

SWEP Capital Chapter Quarterly Newsletter



Society of Women Environmental Professionals to host its fourth annual "Making Environmental Connections" conference



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The Society of Women Environmental Professionals "Making Environmental Connections" conference is slated for March 5, 2009 from 8:00 am - 3:30 pm at Harrisburg Area Community College's C. Ted Lick Wildwood Conference Center. This is the fourth annual conference of its kind in the Southcentral region.

The daylong conference will include educational panel presentations by top public and private sector professionals on the environmental connections to human health, economics, infrastructure and energy.

Local college and university students will have the unique opportunity to participate in an information exchange with environmental professionals attending the conference. Environmental practitioners from the public and private sectors will share their experiences with students during a special one-on-one career mentoring session.

John Hanger, Acting Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection,

will deliver the luncheon keynote address.

A quick preview of the upcoming conference

Plenary Session

"Making Environmental Connections Through Data"

Speaker: Ruth Forman, Principal, Environmental Standards

AM Sessions

Session 1: Human Health & the Environment "Linking Environmental & Human Health Data"

Panelists: Eliza Gross, Physical Scientist, USGS PA Water Science Center & Jayanth Devasundaran, Epidemiologist, PA Dept. of Health

Session 2: Economics & the Environment "Rebuilding a Sustainable Economy"

Panelists: Cindy Dunn, DCNR Dep. Sec. For Conservation & Technical Services, Dee Kaplan, DCED Dep. Sec. For Business Development and Carolyn Burgess Clifford, PSU Energy Institute

PM Sessions

Session 1: Infrastructure & the Environment "Pennsylvania's Aging Sewage Treatment Plants"

Panelist: Veronica Kasi, PA DEP Bureau of Water Standards & Facility Regulation, Paul Marchetti, Exe. Dir., PENNVEST, Valerie Bresnicki, EPA Region III, and Cindy Hasenjager, Deputy Dir., 3 Rivers Wet Weather

Session 2: Energy & the Environment "Recent Climate Change and Energy Legislation Update"

Panelists: John Quigley, Chief of Staff, DCNR, James Cawley, Chairman, PA Public Utility Commission and Dan Griffiths, DEP, Office of Energy & Technology Development.

To view the full conference agenda and obtain registration materials, please visit our website at www.swepbhgpa.us.



Events at a Glance

- January 2009- Lunch & Learn
- March 2009- 4th annual "Making Environmental Connections" conference

Scholarships to be awarded at "Making Environmental Connections" conference

The Mentoring and Public Services Committee of the Society of Women Environmental Professional (SWEP) will award a total of 3 scholarships in the amounts of \$500 (1st place), \$200 (2nd place) and \$100 (3rd place) to undergraduate or graduate students. The funds must be used to help defray the costs of a senior thesis or undergraduate independent study project that has direct application to a current environmental issue. The project must be independent of any class for credit. To be eli-

gible, students must:

1. Submit an application form by February 20, 2009 to Heidi Biggs hbiggs@state.pa.us
2. Attend the "Making Environmental Connections Annual Conference" on March 5, 2008 at the C. Ted Lick Conference Center of the Harrisburg Area Community College. See website for conference information www.swepbgpa.us

Registration for the conference will be free for students.

For further information, please contact Diane Wilson at diawilson@state.pa.us

SWEP Trivia

Question: What structure was the first "green" laboratory in PA?

Save the date:

March 5, 2009

For the 4th annual "Making Environmental Connections" conference



Member's Corner: Spotlight on Erin Threet

When I was asked to write a 'Member's Corner' article, it took me a long time to figure out what to sit down and write about, especially after looking at the previous versions of this portion of our newsletter. So after long deliberation (and procrastination) I decided to take a cue from Rhonda Manning (see the July 2008 Newsletter) and provide a brief bio of my education and career history.



(both water and wastewater) throughout Pennsylvania. For me, the most rewarding aspect in this line of work is the interaction with clients. I really enjoy going to municipal authority or township meetings to collaborate with the people who represent the community's we do a lot of our work for.

When I'm not at work, I'm usually spending time with my friends and family, including my weekly (girls only) 'supper club'. I also (try to) enjoy running, reading, and cooking as much as possible.

I'll start with my education: I received my Bachelor's Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Bucknell University, which is located in north-central Pennsylvania. While at Bucknell, I had a very involved professor and research advisor who introduced me to the wonderful world of 'water/wastewater'. Through many 'career counseling

conversations' in his office and lab, I decided to go into consulting. After my graduation from Bucknell in May of 2006, I took my 'last summer' off before starting at Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. (HRG) as an engineering Staff Professional that fall.

I am currently a Project Manager in HRG's Water & Energy Service Group. My work includes various design, permitting and planning projects

The SWEP Capital Chapter would like to make "Member's Corner" a reoccurring feature in our newsletter. Please consider submitting a short piece about something that has impacted the path of your personal or professional life.

Member's
Corner



Welcome to Member's Corner - A venue to introduce and share information about your fellow SWEP members!

STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TRAIL – a new idea in Educational Demonstrations - Lyn O'Hare

“What is a BMP?” This question was often heard around the Berks County Conservation District, as the staff started work on a project in the works for several years.

A *Best Management Practice* or **BMP**, is a structural or non-structural device that is installed to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff, by either reduction in volume or increase in water quality.

In 2007, after several years of planning, the Conservation District began construction on the Stormwater Best Management Practices Trail, located at the Berks County Agricultural Center. A grant from PA American Water provided enough funding to retrofit the area with several BMPs, demonstrating infiltration and other runoff reduction controls. Included in this phase were the following structures:

TERRE-KLEEN INLET UNIT

This concrete filter unit replaces a smaller existing stormwater inlet in the field behind the employee parking lot. The unit collects sediments and holds them until the unit is cleaned out, preventing the sediment from entering a waterway.



Installation of the Terre-Kleen Water Quality unit.

POROUS CONCRETE SIDEWALK

Along the side of the building, an existing impervious concrete sidewalk was replaced by porous concrete, with a stone layer underneath to allow for stormwater drainage.

STORMWATER STORAGE MODULE

Though this BMP is normally installed underground, the BCCD created a display to highlight this innovative practice. The module allows for “void space” underneath a parking lot or other area to store infiltrated water.

RAIN GARDEN (BIOFILTRATION)

The rain garden will reduce stormwater runoff to the parking lot.

In 2008, the staff placed additional native plantings into the biofiltration area by the main parking lot. A grant from the PA Association of Conservation Districts provided funding to place educational signs at each of the stations that described the BMP, and its impact on the watershed. Staff has conducted a number of tours for engineers, teachers, students, and developers.



The Rain Garden after the summer 2008 planting.

Also in 2008, the Conservation District received a Growing Greener grant from the

PA Department of Environmental Protection to install even more demonstration BMPs. Currently, the staff is working with an engineering firm to create a Final Design, with construction in summer 2009. The first phase will be our largest part of the project, “The Plaza”, which will replace the damaged concrete in the front walk with Porous Pavers. A retention wall and native plantings will replace the current bank of catonyaster shrubs. The pavers and additional plants will allow rainwater to infiltrate directly into the ground underneath, instead of draining along the impervious concrete to pool in other areas. This system allows some impurities to be filtered through the underlying stone bed and help recharge the groundwater aquifer.

If you are ever in the neighborhood, please stop by and see our work-in-progress! Demonstration tours may be scheduled by contacting Lyn O'Hare at (610)372-4657 x222.

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P.O. Box 11666
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Marriages

Member Erin N. Threet (formerly Depew) and An-



The PA Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) hosted this year's annual Holiday Social on December 19, 2008. The event was attended by both SWEP members and welcomed guests. As in prior holiday socials, SWEP members prepared their favorite desserts to share while meeting and greeting old and new friends.

The event also featured an educational segment as well. Taru Upadhyay, Environmental Labs Division Chief, provided a PowerPoint presentation to the group about the various services performed at the laboratory

thony Threet exchanged vows on November 8, 2008 at St. John's United Church of Christ in Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania. Anthony and Erin both grew up in Mifflinburg where they were high school sweethearts. Following the wedding, the couple honey-

mooned in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Congrats Erin & Anthony!

2008 Holiday Social



for analyzing air, water, soil and a number of environmental materials, including processing mosquitoes for the statewide West Nile Virus control program. Did you know that, in addition to the structural laboratory, there are four Mobile Analytical Units (self contained labs) that can be deployed to remote locations? A tour of the lab followed her presentation.

Another interesting feature about the BOL is that this structure is the first "green" laboratory in Pennsylvania. A "green building" is designed to be environmentally efficient, using less water and electricity and is made of environmentally

friendly and recycled materials. The building is listed as a silver LEED (Leadership Energy Environmental Design) facility.

At the conclusion of the event, a drawing was held to award door prizes, gift baskets and a free membership. The winners of the gift baskets were Heidi Biggs and Amy Bellanca. Guest Eliza Grosz won a free membership for a year! Congratulations ladies!



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES AND MEMBER NEWS SOUGHT

Your input is extremely crucial to a successful and interesting newsletter!

Newsletters will be published each quarter.

- April 2009
- July 2009
- October 2009
- January 2010

Please have articles to committee 2 weeks prior to the beginning of the quarter.



If you are interested in submitting an article about a project you are working on or about a topic you are inter-

ested in, don't be shy, we would love to hear from you!

Also, please send us your news, photographs and announcements to include in upcoming newsletters. Please forward all information to SWEP Newsletter/Website Chair Rhonda Manning at rmanning@state.pa.us.

SWEP Trivia Answer:

DEP's Bureau of Laboratories!



SWEP Society of Women Environmental Professionals

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