



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
New England District

Yankee Engineer

BUILDING STRONG®

Volume 44, No. 3 December 2009

Division Commander visits New England District

The North Atlantic Division Commander paid a visit to the New England District to meet with senior leaders, customers and partners, receive briefings on current and high profile projects and to visit some project sites.

The two day visit, which occurred Nov. 17 and 18, was packed full of briefings and site visits to give Col. Peter DeLuca a better picture of the District's current missions and challenges.

Day one took the Commander to Connecticut for tours of the Stamford Hurricane Barrier and New England District's Hop Brook Lake. A meeting in Rhode Island with Jonathan Stone of Save the Bay followed his tour of the Connecticut sites. Col. DeLuca made his way back to Massachusetts for a meeting with New England District's senior staff before ending his first day with a Senior Leaders dinner.

On the second day of his visit, Col.

DeLuca received briefings at Concord Park headquarters on current and high profile projects such as Town Pond, South Coast Rail and the controversial Winthrop Shores permit application.

After the briefings, Col. DeLuca traveled to Boston to meet with Massachusetts Port Authority Officials before concluding his trip to New England District by touring Winthrop Beach.



Photo by Brian Murphy

Col. Peter DeLuca (center) gets a tour of Winthrop Beach, Mass., with Col. Philip Feir (right) and Col. DeLuca's aide, Capt. Erik Schefstad.

District Commander reflects back on 2009

by Col. Philip T. Feir
District Commander



admiration – on the many wonderful accomplishments we achieved over the

As 2009 draws to a close, I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect back – with great pride and

past 12 months. In all areas we achieved great success and I'm happy to reflect on some of them here.

Our Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) projects continue to go well and we had many great successes this year. I was especially proud of our work in this area, in particular with the way in which we worked with other Corps and state partners to accomplish our work.

We implemented emergency remediation efforts at South Beach and portions of Cape Poge Little Neck Beach and Wildlife Refuge on Martha's Vineyard this past spring when we searched for and removed munitions used in practice bombing exercises

during World War II.

In addition to our regularly programmed project funding for this past year, the New England District received an infusion of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds that augmented a number of our Civil Works, Interagency and International (Environmental) Service, and Military Programs projects, to include accomplishing major repair work on the Sagamore Bridge that spans the Cape Cod Canal, and increasing our rehabilitation efforts at the former Shpack landfill site in Norton and Attleboro, Mass. This additional effort was a major undertaking and I couldn't be prouder of

Continued on page 3

Yankee Voices

Col. Peter DeLuca,
Tony Mackos, and Jeff Perchak



Avoiding Winter Sluggishness

With the advent of cold weather and the holidays, many people report feeling sluggish and tired.

Fitness expert Susan Davis blames this on the excessive time that people spend indoors during the colder months and their tendency to over indulge in holiday eating and drinking. Here's what she recommends to beat the winter blahs:

- Work out at least three times a week.
- Take walks outside – even in inclement weather.
- Be moderate in your alcohol intake.
- Eat small, balanced meals to keep blood sugar stable.

Sympathy

...to the family and friends of **Marie Farese**, Regulatory, who passed away suddenly, Nov. 28.

...to Logistics retiree **Bruce Zawacki** on the passing of his father, **Edwin Zawacki**, Nov. 27.

EEO Hosts Disability Program Event

The New England District's Equal Employment Opportunity Office hosted an event to celebrate the contributions of Americans with disabilities, Oct. 27 in the theatre. This year's theme was "Expectation + Opportunity = Full Participation."

"This year's theme is intended to urge employers, as they seek to fill positions, to embrace the richness of America's diversity by considering the talents of all workers, including workers with disabilities," said Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander. "It also emphasizes the vision of the Labor Department's Office of Disability Employment Policy in a world in which people with disabilities have uninhibited employment opportunities."

Eloise Newell, Director, Restoration Project, served as the event's keynote speaker. Newell founded the Restoration Project in 1992. Restoration Project is a nonprofit vocational rehabilitation program for people with mental illness and head injuries as well as at-risk adolescents.

Restoration Project, which is currently located in Concord, Mass., teaches furniture refinishing and upholstery to develop work skills that are transferable to any occupation. Restoration Project is a winner of the national Lilly Reintegration Award for Occupational Therapy.

According to a national Organization in Disability and Harris Survey, 54 million Americans are disabled, with 32 percent age 18 to 64 are working. Two-thirds of the disabled Americans that are unemployed would rather be working.

Other participants in this year's event included EEO Officer/Program for Individuals with Disabilities Manager Jacqueline DiDomenico and Hispanic Employment Program Manager Ruthann Brien.

Words worth repeating

New Year's Day... now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual.

-*Mark Twain*

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each New Year find you a better person. - *Benjamin Franklin*

Look not mournfully into the past. It comes not back again. Wisely improve the present. It is thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy future, without fear, and with a manly heart. - *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*



District Commander reflects back on 2009

Continued from page 1

everyone's drive and determination to make it a success.

Our Regulatory Division once again did an exceptional job working on a variety of issues from permits to in-lieu fee programs and mitigation banking throughout our six-state region. Regulatory issued its first ever administrative penalty for permit noncompliance, and continues to resolve violations of the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act. Regulatory continues to work high profile, controversial issues such as South Coast Rail and Winthrop Shores in the most professional manner possible, and works closely with other stakeholders on offshore, renewable energy projects in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Maine.

In January, the New England District added the Woonsocket Local Protection Project to its impressive arsenal of flood protection projects. Most recently, the District's Contracting Division put out a contract solicitation request for vegetation removal at the site. Our Cape Cod Canal team currently operates the project for the District and did a super job getting up to speed on its operational requirements.

The District had numerous project successes this past year as well. We awarded a \$1.5 million contract for the Nashawannuck Pond Restoration project that is designed to help restore the pond's ecosystem to a less degraded condition. We also broke ground on a variety of projects to include the Mill River and Mill Pond Restoration project in Connecticut and the Ayer Armed Forces Reserve Center in Massachusetts. Along with our Rhode Island partners, we held a ceremony in September to mark the beginning of the Ten Mile River ecosystem restoration project -- a project designed to allow herring and other fish species to pass safely over the three dams that comprise the system. We also continued to work with the Veterans Administration to improve the facilities throughout New England that provide medical care for our servicemembers past and present.

In our efforts to push forward towards innovative solutions in what we do, we hosted many informational brown bag seminars and technical conferences. We hosted the NAD Resource Management Conference in March and the first ever NAD Sustainable Energy Conference in October. Both were extremely well received and of great success. We also hosted a visit in April by our Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, whose primary focus in visiting was to talk with us about the Corps' new Campaign Plan, which we are continuing to roll out.

In an effort to improve our "One Door to the Corps" concept, we asked a team of employees to work on a Quality Management System that will standardize the way we do things in the Corps. Farrell McMillan, Tony Mackos and Francis Fung helped facilitate this effort within the District, and I thank them and all who participated in the initiative (several who continue to do so) for their efforts.

Our Park Rangers in the field continued to educate the public on the Corps of Engineers and our environmental stewardship efforts by hosting and facilitating a number of school field trips, our junior ranger programs, and an array of safety and interpretive events throughout the year. And when the kids couldn't come to us, we went to them, giving talks on a variety of subjects such as water safety and the great Lewis and Clark expedition.

In 2009, the District also jumped feet first into the social media age, establishing a presence on both Facebook and Twitter that get stronger every day. This media commitment is just another great way of fostering the telling of our story to the public, and providing the public with a better understanding of what the Corps of Engineers does, and hopefully will better connect us to our brethren in other Districts -- both here and abroad.

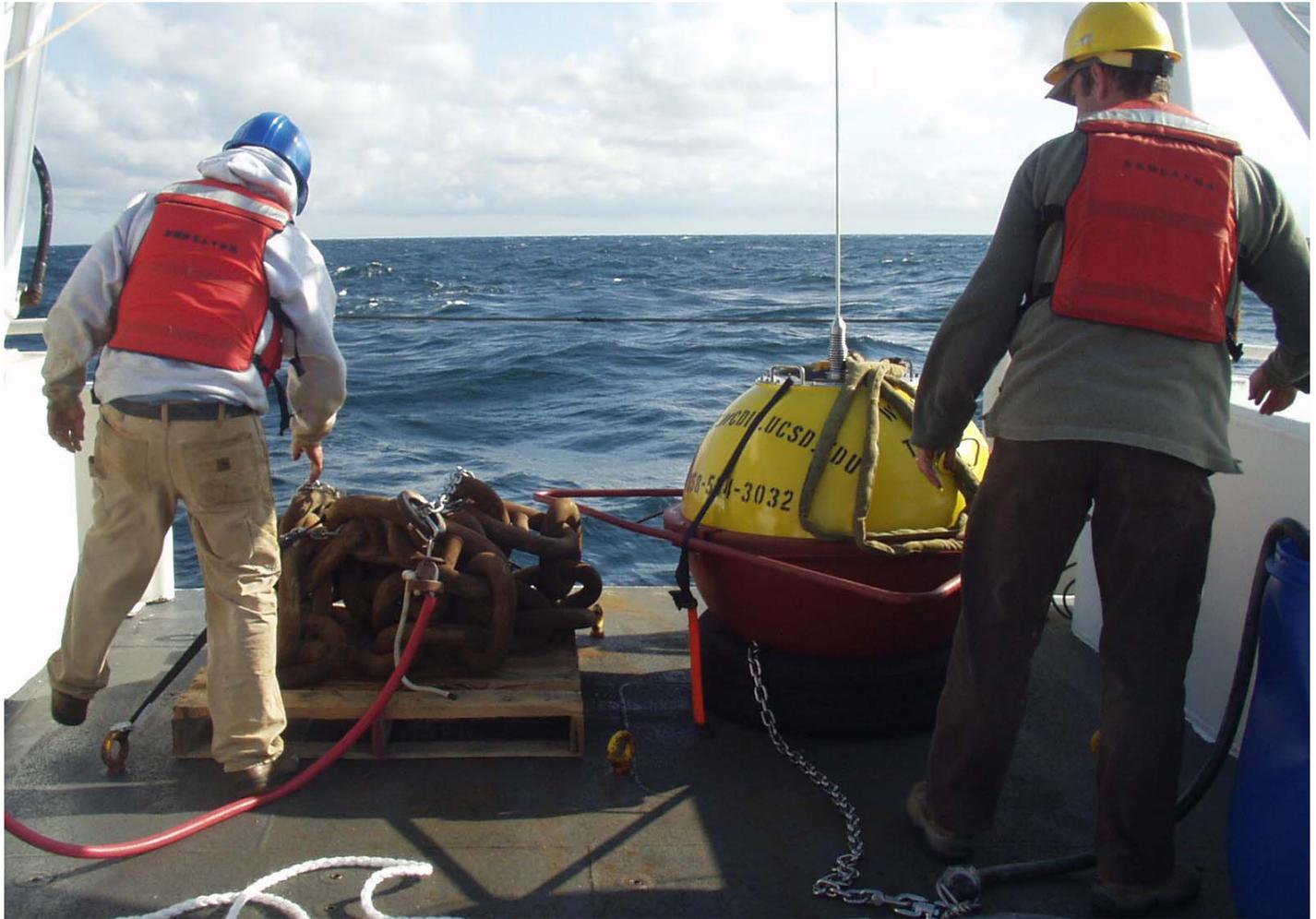
Our District also rose to the fore this year with a strong representation overseas as our support and commitment to the Overseas Contingency Operations continued to increase. Some of our personnel continue to serve overseas even now, and to them and all who have gone before (some of whom have deployed more than once) I say THANK YOU, and I ask everyone to keep them and their families in our thoughts daily -- especially during the holiday season.

We said goodbye this year to our NAD Commander, Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, and to our Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. Steve Lefebvre, both of whom were reassigned within the Corps, and I hope you'll join me in wishing them the best of luck in their current endeavors. We also said goodbye to a number of District stalwarts who decided to join the retirement ranks: Dick Carlson, Frank Turner, Nick Forbes, Bill Mahan, Dot Tinkham, Joan Shok, K.C. Mitkevicius and Sandy Marcinkewicz. I was personally sad to see them go, but wish them all the best in retirement. And as part of this never ending process, we also got to welcome a number of new faces to our ranks. They include but are not limited to our new North Atlantic Division Commander, Col. Peter "Duke" DeLuca, our Deputy District Commander, Lt. Col. Steve Howell, and our new Regulatory Chief, Jennifer McCarthy, as well as several new interns, PFI Soldiers, and others who have made the transition into our ranks. I welcome one and all.

I could go on and on about our vast accomplishments this past year, but will sum it up this way: I am extremely proud of all we achieved in 2009 and our continued commitment to excellence, and look forward to leading our esteemed organization in 2010 -- a time destined to provide us with many new and exciting challenges and complexities.

Thanks to one and all for everything you do, and on behalf of me and my family, I wish you a safe, happy, and rewarding holiday season. See you all in the New Year.

Building Strong!



New England District's data buoy is about to be launched into the sea.

Photo by Irene Watts

District launches data buoy in Rhode Island waters

by Irene Watts
Engineering/Planning

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, and the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council have partnered to perform an extensive study of the shoreline in southern Rhode Island.

This study, known as the Rhode Island Regional Sediment Management (RSM) Plan, is a multi-year program focused on developing a plan for managing sand as a resource rather than as a waste product. The foundation of this study is numerical modeling which is highly dependent on site specific wave data.

As part of this study, a significant level of data collection, surveying and numerical modeling will be performed.

Currently deployed wave buoys do not provide the wave data that is necessary to conduct this study. Therefore, it was

decided to acquire and deploy a new directional wave buoy. The buoy measures both wave height and direction.



Photo by Shelley Dawicki, NOAA Fisheries Service

Irene Watts is one of three New England District team members who is working with the data collection buoy.

The New England District and the Corps' Engineer Research and Development Center partnered with Scripps Oceanographic Institute Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP) to facilitate the buoy purchase, deployment and data processing.

The New England District is primarily responsible for buoy maintenance and retrieval should it be necessary.

The New England District Team consists of Chris Hatfield, Irene Watts and John Winkleman. Funding for the \$150,000 buoy comes from the RSM Plan.

The buoy deployed Oct. 21 about 30 miles southeast of Block Island, RI. The exact location of the buoy is Lat. 40°58.150N', Long. 071°07.543', Fathoms 26.

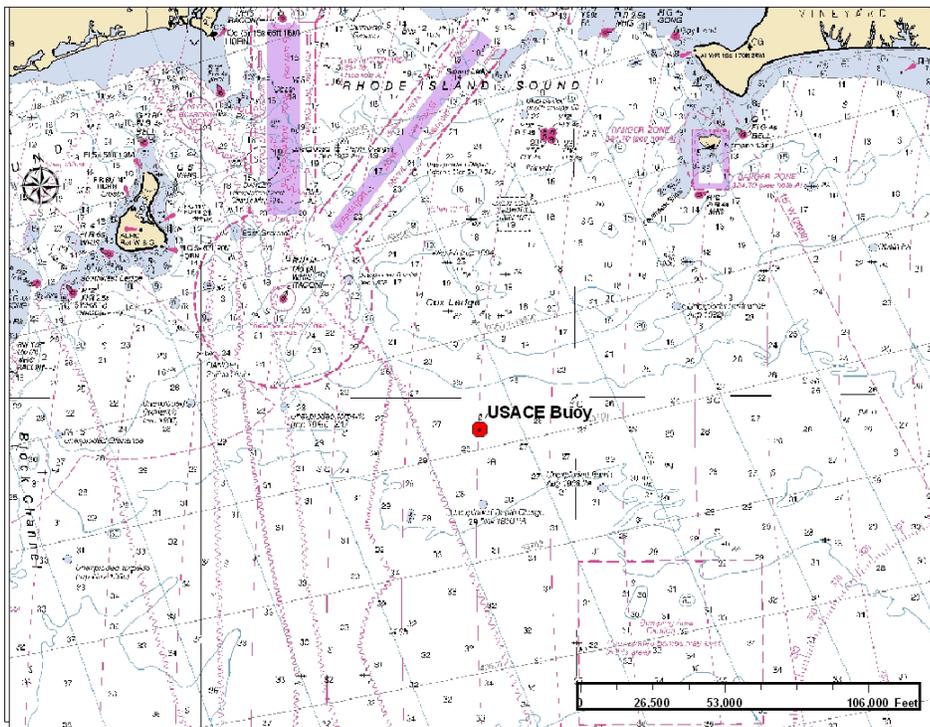
The location of the buoy was chosen based on input from a variety of coastal experts, fishermen, local interests, and researchers as well as coordination between state and federal agencies.

Of particular concern was avoiding entanglement in fishing gear by not placing the buoy in popular fishing grounds. Another component to buoy location was avoiding areas of heavy ship traffic.

The buoy has some direct benefits to researchers and the general public by making all data generated publicly available in "real time." The data will be primarily hosted by the CDIP program.

It is anticipated that the data can be used for a variety of applications beyond the RSM program including fishing, diving and other research which depends on wave data. Ideally, interested parties can check the wave conditions before they leave the dock.

For further information and buoy data, please visit the Scripps CDIP website: <http://cdip.ucsd.edu>.



Map showing the exact location of the New England District's data collection buoy.



Photo by Irene Watts

The buoy in place in Rhode Island waters.

District to perform vegetation maintenance for the Woonsocket Flood Reduction Project

by Thomas Rosato
Programs/Project Management

The New England District plans to issue a solicitation for bids in December for a construction contract to perform vegetation maintenance at the federally-owned Woonsocket Flood Damage Reduction Project in Woonsocket, R.I. Ownership of the Woonsocket Local Protection Project (formerly referred to as the Lower Woonsocket and Upper Woonsocket projects) was transferred from the city of Woonsocket to the Corps of Engineers in January 2009 in accordance with Section 2875 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008. The New England District assumed operation and maintenance activities in July 2009 upon receipt of funding.

The Woonsocket Flood Damage Reduction project protects industrial and commercial establishments and densely populated residential areas from flood flows on the Blackstone, Peters and Mill Rivers. It was constructed in response to flood damage that occurred due to heavy rains in August 1955 that caused \$22 million in damage.

The project was constructed in two phases: construction of the Upper Woonsocket section along the Blackstone River was completed in 1960 at a cost of \$5.4 million, and construction of the Lower Woonsocket section along the Blackstone River and

two of its tributaries, the Mill River and Peters River was completed in 1967 at a cost of \$8.3 million.

The Vegetation Maintenance contract will be used to remove and dispose of heavy wooded vegetation along

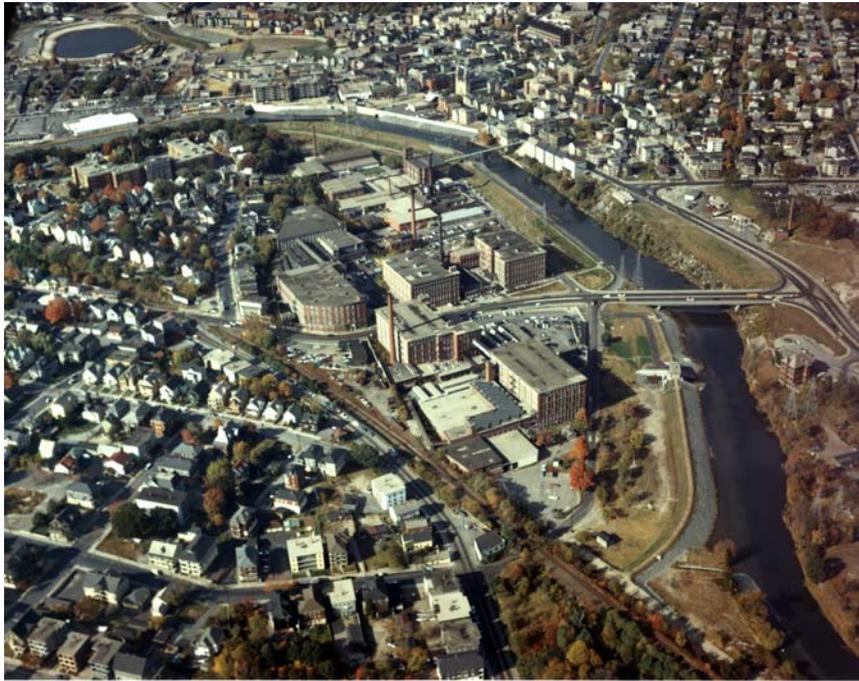
investigations into the performance of the flood damage reduction systems such as those at Woonsocket clearly point to a need for a periodic, comprehensive and risk-informed approach to levee safety. The Corps has been working together with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide them findings of Corps' levee inspections and assessments for their use in making decisions in the National Flood Insurance Program.

The devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita has brought the issue of levee safety to the forefront of public debate in recent years.

The Corps and FEMA are working together to ensure

that flood hazard maps clearly reflect the flood protection capabilities of the levees, and that the maps accurately represent the flood risks posed to those protected areas. The Woonsocket, RI project was decertified under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in May 2007 because the agency determined the project no longer provided protection from the base flood level. As a result, property owners behind the project are now paying flood insurance.

The first step is to perform this one time major vegetation maintenance contract followed by an annual maintenance program to prevent the regrowth of vegetation. The second step would be to perform repairs to the Woonsocket Falls dam.



Aerial photo of Woonsocket Local Protection Project in Rhode Island circa 1973.

the side slopes and crests of earthen levees/dikes, along channel improvement slopes and adjacent to floodwalls along the Blackstone, Mill and Peters Rivers.

All vegetation within 15 feet of the toe of the land and water sides of the levees/dikes, the channel improvement areas, and the floodwalls will be cut and removed. Root balls of trees greater than 4 inches in diameter will be removed along the levees/dikes and the levees/dikes repaired accordingly. Chemical spray will be employed.

The requirement for vegetation removal is a result of inadequate maintenance over the years that prevent the flood protection project from performing as designed and presents an increased risk to the public.

The findings of subsequent Corps



View of the Hudson, Mass., portion of the Assabet River.

Dam Removal Public Information meetings discuss options on Assabet River Feasibility Study

In an effort to open the lines of communication with the public on the Assabet Sediment and Dam Removal (Sediment Phosphorus-flux) Feasibility Study, the New England District and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass. DEP) held two jointly hosted information sessions to discuss it.

The first was held Nov. 17 at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center in Marlborough, Mass., and the second was held Nov. 19 at the Hale Middle School in Stow, Mass.

Nearly 100 people attended the sessions to ask questions, get answers and to comment on the study.

Alice Rojko, Mass. DEP Watershed Planner; Gary Mercer, P.E., Project Manager for CDM, and Barbara Blumeris, Study Manager for the New England District gave extensive and comprehensive briefings to the audience to explain the findings of the study and clear up any confusion as to

the intent of the study. Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs, served as moderator for the meetings.

The purpose of the study is to provide planning assistance to the Mass. DEP, which is investigating ways to improve water quality and aquatic ecosystem to make the Assabet River fishable and swimmable.

The study will provide scientific information that will assist MADEP and EPA in their decision-making process in improving river water quality.

“For most of its length, the Assabet River suffers from the effects of severe eutrophication due to nutrient loadings (particularly phosphorus) from wastewater treatment facilities, nonpoint sources and sediments,” said Blumeris. “Nuisance aquatic vegetation impairs designated uses including recreation, aesthetics, and fish and wildlife habitat. Due to excessive vegetation, dissolved oxygen concentrations can vary a great deal over the course of

a day, particularly during the summer months, threatening the survival of fish and other aquatic organisms in the river. Impacts are most evident in the man-made impoundments created by historic small mill dams.”

The District’s study provides information on Mill Dam removal and dredging to decrease sediment phosphorus-flux and improve the aquatic habitat of the river. The District contracted with CDM to perform river analysis and modeling for the dam removal and dredging assessments.

The New England District and the Mass. DEP made it clear that there is no project underway on the Assabet River, and that no decision on how water quality improvement will be achieved at this time.

A copy of the New England District’s study can be viewed on line at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/projects/ma/assabriver/assabriver.htm>.

Dredging up the past . . .



(from left) Jamie Kordack, Paul Marinelli, and Viola Bramel talk over lunch during the 1999 Rangers Conference at Concord Park Headquarters.

First Class
U.S. Postage
Paid
Concord, MA
Permit No. 494

Public Affairs Office
New England District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751
Meter Code 40