

## It's a Watershed Moment for Recreation Enthusiasts

If you are looking for fun activities around the New York area you do not need to go that far. DEP owns or is purchasing land that can provide tremendous recreational opportunities upstate for outdoor enthusiasts. In fact, for many of the watershed communities, such activities typify a way of life that they want to see continued. DEP's water supply lands provide outstanding public recreation opportunities at 19 reservoirs and on water supply lands throughout the Catskill, Delaware, and East-of-Hudson watersheds. Some of the activities enjoyed by residents and tourists are deep-water and in-stream fishing, ice fishing, fishing from boats and shoreline, hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing, and other similar low-impact activities. Watershed land and reservoirs open to the public have increased in recent years to 108,000 acres (made



up of 75,000 acres of land and 33,000 acres of water use) due to purchases of additional source water protection lands and expansion of the recreational uses allowed—up from 62,000 in 2003. DEP's priority is to ensure that there is a balance for adequate security to prevent unauthorized use of its watershed lands and being a good neighbor to all the surrounding communities and visitors alike.

(Continued on reverse side)

## Spotlight on Safety

### Keep it secure!

We are all busy with many critical tasks and priorities, but it is important to remain vigilant when it comes to security of DEP employees and facilities. A few important tips to follow:

- Maintain all property access points in a secure state by way of locks, pass card entry, guards or other deterrents.
- If you see someone at your facility that you don't know, it's OK to ask! All DEP employees and contractors are required to wear visible ID.
- Safeguard critical equipment, especially when in field locations. This applies to drawings, laptops, and notebooks (electronic or otherwise).
- Consider carefully what types of documents you are e-mailing, especially drawings or plans, and shred sensitive documents before discarding them.
- If you observe any suspicious behavior, activity or items at DEP facilities, an immediate notification should be made. If an in-city location, call 911. If outside NYC, call DEP Police at 914-593-7500. Your supervisor and site security should also be notified.
- Many crimes are averted by an attentive employee or civilian. If you see something, say something!

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

Yesterday, a group of roughly 60 DEP managers convened at Gracie Mansion for a day-long meeting on the largest and most significant new capital project in our 10-year capital plan: the \$2.1 billion repair of the leaks in the Delaware Aqueduct that supplies half of the city's water supply—500 million gallons—every day. We announced the plan to fix the leaks last November; and Mayor Bloomberg highlighted the tunnel repair in his most recent executive budget as one of the key infrastructure investments the city will make in the next decade.

As I greeted the group yesterday morning—which also included Aaron Koch from the Mayor's Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability and Dan Greene from the Law Department—I realized that this project will require unprecedented effort from and cooperation between nearly every division at DEP, as well as support from many other city, state, and federal stakeholders. BEDC will oversee the design and construction of the tunnel, and a number of other projects to supplement the city's water supply during the time that the Delaware Aqueduct is shutdown; BWS will ensure that we continue to meet water quality standards throughout the system during the shutdown; BWSO will operate the Croton Water Filtration Plant and other facilities we'll need while the Delaware watershed is offline; BEPA will do the modeling to determine how much additional water supply we'll need, which will depend on a complicated analysis of the hydrology in the watershed when we're ready to make the shutdown; BWT will ensure that we can properly dispose of groundwater and advise on modeling efforts; EHS will ensure that all construction is carried out safely and that we meet federal and state compliance standards for the duration of the project; BCIA will engage the hundreds of stakeholders involved or impacted by the project—from regulators, to elected



and appointed officials, to our nine million customers; and our administration and support bureaus will be engaged as never before ensuring we have the budget, contracts, materials, personnel, training, facilities, and anything else needed to get the job done.

The complexity of the effort is daunting, and the purpose of yesterday's meeting was to develop a charter for the tunnel repair—a statement of the mission, operating principles and values, goals and critical success factors for the project—that will create the highest probability that DEP can deliver the tunnel repair on time, on budget, and with little or no disruption to the nine million New Yorkers who rely on the services we provide every day.

After seven hours of presentations and working sessions, we succeeded. The final charter for the project—now known as Water for the Future: Clean, Reliable, Safe—can be viewed here. I hope that you will take the time to read and become familiar with it, and I'm certain that nearly every DEP employee will have some role in completing this monumental undertaking over the next decade. Special thanks to the team responsible for setting up the day and the hundreds of hours of preparation that went into it, including Bob Hayden, Kathryn Mallon, Wendy Sperduto, and Lynn Cole. I look forward to working with them and everyone at DEP as we work toward our first major milestone: breaking ground in 2013!

## Focus on the Field



Working at the Bureau of Water Supply, **Charles Laing** is a “natural.” He has been Senior Property Manager in the Natural Resources Management section for more than a year, building on previous positions at the Columbia Land Conservancy and Scenic Hudson, two non-profit organizations. Charles also had a previous stint with DEP’s Land Acquisition Program from 1999 to 2006 and his land conservation interest was fostered at St. Andrews University in Scotland where he double-majored in plant biology and geography, and subsequently at the University of Massachusetts where he earned a Master’s degree in forestry.

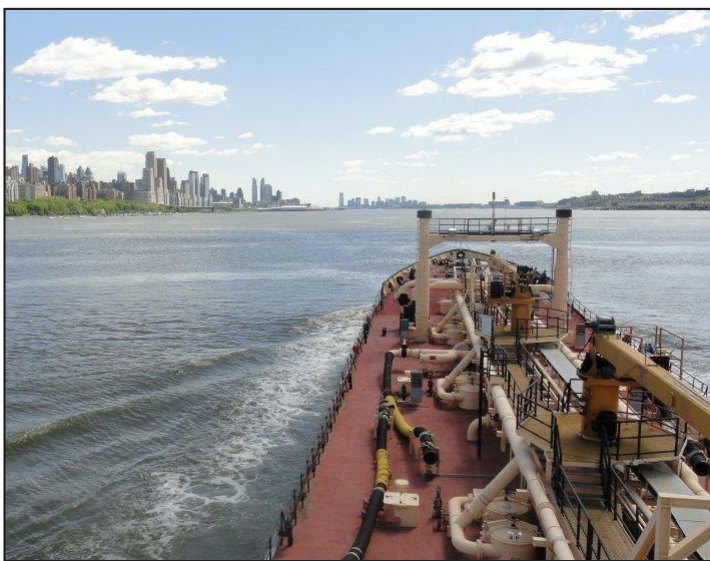
Laing manages a wide range of projects from coordinating a bowling alley demoli-

tion to handling agricultural use agreements to managing the Access Permit Office and recreational activities.

“We are working on a growing number of collaborative trail projects that involve local partners, like towns and land trusts, who maintain trails and signage and provide trail maps for hikers,” said Charles. “I am not sure people are fully aware of the city’s landholdings in the watershed and the effort that goes into making so much of that land available for a variety of community and recreational uses.”

Of the 108,000 acres of watershed land protected by DEP, 75,000 acres are open for recreation, including 40,000 acres designated as Public Access Area, opened in the last three years, where public hiking, fishing, hunting and trapping is allowed without DEP permits. Additionally, roughly 33,000 acres of water surface area on 19 reservoirs are available for trout fishing. The outdoors are important to Charles in his spare time as well, and include hiking with his family and volunteering on his town planning board and other committees.

## Kodak Moment



**HUDSON RIVER HIGHLIGHT:** The view from the Red Hook sludge vessel earlier this month heading down the Hudson on a tour with staff from the NYC Office of Management and Budget. The vessel is the newest addition to the agency’s marine fleet and is the third active vessel dedicated to transporting more than two million gallons of sludge per day.

## Kudos Corner

**BUILDING BROOKLYN BRAVOS:** The Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant is a winner in this year’s Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Building Brooklyn awards. The plant’s striking architecture garnered the prize in the Civic and Institutional category. Project design was managed by BEDC’s **Mike Borsykowsky, Ken Moriarty, Nat Federici** and **Frank Giardina**.

(It’s a Watershed Moment for Recreation Enthusiasts... continued)

DEP has taken significant steps towards increasing the acreage of its lands available to the public. Prior to 2002, people were allowed some limited hunting opportunities and fishing by boat or from shore. More recently, DEP has eliminated administrative requirements to make it easier for people to use city lands. “DEP welcomes the opportunity to share its water supply lands with the public in a manner that does not negatively impact water quality. DEP has made a major effort to expand recreational opportunities on its water supply lands. Allowing recreational opportunities on our land and waters is vital to our long-term upstate partnerships,” said Section Chief of Natural Resources Management **Paul Lenz**.

In 2008, DEP revised its Rules for Recreational use of Water Supply Lands and Waters to allow for a new recreational designation called Public Access Areas on its West-of-Hudson watershed lands. In line with Strate-

gic Plan initiative 31 to expand recreational opportunities in the city’s watershed, the rules do not require users to have an access permit for hunting, hiking, fishing, and trapping.

The 2009 revised Recreation Rules incorporated a provision for recreational boating. This is a program in addition to the long-standing “fishing by boat” that DEP has always allowed on all its reservoirs and controlled lakes. The boating program allows vessels such as canoes, kayaks, rowboats, sailboats, and sculls. In 2009, more than 400 boat tags were issued. In 2010, the western portion of the Cannonsville reservoir was opened for boating to expand the use area. “In addition, recreation now plays a role in our Filtration Avoidance Determinations and the Water Supply Permit. As private lands become inaccessible for recreation, public lands such as ours play an even more important role in local economies,” added Lenz.

## Milestones

Congratulations to **Jeanne Schreiber**, ACCO, and **John Romano**, BEDC, on the birth of their twin daughters **Emma Catherine** and **Lucy Lynn** on May 18. All are doing well.

**ROOM NAMING:** Congratulations to the room naming contest winners **Jane Weber, Mike Saucier** and **Margot Schloss**. The names of the new meeting spaces on the 19th floor are:

Fishbowl - located behind the security desk

North Conduit - Enclave 1

Dividing Weir - Enclave 2

Flocculator - Enclave 3

Jervis - located at the SE corner of the floor

The winners will receive a trip to the top of the Newtown Creek Digester Eggs. Thanks to everyone for their thoughtful and creative entries.

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