being held in partnership with the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England in Matunuck, Rhode Island. Perry Raso will kick off the day at 10 am with a tour of his aquaculture operation. You will learn how local producers are turning to the shallow water habitats of southern New England for a livelihood. It is always a treat to see the iridescent eyes of the scallops and crack open an oyster fresh from the water!

This will then be followed by a subaqueous soils tour by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The soils scientists will show how subaqueous soils in the bay are the new frontier for soils mapping and how soil core samples are collected using a pontoon boat and newly developed soil coring equipment.

The day will continue with a good old fashioned clam bake provided by Perry with shellfish from the farm you will have visited earlier in the day.

The day will conclude with the member's meeting wrapping up around 2. Hope to see you all there!

Directions to follow.

Cost per person - \$30. Registration and payments are due June 10. See enclosed registration form.

SWCS Initiates New Mentor Program

The new SWCS mentor programs aim is to act as a means for student SWCS members and young professionals to find an experienced mentor of their choosing. The mentor program is run through the SWCS Network, an online social network created by the Society to encourage communication about conservation issues among our members. The network and the mentor program can also be used to interest conservationists and others who are not members of the society to get involved. Becoming a mentor or mentee is easy to do, but you must be a member of the social network first.

To join, go to <http://swcsnetwork.ning.com/>. Click the "Groups" tab. If you are new to the network, you will be invited to join. After providing a name and email address, you will have full access to the network. To participate in the mentor program, look for a group entitled "SWCS Mentor Program." Click on the "Join Group" button and you will be ready to mentor (or be mentored). A detailed description of the mentor program is given in the group page. In short, mentees are responsible for finding their own mentor. The best person can be found by looking at potential mentor profiles available within the mentor group.



SNEC – SWCS
P.O. Box 487
Belchertown, MA 01007

In this Newsletter
Summer Meeting Registration
Grant Application Reminder
Election Ballot

Summer Meeting Registration

Name _____

Address _____

Best means of contact (Phone/email) _____

Number Attending _____ x \$30 = Total enclosed \$ _____

Please send Meeting Registration to: SNEC-SWCS P.O. Box 487, Belchertown, MA 01007
by close of business June 10.

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