

DEP Dragons Make Waves in Flushing



In the Chinese lunar calendar, 2012 is the year of the Water Dragon and the 22nd Annual Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival celebrated that tradition earlier this month at Flushing Meadows Corona Park. On Saturday, August 4, a team of DEP employees represented the agency in the Dragon Boat Race, placing fourth in the Municipal Cup division.

More than 2,500 competitors from 170 teams paddled the 250 to 1,000 meter long courses in 65 different races at the two-day competition. The festival also included traditional Chinese arts, martial arts demonstrations, and a dragon dance, as well as musical performances. 15,000 New

(Continued on reverse side)

Spotlight on Safety

Fire Extinguishers - What's my responsibility?

Fire extinguisher use, inspection, and maintenance are critical for everyone's safety as they are essential to putting out and controlling fires. In an emergency, DEP employees are not required to attempt to put out a fire, only employees trained in the use of fire extinguishers may attempt to do so.

Fire extinguishers need to be accessible to the individuals who are trained and required to use them and, therefore, care should be taken to ensure that they are not blocked by equipment, tools, or other objects. Employees can and

should report to their immediate supervisor any missing extinguisher or one that is without service tags or is damaged.

Inspections are conducted on a monthly basis to ensure that the extinguisher is available, fully charged, visible and operable. Inspections should only be performed by qualified, trained and designated employees.

Fire extinguisher maintenance, performed by a licensed contractor, includes a thorough check to see if the extinguisher is in need of repair, recharging, or replacement.

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

When **Mayor Bloomberg** launched the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan in 2010, we at DEP knew that we were undertaking an enormous responsibility to transform the plan's innovative strategies into a new reality of clean New York City waterways. Last Thursday, I joined Mayor Bloomberg at the Brooklyn Navy Yard to see firsthand how this remarkable plan is bearing fruit in exciting and transformative ways.

Brooklyn Grange, New York City's largest rooftop farm, is expected to produce 20,000 pounds of fresh produce every year. Crops will include leafy greens, aromatic herbs, heirloom tomatoes, and carrots. Together with Brooklyn Navy Yard, Brooklyn Grange was awarded more than \$592,000 in 2011 as part of DEP's Green Infrastructure Grant Program, and this was matched by approximately \$300,000 in private and other funds—one of the new benefits of our green strategy. The farm is the program's largest project to date, and will divert more than one million gallons of stormwater from the New York City sewer system each year and use it to irrigate the crops. Before the farm was built, that stormwater would have ended up in the East River. It will also provide other tangible benefits, creating jobs, local produce, and lower energy costs (green roofs insulate, reducing cooling costs during the summer and heating costs during the winter). Big thanks and congratulations are in order for DEP's "green team" led by **Angela Licata** and **Magdi Farag**, and including **Margot Walker**, **Julie Stein**, **Ray Palmares**, **Tetyana Klymenko**, and **Mikelle Adgate**.

DEP's green thumb extends throughout the New York City wa-

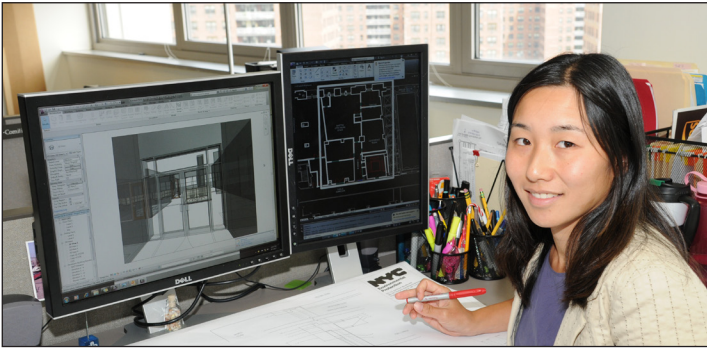


tershed. On Wednesday, I joined Assistant Commissioner **David Warne**, Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) Executive Director **Craig Cashman**, and WAC Board of Directors President **Fred Huneke** to visit two farms in the Town of Walton, Delaware County. A nonprofit organization and an exemplary partner to DEP since the early 1990s, WAC consists of more than 400 farms throughout the Catskill, Croton and Delaware Watersheds and plays a critical role in the protection of the New York City water supply. WAC helps to protect tributary streams while also guiding farms in environmentally sustainable practices. One of the longest-standing water quality protection strategies is stream management, and both farms we visited featured barnyards where livestock and materials are kept safely apart from the tributary streams. DEP's Working Lands Unit oversees implementation of WAC protocol, led by **John Schwartz** and **Ed Blouin**; their hard work is appreciated every time New Yorkers turn on the tap.

DEP has done tremendous work protecting one of New York City's most precious resources, in addition to cleaning its surrounding waterways. Soon, we will provide an update on *Operational Excellence: The Best Always Do Better* (OpX) in a Special Edition of the Weekly Pipeline. We have completed the first phase of this landmark program with a report presented to the NYC Water Board, and the findings are promising. We look forward to sharing the progress of this program with you. Clean waterways, green infrastructure, and operational excellence all warrant a big thumbs up—a green thumb, of course.



Focus on the Field



Like her hometown, New York City, Assistant Architect **Mary Lam** is full of energy and always on the move. Since joining DEP's Facility Management and Construction Division in 2010, Lam has worked on a range of project designs including individual workspaces, meeting and conference rooms, and storage and lab facilities. It is rare that her work is ever the same, as she notes, "I don't have a routine day, and my projects range from small to large-scale and from creative to technical. Depending on the project I can be sitting at my desk drafting one moment, corresponding to fellow colleagues, surveying DEP facilities or filing drawings at the Department of Buildings."

The energetic Lam sees space planning as challenging yet fun. Before she drafts any architectural drawings, she meets with staff to learn about their operations and functions in order properly to design for their

needs. Mary's shop has also acquired a building information modeling tool that turns drawing plans into renderings and allows staff to better envision the potential space.

"It's amazing to see the parts that make up the whole. The people I work with have developed a superb chemistry. We identify the objectives and work through any issues together. It is particularly gratifying to work with dedicated and encouraging people including **Sue Dennis, Patricia Turner** and **Scott Johnson, Therese Pupillo** and **Ken Carchietta.**"

Among Mary's many hobbies is her love of boat racing. "I always look forward to the summer when I can paddle with my dragon boat team." Thanks to Mary, DEP launched its first co-ed team this year in the 22nd annual dragon boat festival. It is a perfect vehicle to tap her energy and spirit of cooperation.

Out of the Archives



1921, but according to the caption it was taken from an older photograph. Smith was appointed Chief Engineer on August 1, 1905.

In addition to the monumental task of supplying New York City with clean, wholesome water, DEP's predecessor, the Board of Water Supply, also found time for sports. Even the first Chief Engineer of the Board of Water Supply, J. Waldo Smith, enjoyed getting up to bat. This cyanotype is dated March,

Milestones

Congratulations to the following employees with 30 or more years of service: **Jeffrey Troshane**, BWT, 35 years; **Michael Scott**, BEDC, **Barbara Smith**, BCS, 33 years; **Charles Shamoon**, BEC, 32 years; and **Ray Montalvo**, BEC, **Matthew Wood**, BPS, **Marshall Benedetti**, HR, **Patrick Schaaffe**, HR, **Hopeton McPherson**, BCS, and **Vijay Patel**, OIT, all with 31 years of service.

Press Box

"Almost a decade after the last family farm within the city's boundaries closed, basil and bok choy are growing in Brooklyn, and tomatoes, leeks and cucumbers in Queens. Commercial agriculture is bound for the South Bronx, where the city recently solicited proposals for what would be the largest rooftop farm in the United States, and possibly the world... For city officials, the rise of commercial agriculture has ancillary benefits, as well. Rooftop farms have the potential to capture millions of gallons of storm water and divert it from the sewer system, which can overflow when it rains." – from a NY Times article [on rooftop farming in NYC](#)

(DEP Dragons Make Waves in Flushing... continued)

Yorkers attended the festival, the oldest and largest of its kind in the United States.

Dragon boat racing traces its roots to southern China, where the races have been held for more than 2,000 years as part of a summer solstice festival. Today, dragon boat racing is an international sport, with teams and competitions around the world. Teams are made up of 12 to 20 paddlers seated in pairs in a long, narrow boat with a head and tail carved to look like a mythical dragon. A drummer sits at the head of the boat, setting the rhythm for the paddlers to follow, while another team member steers the boat from the rear.

This year's festival was the first for the DEP Dragon Boat team, called the "Water Dragons." Assistant Architect **Mary Lam** (Facilities Management and Construction Division) helped start the team earlier this year, bringing together DEP staff from across the agency. Mary said, "With the combination of the year of the Water Dragon and the Summer Olympics in London, it is a perfect time for our team to emerge." At the festival, the DEP team raced against teams of other city employees, including boats from the FDNY, NYPD, and New York State Chinese Auxiliary Police Association. "It's fun to compete with other city agencies," Lam said. "DEP is all about water and air quality, so what better way to represent our agency than a boat race!"

Some of the Water Dragons are experienced paddlers, and others are new to the sport. The new paddlers thought it would



be easy, however, according to Lam, "the first time they got in the boat, they realized it's a lot harder than it looks."

The team practiced at Meadow Lake in Flushing Meadows Park every Sunday, building their strength, endurance, and coordination for the big event. **Raymond Palmares** (BEC - Office of Green Infrastructure) explained, "Despite the grueling workouts, and the high temperatures, everyone was in good spirits at practice. We have come a long way since we started." The DEP Water Dragons are proud of what they have accomplished. Their major challenge was to beat their best time and keep their paddles in sync. The Water Dragons will be at it again next year, looking to bring the title of New York's fastest agency to DEP.

Other members of the DEP Dragon Boat team include: **Eduardo Hernandez**, **Keino Leitch**, **Ian Alexander**, **Michael Shum** and **Lonnie McCombs**, OIT; **Matthew Dominick** and **Geysa Gonzalez**, BWSO; **John Wilson**, BCS; **Svetlana Khomutova**, OEHS; and Summer Interns **Callie Siu** and **Aminul Haque**, BEC. If you're interested in learning more about joining the team, email Mary Lam at MaryL@dep.nyc.gov.

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