



Healthy Land
Clean Water
For Life

Southern New England Chapter
Serving Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island since 1946

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2019

President's Note

The Southern New England Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society continues to be a leader in addressing major conservation issues of the region. With changing land use and increasing population densities, our land and water resources continue to be impacted in many ways. These challenges are shouldered by the excellent work of our professionals in making a change. Our chapter aims to bring emerging issues to the forefront through conferences and workshops with the goal of bringing experts, professionals, and the public together in pursuit of solutions. The science and art of natural resources management is at the heart of our association to bring a positive change in the environment and society.

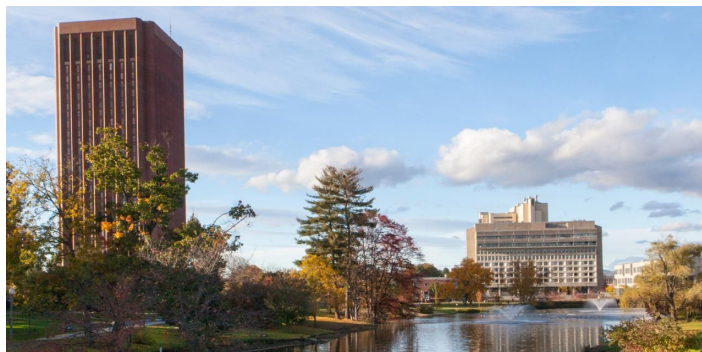
I wanted to thank the work and dedication of our board members who have been steering our chapter to success. We have been growing every year with the support of our members and professionals. Our summer and winter conferences were a great success. Join me in welcoming Renee Bouldin who is starting as the executive director of our Chapter. Being a recent graduate, Renee is in a great position to recruit and engage with students and new members. As I start this year as the new president, I am looking forward to working as a team player to make a positive change in our field.

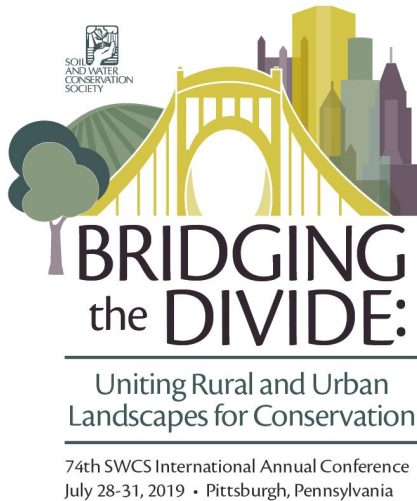
Best, Timothy Randhir, Ph.D.

SNEC 2020 Winter Conference - Save the Date! **FRIDAY MARCH 20, 2020**

Stay tuned — The SNEC will be hosting its Annual Winter Conference on Friday, March 20, 2020, at the University of Massachusetts Amherst!

We are currently soliciting ideas and concepts in the area of **renewable energy** for our 2020 Conference. Some initial concepts related to this topic are carbon neutrality, regulatory concerns, environmental impacts, sustainable energy production, etc. More details to follow at <https://swcssnec.org/2020-winter/>





74th Annual SWCS International Conference

The Soil & Water Conservation Society held its 74th Annual International Conference - Bridging the Divide this summer. Two SNEC Board members participated - then President elect Dr. Timothy Randhir and treasurer Christine Odiaga.

Dr. Randhir presented research on *Forest Cover and Water Quality in Tropical Agricultural Watersheds* and *An Ecohydrological Assessment of Potential Impacts of Climate Change on the Herpetofauna in the CT River Watershed*.

Christine Odiaga presented *Return of the Tides*, a soup-to-nuts overview of the Herring River Restoration Project in poster format.

During this conference, the SNEC was presented with a [Chapter Achievement Award](#), in recognition of significant achievements through a single activity conducted during the year - our Erosion & Sediment Control Fall Field Day Workshops.

Details and links to presentations can be found at <https://swcssnec.org/about-us/2019-snec-award/>

2019 SNEC Annual Meeting

Friday, August 19th the SNEC held its [Annual Meeting](#) and Summer Field Tour at Stratford Point in Stratford Connecticut. This featured a Living Shoreline and Restoration Project Field Tour and Workshop, co-hosted by Audubon Connecticut. It was a great day, with nearly 60 professionals attending!

Speakers included:

Dr. Jennifer Mattei - Professor of Biology at
Sacred Heart University, CT

Ron Rozsa - Coastal Ecologist

Richard Potvin - Stewart B. McKinney
National Wildlife Refuge Manager

Susmitha Attota, AICP - Stratford Town
Planner

Daniel C. Stapleton, P.E. - Senior
Vice-President/Senior Principal of GZA
GeoEnvironmental, Inc

For a full list of presentations and for more information about the restoration work at Stratford Point, please visit <https://swcssnec.org/2019-summer-meeting/>

Fall 2019 Erosion & Sediment Control Field Days

The SNEC held [Erosion & Sediment Control Workshops](#) on Wednesday, October 9th at the Montville Community Center in Oakdale, CT and Thursday, October 10th at the Tolland County Agricultural Center (TAC), in Vernon CT. Co-hosted with EJ Prescott, these events provide training for professionals working in soils, erosion control, water quality, public works, engineering, roads, planning, resource protection and consulting.

We had 79 participants in total this year! The program started with presentations from specialists with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service as well as erosion control professionals from EJ Prescott and Filtrex. Traditionally the second half of the day is spent outside, where participants can interact with vendors and see erosion control materials and technologies first hand. On both days, there was heavy rain and wind and the field stations were moved indoors and turned into mini-presentations. Each of the specialists was able to present to the audience and answer questions; many were able to set up some of the field stations indoors to give the participants a good sense of the system and techniques being used.

Although both days were well attended, the board of SNEC felt that because we were forced to move the field stations indoors, there was a less than an optimal opportunity for participants to interact and learn from the technical specialists. Because of this, we were able to offer a limited opportunity to attendees to sign up to either attend next year's erosion and sediment control field day at half-price or attend only the field station portion of the day (afternoon session) at no cost. Eight attendees accepted the offer of a 'rain check' and will be participating again next year. Let's all hope for bright, sunny and dry days!



Richie Prejs, Maccaferri, brought his field station about Gabion Baskets and Reno Mattresses into the meeting room in Montville



Alex Holzinger, EJP - PPF, demonstrated materials for culvert slip linings.

2019 Annual Winter Conference - Going with the Flow

The SNEC hosted its [Annual Winter Conference](#) on Friday, March 22, 2019, at the Eversource Berlin Campus in Connecticut. This year's conference, "Going with the Flow" focused on stream continuity and associated topics.



Speakers included:

Scott Jackson - Extension Associate Professor at the UMass Amherst Department of Environmental Conservation

Taylor M. Bell - RI Project Manager for the US Army Corps of Engineers New England District

James Turek - Restoration Ecologist of the NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center

Christine Odiaga - Assistant Project Manager of Friends of Herring River

Tom Hennessey - Bridge Consultant at Contech Engineered Solutions, LLC

Taylor Engel - lead GIS Analyst and UAS Pilot at ARE-AirShark

Tom Benjamin - Registered Landscape Architect of Wellnesscapes

Laura Wildman - Director of the New England Regional Office at Princeton Hydro, LLC

Steve Gephard - Supervising Fisheries Biologist CT DEEP/Inland Fisheries Division of the Diadromous Fish and Habitat Conservation and Enhancement programs

For a full list of presentations, sponsors, the conference agenda, and additional information - please visit <https://swcssnec.org/2019-winter-conference/>

Thank you very much to our sponsors - without you, this event would not have been possible!

EVERSOURCE

 **BSC GROUP**



Silver Sponsors:

Eversource

BSC Group

GZA GeoEnvironmental

Bronze Sponsors:

VHB

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.

Supporters:

Cape Cod Web Developers (CCWD), Tighe & Bond, Inc., SWCA Environmental Consultants, BluRoc, LLC, Milone & MacBroom, Inc., Contech Engineered Solutions, LLC, & Supreme Industries

SNEC Offers 50% Subsidies for SWCS Student Membership Dues!

SNEC offers a subsidy for full-time students joining the SNEC, the UConn or UMass Student Chapters. Applying for the student subsidy covers half of the cost of an SWCS membership and unlocks discounted student ticket prices to all upcoming conferences and events.

The Board of Directors is hopeful that this incentive will encourage more future conservationists to become involved in the chapter. Increasing student involvement and recruitment will make the chapter more accessible and valuable for the next generation of ecological managers.

Additionally - **Gift Memberships** are always available to purchase. It's a great idea for the holidays! A one-year gift membership as a *Conservationist* is only \$58 (half price).

NEW! SWCS Conservation Community Memberships

The SWCS has added two new membership categories for use by public sector offices large and small.

Geographic Area Smaller Than a State: \$230 Conservation Community Member

Soil & Water Conservation Districts, university extension offices, local governments, and not-for-profit organizations that serve a geographic area smaller than a state are eligible. Benefits [here](#).

State or Larger Geographic Region: \$500 Conservation Community Member

Not-for-profit organizations that serve a state or larger geographic region. Benefits listed [here](#).

Interesting Events

Massachusetts

The Northeast Healthy Soil Network Symposium

Friday, February 21, 2020 | 9:30 am - 6 pm | Tufts University, Medford, MA

Connecticut

2020 CT Land Conservation Annual Conference

Saturday, March 21, 2020 | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm | Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

Rhode Island

17th Annual Land & Water Conservation Summit

Saturday, March 7, 2020 | 8:30 am – 4:00 pm | URI Memorial Union, Kingston, RI

Interesting Southern New England Policy Updates

Massachusetts	Connecticut	Rhode Island
<p>The MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs announced that the Administration has award \$10.2 million for Dam and Seawall Projects. These grants will support “climate-smart infrastructure projects and nature-based solutions” to increase resilience to climate change according to Governor Baker. For more information, and the list of projects, visit - https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-awards-over-10-million-for-dam-and-seawall-projects-2</p>	<p>CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection announced the selection of a bid from developer Vineyard Wind to move forward with plans to provide 804 megawatts of offshore wind energy through the development of the Park City Wind Project. This project will supply nearly 14% of the state’s electricity when it comes online in 2025. Read more here - https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?A=5009&Q=610542</p>	<p>The Nature Conservancy and RI Department of Environmental Management built an artificial reef this fall near Sabin Point Park in East Providence to improve bottom habitat for fish. This reef is the first constructed in RI. It is meant to create habitat for juvenile and adult sport fish and improve recreational fishing at Sabin Point. For more information, please visit - https://www.ri.gov/press/view/36974</p>

SNEC Constitution and Bylaws Amended in 2019

During the SNEC’s 2019 Annual Meeting, twelve (12) Chapter members approved a change to the SNEC Constitution that modified the quorum requirements from 10 members to 10% of the membership, to enable us to conduct Chapter business more efficiently. SNEC members also approved an amendment to the Chapter’s Bylaws to allow online voting for SNEC elections! The 2020 ballots will be made available by mail AND on our website as we transition to electronic voting.

Follow SNEC on its Social Media pages



The SNEC now has a LinkedIn page and is sharing topics and news as they arise on its Facebook page. Check us out and ‘Like Us’ on Facebook to follow our updates!



Looking for information on climate risks in your state?

Climatenexus is an organization dedicated to changing the conversation on climate change and clean energy. The website includes reports describing the vulnerability of each state to the effects of climate change and measures taken to limit carbon emissions. The summary prepared for Rhode Island is posted at <https://swcssnec.org/ri-climatenexus/>. You can look up the climate risks and progress that your state has made to lower carbon emissions at climatenexus.org.

Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

President: Dr. Timothy O. Randhir

Vice President: Tom Akin

Secretary: Carol Grasis

Treasurer: Christine Odiaga

MA Representative: John Dudula

CT Representative: Devleen Ghosh-Brower

RI Representative: Jeffrey Peterson

Executive Director's Note

Hello! I'm very excited to join this chapter as the new Executive Director of the SNEC. I am a recent graduate from the University of Massachusetts Amherst holding a BS in Natural Resources Conservation with a concentration in Water Resources. I also obtained a certificate in Environmental Policy. I've been working as a biological technician at Cole Ecological, an environmental consulting laboratory in Greenfield, MA.

Looking towards the future, I'm ready to help expand the chapter and obtain additional student involvement. I hope to bring fresh energy and cater events and training to reflect the upcoming needs of members. I'm eager to meet and begin working with our members, partners, and sponsors.

Sincerely, Renee Bouldin

**If you'd like to be included in our mailing list, please send your
contact information to Renee Bouldin at info@swcssnec.org**