

2021 Annual Summer Meeting

Urban Soils + Environmental Justice

Friday June 18th 10am-12pm EST

The Southern New England Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society presents a virtual panel discussion concerning the current status of our often-overlooked urban soils.

We will look for opportunities to enhance the functions and values of these soils with emphasis on benefits to the human environment in the context of environmental justice. We plan to address urban soil reconnaissance, regeneration, and how our relationship to the soil informs our use of this resource. Our overall goal is to spark a discussion about the environmental justice movement and explore strategies to enlist all levels of stakeholders in urban soil restoration and utilization.

Visit the event webpage for full details & access to updates:

<https://swcssnec.org/2021-summer/>

Join Zoom Meeting:

Thank you to our 2021 Sponsors for helping us make this event possible!



Program Contents



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Event Overview and Agenda

Our event will start with a quick topic overview by moderator Denise Savageau (President of the Connecticut Association of Conservation Districts & Chair of the Connecticut Council of Soil and Water Conservation). This introduction will be followed by three 10-12 minute presentations by our panelists.

Following our panelist presentations, we will have time for a guided Q&A session before moving into the SWCS Southern New England Chapter Annual Meeting. In this meeting (open to all attendees) we will announce the results of our 2021-22 Board of Directors Election, reflect on the past year, and discuss our goals for the future of the Chapter.

Agenda

10am - Introductions & Topic Overview

10:15am - Panelist Presentations

11am - Guided Q&A

11:30am - SNEC Annual Meeting

Attendance Policy: We'll take attendance during the event using Google Forms. If you'd like a certificate of attendance for the full event, you must complete the attendance check. We'll announce the check on Zoom and place the link to the Google Form in the Zoom chat box.

SNEC About Us

The objective of the Soil and Water Conservation Society Southern New England Chapter is to promote, educate, and advance all phases of the science of conservation of soil, water, and all related resources, as well as to provide a medium of exchange of facts, experience, and thoughts. We aim to represent, advance, and promote the standards of the science of soil and water conservation.

SNEC was founded in 1946. We hope to serve our community for another 75 years and beyond! Learn more about our upcoming goals during our meeting at 11:30am (more information on page 6).

Follow Us on Social Media:



@SWCS.SNEC.ORG



Soil & Water Conservation Society
(SWCS) Southern New England
Chapter (SNEC)



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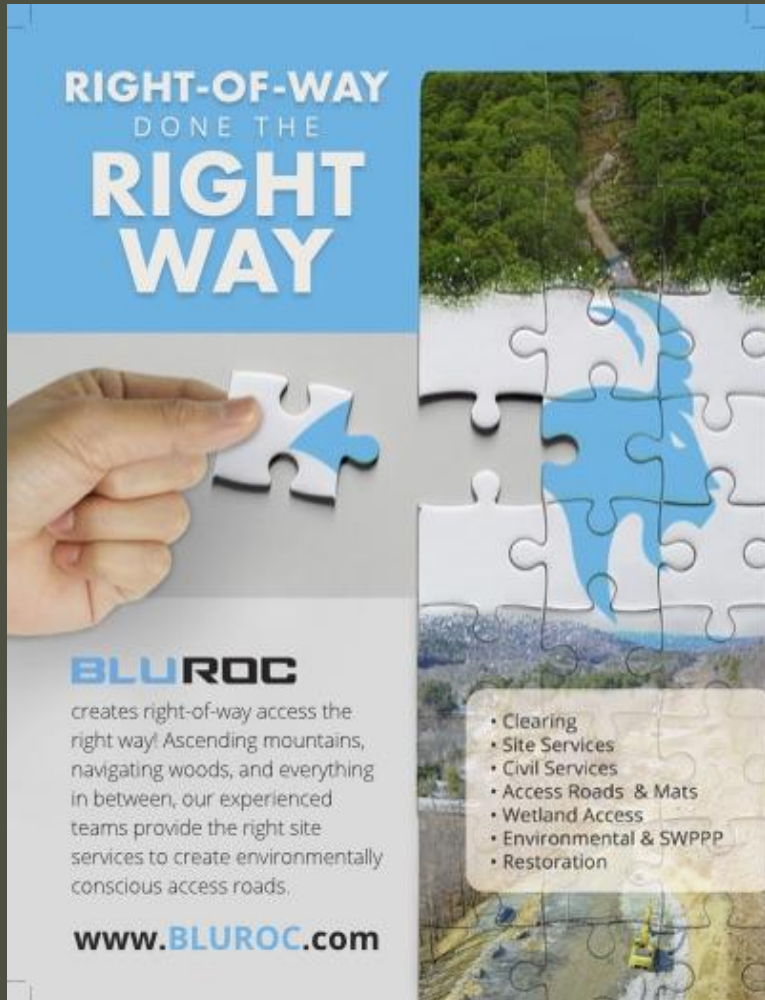
Zoom Decorum

The presentations and discussion will take place over Zoom - Full login information on page 8.

Join Zoom Meeting:

Our Zoom Decorum Guide:

- Please arrive 10-15 minutes early to check your connection and settle in. Use this time to also check your video and audio connection
- If you have any technical issues, please use the Zoom website (<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>) to troubleshoot before reaching out to us via email (info@swcssnec.org)
- We'll place everyone on mute automatically, please remain muted until our discussion portion. If you plan on speaking please make sure you have headphones on to reduce feedback
- Our guided Q&A session will be moderated. Feel free to ask questions in the chat box after the presentations and our moderator will read them to the speaker during the Q&A sections. Otherwise use the "raise hand" function and wait to be called upon and unmuted to ask your question




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Panelist Biographies

Sara Shostak is a medical sociologist committed to understanding the social production of health and illness across diverse contexts. Her research focuses especially on how a wide variety of actors — scientists and farmers, health policy makers and city planners, people living with illness and people working to help their communities heal from trauma — perceive and experience the material conditions that shape health inequities in the United States. Dr. Shostak's current research centers on urban agriculture and health equity. She has collaborated with several community based organizations on projects that examine issues of food, health, and community in MA cities. As well, she is working on a collaborative project to develop holistic practices of evaluation in urban agriculture. Her most recent book is [Back to the Roots: Memory, Inequality, and Urban Agriculture](#). She teaches in the Department of Sociology and the Health: Science, Society & Policy Program at Brandeis University.

Thomas L. Morgart has overseen many successful projects that have been of great benefit for the residents of the state during his tenure as Connecticut State Conservationist. Morgart grew up in western Pennsylvania and spent summers working for relatives on family farms. He attended Pennsylvania State University where he earned a B.S. in Horticulture. Following several jobs in the public sector, in 2001 he was hired as a soil conservationist — beginning his career with NRCS. Morgart moved up the ladder and eventually landed in Maryland where he held several positions, including assistant state conservationist for programs. He reported to Connecticut in October 2015. Morgart quickly acclimated to the state, noting it reminds him of home. After almost six years, he continues to enjoy his journey with the staff as they work together to keep agriculture thriving in a state that may be small, but has a large agricultural presence. Morgart and his staff are held in high regard by conservation partners and the state's producers.

Cassius Champlin Spears Sr. has dedicated his life to the preservation of Narragansett culture throughout New England and the world. He has served as Cultural Advisor for numerous educational projects including the PBS documentary "We Shall Remain — After the Mayflower". Spears has remained active in the practice of ethnobotany, traditional home building and has demonstrated eastern woodlands culture at powwows, museums, college campuses, and film sets across North America. He has served on Plimoth Plantation's Wampanoag Indigenous Program's Advisory Board, and the New England Foundation for the Arts, Native Arts Advisory Committee. In his most recent capacity as an Agricultural Technician he has performed as a liaison for the Narragansett Indian Tribe and the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service. He was appointed to serve on the Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Committee(RTCAC) and the National Association Conservation District (NACD) Tribal Policy Group for the Eastern Region. He is a 2017 Intercultural Leadership Institute (ILI) Fellow and a 2020 Spears' passion for healthy traditional lifeways led to the establishment of the Narragansett Food Sovereignty Initiative with a primary focus on sustaining a healthy community through traditional lifeways and relationships inherent to us as tribal people. Spears represented the Narragansett community in Marrakech, Morocco, at the COP22, UNESCO preconference sharing the effects of climate change from the Narragansett perspective. In addition, he also serves on the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP) Steering Committee, and is now President of Rhode Island Association Conservation District (RIACD).

SNEC Meeting Overview

SNEC Annual Summer Member Meeting @ 11:30am Friday June, 18th 2021

Open to all attendees! Help us plan future events, and tell us how we can best serve you.

Agenda:

1. Welcome & Overview of the Past Year
2. Introducing the FY 2021-2022 Board of Directors
3. Our Goals for the Upcoming Year
4. Open Discussion: How can we improve the Chapter and meet your needs? What topics or trainings would you like us to focus on?

Thank you for your input and helping us make the Chapter work better for you!



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Get Involved!

As a Member:

By joining SWCS, you automatically become a member of your local state chapter (like us at SNEC!). We sponsor activities; provide a network for a broad range of conservation professionals; and offer training, technical assistance, and hands-on experience with demonstrations, projects, and workshops. Follow this link to learn more:

<https://www.swcs.org/get-involved/join/>

All members receive:

One year subscription to the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation

Monthly e-newsletter Conservogram

Discounted registration to the SWCS International Annual Conference & all SNEC events

Conservation slogan notebook (United States residents only)

Free book: Aldo Leopold: The Man and His Legacy (United States residents only)

Access to SWCS's awards and scholarships program

As a Sponsor:

Join us in our mission! We believe that by partnering with organizations who share our goals, we can work together towards a more sustainable future.

Becoming a SWCS SNEC sponsor is an investment in our community. You assist the Chapter with our educational work and outreach:

- Your support allows us to mentor and aid our student interns who are finding their path in the conservation field
- You give us the tools necessary to host educational events and trainings for our network of conservation professionals
- You grant us the means to expand our support of events for students in Southern New England such as Envirothons and student symposiums

Learn More: <https://swcssnec.org/sponsor-us/>

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Full Zoom Login Information

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