

working for clean rivers

CLARIFIER

NOVEMBER
2012

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Message From The Director



This year, 313 Environmental Services employees responded to our annual Workplace Environment Survey. This is an important effort that has led to workplace improvements since the survey made its debut. That wouldn't be the case without your participation.

We started polling our employees in 2001 about aspects of our work environments that need improvement. The Bureau Leadership Team reviews and responds to the survey results. The BLT has discussed this year's results and there will be more discussions and analysis in the months ahead.

You can review a summary of survey results over the last five years at www.portlandonline.com/bes/survey.

Results of another survey came out last month. The City Auditor's 22nd Annual Community Survey tracks public opinion of city services from police and fire to planning and environmental issues. One interesting trend is that opinions about the city in general have drifted lower since 2008, down from 60% good or very good to 51%. The Water Bureau and BES follow the same trend: Water 79 to 73; Sewer 57 to 51 and Storm Drainage from 49 to 45.

People are generally more critical, but they do understand one thing. Their perception of how well we are protecting water quality is up 20 percentage points since 1978, so the public recognizes that we've been effective in improving water quality. All we can do is keep making improvements and keep talking about the positive results of our efforts. It's a challenge, but we do want our customers to understand how we are investing their money.

You can review the Community Survey results at <http://www.portlandonline.com/auditor/index.cfm?a=417733&c=58996>.

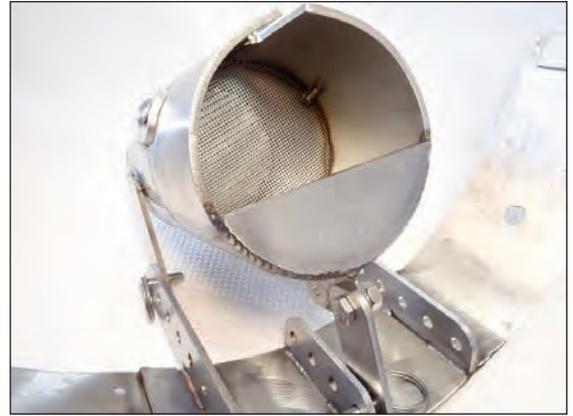
Dean C. Mauris



SIFT For Sale

SIFT is short for *Screened Inline Flow-through Sediment Trap*, a sampling device developed by Field Operations staff in the Pollution Prevention Services group. Conventional inline sediment traps collect a limited amount of solids but a lot of stormwater that requires time-consuming filtration. They also can't be installed in smaller stormwater lines.

So the Field Services staff developed the stainless steel SIFT that collects sediment as stormwater flows through steel mesh screens at both ends of the device. An expandable mounting band makes it easy to install inside the pipe. The SIFT is connected to the band with pins so that field staff can remove it without tools to collect sediment samples.



The SIFT collects sediments from stormwater.

Field Operations has applied for a patent and a local fabricator has manufactured 20 of the devices. Each SIFT costs about \$350 to make and they're sold for \$700 each. The first customer was Seattle Public Utilities, which purchased two of the units. Proceeds from any sales go to offset the cost of manufacturing the devices.



Project of the Year



Overview of the conduit project's Shaft B work site looking toward Industrial and 29th

The Oregon Chapter of the American Public Works Association has named the Balch Consolidation Conduit project as the 2012 Project of the Year in the Environmental \$25 million to \$75 million category. The 8,500-foot pipeline carries combined sewage from the Balch Drainage Basin in northwest Portland to the West Side CSO Tunnel. Environmental Services used two microtunnel boring machines to construct the conduit's 84-inch and 54-inch diameter pipes. The project was the first in Oregon to use a cutter soil mixing (CSM) machine. The 114-foot high CSM machine grinds soil and mixes it with cement to form sturdy tunnel shaft walls that keep groundwater out.

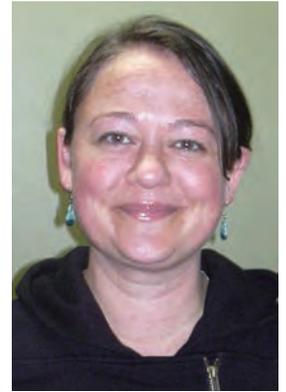


PEER News

Alice Coker is the bureau's new PEER Resource Coordinator. Alice succeeds Linda Dobson as PEER coordinator. Linda has coordinated the program since it began in 2001.

The PEER Program helps BES employees deal with workplace issues and concerns quickly and confidentially. PEER volunteers are BES employees specially trained to be sounding boards and objective listeners for their co-workers.

Thank you to Linda for her years of work and support for this successful program, and congratulations to new PEER Resource Coordinator Alice Coker.



New PEER Resource Coordinator Alice Coker



Sunday Parkways Success for BES



About 2,500 people celebrated the East Lents Floodplain Restoration Project at the September 30 Sunday Parkways. Participants toured the project site, ate goldfish crackers and listened to stories. Almost 600 of them went home with fish hats developed especially for the occasion.

Thanks to the event organizing team of Ali Young, Jennifer Devlin, Lynn Vanderkamp, David Allred, Theo Malone, Rebecca Hamilton, Cameron Herrington, Svetlana Pell, Emily Hauth, Eli Callison and Maggie Skenderian. And special thanks to Alicia Rawlins for coordinating the event with construction management and the contractor.

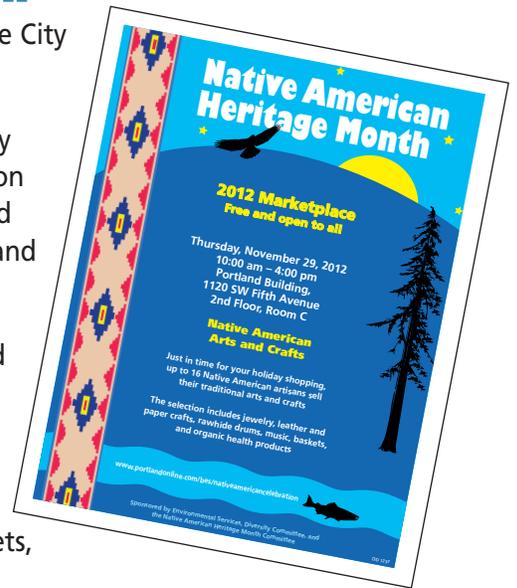


Native American Celebration

November is Native American Heritage Month and the City of Portland has scheduled two events to celebrate.

On Monday, November 26, herbalist and educator Judy Bluehorse Skelton will hold a lunchtime presentation on traditional uses of native plants for food, medicine and ceremonies. The brownbag starts at noon in the Portland Building auditorium.

The annual Native American Marketplace is scheduled on Thursday, November 29 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on the second floor of the Portland Building in Room C. Up to 16 Native American artisans will have traditional arts and crafts for sale including jewelry, leather and paper crafts, rawhide drums, music, baskets, and organic health products.



New Stars



The Environmental Services Recognition Committee circulates eight Shining Star Awards throughout the bureau. Employees give them to co-workers to recognize outstanding achievement and notable performance on the job. Recipients display the Shining Star on their desk for two months, then pass it on.

The Shining Star acknowledges achievements and good work that might otherwise go unnoticed in a bureau as large as BES. When it's time to pass on your Shining Star, consider employees in all groups, as well as your own work team or group.

Here is a list of new Shining Stars.

Dennis Duffey	Shining Star # 1	to Andrew Knight
Kristan Burkert	Shining Star # 2	to Jennifer Karpis
Dan Berge	Shining Star # 3	to Mark Chang
Susan Aldrich	Shining Star # 4	to Colleen Harold
Anne Nelson	Shining Star # 5	to Colleen Mitchell
Debbie Caselton	Shining Star # 6	to Chris Collett
Bethany Nabhan	Shining Star # 7	to Duane Linnertz
Bill Owen	Shining Star # 8	to Randy Hess

Read more about this awards program at www.portlandonline.com/bes/stars.

Wellness Tip

If you are fighting arthritis or stiffness consider adding the following foods in addition to getting regular exercise and maintaining a healthy weight:

- ✓ Eat foods rich in antioxidants like fresh fruits and vegetables;
- ✓ Increase omega-3 fatty acids through oily fish like salmon, walnuts, and freshly ground flaxseed;
- ✓ Season foods with ginger and turmeric, which can reduce joint inflammation.

Learn more about your coworkers on the BES intranet at TEAM BES.

Read about your teammates and review past profiles on the BES intranet at www.portlandonline.com/bes/teambes.

Contact your PEERs

PEERs are specially trained Environmental Services staff volunteers who are available to offer bureau employees support, guidance and referral. [Click here to learn more or to contact a PEER volunteer.](#)



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND
working for clean rivers



Our Mission

Environmental Services serves the Portland community by protecting public health, water quality and the environment.

We provide sewage and stormwater collection and treatment services to accommodate Portland's current and future needs.

We protect the quality of surface and ground waters and conduct activities that plan and promote healthy ecosystems in our watersheds.

Our Vision

To be recognized as a trusted service provider and innovative environmental leader through a demonstrated commitment to clean rivers, healthy watersheds and our community.

Environmental Services: www.portlandoregon.gov/bes
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner Dean Marriott, Director

Produced electronically OD 2012