

Program



Soil and Water Conservation Society

SOUTHERN
NEW ENGLAND
CHAPTER

2023 WINTER CONFERENCE

**Water Quality in Southern New England:
The Latest Research, Practice, and Policy**

**THURSDAY MARCH 30, 2023
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

University of Massachusetts Amherst
Campus Center - 10th floor
1 Campus Center Way
Amherst, MA 01003

<https://swcssnec.org/snec-2023-winter-conference/>

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Rhode Island Association of Conservation Districts | GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.



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sUAS Remote Sensing
Wetland Permitting
Wildlife Habitat
Assessments

www.bscgroup.com

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact events@swcssnec.org with any questions.

Thank you to the SWCS SNEC Board of Directors for organizing this event.

We would not be able to host educational events like this without the support of our 2023 Sponsors.

Learn more and get involved at

<https://swcssnec.org/become-a-sponsor/>.

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EVENT OVERVIEW

Soil and Water Conservation Society Southern New England Chapter (SWCS SNEC) is happy to be hosting our first in-person winter conference since 2019!

Our program will delve into current issues in water quality and explore solutions for reversing damage to our precious natural resources. Speakers will discuss the latest water quality research, practice, policy affecting Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

Each year SWCS SNEC hosts a winter conference, a summer meeting and tour, and multiple fall erosion and sediment control field days. These educational events promote conservation practices in our region while offering networking and professional development opportunities.

We hope you enjoy the event and take advantage of this wonderful community of conservation professionals and students. Thank you for attending!

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

For attendees who attend the full day, a Certificate of Attendance will be provided to document six (6) hours of educational contact. Attendees must sign in AND sign out to receive full credit. Certificates will be emailed out following the event.



Participants at the 2022 SWCS SNEC Annual Summer Meeting in Kingston, RI.

AGENDA

8:00 AM - Registration | Exhibits & Networking

Pastries and Coffee Served in the Hadley Room

9:00 AM - Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:15 AM - "Microplastics in the Environment"

Baoshan Xing | Professor and Director of Stockbridge School of Agriculture, University of Massachusetts

10:00 AM - "Through the River and Over the Woods: Global PFAS Exposure and Implications for Ecosystem Health"

Lisa McIntosh | Senior Technical Manager, Woodard & Curran

10:45 AM - Morning Break

Coffee Served in the Hadley Room

11:00 AM - "Improving Water Quality One Field at a Time: NRCS Practices for Producers"

Nancy Ferlow | Connecticut Natural Resources Conservation Service

11:45 AM - "MassDEP's Environmental Justice Initiatives to Improve Water Quality"

Dr. Padmini Das | Chief, Nonpoint Source Management Program, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

12:30 PM - Lunch | Exhibits & Networking

12:45 - 1:15 PM SWCS Southern New England Chapter Membership Meeting

1:30 PM - "Implementing the Single Standards Act to Increase State Protection of Buffers for Freshwater Wetlands in Rhode Island"

Chuck Horbert | Deputy Administrator, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

2:30 PM - "Quality of Massachusetts Waters: Regulation, Improvement and Challenges"

David Wong | Environmental Analyst, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

3:15 PM - Afternoon Break

3:30 PM - "Wetlands and the MA Contingency Plan"

Mia McDonald | Circuit Rider, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

4:15 PM - Closing Remarks

4:20 PM - Sign Out | Submit Surveys | Return Name Tags



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Soil and Water Conservation Society

ABOUT US

SWCS SNEC is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote and advance all phases of the science of conservation of soil, water, and all related resources. We aim to assist all students and professionals in the conservation field.

Aldo Leopold wrote: "We shall never achieve harmony with the land, any more than we shall achieve absolute justice or liberty for people. In these higher aspirations, the important thing is not to achieve but to strive." SNEC recognizes many stakeholders must be involved when balancing competing decisions between the sustainable use and preservation of limited natural resources. The best solutions are not reached when one side wins, but rather when time is taken to reach a consensus. If you are looking for an opportunity to share your passion and talents we at SNEC want to enthusiastically welcome you to become a member!

When you join SWCS, you join a community of conservationists who care about the future of natural resources. Our members include Soil and Water Conservation District employees, researchers, administrators, extension workers, students, producers, policymakers, educators, consultants, retirees, state, federal, and local government employees and more.

SNEC's programs assist members in keeping abreast of regulatory changes, earning CEUs to maintain professional licenses, facilitating technology transfers, networking, and gaining insights into recent trends in research. Student members benefit from the ability to network among peers and interact with professionals in their fields of interest to identify potential future employers or mentors. **Learn more about SNEC at our member meeting (12:45 - 1:15 p.m.).**

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

Learn More about the Chapter by visiting us at <https://swcssnec.org/> or by following us on social media.



@SWCS.SNEC.ORG



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

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Baoshan Xing is Professor (Environmental & Soil Chemistry) and Director of Stockbridge School of Agriculture at University of Massachusetts Amherst. His current research includes agricultural application of engineered nanomaterials, environmental processes of microplastics, use of biochar for soil improvement and remediation, and food safety. He is a “Most Cited Scientist” every year since 2014 when this analytics started, indicating the impact and significance of his research. His h-index is currently at 135 and the total citation on his research is over 75,000 (Google Scholar). Dr. Xing is currently an Editor of Environmental Pollution, Biochar, and Carbon Research. He

received numerous national and international awards/honors. His research program is recognized nationally and internationally.

Lisa McIntosh is a senior technical manager and principal at Woodard & Curran, with an academic background in environmental toxicology and over 25 years of experience in environmental consulting. Ms. McIntosh is certified as a general toxicologist by the American Board of Toxicology. During her career, Lisa has focused primarily on environmental risk assessment to support cleanup of contaminated sites, with special interest in risk communication and emerging contaminants. Her interests and background in ecology have also allowed her to dabble in the fields of wetlands and ecological restoration. She is actively involved in the scientific and regulatory



community, including the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, Society for Women Environmental Professionals and the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council PFAS workgroup. In her free time, she spends as much time as she can either at home in the garden or out in the woods hiking and camping.



Nancy Ferlow is the State Resource Conservations for USDA-NRCS in Connecticut. She has been with the agency for 30 years. Nancy's current responsibilities include Agency compliance with the Endangered Species Act, Highly Erodible and Wetlands compliance, conservation planning tools, quality assurance and staff training. Her education is in Biology, Geology and Forestry.

Dr. Padmini Das oversees MassDEP's Nonpoint Source Management Program as the NPS Section Chief in the Watershed Planning Program. Her responsibilities include the development and implementation of the NPS Management Program Plan through Clean Water Act Section 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning Grants, and Section 319 NPS Competitive Grant Program. Dr. Das was previously the Chair of the Department of Biology at Nazareth College of Rochester, where she was also an Associate Professor, Director of the Environmental Science and Sustainability Program, and Director of the Environmental Quality and Remediation Research Group. She has research expertise in soil and water quality assessment and the design and implementation of sustainable best management practices to remediate a wide array of soil and water contaminants, notably lead, arsenic, plastic degradants, nutrients, TNT, RDX, PCBs, and emerging contaminants. Through these community-driven environmental projects, she has worked for the benefit of disadvantaged communities, engaging community youth as an integral part of these projects. Dr. Das has a Ph.D. in Environmental Management from Montclair State University, two Master of Science degrees in Environmental Science from the University of Texas at San Antonio and the University of Pune (India), and a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology from the University of Pune.



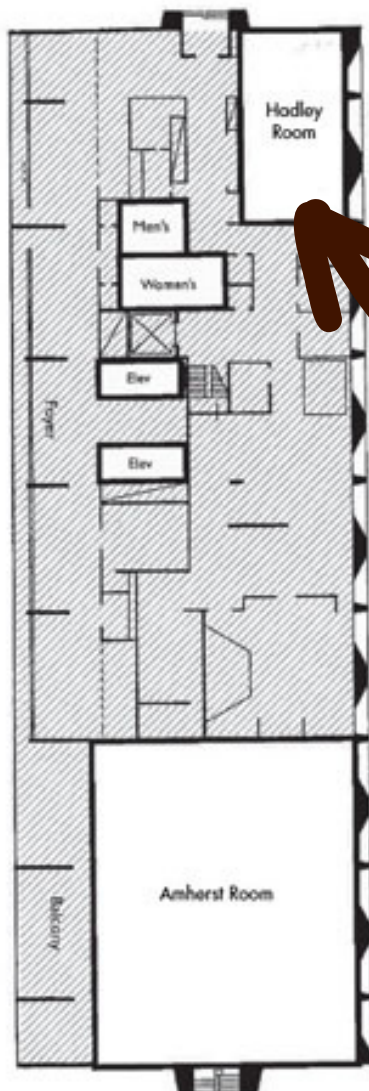
Chuck Horbert. After graduating in 1989 from the University of Rhode Island with a degree in Wildlife Biology and Management, Chuck was hired as a biologist by RIDEM in their Division of Freshwater Wetlands. Three years later, he became a Supervisor for that Program, where he spent most of his career to date until his promotion to Deputy Administrator in the Office of Water Resources in 2019, where he primarily oversees stormwater permitting and the Water Quality Certification Program but still gets his hands on the Freshwater Wetlands Program from time to time. When he isn't at work, he is often found in a canoe somewhere on the waters of New England or the Adirondacks.

David Wong is an Environmental Analyst overseeing the 401 Water Quality Certification Program/WM 04 Chemical Application Program within Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. He holds a PhD in Marine Ecology, a MS and BSc in Fisheries/Aquaculture. David's interests and experience include Water Quality Monitoring, Biological Invasions, Risk Assessment, Eutrophication Management, Ecological Restoration, and the Clean Water Act.



Mia McDonald is the Wetlands Circuit Rider for the Central Regional Office. Mia comes to MassDEP from her position as the Agent for the Towns of Northborough and Paxton. She also served on the Worcester Conservation Commission for approximately nine years. Mia graduated from WPI with a degree in environmental science which focused on environmental engineering and planning. She spent over a decade of her career in the private sector working on design, permitting and construction of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.

EXHIBITORS



SWCS Southern New England Chapter's mission is to promote, educate, and advance the science of soil, water and related resources conservation. We seek subject matter experts that can help deliver solutions.

Visit our exhibitors
in the Hadley Room.

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VENUE INFORMATION



Photo by Jonathan Ng on Unsplash.

**University of Massachusetts
Amherst**

**1 Campus Center Way,
Amherst MA 01003**

[See a map.](#)

**Follow signs posted within the
Campus Center to the 10th Floor.**

Parking is available in the Parking Garage at 1 Campus Center Way, Amherst MA 01003. A coupon for the discounted conference parking rate of \$6.50/day will be included in your folder.

Directions from I-91 North and I-91 South to the Parking Garage are posted at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1prBZnWsA21zDs9y1PYYKcqGDz8ca4xWj/view?usp=share_link.

Parking notes:

- Visitor parking is in the Upper Garage (Levels 2 - 6)
- The Upper Garage entrance is located on Campus Center Way
- Enter on Level 3 and Exit on Level 4. There is a direct walking entrance into the Campus Center from Level 2 of the Garage.
- Clearance is 7' 2"

Presentations will be in the Amherst Room on the 10th floor of the Lincoln Campus Center. Exhibits and the lunch buffet will be set up down the hall in the Hadley Room, where coffee and baked goods will be served during registration.

Campus COVID-19 precautions were updated on February 1, 2023. Information is available at <https://www.umass.edu/coronavirus/news/public-health-update-spring-semester>.