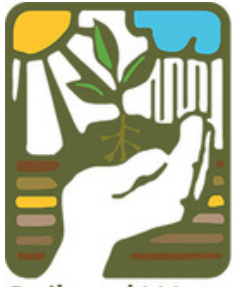


MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER



SOUTHERN
NEW ENGLAND
CHAPTER

Soil and Water Conservation Society

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2022 SUMMER MEETING - REGISTRATION IS OPEN

The SNEC Annual Meeting will be on Wednesday, July 20 at the URI Kingston Campus in Rhode Island. Member and non-members are invited -- registration is open. At the meeting, we will announce the results of our 2022-23 Board of Directors Election, reflect on the past year, and discuss our goals for the future of the Chapter. Following this, we will hear from members of the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension, Alissa Cox and Elizabeth Herron. Alissa is the director of the New England Onsite Wastewater Training Program (NEOSTP) and Elizabeth Herron works with the Watershed Watch Program. After the presentations, attendees will participate in a guided tour of the Wastewater Treatment Center and Peckham Farm. This will be a great opportunity to meet fellow SNEC members, network with other professionals in your field, and earn continuing education credits. [Get your ticket today on Eventbrite.](#) We look forward to seeing you in July!



Soil and Water Conservation Society

SOUTHERN
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2022 SNEC Annual Summer Meeting and Field Excursion

Wednesday, July 20
URI Cooperative Extension

Registration is open! This year's theme is wastewater management and watershed conservation. Get your tickets today and spread the word.

Ticket Prices: \$20 (general admission), \$10 (members), \$5 (students), Free (student members)



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LESSONS LEARNED FROM MONITORING RHODE ISLAND'S WATERS

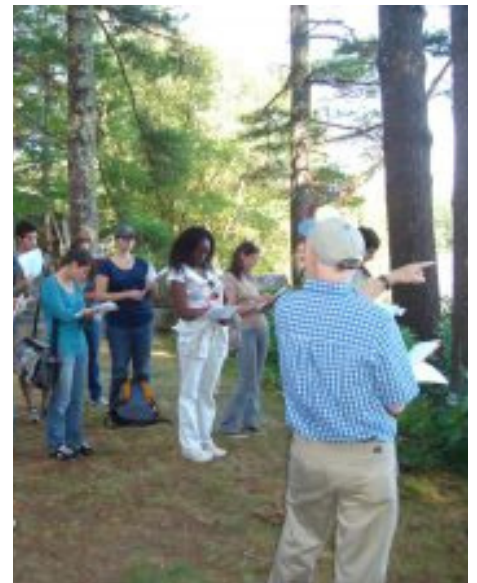
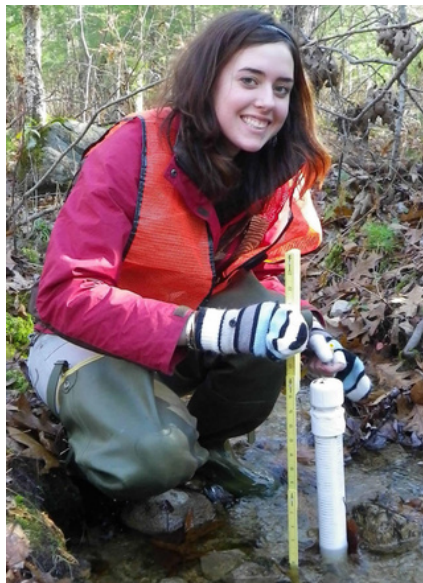
Written by Elizabeth Herron

Program Director at the URI Watershed Watch Program, URI Cooperative Extension

Citizen scientists have been an integral component of Rhode Island's (RI) water quality monitoring network for decades. Engaging volunteer monitors not only expands the scope and magnitude of data, but also enhances understanding and support of water quality and natural resource monitoring of all types, and of the resources themselves. This creates effective and involved stewards. It also builds resiliency of monitoring efforts by creating a critical support network for this often underappreciated activity. Further, by enhancing understanding of how ecosystems interact, communities are better able to incorporate best management practices in local planning processes, improving both environmental and community sustainability, and ecosystem resiliency.

The University of RI Watershed Watch (URI WW) program, headquartered within URI Cooperative Extension, is the largest volunteer water quality monitoring program in RI. Started with 25 volunteers on fourteen lakes in one watershed in 1988, URIWW now has over 400 trained volunteers monitoring more than 250 lake, pond, river, stream, salt pond and marine sites throughout RI and into southeastern Connecticut. Working with nearly 50 organizations we now have more than 34 years of comprehensive water quality data on a dozen sites, and more than three years of data for hundreds more. URI WW has benefitted from the staunch support of URI Cooperative Extension and the University itself. Our success is additionally based on having established a solid foundation by working with state agencies, university researchers and many others to develop appropriate monitoring methods, approved quality assurance project plans, effective outreach and diverse volunteer recruitment, retention and recognition approaches. This presentation will provide a brief overview of URIWW and highlight some of the keys to building a successful program such as URIWW. Comprehensive resources designed to help other citizen science programs to get started, develop and grow will be shared.

Short Summary: URI Watershed Watch shares lessons learned over three decades coordinating a statewide volunteer water quality monitoring program providing information for effective natural resource management. We'll share resources to help develop appropriate monitoring methods, approved quality assurance project plans, effective outreach and diverse volunteer recruitment, retention and recognition approaches, and more.



2022 RHODE ISLAND ENVIROTHON



Friday, May 20, 2022



www.rienvirothon.org

The Rhode Island Envirothon was held at Camp Aquapaug in Kingston, Ri. We attended this year with Abby Elder, our Executive Director, volunteering as one of the judges. Each project was presented by a team of students from local high schools. Each group assessed the environmental impacts and stewardship initiatives at their school, collected data from student surveys and interviews, and proposed a plan to improve waste management and sustainability policies. Many of the projects uncovered a need for improved sustainability practices at schools, especially having to do with reducing food waste in the cafeteria and establishing a more organized system for recycling and sorting plastics. Students also emphasized the importance of educating the study body, teachers, and the administration to ensure a more collaborative and environmentally focused approach to waste management in the future.

The presentations at this year's RI Envirothon were inspirational and informative. The students were very professional and well-informed about the current environmental issues facing Rhode Island ecosystems and communities. It was great to get back to participating in in-person events and seeing firsthand the future generation of environmentalists. Thank you for all the hard work of the Rhode Island Envirothon board members and volunteers! SWCS SNEC is proud to be a Gold Sponsor of this event and we hope to continue participating in this important initiative for years to come.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Connecticut Council of Small Towns Energy & Environment Conference

June
8

Join COST for the Energy & Environment Conference at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, CT. Hear from experts in the field and key lawmakers regarding energy and environmental issues affecting municipalities, including efforts to address solid waste management challenges and expand anaerobic digester capacity, expansion of public and private electric vehicle usage to reduce carbon emissions, and developments in solar and other renewable energy initiatives.

[LEARN MORE](#)

SNEC Summer Meeting

July
20

Hear from URI Faculty and Cooperative Extension Staff about watershed conservation and wastewater technologies and tour the New England Wastewater Resource Center. Earn Continuing Education Credits and network with other SNEC members.

[LEARN MORE](#)

SWCS Annual Conference

July
31

This year's conference theme, "Elevating Conservation to New Heights," embraces the mountainous region of the location while emphasizing the shared vision held by conservationists around the world to scale our work, repair ecosystems, and create resilient working lands. Join us on the frontier of conservation to share insights and advice on projects and partnerships that take meaningful action toward creating and supporting systems that sustain soil and water resources and serve people equitably.

[LEARN MORE](#)

NOFA Summer Conference

August
5

Our conference theme is Decolonizing and Regrowing Our Food Systems - The Work of Our Time. Join us in this journey to undo the imbalanced, unjust and harmful food system. Highlight the work of a regenerative-minded community. Regrow equitable and just systems with greater awareness and understanding. Improve the shared experience of our friends, neighbors, and communities.

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JOB POSTINGS

Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration

Job Title: Operations Specialist

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Location: Boston, Massachusetts

The Operations Specialist plays a critical role in helping the Division transition to the Future of Work and strengthen its overall operations by leading high-priority technology and operations projects. Projects may include but are not limited to the development and user support of digital tools (i.e. databases for tracking ecological restoration project data; tools that integrate budgeting across projects, programs, and the Division); building internal knowledge sharing capacity; and developing internal controls and standard operating procedures for the Division. The position requires strong leadership, organization, and collaboration skills. The position reports to the Assistant Director of Operations and supervises staff and contractors as appropriate.

Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy

Job Title: Land Protection Specialist

[LEARN MORE](#)



Location: Kent, Connecticut

The Land Protection Specialist is a key leader on NCLC's acquisition team, responsible for overseeing new land acquisitions, consistent with NCLC's policies and conservation objectives. The Land Protection Specialist's responsibilities include fee land and conservation easement transactions, educating the public and partners about land protection, developing innovative partnerships and methods for leveraging protection by other entities, helping to leverage impact capital and conservation investor capital for land protection, and identifying creative ways to ensure long-term land and water protection.

American Farmland Trust

Job Title: New England Deputy Director

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Location: Northhamptom, Massachusetts

The Deputy's primary role is overseeing the management of established programming to assure programs are delivered as planned, and revenue and expense projections are on target. The Deputy takes an active role in defining the regional program strategy and developing related work plans and oversees the implementation of the same. This includes engaging with internal and external partners to identify opportunities, tracking deliverables and project budgets, ensuring that invoices and reports are submitted accurately and on time, and providing supervision for project staff.

Education & Experience

- A Bachelor's degree in a field related to AFT's mission.
- At least 8 years of professional experience, preferably in a senior management position, in a nonprofit organization, foundation, government agency or the private sector.

INTERNSHIPS

Marine Biological Laboratory

Internship Title: The Blue Economy Internship Program

Location: Woods Hole, Massachusetts

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The Blue Economy Internship Program (BEIP) at the Marine Biological Laboratory offers paid experiential learning opportunities for Commonwealth of Massachusetts public high school, state college & university, and community college students to build their professional experience, skills, and knowledge related to the life sciences, technology, and the Blue Economy.

Save the Bay

Internship Title: Volunteer Management Internship

Location: Narragansett, Rhode Island

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Are you interested in managing volunteers and organizing events? Do you have excellent communication and writing skills? At Save The Bay, we provide interns with the opportunity to work with 4,000 volunteers annually in a variety of capacities. An internship in the volunteer program will provide students with the skills to organize events, manage & recognize volunteers, promote volunteer opportunities and internships, oversee outreach projects and manage individual volunteer programs.

Advertise with SNEC

Does your company or organization have any upcoming jobs, events, internships, or funding opportunities?

We can help you publicize and spread the word! Email info@swcssnec.org with details to be featured in our next newsletter and/or on our social media pages.



Follow us on
Social Media!

