Year of Accomplishments & TIME TO RENEW!

As 2018 comes to a close, it is time to reflect on the accomplishments of YOWA during the past year while we optimistically look toward 2019 for even better things for you and our industry. This past year saw YOWA gain in strength. Our membership numbers increased by 50 percent. Much of this can be attributed to our semi-annual newsletters and semi-annual training programs that have helped attract new members to the organization. Our goal is to continue the Spring and Fall trainings, so our members can regularly plan to obtain their required training hours through YOWA. For 2019, we will continue the high quality of our trainings with our Spring training event coinciding with the 6th Northeast Onsite Wastewater Short Course and Equipment Exhibition. YOWA’s pleased to once again be sponsoring the Onsite A to Z session at this year’s Short Course in Mystic, CT, April 2-4.

In addition to our successful in-person training, YOWA and its members have benefited from the new Online Learning Academy being provided by our parent organization, National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA). YOWA members receive discounts for the online training which currently consists of 1, 3, and 4 hour modules of NOWRA’s Onsite A to Z course, or the complete 8-hour training. What better way to obtain those last few hours that you need for your Mass. Title 5 certification renewal, or your NH or Maine certifications? 2019 will premiere additional new courses to the online curriculum, including a soon to be released course on System Installation.

The biggest news for our industry in 2018 was inclusion of important language on the use of onsite/decentralized wastewater systems to solve some of our nation’s infrastructure needs in the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. Oftentimes
our onsite world is overlooked in funding from Washington D.C., with the majority of the funds going toward the "big-pipe" world of centralized sewer systems. The bill's new language will include the creation of Decentralized Technology Clearinghouse by US EPA, the requirement for EPA to share information about the cost-effectiveness of decentralized systems with local governments and other groups, the requirement for EPA to report back to Congress on how they are supporting the increased use of decentralized systems, and provides technical assistance for decentralized systems to rural areas, small communities, and tribal communities with an appropriation of up to $25 million per year for the next four years. This is a huge success for YOWA and NOWRA and is due to the lobbying activities that NOWRA has been able to conduct on all of our behalf over the last few years.

With all of this activity and success in 2018, we are only just getting started. The YOWA Board of Directors is pleased with the progress we have made to date, but we are not satisfied. We want to continue to grow the organization and achieve more of our goals - doubling of our current membership, hiring part time paid staff, and becoming the "go to" organization in the region for onsite wastewater industry issues. **We hope that you see the value in being a member of YOWA and act to renew your membership for 2019.** Other ways you can help us grow in 2019 is by joining one of our committees or the Board of Directors, or help recruit a few other individuals to YOWA for 2019.

**LEADERSHIP CHANGE:** In early 2019, I will pass the YOWA presidential torch to our vice-president, Dan Ottenheimer. It has been my pleasure to serve on the Board of YOWA, a group that I helped form back in 2005 along with Dan. I plan to continue on the Board of Directors and help our success continue to grow under Dan's leadership. Wishing everyone a safe and productive 2019. Hope to see you in Mystic!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas Groves, YOWA President
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**Why You Should Renew Your Membership**

YOWA memberships are due for renewal at the beginning of each calendar year. As a YOWA member, you should be receiving your renewal in the next few days. Returning this promptly will help assure our organization stays strong for the coming year and continues your membership benefits. You may renew by check or online through our website, www.yankeoonline.org.

In addition to the accomplishments listed above for 2018, YOWA members benefited in the following -

- Provided individual memberships with our parent organization, the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA), which has now exceeded 5,000 members nationally.
- Participation as a member of MassDEP's Title 5 Advisory Group.
- Raised the visibility of the onsite wastewater profession throughout New England through participation at leading conferences and trade shows.
- Partnered with US EPA to support Septic Smart Week in September.
- Provided representation to the NOWRA's Annual Conference to learn from and share experiences with representatives of other state affiliate organizations.

What we have planned in 2019 -

- Enhance visibility of the onsite wastewater profession through participation in existing conferences, expansion of newsletter, engagement with regulatory officials and participation in Title 5 Advisory Group.
- Assist with the planning for the 2019 Northeast Onsite Short Course in April 2-4 in Mystic, CT, including sponsorship of the Onsite A to Z session.
- Partner with US EPA to support Septic Smart Week - September 16-20, 2019.
- Expand our membership base to include more regulators, installers, designers and maintenance providers.
- Advocate for your interests and the onsite wastewater profession.
- Expand current staffing levels to enhance professional management.

We look forward to continuing to advocate and represent you and your needs in the coming year. Please renew your membership today and help us continue to grow.

YOWA Brings Training to the Industry

The mission of YOWA is to provide knowledge, grow the profession and educate our membership of designers, installers, service providers, regulators, and interested systems owners. By providing on-going education and support, YOWA’s ultimate goal is to protect the environment and public health and to promote sustainable onsite wastewater systems throughout New England. YOWA wants to stand by our mission statement by actively sponsoring and co-sponsoring training opportunities to provide you, our membership with the cutting edge knowledge which you will need to thrive in this industry. Each year YOWA intends to bring to you a Spring and Fall Training Program. In addition to providing these training opportunities, we will continue to partner with NOWRA to co-sponsor training events such as online training through NOWRA’s Online Learning Academy; by doing so we are able to provide our membership with a discounted registration fee to such NOWRA events/trainings.

Past, Present & Upcoming Training Opportunities

Annual Spring Regional Training Program
This past May 2018 YOWA offered Massachusetts I/A Septic System Basics for Beginners training. We had 25 attendees who were all awarded up to 6 CEUs for Mass. Title 5 SI/SE and Mass. wastewater treatment plant operator (WTPO). This workshop provided an introductory session on the different types of I/A systems that are approved by DEP in the State of Massachusetts including what is required for review of these systems; what to look for during installation of I/A systems; and what to expect from operation and maintenance reports during the life of the system. We were able to provide attendees with some great guest speakers including:

Roland Dupuis, PE-Retired MassDEP staff and currently owner of DCubed, an environmental engineering company; designer of numerous I/A systems in Mass. including certification as a designer of Bottomless Sand Filter approved in Massachusetts.

Alyssa, Rusiecki, RS- 20 years of experience in Mass. Title 5 as a Municipal Health Agent and currently the Assistant Director of Environmental Health Services.

Steve Nelson, Owner of Clearwater Recovery, an approved I/A technology in Mass. and O&M provider for all types of I/A systems throughout Massachusetts.

Annual Fall Regional Training Program

SEPTIC SMART WEEK
Sept. 16-20th

Mark Your Calendars: September 16-20, 2019, is EPA’s SepticSmart Week.

The goal of SepticSmart Week is to inform homeowners on proper septic system care and maintenance, assist local agencies in promoting homeowner education and awareness, and educate local decision makers about infrastructure options to improve and sustain their communities.

Please visit www.epa.gov/septic for more homeowner resources and information or download the SepticSmart Week 2019 flyer.
On October 31st YOWA offered a one day 'Basics of Onsite Wastewater' workshop to provide the foundation of installing, inspecting, designing and understanding onsite wastewater systems for Regulators, Designers, Installers and Service Providers. The workshop provided up to 6 CEUs for Massachusetts Title 5 SE/SI and wastewater operators. Speakers included Dr. Sara Heger from the University of Minnesota, Water Resource Center Onsite Sewage Treatment Program, Dennis Hallahan from Infiltrator as well as Claire Golden from MassDEP Wastewater Management and Surface Water Permitting Program.

**Web Based Training**

YOWA continues to partner with NOWRA to offer online training through NOWRA's new Online Learning Academy. This is a great resource for those individuals who do not have time to attend an onsite training session or may only require a few CEU/training hours. NOWRA's popular "Onsite A to Z" program has been converted to an online format to allow participants the opportunity to take the course at their own pace. Led by Sara Heger, Ph.D., the course consists of 8-hours of videos, presentations, and quizzes. It is also available in smaller modules of 1 hour (Operation and Maintenance), 3 hour (Intro to Onsite & Wastewater), and 4 hour (Soil Evaluation, Treatment, and Dispersal) if you don't need all 8 hours of credit at once. The course has been approved for Massachusetts Title 5 SE/SI credit and for credit in New Hampshire and Maine, with Rhode Island approval pending. A new course on System Installation is expected to be released in 2019. YOWA members all receive discount registrations for these NOWRA online courses.

**Upcoming Training**

**NEIWPCC's 6th Northeast Onsite Wastewater Treatment Short Course and Equipment Exhibition**

April 2-4, 2019 | Mystic Marriott, Groton, CT

For more information on the conference agenda or for exhibiting opportunities, check out NEIWPCC's Conference web site.

**Once again, YOWA will be co-sponsoring the NOWRA Onsite A to Z session at this conference.** The A to Z course is a great opportunity for those new to the field to obtain the knowledge about onsite systems from some of the nation's top trainers. *Discounted registration fee will apply to all YOWA members.*

We look forward to providing you with more training opportunities in the upcoming 2019 year. If you have any suggestions for training and/or locations, please email us at yankeeonsite@gmail.com

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**MassDEP News**

We are pleased to report the following MassDEP-related news!

- Western Regional office head Paul Nietupski has retired. Paul was very focused on water quality improvement and aided local health officials in understanding and implementing Title 5. His skills and knowledge will be missed. Dan Kurpaska and John Bourcier remain as a steady presence and are available to assist.
- Marybeth Chubb continues to settle in to her new role in Boston running the Title 5 program, along with several others.
• MassDEP has revised its website. In the process of doing so they have provided a basic homeowner education page for onsite systems which can be found at: https://www.mass.gov/guides/caring-for-your-septic-system.

• The form used for performing system inspections was revised in July 2018. A few small edits made include clarifying when onsite systems can be identified as "Conditionally Pass", providing a spot for the System Inspector to indicate if the property is served by a water treatment unit and if so to identify where it discharges, and the final page Completeness Checklist was expanded. Here is a link to the revise form: https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/07/26/t5insp_0.pdf.

• NEIWPC continues to provide regular classes to enable eligible enrollees to become System Inspectors and Soil Evaluators. Additional information can be found at: http://neiwpcc.org/our-programs/wastewater/mass-title-5/title-5-certification/.

• DEP's Form 11 is used to document the results of site and soil evaluations and was modified in March 2018. Minor language adjustments were provided throughout. Copies of the revised form are located at: https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/04/09/t5form11.pdf.

• Finally, YOWA feels that it is worth noting that we will soon be coming up on the 25th anniversary of the issuance of the 1995 version of Title 5. The original document was issued in 1978 and was primarily an engineering guidance document for new onsite wastewater systems. The 1995 code revisions contained major sweeping changes which resulted in many improvements to design and operations, construction, aesthetics and to the removal of substandard systems. Some of the highlights include establishing a scientific method for determining the seasonal high water table prior to designing a soil absorption system, allowing the use of non-traditional pre-treatment and dispersal components, establishing criteria for routine operation and maintenance of non-traditional systems, establishing an inspection mechanism to identify and replace substandard existing systems, and providing for a mechanism for design and regulatory review at upgrade sites which cannot fully comply with the design standards in the regulations.

We look forward to continuing to advocate and represent you and your needs in the coming year!

NOWRA Conference 2018

In October, NOWRA held a very successful "MegaConference" in Bloomington, Minnesota. This year's conference once again partnered with the National Association of Wastewater Technicians (NAWT) and State Onsite Regulatory Association (SORA) as well as the Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association (MOWA), NOWRA's state affiliate.

This year's conference attracted almost 500 onsite professionals from across the nation. Separate tracks were held for the NAWT technician training, state affiliate workshops, and top-notch training. Presentations included the latest research and developments on nutrient removal, policy developments, management of onsite systems, installation issues, siting and design, and technology advancement. An optional field trip was also held to show attendees some of the latest technologies and developments in Minnesota. Several YOWA members attended the conference, including YOWA's President Tom Groves who participated in the NOWRA Board of Director meeting, Education Committee meeting, State Affiliates meeting and workshop. Plans are already underway for the 2019 NOWRA "MegaConference" that will be held in October in Loveland, Colorado. YOWA is extremely interested in
partnering with NOWRA to bring this event to a location in New England as early as 2021.

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