

The Fish was THIS BIG!



17 pounds—7 ounces heavier than the previous state record for that species. The fish was caught in the reservoir's east basin, just below the dividing weir.

DEP and DEC used the occasion to promote fishing throughout the Catskills. DEC Commissioner Joe Martens joined Deputy Commissioner Paul Rush on June 2 for a fishing event at Ashokan Reservoir. There are at least 11 different species of fish in DEP reservoirs, which have been hailed for their great fishing in magazines and on TV shows. DEP also owns properties in the Catskills that include more than 210 miles of frontage along creeks, streams and small rivers that are excellent for fishing. To see the record setting fish, [click here](#).

A state-record walleye was netted in late April at Ashokan Reservoir by state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) employees who were conducting a nighttime fish survey. The massive fish measured 32 inches and weighed a whopping

Spotlight on Safety

National Safety Month – Emergency Preparedness

This is the second week of National Safety Month (NSM) 2015. This week we will focus on Emergency Preparedness. According to a 2013 NYC Office of Emergency Management Survey, 35 percent of New Yorkers said they did not feel prepared for an emergency. Preparing for an emergency means that employees know where to go, know how to keep themselves safe, and have necessary personal protective equipment. Employees must attend mandatory Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Training. Training should be provided annually, when employees are hired, or if their job/job location changes.

To be prepared in an emergency, facilities should follow these steps:

- Know the emergency response plan and what your role is
- Be familiar with who is on the emergency response team

- Maintain an updated list of key personnel and their telephone numbers
- Practice what you have to do, at least once a year
- Know how to get immediate medical assistance if required
- Have a plan in place to account for personnel following evacuation

DEP has an Emergency Planning Policy in place to ensure all employees are aware of what to do in an emergency situation. Remember, emergencies can happen at any time or any place—know your responsibility, and know the EAP.

For additional information, please see [NYC DEP Emergency Planning Policy](#) and [OSHA Emergency Preparedness and Response](#).

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



This week, DEP joins Queens elected officials and York College to announce a new partnership that includes a door-to-door survey of 200 homes in southeast Queens to determine if the properties have experienced flooding, the severity and frequency of the problem, and what might be causing it. Beginning this week, 10 York College students, accompanied by DEP staff, will fan out across Community Boards 12 and 13 to interview homeowners who were identified through collaboration with community groups, elected officials and the use of 311 data on flooding complaints. At the end of each interview, the homeowner will be offered the opportunity to have their property further assessed by a professional engineer. DEP will cover the cost of the additional engineering inspection. The door-to-door survey is expected to take three weeks to complete and DEP is funding the roughly \$50,000 initiative, including a stipend for each of the participating York College students.

Dr. Ratan Dhar, the principal investigator for York College, has prepared the 10 students from his Environmental Health Science, Geology, and Biology classes to conduct the intense door-to-door survey on flooding in Southeast Queens. Most of the students are in their junior or senior years and they have obtained their Responsible Conduct of Research and Human-Subjects-Research certifications through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiatives program. They have also received required training conducted by three borough coordinators (Queens, Manhattan and Staten Island) at York. Each team of two

York students, along with their DEP partners, have been assigned up to 50 addresses to cover during the survey and two students will monitor all the teams. During the survey, homeowners will also be provided with information about how to properly dispose of grease which can build up in the sewer system and cause blockages. Copies of the [Homeowner's Guide to Flood Preparedness](#), which provides specific tips on how homeowners can mitigate flooding on their property, will also be distributed.

The post-World War II commercial and residential development of southeast Queens outpaced the extension of the City's sewer system and many neighborhoods in the area are not yet equipped with catch basins or storm sewers to drain precipitation from the roadways. As part of DEP's \$6 billion, multi-year capital construction program to construct a comprehensive sewer system for the area, there are numerous projects either ongoing or in the planning and design phase. These include the final stages of the \$175 million Springfield Gardens upgrade that will be completed later this year and will bring nine miles of storm sewers and eight miles of sanitary sewers to the area. Also planned are a \$26 million upgrade for the Brookville Boulevard area, an \$18 million project that will bring high level storm sewers to the Twin Ponds neighborhood, and a \$5 million project to install an additional sewer line under 183rd Street at Jamaica Avenue.

To view additional photos from the launch of the survey [click here](#).

Rain Barrel Giveaways



On Saturday, DEP joined Assembly Member Mark Gjonaj in the Morris Park neighborhood of the Bronx and Council Member I. Daneek Miller in the St. Alban's section of Queens to distribute free rain barrels to approximately 400 homeowners. The 60-gallon rain barrels are easy to install and connect directly to a property owner's downspout to capture and store the stormwater that falls on the rooftop. The water collected in the rain barrel can then be used to water lawns and gardens, or for other outdoor chores. Rain barrels can help reduce a homeowner's water bill as watering lawns and gardens can account for up to 40 percent of an average household's water use during the summer months. They also help to reduce the amount of stormwater that enters the City's sewer system, which helps to protect the health of local waterways. Since 2008, DEP has distributed more than 2,900 rain barrels. To see more photos of the events, [click here](#).

Passing the Torch



Former President of the DEP Blue & Green Toastmaster's Club—an international membership association that helps professionals develop their public speaking skills—**Diana Duke**, recently passed the torch to the incoming President, **Harish Patel**. Diana received high praise and a resounding applause at last week's membership meeting for her extraordinary leadership over the past year. The Club is slated to receive several awards at the upcoming regional member's meeting thanks, in large part, to her commitment and diligence in supporting the Chapter's theme of Educating Excellence. Employees interested in improving their public speaking skills, and having fun doing it right on-site at LeFrak once per month, are welcome to join the club (email Diana at dduke@dep.nyc.gov).

Summering at DEP



Last week, 70 summer interns attended orientation and have been assigned to work at DEP locations across the city and the watersheds. They hail from as far away as Texas and Indiana and there are also many who live right here in New York City. They represent schools including the University of Texas, Carnegie Mellon, Columbia, Cornell, CUNY, SUNY, and Fordham and Stanford Law Schools. We hope everyone will welcome them to DEP and engage them in the important work of protecting public health and the environment.

Welcome Aboard!



We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Jamila Ahada, **Sameh W. Khuzam**, **Michelle Long**, and **MD A. Rahman** with BWT; **Osmar Martinez** with CFO/OIT; **Peter Chung** with BEDC; **Alicia H. West** with Public Affairs; **Tarlisha Coleman** with BEDC; **Stephan Wise** with BWS.

Blood Drive

The Greater New York Blood Program is experiencing a serious shortage in blood donations. More than 1,000 pints of blood are needed every day for hospitals serviced by the New York Blood Services, and a continuous and steady supply is essential because blood is perishable. Together we can help ensure that blood will be available for those who need it. Earlier today, a drive was held in the 3rd floor cafeteria at LeFrak and **additional drives will be held tomorrow and Thursday from 7:45am-1:30pm at LeFrak**.

Any DEP employee who is able to successfully donate blood at this site during work hours will receive three hours of compensatory time. In addition, any employee wishing to donate blood will be excused from work for the amount of time it takes to donate blood, including travel to and from the donation site, up to a maximum of three hours.

If you have any questions regarding the blood drive, your [Blood Captain](#) will be able to assist you. If you cannot donate at the LeFrak location, you may donate at any affiliated hospital; DEP's Donor Group Number is 1275. To see a list of upstate blood drive locations [click here](#).

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