

## Kudos Corner



On April 15, 2015 BEDC Engineer **Roopesh Joshi, P.E.**, was awarded the Young Water Professional of the Year Award at the Annual Water Event meeting in

Saratoga Springs, New York. The Young Water Professional Award is designed to recognize the finest young water professionals with outstanding and creative approaches in the water industry. Mr. Joshi is the Accountability Manager for the Queens Groundwater Rehabilitation project for DEP, one of the largest groundwater supply projects in the nation. He has been very active member of the NYSAWWA Program Committee for the past nine years and is currently the Vice Chairman of the Program Committee responsible for organizing the Tift Symposium. Congratulations to Roopesh!

## Spotlight on Safety

### Workers' Memorial Day

Today is Workers' Memorial Day and DEP remembers those who have lost their lives and reflects on the true impact of a safe workplace. DEP is committed to ensuring the safety of all employees by enforcing applicable regulations and providing resources for employees to report unsafe conditions. This includes workplace violence. DEP provides information on how all employees can take steps to minimize the hazard of workplace violence at our offices. DEP employees have the right—and are encouraged—to report any workplace violence related concern without fear of retaliation.

The Employee Concern Procedure (ECP) provides another avenue to report unsafe conditions or acts. The ECP ensures that all concerns or reports that are made by employees or contractors are promptly reviewed and resolved. You can directly report any concern to your supervisor, Bureau EHS

Safety Officer, or the **Employee Concerns Hotline (800-897-9677)**. If you are a DEP contract employee please call (718)-595-4700.

Today, please take the time to remember those we have lost and who have sustained injuries while on the job. To learn more, please visit [OSHA's Workers' Memorial Day page](#).

### In Memoriam

Since 1999, DEP has lost seven employees and two contractors to work-related deaths.

**Kenneth Sabbatini**, BWSO, 1/19/99; **Christopher Postiglione**, BWSO, 1/22/99; **Joseph Lohman**, BWSO, 10/18/99; **Archie Tyler**, BWSO, 3/4/01; **Eugene McMahon**, BWSO, 8/13/02; **Gennaro Montello**, BWT, 1/11/09; and **Aron Thomas**, BWS, 2/3/14.

**Timothy Lang**, Halmar International, 12/2/13; and **Scott Winkler**, Precision Concrete Pumping, 12/10/13.

## Commissioner's Corner



Earlier today DEP joined Trout Unlimited, a national grassroots non-profit organization whose mission is to conserve, protect, and restore North America's cold-water fisheries and their watersheds, and 50 pre-k and 4th grade students from P.S. 251, the Paerdegat School in Brooklyn, to release juvenile brown trout that the students have raised in their classrooms since October of last year. Since 2002, DEP and Trout Unlimited have worked together to educate students in New York City and watershed communities about the importance of protecting our shared water resources through the Trout in the Classroom program. The conservation-oriented environmental education program teaches young New Yorkers, ranging from pre-k to grade 12, about the connections between trout, water quality, the environment and steps they can take to improve the ecological health of the New York City watershed, which supplies over 9 million people with a reliable source of high quality drinking water every day.

This year, more than 3,000 students from schools in New York City and the upstate watersheds incubated trout eggs in their classrooms and raised them into juvenile brown trout, which are also called fingerlings. The 6-month long program culminates with students taking part in a field day, where they release the fingerlings into New York City watershed streams in April and May. Today, nearly 50 fingerlings were released into the Cross River where it passes through the Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Westchester County.

The Trout in the Classroom Program in southern New York

began in 2002 as a partnership between DEP and Trout Unlimited and has become a prototype for similar programs across the country. The program is flexibly designed to be age appropriate as well as adaptable to individual classroom needs, enabling teachers to cultivate a wide range of skills in their students, ranging from reading and creative writing to scientific observation. Participating classrooms receive trout eggs in October, giving students the opportunity to monitor water temperature, clarity, dissolved oxygen, ammonia, and PH as the eggs develop and grow into fingerlings over the course of the school year.

As an aquatic indicator species, the trout also provide students the chance to learn about water quality and the ecological importance of the streams that feed New York City's water supply and the nearby forest habitat.

The New York State Department of Conservation (DEC) supports the program and sets guidelines for raising trout in the classroom and releasing them into the New York City watershed. Last fall, DEC provided approximately 20,000 trout eggs that were distributed for free to nearly 200 classrooms. It is estimated that over 3,000 students from more than 150 schools in the southern New York area will directly participate in trout releases this year.

To learn more about Trout in the Classroom in New York City and the New York City Watersheds, sponsor a school, get a school involved, or volunteer at the next Trout Release Field Day, visit [click here](#). To see additional photos from today's trout release, [click here](#).

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.

## Focus on the Field



As Section Chief with the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment (BWT), **Joseph Reddington** always ensures that safety comes first, which in practical terms means he puts people first. A Queens native, Reddington was born in Flushing, grew up in Woodside and attended Delehanty High School. He studied at New York University and LaGuardia Community College and held several different jobs before joining DEP as a Sewage Treatment Worker. A few years later he became a Plant Safety Person and earned numerous OSHA training certificates, an Asbestos Inspector License and was certified as an EMT. In 2000, Joe returned to Operations as a Senior Sewage Treatment Worker at Ward's Island and obtained his NYS Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's License. However, after a few years he was eager to return his focus to safety and he became Chief of the Safety Section.

In this role, Reddington serves as an on-call responder, reviews unsafe conditions, performs modified equipment assessments and assists with incident investigations. His extensive knowledge of plant machinery makes him a tremendous asset to EHS staff, and also informs his safety role. "You can't connect with people if you can't speak their language," he says, referring to the mechanical and technical equipment used at the facilities.

Reddington also believes that it's not only what you say, but how you say it. Prior to joining DEP he had worked in the journalism industry and he credits this

experience with helping him build his communication skills that he uses at DEP today. This includes leading Confined Space and CPR training courses, among others. In the early 2000s, Reddington worked with BWT staff to construct a simulator for DEP's Confined Space training. As one of the few on the East Coast that included a simulator, Reddington was instrumental in providing the training for not only DEP, but also the NYPD, Transit Authority and the FBI. "I'm always impressed by the talent at DEP and how people are able to think outside of the box to come up with creative solutions to difficult problems," said Reddington.

"Joe is invaluable to the bureau," said **Bill Yulinsky**, Director of EHS for BWT. "His concern for the workers and the environment, his knowledge of EHS regulations and his credibility with employees should serve as an example for all EHS professionals."

Most recently, Reddington has been working to ensure that his wealth of knowledge is transferred to newly hired employees, so that in the future he can feel he has not left his job here at DEP unfinished. "Safety is a personal thing. It's my job to make sure everyone goes home at night," he said.

Reddington currently resides in Middle Village with his wife. He has owned a motorcycle for 45 years and enjoys taking Sunday morning rides on his Harley Davidson. And, as a life-long Mets fan, he is enjoying watching the team play this year and looks forward to a successful season.

## NY Environmental Champions



Last week, US EPA [recognized](#) a number of individuals and groups as New York Environmental Champions. Among those recognized were DEP's green infrastructure partner Brooklyn Grange, who operates the rooftop farm at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and **Fred Huneke**, who has served on the Watershed Agricultural Council, for his many years of service. Congratulations to all!

## Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, seven new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources **Zoe Ann Campbell** and Deputy Director of Human Resources **Herb Roth**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Toyya Brewton**, **Timothy Loewen** and **HaeSun Nam** with BEDC; **Santo Cimino** with ACCO; **John M. Dalide** with BWSO; **Christine Ng** with Sustainability; and **Gustavo A. Reyes** with the Water Board.

## Health and Wellness Fair

The DEP Labor and Management Quality of Worklife CAT Committee is pleased to announce a Health and Wellness Fair on Thursday, April 30, 2015 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. We will be utilizing both the Lefrak Cafeteria and 6th floor training rooms. A number of exhibitors are scheduled to attend. To see a list of list of exhibitors [click here](#).

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