



Doug DiVesta
25 years of teaching COWRA Students



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

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July 2019

Letter from the President

Dear COWRA Members,

I hope this letter finds all our members busy with the summer onslaught of installations, repairs and cleanings. We certainly had an uneventful winter.

The installer and cleaning school went well, with one giant hiccup. After 25 years of teaching our installer course Doug DiVesta decided that he would retire from teaching the course. His shoes will be very hard to fill. COWRA owes Doug a debt of gratitude for his 25 years of dedicated service to our organization. At this year's Annual Meeting, we honored Doug, with many speaking on his behalf and thanking him for his years of service. It is our good luck that Doug has agreed to remain on the COWRA Board of Directors.

I thank all the members who attended this year's meeting and hope that more of you will join us in 2020 for our next Annual Meeting.

Best,
 Frank Talarico

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from the President

New Member Profiles

COWRA'S 2019 Installer School

COWRA'S 2019 Pumper/Cleaner School

Installer Teacher Retires

2019 Annual Meeting

Dates to Remember

State Code Advisory

State Soil Training

INSERTS

July CAD Meeting

State Soil Training Course

Polylok New Products

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

NEW MEMBER PROFILES **COWRA WELCOMES**

Patrick Minogue and Peter Gaboriault of Eco Septic, LLC joined us from Westport CT. Eco Septic LLC is a full-service septic company whose services include: septic repairs, installations, inspections and septic cleaning. Patrick and Peter are the owners of Eco Septic, which was founded in 2018. They have worked together for many years and now bring their combined experience to their new company. To Patrick and Peter, the environment is the main concern; they believe making a difference begins at home and will eventually lead to a cleaner planet.



Patrick Minogue To learn more about Patrick and Peter's company visit them on the web at www.ecosepticllc.com

NEW MEMBERS PROFILE CONTINUED



Todd Bolmer, Allison Kroha and Andrew Bolmer joined us from WCS Services LLC. Todd is the owner of WCS Services. He started this new company last year after being in the septic business for over 35 years. His new company includes his son Andrew and Allison Kroha in the business. Todd, Allison and Andrew took our installer 2019 course. Their services include septic installation, inspections, excavation, foundations, drainage and construction. To contact WCS Services LLC please email them at wcsservicesct@gmail.com



Anthony Pearce of Country Septic Services LLC aka Country Enterprises, LLC, joined us. Anthony's services include septic tank locating, pumping and replacment, septic installation, grease trap cleaning and sewer line installation. Country Enterprises is owned and managed by Anthony Pearce and Michael Couden. Together they bring over 30 years of experience and expertise to their company. For more informaion about Anthony's company, located in North Haven CT, visit him on the web at www.country-enterprises.com

Dominic Mansean and Evan Harbinson of Wastewater Services, Inc joined COWRA. Evan and Dominic are employees of Wastewater Servies which is located in Ellington CT. Wastewater Services, Inc. is a family owned company, operating since 1958. Their services include, septic tank cleaning, grease traps, septic tank pumping and septic inspections. Wastewater Services has over 40 years of field experience in all



aspects of septic services. For more information about Wastewater Services, Inc. vist them on the web at www.skipswastewater.com

Benjamin Bahre joined us this year. Ben is the owner of **Bahre's Septic Service** located in Torrington, CT. In 2018 Ben was a student in the installer course. Today Bahre's



Septic Service is a family-owned business operated by Ben and his wife Kristin Bahre. Ben's business model is based on reliability and honesty. He believes that great customer service begins and ends with quality workmanship and clear com-

munications. His services include, septic installation, cleaning and inspections. In addition to these services, he also offers excavation, foundation drainage and trucking services. For more information about Bahre's Septic Service, please visit him on the web at www.bahressepticsservice.com

Robert Gallitto of Gallitto Construction LLC

joined us in April. Robert is the owner of Gallitto Construction. Robert was a student in our 2019 installer course. Gallitto Construction is a family-owned business. It is located in Middletown CT. Robert's services include: Site work, excavations, foundations and property maintenance. You can contact Robert and find out more about his company at: gallittoexcavation@yahoo.com



Kris Quinion of Quinion Lawn & Landscaping Services LLC joined us. Kris is the owner of his company which is located in Canaan, CT. Kris is committed to customer satisfaction. He believes in hard work and he provides the best value for his work through efficiency, knowledge and experience.

His services include septic installations, septic cleaning, inspections, landscaping excavation, trucking, and sewer line installation. For more information visit him on the web at: www.quinionlandscaping.weebly.com

NEW MEMBERS PROFILE CONTINUED

Jeffrey Zaleski is the owner of **Kolodziej and Sons Construction**. He joined us in May of this year. Kolodziej and Sons is located in West Springfield MA. Jeffrey's services include; septic installation, septic cleaning, inspections, drain cleaning, grease traps, excavation, foundation drainage and sewer line installation.

To contact Jeffrey and learn more about his company please email him at jeffrey.m.zaleski@yahoo.com.

COWRA INSTALLER COURSE 2019

COWRA's 2019 got off to a rough start when on January 19, which was to be the first night of class, the room began to flood at approximately 3:00 pm. For those of you who remember that day, we had a deluge of rain. The call came to COWRA with less than 3 hours to contact each student and notify them that class would be canceled. Although our students come mostly from Connecticut, we usually have students from RI and MA as well and this year was no exception. Somehow with the help of others, we were able to reach all students before they embraced the monsoons to come to class that evening. Therefore, the installer course began January 31st and ran for 7 consecutive Thursdays, ending March 7th. The first state Installer exam was March 8, 2019.

We held the installer course at the First Congregational Church of Cromwell. This has turned out to be a good location for our course. Students have easy access from the highway, as our students come from all over CT. There was plenty of parking, which was very helpful to our students. We are grateful to the church for letting us hold our school there each year.

We Thank Douglas DiVesta, of DiVesta Civil Engineering Associates.



Doug DiVesta has taught our installer course for 25 years. Doug is a Civil Engineer with years of experience and expertise in the area of septic design. He brings his years of experience and knowledge to our students and structures each aspect of the installer course to produce the best outcome for each student taking this course. Doug introduces our students to all aspects of septic design. With practical examples he conveys to our

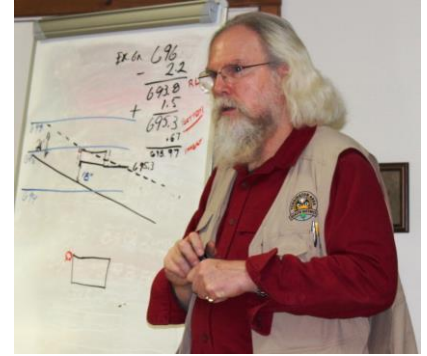
students his experiences and his teachings send students forward into their new professions with the skills they will need to succeed.

His generous gift of time does not only play out in the classroom. Each year Doug and Bob Smith, spend hours of

their time designing and updating the Study Guide that student use each year. We are very grateful to Doug for all that he does for the students and our organization.

Robert Smith is the Sanitarian of the Torrington District

Bob Smith teaches the installer students the Public Health Code. Bob Smith knows his Technical Standards very well; in fact, he knows them inside and out. He spends a great deal of time with our students helping them to both understand and apply the Technical Standards to the different scenarios that might surround a septic installation. He points out the important differences in the language, for example when you can and shall do some aspect of code specific instructions. We are very thankful for Bob's gift of time and wisdom to our organization

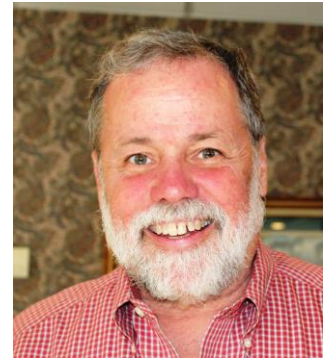


It is the combination of Doug Divesta and Bob Smith that brings a standard of quality and distinction to the education they provide for each student that takes our course. We are grateful for the gifts of both these extraordinary men.

COWRA'S 2019 PUMPER/CLEANER SCHOOL

We thank Bill Hall for teaching the cleaner course this year.

We pulled Bill Hall from the slopes of Core Mountain New York to teach our Cleaner Course this year. This year's course was held on February 21st. Some students who attended also attend the Installer Course. However, many of the students attending this course are coming for this one night of class, as they are preparing for the State Cleaning exam only. The cleaning course information is also needed for the installer exam, which is why it is included in the installer program.



Bill brings his many years of experience to the task of teaching the cleaner course. Bill is a licensed installer and the former owner of Kaiser-Battistone. Bill is an expert in every aspect of the septic industry. COWRA is very grateful to Bill Hall for his generous gift of time and knowledge and for providing our students with the skills they need to secure their Pumper/Cleaner License.

COWRA OWES 25 YEARS OF GRATITUDE TO DOUGLAS DIVESTA

After 25 years of training the future installers of our state, at COWRA's yearly Installer Course, Doug DiVesta is retiring from teaching. Doug's dedication to our organization goes beyond mere membership. Men like Doug DiVesta are special. His dedication is not only to COWRA but to the profession itself. The entire CT septic industry has benefited from Doug's twenty-five years of work.

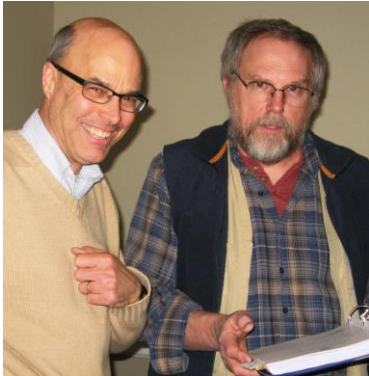


Doug's years teaching our course have been an investment in Connecticut's future. He invested his time each year in the future installers entering the industry. He empowered the next generation of installers with the skills they need to provide environmentally safe systems to CT consumers. The legacy he leaves behind as he retires is found in the hundreds of qualified, competent professionals he has mentored over his 25 years.

To teach this course each year, Doug devoted more than 80 hours of his time, first preparing for the course, re-writing the study guide each year to keep with the current technical standard and then teaching the course for 6 to 7 consecutive Thursdays each winter for 25 years.



Originally the installer course was taught by Doug DiVesta and Briggs Geddis. Watching Doug and Briggs teach the course made the course seem well choreographed. Together they worked like a well-oiled machine as the two of them taught each year. Doug and Briggs taught the school together for 19 years.



When Briggs became ill in 2014, Doug asked Bob Smith to come on-board. For the last 5 years Doug and Bob have taught the many students who have taken our course. It does not take long watching Doug and Bob to realize that they have been friends for a long time, the kind of

friendship that holds a deep understanding of each other.

Their banter and gentle insults to one another have made the installer course quite entertaining over the last 5 years

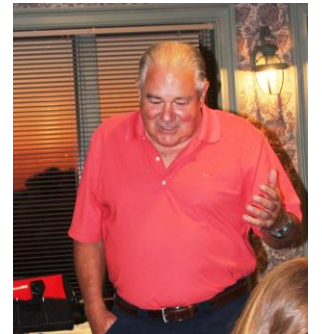
I have been the Executive Director of COWRA since 2007. Therefore, I have had the privilege of attending the installer course 12 times. I am going to miss Doug DiVesta very much. I will miss his sense of humor perhaps the most. In the 12 years I watched Doug teach our students, I saw the integrity that he brings to the course and the concern he has for each and every student as they struggle to understand the different concepts being taught. Doug treated each student as the most important one. Doug wanted success for each student he guided through the course. He coached each student with individual concern through each year, regardless of the questions or their difficulty in understanding. Doug answers every question as if it was the most important question asked. Over the years, I have seen Doug smile with satisfaction when a student can finally put all the pieces together into a complete understanding of the process that he had been learning over the many weeks.



Doug pushed each student to achieve their best, hoping to instill honesty and integrity, so that when they enter the field, they bring these attributes with them to their new profession. Doug's many years of teaching have been a gift to COWRA, to the State of Connecticut and to the hundreds of students who became the next generation of installers over the years. As an organization we have been truly blessed with 25 years of his dedication and generosity. Thank you, Doug DiVesta, for being you.

COWRA 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

To date it seems we have tried just about everything to get our members to attend our annual meetings and we will keep trying. However, once again our annual meeting was not very well attended. That does not mean that we did not have a good time.



Members had a good time roasting Doug DiVesta. Frank Schaub who has known and worked with Doug for years, made the room laugh with his memories.



Bill Coffey, not to be outdone, spent time picking on Doug and sharing his memories as well, all done in good sport.

We did get down to business eventually. During the business meeting two new

board members were nominated and voted onto COWRA's Board of Directors.

Anthony Montisi was nominated to the Board of Directors by Frank Schaub and that motion was seconded by Bill Coffee. Tony has been a long-time member of our organization. He is a licensed installer and owner of CONNSEPT LLC, located in Roxbury Connecticut.



Steven Roberts was nominated to the Board of Directors by Doug DiVesta. Steve's nomination was seconded by Russ Theus. Steven is a licensed Installer and the owner of Nex-Gen Septic Systems, LLC. Steve's company is located in Winsted Connecticut.

If COWRA were to give an award for the members who bring the most guests to our annual meeting, this award would consistently go to Steven and Darby Pollansky. Each year at crunch time the Pollanskys pull off a miracle by convincing their adult children to attend our meeting. Thank you for your support.



Steven and Darby Pollansky



This year's annual meeting was held June 8th at Quarry Ridge in Portland, CT. We thank all our members and sponsors who shared their day with us.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

We thank Polylok for supporting our meeting.

Lin Molone attended this year's meeting as the representative for Polylok. Lin visited with our members and discussed the extensive line of products that Polylok offers the septic industry. We have included an insert of some of Polylok's newest products.



We thank Infiltrator Water Technologies



For the many years we have been holding our Annual Meetings, Infiltrator Systems has supported us. We are sorry the date of our meeting conflicted with their schedules this year and they were unable to send their representatives. We look forward to seeing you next year.

DATES TO REMEMBER

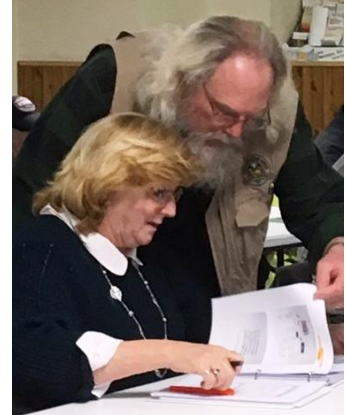
September 15, 2019 COWRA will begin accepting applications for the 2019 Septic Installer and Cleaning courses.

STATE CODE ADVISORY and SOIL TRAINING

July 11, 2019 **CAC Meeting and Agenda** (See Insert).

2019 Soil Training (See Insert from State of CT DPH).

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2019 Installer Course

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

UPDATES!! Registration Information for 2019 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 860-509-8207 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

2019 Examination Schedule Subsurface Sewage Installer/Cleaner

Exam Date	Application Deadline
September 13, 2019	August 230 2019
December 6, 2019	November 22, 2019

Connecticut Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association
For a copy of COWRA's 2018 Study Guide please call (860 267-1057)