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

July 2020 | WEAT SOUTHEAST SECTION



**WEAT**  
Southeast Texas Section



# WEAT Officers 2020

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WEAT Southeast Section is proud to introduce this year's board and committee chairs. We are looking forward to serving this year.

## Executive Committee



Past President  
Connie Curtis  
Kimley-Horn



President  
Pavani Silaparasetty  
AECOM



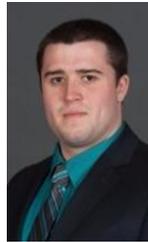
President-Elect  
Dylan Christenson  
Black and Veatch



Vice President  
Valetta Saldanha  
AECOM



Secretary  
Carol Serna  
Stantec



Treasurer  
Trevor Otter  
Jones and Carter



Section Representatives  
Aisha Niang & Jennie Almerico  
Houston Public Works 5engineering



# Committee Chairs



Section Meetings  
Keval Satra  
HR Green



Membership  
Amber Batson  
SJRA



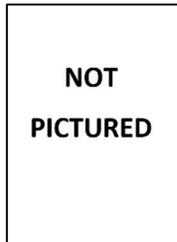
Scholarships  
Krystal Regner  
Garver



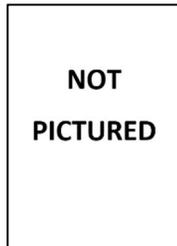
Clay Shoot/Comm  
Stephen Kelly  
Kimley-Horn



Young Professional  
Carlos Gularte  
Freese and Nichols  
Group



Sponsorship  
Wade Parks  
Garver



ECIC  
Austin Blackwell  
Vector Controls  
and Automation



Half Day Seminar  
Pavani Silaparasetty  
AECOM



PCOC  
Jose Mendiola  
Freese and Nichols



Water for People Co-Chairs  
Corey Evans  
Garver



Brianna Morales  
GCWA



E-week  
Tara Payne  
McManus & Johnson



Workforce Development Co-Chairs  
Katie Zheng  
Southwest Water  
Company



Dylan Christenson  
Black and Veatch



Wastewater Operations Co-Chairs  
Raghavender Nednur & Oneybuchi Ogadinma  
Houston Public Works



# President's Corner

## Past President – Connie Curtis

First off, I want to thank you all for having faith in me and trusting me as your President for the past year. It has been such an honor and a pleasure to serve, and I had a blast! I would also like to take a moment to thank Kristin O'Neill, the previous Past President, for her dedication and leadership within the organization. Kristin, your leadership, energy, and passion for our industry is contagious, and we have many thanks to send your way for our organizations' current successes.

As the President, I got to work alongside friends, encourage new thoughts and ideas for ways to add value to our members, and empower great ideas that will continue to help our membership educate and provide value to the world around us. To my officers, committee chairs, and volunteers on committees, I want to thank you for your partnership and encourage you to take even more ownership of the direction that you want our organization to go. The increased growth and participation in WEAT over the last few years has been amazing to witness, and it has been such an honor to be a part of the leadership team. I am so incredibly proud of what we have been able to accomplish through empowering committees.

I am also particularly proud of our section for setting a goal in mid-2018 to raise the needed \$25,000 to make a scholarship endowment by the end of 2020. It seemed like such a big goal when we laid out a plan to raise \$25k by 2020 – but we were blown away by the support of our members and achieved and exceeded that goal by the end of 2019! We are excited to review the scholarship applications for 2020 and continue to grow and share this resource.

Lastly, I am excited when I look to the future for what resources we can continue to build. COVID can't stop this rolling stone, and we could not be in better hands with Pavani in the lead! Her understanding of the value our organization and her passion for our industry provides a vision for how we can continue to grow that is just what the doctor ordered. I'm so excited to see where this year and Pavani lead. Be safe, be healthy, and thank you for a great year!



## Current President – Pavani Silaparasetty

I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to lead the Southeast Section. Taking the baton from the Past President Connie Curtis, I acknowledge I have big shoes to fill and am thankful for the advise and support from her as well as the the entire leadership. I have served in different roles within the organization and I look forward to fulfilling this role. I know it has been a challenging year so far and that the challenges will continue to present themselves. So, what will 2020-2021 look like? You will be seeing more of virtual events from the Section, expect more procedural changes and topics focused on our community and it's resiliency. My goals for the Section will be:

### **Provide value to our membership (all membership) by:**

- Education and training events
- Initiate and support events for Operators without Borders
- Encourage and support growth and membership events for underserved sub-committees

### **Expand the scholarship program by**

- Continuing efforts to raise funding for the current scholarship program
- Initiating and working in coalition with State to provide scholarships to operators

We have had a successful Section Meeting in May, one planned for August with a very relevant topic and other such events for the rest of the year. All great events put together by us have been successful because of the many talented officers and the volunteers involved. I invite and hope that you continue your participation and contribution to the Section. I would like to hear your thoughts and ideas, expectations from the Section, needs we can fulfil as we all navigate the industry with evolving "standard procedures". I look forward to hearing from you and continuing growth in this Section.



# WEAT (Section)

## COVID 19

Due to COVID 19 the WEAT SE section has decided to currently pause all in person section meetings. We are continually re-evaluating and will notify our section if and when this changes. We are 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.

## Call for Abstracts



**WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS**  
**S O U T H E A S T   S E C T I O N**  
*Preserving and Enhancing the Water Environment of Texas*

**WEAT Southeast Section: Call for Abstracts**

Deadline: July 10, 2020

 **WEAT**  
Southeast Texas Section

WEAT Southeast is soliciting abstracts for presentations, nominations for facility tours, and ideas for section meeting venues for the July 2020 – May 2021 section meetings.

Please consider submitting a brief abstract for consideration by our section leadership as we set the calendar for the coming year. To ensure education opportunities to our broader membership base, we ask you to submit abstract in one of the following categories:

- Municipal resource recovery and design
- Electrical, Instrumentation, and Controls
- Utility Management/Asset Management/Work Order Management
- Communications/Public Outreach
- Operation and maintenance

For more details visit the WEAT Southeast Section website here: <https://weatsoutheast.org/news/weat-southeast-section-call-for-abstracts/> or contact Section Meeting Chair, Keval Satra at [ksatra@hrgreen.com](mailto:ksatra@hrgreen.com).

Deadline: July 20, 2020



## Past Event

### Annual Officer Election and Appointment of Committee Chairs May 12, 2020 Virtual Meeting

The May Section Meeting was held virtually and was hosted with the help of the state WEAT staff. Special thanks to Julie Nahrgang and Melissa Sansing for helping our section adapt to the virtual format. The meeting included a presentation by Scott Aldridge of CDM Smith on Leveraging Mixed Reality and Drone Technology to More Effectively Design, Build and Operate Critical Infrastructure. Attendees were able to earn PDH credits for the presentation. 28 members attended the virtual meeting which included officer elections and appointment of committee chairs.

#### GUEST SPEAKER



**Scott Aldridge, Senior Manager of  
Druptive Technologies, CDM Smith**

## Upcoming Event

### WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SOUTHEAST SECTION *Preserving and Enhancing the Water Environment of Texas* August Section Meeting: Tracking COVID in Wastewater – Lessons Learned and a Study Update

#### EVENT DETAILS

**WHEN:**  
Tuesday August 4, 2020  
11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

**WHERE:**  
Register for call-in information. To be hosted by Go-To Webinar. Please verify your streaming requirements before registering. Recommend log-in 10 minutes prior to meeting to avoid accessibility issues and delays.

**Register Online at:**  
<https://weatsoutheast.wufoo.com/forms/za0lbam189z51t/>

Free for WEAT government members  
\$20 for WEAT members  
\$40 for non-members

#### Sponsorships Available!

Gold - \$100 (3 Tickets)  
Silver - \$75 (2 Tickets)  
Bronze - \$50 (1 Ticket)  
*Sponsors will have their company logo shown at the start and end of the presentation and a follow-up email will be sent with sponsor info to all attendees.*

#### ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE WEAT SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

#### 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



**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

PDH Credit Available!



Registration link: <https://weatsoutheast.wufoo.com/forms/za0lbam189z51t/>

# WEAT (State)

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## Upcoming Events

**July 8, 2020 Water Reuse Texas Membership Meeting**

<https://www.weat.org/events/water-reuse-texas-membership-meeting>

**July 10, 2020 Texas Water Awards Ceremony – WEAT Virtual Awards!**

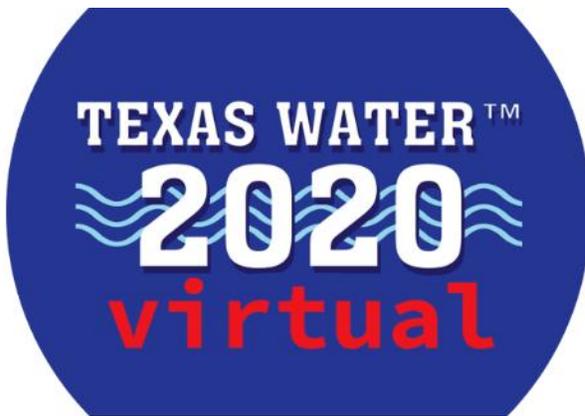
<https://www.weat.org/events/texas-water-awards-ceremony-weat-virtual-awards>

**July 12, 2020 Donate to the 2020 Water for People Silent Auction**

<https://www.weat.org/events/donate-to-the-2020-water-for-people-silent-auction>

**July 13, 2020 Texas Water 2020 – Rescheduled & Virtual**

<https://www.weat.org/events/texas-water-2020>



### RESCHEDULING & REFORMATTING ANNOUNCEMENT

Texas Water™ 2020 has been postponed and reformatted. We will hold a virtual conference July 13-16. This is a Monday through Thursday instead of a Tuesday through Friday.

Based on public health recommendations, the executive committees of both WEAT and TAWWA believe this is the right the thing to do to protect the health and safety of our attendees, exhibitors, speakers.

*For more information concerning attendee, exhibitor, and sponsor registration click the button below or go to [txwater.org](https://www.txwater.org)*

**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](mailto: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

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The Southeast Texas Section (SE Section) works with WEAT State to participate in the Water Environment Association of Texas Scholarship Fund. This year the SE Section has achieved Endowed Status, which means the fund will remain permanently. This effort was achieved through the extensive efforts of previous board and committee chairs. This Endowment will provide long term support of the educational pursuits and goals of active members and their college bound dependents.

WEAT State received over 60 applications for the 2020-2021 school year which will be reviewed for applicability and ranked before being sent to the SE Section. The SE Section committee chair along with the executive committee will review the prospective applicants for award. Four awards totaling \$6,000 will be given to 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.

Scholarship winners will be announced on our website in August and honored this Fall. If you are interested in joining the Scholarship Committee, please email the Scholarship Chair Krystal Regner at [KMRegner@GarverUSA.com](mailto:KMRegner@GarverUSA.com).



# 2019 - 2020 Highlights

## Section Events

Annual Half Day Seminar

February 6, 2020



Pearland Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour

January 27, 2020



6<sup>th</sup> Annual Sporting Clays Tournament

October 18, 2019



City of Houston EPA Consent Decree Review

August 5, 2019



Water for People

October 30, 2019



# Young Professionals

Axe Throwing Fundraiser  
January 9, 2020



Astros Game Night  
August 6, 2019



Top Golf Fundraiser  
February 2020



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](mailto:carlos.gularte@freese.com)

