



Briggs Geddis works with students at COWRA's 2009 Installer School

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from the President

New Member Profiles

COWRA'S 2009 Installers School

COWRA's 2009 Pumper/Cleaner School

Date to Remember
April 25, 2009 Annual Meeting

2009 Membership Renewal Form.

If you have not returned your membership renewal form, please fill the enclosed form and return it. Your information is needed to complete our Consumer Page on our new website.

Inserts

1. State of CT Circulars
2. Permit to Discharge
3. Annual Meeting Info
4. Renewal Form
5. New Product Press Release

COWRA Brochures are available to our members at \$22.50 per 100, including shipping



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

P.O. BOX 116

EAST HAMPTON, CT. 06424

PHONE: 860-267-1057 FAX: 860-267-1557

E-mail us at Info@cowra-online.org

Visit COWRA on line at www.cowra-online.org

April 2009

Letter from the President

Greetings to all our members.

I hope all of you are well and that you have survived this very hard winter. This winter was a tough one and I know that the economy has been equally tough on our businesses. It has had an impact on all of us. I am sure that all of you are looking forward to spring.

On the 25th of April we will be having our 2009 Annual Meeting. All of you should have received information about our Annual Meeting by now in the mail. I urge all of you 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 that supply the products that we use everyday,

This year a member of Department of Public Health will join us to say a few words about the new Public Health Code.

COWRA has hired comedian Dave Reilly to entertain us; all of this to be accompanied by a great meal. Please make an effort to join us.

Sincerely,
You're President

NEW MEMBER PROFILES COWRA WELCOMES

Ryan Lynch of RFK Distributors LLC joined us in January 2009. Ryan owns RFK Distributors and has developed a line of ECO Products for application with grease traps, wastewater facilities, ponds and lakes, septic systems carwashes, port-o-potties and agricultural applications. Ryan's business was founded in 2007 and he distributes his products throughout the continental United States. RFK Distributor's, is located in Hamden CT. For more information about Ryan's company and products, visit him on the web at www.ecotabsonline.com.

Kyle Landis of Infiltrator Systems Inc. joined us in January 2009; Kyle is the new representative for Infiltrator Systems in Connecticut. Infiltrator Systems has been in business since 1987 and manufactures septic chambers and septic tanks. Kyle has been with his company for 4 years. Infiltrator Systems is located in Old Saybrook CT. To learn more about Kyle's company visit him on the web at www.infiltratorsystems.com.

Tommy Lee Healey of Old-World Builders of CT LLC joined us in January 2009. His company provides excavation and trucking services, in addition to septic installation, septic cleaning and drain cleaning. Old World Builders is located in Woodbury CT.

New Members Profile Continued

Steven E. Buttermore joined us in January 2009. Steven owns and operates Buttermore's which is located in Gales Ferry, CT. Steven's company has been serving southeastern CT since 1980. Buttermore's specializes in all types of septic system service, repair and installation; in addition, Buttermore's takes on small to medium excavation projects from instillation of water lines to new home excavation. To learn more about Steven's company visit him on the web at www.buttermores.com

Anthony Pearce of Country Septic Service LLC joined us in January 2009. Country Septic Service LLC is located in North Haven CT. Anthony's services include: pumping/cleaning, drain cleaning, cameras and water jet. Country Septic Services also rent portable restrooms. Country Septic Service LLC has been in business for many years. Anthony purchased the business a year ago. For more information about Anthony's company visit him on the web at www.countryseptic.com

Mark Powers & Louis Delioro of General Paving & Heating joined us in January 2009. Mark has been with the company for 3 years and Louis has been there for 1 year. General Paving and Heating is located in Northford Connecticut. Their services include excavation, paving and construction. General Paving and Heating has been in business for over 47 years. You can contact Mark and Louis at generalpaving1@sbcglobal.net

William P. Raff of Glastonbury CT joined us in January 2009. William plans to work in the wastewater industry. William was enrolled in COWRA's 2009 Installer School.

Mark A. R. Cooper of Westport Weston Health District joined us in January 2009. Mark is a Director of Health with the Westport Weston Health District. Mark has been a Regulator with the Health District since 2008. For more information about the Westport-Weston Health District you can visit it on the web at www.wwhd.org

Thad King of the Chatham Health District joined us in January 2009. The Chatham Health District covers East Haddam, East Hampton, Haddam, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland CT. Thad King is a Director of Health with the East Hampton branch of the Chatham Health District. Thad had worked as Sanitarian for and with the Chatham Health District for many years

COWRA'S 2009 INSTALLER SCHOOL

COWRA held its 2009 Installer course in January and February of this year. COWRA's 2009 Installer course did not escape the affects of this difficult economy. Enrolment in our 2007 Installer School was 68 students. In 2008 our Installer School had 83 students. This year enrollment was down to 37 Students.

This however, only served to enhance the teacher / student interaction. Once again Briggs Geddis and Doug DiVesta did an incredible job teaching our students the skills and knowledge, they will need to prepare for the 2009 State Licensing Exam.

This year, because of the new Technical Standard Revisions our school was attended by a few veterans of the wastewater industry. These included John Fay and Leo Tetreault of Honey Wagon Septic Tank Services out of Manchester CT and Arthur Ruff of Art's Septic Tank Service in Glastonbury CT.

All three men have been the Septic business for many, years. These three veterans of the industry took the course because of the new Public Health Code Revisions. All three felt their time

was well spent by taking the course and felt they had learned valuable information.

Other students included a few who had lost jobs in other industries because of our unsettled economy. These students were seeking new avenues of employment.

Most students were young men who have been working in the industry and are going to be taking the licensing exam in the spring. Some of our new members who recently joined our organization took COWRA's Installer Class, these include: Louis Delioro, Mark Powers, and William Raff.

For five consecutive Thursdays, students sat through 3 hours of class dedicated to the teaching of the information and skills each student will need to obtain their license for septic installation.

All the students enrolled in COWRA's 2009 Installer School were beneficiaries of the years of experience that Doug DiVesta and Briggs Geddis bring to our students each year and of the hours that these two men spend in preparation for this class.



Teacher Doug DiVesta 2009 Installers Class

Each year Briggs and Doug spend as many hours preparing for the installer's School as they do teaching it. Briggs and Doug generously donate their time each year to our organization.

Without this generosity COWRA would truly be at a loss, we are sincerely grateful to them. They are a very impressive team, as our students can attest to. Despite all the work Briggs and Doug put into the class, they still manage to make this course fun.

We encourage more veterans of the industry to take this course in the future. The laws, techniques and products in this industry change often. You might be surprised at what you could learn.

Thank you, Briggs Geddis and Doug DiVesta for your generous contribution to our organization. We are truly in your debt.

COWRA'S 2009 PUMPER/CLEANER SCHOOL

Last year COWRA sadly lost a long time COWRA member and past President of our organization Richard Dallaire. Rich taught our Pumper/Cleaner course for many years. His death came as shock to many of us. He is deeply missed.

In Rich's absence Frank Talarico, COWRA's President and Jon Skipper a long time COWRA Board Member volunteered to teach our Pumper/Cleaner course this year.

The class was attended by 17 of the Installer Students and 13 students enrolled in just the Pumper/Cleaner School. For three hours on the evening of February 19, 2009, Jon and Frank taught the dos and don'ts of septic cleaning.

With a mixture of humor and Frank and Jon's years of expertise, students learned the skills, correct procedures and laws within the

Public Health Code, that they will need to secure their Pumper/Cleaners License.



Frank Talarico and Jon Skipper teach COWRA's 2009 Cleaner Class

Frank Talarico and Jon Skipper taught a well-prepared, informative class to COWRA's Students. We thank you both, for the gift of your time and knowledge.

PUBLIC HEALTH CODE REVISION

In January 2009 the State of Connecticut's Department of Health revised the Connecticut Public Health Code. You will find a summary of these revisions as an insert in this newsletter. A copy of the new Public Health Code can be downloaded from the CT Department of Public Health website: www.ct.gov/dph/default.asp Members can also download a copy of the new Public Health Code at the COWRA website: www.cowra-online.org. See (From the State of CT) page.

The State of CT D.P.H. will mail you a hard copy of the new Public Health Code. For a Hard Copy make your (\$3.00) check payable to: Treasurer of the State of CT Mail To: Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, PO Box 340308, MS#51SEW, Attn. Theresa Williams, Hartford, CT 06134

Chatham Health District Wastewater Pumping and Permit to Discharge Regulations

The Chatham Health District which governs the towns of East Haddam, East Hampton, Haddam, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland will be implementing new Wastewater Pumping and Permit to Discharge Regulations in April 2009.

These regulations will significantly impact the procedures of pumping and cleaning septic systems in the Chatham Health District.

These regulations are the wave of the future. This type of regulation will be going into effect in all Health Districts throughout Connecticut within the next few years. Currently, Newtown, Guilford, Westbrook and Essex have this type of regulation in effect in their districts. Newtown and Guilford have had these regulations in effect for many years. Westbrook began in 2006 and Essex began in January 2009.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health is currently reviewing the town of Ledge Light Health Districts and the Chatham Health Districts, Permit to Discharge Regulations. Ledge Light Health District includes the Town of East Lyme, Town and City of Groton, the Town of Ledyard, the City of New London and the Town Waterford.

Thad King and Don Mitchell of the Chatham Health District have been working with licensed Pumper/Cleaners who work within their District. They have welcomed comments and suggestions from our industry, as they have worked through the process of preparing these regulations. April 20, 2009 the Chatham Health District will meet Cleaners registered with their district, to further discuss these regulations. Thad King and Don Mitchell are both members of Connecticut Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association. A copy the Chatham Health District's Permit to Discharge Regulations is in this newsletter as an insert.

COWRA'S 2009 ANNUAL MEETING

By now all of you have received the information form regarding COWRA's 2009 Annual Dinner Meeting. We hope that 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. Come meet the vendors who supply the products we use weekly. Learn information from a member of the Connecticut Department of Public Health about the new 2009 Public Health Code. Enjoy a wonderful meal, and then sit back and laugh as comedian Dave Reilly entertains us. **Please join us. It is not too late to sign up for our Meeting.**

COWRA'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Enclosed as an insert, you will find COWRA'S 2009 Renewal form. *We are still waiting on renewal forms from 52 members of our organization.* If you have not sent your 2009 membership renewal form and dues in, please fill out the form provided for you as an insert in this newsletter and send it in as soon as possible.

Your Board of Directors has worked very hard in upgrading COWRA's website. We are currently trying to complete our new Consumer Page. This page will provide consumers with information on what they should expect when their systems are installed, repaired, cleaned/pumped, or inspected for home sale.

There will be information for the consumer on how their system works, what will damage their system and what they can do to assure their systems function properly.

In addition, there will be separate directories of Installers, Pumper/cleaners, Septic Inspection, Excavators, Water Jet, Cameras, Grease Trap Cleaners, etc. so that the consumer can easily find the service they are looking for and that you provide.

Suppliers will also have a directory so those in the wastewater industry can find their products and services.

This page will be set up so that when the consumer goes onto their computer and searches, for instance, "septic cleaning in CT," COWRA's web page will come up. There will be instructions on the Home Page directing the consumer to a town-by-town directory of what service they are looking and how to find your company.

Providing us with your business information by checking off the appropriate boxes on your renewal form will enable COWRA's website to steer consumers to your business.

Members who have not returned their forms are holding up this consumer reference feature from being active. We do not want to leave any member out. Please get your membership forms in soon. We realize that, for some, these are very difficult times. If you have fallen on hard times in this difficult economy and cannot afford to pay you dues, please contact us and arrangements will be made. Your situation will be kept confidential.



COWRA
P.O. Box 116
East Hampton, CT. 06424
Phone: (860) 267-1057
Fax: (860) 267-1557
info@cowra-online.org
www.cowra-online.org

SAVE THIS DATE
APRIL 25, 2009
FOR
COWRA'S 2009 ANNUAL MEETING
PLEASE COME AND LAUGH WITH US.
Entertainment by Comedian Dave Reilly



FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

UPDATES!! Registration Information for 2009 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 860-509-7559 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

2009 Examination Schedule
Subsurface Sewage Installer/Cleaner

Exam Dates	Application Deadlines
June 19, 2009	May 08, 2009
September 11, 2009	August 07, 2009
December 18, 2009	November 13, 2009

Connecticut Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association
For a copy of COWRA's 2009 Study Guide please call (860 267-1057)