

## Opportunities for Watershed Recreation



DEP recently released its 2019 Watershed Recreation Newsletter, which serves as a yearly source of information for local residents and visitors who enjoy outdoor activities on water-supply lands and reservoirs in the Catskills and Hudson Valley. Details about watershed events are posted throughout the year on DEP's watershed Facebook page ([facebook.com/nycwatershed](https://www.facebook.com/nycwatershed)) and through a bi-monthly digital newsletter. To subscribe to the online newsletter, email [recreation@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:recreation@dep.nyc.gov). There are now approximately 136,000 acres of water supply property open for recreation in the watershed. Of that, roughly 73,500 acres of land are in public access areas that are open to recreation without a DEP permit. For those areas that require a permit, the free-of-charge DEP Access Permit can be obtained online by visiting [nyc.gov/dep/accesspermit](http://nyc.gov/dep/accesspermit).

## Spotlight on Safety

### Noise Control at Wastewater Facilities

Wastewater facilities create unique noise problems for workers due to the combination of high-speed, high volume air blowers and concentrators, high ceilings, and hard surfaces. The installation of acoustic noise-absorbing panels has been identified as a viable solution to rectify noise and reverberation (echo) issues at these facilities. Acoustic noise-absorbing panels absorb sound waves to reduce general noise, clarify speech and limit reverberation in walls within enclosed areas. To

address noise issues, Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant in Columbus, Ohio, replaced existing drop-ceiling tiles in one of their blower rooms at the plant with noise-absorbing panels. A panel layout was designed for the facility that reduced the reverberation time from 7.5 seconds at an average noise level of 93.6 dB at 500 Hz to just 1.2 seconds at 500 Hz. This is one example of the options available for noise control in industrial facilities to protect the health of employees.

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](https://www.nyc.gov/dep/pipehelp). HELP IS ON THE WAY.

## Commissioner's Corner



I joined Monday with government leaders in Ulster County to celebrate the completion of a \$10 million upgrade to the central office building at Ashokan Reservoir. The building on Route 28A was also rededicated in memory of **Benjamin C. Nesin**, a noted scientist and former director of laboratories for the New York City water supply. I was also honored to have **Norma Nesin** and **Sandra Nesin Plafker**, nieces of Ben Nesin, join us for the ceremony.

The refurbished Ben Nesin Building will house about 35 employees who are responsible for the operation and maintenance of Ashokan Reservoir, Schoharie Reservoir and the watershed lands that surround them. DEP employees who specialize in dam safety and capital construction projects will also work in the building.

The four-story building was constructed in 1961 to serve as a water quality laboratory and office. It stopped being used as a laboratory when DEP finished its new Kingston Laboratory in 2008, but the building continued to house engineers, watershed maintenance staff, and other DEP employees. The renovation project began late in 2016 and workers replaced all windows, interior and exterior doors, and installed new systems for heating and air conditioning. Asbestos building materials and lead paint were removed, and the plumbing and electric utilities were upgraded. The front entrance along Route 28A was reconfigured to al-

low for a safer crosswalk from the parking lot across the street, and a larger landing that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The project will seek silver-level LEED certification because it incorporated a number of environmentally responsible design elements, including energy efficient lighting and HVAC equipment, additional insulation, water efficient fixtures, and the use of recycled and regionally sourced materials.

On Monday, the building was rededicated in memory of Nesin, who served as the director of New York City's water quality laboratories from 1945 until his death in 1964. Nesin was the chemist in charge of the Mt. Prospect Laboratory in Brooklyn from 1931-1945, and was then appointed to oversee all five of the City's water quality laboratories.

The newly refurbished Ben Nesin Building provides our employees with a modern space from which to operate, maintain and protect the Catskill Water Supply System. I want to thank the employees who oversaw the renovations, the contractors who carried out the work, and the family of Ben Nesin for joining us on this special occasion. A special thank-you also goes to the watershed maintenance staff based in Shokan, who cleaned parking lots, spread mulch, and worked over the weekend to ensure the building and grounds looked great for our special guests.

# Focus on the Field: Value Ambassadors for Integrity

This month, Weekly Pipeline celebrated DEP's core value of Integrity with the Value Ambassador program. As part of the program, we are highlighting four DEP employees nominated by their peers who, through their work, best represent Integrity at DEP. Over the next few months, Weekly Pipeline will continue to showcase DEP's core values.



November: Innovation



December: Support



January: Diversity



February: Service



March: Integrity



April: Sustainability

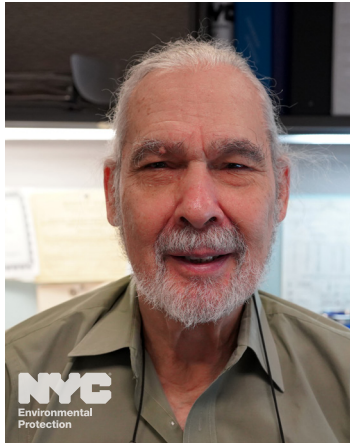


May: Transparency



June: Safety

**VINCENT MALVEAUX** is the Engineer in Charge of the Site Connection Unit in BWSO and he has been with DEP for more than 34 years. Vincent and his team are responsible for the review of more than 500 site connection proposals per month. Each review varies in complexity and scale, and many have complex legal issues that must be addressed due to the ever-changing nature of development in New York City. Vincent's integrity ensures that projects are reviewed in a professional and timely manner, while making every effort to coordinate with property owners, contractors, and other city agencies on the



step-by-step processes required for each site review. Vincent was nominated by **Mark Safari**.

**NICOLE DIUNTE** is an Executive Assistant in the Bureau of Public Affairs and Communications (BPAC) and has been with DEP for 23 years. Nicole epitomizes the concept of integrity. She is the glue that ensures BPAC will operate functionally, and does so with total decency and fairness. She is eternally trustworthy and honest in how she approaches her tasks, as well as her interactions with her colleagues. She has a strong moral compass which her colleagues see and, in return, try to replicate. She demands the best of herself and expects that from her colleagues as well. She is a caring, loyal DEP employee who embodies



total integrity in all that she does. Nicole was nominated by **Michael DeLoach**.

**GEOFFREY MARTIN** of the BWT Legal Unit has been with BWT for 12 years, and is responsible for preparing and presenting cases involving violations of the Sewer Use Regulations before the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings. Geoffrey makes difficult decisions on which cases to available evidence. His determinations exemplify the professional integrity needed to protect the public interest. Geoffrey was nominated by **Charles Taule** and **Leslie Lipton**.



**MORLAN TY ROGERS** is an agency attorney for the Bureau of Legal Affairs and has worked with DEP for more than five years. Ty works on all the conflicts of interest matters within the agency, and consistently advises with tact, respect for confidentiality, and with both the letter and broader intent of the conflicts law, rules, and policies in mind. He engenders the trust of people at all levels of the agency, including the General Counsel and Commissioner, who rely strongly on Ty for his ethical guidance.



Ty was nominated by **Elissa Stein Cushman**.

## Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 17 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Director for Human Resources **Herb Roth**, HR Specialist **Grace Franco** and HR Generalist **Conor Bulger**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Veronika Patycka** and **Kevin Wolf** with BEDC; **Alyssa M. Brucato**, **Roberto Grandados**, **David J. Isolda** and **Fabiana Jeanty** with BWS; **Stephanie E. Brim**, **Oboerhiri Emofovwah**, **Rosemary C. Eze**, **Karen Fabre**, **Mayowa O. George**, **Denise Johnson**, **Gabriel J. Martiniez-Vasquez**, **Larisa Osodoyeva**, and **Jonathan J. Woo** with BWSO; and **Ian Dickey** and **Robert McGrath** with BWT.

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