

# THE ENVIRONMENTALIST

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## In This Issue

- President's Message (pg. 1)
- Soils Training (pg. 2)
- Wild Apricot & CEHA (pg. 3)
- Op-Ed: Checking Field Thermometer Accuracy (pg. 4)
- Odds and Ends (pg. 5)

## President

**Stephen Civitelli**

## Publicity Chair

**Jeff Catlett**

**Matt Payne**

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## President's Message

I was recently fortunate enough to attend the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Annual Educational Conference (AEC) in Orlando Florida, July 12-15, 2015. Each state, region or member affiliate organization is permitted to send a representative. As one can imagine, there were quite a few very well organized educational sessions, presentations, and special events offered during the 4 day event. With all the important content being presented deciding what track to follow was difficult.

As CEHA's President, one of my responsibilities was to attend the Affiliate President's Meeting. At that meeting, I had an opportunity to meet other state and regional representatives, as well as the NEHA Board of Directors. The primary focus of this meeting to explore how to further engage state affiliates with NEHA creating a stronger relationship. Also discussed were concepts on how to attract newer members and have current ones to become an active member rather than a passive member. CEHA overall having roughly 260 members there is quite a bit of knowledge and experience that can be utilized to enhance our membership benefits. Keeping individuals engaged is a difficult barrier for any association and I am open to any suggestions from our membership regarding a means in which to further improve our association.

In this past year we have lost some longtime members of our board and have since had filled those positions while continuing moving forward with CEHA's agenda. Coming up this fall will be our soils training course in October and our annual meeting in November. Also, Connecticut will be the host site for the Yankee Conference in 2016 which we are currently in the process of planning. Please contact your CEHA board members if there are any future training opportunities that you would like to be explored. I encourage all members to get involved in the daily function of the association. It will not only magnify CEHA's effectiveness, but its ability to be relevant in the environmental public health arena.

Sincerely,

Stephen Civitelli

CEHA President

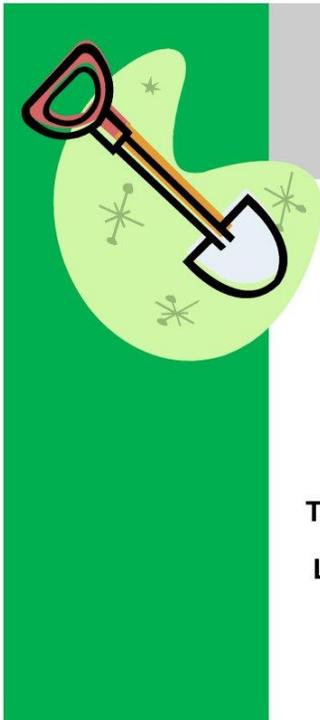
## CEHA AND DPH ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM

### CO-SPONSOR TWO DAY SOIL TRAINING

By Jeff Polhemus, Sub-Surface Sewage Code Advisory Co-chair

Save the date! The 2-day 2015 soil training event will be held October 21<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>th</sup> at the DEEP's Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area in Burlington Connecticut. CEHA has been joined by the DPH Environmental Engineering Program to provide this valuable training. Once again we have obtained the services of Peter Fletcher, a respected soil scientist and trainer from Massachusetts. Mr. Fletcher has been well received at all previous trainings for his pleasant personality and superb teaching skills. Registration information will be provided in the near future.

If you have never attended a soils training workshop, this training is a must. If it's been a number of years since you last attended, please consider attending to learn what's new and what you forgot. Watch for registration information in your email box.



## Save the Date

### **2015 Soils Training Workshop October 21 and 22, 2015**

Presented by the CT Environmental Health Association in  
conjunction with the Department of Public Health

**Time:** 9am - 4:30pm (lunch provided)

**Location:** DEEP's Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area

## Wild Apricot & CEHA

**By Matthew Payne, Publicity Co-Chair**

On May 4<sup>th</sup> CEHA co-hosted the Connecticut Conference on Hoarding. What many individuals may not realize is the amount of time and resources that go in to a large event like this, especially the planning, organization and the registration process. Several months earlier CEHA had already acquired the means to process credit card payments and set up the registration website through the site wildapricot.org. But what does this mean for you the members?

First and foremost is the management of our membership. Currently a large amount of time is spent by Maryam Hosseini tracking over 260 member's renewals, mailings, and committee interests. We will be shifting the focus of this site over to assist not just Maryam but also to allow membership to renew online using a credit card and instant access to their personal information making updating information like mailing address or committee interest easier.

Next this will also allow the board to communicate more effectively with our members by simplifying the process to get messages, job postings, and newsletters to you. Making communication with technical and standing committee chairs a uniform process that includes a report feature that notifies us if emails were received or encountered a problem.

Finally, this will make the registration process easier for our sponsored events. Using our website will ensure that you receive benefits such as discounted price, if applicable, when attending. The next major events where we will be prompting use of the site will be with the soils training in October, the annual meeting in November, and then membership renewals. Next year we will be hosting the Yankee Conference here in Connecticut so you will see more information coming in the future.

As with anything new and different there will be questions and concerns with where to find a piece of information or with the safety and security of your information. Over the next few weeks we will be slowly rolling out access to all members and encourage visiting and exploring the site. Keep an eye on your emails, [www.cteha.org](http://www.cteha.org) and our twitter account (@CTSanitarian) for more details.

## Op-Ed : Checking Field Thermometer Accuracy

By Robert W. Powitz, MPH, RS

In the absence of an NIST-traceable dry-well thermometer calibrator, conventional lore recommends using an ice bath to validate electronic thermometers or calibrate mechanical ones. Presumably, the ice/water mixture will be 32°F (0°C). This is not always the case. The water and ice mixture made from distilled, reverse osmosis and de-ionized water will result in a 32°F mixture, or close enough; whereas surface or well waters may differ widely in their Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) content and affect the temperature of the mixture. Conventional wisdom tells us that the higher the salt content or TDS, the lower the melting point of ice. The freezing temperature of “pure” water versus highly mineralized potable well or surface waters can vary as much as  $\pm 4.5^\circ\text{F}$ . Add to this the manufacturers’ accuracy claims of the thermometers; which can be as high as  $\pm 2^\circ\text{F}$ , as in the case of bi-metal dial thermometers, the variance of the ice water mixture and thermometer together can result in an error as high as  $\pm 6.5^\circ\text{F}$ . This does not instill a lot of confidence in thermometer accuracy verification, particularly when an errant thermometer is used as an enforcement tool. There is a better way to do this.

Here is the logic. The temperatures of most frequent concern to the regulatory community are  $<41^\circ\text{F}$  and  $>135^\circ\text{F}$ . Therefore, would it not be more prudent to do a two-point validation or calibration than a single point at some approximate temperature? Secondly, would it not make more sense comparing the temperatures of the thermometers under test to some temperature standard, rather than worry about the TDS of the water/ice mixture and its freeze point conversion factor?

Begin with a “temperature standard” thermometer to rapidly check working thermometers with a relative certainty of being accurate. A “temperature standard” thermometer is a liquid-in-glass general purpose laboratory thermometer, built to NIST specifications. A convenient temperature range is 0-220°F. You will also need two inexpensive 16-ounce insulated travel tumblers.

To conduct the validation/calibration process, simply fill one tumbler with cold tap water and the other with hot tap water; immerse the liquid-in-glass thermometer in either tumbler along with the probe of the electronic or mechanical thermometer to be tested. Let both thermometers equilibrate ... a few minutes will do ... and compare the temperature readings of the standard thermometer against that of the thermometer being validated. Repeat with the other tumbler. Record your results. Simple, fast and accurate.

## Odds and Ends

### Robert C. Perriello Memorial Award

This award, established in 1970 by the Yankee Conference Board of Directors and renamed in 1978, is presented in tribute to Robert C. Perriello for his many years in public health and academic service in Rhode Island and New England. This award recognizes the professional achievements made by a registered sanitarian and local affiliate member. This most prestigious award is given by the Yankee Conference Board of Directors to an individual who first must be chosen by their own affiliate's Board of Directors. This is a highly respected honor and is presented to a most outstanding member for their contributions to their affiliate, the Yankee Conference, and environmental health.

### Raymond Brunelle "Connecticut Sanitarian of the Year"

This award, established in 1971 by the CEHA Board, is presented to a deserving member in recognition for outstanding service. This high honor is also referred to as the "Connecticut Sanitarian of the Year" award. Raymond Brunelle was a dedicated sanitarian, the first president of CEHA, and did a great deal to promote environmental health throughout Connecticut. It is a privilege to receive this high recognition for outstanding service and be honored by one's peers.

**Nominations should be submitted for the Brunelle Award by September 1, 2015.**

**A nomination for the Perriello award should be submitted ASAP**

It is not too late to recognize and acknowledge someone for their dedication and hard work to the field of Environmental Health. Awards are presented to recipients at the annual meeting. Individuals who have been chosen to receive awards shall be invited to attend the annual meeting free of charge. To download the away nomination forms visit:

<http://www.cteha.org/raymond-w-brunelle-award.html>

or

<http://www.cteha.org/robert-c-perriello.html>

Please download the award nomination form from our website and submit your nomination today! If you have any questions concerning these awards please contact Eloise Hazelwood at 203-294-2065.

## Save the Dates

9/16 & 9/17	Yankee Conference - Hawthorne Hotel - Salem, MA
10/21 & 10/22	Soils Training - DEEP Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area - Burlington, CT
11/6	Annual Meeting - Anthony's Ocean View - East Haven, CT