



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New England District

# Yankee Engineer

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## Celebration at project marks 60 years of service

Edward MacDowell Lake in Peterborough, N.H., celebrated 60 years of service and flood protection to the region, July 31. The event was attended by hundreds of local residents and offered tours of the facility, historic photographs of the floods of 1936 and 1938, an exhibit on the life of Edward MacDowell and an exhibit on the dedication ceremony that took place on July 28, 1950 with Mrs. Marion MacDowell accompanied by Congressman Norris Cotton and Senator Charles Tobey.

Displays included historic photos of Peterborough, flood photos, pictures of the dam's dedication on July 28, 1950 and the history of American Composer Edward MacDowell for whom the dam was named as well as the artistic colony he founded in 1895 in Peterborough. While viewing the displays, participants were able to listen to some of the recorded music created by MacDowell, who was America's first internationally recognized composer.

The dam at Edward MacDowell Lake is located on Nubanusit Brook in Peterborough, about 14 miles east of Keene. Edward MacDowell Dam provides flood risk management protection primarily to Peterborough, but to a smaller extent, the communities of Hancock, Bennington, Antrim, Deering, Hillsboro and Henniker, which are all located downstream on the Contoocook River.



Photo by Brian Murphy

*Celebration attendees make their way to the Edward MacDowell gate house for a tour.*

Formerly the West Peterborough Dam, the project was renamed to Edward MacDowell Dam under Public Law 516, 81<sup>st</sup> Congress (HR 5472), section 206, page 22. This legislation was sponsored by Senator Tobey and Congressman Cotton in 1949.

Construction of the dam began in March 1948 and was completed in March 1950 at a cost of \$2 million. The project consists of an earth fill dam with stone slope protection 1,100 feet long and 67 feet high with a capacity of more than four billion gallons of water.

There is a conservation pool at the project covering an area of 165 acres and has a maximum depth of about seven feet. The flood storage area of the project totals 840 acres and covers parts of Hancock, Dublin and Harrisville. The lake and all associ-

ated project lands cover 1,469 acres. This is equivalent to 5.4 inches of water covering its drainage area of 44-square miles.

To date, Edward MacDowell Lake has prevented damages of about \$16.1 million.

In addition to its flood risk management protection operations mission, Edward MacDowell Lake also has a small recreation area. Amenities include two pavilions, multiple picnic and grill locations throughout the park, beach, volleyball net, horseshoe pits and playground. Canoes, rowboats and other small boats are permitted.

Project land also offers trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobile trails and other activities. More than 80,000 visitors annually enjoy the year-round recreational opportunities the project has to offer.

# Yankee Voices

Dan Bradley  
Survey Section



## Safe removal of something in your eye

The blinking and tears that come from when something gets caught in your eye helps safely flush out foreign objects. If they don't work, here are other safe methods of getting out eye irritants:

- Flush the eye with lukewarm water in a juice glass. Rest the rim of the glass on the base of your eye socket, hold your head back, and pour in the water.

- If something is in the white of your eye, lift it off with a moistened cotton swab.

- If something is under the upper lid, pull the lid forward to let the object slide down.

- Remember – Never rub your eyes  
(*First Draft Magazine*)

## Congratulations

...to **David O'Connor** of the North Central Resident Office who is the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for August 2010. O'Connor is a Project Engineer for the White River Junction Army Reserve Center, the Elizabeth Mines Superfund Project, White River Junction Veterans Administration, and projects at several of the Corps dam sites.

O'Connor's customers consist of the Army, EPA, VA and Operations basins. O'Connor is diligent in his work, performs his duties independently and very quietly. He works long hours, travels far and frequently and will do anything to complete his projects successfully. He is respected and well liked by his customers, peers and his supervisors.

All his customers are happy with O'Connor's work as he completes his projects with high quality and safety. He's known for taking on any assignment and willingly works long hours to complete them. If there are projects that encounter design issues, O'Connor proactively offers suggestions to rectify the problems which are usually accepted by his peers in the Corps and the customers he works with. He's a total team player and puts the mission above himself.

## Sympathy

... to the family of retiree **James Towers** who passed away, July 8.

...to **Shellagh Gooley Korowski** of the Lower Connecticut River Basin Office, on the passing of her stepmother, **Helen A. (Bollinger) Gooley**, July 31.

## Words Worth Repeating

"My future starts when I wake up every morning. Every day I find something creative to do with my life."

- *Miles Davis*





The plane wreckage after it was pulled from the water near the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. (Photo by Kevin Burke)

## Canal Team assists in plane crash rescue

Immediate action by members of the Cape Cod Canal team helped save a man and his two young children when their small plane crashed into the Cape Cod Canal, Aug. 2.

The New England District Patrol Boat, AGAWAM, with operator Danny Bartolome and crew member Brendan Dogherty on board, was out controlling vessel traffic in the canal because the railroad bridge was down when they saw the plane in the canal under the Bourne Bridge.

The AGAWAM escorted the plane until it was clear of the land cut at Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

The plane took off and crashed seconds later, shortly after lift-off. A Good Samaritan small pontoon boat pulled the three people – a man and his two small sons – from the water and dropped them off on the AGAWAM, due to the plane being in shallow water. No one was injured in the crash. The rescue response was less than 10 minutes.

The plane was pulled out of the water by the Massachusetts Maritime Academy via crane the following day. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the crash.

Lending their valuable support during the rescue mission were Bob Blackwell and Paul Lyver in the Marine Traffic Control Center as well as Park Ranger

on Duty Michele Breen.

Although this was one of the most high profile, unusual rescues that the team has executed this year, it certainly wasn't the first or last. As of mid-August the Cape Cod Canal Team has performed 326 small boat assistances.



Canal patrol boat AGAWAM with the plane in the canal before the crash. (Photos by Ron Soderberg)



The plane attempting to take off. It crashed seconds later.

## Two employees honored during Welcome Home ceremony

A deployment Welcome Home ceremony to honor Drew Clemens and John Garabedian took place in the Concord Park Cafeteria at noon on July 1. The ceremony is a new initiative sponsored by the Human Resources and Executive Offices to recognize District employees who deploy overseas. Michelle Clemens, Drew Clemens' wife, also attended the ceremony.

Lt. Col. Steven Howell, New England District Deputy Commander, welcomed the two men home. "It is a big commitment, both by the individual and their families that allow them to deploy," he said. "We care and are very appreciative of everything that you're doing when you volunteer to go and place yourself in harm's way."

Garabedian, who deployed with the Massachusetts Air National Guard, was attached to both the 34<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Divisions (U.S. Army) for three months while he was stationed at Contingency Operating Base Basrah, Basrah International Airport in Southern Iraq. He was then restationed in February to Al Asad Airbase in Al Anbar Province, Western Iraq for three months where he worked with both the Air Force and the Navy.

During his tour, Garabedian served as an engineering assistant to help prepare for the drawdown of U.S. Military Forces in Iraq.

Part of his work while deployed involved surveying and providing visual representation of the Al Asad Air Base. The information Garabedian and his unit gathered will have many uses to include construction management, base maps, and drafting projects.



*John Garabedian receives the Bunker Hill plaque from Lt. Col. Steven Howell.*

Garabedian received the Bunker Hill Award, signed by New England District Commander Col. Philip Feir. He received the award in appreciation of his deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "Your dedication and your continued selfless service to your country is an inspiration to us all," said Gary Wilson, Human Resources, as he read the citation. "Your commitment and exceptional service sets a positive example for all New England District employees."

Garabedian thanked everyone for coming to the ceremony and also for all their support to him while he was deployed. "You know, it's really nice to know that when I was there, I had a lot of support from people here and that counts for a lot."

When talking about his experiences in Iraq, Garabedian said there were all sorts of tremendous opportunities to experience. "There's a lot of engineering going on over there," he said. "You see and learn a lot

of things. It's an interesting world out there. Yeah, you can certainly be put into harm's way, but if you want to learn a little bit about Iraqi culture and things of that nature, there's that opportunity to do so."

Clemens was deployed to Afghanistan for almost two years as a Civilian geologist for the Corps of Engineers, working on a water solution for the people of Afghanistan.

"They used to have a very sophisticated aqueduct system that would move water through the country, but it was destroyed," said Lt. Col. Howell. "They have some serious, serious water problems in Afghanistan. Kudos to Drew who had a huge job over there."

Clemens was the recipient of several prestigious awards for his work. The first was the NATO Medal, which he received for service with the agency in relation to the ISAF Operation from Oct. 1, 2008 to March 1, 2010.

The second award was a Com-

mander's Award for Civilian Service signed by Col. John Kem on May 4, 2009. Clemens received the award for Meritorious Service while serving on the FEST 18 in preparation for surge operations during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Clemens received another Commander's Award for Civilian Service, which was signed by Col. Feir, June 23, for outstanding achievement during the period October 2008 to May 2010. Clemens "performed his duties as a geologist in an outstanding manner in support of Operation Enduring Freedom," said Wilson.

The awards portion of the event ended with Clemens receiving the Superior Civilian Service Award. According to the citation, Clemens increased future capability in Afghanistan by procuring cutting-edge well logging equipment.

"Deployed to extremely arduous forward bases and often exposed to indirect enemy fire, his selfless efforts directly enabled force uplift and sustainability for 30,000 additional U.S. personnel while preserving the integrity of local population water," read Wilson. The citation was signed by Maj. Gen. Timothy McHale on Feb. 27.

In appreciation for her support to her husband, Michelle Clemens received a floral arrangement from the New England District.

Clemens said he could not have done his job without the support of his wife, Michelle, and his family. He also thanked his teammates in the Geology/Chemical Section of Engineering/Planning and his supervisor, Rose Schmidt, for their support during his deployment. "Without the expertise of the folks back home, we couldn't have gotten where we needed to be," he said.



Photos by Brian Murphy

*Drew Clemens received numerous honors during the Welcome Home ceremony.*

The emotional support given by his friends and co-workers at the District was also very much appreciated by Clemens. "The care packages were wonderful and it was good to know that folks were calling to make sure Michelle was okay," he said. "You've all been super."

Although the work was dangerous – at the ceremony Clemens said the Taliban kept shooting up trucks – it was an exciting and rewarding experience. "It was the best job I've had in the Corps of Engineers and I'll be glad to go back if my wife gives permission," he said.

Lt. Col. Howell announced that more New England District employees were either deploying or in the process of being deployed. Names mentioned included Farrell McMillan (Iraq), Bud Taylor (Afghanistan), Mike Hicks (Iraq) and Adam Burnett (Afghanistan). "We've got plenty of volunteers, but we're always looking for more," said Lt. Col. Howell.

New England District employees who are interested in volunteering are urged to speak with their supervisor and then contact Human Resources.



*Michelle Clemens receives a flower arrangement from Gary Wilson on behalf of the District.*

# Hysler retires with 30 years of service

Friends, coworkers and family members of Construction Representative Craig Hysler traveled to the Devens Grille, June 25, for a luncheon to celebrate his distinguished 30-year career and to wish him well upon his retirement.

Twenty-five people attended the event. Sean Dolan, Chief of Construction, served as Master of Ceremonies. Dolan and several of Hysler's coworkers talked about his career, told personal stories and presented him with gifts.

Lt. Col. Steven Howell, Deputy Commander of the New England District, presented Hysler with the Commander's Award for Civilian Service before officially retiring him by awarding the retirement certificate and pin.

Hysler began his career with the Corps in New England as a dredge inspector. Over the years, Hysler received promotions and took on increasing responsibilities until he became a construction representative, the position from which he retired.

Hysler has accomplished quite a lot during his years with the District. At one time or another, he worked on 44 of the 178 federal navigation projects in New England. He also completed three border patrol stations in Calais, Jackman and Van Buren, Maine, to name only a few.

"Craig worked on painting the Bourne Bridge during the summer of 1993 after a worker fell from the bridge and died," said Dolan. "He provided added construction oversight to the field team to help complete the project under difficult circumstances and added interest from OSHA."



*Lt. Col. Steven Howell presents Craig Hysler with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service.*

Hysler worked on other high-profile projects for the District, such as the environmental clean up of the Naval Fuel Annex in East Boston. Work on that project included closing pipelines that crossed an active runway at Logan Airport. "That project required extensive coordination with Massport due to the sensitive nature of working on an active airport and within the city community," said Dolan.

Hysler received a letter of appre-

ciation from the director of Massport in recognition of his efforts on the project. The letter was only one of many awards and citations Hysler received in his career, which includes the 2007 Hard Hat of the Year Award.

Hysler's wife, Diane, and son, Harlan, accompanied him to the retirement lunch. Retiree Bill Haynes attended the luncheon to welcome Hysler into the New England District retirement community.



*Craig Hysler greets guests during his retirement luncheon.*

Photos by Brian Murphy

## Safety demonstrations and interpretive breakout sessions highlight Seasonal Ranger Training

By Natalie McCormack  
Park Ranger

Forty-eight rangers attended the annual Seasonal Ranger Training, which took place June 3-4 at Headquarters in Concord Park.

This training, which was created to prepare seasonal hires for the responsibilities of their jobs, was developed by the New England District Interpretive Services and Outreach Program Committee, in collaboration with Basin Managers, Park Managers, Senior Park Rangers, and members from several departments within the District.

Each year, the training is used to familiarize new and returning seasonal employees with the Corps mission and goals.

In this year's training, some of the topics that were covered included the history of visitor assistance, maintaining a professional appearance, the history of the Corps of Engineers, Flood Control, and Navigation. But, the real emphasis was put on personal safety, and handling interactions with the public, whether it is assisting visitors with questions or presenting interpretive programs.

Now, it is no surprise that safety, which is paramount with the Corps of Engineers, was heavily discussed during both days of the training. Lessons on personal safety started on the first day with how to use Verbal Judo to reduce aggression and tension during unpleasant public interactions. This then led into how to use defensive techniques in the event that the Verbal Judo is not effective.

Heading up these activities was Chief Park Ranger

Chris Arthur, the special guest speaker from the Corps Project at Lake Sidney Lanier in the Mobile District.

The second day focused on wearing protective gear, such as hard hats, ear and eye protection, and bug repellent while out on the project. Wayne Johnson and Sheila Harvey from the District's Safety Office also briefly went over safe driving policies, and the Tick Awareness Program, as well as emphasized the importance of always practicing personal safety.



*This is a picture of two seasonal rangers practicing their self defense taught by Chris Arthur.*

Along with the various safety demonstrations, the second day was also centered on Interpretation. Another vital part of a summer ranger's job. Led by Rangers Karen Hoey, Zach Koziol, and Marissa Wright, seasonal employees were introduced to the idea of interpretation and how it plays a part in almost every interaction that they will have

with the public. These exchanges can range from handing out brochures, hanging posters, to giving programs on water safety and local flora and fauna. The instructors also touched on methods of giving a good presentation, including using the process of provoke, relate, and reveal, and knowing how to develop a topic that fits your audience.

Finally, after absorbing all this information the seasonal rangers were given a chance to demonstrate the interpretive skills that they had just learned. The rangers broke out into groups and developed their own programs to present. From the brief description of topic ideas each group was able to develop interesting and unique presentations, which included resource conservation, water safety, hiking safety, wildlife safety, and much more.

# Dredging up the past . . .



*Attendees at the Edward MacDowell ribbon cutting ceremony outside of the new gate house in this July 28, 1950 photo. Pictured left to right are Mr. Verney, New England Division Commander Col. Henry J. Woodbury, Governor Sherman Adams, Mrs. Marion MacDowell, U.S. Senator Charles Tobey, and U.S. Congressman Norris Cotton. The project celebrates 60 years of service to the nation this year.*

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