



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Southern New England Chapter

# NEWSLETTER

January 2018

## Presidents Letter

Happy New Year!

I hope you are all off to a great start!

We have a couple of staffing changes to announce for our SWCS chapter over the past year. Ms. Christine Odiaga, our former Executive Director, has returned to the Board as Treasurer. Thanks to Sara Fusco for balancing our books for the past 2 years!

We hired a new Executive Director this past fall to replace Christine Odiaga. Ms. Megan Myers has an impressive background in environmental science a native New Yorker; see more about Megan inside our newsletter. Also, Megan is coordinating her first SWCS conference that will take place in mid-March. The winter meeting will also offer the opportunity to attend an EnviroCert review session for the "Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC)". More on that inside as well!

Two years ago I pleaded for help from our membership requesting volunteers to serve as officers on the Board. We still have the same problem today; we keep limping along as an organization. On the inside of the newsletter you will see a listing of the current Board members, and a listing of many Board members with the name "Vacant".

Just like two years ago, we still need you on the Board! Please don't let our chapter go away without a good fight. I hope to see you all in Sturbridge in mid-March at our winter meeting.

Best regards, Tom Akin



### In This Issue

- New Executive Director
- Membership Reports
- Job Opportunities
- Grants
- Calendar of Events
- 2017 Event summaries

## New SNEC Executive Director

This past September, Megan Myers was hired to take on the new part time roll as ED. She is a Certified Ecologist (ESA) and also currently employed in Massachusetts as a Wetland Specialist, for over the last decade. Megan holds a BS in Environmental Studies from SUNY ESC. Part of her college degree included Adirondack residencies in upstate NY and living abroad at the base of Mount Kilimanjaro in Kenya and Tanzania of Africa. In these two countries, she participated in a Wildlife Management Program, primarily conducting field work associated with elephants at Amboseli National Park and Tsavo National Park. Beyond her degrees, she's completed further graduate level courses in physical sciences at MCLA and UMass Amherst and has further earned an extensive amount of continuing education units.

With that, thank you Christine Odiaga for all your dedicated work during your time as the SNEC Executive Director, and we are all pleased to still have you committed as the new SNEC Treasurer!

## SWCS Scholarships

The Soil and Water Conservation Society has three scholarship opportunities for all members.

Please note that you must be a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society for at least 1 year to apply for these scholarships:

**Research Scholarship — made possible by Kenneth E. Grant**

**Soil Conservation Scholarship — made possible by Donald A. Williams**

**Student Leader Conservation Scholarship — made possible by Melville H. Cohee**

The Society's Awards Committee will evaluate and rank applications. Recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors for final approval. Recognition of all scholarship recipients will be made at the Soil and Water Conservation Society International Annual Conference. The 2017-2018 scholarship applications are due by 11:59 PM Central on March 16, 2018. Contact [scholarships@swcs.org](mailto:scholarships@swcs.org) or call 1-515-289-2331 ext. 114 or refer to <https://www.swcs.org/resources/members-only/awards-and-scholarships/>.

## 'Like SNEC' on Face Book

The SNEC is keeping this site updated by sharing topics and news as they arise and invite you to 'Like' us to follow the Chapter on this page!

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/SWCS.SNEC.ORG/>.

Also, Like the SWCS face book at <https://www.facebook.com/soilandwaterconservation/>.



The Southern New England Chapter is in need of an accountant to prepare the **2017** taxes! Please reach out to [info@swcssnec.org](mailto:info@swcssnec.org), if you can provide these services!



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 – Thomas Akin, MA  
Past President – Vacant  
President elect – Vacant  
Vice President – Timothy Randhar, MA  
Secretary - Carol Grasis, CT  
Treasurer – Christine Odiaga, MA  
CT Director – Devleena Ghosh-Brower, CT  
MA Director—John Dudula, MA  
RI Director – Jeff Peterson, RI

### Executive Director

Megan Myers, MA

## 2018 SNEC Annual Winter Conference

Get ready! Our Chapters Annual Winter Conference is returning to the Publick House Historic Inn on **Friday, March 16!** This one-day conference is focusing on Forestry & Wildlife, and Best Management Practices (BMP). Discounted tickets are offered to SWCS Members at \$65, Students are \$45, and non-members are \$90. The admission includes lunch, the conference, and the issuance of forestry related continuing education units (CEU).

To register, go [swcssnec.org](http://swcssnec.org) and click on the SWCS SNEC Winter Conference link on the right side of our home page. As our conference itinerary develops with speakers, exhibitors and sponsors, use the link: <http://swcssnec.org/2018winter/>. Attendees, exhibitors, and sponsors may also register directly on Eventbrite at <https://snec2018.eventbrite.com>.

As a separate registration, but held in conjunction with the conference, EnviroCert International, Inc. (ECI) will be at the event on March 16th offering multiple review courses and further continuing education units (CEU) for professional certifications, along with next day professional certification exams on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Membership Report

Our Chapter currently holds more than 50 memberships. We welcome 11 new members who joined SNEC throughout 2017, including Mike Papa, Elizabeth Faxon, Eric Hesketh, Lorraine Joubert, Christopher McGinness, Megan Myers, Kris Van Naerssen, Richard Vongkhamdy, John Weeden, Kevin White, and Jed Waddell. Further, the Chapter's longest standing member is Cecil Currin, who had been a member for over 40 years!

## SWCS Gift Memberships

These gift memberships are always available to purchase, email [info@swcssnec.org](mailto:info@swcssnec.org) for a gift membership form. It's a great idea for birthdays, holidays, Father's Day, or Mother's Day! A one-year gift membership as a *Conservationist* is only \$58 (half price), and includes:

One-year subscription to the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*

Monthly e-newsletter *Conservogram*

Discounted registration to the SWCS International Annual Conference

Discount on SWCS publications

Discounts on author page charges

**Free book:** *Aldo Leopold: The Man and His Legacy*

# Calendar of Interesting Items

The SNEC's website stays up to date with interesting events and conferences in relation to soil, water, and relevant natural resources at <http://swcssnec.org/calendar/>.

## **Soil & Water Conservation Society**

73rd Annual International Conference  
Culture, Climate, and Conservation  
July 29 - August 1, 2018 | Albuquerque, New Mexico

## **Massachusetts**

UMass Extension 39th Annual Community Forestry Conference  
Ecological Perspectives of the Urban Forest  
Tuesday, March 6, 2018 | 8:45 am - 3:30 pm | UMass, Amherst, MA

## **Connecticut**

Connecticut Land Conservation Annual Conference  
*The Role of Land Protection in Building Resilient Communities*  
Saturday, March 17, 2018 | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm | Wesleyan University,  
Middletown, CT

## **Rhode Island**

Land & Water Conservation Summit  
Building Community through Conservation  
Saturday, March 10, 2018 | 8:30 am - 4:00 pm | URI Memorial Union,  
Kingston, RI

Here are some other links to items that you may find interesting to mark your calendar:

MA Forest Alliance: <http://www.massforestalliance.net/calendar/>

Soil Science Society of America Calendar: <https://www.soils.org/meetings/sssas-events/browse>

MA Conservation Commission Calendar: [http://www.maccweb.org/events/event\\_list.asp](http://www.maccweb.org/events/event_list.asp)

MA Wildlife Calendar: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/masswildlife-calendar>

CT DEEP Calendar: <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/calendar/index.htm>

RI Wild Plant Society Happenings <http://riwps.org/>

Society of Wetland Scientist Event listings: <http://sws.org/Upcoming-Wetlands-Events/>

Rhode Island DEM Meetings, Events, Workshops: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/events/>

## **SWCS SNEC Student Memberships**

Recently, the SNEC Board of Directors voted to increase the subsidy for full time students who are enrolled in at least 12 credits/semester. Students joining the SNEC, the UConn and/or UMass Student Chapters will be reimbursed 50% of the fee. Students becoming a SWCS **Student Member** at \$40 with either of these chapters, will now be reimbursed \$20 of this fee by the SNEC. The Board of Directors is hopeful that this incentive will encourage more students to become involved.

# Professional Positions

## Conservation Commission Agents

These municipal positions in Massachusetts include Monterey, Becket, and Easthampton.

## Charles River Conservancy Seeking Executive Director

This is an exciting opportunity to set the strategy for a unique organization dedicated to the stewardship, renewal, and enhancement of the parklands along the urban Charles River. They're looking for a strategic leader and experienced organizational manager who is enthusiastic about growing this small but mighty nonprofit.

## The Last Green Valley Non-profit Development Coordinator

This position entails fundraising and development professional with 3-5 years of successful non-profit fundraising and development experience for our new in-house Development Coordinator position. The successful candidate will have a proven track record with the experience, training, and skills to hit the ground running and further develop TLGV's individual and corporate giving programs. This position will provide the right candidate with opportunities for growth and the potential to become TLGV's Development Director. To apply for this position, please provide a cover letter, resume, and your salary requirements by email to [lois@tlgv.org](mailto:lois@tlgv.org).

# Links for Job Watch

The Soil & Water Conservation Society (SWCS) offers a career center at <https://www.swcs.org/resources/career-center/>.

The Wildlife Society (TWS) job seeker page: <https://careers.wildlife.org/jobseeker/search/results/?msessid=u74cy>

The Association of MA Wetland Scientist (AMWS) keeps a current job shop for members, you can go to <http://www.amws.org/>.

The Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) offers a job shop for members and non-members at <http://sws.org/Resources/the-sws-wetland-jobs-board.html>.

The Ecological Society of America (ESA) offers a job board at <https://www.esacareercenter.org/>.

A career center is coming soon on the EnviroCert International, Inc. (ECI) website at <http://www.envirocertintl.org/career-center/>.

The Science Society's Career Center at <https://www.careerplacement.org/>.

# Internship Opportunities

**Larval Fish Ecology Internships** - The Larval Fish Ecology lab at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution is looking for two to three interns, age 18 years or older, to help with research on larvae of river herring, coral reef fish, and sand lance. Responsibilities include pulling fish larvae from plankton samples, measuring larvae through a microscope, and possibly helping out with fieldwork, which will include 1-day oceanographic cruises in the region. Preference will be given to individuals who can commit to at least 20 hours per week for several weeks. Internships are unpaid, but offer an opportunity for college students (or soon-to-be college students) to gain research experience. Interested individuals should send an email to Joel Llopiz ([jllopiz@whoi.edu](mailto:jllopiz@whoi.edu)) expressing interest, as well as a summary of educational background and career interests and goals.

**CT DEEP offers a Student Internship Programs** [http://ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2688&q=322346&deepNav\\_GID=1511](http://ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2688&q=322346&deepNav_GID=1511)

The deadline for applying:

- Spring Semester Internship: November 1st
- Summer Semester Internship: March 1st
- Fall Semester Internship: July 1<sup>st</sup>

## Internship Opportunities continued...

**Charles River Watershed Internships** - The Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) is seeking Watershed Science Interns and Charles River Cleanup Assistant Interns for a variety of field science and watershed management tasks for the spring semester of 2018. Areas of focus will differ depending on the intern's skills and interest, but may include support for field science projects, the annual Charles River Earth Day Cleanup, volunteer engagement, invasive plant management and removal, data management and analysis, and environmental advocacy. Internship schedules are flexible but require a commitment of at least 16 hours per week. Though internships are unpaid, college credit may be obtained. Submit a cover letter and resume to Katie Friedman.

## Grants

The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV), a unique region encompassing 35 towns in Connecticut and Massachusetts, has awarded \$15,000 in grants to six local organizations to preserve, protect, interpret, promote or market historic and cultural resources. Since TLGV began awarding historic and cultural grants in 2003, more than \$1 million has been disseminated to local non-profits and towns in the National Heritage Corridor.

Furthermore, TLGV is proud to announce that it has successfully partnered with 19 organizations to bring \$6.1 million in new federal dollars to the region for healthy woods and forest land conservation. Most of the funds will go directly to landowners for bird/wildlife habitat assessments and forest management plans, good forest conservation practices, and easements for permanent woodlands protection. The funding was awarded by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service after a very competitive process, and underscores the importance of our southern New England forests to not only the region but the nation. You can visit <http://thelastgreenvalley.org/> to read more!

## EnviroCert International, Inc. (ECI) Schedule

**EnviroCert International, Inc.®** offers internationally recognized professional certifications, which can be earned by demonstrating certain qualifications based on a combination of education and experience, and passing an exam. These certifications cover the regulations, design, and inspection for the construction, municipal, stormwater modeling and hydrology, and multi-sector/industrial fields. EnviroCert standards ensure the stormwater community and regulatory agencies that our certificants have the appropriate credentials for stormwater professionals.

ECI now offers a fifth professional certification course, these are the Certified Professional in Erosion & Sediment Control (CPESC), Certified Erosion, Sediment and Stormwater Inspector (CESSWI), Certified Professional in Stormwater Quality (CPSWQ), Certified Professional in Municipal Stormwater Management (CPMSM), and Certified Professional in Industrial Stormwater Management (CPISM) go to <http://www.envirocertintl.org/programs/> for more info. ECI will be at SNEC's Winter Conference and offering as many of these professional exams as there is demand for them, register separately at <http://booking.envirocertintl.org/>.



# DAM TOUR | SNEC 2017 Summer Meeting

Friday 11 August | 8: 30 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Taunton, MA



## Dam Removal and Sediment Management: Mill River Field Tour

Our 2017 Summer Meeting featured a tour of dam removal sites along the Wild and Scenic Mill River in Taunton led by **Beth Lambert, Aquatic Habitat Restoration Program Manager** at the **Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration**. Beth has been managing the projects and shared her abundant hands-on knowledge.

Beth's co-pilot on the tour was **Candice Constantine, Fluvial Geomorphologist** with **Interfluve**. Interfluve has worked on over 100 dam removal projects across the country, including the initial feasibility analysis, design, construction oversight and post-project monitoring. The local office has been involved in the removal of three of the centuries-old dams on the Mill River.

The day began at the Holiday Inn, where Beth made a presentation that included soup-to-nuts guidance on sediment management. Attendees then formed car-pools and caravanned around the tour route. Throughout the day, Beth provided background information about the Mill River Restoration Project as a whole for context, but she and Candice focused on the removal of the dams on the tour.



Stop #1. Hopewell Mills Dam (removed)  
Beth points towards the former Hopewell Mills Dam site

**Stop #2. West Britannia Dam (scheduled for removal)**



**Stop #3. Whittenton Dam (removed)**



**Candice brought plans from one of the dam removal projects.**





**SUCCESS!!!!**



**SUCCESS!!!!**

*Fun in the sun! Credits earned! Connections made!*



## 2017 EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL FIELD DAYS

**October 19 & 20 | URI East Farm | Kingston, RI**

These Field Days are a collaborative effort between the private and public sectors to share information and promote a better understanding of the latest tools available to protect soil and water resources. An array of options, both for controlling sediment and for designing & installing more effective long-term erosion control solutions, were on full display at the eight field stations spread out at URI's East Farm. Our goal was to provide information that was immediately useful to all who attended.



Attendees spent approximately 30 minutes at each of 8 outdoor demonstration sites while industry experts provided detailed guidance and shared tips for selection, design, specification and installation.

## PRESENTATIONS and RESOURCES

Copies of the morning presentations and other resources provided at the Field Days are posted at [swcssnec.org/2017esc](http://swcssnec.org/2017esc), including

[Soil Erosion and Sediment Control - Why do we care?](#)






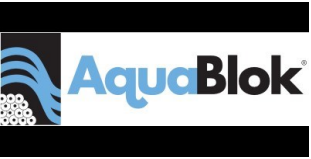
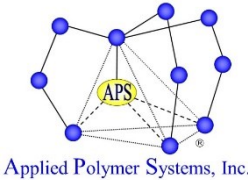


*Allison Hamel | RI DOT Office of Stormwater Management*

[Rhode Island Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook](#)

[Rhode Island Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Field Guide](#)

[Phone Download Instructions](#) for the above-listed RI SESC documents

FIELD STATIONS

	Turf Reinforcement Mats
Porous Pavement Systems Vegetated Solutions	
	Stream Crossings   Advanced Drainage Systems
Jobsite Sediment Control	
	Soil Amendments
Innovations in Bentonite Clay	
	Flocculants
Erosion Control Soil Amendments	
	

The “**Putting the FIELD in our Day**” award goes to Jason Normandin at [EJ Prescott](#) for gathering a terrific slate of participants. **Gold star** to Shannon Brawley at [Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association](#) for lining up the site. **Special thanks** to Andrew Scherer at [Dimeo Construction Company](#) for donating soil from their stockpile at East Farm, and for facilitating use of the stockpile and other areas around the site.

*Presented in conjunction with Team [E.J. Prescott](#) and partners [RI Department of Environmental Management](#), [RI Nursery & Landscape Association](#), [Rhode Island State Conservation Committee](#) and [IECA Northeast Chapter](#).*

**Better late than never?** Planning for the 2017 E&SC Field Days began in the Barn at **SWAMP THINGS** (our 2016 winter conference). These Field Days were funded in part with [SWAMP THINGS](#) Silver Sponsorship support from **National Grid**.

nationalgrid