

SWCS Southern New England Chapter

serving Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island since 1946



SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY

FY 2020 Board of Directors Election Ballot

Please return ballot by Friday August 2, 2019, via USPS to: SWCS SNEC c/o Carol Grasis, 15 Vinetta Drive, Vernon, CT 06066; or you may also scan your ballot and e-mail to info@swcssnec.org by the above deadline.

Candidate biographies and job descriptions for volunteer SNEC Board of Director positions are included in this ballot. All members are eligible to vote for all candidates. You may write in a candidate; self-nominations are welcome. Candidates must be SNEC members in good standing, and willing to participate. Please notify Megan at info@swcssnec.org of write-in candidates, so that the ballot posted on-line at www.swcssnec.org can be updated and members notified.

Treasurer 2 Year Term

CHRISTINE ODIAGA

President Elect 1 Year Term

Vice President 1 Year Term

TOM AKIN

Secretary 1 Year Term

CAROL GRASIS

Connecticut Representative 3 Year Term

Devleena Ghosh-Brower

*Thank you for your participation. Election results will be announced at the Annual SNEC Summer Meeting's Living Shoreline & Restoration Field Tour on Friday August 9, 2019 at Stratford Point in Stratford, CT. You may register at swcssnec.org. *Elected BOD candidates may be eligible to use these volunteer hours to fulfill requirements towards maintaining some professional certifications.*



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CANDIDATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VICE PRESIDENT - TOM AKIN (MA)

Tom Akin had been the SWCS SNEC President for the last six years, and is the State Resource Conservationist with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Amherst, MA, since January 2015; from 2003 to 2015, Tom was the Conservation Agronomist for NRCS. From 1998 to 2003, Tom worked at the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain as the Assistant Superintendent and Internship Coordinator. Tom has also worked as an IPM Coordinator at Weston Nurseries, an Extension Educator with UMass Amherst, and as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Central African Republic. Tom has a BA in English from St. Thomas University in St. Paul, MN and an MS in Plant and Soil Science from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Tom's interests are community gardening, helping farmers and gardeners improve their soil's health, good local beer, and an occasional round of golf.

SECRETARY - CAROL GRASIS

Carol Grasis has been the SWCS SNEC Secretary since 2015. She graduated from the University of College in 1994 with a BS in Renewable Natural Resources. Carol has been employed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service since 1994. She was originally hired as a cartographic technician for the Statewide Soil Survey program and then became a soil conservationist in 1996 and worked in the Windsor Service Center until moving to the CT NRCS State Office in 2010. She is currently a Resource Conservationist, working on the Program Staff for CT NRCS. Outside of the office, her interests include hiking, gardening, reading and spending time with her family. She is a trail manager and volunteer with the Vernon Greenways Volunteers, and has coached baseball at the Little League and Babe Ruth level. Carol has served on the board of SNEC-SWCS in the past, including terms as CT Director (1999), President (2001, 2002), President (2013) and Secretary (2015).

CONNECTICUT REPRESENTATIVE - DEVLEENA GHOSH-BROWER (2013 TO PRESENT)

Devleena has been a SWCS SNEC State Representative since 2013, and is currently a Senior Specialist with Ever-source Energy's Licensing and Permitting department overseeing all of Western Massachusetts Transmission & Distribution project. She also is a registered Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS), and a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC). In her past life, she was in the environmental consulting world with Tighe & Bond and VHB for 11 years. She was also an adjunct lecturer with Eastern Connecticut State University teaching a freshman Ecology course. She is a board member with the Manchester Conservation Commission and has a master's degree in Environmental Management from Harvard University. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking, travelling and spending time with family. She lives in Manchester, CT with her husband Josh, twins Hudson and Maya, and Willow the golden Labrador.

TREASURER—CHRISTINE ODIAGA

Christine Odiaga has been the SWCS SNEC Treasurer since 2017 and prior to that, she had been the SWCS SNEC Executive Director. She is living her dream, "washed ashore" on Cape Cod at long last and working for Friends of Herring River on the Herring River Restoration Project in Wellfleet – an incredible multi-agency effort to restore tidal exchange to over 1000 acres of historic estuary. Prior experience includes ten years of outreach and education as a MassDEP Wetlands Circuit Rider, three years as a municipal Conservation Agent/Stormwater Coordinator and six years of construction site sampling and monitoring on the Central Artery/Tunnel Project (fascinating!!). She took advantage of the Cooperative Education Program at Northeastern University (as important as any class), and earned a BS in Biology with a geology department minor in Marine Studies. Challenges on the CA/T led Christine to the International Erosion Control Association; twelve years on the Northeast Chapter Board included four years as President. She joined SWCS in 2013 and served as RI Director, worked for two years as Executive Director and currently serves as Treasurer. Fun includes visiting family in Perú, dancing to live music and paddling around on her pond.



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The following are the job descriptions for volunteer SNEC Board of Director positions:

PRESIDENT (1-year term)

The President shall preside at meetings of the chapter and the board. He/she shall constitute such committees as she/he deems necessary and proper and shall make all appointments to the committees and shall perform all other duties incidental to this office and shall with approval of the board make such temporary appointments of officers as may be necessary between meetings.

VICE PRESIDENT (1-year term)

The Vice President, in the absence of the President, shall assume the responsibilities of the President. In case of a vacancy in the presidency, the Vice President shall serve as President for the remainder of that year; in case of a vacancy in the office of President-Elect, the Vice President shall serve as President-Elect for the remainder of the year.

PRESIDENT-ELECT (1-year term)

The President-Elect shall automatically become President when the President's term expires. The President-Elect may appoint committee members and plan activities to become effective at the time he/she becomes President. In the absence of both the President and Vice President, the President-Elect will assume the responsibilities of the President; the President-Elect shall take primary responsibility for membership and budget development and management in the chapter and other duties as deemed by the President.

SECRETARY (1-year term)

The Secretary will keep minutes of all regular and special meetings of the chapter, and at the discretion of the President, shall issue notices of all meetings and shall perform such other duties as are incident to the office.

TREASURER (2-year term)

The Treasurer shall be responsible for all funds of the chapter, although the Executive Director handles much of the fiscal responsibility for the board. He/she shall be elected for a minimum term of two years, will be open in FY 2020.

State Representative (3-year term)

In addition to managing the membership for her/his state and participating in the Board's monthly teleconference meetings, the State Representative also coordinates the Chapter's summer meeting on a rotating basis.

If you wish to volunteer for the Board, please contact Megan Myers at (518) 669-5902 or info@swcssnec.org.



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Save the Date!!

Friday 9 August 2019 SWCS SNEC Summer Meeting

Living Shoreline & Restoration Field Tour

Stratford Point, Stratford, CT

REGISTER ONLINE AT www.SWCSSNEC.ORG

OR USE THIS LINK:

<https://swcssnec.org/2019-summer-meeting/>

9:00 am—3:00 pm

The Soil & Water Conservation Society's (SWCS) Southern New England Chapter (SNEC) is hosting an annual Summer Meeting for SWCS members and the public at Stratford Point, Stratford, CT on Friday, August 9 at 9:00am. Presentations will be followed by free lunch and beverages, a SWCS membership meeting, and a **Field Tour** to several sites including the Living Shore Line Project!

Information will be posted on swcssnec.org