



**Society of Women  
Environmental Professionals  
New Jersey Chapter**

## **Newsletter of the New Jersey Chapter of the Society of Women Environmental Professionals**

Welcome to our “new” NJSWEP newsletter! During these unprecedented times, we hope you enjoy reflecting back on 2019 as a reminder of the good things to come once this global pandemic is behind us. NJSWEP’s newsletters have been dormant for several years, but thanks to Rachel Jacobsen (Sr. Project Manager, Dresdner Robin), NJSWEP’s current News Chair, they have been revived! Going forward, we plan to publish the newsletter to our 500+ members approximately twice per year. We hope you’ll use it a resource for all things NJSWEP – event updates, informative articles, announcements, and more.

In this newsletter, you'll find a summary of events and happenings from last year – 2019. For future issues, we’d love to include your news! If you have exciting updates to share, would like to publish an article, or have ideas on other information we could include, we’d love to hear from you. Please contact Rachel Jacobsen (Sr. Project Manager, Dresdner Robin) at [RJacobsen@DresdnerRobin.com](mailto:RJacobsen@DresdnerRobin.com).

Each newsletter will be posted on our website ([www.njswep.org](http://www.njswep.org)) under Resources, as well as our LinkedIn and Facebook accounts. Feel free to share with friends and coworkers!

### **2019 Year in Review**

2019 was an exciting and very busy year for the New Jersey Chapter of the Society of Women Environmental Professionals (NJSWEP)! We hosted a number of networking events, seminars, and, of course, the annual gala, which presents our Growing Great Women in the Garden State Award and scholarships. We also held several NJSWEP MetroNet events in New York City, and partnered with other organizations to co-host events. Here are highlights from 2019.

## **March 21, 2019: Annual Meeting and New Member Welcome Dinner (Pines Manor - Edison, NJ)**

To kick off 2019, NJSWEP held our Annual Meeting and New Member Welcome Dinner at Pines Manor in Edison. Nearly 100 people attended! As always, it was an important event, marked with the election of new leaders to NJSWEP's Board of Directors:

- Nicky Brice (Business Development Manager, Langan) – Chapter Co-Chair (replacing outgoing Chapter Co-Chair Kavitha Subramaniam, Principal/Program Manager, CDM Smith)
- Lyssa Naron (Sr. Environmental Scientist, Ransom) – Treasurer (replacing outgoing Treasurer Nicky Brice, Business Development Manager, Langan)
- Lana Antonetti (Senior Project Manager, Langan) – Membership Committee Co-Chair (joining existing Membership Committee Co-Chair Nicole Jones, Environmental Auditor, PSEG Services Corp.)
- Katelynn Keen (Scientist, Integral) – Co-Secretary (replacing outgoing Co-Secretary Elizabeth Benjamin, Environmental Analyst, General Dynamics Information Technology)

In addition, we welcomed the following incoming Committee Chairs to the Steering Committee:

- Lauren Gelmetti (Technical Account Rep – Soil Logistics, EWMI) – Programs Committee Co-Chair (joining existing Programs Committee Co-Chair Nicole Sullivan, Assistant General Counsel, Environmental, BASF Corp.)
- Melanie Powers-Schanbacher (Principal, Specialty Technical Consultants, Inc. (STC)) – Golf Event Co-Chair
- Elizabeth Benjamin (Environmental Analyst, General Dynamics Information Technology) – News Chair

New members in attendance introduced themselves, we discussed upcoming events, and brainstormed new ideas for future events. A big thanks to Membership Committee Chair, Nicole Jones (Environmental Auditor, PSEG Services Corp.), for organizing the event! Plus, a special thanks to Programs Committee Co-Chair, Nicole Sullivan (Assistant General Counsel, Environmental, BASF Corp.), for stepping in to lead the event when Nicole Jones (Environmental Auditor, PSEG Services Corp.) started her maternity leave.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge additional members who, subsequent to the March 2019 dinner, stepped up to volunteer in leadership roles on NJSWEP's Steering Committee:

- Melissa Dulinski (Project Manager, NJIT) – Social Media Liaison (replacing previous Social Media Liaison Lyssa Naron, Sr. Environmental Scientist, Ransom)
- Kinjal Shah (Project Manager, US Army Corp of Engineers) – Interim Co-Secretary (joining Co-Secretary Katelynn Keen, Scientist, Integral)
- Jeena Sheppard (Project Manager/East Region Safety Manager, GEI) – Golf Event Co-Chair (joining Golf Event Co-Chair Melanie Powers-Schanbacher, Principal, STC)
- Alana Miller (Northeast District Manager, REGENESIS) – MetroNet Committee Co-Chair (joining MetroNet Committee Co-Chair Taylor Hard, Project Manager, NYC Mayor’s Office of Environmental Remediation)
- Rachel Jacobsen (Sr. Project Manager, Dresdner Robin) – News Chair (replacing previous News Chair Elizabeth Benjamin, Environmental Analyst, General Dynamics Information Technology)

## **June 13, 2019: 13th Annual NJSWEP Gala (Cherry Valley Country Club - Skillman, NJ)**

The Annual NJSWEP Gala is a special event where we honor a woman working in the Garden State who inspires us as professionals and future generations of women to become environmental professionals, and to provide scholarships to promising environmentally-focused students.

On June 13, 2019, NJSWEP held the 13th Annual Gala at the Cherry Valley Country Club in Skillman, NJ. We maxed out at 156 attendees (a new record!) and had a wait list! A total of 21 companies sponsored the gala (<https://njswep.org/njswep-gala-sponsors>) – another record! Susan Boyle, Senior Consultant at GEI Consultants and Executive Director of BCONE, LSRPA, and NYCBP, received the Growing Great Women in the Garden State Award for her outstanding achievements and exemplary leadership in the environmental field. Sue has set a high standard for quality and excellence in her profession with her dedication to communicating and sharing her knowledge.

This year’s Gala continued the tradition of not only honoring an amazing woman, who has already accomplished so much, but also recognizing young women with the potential to do so as well. Three impressive students were awarded NJSWEP scholarships (\$3,000 each). The scholarship program serves to encourage women to pursue careers in an environmental field, mentor undergraduate and graduate students who are majoring in environmental and related subjects, and provide students with opportunities to connect with NJSWEP members for future internships and careers in the environmental industry. NJSWEP once again congratulates the 2019 scholarship winners:

- Undergraduate: Samantha Price, Rowan University (pursuing a BS in Civil/Environmental Engineering)

- Undergraduate: Kaitlynn Zack, Centenary University (pursuing an Environmental Science degree)
- Graduate: Tracy Youngster, Rutgers University (pursuing a PhD in Ecology and Evolution)

Our largest annual event, the Gala takes a lot of time and effort to plan and pull off without a hitch. A huge THANK YOU to our Gala Committee, led by Jessie Rosenberg (Project Professional, GEI) and Michelle Martin (Project Engineer, GEI), for another wonderful evening. Also, special thanks to Kate Suell (Associate, McCusker, Anselmi, Rosen & Carvelli, PC), Scholarship Committee Chair, and the entire Scholarship Committee for all their efforts to select the 2019 recipients. Lastly, we appreciate Lily Connell (Project Geologist, Terraphase Engineering, Inc.) and Erin LaVoie (Project Manager, ELM) from the Scholarship Committee for introducing the scholarship winners at the gala and presenting them with their checks. Please enjoy all the gala photos here: <https://njswep.org/2019-njswep-gala-photo-gallery>

## **June 25, 2019: Wetlands Ecological Restoration at Firmenich (Newark, NJ)**

In June 2019, NJSWEP co-hosted a joint event on wetland ecological restoration with the Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals (AHMP) and Firmenich in Newark, NJ. The program included a tour of Firmenich's perfume facility, a talk on wetlands ecological restoration, and networking.

Not only was fragrance in the air, but a delicious Portuguese dinner with specialty pastries was served! Thank you to Stephanie Turkot (Assistant Project Manager, GZA) and AHMP for spearheading this event!



## July 24, 2019: MetroNet Scholarship Fundraiser & Networking Event (Turnmill Bar – New York, NY)

The evening of July 24, 2019 was lovely in New York City; the kind of evening that makes you want to raise a glass and chat with old friends and new in a laid-back atmosphere. That is exactly what the attendees at the scholarship fundraiser and networking event co-hosted by NJSWEP, BCONE (Brownfield Coalition of the Northeast), and NYCBP (New York City Brownfield Partnership) experienced at Turnmill Bar on East 27th Street. Attendees raised over \$3,600 in scholarship funds to be divided equally among the three hosting organizations.



Sponsored by 12 companies involved in all aspects of site revitalization (see sponsors here: <https://nycbrownfieldpartnership.org/event-3363691>), nearly 100 registrants from CT, NJ, NY, and PA enjoyed a private space, adult beverages, and some pub grub at the Turnmill. A mix of attorneys, consultants, laboratory professionals, personnel experts, government employees, students, non-profit professionals, building managers, and soil disposal facilities shared stories, laughs, and business cards. A great time was had by all!

Many thanks to Taylor Hard (Project Manager, NYC Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation), NJSWEP MetroNet Committee Chair, for organizing this fun event!

## August 1, 2019: Trenton Thunder Baseball Game (Arm & Hammer Ballpark – Trenton, NJ)



On August 1, 2019, NJSWEP, AEG-NY-P, AHMP-NJ, BCONE, and LSRPA teamed up for a Trenton Thunder double header at the Arm & Hammer Ballpark on the banks of the Delaware River. At this sold-out event, each of the five organizations was well represented in the Yankee Club Suite, so there was a real opportunity to meet other professionals with whom we may not routinely connect.

Environmental compliance firms, drillers, remediation contractors, law firms, cultural resource consultants, architects, data managers, City of Trenton and State of NJ officials, environmental scientists and engineers, and students were all part of the high-energy group, sharing laughs, beer, and obligatory hot dogs and burgers. Ken Haduch of ERM threw out the first pitch for us and the Thunder's mascot, Boomer,

stopped by to entertain. On the field, we were treated to a no-hitter in the first game for a Trenton win, followed by an Altoona win in the second game. The night was capped off by fireworks.

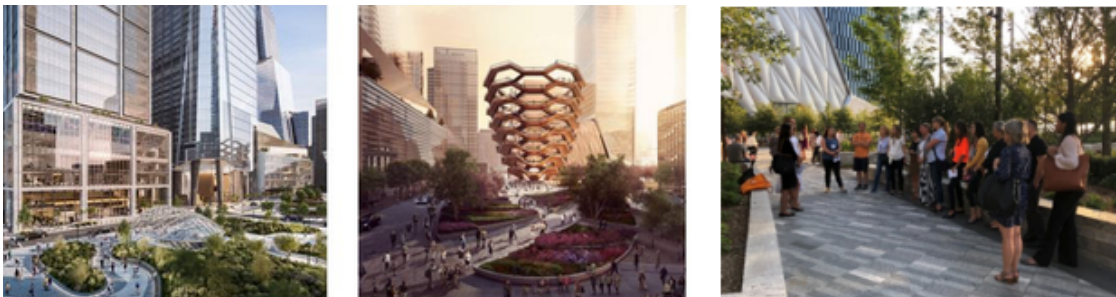
It's no easy task coordinating a sold-out event with multiple groups at a baseball stadium, but Ken Haduch and Sonya Ward from LSRPA, Sue Boyle from BCONE, Rose DeLorenzo from AEG-NY-P, and Joe Galley from AHMP-NJ worked closely with Nicole Sullivan (Assistant General Counsel, Environmental, BASF Corp.) and Stephanie Turkot (Assistant Project Manager, GZA) from NJSWEP and made it happen. Hats off to all and their support teams! Special thanks also to EDR, Highground Industrial, and SGS North America, Inc. for sponsoring this event.

### **August 15, 2019: MetroNet Hudson Yards Development Tour (New York, NY)**



On August 15, 2019, NJSWEP members took a scenic tour of the beautiful new Hudson Yards development on Manhattan’s West Side. The first of its two phases, opened in March 2019, comprises a public green space and eight structures that contain residences, a hotel, office buildings, a mall, and a cultural facility. Guided by Emily Snead and Nicole Kung of Langan, and Taylor Hard of the NYC Mayor’s Office of Environmental Remediation (OER), attendees took an illuminating walk through the massive ongoing and completed construction. The ladies from Langan and OER discussed the incredible engineering and remediation that went into this development, the most expensive private construction project in US history. At the end of the tour, attendees were invited to scale the Vessel, allowing beautiful views of the sunset over New Jersey, followed by drinks and networking.

Yet another creative and inspirational event – thanks to our MetroNet Committee led by Taylor Hard (Project Manager, NYC Mayor’s Office of Environmental Remediation) and Alana Miller (Northeast District Manager, REGENESIS).



## **September 17, 2019: Sunset Wine & Cheese Eco-Cruise with Hackensack Riverkeeper (Laurel Hill County Park – Secaucus, NJ)**

In September 2019, NJSWEP hosted an eco-cruise journey on the Hackensack River on two pontoon boats. The 2 ½ hour tour took us through the marshes of the New Jersey Meadowlands and Sawmill Creek Wildlife Management Area as we sipped on wine and snacked on hors d’oeuvres. The weather was beautiful! We got to see nature’s beauty coupled with environmental history of the river, as very nicely narrated by the Hackensack Riverkeeper Captain Bill





and Captain Hugh.

Having taken a similar tour a few years ago, members Sue Dugas (Sr. Project Manager, BSI) and Nancy van Dyke (Sr. Project Manager, BSI) asked NJSWEP not only if they could bring the event back, but offered to spearhead it! We said YES, of course, and couldn't be happier.



## **September 19, 2019: Golf Par-Tee Social (Anchor Golf – Whippany, NJ)Golf Par-Tee Social**



On September 19, 2019, the Golf Par-Tee Social event provided our members the basic skills of golf while networking with people within the environmental industry at Anchor Golf in Whippany, NJ. The event offered the opportunity to learn the basics of the game, including the types of clubs, key terms, proper swing, and posture. The night consisted of a mini lesson, stall time, and networking with food and refreshments.

Another shout out to Stephanie Turkot (Assistant Project Manager, GZA) for spearheading this casual networking event!

## October 3, 2019: 4th Annual Golf Networking Event (Royce Brook Golf Club – Hillsborough, NJ)



NJSWEP joined LSRPA to host the 4th annual Golf Networking Event on October 3, 2019, held at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough. Blending the environmental industry with a fun day outside, the event strives to take place at a course which has previously undergone remediation or is home to an environmental benefit such as providing valuable habitat for migratory birds and various pollinator species.



Both groups encourage new and lesser experienced golfers, along with those more familiar with the game, to participate on the greens and network with fellow industry golfers. Over 200 participants attended and enjoyed 18 holes of golf, a barbeque lunch, dinner, and prizes. Additionally, a total of 40 sponsors helped to underwrite the event (see sponsors here: <https://njswep.org/event-3502505>) and allow more revenue to go towards scholarships. The event raised over \$37,000 in total for NJSWEP's and LSRPA's scholarship programs! Yet another record!

A huge round of polite, golf-clapping for the Golf Event Committee and Sponsorship Committee, including Melanie Powers-Schanbacher (Principal, STC), Jeena Sheppard Project Manager/East Region Safety Manager, GEI), Laura George (Principal Consultant, Ramboll), and Samantha Carney (Sales Operations Coordinator, Eurofins Eaton Analytical, LLC), for making this such a successful event! Also, a special thanks to Samantha Heddendorf (President, Quatra Management Services, Inc.) for once again organizing the basket raffle – a huge undertaking with over 25 donated gift baskets. The sale of gift basket raffle tickets, mulligans, and hand grenades contributed \$4,390 towards the scholarship funds, and added one more element of fun to the day!

## October 11, 2019: Career Insights: Women Leaders in Industry - Part 1 (Manko Gold Katcher & Fox - Bala Cynwyd, PA)

Together, NJSWEP and SWEP of Greater Philadelphia organized a panel of executive women representing chemical, healthcare, and automotive industries to talk about their careers, how they made an impact in their industries, and challenges they faced in male-dominated roles and work-family balancing.



Panelists were Sheryl Telford (Vice President Environmental Health & Safety & Corporate Responsibility at Chemours), Leslie Waller (Vice President, Head of Chemistry, Energy & Environmental Industry at Messer Americas), Maria Scenna (Chief Operating Officer at Cancer Treatment Centers of America), Dr. Betsy Machy (Professor & Senior Leader Global Quality at Johnson & Johnson), and Christin Cardone McClave (Former Chief People Officer at Cardone Industries).

Attendees received helpful insights on career and leadership development and networked with leaders in the Mid-Atlantic region. Manko Gold Katcher & Fox hosted the event in their Bala Cynwyd, PA law office.

A big THANK YOU to Beth Hyde (Business Development Director, Roux) for coming up with the idea for a Women Leaders in Industry panel, having previously attended a similar panel, and to Nancy van Dyke (Sr. Project Manager, BSI) for helping to coordinate! Special thanks to Manko Gold and Roux Associates for sponsoring this event.

## **October 24, 2019: North American Aggregates Facility Tour (Perth Amboy, NJ)**

### **FACILITY TOUR - NORTH AMERICAN AGGREGATES, PERTH AMBOY, NJ**



NJSWEP hosted a facility tour of North American Aggregates on October 24, 2019. Thirty-five attendees enjoyed a delicious breakfast and a short presentation on the property history and recent development. Registrants then embarked on a 45-minute bus tour of the facility showcasing the fill material delivery and processes at the facility. Thank you to Lauren Gelmetti (Technical Account Rep – Soil Logistics, EWMI), NJSWEP Programs Committee Co-Chair, for cementing this fun, unique, and informative event!

## **November 5, 2019: Networking Lunch (Wood Stack Pizza Kitchen – Pine Brook, NJ)**



The November 5, 2019 Networking Lunch was a pilot event of sorts, with the intent to attract a diverse group of professionals from different backgrounds including environmental consulting, corporate/industry, government, legal, and subcontractor/vendors. Appetizers, salad, pizza, and drinks were provided at Wood

Stack Pizza Kitchen in Pine Brook, NJ with plenty of time to meet and mingle during a casual lunch atmosphere. Turnout was low, but those in attendance welcomed the opportunity to spend quality time getting to know one another better. We learned a few things from this event and hope to make improvements for a similar event in the future.

## **November 21, 2019: 5th Annual Aspiring Professionals Networking Event (Chimney Rock Inn – Flemington, NJ)**



NJSWEP teamed with AEG-NY-P, AHMP, BCONE, and LSRPA in hosting the 5th annual aspiring professionals networking event at Chimney Rock Inn in Flemington, NJ on November 21, 2019. A total of 85 members from the five organizations enjoyed an evening of networking with delicious light fare and refreshments in a private room with a buffet and open bar. The evening included an icebreaker networking bingo game to help young professionals meet and converse with one another. Bingo winners entered their names in a raffle, and each hosting organization awarded a complimentary membership for 2020. Special thanks to NJSWEP Steering Committee member, Melissa Dulinski (Project Manager, NJIT), for taking the lead on coordinating on behalf of NJSWEP! Additional thanks to event sponsors Alpha Analytical, AWT Environmental Services, EDR, and Enviroprobe Service, Inc.



## **December 3, 2019: Annual Holiday Networking Breakfast & Charity Drive (Park Avenue Club – Florham Park, NJ)**



On December 3, 2019, NJSWEP held our Annual Holiday Networking Breakfast & Charity Drive. Over 40 attendees enjoyed a delicious buffet breakfast and great company at the Park Avenue Club in Florham Park. Participants brought STEM gifts to donate to Women Rising, a Hudson County-based organization helping women and their families by providing supportive counseling, crisis intervention, workforce development, job placement, and shelter for victims of domestic violence.

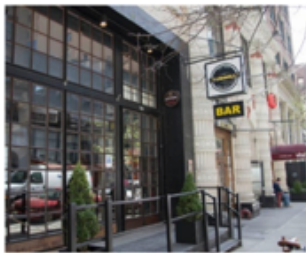
Following the meal and delightful conversation around the tables, Chapter Co-Chair, Nicky Brice (Business Development Manager, Langan), and Programs Committee Co-Chairs, Nicole Sullivan (Assistant General Counsel, Environmental, BASF Corp.) and Lauren Gelmetti (Technical Account Rep – Soil Logistics, EWMI), gave an overview of NJSWEP and upcoming programs.

Our appreciation goes out to Lauren Gelmetti (Technical Account Rep – Soil

Logistics, EWMI), who came up with the idea to donate STEM toys! Women Rising was thrilled.

## **December 11, 2019: MetroNet Joint Holiday Scholarship Fundraiser (Turnmill Bar – New York, NY)**

To close out 2019, NJSWEP's MetroNet co-hosted a joint holiday scholarship fundraiser in NYC on December 11 with BCONE and NYCBP. Attendees enjoyed an evening filled with networking, food, and refreshments at Turnmill Bar. The event raised over \$1,200 for scholarships, which was divided equally between NJSWEP, BCONE, and NYCBP.



Thanks again to Taylor Hard (Project Manager, NYC Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation) and Alana Miller (Northeast District Manager, REGENESIS) for organizing! Thank you also to the generous event sponsors AWT Environmental Services, Cullen and Dykman, Earth Efficient, Integral Consulting, York Analytical Laboratories, and Alpha Analytical.

## **NJSWEP Supports Others**

In 2019, NJSWEP was grateful for the opportunity and ability to sponsor events hosted by others in the industry. NJSWEP has been a longtime supporter of BCONE's annual Northeast Sustainable Communities Workshop (NSCW), including the 10th annual event held on June 4, 2019 at NJIT. We were proud to be a Workshop Partner, and present a focus session titled "Help Us Grow" alongside BCONE, LSRPA, and NYCBP. Chapter Co-Chair Stephanie Turkot (Assistant Project Manager, GZA) served as a panelist on behalf of NJSWEP. Her answer to what makes NJSWEP successful – its members and committee volunteers!

NJSWEP was thrilled to once again be a Silver Sponsor of SWEP of Greater Philadelphia's annual Touchstone Award Reception, a hallmark event that recognizes a woman leader in the environmental field who exemplifies leadership, achievement, and professional development of women in the environmental profession. NJSWEP Board members Nicky Brice (Business Development Manager, Langan) and Katelynn Keen (Scientist, Integral) attended the November 7, 2019 event to represent

NJSWEP, as did NJSWEP member Erin Palko (Sr. Managing Scientist/Regional Director, Integral). The 2019 Touchstones attracted a record number of attendees to the prestigious Downtown Club in Old City Philadelphia with valet parking (especially nice since it was raining that evening!).

Lastly, NJSWEP was delighted to sponsor Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey's 14th Annual Women & Wildlife Awards Celebration at the Piping Plover level. This event, held on November 13, 2019 at Duke Farms in Hillsborough, honored five remarkable women for their valuable contributions to protecting NJ's wildlife. Previous honorees have also won NJSWEP's Growing Great Women in the Garden State Award! Stephanie Turkot (Assistant Project Manager, GZA) and Melanie Powers-Schanbacher (Principal, STC) attended to represent NJSWEP, and had the opportunity to network and put out literature during the event to expand membership within this diverse group. Special thanks to Maggie Wellins of Weeks Marine for bringing this event to our attention – Maggie was the host of our October 24, 2019 NAA facility tour, and is on the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ's Board.