



SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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

October 2009

NOTE NEW WEB SITE: www.swcssnec.org

President's Message Liz Rogers

It is an honor to be the newly elected president of the Southern New England Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. I have been a chapter member on and (I must admit off) for many years. In the past I have served as the CT Director, Vice President, President Elect, President and Past President of the Chapter. I don't remember when or how it happened but after all of this involvement and commitment to SWCS, I drifted away, life happens and priorities change. I would attend the always excellent winter meetings but my membership lapsed. Last year I received a call from Jeff Anliker, Executive Director asking if I would be interested in being involved again with SWCS. I thought about it for several days and remembered all of the wonderful conservation initiatives that were undertaken from technical conferences to leadership with The Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control Program (CPESC) as well as the networking opportunities involved with SWCS activities. Obviously since I am writing this message I could not think of a reason not to become involved.

Maintaining and expanding an active membership base is the key to the success of any organization. If you are receiving this newsletter you are a member and see the value of SWCS. I am asking each of you to help with outreach efforts and encourage those who you think would be interested in our programs and activities to attend a conference, check out our website, attend a board meeting or contact myself or any other board member about the society. We

have some interesting things planned for this year, in October we will be co-sponsoring The Northeast Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association's Conference, our winter meeting will focus on energy conservation as will the SWCS spring leadership meeting. Please let us know if there are other "hot" topics that we should pursue or opportunities to partner with other organizations on initiatives that are compatible with our mission and vision.

My wish for this year is twofold. I want to expand our membership and partnership activities and to continue to deliver the excellent technical programs that we are known for. Wait—lets make it threefold---I also want to have fun along the way!

Liz

2009 Chapter Election Results

This years elections resulted in all nominated candidates being elected to the following positions: Melissa Bailey (MA) was elected to the Vice President position, James Hyde (CT) to the Secretary/Treasurer position and Tom Akin to the MA Representative position. Eric Scherer (RI) is Past President.

The Board will continue to seek an appointment for the vacant position of President Elect for this year from its current members. If you have served on the Board or one of its committees in the past and would to be considered for this position, please contact one of the current Board members listed in the Masthead.

Save this date: February 18 — Chapter Winter Meeting



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

Board Members

President – Liz Rogers, RI
Past President – Eric Scherer, RI
President elect – Vacant
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

Committees

Awards
Membership
CPESC
Newsletter
Nominations
Publicity

Student Chapter

Advisor – Jack Clausen, CT

Executive Director

Jeff Anliker
413-213-6885
anliker@charter.net

Executive Director's Report

Fall has arrived. Which is great since it is my favorite time of year. However, I cannot believe that schools are back in session already. My summer slipped away too fast.

Our Summer Meeting held on Thursday, June 18, 2009 was very successful from the feedback that I have received. The meeting was in partnership with the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England in Matunuck, Rhode Island.

The Board of Directors wants to increase the professional development for Chapter members and other in 2010. We are looking for YOUR ideas on the topics and types of workshops and conferences that we can host either as a Chapter or in partnership with other organizations. Please contact any Board member or myself with your thoughts.

This year our professional development effort in addition to the Winter Meeting Wetlands Conference has focused on the Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC), the Certified Erosion, Sediment and Storm Water Inspector (CESSWI), and the Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality (CPSWQ) certification programs. We did this by sponsoring exam review sessions and providing exams. EnviroCert International administers these programs worldwide. So far, this this year, we have:

Provided 17 individuals with the CPESC review session with participants from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

Provided CPESC/CESSWI/CPSWQ exams to 32 participants from the above listed states.

Registered 10 individuals from the same states plus Maine to take CPESC/CESSWI/CPSWQ exams on October 23rd.

The following dates have been established for 2010 Review Sessions & Exams:

Friday, March 19, 2010 for a CPESC Review Session

Friday, April 23, 2010 for CPESC/CESSWI/CPSWQ Exams

Friday, June 18, 2010 for CPESC/CESSWI/CPSWQ Exams

Friday, July 30, 2010 for a CPESC Review Session

Friday, August 27, 2010 for CPESC/CESSWI/CPSWQ Exams

Friday, October 22, 2010 for CPESC/CESSWI/CPSWQ Exams

Locations and additional information for these sessions will be posted soon 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: The UConn Student Chapter with Michael Turner, Katelynn Kind, Jennifer Bradshaw, Genevieve Flock, Helen Spera, Syed Ahmed, Diane Alix, David Wanik, Bruce Gregoire, and George Maynard

Renewed Members: Diane Walworth Duva, Mark Hood, and Michael Murphy of Connecticut; and Mary Talbot of Rhode Island

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

Jeff Anliker

2009 – 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Liz Rogers, Elizabeth.rogers@ct.usda.gov Foster, RI

Past President—J. Eric Scherer, eric.scherer@ri.usda.gov Warwick, RI

President Elect - Vacant

Vice President - Melissa Bailey, melissa.bailey@tufts.edu Holliston, MA

Secretary/Treasurer - James Hyde, james.hyde@ct.usda.gov Windsor, CT

Connecticut Director - Eva Szigeti, eva@eaec-inc.com Amity, CT 06524

Massachusetts Director - Tom Akin, thomas.akin@ma.usda.gov, Boston, MA

Rhode Island Director - Jessie Dyer, jessie.dyer@ri.usda.gov Warwick, RI

SNEC SWCS Winter Meeting

Thursday, February 18th

Please mark your calendars to save Thursday, February 18, 2010 for the Chapter's Winter Meeting. The proposed theme will include energy conservation and audits, alternative energy sources and their economic feasibility, and state and federal financial incentives for individuals, farmers, and small businesses.

We want this to be a partnership effort so we are looking for potential partners, sponsors, speakers, and a meeting location. Melissa Bailey, Liz Rogers, Eric Scherer and Jeff Anliker have agreed to serve on the Winter Meeting Committee and will be coordinating this event. If you would like to participate on the committee or have suggestions for partners, sponsors, speakers, and/or meeting location please contact Jeff at 413-213-6885 or anliker@charter.net.

Awards, Awards, Awards

Autumn is the time of year we look to reward our fellow conservationists for the fine work that they have been doing. These awards are designed to recognize those individuals and groups who have made outstanding contributions to the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

I. Available to Society Members:

Fellow—Recognizes exceptional professional achievement coupled with service to the Society

Outstanding Service—Recognizes distinguished service to the Society over a long and sustained period (10 years minimum)

Commendation—Recognizes members for service to their chapters (members having received other Society awards are also eligible)

***NEW* Conservation Research**—Recognizes a SWCS Society members or teams of members whose research has led to exceptional improvements in soil conservation, water conservation, and/or related natural resources research.

II. Available to Society Members & Nonmembers:

Hugh Hammond Bennett—Recognizes extraordinary national and international accomplishments in the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

Honor—Recognizes people for outstanding accomplishments compatible with Society objectives

Merit—Recognizes noteworthy conservation activity or products of organizations, agencies, or firms

Remember that the formal nomination questionnaire must be completed for each award category and should be accompanied by supporting information. Nominating procedures and the criteria for each award can be found on the SWCS web site at www.swcs.org.

In addition to the national awards, the Southern New England Chapter is accepting award nominations. For more information, go to www.swcssnec.org.

Award nominations are due to the Southern New England Chapter on November 6, 2009.

Southern New England Chapter Grant Supports Connecticut Envirothon ...

The 2008-2009 Connecticut Envirothon program was a success throughout the year. Over 120 students attended each of the Saturday morning workshops. The Field Day Competition was held on May 21st at Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area in Burlington, CT.

Thirty-two schools and 190 students participated in the field event. Six "wild card teams" comprised of alternates from the teams also competed to make a total of thirty teams participating at the testing stations. Concurrently, thirty three teachers or team advisors were attending a workshop on environmental curricula.

Each participating team completed a written test at each of four stations. Additionally, a written scenario was given to each school a month prior to the field event. Each team was required to devise an oral presentation to be given to a panel of judges during the rotation through the testing stations; the station allowed for a fifteen-minute presentation and a ten-minute question and answer period.

After the competition, all participants and volunteers enjoyed a barbecue luncheon before returning to the stations for a test review period held by the station presenters.

The results of the field competition were Housatonic Valley High School in first place, Wamogo High School in second place, and Litchfield high School in third place.

The field event was made possible by the efforts of sixty-five volunteers from nineteen professional organizations, and both public and private sector entities.

In August, Housatonic Valley RHS went on to represent Connecticut at the Canon National Envirothon in North Carolina. Fifty six student teams from forty-six states, eight Canadian provinces, and two territories participated. Housa-

tonic Valley Regional High School ably represented Connecticut in the five-day competition that included five-written station tests, and two oral presentations based on an environmental problem solving exercise. Our team placed 10th out of fifty-four teams!

... And the Massachusetts Envirothon

The year 2009 marked the 22nd anniversary of the Massachusetts Envirothon natural resource education program for high school students. Activities began in September with a coaches' workshop to introduce the program, followed by three student workshops in November, January and March on topics related to soils, aquatic biology, forestry, wildlife and the current issue, "Renewable Energy: Getting it Right, Ecologically and Economically".

For the event, 44 teams had a choice of two field competition days on May 13th and May 14th at the Doyle Conservation Center in Leominster, Massachusetts where they rotated through four field eco-stations and gave an oral presentation on the current issue to a panel of judges. The four teams with the highest scores were invited to offer their presentation again at the Finals Competition on May 30th at UMass Amherst.

To celebrate the students' hard work and accomplishments, awards were presented to the teams that placed first in each of the eco-stations and the current issue, the Rookie of the Year, and the top four teams overall. Community Awards were presented to teams for their high standards of work and community service they may have performed based on what they learned about the current issue. Tantasqua Regional High School from Fiskdale, Massachusetts took first place and represented Massachusetts at the Canon Envirothon in August at the University of North Carolina Asheville.



2009 International Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference Delegate's Report

Submitted by: Jessie Dyer

The 2009 International Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference was held in Dearborn, Michigan from July 11th to July 15th. The conference was kicked off by President Peggie James addressing all of the delegates at the House of Delegates meeting on Sunday July 12th. Peggie spoke to the theme of the conference "Conservation Today and Tomorrow" by urging chapters to increase student involvement to begin creating leaders for the future of the conservation movement.

The meeting continued with the presentation of two resolutions. The first, presented by the Wisconsin chapter, proposed to decrease the current size of the Board of Directors from thirteen to seven. The argument for the resolution was that the Society is spending a great deal on travel expenses for the board members to meet and the design of a thirteen member board was created at a time with less advanced communication and networking abilities. In addition, the resolution called for four of the Board members to be elected at large and three to be appointed by the Executive Director. The argument for this was that the Executive Director would have the ability to appoint diverse and experienced individuals. Although, many members believed the Board of Directors should be reformulated, they felt this proposal would limit representation of regions on the Board and give too much power to the Executive Director. The resolution was not passed.

The second resolution, presented by the National Capital Chapter, was to re-establish The Norman A. Berg Conservation Leadership & Policy Forum. The forum would be a biennial three day event held in Washington D.C. for 10 to 20 members across the Society. The purpose would be to network and develop stronger partnerships between national agencies, organizations, and policy makers. Those presenting the proposal felt this opportunity would also increase. The Na-

tional Capital Chapter would cover \$2,100 of the cost and \$1,500 would be expected to be covered by the host chapter. The resolution was passed with overwhelming support by the delegates.

Peggie closed the meeting by stating what an outstanding job the chapters had done with recruitment and program implementation in 2009. Although, with all of the international issues surrounding energy, water and global climate change the need for the society is stronger now than ever. Peggie challenged groups to not only increase membership but to increase participation for the membership through grassroots community projects relating to greener communities and energy conservation.

Mark your calendars for the 65th International Conference in St. Louis, Missouri from July 18th to the 20th 2010!

Student Chapter News

Gant Plaza gets hybrid green roof

From The Daily Campus, UCONN Posted: 9/2/09

After two years of fundraising and organization, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, in collaboration with EcoHusky, will complete the Gant Plaza Roof Project this Wednesday.

This environmental cooperation was implemented as an effort to use green practices around campus specifically that dealt specifically with water issues, according to Natural Resource Management & Engineering (NRME) faculty member, Jack Clausen. Clausen also serves as an advisor to the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Gant Plaza, located within the Science Complex on the north side of campus, will receive its makeover on Wednesday morning with the help of any student willing to participate. The festivities will start at 10 o'clock and will include a free

pizza lunch at around noon. At 1 in the afternoon, a formal ceremony will take place celebrating the completion of the project.

Rich Miller, the director of Environmental Policy at the University, will serve as the master of ceremonies. Special guests Barry Feldman, the vice president and chief operating officer for the University of Connecticut, and Amey Marrella, the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, will speak on behalf of the accomplishment.

"DEP is pleased to be working with UConn and the town of Mansfield to support efforts to improve the water quality of Eagleville Brook." Acting Commissioner, Amey Marrella, said.

"The Grant Plaza roof project is a perfect example of the kinds of steps we can take to accomplish that goal. This 'green' roof is expected to reduce the volume of storm water that drains into Eagleville Brook and causes water quality issues," Marrella said. "The project is also an example of the steps UConn is taking to be a first-rate environmental citizen and set an example for outstanding environmental stewardship."

The green roof itself will act as a hybrid between a park and a traditional green roof, which, as the name would imply, ordinarily be found on top of a building. Green roofs were originally designed in order to redirect water flow, having the plants

use the water to grow. While UConn's green roof will be at ground level, it will still have the environmental benefits, but also serve as an aesthetically pleasing fixture open to all students.

"The plaza is in an accessible place for all students...you'll be able to sit up there to relax, have a picnic, or just look." Said Clausen. "We could have put it up high, but then no one would be able to see it and utilize it."

Clausen encourages all students to attend tomorrow's green festivities and to be part of UConn's movement towards a greener campus.

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SPECIAL NOTE: SNEC-SWCS
Newsletter to become electronic

In the interest of saving time and saving money, the board has decided to have the Southern New England Chapter newsletter delivered via email. If you wish to continue receiving this newsletter in hard copy, please send a short note to SNEC-SWCS, P.O. Box 487, Belchertown, MA 01007 saying that you want to keep your hard copy subscription. Thank you for your attention.

Nancy Ferlow, Newsletter editor



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