

# Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 51, No. 7 April 2018

*Building Strong*

New England District junior ranger program  
develops community stewardship alliances

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# Yankee Voices

Mark Walsh and Ken Paton



## Founder's Day 2018

The New England District will host its 243rd Founder's Day Ceremony and related events on Friday, June 29 at Concord Park Headquarters. More details will follow in the coming weeks.

## Yankee Engineer - Digital Edition

The Yankee Engineer is available to New England District employees who wish to receive it. Before retirement, please e-mail the editor, Ann Marie Harvie at [annmarie.r.harvie@usace.army.mil](mailto:annmarie.r.harvie@usace.army.mil) to get on the list. An e-mail with a link to the current issue goes out monthly.

## Words worth repeating

"Life is full of surprises and serendipity. Being open to unexpected turns in the road is an important part of success. If you try to plan every step, you may miss those wonderful twists and turns. Just find your next adventure-do it well, enjoy it-and then, not now, think about what comes next."

- Condoleeza Rice

## Iorio receives high marks at MassBay Community College Career Panel

Maryellen Iorio went back to college March 20, but it wasn't to pick up another degree. The New England District Project Manager participated on a career panel at MassBay Community College in Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts as part of the Partnership in Education agreement the New England District has with the college.



"The experience was very positive," she said. "It was a small group of students, many who were non-traditional students returning to school after raising children or working at other careers."

"Ellen did an excellent job weaving in her background of how she became a Project Manager," said Mark Anderson, STEM Coordinator for the District. "She also provided great tidbits related to skills necessary and what students can do or look out for if they want to pursue a career in the Project Management field."

"The students were very engaged and asked lots of questions," said Iorio. "They asked about what classes and training are required to be a project manager, what types of organizational skills. We discussed the need for "soft" skills and the importance of communication and understanding team dynamics."

The free career panel was open to all students, especially those enrolled in programs that are part of their STEM department such as the sciences, engineering, bio tech, etc., according to Anderson. "Indications are the students were thrilled with the event and found it very valuable," he said.

Iorio also felt the panel was valuable. "These are students who are exploring their career choices," she said. "Engaging with them could influence their choice to enter STEM learning. This is an opportunity to create a pipeline from community colleges to science and engineering careers. Not only does this make a huge difference in people's lives but it can create a stronger workforce with people coming in having diverse experiences."





The Hatheway & Patterson Superfund Site has been taken off EPA's National Priorities List.

New England District File Photo

## Former District project taken off EPA's National Priorities List

One of the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund Sites the New England District restored has recently been taken off their National Priorities List (NPL).

The Hatheway & Patterson Superfund Site, located in Mansfield and Foxborough, Massachusetts was taken off the list during an announcement March 15. "Deleting Hatheway & Patterson from the NPL is an exciting moment, marking the completion of many years of cleanup work and returning the site to the towns for future planning," said EPA Regional Administrator Alexandra Dunn during the announcement.

The Hatheway & Patterson Site was a 40-acre former wood treatment facility. When the company went bankrupt in 1993, it left the soil on the site contaminated with chemicals that included dioxin, pentachlorophenol, arsenic and organic solvents.

The EPA asked for the New England District's assistance in completing a remedial action that through excavation, off site disposal and on-site cap construction, would clean up the site. Work included excavating 43,500 tons of contaminated soil and shipping it off-site to a hazardous waste landfill.

According to the EPA, hazardous material within approximately two acres of the site located in Foxborough were consolidated and placed under an asphalt cap. Long-term monitoring of groundwater, surface water, and fish tissue were performed regularly. In addition, operation and maintenance of remedial components including the cap

was reviewed together with monitoring data during 5-year reviews to determine whether the cleanup was effective. Work began in August 2009 and completed in September 2010. Severson Environmental of Niagara Falls, New York, served as contractor on the project.

New England district's Hatheway & Patterson Superfund Cleanup Team received the 2011 National Notable Achievement Award for Superfund Reuse/Revitalization for Region 1 (New England). The team also included members of EPA Region 1 and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

EPA proposed to delete the site from the NPL on December 2017. After a 30-day comment period, the agency determined the comments did not affect EPA's determination to remove the site.

Now that the site has been taken off the list, the property can be reused by the towns. "The cleanup of the Hatheway & Patterson Site means the return of this property to productive use, the surrounding environment restored and the nearby neighborhood protected," said Massachusetts DEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg.

Portions of the site are already being reused by the towns, according to the EPA. In Foxborough, a 119-space commuter parking lot is located on part of the site, which serves the town's commuter rail station. The town of Mansfield also uses part of the site for emergency vehicle storage and office space.



Junior Rangers conduct a science experiment during a program held by the Cape Cod Canal.

Cape Cod Canal photo.

## New England District's Junior Ranger Programs Teach Environmental Stewardship and Protecting Natural Resources

When the warm weather finally reaches New England, children in the region will have a unique opportunity to get a feel for what being a Corps of Engineers Park Ranger is like.

Several New England District recreation sites will host free junior ranger programs for children 6-12 in the spring/summer of 2018. Each program is as unique as the project hosting it.

According to the Corps' junior ranger program Guidelines, "the objective of this program is to develop in the young people who visit Corps of Engineers lakes an awareness of the environment and the role the Corps plays in managing this environment at the lakes, and to solicit their assistance in helping Corps rangers in serving the public and protecting our lands and natural resources."

The Corps of Engineers runs the junior ranger program nationally.

Other agencies, such as the National Park Service, have similar programs.

Rick Magee, retired Park Ranger, with the assistance of Joan "JoJo" Cyr, Robert Hanacek and Tom Wisnaukas, created a program for the Corps in New England in 1985 called the junior Project Manager Program at the Thames River Basin.

"The goal of the junior project manager program was to help school children from grades 4 to 6 understand the Flood Risk Management mission of the Corps in New England," said Magee.

Although the junior ranger program execution has evolved over the years, the overall messages of environmental stewardship and the mission of a Corps of Engineers Park Ranger have stayed the same.

Up until 2018, the junior ranger program at the Cape Cod Canal ran for five days over the summer.

First year junior rangers would learn about what Park Rangers do, environmental stewardship, water safety, ocean exploration and the history of the Cape Cod Canal.

Second year junior rangers would learn about soil, water, whales, pollinators, orienteering (until 2016) and engineering bridges.

This year, the Canal is offering a junior ranger booklet youngsters can either download from the Canal website or pick up at the Visitor's Center. Children can earn a junior ranger patch by completing a certain number of activities in the booklet, participate in a Visitor's Center scavenger hunt and attend one or two ranger-led programs depending on the child's age.

"By creating a booklet, we will be able to reach a much larger demographic, especially tourists who come in all the time looking for junior

ranger opportunities for their littles,” said Program Coordinator Elisa Carey.

West Hill Dam’s Viola Bramel has been running its program since 1991. “We hold two sessions in late July for five days each Monday through Friday and candidates must complete all five sessions to graduate,” she said. “We have Level 1, Level 2 and advanced ranger programs.”

At West Hill Dam, Level 1 junior rangers study subjects that include: Duties of a Corps Ranger; Natural Resource Management; Flood Reduction/Water Quality Resources, Forest Resources and Water Safety. “We have the kids do projects throughout the week,” said Bramel. “For example we’ll have them rate the river quality base and learn how to know if other bodies of water are safe for them for swimming or wading by collecting invertebrates such as cray fish and then releasing them. Keying out the quantity, they can tell the pollution status of a river or pond. They also do a water safety rescue demonstration.”

Level 2 junior rangers at West Hill Dam have two choices to earn their badge, according to Bramel. The students can either assist with teaching the Level 1 Rangers for the entire session or they can attend five programs out of all the West Hill Dam Interpretive Programs offered during the summer. The children must attend programs that teach natural resources, forestry, fish and wildlife, park and recreation and cultural resources. “New for 2018, we have given Level 2 points for attendance at local fairs and Corps community exhibits,” said Bramel.

Both of the junior ranger Levels at West Hill Dam take up to 35 children for each program. According to Bramel, the slots fill up quickly. The advanced junior rangers receive a workbook filled with science experiments and other activities that students must complete before they can earn their final junior



West Hill Dam photo

Newly-minted Junior Rangers proudly show off their certificates and badges during the West Hill Dam graduation ceremony.

ranger special patch and pin. According to Bramel, many advanced junior rangers go right into the corps volunteer program, which starts at age 14.

“They keep busy volunteering with groups such as scouts for National Public Lands Day, community service, etc.,” she said.

Buffumville Lake ran the junior ranger program created by Magee and his team until Project Manager Dave Stiddem arrived with his program from Nashville District.

The last junior ranger program took place at the project in 2009 due to dwindling participation.

“We began sign ups for 2010, but we canceled because only two students signed up,” said Park Ranger Jamie Kordack.

Park Ranger Nicole Giles, who helped with past junior ranger programs throughout the District, will revive the program this summer. “We offer many different programs at Buffumville and Hodges and I thought the kids should get credit for attending,” she said. “It also gives them incentive to come explore and learn about the park and what we do.”

Giles has created a junior ranger passport for kids to keep track of the programs they attend with a few extra activities inside.

“The program is very flexible,” she said. “We are offering many programs and subjects ranging from Dam tours to pollinator to full moon and nature walks.”

Giles said that parents are already taking passports for their children and the Buffumville and Hodges Facebook post promoting the program has had nearly 1,000 views and over a dozen shares.

The positive impacts the New England District junior ranger programs can be counted by the number of adult, former junior rangers who have returned to the annual clean up events such as Earth Day and National Public Lands Day.

Former junior rangers also come back to the projects to volunteer their time to help nurture the next generation of junior rangers.

“At West Hill Dam, we have 47 completed Eagle Scout projects that benefit our public lands,” said Bramel. “All of those Eagle Scouts were junior rangers.”

Many of those former junior rangers are returning to the projects and signing up their children to be future environmental stewards.

“We have had graduates who went on to become local fire fighters and policemen,” said Bramel. “Now they are signing up their children. I can’t tell you how gratifying it is to see the cycle continue.”



Siberian Husky team running in the Fun Run at Franklin Falls Dam.

## North Country Mushers Host Fun Run at Profile Falls, Franklin Falls Dam

**Story and photos by Karen Hoey  
Park Ranger, Franklin Falls Dam**

On March 18, 18 sled dog teams attended the annual Winter Warriors Fun Run Sled Dog Race at Profile Falls, Franklin Falls Dam in Bristol, New Hampshire. This is an annual race that started back in 2008 and on average 10-18 teams attend every year. Mushing is a sport using a sled that is powered by a team of dogs. This is a very popular sport for Profile Falls due to the trail conditions. The trails are groomed well and are wide enough for teams to pass one another safely. They also provide for an easy start/finish line as well as a nice turn around loop for the teams. The fun run's aim is to get new people into the sport as well as to promote a fun get-together for those who love the sport.

On the day of the event, each team is assigned a starting order which corresponds to their bib number. Teams line up individually at the start gate and once one team takes off the next team

has two minutes to ready their dogs at the start line before they take off for the race. The two minute interval between each team gives enough time for each to run the trail safely without interfering with another team's run. The finishing order and winner is determined by the overall trail time for their team. In

keeping with the fun run theme, there are also fun class races for senior dogs, puppy teams and a shorter run for mushers that are children.

Following the race, the winners were announced, and the teams and spectators got together to socialize. It was a perfect ending to a great event.



Group picture of Mushers that participated in the Fun Run Sled Dog Race. The Fun Run Sled Dog event has been running at Franklin Falls since 2008.



Participants race to the finish line during the River Rat Race.

Photo by Bill Mehr

## Corps supports canoeists, rafters on Millers River with Birch Hill Dam, Tully Lake white water releases in Royalston

By Timothy J. Dugan  
USACE, New England District

Controlled releases of water by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, from Birch Hill Dam and Tully Lake Dam, both in Royalston, Massachusetts, took place on Saturday and Sunday, April 14-15, 2018 to provide adequate river flows for recreational canoeing, kayaking and rafting on the Millers River.

The Corps of Engineers provided water release flows up to 1,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) from Birch Hill Dam and 400 cfs from Tully Lake Dam for the weekend events, according to Project Manager Jeffrey Mangum in Royalston.

Various events by local groups were scheduled for Athol-Orange, including the 55th annual River Rat Race on Saturday. Events by local groups scheduled in Erving included the Zoar Outdoor Rafting on Saturday and the Zoar Outdoor Rafting on Sunday.

“There were approximately 200 paddlers in the Rat Race on Saturday with approximately 500 spectators on the route,” said Bill Mehr, Natural Resource Specialist at Tully Lake. “There were approximately 30 recreational paddlers that took advantage of the release from Birch Hill.”

According to Mehr, three commercial companies scheduled trips on the Millers River on Saturday. “Approximately 20 boats, 100 customers and 20 staff for the three companies participated,” he said.

The majority of the events scheduled for Sunday were canceled due to the forecast of bad weather that day.

Construction of Birch Hill Dam was completed in 1942 at a cost of \$4.8 million. The 1,400-foot-long, 56-foot-high dam can store 16.2 billion gallons of water.

To date, flood damages amounting to more than \$80.3 million (\$257.9 million, adjusted for inflation) have been prevented. The state-leased Lake Dennison Recreation Area offers many recreational opportunities, including camping, hiking, hunting, swimming, picnicking, boating, fishing, mountain biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling and cross country skiing, and attracts more than 250,000 visitors annually. For details contact the Park Ranger staff at (978) 249-4467 or visit the website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/BirchHillDam>.

Tully Lake Dam, on the East Branch of the Tully River in Royalston, is 1,570 feet long and 62 feet high. Completed in 1949 at a cost of \$1.7 million, the dam has a reservoir storage capacity of 7.1 billion gallons of water. Tully Lake Dam has prevented flood damages of \$29.1 million (\$81.1 million, adjusted for inflation) since it was constructed.

More than 100,000 visitors annually enjoy picnicking, hiking, boating, camping, mountain biking, disc golfing, fishing, hunting and cross country skiing. For details contact the Park Ranger staff at (978) 249-9150 or visit the website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/TullyLake>.

# Dredging up the past



Tony Riccio, Joe Bocchino, Maureen Murray and Jay Campbell pose for a picture during the New England District Bowling Banquet in this May 1974 photo. The group were the bowling champions that year. All but Mr. Campbell were employees with the Corps in New England.

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