



Students from Schumack Engineered Construction

COWRA member James Lally, owner of Schumack Engineered Construction in Clinton CT, and eight of his employees attended this year's Installer School.

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COWRA Brochures are available to our members at \$33.72 per 100, including shipping.



**CONNECTICUT ONSITE WASTEWATER RECYCLING ASSOCIATION INC.
SUPPORTING CONNECTICUT AND OUR ENVIRONMENT**

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June 2014

Letter from the President

Dear COWRA Members,

I am sure we are all glad that summer is on the horizon and last winter has passed. However, for those of us who plow snow the winter was a prosperous one.

Although the economy is turning around, for many of us in the wastewater industry, it is slow going. I know many companies are surviving on pumping and inspection jobs, as septic installs for many, are few and far between. We are all hoping this will change soon.

There are many changes coming to the septic industry. The States Technical Standard will be revised in 2015. Please take the time to read the inserts in this newsletter and contact us with your concerns. We will notify our members as soon as these proposed changes become law.

Best,
Frank Talarico

NEW MEMBER PROFILES COWRA WELCOMES

Robert Smith of the Torrington Health District joined in January this year. Robert is a licensed sanitarian. He has been with the Torrington District for over 20 years. The Torrington Health District serves 20 towns, covering most of Litchfield County. Bob is the Director of Health for the towns of Watertown, Morris and Thomaston which are part of the Torrington Health District. His duties include septic inspections, restaurant inspections and well and well water complaint investigations along with a host of other duties. Bob will be with the Torrington District 25 years this November.

Bob is a graduate of Southern Connecticut State University. His work as a sanitarian is his second career. For 22 years Bob was with the National Guard. He was a Medical Service Core Officer, an Ambulance Patrol Leader, after which he ran a Clearing Company, "which is a small field hospital". Later he was the Company Commander in Norwalk.

In addition, Bob is a sign language interpreter and has spent many hours in front of a classroom where he taught these skills to others. He performs presentations for high school students on sanitation and health-related topics. Bob also teaches a course to real estate agents regarding septic system functions and well related issues that pertain to the real estate field.

Bob Smith very graciously agreed to help teach COWRA's Septic Installer Course this year. Bobs years of experience and diverse training complemented the course to the benefit of students. COWRA is very grateful to Robert Smith, who has kindly agreed to support our organization with the generous gift of his time. We welcome Bob to our organization.

NEW MEMBERS PROFILE CONTINUED

Arthur Breault joined us from ADB Construction and Septic Corp. Arthur is a licensed Installer with ADB Construction and Septic. ADB services include septic installation, pumping and cleaning, septic inspections, grease trap cleaning, camera and video technology, water jetting, drain cleaning, drainage and waterproofing. ADB Construction and Septic Corp has over 20 years' experience in the septic industry. They are located in Hebron CT. To learn more about ADB Construction and Septic Corp, please visit them on the web at www.adbconstructionandseptic.com

Michael Olsen of Olsen's Sanitation Co. LLC joined us. Olsen's Sanitation is a family-owned business that strives to be local leaders in the portable restroom and septic tank pumping industry. Michael's company has an excellent reputation for service and experience. He can provide sanitation services for construction sites, public entertainment events and private gatherings. Whether you need a portable unit or tank cleaning, Michael offers professional service with a personal guarantee at a fair, competitive price. Olsen's Sanitation Co. has been in business since 1956 and is located in Deep River, CT. To learn more about Michael's Company visit him on the web at www.olsensanitation.com

Jason Reed of Meriden Winwaterworks recently joined us. Nine months ago, Jason Reed opened the Meriden Winwaterworks company. Jason's goal is to supply consistent, exceptional service to the septic industry, with the best selection of available products. These products include pumps, drainage products, filters and baffles, plastic septic products and septic tanks. Their product lines include ADS, Infiltrator Systems, Inc., Tyler Union, JCM Industries, US Pipe and Cambridge Brass products.

Mike Merlesena of Infiltrator Systems joined us in April of this year. Mike is the new sales representative for Infiltrator Systems in the State of CT. Infiltrator Systems provides plastic leaching field chambers and advanced treatment solutions to the septic industry. Their office is located in Old Saybrook CT. Infiltrator Systems both manufactures its own products and directly sells their product through their own distributors. Infiltrator Systems has been in business since 1987. For more information visit them on the web at www.infiltratorsystems.com

Chris Morrell owner of Eastern Environmental Septic LLC joined us in May of this year. Chris is committed to providing essential services with respect to his customers and the environment. Chris understands the needs of each of his clients and is devoted to providing a complete understanding of his service to each customer he serves. Eastern Environmental services include: septic inspection for real estate transactions, residential septic tank pumping, video camera line inspections and effluent filter cleaning and septic inspections. Chris's company is located in Columbia CT. To learn more about Eastern Environmental Septic LLC, visit Chris on the web at: www.septicsnoop.com

CONNECTICUT DPH From the desk of Amanda Clark Environmental Analyst

Got a catchy slogan? DPH is looking for a septic tank pumping slogan for a banner to celebrate septic system week and bring attention to the importance of maintaining your septic system. That's right, septic systems get a week in September of national

recognition. E-mail Amanda.Clark@ct.gov with your slogan. Don't forget to include your name and contact information.

CONNECTICUT STATE CODE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Over the last year the Code Advisory Committee has met to discuss new provisions to be adopted to the Technical Standards. COWRA has members on this committee. The Code Advisory Committee is made up of CT State Health Officials, Civil Engineers, Licensed Septic Installers and members of the Home Builders Association. The committee also includes members of COWRA, CEHA, CADH, CAWPCA, DEEP, Soil Scientists, Sanitarians and local Health Officials. Meetings are held on prescheduled dates at the Portland Public Library.

Included in the inserts of this letter are the **proposed** changes for the 2015 Public Health Code, referred to as "Summary of Proposed January 1, 2015 Revisions to the Technical Standards for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems." We ask our members to carefully review this summary and to contact us via email, phone, or letter regarding your concerns and suggestions. We will take your concerns with us to the next Code Advisory Meeting for review and discussion. The next Code Advisory meeting will be held sometime in the fall, with the date to be announced.

COWRA'S 2014 INSTALLER SCHOOL

COWRA's 2014 Installer School was held in January and February of this year. Our Installer course began on February 13, 2014 and ran for 6 consecutive Thursdays. There were 28 students enrolled in this year's class. Enrollment was down once again this year, as the housing market has not recovered enough in Connecticut and students have a tough time securing their 4 installs.

The State of CT requires that any individual applying for an installer's license must install four systems under the guidance of a licensed installer from the State of Connecticut. In addition, all four installs must have the local sanitarian in the town of that install sign off on that project. Septic installations have declined over the last few years as new constructions have decline. Therefore, it has become increasingly difficult for those seeking a CT Installer license to secure one.

Briggs Geddis is the Director of Environmental Health at the New Canaan Health Department.



Briggs Geddis has been an instructor and has taught COWRA's Installer School with Doug DiVesta for over 25 years. However Briggs was unable to teach this year due to health issues. We are extremely grateful for the many years of his inspired teaching to a multitude of installer students over these many years. COWRA has been blessed with Brigg's generous gift of time and service to our organization. We wish him a speedy

recovery and good health in the coming year.



Douglas DiVesta, P. E. of DiVesta Civil Engineering Associates

Doug DiVesta has taught our installer course for over 25 years. Doug is a Civil Engineer and a Professional Engineer with years of experience and expertise in the area of septic design. His many years of troubleshooting the problems that may accompany an installation and site work topography have groomed him well to

help our students. Doug is a seasoned teacher with a ready answer and examples for our student's questions.

Over the years both Doug and Briggs have written and re-written the Septic Installer Study Guide. This year Bob Smith joined this effort. The work and time spent reworking our study guide each year takes an enormous amount of time; this, in addition to the hours spent teaching the course. These men volunteer a great amount of their time to our organization and to the students who take our courses. This book leads our students through the entire process of septic installation. Many of our members use this book as a reference manual in the field. It is because of the dedication and hours of hard work from Doug DiVesta, Briggs Geddis and Bob Smith that we have this excellent guide for our students and members.

During this course our students learn to identify the different soil layers. They must come to understand the function of test holes, percolation rates, hydraulic factors and set-back distances. The students emerge from the course with the knowledge and understanding of all the different components of septic installation.

Students also will learn the various types of products available and how to determine which product would be best for the site to complete a viable septic system. Because a septic system is an eco-system, it is important that our students learn the science that establishes a lasting system.

A student who takes the installer course will be well versed in those provisions of the Public Health Code that regulate the installs and repairs they will make in their new profession.



Robert Smith Sanitarian with the Torrington District

Robert Smith generously donated hours of his time this year to teach our students the necessary provisions of the Public Health Code. He explained each section of the code our students will need to know to go forward in their new careers. The Public Health Code will

govern our students for as long as they work in the septic industry. Bob made sure our 2014

installer students fully understood Technical Standards and why strict adherence is necessary in the field.

COWRA has been truly blessed over the years with gifted, noble, experienced professionals who kindly donate their time and expertise to benefit our organization and the students who seek a new future through their teaching. Between the preparation of the annual study guide, teaching and preparation of each class, Doug DiVesta and Robert Smith spend a remarkable amount of their personal time as a donation to our organization. We are truly grateful for their generous service.

COWRA'S 2013 PUMPER/CLEANER SCHOOL

The Pumper/Cleaner School is held on the last night of our Installer course. The Pumper/Cleaner course is attended by all the installer students and those additional students who will be applying for their cleaning license only.

Jon Skipper and Drew Gilbert have taught COWRA's Pumper/Cleaner course for several years. They bring with them a sense of humor that our students clearly enjoy. Jon and Drew have both been in the septic industry for many years. They are both licensed installers and belong to companies that cover all aspects of the septic industry.

Drew and Jon bring years of experience, skill and knowledge to their task. They developed a program of Septic Cleaning Procedure for this course that prepares our students for the exam. Students taking this course learn the proper procedure for pumping and cleaning, including safety practices, septic inspection, inspection of filters and baffles and preparing Permit to Discharge forms.

Jon Skipper of Wastewater Septic Services LLC

Drew Gilbert of Skips Tank Service Inc.



COWRA is very grateful to Jon Skipper and Drew Gilbert for their generous gift of time and knowledge and for providing our students with the skills they need to secure their Pumper/Cleaner License.

DATE TO REMEMBER

In January 2015 the State of Connecticut will be introducing a revised Technical Standard. This will bring significant changes to the Public Health Code. To all of the veteran installers out there who have had your Installers license since the beginning of "Septic Time," the year 2015 might be a good time for you to take our Installer course as a refresher. As a member of COWRA, you receive a substantial discount on tuition and you just might be amazed at what you learn. The installer course begins each year in mid-January. COWRA begins accepting applications in September each year.



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2014 Installer Students

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

UPDATES!! Registration Information for 2014 State Installers & Cleaners-Exams:
 You MUST contact the Department of Public Health to register for the Installers & Cleaners Exams.
 Please Note: attendance at the COWRA Installer School DOES NOT register you for the State exam.
 Please contact D.P.H. at 860-509-7296 for any information pertaining to your results and license.
 You may also contact them by going to www.dph.state.ct.us/licensure/apps/subsew.pdf

2014 Examination Schedule Subsurface Sewage Installer/Cleaner

Exam Date	Application Deadline
September 5, 2014	August 22, 2014
December 9, 2014	November 21, 2014

Connecticut Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association
 For a copy of COWRA's 2014 Study Guide please call (860 267-1057)