



SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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

May 2010

www.swcssnec.org

President's Message

Liz Rogers

Ah, Spring—that gentle time of the year filled with warm days, the greening of the earth and harmony. Yeah right, my back yard is a battle ground filled with territorial fights, building without permits, uninvited diner guests and out of control vegetative advancements. Let 's start with Robins. Male Robins have decided that our yard is their territory to be defended against other Robins. They do this by making a lot of noise, hitting each other and other methods of intimidation. Well I consider this my territory and have the town homeowner tax bills to prove it. Do Robins offer to pay taxes? The building of hives and nests without proper permits continues at this very minute. Deer dine on my precious native plants and acorns that have successfully escaped the deer, germinate in my lawn. What to do and a lot to think about. Maybe, just maybe, the few acres I consider to belong to my family really belongs to many living things and that we all contribute to the health and balance of the ecosystem—even if some of us don't appreciate wasp nests and others are blissfully unaware of municipal zoning and permits.

How does all this fit in with SWCS? As I thought about this message, I thought if I don't get this written by the deadline Nancy Ferlow, Newsletter Editor, will display some Robin like behavior towards me (and it will be well deserved), I also thought what is the purpose of our chapter? According to our by-laws, the chapter Objective is to *"promote, educate and advance all phases of the science of conservation of soil, water and all related resources; to provide a medium of exchange of facts, experience and thoughts; and to represent, advance and promote the standards of the science of soil and water conservation"* By working toward our objective with our many partners on the chapter, national and international level we are accepting our responsibility to advance resource conservation and provide a sustainable environment.

Our natural resource issues are complex and it has been a difficult decision for our Chapter's Board of Directors to decide on where to focus our meetings and conference. At our annual meeting in February we discussed renewable and alternative energy and our summer meeting will have a very different environmental focus. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 13th at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University in Boston, MA. The Arnold Arboretum is the oldest public arboretum in North America and is one of the world's leading centers for the study of plants. The Summer Meeting will consist of two tours the first focusing on the issue of exotic invasive plants in the Arnold's historic collection; the second will feature the unique geology and soils of the Arboretum. Meeting details and registration information are in the newsletter.

We are also meeting our objectives by supporting out partners' goals in resource education and conservation. I am pleased to report that our Chapter is supporting 2010 Envirothon Events and The University of Rhode Island's Team of soil judges so they can participate in the National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest. Additionally, please read Jeff Anliker's Executive Director's report for information on the dates for the 2010 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 certification programs.

I hope you enjoy the Newsletter and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Summer Meeting on July 13th,
Liz





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 – Liz Rogers, RI
Past President – Eric Scherer, RI
President elect – Vacant
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Secretary/Treasurer – James Hyde, CT
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CPESC
Newsletter
Nominations
Publicity

Student Chapter

Advisor – Jack Clausen, CT

Executive Director's Message—Jeff Anliker

Our Winter Meeting was a great success. We had many outstanding speakers and a lively audience. The theme was *Energizing the Rural Landscape—Renewable Power and Energy Efficiency Opportunities for Our Farms, Homes, and Communities*. You can go to website at www.swcssnec.org for photos of the conference plus PowerPoint presentations from many of the speakers. Almost a dozen organizations or businesses co-sponsored the conference. CME Associates, Inc of Connecticut was the Premier Sponsor. Alteris Renewables and USDA Rural Development were Contributing Sponsors. Apeiron Institute of Sustainable Living, Connecticut Environmental Review Team, Connecticut Farm Energy Program, Center for Ecological Technology, Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Partnership, the Northeast Chapter International Erosion Control Association, and the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England were In-Kind Sponsors.

The Board of Directors recently made:

A contribution to the 2010 Massachusetts Envirothon. The funding will go towards three workshops to prepare for the Envirothon competition. The first was a full day of 28 mini workshops held at UMass, a 2nd workshop was held in February and a 3rd in March. The final event will be May 13th at Otter River State Forest in Baldwinville, MA.

A contribution to the University of Rhode Island team of soil judges so they could participate in the National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest in Texas. They were one of 20 teams across the county to attend. They were eligible after winning the team award in the NE Regional Collegiate Soil Judging competition last fall.

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 established the following dates in 2010. All review sessions and exams will be in Amherst, Massachusetts.

The dates are:

- 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

For additional information for these sessions, go to our website at www.swcssnec.org or 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: John Guskowski of Connecticut; Bob Doherty, Shawna Little and Nancy Putnam of Massachusetts; and Chuck Dubuc of Rhode Island
- Renewed Members: Katie Bednaz and Aubrey Mead of Connecticut; Leo Garneau and Mark Godfrey of Massachusetts; Liz Rogers and Adam Rosenblatt of Rhode Island

Please welcome and thank these members for their support.

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

Jeff Anliker

URI Attends Soil Juging Contest with SNEC-SWCS Help

The University of Rhode Island recently represented southern New England at the 50th annual National Collegiate Soils competition. The contest was centered in Lubbock, Texas. This area of west Texas is known as the Southern High Plains. A large area of the Ogallala aquifer underlies the alluvial and wind-blown sediments that are the parent materials for these soils. Nearly all of the production agriculture (primarily cotton) is supported by water from the Ogallala. The upper part of the Ogallala formation is capped by a petrocalcic horizon (soil horizon cemented by calcium carbonate) In some cases the petrocalcic was meters thick). Over the Ogallala are wind-blown sands and loess. The only relief on this very flat plain are dune fields and playa lakes. Lacustrine deposits dominate the basins of the playa lakes (the major wetland of the Southern High Plains). Most of the soils were Haplustalfs, Calcicustolls, and Paleustolls. Soils in the playas were primarily Vertisols (shrink-swell soils). Gilgai micro-relief was observed in a number of the playa lakes.

Twenty-one universities from across the US participated in the competition. The University of Rhode Island placed third overall in the contest. One of our students, Jillian Phillips, was the number one individual at the competition. The practice and competition was an excellent learning experience for our students. Thanks to the SNEC-SWCS for helping to support our travel to the contest to represent southern New England.



2010 SWCS Annual Conference St Louis, Missouri

Meet me in St. Louis? Join your colleagues in St. Louis for the 65th annual international conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. The conference, held July 18-21, includes workshops, concurrent sessions, symposia, posters, plenary sessions, and technical tours designed to raise the awareness of conference participants to recent developments in the science and art of natural resource conservation and environmental management. The 2010 conference will take place at the Hilton at the Ballpark in downtown St. Louis.

This year the overarching theme of the conference is: **Ecosystem Services:** Applications for Conservation Science, Policy, and Practice Ecosystem services, simply put, are the benefits that society receives from soil, water, air, organisms, and the processes that govern their interactions. Nourishing food and clean water in sufficient quantities are two examples of human needs that would not be met without ecosystem services such as soil formation, nutrient cycling, and regulating the earth's climate. Other services include meeting the recreational, aesthetic, and cultural amenities that are essential for human well being. The concept of ecosystem services is not new, but is gaining momentum as we seek to prioritize, measure, and communicate the value of conservation impacts in agricultural and urban settings. Abstracts for oral presentations, posters, and symposia should address the role of ecosystem services concepts in the technical, outreach and education, and public policy aspects of conservation.

Further information can be found at www.swcs.org/en/conferences/2010_annual_conference/.

**Grant Applications!
Due by June 1, 2009**

**See Application Form on the
SNEC SWCS Web site
www.swcssnec.org**

Energizing the Rural Landscape: Another Successful SNEC-SWCS Winter Workshop!

Over 60 participants attended SNEC-SWCS's annual winter meeting held in Auburn, MA on February 18, 2010. The event featured a diverse lineup of over a dozen speakers from government, private sector and the communities of CT, MA, and RI who shared their perspectives on energy issues in rural areas. The Chapter selected the topic for their annual winter workshop due to the increasing demand by New England farms, homes and communities for renewable power and energy efficiency upgrades and the rise in government programs and businesses available to support this growing trend toward alternative forms of energy.

The event featured a keynote highlighting the challenges and possibilities for renewables projects provided by Gerry Palano, Alternative Energy Coordinator for Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources and panels on the latest state energy programs, tools for renewable energy technology (such as energy audits and LEED certification), funding mechanisms and case studies on successful projects from each state. Case studies ranged from a dairy manure digester installation in Massachusetts to a start-up wood pellet plant in Rhode Island with engaging Q&A sessions about how these projects succeeded in financing and overcame technical barriers. The workshop was supported by a number of organizations including a premier sponsor, CME Associates, Inc., contributing sponsors Alteris Renewables, USDA Rural Development and SNEC-SWCS, and in-kind sponsors the Center for Ecological Technology, the Connecticut Farm Energy Program, the Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Partnership, the Northeast Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association, and the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England. Our thanks to all of the sponsors for their support in making this another successful SNEC-SWCS workshop! Photos from the workshop can be viewed online on the SNEC website at: <http://www.swcssnec.org/>

Treasurer/Secretary's Report Jim Hyde

The past year, there was much deliberation on how to craft the budget in such a way to allow for chapter growth, yet within the existing monetary realities. It was agreed to use a portion of the banked monies or capital funds (as CDs) over the next two to three years to ensure funding to hire an executive director. The executive director would then have the means to organize and orchestrate positive cash-flow projects. Now, just over one year into the new organization, the board has been unequivocally appreciative and impressed with the executive director's efforts and accomplishments. The immediate benefits to SNEC were seen with Jeff's communication and organization for the society. National support for a local executive director to help with day-to-day activities and programs was strongly encouraged. Now one year later, the financial realities of maintaining a paid position as opposed to an all volunteer board has proven to be a worthy challenge.

This year, the board set a goal of 100 registrants for the winter meeting. As the dust settled after a busy gathering, the final attendance numbers came up short of our goal. That was the down side. The up side was we had some very good support with our sponsors and developed some new relations for future collaboration. As for attendance, we had tried for an up-to-date meeting with timely topics and appropriate speakers related to green energy implementation and savings. We've tried to guess what reasons may have kept people away or unable to attend, but we thought the best idea was to ask you directly. At this time, we are very open for any comments or feedback on what would have made you more likely to attend the winter meeting. We would love to see the attendance at the winter and summer meetings sky-rocket to unimaginable numbers. However, keeping our feet on the ground, our primary goal is to provide you, our members, timely and up-coming topics for discussion and learning. Please provide any comments or suggestions on directions you would like to see your program support for future meetings.

2010 – 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

(This year the Chapter has decided to seek a candidate for the position of Secretary – In CY 2009 the current Treasurer held both positions as per the Constitution and he has agreed to finish out the second year of his term).

President Elect – 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.

Vice President – 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.

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.

Connecticut Director – Eva Szigeti, CT

Eva has been working for the past five years as a Soil Scientist/Environmental Analyst with Evans Associates Environmental Consulting, Inc. in Bethany, Connecticut, mainly conducting wetland and hydric soils delineations, evaluations, and permitting. Previously, Eva received an AAS in Ecology and Environmental Technology from Paul Smith's College in upstate New York and worked at Leggette, Brashears, & Graham, Inc. (a Connecticut groundwater and environmental firm) for seven years. She then returned to college and received a BS in Natural Resources and an MS in Soil Science from the University of Connecticut, where she was active in the student chapter of SWCS (serving at various times as President, Vice President, and Secretary). In addition to being a member of SWCS, Eva is also an ARCPACS Certified Professional Soil Scientist with the Soil Science Society of America, and a member of the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England. Having been previously involved with SWCS, Eva looks forward to the opportunity to return to a position on the Board of Directors.

**Eric Scherer Receives
Commendation Award**

Long time member and current past President, Eric Scherer has received the national SWCS Commendation Award. The Award reads:

J. Eric Scherer has been instrumental in developing the Executive Director Position for the Southern New England Chapter. This had moved the Chapter forward with planned activities. Mr. Scherer had led the board through chapter by-law updates and expansion of Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control/Certified Erosion, Sediment and Stormwater Inspectors and Certified Professionals in Stormwater Quality Review sessions and proctored exams. This professional development effort and a Winter Meeting Wetlands Conference provided individuals with needed review sessions, exams and registered individuals for their respective certified programs. Mr. Scherer has also provided leadership in officer positions for the Southern New England SWCS Chapter and the International Erosion Control Association.



Congratulations to Eric!

BALLOT
2010-2011 SNEC-SWCS Board of Directors

President Elect
_____ Melissa Bailey, MA

Secretary
_____ Mark Hood, CT

Vice President
_____ Thomas Akin, MA

Connecticut Director
_____ Eva Szigeti

Because no President Elect was elected last year, Elizabeth Rogers has agreed to continue as President and Eric Scherer will continue as Past President.

Please return ballots by June 10.

Please print and submit this Ballot to SNEC-SWCS, PO Box 487, Belchertown, MA 01007.

Thank you.

Summer Meeting 2010— The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

The 2010 Summer Meeting of the Southern New England SWCS will be held on Tuesday, July 13th from 10am to 3pm on the historic grounds of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University in Boston, MA. Established in 1872, the Arnold Arboretum is the oldest public arboretum in North America and is one of the world's leading centers for the study of plants. The Arnold Arboretum occupies 265-acres of land in the city of Boston and has often been called the crowning jewel in the "Emerald Necklace" of Boston parks.

The Summer Meeting will consist of two tours of the Arnold Arboretum. Dr. Michael Dosman, Curator of the Arboretum and Mr. Stephen Schneider, Manager of Horticulture will lead a tour focusing on the issue of exotic invasive plants in the Arnold's historic collection. The afternoon tour, following lunch in the pavilion of the "Leventritt Shrub and Vine Garden", will feature the unique geology and soils of the Arboretum and will be led by USDA NRCS Geologist Rudy Chlanda and USDA NRCS Soil Scientist Rob Tunstead. The day will conclude with the member's meeting wrapping up around 3pm.

Hope to see you all there! Directions and parking information will follow.

Cost per person - \$30. Registration and payments are due July 1st. See enclosed registration form.

UConn Student Chapter of the SWCS Meeting

On Wednesday 3/3/2010, William Purcell, Soil Conservationist, of the CT NRCS gave an introductory PowerPoint presentation on the Natural Resources Conservation Service to 11 student members of the UConn Student Chapter of the SWCS. The first topic of the presentation was on the history of NRCS and how it all started with Hugh Hammond Bennett writing a USDA bulletin in 1928 entitled "Soil Erosion- A National Menace". Other topics of the presentation included: The mission of NRCS, the 9 step planning process, components of a conservation plan, current field tools, a brief overview of the Resource Concerns Quality Criteria to meet the Resource Management System level for a Conservation Management Unit, and the various USDA Farm Bill programs. He also discussed with them different career opportunities with NRCS, and how to apply on the USA Jobs website. The students asked a few good questions and were very interested in how NRCS handles water quality when working with farmers.



**SOIL
AND WATER
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY**

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

In this Newsletter
Summer Meeting Registration
Grant Application Reminder
Election Ballot

**Southern New England Chapter Summer Meeting
Plants, Soils, and Geology of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University**

Tuesday, July 13, 2010 10:00 am to 3:30 pm (Registration open at 9 am)

Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (Boston), MA 02130
<http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/visitors/directions.html>

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Organization: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Enclosed is credit card information or check payable to SNEC-SWCS for \$ _____ for

_____ SWCS/ Co-Sponsor Members at \$30 (\$40 after 7/1/10) per person

_____ Non-Members at \$40 (\$50 after 7/1/10) or \$110 Blue Light Special (includes 1 year SWCS Membership at \$80) per person

_____ Students at \$20 (\$30 after 7/1/10) per student

For additional information, call 413-213-6885 or send an email to anliker@charter.net.

Please indicate special dietary or other needs: _____

NOTE: Four (4) Professional Development Units (PDU) are available for those organizations that accept them.

Sponsors: Southern New England Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (www.swcssnec.org)
Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England (www.ssssne.org)

Please submit this form with Payment to SNEC-SWCS, PO Box 487, Belchertown, MA 01007.

Fax registration forms with Credit Card payment to 413-323-1113. NO PHONE REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED.

SNEC-SWCS CREDIT CARD FORM

Credit Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Cardholder Billing Address: _____

Cardholder Signature (required): _____

Cardholder's Telephone: _____

For questions, contact Jeff Anliker at 413-213-6885 or at anliker@charter.net.