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US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

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# Yankee Engineer

February 2008

## President's Fiscal Year 2009 Budget for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works released

The President's budget for fiscal year 2009 (FY09) transmitted to Congress Feb. 4, includes \$4.741 billion in new federal funding for the annual Civil Works program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and an additional \$5.761 billion in an emergency request for a total request of \$10.502 billion.

Mr. John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, said, "This year's civil works budget provides critical funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to con-

tinue to contribute to the nation's economic and environmental well being."

New England District projects mentioned in the President's budget include the following: In Massachusetts -- Boston Harbor, Muddy River, Pilgrim Lake, the former Shpack landfill site and the Merrimack River Watershed study (also in New Hampshire); and in Connecticut -- Combustion Engineering in Windsor. Operations and Maintenance monies for all of New England District's flood control projects were

also mentioned in the document.

"The budget funds the planning, design and construction of projects for the three main water resources mission areas of the Corps, which are commercial navigation, flood and coastal storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration, and gives priority to those projects that will provide the highest returns on the nation's investment," Woodley continued.

The Army Civil Works program  
*Continued on page 6*

## Maine DEP, The Nature Conservancy, and Corps of Engineers sign Maine In-Lieu Fee Agreement

by Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs

The state of Maine Department of Environmental Protection, The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District signed the Maine In-Lieu Fee Agreement on Jan. 31, in The Nature Conservancy Office in Brunswick, Maine.

The agreement will use Maine's

Natural Resource Mitigation Fund to provide an alternative to site-specific compensation for people seeking permits that impact wetlands or U.S. waters. Previously, site-specific mitigation for many of these projects has had limited ecological value due to their size, location, and/or permittee's ability to provide appropriate stewardship.

This agreement will provide permit applicants an efficient and workable alternative of paying a fee to compensate for any lost wetlands functions and

values after all efforts have been made to avoid or minimize those impacts. The fees will be used to restore, create, enhance aquatic resources and/or preserve aquatic resources and their associated uplands.

The In Lieu Fee (ILF) program is available for use as compensation for unavoidable impacts to waters of the U.S., including wetlands, resulting from activities au-  
*Continued on page 3*

# Yankee Voices

Barbara Newman  
Engineering/Planning



## Using a snow blower

The National Safety Council and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons recommend these precautions when using a snow blower:

- Fill up with fuel before you start when the engine is cool.
- Read the owner's manual before starting the snow blower. Understand the safety steps.
- Make sure that all pets and people are out of the way before you begin.
- Do not put your hand in the snow blower to remove blockages. Turn the machine off and wait a few seconds. Then use a stick or broom handle to remove the clog.
- Do not leave the snow blower unattended when it's running. *(Ideas Unlimited)*

## U.S. Army Chief of Engineers Launches Blog

Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp, the 52nd Chief of Engineers and Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has ventured into the blogosphere for the first time with a blog about Iraq reconstruction efforts. Van Antwerp visited Iraq in late January to observe the Corps' ongoing mission there.

The blog, called "Corps-e-spondence," includes RSS (Really Simple Syndication), so readers can subscribe and automatically receive updates. Readers may also post questions and comments.

"This is the way of the future," Van Antwerp said. "We should be out there, too—clearly and openly communicating with the American public every chance we get."

As the commander of the nation's leading public engineering agency, Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp plans to blog about the many missions within the Corps' purview, from water resources and flood risk management to military facilities construction for the Army and Air Force at home and abroad.

Other upcoming topics are likely to include the Gulf Coast recovery efforts in Southeast Louisiana, Afghanistan reconstruction, the Formerly Used Defense Sites program and the Corps' state-of-the-art engineering research and design at its Engineer Research and Development Center.

"Corps-e-spondence" can be found on the USACE web site at: <https://eportal.usace.army.mil/sites/blog>. There will also be a link from the home page: [www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil). *(Corps Press Release)*

## Sympathy

...to the family of Engineering retiree **James Hanabury** who passed away Jan. 22. Mr. Hanabury, who also served in the U.S. Navy in World War II, worked in Design Branch.

...to **Susan Mehigan**, Regulatory retiree, on the passing of her son, **John Mehigan**, Feb. 8.

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# Commander's Corner: Talking about safety at the District

by Col. Curtis L. Thalken  
District Commander



This month, I'd like to spend a few moments on the topic of safety. First, I'd like to congratulate the District and the District Safety Office for winning the North Atlantic Division's First Quarter FY08 Safety Award. Brig. Gen. Semonite presents the award quarterly to a district, based on reduced accident rates and the implementa-

tion of enhanced safety management practices within the district. During the past quarter, we had only one reportable government civilian accident (medical treatment following the extraction of a tick) and two contractor accidents (a slip on the ice resulting in injury to a knee and a skin reaction during a grouting operation that occurred at one of our dams).

So far this quarter, the downward trend continues. The only reportable accident this quarter that I am aware of was a knee injury to a government employee from a slip on the ice. I'd like to personally thank everyone for keeping their attention focused on safety. Our results reflect the increased emphasis everyone has paid to the topic.

Second, as we emerge from winter and the hazards it can bring, spring and summer loom on the horizon. The advent of the outdoor construction and recreation seasons bring a different set of potential hazards. Construction sites are fraught with potential hazards. Pay attention to your surroundings, other individuals on the site, and moving equipment—anyone of these can hurt you. Likewise interactions with New England's "Flora and Fauna" are more likely to occur. So be on the lookout and avoid placing yourself in potentially dangerous and harmful situations both on and off work. Thanks for all of the emphasis each and every one of you has placed on safety and let's continue to make the New England District a safe and enjoyable place to work.

Essays!

## ...Maine In-Lieu Fee Agreement

*Continued from page 1*

authorized under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and/or the Natural Resources Protection Act in the state of Maine. Recipients of permits or authorizations for projects in the state of Maine may be eligible to use the program to satisfy mitigation requirements. ILF is an option available to the applicant instead of completing project-specific mitigation. Use of the ILF program is contingent upon the Corps and/or state approval.

The fee in lieu of project-specific mitigation will be determined by the Corps in consultation with resource agencies.

More information on the Maine In-Lieu Fee Agreement is available on the Corps website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select Regulatory/Permitting and then Mitigation and select "Maine In-Lieu Fee Agreement."



(from left) Deputy Commissioner Deb Garrett, Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander, and Michael J. Tetreault, Vice-President/State Director of The Nature Conservancy sign the In-Lieu Fee Agreement. (Photo by Ruth Ladd.)



Photos provided by Tom Chamberland

Thomas Chamberland examines a tree in New Orleans. (Inset) Chamberland is this year's George A. Stone Award recipient.

## Environmental Excellence

### Chamberland receives George E. Stone Award for work with trees

A New England District Park Ranger has been recognized by one of the Massachusetts' historic local environmental organizations for his expertise as an arborist.

Thomas Chamberland, a Park Ranger from Westville Lake, received the George E. Stone Award from the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association (MTWFA), during the organization's 95th annual conference in Sturbridge, Jan. 9. The Stone Award, named after the MTWFA founder, was first created to honor the outstanding dedication of a MTWFA member who has continually demonstrated strong commitment with many hours of volunteer service to the organization.

In addition to his work at Westville Lake, Chamberland, who is a certified arborist through the International Society of Arboriculture, has served as Tree Warden for the town of Sturbridge, Mass., since 1984. "Tree Wardens are responsible for the planting, care, maintenance and removal of public shade trees – trees on public property such as streets and commons," said

Chamberland.

The fact that the town of Sturbridge has been designated "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters for 18 consecutive years is a tribute to his dedication to his post. Chamberland is also a longtime volunteer for the local Boy Scout organization and is currently serving on the Council Committee which oversees the management of a 1,600 acre Boy Scout Camp.

The Westville Lake Park Ranger's love for trees and the great outdoors came at a very young age. "My first interest in trees was sparked by a 5th grade tree walk in the forest out in the backyard of my school," he said. "I've always liked working outdoors and had a high school job working on grounds and landscaping for the local church and cemetery."

Chamberland's talents have not only benefited his town and the New England District, but also the people of New Orleans. Last summer Chamberland deployed to the New

Orleans Recovery Field Office for 60 days as their only staff arborist. During his tour, he surveyed damaged trees and determined which ones could be saved and which ones had to be cut down. Chamberland received a letter of appreciation and a commander's coin for his efforts during that tour.

The George E. Stone Award is given through a nomination process. The criteria for the award is very strict with contenders having a minimum of ten years of service in the public tree sector; having to be recognized for their contributions in public tree care or advocacy; and having worked with the MTWFA and shown dedication and commitment to the advancement of the Association.

Chamberland, who is the 18th recipient of the award, was taken completely off guard when he was notified of the honor and does not know who nominated him. "I was overwhelmed," said Chamberland about receiving the award. "As an 11-year active member of the Executive Board of the MTWFA, I know this presentation is not made lightly."

## Mangum receives high honors for sign standards work

Story and photos by Joseph Faloretti  
Operations Manager  
Lower Connecticut River Basin



*Jeff Mangum, New England District's Park Manager, Tully Lake in Royalston, Mass., received the Superior Civilian Service Award for his outstanding service and contribution to the Sign Standards Program during the period of March 2005 to May 2007.*

As chair of the Sign Advisory Work Group and then as the acting National Sign Program Manager, Mangum was instrumental in the effort to revise the Sign Standards Manual and convert the sign software into a Windows format.

He coordinated the transfer of SignPro from the contractor's server in Portland and created viable solutions to obstacles, which required a balanced combination of sophisticated tact, tenacity, patience and understanding of information technology.

"His coordination with team members and headquarters staff helped

move this very detailed and time consuming effort to completion," wrote Maj. Gen. Don T. Riley, Director of Civil Works, who nominated Mangum. "He brings a high level of technical expertise, a broad knowledge base and a valuable common sense approach to the national issues."

The award, the third highest that a civilian can receive, was presented to Mangum by Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, North Atlantic Division Commander, at the New England District Park Rangers Conference, held in Southbridge, Mass., Jan. 16.



*Above left: Jeff Mangum received the Superior Civilian Service Award for his work on the Sign Standards Program. Above: One of the many signs made under the revised sign standards put in place by Mangum.*



*The former Shpack Landfill site in Norton/Attleboro, Mass., is one of several New England District projects named in the President's budget.*

## President's Fiscal Year 2009 Budget for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works released

*Continued from page 1*

additionally contributes to the protection of the nation's waters and wetlands; the restoration of sites contaminated as a result of the nation's early atomic weapons development program; and emergency preparedness for natural disasters.

The new federal funding in the Civil Works budget consists of \$3.844 billion from the general fund, \$729 million from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, \$167 million from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, and \$1 million from Disposal Facilities User Fees.

Other sources of funding are esti-

mated at \$501 million, which includes federal funding of \$84 million from the Coastal Wetlands Restoration Trust Fund and \$17 million in Permanent Appropriations. It also includes \$400 million paid by non-federal interests as Rivers and Harbors Contributed Funds.

The mission of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the world's preeminent public engineering agency, is to provide quality, responsive engineering services to the nation and its armed forces.

The Corps plans, designs, builds and operates water resources projects; designs and manages military facilities

construction for the Army and Air Force at home and abroad; provides design and construction management support for other Defense and federal agencies; cleans hazardous areas across the nation through the Formerly Used Defense Sites program and the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program; and conducts state of the art engineering research and design at its Engineer Research and Development Center. The FY09 Army Civil Works budget information, including a state-by-state breakdown, is available at [www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwb/budget/budget.pdf](http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwb/budget/budget.pdf).

# New England District holds successful Park Ranger Conference

by Marci Montrose  
Hop Brook Lake

The long awaited 2008 New England District Park Ranger Conference was held in January at the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center in Southbridge, Mass. It was the first District Park Ranger conference to be held in three years.

Inclement weather created some problems on the opening day of the conference, but flexibility built into the schedule prevailed. The storm caused schedules to be moved around in accordance with presenters who were able to brave the elements and check-in on time. Once the first day was complete, the rest of the planned activities were conducted without complications.

A variety of topics were covered by a diverse field of presenters, ranging from Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, North Atlantic Division Commander, Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander and Dick Carlson, Chief, Construction/Operations Division, to NAD personnel, such as

Linda Monte and Dan Rodriguez. District park rangers, interns, members of the Wounded Warrior program, employees from various departments from the Concord Park headquarters and some Baltimore District personnel presented as well. In addition, Bill Jackson traveled to New England from the Mississippi Valley Division to instruct the mandatory Visitor Assistance and Verbal Judo refresher classes.

Survey results showed that, overall, the conference was

well received. The surveys indicated that people left the conference with answers to most of their questions.

New topics were presented and updates on old topics were provided.

The social aspect of the conference seemed to be the most enjoyable feature. Attendees were able to meet new people, make new friends and catch up on old times with friends from the past.

Many factors contributed to the success of this year's Park Ranger Conference. The intermingling of field personnel with individuals from the district and division and folks from other districts was the true success story of this event. Although it may be difficult to beat, let us hope our next conference will be bigger and better.



*Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, North Atlantic Division Commander, addresses Ranger Conference attendees in Southbridge, Mass.*



*Col. Curtis Thalken and Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite talk with some of the conference organizers and attendees.*



*Mike Curran, Diana Errico-Topolski, Joe Faloretti and Linda Monte from Division Headquarters take a break after one of the briefings.*

# Dredging up the past . . .



*This clamshell bucket dredge performs work on the \$1.1 million maintenance dredging project at New Haven, Conn., in this Dec. 19, 1973 photo. About 720,000 cubic yards of material was removed to maintain the federal channel at 35 feet.*

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