



SOUTHERN
NEW ENGLAND
CHAPTER

Soil and Water Conservation Society

SWCS Southern New England Chapter <keara@swcssnec.org>

Tue, Jul 21, 2026 at 6:00 AM



SWCS Southern New England Chapter
2026 Conference and Annual Meeting
Thursday July 30th
UConn Storrs | 8 - 4:30



Speaker Spotlight



Jennifer West, Narragansett Bay Research Reserve

Jennifer West has been the Training and Engagement Coordinator with the Narragansett Bay Research Reserve since 2005. In this position, she develops and delivers training events and technical assistance programs for local decision-maker audiences on topics related to water quality, habitat protection, and climate change. Jennifer has expertise in program design, management, and evaluation; communicating science to diverse audiences; meeting facilitation; and planning and implementing collaborative methods for engaging stakeholders in successfully addressing environmental issues. She provides facilitation assistance to a variety of groups, from municipal

advisory committees vetting and adopting new zoning ordinances to strategic planning for conservation groups. Prior to her position at the Reserve, Jennifer worked as an environmental educator for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, was a Marine and Environmental Teaching Fellow through URI's Office of Marine Programs, and held positions at RI Sea:Grant/URI Coastal Resources Center and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island. Jennifer has a MS in Environmental Sciences from the University ofDescription (12) (1.40 - 0 - 100 - 0) Rhode Island and a BS in Environmental Biology from the State University of New York College at Oneonta.

A Guide to Collaborative Tidal Wetland Migration Pathway Protection

As sea levels rise and storms grow more intense, many tidal wetlands will only survive by moving inland. Ensuring space for this migration, while balancing the needs of nearby communities, is a growing challenge. This presentation introduces the National Estuarine Research Reserve System's *Wetland Migration Guide*, a practical, place-based roadmap for coastal managers, land trusts, municipalities, and others working to identify, protect, and manage lands that provide pathways for tidal wetland migration. Grounded in the collaborative, real-world experiences of six Reserve teams along the Atlantic coast, the session walks through a flexible four-stage framework- Assess, Plan, Design, and Implement- demonstrating how to successfully transition from initial vulnerability mapping to executing actual pathway protection projects. Whether you're just beginning or well into this work, you'll find practical lessons, insights, and tools to help you move forward.

SOIL MATTERS

Event Schedule

Thursday, July 30th, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. EST.

Lunch, coffee breaks and workshops are included in the cost of registration.

Certificates of attendance will be provided to document six (6) hours of educational content for professional certification renewals.

Location: **UConn Storrs Campus Storrs CT 06268**

Information Technology Engineering (ITE) Building

No Vehicular Access to ITE - All vehicles must park at the [South Parking Garage](#) (\$16). Pre-registration of vehicles online is required

Parking subsidies available to students at all levels!
Contact keara@swcssnec.org or call (508) 945-3283



2026 Registration Rates

Register online via credit/debit card, PayPal or Google Pay.

- General Admission: \$125
- SWCS Member: \$75
- Student General Admission: \$50
- SWCS Student Chapter Member: \$25



Hands-on Soil Classification and Soil Microscopy Workshops are INCLUDED in the cost of registration. Workshop spaces are limited - reserve your spot today!

25% off for Groups of 3 or More who Register Together!!

- Group General Admission: \$93.75
- Group Student: \$37.50

Blue Light Special: \$190

Join the Soil & Water Conservation Society now at the \$115 Conservationist level and benefit immediately by registering for Soil Matters at the \$75 SNEC Member rate! We'll handle the SWCS membership paperwork. *This offer is for first-time SWCS members only.*

REGISTER NOW!

Exhibitors are Signing Up!

A variety of compelling exhibits will be on display, featuring innovative products that are driving progress in the field of soil and water conservation.

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

- Exhibitor Registration: \$500
 - Includes one 6ft table with drape and registration for one (1) person
- Non-Profit Exhibitor: \$250
- Additional Exhibit Staff: \$75 (2 max)

To sign up or ask about **opportunities for more active participation**, please contact Christine Odiaga at (508) 945-3283 or treasurer@secssnec.org.

SOIL MATTERS

To **REGISTER**, please go to <https://snec2026.eventbrite.com/>. For **SOIL MATTERS** updates, go to <https://swcssnec.org/snec2026/> or contact keara@swcssnec.org.

	ITE Concourse Lobby	ITE C80 Lecture Hall (Concourse Floor)	ITE Upstairs Classroom A	ITE Upstairs Classroom B	Plant and Soil Health Center (PSHC)
9:00		• Welcome & Opening Remarks (E. Perko, SNEC Connecticut Representative / APT) • Nature-based Solutions and Soil Health (D. Savageau, CT Assoc Conservation Districts) • The Importance of Aggregate Stability to Soil Health (A. Magistrali, UConn)			A shuttle (included) will transport workshop participants to the Plant and Soil Health Center
9:10					
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10:00					
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10:50					
11:00	• Rainfall Simulator • Poster Presentations – schedule pending	• A Guide to Collaborative Tidal Wetland Migration Pathway Protection (J. West, Narragansett Bay NERR) • Salt Marsh Restoration through Sediment Nourishment in MA (A. Patterson, EA)	<i>'Open-Door' Workshop: Innovative Landscape Construction Materials</i> (T. Will, Read Custom Soils) - four (4) 15-minute modules		10:40 Depart ITE, short walk to pick-up spot, shuttle → PSHC 11:00 • <i>Hands-On Workshop</i> (~ 40 min): Soil Texture and Color in the Field (A. Neupane, UConn) • Tour (~20 min): Plant and Soil Health Center Laboratories (N. Goltz, UConn)
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13:50	• Factors Affecting Soil Carbon Accumulation in MA Forests (J.H. Lee, UMass) • Biosolids Land Application and Phosphorus Cycling (E. Joshi, Southwestern University)	• Protecting Watersheds through Erosion Control Methods (M. Everhart, EJ Prescott) • Being Creative with Multi-Use Riparian Buffers (G. Patsun, North Central Conservation District)			
14:00					
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14:40	• Rainfall Simulator • Poster Presentation	Break			
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UConn GEORGE LEIGH MINOR PLANT AND SOIL HEALTH CENTER

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The first 10 students, at any level, to register will receive **subsidized parking!**

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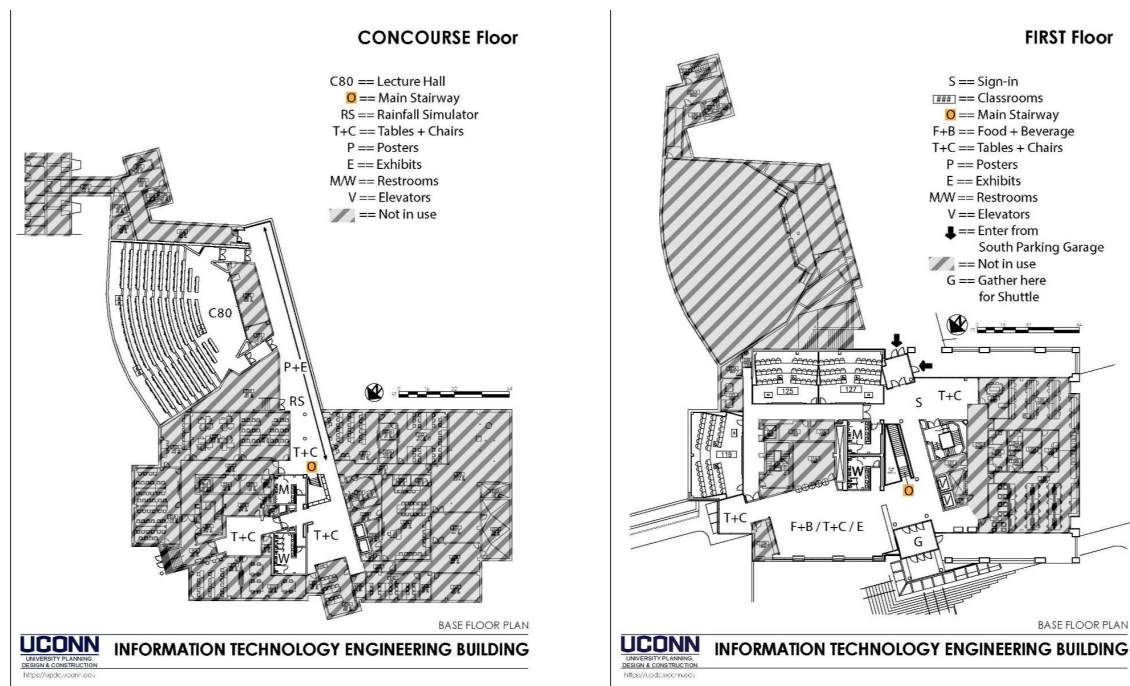
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ITE Building Floor Plan



REGISTER NOW!