

2009 Municipal Inland Wetland Commissioners Training Program

SEGMENT III: Biographies

Connecticut's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses: *Agricultural Practices*

Dr. Paul Barten (10/21, 10/28) - He is the Executive Director of the Great Mountain Forest and Associate Professor of Forest Resources at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He earned a Ph.D. and M.S. in forest hydrology and watershed management at the University of Minnesota with a minor in water resources engineering. A native of the Catskill Mountain region, he earned undergraduate degrees in forestry from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and the New York State Ranger School at Wanaken. His research interests include quantifying the structure and function of forested watersheds and wetlands; the hydrologic effects of land use; and management of drinking water supplies. In addition, he has extensive military service and worked as a surveyor.

Dr. Candace Benyei (11/12) - Co-owner of the Whimsy Brook Farm (WB) with her husband, she is an experienced breeder and trainer of hunters, pleasure and dressage horses, as well as a research biochemist and psychotherapist. She is currently the president of the Fairfield Country Farm Bureau. The WB Farm has a Horse Farm of Environmental Distinction designation from The Horse Environmental Awareness Program (HEAP) because of their superior horse manure compost facility, excellent pasture management, and engineered water run-off systems.

Jody Bronson – (10/21) Forest Manager at Great Mountain Forest - He is a fourth-generation land manager and forester. He received his educational training at the Unity College's Forest Technician program and at Keene State College. In 1990, he became forest manager of GMF. He oversees all phases of forestry operations including timber harvesting, wildlife habitat improvement, and assisting researchers. He is a member of The Society of American Foresters, Connecticut Forest and Park Association, a certified Tree Farm Inspector, a Connecticut licensed forester and a Massachusetts licensed forester. He is also a professional member of The Forest Guild. In 2002, he was the recipient of the Austin Cary Practicing Professional Award given by the New England Society of American Foresters.

Lincoln Chesmer (11/04) - Lincoln Chesmer is the General Manager of Graywall Farms. He manages all aspects of the dairy farm operation including the milk herd, growing crops, and managing employees. He majored in Architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design, and utilized his architectural skills in planning and designing the building projects that include a new milking center, free stall barns, and manure separation & storage facilities. Graywall Farms has won the Connecticut Dairy Farm of the Year, New England Green Pasture Program and the Pathfinder Award for efforts in farmland preservation and they are a member of The Farmer's Cow group that sells locally made milk products in southern New England.

Bill Hill (11/12) – He and his family have owned and operated Warrup's Farm since the 1840s. In the mid-1970s Bill began raising vegetables and flowers, and making maple syrup. These activities continue today, along with hay-making, Christmas tree production and selling produce at the Weston Farmer's Market. In the early 1990s, the farm's development rights were bequeathed to the Redding Land Trust. Consequently, the Farm will never be developed for housing. Warrup's Farm produce is annually certified organic by Stellar Certification Services.

William Hochholzer (10/28) - Environmental Protection Forester 1; Received a B.S. in Natural Resource Management from the University of Connecticut. Currently works within the DEP State Lands Management Program. Previous professional experience includes professional forestry work in both the private and industrial sector of Connecticut's timber industry. Will is a certified forester in Connecticut and a member of the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England.

Kip Kolesinskas (11/04,11/12) - State Soil Scientist for Connecticut and Rhode Island, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Received an A.A.S. in Plant Science from SUNY Cobleskill, a Bachelor of Science in Soil Science from Cornell University, and has graduate work at Texas A & M and Lancaster University, U.K. Previous professional experience has included a number of soil scientist positions with USDA NRCS in Connecticut and New York.

Joan Nichols (all) - Government Relations Specialist at the Connecticut Farm Bureau and a representative for the Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association. She has been a Connecticut certified Forest Practitioner for over 25 years.

Steven F. Tessitore - Supervising Environmental Analyst, Inland Water Resources Division, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, CT Department of Environmental Protection. Received a Master of Science in Forest Soil Science from the University of Massachusetts. Previous professional experience has included the position of Soil Scientist for the Department

of Environmental Protection. Steve is a member of the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England and the American Society of Agronomy.

Justin (Judd) White (10/21, 10/28) - Regional Forester, Division of Forestry, Bureau of Natural Resources, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Attended the University of Connecticut and has over thirty years of experience in the field of forestry. Judd is a member of the Southern New England Logger Education Committee, which is responsible for the development and implementation of the region's logger education program

Darcy L. Winther (all) - Environmental Analyst III, Inland Water Resources Division, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, CT Department of Environmental Protection. Received a Bachelor of Arts in Zoology / Environmental Conservation from the University of New Hampshire and the New England Regional Soil Science Certificate from the University of Massachusetts. Previous professional experience has included positions within the Department of Environmental Protection as a Research Assistant with the Wildlife Division, Legislative Assistant for the Bureau of Natural Resources, and an Environmental Analyst with the Rivers Management Program. Darcy has also been an instructor/assistant park naturalist at a local nature center for a number of years and is a member of the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England.

Carl Zimmerman (all) - Environmental Analyst II, Inland Water Resources Division, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, CT Department of Environmental Protection. Received a Bachelor of Science in Geological Sciences from the University of Michigan, a Master of Landscape Architecture from Kansas State University, and is finishing a PhD at the University of Connecticut with a concentration in remote sensing and GIS from the Department of Natural Resources Management and Engineering. He has previous professional experience working in site planning and engineering; urban and environmental planning; and wetland and stream mitigation.