

## Reel Good News for A-fish-ionados

As the temperatures warm up, fishing and boating aficionados get ready to start visiting the New York City reservoirs, streams and lakes to begin the recreational season. Every year, the New York City water supply is host to some of the best fishing in the country. As DEP expands the recreational boating program, recreational opportunities continue to grow for New Yorkers to enjoy the scenic New York City watershed. More than 100,000 acres of recreational land, DEP's upstate reservoirs, and roughly 191 miles of stream frontage on city land are available to thousands of visitors who come every year to enjoy their favorite pastime.

City-owned reservoirs offer excellent fishing opportunities both from the shoreline and by boat. Anglers have the opportunity to fish for warm-water species such as smallmouth and largemouth bass, as well as cold-water species such as trout. The diverse species for



many reservoirs could produce 4-5 pound bass and lake trout exceeding 15 pounds. In addition to its reservoirs, DEP also offers city-owned watershed lands that border trout fishing streams such as the Batavia Kill, West Branch Delaware River, Esopus Creek, and many smaller tributaries.

NYC allows rowboats to be stored and used on the reservoirs, no motors are allowed however. Al-

(Continued on reverse side)

## Spotlight on Safety

### Construction Safety Week 2012

This year's Construction Safety Week kicks off on April 23 with the NYC Department of Buildings 2012 "Build Safe | Live Safe" Conference at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square. Department engineers, architects and construction experts will highlight new safety measures, analyze trends and outline a vision for future construction operations in the city. Representatives from DEP (BEDC and OEHS) will be in attendance to learn more about construction safety developments, new requirements and safety technologies. The event, whose keynote address was delivered by Deputy Mayor **Cas Holloway**, will include topics such as elevator construction, safety at stalled sites, engineering solutions for safe construction, 3D site safe-

ty plans, excavations, scaffolds, interior renovations, and façade maintenance and repair.

In a press announcement earlier this year, **Mayor Bloomberg** and Buildings Commissioners **Robert LiMandri** announced an overall 8% decrease in construction related accidents in NYC in 2011, despite a 7.7% increase in the issuance of construction permits. DOB has launched serious enforcement and education initiatives in recent years to improve public and worker safety. BEDC is doing their part as well, reducing their number of recordable injuries by about 13% (fiscal year to date) and embarking on the development and implementation of a comprehensive EHS management system in 2011-2012.

At DEP, everyone is responsible for safety. If you or anyone on your team is concerned about your working conditions, it's okay to ask your supervisor or your bureau's EHS liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline. It's DEP's responsibility to acknowledge and fix unsafe situations, procedures, and practices. With your help, we'll not only get the job done, we'll make it safer for ourselves, our coworkers, our families, and our city.

CALL (800) 897-9677 OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH PIPELINE. HELP IS ON THE WAY.

## Commissioner's Corner

Earth Day marks the perfect time to promote the city's remarkable work toward sustainability and environmental stewardship. We at DEP often set the example, but we are fortunate to have extraordinary partners in working toward a greener, greater New York.

Following the examples of past generations, we are building a foundation for the future by investing in infrastructure. Last Wednesday I joined **Mayor Bloomberg**, Port Authority Executive Director **Pat Foye**, Staten Island Borough President **James Molinaro** and New York City Economic Development Corporation President **Seth Pinsky** to announce the construction of a new drinking water siphon connecting Brooklyn and Staten Island. This project has economic benefits in addition to ensuring an even more reliable water supply for Staten Island. With shipping volumes expected to double over the next decade, New York Harbor's Anchorage Channel must be deepened to accommodate larger cargo vessels and position the region to benefit from global trade. To accommodate this, a new transmission main must be installed at a depth of 100 feet to replace two siphons currently at 56 and 60 feet that were built in 1917 and 1925. The new siphon will serve as the primary backup water supply for Staten Island, providing five million gallons of water daily and up to 150 million gallons in emergency situations. This investment ensures that all five boroughs will continue to have equal access to New York City drinking water. I thank the Mayor, the Port Authority, NYCEDC and the Borough President for recognizing the role of DEP infrastructure in accommodating future economic growth.

On Thursday I attended the Great American Cleanup Rally in Times Square with Sanitation Commissioner **John Doherty** to kick off Earth Week. I took the opportunity to promote our Water-On-the-Go campaign which served more than 200,000 drinkers last summer who may have otherwise purchased water in disposable bottles, and encouraged New Yorkers to drink tap water from reusable bottles. The event was hosted by Keep New York City Beautiful, a great organization whose anti-litter and beach cleanup efforts help to reduce floatable debris



along with our catch basin program, booms, and skimmer vessels. Just last year, DEP led a beach cleanup that removed nearly 298 cubic yards of waste. This Earth Day, we co-sponsored beach cleanups and replantings around Jamaica Bay. The effort, organized by environmentalist **Don Riepe**, removed roughly 10,000 pounds of floatable debris, including four old boats in addition to plastics and tires.

DEP is doing its part to make clean waterways a reality. On Saturday, Mayor Bloomberg and I announced the winners of the second annual Green Infrastructure Grant Program, which awarded \$4.6 million to 11 projects spearheaded by businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and community groups. These projects will help capture stormwater and keep it out of combined sewers while also beautifying streets, shading sidewalks, improving property values, and cooling buildings. The grants show that communities across the five boroughs are engaged as partners in this effort, and are willing to provide matching funds. To date, we have provided \$8.4 million in grants, leveraging \$4.2 million in matching funds.

Finally, on Thursday I accepted the Sound Guardian Award presented to DEP for the second consecutive year by the Clean Water/Clean Jobs Coalition. DEP was recognized in part for the landmark agreement with DEC affirming the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan as an innovative and critical step toward improving water quality. I was proud to accept this honor on DEP's behalf, and was joined at the ceremony by **Kathryn Garcia**, **Vincent Sapienza**, **Robin Levine**, **Angela Licata** and **Charles Sturcken**, who also sits on Audubon New York's Stewardship Council. I congratulate fellow honorees United States Senator **Kirsten Gillibrand** and **Skanska USA Civil Northeast**.

## Focus on the Field



For more than 20 years, **Tom Baudanza** has been a Fisheries Biologist at DEP. When he arrived at DEP, Tom had more than seven years of experience dealing with fishery issues, first with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Bureau of Fisheries followed by a stint at the NYC Parks Department.

Tom works on a broad range of programs that protect natural resources, including teaming up with other BWS staff to monitor for any potential aquatic invasive species from the new and expanded recreational boating program. As Tom said, "Fish are like canaries in the coal mine; they are indicators of environmental quality

and condition of our reservoirs, streams, and other waterways."

For the past three years, Tom has been part of a cooperative project with Cornell University, DEC, the United States Geological Survey, and Trout Unlimited to evaluate both behavioral and physiological effects from Schoharie releases on the upper Esopus Creek trout fishery. Team members surgically implant temperature-sensitive radio frequency transmitters in the abdomen of trout to monitor fish movement and learn about temperature preferences by the fish in selecting habitat. Blood chemistry and other health indicators are part of the analysis. Monitoring includes receiving calls from anglers that catch one of the implanted fish and tracking. Tom recalls one afternoon when his transmitter even tracked a duck flying overhead with a fish in its belly.

Born and raised in Batavia New York, Tom loves the outdoors. In his spare time, he not only enjoys spending time with family and friends, he is also active in fishing, bow hunting, boating, water skiing, volleyball, cooking, and music. And if anytime is left, he will take on one of his never-ending home projects.

## Kudos Corner



**PLAN, BUILD, PROTECT:** BWS Chief of Capital Planning **Matt Warne**—a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve 411th Engineer Brigade—is being deployed with his unit to Afghanistan. There to see him off and wish him well at the Stewart Air Force base send-off ceremony on April 19 were BWS staff members **Todd West, Keith White, Kim Kane, Brenda Drake** and **George Collins** (pictured above). Also attending the ceremony were **Paul Rush, Dave Warne, Henry Jaen,** and **Maria Mandarino**. Matt's unit is heading to Texas for a three week training before heading to Afghanistan. Here's wishing Matt a successful tour of duty and a quick return.

## Milestones

Congratulations to **Gerard Cox**, BEDC, on 31 years of service.

**We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: [newsletter@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov).**

**WALK FOR LIFE:** The Quality of Work Life Committee is sponsoring a Walk-for-Life club to promote employee health. The walks take place three days a week. [Click here to learn more](#).



First row: Ella Smith, Katrina Johnson, Lenora Smith, Morshed Alam, Lillie Farrell. Second row: Florence Sayers, Francesca Martino, Carrie Ballah, Ava George, Denise Atkins, Daniel Cunningham, Debra Settineri, Lorraine Robinson, Marilyn Towns-Jones, Lynda Deane, Wendy Ann Robinson

### (Reel Good News for A-fish-ionados... continued)

though anglers do not have to pay to get access, a free DEP Access Permit is required to fish in NYC reservoirs. Anglers must also have a valid New York State fishing license when fishing on the approximately 33,500 acres of reservoirs. Boats must have a DEP Boat Tag to be put in the reservoirs. DEP requires all boats to be steam cleaned before they are placed in the water, which is also a free service DEP provides. The DEP Boat Tag is a sticker that must be displayed on all boats used on the reservoirs and includes the boat number, reservoir, owner's Access Permit number and the expiration date. Prior to the expiration date of the boat tags, DEP notifies the owner and asks that they renew their boat tag or remove the boat. If the boat tag remains expired, DEP removes the boat at the owner's expense.

As part of the recreational opportunities in the reservoirs, DEP announced the expansion of the recreational boating program after a successful pilot program on the Cannonsville Reservoir. The expansion of the recreational boating program will include the Neversink, Pepacton and Schoharie reservoirs, which begins the Friday before Memorial Day weekend. Anglers can look forward to what is hoped will be a banner year of fishing in the watershed.

The expanded boating program, which the Catskill Watershed Corporation is helping to fund, will allow temporary and seasonal DEP recreational boating tags to be issued by DEP-approved certified private steam cleaning vendors for rowboats, canoes, kayaks, sculls and small sailboats. The opening of the new program will kick off this year on May 25. For DEP, making the Cannonsville recreational boating program permanent and opening up Neversink, Pepacton and Schoharie reservoirs for recreational boating is an evolution of its efforts to open lands to local communities and visitors. Being a good neighbor is critical to DEP's watershed partnerships and agency staff are mindful of this every single day. The results of this collaborative approach will potentially help boost tourism and economic activity across Delaware, Sullivan, Greene and Schoharie counties. All of this can be done without putting the water supply of nine million New Yorkers at risk. DEP will continue to look for ways to make the watershed available for recreational activities to nearby residents and visitors to take advantage of the recreational opportunities in the NYC reservoirs.

DEP also expects to open an additional 7,500 acres of watershed land in 2012 for recreation, including areas in Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster, Greene and Delaware counties.

**FARELL-THEE-WELL:** Tomorrow, April 25, marks DEP Communications Director and Weekly Pipeline Editor-in-Chief **Farrell Sklerov's** last day with the agency. Farrell, who is leaving the agency for a position in private industry, has provided a clear voice to the agency's mission and goals while guiding the newsletter staff with a steady hand. We will miss him and wish him the best of luck in his new endeavor.