

## SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER



### What's Happening:

Jane Bral from Colorado Division of Oil and Public Safety will be giving a luncheon presentation on the Petroleum Cleanup and Redevelopment Fund on March 26th. The presentation will be at Colorado Division of Oil and Public Safety, 633 17th St., Suite 500, Denver CO 80202. Please RSVP by COB Friday March 22nd to [mountainswep@gmail.com](mailto:mountainswep@gmail.com).

**Upcoming Events:** We are working on networking events that include insights with a financial planner and a networking event with Monica Graves on Mastering Balance.

### 2019 Rocky Mountain SWEP Leadership:

**Chair:** Jean Zodrow, Ph.D., Arcadis U.S., Inc. 303-250-3673, [Jean.Zodrow@arcadis.com](mailto:Jean.Zodrow@arcadis.com)

**Treasurer:** Elly Miller, Pinyon Environmental, Inc. [miller@pinyon-env.com](mailto:miller@pinyon-env.com)

### Steering Committee Members:

Tami McMullen	Anne Lang
Sara Woolsey	Mickele Bragg
Selina Koler	Vicki Kraus
Heather Young	Courtney Peterson

### 2019 Membership Renewals:

Reminder that 2019 memberships begin January 1, 2019. Feel free to fill out a 2019 membership form on the website ([www.swepcolo.org](http://www.swepcolo.org)) or we will be happy to collect memberships at upcoming events. The benefits to the membership include:

- ◆ Supporting SWEP in providing scholarships to students in environmental programs
- ◆ \$5 off each event
- ◆ 3-4 educational luncheons per year
- ◆ 1-2 networking mixers per year
- ◆ Access to a member website for announcements and employment opportunities

### Book Recommendation:

**How Women Rise: Break the 12 Habits Holding You Back from Your Next Raise, Promotion, or Job —**  
Sally Helgesen and Marshall Goldsmith

"Leadership expert Sally Helgesen and bestselling leadership coach Marshall Goldsmith have trained thousands of high achievers--men and women--to reach even greater heights. Again and again, they see that women face specific and different roadblocks from men as they advance in the workplace. In fact, the very habits that helped women early in their careers can hinder them as they move up. Simply put, what got you here won't get you there . . . and you might not even realize your blind spots until it's too late. " —amazon.com

### Enviro News:

**Rocky Mountain SWEP will be at the following events, please come out and join us:**

**2019 Enviroworkshops—** One day workshop on the latest technologies in the industry.

#### March 20, 2019

Holiday Inn Lakewood, 7390 W Hampden Ave  
Lakewood, CO 80227

For more information and registration: <http://www.enviroworkshops.com/>

**Geotech 11th Annual Field Days—** 2 days of equipment demos and hands-on training on Geotech state-of-the-industry instruments.

#### June 20-21, 2019

Geotech Environmental Equipment, Inc.  
2650 East 40th Avenue  
Denver, Colorado

For more information: [http://www.geotechenv.com/geotech\\_field\\_days.html](http://www.geotechenv.com/geotech_field_days.html)

**If you are interested in becoming more involved with SWEP or have any information or environmental news you would like to share in our next newsletter, please contact us at [mountainswep@gmail.com](mailto:mountainswep@gmail.com)**

## **SWEP spotlight: Cynthia Fischer, P.E.**

Cindy Fischer has a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering. She characterizes waste that is chemically hazardous and radioactive so that it can be shipped for disposal.



### **What do you find exciting or challenging about your job?**

I've been in the field of environmental engineering since the late 1980s and have worked on many different types of projects. My projects have ranged from planning and permitting for new facilities, environmental compliance and pollution prevention initiatives for existing organizations, and decommissioning and remediation for closed facilities. This tremendous variety has kept my work interesting. I've really enjoyed the challenge of solving problems using the skills I learned at school, on the job, and in life. Despite the range of project types, the recurring theme for me has been problem solving. Each project presents opportunities to work through challenges including multiple stakeholders (such as regulatory agencies and residential communities), difficult terrain, conflicting sets of regulations, limited budgets, and daunting schedules.

### **Tell us about a woman who inspires you.**

My mother. She was raised during the Great Depression and she raised her children during an era of mass consumerism and television viewing. While all the other kids at school had lots of new clothes and toys, she raised me and my siblings to wear hand-me-downs and clothes that she made. Because she was raised in a time of scarcity, she raised her children to buy things only as a last resort after we first considered if we could modify something we already owned to fit our current need. Although we also watched some TV, she taught us to use our set of encyclopedias and the resources at the local library to learn new things. Although my siblings and I complained about the thriftiness and focus on reading at the time, we are now all self-sufficient people who use our problem-solving skills and we all have developed a lifelong love of reading for pleasure and for knowledge.

### **What advice would you give someone starting out in the environmental industry?**

I'd suggest being open to a variety of opportunities. I've accepted many assignments that were not strictly chemical or environmental engineering, yet each offered me an opportunity to learn something new while contributing my organizational and problem-solving skills to the project.

### **What aspect of your education have you found most important in your career?**

The less technical courses, such as Environmental Law, have been the most valuable to my career. Although the chemistry, physics, and engineering courses equipped me with technical skill foundation, it was the more social and political courses that provided the insight into how we make decisions and regulations as a society. In the "real world", very few environmentally-oriented decisions (including air emission limits, pollution control technology, remediation cleanup standards, and work procedures) are based only on calculated numbers. The vast majority result from a process that includes considerations of economics, technological feasibility, and public opinion.

### **What activities do you enjoy outside of work?**

Hiking, astronomy, and scuba diving (and snorkeling). I also enjoy volunteering to pack boxes of food at the Jeffco Action Center. It gives me an opportunity to contribute to the community while using my problem-solving skills to fit various packages of food into the distribution boxes.