



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

Volume 43, No. 2

# Yankee Engineer

November 2008



Mill River in Stamford, Conn.

Photo provided by Adam Burnett

## New England District awards the contract for environmental restoration of Mill River, Mill Pond

by Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs

Environmental restoration of the Mill River and Mill Pond, in Stamford, Conn., is now underway with the recent award of a \$5.79 million contract by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

The Corps of Engineers has awarded a construction contract to Green Seal Environmental, Inc. of Sandwich, Mass. The contracted work will begin in November 2008 and take about

two years to complete.

The project, conducted under the Corps' Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration program, involves restoring the aquatic and riparian resources of Mill River to a healthy, viable, and self-maintaining river system, including restoration of anadromous fish passage. The river's ecosystem is degraded by a 10-foot-high concrete dam, a sediment-laden impoundment, concrete walls bordering the river that eliminate floodplain habitat, and invasive plant species, including phragmites, or common

reed, a non-native species, that impact riparian areas and intertidal marshes.

Restoration measures include dewatering Mill Pond using 35,000 square feet of sheet piling; demolition of the 10-foot-high, 140-foot-long, concrete dam upstream of Main Street; removal of 2,200 linear feet of concrete retaining walls and fill bordering the Mill Pond; associated demolition of pavement, trees, and walkways; and removal of an abandoned concrete dam that impedes tidal flows under the

*Continued on page 6*

# Yankee Voices



Martha Labbe and Bonnie Ortiz  
WE Committee Pretzel Sale

## New England District's Inclement Weather Program

The New England District Inclement Weather Program is up and running for the 2008-2009 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.
- **WOKQ (97.5 FM)** – Dover, NH
- **Channel 7's storm force online:**  
<http://www3.whdh.com/stormforce/>

Please note that due to volumes of requests by schools to have their information posted as a priority, Channel 7 will no longer be posting the District's information on television. It will still be listed on their website above.

## Congratulations

...to **Ben Loyd** of the Environmental Resources Branch, for being selected as the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for November. Loyd is being recognized for his technical support during the repair of the underwater contaminated sediment carrier pipe at the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site. On Sept. 16 a break was discovered in the 12 inch double walled underwater carrier pipe that resulted in the shutdown of dredging operations. A quick response team including divers was mobilized and repair equipment was brought to the site. Loyd was a critical member of the response team that reviewed and approved the emergency dive team's required dive plan and supervised the underwater activities during the course of the repair operation. Loyd was on site for the entire repair operation which required four 16-hour days of underwater operation.

## Sympathy

- ...to **Tom Fredette**, Regulatory, on the passing of his mother, Josephine "Jo" Fredette, Oct. 26.
- ... to **Kenneth Holstein**, Construction/Operations, on the passing of his mother, Oct. 27.
- ...to **Paul Battista and Christine Johnson-Battista**, Construction/Operation, on the passing of Paul's mother, Anne, Nov. 3.
- ... to **Mary Christopher of ACE-IT** and her husband, Robert Levesque, on the passing of Mary's father Clifford "Chris" Zenas Christopher, Jr, who passed away on Nov. 8.
- ...to **Joan Gardner** of Con-Ops and her husband, David, on the passing of her mother-in-law, Vivian Gardner, Nov. 12.

## Correction

In addition to the National Water Team members that were listed on page 11 in the October 2008 issue of the Yankee Engineer under the Town Meeting article, we would like to add **Reese Piper, Dale Berkness, and Brett Markure**, who were also instrumental in the team's success.

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>

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# Commander's Corner: Don't forget our Veterans

"And they who for their country die  
Shall fill an honored grave,  
For glory lights the soldier's tomb,  
And beauty weeps the brave. "

-Joseph Rodman Drake

by Col. Philip T. Feir  
District Commander

Team,  
On Nov. 11 we at the New England District celebrate Veterans Day, a day that honors the millions of men and women who served in the armed forces. Many have given their lives to defend our country. Once called Armistice Day, Nov. 11 marks the anniversary of the signing of a treaty between the Allied and Central Powers in 1918 to end World



War I. The Armistice prompted a day of spontaneous parades, business closings and general rejoicing around the globe. In 1938, Congress proclaimed that "each November 11 shall be dedicated to the cause of world peace and ... hereafter known as Armistice Day."

Today, more than 25 million Americans wear the proud title of Veteran, or retired military. Their ranks include young men and women who gave good years to our all-volunteer military and recently returned to civilian life. Our veterans include more than 11 million men and women from the conflicts of Korea and Vietnam, who earned this nation's gratitude and respect. More than four million living Americans served in World War II, under the command of Eisenhower and Bradley and Nimitz. And let us not forget those who were in uniform and served under Woodrow Wilson when he was Commander-in-Chief as the guns of World War I went silent 90 years ago.

On this Veterans Day, with our nation at war, Americans are deeply aware of the current military struggle and of

recent sacrifice. Young Americans have died to liberate Iraq and Afghanistan. They died to secure freedom in those countries. The loss is terrible. It is borne especially by the families left behind. These honorable men and women died in distant lands to fight terror, to advance freedom and to protect America. They did not live to be called Veterans, but this nation will never forget their lives of service and all they did for us.

Today many thousands are following their duty at great risk. Today and every day, the prayers of the American people are with those who wear our country's uniform. They serve a great cause and they follow a great tradition, handed down to them by America's veterans. Our veterans from every era are the finest of citizens. We owe them the freedom we know today. They command the respect of the

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Veterans Day isn't just another day off – it means something. If you know a Veteran, especially those who served in combat, I urge you to show your appreciation for all that they've done by saying 'thank you.'

- Col. Philip T. Feir

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American people, and they have our lasting gratitude.

Veterans Day isn't just another day off – it means something. If you know a Veteran, especially those who served in combat, I urge you to show your appreciation for all that they've done by saying "thank you."

We have many Veterans working here in New England District. We have tried to honor them in a small way by creating a web site that features their names, ranks, and where available, a picture of them in uniform. The intranet address is <https://naeiis/exec/naeveterans/naevets.htm>. I have visited the site and would like to thank everyone listed for your service then and now.

Enjoy the holiday, stay safe, and when you have a moment, remember those in uniform who have served our nation.

**Building Strong!**

## Sense of adventure, need to help people bring Mike Tuttle to Republic of Georgia

New England District employees are answering the call to volunteer in support of the War Against Terrorism. A good many deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan, but some go to more obscure locations where the need for help by the Corps is just as critical. One such place is Tbilisi in the Republic of Georgia – and one such employee is Mike Tuttle.

Tuttle deployed for Tbilisi on Oct. 6. The decision to volunteer didn't come easy. "I had some apprehensions before accepting this TDY – the August conflict between Georgia and Russia and the aftermath were my main concerns," he said.

But the call to serve was strong, as was Tuttle's sense of adventure and desire to help those who needed help.

"I saw this assignment as a once in a lifetime opportunity to go to another part of the world and provide some assistance to ongoing construction projects," he said. "And although it wasn't my primary reason, in these economic times, the extra money is nice."

Tuttle's job title is usually Study Manager in the Planning Branch. But while he's working in the Republic of Georgia, he serves as a Project Engineer/Construction Representative in the Georgia Project Office. "As a Project Engineer/Construction Representative, I am responsible for providing quality assurance and interpretation of contract documents," he said. The job of Project Engineer is not unfamiliar to Tuttle—he deployed to New Orleans in the spring of 2006 during Task Force Hope.

The Corps of Engineers currently has a \$12 million Construction Program throughout the Republic of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Tuttle is currently working on three projects:

- The Police Academy Construction Project in Tbilisi consists of constructing a three-story living quarters



*Mike Tuttle attends a Supra while working in the Republic of Georgia.*

building for future Tbilisi Police cadets. The project also includes a Gymnasium and Pistol Range. "We're currently designing an Obstacle Training Course to complement the Gymnasium," said Tuttle.

- The Forensic Laboratory Rehabilitation Project in Tbilisi consists of rehabbing a nine-story building with new amenities.

- The Kazbegi Border Crossing Station, which is located within a half mile from the Russian border.

"My three projects are essentially in the same status, which is the foundations and exterior walls have been cast and the roofing system installed," said Tuttle. "We are making a big push to weather-tight the facilities before winter sets in."

According to Tuttle, with a little luck and favorable weather, the projects will be close to substantial completion before he leaves the country.

Tuttle isn't just making a difference with the projects he is helping to construct, he is also mentoring some of the Georgian Project Engineers, pro-

viding guidance and some lessons learned. In return, Tuttle is also learning from the engineers. "It's not just a one way street – they are teaching me Georgian Construction methods, which are quite different from our own," he said. "The safety of the workers is not as much of a priority as it is in the states. OSHA would be kept very busy here."

Although his projects are important, Tuttle says that the Corps of Engineers has projects ongoing that will dramatically improve the quality of life for the Georgian people. Once such project is the construction of a new two-story orphanage to replace the current decrepit facility. "Though this project is not under my responsibility, I had a chance to visit the current orphanage," he said. "The building is so inadequate. It's hard to put into words the emotion of seeing the living conditions these children and their caretakers endure every day. But the new building will triple the size of the old one and will provide a new heating and hot water system."

The Corps has recently completed



*A grateful student holds up a thank you sign during the Lachin Ribbon cutting ceremony*

a heating/hot water system installation to a health care facility, located in the mountain region, that provides medical and dental care to the surrounding villages. “Heat and hot water – it’s something so simple in the U.S. -- what we take for granted is really a luxury for some of these people.”

According to Tuttle, the Corps has

also completed the Lachin Elementary School, Kobulet Clinic and they are close to completing the Kutaisi Kindergarten School.

Despite the hard work and long hours, Tuttle says that life for him in the Republic of Georgia is not all hard hats and construction boots. “Since the Georgian Project Office is located in

the U.S. Embassy, I am fortunate to represent the Corps during Embassy functions. I’m so glad I brought a suit and tie!”

The region is a treasure trove for history buffs, as it had been conquered many times over the last 2,500 years, according to Tuttle. “Georgia was one of the first countries to incorporate a currency, minting with silver, gold and copper,” he said. “Historic ruins are everywhere – fortresses, castles, churches, some rebuilt and others in their natural state of ruin.”

The Project Engineer says he has also gotten the opportunity to experience some Georgian culture and customs. “Georgians are very religious, Orthodox Christians, and family oriented,” he said. “They have a wonderful custom, which is their celebratory feast called a ‘supra.’ I was invited to one after a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Lagodekhi Border Crossing Station. This is where the host provides traditional Georgian delicacies and wine to all. Supras can last many hours. I really enjoyed myself, but I had a hard time looking at the plate of roasted piglets.”

Overall, the Georgian people appreciate the work that the Corps is doing. “The majority of the Georgians welcome the U.S. presence,” he said. “I have had Georgians wanting to share their wine just because I’m an American here to help the Georgian People. They even rededicated the main thoroughfare to the airport as President George W. Bush Street.”

When Tuttle returns to the states on Dec. 19, the Republic of Georgia will have three new facilities, for which Tuttle provided quality control, and Tuttle will have memories that will last him a lifetime.

The New England District is looking for volunteers to deploy all over the world to help with the War on Terrorism. Any District employee that is interested in doing a tour overseas should contact Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre, New England District’s Deputy Commander.



*Historic Tbilisi in the Republic of Georgia.*

Photos provided by Mike Tuttle

## International St. Croix River Watershed Board releases state of St. Croix River Watershed Report

The International St. Croix River Watershed Board (the Board) released a bi-national “State of the Watershed Report” that outlines positive conditions and trends, but also spotlights problem areas and emerging issues of concern, Nov. 12.

Positive signs identified in the economic and environmental score card include the steady recovery of bald eagle populations since the 1960s and the 20-fold increase in protected lands since 1996.

The basin provides habitat for nine endangered or threatened animal species and three plant species. Overall forest cover is high at about 77 percent, water quality in the upper tributaries and lakes remains good to excellent and recreational use has grown.

However, conditions in the lower reaches of the river and estuary – while much improved in the past 40 years – leave much to be desired. Despite stricter regulations, there are still concerns over industrial outfalls, municipal waste and stormwater discharges, and agricultural runoff. Six major dams create scenic lakes, regulate extremes in water flow and generate clean hydropower, but also block natural migration of alewife and other fish species, altering the ecology of upstream areas.

Other ongoing concerns include atmospheric acid, mercury and particulates from upwind regions. The report points to the need for continued monitoring of environmental conditions, integrating information from both sides of the border, and for further study of

the impact of recent and projected climatic changes.

“This report gives stakeholders a common view of the entire watershed and a tool for understanding issues within that context,” said Col. Philip T. Feir, the United States co-chair of the Board and district engineer of the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

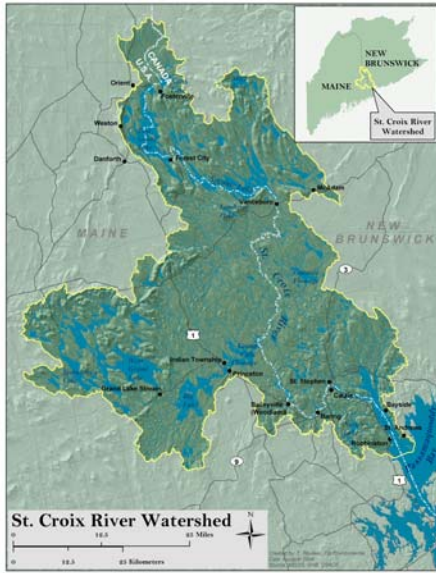
“The unified approach would not have been possible without the cooperation of many organizations across the border from the hydropower companies to governmental and non-profit natural resource managers,” said Bill Appleby, the

Canadian co-chair of the Board and Regional Director Meteorological Service of Canada, Environment Canada Atlantic.

The report was prepared under the guidance of the International St. Croix River Watershed Board as part of an effort by the International Joint Commission (IJC) to promote a grassroots, integrated approach to conserving water resources along the Canada-United States border. It does not represent a formal position taken by the Board on specific issues.

More information about the IJC and the Board is available online at: [www.ijc.org](http://www.ijc.org). “St. Croix River: State of the Watershed Report, Maine and New Brunswick” may be downloaded from the Board’s website at: [http://www.ijc.org/conseil\\_board/st\\_croix\\_river](http://www.ijc.org/conseil_board/st_croix_river).

(PAO/IJC News Release.)



## Mill River, Mill Pond Environmental Restoration

*Continued from page 1*

Pulaski Street bridge.

Work also includes: excavation and disposal off-site of approximately 5,800 cubic yards of sediment behind the dam; moving and grading of approximately 20,000 cubic yards of fill material at the Mill Pond site; and excavation and disposal off-site of 3,300 cubic yards of organic material. In addition, 1.5 acres of the riparian and floodplain corridor will be restored by removing exotic and invasive plant species and planting native riparian trees and shrubs. About 1,100 feet of river channel in the Mill Pond reach will be restored to a free-flowing river with constructed riffles and pools using strategically-placed boulders, river stone, and cobbles.

“This project will restore the riparian and aquatic ecosystems of this degraded urban river and reconnect the river with Long Island Sound,” said Project Manager Adam Burnett, of the Corps’ New England District, Engineering and Planning Division. “Degradation is a result of centuries of dam and channel modifications, excess sedimentation related to urban storm water runoff, and blockage of daily tidal flows.”

The Corps of Engineers, New England District will oversee the construction phase of this project. The city of Stamford is the non-Federal sponsor and will oversee operations and maintenance once the contract is completed.

## New Trail Completed at Franklin Falls Recreation Area

by **Matt Bowser**  
New England Mountain Bike Club

On the weekend of Oct. 18-19, members of Central New Hampshire New England Mountain Bike Association (CNH NEMBA), the Tilton School Mountain Bike team, and local volunteers completed work on the Rouge Mountain Bike Trail at the Franklin Falls Recreation Area. The new trail features several off camber bench cuts, tough climbs, and some fantastic views. Once fully packed in, it will be a great addition to the growing inventory of mountain bike trails at the park. In the past 18 months, CNHNEMBA has completed nine new trails at Franklin Falls. Counting the original existing trails, this brings the total number of trails in the park to 14.

On Oct. 18, the Tilton School mountain bike team came out and put in a few hours of hard work. Seven mountain bike team members led by Coach George Lapierre joined forces with Mike Geldermann of CNHNEMBA. Great progress was made establishing the initial portion of the trail. Hallie Geldermann and Josie Girona also chipped in to help.

Work continued on Oct. 19 with good support from the

local mountain biking community. Nine people contributed to the effort including eight CNHNEMBA members. Fully fueled with nutritious donuts and coffee, work started at 10 a.m. that morning. The group split into two teams and started from opposite ends of the trail. Approximately four hours later they met in the middle and the Rouge Trail was created.

After inspecting each others' efforts, everyone was convinced they had worked harder and built a better section than the other team. Next up, the test pilots mounted and rode. With a few suggested tweaks, the general impression was two thumbs up. Special thanks to NEMBA members Kevin Orłowski, Mike Henderson, Rhonda Blackey, Jesse McGowan, Grant Drew, Matt Bowser, Mike Geldermann and Scott Pelletier.

Also thanks to John Ferrante for his effort. Big thanks go to George Lapierre and the Tilton School Mountain Bike Team for their help on Saturday.

All in all, a great effort. Over 60 volunteer hours were logged for the weekend to make it all happen. As always, special thanks go to the Army Corps of Engineers at Franklin Falls

for giving us the opportunity to build sustainable trails at the park.



Photo by Jennifer Rockett

*The new Rouge Mountain Bike Trail at Franklin Falls.*

## Corps of Engineers Awards \$11 million contract for design/construction project at Hanscom Air Force Base

by **Timothy Dugan**  
Public Affairs Office

A U.S. Air Force Acquisition Management Facility will be constructed at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Mass., under the terms of an \$11,087,000 contract issued recently by the New England District.

The design/build contract was awarded to J&J Contractors/BBIX Joint Venture of Lowell, Mass. Work includes the design and construction of a 39,719 square foot office building to support the construct acquisition management personnel and functions.

This building is intended to be Phase I of a two phase project that will require a DB Contractor to coordinate the planned future expansion for a Phase II facility. The building shall be a structure of brick veneer exterior. Design of the new facility shall be in accordance with UFC 4-610-01 Administrative facilities. The existing Building 1600 shall be demolished under separate contract at the completion of Phase II of the Acquisition Management Facility.

Design work began in October and construction is set to begin in March 2009. Work will be accomplished under the supervision of a Corps of Engineers construction representative to assure compliance with contract requirements.

# Dredging up the past . . .



*Attendees at the 1980 Project Operations Conference held in Northhampton, Mass., pose for a photo on the final day of the event. (Photo provided by Joe Faloretti)*

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