



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

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**July 2016**

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Letter from the President

New Member Profiles

54<sup>th</sup> Yankee Conference

Ronald V. Carlson

Septic Workshop

HOUSE BILL NO. 5180.

COWRA'S 2016 Installer  
School

COWRA'S 2016  
Pumper/Cleaner School

Dates to Remember

Employment Opportunity

**Inserts**

Connecticut DEEP Letter  
GeoMat 12200 & GeoMat  
3900 Approval

Connecticut DEEP Letter  
Eljen Mantis Double-Wide  
100 & 58 Approvals

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

## Letter from the President

Dear COWRA Members,

I hope you are all well and prospering. For those of us who love snow it was the worst winter ever, for those hate it, it was the best. However, summer is here and there seeming to be plenty of work to go around. I am sure most of you are very busy with installs and repairs.

COWRA will be holding our annual meeting a little earlier this year, on October 8, 2016. Please make note of the date. We hope you all will make an effort to attend.

Best to all of you,  
Frank Talarico

## NEW MEMBER PROFILES COWRA WELCOMES

**Betzy Chaffet**, of Polylok joined COWRA in December of last year. Betzy represented Polylok at our 2015 annual meeting. She is a sales representative for her company. Polylok is a supplier of numerous septic products to our industry. These include drainage, wastewater and precast products. Polylok produces over two hundred products. Polylok is located in Wallingford CT. You can reach Betzy at [betzy@polylok.com](mailto:betzy@polylok.com) and find Polylok on the web at [www.polylok.com](http://www.polylok.com).

**Scott Sutter** of Strategic Risk Transfers, Inc. joined us in January of this year. Scott is the president of Strategic Risk Transfers. He established his company in 2010. Scott has a deep understanding of industries like ours and provides a comprehensive insight into the complicated needs of insurance coverage and its costs. You can reach Scott at [scott@srtins.com](mailto:scott@srtins.com) learn more about Strategic Risk Transfer, Inc. on the web at [www.srtins.com](http://www.srtins.com)

**Mary Aillery** of the Stright Sewage Disposal Company joined us recently. Mary joins Robert Aillery of Stright Sewage Disposal Co. who is also a long-time member. Their company's services include septic installation, cleaning, grease traps and inspections. They also do excavations, foundations, drainage, construction and sewer line installations. They also offer engineering services. Stright Sewage Disposal Co. has been in business since 1921 and is located in Stamford CT. To learn more about Stright Sewage Disposal Company visit them on the web at [www.stright.com](http://www.stright.com).

## NEW MEMBER PROFILES CONTINUED

**Chris Barcello** owner of CDB LLC joined us in February this year. Chris was a student in our 2015 Installer course and will be taking is test soon for his installer licenses. His services include septic installation, excavating, grading, drainage, and foundation work. He also offers complete stump excavation and is an accredited installer of geothermal heating and air conditioning services. CDB LLC is located in Easton CT. You can visit Chris on the web at:

[www.americanstumpremoval.com](http://www.americanstumpremoval.com).

**Michael McLaughlin** has joined us as the new representative of Infiltrator Water Technologies. Since 1987 Infiltrator Water Technologies has provided quality products to the wastewater industry. Their products are approved in all 50 States. Michael and others from his company represented Infiltrator at our last annual meeting. Infiltrator supplies the wastewater industry with chambers, septic tanks, tank risers, and Ezflow septic products and drainage product. For more information visit them on the web at [www.infiltratorwater.com](http://www.infiltratorwater.com).



**Arthur Parent**

**Glen and Lisa Parent** joined us in April this year, after our much-loved longtime COWRA member and Board Member **Arthur Parent** retired. Arthur Parent Contractor Inc. is located in Dayville CT. Since 1945 Parent Sanitation has served Northeastern CT. Their services include, septic installation, cleaning, inspections, roter service, and excavation service. You can visit them on the web at [www.parentsanitation.com](http://www.parentsanitation.com).

**Patrick Carrier of JFC Endeavors** joined us in January of this year. JFC Endeavors is a building and home construction company and is located in Plainville CT.

## The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Yankee Conference on Environmental Health

**September 21st and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016  
Mystic Hilton**

**20 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, Connecticut**

### Sponsored by the Connecticut Environmental Health Association

The Yankee Conference Planning Committee would like to invite you take the opportunity to promote your organization, products and services at the 2016 Yankee Conference on Environmental Health. We offer a variety of ways you can do so, such as being an exhibitor at the event or advertising in the program book.

You can also **PROMOTE YOUR COMPANY** by sponsoring an event such as; a Meal, a Break, a Social Event or items such as Conference Bags or by donating ID Holders or raffle prizes.

### About the Yankee Conference

The Yankee Conference is the 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 2016 Yankee Conference, the 54th anniversary of the conference. The Yankee Conference also offers attendees networking opportunities unavailable anywhere else in the area.

### Why You Should Exhibit

Your participation in the 2016 Yankee Conference exhibition will give your organization the opportunity to market your products and services to environmental health professionals who make or influence purchasing decisions. We also have a very interesting and diverse conference agenda including events like the Exhibit Hall Grand Opening, Social Hour and the Awards Luncheon.

### For information contact:

Jeff Catlett, Exhibitor Coordinator  
Yankee Conference Planning Committee  
Website: [CTEHA.org](http://CTEHA.org)  
860-209-8983  
[catlettjeffrey@yahoo.com](mailto:catlettjeffrey@yahoo.com)

## COWRA Loses One of Our Members

We recently learned of the passing of Ronald V. Carlson, a longtime member of COWRA. Ron owned Carlson Construction in New Milford and served New Milford's many constructions needs for over 38 years. He was a lifelong resident of New Milford. Ron died at home with his family at his side on Sunday, October 18, 2015 at the age of 68. He was born in New Milford on September 6, 1947. Ron Carlson graduated from New Milford High School in 1966 then married Nancy Bierbower at St. Francis Xavier Church in New Milford on August 22, 1970. He was a member of St. Francis Xavier Church in New Milford, the New Milford Lions Club, the Connecticut Antique Machinery Association, and served on the New Milford Farmland Preservation Committee. Besides his wife Nancy, Ron is survived by his son Mikael Carlson of Danbury, CT, his daughter Kristina Carlson of Watertown, CT, his brother Russell Carlson and his wife Linda of Calabash, NC, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister Sheila Smead. A mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Fri. October 23, 2015 at St. Francis Xavier Church in New Milford.

## Eastern CT Conservation District Septic Work Shop

On April 14, 2016 the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District led by Jean Pillo hosted a workshop on *Septic System Care and Maintenance* in Pomfret, Connecticut the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District is a non-profit



organization created by State Statute and has a focus on soil and water conservation. The April workshop was part of a larger project to encourage homeowners in older homes along brooks in Pomfret and Brooklyn to replace failing septic systems that may be contributing to poor water quality

conditions in Mashamoquet Brook in Pomfret. Many issues regarding the replacement of failing septic system were discussed. The cost of replacing a septic system is high, but through an EPA Clean Water Act grant, the CT DEEP, and ECCD can provide \$2,000 rebates to homeowners in priority areas. They invited a representative of the Hampton Regional Housing Rehabilitation Program to speak on special financing available to low-income homeowners. Local bank representatives spoke of financing for those that don't qualify for the HRHRP.

COWRA member, Andrew Coleman of Skip's Wastewater Services, delivered a very informative power-point presentation on how septic systems work and the common causes of system failures. Andrew detailed for the residents of Pomfret what to expect from a comprehensive septic inspection and answered the questions of concerned residents.



The workshop presented by the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District was a well-organized, informative, program meant to ease Pomfret residents into a comprehensive understanding of the importance of understanding their septic-systems and the environmental impact of a failing system. The educational aspects of their workshop, coupled with helpful financial programs, offer to resident's avenues to meet this environmental goal.

## DAVID EVANS OF EVANS ASSOCIATES Always looking out for COWRA's Interests

David Evans monitors the CT legislature for any proposed bills that might affect our industry.

**February Session, 2016  
File No. 483  
HOUSE BILL NO. 5180.**



## AN ACT CONCERNING CONCRETE FOUNDATIONS AND SEPTIC TANKS

**Summary** The bill: establishes additional requirements for obtaining a certificate of occupancy for a new residential or commercial structure for which a concrete foundation or septic tank was installed; (5180 as it pertains to septic industry)

This bill: 1. establishes requirements related to concrete foundations and concrete septic tanks. Several of these provisions specifically concern concrete structures damaged by oxidizing minerals. 2. requires municipalities, at an owner's request, to revalue residential properties with foundation problems caused by oxidizing minerals; 3. requires the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to maintain records on failing residential concrete foundations as confidential for at least three years; 4. requires the residential property condition disclosure report to recommend that any home inspection include an inspection of any concrete foundation or septic tank; 5. requires DCP to investigate methods of remediating failing residential concrete foundations and septic tanks; and 6. requires the DCP commissioner to report on the rights and obligations of certain common interest community property owners.

**Sec. 2.(NEW) (Effective October 1, 2016 REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY** The bill requires an individual seeking a certificate of occupancy for a new residential or commercial building for which a concrete foundation or septic tank was installed on or after October 1, 2016, to: 1. provide the local building official with documentation showing the (a) name of the concrete supplier and installer and (b) dates of concrete installation and 2. file with DCP, in a form it prescribes, the results of an analysis of the concrete aggregate used in the concrete structure. Under the bill, DCP must (1) adopt the standards applicable to the aggregate analyses, including requiring an examination for oxidizing minerals and (2) maintain submitted documentation electronically for at least 50 years. It is unclear whether the bill requires DCP to maintain only the analysis, or also the documentation submitted to the local building official. The bill specifies that local building officials cannot issue a certificate of occupancy if the applicant fails to provide the required documentation. Please Note this is not the entire Bill. **For a complete reading of Bill No. 5180 visit the General Assembly Website. [www.cga.gov](http://www.cga.gov)**

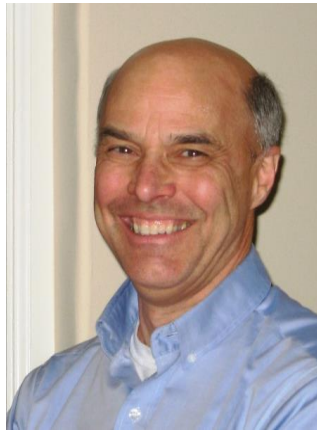
## COWRA'S 2016 INSTALLER SCHOOL

This year's Installer School was held at the deKoven Community Center. The course began at the end of January and finished in late March. This year's class consisted of 7 classes held on Wednesday evenings. There were 49 students enrolled in this year's class. Enrollment has increased a little each year, revealing a slowly recovering housing market.



**Douglas DiVesta, P. E. of DiVesta Civil Engineering Associates**

Doug has been teaching the installer course for COWRA for 29 years. Doug is a Civil Engineer and owner of DiVesta Civil Engineering. He brings to our student's years of engineering expertise in the area of septic design. Doug not only dedicates his time to preparing our students for the installer course but is also a dedicated member of our Board of Directors.



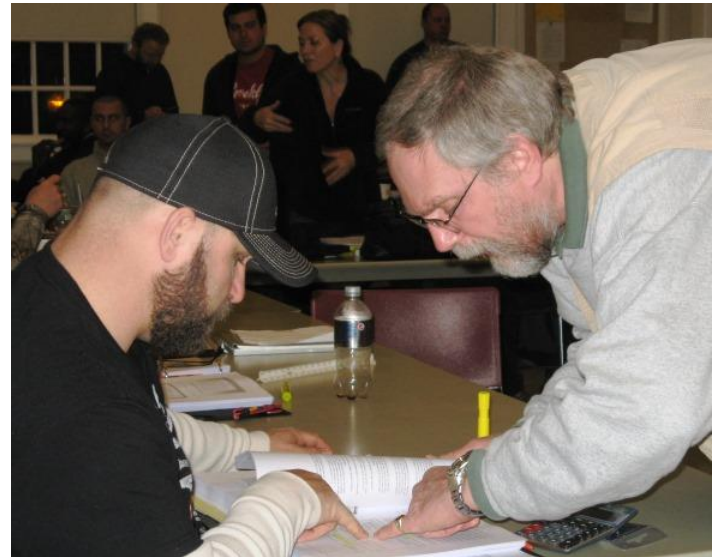
components that will comprise a septic system including: test holes, percolation rates, hydraulic factors and set-back distances. In addition, students learn the various septic products available and must be able to discern when to use which product. It is Doug and Bob's intent to provide each student with the education and in depth understanding of all the different elements of septic installation.



**Robert Smith Sanitarian with the Torrington District**

Bob Smith has been teaching our installer course for 3 years. Bob has a detailed knowledge of the Technical Standards. Therefore, our student's leave the course with and in-depth understanding the Technical Standards. Bob is also a member of COWRA Board of Directors. Both Doug and Bob bring their skills and know-how to our students each year, sending

them from the course with the knowledge they will need to pass the state exam and the skills they will need to perform their job in the field. They bring to the students a deep understanding of the septic installation process, from the installer's perspective, engineering perspective and the sanitarian's perspective.



COWRA has been very fortunate to have dedicated members like Doug and Bob, who are willing to contribute their time and experience to our students each year. We are so grateful for their commitment to our organization.

**COWRA'S 2016 PUMPER/CLEANER COURSE**



Bob and Doug's teaching brings to our student's years of experience to solve the problems of difficult they will run into in their new profession. In addition to teaching, they spend several hours each year, rewriting and updating the student study guide.

Students learn to identify the different soil layers and they learn to determine the percolation rate from their test holes. They leave the class with an understanding of the different



**Drew Gilbert of Wastewater Services**

This year's Pumper/Cleaner course was taught by Drew Gilbert and Andrew Coleman. Drew has taught this course since 2008. However, this was Andrew Coleman's first year teaching this course. Andrew taught this year's course with Drew as if he also had been teaching it since 2008.

Our Pumper/Cleaner School was held on March 9, 2016. There were seventeen students enrolled in this year's course. However, all installer students are automatically enrolled in the in the cleaner course. Therefore, it was a very large class.

We are thankful to both Andrew and Drew for the generous donation of their time in preparing and teaching this course. The Cleaner Course is very informational course that prepares our students with what they need to enter the septic system cleaning profession. Students leave this course with a thorough understanding of the process of septic tank cleaning, inspection, baffle and filter replacement, and quality workmanship.



### **Andrew Coleman Of Wastewater Services**

Andrew and Drew have been in the septic industry for many years. They are licensed installers who run Wastewater Services, LLC.

Drew and Andrew bring years of experience, skill

and knowledge to their task. They have established a program of Septic Cleaning Procedure for this course that trains our students for the State Cleaners' exam.

Students learn safety practices, the septic tank inspection process, inspection of filters and baffles, and preparing Permit to Discharge forms. COWRA is very thankful to both Drew and Andrew.



## **Septic Care and the Effects of Detergents (Onsite Installer)**

Dishwashing detergents come in many forms: cartridges, gel, liquids, pacs, powders and tablets. These products may contain bleach, enzymes and rinsing aids. Some dishwashing detergents still contain phosphorus. Phosphorus is removed from wastewater by being chemically bound to minerals and held on exchange sites on soil particles and it is chemically bonded to iron, calcium and aluminum in a process called adsorption.

Caustic-free, the soil treatment system is functioning correctly and proper setbacks are maintained from surface waters and vertical separation from periodically saturated soil; problems from phosphorus movement to surface water or groundwater should be minimal. Phosphates that pass through the septic system due to improper design can enter surface water, causing very high growth rates of algae. The

algae growth, in turn, suffocates fish and other life in rivers, streams, lakes and ponds.

The main ingredient in liquid soaps is water, while in powders it is alkaline salt such as sodium carbonate. The main active ingredients are detergents. Many products contain thickening and stabilizing agents. Other ingredients include surfactants, hydrotropes (which allow for concentrated formulations), preservatives, fragrances, perfumes and dyes. Surfactants typically cause foaming or suds in water. Anionic surfactants have poor anaerobic degradability in the septic tank and may inhibit hydrolysis at 10 mg/L. Slow hydrolysis may cause the accumulation of solids in septic tanks and therefore may necessitate larger system design for adequate wastewater treatment.



### **Problems in septic systems**

Surfactants do not typically pose a risk to surface or groundwater, unless under saturated conditions, because of a strong tendency for soil sorption. Hydraulic conductivity and soil

structure can be negatively affected at concentrations over 30 mg/L. Because adsorption leads to an accumulation of anionic surfactants, it is recommended that wastewater applied to soil have surfactant levels not exceeding 1 mg/L. In 2014, seven systems in Minnesota were sampled to determine their level of surfactants and all were above 1 mg/L with a range of 1.3 – 9.4 mg/L. Therefore, the amount of dishwashing soap should be kept to a minimum. Excessive surfactants are often easy to see in aerobic treatment units due to addition of air into the system.

Many of the chemicals in dishwashing products that contain fragrance are the same chemicals in cigarette smoke, and yet there are no regulations for the fragrance industry. About 95 percent of the chemicals in fragrances are synthetic compounds derived from petroleum. For these reasons, fragrance (unless natural) should be avoided in dishwashing soap.

Environmental Working Group (EWG), Soap Criteria Plant-based surfactants or just plain soap, 1,4-dioxane-free, Phthalate (synthetic fragrance)-free, Dye-free, Petrochemical-free, Glycol-free, Phosphate-free, Caustic-free. Article by Sara Heger, Ph.D. Environmental Engineer

### **Dates to Remember**

Save the Date: this year's Annual Meeting will be held on October 8th 2016 at the Manor Inn in Southington, CT

### **Employment Opportunity**

Olsen's Sanitation Company in Deep River CT, is looking to hire a licensed Septic Cleaner. For more information contact, Michael Olsen 860 526-3403  
Website: [www.olsenssanitation.com](http://www.olsenssanitation.com)



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**Suburban Sanitation Install**

## **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.  
 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 them by going to [www.dph.state.ct.us/licensure/apps/subsew.pdf](http://www.dph.state.ct.us/licensure/apps/subsew.pdf)

### **2016 Examination Schedule Subsurface Sewage Installer/Cleaner**

<b>Exam Date</b>	<b>Application Deadline</b>
September 9, 2016	August 26, 2016
December 2, 2016	November 18, 2016

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