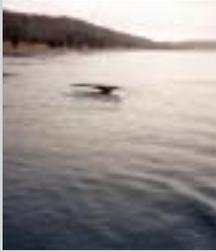


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**US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District**

Volume 38, No. 8

Yankee Engineer

May 2002

District to change command in July: Flag will pass from Osterndorf to Koning

The command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District will pass from Col. Brian E. Osterndorf to Col. Thomas L. Koning on July 19. The event is scheduled to take place at Fanueil Hall in Boston, Mass.

Col. Koning is a native of Michigan. He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy with a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering. He holds three Master's Degrees, one in Geology and one in Civil Engineering, both from North Carolina State University and one in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms Services Staff School, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

Col. Koning began his military career in 1980 as a Platoon Leader and company Executive Officer in the 547th Engineer Battalion (Combat) in Darmstadt, Federal Republic of Germany. In 1984, he was reassigned to Fort Stewart, Georgia and the 92nd Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy). There he served as an Assistant Operations Officer (S-3) and then commanded

C Company, 92nd Engineer Battalion. After command, he attended graduate school and served four years as an Assistant Professor at the United States Military Academy in the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering. In 1994, he was reassigned to Fort Benning, Georgia where he served as the Operations Officer (S-3) of the 317th Engineer Battalion (Combat), supporting the 3rd Brigade of the 24th

Infantry Division (Mech). Following this assignment he became the Design Engineer of the 36th Engineer Group at Fort Benning. In 1996, he was reassigned as the Chief of the Engineer Regional Training Team in Readiness Group Jackson at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Following this assignment he became the Operations Officer (S-3) of the 157th Infantry Brigade at Fort Jackson.

From 1998 through 2000, he commanded the 62nd Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) at Fort Hood, Texas. After command, he served as the Facilities Plans Officer in the Engineer Division on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Command at Camp Smith, Hawaii.

The future District Engineer's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (4th OLC), Army Commendation Medal (2nd OLC), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (2nd OLC), National Defense Service Medal (1 BSS), Southwest Asia Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (2), Parachutist Badge, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award (1 OLC) and the Army Superior Unit Award.



Col. Thomas L. Koning

Yankee Voices



Michael Hicks
Regulatory

Congratulations

... to **Joanne Ellis**, Programs/
Project Management Division,
who was selected as the WE
Committee's Employee of the
Month for May.

Joanne was recognized for
the exceptional support she pro-
vides to all of PPMD as well as
others throughout the New En-
gland District.

...to **Park Manager Catherine
Higgins** and **Park Ranger
Timothy Russell** as the Team
of the Month for May.

Team members were recog-
nized for heading up the 10th
Annual Earth Day celebration at
West Thompson Lake.

Words worth repeating

They shall not grow old,
As we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning,
We will remember them!
— **Lawrence Binyon**

Remembering Al Gallotta

Al Gallotta was a gentlemen. Always calm, patient, understanding, profes-
sional, diligent and reliable. His soft-spoken manner was always reassuring to
study and project managers in various stages of panic.

Al was chief of Drafting. Every project in New England Division went through
Drafting at sometime or another -- you needed drafting to produce working
drawings; you needed drafting to produce plans and specs; you needed drafting
to produce reprints; you needed drafting for any graphic work. Everyone
depended on Al – and he delivered.

I'll always remember Al because he was a mentor. He helped me considerably
as a junior Corps staffer – saving me more times than I care to mention. From
finding a cost code to bury efforts that I didn't have funds for – to producing high
quality work that I knew was compliant with Corps requirements.

Al was missed when he formally allowed himself to retire. Al will be forever
in my memory as one of the "good guys." My prayers and thanks are with Al.

Joe Bocchino
Executive Assistant

A moment of remembrance

In May 1996, several senators observed a group of school children touring
Washington, D.C. When they were asked what Memorial Day meant, they
responded, "That's the day pools open."

To put the memorial back in Memorial Day, Nebraska Senators Bob Kerry
and Chuck Hagel co-sponsored a resolution to create a meaningful moment on
Memorial Day. Congress passed the resolution and established the White House
Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance on Dec. 28, 2000.

At 3 p.m. local time each Memorial Day, Americans are asked to pause a
minute to remember the 1.8 million who were killed serving this nation since 1775.
"Taps" will be played on public grounds and parks. (*Ideas Unlimited*)

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Commander's Corner:

A principled environmental philosophy

by Col. Brian E. Osterndorf
District Engineer



By now you should all be familiar with our Corps Environmental Operating Principles, those seven succinct statements of what we as an institution believe our environmental responsibilities are. Just in case you missed them, they are posted on our intranet home page (see Hot Topics).

There are a number of ways to consider the EOP. First, they are an endorsement of the way that we already see our responsibilities and the culmination of an evolution in how we considered our work. We have evolved from justifying our projects as necessary for the greater public good and accepting associated environmental damage as collateral and necessary, however unfortunate, to acknowledging that we need to balance environmental considerations fully with our regional water resource project needs. More simply said, we no longer consider our projects and the environment as an “either-or” proposition, but as an “and” proposition. Clearly we are establishing a very credible reputation as premier environmental engineers.

Our work in support of Superfund projects is world renowned, and perhaps at the other end of the spectrum, the New England District has set the standard for innovation in small restoration and protection projects. The Regulatory Division is recognized for its innovation in streamlining permitting processes with the state, not only to be more efficient, but also to be more comprehensive and thorough. We are learning to better engage with all stakeholders and have even achieved some remarkable partnerships with environmental groups that had previously been at odds with us. A great example of this last point is the cost-sharing partnership with Save The Bay, Rhode Island and the District to find restoration opportunities along the Ten Mile River in Rhode Island.

Our flood control projects now better incorporate consideration of seasonal impacts on riparian habitat and sensitive species as they operate those projects. We are currently working with both the Vermont Agency for Natural Resources and the Nature Conservancy to develop better operating techniques for raising and lowering our pool levels and/or releasing water so as to have less of a dramatic impact on species sensitive to rates of flow or level change. And since we are a Learning Organization, we will communicate those lessons learned to all of our flood control projects, not just

those in Vermont or New Hampshire. Finally, anyone involved in planning for and executing navigation projects knows how extensively we study and model the potential impacts on marine habitat resulting from the placement of dredged materials. Not only do we study more extensively, but the DAMOS monitoring we have been conducting over the years helps us know how to be more successful in dredged material management, with “success” being defined as most environmentally protective. By publishing the Corps Environmental Operating Principles, we have an opportunity to not only publicly announce what we believe in, but also demonstrate our commitment by heralding our environmental accomplishments.

But, we should also consider the EOP as our summons and our license to go further. We must continue to evolve; the yardstick is no longer “Do no (environmental) harm,” but now it is “Do (environmental) good, whenever and wherever we find an opportunity to do so.”

For the most part, the current paradigm for “doing environmental good” is a four step process. Step 1 involves problem identification, usually by someone or some group directly impacted or most knowledgeable of an environmental concern. Step 2 I call “agitate for action,” which involves any number of methods to raise public consciousness to the point that it becomes a priority to do something about the problem. Step 3 is the problem solving phase, and we consider it a success when, due to the credibility of the Corps and our reputation for integrity and sound science and engineering skills, we are called upon to solve the problem. In fact, we are unique as a government agency in the above regard and we are growing our reputation as the nation’s environmental engineers. Step 4 includes monitoring the results, maintaining and sustaining any physical solution required, and re-initiating the process over again if the problem isn’t solved satisfactorily.

The Environmental Operating Principles provide some basis for reconsidering this paradigm. First, we should recognize that Step 1 is now better labeled “opportunity identification.” Specifically, instead of looking at how to do projects so as to avoid environmental harm, we should look at incorporating environmental enhancements into our project features.

Moreover, we should continue to seek projects whose sole benefit is environmental value. Second, we should figure out how to participate in all four steps of the process. Ideally, we can mature our relationships with all the regional stakeholders to a full partnership, that includes active participation in the problem/opportunity and agitate for action phases, as well as continued involvement through Phase 4.

Continued on page 5

Northern Right Whale visits Cape Cod Canal

Story by Joe Mazzola
Photos by John Murner
Cape Cod Canal



The Cape Cod Canal was closed to commercial traffic for five hours on April 15 due to an unexpected visit from an endangered Northern Right Whale. A visitor bicycling along the Canal reported sighting a whale in the middle of the land cut to Marine Traffic Controller Brian Mulvey at around 1 p.m.

The patrol boat CATAUMET, operated by Capt. John Murner, was dispatched to investigate. Upon arrival, deckhand Bob Blackwell identified the marine mammal as a juvenile Northern Right Whale, a critically endangered species.

The Canal was closed to large commercial traffic while the whale remained in the Canal. One tug and barge unit was already in transit at the time of closure and was escorted around the whale by the CATAUMET.

While the patrol boat maintained a protective escort, Marine Traffic Controllers were busy coordinating the closure and maintaining contact with the delayed commercial traffic.

One Coast Guard Cutter and six tug and barge units were held over in Buzzards Bay, while one coastal tanker was delayed in Cape Cod Bay.

The new radar tracking system re-

cently installed at the Canal was instrumental in monitoring the locations of the stalled traffic as visibility in Buzzards Bay was limited by fog. The ability to keep a track on all eight radar targets throughout the closure allowed for a safe flow of traffic into the anchorages, and later the Canal.

The whale exited the eastern end of the Canal at approximately 6 p.m., five hours after the initial sighting and closure. Marine Traffic Controllers then arranged an orderly transit of the backlogged marine traffic and normal operations were resumed.

Cape Cod Bay, the body of water abutting the Canal's eastern entrance, is a critical habitat area for Northern Right Whales from January to early July. NOAA estimates that less than 300 of the whales remain.

The Corps of Engineers, New England District plays an active role in Right Whale conservation.

The Cape Cod Canal Field Office participates in a multi-agency partnership, headed up by the National Marine Fisheries Service, called the Right Whale Sighting Advisory System (SAS) that informs mariners of Right Whale sighting locations.



Top left: The lost right whale peeks its head out of the canal to look at passing boats. Above: The whale heads out of the canal back to the ocean.

Corps establishes a restricted area on west side of Kennebec River in Bath at request of the U.S. Navy

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has established a restricted area at the request of the U.S. Navy along the west side of the Kennebec River adjacent to the Bath Iron Works Shipyard in Bath, Maine.

The U.S. Navy, Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conservation and Repair at Bath, Maine, made the request under Section 7 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1917 and Chapter XIX of the Army Appropriation Act of 1919.

The restricted area is an area along the west side of the Kennebec River from the Route 1 highway bridge downstream to the southern end of the Bath Iron Works Shipyard (about ¾ nautical mile south from the bridge) extending about 400 feet from the waterward edge of the shipyard's facilities.

"Vessels, with the exception of law

enforcement and military or shipyard vessels, will be prohibited from entering the area except with the written permission of the local Navy Supervisor or Shipbuilding," said Project Manager Richard Roach, of the Corps' New England District Regulatory Division.

A public notice on this proposed restriction was published Dec. 18, 2001 with a 30-day public comment period that ended Jan. 18.

"The purpose of the restriction is to create an area of separation between the general navigation on the river, the shipyard facility and military ships under construction at the Bath Iron Works," Roach said. The restricted area will be marked off with a series of danger area marker buoys and float lines.

The final rule (33 CFR Sec 334.25) was published in the Federal Register on April 25.

A principled environmental philosophy

Continued from page 3

This isn't radical and in many cases, with just a little thought and energy, we can get there quite easily. For example, in the case of looking at Vermont and New Hampshire flood control project operations, having learned valuable lessons there, we can seek out state agencies and stakeholders in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island to identify valuable riparian resources and how to operate our flood control facilities in those states to maximize habitat benefit.

Additionally, we can ask them for their advise on how to physically improve the riparian habitat above and below our project to make it more compatible to the species that live there. These types of things can be easily done by adding boulders to the watercourse to create better flow conditions or creating additional "deep holes" that some other

species might prefer, especially in times of low flow.

Moreover, since we already collect and display real time flow data for our projects, we can ask the Nature Conservancy, and the other groups we engage, what other data we would collectively need to see in order to monitor our results, and how we can best present that data.

We can be similarly creative in many of the other things we do. The EOP help provide an orientation to this type of creativity, to help us seek these opportunities we might not normally be looking for. Not only will our projects and work be enhanced by seeking to incorporate environmental enhancements when we find the opportunity to do so, but our own personal satisfaction will also be enhanced by finding that greater good.

Jim Record retires with 33 years of service

by Laura Day
Cape Cod Canal

Life is full of hellos and good-byes, most, to some degree, bitter and sweet.

So was the send-off that the Cape Cod Canal Field Office gave James Record on the occasion of his retirement from the Corps.

On April 12, after 33 years of service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jim was feted in a most appropriate manner by family, friends, and co-workers.

Among attendees was Frank Ciccone, retired Engineer in Charge of the Cape Cod Canal, Jim's lovely wife, Lucy, and their three children. Dick Carlson, Chief of Construction/Operations Division, New England District was also on hand and presented Jim with his retirement certificate and pin.

Jim was presented with numerous gifts related to his love of gardening; as well as a giant red pencil as reference to his love of finding just the right word when writing the many memos, job descriptions, and documents for which he will be fondly remembered.

Bitter was the good bye but sweet was the knowledge that Jim is going on to enjoy life to its fullest, spending time in his dream home in Canada.



Photos by Brian Murphy

Park Ranger Viola Bramel discusses ecology and habitat during Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

District daughters and sons discover Corps' mission, careers during national event

The New England District celebrated "Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day" on April 25 with educational demonstrations and presentations involving Corps of Engineers projects and missions.

Approximately 15 children attended the celebration, held in the Concord Park theatre and grounds from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. New England District family members were encouraged to invite their children, ages eight to 15 to the event.

First on the agenda for the day's events was an overview and slides of Corps of Engineers projects by Laureen Borocharner, Project Management, and Kerry LeBlanc, Safety Office. "The discussion was very general and focused more on what a hazardous waste site may look like and the types of problems we face and how we protect ourselves (and especially the kids, moms and dads) against these dangers," said Kerry.

Following the presentation, two children were selected to dress up in hazardous material (HAZMAT) suits that Corps employees and their contractors wear when working at Hazardous Waste sites. "The kids were really excited about dressing up in the full suits," said Laureen.

Following the safety equipment dress up, Ruth Ladd and Paul Minken, Regulatory, led the children on a wetlands walk. "Before we went outside we talked a bit about what constitutes a wetland (plants adapted to wet conditions, water, and soil which has been formed in wet conditions) and why anyone should care about wetlands: wildlife habitat, ability to clean the water, ability to store water which reduces downstream flooding, bank stabilization, etc.," said Ruth. "I'm pretty sure that a few of the kids were most excited to be able to dig a hole in the wetland!"

After the brief presentation, Ruth and Paul escorted the

participants to the wetland downslope of the detention basin and pond behind Concord Park. "Several kids were very interested in feeling and seeing the differences in soil textures between the organic material on the surface (muck--a real technical term), the equally dark but gritty A horizon, and the gray with yellow and orange splotches beneath which indicate a water table that rises and falls through the year and leaves 'rust spots' (redoximorphic features)," said Ruth.

In addition to examining soils, participants were also able to identify plant life to include ferns, arrowwood, dogwood, and red maples. Deer tracks and worms were also abundant around the wetland site.

A geology briefing in the theatre was next on the agenda. Rosemary Schmidt, Cliff Opdyke, Paul Young, and Chris Scabia made the presentation, which reflected the various disciplines of the District's HTRW/Geotech Branch. "Those disciplines are geologists, chemists, toxicologists, geotechnical and environmental engineers," said Rose.

Topics discussed were groundwater, contamination, treatment, instrumentation, and minerals. The children were able to touch and look at a variety of rock and minerals, which were provided by Paul Young. "Paul is an avid mineral collector, and enjoys sharing what he has found," said Rose. "He brought mineral specimens such as smoky quartz and amethyst, garnets, pyrite, fluorite, and limonite."

Elements such as gold, silver, and copper as well as fish and shellfish fossils were also available during the demonstration. "I think that the children loved getting the mineral handouts of Paul's," said Cliff. "I think they also enjoyed the 'pollutants' (green dye) that were added to our 'aquifer' as part of the demonstration of how the pollutants moved in a dynamic system."



Kerry LeBlanc dresses volunteers in safety clothing.

The children weren't the only ones who enjoyed the presentation. "We probably got the biggest kick out of building the mini-terrarium to demonstrate groundwater flow," said Rose. "It was a great chance to illustrate the effect of particle size of flow, and how contamination likes to travel along preferential flow paths as a result."

Jayson Ilic, Laura Fraser, and Scott Michalak assisted the team behind the scenes to assure a successful presentation.

A GIS demonstration was given by Matt Walsh. The final presentation of the day, Ecology and Habitat, took place in the Concord Park courtyard. "The area lends well as there is stadium seating (steps) to one side- accommodates and organizes groups of all ages quickly," said West Hill Dam Park Ranger Viola Bramel on the spot she chose for her presentation. "I was able to use the picnic tables, trees and plants as quick stations for the Water Cycle game- they could identify quickly soil, and plants. The courtyard set a natural boundary



Attendees of Take your Daughters and Sons to Work Day dig up some soil during the wetlands walk.



Kids discover creatures both gooey and small during the wetlands walk.

for a running-type game of 'Quick Frozen Critter' that taught the ecological principle of 'Predator and Prey' relationships."

Other activities included a hands-on with a "bag of marshmallows- mallow plant," and the physical games- "Water Cycle" with large dice to roll.

The children received an "Outdoors Fun Book" that has puzzles, mazes and pages to color along with text telling the story of and duties of a park ranger. The older children were challenged to complete the book left-handed to improve motor skills to make it more challenging and share these books with younger siblings.

Laureen believed the event to be a success. "I thought all of the Corps folks participating in the program did a great job," she said. "They really engaged the children. Both Barbara Blumeris and I wished that our little ones had been old enough to participate. I hope that the children were able to see that what their parents do is pretty interesting."



Children take a break from the presentations for a snack.

News From the Field:

A scouting extravaganza

Photo and story by Mark Wilmes
Naugatuck River Basin

It was not your typical day at the beach for Vincent Gualtieri, Park Manager, Thomaston Dam Unit and Mark Wilmes, Basin Ranger/ECC of the Naugatuck River Basin. They spent the day representing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Connecticut Yankee Council, Boy Scouts of America, "Scouting Extravaganza" Camporee and Scout Show on May 11 at Hammonasset State Park.



Boy Scouts crowd around Mark Wilmes to see the dam model.

The duo staffed a Corps exhibit in a 20' x 20' tent with numerous displays. A model of a flood control dam and wetland area was used to teach scouts how the Corps uses man-made and natural features to control flooding. Instruments were used to show how piezometer readings and snow surveys are taken. Animal mounts and artificial nesting boxes were displayed emphasizing the natural resource management program conducted at the dams and brochures and handouts were given to visitors explaining water safety and the many opportunities for recreation on Corps managed areas.

In addition to the Corps, the Schooner New Haven, the Seat Belt Convincer and Crash Simulator, U.S. Navy Seals, U.S. Army, U.S. Marines, U.S. Coast Guard, Connecticut Audubon Society and the State Police had demonstrations and exhibits. The U.S. Military Black Knights Parachute Team performed a jump from a helicopter. The award winning Quinnipiac Dancers performed authentic Native American dances dressed in replicated Native American dress. Other activities included a BB gun range, climbing wall, ham radio station, pushmobile race, kite flying and much more.

The Connecticut Yankee Council serves more than 25,000 youth members from 556 Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, Explorers Posts and Venturing Crews. The event coordinators were very pleased with the turnout and the spectacular weather. They agreed that fun was had by scouts and adults alike

Honoring Patriots

The New England District Ranger Color Guard marches past the Minuteman statue and make their way across the historic North Bridge in Concord, Mass., during the town of Concord's Patriot's Day parade held in April.



Photo by C.J. Allen

Duffy lends photos for Concord Park art display

In recent months, the once plain hallways of Concord Park have been decorated with artwork and photographs taken by District employee artisans. The effort to brighten up the public areas has been undertaken by Greg Penta and the WE Committee, and gives employees with artistic talent a change to show their work. One such employee is Paul Duffy, Mechanical Engineer, stationed at the Devens Resident Office. Paul has been with the Corps since 1982.

Paul has been active in art since 1971 after graduation from Northeastern. This continued with professional courses sparked by common interests and discussions of photography with his fellow Corps construction engineers at Loring while living in Caribou, Maine. "I enjoy photographing portraits of people, places, and things both man-made and natural."

According to Paul, he offered to show his pictures at Concord Park after the WE Committee sent out a request for artwork throughout the District. His photographs that are currently being shown at Concord Park were taken during a retreat last October. "I responded to their solicitation in the Weekly Bulletin," he said. "I intend this show to be updated with new works on a monthly basis with a total hanging time of six months."

"The WE Committee is very pleased that Paul is lending us his work for the hallways," said Greg Penta. "His photographs, as well as the contributions by the other artists make the otherwise dull hallways cheerful. I think the artwork

has had a positive impact on morale around the District. Whenever I'm hanging a picture, people who walk by express an overwhelming interest. We have some additional employees who want to display their work, but it would be great if more people got their various types of art out there for us all to enjoy. I often hear that many employees have talents that are worthy of display, but it seems that some are a little shy. We encourage them to share their work."

The hallways of Concord Park are not the only place where Paul's work can be found. He also has his works on display at the Sacred Spaces Gallery in Southborough and in the permanent collection of Zen Mountain Monastery. His work is also shown at the Art Center at Southborough, where he has a photographic studio and dark room. Photography will always be apart of Paul's life. "I definitely see this as something that I would do, not only as a hobby, but also in the future as a second career."

Everyone is invited to view Paul's photographs and the other artistic contributions in the Concord Park hallways.



Paul Duffy shows one of his photos that will be displayed on a wall at Concord Park.



Health and Wellness

New, safer propane tank for barbecue grills helps to avoid gas leaks

Device expected to prevent many of the 600 fires/explosions each year

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) wants consumers to know that as of April 1, all propane gas tanks sold to consumers for barbecue grills must have a new safety device. The overfill prevention device will help to avoid propane leaks that can cause fires and explosions. The new standard is published by the National Fire Protection Association. "CPSC worked with industry to develop this safety standard to help prevent deaths and injuries," said CPSC Acting Chairman Thomas Moore. "As people trade in their old propane tanks for newer ones, we will see fewer fires."

Propane gas is highly flammable. Each year, about 600 fires/explosions occur with gas grills resulting in injuries to about 30 people. The new safety standard for propane gas tanks requires that an "overfill prevention device" be installed in new gas tanks. The new propane gas tanks have valve handles with three "lobes" while older tanks have valve handles with five prongs.

As of April, only the new propane tanks will be sold or refilled nationwide. People with older propane gas tanks will need to get the new, safer tanks when they go in for a refill. While some dealers are trading in old tanks at no cost, others may charge a fee, which could range from \$10 to \$20.

An additional industry standard (adopted in 1995 at the urging of CPSC) provided for several safety features in the gas grills, hoses, and connections. The safety standard calls for a device to limit the flow of gas if the hose ruptures; a mechanism to shut off the grill if it overheats; and a device to prevent the flow of gas if the connection between tank and grill is not leak-proof. People who have grills that do not meet the 1995 standard should either get a new grill or be especially attentive to the safety tips below.

Here are some safety tips to reduce the risk of fire or explosion with gas grills:

- Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.
- Move gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease.

- Always keep propane gas containers upright.
- Never store a spare gas container under or near the grill or indoors.
- Never store or use flammable liquids, like gasoline, near the grill.
- Never keep a filled container in a hot car or car trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase, which may open the relief valve and allow gas to escape.
- Make sure your spark ignitor is consistently generating a spark to create a flame and burn the propane gas. If the flame is not visible, the heavier-than-air propane gas may be escaping and could explode.
- Never bring the propane tank into the house.



Charcoal Grill Safety Tips

Charcoal produces carbon monoxide (CO) when it is burned. CO is a colorless, odorless gas that can accumulate to toxic levels in closed environments. Each year about 17 people die as a result of CO fumes from charcoal being burned

inside. To reduce the risk for CO poisoning:

- Never burn charcoal inside of homes, vehicles, tents, or campers.
- Charcoal should never be used indoors, even if ventilation is provided.
- Since charcoal produces CO fumes until the charcoal is completely extinguished, do not store the grill indoors with freshly used coals.

In 1996, CPSC revised the label on charcoal packaging to more explicitly warn consumers of the deadly CO gas that is released when charcoal is burned in a closed environment. The new label reads, "WARNING ... CARBON MONOXIDE HAZARD... Burning charcoal inside can kill you. It gives off carbon monoxide, which has no odor. NEVER burn charcoal inside homes, vehicles or tents." The new label also conveys the written warning visually with drawings of grills inside a home, tent, and vehicle.

(CPSC News Release)

Barre Falls celebrates Earth Day

To celebrate the environment and the world we live in, the New England District's Barre Falls Dam invited the public to participate in its Earth Day celebration May 4. The town of Hubbardston, Mass., sponsored the event.

Approximately 525 volunteers participated in events that included planting shrubs, gatehouse tours with a working dam model that demonstrated flood prevention operations, Trevor the Games Man, horse-drawn wagon rides, and a fly casting workshop.

Kelly and the Captain and two mystery female vocalists provided music throughout the day.

Other events that were scheduled included earth-friendly vendors, environmental exhibits, a children's maze, and a rock climbing wall.

Picnics, canoe rides, hiking, fishing and a round of disc golf at the Barre Falls disc golf course were also available.

New England District employees who participated in the event were Delia Vogel, Jamie Kordack, Joe Faloretti, Gary Rogowski, and Ralph Gendron.



Trevor the Gamesman captures the attention of his audience.



Earth-friendly vendors also participated in the celebration.



Park Ranger Jamie Kordack sports a castle after getting her face painted.



Woodsy Owl and Smokey the Bear stopped by the Earth Day celebration for hugs.



Small volunteers make big contributions by planting shrubs at Barre Falls.



A little boy waits patiently for his turn for a ride on a horse-drawn wagon.



The working dam model at Barre Falls was a popular exhibit with children.



The popular rock-climbing wall made its first appearance at the Earth Day celebration.

Photos by [unreadable]

Dredging up the past . . .



(Left) Les Burgess, Dam operator, and (right) Joe Ledgere, Lower Connecticut River Basin Manager, study a gauge at Barre Falls Dam in this 1973 photo.

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