

# Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 52, No. 1 October 2018

*Building Strong*



New England District projects celebrate  
National Public Lands Day

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# Yankee Voices



Larry Oliver (left) and Jess Levenson

## Hatch Act Reminder

Now that the election season is in full swing approaching the mid-term elections in November, we all need reminders about the Hatch Act, 5 U.S.C. Sec. 7321-7326.

Generally speaking, federal employees, unless further restricted, may actively participate in political management and political campaigns.

But the Hatch Act specifically prohibits federal employees from engaging in political activity while on duty or in the workplace, even if you're teleworking.

There are also rules on the use of social media which should be reviewed.

For further information, please visit the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) at this link: <https://osc.gov/Pages/HatchAct.aspx>

The rules on political activity for Army are in DoD Directive 1344.10 and AR 600-200, not the Hatch Act.



Millers River at Birch Hill Dam.

## Fall colors decorate Birch Hill Dam

**Story and Photo by Jeff Mangum**

**Project Manager, Birch Hill Dam & Tully Lake**

The glorious colors of early October reflect on the Millers River in Massachusetts as it flows toward the 1942 Birch Hill Dam gate house, the brick building seen above the rock in this photo.

The river flows unimpeded most of the year, as seen here, but when downstream flooding threatens, the dam lowers its four gates to constrict river flow and reduce the risk of flooding in Athol, Orange and beyond.

Birch Hill Dam is part of a network of dams that work together to reduce flood risks on the Connecticut River.

## Words worth repeating

"Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it."

- Maya Angelou





Cape Porpoise Harbor, Kennebunkport, Maine.

Photo provided by Navigation Branch

## Corps proposes maintenance dredging of Cape Porpoise Harbor Federal navigation project in Kennebunkport

by **Timothy Dugan**  
**Public Affairs Office**

The New England District plans to perform maintenance dredging of the Cape Porpoise Harbor Federal navigation project in Kennebunkport, Maine. The town of Kennebunkport is the local sponsor and requested this work.

“Natural shoaling processes have reduced available depths to as little as 1.0 foot in the 15-foot MLLW channel and anchorage, and 2.0 feet in the 6-foot MLLW channel, making navigation hazardous or impossible at lower stages of the tide,” said Project Manager Coral Siligato, of the Corps’ New England District, Programs/Project Management Division. “Maintenance dredging of approximately 25,000 cubic yards of primarily fine- and medium-grain sand, and silt from approximately 12 acres of the authorized project area will maintain the FNP to required authorized dimensions of the 6-foot MLLW channel and will maintain safe navigation to 10 feet MLLW in the 15-foot MLLW channel and anchorage.”

A private contractor, under contract to the government, will use a mechanical dredge and scows to remove the material and then transport it for placement at the Cape Arundel Disposal Site or the Portland Disposal Site. Construction is expected to take between 1-3 months within the allowable dredge window of Nov. 1 to March

15. The work is anticipated to be performed in 2019/2020.

The Corps’ most recent dredging of the harbor was in 1976 when a mechanical dredge removed approximately 123,000 cubic yards of sediment from the 15-foot channel, 15-foot anchorage, and 6-foot channel, and placed the material at the Cape Arundel Disposal Site.

The proposed work is being coordinated with: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; National Marine Fisheries Service; Maine Department of Environmental Protection; Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry; Maine Coastal Program; Maine Department of Marine Resources; Maine Historic Preservation Office; the Penobscot Nation; and the town of Kennebunkport. An environmental assessment is being prepared and will be available for review upon request.

The public notice, with more detailed information, is available for review on the Corps website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Public-Notices/>.

Public comments on this proposed dredging project should be forwarded no later than Nov. 20, 2018 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Programs/Project Management Division (ATTN: Ms. Coral Siligato), 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751 or by email to [nae-pn-nav@usace.army.mil](mailto:nae-pn-nav@usace.army.mil).

## Maj. Gen. Milhorn holds virtual Town Hall Meeting for North Atlantic Division, discusses better communication

Better communication was on the mind of Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Milhorn when he held the first-ever North Atlantic Division-wide virtual town hall meeting, Oct. 11. New England District team members gathered in the Concord Park cafeteria to listen to what he had to say.

Maj. Gen. Milhorn began by thanking Division team members for all they do every day and then explained the reason for the town hall meeting. The team, he said, was already great and that the Division has the utmost professionals he has seen and he depends upon them for their expertise. However, even with great performers, there is always room for improvement. He said it was his charge to the Division team to, "make it matter, make it better."

"It's my intent to be up front and transparent about what I believe and what we need to do to get better," he said.

One of the things that the Division can do better, according to Maj. Gen. Milhorn, is communicating what we do and how well we do it with the public.

"We need to go outside our comfort zones and communicate in such a way that people understand what we do," he said. "Although it's not a concern right now, when people don't understand, it opens us up to attack or it has people looking at separating roles and responsibilities that would be distributed to organizations outside of the Corps of Engineers."

The general said that as the division commander, it is his job to tell people about the Division team, our projects and the value that they bring to the nation. He mentioned the disaster recovery work the team is doing in Florida in response to Hurricane Michael and the support to the southern states in response to Hurricane Florence. "Communication

is key with local, state and federal responders to synchronize efforts to get the job done," he said.

Maj. Gen. Milhorn next discussed new hires and the importance of mentorship. He said he understood the frustration of the time it takes to hire new employees and that he was meeting with the Human Resource team to see what, if anything, can be done. Once new hires arrive, Maj. Gen. Milhorn would like to make them



Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Milhorn, NAD Commander

feel they are part of the team as soon as possible. "How do we put our arms around them immediately?" he asked.

He said that when a new person comes on board at the division headquarters, he makes every effort to meet them within the first week of their arrival.

"If for nothing else but to welcome them to the team and to the family, let them know what their responsibilities are and where I think they fit into the system and what's going on with the organization," he said.

Mentoring is important to Maj. Gen. Milhorn. He said he believes that supervisors should serve as mentors to new hires to guide them.

The general also believes that more experienced employees should mentor newer employees to pass on what they learn before they retire so that the institutional knowledge the more experienced employees possess will stay in the Division for others to use. Specifically, he is interested in the informal mentorships. "I get more out of a 15-minute conversation than I do downloading a lot of information on the Internet," he said. "Ninety-nine percent of people will not go and look at those documents."

Program execution is another area that Maj. Gen. Milhorn finds very important. He said that when he goes out and talks with stakeholders, communicating expectations up front is crucial. Miscommunication, he said, could cause delays and extra costs.

Although cost, quality and schedule are all important, Maj. Gen. Milhorn said he believes that quality tops the list. "No one remembers how much a building costs or how long it took to build it, but everyone will remember the quality – good and bad," he said. "If the quality is bad, that is a reputational risk that NAD would have to overcome."

Maj. Gen. Milhorn said that demonstrating through confidence and the ability to execute is what is important. "Hold to quality at all levels," he said. "Hold everyone accountable."

Although quality is top on his list, that does not mean forgetting about cost and schedule. "When Congress awards billions of dollars or authorizes and appropriates billions of dollars for us to do work, it comes down to the delivery and they want to see us do the right thing."

The general urged anyone who speaks with members of Congress or their staff to do so with confidence. "Walk them through with the confidence

that you know what you're talking about and that we are holding up to the highest standard of quality and that we're doing everything we can to stay within budget and on schedule," he said.

Maj. Gen. Milhorn touched upon holding the Division accountable for readiness and to be prepared for what may come. "Yesterday is forgotten, we don't know what tomorrow may bring, so we have to live for today," he said. "Quit putting off what you've been trying to do tomorrow, because we don't know what tomorrow is going to bring."

Having close relationships with partners is also important. "Partnerships are vitally important to everything that we do," said Maj. Gen. Milhorn. "I hear great things everywhere I go – you are absolutely awesome."

Midterm elections are coming in November, and Maj. Gen. Milhorn cautioned everyone to be careful to show discretion and non-partisanship during this time.

Getting the good word out about the Division's projects is a priority of Maj. Gen. Milhorn's and he said there needs

to be a balance between internal and external communications. "We have to do a better job of telling the story," he said. "We need to be able to describe what we do and the value that we bring. We need to make sure that everyone knows we are absolutely confident and competent in what we have been authorized and appropriated to do."

Before Maj. Gen. Milhorn opened up the meeting for questions, he discussed the results of the Federal View Point Survey that many took in the May – June period. He said that some of the districts are already engaging on some of their action plans to address some of the issues brought up. "What you said in the survey is important and we're going to do something with the information that you provided," he said.

The general said that out of the 78 categories and statements on the survey, responses to 64 of them showed improvement. He went over the categories where the Division improved and where they fell deficient. Maj. Gen. Milhorn said one glaring deficiency was work-life programs and said that he

would be focusing on that in the future. Maj. Gen. Milhorn communicated his intent to have a suggestion box for anonymous employee feedback.

The suggestion box is now available to members of the division headquarters and six districts on the NAD intranet entry page below the CG's picture on the right side. <https://intranet.usace.army.mil/nad/pages/home.aspx>.

Maj. Gen. Milhorn said the mailbox is designed for suggestions, areas for improvement, problems, solutions, compliments and a fill-in-the-blank field if the input does not fit one of those categories.

After the question and answer period, the NAD Commander said that he would be traveling to the districts in the next few weeks. He concluded by sincerely thanking everyone for what they do every day. "I'm grateful to serve with and for you," he said.

Maj. Gen. Milhorn visited New England District from Oct. 23-24.



## West Thompson at the end of the rainbow

This beautiful rainbow was caught on camera by West Thompson Park Rangers as it appeared over the dam, Oct. 23.



Park Ranger Viola Bramel, West Hill Dam, presents Advanced Graduate Junior Ranger Dylan with his leadership award during National Public Lands Day.



Volunteers participate in the trash cleanup at the Cape Cod Canal.



Volunteers gather around the pirate ship at Buffumville Lake for the water sealing project.

## New England District projects celebrate Public Lands Day

Hundreds of participants took advantage of the fine New England weather and came out to help clean up and improve four New England District projects to celebrate National Public Lands Day. Buffumville Lake, Hodges Village Dam, the Cape Cod Canal and West Hill Dam all held celebrations.

The Cape Cod Canal and Americorps Cape Cod held their annual clean up on Sept. 22. One hundred twenty-one people as well as Canal team members came ready to work cleaning up trash along the canal as well as some small maintenance projects to include gardening and pollinator habitat improvements. Volunteers removed 688 pounds of trash from the South Side of the Canal. In addition to the cleanup, local partners from the Buzzards Bay Coalition and the Mashpee Middle School Honors Society held activities and games based on the effects of marine debris on the Canal.

West Hill Dam and a local automotive sponsor also took advantage of beautiful weather for their event, Sept. 22. Many of the 114 participants, aside from volunteers

representing the hosts, were Scouts and students from local schools. Two Eagle Scouts made the most of their time at West Hill by completing their Eagle projects while helping with the clean up. Work included installing benches, planting a pollinator garden, sealing benches, wheelchair pads and beach glides, litter removal and other improvements.

Projects aplenty were getting done by 91 volunteers at Buffumville Lake and Hodges Village Dam, Sept. 29 – 13 projects to be exact. Seven New England District team members also rolled up their sleeves and pitched in – all in the name of environmental stewardship.

Work at the projects included parking lot rehabilitation and cleaning, invasives removal, opening up trails, painting, sanding park tables, pollinator garden improvements and water sealing the Pirate Ship, just to name a few.

The volunteers at all four projects worked hard to beautify and improve their public lands. Their efforts will benefit many who visit the projects for a long time to come.

## Multi-agency agreement provides Corps permittees with new mitigation option, supports Atlantic salmon recovery

**by Timothy Dugan, USACE, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Maine DMR Joint Release**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (Corps), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Maine Department of Marine Resources (MaineDMR) signed the Atlantic Salmon Restoration and Conservation Program In-Lieu Fee Instrument on Sept. 20. This Instrument provides an alternative form of compensatory mitigation to permit applicants who are required to compensate for their project's impacts to endangered Atlantic salmon in Maine.

The program purposefully advances the improvement of aquatic resources in Maine that are or have the potential to be habitat for Atlantic salmon. It provides a form of compensatory mitigation for individuals and firms seeking a Corps permit for impacts to Atlantic salmon.

"This program is a great example of state and federal agencies partnering together to develop innovative solutions which not only protect and enhance our environmental resources but also streamline the permitting process," said Col. William Conde, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

"We are pleased to have the opportunity, through this program, to advance our Atlantic salmon restoration efforts in areas with the greatest potential for recovery," said Patrick Keliher, Commissioner of the Department of Marine Resources.

"This new program mirrors the highly successful Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP) sponsored by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. This In-Lieu Fee Program (ILFP) for wetland impacts has dramatically reduced the time necessary

to receive a project permit and the resulting wetland compensation has far exceeded those mitigation projects built prior to the program's formation. I expect to see the same results to Atlantic salmon critical habitat from this new program," said Deane Van Dusen, Mitigation & Special Projects Manager at the Maine Department of Transportation.

The concept of an In-lieu Fee Program (ILFP) is to allow Corps permittees to compensate for their project's unavoidable impacts, by making a monetary payment in-lieu of or in addition to doing the required mitigation themselves. Eligible projects are activities authorized under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

The in-lieu fee payments will be administered by MaineDMR. As the sponsor, MaineDMR, in turn, assumes legal responsibility for implementing the required compensatory mitigation, which it will accomplish by aggregating and expending the in-lieu funds received from Corps permittees or other federal agency permittees for mitigation projects.

By aggregating the fees from multiple permitted impacts, the program can use the fees to compensate project impacts in a strategic and efficient manner offering greater ecological benefits towards recovery of Atlantic salmon. This ability to aggregate funds will facilitate mitigation projects that better contribute to Atlantic salmon recovery goals.

"This program will improve our efforts to protect and restore salmon habitats throughout the critical habitat areas in the state of Maine," said MaineDMR Commissioner Patrick Keliher.

For more information on In Lieu Fee programs in New England visit the website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Mitigation/InLieuFeePrograms.aspx>.



Atlantic salmon (Photo courtesy of NOAA)



Duck Pond Brook in Maine. Photo by EPA

## Corps seeks public comments on 11 projects applying for 2018 funding through Maine's In-Lieu Fee program

**By Timothy Dugan**  
**Public Affairs Office**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District is seeking public comments on 11 projects which have applied for 2018 funding through Maine's In-Lieu Fee program, the Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program (MNRCP). The sponsor for the program is the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

The In-Lieu Fee (ILF) program serves as an alternative form of compensation for impacts to aquatic resources authorized by the New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and/or the state of Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

These projects were submitted in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) issued on July 31, 2018. The RFP includes the criteria used to evaluate projects, the information required for a proposal, and other related information. The RFP and additional information can be found on the MNRCP website at: <http://mnrpc.org/>.

Any of the projects which involve restoration, enhancement, and/or creation and will require Corps, state, or local permits will be applying individually for these permits, not through this notice. The Corps public notice, with more information, is available on the Corps website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx>. It lists the following: summary sheet of projects and the bioregion in which they are located; funds available and the aquatic resource types which have been authorized to be impacted; and project descriptions and maps for the projects.

The decision whether to approve funding for projects

will be based on an evaluation of each proposed activity and how and where it will compensate for aquatic resources lost through authorizations issued under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. The decision will reflect the national concern for no net loss of aquatic resources.

The Corps is seeking comments from the public; federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested groups in order to determine the most appropriate projects to receive funding from the MNRCP. Any comments received will be considered by the Interagency Review Committee, including the Corps of Engineers, and will be considered in the evaluation of the projects and the determination of which will receive funding. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors.

Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments also are used to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. All In-Lieu Fee agreements in New England are available for review on the Corps website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Mitigation/InLieuFeePrograms.aspx>.

Public comments on these 11 projects which have applied for funding through the Maine In-Lieu Fee Program, the Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program (file # NAE 2005-01143) were accepted through Nov. 1.

# New England Environmental Scientist Veinotte shines at CERL ERDC-U

By Patrice Creel  
ERDC

What can be done to expand research knowledge, professional contacts and technical opportunities outside district boundaries? For New England District Environmental Scientist Christopher Veinotte, the answer popped up on an Army career website announcing a six-month research program at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) University.

He was accepted for the session at ERDC's Construction Engineering Research Laboratory in Champaign, Ill, as one of 10 participants for the FY18 ERDC-U program.

Selectees were paired with laboratory subject matter experts to apply and implement technical solutions relevant to their division or district. Participants presented their projects as highlights at a graduation ceremony in August.

Now in its third year, the highly-regarded program is sponsored by the ERDC Office of Research and Technology Transfer and Directorate of Human Capital, which fund either labor or travel expenses for the program's duration.

Open through Nov. 23, 2018, applications are available through the link: [https://wiki.erdcdren.mil/ERDC\\_University](https://wiki.erdcdren.mil/ERDC_University)

As a program manager, Veinotte's goals for his ERDC-U experience centered on gaining technical knowledge and skills he could then apply to his projects, field work and quality assurance reviews.

"I realized this was the right program, which would be the most effective in addressing my district's needs," Veinotte said of his decision to pursue ERDC-U.

Veinotte's intent was to develop a clearer understanding of the



ACE-IT Photo by Jason Pope

Engineer Research and Development Center Director Dr. David Pittman, left, presents New England District Environmental Scientist Christopher Veinotte with his ERDC-U graduation certificate at a graduation ceremony.

subject material within a laboratory environment, take what he learned, and apply it to the district's ongoing mission, resulting in improved laboratory techniques and data sets.

In working with his mentor, Dr. Martin Page at CERL, Veinotte focused on two areas: conversion of cellulosic waste materials into useful products, and investigating new highly-sensitive methods for toxicity analysis of composite water samples.

With a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from the University of New England, Veinotte joined the New England District in 2014, where he was responsible for dredging activities associated with the regulatory program.

He became well-versed in the marine analysis arena, interacting with state and federal agencies to design sampling plans, issue suitability determinations and review data. These efforts impacted the decision-making process in determining the

suitability of dredged material for open water and ocean disposal.

He also was responsible for monitoring dredging activities at Superfund and Formerly Used Defense Sites, as well as managing the district's program for monitoring dredge sediment testing laboratories.

From the start, Veinotte saw the amazing opportunities afforded him as he worked with ERDC's technical experts, and ERDC team members also benefited from his sharing district experiences and technical perspectives.

"Many opportunities and ideas came to light as our work progressed and networking capabilities developed," Veinotte said.

Based on his experience, he strongly recommends the ERDC-U program to his district's coworkers. For more information on ERDC-U, contact [Cynthia.L.Brown@usace.army.mil](mailto:Cynthia.L.Brown@usace.army.mil), ERDC Office of Research and Technology Transfer.

## Public Affairs Chief retires after 37 years of federal service

After 37 years of protecting and enhancing the reputation of the Department of the Army, Public Affairs Chief Larry Rosenberg retired from service, Sept. 30.

A send-off with a public hearing theme took place, Sept. 27 in the Concord Park cafeteria. While nearly 70 guests munched on pizza and salad, Tim Dugan began the hearing by welcoming everyone and recognizing the retirees and special guests. Ed Voigt, Chief of the PAO at the Philadelphia District and Jess Levenson, formerly of New England District but now with Buffalo District and Marla Levenson came in from their perspective states to celebrate Rosenberg's career.

Dugan gave a short summary of Rosenberg's impressive and distinguished career and the myriad of awards he received during his time with DoD. These include the Decoration for Meritorious Civilian Service, the German Freedom Award, the Department of Defense's Thomas Jefferson Award, five of the Corps of Engineers' Keith L. Ware Journalism Awards, the Department of the Army Community Relations Award of Excellence and three Command Information Awards of Excellence.

Dugan listed many of the high profile projects for which Rosenberg crafted Public Involvement and Outreach Programs. These high profile projects included Cape Wind, Long Island Sound and many others. "In response to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, Larry deployed to New York City and led the Corps' Public Affairs Support Team that focused on the media's attention on the Corps' role as part of the total response force in search, rescue and recovery efforts in the days following the attack," he said.

After opening remarks, Dugan turned the meeting over to the speakers who registered to provide their input. Voigt was the first speaker, calling himself the Philadelphia version of Larry. He said it was ironic that Larry was from Philly living in Boston and he was living in Philly and worked with people originally from New England. "You go into the Philly office and all you see are Red Sox banners everywhere," he said.

Now that Rosenberg is retired, Voigt becomes the senior Public Affairs Officer in North Atlantic Division, according to him. He called Rosenberg up and presented him with coins from Baltimore District, New York District, North Atlantic Division and Philadelphia District. He remarked that although Rosenberg lived in Massachusetts, he still loved the Philadelphia culinary delights such as the famous cheese steak sandwich. Voigt presented Rosenberg with Philadelphia pretzels as a nod to his home state. Recalling Rosenberg's Jewish heritage, Voigt said that one of his most favorite Yiddish words is "Mensch," which is a person of integrity and honor. "Larry is a Mensch," he said. "There is no higher compliment I can give."

Voigt said that Rosenberg always does the right



Larry Rosenberg proudly displays his Meritorious Civilian Service award.

Photos by Brian Murphy

thing and that he always served his country. "He always served the Corps," he said. "He has always supported the people and supported the projects. He is a good, honest friend and I wish you the best."

Levenson was next to give his testimony. "From the time I was 16 years old, you have been my boss, my mentor and my friend," he said. He talked about the values that Rosenberg instilled in him – Loyalty, Wisdom, Generosity and Honesty. He cited instances where Rosenberg showed these attributes. Levenson recalled with fondness the times that Rosenberg took him golfing and gave him the once in a lifetime opportunity to hold the Stanley Cup won by the Boston Bruins Hockey Team. "Congratulations on your retirement – we love you," he said.

Dave Margolis caused roars of laughter when he shared a special memory. He said that he and Rosenberg both attended a conference in Philadelphia about 12 years ago. Margolis said that Rosenberg wanted to show him around to his old haunts and take him for a Philly cheese steak sandwich. "After the conference, we went to the subway station," he said. "We were on the platform and we met this woman and we started talking. Larry told her how excited he was to be back in Philly, and then after a while he wandered off for a little bit. The woman looked at me and said, 'You know, it's so nice that you're spending all this time with your father.'"

Margolis concluded his remarks by congratulating his "dad" on his well-earned retirement and wished him the best of luck.

Ann Marie Harvie talked about Rosenberg's arrival in style at the District, organizing the lavish 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for the New England Division. She went on to name a few notable public events that illustrated Rosenberg's Public Affairs expertise and dedication to protecting and enhancing

the Corps' reputation such as the Southeast Lighthouse move, the Sears Island Public Hearing and the Corps' response to the attack on the World Trade Center. She concluded by mentioning an often told tale of one of her first meetings with Rosenberg. "I will miss your Yoda-like advice, I will miss the adventures, but most of all I will miss the Wonkavision," she said.

Sally Rigione rounded out the list of official speakers. She said she worked for Rosenberg for over 25 years and said she was grateful to him for teaching her the business of Public Affairs. She said her favorite part about working with Rosenberg was going to the public meetings and hearings for the various and numerous New England District projects. Her favorite trips were to Connecticut, where Rosenberg introduced her to his favorite deli. Rigione recalled the camaraderie of those who worked at the meetings and hearings, having meals after the events and getting to know each other. Rigione talked about Rosenberg's "mostly accurate" navigation skills as co-pilot on road trips to the public events and how he was eventually replaced with a more accurate GPS system.

Fond memories at the office for Rigione included German birthday breakfasts and celebrating the holidays at the office. She remembered Rosenberg's fondness for visiting the vending machine every day to get away from his desk for a while. She presented him with a 60 day supply of pretzels. She also presented him with a toy car in remembrance of the monthly, "wish" of an Audi car purchase.

Rigione, Harvie and Dugan presented several gifts from the audience in recognition of his long and distinguished career. First was a framed American flag flown on Sept. 11 in honor of his service during the response to the World Trade Center attacks. He also received a picture of a Park Ranger badge that was signed by members of the Operations team and a coin holder for the coins he received previously from Voigt. In lieu of a monetary gift, the remaining money left over from the lunch was donated to two of Rosenberg's favorite charities – Rosie's Place in Boston and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Scott Acone represented the Executive Office in the absence of Col. William Conde, who was unable to attend. Acone thanked Rosenberg for his service and presented him with the Meritorious Civilian Service award, signed by Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, for his work as Chief, Public Affairs from March 1992 to Sept. 2018. He also presented Rosenberg with his retirement certificate signed by Col. Conde. Acone mentioned that Col. Conde presented Rosenberg with a district coin for his service earlier in the week.

Rosenberg thanked everyone for coming, saying that he felt quite privileged to stand in their company. He mentioned the fact that there has been only three heads of New England's Public Affairs Office, to include himself. "It's a hell of a job," he said. "I have amazing people who do amazing things and get amazing results," he said.

Rosenberg reflected on his career both before and after



Ed Voigt (left), Philadelphia District, presents Larry Rosenberg with coins from other Districts in honor of his retirement.

he became the Chief of Public Affairs. He talked about a late friend who told him, "A performer never, ever says goodbye."

The new retiree said that two days before his retirement, he is finally growing up. "I'm grateful to have served with you as we, as the Corps of Engineers, served the nation. As I retire, I leave with no regrets. It was wonderful to be a part of the U.S. Army for 37 years, both in uniform and as a civilian, both full and complete with great people and great endeavors that make life worthwhile."

He said he has lived his life the way he wanted to live it. He ended his remarks and quoted the late science fiction writer, Harlan Ellison. "For a brief time I was here, and for a brief time I mattered," he said. "Ladies and gentlemen, good night."

Larry Rosenberg joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in New England in March 1992 following a one year period as Public Affairs Officer for the Office of the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

Prior to that Larry served for seven year period as Public Affairs Officer and Political Advisor for the U.S. Forces stationed in Mainz, Federal Republic of Germany.

After receiving his Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts from the University of Pennsylvania, where he majored in journalism and photography, Larry worked as a desk reporter and photojournalist for the Philadelphia Bulletin.

In 1976, he established and managed a diversified public relations firm in Philadelphia, which offered a variety of services to such diverse fields as the entertainment industry and retail furniture outlets. After five years of very successful operations, Larry's business suffered a downturn following a record industry recession in 1980. In January 1982, he entered into military service as an Army journalist and began his civil service career on Jan. 21, 1985.

Retirees who attended Rosenberg's lunch included Col. (ret) Carl Sciple, Distinguished Civilian Gallery member Charlie Coe, Barbara Duffin, Joe Faloretti, Peter Hugh, Wayne Johnson, Jim Morocco, Bill Scully, Angie Vanaria and Joan Gardner.

## Senior Geotechnical Engineer joins District retirement community with over 20 years of service

After 23 years of service, George Claflin, or Shaggy as he is known by close friends, decided to join New England District's retirement community. He officially did so, Aug. 31.

About 80 family, friends, co-workers and retirees came to the New England District on Aug. 30 to have a simple hot dog and ice cream lunch to celebrate Claflin's career.

Siamac Vaghar hosted the official portion of the event, held in the Concord Park courtyard, and greeted guests and introduced speakers. Vaghar briefly talked about the Senior Geotechnical Engineer's distinguished career before presenting him with a Scooby-Doo "Shaggy" action figure and a T-shirt.

Other speakers included Jon Belmont, Chief of Staff, and Scott Acone, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management. Acone presented Claflin with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service and his retirement certificate.

Claflin spent all of his civilian years working with the New England District. During his career, Claflin was the Geotechnical Basin Lead for the Naugatuck River Basin as well as performing work at the other District dams.

Other projects Claflin worked on included the Nacala Dam in Mozambique, most of the projects at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Massachusetts and numerous planning projects. He also served



Photo by Brian Murphy  
Scott Acone (left) presents George Claflin with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service.

as a first responder for the District at Concord Park.

In addition to his civilian service with the District, Claflin served his country faithfully as an officer in the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. Southerland. Claflin's wife, son and daughter all accompanied him to his retirement lunch.

Now that he has some extra time, Claflin intends to work part-time making furniture.

## Loubier retires with nearly four decades of service

A retirement luncheon was held for Westover Resident Office secretary, Susan Loubier, who retired on Sept. 28, with over 37 years with the Corps of Engineers.

The luncheon was held at The Warehouse in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Over 40 guests attended, including Loubier's husband, two children, son-in-law and her sister as well as past and present Corps of Engineers employees.

Retirees who attended included Andre Janet, Sandy Marciniowitz, Gladys Leone, Champak Shah, Randy Sujat, Pat Allen, Jeff Perchak, Rick Casano, Moe Beaudoin, Jim Morocco, Jim Leonard and Charlie Miller.

Ray Goff, Westover Resident Engineer, emceed the event. Loubier was presented with flowers, a chocolate martini basket, and framed photos before being treated to a rousing rendition of "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow" led by Steve Dougherty. She also was presented with a tiara, a queen travel cup and tee shirt by former Westover employee, Sarah Sinclair.

Charlie Miller also spoke. Several guests stood and shared "Sue" stories evoking a lot of laughter. The Commanders Award for Civilian Service and retirement certificate were presented to Loubier by Sean Dolan, Chief of Construction.

Susan Loubier started at the Danbury Project Office in

1974, relocated to the Philadelphia District Office in 1976, returned to the Hartford Area Office after eight months and finally settled in at Westover Air Reserve Base in 1982.

Loubier's post-retirement plans include researching her ancestry and babysitting her daughter's five cats and one dog, and traveling to beaches around the coasts of the U.S. with her sister. (Susan Loubier provided the information for this article.)



Photo courtesy of the Westover Resident Office  
(From left) Andre Janet, Charles Miller, Sue Loubier, Jim Leonard and Ray Goff.



Matt Walsh and his wife, Ann, cut the cakes for guests at Walsh's retirement lunch.

Photos by Brian Murphy

## Matt Walsh retires with over 30 years of service

Matt Walsh, Regional Technical Specialist in the Plan Formulation Branch, Planning Division, retired Sept. 29 after 33 years of distinguished federal service.

A catered barbecue lunch was held in his honor Sept. 28 in the Concord Park cafeteria. Over 50 people attended the lunch to celebrate Walsh's career. Chris Hatfield served as Master of Ceremonies during the presentation portion of the event. Other speakers included John Kennelly, Mike Kulbresh and Dave Margolis.

An avid outdoorsman, Walsh received gift cards to his favorite sporting goods stores so he could make purchases to support his hobby.

Scott Acone represented the Executive Office during the lunch. He presented Walsh with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service and his retirement certificate.

Walsh spent 26 of his 33 years with the New England District. Prior to joining the New England Team, he worked in Buffalo District for seven years.

During his distinguished career with the District team, Walsh worked on many projects for the district. Some of the more higher-profile ones included the Hurricane Evacuation Program for New England, Joint Base Cape Cod (EPA Support), Civil Works Geospatial Land Data

Migration for Real Estate and two USACE Hydrographic surveys powered by eHydro.

Walsh's wife, Ann, accompanied him to the lunch. Retirees Richard Heidebrecht, Peter Hugh and Beverly Lawrence also attended.

Now that he has put his work computer away and his daily commute behind him, Walsh plans on getting out and getting some fresh air biking, skiing and just relaxing.



Scott Acone (left) presented Matt Walsh with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service during Walsh's retirement lunch.



(From left) Ken Levitt, George Claffin, Terry Wong, Bill Scully, Francis Fung, Wayne Johnson, Dick Heidebrecht, Ella Minincleri and Annie Chin.

Photos by Brian Murphy



Wayne Johnson gives Francis Fung a congratulatory hug as Fung enters retirement.



Col. William Conde presents Francis Fung with this retirement certificate.

## Francis Fung retires with 30 years of service

Structural Engineer and TSP advice guru Francis Fung retired from federal service on Sept. 29 after 30 years of service.

A retirement lunch, billed as a "Chicken Wing Spectacular" was held at the Concord Park cafeteria, Sept. 21. Michael Andryuk, Geostuctural Engineer, hosted the official part of the ceremony and welcomed the 58 friends, co-workers and retirees who turned out to wish Fung well.

Presentations were made by Siamac Vaghar, Crystal Gardner and Scott Acone. He received a T-shirt and a mug as gifts from the audience. Col. William Conde, New England District Commander, presented Fung with the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, a commander's coin in appreciation for all he has done for the District and

Fung's retirement certificate.

Fung served all of his federal service at the New England District. Some of the high profile projects he worked on included the Cape Cod Canal bridges, the Quality Management System and the Dam seismic assessments.

Prior to serving with the New England District, Fung worked at Stone and Webster for 10 years.

Retirees Ella Minincleri, Terry Wong, Angie Vanaria, George Claffin, Peter High, Bill Scully, Annie Chin, Richard Heidebrecht, Ken Levitt and Wayne Johnson as well as special guest Michael Gu attended Fung's lunch to wish him the best. When asked about what his plans are for his retirement, Fung said he plans on traveling the world and volunteering his time helping the disabled in Chinatown.



Scott Acone (left) presents Mike Penko with a Bunker Hill plaque.



Grace Moses gives Mike Penko a gift during his retirement reception.

Photos by Brian Murphy

## Environmental Resource Specialist Mike Penko retires with over 30 years of service

Environmental Resource Specialist Mike Penko followed several other New England District team members into retirement in September, leaving, Sept. 29.

He decided to retire quietly and without a lot of fanfare. However, friends and co-workers couldn't just let him leave without celebrating his 31 years of federal service, so they held a reception in his honor, Sept. 27 in the Massachusetts/Connecticut Conference Rooms.

About 40 friends, co-workers and retirees enjoyed baked goods as they filed into the conference room to shake Penko's hand and say goodbye. Penko wanted his farewell low-key, so there wasn't a formal ceremony – just a few friends taking the floor to say a few words. Larry Oliver and Grace Moses were the first to get up and thank Penko for his over three decades of distinguished and faithful service. They presented

him with books and made a donation to the Big Fluffy Dog rescue organization in his honor.

Scott Acone represented the Executive office during the reception and presented Penko with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service, a Bunker Hill plaque as well as his retirement certificate.

With the exception of the time he spent serving with the Peace Corps, all off his service was with the New England District. Some of his most notable projects included Muddy River and the New Bedford Superfund site.

Retirees who attended Penko's reception were Dick Heidebrecht, Townsend Barker and Ken Levitt. A consummate environmentalist, both at work and at home, Penko plans to continue to do work to provide a healthy environment, especially in the town where he lives.



Larry Oliver (left) makes a presentation to Mike Penko during the retirement reception.



Retiree Townsend Barker (left) and Mike Penko catch up during Penko's celebration.

# Dredging up the past



Joe Faloretti and Deila Vogel clean up some tree branches at Barre Falls Dam during the 2010 National Public Lands Day.

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