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US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

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# Yankee Engineer

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*Aerial view of dredging work at Ninigret Pond on March 26, 2005. Photo by Ted Truelow.*

## Environmental project receives Coastal America Award

The New England District Coastal America Team and their Rhode Island partners have not only restored a vital aquatic habitat, but they have also taken top honors from the Coastal America Partnership.

A Coastal America Award ceremony honoring the South Coast Habi-

tat Restoration Team took place in South County, Rhode Island, June 8. The team, which is made up of New England District team members and members of the Rhode Island Resource Management Council, received the honor for their outstanding work on the Ninigret Pond Eelgrass Restoration

project.

Col. Philip T. Feir, New England District Commander, joined the New England District Team at the ceremony. Speakers included U.S. Congressman Jack Reed (Rhode Island), Charlie Vandermoer, Refuge Manager; Vir-

*Continued on page 15*

# Yankee Voices

2009 Park Ranger  
Training attendees



## Congratulations

... to **Joshua Levesque**, Edward MacDowell Lake, and his wife, **Tracy**, on the birth of their son, **David William Levesque**, June 24. He joins big brother **Jacob** in the family circle.

...to the July through September 2009 Team of the Quarter; the **2009 Founders Day Committee and Execution Team**. The consensus of the attendees at the June 29 Founders Day event was that it was well run, extremely reasonable in price and efficiently executed with excellent food quantity and quality.

## Sympathy

... to **Zina Cassulo-Henderson**, Regulatory, and her husband **Bob Henderson**, Resource Management, on the passing of Zina's father, **Carl Cassulo**, May 30.

...to **Santos Lara, Sr.**, Human Resources and his wife, **Lesley**, on the passing of his mother, **Maria Ignacia Lara**, June 19.

... to **Robert J. DeSista**, Regulatory Division, and his family on the passing of his father, **James E. DeSista**, June 14.

## Corps of Engineers to waive recreation fees Aug. 1-9 at its federal recreation areas across the nation

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that it will waive all day use fees from Aug. 1-9, 2009 at its more than 2,400 Corps-operated recreation sites nationwide.

The waiver applies to day use fees collected at boat launches and swimming beach facilities. Fees for camping and camping related services and specialized facilities or special events will not be waived.

"The Corps encourages Americans of all ages to take part in outdoor recreation. Our hope is to encourage increased use during this traditionally low use period, which will help individuals and local communities economically," said Steve Stockton, the Corps' Director of Civil Works.

State and local agencies and private partners who manage recreation facilities on Corps lands are encouraged but not required to comply with the fee waiver.

The Corps is the nation's largest federal provider of outdoor and water-based recreation, hosting more than 350 million visitors per year at more than 400 lakes and river projects. Many of these sites are located close to major metropolitan areas and provide 4,500 miles of trails, 90,000 campsites, and 33 percent of all U.S. freshwater fishing.

To find the nearest Corps of Engineers recreation site, please visit [www.CorpsLakes.us](http://www.CorpsLakes.us).

### Federal Recreation Areas in New England

There are numerous opportunities to enjoy recreation at the 31 federal flood damage reduction reservoirs and the Cape Cod Canal in New England. Most areas feature small lakes with facilities designed for day use such as picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing, and hunting. There are also a few facilities for overnight camping.

There are beaches and boat ramps available at reservoirs and lakes in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Vermont. For more information go to the Corps' New England District web site at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil> and click "recreation" and select your state and location on the map to find out what recreation areas are available near you or go directly to the recreation webpage at <http://www.nae.usace.mil/recreati/recreati.htm>. More information on what is offered at each location is available from the park manager listed on the webpage of the specific reservoir or lake of interest. *(Public Affairs Press Release)*



## District program turns employees into leaders

*As part of the New England District's Leadership Development Program, Farrell McMillan, Chief of Construction/Operations, and Human Resources Chief, Kim Kaminski-Donaher, facilitated three leadership sessions at Hodges Village Dam in June.*

The McMillan/Kaminski-Donaher team first gave the trainees an overview of Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and Situational leadership. According to businessballs.com, the motivational model was developed in the 1940's and 1950's and concerns the responsibility of leaders to provide a workplace environment that encourages and enables employees to fulfill their own unique potential.

The Team then facilitated discussions on Team Development, Team Building, and Facilitation. During the training session trainees were expected to work for their lunch, participating in the "caterpillar crawl," supervised by Steve Patchkofsky, lead coordinator for the sessions.

Six trainees stood on two wooden posts with rope handles while three of their peers used teamwork to communicate to them to get them to "walk" in unison from one side of the parking lot to the other side where lunch was waiting. The walkers were not allowed to communicate in any way and relied on the talkers to give them the simplest directions possible to attain their goal. The trainees made it to the end of the parking lot and lunch was served.

Leadership sessions such as these are only a small part of the New England District Leadership Development Program (LDP). According to the LDP booklet, the program's goal is to prepare today's employees for tomorrow's leadership challenges. The program accomplishes this by developing willing employees to take the challenge to develop their leadership skills to their fullest potential.

The LDP is a two tier process that is based on the Army Leadership Principles, the BE-KNOW-DO-LEARN. Any New England District employee who meets admission requirements may apply for one of the eight Tier I slots that are available each fiscal year.

Applications are submitted to a selection panel and employees are notified if they were selected soon after the panel meets. Requirements include: permanent employment; an NAE employee; and a positive endorsement from the applicant's first line supervisor.

Employees who transfer to NAE who were already in an LDP program at their division/district may join the ongoing LDP session instead of having to wait until the following fiscal year. The Tier I portion of the program takes approxi-



Photo courtesy of the Leadership Development Program.

*Leadership Development trainees participate in the "caterpillar crawl" across the parking lot during the team building session.*

mately one year to complete. There are eight participants in the current program.

Tier II is open to all participants who have successfully completed the Tier I session. Although Tier I participants are not required to continue on to the next session, it is highly encouraged that they do so. Tier II takes about one year to complete and there are currently seven trainees in the session. The benefits of participating in the program are numerous. According to the LDP booklet, students are:

- Exposed to senior level leaders and the District's strategic operating environment;
- Positioned to take advantage of multi-functional relationship building;
- Provided opportunities to apply newly gained leadership skills and attributes;
- Provided opportunities to participate in corporate initiatives to improve the organization.

An internal SharePoint site with a wealth of information on the program is available to interested employees. For more information, go to <http://nae-fs5im-46656/ldp/default.aspx>.

## Special awards focus of Founder's Day ceremony

A downpour of rain didn't dampen the spirits of hearty New England District employees when they gathered under the ceremonial tent to recognize and be recognized for exceptional work and length of service on June 29 at Castle Park at Hanscom Air Force Base. The gathering, called Founder's Day here in New England, was in celebration of the 234th anniversary of the Corps of Engineers beginnings.

Steve Andon served as Master of Ceremonies for the official portion of the event. He welcomed the audience and as is tradition in New England, recited the District's proud History of being the birthplace of the Corps of Engineers. Col. Richard Gridley, the first Chief of Engineers, successfully designed and supervised the construction of an earth work on Breeds Hill, overlooking Boston Harbor, in Massachusetts. This first Army engineering action occurred on June 16, 1775, proved impenetrable against British bombardment during a fierce battle the following day.

After Andon's remarks, Robert Byrne, Chief, Programs, stepped in for District Commander, Col. Philip Feir, who was unable to attend the ceremony. "As a District, it has been an exciting 12 months of work completion,



Robert Byrne filled in for Col. Feir during the official ceremony.

Photos by C.J. Allen

and with the workload we've been given under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 we will be busier than ever on project completions through this year and next," he said.

Despite the challenge of the heavy workload, Byrne said he is confident that the District team will complete the work in a timely manner. "I know we will continue to face some challenges in the coming months and years, but I know as a District we can find solutions to all of them," he said.

Byrne thanked Engineering/Planning and the 2009 Founder's Day com-

mittee for their hard work in putting together the day's events. He reminded the audience that New England District employees are still deployed overseas – more than we've had in a while – and that Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre, former Deputy District Engineer who is currently stationed overseas, would love some more company. "He says if you come, he'll personally come to greet you," said Byrne.

The Programs Chief talked about the many accomplishment, that the District has achieved already this year to include breaking ground on the Mill River/Mill Pond Aquatic Restoration Program and the beginning of the new Reserve Center in Ayer, Mass. He concluded by wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

During the awards portion of the ceremony, Janette Crawford received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service for her continued leadership in the successful budget execution and submission for the Thames, Upper Connecticut and Merrimack River Basins. "Through long hours, and at considerable personal sacrifice, Ms. Crawford provided outstanding budget, fiscal management, and administrative leadership and support to several field organizations during extended absences of their employees and after



Robert Byrne presents Jan Crawford with the Commander's Award for Civilian Service.

retirement of key administrative personnel,” read the citation.

A group of New England District employees received the Secretary of Defense Medal for the Global War on Terrorism for deploying overseas to assist the Corps in its mission. “The medal symbolizes the honor and achievement of civilians with the Department of Defense to defend freedom against danger that may develop on foreign soil,” read the citation.

Employees who received the medal were Jack Keenan, Jerry Nunziato, Ken Paton, Bob Hanacek, Larry Oliver, Jennifer Samela, Sean Dolan, Adam Burnett, Don Wood, Chris Lindsay and Maryellen Iorio.

Christopher Way, Operations Manager, Naugatuck River Basin, is the 2009 Supervisor of the Year recipient. “The guidance he has provided has resulted in the hiring of the first female Project Manager in the basin, hiring of a third female ranger, and the continual hiring of females for summer staffing within the basin,” read the citation. Way was also praised for being an advocate for career development as well as a strong proponent for the Leadership Development Program, alternate work schedules, flexible leave and the Equal Employment Opportunity Program. Jackie DiDomenico, EEO Officer, accepted the award for Way, who was unable to attend the ceremony.

Human Resources Santos Lara and Pablo Feliciano presented the New England District Length of Service Awards for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years. Names of the recipients can be found in the annual Founder’s Day brochure.

Tony Mackos, Acting Chief of Engineering/Planning, thanked the Founder’s Day Committee for putting together the picnic and after ceremony activities. He concluded the official ceremony by listing the different activities taking place that day. As if on cue, the clouds parted and the sun came out for attendees to enjoy the barbecue lunch and the other planned activities.



*Five years*



*Ten years*



*15 years*



*20 years*



*25 years*



*30 years*



*35 years*



*Global War on Terrorism Medal*



*Global War on Terrorism medal recipients.*



Photos by C.J. Allen

*Chefs cook lunch on a portable grill; Bill Mullen takes aim during horseshoes; Nurse Linda Lindell relaxes during the picnic.*



*Small attendees participate in a wheelbarrow race; firefighters show off their equipment to picnic attendees; retirees and current employees enjoy each other's company.*

## Good food, activities, highlight Founder's Day picnic

New England District team members, family and retirees celebrated the 234th founding of the Corps of Engineers with a barbecue lunch and outdoor activities for all ages during the District's annual Founder's Day celebration.

This year's festivities took place June 29 at Hanscom Air Force Base's Castle Park. Over 112 people signed up for the lunch; however, many more participated in the day's activities.

The official Founder's Day Awards ceremony kicked off the day-long celebration. Horseshoes and Volleyball was available for whoever wanted to participate or kill time before lunch immediately followed the ceremony.

Other events and activities scheduled for the day included a military police dog demonstration, fire truck demonstration and basketball and softball.

Children's activities included a scavenger hunt, face painting and a moonwalk. Smaller attendees also enjoyed playing on the Castle Park swings and slides.

For a small fee and a voluntary donation of a side dish or dessert, event attendees enjoyed a barbecue lunch, which was personally prepared by key District personnel and senior staff members.

The District's "Iron Chefs" were Bill Hubbard, John Kennelly and his

son Matt Kennelly, Raimo Liias, Tony Mackos and his son, Chris Mackos. The chefs' menu included chicken, hot dog, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, veggie burgers, soda, water, and watermelon.

Retirees who joined the District team for the annual picnic were Frank Turner, Fred Shannon, Joe Bocchino, Jack Caffrey, Charlie Coe, Forrest Knowles, and Robert Gavreau.

The Engineering/Planning team and the Founder's Day Committee hosted this year's event. Committee members this year were Tony Mackos (Chair) Kathy Bucciarelli, Valerie Cappola, Bettina Chaisson, Carol Charette, Gladys Leone, Kevin McKelvey, Joshua Mulvey, Alexine Raineri, Cori Rose, and Irene Watts.



*Mary Christopher paints the face of one of the picnic attendees; George Claflin lends a hand during a Tug-of-War game; Hanscom military dog shows handler he means business.*



Photos by Kevin Burke



*Above left: A summer Park Ranger volunteer gets a taste of pepper spray during Ranger Training. "Victims" find relief from pepper spray by washing out their eyes and sitting in front of a fan. Steve Patchkofsky talks water safety to the trainees. From left: Dam model building was part of the training as was self defense.*

## Summer Park Rangers receive training in Southbridge

To ensure that their new employees are knowledgeable in all aspects of their job, the New England District Interpretive Services and Outreach Program Committee, River Basin Managers, Park Managers, Senior Park Rangers and others conducted the annual Summer Park Ranger Training.

The training was held June 20-21 at the Department of Defense Executive Management Training Center in Southbridge, Massachusetts. Forty-two summer Park Rangers and five permanent Park Rangers who needed to be recertified as OCAT (Oleoresin Capsicum Aerosol - Pepper Spray) Training Instructors attended the event.

The training was information-packed from start to finish. Farrell McMillan, Joe Faloretti and Joan Gardner kicked everything off by presenting a basic overview of the Corps of Engineers and the New England District.

Marci Montrose talked about the many roles of a Corps of Engineers Park Ranger during her training time slot. Bill Norman gave a briefing and slide presentation on navigation in New England with particular emphasis on the Cape Cod Canal.

After a lunch break, the rest of the afternoon was dedicated to the important subject of interpretation. Subparts of the topic included an introduction, formal and informal contacts; activities and program development; how to use the universal watershed model and building dam models for programs; and ideas for programs that work. Jason Tremblay, Montrose and Karen Hoey ran the session and then after the formal presentation, took questions and suggestions from the audience.

Steven Patchkofsky concluded the first day's training with an after dinner exhibit of a water safety trailer, filled with various essential water safety equipment.

Special guest, Chief Park Ranger Chris Arthur of Lake Sidney Lanier, Mobile District, took the instruction lead on the second day. Arthur is also one of the Corps of Engineers PROSPECT National Visitor Assistance Course instructors. He began the day with a discussion on the professional appearance of a Park Ranger and a Visitor Assistance Program update.

Safety Officer Sean Dolan joined Arthur for an in-depth lecture on Visitor Assistance/Visitor and Ranger safety, Risk Management, Confined Spaces and accident and incident reporting.

Bradley Clark, Jennifer Samela, Zach Koziol, Steve Patchkofsky and Montrose assisted Arthur during the OCAT (Pepper Spray) Program. During this session, some of the training attendees allowed themselves to be sprayed with the chemical so that they could experience what the chemical felt like in their eyes and realize the importance of using pepper spray responsibly. Volunteer "victims" washed their eyes out soon after the experience.

Arthur also held an extensive personal protection segment in which attendees practiced self defense moves and exercises. He and the other instructors then went through some visitor assistance role playing scenarios, as well as demonstrated the fine art of Verbal Judo. At the end of the training event, attendees were given the opportunity for questions and answers and complete evaluations of the training. The evaluations and an after action review will be used to improve the training in 2010.

In addition to the training the Summer Rangers received in Southbridge, they also had to take classes in Defensive Driving, First Aid and CPR that was provided from their various River Basin Offices.



*K.C. Mitkevicius receives his Commander's Award for Civilian service from Bill Scully (center) and Mark Otis.*

## Mitkevicius retires with over 39 years of service

K.C. Mitkevicius, Project Management, made the decision to retire in June after over 39 years of faithful, federal service.

To celebrate his career and to wish him well, 35 family members, friends, and co-workers gathered in the Massachusetts/Connecticut Conference Rooms on June 23 for a pizza party.

Mark Otis served as Master of Ceremonies. In addition to welcoming attendees, Otis also presented Mitkevicius with a gift card to EMS from everyone who attended.

Bill Scully, who represented the Executive Office, presented him with the Commander's Award For Civilian Service for his dedication to the Corps of Engineers throughout his distinguished career. Scully also presented Mitkevicius with his official retirement certificate and pin and wished him well in his retirement.

Prior to joining the New England District, where he spent most of his career, Mitkevicius spent 10 years with the Europe District. He is a Vietnam Veteran and served with the 3rd Marine Division, Chu Lai Vietnam, U.S. Marine Corps.

During his career, Mitkevicius worked on many high profile projects to include the Charles George Superfund Site, New Bedford Superfund Site, and the General Electric/Housatonic River Project which received the 2007 Build

America Award from the Associated General Contractors of America. The award honors excellence in the construction industry and projects that exhibit the best in project management, innovation in construction techniques and sensitivity to the environment.

Family members that attended Mitkevicius' pizza party were his daughter Anna, mother Elena Vieskalnis, sister-in-law Amy Corbett and friend Linda Harris.

Joe Bocchino, retired Executive Assistant, represented the District's retirees and welcomed Mitkevicius into the District's retired community.



*K.C. Mitkevicius poses with the four ladies in his life.* Photos by Brian Murphy



Photos by Brian Murphy

*Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre opens his gift from SAME. Tyler Lefebvre examines his father's award.*



## Deputy District Engineer says farewell to New England District

When New England District employees retire or move on to other positions, there is almost always some sort of goodbye event to wish the person well and to let them know that once you are a part of the New England District family, you're always a part of the new England District family.

This is especially true for the District's military family members when they retire or move on to their next assignment. One such event, a farewell party to mark the transfer of one of the District's military members, was held for Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre and his family on June 19 at the Minuteman Club at Hanscom Air Force Base. Lt. Col. Lefebvre, who served as the Deputy District Engineer and before that the Engineering Technical Lead on District-driven projects at the Massachusetts Military Reservation project, accepted an assignment to deploy overseas to aid the Corps of Engineers in its Overseas Contingency Operations.

Approximately 65 people gathered at the evening event to say farewell to the native New Englander and wish him well in his next assignment.

Steve Andon, New England District's Executive Assistant, served as Master of Ceremonies for the party. He presented a minuteman statue to Lt. Col. Lefebvre on behalf of the

District.

District Commander, Col. Philip Feir, presented Lt. Col. Lefebvre with the Meritorious Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious performance of duties while serving as Deputy Commander for the New England District. "Lt. Col. Lefebvre's commitment to excellence and public service enhanced the safety of the region's citizens and the stature of the District throughout New England," read the citation. "His attention to detail during the execution of daily operations and his hands on approach to mentoring young leaders has made the District more efficient and focused on mission execution."

Jerry Nunziato, Security Office, presented Lt. Col. Lefebvre with a copy of his favorite DVD entitled, "The Warriors" and a bag of popcorn to enjoy with the movie. Retired Executive Assistant Joe Bocchino, who represented the Society of American Military Engineers, presented the Lieutenant Colonel with a pewter mug with an engineer castle on it in appreciation of his support to the organization. Diane Ray, Regulatory, presented the guest of honor with a framed print out copy of Regulatory's Performance Measures for Fiscal Year 2009. All the measures were green, meaning all the measures were achieved.

"It has been a great experience here at the District and I feel very fortunate to have been able to spend four years here with all of you," said Lt. Col. Lefebvre. "This is truly a great organization with so many professional and dedicated folks. I have met so many wonderful people along the way and feel privileged to have served with you. I will bring many fond memories of New England District with me."

Mrs. Shelley Lefebvre, the Deputy Commander's wife, received a flowering plant in appreciation for supporting her husband as he did the nation's business. Lt. Col. Lefebvre's son received a District coin from Col. Feir for also supporting his Dad.

Lt. Col. Lefebvre is no stranger to overseas deployment. Prior to coming to the New England District, he was deployed to Iraq for one year and served as the Gulf Region South District Commander's liaison to the Multinational Division Southeast.

Despite his familiarity with the Gulf, Lt. Col. Lefebvre wouldn't mind a little New England company if anyone from the District wanted to drop by for an overseas deployment. "I would gladly welcome any six to 12 month visitors at my next duty station," he said with a smile. "You should be able to find me in the global e-mail."



*Students from the Mullen Hall School pause for a picture before making their way home from their Cape Cod Canal field trip.*

## Cape Cod Canal field trip a treat for Cape school kids

First and third grade students from Mullen Hall School in Falmouth, Mass., paid a visit to the Cape Cod Canal as a year end field trip. In fact, Mullen Hall ended the Canal Area School Field Trip Season for 2009. The field trips are a popular part of the Canal's outreach program.

Prior to the children coming to the Cape Cod Canal, Park Rangers visited the school to give the students a 45-minute overview of Canal history and what they could expect at the facility. They were also provided with activity books to work on in class in preparation for their visit.

About 122 students and adults arrived the morning of June 17 for a half day of fun and learning. The children were divided into groups and rotated through the different aspects of the tour, which are guided by Cape Cod Canal Park Rangers. Students entered the Ranger Station theater to receive an overview about shipping on the Cape Cod Canal and learned all about the Marine Traffic Control Center through PowerPoint presentations. During the session, the children participated in a Marine Traffic Control exercise where they became "Marine Traffic Controllers" for the



*Students participate in "Tugs to the Rescue!" quiz and try to capture the flag with each correct answer.*

Photos by Kevin Burke

day. They were handed log sheets and were given information by a “virtual captain” to put down on their sheets.

After the exercise, their ranger guide took them to a viewing room to observe the Marine Traffic Control Center. While there, the children were shown the equipment to include all the camera monitors that line the canal and got to ask questions about the Center.

After visiting the Marine Traffic Control Center, the children then made their way outside to receive a guided tour of the tugboat, “Manamet,” provided by Park Ranger Bob Jackson.

On the “Manamet” they got to see all of the equipment and learned about the very important role Corps vessels have on the Canal.

The tour goes through the entire 107-foot vessel to include visits to the engineer room, wheel house, galley, mess, Captain’s quarters, and state-rooms.

After a picnic lunch that the children brought from home, the Mullen Hall students participated in an hour long quiz game entitled, “Tugs to the Rescue!” John Pribilla gave the quiz to the students. Students are quizzed not only on what they learned at the Canal that day, but also on the information the Park Rangers provided during their school



*Students ask Park Ranger Bob Jackson questions during their tour of the tugboat, “Manamet.”*

visit. The children, who were still divided into groups, maneuvered through a course of traffic cones. Every correct answer was rewarded by allowing the children to advance to the next cone. The first group to get to the end of the course and capture the flag wins.

All of the teams received a certificate of achievement at the end of the quiz, but the winners received “Winners” certificates to mark their accom-

plishment.

In 2009, the Cape Cod Canal Outreach Program accommodated 20 Cape area schools with approximately 1,500 students visiting the Canal.

Roger Hagen is head of the Cape Cod Canal Outreach Program. Senior Park Rangers who also participate in the Outreach Program and then train the summer Park Rangers are John Pribilla, Bob Jackson, and Kevin Burke.

## Cub Scouts help restore riparian habitat

**Story and photo by Amanda Smith  
Wildlife Management Intern  
Upper Connecticut River Basin**

On June 2, Gary Pelton, the Environmental Resource Specialist stationed in the Upper Connecticut River Basin Office, and his interns helped six Cub Scouts from Pack 258 out of Springfield, Vermont earn their Environmental Conservation Merit Badge.

Together they planted over 100 trees south of Stoughton Pond next to the Black River at North Springfield Lake. The area had been covered by an invasive plant known as Japanese



*Park Ranger Gary Pelton assists a Boy Scout plant a tree.*

Knotweed which had been mostly cleared out during the previous three years. The remaining knotweed patches are to be removed later this season.

Planting trees fulfilled a part of the Cub Scout’s Environmental Conservation Badge involving erosion. In the riparian habitat, the trees not only maintain the integrity of the soil but also provide the final necessary components of a thriving ecosystem: shelter and food for animals.

The new trees were a mix of sumac, dogwood and elderberry, selected to match the trees found in the vicinity.

## Chamberland named District's Interpreter of the Year

Sturbridge, East Brimfield and Westville Lake Park Ranger Tom Chamberland has been awarded the New England District's "Interpreter of the Year" award. Chamberland was nominated by Buffumville Lake Park Ranger Jean Hixson, Chair of the Corps District Interpretive Committee. The award was presented by Col. Peter A. DeLuca Commander, North Atlantic Division Engineer July 2, during his visit to the New England District and Westville Lake.

The New England District annually recognizes one of its Park Rangers for outstanding work in interpreting not only the day to day work and mission of the Corps, but seeks to recognize those who reach out with special programs and initiatives.

"Tom's nomination was an easy fit with the guidelines we look for in this award" said Park Ranger Jean Hixson. "Tom has demonstrated not only his ability to meet locally with school groups interpreting the Corps mission and promoting our water safety message, but his initiative in recreational trails, and on his becoming a resource to other park rangers on recreation accessibility for trails and outdoor environments as well as seeking to assist a local non profit



Photo by Park Ranger Matt Coleman

*Col. Peter DeLuca presents Park Ranger Tom Chamberland with the New England District's Interpreter of the Year award at Westville Lake, while Tom's wife Diane looks on.*

group in promoting a 60 mile regional trail effort that can connect four other Corps projects, along with his volunteering to serve on a newly formed national ad hoc group to promote and expand safe water trails. Tom has clearly demonstrated what an interpreter of the year is all about."

Chamberland said that he was pleased and surprised when presented the award. "I value my work with the Corps, as every day I have the opportunity to inform, educate and improve the lives of school children, and families,

when they can get outdoors and enjoy the natural resources of our area," he said. "Providing all folks a healthy place to recreate, and the ability to learn a little something along the way is a great job to have. I am honored to receive this recognition from my peers."

Chamberland's nomination will be presented to the Division level for consideration and if successful, forwarded to the National Level for the Hiram M Chittenden Award, the Corps of Engineers annual outstanding interpreter award. (Westville Lake Press Release)

## Sandcastles, water safety and Bobber!

Story by Park Ranger Karen Hoey  
Elm Brook Park

Park Rangers at Elm Brook Park hosted their 15th annual sand castle competition, July 11.

Park Rangers Deborah Lyons, Jessica Whitmore and Joseph Kinduris encouraged the beach goers to enter the sandcastle competition for a little fun in the sun, which also gave them the opportunity to share information on water safety.

Bobber the Water Safety Dog was on hand to talk with visitors and help the Park Rangers emphasize the importance of water safety. The competition



Elm Brook Park photo

*A competing sandcastle at Elm Brook Park.*

came at an excellent time as the beach was overflowing with people due to the hot sun that day.

The competition was fierce and 16 sandcastles entered the competition; however, as with any contest there could be only one winner.

With the help of Bobber, the rangers selected this year's winner as 3 year old Kaleb who named his creation "Two Rocks and Two Bridges." With the help of his mother, he intricately used rocks to line the wall of his castle, and built four large bridges within his fort.

Each participant was given a water safety coloring book and a Frisbee. For winning first prize, little Kaleb got an additional prize of a shovel and pail.

# Seamoor Steals Show at Water Safety Demonstration

Story and photos by  
Park Ranger Natalie McCormack  
and Matthew Cummings

Park Rangers Matthew Cummings and Natalie McCormack from the Franklin Falls Dam assisted Tilton firefighter's with presenting water safety information at Tilton, New Hampshire's Old Home Day Festival, June 28. The event, which took place at the Pines Recreation Area, behind the Pines Community Center is held yearly to celebrate the community and its outstanding members. Approximately 300 people attended the event.

The Park Rangers utilized the District's water safety trailer and Seamoor, the Corps Water Safety Dragon to promote water safety. The trailer is a fun interactive tool which assists Corps employees with teaching children about water safety. It has features such as a television on which to play informative videos, a prize wheel that has questions to test the knowledge of the participants, and plenty of handouts, brochures, and coloring books on water safety. With the aid of the trailer, Cummings and McCormack demon-



*Seamoor the Water Safety Dragon makes a new friend at the Old Home Day Festival.*

strated how to properly wear a lifejacket and handed out the activity books on swimming and boating safety.

In addition to distributing important water safety information, the rangers also set up some fun interactive activities, with the water maze being the most popular. The game required participants to navigate through a network of showering water while wearing distur-

tion goggles. Thus demonstrating the adverse affects alcohol has on an individual's perception when participating in water related activities. Some participants tried harder than others, preferring to cool off during the hot day.

Yet, it was the robotic water safety dragon, Seamoor, who stole the show. Seamoor cruised around in his water safety boat interacting with the children and attracting them towards the water safety demonstrations. This lovable character showed his mischievous side when he squirted the unsuspecting audience with his water sprayer. He also taunted spectators with flashing lights and sirens. Needless to say, the children adored him.

In addition to the Corps water safety trailer, Belknap County's own Three Rivers W.E.T Team demonstrated water rescue techniques using throw bags and a temporary reservoir. The Three Rivers W.E.T Team is a group of specially trained volunteers and emergency professionals from the county who specialize in swift water rescues on New Hampshire streams and rivers. Their demonstration gave children the opportunity to practice throwing a bag out to a stranded victim.



*Park Rangers Natalie McCormack and Matthew Cummings stand ready to talk water safety at the festival.*

# Corps of Engineers receives prospectus proposing an In-Lieu Fee Program covering state of Vermont

by Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District has received a prospectus dated June 2009 for an In-Lieu Fee (ILF) Program covering the state of Vermont. The Corps solicited public comments through July 30, on the prospectus. The sponsor is Ducks Unlimited.

If the prospectus is deemed sufficient, the ILF program will be established through the development of an ILF instrument to be signed by the sponsor, the Corps, and other agencies which choose to do so. The process will follow 33 CFR 332, Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources ("Mitigation Rule"). The Mitigation Rule was published in the Federal Register on April 10, 2008.

The ILF program would provide an alternative to permittee-responsible mitigation if it is deemed appropriate during the review process for proposed unavoidable impacts authorized under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. It would also provide an alternative compensation type for Civil Works projects needing compensation for impacts to aquatic resources as well as providing a resource for use in resolving enforcement cases under Section 404 and Section 10. The entire prospectus, titled "Prospectus for a Vermont Statewide In Lieu Fee Program," is available on the Corps website along with the public notice.

The decision whether to authorize the sponsor to proceed to the next step of developing a draft ILF instrument will be based on the Corps' determination of the potential of the proposed ILF program to provide compensatory mitigation for activities authorized by the Department of Army permits. The Corps has determined that this prospectus is complete in that it includes the following: the objectives of the proposed ILF program; how the ILF program will be established and operated; the proposed service areas; the general need for and technical feasibility of the ILF program; the proposed ownership arrangements and long-term management strategies for the ILF project sites; the qualifications of the sponsor related to the ability to successfully complete the types of mitigation projects that will be proposed; a compensation planning framework; and a description of the ILF program account.

The Corps is solicited comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to allow the sponsor to proceed to develop a draft ILF instrument. The public notice, with more detailed information and a copy of the prospectus, can be reviewed online at the Corps' New England District website <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select Regulatory/Permitting and then weekly public notices.



## Just sailing through

*The tall ship HMS BOUNTY sails under the Railroad Bridge and through the Cape Cod Canal to make its way to the Sail Boston Event, July 6. About half a dozen tall ships passed through the canal on their way to Boston that day. (Photo by Kevin Burke)*



Photo courtesy of Coastal America

*Sen. Jack Reed with Chris Turek, Maurice Beaudoin, Chris Hatfield, Laura Furgione, Todd Randall, Timothy Rezendes and Col. Philip Feir during the Coastal America Award ceremony.*

## Environmental project receives Coastal America Award

*Continued from page 1*

ginia Tippie, Director, Coastal America; Grover Fugate CRMC Director; Michael Tikoian, CRMC Chair; and Laura Furgione, NOAA Assistant Administrator.

President Barack Obama sent a letter of congratulations to the team for their outstanding work in restoring a vital part of Rhode Island, which Col. Feir presented to each team member. "This award recognizes outstanding partnerships that make a significant contribution toward the restoration and protection of our nation's coastal environment," read the letter. "It is the only environmental award of its kind given by the White House. I applaud and support you in your efforts to bring together collective resources to meet common goals and better our coastal environment."

According to the New England District's Coastal America Team Leader Bill Hubbard, Ninigret Pond's troubles began decades ago. "In 1952, the state of Rhode Island widened and deepened the natural tidal inlet to Ninigret Pond to create the Charlestown Breachway, with stone jetties constructed along either side in order to maintain the breachway for navigation," he said. "The construction of the jetties created a natural funnel effect that deposited large amount of sand form the ocean inside the pond. Over the years, the once plentiful eelgrass beds covering the pond bottom were buried."

Ninigret Pond is one part of the larger South Coast

Habitat Restoration Project, which included restoring 57 acres of eelgrass in three coastal lagoons, 40 of which were in Ninigret Pond.

The tidal delta in the pond was dredged for a better environment for the eelgrass to regrow. "Natural recruitment and limited seeding has already added tens of acres of eelgrass to the dwindling stocks of submerged aquatic vegetation in the Northeast," he said.

According to Hubbard, the project is progressing much sooner and much better than expected. Work on the project began in 1997 and eelgrass growth has exceeded project expectations. The team anticipates that eelgrass meadows will cover the entire restoration area within a few years.

The project has been a collaborative effort between the New England District, the RI CRMC, with the RI Department of Environmental Management, the University of Rhode Island, the Salt Ponds Coalition, and the Rhode Island towns of South Kingstown, Charlestown and Westerly.

District team members who received the award were Christopher Hatfield, Todd Randall, Lawrence Oliver, Maurice Beaudoin, Timothy Rezendes, and Chris Turek.

New England District teams are very familiar with the Coastal America Award, having received it in 2005 for the Lonsdale Marsh Restoration Project in Rhode Island and in 2003 for the Smelt Hill Dam project in Maine.

# Dredging up the past . . .



*Bill Scully and District Commander Col. Brian Osterdorf unveil the Distinguished Civilian Gallery wall that features John Craig during the Founder's Day ceremony on June 27, 2001.*

Public Affairs Office  
New England District  
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