

Special Guest Commissioner's Corner



Vincent Sapienza, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction, is a guest commentator this week.

Earlier this month, **John Vickers** and **Tom DeJohn** with the Bureau of Water Supply (BWS) represented DEP at the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) annual

conference in New Orleans. At the event, John and Tom accepted the group's top award, the National Dam Rehabilitation Project of the Year, for DEP's \$138 million full-scale rehabilitation of Gilboa Dam. ASDSO annually honors individuals and organizations that provide exemplary contributions to the improvement of dam safety throughout the United States.

Its most prestigious award, the National Dam Rehabilitation Project of the Year, recognizes unique projects that advance state-of-the-art designs in the field of dam safety and embody the professional engineering and construction standards that dam safety requires. It is presented annually to an organization's project that is judged to best represent those qualities. Pictured at top left with Tom and John are members of ASDSO as well as DEP's consulting engineering firms for the project, Gannett Fleming and Hazen and Sawyer.

The reconstruction of Gilboa Dam is a tremendous example of the type of work that can be accomplished by the talented DEP staff in both the Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction (BEDC), and the operating bureaus. Despite a nine-month setback in the wake of Hurricane Irene, which inflicted historic damage upon the Catskills, staff completed the project in 2014, two years ahead of schedule. Work included the addition of approximately 234 million pounds of concrete, molded and dyed to resemble the original bluestone face of the dam, along with more than 500 massive spillway slabs and upgrades to the abutment walls that support the dam.

Several new features were added to the dam during its rehabilitation, including an inspection gallery inside the dam that runs its entire length. The gallery—which also includes instruments to constantly measure stress on the dam—



will allow engineers to visually inspect the inside and outside of the dam on a regular basis. The dam was also designed with 3-, 6- and 12-foot steps that dissipate the energy of water as it spills from the reservoir. The east and west abutment walls that support Gilboa Dam were also strengthened through the installation of 40 post-tensioned anchors, or steel cables that pull them tight to the bedrock.

While work on Gilboa Dam is complete, construction at the site will continue until approximately 2020. The rehabilitation is part of a \$400 million program to build and improve other facilities near Schoharie Reservoir. This includes a permanent release tunnel that will replace the temporary siphons, giving DEP the ability to release water from the Reservoir and into Schoharie Creek below. Work on the release works began this year. The remaining projects also include site restoration and rehabilitation work on the Shandaken Tunnel Intake Chamber. Congratulations to all the staff in BWS and BEDC who contributed to the award-winning rehabilitation of Gilboa Dam. To read more, click [here](#) and to see more photos, click [here](#).

Spotlight on Safety

National PrepareAthon! Day

The theme for September 2015's National Preparedness Month (NPM) has been "Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today," which urges individuals to plan how to stay safe during disasters. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Ready Campaign focused on safety for floods, wildfires, hurricanes and power outages during NPM, and will culminate tomorrow September 30th with National PrepareAthon! Day.

Remember, emergencies can happen at any time or at any place. Your family may not be together and will need to communicate,

so when making a plan, consider these factors:

- consider what types of emergencies your community may face based on its location
- be aware of the emergency procedures for your workplace, school, or any other frequented locations
- keep an emergency kit based on each family member's needs
- have a non-perishable food supply on hand to last at least 3 days, including one gallon of water per person per day

For more information, visit the Ready.gov website.

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.



Ashokan Center Staff Training



On Monday, September 21, staff members from the Ashokan Center, a 374-acre Catskill Watershed educational retreat, spent a full day learning from DEP experts about the New York City water supply system. Organized by DEP's Office of Education as a way to enhance lessons and activities for visiting students and teachers, Ashokan Center educators, the Executive Director, and Ashokan Foundation officials, were treated to presentations by **David Warne**, BWS Assistant Commissioner, Watershed Protection Programs, and **Adam Bosch**, Director of Public Affairs for watershed communities. Topics included an overview of the water supply system, water quality monitoring, watershed protection, stream management, community partnerships, and ongoing Delaware Aqueduct repairs. Participants enjoyed an afternoon tour of the Ashokan Reservoir and presentations by **Diane Galusha** from the Catskill Watershed Corporation about the history of the water supply system, and **Brent Gotsch** from the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program. DEP has had a long relationship with Ashokan Center, including supporting school programs and assistance to relocate the campus to higher ground to protect the Esopus Creek floodplain.

Welcome Aboard



On September 28, 16 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter** and Deputy Director of Human Resources **Herb Roth**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Duron Alexander, Jonathan Cosme, Andrew Dizengoff, Anton Foster, Dominick Herba, Henry Icaza, Joseph Pena, Joseph Russello, Viktoria Sirota and Darryle Smith with BWSO; **Marlene Ferreira, Kevin Gomez, Maritza Gonzalez, Nathalie Herrera and Caralyse Torres** with BCS; and **MD Islam** with BWT.

Press Box



DEP LAUNCHES PILOT PROGRAM TO PRESERVE JAMAICA BAY.

"The City's Department of Environmental Protection is launching a new pilot program to help preserve the borough's wetlands. NY1's Clodagh McGowan filed the following report: Jamaica Bay is home to numerous marsh islands, but five mini-islands are man-made and they serve an important purpose. They are wave attenuators, acting as the buffer between the water and the wetlands."

View the entire NY1 video [here](#)

Mark Your Calendars



CONTINUING EDUCATION - ENERGY: The DEP Energy Office and the City University of New York (CUNY) have developed four half-day courses, to be held in October, to provide DEP employees the opportunity to improve their energy knowledge and skills. The courses include: Energy Data Management and Analysis; Measurement and Verification for Energy Efficiency Projects; Improving the Energy Efficiency of HVAC Systems; and Improving the Energy Efficiency of Boilers and Motors. Any full-time DEP employee who is interested is welcome to apply with supervisor approval. Registration deadline is tomorrow, September 30. Click [here](#) for more information.

FLU VACCINATION: DEP employees will have the opportunity to receive a free flu vaccination at Lefrak Headquarters, 6th Floor Lecture and Training Rooms, on the following dates: 10/2, 8am to 4pm; 10/5, 11am to 2pm; and 10/7, 8am to 4pm. For additional information, please contact ralfieri@dep.nyc.gov.

RESERVOIR CLEANUP DAY: DEP will host its second Reservoir Cleanup Day this Sunday at 1 p.m. Cleanups will be happening at nine reservoirs in the Hudson Valley and Catskills, including Ashokan, Cannonsville, Kensico, Lake Gleneida, Muscoot, New Croton, Neversink, Pepacton and Rondout. Local school groups, nonprofits, business leaders and others will be joining the effort to keep these areas pristine. Click [here](#) for more information about volunteering at one of these locations, or email recreation@dep.nyc.gov.

We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: newsletter@dep.nyc.gov.