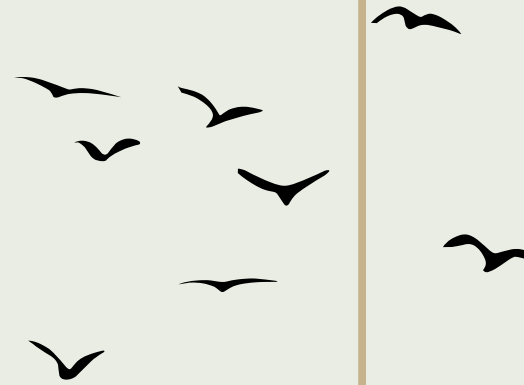




New Jersey Society of
Women Environmental
Professionals



2023
Year in Review





Dear Members,

As each year passes, it is always a pleasure to pull together these annual newsletters. It's an opportunity for us on the board to reflect on the memories that we've been able to make together as well as our achievements as an organization. The heart of NJSWEP is its members, coming from a diverse background of professionals in the environmental industry. Our mission centers around personal and professional development as well as empowering individuals identifying as women in environmental business, law, policy, and science. This mission would be impossible to achieve without all of you.

WE thank you all for your support in 2023 and look forward to connecting with each of you in 2024.

Your NJSWEP Board

2023 was busier than ever for our members! NJSWEP hosted large and small gatherings, joint events with other regional organizations, and a mix of new adventures combined with the return of old favorites. Let's take a walk (or maybe a hike) down memory lane to see all that this year had to offer.



Creature of the Night

The weather outside may have had us all wanting to remain curled up with a cozy blanket, but that just meant it was perfect timing for a virtual event. During March 2023, NJSWEP hosted "Creature of the Night - The Bats of New Jersey" with one of our favorite organizations, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey. Members attended a presentation by Conserve Wildlife Foundation Biologist Leah Wells to learn about the amazing night flying creatures that can be found right in our area. Just in time for the clocks to "spring forward", participants had one last opportunity to enjoy the darkness and beauty it brings.

Annual Meeting and New Member Dinner

The annual New Member Dinner is always a great way to kick off each year, and 2023 was no exception. This year, the event was held in March at the Stone Terrace in Hamilton, NJ. The venue was beautiful, and the new members of NJSWEP were inspiring! We had a great time talking about the organization as part of our Annual Meeting. Then, our new arrivals had an opportunity to introduce themselves to the group and let us get to know them a little bit. We were so excited for new participants to take part in one of many events we had planned for 2023.



Women in Environmental, Construction, and Engineering Professions Panels



2023 included the return of virtual panels focused around Women in Environmental, Construction, and Engineering. This joint series was completed with our partners over at the NJ Licensed Site Remediation Professionals Association, the Brownfield Coalition of the Northeast, and the New York City Brownfield Partnership.

The first panel in February was on Women Environmental Business Owners. The panel was moderated by Gina Daniel of Ramboll (and NJSWEP) and included panelists from the environmental consulting world: Lawra J. Dodge (Excel Environmental Resources, Inc.), Laura Brinkerhoff (WHB), and Maria Coler (Hydrotechnology Consultants, Inc. and member of BCONE's Board); from the legal world: Helen Mauch and Karen Mintzer (Mintzer Mauch PLLC and committee chairs for the NYCBP Redevelopment Roundtable series); and the drilling world: Christine Lamprecht (Land, Air, Water Environmental Services, Inc.). These women business owners, all from the greater NY Metro area, shared their insights on their previous experiences and why they decided to go out on their own; what the W/MBE certification does for their business prospects; what it is like to be the boss; and the decision-making process about when it is time to sell, why, and how.

The next panel in July focused on Strength in Diversity - Supporting Women's Career Progression in the Environmental Sector. Panelists included Sharon McSwieney (GEI Consultants, Inc.), Erin Palko (Integral Consulting Inc.), and Steven Campbell (Montrose Environmental Group). The panel was moderated by Candace Baker of GEI Consultants, and it focused around different ways that each of us are able to support women as they progress through their professional lives. Panelists were able to share their experiences and share effective strategies they've witnessed over the years.

The last panel was in November and centered around a hot topic for all of us: Inflation! Panelists Gemma Geldmacher (Berkadia Commercial Mortgage LLC), Rachel Edwards (The Davis Companies), and Linda Shaw (Knauf Shaw) spoke about how real estate developers combat inflation's effects on their projects and the role of the Inflation Reduction Act in remediation and redevelopment projects. The panel was moderated by Melina Ambrosino of The Cherrytree Group.

Battle of the Bands

2023 brought a new great event to the music and environmental scenes this year: our first Battle of the Bands scholarship fundraiser with BCONE and LSRPA. The event may have been named Battle of the Bands, but the winners of this competition were the scholarship recipients! This inaugural fundraiser event raised over \$20,000 to be split between the organizations' scholarship funds.

It was an event to remember – the music fantastic, the energy of the crowd amazing, and the venue - Martell's Tiki Bar - top notch. We want to give a big THANK YOU to The Flying Pietrucha Brothers, Loud Whisper, Reasonable Doubts, Independent Professional Judgement, Lather Rinse Repeat and Monkey Shoulder for the fantastic show. Though a special congratulations should go out to The Barnflies. This amazing father-son group rocked the house and raised the most money for the scholarship funds through the band donation boxes. Our members' enthusiasm and generosity helped us raise an additional \$1,803 for our scholarship funds.

Something tells us this event will be back next year, so keep an eye out to grab your ticket!

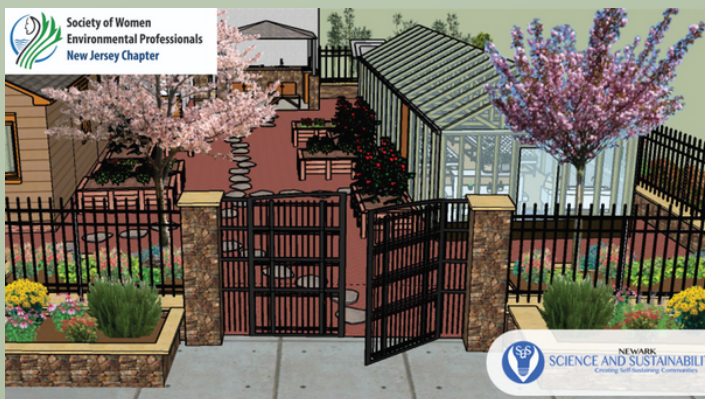


Raritan Watershed Cleanup

Earth Day is always a great opportunity to squeeze in a little activism! This year, NJSWEP participated in a stream cleanup with the Raritan Headwaters Association, making the 33rd annual effort to help clean up this watershed for its many local residents. Volunteers removed all sorts of trash from the stream from bottles to tires, but we definitely enjoyed a chance to work together for a cause.



Guided Garden Tour



In June, NJSWEP took some time to stop and smell the roses during a guided garden tour throughout Newark. From outdoor cultural centers to the largest urban farm in New Jersey to alleyway lot sizes garden gems, Newark Science and Sustainability demonstrated the diversity of Newark's agricultural community and the impact their food producing green spaces have on the community. Proceeds from the event went to support Newark Science and Sustainability.

Trenton Thunder

One of NJSWEP's favorite summer events, the annual Trenton Thunder networking event, took place this July. It was a fun night full of networking, baseball, and fireworks! Plus our members got a chance to hang out with Boomer the Blue Thunderbird and grab a bite to eat with friends.



NJDEP Regulatory Update

On May 11, 2023, NJSWEP held the NJDEP Regulatory Update event in-person at the Department of Environmental Protection Headquarters in Trenton. As in years past, the Brownfields Coalition of the Northeast (BCONE) co-hosted the event.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) implements environmental regulations and policies for the State, which frequently evolve as priorities change. This one-day workshop allowed for our members to be updated on the NJDEP's priorities and plans. In addition, presentations included information on the status of existing programs, updates, stakeholder engagement and proposed legislative changes that are key for successful implementation. NJDEP Assistant Commissioners and their designees from programs including Environmental Justice, Climate Resilience, Environmental Management, Water Resources, Site Remediation, Compliance and Enforcement, and Sustainability and Green Energy presented on current and emerging topics. Our members had the opportunity to ask questions directly to NJDEP staff and network with colleagues. A copy of the slide deck was emailed to all registrants.

Our members represent a diverse group of environmental professionals, and it is vital for us to keep them connected to the regulators and policy makers. NJSWEP and BCONE would like to thank all the presenters and organizers for their time and continued service to our great State!



15th Annual Gala

June each year includes a favorite for NJSWEP, the Annual Gala! 2023's event was held at the Boathouse at Mercer Lake, a beautiful venue perfect to honor our Growing Great Women in the Garden State Award recipient, Meredith Harris. Four scholarship recipients were also celebrated this year, two undergraduates (Danielle Bongiovanni and Bridget McDevitt) and two graduates (Genevieve Ehasz and Kathleen Song). The night was one filled with laughter, networking, and a good time to be had by all!



8th Annual Golf Networking and Fundraising Event

What a year for the Annual Golf for Good event with LSRPA! The event returned to Mercer Oaks Golf Club this year, and a total of \$47,000 was raised to be split between the organizations for their scholarship funds. We sold out all of the golfer slots, had an additional 10 participants in the golf clinic (a new event for 2023), and another 18 registrants attended dinner. There were even more contests this year than years prior, letting members show off who had the Longest Drive, who could make it closest to the pin, and of course a chance to try their hand at getting a Hole in One. We'd like to give a big thank you to our sponsors, our participants, our contest winners, but most of all to everyone who supports NJSWEP to keep these events special. Hope you'll all keep practicing your golf swing to prepare for next year.





Members Only! Cricket Hill Brewing Co.

2023 included the first of a new kind of special event, just members! Attendees of the in-person members only networking event were able to cheers some beers and enjoy appetizers while getting to know others. There was even a brewery tour for those who liked hearing about the science of these tasty beverages!

Sunset Wine & Cheese Eco-Cruise

For those who prefer a glass of wine over a pint of beer, the ever-popular Sunset Wine and Cheese Eco-Cruise with the Hackensack River keeper was back this September. Captains Bill Sheehan and Hugh Carola gave a tour of the Hackensack, which was recently listed as a Superfund site by EPA.



NJSWEP and SWEP of Greater Philadelphia hosted a joint event this fall: the opportunity to network in Philadelphia! There were drinks, food, and all around a great time with our sister organization. Attendees were able to catch up with old friends and make some new ones, all in view of the Ben Franklin Bridge.

Joint Happy Hour with Greater Philly



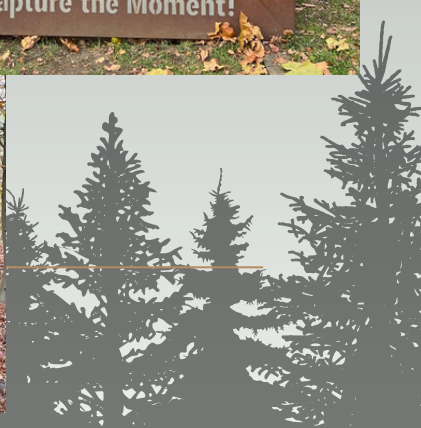
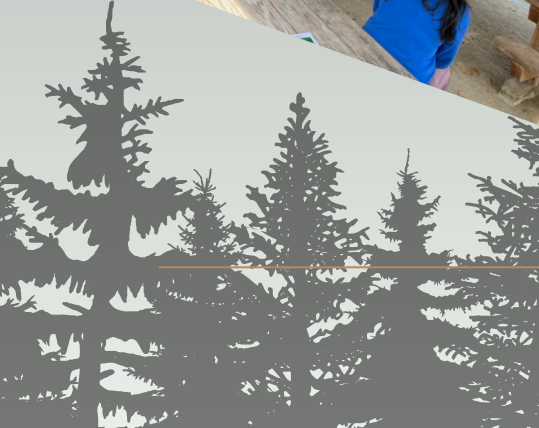
NJSWEP Board: Always Planning

We couldn't pull these events off without our Steering Committee! While we couldn't all get together in person, the October NJSWEP board meeting was a great opportunity to discuss all of the things we have in store this year and onward!



November North and South Hikes

This November, our programs committee planned a fun fall activity for members north and south, with two hikes happening on the very same day! The northern group participated in a guided hike of the Paterson Great Falls National Historic Park. This fun and educational tour was guided by a NPS Park Ranger, covering the geology of the Great Falls, Passaic River ecology, Paterson's history as a first planned industrial city, and information on Paterson's founder, Alexander Hamilton. Meanwhile, our southern members celebrated fall with a guided hike of the Historic Smithville Park. This fun and educational tour led by a Burlington County Park Naturalist covered a 2 mile loop, exploring insights from the trail with nature interpretation and site history. The weather was beautiful, and we all agreed we'll definitely have to do it again!





Happy Holidays!

Well, that's a wrap! Our final event of 2023 was a chance for our members to be celebrate the holidays and donate to a good cause as part of the Annual Holiday Breakfast and Charity Drive. The holiday brunch was held at the Grain House Restaurant at The Americana Kitchen & Bar in East Windsor, NJ, about as central to our members as you can get. This year had a spectacular turnout, and supported the Mama Mare Breast Cancer Foundation. Items were collected to be included in chemo care bags, which are distributed to chemotherapy patients in local hospitals. Thank you to all who donated and to all of our members this year. We are so grateful for each and every one of you, and we look forward to seeing what 2024 will bring!



Meet your Board Members!

The events seen here would not have happened without the help of our Steering Committee! This year we added some new faces and some old faces taking on new roles (indicated by the yellow flowers). If you're interested in getting involved with our great organization, email us at info@njswep.org. We are always looking for volunteers!

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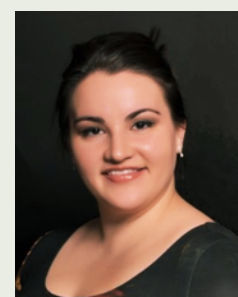
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