



SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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

June 2014

www.swcssnec.org

President's Message Carol Grasis

Greetings SWCS-ers!

Like so many of you, I associate this time of year with a laundry list of activities and goals. One of my sons shares my passion for baseball, so this time of year is always FULL of planning for games, recuperating from games, driving to games and, in many cases, volunteering to fill in as bench coach/scorekeeper/what-have-you as the situation requires. It's fun, it's easy, I'm there already so the time commitment is minimal. I meet other coaches and I get to be with people whose company I enjoy and with whom I share an interest. Come September, I switch hats – it becomes High School Marching Band every day, all day. I chaperone the bus rides to competition, I bring water to rehearsals, I'm the booster club secretary, I co-ordinate a fund raiser. Again, it's fun, I'm with people I like, we share a common goal of supporting our children, it's short-term and when the day is done – I feel like I've given back and something good has been accomplished. I'm sure that many of you are nodding your heads; you know the drill and have done many of the same things that I have.

So begins my pitch to encourage all of you to step up again and offer your time, energy and talents to volunteer for your Southern New England Chapter of SWCS. Our chapter covers the three states of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The Board of Directors is made up of State Directors from each of those states, as well as the traditional roles of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. In order to ensure a smooth succession into the Presidential role, we also have a President-elect. Each position serves a short, 1-3 year term, which is position dependent. This spring, we are seeing a bit more turn over than usual, as several long-time

board members have chosen to step down. Their commitment to the chapter will be missed: Tom Akin is currently the Past-President. (An honorific that I hope to hold soon!) Over a total of 6 years, Tom has served as the MA Director, Vice-President, President-elect and President. We will miss Tom's wisdom and guidance, and hope that he will continue to be an active member, visiting with us at our annual meetings. We are also saying goodbye to our Secretary – Mark Hood. Mark has been a member of SNEC SWCS since 2003, and served 4 Terms as Secretary. Finally, we also wish a fond farewell to our Treasurer, Dick Starkey. Dick has been with the Chapter since 2003 and has been on the board as treasurer for 3 years.

As you can see, this leaves a wonderful opportunity for any member who has been considering becoming more involved. The time commitment is minimal; you will be with people who share your vision of the chapter's future and it truly can be fun. And at the end of the day, I do feel like I've done something good for my chapter, the members and myself. The ballot is attached to this newsletter – if you are interested, all it takes is a write-in on the line and then return it to Jeff Anliker, our Exec. Director.

In closing, I hope to see you all at our summer meeting. The brochure is in this newsletter. We will be learning about early successional habitat restoration – in particular, for the New England Cottontail, which is a candidate species being considered for listing on the US Fish and Wildlife's Threatened and Endangered species list. Many acres of habitat restoration and active attempts at repopulation have been undertaken over the past few years in an attempt to prevent the listing of this species. Experts will be joining us to explain why this is so important, and how many ancillary benefits we can all gain from the activities. Come to the field! Make a new friend or see some old (or not so old) friends! See you on July 25th

~ Carol

**SAVE THE DATE—
Summer Meeting July 25, 2014**



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 – Carol Grasis, CT
Past President – Thomas Akin, MA
President elect – Mickey Marcus, MA
Vice President – Sue Provost, CT
Secretary/ - Mark Hood CT
Treasurer – Richard Starkey, MA
CT Director – Devleena Ghosh-Brower, CT
MA Director—Timothy Randhir, MA
RI Director – Christine Odiaga, RI

Committees

Awards
Membership
CPESC
Newsletter
Nominations
Publicity

Student Chapter

UCONN Advisor – Gary Robbins, CT
UMASS Advisor—Timothy Randhir, MA

Executive Director

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

Executive Director's Report

Certification Programs

The remaining EnviroCert International exams that we have scheduled for 2014 is Friday, September 19th in Amherst, MA. The exams will include the Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC), the Certified Erosion, Sediment and Storm Water Inspector (CESSWI), the Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality (CPSWQ) and the Certified Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Specialist (CMS4S). For additional information (including the registration form), go to our website at www.swcssnec.org or the EnviroCert International website at 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 internally within their organization. If you are 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 or through our website.

69th Annual SWCS International Conference

July 27—30, 2014 | Lombard, Illinois

Making Waves in Conservation—Our Life on Land and its Impact On Water

Consider joining your fellow conservationists from around the world at the 69th Annual SWCS Conference. The conference will be held in late July in Lombard Illinois. From the Great Lakes to the coast, our use of the land impacts major bodies of water. Whether it be the large freshwater lakes of the United States and Canada, the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean; or the other lakes, seas, and oceans of the world, these terminal waters tell the story of what is happening upstream. This year, we consider challenges and progress in nutrient management, erosion and sediment control, nonpoint source and watershed policy, and other issues influencing the health and productivity of our soils and large water bodies. We have an opportunity to reflect upon decades of hard work and to acknowledge the progress of land managers, farmers, advisors, and scientists. We can also recognize failure and emerging problems, with a focus on innovatively moving forward to develop and implement best practices and improve outcomes. Collectively we can make waves in conservation by coming together to share ideas, explore opportunities, and face the challenge of our life on land and its impact on water.

Visit the web site at www.swcs.org for further information..

2014 – 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

President Elect – Susan Provost, CT

Sue has a master's degree in Natural Resources Management from the University of Connecticut and has worked for Northeast Utilities as an environmental scientist permitting projects and conducting environmental inspections for over 5 years. Prior to her environmental work, she was a certified cash manager and worked for the State of CT for 15 years at both UConn and the CT State Treasurer's Office. Her interests include the protection of soil and water resources, the preservation of biodiversity, control of invasive species, organic gardening, and landscaping with native plants.

Vice President – Vacant,

Secretary – Vacant,

Treasurer – Vacant,

Rhode Island Director – Christine Odiaga, RI

Christine Odiaga is a contractor for the MassDEP Wetlands & Waterways Program, working as the Circuit Rider for the Southeast Region since July 2005. She has a BS in Biology and minor in Marine Studies from Northeastern University, and worked as Conservation Agent in two municipalities. Christine did NPDES field work on the Central Artery/Tunnel project for six years ("fascinating!!"), which included revising the BMP section of the SWPPP for renewal of the nation's first Individual NPDES Construction Permit. Christine is a Certified Professional in Erosion & Sediment Control®, and served as President of the Northeast Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association from 2006-2010. Her hobbies include travel, dinner parties and dancing to live music.

BALLOT

2012-2013 SNEC-SWCS Board of Directors

President Elect (1 Year Term)

_____ Susan Provost, CT

Vice President (1 Year Term)

_____ Vacant,

Secretary (1 Year Term)

_____ Vacant,

Treasurer (2 Year Term)

_____ Vacant,

Rhode Island Director (3 Year Term)

_____ Christine Odiaga, RI

Please return ballots by Friday, July 18th.

To vote, you can either fax this Ballot to 413-323-1113, mail it to SNEC-SWCS, PO Box 487, Belchertown, MA 01007 or email it to anliker@charter.net.

YOUR NAME: _____

Summer Meeting 2014

The New England Cottontail (NEC) (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*) is the only rabbit native to the northeastern United States from the Hudson River Valley of New York eastward. The NEC is also listed as a candidate species under the Federal Endangered Species Act due to a drastic decline in its historic range. The primary threat to this species is the loss of habitat through succession. As the forests mature, the understory thins to such an extent that the habitat is no longer suitable for the NEC.



Connecticut is no different to the declining successional habitats that are confined primarily along the utility right-of-ways, in wildlife management areas owned by state or private entities, and forests undergoing active logging. Natural disturbances are on a decline as well. Fire and flooding is controlled, there has been a decline in agriculture, and clear-cut logging practices have become antiquated. Connecticut's Wildlife Action Plan, maintained by the Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental protection (CT DEEP), has identified 47 wildlife species of "Greatest Conservation Need" as being associated with these declining habitats and in need of active management. One such species is the New England cottontail.

Please join us on Friday, July 25th from 9:30 am to 3 pm for the 2014 Summer Meeting of the Southern New England SWCS at the Franklin Wildlife Management Area in Franklin, Connecticut. Paul Rothbart and Howard Kilpatrick from the CT DEEP will be our guides for the morning session to discuss the goals and objectives of the NEC recovery program, various conservation actions undertaken to restore the NEC habitat, and the outcomes of such programs.



Our next stop will be at the Bear Hill Wildlife Management Area where we will tour and discuss the habitat management strategies such as actions set forth to address threats to the NEC and demonstrate how conservation partners are implementing the action plans to ensure the sustained presence of the NEC. Discussion will also focus on costs on implementing such programs, the success rates, and the many uncertainties that remain to ensure that the NEC remains a part of the native landscape.

Our final stop will be at the Bozrah Rod and Gun Club where we will meet the club president, Paul Capotosto who also runs the wetlands program at the CT DEEP. Here Mr. Capotosto will discuss the management initiatives under the NRCS Working Lands For Wildlife (WLFW) Program for the NEC. The WLFW is a program implemented by the NRCS that provides technical and financial assistance to people who want to create, enhance or restorative native fish and wildlife habitat or restore natural ecosystem on their land. To watch a video explaining the Working Lands for Wildlife initiative, please click on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tbj12uom3SI&feature=youtu.be>

The day will conclude with the member's meeting wrapping up around 3pm. For registration information, directions, and parking information, please see the attached summer meeting registration form. Hope to see you all there!



Healthy Land
Clean Water
For Life

Registration Form—New England Cottontail Conservation

Friday, July 25, 2014 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (Registration opens at 9:30 am)

Tour starts at Franklin Wildlife Management Area located at 391 Route 32, North Franklin, Connecticut

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Organization: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

_____ \$35 SWCS Members/ Co-Sponsors

_____ \$45 Non-Members or

_____ \$115 Blue Light Special (includes 1 year SWCS International and the Southern New England Chapter Membership at \$90) per person

_____ \$30 Student Photocopy of valid student ID required. (Please bring your student ID to meeting)

Lunch is included with your registration. Please check one:

Traditional _____ Vegetarian _____ Other dietary restrictions _____

Directions to the Franklin Wildlife Management Area: http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2690&q=322412&deepNav_GID=1511#FranklinWMA

NOTE: Certificate for three (3) Continuing Education Units (CEU) or Professional Development Units (PDU) will be available after the conference upon request.

Please submit this form with check payment to SNEC-SWCS, PO Box 487, Belchertown, MA 01007, or fax with credit card information to 413-323-1113. Payments must be received by July 18, 2014.

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