

## Earth Day Trout Release



**D**eputy Commissioner **Paul Rush** and BWS Chief of Staff **Jennifer Garigliano** help students from the Studio School in Manhattan identify the organisms the juvenile brown trout they raised will eat after being released into the Cross River in Westchester County. Through the Trout in the Classroom program, more than 1,500 students from schools in New York City and the upstate watersheds raised the trout from eggs and will release them into

watershed streams over the next two months. While raising the trout in their classrooms, students learn that they are sensitive to changes in water quality and serve as an important indicator species. The students monitored water temperature, clarity, dissolved oxygen, ammonia, and PH while the trout are raised in tanks. They also learned about how trout play an important role in the water ecology of the streams that feed New York City's water supply.

## Spotlight on Safety

### Don't Drive Distracted!

Each day in the United States, more than nine people are killed and more than 1,060 people are injured in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver.

- In 2011, 3,331 people were killed in crashes involving a distracted driver.
- The number of accidents in 2011 involving a distracted driver—387,000.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control, 69 percent of surveyed U.S. drivers ages 18-64 said that they had talked on the cell phone while driving. Thirty-one percent of the same

surveyed drivers reported that they had sent text messages or emails while driving.

Talking and texting while driving is illegal in New York State; yet they still occur in many of our places of work. As April is "Distracted Driving Awareness Month," help one another to break the distracted driving habit. Employees in a vehicle with a distracted driver have the responsibility to speak up to encourage your co-workers to put down the cell-phones.

For more information:

- Distracted Driving Poster 
- Distracted Driving 

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



On April 22, 1970, more than 20 million Americans celebrated the first Earth Day. People from coast to coast took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to rally for a healthy, sustainable environment. Earth Day is widely credited with helping to launch the modern environmental movement and made pollution control a political issue in the run-up to the 1972 Presidential election. With bi-partisan support, Congress passed the 1972 Clean Water Act, which included billions in grants for wastewater treatment plants and other controls. DEP has continued that legacy by investing more than \$20 billion over the past decade and more than \$14 billion in the next 10 years in drinking water and clean water programs. Yet at a time when we need support, there are few grants from the federal government, and the EPA is cutting drinking water and clean water revolving loan programs that help us borrow at low rates. Last week I participated in a National Infrastructure Summit in Washington, D.C. with utilities from other major cities to make the case for stronger federal support for investing in infrastructure

This is an issue that has widespread support. Today more than 1 billion people participate in Earth Day activities, making it the largest civic observance in the world, and DEP is celebrating with a number of events that align with our mission. Last Saturday, we hosted a Rain Barrel Giveaway and distributed hundreds of free rain barrels to single-family homeowners in Southeast Queens. DEP also hosted

two educational events for New York City school kids this week to help them connect with nature and appreciate the work that our employees do every day to keep our waterways clean. On Monday, Deputy Commissioner **Paul Rush** joined Trout Unlimited's **Lilli Genovesi** and 22 students from the Studio School in Manhattan to release nearly 50 juvenile brown trout into the Cross River in Westchester County. And earlier today, I joined **Dana Gumb** and **Robert Brauman** from BWSO, as well as **Chris Bowser** from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in leading students from the Saint Clare School at the second annual count of juvenile eels at Staten Island's Richmond Creek Bluebelt.

Tomorrow, at noon, DEP will hold an official Earth Day celebration in the 3rd floor cafeteria at our Lefrak Headquarters. GrowNYC's **Jon Klar** will give a short presentation on the future of recycling in New York City and Deputy Commissioner **Diana Jones-Ritter** will present DEP's Recycling Committee with the first-ever DEP Earth Day Award. Finally, this Saturday DEP will host our sixth Hurricane Sandy Bluebelt Clean-up event in Midland Beach, Staten Island, and will also participate in the city-wide MillionTrees planting at Alley Pond Park, Queens. If you are interested in volunteering, email [DEPVolunteerDay@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:DEPVolunteerDay@dep.nyc.gov). And if you are celebrating Earth Day in a unique way, I encourage you to share your photos and a description of the event with us at [newsletter@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov).

## Focus on the Field



**Jaunita James** began her career in DEP's press office working part time during high school. After graduating in 1997, she was brought on full-time and has served as an Administrative Assistant in DEP's Communications Division since. Today, she is an integral part of DEP's press office and communications team. DEP's Communications Division issues more than 100 press announcements each year, hosts dozens of media events, and publishes the Weekly Pipeline. James manages the Press Office event calendar and is also responsible for a final quality control check on all DEP media releases before they are sent to news outlets. One of her sharpest skills is fielding inquiries from media outlets and directing reporters to the appropriate press officer. "Jaunita is incredibly professional with the media, particularly during breaking news emergencies when our press office can receive dozens of calls in a matter of minutes," said **Chris Gilbride**, DEP's Director of Communications. James has a strong knowledge of current press office issues and compiles a daily press report for **Commissioner Strickland** and for **Mayor Bloomberg's** press office.

According to James, one of her favorite parts of the job is dealing with members of the public who often mistakenly call the press of-

ice. "It's rewarding when someone calls and they are upset or frustrated and I can help them find a solution to their problem," she said. James also enjoys opportunities to work in the field and educate New Yorkers about New York City's high quality drinking water. She has staffed events like World Water Day, Water-On-the-Go, and last weekend volunteered at DEP's rain barrel giveaway event in Jamaica, Queens. In addition to her work in the press office, James also serves as BCIA's facilities coordinator.

James says the most challenging time of her career was in the aftermath of September 11, 2001. She, and other BCIA volunteers, worked in Manhattan staffing a call center to help people locate family members. "We would work all day here in Queens and then head straight downtown to help out," she recalls. "Days afterwards people were still looking for their family members. Hearing their stories was the hardest part."

"Jaunita is the glue that holds our office together," said DEP Press Secretary **Ted Timbers**. "She not only keeps us organized and on track, she's also got a great attitude and is a lot of fun to work with."

James moved to Brooklyn from Guyana in 1990. Today, she lives in Queens with her husband of 20 years and their son and daughter. In her spare time Jaunita enjoys spending time with her family and is still close with relatives in Guyana. She also enjoys traveling and says one of her favorite places is Los Angeles, California.

On Tuesday, James was among those honored for her outstanding service at DEP's Administrative Professionals Day Recognition Ceremony and Celebration.

## Volunteer Opportunity

Parts of the Staten Island Bluebelt were heavily littered with debris during Hurricane Sandy. We invite you to join us on Saturday, April 27th to help restore these vital wetlands to their natural beauty. Volunteers will help collect trash and other light debris washed into the Bluebelt by the storm surge. The event will take place from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm in the Midland Beach area of Staten Island. Transportation from Lefrak will be available but limited to the first ten employees who RSVP. To volunteer, please RSVP before April 24th to: [DEPVolunteerDay@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:DEPVolunteerDay@dep.nyc.gov). Thank you in advance!

## Rain Barrel Giveaway



On Saturday Commissioner Strickland joined Councilman **Leroy Comrie** at DEP's 2013 Rain Barrel Giveaway event at Roy Wilkins Park in Jamaica, Queens. DEP distributed hundreds of free rain barrels to single-family homeowners in Southeast Queens. During the spring and summer months, watering lawns and gardens can account for up to 40 percent of an average household's water use. The 60-gallon rain barrels given away at the event will help conserve drinking water and save homeowners money by capturing rain water that can be used for gardening and lawn care. Rain barrels can also help mitigate street flooding and keep stormwater from entering the sewer system, reducing the volume of water carried to the wastewater treatment plants during storms and easing pressure on the system. At previous rain barrel giveaway events held between 2008 and 2011, DEP distributed more than 2,000 rain barrels. DEP selected homeowners in flood prone areas in Southeast Queens for this year's giveaway along with people who signed up for a wait list after the last rain barrel giveaway in 2011.

## Administrative Professionals Week



Administrative Professionals Week is one of the largest workplace observances outside of employee birthdays and major holidays. The event is celebrated worldwide through community events, social gatherings, and individual workplace activities in recognition of support staff. Earlier today, administrative staff throughout DEP joined together at a ceremony and luncheon to celebrate our Administrative Professionals. More than 20 professionals from all parts of the agency were recognized for demonstrating their dedication and commitment to providing exemplary support. For more information about this year's honorees 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)**