

*Commissioner's Corner*



Earlier today, DEP's Bureau of Public Affairs announced the launch of the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest. Second through twelfth grade students attending public, independent, charter or parochial schools (or who are home-schooled) in New York City and in the East and West of Hudson watersheds are invited to create original art and compose poetry that reflects an appreciation for our

shared water resources. Entries will be accepted on-line until March 1, 2015 and a ceremony honoring all student participants will take place in May.

Last year, nearly 700 New York City and Watershed students from 68 schools submitted either original poems or artwork about New York City water, including paintings, collages, three-dimensional models, photography, animation and videos

of dance performances, public service announcements, and songs. In May, 2014 they were honored at an awards ceremony at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center at the Borough of Manhattan Community College where the artwork and poems were displayed. For this year's contest, teachers, parents and students can visit [nyc.gov/dep/artandpoetry](http://nyc.gov/dep/artandpoetry) to view the contest guidelines and resource materials, submit entries online, see past winners, and learn more about New York City water.

DEP's *Water Resources Art and Poetry* program helps raise awareness about the importance of clean, high-quality drinking water, and what it takes to maintain New York City's water supply and wastewater treatment systems. The 2015 contest will focus on four central themes:

1. **Water, A Precious Resource:** To highlight the importance of the quality of our tap and harbor water.
2. **The New York City Water Supply System:** To understand the history of the New York City drinking water system and watershed protection.
3. **The New York City Wastewater Treatment System:** To examine how the City cleans nearly 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater every day.
4. **Climate Change and Water Stewardship:** To bring attention to our changing climate and the importance of understanding the effects on our water resources.



Entries will be judged based on creativity in interpreting one or more of the contest themes, accuracy of information, originality, and skill. An impartial panel of judges will review the entries and select one art and one poetry winner from each category (grades 2-3, 4-6, 7-8, and 9-12).

By creating original works of art young New Yorkers are encouraged to think about the environment and express its importance to them and their communities. Nearly half the State of New York relies on the City's water supply system so this is a terrific opportunity for students in New York City and watershed school systems to learn about our shared natural resources while developing their own creative vision. To view the winning submissions from 2014, [click here](#).

*Spotlight on Safety*

**Recordkeeping Requirements**

The New York State Department of Labor (DOL) requires all public employers to document and submit recordable injury and illness data annually. For an injury or illness to be recordable, it must generally result in any of the following:

- days away from work
- restricted work or transfer to another job
- medical treatment beyond first aid
- loss of consciousness

- SH 900.2 - Injury and Illness Incident Report
- SH 900 - Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses
- SH 900.1 - Annual Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses

DEP is required to keep these records for at least five years and post the annual summary for the previous calendar year from February 1 through April 30. For more information please visit the [NYS DOL](#) and [DEP's Health and Safety Policies](#).

The injuries or illnesses must be recorded on the following forms:

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.





## Free Driftwood Friday



DEP is offering a limited supply of free driftwood from Ashokan Reservoir to artists and craftsmen later this week. The driftwood will be distributed on Friday, Jan. 23, from 10am to 2pm at a staging area on Beaverkill Road in Olivebridge, just a few hundred feet from its intersection with Route 28A. DEP staff will be on hand to answer questions and assist artists as needed.

Driftwood is a popular raw material that is often used by artists for carvings, sculptures and even furniture. The weathered wood is carried by the Esopus Creek into Ashokan Reservoir, where it regularly piles up in a portion of the reservoir's west basin known as "Driftwood Cove." Periodically, DEP removes the wood from the cove so it does not infringe on a nearby boat launch area used by fishermen. The wood will be given away on a first come, first served basis.

## Extra, Extra!



Click the photo to see a video about the history of Gilboa Dam and the recently completed \$138 million rehabilitation and upgrade. For those wishing to view the video outside of the office, you can watch it on our [YouTube channel](#).

## Professional Development



The Baruch College School of Public Affairs will be holding an Open House on Tuesday, February 17 at 5:30pm to provide an overview of their Executive Masters in Public Administration program. The program is designed for full-time professionals who have established managerial experience and are seeking to continue their work while advancing their education. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please visit the [DEP Employee Resource Center](#).

## Press Box



"The NYPD posted several photos of seals basking off the waters of Staten Island on its Special Ops Twitter account on Monday. About a dozen of the mammals were spotted hanging out on Hoffman and Swinburne islands in the Lower Bay, easily viewable from South and Midland Beach. While not a common site, seals continue to visit the Island periodically. Last April, for instance, seals were spotted on consecutive days on the South Shore."

Read the entire Staten Island Advance article [here](#).

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