
WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2019 | WEAT SOUTHEAST SECTION



Water Environment
Association of Texas





President's Message

Connie Curtis

I am honored and excited to be serving as your WEAT Southeast Section President, replacing the impactful leadership of Past President Kristin O'Neill. Awarded WEAT's 2019 Young Engineer of the Year, Kristin has left an impressive mark on the organization, doubling the section's membership and leading us to a prime opportunity to provide education and value to the local water and wastewater industry.

As I think about our goals and direction for this year, my vision centers around two key focus areas:

- 1) Establish **standard operating procedures** in our approach to networking, educating, and providing value:
 - a. Plan events with colleagues from cities and municipal entities
 - b. Provide value through education and training
 - c. Host membership drives
 - d. Increase access to resources

- 2) Raise funding for our **scholarship program** through section meetings and events
 - a. Did you know WEAT has a scholarship? We do! And we'd like to fund it more and provide more opportunities for our members and their children to have access to higher education.

In fact, we've already gotten off to a great start touring Baytown's WWTP in March and learning about water quality management at the Houston Zoo during May's section meeting. We still have the Clay Shoot, Water for People, and many other events planned for the year, so be on the lookout for details coming soon and be sure to sign up!

With all the fun events we have planned, I'm grateful to be working alongside a talented team of board members and volunteers. Our group takes pride in knowing your membership needs are met, so I encourage you to reach out to any one of us if there's anything we can do to improve your experience. I look forward to getting to know you and bringing continued energy and value to the section.

Thank you,
Connie Curtis



2019

Young Engineer of the Year for WEAT

Kristin O'Neill

Houston Engineers Week was February 17-23, 2019, and we are proud to celebrate our recipient of the award, our current President, Kristin O'Neill.

We wanted to share Kristin's write-up as part of the press for Houston Engineers Week:



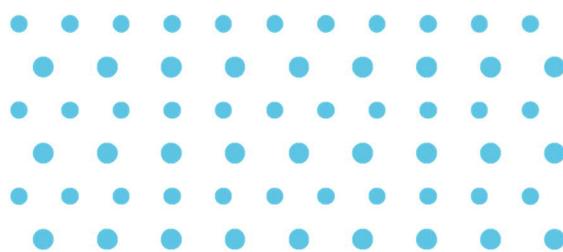
**2019 Young Engineer of the Year for WEAT
2019 Emerging Leader Award Winner**

Kristin O'Neill is a Water/Wastewater Process Engineer and Senior Project Manager at Stantec Consulting, Inc. with approximately 8 years of experience. She is a professional civil engineer in Texas and has worked on a variety of projects in drinking water treatment, wastewater treatment, biosolids, and collection systems. Kristin has a B.S. and M.S. in environmental engineering from Drexel University in her hometown of Philadelphia, PA.

Kristin is the President of the southeast section of the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT). She has worked with WEAT team and the City of Houston to double the section's membership this year. During her time with WEAT, Kristin has served in several different leadership positions and has worked on WEAT event committees. Kristin is also serving on the 2019 Texas Water Conference planning committee. In her free time, Kristin likes to camp, hike, bake, and hang out with her friends.

Congratulations, Kristin, from your WEAT Southeast Executive Officers, Committee Chairs, Event Chairs, and all of your local Members. We are proud of all your achievements and we thank you for your time, effort, and dedication to our Section!

Past WEAT State Events



Texas Water April 2-5, 2019
George R. Brown Convention Center
Houston, TX



Texas Water is the largest regional water industry conference in the United States, with more than 630 exhibit booths and technical sessions spanning 4 days. The exhibit floor provides the attendee with the latest in treatment technology and a tour of the major manufacturers and representatives, design consulting firms, and regulatory entities and nonprofits from the Texas water/wastewater quality market.

In addition to the packed exhibit floor and top quality technical sessions, Texas Water also hosts Operations Challenge. The annual competition event that pits some of Texas' best operations specialists in a head-to-head competition of simulated real-world events. The event was a huge success!

The website for Texas Water is www.txwater.org

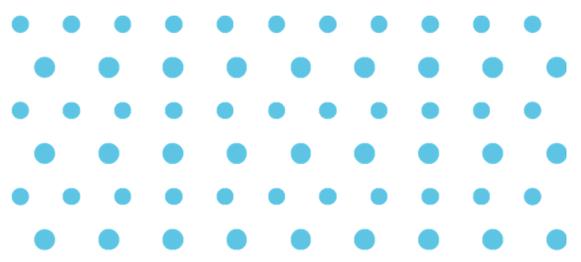
Past SE-WEAT Section Events

February 14, 2019, was the Half-Day Seminar, jointly presented by Southeast Chapter of WEAT and Texas AWWA. All of the funds raised by the Half-Day Seminar were for the Scholarship Fund. Presentations were made by:

- **Mayor Joe Zimmerman**, City of Sugar Land: *Integrated Water Resource Plan (Opening Address)*
- **Brian Butscher**, City of Sugar Land: *Using the Right Water for the Right Purpose*
- **Alondra Hernandez & Ryan Prillman**, City of Houston: *Water Education and Outreach*
- **Tim Finley, Kristin Matter, & Taylor Clark, The Dow Chemical Company**: *Design, Commissioning, and Operation of a 25 MGD Industrial pUF Membrane Plant*
- **Robert Upton, City of Pearland & Samantha Greivell, KIT Professionals**: *Preparing for 'Texas-Sized' Growth — Development of a Resilient Water Infrastructure Master Plan*
- **Julie Nahrgang**, WEAT: *Legislative Update*
- **Shannon Dunne**, City of Houston: *Tunnel Vision — The Future to Regionalization in Houston's Wastewater System*
- **Yvonne Forrest**, City of Houston: *Houston Water — Water and Weather (Keynote Address)*



Texas Water Awards



Texas Water Awards



*Southeast Texas Section of WEAT
Dennis Laskowski Recruitment Award*



Texas Water Awards



*Kristin O'Neill
Emerging Leader Award*

*Not Pictured: Mohammed Siddiqui
Outstanding Operator of the Year Award*



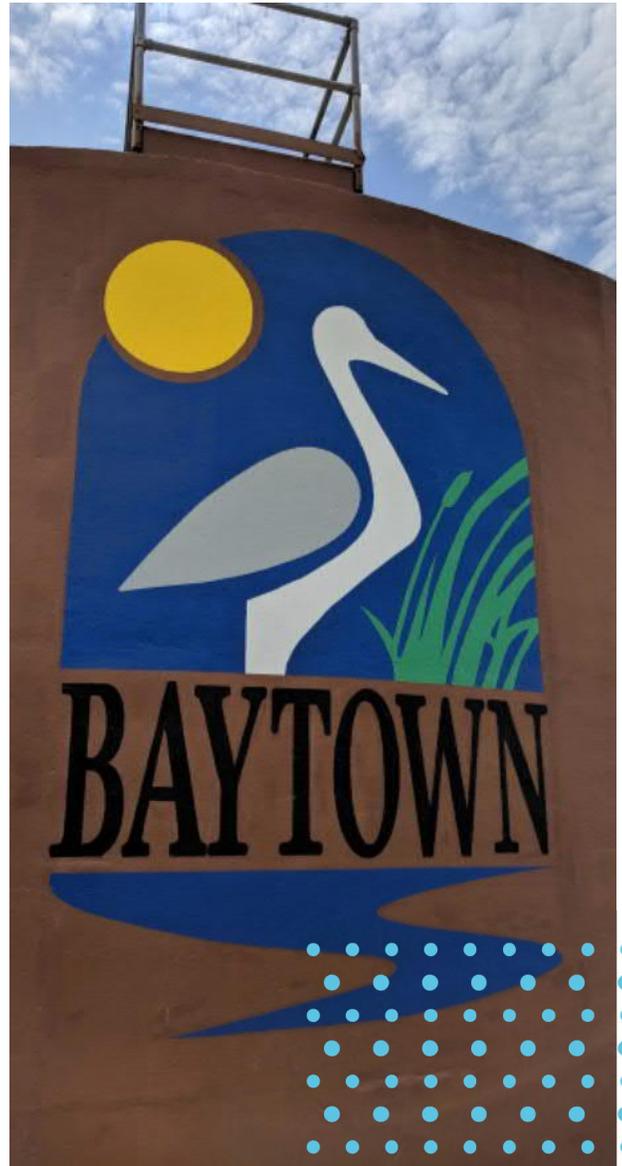
Past SE-WEAT Section Events

Baytown Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour March 19, 2019

The City of Baytown Public Works Department and KIT Professionals reviewed over a decade worth of improvements implemented at the Central District Wastewater Treatment Plant after the facility flooded during Hurricane Ike. A presentation was made at the Public Works Building followed by a tour of the new and improved facility and the final phases of the aeration basin clean up.

Special thanks to the City of Baytown for the excellent tour and to Vector and KIT Professionals for sponsoring this event.

Article by: Connie Curtis



Past SE-WEAT Section Events

Annual WaterWorks Festival May 3, 2019

The Southeast Section of WEAT participated in the 26th annual Houston WaterWorks Festival hosted by the City of Houston WaterWorks Education Center. This year marked the second consecutive year that the event was held at a City of Houston park, Levy Park. Around 1,000 students and teachers attended the event, where they got an opportunity to visit exhibitor booths and learn more about the importance of water in our daily lives. Exhibitors included water and wildlife conservation groups, engineering firms, City of Houston departments, industry volunteer organizations like WEAT. Southeast Students learned about the water cycle, water treatment and water distribution with an EnviroScape model demonstration. This is the 4th consecutive year that the Southeast Texas Section of WEAT sponsored and participated in the event. WEAT also sponsored water bottles for the whole event this year.



Article by: Adam Kohout

Water Quality Management at the Houston Zoo May 21, 2019

Mark Hoffman, P.E. from the Houston Zoo discussed water quality management practices at the zoo and revealed future plans for new exhibits. We learned that keeping water clear in an aquarium or an animal exhibit is no easy feat! What you feed animals makes a big difference in the treatment process and every animal is very different. We also got to hear that the sneakiest animal at the zoo is the young elephant, Tucker! If you make it out to the zoo this summer, watch out for this troublemaker!

Special thanks to Newman Regency and EI2 for sponsoring this event.

Article by: Connie Curtis



Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Upcoming WEAT (State) Events

Aug 5, 2019 **EPA Consent Decree Review by Yvonne Forrest**

<https://weatsoutheast.org/meetings/past-and-future-meetings/>

Aug 8, 2019 **Astros Baseball Game**

[Contact Carlos Gularte for information](#)

Oct 18, 2019 **Clay Shoot**

Details to be published in the next edition.

Oct 30, 2019 **Water for People**

Details to be published in the next edition.



Water Environment
Association of Texas

2,900 Members
32 Committees
20 Sections

Become a
Member Today!
<https://www.weat.org/>



Volunteering Opportunities

If you're interested in volunteering with the Southeast Section of WEAT, email us at weatsoutheast@gmail.com



Young Professionals

WEAT-SE Top Golf Event

Social Event for Scholarship Fundraising

WEAT- SE had their first social fundraising event of the year at Top Golf Katy in January. It was a great way to kick off the year, with over 40 members in attendance.

The event was sponsored by Environmental Improvements Inc. EI2 and a raffle was held to raise money for the WEAT Southeast Scholarship fund. Golf skills were put to the test as members competed in various Top Golf games, while socializing with other attendees. The night ended with a raffle and lucky attendees went home with the three prizes: 4-person tent, amazon echo and a fishing reel. The event was a success with funds being raised for the WEAT Southeast Scholarship. Join us for future events as we begin 2019!



Article by: Keval Satra



YMI Volunteering Event

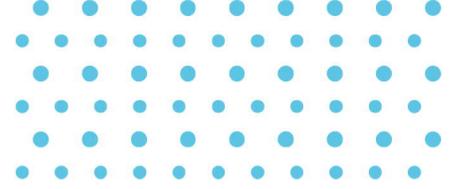
YMI Volunteering Event with BEARing Gifts Program - December 7, 2018

Young Members Initiative (YMI) organized a volunteering event with the BEARing Gifts Program. BEAR (Be a Resource for CPS Kids) is a non-profit that provides emergency goods and services directly to children under the care of Child Protective Services (CPS) in Harris County. BEAR hosts an annual program that provides holiday wishes to children under the care of CPS.

A total of 11 young professionals attended this event to volunteer for the morning and afternoon shifts. The volunteers worked on unloading bikes and other wish-list items from donors' vehicles and organized those by representative CPS offices. Volunteers also regrouped and repacked gift items by recipient to make sure the kids receive all the wish-list items properly. Overall, it was a fun and rewarding experience for participating Young Professionals!

Article by: Keval Satra

Young Professionals



WEAT-SE Volunteering Event

Buffalo Bayou Clean Up- December 15, 2018

Our young professional members participated in this year's last event volunteering with the Buffalo Bayou Clean up.

Due to recent rain events, the Buffalo Bayou had overflowed into the park and inundated paths with silt. Our volunteer's work included clearing silt from the paths and moving it to a collection area. Equipped with shovels, rakes and wheel barrels our volunteers cleared silt from paths and returned part of the park to normal conditions.

It was a great day to be outdoors and the work was really rewarding, we had park users who would encourage us for the work we were doing.



Article by: Carlos Gularte

WEAT-SE Volunteering Event

Houston Food Bank – April 20, 2019

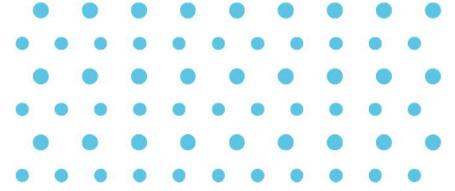
The southeast chapter of WEAT and TAWWA jointly hosted a volunteer event at the Houston Food Bank on April 20. Our Young professionals volunteered to assemble 5,550 packages for the Backpack Buddy program, which creates 33,300 meals for school children in need. Houston Food Bank's Backpack Buddy program provides necessary nutritious food to school children for weekends and holidays who otherwise may have little or no meal.



Article by: Carlos Gularte



Young Professionals



YMI Professional Development Event

Entrepreneurship in Engineering – June 13, 2019

WEAT-SE YP, along with four other organizations, held the second annual Young Members Initiative (YMI) event on June 13. YMI is a joint effort that serves YPs across the Houston area, it includes members from 14 different organizations. Our professional development event entailed a panel of speakers who answered YP questions on entrepreneurship in their career and building their brand.



The speakers included Bonnie Moss President of MBCO Engineering, Miro Castillo President of Omega Engineers and Brian Greathouse Vice President of Omega Engineers. The event was attended by 30 Houston YPs and it was a big success. YPs from different organizations were able to network and learn from current leaders in the Houston area.

Article by: Carlos Gularte



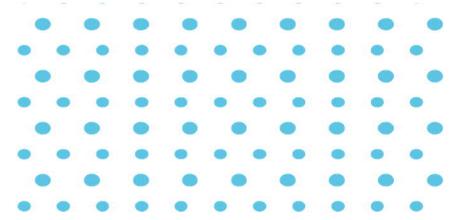
Water Environment
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Check out the WEAT Southeast YP's Facebook page!

Join the group to receive updates on upcoming YP events
or join the WEAT YP Mailing list by emailing
Carlos Gularte at carlos.gularte@freese.com



2018 - 2019 Officers and Committee Chairs



Executive Chairs



Connie Curtis *President*
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Jennie Almerico *Vice President*
jennie@5engineering.com



Pavani Silaparasetty *President-Elect*
pavani.silaparasetty@aecom.com



Dylan Christenson *Treasurer*
christensond@bv.com



Valetta Saldanha *Texas Water Secretary*
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Magda Alanis
WEAT State Section Rep
magda.alanis@houstontx.gov



Kristin O'Neill *Past President*
kristin.oneill@stantec.com

Committee Chairs

Keval Satra *Communications Committee*
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Carol Serna *Section Meetings Committee*
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Austin Blackwell *EIC Committee*
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Jose Mendiola/Corey Evans *Public
Communications and Outreach Committee*
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Carlos Gularte *Young Professionals
Committee*
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Carol Serna *Scholarship Committee*
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Keval Satra *Sponsorship Committee*
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Jonathan Howard/Amber Batson *Membership Committee*
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Event Chairs

**Daniel Olson
Tara Payne
Jose Mendiola
Corey Evans
Katie Zheng
Stephen Kelly**

