

AEG St. Louis Chapter Newsletter

December 2021

Please forward to others you know who may be interested.

Visit www.aegstl.org, our website for the AEG St. Louis Chapter!

Upcoming AEG St. Louis Chapter Meetings, Speakers, and Field Trips

Wednesday, December 8, 2021 – 5:30 PM – Helen Fitzgerald’s, St. Louis, Missouri. *We will have two presenters!*

- Teresa Baraza, “**Quantifying Microplastic Debris Transport and Sourcing for a Karstic System**” Ph.D. Candidate, St. Louis University
- Carly Finegan, “**Using Low Cost Measurements of Optical Brighteners for Rapid, In-Situ Reconnaissance of Wastewater Inputs to Water Resource**”, Ph.D. Candidate, St. Louis University

AEG Field Trip in Early 2022 – *see details below*

December Chapter Meeting - *We are back to in-person meetings!*

Join us on Wednesday, December 8, at 5:30 pm for presentations from two Ph.D. candidates at Saint Louis University. Teresa Baraza will speak on “Quantifying Microplastic Debris Transport and Sourcing for a Karstic System,” and Carly Finegan will speak on “Using Low Cost Measurements of Optical Brighteners for Rapid, In-Situ Reconnaissance of Wastewater Inputs to Water Resources.” The meeting will be held at Helen Fitzgerald’s located at 3650 S Lindbergh Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63127. Cost will be \$30 for members, \$40 for nonmembers, and \$10 for students and those between jobs. Please RSVP at www.aegstl.org/monthly-section-meetings/ by Tuesday, December 7.

Especially for Students

How to go to an AEG Chapter Meeting...

By Phyllis Steckel, RG

AEG Region 7 Director

There are plenty of reasons to go to an AEG chapter meeting. Networking, face time with some potential employers, and a good meal all make it worthwhile. You may even get a peek into a new technical topic, business insight, or workplace opportunity. To make it count, here are a few “how to” suggestions.

First, dress for the occasion. The geoscience community is not a formal one. But if you take a swipe at some personal grooming and wear clean clothes, it looks like you practice basic hygiene. Clean jeans and a nice shirt say much more about you than muddy boots and a torn-and-worn t-shirt. Everyone else at that meeting has seen a lot more job site mud and stains than you have, so it will not be read as “recent field experience.” Aim for the clean-blue-jeans end of “business casual.”

Put your phone away. And turn it to silent.

Sit with people you don’t know. You will miss the biggest benefit of the AEG chapter meeting if you sit with folks from your carpool. Mix it up. Ask to join a table of folks who are older than you. They will appreciate a new face and will be happy to talk with you. And you will have more to talk about in the carpool going home.

Take some business cards. No need to list classes taken, GPA, or summer jobs – it’s not a resume. Just your name, phone, email, school, major, and expected graduation date. Nothing fancy is needed, and you can easily make your own. You never know who may have an upcoming intern position, entry-level job, or special assignment. If there is any nibble, ask that person for their business card, too

Talk. Introduce yourself to others at your table. Say your name loud enough and clear enough so those across the table can hear you. Smile a little. Ask a question or two about others’ work or career paths. Listen politely with interest, even if it’s not all that interesting. Make regular eye contact without being creepy.

Shut up. Definitely join the conversation, but don’t monopolize or hijack it. It’s not all about you. Table conversations at AEG chapter meetings rarely devolve into highly technical discussions. You won’t impress anyone by spouting off about a recent lab assignment. Most AEG members look forward to a pleasant meal and easy conversation. Don’t be surprised if there is little or no technical discussion at your table.

Alcohol? If you are of age, it is legal. But it may not be the best idea. Alcohol does not make you smarter, funnier, or more mature. Drink responsibly.

Leave with a good final impression. In most AEG chapters, student meals are subsidized or free. Let the officers, hosts, and speakers know that you appreciate their efforts and the chapter’s

generosity. Eye contact, a genuine smile, and a quick “Thank you – I had a great time” will be much appreciated.

Field Trip to *Eastern Missouri Dark Skies Observatory*

Members and friends of the AEG Region 7 will visit the **Eastern Missouri Dark Sky Observers (EMDSO)** observatory near New Haven, Mo., early next year. This outdoor observatory is run by a group of amateur astronomers who love to share their interest with others. Visit: www.emdso.org

This is an early notice about this event, which -- because it depends on real-time Mother Nature for clear skies -- must be planned for several flexible dates.

We will visit on the first clear night of four listed dates. If clouds, mist, or fog obscures the sky *at the observatory*, then the event will be cancelled and rescheduled for the next listed date. (The weather at your home may be different.) We are scheduled for the first clear night of the following four:

Friday, February 25, 2022,
Saturday, February 26, 2022,
Friday, March 4, 2022; or
Saturday, March 5, 2022.

The viewing begins at dusk, about 6:30 to 7:00 pm. The observatory is outdoors, so dress for the weather.

If you plan to participate, please mark your calendar now.

The EMDSO observatory is a private facility, located on the grounds of Cedar Creek Conference Center (www.cedarcreekcenter.com). The observatory is ADA accessible. Cedar Creek Conference Center also provides several types of lodging and meals. However, be aware that, due to the last-minute nature of this dark-skies observing event, the hotel's reservation and cancellation policies may not be as flexible as needed -- ask first.

Other informal (and free) overnight lodging may be available with the Steckels, who live about 10 miles from the observatory and have room for student groups. (Contact Phyllis Steckel psteckel@charter.net for more information.) There are also numerous bed and breakfast lodging options, as well as many local wineries for interesting stops on the way home the next day.

If you are interested in this event, please let Phyllis Steckel know (psteckel@charter.net). This is an early, mark-your-calendar notice; details will be available closer to the date(s).

AEG Membership Spotlight

Please follow the link to the Membership Spotlight page. A lucky person will be spotlighted in the Insider and on AEG social media.

<https://aeg.memberclicks.net/membership-spotlight>

St. Louis Chapter Seeks Monthly Meeting Sponsors

The St. Louis Chapter is seeking sponsors for our meetings. A monthly meeting sponsorship is \$300. As a monthly meeting sponsor, your company will be featured in the meeting announcement and on our Chapter website, and you will have an opportunity to speak for 3-5 minutes about your company prior to the presentation at our virtual meeting. (Slides may be provided to present during this time.) Please contact the treasurer, Luke Ducey (lducey@geotechnology.com) for more information.

Employment: Job Seekers & Open Positions

EMPLOYERS: Alexandra Hirsch will be graduating from Saint Louis University this May with a B.S. in Geology. You find her resume on the [St. Louis AEG Chapter website](#).

To all Jobseekers and Employers – Please contact the newsletter editor, **Ben Luetkemeyer** (ben.luetkemeyer@terracon.com), to post your search for an employer or employee, and when you have found a new job or filled an advertised position. This helps us keep our postings accurate and timely.

AEG St. Louis Chapter Officers, August 2020 - May 2022

Jessie Goodwin, Chair (jgoodwin@geotechnology.com)
Matt Masterson, Vice Chair (mmasterson@kaskaskiaeng.com)
Luke Ducey, Treasurer (lducey@geotechnology.com)
Ben Luetkemeyer, Secretary (ben.luetkemeyer@terracon.com)
Stephanie Kline-Tissi, Past Chair (klinestephaniej@gmail.com)

Midwest Regional Director: Phyllis Steckel (psteckel@charter.net)