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US Army Corps of Engineers
New England District

Yankee Engineer

Volume 41, No. 1

October 2005

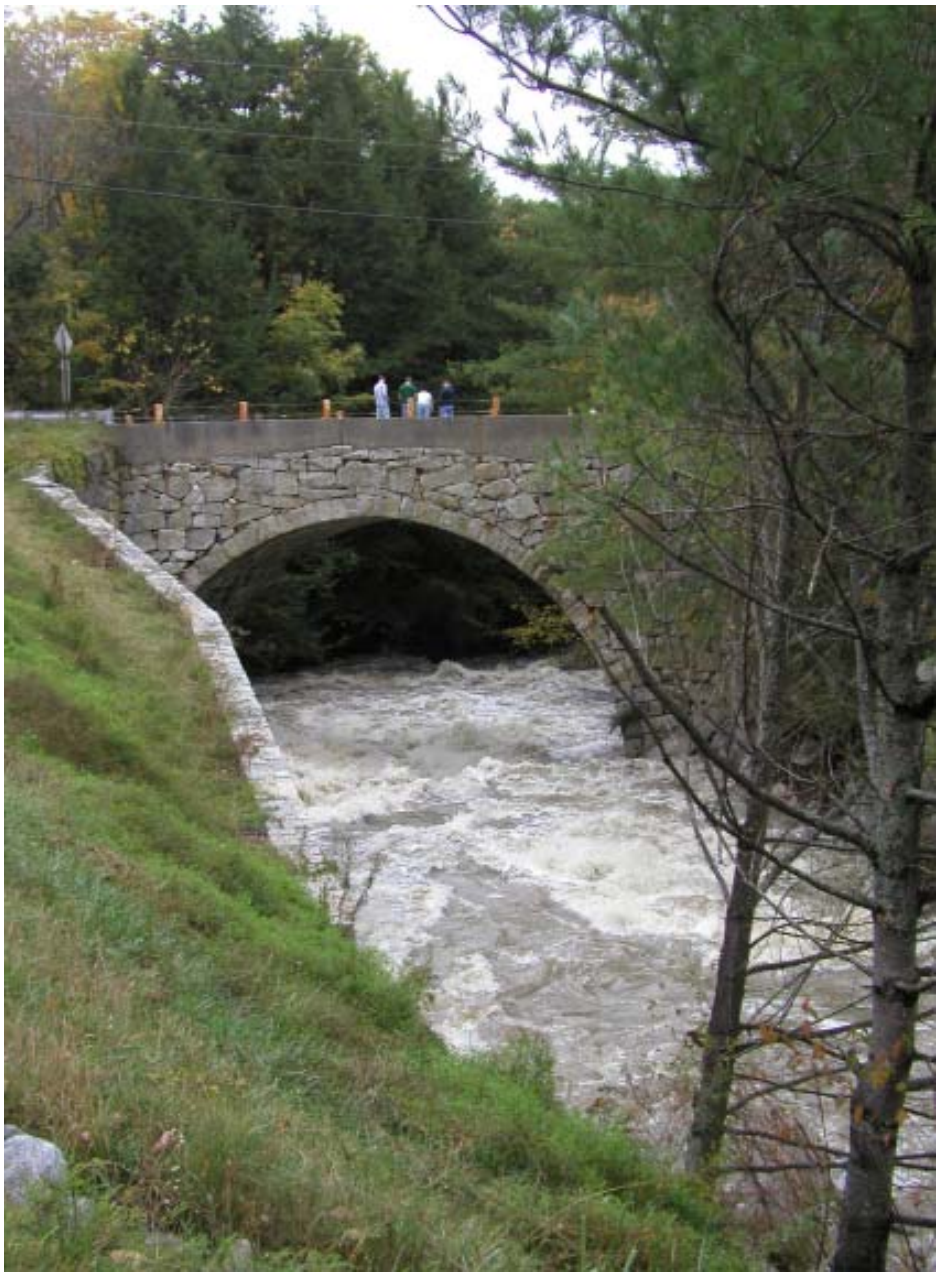

Photo by John Asseng.

Raging waters of Otter Brook pass through stone bridge.

Heavy rains cause rising water behind Corps dams

The New England region endured a nine-day rain deluge in October, which caused the swelling of every local brook, stream and river, some beyond flood stage. As water levels rose, causing some waterways to overflow their banks, residents of Keene, New Hampshire cast worried eyes on two of the New England District's dams – Surry Mountain Dam and Otter Brook Dam.

Concerns were heighten about storage levels behind the dams on Oct. 12 when Surry Mountain Dam reached 73 percent capacity. District officials performed water releases at channel capacity, but the pool stages only fell slightly. "The projects continued to release as much as they could, but we throttled back as required to keep the Keene Gage on the Ashuelot River below flood stage," said Paul Marinelli, Team Leader, Res-

Continued on page 10

Yankee Voices

Sally Rigione
Public Affairs

Sympathy

…to the family of Engineer retiree **William Rossetti** who passed away Sept. 21. In addition to being a Corps retiree, Rossetti was a World War II veteran, earning the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theatre Campaign Ribbon, the European Middle Eastern Theatre Campaign Ribbon and the Victory Medal. Rossetti retired from the Corps in New England with 33 years of federal service.

…to the family of Construction/ Operations retiree, **Wally St. John**, who passed away Oct. 23. In addition to his service with the Corps, St. John served in the U.S. Navy. He retired from the Corps in New England with 37 years of service.

Barre Falls Address Change

Please send mail to:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Box 519
Barre Falls Dam
Hubbardston, MA 01452

Scholarship named after Dave Killoy

Earlier this year the Greater Boston Federal Executive Board's (GBFEB) Board of Directors voted to offer two one-time scholarships in the amount of $1,000 each "in memory of" two long-time local Federal employees who passed away in 2004. These scholarships were named for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District employee Dave Killoy and U.S. Coast Guard Chief Machinery Technician Andrew James, respectively, and offered to full-time federal employees and / or dependent children pursuing post-secondary degrees.

GBFEB received several hundred submissions and the recipients were selected from among an impressive candidate pool following robust debate. This year's recipients are:

- Albert A. Adams - Catholic University -U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;

- Major Martin Richard - University of Maryland - employee - Massachusetts Air Force National Guard at Otis.

The Board of Directors has approved funding for the scholarships for 2006. Check the GBFEB web site at www.boston.feb.gov for details.

Congratulations

…to **Brian Waz**, Engineering/Planning on the birth of his son, Cole James Waz, Sept. 28.

…to **Brenda Faragi**, Resource Management, who has been selected as the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for October 2005. Brenda is being commended on her continuing support to Construction/Operations, both here in Concord and throughout the project field and resident offices.

…to the Providence River Dredging Team that has been selected as the WE Committee's Team of the Month for October 2005. The team is being recognized for the successful completion of this major maintenance dredging project. Team members include **Donna Terrio, Dan Bradley, Steve Kelley, Jeff Preston, Tim Maynard, Barry Sullivan, Tim Rezendes, Francis Keefe, and Robert Casoli**.

…to **Paul Harper**, Mailroom, who took first place in the WE Committee's Outrageous Shirt Day Competition, Sept. 23. George Norton, Engineering/Planning took second place in the competition. Committee member Barbara Newman organized the lunchtime event, but members of the New England District voted for Harper's tie-dyed garment.

YANKEE ENGINEER is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper under provisions of AR 360-1 published monthly. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions from readers are solicited, but publication depends on judgment of the editor. No payment will be made for contributions. Published by the Public Affairs Office, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord MA 01742-2751, 978-318-8777. Printed by the offset method on recyclable paper by the Defense Printing Office in Boston, Mass. Circulation 1600. The YANKEE ENGINEER can be found on the World Wide Web at http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/news/yankee.htm

District Engineer.....Col. Curtis L. Thalken
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Combined Federal Campaign 2005

New England District strives to exceed last year's goal

"Hope and Opportunity" is the theme of the 2005 Eastern Massachusetts Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Last year, federal employees in the New England region donated over $2.2 million to those in need.

The goal this year is to reach $2.5 million this year. Either directly or indirectly, approximately one in four people receive benefits from a CFC agency. If not a member of your immediate family, a cousin, a neighbor or a coworker receives assistance through your donation.

Please consider making a contribution to the CFC through the bi-weekly payroll deduction plan. Contributions are tax deductible and will begin in January 2006 and will continue for one year. Making a pledge is the easiest way to contribute and help those less fortunate than you.

This year in particular the charitable organizations of our nation need your support. As many charitable contributions are going to Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita relief, those crucial organizations that are there every day for social, educational, environmental and other purposes still rely on our support.

Through November, your CFC team will be working to get New England District donations above the level of last year, assuring all charities are viable in these challenging times.

The forms will be available in each area or contact any of us for more – also consider doing this all online at: www.cfceasternmass.org - the catalog of charities are listed (click on CFC Brochure) and online forms are available. When you fill out the payroll deduction form please use "W2SF05" as our "Unit/Division and Payroll Office" and remember; the New England District can make a difference.

Your 2005 CFC Team is Janet Brayden; Eileen Hughes; Wayne Johnson; Cheryl Kassoy; Paula Kullberg; Santos Lara; Duban Montoya; Will Pumyea; Rosalie Tekeyan; and Bill Hubbard.

Meetings held on air quality safety of Bourne Bridge Painting project

New England District officials met with local residents to quell fears of poor air quality due to the Bourne Bridge Painting project currently underway.

The District held two informational meetings (Sept. 15 and 29) at the Cape Cod Canal Visitor's Center in Sandwich, Mass., to explain the project, the air quality findings, and to answer questions. Representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Agency for Toxic Substance Reduction also attended the meeting.

In response to public concerns, monitoring has been conducted for concentrations of lead, chromium, and small particles in the air. Fran Donovan, Canal Manager and William Hubbard, Chief, Evaluation Branch gave informational presentations on behalf of the New England District, each assuring the attendees that the air quality is safe. The EPA representatives also reported on the results of their independent monitoring and answered questions to relieve the concerns of residents.

Photo by Kevin Burke

Cape Cod residents gather to listen to Fran Donovan's briefing during the information meeting.

The Bourne Bridge Painting Project will result in a lead free structure and a completely new polyurethane paint system. Eagle Painting Co., of Chicago, Ill. is performing work on the $8 million project, which is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2006.

Celebrating 36 years of service

Lampara joins District retirement community

California, here he comes! Joe Lampara, Engineering/ Planning, has decided to trade cold New England winters for year-long rest and relaxation by retiring and moving to the Golden State.

Joe Lampara admires his new engineering T-shirt during the retirement party.

Over 80 co-workers, friends and family gathered at Hanscom Air Force Base's Minuteman Lounge on Sept. 28 to reflect on Lampara's 36 plus-year career and to wish him well.

Joe Colucci served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. In addition to Colucci, Tony Mackos got up and said a few words about Lampara and presented him with a Bunker Hill plaque. Col. Curtis Thalken, District Engineer, also said a few words before officially retiring Lampara from service by presenting him with his retirement certificate.

Colucci presented Lampara with gifts from his friends and co-workers. Lampara received an engraved survey disk to commemorate his many distinguished years with the Corps. Colucci also presented him with a large coffee mug with a certificate for free coffee from the Engineering/Planning coffee club. Lampara received an order of chow mein from a favorite Fall River Restaurant because according to Lampara, "you can't get it anywhere else."

Photos by Brian Murphy

Guests grab a bite to eat at the hors d'oeuvres table.

Keeping in mind Lampara's love of trains, Colucci presented him with a train coffee table book from party guests. Other gifts included a civil engineering shirt with engineering terms defined and a $100 gas card to help Lampara cope with the high gas prices in California.

Lampara is a Vietnam Veteran, serving two tours with the U.S. Army after graduating High School. After his military service, Lampara attended Southeastern Massachusetts University (now UMASS Dartmouth) and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. Lampara joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in January 1974 after graduation and started as a member of the trainee program. After he completed the program, Lampara

moved to the Water Control Branch to work as a hydraulic engineer, but left to work for the U.S. Air Force in Okinawa, Japan. He returned to the Corps in New England in July 1981 as an engineer in the Civil Engineering Section of the Design Branch. Lampara received a promotion to Chief, Civil Engineering Section in 1988, the position from which he retired.

Lampara's wife, Judy, accompanied him to the party. Other attendees included Distinguished Civilian Gallery member Andy Lamborghini; retirees Bill Haynes, Bill Coleman, Bill Kavanaugh, Sr., Yuri Yatsevitch, and George Danek; and former Corps employees Bob LeBlanc.

The Lamparas plan on moving to California to be near their daughter, Louise, and son, John.

Col. Curtis Thalken congratulates Joe Lampara on his retirement and presents him with his retirement certificate.

Joe Colucci serves as Master of Ceremonies.

Many of Joe Lampara's friends and co-workers attended his retirement party.

(left) Joe Lampara serves up some of his retirement cake for dessert. (above) Lampara received many retirement gifts from friends.

Officials mark another milestone on the New Bedford Superfund site cleanup

New England District officials, joined federal, state, and local representatives in celebrating another milestone on the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Project.

Col. Curtis Thalken, District Engineer, joined New Bedford Mayor Frederick Kalisz, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator representative Susan Studlien (Director of the Office of Site Remediation & Restoration) and other guests in a Golden Spike ceremony commemorating the start of rail service from the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site Dewatering Facility to the disposal site in Michigan. The ceremony was held Sept. 29 at the City's rail yard, which is where trains go from the dewatering facility.

"The benefit of the rail service is it will reduce the cost for off-site disposal, provide for a safer mode of transportation, and significantly reduce the hauling of PCB-contaminated sediments through the neighborhoods and streets of New Bedford," said Col. Thalken.

After remarks by Kalisz, Studlien, Col. Thalken and Gary Moran, Southeast Regional Director, Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection, Kalisz and Studlien drove ceremonial spikes into the ground. Studlien and Kalisz then signaled the train, with one car of sediment totaling 100 tons of contaminated dredged material, to move from the dewatering facility to the city's rail yard. A tour of the dewatering facility followed and concluded the ceremony.

Over a 20-year plus period, an estimated 900,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments will be dredged and dewatered or excavated from a two mile stretch of the New Bedford Harbor before being sent off-site for disposal in a Toxic Substance Control Act approved landfill located in Romulus, Michigan run by the EQ Corporation. Dredging took place in the 2004 construction season when approximately 12,500 cubic yards of material were removed via truck to rail and processed.

Photo by Anita Rigassio-Smith , Jacobs Engineering

A loaded rail car with the track mobile attached inside the dewatering facility just before it moves across the street. The track mobile is used to shuttle the cars around the site and back and forth between the yard and the facility.

"Dredging in 2005 began on Sept. 13 and is scheduled to last until mid-November with approximately 25,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments planned to be removed," said Gary Morin, New England District's project manager.

The EPA requested assistance from the New England District to clean-up PCB contaminated sediments from New Bedford Harbor. The harbor was contaminated from the 1940s through the 1970s by two electrical capacitor-manufacturing plants that discharged PCB waste. The site is one of the largest and most challenging hazardous waste sites in the country. The New England District has been supporting EPA on this project since the mid-1980s.

"Our team of partners is helping EPA achieve important progress on remediation at this site and we've had a number of successes in the last several years," said Col. Thalken. "The significance of this event today is that it shows the commitment by the partnership agencies and the people who represent them to continue the progress achieved so far to remediate this site."

New Bedford Harbor is the home of one of the largest fishing fleets and oldest recreational and commercial navigation harbors along the east coast. In 1966 the New England District built and currently operates and maintains a hurricane barrier at the mouth of the harbor to protect the fleets and the heavily developed waterfront. There is also a federal navigation channel running up through the harbor built and maintained by the District, which is currently under consideration for dredging and deepening due to the anticipated growth in commercial navigation.

"Our goal is to continue the progress of remediation at this site in a cost-effective and technically proficient manner," said Col. Thalken.

Water passes over the Leesville Dam on the Salmon River.

District file photo.

Salmon River flood control project underway

New structure will help prevent ice jams

New England District representatives joined state and local officials in marking the beginning of a project that should control ice and subsequent flooding problems for residents living downstream from the Leesville Dam.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the $1.8 million Salmon River Flood Control project in East Haddam, Conn., took place at the dam, Sept. 16.

"The lower reaches of the Salmon River have been prone to severe ice jams which cause flooding and threaten lives and property," said Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner (CTDEP) Gina McCarthy. "This comprehensive flood control project will protect local residents, homes, roads, and bridges by preventing the build up of ice jams."

The Corps of Engineers is taking the federal lead on the project, while the CTDEP is the project sponsor. The CTDEP has provided 35 percent of the cost of design and construction.

"Construction of this project is a culmination of several years of collaboration between the Army Corps of Engineers, the state of Connecticut and local citizens," said Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Engineer.

Since 1979, break up ice runs has been passing over and jamming at the tidal reaches below. The ice jams have caused flooding in residential areas that have become more frequent in recent years.

"Ice jams form when the ice sheet on the Salmon River breaks up during a sudden increase in discharge caused by run off from snowmelt or rainfall," explained Col. Thalken. "The broken ice is transported downstream until the transport capacity of the river is exceeded, and then the ice stops its downstream movement and forms a jam that begins to back up behind the initial jam."

According to Col. Thalken, the stopping point is usually near the Route 151 Bridge. Flooding causes damage to residential properties, local roads, Route 151 and the Route 151 Bridge.

As a solution to the problem, the New England District, with the help of the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, N.H., designed a pier type ice control structure to retain the break up ice run at a location approximately 200 feet upstream of the Leesville Dam.

In addition, the New England District has designed a sedimentation basin to trap sediment movement upstream of the dam and minimize its transport to the lower river. "The project involves the construction of a 125-foot-long concrete pier ice control structure across the main channel of the river," said Col. Thalken.

Charter Environmental, Inc., of Wilmington, Mass., began work on Aug. 17. The project is expected to be completed in December.

New Hampshire River Day held at Profile Falls

The rangers at the Franklin Falls Dam (FFD) ended the summer of 2005 with a bang. The second annual New Hampshire River Day was nothing less than spectacular. The rangers invited all the fourth graders from the Newfound School District to Profile Falls on Sept. 30 to learn about New Hampshire natural history. Over 125 students participated in the program.

Story and photos by Jennifer Rockett
Franklin Falls Dam

Jennifer Rockett, park ranger at FFD, and Cherie Blessing, a fourth grade teacher, came up with the idea when trying to look for a way to incorporate New Hampshire into the lesson plans for the students.

Rockett and Blessing based it on a similar program that Blessing had seen while teaching for the Connecticut River Valley area.

The program involved several presentations incorporating winter ecology, geology, government, forest ecology, furbearers, Native American art, and lacrosse. Several volunteers from organizations such as Project Learning Tree, New Hampshire Division of Forest and Lands, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Resources, and New Hampshire Fish and Game were the workshop leaders.

Each student participated in four workshops of their choosing over the course of the day, and according to Blessing, the students remember what they learned and reflect on the day through out the year. "They are excited about learning, and it's all about making the connection," she says.

"It is a win-win scenario for everyone involved," said Rockett. "The students benefit from learning the necessary concepts to do well in school and in the process they become more civically aware. It is this generation that we need to target so that in the years to come they will take responsibility to ensure that our property is properly cared for."

(left, above) Park Ranger Jennifer Rockett presents the winter ecology workshop. (Above) Fourth graders from the Newfound School District feel the feathers of a bird during the event.

District begins Pawtuxet Cove dredging

Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Engineer, joined federal and local partners in signing a cooperation agreement that signaled the beginning of the Federal Navigation Project, Pawtuxet Cove dredging in Rhode Island.

The ceremony, attended by Sen. Jack Reed, Sen. Lincoln Chafee, Rhode Island Governor Don Carcieri, Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian, and Cranston Mayor Stephen Laffey, took place in Warwick, R.I., Oct. 3. The project has not been dredged since constructed in 1966.

"This is a significant moment for the state of Rhode Island and the cities of Warwick and Cranston," said Col. Thalken, praising the partnership that led to the PCA signing. "Numerous people have contributed a lot of hard work in the effort to get the Pawtuxet Cove dredging project underway."

The Federal Navigation Project in Pawtuxet Cove lies along the Cranston-Warwick city line at the mouth of the Pawtuxet River, which discharges into the west side of Providence Harbor. The towns of Warwick and Cranston are provided the non-federal funding required for the project, while the New England District is the federal sponsor.

The $1.1 million dredging project will require the removal of about 90,000 cubic yards of material. Disposal of the material will be at the Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) cells construction as part of the Providence River and Harbor maintenance project.

"The Corps of Engineers just recently finished one of the largest maintenance dredging projects in New England with the successful completion of the Providence River dredging project," said Col. Thalken. "With the help of the Rhode Island Congressional delegation, we were able to obtain the necessary funds to dredge sufficient additional capacity in the Providence River CAD Cells to accommodate the material from Pawtuxet Cove."

Burnham Associates of Salem, Mass., will perform the dredging work for the New England District. Dredging operations in Pawtuxet Cove will take place from October through January to protect fisheries resources. The project is expected to be completed by the end of January 2006.

The Federal Navigation Project at Pawtuxet Cove provides for a channel, six-feet-deep and 100-feet-wide, from deep water in Providence Harbor to the head of navigation in Pawtuxet Cove. The project also includes a turning basin, six-feet-deep at the mouth of the Pawtuxet River; a 14-acre anchorage, six-feet-deep, between the south side of the entrance channel and Warwick Downs State Park; and a sheltering dike, 2,200-feet-long.

The cove supports about 33 commercial fishing vessels, 217 recreational vessels and six water dependant businesses, which consist of marinas and boat yards.

Col. Thalken praised the partnership that made the project become a reality. "Certainly with the current constraints on the federal budget, the work would not have been possible without the strong support of the congressional delegation," he said. "I'd also like to thank all the federal, state, regional and local agencies and groups that participated to help make this project happen."

Dredging in Pawtuxet Cove in Rhode Island has begun.

Heavy rains cause rising water behind Corps of Engineers dams

Continued from page 1
ervoir Regulation Team.

As the water rose behind the dams, employees of the New England District Emergency Operations Center kept in regular contact with the New Hampshire Emergency Management Office and the city of Keene to keep them updated on the water levels.

The pool stages at Surry Mountain and Otter Brook rose and fell slightly, until additional rain fell, causing Surry Mountain to become 96 percent and Otter Brook 78 percent full. Although District officials weren't as concerned about Otter Brook having spillway discharge, the possibility for Surry Mountain to do so was a reality. Keene officials evacuated the low-lying residential areas as a precaution.

The waters of swollen Otter Brook flow parallel to Route 9 in New Hampshire.

Spillway concerns receded with water levels due to sunny skies and the aggressive 24-hour, seven day a week management of the dams. As of Oct. 24, water capacity at Surry Mountain was down to 70 percent and Otter Brook Lake was 47 percent full.

Surry Mountain is an earth fill dam that was built in 1941, making it the oldest of the New England District dams. It is located in Surry, New Hampshire on the Ashuelot River. Surry Mountain has a capacity of 10.6 billion gallons of water, drains an area of 100 square miles and has a spillway crest level of 65 feet. The dam was built at a cost of $2.8 million. As of the end of fiscal year 2004, the dam had prevented $66.7 million in damages.

Otter Brook Dam was built in 1958 and is located on Otter Brook, a tributary of the Branch River, which is a tributary of the Ashuelot River. Otter Brook, which is also an earth fill dam, can store 5.7 billion gallons of water for flood control purposes. The project cost $4.4 million to build and as of fiscal year 2004, has saved citizens $29.9 million in damages.

The New England District team will continue to monitor the levels behind all of the Corps' dams to ensure the safety of all who live downstream from them.

Flooding from Otter Brook destroy the Route 9 bridge in Keene.

Photos by John Asseng

The pool at Surry Mountain Dam approaches spillway.

Franklin Falls Dam, volunteers celebrate National Public Lands

By Jennifer Rockett
Franklin Falls Dam

To celebrate National Public Lands Day, Park Rangers and staff at the Franklin Falls Dam joined about 40 volunteers to perform two improvement projects, Sept. 24.

The event began at 8 a.m., with volunteers and Franklin Falls personnel working until the projects were completed by 2: 30 p.m. Workers assembled a playground set and installed a walkway to the community butterfly garden.

Volunteers included the Franklin Fire Department, the Franklin Falls Junior Rangers, as well as member of the surrounding towns. In total, volunteers donated 240 work hours and saved the government about $3,500.

For the last 12 years, National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands American's enjoy. In 2004, about 90,000 volunteers at nearly 600 sites in all 50 states built trails and bridges, planted trees and plants, and removed trash and invasive plants.

Volunteers use heavy equipment to help assemble the playground set during National Public Lands Day at Franklin Falls Dam.

Younger workers travel up the newly installed walkway to get to the community butterfly garden.

Volunteers work on a walkway that leads to the community butterfly garden during National Public Lands day. Volunteers contributed 240 hours to complete two large projects at Franklin Falls Dam.

Equal Employment Opportunity Celebration

Disabilities Awareness Month Observed

In recognition of Disabilities Awareness Month, the New England District's Disabilities Program and Equal Employment Opportunity Office hosted an observance Oct. 12 in the theatre. Judy Cotton, Program Director, Information and Referral of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, served as guest speaker for the program.

Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, Deputy District Engineer, welcomed the audience. "Americans with disabilities are active and contributing members of our society, and they must have the opportunity to develop the skills they need to compete and obtain jobs in the 21st century workforce," he said. "By reducing physical barriers and false perceptions, our country meets our commitment to millions of Americans with disabilities, and benefits from their talents, creativity, and hard work."

Photo by Brian Murphy

Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson presents Judy Cotton with a New England District Bunker Hill plaque in appreciation for her appearance at the celebration as Jackie DiDomenico looks on.

Jackie DiDomenico, Program Manager for the District's Program for Individuals with Disabilities introduced the keynote speaker.

Cotton focused her talk on Multiple Sclerosis (MS) awareness. According to Cotton, MS is thought to be an autoimmune disease that affects the central nervous system. She was quick to dispel some widespread myths about the disease. MS is not fatal, contagious or directly inherited. People who suffer from MS are not always severely disabled. According to Cotton, having MS is no reason to stop working, enjoying life or avoid having children. "Most people with MS have a normal life span," she said. "Progression of the disease does not always equal disability."

Although the exact cause of MS is not known, Cotton went over some medical facts that research has linked to the disease. "It is the autoimmune response that causes damage in the central nervous system," she said.

Cotton discussed the symptoms of MS; who is prone to get the disease; the different types of MS; treatment methods; and common reactions. Currently, 400,000 Americans, 10,500 in Massachusetts, and 2,000 in New Hampshire are dealing with MS.

The keynote speaker went into great detail about special accommodations that can be made for those suffering from MS by the Job Accommodation Network (JAN). JAN is a service of the Office of Disability Employment Policy of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Cotton then talked about the MS Society and its mission to eliminate the disease. "The Society funds more MS research than any other voluntary agency in the world," she said. "Since the first three MS investigations in 1947, the society has spent $350 million on MS-related research projects."

She concluded her remarks by discussing the different programs and services the MS Society provides and where to go for more information.

Cotton joined the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Central New England Chapter, in Waltham, Mass., in 2001. As the Program Director, Information and Referral, she is responsible for directing the chapter's Information and Referral Program, Supervising Information and Referral Coordinator and Volunteer, and directing the Chapter's Care Management Program.

Lt. Col. Nelson and DiDomenico presented Cotton with a Bunker Hill plaque in appreciation for her presentation to the New England District employees.

DiDomenico closed the program by inviting the audience to a small reception in the cafeteria.

For more information on MS, please call 1-800-FIGHT-MS or go to the following websites: www.msnewengland.org or www.nationalmssociety.org.

Photos by Brian Murphy

Pies donated by New England District employees crowded several tables at the Pie Fest.

District employees enjoy the variety of pies at the event.

Sweet donations hit record at Pie Fest 2005

Employees of the New England District celebrated a successful year-end and welcomed in the New Fiscal Year by having a little slice of heaven during the WE Committee's Pie Fest 2005.

Celebrants consumed slices from 46 pies on Oct. 6 during their afternoon break. Pies varied from traditional fall pumpkin to lemon meringue.

"The concept of the Pie Fest was to bring the District together for a fun activity," said Bob Meader, who organized the event for the WE Committee. "We were able to do that thanks to the volunteers who donated all the pies."

In addition to the pies, District employees consumed three gallons of spiced and cold cider and 30 cups of coffee to help wash down the pies.

This year's Pie Fest broke the record for the amount of pies, beverages and other supplies donated by employees. "When we can get over 80 individuals to work towards one goal, we get terrific results," said Meader.

New England District employees look over their choices of pie during the Pie Fest.

Bob Govero enjoys a slice of pie during the Pie Fest. About 46 pies were donated for the event.

Remembering the 1955 Floods

Corps regional flood control operations and structural approach prevents similar disasters

Fifty years ago, Hurricanes Diane and Connie ripped through the New England region, dropping approximately 20 inches of rain in Connecticut. The excessive August rain caused major flooding in the state. In October of that same year, heavy rains caused another major flood.

The catastrophic flooding events in Connecticut killed 90 people, left over 1,000 people homeless and caused over $500 million in damages. President Dwight Eisenhower declared the state a disaster area twice that year.

Since the historic floods of 1955, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District has constructed additional dams and flood control projects along some key rivers in New England to prevent flooding and damage on that scale so that it doesn't happen again anywhere in the region.

Hydraulic engineers from the New England District headquartered in Concord, Mass., monitor water levels in the New England region's major rivers and the depth of snow cover throughout the region to regulate the District's dams and reservoirs.

"The engineers in our Reservoir Control Center receive reports from our field personnel every two weeks during the winter months on the water content and depth of snow on the ground across New England," said Paul Marinelli, Chief, Reservoir Control Center.

The District has been using the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-12) launched in April 2003 with advanced weather imagery, as its data collection satellite. New England District's 90 data collection platforms monitor reservoir levels, tailwater and river levels, rainfall and air temperature and records data every 15 minutes. This real-time hydrologic system, according to Marinelli, provides important information in deciding when to close or throttle back water flow through the dam in an effort to reduce flood damage to dowstream areas. Through the use of real -time data and close coordination with the National Weather Service's River Forecast Center, significant water movement can be identified, examined and forecasted.

As a result of the 1955 floods, the New England District has designed a system of flood damage prevention projects, which includes 35 flood control dams, 100 local protection projects, and five hurricane barriers in New England. A total of 31 of 35 reservoir projects and two of the five hurricane barriers are operated and maintained by the District. The remaining projects are operated and maintained by local interests. The following flood control projects were constructed after the 1955 floods:

Massachusetts

Barre Falls Dam, located on the Ware River in Barre, can store 7.82 billion gallons of water. Construction of the dam was completed in 1958 at a cost of $2 million. To date, Barre Falls has saved $25 million in flood damages.

Buffumville Lake flood control project is located on the Little River in Charlton. The 12,700 acre-feet of storage at the project is equal to 3.9 billion gallons of water and is impounded by an earthen dam. The project, which was completed in 1958 at a cost of $3 million, has prevented more than $57.1

PAO File Photo.

The Putnam Technical School and the adjacent roadway suffer from the torrential waters of the Quinnebaug River in this August 1955 photo. The New England District has since built more dams and flood control projects to prevent disasters like this from happening again.

million in damages.

Conant Brook Dam is located on Conant Brook in Monson. It was completed in 1966 at a cost of $3 million and can store 1.2 billion gallons of water. To date, the project has prevented $2.5 million in damages.

East Brimfield Lake on the Quinebaug River in Sturbridge was constructed in 1960 at a cost of $7 million. The project can hold 9.7 billion gallons of water and has prevented $48.1 million in damages.

Hodges Village Dam was constructed across the French River in Oxford in 1959 for $4.4 million. The dam can hold 4.2 billion gallons of water and has prevented $56 million since it was placed in operation.

Littleville Lake is located on the Middle Branch of the Westfield River in Huntington and Chester. The project was completed in 1965 at a cost of $7 million and can hold 7.5 billion gallons of water. To date, the project has prevented damages totaling $61.7 million.

The New Bedford-Fairhaven-Acushnet Hurricane Protection Project provides a gated barrier across New Bedford-Fairhaven Harbor and supplementary dikes in the Clarks Cove area of New Bedford and Fairhaven. Its twin sector gates can seal the 150-foot-wide navigation opening in 12 minutes. The project was operated 14 times in 2000 and 11 times in 2001. The project, which was completed in 1966 at a cost of $18.6 million, has saved $18.8 million in damages.

West Hill Dam sits on the West River in Uxbridge. It was completed in 1961 at a cost of $2.3 million and can hold up to four billion gallons of water. Since it has been in operation, the dam has prevented more than $46.6 million in damage.

Westville Lake in Southbridge and Sturbridge was completed in 1962 for $5.7 million. The project can store 3.6 billion gallons of water and has prevented $26.2 million.

New Hampshire

Hopkinton-Everett Lakes is a two-dam system. Hopkinton Dam is located on the Contoocook River in Hopkinton and nearby Everett Dam is located on the Piscataquog River in Weare. The dual projects were constructed in 1962 at a combined cost of $21.4 million and have been credited with preventing over $69.5 million in damages.

Otter Brook Lake, located on Otter Brook in Keene, was built in 1958 at a cost of $4.3 million. The dam has a 5.7 billion gallon storage capacity and to date has prevented $30.7 million in damages.

Vermont

Ball Mountain Lake on the West River in Jamaica was constructed at a cost of $11 million in 1961. The project can hold an equivalent of 17.8 billion gallons of water and since it has been placed in operation, has prevented $116.4 million in damages.

North Hartland Lake is located on the Ottauquechee River in Hartland and was completed in 1961. The project, which cost $7.3 million to build, can store 23.2 billion gallons of water. To date, the project has prevented damages of $99.1 million.

North Springfield Lake on the Black River in North Springfield was completed in 1960 and can store 16.5 billion gallons of water. The project was completed at a cost of $6.8 million has saved more than $97.1 million in flood damages.

Townsend Lake is located on the West River in Townsend. The project was completed in 1961 at a cost of $7.4 million. Townsend Lake has the capacity to store 10.8 billion gallons of water and has prevented $88.2 million in damages since it was placed in operation.

Connecticut

Black Rock Lake, located on Branch Brook in Thomaston and Watertown was completed in 1971 at a cost of $8.2 million. The project can store more than 2.8 billion gallons of water. Since it has been in operation, Black Rock Lake has prevented $65.2 million in damages.

The Colebrook River Lake on the West Branch of the Farmington River in Colebrook went into operation in 1969. The dam can hold up to 16.5 billion gallons of water. The project cost $14.3 million to build and to date has prevented damages of $42.3 million.

Hancock Brook Lake is located on the brook bearing the same name. It has been operating since 1966 and is capable of holding back 1.3 billion gallons of water. The project cost $4.2 million to construct and has prevented $29.9 million in flood damages.

Hop Brook Lake is located on Hop Brook Lake in Waterbury and Naugatuck. The project was built in 1968 at a cost of $6 million. Hop Brook can hold back 2.2 billion gallons of water and has prevented damages amounting to $31.1 million.

Northfield Brook Lake, located on the brook bearing the same name. It has been operating since 1965 and is capable of holding back about 0.8 billion gallons of water. Since it has been put into operation, Northfield Brook Dam has prevented more than $22 million in flood damages.

Thomaston Dam, located on the Naugatuck River in Thomaston, was constructed for $14.3 million in 1960. The project is capable of storing 13.7 billion gallons for water. Since it has been put into operation, Thomaston Dam has prevented more than $243.3 million in flood damages.

West Thompson Lake on the Quinebaug River in Thompson was constructed for $7 million and can store 8.3 billion gallons of water. The facility, completed in 1965, has prevented more than $19.6 million in flood damages.

The Stamford Hurricane Protection Barrier was completed in 1969 at a cost of $14.5 million. Damages amounting to about $26 million have been prevented to date.

Other New England District flood control projects constructed prior to the 1955 floods continue to provide valuable protection and prevent tens of millions of dollars in damages each year. To learn more about all of the New England District flood protection projects, please go to http://www.nae.usace.army.mil and select a state.

Dredging up the past . . .

Col. Brian Osterndorf, New England District Engineer, Joe Faloretti and the New England District Color Guard march through the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord, Mass., to participate in the Veterans Day Flag Burning Ceremony in this November 11, 2001 photo.

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