



SENTINEL

Newsletter of
The Society of Women
Environmental Professionals of
Greater Philadelphia

NOVEMBER 2004

SWEP PHILADELPHIA ANNOUNCES 2004 TOUCHSTONE AWARD WINNER

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the recipient of the **2004 Touchstone Award, Joanne Dahme**, Watersheds Program Manager, Philadelphia Water Department's Office of Watersheds.

Ms. Dahme has worked selflessly and anonymously to accomplish a multitude of good for the region's environment. Joanne is a civil engineer, a public affairs specialist, and a journalist. She has worked as an engineer at a sewage treatment plant and as the General Manager for Public Affairs for the Philadelphia Water Department. Currently she is combining all of her talents as the Manager of Watersheds Programs for the City's Office of Watersheds.

Her work brings the city and the region closer to its environmental goals, whether through the conversion of vacant lots to sustainable green developments as part of the mayor's NTI program, or through her work with the Philadelphia School District to change asphalt to green space in its "campus parks initiative." She develops site-based environmental curriculum for our schools that considers history of place, sociology, economics, engineering, and ecology.



A prime example of her efforts was her leadership last year towards the creation of the city's first "Clean Streams Team," a crew of 20 men and women dedicated to the physical cleaning of our watersheds. These types of activities and results are because of her leadership and sincere dedication and have even turned some of the City's strongest environmental critics and cynics into partners and believers. In short, Joanne has always found a way to make the impossible possible and inspire others to do so as well.

Outside of the workplace, Ms. Dahme continues her efforts to support communities, people, and the environment. She spearheads the St. Lucy's Leadership Program, where she helps church members to build their leadership skills. She also volunteers as the local liaison between her Roxborough neighbors and the City's agencies.

The SWEP Touchstone Awards recognize and honor outstanding women who have made or are making a significant contribution to the environmental field. Recipients of this award are women who set a standard for quality and excellence in the environmental field. In addition, these women show uncommon professional commitment, leadership and achievement. We, the Board of Directors of SWEP, salute distinguished women professionals from all areas of practice, including government, private industry, and non-profit sectors.

Congratulations Joanne!



SWEP'S SEPTEMBER MEETING IS HOST TO PANEL ON GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

SWEP Greater Philadelphia Chapter's September meeting was host to speakers focused on the evolving role of environmental regulatory issues on today's global marketplace.

Speakers included **Jim Vetter**, Vice President of Environmental Practice with **Marsh USA**, a global risk management and insurance brokerage firm. Mr. Vetter, an expert in environmental risk management and insurance brokerage with 20 years in the field, addressed environmental best practices and global trends related to social responsibility, Sarbanes-Oxley, and risk management.

Mr. Vetter was joined by **Jennifer Murphy** from the **Mid Atlantic Environmental Law Center (MAELC)**, a not-for-profit environmental law firm providing legal services to public interest organizations in environmental matters. Ms. Murphy, who represents both local and national groups in environmental citizen suits under federal environmental statutes, has long had an interest in international efforts to provide public participation and access to justice in environmental matters and has researched the European Union's latest efforts to promote government accountability. Ms. Murphy discussed the new and evolving environmental regulations in the European Union with regards to public participation.

THANK YOU TO OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING SPONSORS

SWEP would like to thank our September Sponsors:

Gollatz, Griffin & Ewing, LLP

Widener University's School of Law

Rutgers University School of Law

The Environmental Law Committee.



SWEP GREATER PHILADELPHIA HOLDS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

SWEP Greater Philadelphia Chapter held its annual business meeting this past June, reporting to the membership on developments and activities during the fiscal year 2004; and also polled the members present on benefits they would like to see.



Changes on the Board. The Board of Director co-chairs for the past two years, Susan Barry and Nancy Yannuzzi, opened the meeting by informing us that because of new jobs and responsibilities, they handing over the reigns as co-chairs. While Susan's new job takes her out of the region, Nancy will stay on the Board and

continue to help with strategy and development. **Sonya Ward will take over as Chair.** Long-time SWEP members know that Sonya is experienced in this role, having served as Chair of the Board Chair and Treasurer for several years. Beth Davison Hyde will continue as Secretary. Kathy Zvarick is the new SWEP Treasurer. New additions to the board include **Amy Donohue-Babiak, Kathy Zvarick, Lara Herzig, and Robin Hoy.** The board also created a new adjunct member role on the board to include student members. **Jennifer Simon** has agreed to fill this role in the coming year, and we are pleased to have her. Continuing to serve this year: **Beth Davison Hyde,**

Darice Ellis, Janet Kole, Janna Lancaster, Ruth Forman, Nancy Yannuzzi, and Catherine Neary.

We encourage our membership to contact the board directly with ideas and recommendations

to continue to improve service to the members. See below for more information on the new committees.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT. One of the Boards' most satisfying accomplishments was the upgrade of our website to include a membership directory, on line registration, and late breaking news and calendar. While still in its shake-down phase, most members agreed that it was much more user-friendly and organized. Other upgrades to be considered include: adding a separate tab for Scholarship Committee News, changing the Touchstone tab to Awards & Scholarships, adding information on how to become a sponsor, job posting section, and a business opportunity message board. New SWEP member **Kim Abbott** and experienced website designer has volunteered to work to improve and update the SWEP website.

OUR FIRST SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED. Also in keeping with our mission statement supporting development in the environmental fields, we awarded our first annual scholarships in 2004. The Scholarship Committee was charged with developing the requirements for applications, and this past April one scholarship for a grad student, the other for an undergraduate rising Junior, \$2K And \$1.5k respectively. The committee received 13 applications from at least 11 different schools and one undergraduate and one graduate scholarship was awarded. A second scholarship will be awarded in 2005 and the Scholarship Committee led by **Sherrerd Steele** and **Brenda Hustis-Gotanda** has posted the request for applications.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE. **Amy Donohue-Babiak** and **Lara Herzig** have agreed to co-chair the Programs Committee, and will be contacting members shortly to plan the upcoming schedule of events. All members are welcome to assist with Program Committee planning and program execution.

TREASURY AND FINANCE. As we grow and become more active, and the need for a steady income grows, we will need to become more organized in our approach to sponsors, and it has been recommended to organize a finance committee. Catherine Neary agreed to co-chair with the Treasurer to organize an approach to sponsorships and budget. Anyone interested in getting involved is more than welcome to contact Catherine at 610-701-3027.

SUCCESSION COMMITTEE. Active members interested in becoming more involved in leadership positions with SWEP can contact Catherine Neary, who is reforming the Succession Committee. This committee will be responsible for making sure we have qualified board members ready to serve, in this day and age where our careers take us global.

POTENTIAL AND NEW MEMBER BREAKFAST

SWEP held a very successful New Member Breakfast on Friday November 4th from 8-9 AM at the offices of AIG. This was a great opportunity to learn more about SWEP and to network in a smaller, more intimate venue, and meet other new members.

Approximately 12 new members attended and learned about SWEP's mission and its various committees. Board members attending were Jana Lancaster, Ruth Forman, and Robin Hoy. Thanks to AIG for sponsoring the breakfast. Watch the SWEP announcements for future events for potential and new members.

RENEW YOUR SWEP MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

You don't want to miss one exciting SWEP event or access to the fabulous new website, so don't forget to pay your membership dues. **Dues for the upcoming year (January through December 2004) are due by March 1, 2005.** Although many

have renewed their memberships, some still have not. If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact Kathy Zvarick (Treasurer) at kzvarick@envstd.com.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: ENERGIZING TO FOSTER A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

SWEP NATIONAL FORUM HELD ON OCT. 20TH AND 21ST

Hundreds of area environmental professionals attended SWEP's national conference at the Westin in Princeton, NJ on October 20 and 21, 2004. A networking reception and dinner was held on Wednesday October 20, 2004. A one-day conference, "Building for the Future: Energizing to Foster a Better Environment" included seminars and panel discussions on: Water Quality, Human Health Effects, Sustainable Energy, Due Diligence, Title V, Brownfields and Greyfields, and Green Remediation.

New Jersey Chapter of SWEP sponsored the event and successfully brought us together to discuss pressing and current issues. Panelist and speakers included Carol Collier, Executive Director of the Delaware River Basin Commission and former recipient of the Greater Philadelphia SWEP Touchstone Award.

Congratulations to NJSWEP for spearheading this successful event!



NEWS FROM THE BOARD

THINGS WE DID TO IMPROVE SWEP GREATER PHILADELPHIA

JULY

Website Refinement. We are working with our vendor to get things on the website fixed. The list of things needing attention seems to be slowly whittled down. Please bring problems to our attention ASAP so we can continue to refine this member tool.

NEW Program. Lara Herzig presented an idea for collaboration of SWEP Philadelphia with the Network of Exelon Women "NEW" on a program. Anyone with interest or contacts should contact Lara at XXX

AUGUST

Succession. The Board is always looking for interested and active members to join the board. Candidates should be active members of SWEP Philadelphia. Anyone interested should contact anyone on the board, or Catherine at Catherine.Neary@WestonSolutions.com

New Adjunct Board Member. Voted on and accepted Jennifer Simon's nomination to the Board as special category member. *Adjunct* board members are active but non-voting unless required to break a tie.

National Forum Sponsorship. We approved \$5k for the National Forum Sponsorship and hope that Philadelphia Chapter members participate in this exciting opportunity to learn new technical issues as well as networking.

SEPTEMBER

Student Membership. As a result in the increase of student members from area schools, the board voted to add a new category of member to include Student Member. With this new category, we hope to advance our mission of promoting leadership, achievement, education, and professional development of area women of all ages and stages of career.

FILLING SOME AWESOME SHOES

As many of you may know, for the past several years, this newsletter has been brought to you through the tireless efforts and talents of **Blair Davis** of Pennsylvania Environmental Council. Blair, while continuing to assist in other newsletter matters, has moved on, and I have volunteered

to step up as Editor, and will be assisted by some creative and tenacious folks.

I think I speak for all of us, and particularly for the board, in thanking Blair for her contributions over the years, bringing us a stylish and informative newsletter every other month.

I ask for your patience while we make this transition, and invite our other talented members to continue to forward your news to me at Catherine.Neary@westonsolutions.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Check the calendar at www.swepweb.com for more events! The "Events" button is located in the top right corner.

November 18, 2004: SWEP Greater Philadelphia will hold its Annual Autumn Reception and Award, The 2004 Touchstone Awards Reception at the Top of the Tower, Bell Atlantic Building, Philadelphia, PA. This years recipient is Joanne Dahme, Philadelphia Water Department. Previous awards have been granted to Marilyn Hewitt, Dr. Ruth Patrick, and Carol Collier. The reception will be held from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM and includes hor d'oeuvres. Beer & wine will be served.

November 20, 2004: Healthy Philadelphia Girl Scout Day. This event will take place Saturday, November 20, 2004, at the Franklin Institute from 8 am to 2:30 pm. Please contact either Lora Werner (215-814-3141; lkw9@cdc.gov) or Gayl Solomon (215-814-5661; solomon.gayl@epa.gov) for further information and to sign up.

December 2004: The SWEP programs committee is planning a seminar/panel discussion on Hurricanes and Global Warming: Cause or Effect. Look for upcoming e-mails and on the website for more information.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND POSTING OPENINGS ON THE SWEP WEBSITE

Visit www.swepweb.com for more employment opportunities, listed under "Member Services." Only active SWEP members with a valid username and password can gain access to this part of the website—another of the benefits of joining SWEP!

Also, any visitor to www.swepweb.com can post a job requirement on the website by clicking

"Post Job Opportunities" under "Resources." All of the required fields must be entered for this information to be saved. Once this information is submitted, the SWEP administrator approves this job posting, and it will be available to all members by clicking on Job Postings under Member Services.

Recent job postings on the web site include:

Pennsylvania Environmental Council - Director of Watershed Programs, Southeast Region
 Stony Brook University – Director of Environmental Health & Safety
 Weston Solutions – Proposal Manager
 Environmental Standards, Inc. – Account Executive – Environmental Consulting Services
 Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc – Environmental/Wetland Scientist
 Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc – Environmental Engineer/Scientist
 Environmental Standards, Inc. – Staff Geoscientist
 Environmental Standards, Inc. – Senior Geoscientist
 ENSR International – Environmental Professionals: 5 to 7 Years Experience
 ENSR International – Senior Project manager – Air Quality
 Roux Associates, Inc. – Entry Level Engineer/Geologist
 Roux Associates, Inc. – Constructed Treatment Wetlands Process Engineer
 Roux Associates, Inc. – Senior Engineer/Scientist

MEMBER NEWS

Deborah Poppel of ENSR International's Langhorne office will be serving as Co-Chair of the Eastern Section Committee of the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals. Deborah can be reached at dpoppel@ensr.com.



Kathy Zvarick (formerly Koerber), with **Environmental Standards, Inc.**, received the "People's Choice" award from the annual Brownfields 2004 Conference for her poster presentation titled: "The Kids are Alright: An Evaluation of Vapor Intrusion at An Elementary School." Ms Zvarick's presentation was selected by conference attendees from among 60 entrants submitted and displayed in the conference's Poster Gallery.

While taking a serious approach to this serious matter, Ms. Zvarick was still able to add some whimsy to the presentation, using child-like graphics of a school building and a school bus appearing to travel down the road.

It is interesting to note that this poster represented one of the first projects in southeastern Pennsylvania to function within the guidelines of the new vapor intrusion screening criteria issued by the PA DEP.

Jennifer Simon, a student at **Rutgers School of Law** - Camden and summer environmental law associate at **Flaster/Greenberg P.C.** in Cherry Hill, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Society of Women Environmental Professionals (SWEP) as an Adjunct Member. Jennifer was also a recipient of the SWEP Greater Philadelphia 2004 Scholarship, awarded in April.



Dana Jackowicz has joined **Property Solutions Inc.** located in Moorestown, New Jersey as an Environmental Scientist. She can be reached at djackowicz@PropertySolutionsInc.com. In addition, Dana has recently married and has changed her professional name to **Dana Jackowicz-McLaughlin**

As editor of the Sentinel, I invite our other talented members to continue to forward your news to me at Catherine.Neary@westonsolutions.com.

SWEP OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES (2004-2005)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sonya Y. Ward, P.G. (Chair)
ENSR International
 215-757-4900, x238, sward@ensr.com

Beth Davison Hyde (Secretary)
Roux Associates, Inc.
 856-423-8800, bhyde@rouxinc.com

Kathy Zvarick (Treasurer)
Environmental Standards, Inc.
 610-935-5577, kzvarick@envstd.com

Amy Donohue-Babiak, Esq.
Gollatz, Griffin & Ewing, P.C.
 215-587-5607; adonohue@ggelaw.com

Darice Ellis
EPA Region III
 215-814-2024, ellis.darice@epa.gov

Ruth Forman, CEAC
Environmental Standards, Inc.
 610-935-5577, rforman@envstd.com

Lara Herzig
PECO Energy/Exelon
 215-841-5572, lara.herzig@exeloncorp.com

Robin A. Hoy, CHMM
Environmental Consultant
 610-397-0596, rhoy@verizon.net

Janet Kole, Esq.
Flaster/Greenberg, P.C.
 856-382-2230, janet.kole@flastergreenberg.com

Janna Lancaster
AIG Environmental
 215-255-6535, janna.Lancaster@aig.com

Catherine Neary
Weston Solutions
 610-701-3027, catherine.neary@westonsolutions.com

Nancy Yannuzzi, CMR, ASCS
Roux Associates, Inc.
 856-423-8800, nyannuzzi@rouxnj.com

ADJUNCT BOARD MEMBER

Jennifer Simon
Rutgers Law Camden; Flaster Greenburg
 jesimon@camden.rutgers.edu

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Jeanne J. Dworetzky, Esq.
PA DEP—Small Business Ombudsman

Brenda Hustis Gotanda, Esq.
Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP

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Mesa Environmental Sciences

L. Sherrerd Steele, P.G.
e Phase, Inc.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Ruth Forman, CEAC
Environmental Standards, Inc.
 610-935-5577, rforman@envstd.com

Janna Lancaster
AIG Environmental
 215-255-6535, janna.Lancaster@aig.com

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Catherine Neary
Weston Solutions
 610-701-3027, catherine.neary@westonsolutions.com

Robin A. Hoy, CHMM
Environmental Consultant
 610-397-0596, rhoy@verizon.net

PROGRAMS/PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

Amy Donohue-Babiak, Esq.
Gollatz, Griffin & Ewing, P.C.
 215-587-5607; adonohue@ggelaw.com

Lara Herzig
PECO Energy/Exelon
 215-841-5572, lara.herzig@exeloncorp.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Catherine Neary
Weston Solutions
 610-701-3027, catherine.neary@westonsolutions.com

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Brenda Hustis Gotanda, Esq.
Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP
 610-660-5700, bgotanda@mgkflaw.com

L. Sherrerd Steele, P.G.
e Phase, Inc.
 610-692-7000, ssteele@ephas.com

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

Kim Abbott
U.S. EPA Region III
 215-814-5751, kabbott@yahoo.com