

# Weekly Pipeline

During **Engineer's Week 2024** we are recognizing some of our own engineers that keep things flowing, including **Kathia Vasconez** and **Jayne Beckmann**.

February 21, 2024





# Guest Commissioner's Corner



**Danielle Barrett**

We annually commemorate Black History Month in February as a time to celebrate the resilience, contributions, and achievements of Black individuals. This month serves to remind us of the many trials and triumphs of Black people, and their impact in enriching American history and culture. Black History Month was founded on historian Carter G. Woodson's revolutionary work establishing "Negro History Week" in 1926, which was celebrated during the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of two key figures in Black American history, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, February 12 and 14, respectively. In the following decades, Negro History Week evolved into Black History Month, which was first celebrated by Black educators and students at Kent State University in 1970 and later gained national recognition under President Gerald Ford. In 1996, President Bill Clinton issued the first Presidential Proclamation for National Black History Month and since then Congress has regularly passed resolutions commemorating the observance of Black History Month.

**Let Black History Month's legacy of strength and resilience, perseverance and pride, inspire all of us to continue the work towards the shared goal of a brighter future.**

Each year since 1928, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History dedicates that year's Black History Month to a theme that focuses on the experiences and issues of historical importance to Black people in America. This year, the Black History Month theme is African Americans and the Arts, celebrating the rich fusion of the African American diaspora, including African, Caribbean, and Black American influence in the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression.



The Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Black History Month luncheon, 2023



Black people have long preserved their history and celebrated their cultural pride and heritage through their artistry. The enduring influence of many Black artisans, from antiquity to contemporary, has shaped American culture and the world. We pay homage to the inspired storytellers, such as the musical giants in Jazz, Rhythm & Blues, Hip Hop and Rap, the literary titans in folklore and poetry, and the legends responsible for the rise and evolution of the Black Renaissance, Harlem Renaissance, and Afrofuturism. Black artistry is powerful and stirring, demanding to be recognized for its pain, beauty, and brilliance. We also celebrate the Black pioneers, many of them unsung heroes, for opening doors or breaking new ground, and lifting up others as they fought to overcome obstacles along the way. From Alvin Ailey to Misty Copeland, Billie Holiday to Beyoncé, Maya Angelou to Amanda Gorman, Ralph Ellison to Tomi Adeyemi, Josephine Baker

to Audra McDonald, Oscar Micheaux to Spike Lee—we salute ALL of them.

As we celebrate, we also recognize the ongoing challenges, injustices and inequities facing Black communities. We must acknowledge the past with empathy to build a bridge of understanding, and recommit to creating a truly inclusive, fair, and equitable society. This February, and all through the year, let Black History Month's legacy of strength and resilience, perseverance and pride, inspire all of us to continue the work towards the shared goal of a brighter future.

Please join the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity on Thursday, February 22, 2024, 12:00–1:15 pm at Lefrak Headquarters, 3rd Floor, Training Room A or virtually via Microsoft Teams for the launch of our African Americans in the Arts Gallery and to share your lived experiences in celebration of Black History Month. For more information please visit [EEO&D's SharePoint site](#).



# Engineer's Week 2024



Yue Yue Guo



Julian Wilder III



Kit Peng

Engineering is at the heart of much of what we do here at DEP so as we celebrate Engineers Week, which runs from February 18-24 this year, we are recognizing our colleagues who regularly demonstrate through their creativity, expertise, and dedication, how New York City and DEP are leading the way in addressing global challenges, driving technological advancements, and making a positive impact on society's future.



Oluwatoyin Owolabi



Nitin Patel and Yunju Xia



Bernard Daly and Ivan Estevez



Ashley Sanders



David Lumsden



Veronica Andreassen



Alkesh Patel



Sylwia Czernel, Antonio Sosa, Nayan Shah, and Lincy Joseph



## Pressure Tunnel Inspections



As part of the continuing work to ensure the Catskill Aqueduct remains in a state of good repair, DEP is undertaking detailed inspections of the four portions of the upper Aqueduct that run very deep underground, otherwise known as pressure tunnels. The inspections of the Rondout and Wallkill pressure tunnels are complete, and the inspections of the Croton and Moodna-Hudson-Breakneck tunnels will take place once the ongoing repair to the Delaware Aqueduct wraps up.

Pictured are workers preparing to lower a remote operated vehicle (ROV) into the Croton Uptake Shaft in Yorktown Heights, Westchester County. This preliminary investigation of the shafts leading to the Croton pressure tunnel by the ROV showed that both the uptake and downtake shafts are free of debris and generally in good condition, which is great news for the water supply system! Thanks to the teams from BEDC and BWS who are overseeing this important work.

## In Memoriam



It is with deep sadness that we share news of the passing of **Carla Glaser**, Section Chief of the Distribution Science and Planning unit within BWS' Water Quality & Innovation (WQI) directorate. Carla was a devoted civil servant with nearly 29 years of service to the City of New York, and she spearheaded critical tasks related to lead

in drinking water. Prior to joining DEP, she spent three years at DOHMH working on the prevention and control of the West Nile virus. Unfortunately, Carla worked from 2000-2003 near the World Trade Center and her exposure there may have led to her sickness. Carla was extremely intelligent and professional; always sharing her knowledge and experience to help achieve the best product possible. She loved art, enjoyed classic cinema and was an avid traveler, having visited far off places such as Mongolia, India, and the salt flats in Bolivia, as well as hiking in Patagonia and sailing around Iceland. She was always a willing and steadfast member of the WQI team and will be missed immensely.

## Removing Hazardous Trees



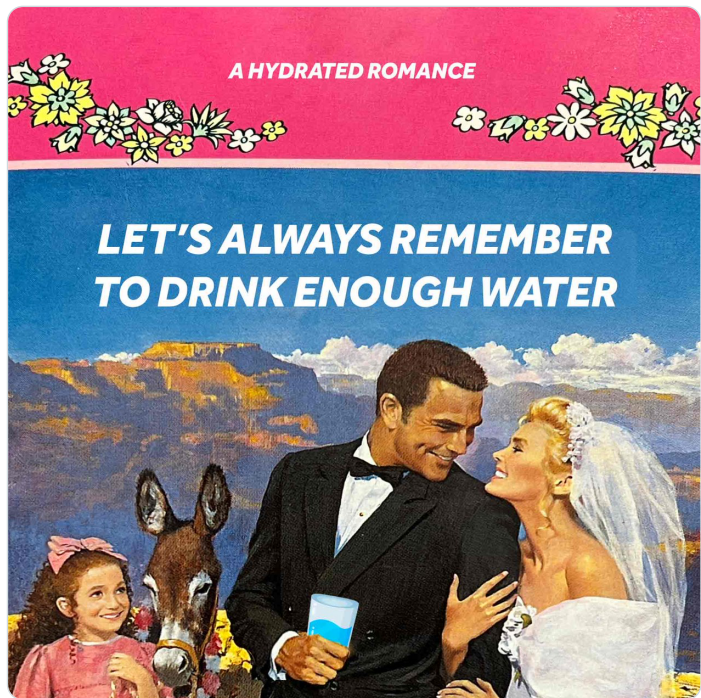
The West of Hudson Tree Task Force (TTF) spent part of January removing hazardous trees near Neversink Reservoir. The TTF was formed in 2013 and includes teams working on both sides of the Hudson River. They typically remove trees that are threaten-

ing water supply infrastructure, endangering public safety, or pose a hazard to nearby private property. In 2023, the TTF cut down 1,100 trees. [Click here to watch a video](#) of **Steve Brown** and **Jeff Kellog** (wearing green chaps) felling a tree.

## Social Media Highlight



Sometimes, your tall glass of water is ACTUALLY a tall glass of water. [#ValentinesDay](#)



9:30 AM · Feb 14, 2024

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