

### Message from the Chair



**Nicole Cohen**  
*Carollo Engineers*

Welcome to the winter issue of the FWEA Students and Young Professionals Committee (SYPC) Newsletter. Many activities and events have happened since our last newsletter and we are excited to share it all with you!

First, I'd like to congratulate USF and UF for participating in the Student Design Competition at WEFTEC this past October. Both teams did an incredible job and USF deserves a special congratulations for placing fourth in the environmental category! Read more about their WEFTEC experience and other S&YP events at WEFTEC in this newsletter.

In the last few months, the SYPC has been preparing for the second year of the FWEA Internship Program. This program will help provide water internships to individuals across Florida this coming summer. We'd like to thank all the organizations that have agreed to participate and we look forward to growing this program. More details can be found in the newsletter.

Though it feels as though FWRC just ended, the committee is hard at work getting ready for the next FWRC. Save the dates for FWRC 2024, which will happen in Orlando from April 2 - 6. The committee will be organizing the student design competition, poster competition, S&YP social, YP Workshop, and other events. Check our website regularly for more details and reach out if you'd like to get involved!

I would like to give a shout out to the committee members who have been working this Fall semester to engage with university students. Our members have had FWEA outreach events at several universities, including UCF, FGCU, and UF. Your efforts are appreciated!

Finally, the committee is accepting nominations for the Young Professional of the Year Award. Visit our webpage to fill out a nomination form for someone you know!

Thank you to all our committee members and sponsors. Here's to a great 2024!

### Thank you to our SYPC Sponsors!

#### GOLD LEVEL



#### SILVER LEVEL



#### BRONZE LEVEL



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### Looking to get involved?

Are you new to the industry? Do you want to join a committee, but not sure how? The SYPC is a great way to get involved and get connected with others in your field! If you're looking to get involved or become a sponsor please reach out to:

Nicole Cohen, Chair  
Ncohen@carollo.com

Kamal Taha, Vice Chair  
Kamal.Taha@arcadis.com

Olga Mikhachishina, Treasurer  
OMikhachishina@woodardcurran.com

Jissell Muir, Secretary  
Jissell.Muir@arcadis.com



Check out the  
FWEA SYPC  
Webpage!

# Central Florida News



**Angel Villarruel-Moore**  
**Carollo Engineers**

The FWEA Central Florida Chapter (CFC) had another successful beach clean-up on the Space Coast this November! This event marks the 5th beach clean-up that CFC hosted in collaboration with Keep Brevard Beautiful, ASCE Space Coast, and students from the University of Central Florida. Despite questionable weather leading up to this year’s event, over 40 volunteers came out to participate and help collect a total of six bags of trash at a local Satellite Beach park!

During this event students were able to network with professionals from the region, enjoy some fun (and surprisingly competitive) volleyball and other yard games, and enjoy a delicious barbecue feast provided by the one-and-only Nathan Arthur from Vapex Environmental! The CFC would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all volunteers that helped make this year’s event a success. We hope to continue the momentum by hosting beach cleanups every Fall and Spring semester. If anyone has questions about this event, please reach out to me and I’ll be more than happy to share any details about this event.

# S&YP Committee Members

Nicole Cohen	(Carollo Engineers)
Kamal Taha	(Arcadis)
Olga Mikhachishina	(Woodard & Curran)
Jissell Muir	(Arcadis)
Angel Villarruel-Moore	(Carollo Engineers)
Abby Gruner	(CDM Smith)
Alyssa Massais	(CDM Smith)
Laura Rodriguez	(Carollo Engineers)
Alex Maas	(Heyward)
Hayden Tse	(CDM Smith)
Zachary Loeb	(Clay County Utilities)
Arpita Meher	(Arcadis)
Amanda Guillory	(Garney Construction)
TJ Lillo	(Jones Edmunds)
Sean Seabrook	(Garney Construction)
Sandesh Deshmukh	(UF Student)
Emily Lutter	(Carollo Engineers)
Kimberly Lawrence	(McKim & Creed)
Samantha Hanke	(Mott MacDonald)
Deanna Delgado	(Kimley-Horn)
Carlee Chaffin	(HDR)
Abby Gruner	(CDM Smith)
Brittany Bassett	(Martin County)



# FWEA Internship Program



**Angel Villarruel-Moore**  
Carollo Engineers

This past year the FWEA Students and Young Professionals Committee (SYPC) formed the FWEA Internship Program Committee (Committee) and have been hard at work organizing the second annual FWEA Internship Program over the past several months! To-date, 26 organizations from across the state have agreed to participate in this year's program and include, but are not limited to, local utilities, engineering consultants, and equipment manufacturers! The committee is planning to organize various Professional Development Workshops and an Organization Open House with the goal of providing participating students the opportunity to gain hands-on knowledge about various opportunities and skills to help jumpstart their careers in the Florida wastewater industry.

Applications to the Internship Program officially open December 1, 2023 so keep your eyes out for more information in the coming weeks! The Internship Program Committee meets on a biweekly basis and is always looking for eager volunteers that are passionate about internship opportunities and the potential to serve as mentors for students aspiring to be wastewater professionals.



If anyone has questions or would like to get involved with the Internship Program Committee, then please contact the [Internship Program Committee Chair](#) for additional information.

## Participating Utilities



## Participating Consultants, Surveyors, and Manufacturers



[Visit the Internship Website](#)



**Genevieve Frangoulis**  
Orange County Utilities  
UCF Student

"I found my current internship with Orange County Utilities through the FWEA Internship program. During my time here at OCU, I have been able to learn a variety of different responsibilities of an engineer, as well as the different roles and career paths that are available such as technician work and project management. I've also been able to gain valuable experience in the government's perspective of the water and wastewater industries.

I've gotten to work with engineers assisting with multiple projects within the R&R Engineering group at OCU. Through these projects I've learned about the process of designing, bidding, and constructing wastewater infrastructure. The engineers I work with make sure I am getting valuable experience using industry tools such as AutoCAD and GIS, as well as keep me involved in staff meetings and other processes in the office. My internship at OCU has helped me learn a lot about civil/environmental engineering in practice, as well as prepare me to go into the workplace when I graduate."





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Follow FWEA on social media for the latest news!




# All Things Water

# Hazen

[hazenandsawyer.com](http://hazenandsawyer.com)

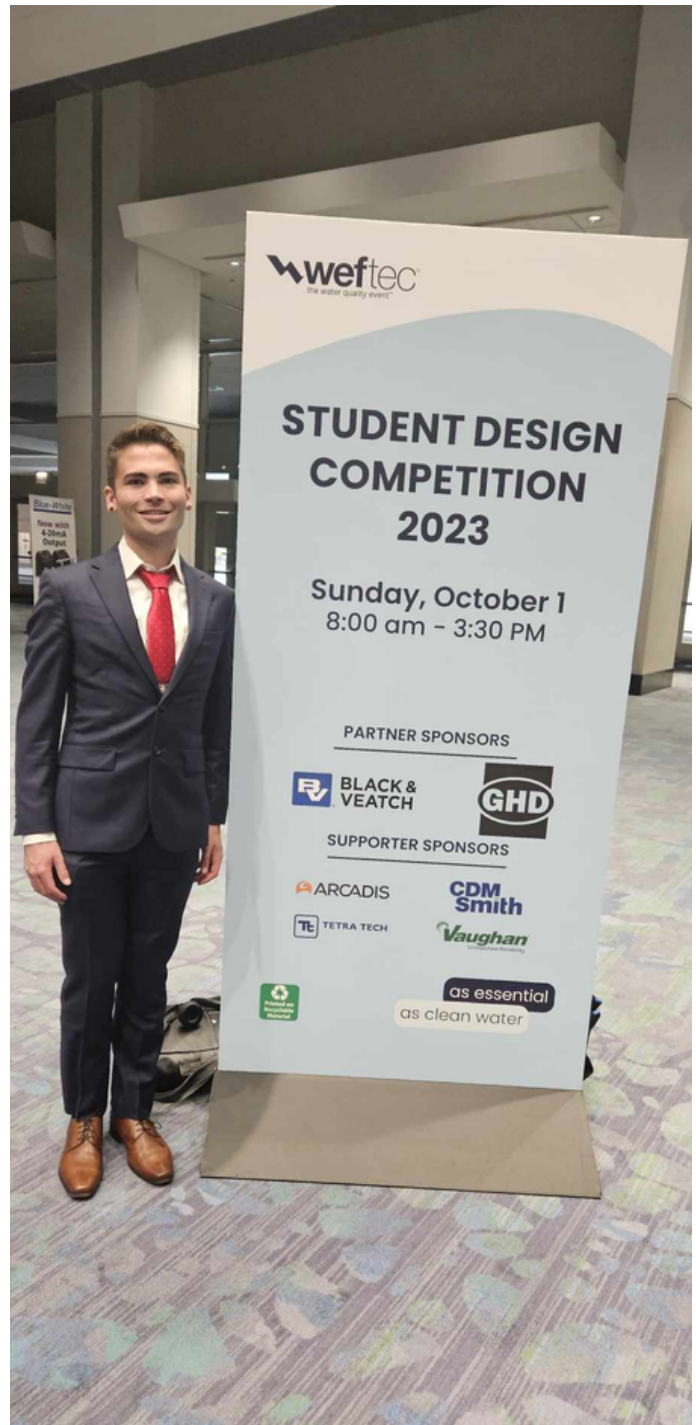


# 2023 WEFTEC Highlights



First and foremost, it was an honor for our team to represent the University of Florida, and the Florida Water Environment Association, in the Student Design competition at the Water Environment Federation as the wastewater team. And we would like to extend our gratitude to FWEA for sponsoring our team to compete at WEFTEC. The student design competition was a challenge of our ability to design, innovate, and coordinate as a team. Our project was advance and bold in proposing a combined wastewater, stormwater, and food waste treatment train that attempted to buffer the cost of the project with the sale of byproducts. It proposed the utilization of a relatively new technology for rapid digestion coupled with gas collection and struvite precipitation. It was a wonderful first experience for many members of the team to have the opportunity to tour a wastewater reuse facility and talk to plant operators for the first time. Design competitions such as this one prime our ability to think about and solve problems that we will soon face in the field.

Additionally, they challenge future engineers to work together as a team and probe their abilities as a group. Altogether, I felt that participating in the student design competition was a positive experience for our team in terms of professional development. It was a privilege for members of our team to attend both WEFTEC and FWRC. At WEFTEC we had the ability to interact with industry, consultants, and governmental entities in this profession from across the country and in some cases the globe and connect with them on a personal level.



Hunter Kaminski

Additionally, at both FWRC and WEFTEC members of the team were able to connect with other students and young professionals giving them a network of support throughout their paths in the industry. Altogether the knowledge, network, and skills gained by competing in the student design competition will surely help members of the team in their next steps to being professionals. Go Gators!

# 2023 WEFTEC Highlights



The Florida Water Environment Association (FWEA) provided our team with an incredible opportunity to showcase our senior design project as a part of the Student Design Competition (SDC) at the Florida Water Resources Conference (FWRC) in Orlando, Florida. Throughout the Spring 2023 semester, the University of South Florida collaborated with the City of St. Petersburg Engineering Department. Our team was presented with a project to address the flooding in the parking lot of Dell Holmes Park in St. Petersburg, Florida. This project was essential to the community, given its high number of visitors. It was particularly special to us, as residents of the Tampa Bay Area. Upon placing first in the SDC competition at FWRC, we were given the opportunity to attend the Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTC) in Chicago, Illinois, where we achieved 4th place!

The SDC presented us with various opportunities for learning and engagement beyond the competition itself. It offered us a chance to attend our first conference. During our time at FRWC, we attended various events organized by the Students and Young Professionals (S&YP) committee. These events allowed us to make connections with professionals in the water and wastewater industry.

WEFTEC introduced us to a broader network of students and professionals. During the presentations at the SDC, it was inspiring to see the effort that every group had invested in their design projects. Through each presentation, we learned how teams from different regions tackled their environmental issues. This gave us the chance to explore water resources engineering outside of Florida, where regulations and practices can vary significantly from what we are familiar with. It was an excellent opportunity to network with students and professionals nationwide. We also engaged in a process challenge with other design teams. This challenge initiated discussions with students from different schools throughout the United States, and even international students.

Hearing everyone's interests led us to realize how broad the field of water and environmental engineering is. You can meet twenty different water resources engineers, and each one will have a different expertise. We look forward to attending more conferences in our future careers and to further expand our connections in the field of engineering. We express our gratitude to our professors who guided us throughout the spring semester and the FWEA representatives who made all of this possible. We also wish to acknowledge the engineers at the City of St. Petersburg for providing us with a real project and working with us continuously throughout the project.



**USF Team Members (from left to right)**  
**Fabricio Escobar, Daniela Montoya, Olta Tarko, and Adele Howard**





## WEFTEC Service Project



**Olga Mikhalchishina**  
Woodard and Curran

Every year, just before WEFTEC, the WEF Students and Young Professionals Committee (SYPC) hosts the Annual Community Service Project. The project's primary objectives are to assist the local community with water-related challenges and raise awareness about the importance of water resources. This year's project, in collaboration with Friends of Thorp, took place at O.A. Thorp Scholastic Academy in Chicago. The school serves a diverse group of students from all over the city, making it a truly community-driven initiative. Planning for this project began a year in advance, and

construction was completed within a single day. The WEF Service Project aimed to address critical drainage and flooding issues experienced by the school by creating a stunning, welcoming green space complete with a rain garden. The project involved the complete excavation of an 80-ft by 10-ft structure to a depth of 2 ft to replace clay-filled soil with a sandy soil mix, creating a rain garden. Native plants added to the structure will help treat up to 448,000 gallons per year. This capacity is sufficient to handle any 100-year flood event and will assist nearby infrastructure in better managing storms. This eco-friendly solution not only enhances stormwater management but also offers valuable stormwater education opportunities for the entire community. The project presented a fantastic opportunity for WEFTEC attendees to give back to the host city.

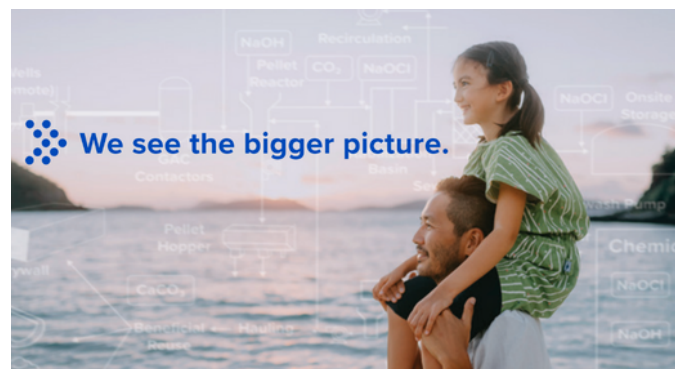






A total of 115 volunteers, including WEFTEC attendees, participated in the project installation. Some volunteers dedicated their time and expertise to planning, design, marketing, budgeting, and logistical aspects of the project, in addition to the hands-on work. The WEF Service Project not only brought together community partners and volunteers but also created a lasting, sustainable solution for a Chicago neighborhood. The rain garden will continue to serve as a symbol of our collective dedication to the environment and water resources, inspiring positive change in the years to come.

Our hope for this project is that it ignites a lasting commitment to environmental stewardship within the local community. We envision a future where this rain garden serves as a model for other sustainable initiatives, fostering a stronger sense of environmental responsibility. The 2024 Community Service project will be held in New Orleans on the Saturday before the official opening of WEFTEC. If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to me at [omikhalchishina@woodardcurran.com](mailto:omikhalchishina@woodardcurran.com).



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# YP of the Year Award Nominations are Open



Colten Brickler was nominated by his peers for the 2022-2023 FWEA “YP of the Year” Award and was selected by the S&YP Committee, along with members of FWEA’s Board of Directors, due to his service to FWEA's Central Chapter.

As the YP of the Year, Colten will get the opportunity to take an all-expenses paid trip to the 2024 Young Professional Summit, held in Portland, Oregon at the Utility Management Conference in February 2024. Additionally, he was recognized at the 2023 Florida Water Resources Conference Award Luncheon.

**FWEA YP of the Year Award nominations are due January 26th, 2024, at 5:00 PM. For more information, click [here](#).**



# Upcoming Events

## First Coast Chapter

December 5

FWEA First Coast and FSAWWA Region  
II 2023 Holiday Social  
6:00 - 9:00 PM

## Manasota Chapter

December 7

Joint Winter Holiday Social  
5:30 - 7:30 PM

January 31

FWEA Manasota and FSAWWA Region X Joint  
Luncheon - Save the Date  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

February 1

FWEA Manasota Clay Shoot  
12:00 AM - 12:00 AM

## Southwest Chapter

December 14

Southwest Chapter Annual Member &  
Sponsor Appreciation Holiday Social  
5:00 - 8:00 PM

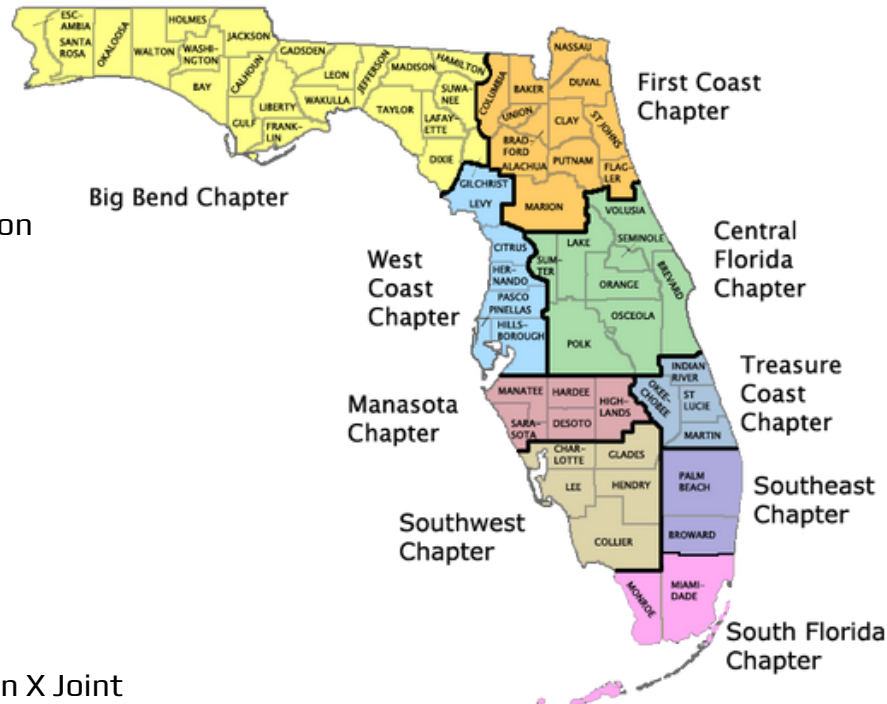
## West Coast Chapter

December 7

West Coast Chapter Holiday Happy Hour  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

February 8

West Coast Luncheon  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



## Seminars

December 8

WR3 Fall Virtual Seminar  
1:00 - 3:00 PM

February 22

Air Quality Seminar  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

## Contact Us

Visit our website or contact the S&YP  
Committee Chair for more information  
on FWRC, volunteering, or sponsorship  
opportunities.

Nicole Cohen  
ncohen@carollo.com

[S&YPC Website](#)

Additional Events listed at: [FWEA Calendar of Events](#)



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**Support the FWEA Students and Young Professionals (S&YP) Committee and Become a Sponsor Today!**

# **S&YP ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP**

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## **SPONSORSHIP LEVELS**

### **GOLD**



- Company Logo on Sponsorship Board at Student Design Competition (at FWRC)
- Resumes of Participating Students
- Quarter Page Ad in S&YP Newsletters
- 2 YP Workshop Tickets (at FWRC)
- Company's job portal included on the FWEA Internship webpage
- Company logo on S&YP webpage

### **SILVER**



- Company Logo on Sponsorship Board at Student Design Competition (at FWRC)
- Business Card Ad in S&YP Newsletters
- 1 YP Workshop Ticket (at FWRC)
- Company logo on S&YP webpage



**STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE**

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**[FWEA SYPC Sponsorship Link](#)**



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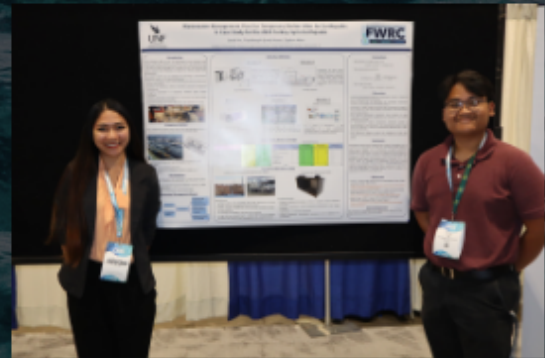
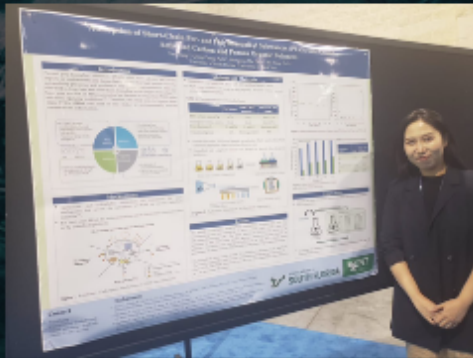
## Student Design Competition

Each First Place team receives \$1,000 Norm Casey scholarship and travel reimbursement for WEFTEC 2024



## S&YP Poster Competition

First Place prize wins \$300 and Second Place wins \$200



## YP of the Year Award

Recipient receives travel assistance to YP Summit in 2025



## Student Outreach and Activities



[FWEA SYPC Sponsorship Link](#)



# 2024-2025 FWEA Students & Young Professionals Sponsorship Registration Form

**Become a Sponsor today! Complete this form and return it with payment by March 8th, 2024 to:**

**Olga Mikhalchishina**  
C/O Woodard & Curran

Mail: 1511 North Westshore Boulevard, Suite 420, Tampa, FL 33607  
Office: 863-345-1446  
Email: [omikhalchishina@woodardcurran.com](mailto:omikhalchishina@woodardcurran.com)  
**Email company logo to Olga by March 8, 2024**

## Sponsor Information (please print clearly)

Company Name:

Contact Person:  Title:

Mailing Address:

City:  State:  Zip Code:

Business Telephone:  Email\*:

\* For Gold-Level sponsors, resumes will be send to this email address.

Sponsor Level	Description (Benefits)
Gold (\$800 and above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Company Logo on Sponsorship Board at Student Design Competition (at FWRC)</li><li>Receive a pdf of resumes of the students participating in the Students Design Competition and poster competition (Resumes will be combined into a single pdf and forwarded to sponsors 1 week after the conference)</li><li>Each Gold Level Sponsor will receive a quarter page spot in the S&amp;YP Newsletter*</li><li>Receive two YP Workshop tickets (at FWRC)</li><li>Company's job portal included on the FWEA Internship webpage</li><li>Company logo on S&amp;YP webpage</li></ul>
Silver (\$400)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Company Logo on Sponsorship Board at Student Design Competition (at FWRC)</li><li>Each Gold Level Sponsor will receive a business card display in the S&amp;YP Newsletter*</li><li>Receive one YP Workshop ticket (at FWRC)</li><li>Company logo on S&amp;YP webpage</li></ul>

\* Semi-annual S&YP Newsletter. The first will be issued after FWRC and the second will be issued after WEFTEC. Newsletters will be issued to all FWEA members and universities. Please send quarter page spots and business cards to Olga Mikhalchishina by March 8, 2024.

## Payment Information (to guarantee your sponsorship, please provide payment information)

Amount to be charged: ☐ \$400 (Silver) ☐ \$800 (Gold) ☐ Other (please specify)

Payment method (please choose one)

☐ **Credit Card:** To pay by credit card, please visit our online page: [FWEA S&YPC Sponsorship](#)

Under sponsorship, select the appropriate "Sponsorship" level and click "Add to Cart" and then "Checkout" near the top. Please contact Olga Mikhalchishina if you would like to donate "Other" amount by credit card or if you have any questions.

☐ **Check:** Check Number:  Please make checks payable to FWEA with memo line: S&YP Committee.

[\*\*FWEA SYPC Sponsorship Link\*\*](#)