



# The Water Cooler

## Getting to Know Vermont's Operators

### A New Adventure for Corrina Parnapy

Corrina Parnapy's previous career path has taken her spelunking to research bats and up in helicopters to survey moose. And now, she is an operator-in-training for Wastewater Class 2 and Drinking Water Class 3.

Parnapy is currently working at Bolton Valley ski area, which contracts operations to Vermont Utility Management Services (proud VRWA associate member). She was recruited to system operations by Jill Marsano, owner of VTUMS.

With many in the water and wastewater industry approaching retirement age, it is important to recruit and train new operators like Parnapy.

"The water and wastewater treatment profession has traditionally been a male-dominated field of work," said Paula Jackson, Apprenticeship Coordinator at VRWA (see *Water & Wastewater Apprenticeships*, page 4). "It is time to recruit more women into the field to provide a more diverse outlook on meeting the challenges we face now and in the future."

Parnapy enjoys the diversity of the tasks of a water operator. On any

given day she could be a carpenter, plumber, mason, or mediator. Every day she is a problem solver. "The most frustrating thing for me is dealing with never-ending mechanical issues," Parnapy said. "Pumps, pumps, pumps!"



*Corrina Parnapy is an Operator-In-Training at VTUMS.*

She lives in Huntington with her 7-year-old son, William. "He loves visiting me at work and has a particular fondness for the RBC," said Parnapy, referring to the rotating biological contactor.

Growing up in the Adirondack Mountains lead Parnapy to a love of the outdoors and an interest in

biology. She graduated from SUNY Cobleskill with an A.A.S in environmental studies and Skidmore College with a B.A. in biology.

Before joining the water profession, Parnapy worked for Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, and the FUND for Lake George, as well as substitute teaching. She has written many technical papers and scientific articles.

In addition to her impressive work history, Parnapy is a writer and artist. She enjoys hiking, fishing, and fly tying.

Talking with Parnapy, it is clear she has a spectacular attitude and fearless drive to tackle challenges. What a special addition to our industry!

*The Water Cooler is a regular column in NewsLeaks highlighting the talented people working in Vermont's water industry.*