



J.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 45, No. 8 May 2011

## **New England District continues restoration project along the Ten Mile River**

**Story on page 5**

# Yankee Voices

Rosemarie Schmidt, Forrest Lyford  
and Gary Lacroix



## Founder's Day Save the Date!

Founder's Day will be hosted by Programs/Project Management this year and will be held on **Wednesday, June 22, at Castle Park in Hanscom Air Force Base.**

Retirees on the Yankee Engineer Mailing List will be receiving a flyer in the mail with details for their participation.

Those retirees who would like to participate in Founder's Day but are not on the mailing list should contact Ann Marie R. Harvie, Public Affairs, at 978-318-8777 or e-mailto:annmarie.r.harvie@usace.army.mil.

## Words worth repeating

"I love people who make me laugh. I honestly think it's the thing I like most, to laugh. It cures a multitude of ills. It's probably the most important thing in a person."

- Audrey Hepburn

## Sympathy

... to the family of retired Safety Officer **William Hoxie**, who passed away April 4. Mr. Hoxie was also a veteran who retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army.  
...to the family of former Safety Officer **Jim Peck**, who passed away April 30.  
... to the family of Engineering retiree **Dick Semonian**, who passed away May 3. Mr. Semonian was a World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Army.  
...to the family of Engineering retiree **Al Merrill**, who passed away May 5.  
...to **Julie Mackley**, Safety, on the passing of her mother and Holocaust survivor, **Dr. Eva Kashket**, May 21.

## Congratulations

... to the members of the **New England District team** that volunteered to donate precious blood at the April blood drive. The Red Cross collected 32 viable pints of blood.

... to **Adam Orlowski**, Survey Section, and his wife, **Angie**, on the birth of their son, **Elliott Sawyer**, April 15. His grandfather, **Rick Orlowski**, is the District's topographic survey chief.

... to **Diane Ray**, Regulatory, who has been nominated for the 2011 Don Lawyer Outstanding Regulator of the Year Award. Her tireless dedication, leadership, helpful no-nonsense attitude and willingness to step out of her lane and assist in a broader, regional and national role have benefitted the District, the Division, and the Corps.

...and best wishes to **Sheila Holt**, Real Estate, on her retirement April 29. Holt, who joined the retirement community with 20 years of federal service, worked at Fort Devens and the U.S. Air Force Space Command before joining the District.

## New Clothing: Wash, then wear

Should you wash that new shirt or sweater before wearing it? Probably, especially if it's clothing for a child. Pediatrician Dr. Jennifer Shu cautions that clothes have been probably handled by many different people in factories and stores before reaching store shelves.

In addition, clothing may have been sprayed or treated with chemicals to prevent bacteria growth or keep them smelling fresh. Wash new clothes, or at least air them out thoroughly, before letting them get close to any sensitive skin.  
(First Draft magazine)



## Division Engineer visits New England, holds town meeting

North Atlantic Division Commander Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca visited New England to speak at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, hold a Town Meeting at Concord Park and conduct some site visits April 28-29.

After his presentation and a roundtable lunch with students and faculty at MIT, Brig. Gen. DeLuca hosted a town meeting in the Concord Park theatre to honor employees and talk to District personnel. "It is a privilege to get a chance to talk with all of you," he said. "I get to see bits and pieces of the District when I tour projects, but to see a big group of you is very exciting for me."

The Division Commander praised the District for the work they are doing in the region. "I think of the New England District itself as a small circle turning very quickly and delivering results in real time, which is awesome," he said. "It's wonderful to be on a team with you."

Brig. Gen. DeLuca discussed the Corps' Civil Works Program and the way it has changed over the years. He discussed some scenarios that Corps Headquarters is considering to evolve the program for future successes.

The General talked about Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick who was nominated as the 53<sup>rd</sup> Chief of Engineers. Maj. Gen. Merdith Temple will serve as acting Chief until the confirmation process is complete.

"I worked with Lt. Gen. Bostick in Iraq," said Brig. Gen. DeLuca. "The Army has selected him because they see him as a problem solver. He's someone who can take a potentially complicated problem and fix it."

Engineers are problem solvers, according to Brig. Gen. DeLuca. He challenged District employees to do much more than that. "We have so many successes, both overseas and at home," he said. "Let's look at these really successful things that we have done and let's mine those lessons for future use."

Brig. Gen. DeLuca presented awards to District team members. Details on the awards can be found on page 14. He concluded his presentation by taking questions from the audience.



Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca addresses the New England District Team during the Concord Park town meeting.

Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander, also addressed the audience. "I'm closing in on completing my time here with you at the District," he said. "It's a bittersweet time for me. This is probably the best, if not the best organization that I've ever been associated with. The awards that our people just received are a telltale sign of what each and every one of you brings to the table every day."

The District Engineer discussed some of the initiatives in the District to include the collective bargaining agreement recently

signed by management and members of the Union. He also talked about the large workload that the District has accomplished for the Veterans Administration (VA), the Department of Homeland Security and other customers.

According to Col. Feir, the District's response for volunteers to go overseas has been outstanding. "We've had more volunteers than we actually had positions for," he said. "Supervisors also stood up and 'walked the walk' by going overseas. These include Frank Fedele, Jennifer McCarthy and Farrell McMillan."

Col. Feir also touched on other offices and their successes, to include Human Resources, Contracting, Construction and Regulatory. "I'm really proud of this organization," he said. "I thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you do each and every day."

The following day, the Division Engineer made site visits to the VA construction projects as well as the Base Realignment and Closure site in Middletown, Conn., before returning to Division headquarters at Fort Hamilton, N.Y.





Col. Philip Feir watches Tim Hays load his musket.



Decorated Concord residents turn out for the parade.



Col. Feir and the Ranger Color Guard on historic North Bridge.



Concord Minutemen fire their muskets during the parade.

Photos by C.J. Allen

## *District Commander, Ranger Color Guard, historian march in Concord's Patriot's Day parade*

New England District Ranger Color Guard represented the Corps of Engineers by marching in the town of Concord's Patriot's Day parade, April 18.

Thousands of people lined the streets of Concord to watch the uniforms of the past and present go by and to watch and celebrate Patriot's Day. Patriot's Day is a special Massachusetts state holiday commemorating the opening battle of the American Revolutionary War on April 19, 1775. The town of Concord extends an annual invitation to the Corps of Engineers, whose historic roots are planted only a few miles away in the same year, which is accepted with great honor.

Tim Hays, Corps historian, dressed in his minuteman uniform, joined the Lincoln Minuteman and marched behind the color guard. The parade participants assembled at Everett St., then marched to the historic North Bridge where a small wreath laying ceremony was performed.

The parade resumed after the ceremony through Monument Square, past the reviewing stand and through Concord Center and dispersed at the Hunt Gymnasium.

The New England District Ranger Color Guard who marched this year were: Joe Faloretti, Mike Curran, Bob Hanacek, Steve Patchkofsky, Jason Robinson, Jenn Samela and Brad Clark.



Construction at Hunts Dam is ongoing.

Photo by Brian Murphy

## *The Rehabilitation of Ten Mile River*

### *Work progressing on Rhode Island environmental project*

Work to construct fish passages at three dams located along the Ten Mile River in East Providence, R.I., continues. The fish passages, once complete, will provide for upstream migration of adult Blueback Herring, Alewife, and American shad to their historic spawning areas. The Hunts, Turner Reservoir and Omega dams will all have fish passages installed by the end of the project.

For over 200 years, dams have blocked anadromous river herring and American shad from their historic spawning grounds in the Ten Mile River watershed. When the restoration project is completed, it will provide anadromous alewives access to about 340 acres of spawning habitat, and approximately three miles of riverine spawning habitat for Blueback Herring and American Shad.

At Hunts Dam, construction is progressing. "The fish passage is approximately 80 percent complete with the concrete formwork and placement ongoing," said Stephen Dunbar, New England District Project Manager. "Work at Hunts should be substantially complete by the June/July time frame."

Work on this project does not come without challenges. The John Ricchio Corporation of Smithfield, R.I., the contractor who will construct both the Hunts and Turner Reservoir

fish passages, initially began work at Turner Reservoir, but seepage issues that were found during the dewatering of the cofferdam required a new approach.

"A modification to the contract will likely be issued soon that will allow the contractor to install additional sheeting around the cofferdam and along the concrete spillway to maintain the integrity of the city-owned dam and ensure work can commence under dry conditions," said Dunbar.

According to the project manager, it is likely that the contractor will remobilize in June and begin installing the sheeting.

"Construction at Turner Reservoir will continue into the fall and will be substantially complete in the November/December time frame," he said.

Construction of the Omega Pond Dam fish passage portion of the project has not begun. A contract award is expected in July. "Construction will begin in August and will likely be completed in the spring of 2012," said Dunbar.

Based on the Department of Environmental Management's projections, these habitat areas will support a fish run of more than 200,000 herring. It's unknown how many American Shad will return, but the fish passages can pass about 25,000 shad.



## Public hearings held on proposed South Coast Rail project

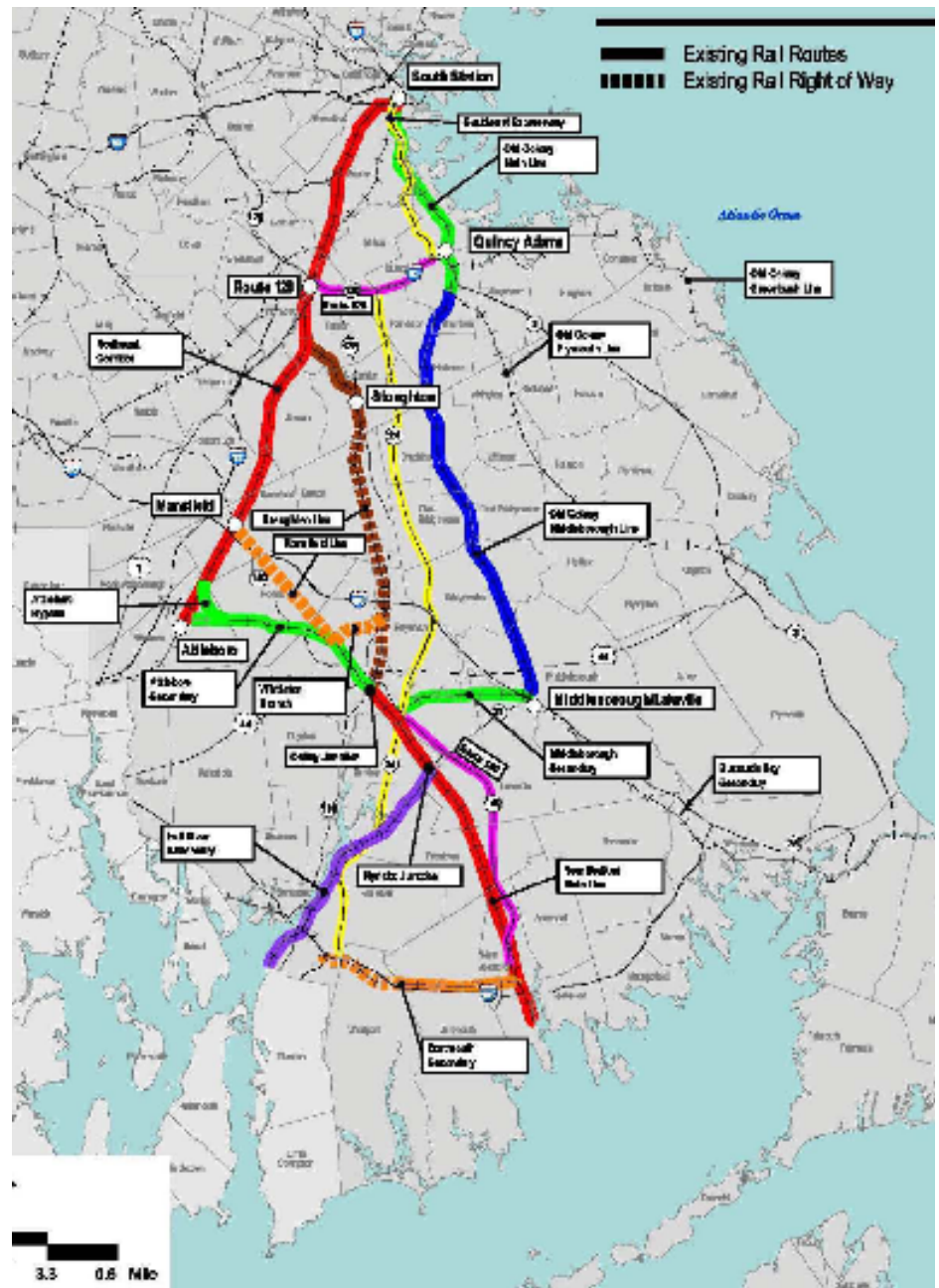
In an effort to involve the public and obtain comments and concerns, the New England District held public hearings regarding the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's (MassDOT) South Coast Rail proposal to establish passenger rail service between Boston and the cities of New Bedford and Fall River, Mass.

The first hearing, held at the Qualters Middle School Auditorium in Mansfield, Mass., on May 4 drew 72 people. The second hearing, held at the Keith Middle School Auditorium in New Bedford, Mass., drew about 93 people who came out to gather information and make their voices heard.

The MassDOT is seeking permission from the New England District under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to discharge fill material in U.S. waters including wetlands, to establish the proposed passenger rail service. The project impacts would range from 10.3 acres to approximately 21.5 acres of wetlands.

Because the proposal constitutes a potentially significant environmental impact, a federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An EIS is an in-depth and multi-agency environmental study. A draft EIS on the proposed project was released in March for the public to comment on through May 27. The draft EIS also has been prepared to serve as a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) to satisfy the requirements of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) which is being reviewed simultaneously with the federal NEPA process.

Eight alternatives are outlined in the Draft EIS, but it is important to stress that the New England District has not reached a conclusion or had a preferred alternative. "Our Draft EIS is a discus-



Map of early screening alternatives.

sion of alternatives, but not a selection of a particular alternative," said New England District Permit Manager Alan Anacheka-Nasemann.

Before the public gave the comments on the project, Larry Rosenberg, Chief Public Affairs and moderator for the hearings, called the meeting to order. Kristina Egan, MassDOT presented a permit application overview. Lt. Col. Steven Howell, Deputy District Engineer, served as the hearing officer

and presented remarks. Anacheka-Nasemann gave a presentation on the Corps role in the project and a permit overview. Aisling O'Shea, MEPA Analyst, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts explained the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act role and process.

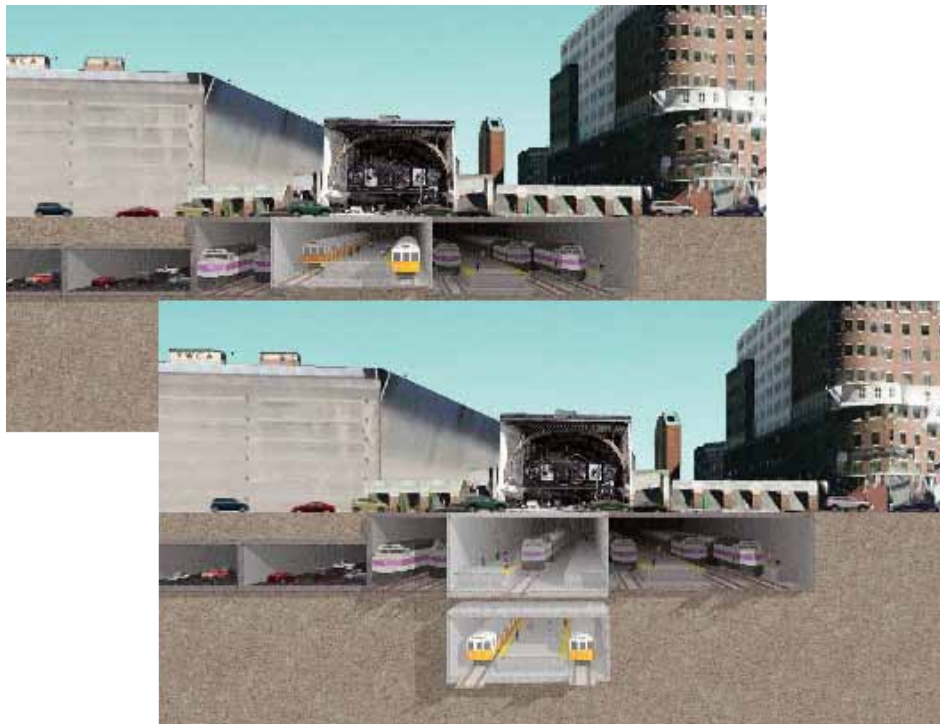
Comments were heard on both sides of the issue. During the May 4 hearing, Colleen Corona, Chairman,

Board of Selectmen for the town of Easton, spoke against the issue, citing concerns about her town's drinking water and an area swamp. "We feel the environmental impact will be significant, particularly to the Hockomock Swamp," she said. "Easton is a town that relies solely on wells for their water, and a train is scheduled to pass by several of those wells, one in very close proximity to the wells, so we have significant concerns about our drinking water."

Stephen Castellina, Chairman of the Berkley Board of Selectmen also publicly opposed the project, calling it a \$2 billion boondoggle. "In my opinion, the argument for equality of rail service between Boston and all cities within 60 miles of Boston is bogus," he said. "Money would be better spent on something else -- on such things as bus improvement or no action; and the rest of the money that you spend -- that you would spend with no action or with bus improvement should be spent on bringing businesses to southeastern Massachusetts, and then people won't have to travel to Boston."

In contrast, Taunton Mayor Charles Crowley, who attended both public hearings, spoke enthusiastically in favor of the project, going so far as to call it the gateway to the South Coast. "Count me as absolutely in favor of this, along with our 56,000 people from the city of Taunton," he said.

Freetown Selectwoman Jean Fox also spoke in favor of the project, stating that Freetown and the surrounding areas do not have ready access to a rail service. "It means accessibility," she said. "It means jobs. It opens up the region to tremendous economic development potential, connecting employers and businesses to our most noteworthy resource, our human resource. For the first time in close to a century, it provides a public link between the South Coast and the rest



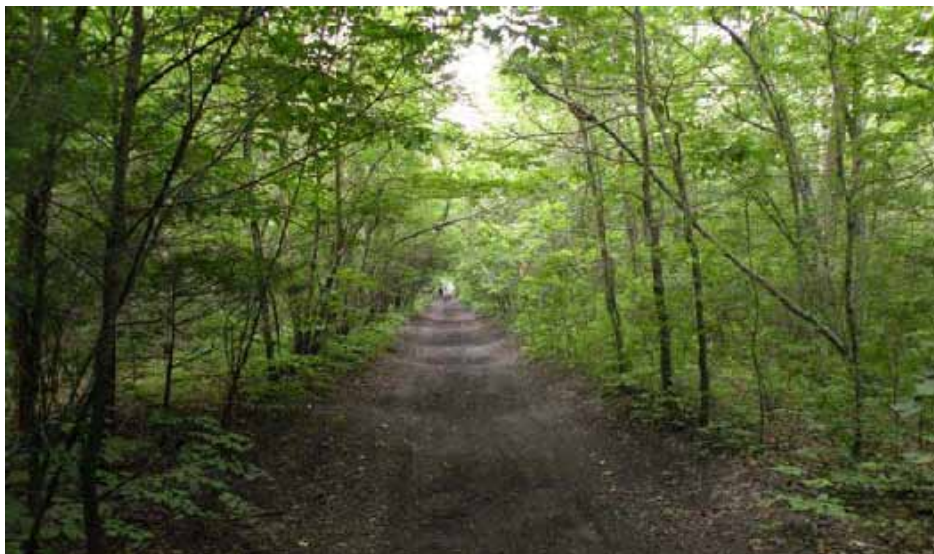
To add additional tracks through Back Bay it would be necessary to rebuild the Orange Line further below ground and rebuild its existing track to serve commuter rail.

of the state."

In addition to having the opportunity to get up in front of the audience and voice their comments and concerns, the New England District also provided attendees an additional stenographer to take testimony. No time limit was imposed on those who visited the stenographer and all oral and written comments submitted will be given equal weight in the review

process.

Comments on the permit application were accepted through May 27. The Draft EIS has been provided for review at 24 local libraries. Their locations have been listed in the New England District public notice which can be found at the District website: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/projects/ma/SouthCoastRail/southcoast-trail.htm>.



A view of Hockomock Swamp. A railroad would be constructed along this existing grade and there would be very little new fill in wetlands, lower in elevation, on either side.



## Public meeting held on Buffumville Lake master plan

By Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs Office

The New England District held a public meeting May 11 in Oxford, Mass., on the draft Master Plan for project operations of the Buffumville Lake project in Charlton and Dudley, Mass. About 10 people attended the meeting. The draft document is available for review at local libraries and on the Corps website and the public has until June 15 to provide comments on the plan.

The Master Plan covers 480 acres of federally-owned land at Buffumville Lake. It prescribes 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 and expressed public interests consistent with the project's authorized flood damage reduction purposes. The Master Plan covers all project resources, including fish and wildlife, vegetation, cultural, aesthetic, interpretive, recreational, commercial and out-granted lands, easements and water.

Inputs to the planning process were surveys and management plans for natural, wetland and cultural resources and an analysis of recreational use, capacity and projected needs for project lands. Natural and man-made resources were located, identified and analyzed, including wetlands, exemplary natural communities and cultural resources that require management efforts for their protection.

These were integrated into project-wide objectives to protect and enhance project resources and promote and develop, as appropriate, those resources for public use,

education and access.

The public notice notifying the public of the Corps intent to update the Buffumville Master Plan was published on May 21, 2008 and town leaders were notified by letters on June 10, 2008. Since then the Corps has been working with the public and stakeholders to develop the plan that is now available for review.

Buffumville Lake is located on the Little River, about 1.3 miles upstream of its confluence with the French River. It is 10 miles southwest of Worcester, Mass. Construction of Buffumville Dam began in October 1956 and was completed in April 1958 at a cost of \$3,068,000. Through Fiscal Year 2010 the facility has prevented approximately \$105.9 million in flood damages.

Project operations at the dam site make up 30 acres of the project's total acreage. Land set aside for multiple-resource management consists of 170 acres of the total. The developed recreation areas include park, beach,

associated facilities, boat ramp with parking, and disc golf course with parking, consisting of 40 acres. Land designated as environmentally sensitive, the lake and its abutting wetlands, comprises 230 acres.

The dam is composed of rolled earth, a concrete ogee spillway and rock slope protection. It is 3,255 feet in length with an average height of 25 feet and a maximum height of 66 feet above the river bed. The top of the dam is at elevation 539.0 feet mean sea level. The dam includes a 220-foot-long overflow concrete ogee spillway with three gated conduits through this spillway. Three, 3-foot by 4.5-foot electrically operated slide gates control flow through the conduits. The spillway crest is 220 feet long and is at elevation 524.0 feet mean sea level. The intake channel is about 450 feet long with a bottom width of 22 feet. A concrete weir controls a permanent recreation pool at the 11-foot stage.

A 610-foot-long Pierpoint



Buffumville Lake.

File Photo



Meadow Pond dike, top elevation of 539.0 feet mean sea level, was constructed in a saddle at the south end of the Pierpoint Meadow Pond. The spillway crest is at elevation 524.0 feet mean sea level. The capacity of the reservoir at spillway crest is 11,300 acre feet which is the equivalent of a runoff of 8.0 inches from the drainage area of 26.5 square miles. When filled to spillway crest, the reservoir would extend up the Little River approximately 1.7 miles and up the South Fork for 1.9 miles with a surface area of approximately 530 acres. The permanent pool elevation of 492.5 feet mean sea level creates a lake 2.25 miles long, covering approximately 200 acres.

Recreational opportunities were identified through an analysis of regional needs and the public participation process. The planning process identified opportunities for improvement of existing recreational facilities, enhancement of boat and beach facilities, picnic area and play fields, to enhance and protect important natural and cultural

resources. Enhancing and preserving the resources by careful management of user conflicts were also identified.

The demand for recreation at Buffumville Lake is expected to continue at a high level in the future. The carrying capacity of the project is constrained by the size of the beach, rest rooms and limitations on the availability of parking. A review of recreational level of activity and demand did reveal the need for minimal expansion of the recreational facilities that should be addressed by the park manager.

The Master Plan provides guidance for future development at Buffumville Lake. The natural and man-made resources at the project will continue to be managed to provide the best combination of responses to regional and ecosystem needs, project resources and capabilities. All specific proposals for recreational or other development at the project must comply with the Master Plan, the Thames River Basin flood damage reduction requirements, and the National Environmental Policy Act

and federal requirements.

The draft plan is available for review at the Buffumville project office and the Town of Charlton Public Library, 40 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507, and the Town of Oxford Public Library, 339 Main Street, Oxford, MA 01540. It is online at [www.nae.usace.army.mil](http://www.nae.usace.army.mil). Select projects and Buffumville Dam Master Plan or go to the link at [http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/projects/ma/BVL\\_MasterPlan/BVL\\_MasterPlan.htm](http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/projects/ma/BVL_MasterPlan/BVL_MasterPlan.htm). It is accessible from the Buffumville Dam recreation website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreati/bvl/bvlhome.htm>.

Public comments on the master plan should be sent by June 15, to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Buffumville Lake and Hodges Village Dam, Attn: Project Manager Tim Russell, 48 Old Oxford Road, Charlton, MA 01507 or by e-mail to [timothy.g.russell@usace.army.mil](mailto:timothy.g.russell@usace.army.mil). Additional information is available from Project Manager Tim Russell at 508-248-5697 or 978-318-8426.

## *Volunteers work at District recreational areas during Earth Day*

Two of New England District's recreational facilities held clean up events in celebration of Earth Day in April.

Hundreds of volunteers came out to perform work to not only improve the District's federal recreational areas that saved thousands of dollars, but also to help the environment.

West Hill Dam held their 18<sup>th</sup> Earth Day event, called Trail Day, on April 16. Their partners, Bay State Trail Riders, Inc., co-hosted

the event. "Approximately 21 volunteers came out to perform work which included clearing the five mile trail of winter storm damage and flood debris," said Park Ranger Viola Bramel.

Additional work performed included cutting back encroaching growth, removing litter from the trail network and clearing and repairing about 15 water bars (erosion control devices). The volunteers who worked the four-hour event saved the government about \$450 in labor.

The Cape Cod Canal had its 11<sup>th</sup>

annual Canal Cleanup on April 23. "Despite the rain, we had 178 volunteers," said Park Ranger Elisa Carey.

The volunteers not only performed trash pick up, but they also assisted the Canal staff to prepare the project for the upcoming season. "Work included trail maintenance, installing dog waste dispensers and signs, as well as building a butterfly garden," said Carey.

The work the volunteers performed saved the government over \$15,000 in labor.



Sara Umbrell shows off the T-shirt she designed using chromatography.



Leanna Martin drops alcohol onto Austin Chaisson's T-shirt.

## *Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day had Earth Day theme*

The Federal Women's Program and the Equal Employment Opportunity Office co-hosted the annual "Take Your Daughters and Sons To Work" Day April 22 at the Concord Park Headquarters.

This year's event focused on an "Earth Day" theme. Thirty-five children attended this year. The children were split into three groups by color – yellow, red and green.

Lt. Col. Steven Howell, Deputy District Commander, welcomed the children to Concord Park. He asked the children how many of them were proud of the adults that brought them that day. When hands went up, Lt. Col. Howell told them that they should be proud. "You should be proud, they are heroes," he said. "They do important work. If they didn't do their jobs, the country would be in big trouble."

After Lt. Col. Howell's remarks, the three groups participated in an ice breaker and snack. The children introduced themselves by using an

adjective to describe themselves that had the same first letter in their first name, such as "Perfect Paul," and "Respectful Ruby."

After the ice breaker, the three groups broke out into the three morning sessions and rotated after each one. The first session was a "Toothpick Bridge" exercise with Dave Descoteaux, Rick Kristoff, Drew Cattano and Kane Turmelle in the New England Conference Room. After watching a historical video of an unstable bridge, using only toothpicks, marshmallows and gum drops, the children split into teams and tried to build bridges that would withstand the most weight.

"I felt the toothpick bridge exercise went extremely well," said Kristoff. "They were all creative on how to build their bridge so that it would hold as much weight as possible. The kids were constantly smiling and working with each other. It appeared to be a really great project to introduce our guests on

what it is like to design/engineer. They also enjoyed watching the collapse of the Tacoma Bridge. "

"Building the bridge was my favorite activity," said Joe Baker, son of Linda Baker, Real Estate. Baker had the strongest bridge in the red group. "Today was fun. I'd like to come back if they have it next year."

The next session was the "chromatography" exercise held in the cafeteria. In years past this has been one of the most popular activities held during the event. This year Leanna Martin and Sarita Martinez took the lead. After an explanation behind the science of chromatography, the children created their own designs on T-shirts using colored permanent markers. Then Martin and Martinez used droppers to sprinkle rubbing alcohol on the designs so the colors would separate to enhance the children's creations. "I found it so interesting some of the ways they



used the chromatography to enhance their T-shirts," said Martin. "One of my favorites was the light sabers that were popular on a few of the shirts. When I was practicing the project on my own I had a hard time coming up with designs, but when I saw what some of the kids came up with and how they experimented with the color it was very inspiring. Also Sarita came up with a method to create a tie-dyed effect using rubber bands which was really interesting and a big hit. It was a very enjoyable activity and I'd love to do it again!"

"The chromatography was my favorite," said Abby Maynard, daughter of Tim Maynard, Logistics. Sofia Montoya, daughter of Duban Montoya, Emergency Operations and Kaitlyn Wilson, daughter of Gary Wilson, Human Resources, also said that the activity was their favorite. The final morning session was a lesson in soil types by Michael Narcisi and Rachel Whitemore in the Massachusetts and Connecticut conference rooms. After learning about what soil is and the different types via a PowerPoint presentation, the children created and decorated a planter using a recycled gallon jug in keeping with the Earth Day theme.

After decorating their planter, the children chose a flower and placed it in the container using potting soil and water. "My goal was to introduce the children to the world beneath their feet and how the use of simple/everyday observations (color, feel and shape) are applied to making important soil interpretations for wise land use decisions," he said. "The children enjoyed constructing their Earth Day planters out of recycled half-gallon milk jugs and being able to plant a plant on Earth Day. My hope was to guide them towards having a new found respect for the pile of 'dirt' in front of them and perhaps someday one will sprout to



Photos by Brian Murphy

Jayleen Pinero constructs a bridge.

become the next Hans Jenny!"

After a pizza lunch with their adult sponsors in the cafeteria, the three groups reassembled and moved into the afternoon session rotations. The "Composting" session kicked off the afternoon's activities in the New England Conference Room. Tina Chaisson and Rick Kristoff had the children create mini compost bins by painting 2-liter bottles black.

While the compost bins were drying, the children assembled their compost materials that included leaves, grass and potato peels and put them in a baggie to compost later. Before transitioning to the next activity, the children made edible dirt -- which also served as their afternoon snack -- using pudding, cookies and graham crackers. Gummy worms were optional. "I liked making the edible dirt -- without the worms!" said Ruby Montoya, daughter of Duban Montoya.

The second session taught the children about clean water in the Maine and New Hampshire conference rooms. Angela Rapella and Grace Bowles ran the activity, explaining how water



Karlen and Jarek Michalak compete in the H2O Olympics.



Caroline Flanagan paints her "compost bin."

is filtered naturally once it comes down from the clouds. After the presentation, the children created their own filters using cut 2-liter bottles, cotton and gravel. Rapella and Bowles created "dirty water" using soil, vegetable oil, salt and pepper then gave the children cups full to pour into their filters. The children were able to see how clean the water became through this process.

The final exercise was called the "H2O Olympics" with Karen Hoey and Natalie McCormack. The children competed in four events to learn about two properties of water -- adhesion and cohesion.

At the end of the session, the child in the group with the highest score received a gold medal. The other children received smaller prizes for participating, so that everyone was a winner.

Heather Sullivan, Federal Women's Program Manager, and Jackie DiDomenico, EEO Officer, co-chaired the committee. Other committee members that were not previously mentioned were: Megan Cullen, Jesse Morrill-Winter, Tameka Chapman, Ann Marie Harvie, and Brian Murphy.



Stephen Lefebvre, son Tyler, and wife, Michelle, with Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca.

## *Division Engineer presents awards during town meeting*

Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca, Division Engineer, presented awards to New England District employees during his town hall meeting, April 28. He was assisted by Lt. Col. Steven Howell, who read the citations as Brig. Gen. DeLuca distributed the awards.

Ed O'Leary received the first award, the Work Environment (WE) Committee's Employee of the Month for January. O'Leary has been performing Corps-wide technical reviews working with contractors on Boston Harbor, supporting the Baltimore District, and mentoring and training two newly hired junior-level economists. Ed is also the key economist team member of virtually every project within the New England District.

Karen Hoey also received the WE Committee Employee of the Month Award. She received it for February. Hoey was the chairperson for the Interpretive Services and Outreach Program. As the chairperson she led the committee in planning the 2011 District Park Ranger Conference. Karen

was given a very small window in which to accomplish this assignment and her outstanding efforts resulted in a very successful conference.

Col. Feir said that the next award should have been presented long ago, but in the District's haste to get Lt. Col. (ret.) Stephen Lefebvre back from overseas to his family, it was delayed until now. Lt. Col. Lefebvre, accompanied by his wife, Michelle, and son Tyler, received a Certificate of Appreciation for service in the Armed Forces in the United of America. The certificate was signed by President Barack Obama. "I extend to you my personal thanks and the sincere appreciation of a grateful nation for your contribution of honorable service to our country," said Lt. Col. Howell reading from the President's citation. "You have helped maintain the security of the nation during a critical time in its history with a devotion to duty and a spirit of sacrifice in keeping with the proud traditions of military service. Your commitment and dedication have been an inspiration to those who will follow in your footsteps and for all Americans who join me today in saluting you for a job extremely well done."

Mrs. Lefebvre also received a certificate from President Obama. "On the occasion of the retirement of your husband from active status with the United States Army has earned grateful appreciation for her own unselfish, faithful and devoted service," read Lt. Col. Howell. "Her unfailing support and understanding helped to make possible her husband's lasting contribution to the nation."

Lefebvre thanked everyone for their support in getting him the certificate, especially Lt. Col. Howell who spearheaded the effort. "It's hard to believe that I spent almost 26 years on active duty, culminating with my career here," he said. "I've seen a lot in the Army and I was proud to serve. I'm proud to serve the Corps of Engineers now. I really appreciate it."

The retired Deputy District Engineer thanked his wife for keeping the family together while he was away overseas.



Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca congratulates Bobby Byrne on his Bronze de Fleury Medal.





Steve Chase



Karen Hoey



Ed O'Leary



Scott Acone



Jeff Teller

Photos by Brian Murphy

"My wife took care of the family for two of the last six years when I was in the Army and that's not an easy thing to do," he said. "I always felt confident that she had everything taken care of and I didn't have to worry about those things while I was gone away. Not everybody can say that – there are a lot of folks that deal with personal issues at home and I did not have to deal with that."

The next award went to Jeff Teller, who received the Joint Civilian Service Achievement Award. Teller was the Plans Officer for the Combined Joint Task Force Port of Africa from June to December 2009. "He was the maritime safety and security planner, he developed plans for 18 new installations in Fiscal Year 2010 and another 15 installations in Fiscal 2011," read Lt. Col. Howell. "His efforts will allow our partner nations to improve regional maritime security capabilities. Jeff also served as the primary planning liaison to the Commander of NATO Forces Africa for the African partnership station planning process with the 2010 East African deployment."

Steve Chase received the 2010 Construction Management Excellence Award. "Steve received this prestigious award for this work on the \$74 million Ayer BRAC Project," said Lt. Col. Howell. "As the senior engineer Steve was the primary individual responsible for overseeing every phase of the demolition and construction of this very complex and critical project. His job knowledge and dedication combined with his attention to detail and his ability to quickly understand issues and see the path ahead to resolution has served the Corps extremely well on this project. Steve's dedication to the work pursuit of excellence for both himself and his contractors as well as his track record of superior performance make him truly deserving of this award."

Scott Acone received the Joint Civilian Service Achievement Award and the Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service.

"Scott received these awards for his outstanding response in support to Operation Unified Response as an Urban Search and Rescue structural specialist, Joint Task Force Haiti, from 23 January 2010 to 2 February 2010," said Lt. Col. Howell. "Among his numerous achievements Scott was instrumental in overseeing a joint international recovery operation which averaged 116 people per day. Scott also oversaw the complex recovery of the 147 room Hotel Montana. His efforts directly contributed to the recovery of 66 victims, to include 17 American citizens."

Brig. Gen. DeLuca recalled the logistical difficulty of getting the team to the tiny country. "It's easier to deploy an aircraft carrier group to the Mediterranean than it was to get our structural team to Haiti," he said.

Bobby Byrne received the final award presentation of the day, the Bronze de Fleury Medal. "The New England District and indeed the Corps is fortunate to have Bobby Byrne lead the District's program's management operation," said Lt. Col. Howell. "Highly experienced and battle tested for 30 years of the program wars, Bobby is widely respected and held in the highest esteem across the Corps as a result of his dedicated professional record of performance and contributions. A defining reflection of this occurred recently when the Commander of Jacksonville District requested Bobby's service in a consultant capacity as the District contemplated a major reconstruction of its sizable Programs branch. Bobby spent three days in Jacksonville in mid-March listening, reviewing processes, providing insight and advice, and drawing focus to what are the important issues to consider as they move forward to better shape their district. In recognition of his superior service to the Engineer Regiment as it supports the Army, Mr. Robert Byrne is awarded the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal."



David Lubianez, Lawrence Cain and Mark Koenig serenade the audience at the retirement ceremony.

Photos by Brian Murphy

## *Coworkers celebrate Ian Osgerby's career at retirement ceremony*

A retirement ceremony and luncheon were held in Dr. Ian Osgerby's honor in the Concord Park theatre and cafeteria, on April 27. Osgerby retired with 19 years of federal service.

The retirement ceremony portion of the event was held in the theatre. About 45 people attended. Raimo

Liias served as master of ceremonies and highlighted his career. "It's tough to describe what you've done for us because it seems like you've been on every project," he said.

Some of the high profile projects that Liias mentioned that Osgerby was involved with included the Charles

George Landfill and the Massachusetts Military Reservation. Liias also talked about the numerous awards that Osgerby received over his career to include the Vice President's Hammer Award, Commander's Achievement Award for Civilian Service, the Division Engineer's Award of Honor, the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service and three commanders coins, to name just a few.

Liias concluded his remarks and then opened the floor to anyone who wanted to say a few words. Farrell McMillan, Chief Engineering/Planning, congratulated Osgerby and his family on his retirement. McMillan said that he had known Osgerby since he began at the District in Project Management and how he worked to get him into Engineering/Planning. "The work that Ian did was beneficial not only regionally, but nationally," he said. "I appreciate all this work that you've done. You have a technical competency of the highest degree."

Dave Margolis had shared an office with Osgerby in 1996 when Margolis moved into Engineering/Planning back in the Waltham office, Building 115.



Ian Osgerby addresses the audience during his retirement lunch.



"Over the years I've grown to have a great friendship with Ian and I appreciate everything that he has done here," he said. "I've also learned quite a bit from him."

Margolis said that Osgerby always took an innovative approach to solving problems on projects over the years. After telling some funny stories that involved Osgerby, Margolis said that he appreciated all the wisdom Osgerby had imparted on him over the years. "You will be sorely missed," said Margolis. "Congratulations on your retirement and I hope you enjoy your family."

Rosemarie Schmidt also knew Osgerby since his arrival to the District and has been his first line supervisor for the last six years. Instead of speaking about all the projects that Osgerby worked on, Schmidt chose instead to focus on some personal memories. Some memories were of Osgerby's lessons in defensive driving which got many laughs of the audience. "In his early years Ian had a reputation of being a rascal," she laughed.

Schmidt also discussed a talk he gave at Brighton High School. "He gave a wonderful presentation," she said. "Then he went on to tell the students that what's really important is to dance, have fun and enjoy life," she said. "It was great. I didn't expect that."

Osgerby had a reputation of having a disorderly desk. Schmidt relayed an amusing story of how she and a couple of interns used large plans to conceal his disorderly desk while he was away during a visit from Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, Chief of Engineers. "At the end of the day he got his work done," she said. "And he did it with great spirit, great attitude and a great heart. Thank you for all the work that

you've done here."

Schmidt concluded her remarks by introducing the next presentation. "For many years he was an unsung hero," she said. "But now he will be considered a 'sung hero.'"

David Lubianez, Mark Koenig and



Lynn Osgerby receives a bouquet of flowers from Raimo Liias during her husband's retirement ceremony.

Lawrence Cain took up their acoustic guitars and paid tribute to Osgerby by literally singing his praises while also poking a little fun by changing the lyrics to a famous Neil Diamond and a famous Beatles song. Col. Philip Feir, District Commander, rounded out the speakers by praising his work at the District and all of his accomplishments. "It's very hard to get a Ph.D.," he said. "To be able to do that is a testament to your capabilities, your knowledge and your expertise. To have someone like that on our team is absolutely superb and the District is going to miss that."

The District Engineer said Osgerby had a real passion for what he did and sat on a lot of committees that benefited his fellow employees.

Col. Feir presented Osgerby with

his retirement certificate and pin as well as a Commander's Award for Civilian Service and coin for his distinguished service to the District and the nation. "Today is bittersweet," said Col. Feir. "We hope that you will come and visit. Please don't be a stranger."

After all the speakers had made their presentations, Osgerby got up and said, "I have to say this has been a terrific gig. I've gotten to go places that I wouldn't have had the opportunity to go to and training that wasn't available anywhere else."

Osgerby said working in Saipan, South Korea was enjoyable, but a very long way to go. He talked about some of the projects that he worked on. "The jobs got more interesting as I went along," he said. "It has all been very rewarding for me, and to work with people who supplement the areas that I don't know anything about and help bail me out, we ended up a very good team. I don't think I could've found a better place to spend my last 19 years. I thank you very much for the opportunity."

Liias concluded the retirement ceremony by presenting Osgerby's wife, Lynn, with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation for the support of her husband during his career. Liias also presented Osgerby with gifts that included a Corps jacket, a book entitled "The Perfect Mess," and a watch. When presented with the watch, Osgerby exclaimed, "This really is a proper retirement!"

An Italian food buffet lunch in the cafeteria followed the ceremony.

Osgerby's wife, Lynn, his daughters Laura Ashley and Kimberly and son-in-law Will Pumyea accompanied him to the event. Retirees Phil Durgin and Forest Lyford also attended.

# Dredging up the past



Park Ranger Viola Bramel makes a presentation at the 1999 Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day at Concord Park.

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