

Society of Women Environmental Professionals  
Greater Philadelphia Chapter

# Newsletter

MARCH 2021



## INTRODUCING SWEP GP's 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Muhammad Ali once said, "The service you do for others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth." For many organizations, the turning of the calendar also coincides with the transition of outgoing board members to new individuals willing to join an organization and dedicate countless hours of their own personal time, to a cause that they feel is worthy and benefits society.

SWEP GP is no different and with the turning of the calendar, we say Thank You to these two ladies who have contributed so much to our organization, Beth Brandt and Amy Corr.

Beth has served as Co-Chair for the organization and has also contributed to the Website/Newsletter/Social Media, Touchstone, and Scholarship and Grants committees.

Amy has served for the past few years as our Membership Committee Chair and has greatly improved our membership tracking and also provided a warm welcome to our new and returning members.

We thank you for "paying your rent" through our organization.

For SWEP GP, we have the honor to introduce to our members our new slate of offices and Committee Chairs, beginning in 2021:

### Executive Committee:

- Rebecca Buchanan, Chair
- Kristin Weiler, Co-Chair
- Victoria Bisbing, Treasurer
- Jennifer Poole, Co-Treasurer
- Jessica Stearns, Secretary
- Yolanda Pagano, Co-Secretary

### Board of Directors:

- Katie Eberhardt
- Andrea DeCola
- Ann Smith (Membership Committee Chair)
- Jennifer Waters (Scholarship & Grants Committee Chair)
- Erin Rodgers (Social Programs and Touchstone Committees Chair)
- Ammie Martin (Technical Programs Committee Chair and Website/PR/Social Media Committee Co-Chair)



## SWEP GP CELEBRATED BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SWEP GP and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee are hard at work ensuring all women and those who identify as women feel welcome and included. While we continue to iron out the details for upcoming events and campaigns, we welcome you to look at some of the ways we celebrated, and you can continue to celebrate Black History Month (even long after February is over):

- Celebrate some of the many impressive Black women of the Philadelphia region such as **Crystal Bird Fauset**, the first Black woman to win a seat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and **Lisa P. Jackson**, the first Black scientist to head the USEPA.
- Read a book by a Black author such as “*Sula*” by Toni Morrison or “*On Beauty*” by Zadie Smith
- Support local Black farmers through “Urban Creators” (<https://urbancreators.org>)
- Attend a webinar such as
  - “Black Women, Green Future: Environmental Justice & the New Political Landscape” (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/black-women-green-future-enviro-justice-the-new-political-landscape-tickets-141373687505>) or
  - Why Black History (Month) Matters ([https://www.eventbrite.com/e/why-black-history-month-matters-tickets-140951348277?aff=ebdssbeditorialcollection&keep\\_tld=1](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/why-black-history-month-matters-tickets-140951348277?aff=ebdssbeditorialcollection&keep_tld=1))
- Patron a Black owned local business such as “Dolly’s Boutique” which caters to working women and supports women reentering society from homelessness or incarceration (<https://dollys-boutique.com>)
- View a documentary that explores Black history and culture in America such as
  - *Freedom Riders* (<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/freedomriders/>) or

- *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross* (<https://www.pbs.org/show/african-americans-many-rivers-cross/>)

~ Article Contributor: Jennifer Poole, SWEP GP Co-Treasurer

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## MEMBERSHIP

There is still time to renew your SWEP GP membership for the 2021 calendar year, or it is an exciting time to become a new SWEP GP member, in order to participate in member-only and member-discounted programming.

SWEP GP memberships allow for the opportunity to network with industry peers and participate in educational, professional, social, and community outreach events. Additional SWEP GP membership benefits include online access to our membership directory, ability to post job opportunities on SWEP GP's website, and free or discounted registration rates for SWEP GP events.

SWEP GP memberships are for the calendar year and several memberships types are available: Individual membership, reduced rate student/academia/government personnel membership, and corporate memberships that allow all registered employees the benefits of a SWEP GP Membership. In addition, we have joint membership opportunities with NJ SWEP, which allow members to participate with both organizations. More information can be found on our [SWEP GP Membership](#) page.

SWEP GP membership dues are an essential piece of our annual budget and allow our organization to continue with SWEP GP's overall mission. They cover our annual operating expenses and partially fund our membership events and scholarship and grants and community outreach programs.

We thank you for your membership for 2021 and continued support of SWEP GP. If you have any membership questions or want to learn more about SWEP membership, please contact our membership chair, Ann Smith at [membership@swepweb.com](mailto:membership@swepweb.com).

~ Article Contributor: Amy Corr - SWEP GP Membership Committee Volunteer

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## 2021 MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

2021 has started off in the same virtual world as 2020 but SWEP GP is not letting that hold us back. Our yearly member appreciation event is one that we treasure and value and like everything else over the last year, we had to reimagine what this event would be.

On Thursday, February 25, Heather Hall of Discover with Heather joined SWEP GP for a virtual event titled *Resilient and Rising Strong*. Heather led the group in a discussion and posed questions for reflection such as what inspired us to pursue our careers in the environmental field and our connection to the environment. There was a recurring theme with the group that early childhood interactions in nature, and in particular time spent near water – swimming at the beach, fishing at a lake, boating on the bay, or hiking to a waterfall, played an instrumental part in our collective love of the environment. Additionally, many attendees credit an educator in their early childhood education as instilling a love of science and learning. Heather also posed reflection questions on habits that help us to stay rooted and connected and promote our overall wellness. Attendees shared fitness routines, training for half marathons, reading before bed, and gratitude journals as positive habits that promote balance and overall wellness.

As we continue to navigate today's challenges, both at work and at home, we encourage all our members to think of routines or habits that help you to stay grounded and in the present moment. Taking time to breathe, take a short walk, or cuddle a pet can lead to reduced stress levels and higher levels of focus. SWEP GP would like to thank Heather for her time to be with us. And to our members, we hope that you can take one thing we discussed into your daily lives.

*~ Article Contributor: Erin Rodgers; SWEP GP Social Programs and Touchstone Committees Chair*



## **2020 SWEP GP TOUCHSTONE AWARDS – A VIRTUAL WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE...**

SWEP GP proceeded with planning our 2020 Touchstones as a Virtual event. Our Scholarship & Grants Committee finished their 2020 selections as well and were given an increased budget this year to allow for more awards. Be on the lookout over the next couple of weeks for our series of e-blasts, video clips, and a full video compilation of this Virtual Ceremony.

~ Article Contributor: Erin Rodgers; SWEP GP Social Programs and Touchstone Committees Chair

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## SWEP GP ANNOUNCES THE 2021 SWEP GP SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

SWEP GP is pleased to announce that our 2021 Scholarship and Grant Applications are now available! Each year, SWEP is proud to present graduate scholarships to outstanding women studying to pursue environmental careers and grants to help fund organizations, programs or projects that creatively address a locally defined need to create, enhance, restore, or protect the natural environment.

To apply for a scholarship or grant or to learn more about SWEP's scholarship and grant program, visit <https://swepweb.com/page-1680619>.

The SWEP 2021 Scholarship Application can be accessed directly at: <https://forms.gle/mEkMQVk3To5hWkm89>

The SWEP 2021 Grant Application can be accessed directly at: <https://forms.gle/qKvLuF78YERKchSXA>

~ Article Contributor: Jennifer Waters; SWEP GP Scholarship & Grants Committee Chair

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## TECHNICAL UPDATE: PADEP LAUNCHES NEW EPERMIT FOR CHAPTER 102/NPDES PROGRAM

On January 25, 2021, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) launched another update to their electronic permit (ePermit) system by allowing for the submission of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Construction Activities under the Commonwealth's Chapter 102 (erosion and sediment control) regulations and federal NPDES program. PADEP hosted a series of live webinars to review critical steps for filing an ePermit application, required fields permittee/applicant identification requirements between permittees and consultants, how to register for an ePermit login, and other technical nuances of the system.

Information on how to file under the ePermit system can be found at [PADEP's ePermit website](#), along with the EFA (applicant) User Guide and guidance for consultants. Video links to the January webinars are also available. PADEP recommends reviewing submittal preferences and the potential request for paper copies with the individual County Conservation Districts prior to submittal, to address any of their specific requirements and fees.



## UPCOMING SOCIAL AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

While we remain hopeful that we will be able to gather in person later this year, the Social and Technical Programs Committees have been hard at work planning engaging virtual and in-person events for 2021.

In addition to the Member Appreciation Event in late February, the Social Programs Committee has already hosted two book club meetings and has plans to continue throughout 2021. The next book will tentatively focus on Environmental Justice, a hot topic recently. We also have the upcoming Board & Brush (virtual) Networking Event in early March, are planning a virtual trivia night for April, and are looking to restart our networking lunches.

The Technical Programs Committee is already planning to host our Third Annual RCRA Seminar.

While we were hopeful this would be an in-person event, due to the timing and coordination involved, we will be using a virtual format for this event again this year. We are currently seeking suggestions for speakers or topics for this event. In addition, we are looking into several lunch and learn topics to host virtually throughout the course of the year.

Please stay tuned for further information on these events!


And lastly, if you have ideas for future social or technical programs or virtual events that would you like to see added to our agenda, please reach out to Erin Rodgers and Ammie Martin at [programs@swepweb.com](mailto:programs@swepweb.com). And as always, if you are interested in volunteering or would like to help to plan an event, we would love to have you!

~ Article Contributors: Erin Rodgers; SWEP GP Social Programs and Touchstone Committees Chair and Ammie Martin, SWEP GP Technical Programs Committee Chair and Website/PR/Social Media Committee Co-Chair

*refund registration fees – if you are unable to attend, you may either send a colleague/peer in your spot or your registration will be donated to our Scholarship Fund.*

## WOMEN IN INDUSTRY: A PANEL DISCUSSION

120  
7:00 PM

Add to my calendar 



## IN THE KNOW – DON'T MISS OUT

Did you know our events registration offers an option to add a calendar invite? You can select from different options including Outlook, Apple and Google... Be sure to Save Your Date when you register for our 2021 events!

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### **Our mailing address is:**

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