

Food for Thought:



**CONNECTICUT ONSITE WASTEWATER RECYCLING
ASSOCIATION INC.**
SUPPORTING CONNECTICUT AND OUR ENVIRONMENT
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SUMMER 2022

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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**COWRA Brochures are
available to our
members at \$50.00 per
100, including shipping.**

Dear COWRA Members,

The summer is upon us and I am sure all of you are very busy trying to accomplish all your projects.

It seems as if Covid is retreating a little. People are not getting as sick from the virus. Perhaps we can get back to some semblance of normal soon.

We are planning to have an annual meeting this year, so it is my hope that I will have a chance to spend some time with all of you in person. We did have a very small meeting last year. It is always a struggle to get our members to attend. I will stay optimistic as always and hope.

I trust this newsletter finds all our members well and prospering.

Sincerely,
Frank Talarico

BEWARE OF SCAMS!

A few months ago, some of you received an email requesting that members send money to PayPal, or through a credit card, to help another member's daughter who was ill. That email used our logo and truly resembled an email from our organization. It was shockingly well done. However, it was a scam.

PLEASE NOTE: The COWRA organization, nor any of our directors, will ever request donations from our members. These scams use different email addresses that do not correspond with our legitimate email address. Please do not fall victim to one of these scams, and if you do receive a request of this nature in the future, please ignore it. If you ever have any questions about the legitimacy of any correspondence you receive from COWRA, or one of its directors, please contact us directly so we can help you!

NEW MEMBER PROFILES COWRA WELCOMES:



Bill Marek is the owner of Bill Marek Excavating & Septic Systems LLC. Bill has re-joined us after a few years absence. Bill's company, is located in Bethany CT. and he has been serving southern Connecticut's septic needs for over 36 years.

Bill's services include: septic inspections, septic Installations and repairs, excavation, and site work. Bill's company installs all kinds of septic systems, from concrete galleries and stone leaching trenches, to proprietary systems. For more information about Bill's company visit him on the web at: www.billmarekseptic.com



William Pieniadz recently joined COWRA and is one of the co-owners of P & S Construction and

Septic Service, LLC. P&H are experts from the ground up. Residents throughout CT. and RI. depend on P & H for their construction and septic needs. P & H Septic is located in Uncasville, CT. and has been in business for over 35 years. Williams company provides both commercial and residential services. P&S's services include: concrete, foundations, site development work, groundwater repairs, in addition to septic installations and septic cleaning. Learn more about P&H Septic Service on the web at: www.pandhconstructi on.com



Travis Lopes of American Septic Services, LLC. joined Thomas Dorsey in their COWRA Membership.

Travis was a student in COWRA's 2022 installer course, and will be an asset to this family-owned business. American Septic Services offers Connecticut residents an array of services to maintain and protect their Septic Systems. These services include: septic installations and repairs, septic cleanings, inspections, grease traps, and cameras/videos. To learn more visit them on the web at www.american-septic.com

Gene Nazzaro replaces his brother Joseph as a new COWRA member. Nazzaro Inc. is a family-owned business with over 70 years of delivering quality services to the surrounding communities. Nazzaro Inc. offers multiple services which include: septic system installations and repairs, site work, development, excavation, foundations, drainage, retaining walls, pond and wetland restoration. For a complete list of their services visit them on the web at: www.nazzaroinc.com



William O. Jolley joined COWRA during the new year. He joins his father Dennis who is a long-time member and sits on COWRA's Board of Directors. Jolley Precast is a family-owned business that began in 1923 and has been



expanding its quality products list as their precast company has grown. As a longtime supplier to the septic industry, Jolley Precast offers a large array of precast septic tanks to accommodate any size project, in addition to risers, and tank coating. Some of Jolley's other products include: bulkheads, steps, catch basins and manholes. Please visit them at: www.jolleyprecast.com for a complete list of products.

Richard P. Pippin of Pippin Industries joined COWRA as a member in February, joining his father Peter who has been a long-time member of COWRA. Richard was enrolled in our 2022 septic installer course. Pippin Industries, is located in Broad Brook, Connecticut.



Pippin Industries services include: septic installations, septic cleanings, inspections, and grease trap cleaning. They also offer excavation site work and construction services. You can contact Pippin Industries by phoning them at: **860 670-7350**.

Charles Appleby Sr., is the owner of Appleby Plumbing Co. LLC., became a member in February of this year. Appleby Plumbing is a fourth-generation family-owned business which has been servicing the residential, commercial and industrial communities of the Connecticut River Valley and shoreline area for over 60 years. They are a plumbing and heating company but also offer gas line services, plus wells and excavation services. Charles is active in many of the professional organizations within the state CT. Both Charles, and his son Brendan Appleby, were students in COWRA's 2022 installer course. To learn more about Appleby Plumbing visit their website at: www.applebyplumbing.net



Douglas Ouellette of Watertown Septic / American Rooter re-joined COWRA after a few years absence. Doug is a former Board of Director member, who left to enter the insurance industry. We welcome him back! Doug, rejoins his brother Steve, at their company which is located in Watertown, CT.

Doug's company has a 5-

star rating and their services include: septic cleaning, septic inspections, grease trap cleaning, camera/videos, water jet and drain cleaning. You can learn more about Watertown Septic Company by visiting them on the web at: www.american-rooter.com



Ted Meyers, is the owner and President of Tuf-Tite, Inc. and he became a member of COWRA this year. Ted is replacing Harry Plander who had been a member of our organization for over 20 years and recently retired. COWRA has been reading about Ted Meyers influence in the wastewater industry for many years, in Onsite Installer and other publications. Tuf-Tite is a leading supplier to the CT wastewater industry, and has been providing their product to our members and others in the industry throughout the country for decades. Tuf-Tite's products include: Drainage product, risers, effluent filters, D-boxes, and tank seals to name a few. Tuf-Tite has supported COWRA as a member and supplier to our industry since 1984. Tuf-Tite is an American owned and operated company of which all of its products are manufactured in America. Tuf-Tite is located in Lake Zurich, Illinois and manufactures all their products in their 165,000 square foot facility. Their automated supply chain capabilities provide their customers with seamless, on-time deliveries. For a complete list of Tuf-Tite's products, visit: www.tuf-tite.com



Don Mitchell has re-joined COWRA as a member of the Town of Essex Health Department and Environmental Health team. Don is a registered Sanitarian who was part of the Chatham Health District for many years prior to his new position in Essex. Don has been a force in the public health and wastewater industry through his many professional

positions within the environmental health community. Don has participated in many Connecticut Department of Public Health initiatives and with the Connecticut Environmental Health Association. You can reach Don Mitchell at the Essex Health Department at:

www.essexct.gov/health-department

Dominic Brown is the Owner of Southbury Land Services, and he was one of our students in the 2022 Installer Course. Dominic owns a thriving business that offers a host of services in addition to



landscaping, which includes: excavation, foundations, drainage, paving, tree removal, and soon septic installations and repairs. Southbury Land Services has the equipment to get the job done. Please visit and like him on Facebook at Southbury Land Services LLC. for an impressive array of photos and reviews of his work. You can also email him at dominicbrown117@gmail.com

Dennis Viveros of Melo Engineering Industries, Inc. joined us. In his past life he trained those entering the state police academy. Dennis who recently retired from the state police is taking a new path. He has been doing excavation work in the septic industry since his retirement. Dennis took our 2022 installer course along with three other retiring police officers and he recently launched Melo Engineering and is currently waiting to take his state exam. Soon Melo Engineering will be offering a full line of septic services. Melo Engineering is located in Watertown CT.

COWRA's 2022 INSTALLERS COURSE

Once again, COWRA held its 2022 Installer and Cleaner Courses online, just as we did in 2021. The online platform has proved to be a good forum for our organization, our students, and our teachers. Prior to online courses, a great deal of time was spent traveling for teachers and students. Now, online classes allow all participants the time they need to get to and from work, eat dinner and attend class on time from their homes.

There are a few drawbacks to online teaching, but it is our hope that with a little extra time added to the

agenda, and some additional software implemented into our programs, that we will be able to overcome any shortfalls. Covid may have thrown our teachers and our organization a curveball, but it also opened a new path in our journey to prepare Connecticut's future installers to be equipped for their future profession. However, it is our teachers who make this program a success each year, who donate their time, broad knowledge, and volumes of expertise to provide our students with the skills they will need to pursue their goal of obtaining a CT. license.



Robert Smith

has served on the Board of Directors of COWRA for many years. Bob is a registered sanitarian with both the Torrington Health and Watertown Health Districts. Most of

Bob's time teaching each year's seven-week installer course is dedicated to instructing our student in the important details of the Connecticut Public Health Code and Technical Standards. Bob's detailed expertise of these documents provides our students the understanding they will need to guide them through each successful installation and secure their installer license. We are so appreciative for Bob's continued commitment to the COWRA organization and his substantial gift of time and wisdom to our students.



Jeff Polhemus

is a Registered Sanitarian and a Licensed Septic Installer. Jeff also serves on the CT

Code Advisory Committee for Connecticut's Public Health Department. Jeff is part of the Skips Wastewater Services LLC., team in Ellington, Connecticut. During the seven weeks of our septic installer course, Jeff's focus is centered around the engineering, mathematical and technical components of a sustainable septic installation. Each year Jeff shares with our students his thorough knowledge of each aspect of septic installation. This provides our student with a comprehensive understanding of septic installation. We are very thankful to Jeff who generously offers his time each year to co-teach our annual septic installer course.

COWRA'S 2022 PUMPER/CLEANER SCHOOL



Andrew Coleman
owns and operates
Skips Wastewater
Services.

For several years Andrew has been generously offering his expertise to our students by teaching our Cleaner Course. This course is offered

to students who want to obtain their Cleaner's License and it is included as part of the curriculum for the Installers Course. During the course, Andrew focuses on standards of safety and cleaning when performing a proper tank cleaning. Andrew places an emphasis on professionalism and the value of the quality of one's work product. COWRA is so grateful for Andrew's generous gifts of sharing his experience and business acumen each year while teaching this course.

A CHANGING OF THE GUARD



For many years our members have looked to Robert Scully as the final word for our industries questions. Last year Bob entered his much-deserved retirement. This made some of us a little nervous as to who would be his replacement. We are

delighted to learn that Bob's position at the Connecticut's Department of Public Health has been filled by Matt Pawlik. Matt is not only a familiar face, but a much-respected ally in the Environmental Health Department at the State of Connecticut. Matt is currently wearing several hats, as he has not only taken on Bob's position, but he is still covering the western end of the state and inspecting pools throughout the State of Connecticut.



CODE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At the Code Advisory meeting on April 11, 2022 proposed revisions of the Public Health Code and Technical Standards were discussed. This will most

likely be discussed further in future meetings as will other tweaks and revisions at CAC meeting. The new code is expected to go into effect on January 2023. Members with concerns, or suggestions, may contact COWRA and we pass this on to the CAC members.

Bill No. 5145 was discussed which is an act concerning the use of portable wastewater containers. Specifically, "to allow the use of portable wastewater holding tanks, known as "blue boys", for transferring wastewater from a camping unit to a sanitary disposal station at both state and private campgrounds".

The Current public health regulations allow for campground-provided mobile pump out services for disposal at sanitary disposal stations but are silent with respect to portable wastewater holding tanks (Conn. Agencies Regs. § 19a-2a-29(g)). In practice, the Department of Public Health (DPH) does not recognize portable wastewater holding tanks as an acceptable method of wastewater transport and disposal at family campgrounds. This bill was approved and passed May 23, 2022

Also discussed was the SSDS Installer and Cleaner Licensure Exams: These exams are now given by a New 3rd party vendor. The exam program began on February 2, 2022. There are exam locations throughout Connecticut. Applicants must fill out the state application and other state required forms which can be found on the State Website. The State application explains all the forms that must be submitted with the application. Once the application and other forms are received and accepted by the State of Connecticut, the applicant will receive notice on options as to where they can take the test. Applicants must send all documentation with their application.

The April CAC meeting discussed the Closed Loop Geothermal Wells: Interagency between the DCP, the DPH and the DEEP. This discussion was about a proposed regulation recommended by Dandelion Energy for a minimum septation distance to a subsurface sewage disposal system. Dandelion Energy provided a brief presentation during the meeting.

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Board members Steve Roberts and Johnathan Kaiser at the 2022 WWETT

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

UPDATES!! We are accepting applications for COWRA’s 2023 Installers & Cleaners Courses as of September 15, 2023.

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 D.P.H. by going to www.dph.state.ct.us/licensure/apps/subsew.pdf

The 2022 Licensing exams are scheduled after the exam application is submitted and accepted by the State Department of Public Health. There are several testing locations throughout the State of Connecticut

Connecticut Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association
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**Protecting the interests of our members
and the industry they serve.**