

Happy Holidays



We wish all our members a wonderful holiday



CONNECTICUT ONSITE WASTEWATER RECYCLING
ASSOCIATION
SUPPORTING CONNECTICUT AND OUR ENVIRONMENT
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December 2015

Season's Greetings

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

Letter from the President

Dear COWRA Members,

I want to thank all of you who attended this year's annual meeting, at Quarry Ridge in Portland. We had the honor of having Robert Scully at this year's meeting who spoke briefly about current issue affecting our industry.

COWRA's six-week installer course begins January 27th, 2016. Please use the application in this newsletter to sign up any employees you intend to send to the course. Our course is a perfect excuse for our members to refresh their knowledge and learn of the changes taking place in CT regarding septic installation.

I wish all of our members a Happy Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,
Frank R. Talarico

New Members Profile

Matthew Stark of Septics by StarkWorks LLC joined us. Matthews's services include, Septic installation, Inspections, Engineering Services, Camera/videos, Water Jet and Drain Cleaning. Matthew also provides Excavation, Foundation and Drainage services. Matthew has a BA in Construction Management. He is the owner of Septics by StarkWorks LLC which is located in Old Lyme Connecticut. Mathew started his own business a year ago, however he has been working in the septic industry for five years. To learn more about Matthew's company, visit him on the web at www.septicsbystarkworks.com

New Members Profile - Continued

Steven Roberts of S.A.R. Enterprises has recently joined COWRA. Steven is the owner of S.A.R. Enterprises which is located in Winsted Connecticut. Steven's services include Landscaping, Excavation and Drainage.

“Extortion” Email Attack Infects Entire Computer Systems Data



One of our long time Board Members recently had his entire computer system hijacked by opening a simple email link. This company commonly receives packages from FedEx on a regular basis. When his company received an email stating that FedEx was having a problem delivering one of their packages, his office personal thought nothing of addressing the email. The email had the FedEx logo and requested that they click on the link for further information about the package. That was the last time his company had access to his computer systems data for several weeks.

All his data, customer information, data bases, financial records, emails, ledgers, etc. became encrypted. All files appeared to be scrambled. They were completely illegible. He called in different IT specialists to no avail, his computer information was gone and could not be retrieved. He had only one option, to pay the extortionist who had hijacked his information.

This virus goes by several different names Crypto, Crypto Locker, True Crypto, Ransom Ware, etc. its name often changes. The virus encrypts your files so they become unreadable. Your virus protection program can and will remove the virus. Those frequent updates for your different virus programs often have the latest virus removal program for the Crypto viruses. Unfortunately, your virus protection software can only remove the virus in your computer system. It cannot decrypt your information, once you have opened a link that exposes your system to the virus. Another way the Crypto virus gets access to your computer data is through a phone call. Your phone rings and the person on the other end pretends he is from Microsoft. He will explain that he will need remote access to your computer via the phone call to correct a Microsoft problem. Please note: Microsoft fixes its problem through its regular updates. They do not do this through phone calls. The bottom line is, in order to get rid of the encryption you need a decryption key, and for that one must pay. This is usually done with a prepaid visa card, a western Union check, or Bitcoins which is an electronic form of currency.

Over Five Thousand dollars (\$5,000) later our Board members company data information was returned to him. The extortionists had been well paid and the IT personnel received the balance. The main problem is that these

threats to our computer security are untraceable. Therefore, there is no way to restore the data without conceding to their demands.

There are many ads on the internet for programs promising to protect your computer against the Crypto virus. However, they offer little help once your computer system has been taken hostage. We should all have quality virus protection program on our computers. Although these programs are constantly upgrading to protect our computers, the anti-virus program can only react to viruses after they appear, not predict them. Therefore, we have those frequent updates. The Crypto Virus can change daily.

The IT computer group that COWRA uses is Burns Computer in South Windsor. This is a group of some of the smartest people you will ever meet. Out of the many cases of Crypto virus they have seen over the years they say there are only two solutions once your system is infected: pay the ransom to restore your data or start over from scratch.

We should not take for granted that there is legitimacy to a particular email just because it carries the official logo. The FedEx logo you see above was cut and pasted from the FedEx website. Also, if we receive a call from Microsoft, you can call Microsoft directly at the main number 800 642-7676 if you need proof that the call is a scam. To report a Microsoft scam, go to:

www.support.microsoft.com/reportascam

When in doubt, your best means of protection is “DO NOT OPEN IT” and “HANG UP THE PHONE.”

Another way to protect your data is with frequent, off-site backups. There are several services that offer automatic backup programs at a very reasonable cost.

Technical Standards Revisions 2015 V. Septic Tanks and Grease Interceptor Tanks 3. Septic Tank Access

There are several safety reasons for the revisions to these particular sections found in Section V. of the 2015 Technical Standards.

Section V.

... “If riser assemblies are utilized over cleanout openings, it is recommended that the covers be left on the tank for safety reasons, and to avoid potential odor problems. If a riser cover weighs less than 59 pounds then the tank cover shall remain or a secondary safety lid or device shall be provided....”

It is imperative that our industry pay close attention to this particular provision and that, as professionals, we adhere to the 59-pound tank cover rule or provide a secondary safety lid or device when needed. Covers should be rechecked prior to leaving the job site to assure that all covers and secondary lids are property refitted. Below are just a few of the reasons of the importance of this provision.



These children are just three of the many children that have died after falling into an improperly cover septic tank. Those working in the septic industry owe it to the children of Connecticut to be mindful of the technical standards provisions when re-covering a septic tank. Securing each tank with the appropriate cover needs to be completed with the highest degree of attention.

COWRA's 2015 Annual Meeting

On November 21, 2015 COWRA held its Annual Meeting at the Quarry Ridge Club in Portland CT.

COWRA members spent a pleasant evening Saturday November 21st at Quarry Ridge. The buffet was excellent, enjoyed in the company of friends and associates.

Members spent time during our cocktail hour visiting with our vendors. Our vendors took great care to explain their various product lines in detail. Many vendors generously supplied products and gifts for our members as door prizes.

We are very grateful to our vendors for their continuous support of our organization and our Annual Meetings.

At each Annual Meeting we hold a brief business meeting to discuss the year's progress.



COWRA President **Frank Talarico** spoke briefly of those things affecting our industry throughout the year.

Those board members whose terms were due to expire in 2015 were asked if they would like to continue to serve on the Board of Directors. Frank asked for and nomination from the floor for additional board members, however none was offered.



Robert Scully, Sanitary Engineer of the Environmental Engineering Program from the CT from Department of Public Health joined us and spoke to our members.

Bob spoke briefly of updates to Storm Water Systems with regard to retrofits. He spoke of the continued controversy of water softener with regard to septic systems. He announced that Amanda Clark was elected President of S.O.R.A., States Onsite Regulatory Alliance. She will continue to represent region 1 for the EPA and will be discussing Septic issues at a national level. Amanda is a Registered Sanitarian in the Environmental Engineering Program at the CT Department of Public Health.

Frankie Pace is a comedian from New York City. Frankie provided the Entertainment at our annual meeting. Unfortunately, he was not very funny. This led to some very awkward moments.



Annual Meeting Vendors

COWRA is thankful for the vendors who generously support our organization.

Each year our vendors take time from their busy schedules to come and support our organization at our annual meeting. Our vendors share the knowledge and expertise with our members.



We would like to thank Donna Fiorentino, Mike and Kristin McLaughlin of Infiltrator Systems, Inc. who sponsored our meeting.

Infiltrator Water Technologies has revolutionized the onsite wastewater industry. They have created a worldwide environmental solution to the onsite industries' plastic leach field chamber.

Their technologies are based on fundamental principles of physics, soil science and microbiology and offer performance advantages that have furthered the industry's goals of protecting public health, improving water quality and conserving precious natural resources.

Infiltrator manufactures and sells multiple product lines making them a full-solutions provider to their customers. Infiltrator sponsors and participates in a variety of programs, including field training, continuing education for installers and curriculum support for onsite system design studies. The experts on our technical staff, along with our regional representatives, exchange information and seek solutions that promote better science, improved system performance and groundwater quality.

Infiltrator Systems, Inc. (ISI) is the world's leading manufacturer of plastic leachfield drainage chambers for environmental onsite wastewater solutions. Infiltrator is the only chamber company that both manufactures its own products and sells to its customers through national distribution. Their trained sales reps work in the field to provide product, installation and technical support.

Their products are approved in all 50 states and all 10 Canadian Provinces. Infiltrator Systems has stood the test of time with a history of performance since 1987. Today, one in four septic systems in the U.S. is an Infiltrator chamber system.

Infiltrator is a worldwide company with nearly 400 employees. With innovative products and services, ISO-9001 certified manufacturing facilities, creative recycling solutions and the development of new subsidiaries, Infiltrator is poised to offer a total approach to water quality. The future lies in a global effort to identify new technologies and to improve water quality and wastewater management worldwide. Visit them on the web at www.infiltratorsystems.com



We thank Brian Parker who joined us from Eljen Corporation. Eljen Corporation was established in 1970. Eljen Corporation has created the world's first prefabricated drainage system for foundation drainage and erosion control applications.

In the mid-1980s, they introduced their Geotextile Sand Filter products for the passive advanced treatment of onsite wastewater in both residential and commercial applications. Today, they are a global leader in providing innovative products and solutions for protecting our environment and public health.

Eljen Corporation is committed to advancing the onsite industry through continuous development of innovative new products, delivering high quality products and services to their customers at the best price, and building lasting partnerships with their employees, suppliers, and customers.

The goal of Eljen Corporation has been to develop innovative environmental products and solutions for onsite wastewater treatment, erosion control and storm-water industries.

Eljen products include the Eljen GSF Geotextile Sand Filter, a passive advanced Treatment Technology. Their Mantis GSF Geotextile Sand filter is a revolutionary leach field that is easy to install. The Mini/Max Absorption System encourages recycling of pretreated effluent. It minimizes the footprint and eases access and installation in difficult-to-reach locations. Eljen Prefabricated Drainage Systems are the industry's first non-Aggregate drainage systems.

Eljen has developed improved water management on slopes which comprise two systems for both surface and subsurface water control. For more information about Eljen and a complete list of products Visit them on the web at www.eljen.com

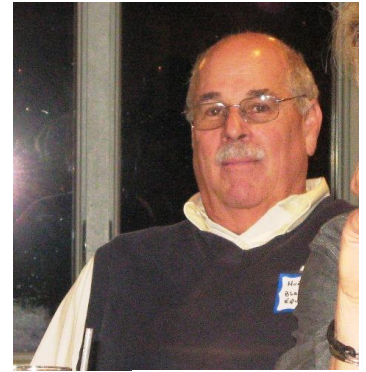


joined us from of Blake Equipment Company.

We thank "The Blake Group," Kevin Brown, Hunter Ward, Janice Wilhelm, and Craig Brown who

The Blake Group is a specialty distributor and manufacturers' representative offering solutions that allow sustained use of water and thermal energy resources. They serve their partners who design, build, maintain and manage these systems; providing innovation through technology and best-in-class products and services for a better world.

For over 85 years The Blake Group has innovated products for the industry. Their goal is to offer their customers peak performance, water and thermal energy solutions, equipment and products through their channels as a specialty distributor and manufacturers' representative.



Hunter Ward

Blake Equipment has served customers in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts with design support, sales, parts and service of the best-in-class products and value. From the installation of pumping systems, proprietary septic systems, replacement of existing equipment, to required maintenance and repair work, Blake Equipment will keep their customers on-line with maximum efficiency and always at the most competitive price.

Blake Equipment installs Waste Ejector Systems for municipal, commercial, industrial and institutional applications. Blake Equipment offers the best-in-class packaged ejector systems in simplex or duplex design. They employ the best licensed technicians in the business. For more information about Blake Equipment Company and for a complete list of products visit them on the web at www.blakeequip.com.



We thank Betsy Chaffet who joined us from Polylok

Polylok, Inc. is an international supplier of plastic injection molded products for the precast concrete and onsite wastewater industries. The main office is in Wallingford, Connecticut. Polylok has partnerships with several supply houses across the United States and Canada. Unlike its competitors, they design, manufacture, and ship their products from their Wallingford location. Polylok holds over 75 patents and produces over 200 products for the precast, drainage and onsite water industries.

Polylok, Inc. has a full-time engineering and design team that continually focuses on improving their existing products and developing new ones. From 2004 to 2005 Polylok introduced over 15 new products, this was a record accomplishment.

These new products included the Extend & Lok, PL-68, and PL-525 and PL-625 filters and housings.

Over the years Polylok's sales team has grown from one inside sales rep-technical expert to a team of more than 10 inside and dedicated outside sales reps. Patrick Mulhall, a COWRA Member, is in charge of the sales team and is dedicated to the needs of his customers. His sales team is available from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm EST. Patrick's sales team covers many of the national shows and local conferences and they regularly visit customers all over the continental US, Canada, and Puerto Rico.

Recently shipping has become a huge part of the business. There are three full time people dedicated to getting products to Polylok's customers from our east coast home office. Polylok now has West Coast and Canadian supply houses in addition to the Connecticut-based fulfillment center. Polylok prides itself on shipping its products the same day whenever possible.

From the beginning, Polylok has been a company focused on delivering innovations to the precast, drainage and onsite wastewater industries. Polylok's products include the Equalizer, which changed the installation of septic tanks for many installers. The Equalizer is used to self-regulate the flow of effluent to the leach field.

Polylok's PL-122 Filter is designed for residential and light commercial use. Its patented filter ball serves two purposes: it deflects gases in the tank and it automatically inhibits the flow of solids into the leaching fields.

Polylok's D-Box seal accepts multiple pipe sizes while ensuring watertight performance. One of the D-boxes offered by Polylok allows for multiple inlets and outlets, has stabilizing feet to prevent frost from lifting it up and ensures watertight performance with the Polylok D-Box Seal.

These are just a few of the innovative products that Polylok, in their commitment to their customers, has introduced to the wastewater industry. For more information on their product line visit them on the web at www.polylok.com.



**We thank
David and
Elizabeth
Potts of
Geomatrix
Systems
LLC and
SoilAir**



Since 1987, Geomatrix Systems LLC has engineered a wide variety of systems for soil and water treatment to help protect the environment.

Geomatrix has a multi-disciplined team of engineers and scientists specializing in soils, wastewater treatment, microbiology, hydrogeology and construction management, Geomatrix is uniquely qualified to analyze and solve challenging wastewater treatment problems.

Geomatrix products include: the **GeoMat Flat** is the lowest profile system for sites limited by ledge, water table or impermeable soils. **GeoMat Edge** is for high surface area, low profile pressure-distributed system for sites limited by setback obstacles. **GeoU** is for the highest surface area, small foot print for sites limited by setbacks or land area and is SoilAir enhanced. **GST** is for the highest surface area use of traditional technology for achieving reduced footprint. **S-Box** is for high surface area, small foot print, easy to install.

SoilAir is a patented technology that intermittently aerates the drain/leach field and the surrounding soils rather than constantly aerating the wastewater in a tank. This process allows rapid rejuvenation of failed septic systems, extends the lifespan of new leach fields and enhances treatment.

Over 2,000 SoilAir Systems are in use across the U.S. and Canada in a wide range of climates and soils; these systems are serving single and multi-family homes as well as challenging and high strength waste streams, such as restaurants, hotels, marinas, laundry mats, healthcare facilities, grocery stores, food processing facilities and convenience stores.

Unlike many wastewater treatment systems, SoilAir systems have been studied for extended periods of time and proven effective by leading universities, third-party test organizations and industry leaders in the field.

BENEFITS of SoilAir

A SoilAir system rapidly restores proper septic system function, enhances B.O.D., pathogen, nitrogen & phosphorus removal with minimal disruption and damage to existing landscaping. It lowers installation, operation & maintenance costs and is a long-term solution.

COWRA's 2016 Installer School

COWRA is accepting applications for our 2016 Installer School. Students enrolled in the Installer School are automatically enrolled in the Pumper/Cleaner School. Both Schools will be held at deKoven Community Center in Middletown CT. Classes for the Installer School will begin on Wednesday January 27, 2016. The installer course is a six-week program.

Topics for the Installers School include: Septic Tanks: design, structure, function; watersheds and drainage profiles; Soils: physical characteristics, profiles and types, identification; Site Conditions: deep hole and percolation testing, plumbing and pipe configuration; Distribution Systems; Leaching fields; Trenches, Dry wells, Galleries; Curtain Drains; Biomat; Septic Failures; Transit work and Surveys; Septic Design: MLSS, plans and sketches, forms, etc.

The school will cover all sections of 19-13-B103 and 19-13-B100a of the CT Public Health Code, Technical Standards and the Design Manual for subsurface sewage disposal systems. Example questions of the type encountered on the Installer exam will be covered. Practical exercises will be assigned for class work and field-encountered problems will be discussed. Students will need to obtain a calculator and an engineer's ruler for the course.

The Cost of the Installers School is \$245.00 tuition fee for COWRA members & their employees. Non-member's tuition fee is **\$450.00**. Manuals are included in the cost of each course.

COWRA 2014 Pumping/ Cleaning School

COWRA is accepting applications for our 2016 Pumper/Cleaner School. This course will be held on March 9, 2016 at the deKoven Community Center in Middletown CT. Topics included are- Septic Tanks: design, structure, function; Watersheds and Drainage Profiles; Outlet filters; Port-o-lets, etc.

The school will specifically cover sections of the CT Public Health Code 19-13-B103 General Provisions (pages 5 and 6 in the code) and 19-13-B100a, as well as the Technical Standards Section V on Septic Tanks (pages 28-32 in the code), Chapter 9 on Septic Tanks and Grease Traps from the Design Manual.

The Cost of the Pumper/Cleaner class for students not taking the Installer course is \$80.00.

**WWETT
WATER & WASTEWATER EQUIPMENT,
TREATMENT & TRANSPORT SHOW**

**Indianapolis IN, Convention center
February 17th through
February 20, 2016**

The world's largest annual trade show for Environmental Professionals and trade show for liquid waste management and sewer / drain cleaning professionals will be held February 17-20, 2016. This year there will be over 600 exhibiting companies and 100 education seminars for attendees to choose from.

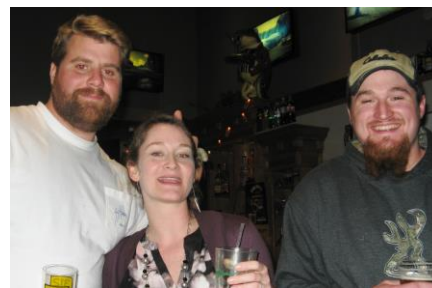
The education day is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17th 2016 from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM and Friday February 19 from 8:00 AM until noon. There will be wide range of equipment and new technology that will be displayed at the show. To learn more about the WWETT Expo and how to register to attend, please visit them on the web at www.wwettshow.com or call 866 933-2653.

Dates to Remember

COWRA Membership Renewal Forms must be received by **February 27, 2016**, to guarantee your updated listing in our Consumer Directories. Please return the form promptly.

Installer and Pumper/Cleaner School applications must be in by January 15, 2016 to avoid a \$30 late fee.

Pictures from our Annual Meeting



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**Doug DiVesta, Dave Potts,
Bob Scully and Frank Talarico at the 2016
Annual Meeting**



FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

UPDATES!! Registration Information for 2016 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** 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 them by going to www.dph.state.ct.us/licensure/apps/subsew.pdf

2016 Examination Schedule Subsurface Sewage Installer/Cleaner

Exam Date	Application Deadline
March 3, 2016	February 19, 2016
June 3, 2016	May 20, 2016
September 9, 2016	August 26, 2016
December 2, 2016	November 18, 2016

The State has not yet released the 2016 test dates.

Connecticut Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association
For a copy of COWRA's 2016 Study Guide please call (860 267-1057)