



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
New England District

**BUILDING STRONG®**

# Yankee Engineer

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*Event participants get a tour of the Thomaston Dam during the 50th anniversary celebration.*

Photo by C.J. Allen

## Event at Thomaston Dam celebrates 50 years of service to the nation

New England District, state, and local officials celebrated the "past, present and future" when they marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Thomaston Dam, June 12 in Thomaston, Conn.

Christopher Way, Operations Manager for the Naugatuck River Basin and Master of Ceremonies for the day, talked about the Great Flood of 1955 that occurred after two consecutive hurricanes, Connie and Diane, hit the area.

"It was because of those devastating floods that the Corps of Engineers and the state of Connecticut decided to build Thomaston Dam,"

he said. We often hear the terrible stories about the Great Flood of '55 – homes, railroad cars and debris racing down the raging Naugatuck River, and of lives and livelihoods lost. But there were success stories too of rescues and lives saved and accounts of communities pulling together in the aftermath. Local, state and federal government agencies worked together to construct the network of flood risk management projects, the first in the area being Thomaston Dam."

Lt. Col. Steven Howell, New England District's Deputy Commander, was the first guest speaker.

He discussed the contributions the Thomaston Dam has made to public safety and property.

"The Thomaston Dam has saved this region and the nation an estimated \$469.8 million in damage prevention from floods in the past 50 years, including \$14.8 million in damages prevented in the spring of this year," he said. "At a cost of \$14.3 million to build in 1960, the benefits of the dam have well exceeded its initial cost. Meaning that for every dollar spent, nearly 33 dollars in potential damages have been saved. What a return on

*Continued on page 22*

# Yankee Voices

Bill Holtham, Rich Ring and  
Kevin McKelvey



## Congratulations

... to **Joyce Dignard** of the Western/North Central Resident Offices on her marriage to Henry Boudreau on July 17.

...to the Fort Devens ARRA team as the Team of the Quarter for July-September 2010. The team of **Ken Paton, Patricia Bolton, Peter Hugh, Kathleen Pendergast, Elandria Cameron, and Brad Schweitzer** are recognized for their outstanding performance supporting the award of four projects at Fort Devens (Buildings 693, 694, 695, and 697). These projects were high visibility and were under the scrutiny of NAD, HQ USACE, ACSIM and USAR. The team worked long hours, sometimes on nights and weekends. Their diligence, dedication, and commitment were instrumental in the successful execution of these projects.

## Sympathy

... to Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member **Andy Lamborghini**, on the passing of his daughter, **Donna Lamborghini**, June 25.

## New employee gallery board

The New England District is in the process of developing a new employee gallery board that will be prominently displayed in the Headquarters Building entitled "Members Called to Duty." Its intent is to recognize those individuals, including our retirees, who were called to active duty to serve the nation in time of need. The criteria for having your name displayed is as follows:

1. The individual must have been either a permanent or temporary member of the New England District at the time of deployment.
2. The individual must have been called to duty for a minimum of 30 days.
3. The call up must have been in connection with a DoD emergency, peacekeeping or military operation/conflict.
4. The individual must have successfully completed their deployment assignment.

If you believe you meet the above criteria, or know of someone who may, please contact Steve Andon at 978-318-8007 or e-mail him at [steven.a.andon@usace.army.mil](mailto:steven.a.andon@usace.army.mil).

The necessary information must include the full name of the individual, the location of the deployment (if more than one location please identify the predominant) and the month and year of the start and the month and year the assignment was completed.

## Stay-in-School Mystery Revealed

After some research by Ed Greenough and Bob Hanacek the stay-in-schooler featured in the April "Dredging Up The Past" has been identified as Sean McCarthy.

## Correction

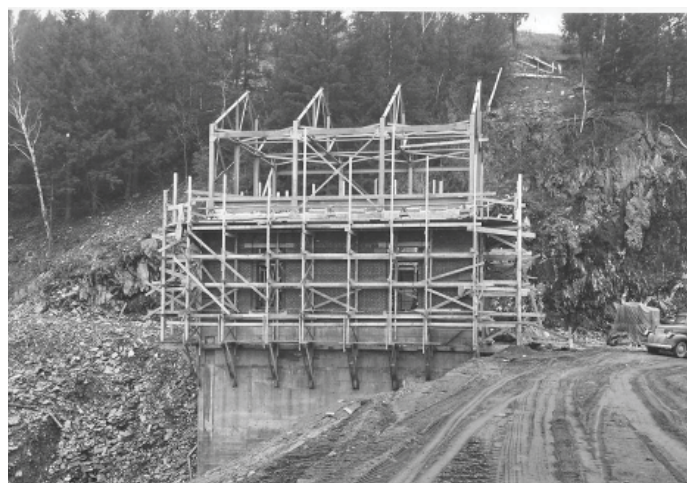
In the May edition of the Yankee Engineer, Mike Curran was identified as a member of the Ranger Color Guard who marched in the town of Concord, Mass., Patriot's Day Parade. While Curran was originally schedule to appear, it was Reese Piper who marched with the Color Guard.







*Rangers post banners to celebrate the dam's 60th anniversary.*



*Early construction of Union Village Dam.*

Photos provided by Union Village Dam.

## Union Village Dam in Vermont turns 60

Park Rangers at Union Village Dam in Thetford, Vt., celebrated 60 years of outstanding service to the nation with a celebration held at the dam June 12.

The event featured tours of the gate house, a presentation on the history of the dam and of course, a birthday cake. About 30 people participated in the festivities.

Union Village Dam was constructed from March 1947 until June 1950 at a cost of \$4.1 million. The project consists of an earth fill dam with stone slope protection, a gated circular conduit and a chute spillway cut in rock with a concrete ogee weir.

There is no lake at the project, except during the winter when a 50-acre lake is maintained to keep the floodgates from freezing.

The flood storage area of the project totals 740 acres and extends 3.5 miles upstream. Union Village Dam can store up to 12.4 billion gallons of water for flood control purposes. To date the dam has saved about \$40.8 million in damages.

In addition to providing flood damage reduction, Union Village Dam has excellent recreational opportunities set in a picturesque Vermont setting. The project has about 60,000 visitors annually. Park Rangers at the project hold a variety of fun and educational interpretive programs in the summer that include wildflower walks, mystery trail walks, tree-o-rama events, and butterfly programs.

There are plenty of activities for all ages to enjoy. Over six miles of river are available for fishing. The project also offers a small swimming area, beach volleyball court and picnic areas. A rest room, picnic tables and grills are available in the area.

A picnic shelter that can hold up to 65 adults can be reserved for a fee.

Other recreational activities include hunting, fishing, trapping and snowmobiling, provided that applicable licenses and permits are obtained in accordance with state and federal regulations.



*Event participants look at historic photos and munch on some cake during the celebration.*



*Park Ranger Roxanne Barbeau gives tours of Union Village Dam during the birthday celebration.*

## Sue Holtham retires with 35 years of federal service

Descriptions of professionalism, hard work and dedication filled presentations during Sue Holtham's retirement reception in the Gridley Conference Room, July 1.

Holtham, an Environmental Resources Specialist in Engineering/Planning retired with 35 years of dedicated service to the nation. Over 50 people stopped by to wish her well.

Bill Hubbard, Chief, Evaluation Branch for Engineering/Planning served as Master of Ceremonies. He mentioned that everyone in Evaluation Branch has known Holtham for their entire careers with the Corps in New England. "She was here first and was always there to help and support new employees," he said. "She was instrumental in mentoring all of us."

Farrell McMillan, Chief, Engineering/Planning, praised Holtham's expertise in the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program. He presented Holtham with a traditional Bunker Hill plaque on behalf of the District. "She is an expert at New England District, the region and on a national level," he said. "She interacts at levels that most people just get to watch – colonels, generals, SESers and congressionals. She has been an integral part of the team and will be a hard act to follow."

Holtham has worked on many high profile project such as the Long Island Sound Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Dredged Material Management Plan. She also served as Deputy Program Manager for the National BRAC National Environmental Protection Act Support Team where she acted as a project



Photos by Brian Murphy

*Bill Hubbard serves as MC for Sue Holtham's retirement reception.*

manager. In that capacity she prepared multiple EIS's for projects to include Fort Belvoir and Fort Lee.

"She has been involved with all the significant BRAC efforts locally, such as Devens and the Army Materials Technology Laboratory and nationally such as Picatinny and many, many others," said Hubbard. "It's hard to imagine Evaluation Branch without Sue, but now that she has decided to retire, this is our new reality."

Lt. Col. Steven Howell, Deputy Commander for the New England District, presented Holtham with the Commander's Award for Civilian Service for her many years of hard work and dedication she has given to the Corps of Engineers and the nation. Lt. Col. Howell concluded the official portion of the event by presenting Holtham with her retirement certificate and pin.

Holtham thanked everyone who attended her retirement reception.



*Sue Holtham greets well-wishers during her reception.*



"It was a great afternoon and I so much appreciated everyone's well wishes and kind words," she said. "I'm sure I'll see folks at future District events. Have a great summer, and if you need to reach me, I'll be at the beach!"

Family members who attended Holtham's retirement were her husband, New England District retiree Bill Holtham; stepdaughter Keri Williams, her husband, Shannon, and their children, Jaiden, Camden and Weston; and her brother Dick Brown. Retirees who attended were Sue Mehigan and Mary Dunn.



(from right) Bill Holtham, Sue Holtham, Lt. Col. Steven Howell, and Farrell McMillan display Sue Holtham's awards at her retirement reception.

## Boat dedication celebrates Redlinger lineage in the Corps

Joe Redlinger, Chief of Real Estate, recently traveled cross-country to attend a ceremony put on by the Corps of Engineers, Portland District, to honor his late brother, Jake.

A dedication ceremony for the survey boat "Redlinger" took place at Vancouver Landing in Vancouver, Washington, May 19. Redlinger attended the dedication with his brother, Chuck Redlinger, a his brother-in-law, Bill Sobolewski, and their families.

Jake Redlinger, Jr. was an active proponent of dredging and dredging issues and was well respected for his expertise. He began working for Portland District in 1966. He also worked in Navigation for the Northwestern Division and spent a year managing the Lower Granite and Little Good Dams on the Snake River.

In 1989, Redlinger went to Alaska with the dredge "Essayons"

to take part in clean-up efforts following a devastating oil spill in Prince William Sound. Before he passed away on Dec. 1, 1997, he served as the Navigation Manager

District's Distinguished Civilian Gallery and the former Missouri River Division's Distinguished Civilian Gallery.

Sobolewski worked three years in the military for the Army Corps of Engineers and then as an engineer in the Portland District for six years.

Chuck Redlinger spent one summer working on a survey crew in the Kansas City District. He recently joined the Corps of Engineers Risk Management Center in Denver, Colorado.

Before joining the New England District, Joe Redlinger worked in the Kansas City District as a closing attorney and realty specialist, Chief of the Acquisition Branch.

The Redlinger family has given over 100 years of faithful, dedicated service to the Corps of Engineers, and will continue to do so in the future.



Bill Sobolewski, Chuck Redlinger and Joe Redlinger aboard the new survey vessel, "Redlinger."

at Northwestern Division.

Working for the Corps of Engineers is a family affair with the Redlingers. The late Jake Redlinger, Sr., worked as an engineer in the Rock Island District, the Garrison District, the Kansas City District, and the Missouri River Division. The head of the Redlinger family is a member of the Kansas City



*Event participants were treated to patrol boat tours.*



*Water safety activities keep youngsters entertained.*

Photos by Kevin Burke

## Water Safety a priority for Canal personnel, partners

Public Safety is a priority for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District. In the summer-time, keeping people safe as they enjoy the District's recreational facilities comes to the forefront.

Employees of the Cape Cod Canal and their partners held their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Safety Day on May 29.

The event teaches participants water safety using a variety of exhibits and fun activities. Over 160 people participated this year.

At the Cape Cod Canal's Buzzard's Bay Office, the Cape Cod Canal Team set up the District's water safety trailer, a Bobber bean bag toss game and a "Reach, Throw, Row, but Don't Go" activity.

Attendees were invited to play a game called "Cold Hand Luke" which demonstrated the quickness of hy-

pothemia and its effects on motor skills.

Participants were also able to try out the District's "Drunk Goggles." Those who wanted to take the challenge, went through an obstacle course with the unusual eye wear, which simulates different levels of intoxication.

The Cape Cod Canal Team also conducted tours of the patrol boat, ONSET, at the Sandwich Marina.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-08 provided vessel safety checks for attendees who brought their boats, and the U.S. Coast Guard offered tours of their station to include a view from their cupola.

Other partners who provided displays and activities that day include the American Red Cross, the Massachusetts Environmental Police, Sandwich Marina and the Sea Scouts.



*Kids visit the District's Water Safety display and make a friend of Seamoor the Water Safety Dragon.*



*Park Ranger Samantha Gray answers questions during the water safety event.*





*Above: Gary Pelton demonstrates how to plant a tree. (left) Elementary School students help with the restoration and a Tree Swallow perches on a tree sapling.*



## Riparian zone restoration along the Black River

**Photos and Story by Kristy King  
North Springfield Lake**

Many people do not realize how important a tree can be to a waterway. A riparian zone is defined as the ecosystem that parallels a stream, river, or creek. The flora and fauna found in riparian zones is distinctly different from those found in adjacent ecosystems. Riparian zones not only provide important habitat for wildlife but are an integral part of a waterway's health. For hundreds of years, agriculture has been threatening waterway health by converting riparian zones into pastures and crops. The small plants located in these agriculture fields have small roots that cannot protect the soil from eroding into the water. Riparian zone trees have longer and stronger roots that provide more stability for the land.

In recent years, there has been an interest in repairing riparian zone habitat by planting tree saplings. For the past eight years, Gary Pelton, Biologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Upper Connecticut River Basin Office, has been recruiting elementary schools to

help plant these trees along the Black River at North Springfield Lake in Perkinsville, Vermont. In May 2010, 265 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Elm Hill, Union Street, and Park Street elementary schools participated in restoring the riparian zone. They succeeded in planting 953 trees. Over the eight-year period, more than 8,000 trees have been planted in the renovated riparian zone at North Springfield Lake.

The site chosen to repair had previously been a corn field with very few trees along the water's edge. The enhanced riparian zone at North Springfield Lake will be beneficial to many wildlife species that are known to use the habitat along this river. One of the animals seen perching across the river from this field is a bald eagle. Bald eagles have been seen hunting up and down the Black River searching for fish. They rest in the trees of the riparian zones.

While some of the newly planted saplings will not survive, many will go on to play an important role in protecting the health of the ecosystem along the Black River.





*A diver starts his decent into the water during the repair work.*



*Lifting arms are prepared for painting.*

Photos by Kurt Mintell

## Maintenance keeps Stamford Hurricane Barrier in tip top shape

The Stamford Hurricane Protection Barrier in Stamford, Conn., recently underwent a little touch up work to keep it performing in peak condition.

BIDCO Marine Group of Grand Island, N.Y., was awarded the \$600,000 project. The routine maintenance work began in May and was completed in early July. The work included painting the lifting arms, installing new pedestals and replacing tide gages.

The barrier gate was closed periodically to accommodate the work; however, the District used various media announcements to inform and minimize the impact to the public.

Construction of the Stamford Hurricane Protection Barrier was completed in 1969 at a cost of \$14.5 million. The project consists of three principal features.

The West Branch Barrier, which protects the area includes a 1,340-foot concrete wall and a 1,950-foot-long earthen dike.

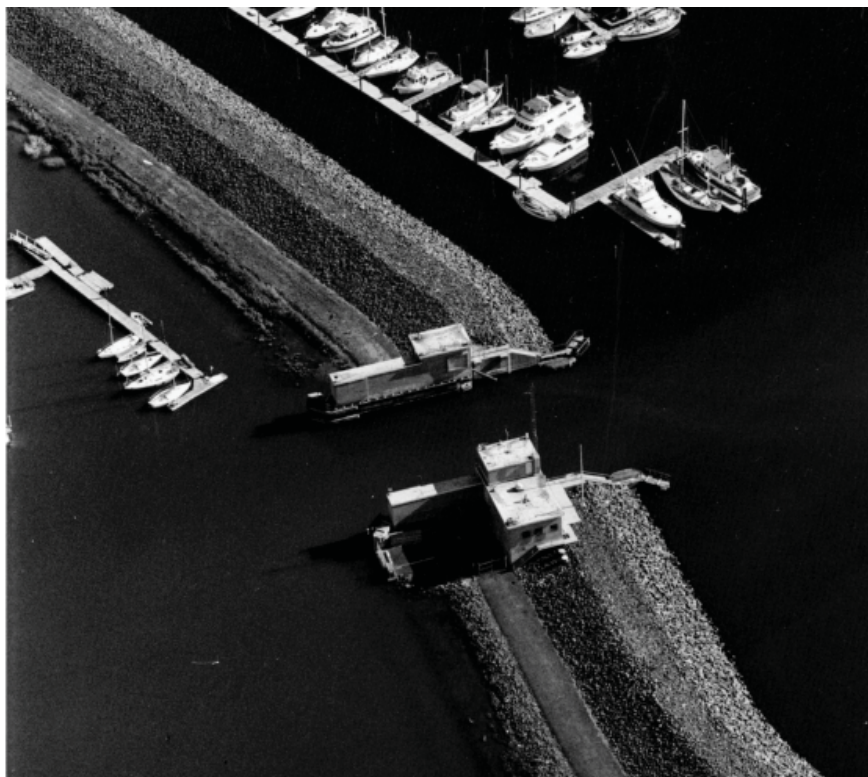
The East Branch Barrier, which connects to the

West Branch and extends across the mouth of the East Branch, includes 2,840 feet of rock-face earthen dike and a 90-foot –wide navigation gate.

The Westcott Cove Barrier, which protects the residential area of Rippowam Street and skirts Westcott Cove in Cummings Park, includes 4,200 feet of rock-faced earthen dike.

Stamford is one of three hurricane protection barriers owned and operated by the New England District. The New Bedford Hurricane Protection Barrier is located in New Bedford, Mass., and the Fox Point Hurricane Protection Barrier is in Providence, R.I.

The Stamford Hurricane Protection Barrier is operated and maintained by the Hop Brook Lake and various Naugatuck



*Aerial view of the Stamford Hurricane Barrier.*

River Basin Office team members as part of the Basin's network of Flood Damage Reduction Projects. To date, the Stamford Hurricane Protection Barrier has prevented \$27.6 million in damages.



# New England District Army Corps of Engineers to Conduct Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study on Martha's Vineyard

by Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Trustees of Reservations are working together to ensure beach areas on Martha's Vineyard are clear of practice munitions.

A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) will be conducted starting this fall and extending into 2012. The objective of the RI is to search for and locate military munitions at Cape Poge, South Beach and Tisbury Great Pond. The purpose of the FS is to evaluate the feasibility of various remedial alternatives to address the munitions. The results of the geophysical surveys will

help define the horizontal and vertical boundary where munitions may be buried as well as the type of buried munitions. Geophysical surveys will be performed in the deep water offshore, the shallow waters near the shoreline, the beaches, dunes, upland land, land adjacent to ponds, and respective pond areas. As part of this effort, the Corps will require access to private property and is in the process of contacting land owners to acquire rights of entry.

The cost of the RI/FS is approximately \$5.2 million and is funded by the Defense Environmental Restoration Program to clean up Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS). All three areas are FUDS and were used for practice bombing training during World War II.

The Corps of Engineers New England District conducted a removal action in 1989/1990 at South Beach removing munitions from the beach and dune areas. The dynamic nature of the beach with ocean currents and tides caused more practice munitions (expended rocket motor bodies ranging in size from 2.5 inches to 5 inches), to appear in shoreline waters at the ocean bottom. In 2009, the Corps conducted a Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) in which more practice munitions were removed along the beach in both the shallow and deep waters out to approximately 100 feet offshore. A TCRA was also conducted at

Cape Poge along the shoreline, in the mudflats and in and around Shear Pen Pond. A Site Inspection was conducted at Tisbury Great Pond in 2008 and recommended further work be performed under an RI/FS.

The Time Critical Removal Action cleared limited areas of munitions. The RI/FS will help determine if any future actions are required to protect human health and the environment. The Corps' contractor, UXB, and subcontractor VRHabilis, under the direction of the

U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Ala., will perform the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study at all three sites. Work is scheduled so as not to interfere with the island summer tourist season. Signs notifying the public of what actions to take should they find any object

that looks like, or they believe to be, a munitions item, are posted at both South Beach and Cape Poge. Similar signs will be posted in the vicinity of Tisbury Great Pond. The public should immediately follow the three R's; Recognize the item as potentially hazardous, Retreat from the area without touching or moving the item, and immediately Report the item to the local police by calling 911.

The Corps' Huntsville Center is the Corps' Center of Expertise for Ordnance and Explosives projects. The Corps New England District has project management responsibility for the entire project and provides direction, funding, oversight, and public relations coordination.

The Corps will implement a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study followed by a Proposed Plan, Decision Document, Remedial Actions, and a Long Term Monitoring Program, if warranted at all three sites. Remedial Investigation activities include geophysical work, sampling, etc. to determine the nature and extent (type, quantity, and location) of munitions. Long Term Monitoring activities include annual awareness training, signage, information pamphlets, institutional controls, five year reviews, etc. The Corps, working with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and its contractors have developed educational awareness training for the TTOR and DCR employees.



*Workers search for munitions at Martha's Vineyard beaches in 2009. (Photo by T. Dailey)*

## Engineer, scientists give talk to students during field trip

Students from the School to Career Partnership traveled to Concord Park headquarters to get a feel for some of the science behind Corps of Engineers, New England District projects and programs on June 24.

Approximately 30 students and chaperons attended a two hour briefing as part of their three-day "Bioengineering Symposium for High School Students."

The Bioengineering Symposium is a three day event for selected high school students to expose them to exciting and challenging opportunities in biotechnology and engineering.

Students who participated in the field trip came from the following high schools: Avon, Blue Hill Technical, Canton, Dedham, Milton, Norwood and Randolph.

Scott Acone, New England District Program Manager, gave a detailed overview of the missions of the Corps of Engineers, New England District.

Acone then discussed the Eliza-



*Massachusetts area high school students visit Concord Park as part of the Bioengineering Symposium. (Photo by Jess Levenson)*

beth Mine Superfund Site, a project which he manages. Acone described the project, explained why it was a Superfund Site and how engineering is helping to solve the problem.

Amy Bourne and Mike Riccio, project managers for Permits and Enforcement Branch B, followed Acone and talked about the Corps of Engineers' Regulatory Program. The two presenters concluded the field trip to Concord Park by discuss-

ing the types of classes they took in college that made them eligible for their positions in the District's Regulatory Branch.

This is the second year that Sally Rigione of Public Affairs has coordinated with the School to Careers Partnership under the Community Relations Program to help introduce students to the Corps of Engineers as part of their Bioengineering Symposium.

## Spreading the word about health

*The New England District Safety Office and the Federal Occupational Health Office teamed up to host the annual Health and Wellness Fair in the Concord Park Cafeteria, June 9. About 150 New England District employees attended the fair. The fair showcased 10 vendors to include Blue Cross/Blue Shield, (right, about to administer an eye exam to Health Fair attendee Wendy Gendron) Emerson Hospital, General Services Administration, and other local health care specialists.*



*Photo by Brian Murphy*





## **Founder's Day 2010 Official Ceremony and Picnic Special Section**

# Awards, honors highlight Founder's Day official ceremony

The New England District celebrated the 235 anniversary of the founding of the Corps of Engineers on Wednesday, June 23 at Hanscom Air Force Base's Castle Park. Over 300 people attended the Founder's Day event.

The day kicked off with an awards ceremony to recognize employee accomplishments and to induct one of the District's recent retirees into the Distinguished Civilian Gallery. Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs, served as Master of Ceremonies and welcomed the crowd. "Today we commemorate the 235th birthday of the founding of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – and we're lookin pretty darn good!" he said.

As is tradition at the Founder's Day ceremonies in New England, Rosenberg gives an account of the District's proud history of being the birthplace of the Corps of Engineers. And almost more traditionally, Rosenberg gave a slightly different account of the goings on that formed the greatest engineering organization in the world. "The first Army engineering action occurred on the night of June 16, 1775, when Col. Richard Gridley, the first Chief of Engineers, looked over to this deputy for program and project management – a much younger Bill Scully – and asked how we can engage our stakeholders in a transparent manner and find a small business capable of building defensive positions, on –time within budget and without stimulus funds," he said. "Bill immediately

put together a Project Delivery Team and successfully designed and supervised the construction of an earthwork on Breed's Hill overlooking Boston Harbor that would prove impregnable against the British bombardment during a fierce battle the following day..."

After the laughter and applause died down, Rosenberg pointed out that the New England District serves as part of a much larger public service organization to include 35,000 other engineers, scientists, architects, planners, biologists, economists, attorneys, construction representatives, specialists in resource management, and budget, real estate, information management, safety, security, recreation, natural resources, flood reduction, park rangers, administrative, graphic artists, surveyors, contracting, human resource, equal opportunity, audit, logistical, technical, public affairs, U.S. Army Officers and more. "We perform as a team to assure that the nation continues to receive the highest level of service that has always been the hallmark of the Corps of Engineers," he concluded. "This total team effort allows the Corps to respond, and we do, whenever we are needed anywhere in the world."

Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander, said that Founder's Day was a good time to reflect on the good work that the District has performed so far and relax. "It's nice to see all of you here today to take time out to enjoy fellowship and to come together to



*Five years of service*



*Ten years of service*



*15 years of service*



*20 years of service*



*25 years of service*



*30 years of service*



slap yourselves on the back for the great job that we do each and every day,” he said. “Today is a day for us to recognize all the work that we’ve done together and to celebrate what a great organization we truly are.”

The colonel reflected on the challenges that the District has faced over the current year – the increased work load from the Department of Homeland Security, the Veterans Administration and others; the acquiring of the Woonsocket Local Protection Project and the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier; and the devastating Spring Floods that hit New England to name just a few examples – and with each challenge the District has risen up as a team to meet it. “The past months have been extremely challenging, but it has all been rewarding work,” he said. “And we keep at it because that’s the reputation that we’ve built and I applaud you for that and I ask that you continue to keep up the great work.”

Col. Feir said that although the New England District works best as a team, there are individuals who stand out for their accomplishments this year. He mentioned Drew Clemens, Bob Leitch, Eva Marie D’Antuono, Steve Chase, Steve Patchkofsky, and Katrina Sedney for their individual accomplishments. “These individuals reflect the quality of people that we have across the board in the District and represent a small microcosm of our entire employee population” he said. “I offer my congratulations to them and to the entire New England District team.”

The New England District Commander took some time to highlight some project successes as well. Completed work on the Westover Armed Forces Reserve Center Facility, Building 1604 on Hanscom Air Force Base, and the Sagamore Bridge Repairs highlighted a long list of accomplishments that Col. Feir mentioned.

In addition to the New England District celebrating 235 years of the Corps’ birth, there were some local milestones that Col. Feir proudly mentioned such as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Thomaston Dam in Connecticut, East Brimfield Lake in Massachusetts and North Springfield Dam in Vermont as well as the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Union Village Dam in Vermont and the Edward MacDowell Dam in New Hampshire. “My thanks go out to all of our team members who operate and maintain those project every day,” he said. “It’s not easy work – they take care of our flood risk reduction management operations as well as the public that visit our facilities.”

Col. Feir said that although the District is celebrat-

*Continued on next page*



*35 years of service*



*Certificate of appreciation - Proponent Sponsored Training Program.*



*Global War on Terror Certificates*



*Hurricane Ike Certificates*

*Continued from previous page*

ing its past and our present accomplishments, the team must also look to the future. “We will continue to try to get projects completed on time within budget and we need to rededicate ourselves to get everything done to the best of our ability—but not today!” he said. “Today is meant to relax, enjoy each other’s company and to recognize folks who have done great work. Please make it a priority to just enjoy yourselves and relax. We can set about refocusing our efforts tomorrow morning.”

The Commander thanked Construction and Operations Divisions for heading up Founder’s Day this year, the WE Committee and the Founder’s Day Committee for all their hard work to make the day enjoyable for everyone.

Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer, inducted Dick Carlson into the District’s Distinguished Civilian Gallery. See separate story.

Steve Andon had a number of awards to present during the ceremony. The first award was a North Atlantic Division Certificate of Appreciation commending recipients for dedication to duty and diligent efforts in the 2008 Hurricane Season response and recovery missions. New England District employees who received the certificate were Scott Acone, John Asseng, Dale Berkness, Theron Chase, George Claflin, Barbara Duffin, Paul Gaudreau, James Hachigian, Robert Hanacek, Claudia Hixson, Michael Keegan, Richard Kristoff, Gladys Leone, Joseph Mackay, Jeffrey Magnum, Brett Markure, Duban Montoya, Darrell Moore, Phillip Morrison, William Mullen, John Murner, Phillip Nimeskern, Steven Patchkofsky, Reese Piper, and John Pribilla.

Andon then presented certificate of appreciation for the 2010 New England Floods. The certificate was signed by Col. Feir and in recognition of their service during the floods of March 2010. This severe flood was caused by two significant rainfall events which contributed record amounts of precipitation over much of the southeastern New England region. During the onset and aftermath of this event, the New England District was called upon by FEMA and the New England states to provide vital assistance and expert advice. The variety of support delivered ranged from the liaison staffing at state emergency operations centers, FEMA, and our RCC, issuing flood fighting supplies and performing numerous dam and bridge inspections. It is because of the dedication and professionalism of individuals such as these employees that the New England District and the Corps of Engineers were able to rapidly respond



*2010 New England Flood certificates*

with an exceptional quality of service that helped to reduce the impacts of this disaster. With efforts that are in keeping with the highest standards of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and have brought great credit to our organization.

Recipients were Townsend Barker, Paul Battista, Patrick Blumeris, Michael Boiardi, Daniel Bradley, Drew Cattano, Carol Charette, George Claflin, Paul Cohn, Paul Cooper, Thomas Davidson, Tracy Dorgan, Brenda Faragi, Tony Firicano, Alex Garneau, Wendy Gendron, Bill Gray, Michael Gu, Greg Hanlon, Christopher Hatfield, Richard Heidebrecht, Andrew Jordan, John Kedzierski, Jack Keenan, John Kullberg, David Larsen, William Lawrence, Richard Loyd, Paul Marinelli, Erik Matthews, Andy McAvoy, Duban Montoya, Scott Michalak, Darrell Moore, Paul Morelli, William Mullen, Larry Oliver, Richard Orlowki, Anastasia Papadopoulos, Janet Patev, Robert Patev, Todd Randall, William Rogers, Robert Russo, Sr., Rose Schmidt, Steve Simmer, Graham Teitelbaum, Siamac Vaghar, Mark Vance, Saji Varghese, Irene Watts, Donald Wood, and Paul Young. “This crowd really deserves a lot of recognition,” said Col. Feir. “Even though it is a small token of appreciation, they really deserve it.”

Andon then presented the Global War on Terrorism Award. The medal symbolizes the honor and achievement of Civilians with the Department of Defense to defend freedom against danger that may develop on foreign soil. The ribbon’s blue stripe is associated with the Department of Defense; gold represents excellence, black and red symbolizes the threat of terrorism; red, white and blue are for patriotism and love of freedom. Recipients were Sean Dolan, John Manning, and Erika Mark.

The final group of awards that Andon gave out were certificates of appreciation from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Learning Center to certify that Joan Gardner, Maurice Beaudoin, and Gary Lacroix contributed



distinguished services in support of the Corps of Engineers command goals by serving as facilitators during FY 2009 in a Proponent Sponsored Engineer Corps Training Exportable Program.

Farrell McMillan, Chief, Engineering/Planning, followed Andon and named Adam Burnett as the 2010 Planner of the Year.

Jackie Didomenico, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, named Bob DeSista as the 2010 Federal Women's Program Supervisor of the Year.

Raushanah Muhammad, the 2009 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Eastern Massachusetts' Representative for New England District, presented CFC Eagle Awards to those who made significant contributions to the 2009 campaign. Award recipients were Robert Henderson, Quentin Walsh, Paul Howard, Zina Cassulo-Henderson, Maruti Wagle, Christopher Lindsay and Marie Wotjas.

Kim Kaminski-Donaher, Chief, Human Resources, concluded the awards portion of the day by presented the Length of Service Awards. Certificates and pins were presented to employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and



*Combined Federal Campaign Eagle Awards*

35 years of faithful federal service. A complete list of names can be found in the 2010 Founder's Day brochure available in the Public Affairs Office.

Sean Dolan, Chief of Construction and the 2010 Founder's Day Committee Chair, thanked everyone for coming to support all of the award recipients of the day and went over some of the events that followed the ceremony.

## Adam Burnett is District Planner of the Year for 2010

Adam Burnett was named the 2010 Planner of the Year during the Founder's Day Award ceremonies held at Castle Park, Hanscom Air Force Base, on June 23.

Farrell McMillan, Chief, Engineering/Planning, made the presentation and credited Planning employees for their hard work and dedication, but most especially Burnett for this year's work. "I give the Planning study managers a lot of credit because they're out there with the towns and local sponsors, especially after a flood, trying to find out what resources we can provide to them and generate feasibility studies that eventually become projects that the Corps of Engineers design and construct for the town," he said.

Burnett received the Planner of the Year Award in recognition of his excellent performance as a member of the Project Planning Section and is a project manager for the Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program. "He is responsible for the completion of the Mill River Restoration Project in Stamford, Conn.," said McMillan. "The Corps restoration project will compliment the city's work to restore the park adjacent to the restored river and floodplain and will be a critical step in Stamford's efforts to restore this urban area. Coordination also was required with the construction contractor to make sure that any changes to the project retain the original



*Photo by C.J. Allen*

*Col. Philip Feir presents Adam Burnett with the Planner of the Year Award.*

restoration objectives and with integrated into the city's plans for the adjacent area. The project is viewed by a success of all parties, enhancing the District's image as a leader in the area of environmental restoration."

In addition to the Mill River project, Burnett is the project manager to numerous other ecosystem restoration projects and has provided geological support to the geologic environmental engineering branch through a critical workload period. "During the past year, Burnett has maintained a high degree of professionalism, dedication and technical competency necessary to accomplish the missions to which he was assigned," said McMillan.

# FWP Supervisor of the Year 2010

## DeSista honored for support to women and minorities

Robert DeSista, Chief, Permits and Enforcement Section, Branch B, Regulatory, was named the 2010 Federal Women's Program Supervisor of the Year. Jackie DiDomenico, New England District's Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, made the presentation during the District's Founder's Day ceremonies at Castle Park, Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.

"The award is given annually by the Federal Women's Program by recognizing a supervisor who has significantly promoted the employment and advancement of women and minorities and supports the EEO mission," said DiDomenico.

The "Supervisor of the Year Award" recognizes a supervisor who has significantly promoted the employment and advancement of women and/or minorities and supports the functions of the EEO arena during June 2009 to present:

1. Cite activities and their results related to maintaining or hiring qualified women or minorities at the District during the nomination period.

2. Demonstrate how the nominee supports and encourages developmental assignments and educational opportunities for women and minorities and the positive results of such efforts.

3. Demonstrate how the nominee endorses programs and/or work alternatives for employees to manage careers and personal priorities, i.e., self-development, family, professional organizations, community outreach, etc., and the results.

4. Cite how and what EEO programs and principles the nominee supports and fosters in their organization.

According to the nomination submitted, during the period of June 2009 to present, DeSista continued to support and develop his staff by his demonstrated commitment to providing opportunities for professional development and growth. "His leadership and hiring practices are unique in Regulatory, in that a Division of scientific positions dominated by male employees (30 total), seven of the 14 female slots within the Division are located within his branch," said DiDomenico, reading the award citation.

The nomination states that DeSista has consistently advocated the use of the flexi-place work program in order to make it less demanding for his staff to more successfully balance personal and professional responsibilities, including parenting. Many of his staff use established recurring or ad hoc telework agreements. "DeSista emphasizes the EEO principle

of fair and equitable treatment for all, and he does make it a point to recognize the special effort of individuals who go above and beyond expectations for assignment. He was instrumental in nominating one of his female staff, selected at the North Atlantic Division level, for the prestigious national Don Lawyer Regulator of the Year Award," said DiDomenico during the presentation.

Through his actions, Mr. DeSista routinely demonstrates what it means to "invest in people" fairly and equally. "The selection of Mr. DeSista as the 'Federal Women's Program Supervisor of the Year' reflect great credit upon himself, Regulatory Division and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," said DiDomenico.



*Jackie DiDomenico and Col. Philip Feir present Robert DeSista with the Federal Women's Program Supervisor of the Year Award. (Photo by C.J. Allen)*



# Dick Carlson inducted into New England District's Distinguished Civilian Gallery

Dick Carlson, retired Chief of Construction/Operations was inducted as the 2010 New England District Distinguished Civilian Gallery. The induction was held on June 23 under the ceremonial tent during the Founder's Day ceremonies.

"When I was about eight or ten years old, my next door neighbor used to occasionally have a U.S. Army car parked in his driveway," said Carlson. "He worked for an outfit called the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He's in this Distinguished Civilian Gallery as well, which is kind of neat when you think about it. For me it is a great privilege to be included with people that hired me, people whose names I have only heard of and people I worked with."

Carlson was the 100<sup>th</sup> inductee into the gallery. Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management presided over the ceremony. Scully explained that induction into the prestigious gallery is special – it does not happen every year and that there are strict guidelines and criteria that have to be adhered to before someone becomes a member. Out of all the nomination submissions received this year, only Carlson stood out for induction into the gallery. Scully went through Carlson's career, which emphasized that he was deserving of the award.

Richard C. Carlson, P.E., began his civilian career with the New England Division in 1971 following his service in the U.S. Army as a project engineer in the Corps' Far East District. He began in the Permit Branch of Operations and helped to implement the new Regulatory Program for the Corps under the Refuse Act of 1899.

Carlson began his career in Construction in 1972. Through a succession of promotions, he became the Chief of Construction in 1984 and became the first ever Chief

of Construction/Operations when the two divisions combined in 1997. His significant contributions to the Corps of Engineers and the New England District are numerous. He grew the District's military program to what it is today with major construction projects at Fort Devens, Hanscom Air Force Base, Westover Air Force Base, Natick Labs and other locations throughout New Eng-

land. Construction, under Carlson's supervision, was also assigned the Superfund Program in the 1980's and Mr. Carlson became the principal point of contact with EPA Region I.

Carlson was a first responder immediately following the World Trade Center Disaster in Sept. 2001, serving as the Deputy Commander of the

New England District Forward. Other significant accomplishments include Carlson's establishment of the Leadership Development Program in 2003, his membership to the North Atlantic Division Regional Management Board, and his work as Project Manager in 2006 in support of the U.S. Department of Transportation's oversight of the Central Artery Tunnel Stem-to-Stern review.

Carlson received many awards during his career to include two Superior Civilian Service Awards. He retired in April 2009 with 39 years of faithful and distinguished service.

"Inclusion in the Gallery is most certainly a capstone event for my career with the Corps," said Carlson of the honor. "I truly loved my time spend with the Corps and all of the opportunities I was afforded. It is awesome to be a part of this very special group."

Accompanying Carlson to the ceremony was his wife, Judy, and his daughter, Jen.



*Bill Scully, Dick Carlson, and Col. Feir during Carlson's induction into the Distinguished Civilian Gallery. (Photo by C.J. Allen)*



*New England District chefs fire up the grills for the barbecue lunch.*



*John Kennelly tries his hand at horseshoes.*

## Hundreds flock to Founder's Day picnic

As in past years, the Founder's Day Committee organized a fun, event-filled picnic that had something for everyone to enjoy.

The 2010 Founder's Day picnic took place June 23 at Castle Park, Hanscom Air Force Base immediately following the official ceremony. Nearly 30 employees, retirees and family members attended the annual event.

After all the awards and honors were given out during the official ceremony, children enjoyed creating craft projects under the main tent, while they waited for their barbecue lunch to be cooked.

Mary Christopher performed her traditional face painting duties, much to the delight of young and old, as the smell of cooking food wafted through the air.

John Astley, Frank Fedele, Sean Dolan and Rob Talbot were among the New England District Iron Chefs who kept the spatulas flipping hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, sausages, and veggie burgers. Side dishes and desserts were also a yummy focal point of the meal thanks to various donations by New England District employees.

A special fund-raising brew cre-



*Photos by C.J. Allen*

*Mary Christopher's face painting table was open for business.*



*Kids and adults both enjoyed volleyball.*





*Children compete in the Founder's Day sack race.*

ated just for the New England District team by Lt. Col. Steven Howell was a quick sell-out with proceeds benefiting the WE Committee activities.

After lunch, activities abound for the young and young of heart. Children were able to participate in sack races, tug of war, sponge toss events, and scavenger hunts in addition to the craft center.

Kids also enjoyed the moonwalk that was available all day.

Adults enjoyed scheduled activities such as the wildly popular horse

shoes, softball, volleyball, kick ball and waffle ball.

For those who wanted to beat the heat, an ice cream truck made frozen treats available for purchase, and the Hanscom pool was open all day for those wanting to take a dip.

The WE Committee had a tent with New England District logo items for sale throughout the day and the Health Unit had a station at the ready in case anyone needed assistance. Bob Meader also displayed mini model timber frames built the old



*Kids try out for a future spot on the NED Golf League.*

fashioned way with dovetail joints and wooden pegs.

Sean Dolan, Chief of Construction, and Frank Fedeles, Chief of Operations, headed this year's Founder's Day Committee.

Members of the 2010 Committee were Judy Antonellis, MaryEllen Crawford, Susan Dunnagan, Sarita Martinez, Gladys Leone, Helen Newcomb, Tina Chaisson, Paige Kimbrough, William Pumyea, Sheila Harvey, Stefan Carpenter, Andrew Stamer, and Angie Vanaria.



*The bean bag toss was a popular activity at the picnic.*



*Bob Meader displays his timber frames.*



# Founder's Day 2010



*Bill Scully and Larry Rosenberg look over the citations and plaques before the official Founder's Day awards ceremony.*



*Col. Feir and his family were on hand to celebrate the Corps 235th birthday.*



*Committee helpers prepare for the water balloon and sponge toss events.*



*Checkers under the main tent was only one of many activities the Founder's Day Committee organized for the day.*



*The ice cream truck served up cold treats and was very popular at the picnic.*



# Founder's Day 2010



*Tug of War! The big "Kid" in the back helping out is our own Quentin Walsh.*



*Retiree Terry Wong, Paul L'Heureux, and Raushanah Muhammad enjoy each other's company during the picnic.*



*Bill Scully, Judy Carlson, Dick Carlson and Col. Philip Feir at the Distinguished Civilian Gallery unveiling.*



*Picnic guests enjoy lunch under the main tent.*



*Football or volleyball? District employees discuss their options.*



## Event marks Thomaston Dam's 50th anniversary

*Continued from page 1*

investment!”

The Deputy also spoke about the dam’s role in natural resource management. “Looking out from our engineered dam, that visually speaks to a permanence, and strength that has lasted for 50 years, look also at the powerful watershed of the Naugatuck Valley, the forest surrounding it, and the wildlife and biodiversity that it supports. The preservation and nurturing of those areas, our natural and national resources, through on-going sustainability efforts, will truly provide a return on investment second to none, befitting the future generations of this great nation,” he said.

Connecticut State Senator Robert Kane did not have any first hand memories of the 1955 floods, so he called his aunt to get her recollection. He said that he was amazed not only because of her harrowing experience, but about the perfect clarity with which she remembered it. “It was a scary time,” he said. “People were on rooftops and hanging on to trees and houses were washed away. This dam is very important to this community.”

Plymouth Mayor Vincent Festa, Jr., read a proclamation naming June 12, 2010, “Thomaston Dam 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Day.” The Mayor, who lived through the floods as a child, recalled the horrifying experience with emotion. “It brings to mind the serious issues of the loss of life and property, but more importantly what the Corps has done to save



Photos by C.J. Allen

*The New England District Ranger Color Guard presented and retired the colors during the 50th anniversary celebration.*

lives and property since that awful time,” he said.

Selectmen Leo Paul, Jr. of Litchfield, who could not attend the event, provided a similar proclamation, along with Harwinton First Selectman Francis Chiaramonte, who spoke and added his own personal thanks. “We really appreciate the Corps of Engineers,” he said. “We work very closely with Vincent Gualtieri at Thomaston Dam.”

John Piscapo, Connecticut Assemblyman, also expressed appreciation to the Corps in his remarks. “Thank you for five years of flawless service to this town and from the whole valley for keeping us safe,” he said.

Raymond Oneglia of O&G industries also spoke. The construction company received the contract to construct Thomaston Dam and did so before schedule and under budget. He recalled being on site as a child with his father when

Thomaston was being built.

He said that before the floods, O&G was a small company that installed sewer and waterlines and constructed house foundations. But when the flood hit, the Corps of Engineers put them to work on the Torrington East Branch of the Naugatuck River project. The Corps awarded O&G, the lowest bidder, the Thomaston project in 1957. “There was some protests that our company didn’t have experience in building projects like Thomaston, but no one has experience until they do it,” said Oneglia.

Oneglia acknowledged three men who died constructing the dam, Dino Farvalle, Matt Pagarullo and George Kessler. “They made the ultimate sacrifice to get the dam built,” he said.

After constructing Thomaston, O&G went on to build other projects for the Corps to include West



Thompson Dam, Colebrook Dam, and the local protection projects in Ansonia and Derby, Conn.

Vincent Gualtieri, Thomaston Dam Project Manager, talked about the project's past, present and future. He said that when he thinks of the Thomaston Dam, he not only considers the 1.4 million cubic yards of earth materials that make up the structure, but also the people who made the project a reality – the Naugatuck River Flood Control Commission, real estate specialists, engineers, contract specialists and O&G Industries. He also recognized previous project managers and their great work in managing the dam.

Gualtieri acknowledged the current local partners and the work they do and the assistance they provide the District, many of which were at the ceremony and had booths and activities. He also talked about the current managers, park rangers and support staff that operate the dam, particularly Natural Resource Specialist/Ranger



*The U.S. Army National Guard Band entertained event attendees with various musical selections.*

Marissa Wright, who organized the logistics of the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration.

“When we first began planning this event, I was focused very much on the past and history of the dam, but the more involved I became, the more I realized that this event was not only about our past, but about the future, and began to see the much larger picture and the

leadership potential that we have,” said Wright.

Gualtieri concluded his remarks by talking about what he would like to see happen in years to come. “For the future, we hope to continue to provide high quality flood damage reduction, recreation for a healthier United States, natural resources management, and environmental sustainability with your assistance,” he said. “Thank you for taking pride in this piece of America.”

“Although the benefits of flood risk management alone are immeasurable, this multi-use project provides more than flood risk management,” said Wright. “Today, it draws over 120,000 visitors annually who enjoy picnicking, fishing, walking, wildlife viewing, hunting, dirt bike riding, and snowmobiling.”

Thomaston First Selectman Ed Mone rounded out the speakers for the event. He also had a proclamation for the Corps of Engineers and described very vivid memories



*Speakers at the event stand for the playing of the National Anthem. Many of the speakers remembered the devastation of the 1955 floods with great clarity and emotion.*

*Continued on next page*



## Thomaston Dam in Connecticut celebrates 50 years

*Continued from previous page*

of the 1955 floods. "In August of 1955, as a young boy I witnessed the devastation of the floods that took place in the Naugatuck Valley," he said. "I lived in Waterbury at the time and sitting on the third floor porch, I was able to witness the devastation first hand. I can remember people being evacuated off of roofs of factories by helicopters that were dropping slings and lifting people up one at a time. I recall a railroad box car being tossed like a child's toy into a bridge, destroying the bridge. I remember people on rooftops that

were floating down the river while helicopters were trying to rescue them. As a result of action taken by the federal government and the Army Corps of Engineers, that's something that can never happen again. Thomaston and other towns sacrificed land to provide protection to the Lower Naugatuck Valley, and in conjunction with the tremendous efforts by the Army Corps of Engineers we have that sense of safety that it has provided over the past 50 years and into the future."

Much work went into planning this event, and the enthusiasm and creativity of the rangers can be seen when visiting the dam. People who come to visit the project and look down over the dam can see a large "T" for Thomaston mowed into the field for the anniversary.

Mick Howe, with over 42 years of dedicated service, created this artwork, and also acted as a tour guide for the event, sharing his knowledge and experiences with the public.

Driving across the dam a large banner

with a bald eagle and American flag background created by James West and John Haluchak still hangs to commemorate the event.

Tim Titus, a temporary maintainer with over 10 years of Corps service, was also key in preparing the grounds for the event, along with permanent and summer Rangers Ryan Clair, Amy Charlton, and AJ Grech, Workamper volunteers Al Cyr and Richard Masterson, and SSG Richard Walklet from the District's Warriors in Transition program.

Following the ceremony, attendees were invited to enjoy the project and participate in many activities that were ongoing throughout the day to include a commemorative tree planting, displays, crafts for kids, bus, dam and walking tours, miniature plane flying and interpretive programs.

Participants were Boy and Girl Scouts of America; O&G Industries; Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Wildlife Division; Pathfinders Motorcycle Club; The Railroad Museum of New England; Litchfield Historical Society; Thomaston Ambulance First Aid Tent; Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Thomaston High School SAGE Environmental Club; Naugatuck River Watershed Association; Thomaston Historical Society; Northwest Conservation District; Trout Unlimited; and the Nutmeg RC Flyers Club.

The U.S. Army National Guard Band, coordinated in part by Ranger Chuck Whitehead, provided musical selections throughout the ceremony.



*Park Rangers Marissa Wright and Ryan Clair plant the ceremonial tree during the Thomaston 50th anniversary celebration.*



The New England District Color Guard presented and then retired the colors. The Color Guard comprised of Joe Faloretti, Merl Bassett, Bob Hanacek, Reese Piper, Jen Samela and Steve Patchkofsky. Faloretti and Hanacek were both former Naugatuck Basin Rangers.

Several Specialists and Rangers including Tim Dugan, Ann Marie Harvie, Natalie McCormack, Dave Platt, Marci Montrose, Aaron Budris, Kelly Lawlor and Jim Reilly also showed their support at the event.

Linda Monte, Chief of the Operations and Regulatory Division represented the North Atlantic Division at the ceremony. Joan Gardner, Deputy Chief of New England District's Operations Division attended.

Retired Operations Basin Manager Reese Morgan and retired Chief of Construction Operations Dick Carlson, both Distinguished Civilian Gallery Members, also attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

O&G employees who helped build the dam 50 years ago accompanied Raymond Oneglia to the event. They included Doug Troth, the original project engineer; Francis Budspects, carpenter foreman and rigger; Carl Richards, grease truck operator; Tom Joelimo, explosives supplier, and Sonny Tosi, tire supplier.

Current Thomaston Dam employees include Vincent Gualtieri, Marissa Wright, Roy Howe, John Haluchak, Chuck Whitehead, Amy Charlton, AJ Grech, Ryan Clair and Timothy Titus.

Sally Rigione in Public Affairs also provided assistance for the event.



*The District's water safety trailer was on hand during the celebration.*



*Joe Faloretti, Vincent Gualtieri and Marissa Wright go over the day's events.*



*Tours of the dam were offered as part of the 50th Anniversary celebration.*





*Aerial view of Thomaston Dam in Thomaston, Conn.*

## Facts about New England District's Thomaston Dam

by Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs

Thomaston Dam is situated on the Naugatuck River in Thomaston, Harwinton, Litchfield and Plymouth. Construction started in May 1958 and was completed in November 1960. The dam was constructed in response to the Flood of 1955 and damages from Hurricanes Connie and Diane. The work required relocation of

portions of Routes 8 and 222 (Blakeman Road), several town roads, and a 6.7-mile stretch of railroad. Project costs were \$14.3 million.

The 2,000-foot-long, 142-foot-high earthen dam can impound a lake covering 960 acres capable of storing 13.7 billion gallons of water.

Thomaston Dam has prevented more than \$469.8 million in flood damages since it was constructed, including an estimated \$14.8 million in damages prevented in the spring 2010 heavy rainstorm/flooding event.

An estimated 120,000 visitors annually enjoy picnicking, fishing, hunting, dirt biking and snowmobiling at Thomaston Dam's more than 849 acres of land and water. Visitors spend an estimated \$2.76 million within 30 miles of the dam, supporting the local economy.

The Naugatuck River is the major tributary of the Housatonic River. The Thomaston Dam is about one mile north of Thomaston on Route 222. The dam provides flood risk management protection in the highly industrialized and densely populated Naugatuck Valley. It is the largest and most important flood risk management protection dam in the Naugatuck River system.

There is no lake at the Thomaston Dam. The flood storage area of the project, which is normally empty and



*Brig. Gen. Alden Sibley, New England Division Commander, and Connecticut Officials break ground on the Thomaston Dam project during a ceremony in May 1958.*





File photos.

*This December 2, 1959 photo shows the ongoing construction of the Thomaston Dam.*

is only utilized to store floodwaters, covers 960 acres. The project and associated lands total 1,288 acres, of which 1,000 are wooded. These lands extend into the towns of Litchfield, Harwinton and Plymouth.

Thomaston Dam can store up to 13.7 billion gallons of water for flood damage reduction purposes. This is equivalent to 8.1 inches of water covering its drainage area of 97.2 square miles.

There is a 25-mile trail system for snowmobiles and two-wheel trail bikes on the Thomaston Dam lands. Fishing enthusiasts will find that Leadmine Brook, a tributary of the Naugatuck River that flows near the dam, is stocked with brown, brook, and rainbow trout. In-season hunting for stocked pheasant and native small game is permitted. Overlook and picnic areas offer an excellent

view of the dam and portions of the Naugatuck River Valley. Fireplaces, parking and sanitary facilities are also available.

For more information call the

Thomaston Dam office at 860-283-5540 Ext. 374 or check the Corps of Engineers website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreation/tmd/tmdhome.htm>.



*The deadly 1955 ravaged parts of Connecticut like the town of Torrington.*

## Dredging up the past . . .



*Corps in New England chefs cook up a storm during the 1997 Founder's Day at the Murphy Federal Center. Background cooks are retiree George Norton and Tony Mack-os. Foreground cooks are Chris Lindsay and Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member Dick Reardon. The chefs were from Engineering Division.*

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