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US Army Corps of Engineers
New England District

Yankee Engineer

Volume 42, No. 1 October 2006

New England District engineers travel to Alaska for Hubbard Glacier work

Greg Hanlon and Dan Stenstream of the New England District Reservoir Regulation Team (RRT) traveled to Yukatat, Alaska, Sept. 25-30 as part of a large-scale engineering, scientific analysis and data gathering study implemented by the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

This study is intended to better understand the cumulative effects the advance of the Hubbard Glacier and the closure of Russell Fjord may have on the safety and well being of the citizens of Yakutat. Endorsed and supported by Farrell McMillan, Chief, Engineering-Planning Division, Hanlon and Stenstream were selected based on their national reputation and proven expertise in data collection equipment and techniques as well as their ability to assess the best solutions for mission execution. Other personnel participating in this mission were Dan Lawson (Research Leader) and Dave Finnegan from CRREL, and Patrick Fitzgerald

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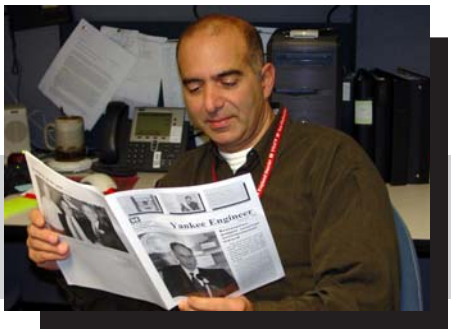
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo.

Dan Stenstream and Greg Hanlon stand in front of the GOES Climate Station/Repeater site on Haenke Island.

Yankee Voices



John Garabedian
Construction/Operations

New England District Inclement Weather Program

The New England District Inclement Weather Program is up and running for the 2006-2007 season. For up-to-date information, please call the District hotline at 978-318-8346 beginning at 5:30 a.m.

The following media will also carry New England District inclement weather information:

- **WRKO (680 AM) – Boston, Mass.**
- **Channel 7's morning news**
- **Channel 7's storm force online:** http://www.whdh.com/stormforce/

For more information, please contact Ann Marie R. Harvie in the Public Affairs Office.

Congratulations

…to **Robert T. Casoli** for being selected as the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for October. Casoli received the honor for his dedication to the Corps of Engineers and his sincere work ethic has caused him to continually seek out short and long term TDY opportunities to support the Corps of Engineers

… to the **Bucks Harbor Field Oversight Team,** which has been awarded the honor of the WE Committee's Team of the Quarter. The success of the Bucks Harbor 2006 field effort is entirely due to the technical expertise and schedule flexibility of the USACE Project Team. Members of the team are **Pamela Bradstreet, Sheila Harvey, Drew Clemens, Paul Young, Kathy Miller and Tracy Dorgan.**

…to **Ed O'Donnell**, Project Management, and his wife, **Daisy**, on the birth of their son, Patrick, Oct. 3.

…to **Amal Guirguis**, Information Management, and her husband, **Adel**, on the recent birth of their third grandchild, **Daniel Mark Soliman**. Daniel is the first child for Amal's daughter, **Sally** and her husband, **Mark Soliman**.

… to Corps Geologist, **Tracy Dorgan**, and his wife, **Heather**, on the birth of their first child, **Acadia Rose Dorgan**, Oct. 7.

Sympathy

...to retired Birch Hill Dam Park Manager **James H. Bacon** on the passing of his wife, **Sara**, on Oct. 4, after a brief illness.

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Commander's Corner:

The importance of project execution and revolving fund balances

by Col. Curtis L. Thalken
District Commander

Now that we are well into our short New England fall season, and Patriot's football is on everyone's mind (since the Red Sox season ended earlier than expected), I'd like to return to my football analogy from a couple of months ago. This month I'd like to compare project execution and our revolving fund balances to the offensive and defensive units of a team.

For a football team to be successful, both the offensive and defensive units must perform well (I know I'm leaving out special teams play, but bear with me for now and I'll fit that in sometime closer to the playoffs). A high powered offense alone isn't enough to guarantee a victory. Many teams can score several times in a game, but still lose if their own defensive unit can't keep the opponent from scoring more.

The same goes for our revolving fund accounts. It isn't enough for our direct charge rates to be high and our Consolidated Departmental Overhead (CDO) and General and Administrative (G&A) funds to have positive balances at year's end. This is only part of our game plan. We must also execute our work according to the schedules we provide our local stakeholders. When we provide cost estimates and schedules, our local sponsors count on them. For our MILCON customers, this means living within the congressionally mandated Programmed Amounts (PAs) for their project. For our civil works partners, local officials use our estimates to go before local bonding and tax committees to raise capital for their local cost share for the project. If our estimates on either cost or time prove insufficient, it can mean consequences down the road..

In other words, meeting our revolving fund balances may mean we have been successful in meeting our payroll requirements, but if our execution falters, we may soon find ourselves without local sponsors. Which could mean no new work…

So as the new fiscal year gets into full swing, let's put lots of points on the board earlier. The more work we get done in the first and second quarter the better. This not only proves we can get the work done, it also generates income for our revolving fund accounts as we perform the required work to get the mission accomplished.

Building a big lead gives us a cushion for the third and fourth quarters. We can draw on the overhead account if needed, but accomplishing work generates more work so keep focused on the task at hand. More work will follow if we get the work we currently have done—on time and under budget!

Thanks for everything you do every day to make this District a great place to work and keep cheering for the Patriots. They're looking strong again so far this year.

Essayons!

Fast thinking, teamwork saves a life at New England District

A woman suddenly collapses and stops breathing. As her heart stops, people rush to her aid in an attempt to save her life. An ambulance is called, but a glitch delays its arrival. CPR is initiated and an automated external defibrillator (AED) is called into service. The shock from the AED works and the woman's pulse is restored. The woman returns to consciousness just as the ambulance workers arrive.

The experience seemed surreal, something out of one of those medical dramas. But in reality, this medical emergency happened in the New England District theatre on Sept. 20.

The heroes of this true story were not actors, but three military nurses, a military doctor, and a Corps of Engineers contracted security guard with extensive Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) experience. "It worked out the way it should have," said Concord Park Security Guard and former EMT Jim Newhall. "Everyone worked together as a team. It was amazing."

At about 11 a.m., as Lt. Col. Nancy McNutt, Lt. Col. Dianne Fletcher, and 1st Sgt. Penny Lashua walked

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Menard ends a distinguished federal career with retirement luncheon

Conrad Menard, Construction/Operations, finished off a distinguished 29 year federal career with a retirement barbecue, Sept. 29 at the North Central Resident Office at Devens, Mass.

Approximately 54 co-workers, friends and relatives attended the event. Jim Morocco served as Master of Ceremonies. "Conrad is truly one of those people whose contributions will be sorely missed," he said.

As parting gifts, Menard received a Corps of Engineers mug with his dates of service engraved on it; a gift certificate to Circuit City; Famous Dave O'Connor Chocolate Chip Cookies; a seven day prescription sorter and various pictures of his old projects.

Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, Deputy Commander, presented Menard with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his many faithful years with the Corps, a Bunker Hill plaque and his retirement certificate.

The guest of honor thanked everyone for coming and thanked Christine Johnson for putting together his luncheon. Menard plans to fish, hunt, enjoy a town house he recently purchased in Florida and is looking forward to becoming a first-time grandparent in November.

Menard began his career with the New England District in 1992 following a 12-year career as an engineering technician and then electrician supervisor for the Fort Devens Army Intelligence School. Menard, who is a Vietnam Veteran that served in the U.S. Navy, is a licensed electrician in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Throughout his career, Menard worked on a myriad of projects. Some of the most notable were award winning projects such as Charles George Landfill Superfund Site in Tyngsboro, Mass., and the Eastland Wool Mills Remediation Superfund Site in Corinna, Maine. Menard was also instrumental in the success of the Elizabeth Mine Remediation project in Strafford, Vermont. In addition to his duties as a construction inspector, Menard also went along on project site tours to answer questions for visitors.

Photos by Brian Murphy

Conrad Menard shows off one of his retirement gifts.

"During his career, Conrad willingly took on any assignment and often accompanied the highest level visitors on site walks," said Morocco. "He unfailingly managed to always keep a smile on the faces of those he touched. He was praised by many stakeholders, including numerous contractors, for his willingness to share his knowledge and resolve many issues before they became contentious. New England couldn't ask for a better ambassador."

Retirees who attended Menard's luncheon were Les Jacobs, John McDowell, Rick Casano and Bill Haynes. Family members who attended were Menard's wife, Lynn, and his sister, Priscilla, who flew up from Stuart, Fla., for the event.

Conrad Menard (left) chats with Bobby Byrne during the retirement luncheon.

Conrad Menard, with his wife Lynn at his side, receives a Commander's Award for Civilian Service from Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson.

Mary Christopher gives the gift of learning during vacation

There are those who travel to exotic locations for their hard-earned vacation to relax. Others spend their time seeking fun and adventure. This year, Mary Christopher, Information Management, traveled to Cahul, Moldova; but instead of doing a lot of sight-seeing, she went to a summer camp to teach Deaf children.

Moldova is a country in Eastern Europe bordering on Romania. Christopher, who is deaf herself, spent the last part of August with a team of five deaf and seven hearing volunteers and interpreters from her Bible Study group from the Grace Chapel Deaf Ministry in Lexington, Mass. They taught approximately 90 Deaf children from the Cahul Hipoacuzi Orphanage how to sign in American Sign Language, while they learned Romanian Sign Language from the children.

Christopher raised some of the money for her trip by collecting empty water and soda bottles from New England District employees and other supporters.

The volunteers and the children spent their days outside in the summer sun doing a variety of activities with the children, including playing games and acting out stories. The language barrier was a challenge, but the volunteers and the children worked out ways to understand each other. "The children signed in Romanian Sign Language," explained Christopher. "We used facial expressions, body language and repetition of signs to figure out what they were communicating to us."

Christopher is no stranger to teaching Deaf children sign language. She is a member of the American Sign Language Teachers of America and has vast experience interacting and teaching Deaf children in the United States.

Although the trip to Moldova was her first to that country, Christopher has taught the deaf in Jamaica and Aruba. She found the experience very rewarding. "This was a rich experience to say the least," wrote Christopher. "It was a wonderful opportunity to share my own culture as a Deaf person as well as getting to know Deaf people in another country. So much was needed and we were able to provide so much for these children. I would love to go again."

Photo provided by Mary Christopher

Mary Christopher (standing right) uses sign language to teach the children how to do a craft project in Moldova.

New England District engineers travel to Alaska for Hubbard Glacier work

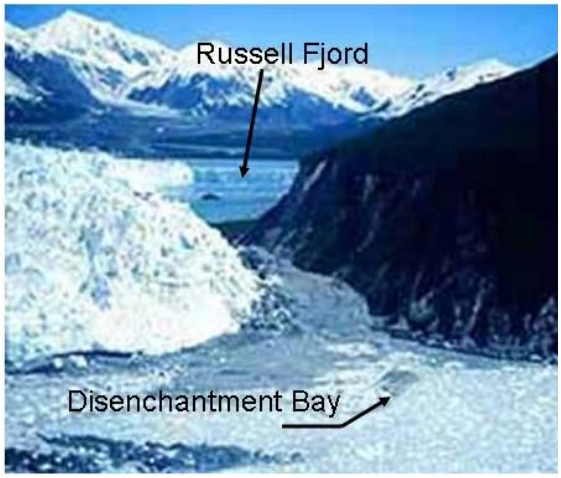
Continued from page 1
and David Williams of the Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (Project Managers).

Hubbard Glacier is the largest tidewater glacier on the North American continent. It has been thickening and advancing toward the Gulf of Alaska since it was first mapped by the International Boundary Commission in 1895. This is in stark contrast with most glaciers that have thinned and retreated during the last century. This atypical behavior is an important example of the calving glacier cycle.

If Hubbard Glacier continues to advance, it will close the seaward entrance to Russell Fjord and create the largest glacier-dammed lake in North America in historic times. The damming of Russell Fjord may ultimately threaten inundation of portions of the municipal airport and cause salt water flooding of the Situk River, permanently destroying this rare and salmon/steelhead fishery, which is vital to the local economy. It may also produce serious erosion as a result of large volumes entering the river from Russell Fjord.

From its source on Mount Logan in the Yukon Territory, Hubbard Glacier stretches 76 miles to the sea north of Yakutat in Disenchantment Bay. It is the longest tidewater glacier in America, with an open calving face over six miles wide. Before it reaches the sea, Hubbard is joined by the Valerie Glacier to the west, which, through forward surges of its own ice, has contributed to the advance of the ice flow that experts believe will eventually dam the Russell Fjord from waters of Disenchantment Bay.

The Hubbard Glacier ice margin has continued to advance for about a century. In 1986, the glacier temporarily closed the connection between Russell Fjord and Disenchantment Bay. By October of that year, the water level in the fjord had risen to 83 feet above sea level, causing a catastrophic failure of the ice dam. The result was a 3.7 million cfs outburst flood, the largest outburst flood ever recorded. In spring 2002, the glacier again approached Gilbert Point. It pushed a terminal moraine ahead of its face and closed the gap again in July. On Aug. 14, the terminal moraine was washed away after rains raised the water level in Russell Fjord to 61 feet above sea level. Hubbard continues to advance and retreat seasonally. The U.S. Forest Service (Tongass National Park), U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers CRREL, Alaska and New England Districts continue to monitor its activity.



June 1986 blockage of Russell Fjord.

As part of this study, data concerning the movement and other physical parameters of Hubbard Glacier are necessary to understand the stability of a long-term ice closure and for determining the potential outcomes of the continued advance at the Hubbard Glacier terminus.

A data collection system designed by the New England District and CRREL using a high-precision automated laser range finder was installed at Gilbert Point to monitor the advance and retreat cycles of the Hubbard Glacier terminus.

Since the terrain at the Gilbert Point range finder location does not provide adequate open sky for GOES satellite transmissions, it was necessary to install an additional site on Haenke Island approximately two miles away in Disenchantment Bay. This location has proven to be a good location for satellite transmissions and for the climate sensors necessary for the project. Although the climate station on Haenke Island is currently up and transmitting climate data, and the laser site is up and collecting data, there remains a radio communication problem between the two sites. This radio link issue, which prevents real-time transmission of the rangefinder data, should be solved during a site visit in November by CRREL personnel.

This site transmits data to the GOES satellite on an hourly basis. The data is collected, processed, and disseminated to the public, using the New England District Water Control Data System and the RRT web server. All data is available to the public in near-real-time, via a web interface at: https://maps.crrel.usace.army.mil/hubbard/hubbard.hubbweb.hubbindex.

The Alaska District is in the process of initiating a full watershed study of the Hubbard Glacier and the Situk River watersheds. As part of this study, up to 25 hydrologic/meteorologic monitoring stations will be installed to provide the data necessary for the study. If the study takes place, the New England District will be asked to participate in the design and installation of the data collection equipment and the New England District Water Control Data System, located in the Reservoir Regulation Section, will be used to manage the data. ***(Story written by Greg Hanlon, P.E. and Dan Stenstream of Engineering/Planning)***

A trainee "rescuer" traverses rescue rope from the east side of the spillway.

High Line Rope Rescue Training at Littleville Lake

Story and photos by Park Ranger Thomas M. Wisnauckas
Knightville Dam and Littleville Lake

Park Rangers at Littleville Lake hosted a high line search and rescue training, Sept. 27. This was an Advanced Level III Rope Rescue training sponsored by Survival and Rescue Training and Consulting (SARTAC) and conducted by instructors from CMC Rope Rescue School in California.

The training at Littleville Lake was part of a week long course, with most of the training taking place at the Springfield, Mass., Fire Training Center and Provin Mountain in Agawam, Mass. Sixteen students from various fire departments participated in the class. These departments included: Amherst, Norton and Springfield, Mass., Nashua, N.H., New Hampshire Department of Safety, Solutia Fire and Rescue and one member of the CNFJ Regional Fire Department, Sasebo, Japan.

Trainees watch the action on the west side of the spillway.

The morning session consisted of setting up a rescue line across the rock cut of the emergency spillway at Littleville Lake. Ropes were anchored to trees at one end and to vehicles at the other. Two different types of pulley systems were used. One end consisted of a "high tech" adjustable metal tripod and the other was held up by a "primitive" bipod of two 12 foot 4x4s lashed together with rope. Students then took turns going across the high line to rescue victims. Another line was then added to allow rescuers to practice dropping down into the spillway to reach and rescue victims trapped at the bottom.

The afternoon session involved the rigging of a low level high line over the riprap along the downstream side of the dam. This was to simulate the rescue of a victim disabled on a rock slope. On top of the dam, the line was anchored to vehicles with the tripod giving additional needed height to the line. A utility pole near the base of the dam served as the lower anchor. The victim was placed in a stretcher, and then when tension was brought to the line, it would lift the victim off the ground enough to allow the rescuers on top of the dam to pull the victim to safety. Depending on the rescue situation, this type of line could also be used to lower victims.

The instructors and students were all pleased with the facility at Littleville and hinted about future use for this type of training. Both Littleville Lake and Knightville Dam have served as sites for training for other fire departments and the UMass ROTC program.

Reservoir Control Center celebrates 38 years of monitoring New England District flood control projects

by Paul Marinelli
Reservoir Control Center

The Reservoir Control Center will be celebrating its 38th birthday on Nov. 15. Although the name of the organization has changed over the past few years from Reservoir Control Center to Reservoir Regulation Team and more currently Reservoir Regulation Section, its mission, execution, capabilities, and responsibilities have not changed since its establishment in 1968. The name Reservoir Regulation Section is basically interchangeable with Reservoir Control Center.

Buffumville Lake in Charlton, Mass., is only one of many New England District flood control projects that the Reservoir Control Center monitors.

In January 1956, the main office of the Corps of Engineers in New England was at 150 Causeway Street in downtown Boston. However, the reservoir control staff was located off-site at an old warehouse nearby on Albany Street. The reservoir control staff was part of a combined section which included hydrology, hydraulics, reservoir regulation and hurricane monitoring and analysis. The section chief was Elliot Childs and his assistant was Nick Lally and was part of the Planning Branch at that time. Saul Cooper and Jerry Degen were assistants within the section. Other engineers in the section were Bob Mirick, Addison Monroe, Emily Peasly, Bernard Johnson, Frank Nix, Edgar Story, Joe Finegan, Oscar Donati, and Morris Larson. On Aug. 8, 1956 the section joined the main office at 150 Causeway Street until Oct. 14, 1958 when the Corps moved to Waltham.

In 1956 there were only nine flood control dams; however, during the 1960's more projects were constructed in the Housatonic/Naugatuck, Connecticut, Thames, Blackstone and Merrimack River Basins as well as four hurricane barriers. That resulted in a total of 31 Corps dams and two of the four hurricane barriers that the section was responsible for managing the water control activities, as well as preparing operating procedures and regulation manuals. Sometime during the 1960's the formerly combined section was reorganized as the new Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch within Engineering Division of which reservoir regulation responsibilities were included. On Nov. 15, 1968, as a result of the number of projects and the responsibilities associated with flood regulation activities becoming extremely complex, the Reservoir Control Center (RCC) was established to afford more efficient management and accomplishment of reservoir, as well as barrier, operations on a regional basis. By authority of Col. Frank P. Bane, New England Division Commander, the Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch, Engineering Division, was redesignated as the Hydrologic Engineering Branch and the Reservoir Control Center was established as an additional branch within Engineering Division. Personnel filling the newly established RCC were borrowed from the Hydrologic Engineering Branch until November 1971, when a reorganization plan was submitted and approved by Headquarters Washington, D.C. and RCC became part of the newly formed Water Control Branch with Saul Cooper Branch Chief, and Joe Finegan selected as the first permanent Chief, Reservoir Control Center.

The primary objective of the RCC was to provide an organization staffed with highly trained hydrologic engineers who devote full time to the operation of reservoirs and hurricane barriers located within New England Division. The other sections of the Water Control Branch would provide technical support to RCC as needed. The philosophy of the RCC mission is basically a hydrologic engineering function and that RCC would devote its efforts to management and coordination activities associated with the operation of reservoirs/barriers, while other elements of the Water Control Branch would provide technical support to the center. By concentrating the technical studies in the other branch elements, the RCC staff would be able to give full time attention to the broad management and operational activities of the center.

Additionally, the other elements of Water Control Branch would also serve as a training ground for engineers so they may qualify for future assignment in the RCC. Original staffing consisted of a chief, five engineers, one technician, and a secretary. All funding for RCC's mission was provided by Operation and Maintenance (O&M) funds.

The mission and responsibilities of the Reservoir Control Center was specifically identified and documented in Engi-

neering Regulations from OCE (ER 1110-2-1400). The mission and responsibilities have not changed over the years and the primary objective is to improve capabilities of the Corps of Engineers to perform the Civil Works water control management mission as follows:

a. Directing regulation of the New England District's reservoirs and hurricane barriers.

b. Collecting, analyzing, database management and interpreting hydrologic and meteorological data for real time water control/regulation purposes.

c. Preparing and revising regulation plans and manuals for individual reservoirs, system of reservoirs, and hurricane barriers.

d. Developing products for data dissemination, public information, and real time water control decision making.

e. Meeting with field personnel, as well as other federal, state, and local authorities, to discuss regulation responsibilities/issues and/or modifications to existing operating procedures.

The full-time staff of the RCC are responsible primarily for "management" of these activities, which require expert knowledge of the engineering and scientific aspect of the work involved. RCC will rely on the hydrology and hydraulics elements of Engineering Division to provide support in the form of technical assistance, analysis, etc. as needed.

Over the years, RCC's real-time hydrologic data collection infrastructure has expanded from 41 platforms to 92 data collection platforms and continues to transmit data to new generations of GOES Satellites and is received at our Concord office. Current RCC staffing consists of a chief and four engineers to manage 31 dams, two hurricane barriers, and real time data collection interrogation from 92 data collection platforms. The special characteristics of an RCC employee has not changed over the years and continues to be a highly skilled and motivated engineer that possesses strong hydrologic and technical skills proficient in real time data collection equipment and techniques, as well as sound communication skills between the Concord office and field personnel at our projects. The chief has a highly dynamic job that shifts from supervising four engineers to over 80 employees (field personnel) during flood events.

The Reservoir Control Center has seen three chiefs in its history:

Joe Finegan, P.E. (1971-1988);

Farrell McMillan, P.E. (1988-1991); and,

the current Chief, Paul Marinelli, P.E. (1991 – Present).

Current staff of the RCC is:

Greg Hanlon, P.E. – collocated at CRREL Office; Steve Simmer; Dan Stenstream; and Brian Waz all at Concord Office.

Teamwork saves a life at New England District

Continued from page 3

nearby the New England District cafeteria when they were told that a visitor to the District, Clara Brown of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Chicago Office, collapsed in the theatre while attending a training class.

McNutt, Fletcher and Lashua rushed to the scene where they found Brown unconscious and not breathing. They asked someone to call 911 and get the AED.

AEDs were purchased for the District several years ago in case of such an emergency.

While they waited for help to arrive, the nurses began using CPR to revive Brown. "Everyone was very calm," said McNutt of the rescue. "People weren't crowding around her, which was a good thing. It could have been detrimental to the work we were trying to do at the time."

Meanwhile David Bauman of the Sacramento District and Katherine Will of the Norfolk District ran to the front desk to get help. Concord Park Security Guard Robert Bright attempted to call 911, but had trouble connecting.

While he continued to try to get medical help, he contacted Newhall who was stationed at the outside guard shack . While Bright made the calls, Bauman and Will grabbed the AED and ran back to the theatre.

Newhall received the call on his radio and quickly made his way to the theatre and took over rescue breaths while the nurses hooked up the AED to Brown.

After one shock from the AED, Brown's pulse was restored, but weak. The nurses continued chest compressions and Newhall gave rescue breaths until military doctor Brian Busconi arrived on the scene and took over. Concord Park Health Unit Nurse Linda Lindell also arrived with oxygen.

Brown's pulse continued to strengthen and rescue breaths were administered until the ambulance arrived.

Brown was transported to Emerson Hospital in Concord, Mass., where she recovered and was released eight days later. McNutt said the rescue went well. "It must have been very frightening both to her and her family to be so far away from home and to be taken ill like that. But in the end it all went well."

"The outcome was amazing," agreed Newhall. "Sometimes in situations like that you can't bring them back. She was lucky."

Young volunteers touch up the stairs at West Hill Dam.

Volunteers paddle out to one of the work projects at West Hill Dam.

Photos by C.J. Allen

District projects celebrate National Public Lands Day

New England District's West Hill Dam and Westville Lake both held volunteer day celebrations in honor of National Public Lands Day. The events took place at West Hill on Sept. 23 and at Westville Lake on Sept. 30. The national theme for this year's NPLD was "Helping Hands for America."

A record 179 volunteers arrived at West Hill Dam in Massachusetts ready to do some serious improvements, which totaled $14,500 in savings to the federal government. Work performed included grassland restoration- seed planting and tree clearing; river access pathway and log boom resting pad; trail clearing-woodland trail; ornamental bulb planting- park and dam; West River canoe/kayak trail clearing (via canoe); wood duck box- cleaning and installation x 3; Bluebird habitat clearing; box culvert-restoration- seeding and stone headwall.

Approximately 52 people attended the Westville Lake event and performed work valued at $2,814. Work at Westville Lake, also located in Massachusetts, included applying a stone dust surface to 500 feet of the Westville lake community trail, Southbridge side; seeding and loaming 300 feet of the Westville Lake community trail, Southbridge side; removing low limbs and side trimming 800 feet of the Westville Lake community trail, Southbridge side; installing one accessible picnic table installed along the Heritage trail, Southbridge; installing five trail side benches installed along the Grand Trunk Trail, Westville Park, Sturbridge; installing one trail side bench along the Westville Lake Community trail, Southbridge side; removing 2,500 feet of trail in the Hein's property, Sturbridge, low limbs, dead trees and trailside brush; picking up approximately 40 pounds of trash from along roads, trails and along the Quinebaug River in Westville Park, Southbridge and Sturbridge, and reclaiming and remulching a 20'x 64' wild flower bed at the East Brimfield Lake Dam in Sturbridge, Mass. In addition, eight attendees were trained in invasive plant identification and proper removal techniques, after which they removed 320 invasive plants along the Heritage trail in Southbridge.

After a long day's work, volunteers at both projects were treated to a barbecue lunch donated by local sponsors.

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.

Photo provided by Tom Chamberland

Crew One at Westville Lake install a bench along the Grand Trunk Trail at Westville Lake Park in Sturbridge.

Two boys fly fish on the Pemigewasset River during their vacation.

Photos by Jennifer Rockett and Ken Crawford

Atlantic Salmon restoration program at Franklin Falls Dam

by Jennifer Rockett
Franklin Falls Dam

Franklin Falls Dam offers a unique sport-fishing opportunity in the Pemigewasset River -- the Atlantic brood stock salmon program. N.H. Fish and Game and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service along with the Franklin Falls rangers stocked tagged brood salmon in early October, averaging two pounds each, into the Pemigewasset River, providing some challenging catch-and-release fishing at a beautiful time of year.

The brood salmon are stocked in both, spring and fall of each year, and it is not uncommon for the fish to average over 10 pounds. The brood stock program, operating since 1993, is part of the Merrimack River Basin Fish Restoration Program.

The brood fish provide eggs for the restoration program's fry-stocking efforts in the spring.

The Franklin Falls rangers actively work together with N.H. Fish and Game stocking over one million fry in the Pemigewasset River and its tributaries.

The brood stock program has generated a lot of enthusiasm among anglers, the sport-fishing opportunity attracts visitors from all over New England.

Park Ranger Mike Hayward discusses the fisheries program with John Greenwood, a N.H. Fish and Game Fisheries biologist and a local guide.

Pie Fest 2006:

New England District employees celebrate year-end with dessert

Dozens of New England District employees celebrated the end of another successful fiscal year by attending one of the most popular events at the District, the WE Committee's Pie Fest, Oct. 5 in the Massachusetts and Connecticut Conference Rooms.

The Pie Fest, headed by Bob Meader with the assistance of Joan Gardner, Mary Christopher and many volunteers, is an annual event to thank New England District employees for their hard work throughout the fiscal year. New England District employees volunteered many gallons of apple cider, both mulled and cold, soft drinks, and 45 pies that were either homemade or store bought for the occasion. "The success of the Pie Fest is in its simplicity: free pie from friends," said Bill Hubbard. "Everyone who contributed should be congratulated, especially the Chairman of the Pie – Bob Meader!"

According to Meader, the WE Committee had so many goodies, they invited the CBHCO located downstairs, the local Hanscom Federal Credit Union office and New England District contract guards and custodial staff to join in.

Pie Fest organizer Bob Meader (left) takes a breather from the festivities with Jo-Ann Dawber.

The decorations throughout the room gave the Pie Fest a good old New England Harvest celebration feel.

Photos by Brian Murphy

(from left) Mary Christopher, Terry Negron and Joan Gardner prepare the pies for the annual WE Committee Pie Fest.

(from left) Evamarie D'Antuono, Col. Curtis Thalken, and Bob Davis enjoy good conversation and good pie.

Dot Tinkham (center) gives Tony Mackos a helping hand with cutting a pie.

Army starts riverbank stabilization project along the Charles River Park at the former Army Materials Technology Laboratory in Watertown

by Robert Davis
Engineering/Planning

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, started construction on the Charles River Enhanced Shoreline Stabilization Project (CRESSP) at the Charles River Park parcel at the former Army Materials Technology Laboratory (AMTL) Superfund Site in Watertown, MA, on Sept. 25 with completion scheduled by November. The 11-acre Charles River Park parcel, part of AMTL, was transferred to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) by the Army in 2004.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) determined, with concurrence from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) on Sept. 8, that all appropriate response actions under Superfund law have been completed and are protective of human health and the environment and is currently proposing that the AMTL Superfund Site be deleted from the National Priorities List.

Institutional control inspections and five year reviews will continue to occur and this deletion does not preclude future Superfund actions.

The latest 'five-year review,' completed in March 2006 concluded that the remedy at the Charles River Park parcel, an area with contaminated soil remaining, is protective of human health and the environment in the short-term because there is no evidence of exposure.

However, in order for the remedy to remain protective in the long-term, the Army will stabilize the riverbank and eliminate any erosion into the Charles River by construction of the CRESSP this fall.

In addition to its primary purpose of stabilizing the riverbank, the CRESSP will also enhance the wildlife habitat by planting a variety of conservation seed mixes, woody plants such as elderberry and silky dogwood and river birch and silver maple trees.

The final restoration project design by ENSR Corporation of Westford, Mass., is the direct result of collaborative effort between the community, the USEPA, the MADEP, and the Army and is consistent with the DCR's current Charles River Vegetation Management Plan. The local citizens, members of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), provided extensive input into the project that was also coordinated with the Watertown Conservation Commission. The CRESSP is being built by Watermark Environmental, headquartered in Lowell, Mass., and will serve as a model for future riverbank stabilization and wildlife habitat enhancements along the Charles River corridor.

Work continues at the Charles River Park in Watertown. Photo by Ray Goff

Contract awarded for Narraguagus River dredging in Milbridge

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

Narraguagus River in Milbridge, Maine, will be dredged under the terms of a $1,060, 190 contract issued recently by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

The dredging, which will be accomplished by Prock Marine Company, of Rockland, Maine, will begin on or about Nov. 1, and take about three to five months to complete.

The contract calls for maintenance dredging of about 10,200 cubic yards of material from the 9-foot channel; 20,600 cubic yards of material from the 6-foot channel, turning basin, and northwest anchorage; 14,100 cubic yards of material from the 9-foot east anchorage; and removal of about 160 cubic yards of debris and heavy boulders.

The federal project serves the commercial fishing and lobstering fleet, aquaculture operations, a fish packing facility, and a small recreational fleet.

Disposal of the estimated 45,060 cubic yards of dredged material will be in Narraguagus Bay, north of Douglas Island, about 6 miles away. The dredging window is Nov. 1, 2006 to Apr.15, 2007.

All work will be accomplished under the supervision of a Corps of Engineers inspector to assure compliance with contract requirements.

Television host Mike Rowe checks the gas meter before entering the hole.

Hit television show visits Hurricane Barrier during dewatering

by Christopher D. Way
Project Manager Hop Book Lake/ Acting Opns. Mgr. Naugatuck River Basin

One rainy August morning, Naugatuck River Basin Environmental Compliance Coordinator Steven "Patch" Patchkofsky approached me with an idea. "Hey, you know that show "Dirty Jobs?" he said. Of course I knew it (it's one of my favorite shows). "Yeah, I love that show," I replied. Steve continued, "Well, I've got this idea…"

If you have ever watched this celebration of mess and muck on the Discovery Channel, you'll note that at the end of the program, show host Mike Rowe asks viewers if they have any

Crew members dress in preparation for dewatering the Stamford Hurricane Barrier.

Mike Rowe prepares to enter the inside of the Stamford Hurricane barrier gate.

"Dirty Jobs" cameraman film U.S. Army dive crew members making preparations for the underwater inspection as other personnel watch.

"dirty jobs" that would be of interest. Patch had a great idea.

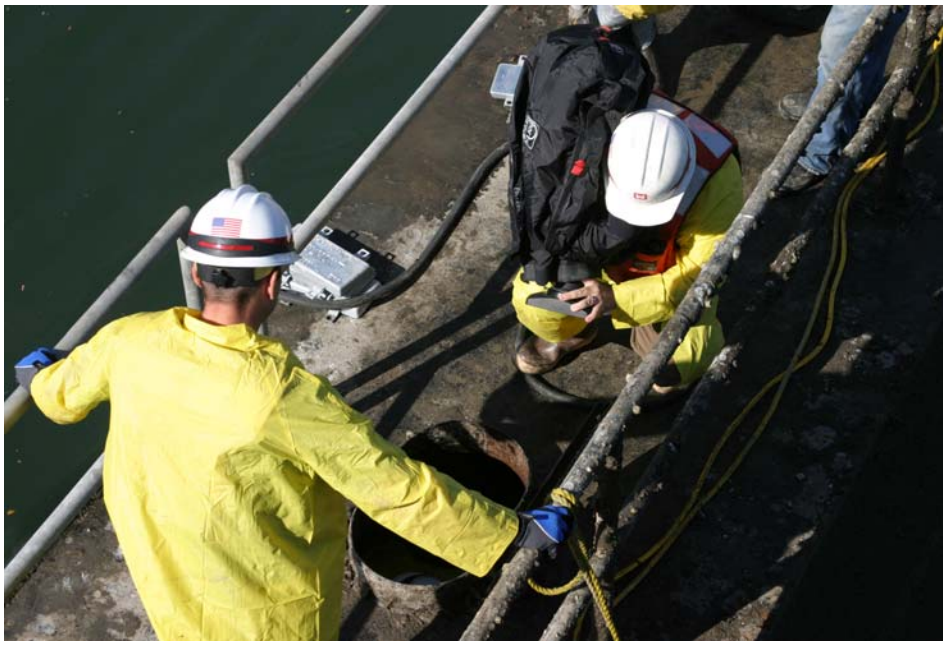
He proposed to have "Dirty Jobs" participate in the dewatering/inspection of the navigation gate at the Stamford Hurricane Barrier, located in Stamford, Conn. The rest is history.

Then again, making history is never easy.

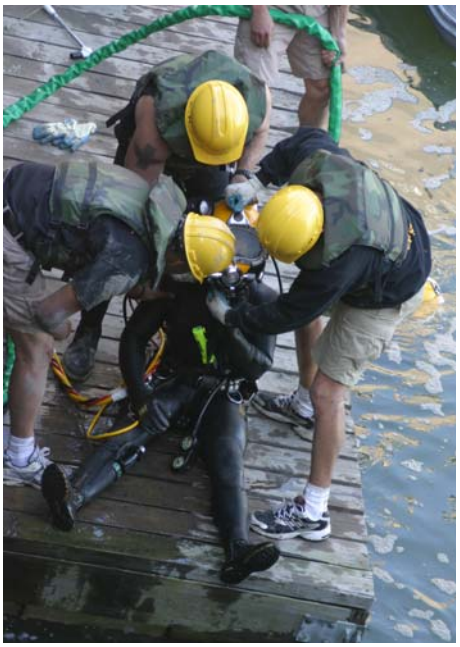
Taking advantage of the long Columbus Day holiday, New England District team members, navy divers and the crew and host of the Discovery Channel's hit show, "Dirty Jobs" arrived at the Stamford Hurricane Barrier where they would begin a segment documenting on one of the dirtiest jobs in the New England -- the dewatering of the hurricane barrier.

The actual work involved the inspection and replacement of cathodic protection/sacrificial anodes, and underwater inspections of portions of the gate. Crews from the U.S. Army 511th Dive Unit from Ft. Eustis, Va., and New England District team members performed the work.

The barrier was built in 1969 to protect the residents and to date has saved the public $26 million in damages.



"Dirty Jobs" cameraman films footage of host Mike Rowe inside the Stamford Hurricane Barrier gate.



U.S. Army personnel help their diver out of the water after the underwater inspection.

Dredging up the past . . .

Attendees of the Project Operations and Readiness Conference held in Newport, R.I., from Feb 15-18, 1994 pose for a picture. How many people can you pick out of this picture?

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