



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

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October 2012

Letter from the President

Dear COWRA Members,

I hope all of you are well and that you are all having a prosperous year.

On November 3, 2012 COWRA will be holding its **2012 Annual Meeting at the Hawthorne Inn in Berlin CT.** Information about the meeting has been sent to you by mail. I sincerely hope all of you will make an effort to join us this year. Our Annual Meeting is a great opportunity to meet others working in this field and to make contact with the vendors who supply the products that we use every day.

Each year a member of Department of Public Health joins us to say a few words about the Public Health Code and related topics.

COWRA has hired two comedians to entertain us for this event, so as always, the event will be fun and informative.

Please join us for a good time and a great meal on November 3rd.

Sincerely,
Your President,
Frank Talarico

NEW MEMBER PROFILES COWRA WELCOMES

David P. Robert of Versatile Excavating Services, LLC joined us in June of this year. David is the owner of Versatile Excavating. His services include Installation, Septic Inspections, Excavation, Foundations, Drainage, Construction, and Trucking. Versatile Excavation also installs Proprietary Systems. David's company is located in Morris CT. Versatile Excavation Services LLC has been in business for over 15 years.

Wesley J. Wentworth of Wentworth Civil Engineers LLC joined COWRA in August of this year. In addition to engineering services Wesley is also a Soil and Wetlands Scientist. Wentworth Civil Engineers is located in Lebanon CT and serves South-Central and Eastern CT. Wesley's services include small septic design, large scale CT DEEP systems, onsite soil testing and approvals through local health districts and CT DEEP. Wentworth Civil Engineers provides services for industrial, commercial, municipal and residential site development and land planning. Wesley also specializes in local, state & federal land use permitting, wetlands delineation, mitigation and restoration, zoning, subdivision, commercial site plans, storm drainage design and erosion controls. Wentworth Civil Engineers has been in business for 19 years. For more information about Wesley's company, please visit him on the web at www.wentworthcivil.com.

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

New Members Profile Continued

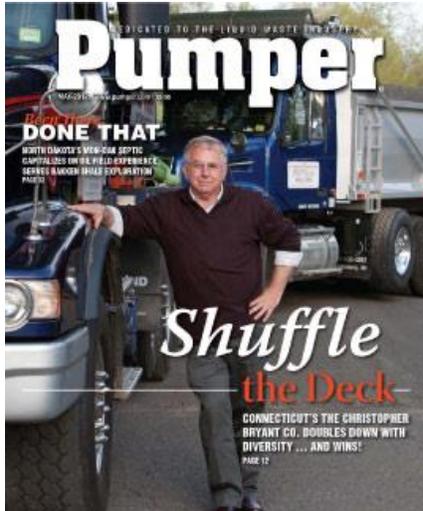
Richard Schwartz of Schwartz Septic & Plumbing Service re-joined us in July of this year. Schwartz Septic and Plumbing Services is a family-owned business that has been a part of our industry since 1967. Richard is a licensed plumber and his other services include: Septic Installation, Pumping, Grease Traps Cameras/Videos, Water Jet, Drain Cleaning, Excavation, Foundations and Drainage. Richard also offers Snow Plowing. Schwartz Septic & Plumbing Services are located in Easton CT.

Grant Gorczyca of Mizzy Construction joined us in September of this year. Grant is a licensed septic installer and Officer of Mizzy Construction which is located in Plainville CT. In addition to installation his services include: excavation, foundations, drainage, construction, demolition, trucking, and paving. Grant has been in the septic business for 24 years. Mizzy Construction, currently employees 80 people. For more information about Grants company visit him on the web a www.mizzyconstruction.com.

Christopher Bryant Co.

Doubles Down with Diversity... and Wins

For the second time this year COWRA Member, **Christopher Bryant Co.** distinguished itself as a leader in our industry. A few issues ago The Christopher Bryant Co., located in Simsbury CT, appeared in an Onsite Installer Magazine. In May of this year, they found themselves once again recognized in Pumper Magazine for their diversity and innovation in difficult times.



David Litchfield and his family operate a prosperous business in an economically challenged era. However, they have had their struggles and trials over the last 38 years. Their willingness to take those daunting risks in difficult times has paved the way to success. Christopher Bryant Co. services include: Installation, inspections, construction, building and remodeling. Now the Litchfield's are adding a 5100-gallon vacuum truck and intend to hire a sales staff. Adaptability and the courage to take a little risk have paved the way to success on today's challenging business road for this outstanding company.

COWRA'S 2012 ANNUAL MEETING

By now all of you have received the information regarding COWRA's 2012 Annual Dinner Meeting. We hope all our members will make an effort to join us. We have worked very hard to make this year's Annual Meeting informative, interesting and fun, not to mention delicious. Please join us on November 3, 2012 at the Hawthorne Inn Restaurant in Berlin CT for a fun, informative evening. Come meet the vendors who supply the products we use daily. Each year a member of the Connecticut Department of Public Health joins us and informs us on changes taking place in the State of CT. After a great meal we will sit back and enjoy the entertainment provided by comedians John Perrotta and Eddie Galvin. **Please join us. If you have misplaced your**

invitation, you will find a copy in this newsletter. We look forward to spending and evening with you.

COWRA's 2013 INSTALLER SCHOOL AND PUMPER / CLEANER SCHOOL

COWRA is accepting applications for our 2013 schools. These Classes will be held a Wesleyan University in Middletown CT.

COWRA will be holding our Installer School on six consecutive Thursdays: January 17, 24, 31, 2013 and February 7, 14, 21, 2013, with a snow date of February 28, 2013. Students enrolled in the Installer School are automatically enrolled in the Pumper / Cleaner School, as the Pumper / Cleaner information is part of the 2013 Installer exam. COWRA will be holding its Pumper/Cleaner School on Thursday February 16, 2012. The snow date will be February 21, if needed. Applications for both courses are inserted in this newsletter.

COWRA's COMMITTEE ON SEPTIC INSPECTION PROTOCOL

In January 2011 the General Assembly Proposed Bill No. 5473 LCO No. 2117. The Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly proposed that the general statutes be amended to require an inspection of a septic system serving a home or building prior to the sale of such home or building.

Statement of Purpose: To require septic systems to be inspected prior to the sale of property.

When this Act was proposed to require the inspection of all septic systems, serving any home or building prior to the sale of that property. COWRA, the Realtors Association, Home Builders Association, etc. all attended a hearing on this matter.

All the organizations in attendance agreed that this proposed bill did not explore all the obstacles that would arise after it was implemented. Also, the act did not define a workable protocol to implement a standard for inspection at this time. Nothing in this proposed law addresses the questions: What is a Septic Inspection? or Who should perform a Septic Inspection? However, the writing is on the wall. Some form of legally mandated Septic Inspection is in our industry's future in CT.

This could be important legislation for our industry and for the CT consumer as well. Some form of legislation is need as, under our current system, anyone, regardless of training or background, can hang out his shingle and call himself a septic inspector. There is currently no law in CT that governs who is qualified to perform and inspection, what an inspection consists of or when an inspection should be performed. As a result, everyone loses. Consumers cannot be sure of what they are purchasing when they buy a new home. Realtors cannot be sure of a septic condition when selling a home, thereby compromising a guarantee. The disreputable practices by those unqualified to perform these services damage the credibility of our industry as a whole.

In the Spring/Summer 2007 edition of Small Flows Magazine in an article titled Point-of-Sale Inspections, Productive or Pointless, Elizabeth Dietzmann JD, Consulting Writer, argued the pros and cons of this debate. This is an article worth reviewing as we explore once again the merit of such a law on the CT books.

One objective of such a law would gradually bring a large percentage of septic systems into compliance without placing a burden on local health departments by enacting a law that mandates all septic systems be inspected and repaired by a certain date. Such a law would also help those purchasing a new home make better decisions, thus avoiding the unexpected expense of replacing their septic system soon after purchase. A positive outcome of mandated inspections upon the sale of a home is that property values often increase where these laws are implemented and some of the lenders' concerns can be alleviated.

On the negative side, Dietzmann argues that the handful of states that do regulate inspections are still struggling with inspector qualifications. Also, of those states that do mandate inspections, local health departments often find that they are left with the burden of manpower, training and the liability associated with such a program. This is often delegated to a local contractor who may have little or no training in this area. Even when contractors do have the prerequisite training to perform the inspections, the lack of a uniform standard within the industry implies a varied result.

Mandated inspections can also have a negative effect on the housing market, as this can result in the abandonment of a home.

After reviewing prior legislation among the different states that have implemented laws mandating inspections and discussing their success and failures, Ms. Dietzmann concludes: *“So which is it? Are point-of-sale inspections productive or pointless? Like most things in the onsite wastewater world, it depends on who you ask about this controversial topic.”*

Due to the controversy surrounding the issue of septic inspections and the certainty that some form of mandatory inspection is imminent, COWRA’s Board of Directors has set up a committee to study and design an inspection model that would be acceptable to all interested parties. Board member Gary Yuknat, who heads this committee, designed the following protocol, which he recently spoke about at the Annual Yankee Conference in Mystic CT.

TIER SYSTEM PROTOCOL

By Gary Yuknat

For those of us who do septic system inspections, it should come as no surprise that there are as many different types of inspections as there are inspectors. Not having a license requirement doesn’t help matters. Currently the State has only a recommended minimum report which was developed in cooperation with several organizations. It was a good start. However, it is time to move on.

Our Board of Directors has been asked as an organization, as the professionals in the trade, to take the lead and come up with a new inspection protocol. It needs to have prescriptive language and procedures or tests which we all will follow. This is a great opportunity for us. We have chosen a tier approach which will be descriptive in what the inspector will include at each level. This will allow the customer the choice of which inspection tier they believe offers the best value. It will also allow for us, the inspectors, to offer the level of service that we are comfortable providing.

Tier 1 is complete and Tier 2 will be unveiled at the 50th Annual Yankee Conference scheduled 9-27-28 in Mystic Connecticut, where I have been asked to speak. After that time the completed procedures will be sent to various organizations to allow them to comment. As the Board of Directors, it is our hope this results in a level playing field that allows us, as inspectors, some liability protection so long as the adapted language and procedures are followed.

The information collected in the Tier protocol will be entered in printed form(s) and/or computer program(s).

Tier 1 General Information to be collected includes:

Date, address, type of dwelling, number of bedrooms and occupants/anticipated, if unoccupied, length of vacancy and as-built availability.

Tier 1 – Waste Water Routing in House to be noted:

Number of sewer lines leaving the foundation,
Type of pipe leaving foundation, ejector pump, water treatment system present/backwash discharge into tank, garbage disposal, sump pump/discharge, washing machine discharge and water supply.

Tier 1 – Septic Tank Components to be noted include:

Type of tank, type of construction, tank accessibility, depth to inlet cover, type of pipe at tank inlet, inlet line condition, presence of baffle, type and condition, presence of compartment wall, condition of compartment wall, presence of effluent filter, condition of effluent filter, outlet pipe type/condition.

Tier 1 Septic Tank Evaluation includes:

Interior dimensions, tank (length, width, depth), tank’s working capacity in gallons, age of tank, date of last cleaning, Effluent level at outlet pipe invert, distance between liquid level and ceiling of tank, indication of previous higher liquid levels, flow back from leaching field at time of pumping, amount of solid build up (scum level, sludge level).

Tier 1 Septic Tank Observations

Operating levels above outlet invert (Tier 2 recommended), sewage overflow observed (Tier 2 recommended), Plumbing leaks or wastewater routing problems, need for replacement components, steel septic tank noted, Septic tanks under 750 gallons noted, Concrete deterioration (Tier 2 or higher recommended), and tanks over 4 feet deep.

Tier 1 Result and Recommendations include:

Comments, overall condition of septic tank, inspector’s signature, name of responsible party, reviewer signature and license number.

Tier 2 Includes all information collected in Tier 1

General Information, Wastewater Routing in House, Septic Tank Components, Tank Evaluation, and Observations.

Tier 2 also Includes Leaching Systems Evaluation

This will include: type of system, age of system, distribution box and placement, condition of distribution boxes, effluent level of d-boxes, distance between tank, leaching fields, and portable water wells, structures or impermeable surfaces located over or near leaching area, notation of signs of malfunction of septic system, notation of surface water roof drains, sump pump runoff into leaching area, notation of probing septic area, notation of expansion/repair area, and notation of conditions that would limit repair.

Tier 2 Pump Station Includes:

Notation of system served by pump or pump chamber, condition, alarm, and manhole to grade.

Tier 2 Observation and Results include:

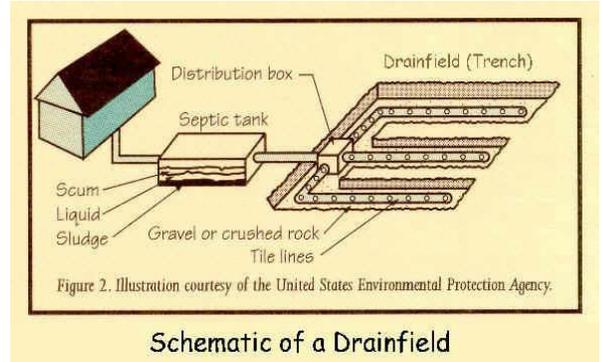
General comments and observation the functioning of system, notation that size of system meets current standards, evidence of prior high liquid levels, Sewage overflow observations, system operating a capacity, signs of system failure, need for replacement components, soil testing recommendations to determine expansion and over all condition.

Tier 3 requires the inspector to visually inspect all distribution lines in the system. This requires the utilization of some of the newer hi-tech tools now available to our industry. At this level the discriminating or wary consumer may find the value they’re looking for. This could be as simple as the peace of mind they get from knowing that every pipe and component was installed properly and is functioning as it should.

Tier 4 will encompass what is commonly referred to in the Connecticut Code as a B100, referring to the code section that applies. This inspection will require the inspector to accurately locate and map all existing septic system components. Provide test hole & perc. testing services with the local health officials, as well as system planning and design along with engineering services if ed.

Please note: The Tier System is a works in progress; we would greatly appreciate any feedback from our members. Please email your comments to gary@shorelinesanitation.com or call us at 860 267-1057.

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Tier 4 Inspection will encompass the entire system.

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

UPDATES!! Registration Information for 2012 and 2013 State Installers & Cleaners-Exams: You MUST contact the Department of Public Health to register for the Installers & Cleaners Exams. Attendance at the COWRA Installer School DOES NOT registers 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

2012 and 2013 Examination Schedule Subsurface Sewage Installer/Cleaner

Exam Date	Application Deadline
December 14, 2012	November 12, 2012
March 4, 2013	February 15, 2013
June 24, 2013	June 7, 2013
September 16, 2013	August 30, 2013
December 9, 2013	November 22, 2013

Connecticut Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association
 For a copy of COWRA's 2013 Study Guide please call (860) 267-1057