



**Briggs Geddis and Doug DiVesta work with students at COWRA's 2010 Installer School**



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

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## July 2010

### Letter from the President

Dear COWRA Members,

It has been a while since our last newsletter, we apologize for this delay, however COWRA has been restructuring our Association. During this time we have revised our By-laws in compliance with new non-profit regulations. We are confident that this work will allow us to better serve our membership. We thank you for your patience.

In this newsletter you will find information about this year's Annual Meeting, to be held on October 16, 2010. It is our sincere hope that all of you will make an effort to attend this year's meeting. We have been working very hard to make our organization an Association that truly benefits its Members.

I look forward to seeing all of you in October.

Sincerely,

You're President  
Frank Talarico

### NEW MEMBER PROFILES COWRA WELCOMES

**John Marotta** of Fuel & Service LLC joined us in January 2010. John is the owner of his company. Fuel & Service LLC is located in Durham Connecticut. John's services include HVAC, Plumbing, and Fuel Oil delivery. Fuel & Service LLC has been in business for many years.

**Anthony Montesi** of Conn-Sept LLC joined us in January 2010. Conn-Sept LLC is located in Roxbury, CT. He was a student in our 2010 Installer School. Anthony is the owner of his company. His services include Septic pumper and cleaning, and grease trap cleaning and will soon be a licensed installer. Conn-Sept LLC has been in business for 7 years.

**John H. Silvestri** of Rockwell Excavation joined us in February of 2010. John was a student in our 2010 Installers School. John will be taking the State test this summer and will soon have his Installers License. His services include Excavation, Drainage and Trucking. John is the owner of Rockwell Excavation LLC and has been in business since 2003.

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#### Inserts

State of CT Circulars

1. Greenleach Series letter
2. LS Rating Letter January 4, 2010
3. Snyder Tank Approval March 3, 2010
4. Lean Project Draft

#### COWRA Applications

Installer Course

Pumper/Cleaner Course

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

## NEW MEMBERS PROFILE CONTINUED

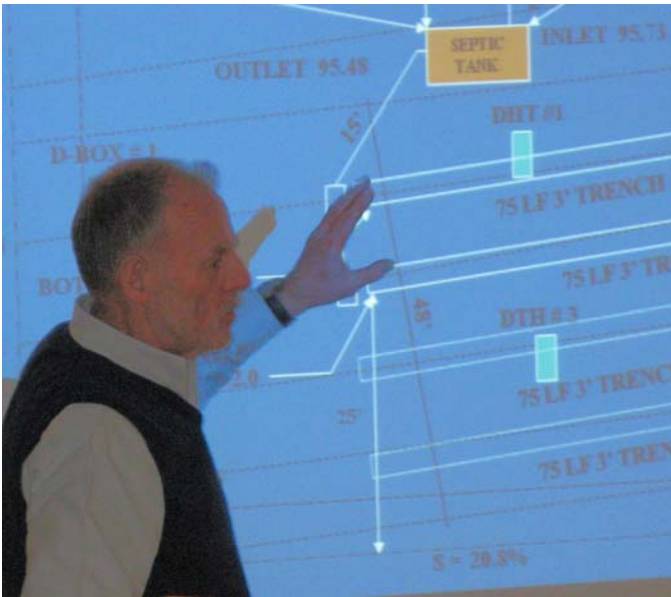
**David Acheychek, PE** of Engineered Septic & Sewer joined us in March 2010. Engineered Septic & Sewer is located in Essex Connecticut. David is the owner of the company. His services include Septic Installation, Inspection, Civil Engineering and Design, Landscaping, Excavation, Foundations, Drainage, Construction, Demolition, Trucking, Waterproofing and Paving. Engineered Septic & Sewer has been in business since 2006. For more information about David's company, visit him on the web at [www.engineeredsepticsewer.com](http://www.engineeredsepticsewer.com)

**Warren Allen** of Allen's Excavation and Paving joined us in March 2010. Warren is the owner of his company. He is a Licensed Installer. Other services that Allen's Excavation and Paving offer include Drainage, Construction, Demolition and Trucking. Warren's company is located in Shelton CT. He has been in business for 12 years. Allen's Excavation and Paving offers his services throughout the State of CT.

**Thomas Dorsey** of American Septic Service, LLC joined us in February 2010. Thomas' company is located in Terryville CT. American Septic Service offer Pumping/Cleaning, Septic Inspections and Grease Trap Cleaning. American Septic Service is a family owned company that has been in business for over 15 years. To learn more about Thomas' company visit him on the web at [www.american-septic.com](http://www.american-septic.com)

**Gill Gonzolez Jr.** joined us in April 2010. Gill is the owner of Sono Septic LLC. Sono Septic specializes in Septic Pumping and Cleaning. Gill is the owner of the company which is located in Norwalk CT. Gill is also the owner of Sono Energy which is an oil company. Sono Septic is a new business. We wish him well.

## COWRA'S 2010 INSTALLER SCHOOL



**Briggs Geddis 2010 Installer Class**

COWRA held its 2010 Installer School in January and February of this year. Our Installer School is taught by teachers Briggs Geddis and Doug DiVesta who do an extraordinary job teaching our students the skills and knowledge they will need to prepare

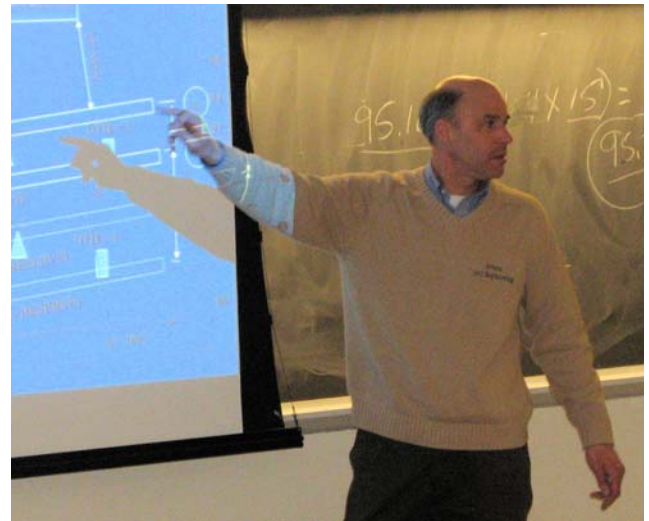
for the 2010 State Licensing Exam. A particular area of difficulty for many students in State Licensing exam is the math portion. Briggs and Doug cover this in great detail throughout the course.

Students emerging from our installer course are well versed in the math calculation that will be needed to design a viable system. They emerge from this class with the skills to determine how the hydraulic factor, flow factor, and percolation factors equate to the MLSS or Minimum Leaching System Spread.

One major complaint that some of our Health Departments have with Installers is that the drawings they submit do not reflect a knowledge of the MLSS factors. Some Installers have a difficult time applying the math defining a compliant septic system on paper. They know how to construct a fine system; they just have trouble defining that system for their local Health Department.

It is never too late to refine one's skills. As laws of Septic Installation change and become more scientific, Installers benefit by taking the Installer School. There is a belief among some Sanitarians that many Installers, though they know how to install a proper system, would not pass today's State Licensing Exam.

Many professions have continuing education requirements. This is not true for Installers under current laws. Perhaps, it might be best to regulate ourselves in this area before the State begins to do this for us. The old adage is not true, you can always teach an old dog a new trick, as long as he is willing to learn.



**Doug DiVesta 2010 Installer Class**

Our Installer School is a 6-week course, held on Thursday evenings in January and February of each year, as this is a slow period for most Installers. Each class is about three hours long.

Next January might be a great time to refresh your skills. This is just little food for thought.

Each year Briggs and Doug spend as many hours preparing for the Installer School as they do teaching it. However, this year Briggs and Doug spent even more time, as they completely revised and upgraded the Study Manual. Many of our Members have purchased a Study Manual as a reference guide for their employees. If your company uses our Study Manual, it may be time to upgrade to our current manual.

Doug DiVesta and Briggs Geddis generously donate their time and expertise to our organization. It is their standard of excellence that makes our school a success. COWRA is truly in their debt. We thank them both for their generous contribution to our organization and we sincerely appreciate all that they do.

## COWRA'S 2010 PUMPER/CLEANER SCHOOL

This year Jon Skipper and Drew Gilbert taught our Pumper/Cleaner School. Both Jon and Drew worked very hard and took this course to a new level. It was obvious to anyone who attended the course that they spent many hours developing their program. Jon and Drew put together a Power Point presentation that covered a wide range of topics, from Proper Septic Cleaning Procedure, Safety While Cleaning, Tanks Inspection, Filter and Baffle Inspection, Septic Inspections and Permit to Discharge Examples.



**Jon Skipper 2010 Pumper Class**

Our Pumper/Cleaner students have never seen this level of instruction before. COWRA is proud to offer this program to our students. Knowing that the efforts of Jon Skipper and Drew Gilbert provide our students with the skills and knowledge of the procedures they need to secure their Pumper/Cleaner License.



**Teacher Drew Gilbert Pumper/Cleaner School**

The class was attended by 39 Installer students and 11 students enrolled in only the Pumper/Cleaner School. This three hour program held on February 19, 2010.

We thank Jon Skipper and Drew Gilbert for their dedication, time and generosity in designing this program for our students.

## COWRA RESTRUCTURES OUR ASSOCIATION

COWRA has recently restructured our association and will now be known as Connecticut Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association, Inc. This has been a very busy time for the Board of Directors as the By-laws needed to be updated to comply with current laws pertaining to our Non-profit status. Because of this restructuring we have had to postpone our Annual meeting until the Fall.

It is our hope that all the work involved in restructuring COWRA will help us serve our Members better.

## COWRA'S 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

**Please Save This Date  
Saturday October 16, 2010**

COWRA will be holding our 2010 Annual Meeting on Saturday October, 16<sup>th</sup> 2010 at the Hawthorne Inn in Berlin Connecticut. The Hawthorne Inn is centrally located to make it easy for our entire membership to attend this meeting.

Our meeting will begin at 6:30pm. We will have a cocktail hour when members can meet with our vendors. COWRA invites our vendors each year to set up tables to show and discuss their products. This is a great time for members to view new products and speak the manufacturers and their representatives who produce and sell the products our industry uses each day.

Our dinner will be buffet-style with many delicious choices. After dinner, we will hold our Business Meeting and then entertainment will be provided so our Members can sit back and relax. We will also have a Raffle and Door Prizes.

It is our sincere hope that all our Members will make an effort to join us for our 2010 Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors looks forward to discussing your topics of concern and hearing your opinions and suggestions. Please Join Us.

## STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEP

**General Permit to Discharge from Subsurface  
Sewage Disposal Systems Serving Existing  
Facilities**

The State of CT has proposed a DRAFT of the General Permit to Discharge from Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems Serving Existing Facilities. To those Members who have provided us with an email address, you should have already received this document via email. For those of you who have not provided us with an email address, you will find this document on our website at [www.cowra-online.org](http://www.cowra-online.org) (see "From the State" page) or view this document on the State website at [www.ct.gov](http://www.ct.gov). Please note: this is a Draft. Your comments concerns and suggestions are welcome.

## CT CODE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Doug DiVesta, PE, of DiVesta Civil Engineering, will be joining the CT DPH Code Advisory Committee, representing Connecticut's 1,474 Civil Engineers statewide. Doug, as you have read earlier in this newsletter, is one of our Installer Teachers. We are quite sure that Doug's participation on the CAC will be a great asset to the State of CT. Our entire industry will benefit from Doug's involvement on the Code Advisory Committee. Congratulations to Doug DiVesta and the State of Connecticut.



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**SAVE THIS DATE**  
**OCTOBER 16, 2010**  
**FOR**  
**COWRA'S 2010 ANNUAL MEETING**  
**PLEASE JOIN US AT THE**  
**HAWTHORNE INN**

## **FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED**

**UPDATES!!** Registration Information for 2010 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](http://www.dph.state.ct.us/licensure/apps/subsew.pdf)

### **2010 Examination Schedule Subsurface Sewage Installer/Cleaner**

<b>Exam Dates</b>	<b>Application Deadlines</b>
September 03, 2010	August 06, 2010
December 10, 2010	November 05, 2010

**Connecticut Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association**  
For a copy of COWRA's 2010 Study Guide please call (860 267-1057)