



**US Army Corps
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New England District

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West Hill Dam in Uxbridge, Mass.

File photo

West Hill Master Planning Guides Future Development Community trusts process

Employees of the New England District held a public information meeting at the Uxbridge High School in Uxbridge, Mass., April 27, to answer any questions or concerns the public may have had about the West Hill Dam Master Plan that is currently being updated by the District. The new update would rescind the current Design Memorandum Number 9 for Reservoir Development which is dated January 1962.

To ensure public awareness of the public meeting, over 50 public notice invitations were sent to local libraries and town administrators. In addition, press releases were sent to every media outlet in the area and

the meeting announcement was also posted on the New England District's Facebook and Twitter sites.

The employees at West Hill Dam have always had an open-door policy regarding the project, whether it regards questions or concerns updating the Master Plan or any subject the public would like to address. "If people have a question or concern, they just give us a call or stop in the office and we answer it for them," said Merl Bassett, Project Manager.

The West Hill Dam Master Plan will prescribe an overall land and water management plan, resource objectives, and associated design and management concepts which provide the best

possible combination of responses to regional needs, resource capabilities and suitabilities. It also invites public interests and desires consistent with the project's authorized flood reduction purposes. The Master Plan will cover all project resources including but not limited to fish and wildlife, vegetation, cultural, aesthetic, interpretive, recreational, commercial and outgranted lands, easements and water.

"The Master Plan has identified opportunities for continued improvement of existing recreation facilities and creation of a 26 acre legacy forest," said Basin Manager Robert Hanacek. "The legacy forest will be managed to restore

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Yankee Voices

Sarah DaSilva and Park Ranger Samantha Gray during Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day



Sympathy

...to **John Garabedian**, Survey Section, on the passing of his mother, Florence, May 9.

...to the family and friends of retiree **Hial Lobdell**, who passed away May 13. Mr. Lobdell was a longtime employee at Ball Mountain Dam, retiring in 1981, and who served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Thomaston Dam's 50th Anniversary Celebration

Come one, come all to discover and celebrate the past, present, and future of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Thomaston Dam, on Saturday, June 12, at the dam located at 331 Hill Road, Thomaston, Conn. There will be fun for all, so please bring the entire family as we celebrate our history. The Formal Ceremony starts at 10 a.m., and activities will run throughout the day.

Memorial Day: A solemn occasion

Memorial Day began in the 19th century as "Decoration Day." Citizens were urged to decorate the graves of Soldiers who'd died in the Civil War.

After World War I, Decoration Day expanded to include ceremonies honoring the dead in all of America's wars.

Decoration Day became Memorial Day officially in 1967. In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Act established it as one of three holidays (including Veteran's Day and George Washington's birthday, now called President's Day) celebrated on a Monday to create a convenient three-day weekend. Memorial Day is now observed on the last Monday in May.

One tradition of Memorial Day is the wearing of poppies. The custom is generally credited to Moina Michael, a former teacher at the University of Georgia, who was working for the YMCA Overseas War Secretaries at the end of World War I.

She was inspired by reading the poem "In Flanders Fields," by Canadian poet and doctor John McCrae. The poem's opening lines read:

*"In Flanders Fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row..."*

During the Overseas War Secretaries' annual conference held in New York City in 1918, shortly before the signing of the armistice ending the war, grateful delegates gave Michael \$10 in recognition of her help with the conference. She spent the money on 25 red silk poppies to hand out to participants (or she may have used the money on material to make the poppies herself.)

The poppy became a national symbol of remembrance, and two years later the American Legion adopted it at its own conference. Poppies have symbolized the day ever since. (*First Draft Magazine*)

Save the Date

Founder's Day 2010 is set for Wednesday, June 23 at Hanscom Air Force Base's Castle Park. The official ceremony will take place at 9 a.m., with lunch and various activities following. A flyer with details will be coming out soon. Interested retirees should contact Helen Newcomb at 978-318-8326 or Gladys Leone at 978-318-8307.





The New England District Color Guard and Lt. Col. Steven Howell march in the Patriot's Day parade in Concord, Mass.



A company of Minutemen wait for the parade to begin.

Photos by C.J. Allen

District represents Corps in Patriot's Day parade

New England District personnel continued their proud tradition of representing the Corps of Engineers in the Patriot's Day Parade in Concord, Mass., April 19.

Lt. Col. Steven Howell, Deputy District Commander, and the New England District Ranger Color Guard joined companies of Minutemen, Fife and Drum Units, Veterans and other dignitaries who marched in the three-mile parade to the delight of thousands of onlookers.

The parade passed by historic monuments such as the Old North Church and the North Bridge and then weaved its way through historic Concord Center.

The Patriot's Day parade is one of many events celebrated in Lexington and Concord that commemorates the opening

battle of the American Revolutionary War on April 19, 1775.

Only a few short months later on June 16, 1775, Boston native Col. Richard Gridley was named the Chief Engineer of the Massachusetts Volunteers and shortly after Chief Engineer of the newly formed Continental Army by Gen. George Washington.

Since the Corps in New England moved from its Waltham Headquarters to Concord in 1997, the town has invited the District to come and celebrate their common tie in history.

The District has been proud to represent the Corps of Engineers annually in the event.

Members of this year's Ranger Color Guard were Joe Faloretti, Mike Curran, Bradley Clark, Bob Hanacek, Steve Patchkofsky, Jason Robinson and Jenn Samela.

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some old-growth forest characteristics such as very large trees, snags, large downed logs and gaps in the forest canopy."

West Hill Dam is a public facility, which is why employees want public input into the Plan.

Bassett addressed that topic directly during his Master Plan Study Background and Overview during the meeting.

"No final decisions have been made by the Corps of Engineers with regard to the proposed Master Plan," he said. "It is crucial to this public process that your voice is heard; and we're here to listen to your comments, your concerns, and to provide you answers to your questions

regarding the proposed changes to the Master Plan."

The New England District will collect comments on the Master Plan until close of business May 27.

West Hill Dam is located on the West River. It is part of the system consisting of a reservoir and local protection work in the Blackstone River Basin.

The dam is operated in conjunction with other local protection projects in the Blackstone River Basin.

Construction of the dam was completed in June 1961 at a cost of about \$2.3 million.

As of September 2009 the facility has prevented approximately \$78.5 million in flood damages.



Carter Margolis launches his bottle rocket during the "Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day" event.

Photos by Brian Murphy

Kids learn about engineering and science during special event

The Federal Women's Program and the Equal Employment Office cosponsored the New England District's annual Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day, April 23 at Concord Park headquarters.

Thirty-six children participated in the wildly popular event. After a bingo ice breaker, Lt. Col. Steven Howell, Deputy District Commander, kicked off the event by welcoming the children and giving them an overview of all the fun (and educational) events they were going to participate in that day.

The children were then split into three groups and rotated through three morning sessions. Presenters at the beginning of each session explained the science behind the exercises in which they were about to engage. The first session was called "Physics Olympics," where the children were split into smaller groups and rotated through the three "Olympic" events. The first event was "Tallest Paper Tower," where children were given two sheets of paper and all the tape they wanted, to build the tallest tower. Engineering Intern Rachel Whitmore, who ran the event, said that the tallest structure stood about four and one half feet.

The second event in the Physics Olympics was titled "Tin Foil Boat." Children were provided with pieces of tin foil and instructed on how to build

a boat. The boats were then placed in a tub of water and pennies were placed in the boat. The most pennies put in the boats without sinking it won. According to Jesse Morrill-Winter, Engineering Intern and lead for the Tin Foil Boat event, an unbelievable 63 pennies were put into one boat during the event, breaking the day's record.

The third and final portion of the Physics Olympics was a lesson in paper airplane building. Andrew Cattano, Engineering Intern and paper plane expert, gave a demonstration on the proper way to fold and fly an effective paper

airplane. After the children folded their planes and decorated them, it was off to the "Runway" with the planes so the children could try to fly them. Planes were scored on flight time, distance, and accuracy of landing on target.

While Group One had fun at the Olympics, Group Two got to participate in an eggstraordinary event. The goal of the "Egg Drop" event seemed simple on the surface—build a structure that would protect the egg from breaking when dropped from various heights – but actually, keeping the egg from breaking was a really tough, but fun, challenge.



Carter Margolis and Shannon McMillan place pennies in their tin boat to see how many they can put in without it sinking.

First the children met in the New England Conference Room where they were given supplies -- straws, Popsicle sticks, bubble wrap, tape, cushioning, and elastic bands -- to make their structures. Engineering Interns Leanna Martin and Angela Repella spearheaded the exercise and said that 50 percent of the eggs in the structures were successfully saved from being scrambled at a drop from seven feet from the Logistics loading dock. Children whose eggs were intact were allowed to drop them from 10 feet to see if they would survive.

The final session of the morning gave children a chance to get up close and personal with wild animals they typically would never get to touch. "Animal Adaptations," presented by Park Ranger Karen Hoey, took a look at how animals native to New England make adaptations to their behavior, such as gaining weight, becoming less active, changing their pelts. She also discussed which animals stay and hibernate while others migrate to warmer temperatures.

After the discussion, the children were allowed to touch the six animal mounts Hoey brought with her which included Turkey, Bobcat, Fisher, Coyote, Osprey and Bear.

The session concluded with a migration game in which the children pretended to be migrating birds. Along the journey there were interruptions and or set backs that real birds face while migrating.

After the game Hoey talked with the children about those setbacks and how they can affect the bird populations of New England.

The children gathered together in the Concord Park cafeteria for a pizza lunch to reconnect with their adults and friends from other groups to talk about the day so far before going on to the afternoon activities.

Session 4 brought a little bit of Cape Cod to the children in the form of a marine touch tank. Park Ranger Samantha Gray of the Cape Cod Canal hosted the hands-on learning experience. Gray presented some fascinating facts about various

marine life found in New England waters, while the children took the opportunity to touch them. Marine life available for the children to look at and feel included sea stars, scallops, horseshoe crabs and moon snails.

The Rocket Launching session, one of the most anticipated events of the day, took place outside the executive office. Morrill-Winter and Cattano took the lead with this activity, presenting the basics of aerodynamics, volume and propulsion before the children took 2-liter bottles and decorated them. After the "rockets" were created, the pair discussed the basics of the science behind water propelled rockets. Then the children decided how much water to put in their rockets before they were taken to the "New England

District Space Station." Once there, the rockets were launched into the air with the use of an air compressor to see how long and how far they would go.

The final session, the edible Cell Activity, also doubled as an afternoon snack for the children. After a presentation by Sheila Harvey and Coral Siligato on what a cell is and how it works, the children decorated cookies to look like either a plant or animal cell using frosting and various candies.

Heather Sullivan, Federal Women's Program Manager, and Jackie DiDomenico, EEO Officer, organized and hosted this year's event. In addition to the session leaders already mentioned, assistants included Bettina Chaisson, Sarita Martinez, Ann Marie Harvie and Bethany Sheehan.



Park Ranger Karen Hoey shows off one of the animal mounts.



Madison and Tori Zanco put the finishing touches on their egg structure in time for the drop.

Sullivan retires from New England District



Photos by Zachary Koziol

Claire Sullivan opens gifts during her retirement luncheon.

About 36 people gathered at McNally's Pub in Westminister, Mass., on March 26 to celebrate Claire's Sullivan's career and her decision to retire.

Sullivan, who spent her entire career as an employee at the Lower Connecticut River Basin Office, retired with more than 25 years of service.

"Claire worked her way up from a clerk-typist to Administrative Officer, the position from which she retired," said LCRB Manager Joe Faloretti. "She was an exemplary member of the LCRB team and a friend and mentor to me, other folks at LCRB, throughout the District and especially the other Administrative Officers."

Faloretti served as Master of Ceremonies and was the first to speak. He mentioned that he was losing his right hand and that any success he enjoyed as a Basin Manager was largely because of Claire's loyalty, support and assistance. "Although I will miss everything that Claire accomplished over the years, I'll miss her more as a friend and family member."

Dick Carlson, retired chief of Construction/Operations, got up and

thanked Sullivan for her amazing work. "Thank you, Claire, for all your contributions and support to Construction/Operations, the informal leader of the field Administrative Officers," he said.

Jeff Mangum and Ralph Gendron followed Carlson's presentation. They thanked Sullivan for all her training, help, support and friendship over the years and for always being there whenever they or another person needed her assistance.

Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander, concluded the official portion of the retirement ceremony by first presenting Sullivan with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for her outstanding work during her career, and then with her retirement certificate and pin.

After all the presentations and gifts were concluded, it was Sullivan's turn to speak. She said that she was touched by the number of people who attended her luncheon. "I only tried to do my job the best that I could and I wouldn't have been successful without the help of so many friends and coworkers during my career," she said.

Sullivan concluded the luncheon by thanking everyone for attending and that she was only a phone call or e-mail away should anyone need her help or if they just wanted to stay in touch.

Family members who attended the luncheon with Sullivan included her brother and sister-in-law Francis and Edna DeLorme, and their daughter, Debra Thompson.

New England District retirees who attended to personally welcome Sullivan into the District's retired community were Dick Carlson, Jim Bacon, and Jim and Jan Crawford. *(Joe Faloretti contributed significantly to this article.)*



Claire Sullivan (center) with friends and coworkers at her retirement luncheon.



Volunteers plant beach grass on Cape Cod as part of Earth Day celebrations. (Photo by Ann Cook and Elisa Carey)



Park Manager Keith Beecher works alongside volunteers spreading loam on shoulders of the newly installed Grand Trunk Trail at Westville Lake Park. (Photo by Matt Coleman)

District, volunteers mark 40th Earth Day celebration with clean ups, project improvements

Three New England District projects celebrated volunteerism and the environment with Earth Day events throughout the month of April. Bad weather in the form of rain didn't keep die-hard volunteers from donning their work gloves and picking up shovels and other equipment to improve public lands. The U.S. Army's Earth Day theme for 2010 was, "Sustaining the Environment for a Secure Future."

WestThompsonLake personnel in Grosvenordale, Conn., held their 18th annual celebration on April 10. Registration began at 8 a.m. and 193 volunteers worked until noon.

"Due to the high water and ridiculous rains that we had leading up to the event, we had less of a turnout than other years," said Park Ranger Michelle Dwyer. "We did a lot of debris cleanup around the dam which was very helpful and badly needed!"

Other completed projects included spreading mulch, constructing a new split rail fence, and pruning and spreading wood chips in the apple orchard.

"We also nearly filled a large dumpster and came out with a total of 10 tires," commented Dwyer. "So it was a great day and our volunteers were a tremendous help!"

The volunteers' dedication and hard work saved the government more than \$14,000 in labor.

Employees at Westville Lake held their 10th annual celebration, called Trail Day, on April 17. Project employees teamed with the Sturbridge and Brimfield Town Trail Committees, the Grand Trunk Trail Blazers, and 16 volunteers to oversee several projects to improve the local trail systems.

"The volunteers completed a 200-foot section of outdoor access route to provide ADA access to 50-percent of the picnic tables in the park," said Park Ranger Thomas Chamberland. "In addition, they completed a

portion of the Grand Trunk Trail by raking 1,250-feet of trail edge shoulders with loam and spreading grass seed."

Work began at 8:30 a.m. and the volunteers completed their work at noon. At the end of the day, volunteers saved the government \$1,200 in labor.

The Cape Cod Canal held two events in celebration of Earth Day. On April 15, 34 volunteers from the Falmouth Montessori School, AmeriCorps, Mass Maritime Academy and 4 C's participated in planting American Beach Grass on erosion prone beach and trail areas of Mashnee Dike.

"Our volunteers totaled 160 volunteer hours and planted 8,000 grass shoots in eight hours," said Park Ranger John Pribilla. "The value of our beach grass planting volunteers was about \$700."

On April 24 the Cape Cod Canal partnered with AmeriCorps Cape Cod, to celebrate its 10th annual Earth Day event called the "Canal Cleanup." The event was centered at the Bourndale Herring Run Recreation Area.

As in the past decade, the Canal had various volunteer groups and individuals participating with over 200 volunteers actually participating this year. "Volunteers worked from 9 a.m. to about 1 p.m.," said Gabe Lundgren of AmeriCorps. "They collected over 460 pounds of trash that day."

In addition to the cleanup work, the New England District and AmeriCorps also hosted environmental displays, face painting, a live band, food, an ongoing trash separating, weighing and recycling display and other activities.

This year marks 40 years of Earth Day celebrations that have been held in the United States and the event has grown as a worldwide event to celebrate the environment. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers celebrates Earth Day in accordance with U.S. Army's Strategy for the Environment.

Dredging up the past . . .



Photo by C.J. Allen

Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management, shakes hands with Lt. Col. John Rovero, Deputy District Engineer, during Rovero's farewell party at Hanscom's Officer's Club on June 6, 2002.

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