



Students at COWRA's 2012 Installer School



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

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## May 2012

### Letter from the President

Dear COWRA Members,

Happy Spring, for many, this was one of the best winters we have had in CT for a very long time. Installs continued through the winter for some. Pumpers had less trouble shoveling to the tanks. However, for those of us who plow snow, it was a bust. Couple this with the continuing economic crisis, the verdict is still out on the rest of the year.

We are in the process of planning our Annual Meeting. We always choose a location that is central to the state so that it is accessible for all our members. We hope all our members will make an effort to come to this meeting as it is always a good time. We will be notifying our members soon of the details.

I hope this letter finds all of you well.

Best,  
Frank Talarico  
President

### NEW MEMBER PROFILES COWRA WELCOMES

**Bruce Houser of Polylok** joined us in December of this year. Bruce works in sales at Polylok. His company has been in the septic business since 1984 and is well known in the industry for their popular Zabel Filter. They specialize in septic products with a broad spectrum of products that covers our industry's needs. Bruce has represented Polylok at many of our Annual Meetings. His company is a great supporter of COWRA. Polylok is located in Wallingford, CT. Bruce has been with the company for 4 years. To learn more about Polylok you can visit them on the web at [www.polylok.com](http://www.polylok.com)

**William Strain of Interstate Septic Tank Co., Inc.** joined us in December. William joins Lisa Lowden also of Interstate Septic who has been a long-time member and supporter of our organization. Interstate Septic Tank Co. has been in business since 1952. Their services include: Installation, Cleaning, Inspections, Water jet, Drain Cleaning and Drainage Installations. They are located in Greenwich CT. William had been with Interstate Septic for years. William was a student in our 2012 Installer School he is currently working on his four preparatory installs and will be taking the licensing exam soon.

**Brian Parker of Eljen Corporation** joined us in December. His company has been a long-time supporter of our organization. Eljen Corporation is a leading Manufacturer of Proprietary Systems. Eljen also makes Drainage and Plastic Septic products. Eljen is located in East Hartford, CT and has been in business for 42 Years. To learn more about Eljen Corporation visit them on the web at [www.eljen.com](http://www.eljen.com)

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

## NEW MEMBERS PROFILE CONTINUED

**Joshua LaPlante** joined us in January of this year. Joshua is the owner of **Nepaug Drain Service LLC**. He opened his company last year and he offers 24-hour service 7 days a week. His services include: Main Line Cleaning, Branch Line Cleaning, Drain Repairs, and Septic Aeration. Joshua's company is located in New Harford and he serves North Western CT. He was a student in our 2012 Installer Course. We wish him well on his exam. For more information about Nepaug Drain Service LLC, please visit him on the web at [www.nepaugdrainservice.com](http://www.nepaugdrainservice.com)

**Lisa Fasulo, Director of Health of the Town of Essex**, joined us in February 2012. Lisa's office at the Essex Health Department is committed to providing essential local public health services through on-going education, prevention of diseases, investigation of health problems, monitoring and advocacy. Her department provides a wide variety of environmental programs and services. The Health Department strives to ensure a healthy environment for Essex residents through education and enforcement of laws and regulations. For more information about Lisa and the Essex Health Department, please visit her on the web at: [www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov)

**John Slater** joined us in April 2012. John is the owner of **Slater Enterprises**. John has been in business for over two years. John was a student in COWRA's 2012 Installer School and will be taking the State Installer exam soon. Soon he will be a licensed installer and can add this service to his other services. These include: Excavation, Foundations, Drainage, Construction, Trucking and Waterproofing. John is also developing water collection and drip irrigation products. For more information about Slater Enterprises visit him on the web at, [www.slaterenterprises.net](http://www.slaterenterprises.net)

## CEHA YANKEE CONFERENCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

On September 26, 27, and 28, 2012 the 50<sup>th</sup> annual Yankee Conference of Environmental Health will be held at the Mystic Marriott, in Groton CT. This event will be sponsored by the CT Environmental Health Association.

The Yankee Conference Planning Committee is looking for organizations, products and services to exhibit, sponsor or advertise at their 2012 Yankee Conference on Environmental Health.

### About the Yankee Conference

"The Yankee Conference is a premier gathering of environmental health professionals from throughout the northeast. Its purpose is to provide the latest information on topics such as environmental leadership, food protection, preparedness, recreational health, on-site sewage disposal, air quality and many other environmental health topics. The Connecticut Environmental Health Association is proud to host the 2012 Yankee Conference, the 50th anniversary of the conference, and it promises to be the biggest and best ever! The Yankee Conference also offers attendees networking opportunities unavailable anywhere else in the area."

### For more information please contact:

Jeff Catlett, Exhibitor Coordinator  
CEHA Yankee Conference Planning Committee  
860-345-8531 X 221  
[jeff.catlett@chathamhealth.org](mailto:jeff.catlett@chathamhealth.org)

## THE FOLLOWING BILL WAS RECENTLY INTRODUCED IN THE CT STATE LEGISLATURE.

### General Assembly Raised Bill No. 5514

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Please Note: [Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Sec. 10. Section 20-341a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2012):

As used in this Chapter:  
(1) "Subsurface sewage disposal system installer" means any person [regularly] offering to the general public services of construction, installation, repairing, cleaning or servicing subsurface sewage disposal systems and licensed pursuant to section 20-341e;

(2) "Subsurface sewage disposal system cleaner" means any person [regularly] offering to the general public services of cleaning or servicing subsurface sewage disposal systems and licensed pursuant to section 20-341e;

Sec. 11. Section 20-3411 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2012): Any person who engages in or practices the work or occupation of subsurface sewage disposal system installer or subsurface sewage disposal system cleaner without having first obtained a license for such work, or who willfully employs a person who does not have a license for such work, or who willfully and falsely pretends to qualify to engage in or practice such work or occupation, or who violates any other provision of this chapter, unless the penalty is otherwise specifically prescribed, shall be fined not more than [one hundred] ten thousand dollars for each such violation.

Sec. 12. Subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 19a-36 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2012):

(7) Any person who violates any provision of the Public Health Code shall be fined not more than [one hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than three months, or both] ten thousand dollars.

## COWRA'S 2012 INSTALLER SCHOOL

The weather this year was kind and accommodating to the students and teachers of this year's 2012 installer course, unlike the previous year when we battled the snow for parking spaces and ice for purchase under foot. This provided a bonus for students as our snow cancellation day was used for an extra class for those students struggling to prepare for their exam. Therefore, COWRA's 6-week course turned into a 7-week course, for which many of the students were thankful.

Briggs Geddis, the Director of Environmental Health at the New Canaan Health Department and Douglas DiVesta, P. E. of DiVesta Civil Engineering Associates, teach our Installers Course. In addition to teaching the course they also prepare and revise our Study Guide. Both Briggs and Doug are long time COWRA Members. It is because of their generously donated time and expertise that we are able to offer this course to those preparing for the installer's exam.



**Briggs Geddis**

Each year, Briggs and Doug guide students through the entire process of septic installation. Students taking this course become well versed in soil identification, test holes, percolation rates, hydraulic factors and set-back distances. The student is taught everything, from the components that comprise a viable system, to the math that will design it to work proficiently. They learn the science that establishes the eco-system of a septic system and the methods needed to maintain that system.



**Doug DiVesta**

It is through their hard work, dedication to education and respect for qualified professionals that that Briggs Geddis and Doug DiVesta prepare these students for our industry. Their goals are for each student who emerges from the installer's class to have the skills necessary to determine all aspects of well-functioning systems. And with an understanding of those provisions of the Public Health Code that regulate each install or repair they will make in their new profession.

This year's class was a little smaller than in past years, with only 34 students taking the installer Course. Students attending our course enter it with varying levels of knowledge and skill. Some students have been working in the field for several years but have never taken the licensing exam, while others are just beginning in the septic field. The objective of this course is to prepare our students for the state licensing exam that is offered four times through the year by the State Health Department. A great deal of emphasis is placed on the mathematics of calculating an install's dimension. Students taking our Installer school do much better on the exam than those who do not. This is thanks to the commitment and skill of our dedicated teachers.

COWRA thanks Doug DiVesta and Briggs Geddis for the generous donation of their time teaching this course for us each year. Their proficiency in this subject and straightforward practical advice instills in our emerging students the principled discipline they will need to begin their new profession as qualified professionals.

## COWRA'S 2012 PUMPER/CLEANER SCHOOL

The Pumper/Cleaner School is held on the last night of our Installer course. This course is attended by all the installer students plus those students who sign up for this one-night class.

This year's Pumper/Cleaners course had 41 Students. Jon Skipper and Drew Gilbert teach the course each year. Jon and Drew work for Skip's Septic Tank Service, and both are licensed installer and licensed pumper/cleaners. They bring many years of experience to this course. Jon and Drew spend many hours developing the program of Septic Cleaning Procedure for this course.

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.

COWRA is thankful 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.



**John Skipper and Drew Gilbert**

## COWRA MEMBERS FEATURED

COWRA Members **Bryan and Christopher Litchfield, of Christopher Bryant Company**, are featured in the May, 2012 edition of Pumper Magazine.



**Christopher, David and Bryan Litchfield**

The article outlines how, over more than thirty years in business, the company has experimented with various services and diversified to better serve their customers. Christopher Bryant is a family-owned company, operating in Simsbury, CT, serving a 30-mile radius. Their septic services include on-site installation, pumping and repairs and excavation. The company also provides building and remodeling services. The complete article can be seen online at [www.pumper.com](http://www.pumper.com). Christopher Bryant's company website is at [www.thechristopherbryantcompany.com](http://www.thechristopherbryantcompany.com).



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**2012 Installer Students**

## **FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED**

**UPDATES!!** Registration Information for 2012 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](http://www.dph.state.ct.us/licensure/apps/subsew.pdf)

### **2012 Examination Schedule Subsurface Sewage Installer/Cleaner**

<b>Exam Dates</b>	<b>Application Deadlines</b>
June 22, 2012	May 21, 2012
September 21, 2012	August 20, 2012
December 14, 2012	November 12, 2012

**Connecticut Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association**  
For a copy of COWRA's 2012 Study Guide please call (860 267-1057)