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of Engineers**®
New England District

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Yankee Engineer

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Ceremony marks beginning of Ten Mile River Ecosystem Restoration project

Each spring since the early 1980s, Rhode Island volunteers have been giving herring a “lift” to the Ten Mile River, netting them up and over the Omega Pond Dam so that the herring could migrate safely up the river. But now a project is underway that will allow herring and other fish species to safely pass over Omega Pond Dam

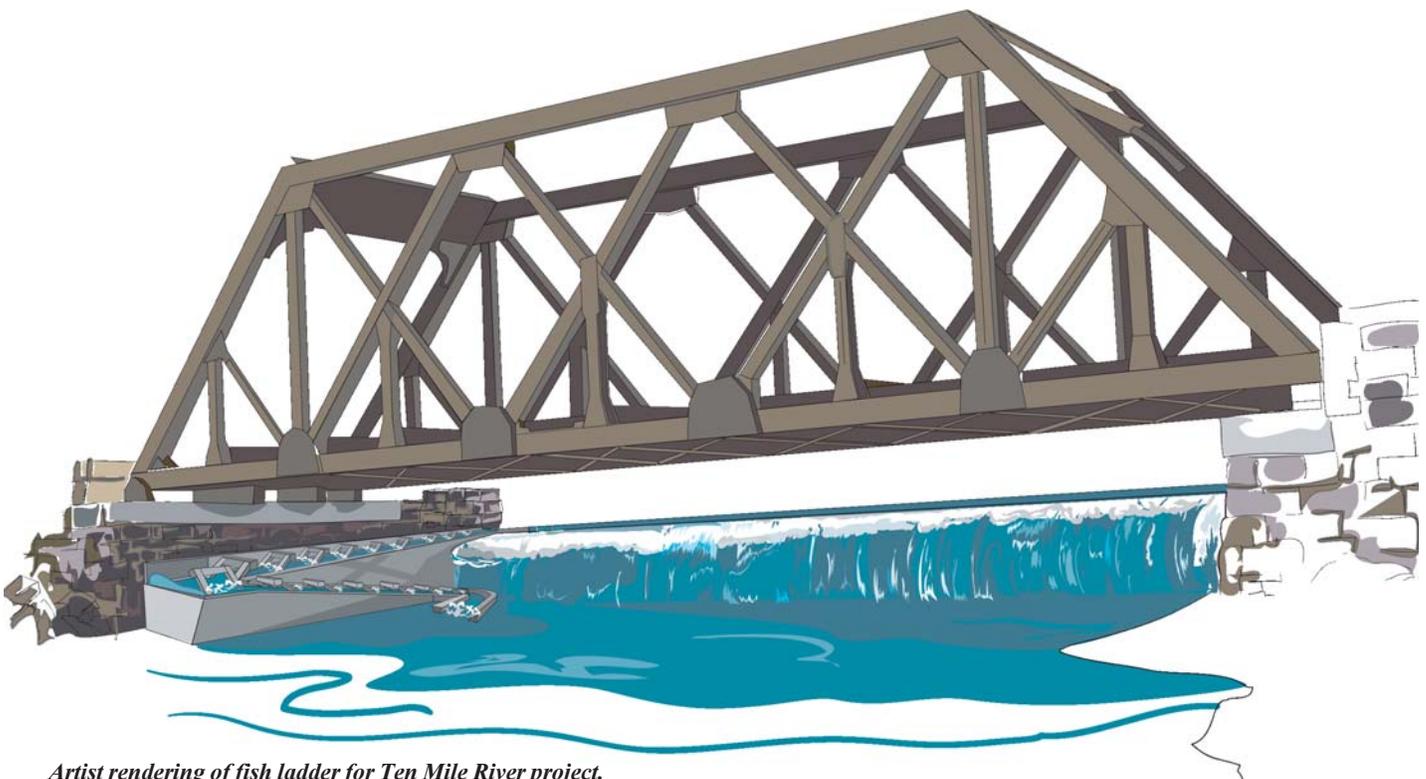
and two other dams on their own.

New England District officials joined their federal, state and local partners in celebrating the beginning of the Rhode Island River Ecosystem Restoration Project that will involve constructing three fish ladders on the Ten Mile River. Fish ladder structures will be constructed at Omega Pond Dam,

Hunt’s Mill Dam and Turner Reservoir Dam. The ceremony, held on Sept. 24 at Hunt’s Mill Dam in East Providence, marked the beginning of the project.

“The Ten Mile River project consists of constructing Denil-type fishways at the lowest three dams on the river,” said Col. Philip T. Feir, New

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Artist rendering of fish ladder for Ten Mile River project.

Yankee Voices



Rick Magee
Park Ranger, LRD

District's Weather Program

Due to the early snow that we've experienced this season, the New England District Inclement Weather Notification system is up and running.

Closing or delayed opening information is available by logging in to Channel 7 News (WHDH-TV) at <http://www.whdh.com>.

WHDH also has another very convenient way to learn about closings/delays called "Snow Day Alert." By registering with the news station online, they will send a message to your cell phone if the District has any closing/delay information. To take advantage of this option, go to www.whdh.com and under "7 on your cell," click on "Snow Day Alert" and follow the directions. More media outlets may be added in the future.

The Inclement Weather Hotline is also available. Please call 978-318-8346 for the latest District closing/delayed opening information.

Congratulations

...to **Chris Caisse**, Construction Control Representative in the North Central Resident Office for being selected as the WE Committee's employee of the month. Caisse is recognized for his work at the Elizabeth Mine Site, in Strafford, Vermont. His dedication to the project and willingness to go beyond what might normally be expected have made the 2009 season at the Elizabeth Mine a success, ensuring that the additional ARRA funding has gone back into the economy of the Upper Valley - putting people to work and moving the cleanup of the Mine forward to help eliminate the impacts to the Ompompanoosuc River.

...to the **Cape Cod Canal Marine Operations Team** for being selected as the WE Committee's Team of the Quarter. The Marine Operations section knows their mission "To keep the Cape Cod Canal safe for transits of commercial and recreational vessels." The patrol boats have professionally handled 285 assistance cases to date, including two emergency calls for persons in the water. The patrol boat crews remained vigilant on maintaining safe practices in the Canal by issuing 94 verbal warnings, 21 written warnings and issuing four citations. In addition to handling their patrol duties this section always demonstrates great pride and attention to the annual maintenance and upgrades necessary to all of our vessels including keeping the 57 year old tug "Manamet" in pristine condition.

Best Wishes

...To **Philip Nimeskern**, Regulatory, and **Lynn E. Noel**, upon their marriage over the summer. The happy couple has settled in Waltham, Mass.

...To **John Garabedian**, an Air National Guardsman and Engineering/Planning employee, who was reactivated and has deployed overseas to support Overseas Contingency Operations. He and his unit will be closing Forward Operating Bases in Iraq. Garabedian is scheduled to return in July 2010.

Sympathy

...To **Maureen "Molly" McCabe**, Real Estate, on the passing of her brother-in-law, Paul Conroy, who passed away, Sept. 24.



Commander's Corner: Happy Fiscal New Year New England!

by Philip T. Feir
District Commander



Well folks,

Another fiscal year has come to a close...and what a year it's been. I for one continue to be impressed with our can do attitude and exceptional Esprit de Corps, and appreciate everyone's efforts in making things happen on our multitude of projects this fiscal year. We really stepped up to the plate this year, especially as we took

on more responsibility in executing numerous additional projects for the EPA, VA, DHS, and as part of the President's ARRA program, and I'm extremely proud of each and every one of you. But it doesn't stop there as we have even more to accomplish in the coming year, and I for one am looking forward to getting after it, and continuing to maintain our high standard of excellence. Keep up the great work.

Lastly, and certainly not least by any stretch, it's my privilege to announce that District leaders, in conjunction with

national and regional Corps leadership, have selected Frank Fedele to fill our newly created Chief of Operations position here in the District, and he has graciously accepted the position. Please join me in congratulating Frank on this wonderful new assignment. I know he will continue to do great things for us in the OPS arena and we are fortunate to have him on board.

As many of you may know, Frank comes to us from the Cape Cod Canal Manager position, and in his new capacity will continue to provide leadership to the Canal folks and to all serving in our Basin/Project offices as well as here in the District.

And it is with even greater pride that I also have the opportunity to say, "Thank You" to Frank for stepping up to the plate and deploying to Iraq. To his credit, Frank was concerned about leaving the District so soon after having been selected for his new position, but I will tell you as I told him, USACE's #1 Mission continues to be support to the GWOT or OCO (Overseas Contingency Operations), and to that end he is absolutely doing the right thing. So ... Frank I wish you well and congratulate you once again on your selection to your new position.

Again, thank you all for the great work done in FY 2009, here's looking forward to 2010!

District welcomes new Deputy District Commander

by Sally Rigione
Public Affairs

The New England District welcomed its new Deputy District Engineer, Lieutenant Colonel Steven M. Howell, in August 2009. He replaces Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre, who took an assignment overseas to support the Corps' Overseas Contingency Operations.

Lt. Col. Howell has been an Army Engineer Officer for 19 years. Upon completion of the Engineer Officer Basic Course in early 1991, he began his career with the 19th Engineer Battalion at Fort Knox, KY where he served as a Platoon Leader, Company XO, and Battalion S-4 over 4 years. Upon completion of the Engineer Officer Advance Course in 1995,

he was assigned to the 94th Engineer Battalion in Vilseck/Grafenwoehr, Germany where he served as the Battalion

Motor Officer and Company Commander. In 1996 he deployed to Bosnia for 11 months as a member of IFOR. From 1998 to 1999, Lieutenant Colonel Howell served in the Devens Readiness Training Division at Fort Devens, Mass., as an advisor to National Guard and Reserve Engineer units in all six New England states. In 2000 he was assigned to the George C. Marshall Center for International Security Studies in Garmisch, Germany as the resident Facilities Engineer.

From 2003 to 2004, Lt. *Continued on page 7*



Photo by Brian Murphy

Lt. Col. Steven M. Howell is the New England District Deputy Commander.

Getting in the right seat on the bus: Varghese graduates from Planning Associates Program



Tab Brown, Saji Varghese and Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp at Varghese's graduation in Washington, D.C.

Saji Varghese, a project manager in New England District's Planning Section, recently marked an impressive achievement by graduating from the Corps of Engineers Planning Associates Program.

Varghese was selected to be the only NAD representative to enter the year-long intensive program, which required long hours, lots of travel and time away from family. Only 12 candidates are accepted each year in this competitive program. "The announcement for this program comes out every May from the Director of Civil Works office in headquarters. Interested applicants who have at least five years of experience in the Civil Works Program can put together a package consisting of resumes, essays and recommendations from their immediate supervisor and the District Commander."

If the application is approved, it is forwarded to the Division Commander, who reviews candidates from all the Districts, selecting one person to represent the Division. "I feel very fortunate that I was selected," said Varghese.

While in the program, Varghese attended more than a dozen courses

that varied in topics from leadership classes, deep draft navigation, inland navigation, coastal storm damage, flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, watershed planning, small boat harbors, hydropower and cultural resources and Tribal Affairs. He and his fellow classmates often spent many nights and weekends after class hours working to solve problems and work on a strategic think piece, which is like a thesis that was presented at the end to Headquarters Civil Works staff. Varghese's team worked on a piece entitled, "Progressive Forecasting – Incorporating Climate Change Implications into Plan Formulation Process."

During the leadership class, the participants had to develop their own coin that they would give out to anyone they felt has done exceptional work for them.

"Every place we went while we were in the program, we gave one or two coins out in appreciation for assistance," he said. "We also spent three weeks in Washington, D.C., interacting with the HQ Office of Water Project Review, and Planning and Policy teams, Office of Management and Budget

(Gener Ebner), the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Doug Lamont), the Council on Environmental Quality (Terry Breyman) and Institute of Water Resources (IWR). We also had an opportunity to visit the Pentagon, and at the hill were able to spend some time with John Anderson (House Transportation & Infrastructure committee), and Roger Cockrell (Senate Energy & Water Appropriations committee)," said Varghese.

While in Washington, Varghese also shadowed Tab Brown, Chief of Planning and Policy Compliance Division at Headquarters.

Participants in the program are required to travel extensively, and Varghese found himself flying around the country to places like New Orleans, La., Vicksburg, Miss., and Sacramento, CA., to observe projects, participate in program classes and network with various subject matter experts. "Participating in the program meant spending a lot of time away from my family and job," said Varghese, the father of two young daughters. "So it was a commitment for my family and co-workers as well."

The time investment and commitment was worth the effort. Although completing the program does not guarantee a promotion or monetary benefit, when Varghese graduated on Sept. 15 during a ceremony held in Washington, D.C., he came away with a wealth of knowledge and network connections that he has brought back to New England and will use on his current and future projects.

"I felt the information I learned in one year would have otherwise taken me at least 10 years or more to learn," he said. "The next best part was the opportunity to network and meet most of the subject matter experts in the Corps. I definitely am more confident than before. I know now that I can take any project in any Civil Works mission area and can complete it."

District celebrates fiscal year end with pie

The succulent scents of fall wafted through the halls of Concord Park during the WE Committee Pie Fest celebration, Oct. 1, reminding everyone that a new season, and fiscal year, successfully arrived at New England District.

Employees and their Community Based Health Care Organization neighbors followed their noses to the Massachusetts/Connecticut Conference Rooms, which were crammed with pies, apples, cheeses, candies, apple cider and other beverages for them to snack on during break time. "The Pie Fest is a good opportunity to interact with folks you may not see or interact with on a normal basis," said first time Pie Fest attendee, Andrew Stamer, PAO. "I've worked for a few different Corps organizations and it's always fun to see how they celebrate year end. The Pie tradition in New England is a really fun idea."

More than 400 slices of pie and other goodies were consumed by attendees as they enjoyed the fall decorations and each other's company during the event. "This year was my second year at Pie Fest," said Stefan Carpenter, ACE-IT. "The decorations were festive and the pie was deli-



Photo by Brian Murphy

District employees enjoy some pie during the WE Committee Pie Fest.

cious."

Pie Fest has been a wildly popular event since it first began in 2003 when Shari Valente served as head organizer. Back then the Pie Fest boasted nine bakers. Bob Meader took over the event in 2004 and since then it has exploded both in the number of participants and bakers. This year, over 100 volunteers baked, helped decorate,

served pie and performed other important tasks that made Pie Fest 2009 a success. Meader deflected credit from himself to his large band of helpers. "This year was the largest volunteer participation to date," said Meader. "I always get the 'congratulations on another successful pie fest' comments but it really is successful due to all those volunteers."

New England District reaches out through social media

By Andrew Stamer
Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District is now using Twitter and Facebook to reach additional audiences and keep people informed about the happenings in the District.

The District is also working on transforming its website to meet the new challenges of web-based information, and giving people easier access to publicly available information. The goal of using social media applications like

Twitter and Facebook is to reach out and interact with constituents in a way that wasn't available just a few short years ago.

This also allows us to redirect people to our website so they can access the latest information on projects, navigation, regulatory, and other issues that are of interest.

Follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/corpsnewengland) or become a Fan of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England Page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Concord-MA/US-Army-Corps-of-Engineers-New-England/>

[144391133417?ref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/144391133417?ref=ts)) on your Facebook.

You're welcome to become a NAE Facebook Fan, to follow NAE on Twitter, and share these links with people you know who will benefit from the information that will be posted to these sites.

These will not replace our web presence, but instead will enhance it through these new platforms.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please send them to Andrew Stamer in the Public Affairs Office at andrew.r.stamer@usace.army.mil.



Photos by Brian Murphy

Hunt's Mill Dam will be one of three dams receiving fish ladders. (Inset) Col. Philip Feir speaks at the ceremony.

Ten Mile River Ecosystem Restoration project

Continued from page 1
England District Commander. "The Corps and Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management executed the Project Cooperation Agreement in May 2008 and we are anticipating a contract award in December of this year. Construction work will commence when the environmental window opens next July."

Dr. Jane Lubchenco, NOAA Administrator, said that the project will bring positive environmental changes to Rhode Island. "This project is part of a major effort along the East Coast to bring back healthy populations of blueback herring, alewives and American shad that are food for so many other fish, birds and animals," she said.

"The project also includes provisions for American eel passage," said project manager Mike Tuttle. "The Hunt's Mill component will fit perfectly with the city's master plan for the area

and allow citizens viewing areas of the fish migration."

John Hunt constructed Hunt's Mill Dam in 1770 to power a gristmill. The design of the Hunt's Mill fish ladder and eel passage are compatible with the historic and architectural qualities of the Hunts Mill Dam and the Rumford Historic District.

The Omega Pond Dam was built in the early 1800's to process water for several industries.

Turner Reservoir Dam was also constructed in the early 1800's and was used as a water supply for the city of East Providence.

"These dams not only obstructed the passage of anadromous fish to their historic spawning areas along the Ten Mile River, but many of these industries discharged various wastes into the river, severely impacting water quality," said Tuttle.

Since the implementations of the

Clean Water Act and amendments in 1972 and 1977, the river is much cleaner, but the barriers that prevent fish migration remain.

The recommended restoration plan would allow anadromous alewives access to about 340 acres of spawning habitat and provide about three miles of riverine spawning habitat for the blueback herring and American shad.

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management projects that these habitat areas will support a fish run of over 200,000 herring and could pass as many as 25,000 American shad.

Other partners that attended the event were Keith Gonsalves, president of the Ten Mile River Watershed Council; Larry Mouradjian, Associate Director of Natural Resources, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management; and Mayor Joseph S. Larisa of East Providence.

Corps of Engineers proposes maintenance dredging of Portsmouth Back Channels, Sagamore Creek

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

At the request of the state of New Hampshire, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District is proposing to perform maintenance dredging of the Portsmouth Back Channels and Sagamore Creek Federal Navigation Project in Rye, New Castle and Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

The proposed project involves maintenance dredging of portions of the Portsmouth Back Channels and Sagamore Creek Federal Navigation Project in Rye, Newcastle and Portsmouth. The Back Channels consist of three, 6-foot deep Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) navigation channels (a 100-foot-wide by 0.4 mile-long channel, and two 75-foot-wide channels totaling 1.6 miles in length) and a three-acre anchorage also 6-foot-deep at MLLW.

The area is home port to a small commercial Lobster Fishing Fleet as well as numerous recreational vessels. Additionally, the Back Channels and Sagamore Creek are widely used as a cut-through around New Castle Island and the mouth of the Piscataqua River for shallow draft vessels.

“Natural shoaling processes have reduced available depths to as little as 4 feet Mean Lower Low Water in portions of the channels,” said Project Manager Michael Walsh, of the Corps’ New England District, Programs/Project Management Division. “Approximately 8,000 cubic yards of clean sand needs to be removed from the channels and anchorage to return the project to authorized dimensions.”

This proposed work is expected to take two to three months to accomplish in the year or years in which funds become available, contingent upon availability of necessary approvals.

The dredged material has undergone physical analysis, in

coordination with state and Federal resource agencies. The dredged material is clean sand, and the Corps has determined that it is suitable for unconfined open-water disposal. The material will be placed at a nearshore disposal site in sub-tidal water adjacent to Wallis Sands Beach. Use of this site provides the benefit of keeping the clean sand within the beach littoral system.

The Corps will consult with NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that the proposed activity will not significantly affect any species or critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act. The proposed work consists only of maintenance, involving previously dredged areas, and will not affect any cultural or archaeological features or resources in the area of dredging.

An Environmental Assessment for this work is being prepared and, when completed, will be available for review upon request. The Corps has assessed the effects the proposed dredging is likely to have on Essential Fish Habitat and has determined that they will be short-term and localized and that there will be no significant impacts on the designated fisheries resources.

The proposed dredging project is being coordinated with the following Federal, state and local agencies: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; the NOAA Fisheries; the state of New Hampshire Coastal Programs Office, the Department of Environmental Services and the Division of Historic Resources; the local Harbor Master, city of Portsmouth, town of Rye, and town of New Castle.

The public notice for this proposed work, is available on the Corps website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select “public services” and then “navigation” and then “public notices” or go directly to the link at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/navigation/pubnot2.asp>.

District welcomes new Deputy District Commander

Continued from page 3

Col. Howell was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division Staff as the G3 Plans and Exercises Chief and then as the 52nd Engineer Battalion Operations Officer at Fort Carson, CO. In 2005, he was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY where he served as a Battalion Executive Officer and Division Engineer. During his time with the 101st Airborne Division he deployed to Iraq for 12 months and Afghanistan for 15 months.

Lt. Col. Howell is a graduate of California University of Pennsylvania with degrees in Drafting Technology and Industrial Management. He has completed the Engineer Basic and Advance Courses, Command and General Staff

Course, Airborne School, and Air Assault School.

Lt. Col. Howell has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (2OLC), Army Commendation Medal (2OLC), Joint Service Achievement Medal (OLC), Army Achievement Medal (2OLC), National Defense Service Medal (star), Armed Force Expeditionary Medal, Afghan Campaign Ribbon, Iraq Campaign Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Ribbon, Armed Forces Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon (5), NATO Medal (2), Airborne and Air Assault Badge, and the Combat Action Badge. Unit awards: Army Superior Unit Award and Meritorious Unit Citation (OLC).

Dredging up the past . . .



Louis Conca presents Frank Fogherty with a television set during Fogherty's retirement party in May 1972. Both men later went on to become Distinguished Civilian Gallery Members.

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