
**Southeast Section
WATER
ENVIRONMENT
ASSOCIATION OF
TEXAS
NEWSLETTER**

September 2020 | WEAT SOUTHEAST SECTION



WEAT
Southeast Texas Section



WEAT (Section)

COVID 19

Due to COVID 19 the WEAT SE section is still observing social distancing and as such not hosting any in person section meetings or events. This is will be in effect through the remained of 2020 and will be re-evaluated at that time.

This has impacted several beloved events such as the Clay Shoot and Water for People Beer for Us. Please review the rest of the newsletter for updates and alternatives on those events. We are still working diligently to put together webinars to continue professional development and encourage participation. We are moving towards a format that will facilitate PE PDHs as well as bring value to your professional development.

Past Event – August Section Meeting

Tracking COVID in Wastewater – Lessons Learned and a Study Update August 4, 2020 Virtual Meeting

The August Section Meeting was held virtually and was hosted with the help of the state WEAT representatives. The meeting included a presentation on the City of Hosuton’s efforts towards tracking COVID in wastewater. Representatives from Houston water, the Houston Health Department, and Rice University discussed an overvier of the project, systems and sampling, sampling analysis, and decision-making regarding Houston’s pandemic response. It was a well-attended session that had 64 attendees and raised a little over \$1400 for scholarships. Attendees were able to earn PDH credits for this session. For more information and to see a recording of the presentation please visit our website <https://weatsoutheast.org/>.

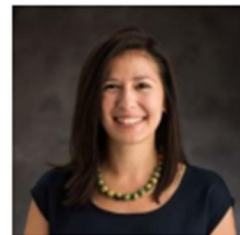
GUEST SPEAKERS



Aisha Niang, P.E. ENV SP
Assistant Director
Houston Public Works
Houston Water
Wastewater Operations



Dr. Loren Hopkins
Chief Environmental Science
Officer
Bureau Chief
Bureau of Community and
Children’s Environmental
Health
Houston Health Department
(Professor, Department of
Statistics, Rice University)



Dr. Lauren Stadler
Assistant Professor
Department of Civil and
Environmental Engineering
Rice University



Paul Zappi, P.E.
Supervising Engineer
Wastewater Operations
Houston Public Works
Houston Water
Wastewater Operations



Upcoming Event – October Section Meeting

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

SOUTHEAST SECTION

Preserving and Enhancing the Water Environment of Texas

October Section Meeting: 2020 Lessons Learned – Safety at Water/Wastewater Facilities

EVENT DETAILS

WHEN:

Tuesday October 20, 2020
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

WHAT:

Event Itinerary:

- Disaster preparedness during pandemic – Susie Blake
- Water/wastewater operations – general & pandemic operator safety – Mike Harris
- Safety best practices for Engineers - Patrick Walz

WHERE:

Virtual Webinar hosted by Go-To Webinar.

Register Online at: [Registration Link](#)

\$10 for WEAT members
\$20 for non-members WEAT attendees
Free for all students
Free for WEAT municipal members

Sponsorships Available!

\$50 – Event Section Sponsors (Multiple available. Includes 1 individual registration and company recognized at beginning & end of the presentation)

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE WEAT SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

SECTION MEETING TITLE SPONSOR



BLACK & VEATCH

Become a WEAT Member!

Join WEAT or renew your membership. The Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) is made up of about 2,800 Texas professionals including scientists, engineers, utility managers, operators and regulators who have dedicated their careers to protecting and enhancing our state's water resources. At \$50 per year, WEAT membership provides ample benefit to you, your employer, and the environment as you gain access to networking and professional development events, service activities, and interaction with innovative technologies.

GUEST SPEAKERS



Susana Blake

City of League City, Texas
Wastewater Superintendent
Masters in Environmental Science with Chemistry
Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), Water/Wastewater Instructor



Michael Harris

City of Beaumont, Texas
Director of Water/Wastewater Operations
Texas Water Utilities Association Instructor
Vice President of the Trinity/Neches/Sabine Chapter of local T.W.U.A.



Patrick Walz, PE, CSP, STS

AECOM's Senior Safety Manager
Certified Safety Professional
Safety Trained Supervisor
American Society of Safety Engineers Member

PDH & TCEQ Credit Available!

Reach out to Keval Satra at ksatra@hrgreen for any event related questions.



WEAT

Southeast Texas Section

[October Section Meeting REGISTRATION LINK](#)

WEAT (State)

Upcoming Events

October 5, 2020 WEFTEC Connect

<https://www.weat.org/events/weftec-connect>

October 15, 2020 Eckenfelder Lecture Series: Operational Strategies and Optimization Guidance

<https://www.weat.org/events/eckenfelder-lecture-series-operational-strategies-and-optimization-guidance>

October 16, 2020 Imagine a Day Without Water – Art Contest

<https://www.weat.org/events/imagine-a-day-without-water-art-contest>



Imagine a Day Without Water
5th grade art contest

Get out your crayons, markers, paints and paper!
The Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT)
and The American Water Works Association (AWWA)
need your creativity for the
Imagine a Day Without Water Art Contest

Top 13 winners will
have their art included in the
IDWW Calendar!

Entry Period:
Sept. 8 - Oct. 16, 2020

**Winners will be
announced
Oct. 21, 2020**

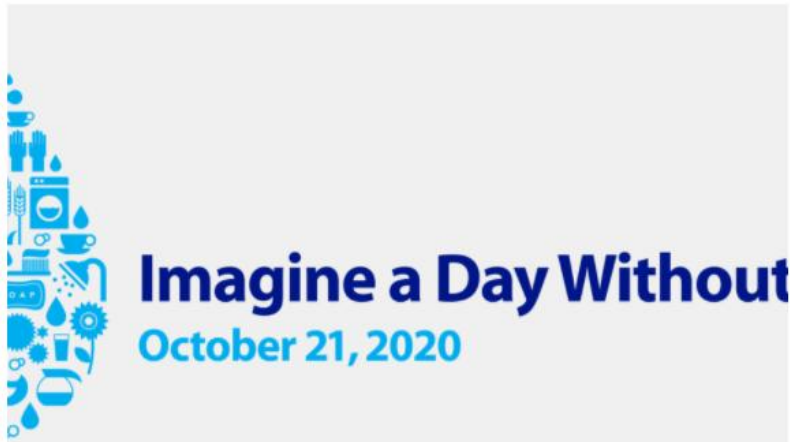
FULL DETAILS COMING SOON
For inspiration go to:
ImagineaDayWithoutWater.org

Contact for more information:
[Juliana Wafer \(jowafer@sig-auto.com\)](mailto:jowafer@sig-auto.com)



October 21, 2020 Imagine a Day Without Water

<https://www.weat.org/events/imagine-a-day-without-water-2020>



Imagine a Day Without Water.

No water to drink, or wash your hands with. No water to shower, flush the toilet, or do laundry. Hospitals would close without water. Firefighters couldn't put out fires and farmers couldn't water their crops. Disease would spread.

This year, as communities across America faced the public health threat of the coronavirus pandemic, water and wastewater systems continued to do their job, 24/7, keeping the water flowing. Many Americans take water for granted every day. But what would a day be like without water? Imagine a Day Without Water 2020 is the sixth annual day to raise awareness and educate America about the value of water.

October 22, 2020 WEAT Leadership Summit

<https://www.weat.org/events/weat-leadership-summit>

October 26, 2020 9th Annual Water Reuse in Texas Virtual Conference

<https://www.weat.org/events/wrt-2019>

Oct
26 9th Annual Water Reuse in
Texas Virtual Conference



Co-Produced by WaterReuse Texas, WEAT and TAWWA, the Water Reuse in Texas Virtual Conference is Monday, October 26-27.

For future events, see <https://www.weat.org/events>



Volunteer Opportunities



Volunteering Opportunities

If you're interested in volunteering with the Southeast Section of WEAT email us at weatsoutheast@gmail.com or Contact a Section Committee Chair



Water Environment
Association of Texas

2,900 Members
32 Committees
20 Sections

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



Scholarships

WEAT State received over 30 applications for the 2020-2021 school year which were reviewed for applicability and ranked for scholarship award selection. The SE Section selected students pursuing two- and four-year degree programs with preference given to programs in the environmental field including Biology, Chemistry, Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Computer Science, Management and Public Administration. The SE Section will be awarding four scholarships totaling \$6,000 (1-\$2,000, 2-\$1,500, 1-\$1,000) to members and dependents within the Section. These scholarship winners will be announced shortly via email and will be honored this Fall.

COVID-19 has presented some unique challenges to our normal scholarship fundraising events. However, our Section is committed to providing scholarship awards that benefit our Section members. If you are interested in joining the Scholarship Committee or making a donation to our scholarship fund, please email Krystal Regner at KMRegner@GarverUSA.com.



2020 Event Changes

Clay Shoot

The 2020 Clay Shoot for this year is cancelled. We hope you will save the date and join us next year for our 2021 Clay Shoot on **Friday October 15, 2021**.

This event is our largest scholarship fundraiser for the year and routinely brings in close to \$10,000. If you would like to continue your support of our Scholarships, please see the information in our scholarship section to donate.

Water for People

The 2020 Water for People Beer for Us Event at St. Arnolds is cancelled. WEAT is working with TAWWA to determine an appropriate contingency plan to have an event that encourages safety of our members and guests. Further updates will be provided soon.

Young Professionals

The Young Professionals committee is working on socially distanced events to continue fostering connection for the Young Professionals during this time. There are several ideas that are being considered. If you have any ideas or events you would like to see please email our Young Professional Chair Carlos Gularte at Carlos.Gularte@freese.com.



2020 - 2021 Officers and Committee Chairs

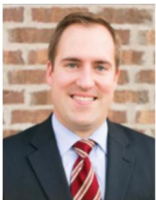
Executive Chairs



Pavani Silaparsetty *President*
pavani.silaparsetty@aecom.com



Valetta Saldanha *Vice President*
valetta.saldanha@aecom.com



Dylan Christenson *President-Elect*
christensond@bv.com



Trevor Otter *Treasurer*
ottert@bv.com



Carol Serna *Secretary*
carol.serna@stantec.com



Aisha Niang (R)
Aisha.niang@houston.tx.gov



Jennie Almerico (L)
jennie@5engineering.com

*Co-WEAT State
Section Rep*



Connie Curtis *Past President*
connie.curtis@kimley-horn.com

Committee Chairs

Keval Satra *Section Meetings*
ksatra@hrgreen.com

Krystal Regner *Scholarship*
KMRegner@GarverUSA.com

Austin Blackwell *EIC Committee*
Austinblackwell26@gmail.com

Jose Mendiola/Corey Evans *Public
Communications and Outreach Committee*
MendiolaJG@bv.com

Carlos Gularte *Young Professionals Committee*
Carlos.Gularte@freese.com

Stephen Kelly *Communications*
Stephen.kelly@kimley-horn.com

**Raghavender Nednur/
Ogadinma Onyebuchi** *Wastewater Operations Committee Co-Chairs*
Raghavender.Nednur@houstontx.gov
Ogadinma.Onyebuchi@houstontx.gov

Wade Parks *Sponsorship Committee*
WPParks@GarverUSA.com

Amber Batson *Membership Committee*
abatson@sjra.net

**Katie Zheng
Dylan Christenson** *Workforce Development*
kzheng@swwc.com
christensond@bv.com

Event Chairs

**Pavani Silaparsetty
Stephen Kelly
Corey Evans
Tara Payne**

