



# SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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

October 2010

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

## President's Message Tom Akin

Greetings Southern New England SWCS Members! I hope you are having a productive fall season! It's my honor and privilege to serve as President of our local chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society for the upcoming year. I would like to thank the outgoing Board members, especially Liz Rogers for her years of dedicated service as a Board Member and most recently as President of our Southern New England Chapter. Thank you Liz for your commitment and willingness to serve our Chapter!

I would also like to welcome our new Board members elected this past summer. Dr. Timothy Randhir, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts was elected as the MA Director. Dr. Randhir has generously agreed to reactivate the student SWCS chapter at the University; thank you Tim! Dick Starkey, from Greenfield, MA was elected to serve as Treasurer; Dick served for many years on the MA NRCS State Technical Committee and the MA Soil & Water Conservation Association Board. Our former Treasurer, Jim Hyde, NRCS District Conservationist in Windsor, CT, is our new President Elect, and Mickey Marcus, a Principal at New England Environmental in Amherst, MA is our new Vice President. Eric Scherer, RI NRCS State Resource Conservationist and Past President of SNE SWCS, has agreed to serve as RI State Director. Eva Szigeti, a Soil Scientist/ Environmental Analyst with Evans Associates Environmental Consulting in Bethany, CT, is our State Director for CT. And lastly, we have a new faculty advisor for the UConn SWCS Chapter.

Gary Robbins, a Professor of Geology, has replaced Jack Clausen who served for many years as faculty advisor. Our student chapters are hugely important; they are our future, and we need to encourage their participation! Thank you to all of our Board Members and Student Chapter Board Members!

As for myself, I have been on the SNE SWCS Board since 2009 when I was elected as the MA State Director. I have worked in a variety of natural resources related jobs over the past 25 years. From my current position as Conservation Agronomist for NRCS in Amherst, MA, to my first job as a tractor operator cutting the "rough" at the local 9-hole golf course, I have always loved working in the great outdoors. Our environment has changed immensely over the last several decades; we have made a lot of progress in many areas, but we still have a lot of work to do. Whether it is engineering or education, thank you for what you do to help make our environment a better place for future generations! And thank you for your continued support of SWCS; your membership makes this great organization possible!

We have an exciting year coming up. SNE SWCS is partnering with the Northeast Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association and the MA Association of Conservation Commissions to put together a winter meeting in December; please see Executive Director, Jeff Anliker's column on the meeting details. We hope to see you there! Keep up the good work!

— Tom



**Save this date: December 2 — SNEC Chapter Winter Meeting (see page 3)**



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 - Tom Akin, MA  
President Elect - James Hyde, CT  
Vice President - Mickey Marcus, MA  
Past President - Liz Rogers, RI  
Treasurer - Richard Starkey, CT  
Secretary - Mark Hood, CT  
Connecticut Director - Eva Szigeti, CT  
Massachusetts Director - Tim Randhir, MA  
Rhode Island Director - Eric Scherer, RI

#### **Committees**

Awards  
Membership  
CPESC  
Newsletter  
Nominations  
Publicity

#### **Student Chapter**

Advisor - Dr. Gary Robbins, CT  
UConn Student Representative - Kayla Anatone

#### **Executive Director**

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

## **Executive Director's Report**

This year, the Southern New England Chapter is will collaborate with the Northeast Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) and the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) to host a joint convention that will serve as our Chapter Winter Meeting. Each organization will have a day for the opening key note and membership meeting. Our Chapter day will be Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. See the article on the Winter Meeting for additional details. We will have the entire agenda and registration on our website at [www.swcssnec.org](http://www.swcssnec.org) soon.

Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, the following individuals have renewed their SWCS membership or have become new members:

- **New Members:** Matt Goldstein (Yale), Eva Agudelo, (Tufts), Gary Robbins (UConn); Ralph Chartier Sr., Deborah Spalding, Ralph Stanton Jr., Eric Thomas, Kitti Deak, Mike Dietz, and Susan Provost all of Connecticut; and Andy Bohne of Massachusetts

**Renewed Members:** Basma Mohammad (UConn); Jack Clausen, Elizabeth Evans, and Steve Trinkaus of Connecticut; Leo Garneau, Bob Murphy, Seanan Murphy, Nancy Putnam, and Stephanie Wilsen of Massachusetts

Please welcome and thank these members for their support. Congratulations!

For 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 have the Friday October 28<sup>th</sup> CPESC/CESSWI/CPSWQ exam remaining and it will be in Amherst, Massachusetts. For additional information on this session, 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 either internally within their organization. If you 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

## **2011-2012 Board Members**

<u>President</u> - Tom Akin	<u>President Elect</u> - James Hyde
<u>Vice President</u> - Mickey Marcus	<u>Past President</u> - Liz Rogers
<u>Treasurer</u> - Richard Starkey	<u>Secretary</u> - Mark Hood
<u>CT Director</u> - Eva Szigeti	<u>MA Director</u> - Tim Randhir
<u>Rhode Island Director</u> - Eric Scherer	<u>Newsletter Editor</u> - Nancy Ferlow
<u>UConn Student Advisor</u> - Dr. Gary Robbins	
<u>UConn Student Representative</u> - Kayla Anatone	

## **SNEC/IECA Winter Meeting— Natick, Massachusetts**

The SNEC-SWCS/IECA Northeast Chapter Conference in Natick, Massachusetts is just 2 short months away! Conference dates are Thursday, December 1 - Saturday, December 3 with a pre-conference social outing currently being planned for the evening of Thursday, November 30.

**Visit the conference website at: <http://www.ieca-nechapter.org/nec2011natick.html> for all the information you will need!**

SNEC-SWCS will have its own day at the conference—Friday, December 2. Please plan on attending this session. Remember to review the rest of the conference for items that might interest you.

This year there is an exciting three day program of technical sessions, trade show, and review classes in all EnvirCert International certifications including CPESC, CPSWQ, CESSWI and the newest certification, CMS4S. The conference will include ample opportunities for social and professional networking, including our annual President's Reception on Friday evening in the conference exhibit hall.

In the coming days and weeks Jeff Anliker will be sending out additional conference information and updates. You can also continue to check the website as we work to finalize the program and add sponsors/exhibitors to the trade show. But please do not hesitate to register! **Discounts available if you register before October 15th!**

*Information on becoming a sponsor and/or exhibitor is available on the conference website.*

We look forward to seeing you in December!

## **2011 International Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference Delegate's Report—Nancy Ferlow**

The 2011 International Annual Conference for the Soil and Water Conservation Society was held in Washington, DC this past July. This annual meeting of the Society continues to be one of the premier events for professionals in natural resources conservation. Over 500 members and guests attended this year's program of educational, professional development and networking opportunities. The Capitol Chapter of SWCS did an outstanding job of hosting the Conference and put on a number of excellent tours highlighting conservation efforts.

This year's annual conference theme, "Conservation Science and Policy: Global Perspectives and Applications" was highlighted by the Pritchard Lecture featuring Dan Glickman, former Secretary of Agriculture. Secretary Glickman shared his thoughts and personal experiences on the long term implications of food and agricultural policy on conservation in the United States and around the world. The Conference featured a slate of symposia, individual oral presentations, posters, and workshops, many of them addressing the global conservation theme.

A special session was organized by the Committee on the recently developed position statement on Climate Change. This is an example of a House of Delegates resolution—from the Empire Chapter—that went through the committee structure and is now a document that frames the Society's position on Climate Change. A compliment to this is the Journal article titled "Conservation Practices to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change," in the July/August issue. It is a science assessment of the effects of conservation practices as related to climate change.

My visit to Washington was complete with a tour of the National Arboretum, Plant Materials Center, ARS Beltsville Farm, and National Agricultural Laboratory.

Mark your calendars for the Conference in Fort Worth, TX from July 22 to 25, 2012!

## **SNEC-SWCS Board Member - Gary Robbins**

In June 2011 Dr. Gary Robbins joined the SNEC-SWCS as the new University of Connecticut (UConn) Student Chapter advisor. Dr. Robbins brings a wealth of professional and academic experience to the SWCS.

As a Professor of Geology (Hydrogeology) at the UConn Department of Natural Resources and the Environment Dr. Robbins specializes in the study of the fate and transport of ground water contamination and ground water supply sustainability.

Dr Robbins said it was his interest in helping people understand water related issues that drew him to become the UConn Student Chapter advisor.

“Water literally has been my professional life. I have probed and prodded it, sampled it from here to yonder, modeled it, and of course drank and bathed in it from the equator to just about the south pole. But I have also spent a professional life time helping to educate people on its virtues, preservation, conservation and remediation when it became tainted. I volunteered to become the advisor to extend the satisfaction that I have known helping people on water related issues to the young minds of our students” said Dr. Robbins.

Dr Robbins sees his role as a facilitator between the UConn-SWCS and the University the UConn Student Chapter advisor. “I am ready and willing to provide help to the chapter” said Dr. Robbins.

Dr. Robbins began his involvement with the SWCS by facilitating the 2011 SNEC-SWCS Summer Workshop held at UConn on June 16, 2011. Dr. Robbins has also been attracting new members to the UConn-SWCS student chapter. “The chapter has a new President who is very enthusiastic about having a very vibrant and active club” said Dr. Robbins.

Dr. Robbins is stepping in to fill the shoes of long time UConn-SWCS Student Chapter advisor Dr. John Clausen.

Prior to beginning his career at UConn in 1986 Dr. Robbins had accumulated a vast array of knowledge and skills through a variety of positions within the fields of geosciences and hydrodynamics.

Dr. Robbins graduated from Brooklyn College with a B.S. with Honors in Geology. Following his college

graduation, he served in the New York and Rhode Island National Guards. He went on to graduate school at Brown University where he received his M.S. degree in Geology, concentrating in Isotope Geochemistry.

Dr. Robbins then went on to work at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, working on power plant siting, engineering geology and waste disposal. His work in this latter area kindled his interest in hydrogeology. He then went to Texas A&M University and obtained a Ph.D. degree in Geology, specializing in Hydrogeology, under Dr. Pat Domenico and Chris Mathewson. He stayed on there for a year as an Assistant Professor conducting research related to mining, hydrodynamic dispersion and contaminant transport modeling. During this period he collaborated with Pat Domenico to develop the Domenico and Robbins Model and the concept of dispersion scaling due to model dimensionality mismatch. He left Texas A&M to go to Woodward Clyde Consultants in Santa Ana, California for two years. While in California he continued his academic career as an adjunct Professor at California State University, Fullerton and at the University of California, Riverside.

Dr. Robbins has published over a hundred scientific articles and reports. He is also the author of *Expedited Site Assessment: The CD* and developer of the patented polyethylene bag sampling system field screening method.

Dr. Robbins is often sought after to conduct training and to perform consulting. He manages Robbins Consulting Services, LLC a consulting hydrogeology firm and Ram's Horn Educational, LLC that develops multimedia environmental educational software that stresses hands-on education through simulation.

Dr. Robbins current projects include: Using GIS based analyses in evaluating spatial and temporal trends in bedrock well hydraulic characteristics and water quality; Developing methods to improve the determination of hydraulic conductivity; Evaluating the impact of on-site groundwater infiltration at service stations on contaminant source distribution; Evaluating the occurrence and sources of high levels of manganese in bedrock drinking water wells in Connecticut; Assessing temporal trends in ground water levels in Connecticut in response to global climate change; Evaluating historical trends in salt levels in surface water and ground water in Connecticut.; Developing an approach for assessing water resources in fractured crystalline bedrock and impacts of pumping on sustainability.

## **SNEC-SWCS Summer Conference Stormwater Solutions for Impervious Surfaces: Results of the Eagleville Brook Watershed Project**

Eric Thomas of DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) and Mike Dietz of NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) were joined by Jason Coite from the UConn OEP (University of Connecticut Office of Environmental Policy) on the UConn campus on a sunny June 16 to discuss the unique Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for impervious cover (IC) that has been developed for Eagleville Brook. Jack Clausen of UConn joined the presenters for a panel discussion, and then a walking tour followed with continued discussion of the development, operation, and maintenance of some projects at UConn that have been installed to reduce impacts to the Brook.

The Brook's two main segments have been assessed as Non Supporting for the designated uses of Aquatic Life and for Recreation in DEEP's [Integrated Water Quality Report to Congress](#). The TMDL for impervious cover was written with a goal of reducing the "effective" impervious cover in the watershed. Measures have been taken to reduce or disconnect impervious surfaces, thereby reducing runoff to the Brook, and in effect reducing contaminant loadings. These measures include bioretention, pervious pavement, and green roof installations within the Eagleville Brook watershed.

During the discussions and tours of the conference, lively debates occurred between attendees regarding the successful, and some not-so successful, aspects of the individual projects and overall program. A recurring theme of the tour involved the importance of monitoring and maintaining the projects, including training landscaping and maintenance personnel to understand and support the functions of bioretention systems. Often, "normal" grounds maintenance can negatively impact the successful functioning of these systems. Other discussions included whether IC is a robust enough component to support potential TMDL regulations, or if it should continue as part of a more comprehensive study involving more parameters.

Since the conference, we have learned that DEEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have approved Section 319 NPS grant funding to assist UConn with an implementation project and to con-

tinue some staff funding support for ongoing coordination of the TMDL implementation and watershed planning priorities in the Eagleville Brook watershed. An agreement will soon be developed between DEEP and UConn/NEMO. NEMO recently completed a guidance document to assist communities that are or may be required to address similar IC-TMDLs. In addition, macroinvertebrate and fish data that were collected in the Fall of 2010 are still being assessed by DEEP to determine the results of the reduction of IC on stream macroinvertebrate species and populations.

Whether you believe IC-TMDL is the answer to the puzzle, or a piece of it, the vast amount of information that has been collected during this project, along with the data to be collected in the future, will provide a wealth of information to assist other watershed management projects and guide the development of meaningful regulations.

Please visit <http://clear.uconn.edu/projects/tmdl> for details on the entire Eagleville Brook Impervious Cover TMDL project. Also visit [www.swcssnec.org](http://www.swcssnec.org) for information on all of the activities of the Southern New England Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Special thanks to the University of Connecticut SWCS Student Chapter.



SWCS members tour the green roof at UConn.  
Photo by Mark Hood

## 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)

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

**Award nominations are due to the Southern New England Chapter on November 12, 2011.**



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