



NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS ISSUE

GREETING

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

EVENT RECAPS

MEMBER SURVEY

HOLIDAY GREETING

Meet our Membership Chair: Meredith Welle

Happy Holidays, and welcome to the final SWEP Three Rivers newsletter for 2022. It is hard to believe that 2022 is coming to a close, and we are moving into 2023. As we are putting the final touches on the 4th quarter newsletter, everyone is deep in the hustle and bustle of preparing for the impending holiday season. It is an exciting time of year for all ages: kids are anxiously awaiting the magic of the season, while parents are highly anticipating the finale of shopping and the seemingly endless school winter break. In all seriousness, the "ringing in" of a new year always brings about a sense of change, and a feeling of a fresh start. This is an exciting opportunity for us in both our personal and professional lives to start anew.

A new year is a perfect opportunity to take a pause in our daily routine to do some goal setting for the coming year. Earlier this month, the SWEP Board of Directors had a planning session for the upcoming 2023 year. This was an excellent opportunity for us to reflect back on the past year, both the good and the bad, and set our sights on the direction we want SWEP to go in the coming year. We have some exciting events and opportunities planned for our members in 2023, and we cannot wait to share them with you all.

Personally, and professionally, I tend to reflect back on the year and take stock of my goals for the upcoming year. Part of this effort is

assessing my involvement in professional organizations, and what I can do to make a bigger impact on the environmental professional community. If you are like me and are taking stock of your involvement in professional organizations, consider joining or being more involved in a SWEP committee. The committees are really what make SWEP successful because they provide an outlet for members to apply their technical expertise and passions. Information on our committees can be found on our website [here](#).

As the chair for the Membership committee, I will make a shameless plug to consider joining the membership committee. We cannot continue to grow as an organization, without having motivated committee members to make our collaborative outreach efforts possible. If you are interested in joining SWEP, or a SWEP committee, please feel free to reach out for more information to us.

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!



Best Wishes...

SWEP Membership Chair, Meredith Welle

Sponsorship Highlight



engineers | scientists | innovators

As a specialized consulting and engineering firm, Geosyntec has worked with private and public sector clients over the last several decades on a range of complex environmental issues, many of which relate to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) concepts. We have witnessed the evolution of these concepts from corporate social responsibility to sustainable development to modern day ESG approaches. Today, investors and consumers increasingly demand companies improve their operations as measured against ESG standards using quantifiable and measurable factors to evaluate sustainability practices, identify risks, and provide non-financial performance data.

Geosyntec helps our clients identify ways to embed ESG and sustainability goals into their business operations so they can realize new value in the way they deliver their core products and services. We do this through a number of related services, including greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, carbon reduction strategy support, life cycle assessment, and sustainability program development and reporting. Purposeful ESG and sustainability programs demonstrate to stakeholders a company's commitment to operate responsibly in everything they do. Additionally, the evolving regulatory landscape presents new challenges and opportunities for companies in clean energy and decarbonization.

Companies are facing numerous climate, regulatory, social, and financial pressures to demonstrate progress toward sustainability goals. We recognize that each company is unique and faces a different subset of these challenges. We work with a range of clients at different stages in their sustainability journey—whether they're conducting a materiality assessment of developing strategies to reach net zero carbon emissions. Our team of nearly 1,900 employees worldwide including engineers, geologists, scientists, and other technical and project staff located in more than 90 offices are highly motivated to create innovative and socially responsible solutions for our clients in this rapidly changing environment.

Geosyntec has been a strong supporter of the SWEP Three Rivers Chapter since its inception and is proud to be this year's Diamond Sponsor. The mission of SWEP aligns well with our Women's Mentoring and Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity programs, which are integral to our success as a company. We look forward to a continued relationship with SWEP Three Rivers and to continued opportunity to get to better know its members and fellow supporters. Connect with us via our [website](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

Sponsorship Highlight



"Our company's story began back in 1888 in the Netherlands. We started out developing unusable land into places for people to live and establish communities. Our name comes from the ancient Greek 'Arcadia,' a mythical utopia in which people live in harmony with nature. And our logo's icon is the fire salamander, an animal that thrives only in a well-balanced ecosystem.

-Peter Oosterveer
Arcadis CEO

Arcadis puts people and planet at the heart of everything we do, from fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce where every Arcadian can feel proud to be themselves at work, to our recent commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2035. At Arcadis we specialize in developing solutions that ensure we all become more Fit-for-Future.

Maximizing our impact

Rapid urbanization, climate change and societal expectations are reshaping how we live and work. We harness the power of technology and data to optimize resources, protect the environment, transport people and goods, and plan places where people can thrive.

Our differentiator is our wide range of expertise. Having 27,000 people in more than 70 countries allows us to combine global experience with local insights, leading to innovations that improve quality of life across communities. We offer a unique combination of capabilities to manage entire asset lifecycles; provide deep market sector insights; and seamlessly integrate health and safety, sustainability, and digital components into designed solutions.

Leading the change

We are in the midst of a global transformation that will strengthen our abilities to innovate around megatrends, unforeseen events and our commitment to net zero operations by 2035. Shifting to three global business areas, Resilience, Places, and Mobility, will ensure solutions maximize benefits for not only clients but the world at large.

Partnerships with organizations like the SWEP Three Rivers Chapter are integral to our mission. Working together to bring more women and other diverse talent to our field strengthens all our abilities to make sustainable change. We actively support equality, diversity, and inclusion workstreams focused on age, disability, faith, gender, LGBTIQ+ and race, because fostering an inclusive workforce benefits our people and our company.

Sponsorship Highlight



Regional news

On the local front, Arcadis is excited to share our most recent news of our new office location in the Waterfront Corporate Park and share a message with you about Arcadis from **Aleksandra Dimova**, one of our new hires in 2022. Our office is still in the Wexford area. This location continues to position our resources with abilities to better serve our clients.

Our new address is 2100 Georgetown Drive, Suite 402, Sewickley, PA 15143.



Aleksandra Dimova
Water Engineer

“Arcadis is a very unique place to work, because it provided me with the opportunity to develop my career, acquire new skills, have supportive environment for new ideas, and it has given me the chance to work on industry defining projects. One of the things I like the most is that there are endless mentorship opportunities that support the younger professionals like myself, which gives us the ability to self-direct our career and work on projects we enjoy. In the future, I am eager to further develop my skills by getting involved in professional committees such as SWEP, through the wide range of opportunities presented by our company.”

For more on our projects, thought leadership and service capabilities, visit our [website](#) or connect with us on social media.



Event Recap

ALCOSAN Open House

On a beautiful sunny September Saturday, the SWEP 3 Rivers Public Service Committee participated in our 5th consecutive ALCOSAN Open House since the chapter started. The ALCOSAN Open House is a Pittsburgh tradition that dates back over 20 years to give the public a sneak peek at how the wastewater plant operates, a glimpse of different engineering and environmental programs going on across the region and provides hands on learning and extra credit opportunities for students.

With the ALCOSAN site under construction the Open House changed things up a little to allow for a compact but exciting event for the community. Our public service committee and board members put together a demonstration of Non-Newtonian fluids, i.e., an **Oobleck-slime** experiment. In this event participants can play with the Oobleck putting pressure on it; punching it, then gently push a finger into it. Oobleck is a suspension, or a substance that can mimic the qualities of a solid or a liquid. These materials are also classified as non-Newtonian fluids. A Newtonian fluid has a constant viscosity, such as water or gasoline. As you might guess, the viscosity of a non-Newtonian liquid changes. Other non-Newtonian examples include silly putty and ketchup!

Check out more about ALCOSAN at www.alcosan.org.



Event Recap

Annual Charity Event

SWEP Three Rives hosted its annual happy hour and networking event to benefit **Dress for Success Pittsburgh** at Mindful Brewing Company on July 21st. This was our third networking event with Dress for Success and much like the first networking event in 2019 was a great success with 47 people attending and some gorgeous weather (and rain) for the indoor and outdoor activities.

Attendees were encouraged to bring donations such as accessories, much needed toiletries, and gift cards. Towards the end of the evening SWEP raffled off gift baskets which garnered an addition \$850 for Dress for Success on top of the donations and the ticket sales, which made the total financial donation \$2,200!

Dress for Success is a non-profit with the mission of empowering women to achieve independence by providing a network of support, professional attire, and developmental tools to help women thrive in both work and life.

A big thank you to the following for providing wonderful gift baskets :

Tetrattech
 Collective Efforts
 John Place, Inc.
 Brown and Caldwell
 AD Marble
 EKS Solutions LLC
 Ms Consultants
 JMT
 Moody
 Alcosan
 EPD



If you're still interested in making donations, Dress for Success Wish Lists available here:

[Allegheny County Wish List](#)

[Washington County Wish List](#)



Event Recap



Composting How-To ft. Pennsylvania Resources Council

On September 13th 2022 SWEP Three Rivers programs committee hosted the first ever composting how-to event featuring Emily Stein from [Pennsylvania Resources Council \(PRC\)](#) at the ALCOSAN customer service and training center. Emily brought a great deal of knowledge around the world of composting and how to better serve your own individual needs when it comes to composting at home. PRC has been facilitating Conservation Workshops since 2000 with over 30,000 participants. These workshops teach the general-public and small non-profit groups the importance of backyard and worm Composting, watershed awareness, rain barrels, green cleaning, and more. SWEP considered PRC the perfect partner to have an intimate limited registration workshop with. We had light refreshments and kept the content educational but very casual. If you are someone who doesn't like huge crowds, loves to learn and have an open forum, this was the workshop to be at.

We were taught what to do with our kitchen, garden, and yard scraps. Emily even incorporated how we could use a beer in the composting process! We found ways to create and utilize natural, home-made compost for our lawns and garden. If you were looking to expand recycling and sustainability efforts to include kitchen scraps and yard debris to turn your yard waste and food scraps into a valuable resource for your garden than this was the workshop for you. This workshop thoroughly covered the importance and benefits of composting, the process, setting up a compost pile, proper maintenance, and ways of using finished compost. Participants had the option to purchase their own EARTH compost bin with attendance. This bin was ideal for urban and suburban areas and has an 82-gallon capacity, a great starter for a novice composter.

Keep your eyes open for future events with Emily at PRC partnering with SWEP Three Rivers Chapter.

If you have any questions around composting or would like to get more information on any of the programs PRC has available, you can contact Emily directly at: emilys@prc.org





Panel Discussion with the PA DEP

On October 19th, 2022 the SWEF Three Rivers programs committee hosted the largest in person event since 2020 with the PADEP "conversation with" held at the Sheraton in Station Square. We feel fortunate to add some normalcy back to our events by hosting this in person where our members and guests could interact with one another again outside of their computer screens! Our turnout was fantastic with over 50 members and guests joining us for this important conversation with Q&A session. We had exciting guests who were able to help us explore several different segments of PADEP and the undertakings that their daily roles are involved in with the preservation and sustainability of our environment being their top priority.

Our panel guests included the following experts in their field:

- Air Quality: District Supervisor Anna Hensel and Environmental Compliance Specialist Kristin Goddard
- Clean Water: Environmental Engineer Manager in the Sewage and Planning Section Mahbuba Iasmin, Ph.D., P.E.
- Safe Drinking Water: Program Manager Renee Diehl
- Waste Management: Program Manager Sharon Svitek
- Lauren Farley, Community Relations Coordinator for the Department of Environmental Protection in the Southwest Regional Office.





Panel Discussion with the PA DEP cont'd

The conversation was dynamic with a lot of activity from the audience. The questions ranged from basic to complex with the experience level varying from our audience. For future events, if you have any feedback or suggestions on guests you'd like to have speak, please contact Christina Casanova of the programs committee (Christina.Casanova@fieldingenv.com).

A special thanks to our event sponsors, without your support, events like this wouldn't be possible!

- CEC; Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc
- Alcosan
- Cosmos Technologies
- Markosky
- Fielding Environmental
- ES; Enviroscience
- Alpha Analytical





Relax, Reconnect & Rejuvenate at Camp Soles

Located in the Laurel Highlands of southwestern Pennsylvania, Camp Soles' 200+ acre facility is recognized by many as one of the most beautiful camps in North America, inclusive of Triss Lake, hiking trails, cabins, recreation center and food hall.

In October, SWEP campers attended camp for a weekend getaway. The first night included a campfire with mountain pies, s'mores, wine and mentorship. On Saturday, campers had the opportunity to canoe, rock climb, craft, hike and socialize with fellow SWEP members. In the afternoon, campers participated in a lakeside yoga class taught by Meagan Chase of Prana-Veda Wellness Studio. The Camp Soles' chef treated us to delicious meals such as soups, burritos, soups, pasta, salads and more. Our final night around the campfire provided perfect conditions for stargazing - many campers witnessed shooting stars, planets and other sights!

Our inaugural Camp Soles Trip was a great success and we are excited to plan our next one for **September 2023**.

Reach out to us if you would like to get on the attendee list for 2023 as space is limited.



Holiday Card



Click the image above or [this link](#) to view our video card and hear all about our year!

**We look forward to
making more memories
in 2023!**



Membership Survey

We want to hear from you!

As another year comes to a close, we need your input to continue to offer useful benefits and events to our membership in the new year!

Please take just a few minutes to complete this quick Membership Survey:

[Click here to take the survey today!](https://forms.gle/pgy5ocdbY8h2t6hz7)



[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/PGY5OCDBY8H2T6HZ7](https://forms.gle/pgy5ocdbY8h2t6hz7)



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Donations in 2022



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