

SWANA

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Newsletter

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

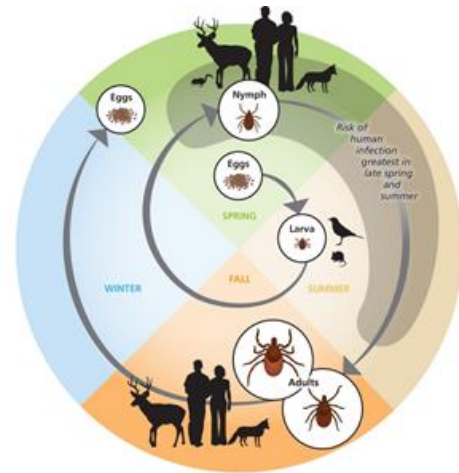
On January 9, 2025, at our Chapter's Annual Business Meeting a new Board of Directors and Officers were elected. See the updated 2025-2026 roster below. I would like to take this opportunity to express the Board's deep appreciation for the many, many years of service by Phil Goddard to our Chapter and who completed his term as Past President. Phil was instrumental in bringing WasteCON (2010) and SWANApalooza (2019) to Boston and was a big help planning the return of WasteCON in 2023. Phil initiated our Young Professionals committee and was always on top of proposed legislation and regulations. Phil's enthusiasm for the solid waste industry is unmatched. Phil's influence on our Chapter will live on far into the future. Thank you, Phil.

I would also like to thank Brian Card, new Past President, for serving two, two-year terms as Chapter President. Brian led the effort to bring WasteCON 2024 to Boston, was master of ceremony at the annual golf events, started this Chapter Newsletter, and always took on more than his fair share of the Chapter's business. Brian, you will be a tough act to follow.

I would like to see our Chapter membership grow, plan a technical conference every year or two (depending on scope and length), collaborate more with the NNE and NY Chapters, and continue our outreach to local colleges and universities. I'm excited to work with the new Board to see what we can accomplish.

SAFETY

Finally! It's springtime! As construction projects begin and as we complete site visits, landfill inspections, landfill monitoring, or just working in your yard, the dreaded fear of ticks enters our brains. Ticks are in their Spring cycle of growing from Nymph into adulthood. This puts human infection at greatest risk in the coming warmer months.



Tick Awareness

- Ticks live in grass, bushes, leaf piles, and in the woods;
- Tick diseases include Lyme Disease, Babesiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and others;
- Ticks like to hide on your scalp, armpits, neck or anywhere else warm and hidden;
- Ticks must be attached for at least 24 hours before they can transmit illness;
- Be sure to remove the HEAD!; and
- Use bug repellent with DEET or Permethrin. Follow instructions carefully.

When prevention doesn't cut it, you must remove the tick as soon as possible.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL EVENT

On February 20, 2025, the SWANA SNE Chapter held its first Young Professional (YP) event of the year at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth in coordination with Dr. Jonathan Mellor and the UMass Dartmouth student E-board of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The event focused on the diverse range of opportunities and career pathways within the

solid waste industry and featured an impressive lineup of new and seasoned speakers who shared their experiences and insights with the students.

Maddie Parent of Sanborn, Head & Associates, Inc. discussed her journey into the field as a recent graduate and her perspective on the solid waste industry so far. **Gretchen Carey**, a seasoned professional in the solid waste field, provided an engaging presentation of the diverse and rewarding work she has undertaken over the years as a Sustainability Manager with Republic Services. She also highlighted the aspects she enjoys most about her career and her involvement with MassRecycle. **Allia Saydjari** of WIN Waste Innovations highlighted the importance of diversity and the rise of women leaders, shedding light on some promising trends in the workforce, as well as technology and development within the industry. **Phil Goddard**, a former Chapter President and active board member, discussed the many benefits that SWANA membership has provided him throughout his 30+ year career, and the wide range of career opportunities available in the industry. **Cole Rosengren** of WasteDive addressed current hot topics in the industry and potential growth opportunities from the perspective of a news editor that covers a broad range of topics.

The event concluded with open discussion time where the students could engage with the speakers and the SWANA SNE Board of Directors members who were present. Over 50 students were present for the main event, mostly in engineering majors, and many stayed for the open discussion with the Board.

REGULATORY UPDATES

Battery EPR

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is being contemplated in both Connecticut and Massachusetts. **CT** House Bill # 5019 establishes a program for consumer batteries sold and distributed in the State. This bill has received some favorable actions in the legislature. In addition to the EPR bill proposed **CT HB #5345** requires fire departments to report fires and explosions suspected to have been caused by lithium batteries. In **MA**, Senate Bill #556 is intended to establish a stewardship program focused on lithium-ion batteries. For now, it appears this bill is being further studied by the legislature. SWANA has partnered with the National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) to address this critical issue of lithium-ion battery disposal in a safe and effective manner as this type of battery has been suspected in numerous fires at recycling and disposal facilities across the country. The

SNE Chapter encourages our members to view the bills in CT and MA to fully understand the implications to our industry and to reach out to your legislators to voice any concerns you may have. You can read [CT HB 5019](#), [CT HB 5345](#), and [MA SB 556](#).

Composting and Organic Waste Diversion Surcharge
Rhode Island's proposed Senate Bill #104, introduced on 1/31/2025 and pending with the Senate Finance Committee, would establish a solid waste disposal surcharge of \$2.00 per ton of solid waste processed at all landfills and transfer stations within Rhode Island. The funds generated from the surcharge will be used to establish a competitive composting and waste diversion grant fund (CG fund) and a municipal waste diversion grant fund ("MG fund"). The surcharge collected will be split evenly with 50% for the CG fund and 50% for the MG fund. The CG fund will be used to award grants to eligible entities to assist with the costs of developing and implementing compost production, compost use, and waste diversion efforts. The MG fund will be used to provide public grants to municipalities for developing and implementing activities that advance food waste prevention, food rescue and recovery, composting, and to minimize illegal dumping in the state. If passed, the proposed bill would take effect on January 1, 2026. You can read [RI HB 104](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- NY Federation Solid Waste Conference, May 18-21, 2025, Sagamore Resort near Lake George, NY. Information can be found [here](#).
- SNE SWANA Chapter Golf Event – scheduled for Monday, August 11, 2025. Registration will open soon.

WHATS IN THE NEWS?

- You can follow the SNE SWANA Chapter on LinkedIn. We urge each member to [follow](#) us and share the page.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The 2025 SNE SWANA Scholarship program is open and accepts applications for the 2025-2026 period. This program is open to high school seniors entering college, college undergraduates (juniors/seniors) majoring in any field associated with the industry, graduate students, and young professionals. This is a great opportunity to be awarded additional funding to help support you or a family member achieve their goals. We urge you to check out the information on our sneswana.org website.

Chapter Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

Ron St. Michel, PE **President**
Sanborn, Head & Associates, Inc.

Lindsey Welcome, PE **Secretary**
Brown and Caldwell

Vice President
Vacant

Paul Shamoian, PE **Treasurer**
RI Resource Recovery Corporation

Brian N. Card, PE **Past President**
WIN-Waste Solutions

Board Directors

Barry Van Laarhoven, PE **Director**
Civil & Environmental Consultants

Jackie Caceci, PE **CT Director**
Tighe & Bond, Inc.

Katie Scott **YP Rep**
Brown and Caldwell

Zack Tanguay **Director**
GeoSyntec Consultants

Anthony Novelli **YP Alternate**
Greater New Bedford RRMD

Alison Beucler **Director**
Somerville Department of Public Works

Amy Knight, PE **Director**
Civil & Environmental Consultants

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