Ten Mile River Fish Ladders Open for Business

Story on page 6
Brady receives MacArthur Leadership Award

Capt. Daniel Brady, Construction, was one of eight U.S. Army captains to receive the MacArthur Leadership Award for Outstanding Company Grade Officer 2014. Capt. Brady received the honor on May 29 during a special ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. His wife Stefanie, and his two children, Marie and Gabriel, accompanied him to the ceremony.

Capt. Brady’s previous commander, Lt. Col. Steven M. Sattinger, Battalion Commander 864th Engineer Battalion, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, nominated him. Capt. Brady said that he was surprised to have received the award. “I’ve only known one other officer to receive the honor,” he said. “No one ever expects to receive it, so it’s pretty cool.”

The Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award recognizes company grade officers who demonstrate the ideals for which Gen. MacArthur stood – duty, honor, country. The award promotes and sustains effective junior officer leadership in the Army.

Employee Spotlight: Christopher Way, Operations Division

Christopher Way is the Operations Manager for the Naugatuck River Area Office, Naugatuck River Basin in Middlebury, Connecticut. “My duties include oversight of the operations and maintenance activities at seven flood control projects which include flood risk management, recreation management, natural resources management/environmental stewardship, personnel management, safety, security, budget development and execution,” he said. “It requires a lot of communication and coordination with a wide variety of internal and external Corps elements.”

Way has been a New England District team member for 24 years. He was a founding member of the Interpretive Services and Outreach Committee and has served on many project development teams over his career. He currently serves on the Security/Force Protection Committee, and is the Chair of the Operations Field Safety Committee.

He received his Bachelor’s in Arts degree in Earth and Environmental Science from Wilkes College in Pennsylvania and his Masters in Secondary Science Education from the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut.

When asked what he enjoys most about being a part of the New England District team, Way acknowledged that it has changed over the years of his evolving career. “In my current position, what I enjoy most is two-fold.” The first thing is working with so many good people across a wide variety of disciplines in order to complete the various missions we are responsible for in the field. I’m always encountering new people and learning something new.”

Way said that the second and most important thing is being able to help develop others as they move through their careers. “I really enjoy helping people and I try to take a personal interest in them.”

So what does Chris Way like to do in his spare time? “I’ve been an avid guitarist for nearly 38 years and play everything from classical to metal,” he said. “And while I gravitate toward very early acoustic blues and slide, it’s the screaming, “make-my-ears-bleed” guitar riffs that really make me tick.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Jones is a native of Virginia. He graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Va Tech) in 1987 with a Bachelor of Architecture Degree and from George Washington University in 2000 with a Master’s Certificate in Project Management.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jones enlisted in the Army on March 3, 1989. He attended Basic Training and Advance Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He graduated as a Construction Surveyor (82B). His NCOES schools include Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC), Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course (BNCOC), Advanced Noncommissioned Officers’ Course (ANCOC), United States Army Sergeants Major Academy (USASMA) and Battle Staff. He is also a graduate of numerous military courses, such as Brigade and Battalion Pre-Command Course, First Sergeant’s Course, Airborne School, NBC School, Combat Life Savers Course, C7-Instrument Repair, Retention School, Equal Opportunity Leader Course and Global Position System (GPS) and Prime Power 101.


His deployments include: Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm – Southwest Asia, Operations Uphold Democracy – Haiti, OIF and OEF.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jones was the Distinguished Honor Graduate of his ANCOC and BNCOC classes and Commandant’s Award winner of his BNCOC Class. Command Sergeant Major Jones’ graduated on the Dean’s List from the Navy Senior Enlisted Academy (Navy Sergeant Major Academy). Command Sgt. Maj. Jones is a member of the Sergeant Morales Club.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Staff Badge, Silver deFleury, and Driver’s Badge.

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North Atlantic Division Commander visits District

Col. (P) William Graham, North Atlantic Division Commander, gets a tour of the Hanscom Air Force Base Middle School construction site in Bedford, Massachusetts from Steve Chase and Jim Conway. Col. Graham visited the New England District for two days, June 24-25, touring the school, New Bedford and the Cape Cod Canal.

Photo by Brian Murphy
Remembering Who We Are on Founder’s Day

By Jess Levenson
Public Affairs Office

On June 26, the New England District celebrated 240 years of service to the nation with an awards ceremony and cookout held in Concord, Massachusetts. Founder’s Day began in the morning at 8 a.m. with a free continental breakfast, provided by the District’s Work Environment Association (WEA). Early-risers got first dibs on tasty pastries, juice and coffee. Familiar faces and their guests mingled about with a smile; it was time to put work on the backburner and talk about family, hobbies and vacations. Also, the WEA Committee set up shop in the hallway at 8:30 a.m. and was open for business, selling New England District clothes and accessories.

At 9 a.m., the awards ceremony began while family-friendly movies flickered to life in the theater for the kids. Tim Dugan of Public Affairs served as Master of Ceremonies. “We’re here today to reflect on past accomplishments, enjoy present activity and look to future challenges,” he said.

As is tradition during the Founder’s Day ceremony, Dugan recited the history of the Battle of Bunker Hill and the birth of the Corps of Engineers on June 16, 1775. District Commander Col. Christopher Barron then offered his commander’s remarks. Col. Barron noted the major theme of Founder’s Day: the New England District employees work hard all year long. He described every department and their successful accomplishments this year. Col. Barron also noted, “Many of you don’t get the fanfare in the ceremony but you’re just as much a part of the success as anybody out there.” He thanked our retirees as well, and asked the audience to thank them, too. Col. Barron noted that there are numerous upcoming projects, yet he knows, “we will continue to knock them out of the park” with our Yankee can-do attitude. He also said that in the year he has been in the District, he appreciates how we have welcomed him to the team. “The true strength of the Corps and the New England District are the people,” he said. “Thanks for all you do.”

Another tradition of Founder’s Day is the recognition of individuals and their accomplishments. Certificates of appreciation were given by Greg Lantz, Chief, ACE-IT, to team members John Broderick, Stefan Carpenter, Paulo Dasilva, and Carl Orlando for their hard work and dedication to their New England District customers over the years.

Jennifer McCarthy, Chief, Regulatory Division, presented Greg Penta with a Commander’s Award for Civilian Service for, “exhibiting the highest level of perseverance and initiative in overhauling and improving the general permit program throughout New England.”

Denise Kammerer-Cody, Chief of the Economic and Cultural Section in Evaluation Branch, Engineering/Planning presented Jesse Morrill-Winter with a certificate of appreciation from the Modeling, Mapping and Consequences (MMC) Production Center in recognition of his outstanding and selfless team efforts while working with the MMC team. According to the citation, Morrill-Winter presented the MMC consequences processes at an international conference in Brazil, which
involved creating multiple PowerPoint presentations. “Jesse created the vast majority of the presentation material himself with limited help from others on the team,” read Kammerer-Cody. “While at the conference the audience requested hands on material, so without hesitation, Jesse created scaled down inputs and created a hands on working class demo.”

Kammerer-Cody, who is also the Federal Women’s Program Manager, presented the FWP Supervisor of the Year Award to Michael Keegan. Keegan received the honor for hiring a female employee without considering her pregnancy or upcoming family responsibilities as detrimental to her ability to do her job. This was demonstrated by assigning her as a project manager to a high profile project and then accommodating her schedule to meet the needs of the new family.

Charlie Ross and Sarah Rudner of Human Resources presented the Length of Service pins. The Length of Service pins are especially remarkable because they reveal the generations of people who work together, combining their unique perspectives and experiences to accomplish goals.

And finally, Lt. Col. Todd Melzer introduced the festivities. Morale boosted, and with a chance to stretch their legs, the team happily headed outside.

Founder’s Day at Concord Park is never boring. For the kids, there were plenty of children’s activities: a bouncy house, face painting, water table, and bubble station.

Some activities change from year to year, and the bubbles were a welcome new addition. For the mature crowd, there were horseshoes, basketball, corn hole, badminton, volleyball, and frisbeena. The kids, of course, joined the adults in their fun. The loudspeakers were bumping tunes throughout, and it looked as if the groups near the music were continually nodding in agreement about something.

At 11:45 a.m., the BBQ lunch was ready to go. Lines formed for pulled pork and pulled chicken sandwiches, baked beans, mac & cheese, cole slaw, and corn bread. For others there were vegetarian options too, featuring southwest wraps, corn bread and sweet potatoes. It was all washed down with water, iced tea and lemonade. Thank you to EEO, IR, Real Estate, RMO and the WE Committee for organizing Founder’s Day 2015!
New fish ladders to help improve fish populations at Ten Mile River Restoration Project celebrated

For the first time in over a century, fish living in the Ten Mile River can swim to their spawning grounds unassisted.

Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, joined Congressional, Senators and other partners in cutting the ribbon on the Ten Mile River Ecosystem Restoration Project, June 19. The ceremony took place in Rumford, Rhode Island.

The Ten Mile River watershed runs approximately 56 square miles through Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Denil fish passages were constructed at the first three dams on the river – Omega Pond, Hunts Mill and Turner Reservoir, all in Rhode Island. “The Ten Mile River project will support a population of more than 200,000 anadromous fish,” said Col. Barron. “Those fish are an important part of the link between upstream river habitats, Narragansett Bay and the Atlantic Ocean.”

Other speakers included Senator Jack Reed, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Congressman David Cicilline, Janet Coit, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Buck Sutter, National Marine Fisheries Service, Paul Lemont, city of East Providence, Anne Maxwell, Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, Wenley Ferguson, Save the Bay and Keith Gonsalves, Ten Mile River Watershed Council. Senator Reed, who is on the Appropriations Committee, played a significant role in obtaining the funding for the project. “Each fishway is composed of four-foot-wide channels that have a one vertical on eight horizontal floor slope to allow the passage of river herring such as blueback herring and American Shad,” said Col. Barron.

“The Denil Fishways provide for upstream migration of anadromous fish to their historic spawning areas,” said Larry Oliver, Chief, Evaluation Branch, Engineering/Planning.

Prior to the building of the Denil Fishways, organizations such as the Ten Mile River Watershed Council were assisting the fish over the dams by catching them with fish nets. “Getting the herring upstream matters,” said Sen. Whitehouse. “Herring are incredibly cool fish.”

The New England District team and their partners completed construction of the fish ladders at Hunts Mill Dam and Turner River Reservoir in 2012, and completed the final critical link in the system at Omega Pond Dam this past April.

The contractors that performed the work on this project were John Rocchino Corporation of Smithfield, Rhode Island, S and R Corporation of Lowell, Massachusetts, and Marguerite Concrete of Hopedale, Massachusetts.

The project was cost-shared under the Section 206 cost shared percentages with additional contributions from several other sources. The federal share for the Section 206 portion of the project, totaling 65-percent was $5 million. The non-federal share of 35-percent, sponsored by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) was approximately $2.7 million.

Although the construction of the Denil fish ladders at all three sites is complete, the District team and the RIDEM will be adding eel passes at Omega Pond Dam and Turner Reservoir. They will also be making minor modifications to obstructions downstream of Hunts Mill Dam.

District team members are Larry Oliver, Steve Dunbar, Saji Varghese, Mike Tuttle, Ken Levitt, Ben Loyd, Todd Randall, Marc Paiva, Patrick Blumeris, Siamac Vaghar, Bill Gray, Michael Gu, Matt Tessier, Ben Piteo, Mark Godfrey, Tom Carcotte, Dave Descoteaux, Patty Bolton, Drew Clemens, Dave Lubianez, Mark Koenig, Chris Turek, Eric Crockett, Adam Stewart, Jeff Teller, Joe Redlinger, Dave Goodrich, Rick Orlowski, Paul Cohn, Jeff Preston, Adrien Lussier and Barry Sullivan.
District, partners receive prestigious environmental award for Watertown FUDS project

The General Services Administration Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) property in Watertown, Massachusetts, has won the 2014 EBC James D. P. Farrell Brownfield’s Project of the Year Award, which is awarded by the Environmental Business Council of New England.

EBC held an evening award ceremony to present the award to the team June 18 at the Marriott Hotel in Newton, Massachusetts. William Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management, represented the District. He, along with contractor Charter Environmental and partners, GSA, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Nobis Engineering, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection all had representatives at the event. According to the EBC, the team received the award, “In recognition of the multifaceted, collaborative remediation of the Watertown, Massachusetts, GSA Property that transformed an urban Brownfield site into a community green space and wetlands habitat.”

The successful remediation of the GSA Watertown FUDS marks the completion of the last remaining site associated with the Watertown Arsenal cleanup. The site was restored from a hazardous waste site to a lush, green recreation space allowing the federal government to return the property to the people of Massachusetts after 94 years. The New England District was the lead agency for the cleanup and worked closely with the DEP, DCR and GSA to ensure the site was suitable for its future use as park land.

A ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the turnover to the public took place at the Commander’s Mansion in Watertown, Dec. 3, 2014. Col. Christopher Barron, New England District commander, joined congressional, federal, state and local partners in celebrating the land turnover.

The New England District became involved with the project in May 1991 when the site was determined to be eligible for remedial investigation under the FUDS program. The New England District was responsible for completing remedial activities at the site, under the FUDS program. With the exception of one building that was demolished with GSA funding, the $3.68 million project was completely funded under FUDS.

The property was part of Watertown Arsenal during World War II. The U.S. Army constructed five structures on the GSA property to store various materials and equipment. As part of the Manhattan Project, the site was used to stabilize depleted uranium to allow for it to be shipped for disposal off-site.

From 1991, a variety of investigations and removal actions were performed by the New England District. In May 2012, the Decision Document was signed, paving the way for the remediation of the site.

Charter Environmental of Boston, Massachusetts, and its subcontractor, Nobis Engineering of Concord, New Hampshire, mobilized to the site in November 2012. Remedial action work on the site included demolishing all the structures that were unoccupied and deteriorated, excavation and off-site disposal of 450 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated soil above 50 parts per million, construction of a 2-acre soil cover, and 2-acre compensatory wetland. All work was completed in July 2014. As part of long-term monitoring to ensure the remedy performs as designed, the New England District will perform inspections of the wetlands twice a year for five years and inspections of the soil cover annually. Plans are to use the site for passive recreation such as walking trails and bird watching.
Maureen Murray, Chief Survey Section, has made the decision to retire after over 40 years of federal service. A retirement lunch was held in her honor on June 18 at the Chateau Restaurant in Waltham, Massachusetts. Over 100 family, friends, co-workers and retirees attended the event. Gary Lacroix served as Master of Ceremonies for the official portion of the lunch. He welcomed the audience, introduced Murray’s family and recognized the survey team and all of the retirees present. Lacroix presented Murray with gifts to “burn at her next bonfire.”

“You are the true professional and the face of Survey,” he said. “Happy retirement.”

Scott Acone, Chief, Engineering/Planning, said that Murray embodied the Army values of loyalty, duty, personal courage and selfless service. “Her care is genuine,” he said. “I’m going to miss you as well as your commitment and expertise.”

Ed O’Donnell said he has known Murray most of the 32 years he has been with the Corps in New England. “I honor her honesty and intelligence,” he said. “I always admire how much she cared about the people who worked for her.”

Mike Keegan said he was sorry to see her go. “She’s a big part of the District,” he said.

Keegan talked about working with Murray on the Boston Harbor project. “As a project manager, I appreciated all her work. I’m truly sorry to see her retire, but I’m glad for her, too.”

Other speakers included Jeff Preston, Bill Walker, Dan Bradley and Bill Scully. The gifts presented to Murray were...
numerous – some jokes and some serious, but all sincere – and included a Corps mug, earrings, baby bibs with the Corps logo on them, gift cards, luggage, flowers and items with a coconut theme.

Acone presented Murray with a Commander’s Award for Civilian Service for her selfless service and dedication over her 40 year career. Scully presented Murray with her retirement certificate.

Murray said that her 40 years with the Corps of New England went by, “in a blink of an eye.”

She praised her staff calling them incredible and thanking them for making her look good. “I will no longer be your supervisor, but you will always be my guys!”

Maureen Murray began her career with the Corps in New England as a GS-2 Secretary in 1973. In 1974 she entered the Upward Mobility Program and two years later became a Survey Technician. After leaving the Corps briefly in 1981, she returned in 1983 at her position as a Survey Technician. She received her degree in Survey/Highway at Northeastern University and soon after became the Assistant Chief of Survey. She became Chief of Survey in 2013, the position at which she retired.

Murray plans on gardening, hiking, traveling and practicing yoga during her retirement.

Family members that accompanied Murray to her retirement party were husband Richard, daughters Jessica and Jackie, and mother-in-law Barbara Murray.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery members who attended were Maurice Beaudoin, Fran Donovan, Joe Finegan, Andy Lamborghini, Paul Marinelli and Dick Reardon.

Other retirees who attended were Jim Doucakis, Greg Buteau, Farrell McMillan, Bob Meader, Wayne Johnson, Tony Mackos, Terry Wong, Bob MacDonald, Mark Geib, Bill Coleman, Joe Bocchino, Joan Gardner, Jenny Tan, Chiway Hsuing, Don Wood, Joe Colucci and Bill Haynes.
Paul K. O’Brien left the New England District on June 3 after an illustrious career where he illusively performed hydrographic surveys of every navigation project that New England administers to. Whether it was the cool northern coast of Maine or the windswept shorelines of Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket, Paul surveyed it! Among his favorites were Stonington Harbor in Maine and Cuttyhunk Harbor in Massachusetts.

Paul started his career with Great Lakes Dredge and Dock in 1964 where he learned to become a hydrographic surveyor, and continued with them until 1975. He joined the Corps that year and came on board to work for the New England Division in the Survey Department. He knew surveying was his calling because he remained in the same career field for the entire duration that he worked for the Corps and couldn’t help loving every day of it. Paul was awarded several letters of Commendation and Special Act awards which include him being commended by the Corps of Engineers Wilmington District for providing dedicated support to the dredge McFarland’s Captain at Kennebec River in Maine. Paul provided regular surveys over a month’s time which aided in their efficiency, resulting in optimal dredging and a huge cost savings to the project.

Paul was called on by Joe Fryar, former Chief of Engineering to provide survey support for emergency dredging at New London Harbor in Connecticut. This timely survey was critical as a submarine had grounded in the disposal area. Paul used a multi-transducer survey system which depicted a large debris pile that was carelessly disposed of in that area. He supported both the dredge MCFARLAND and a private dredging contractor while debris was being removed, providing repetitive surveys until the area was swept clear.

In later years, he was the primary survey crew to support the yearly dredging efforts of the dredge Currituck and during a time that they were not fully automated, his support proved invaluable. Throughout his career, he was also awarded a number of service awards, team of the month, and suggestion awards.

Paul worked under the direct tutelage of Tommy Ober, a longtime NED hydrographic surveyor, until 1987 where-after he became the Survey crew chief. Paul had the distinct reputation in the New England Corps of having the longest career as a crew chief and had done that with not one safety infringement!

Over the years, Paul developed a strong working relationship with several of Construction Division’s field engineers and inspectors, who depended on Paul for his survey knowledge and dredging experience. While working in the field for the past 40 years, he had the unique opportunity to have been tutored from longtime surveyors Percy Gray and Tommy Ober. His other wife, the New England District survey boat Popham Beach, was always faithful to him and he leaves her, along with his survey responsibilities with bittersweet feelings.

Paul is an avid photographer and will now have the time to take his hobby to a new level. He had an informal gathering and was presented with his retirement certificate from Gary Lacroix and received a gift certificate from his friends in Survey. Paul’s retirement left a void in Survey that will be felt for many years to come.
‘History Girls’ complete mission to have Native American Site recognized as Passanageset Knoll

After one year of proposals and hard work, a group of 8th grade students from Broad Meadows Middle School have been able to add the Passanageset Knoll directly into the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), which is the official geographic names database for the federal government. The “History Girls” as they are known had been trying to rename the Board meadows Marsh in Quincy, Massachusetts to the Passanageset Knoll after discovering that the area was a Native American Site.

They recently received correspondence from the U.S. Board on Geographic Names regarding their proposal. “The Board is responsible for approving any new name for an unnamed geographic feature before it can be shown on federal maps and other products,” said Jennifer Runyon of the U.S. Geological Survey in a letter to the girls. “However, most of its decisions are made for features that are natural, such as mountains, rivers, valleys, bays, lakes, and so on. ‘Administrative’ or man-made features, including parks, are usually named by the agency that manages them. So, in this case, it is not necessary for the Board to make a formal decision on the name Passanageset Park at Broad Meadows Marsh.”

According to Runyon, because there was already support for the new park name from the Mayor of Quincy, the Quincy Park and Recreation Board, the Quincy School Committee, the Massachusetts Tribe, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Board was able to add the park name directly into the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), which is the official geographic names database for the federal government. Therefore, the name is official immediately for use by any federal department or agency.

The new GNIS entry is available for view at the Board’s public website. The entry can be found by going to http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/index.html, clicking Search Domestic Names, and entering the new name into the Feature Name box. Select Massachusetts from the drop-down State list, and click the Send Query button. The name will be displayed, along with the geographic coordinates of the park, and on the right side of the page, links to various mapping services.

The New England District restored the Broad Meadows Marsh and the city is maintaining the uplands as a public park. Wendy Gendron, the District’s Planning Study Manager, was contacted by the girls early in their efforts and she referred them to Marc Paiva, the District’s Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison. Paiva met with the girls and their teacher Ron Adams in June 2015.

“The History Girls” proposed to recognize a significant Native American site known as Passanageset Knoll, which is located behind the Broad Meadows Middle School within the salt marsh, which they discovered through research about the area,” said Paiva. “This relatively unknown site was the location of the Native American Massachusett’s summer village or “sachem’s seat,” before they were forced by disease and epidemic to move to the more well-known Moswetuset Hummock located at the northern end of Wollaston Beach.”

The New England District provided its support in consulting with the various Tribal entities and individuals and assisted in arriving at proper signs and wording to recognize and commemorate the Native American history of Quincy, particularly at this significant Passanageset Knoll site.

Broad Meadows was a tidally influenced salt marsh prior to a Corps navigation improvement project placing dredged material in this area in the early 1950s, which increased its elevation above that of regular tidal flooding converting it to a lower value, non-tidal habitat dominated by the reed species known as Phragmites australis. Broad Meadows was recognized as a potentially valuable marsh restoration project implemented through the Corps Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 authority to modify projects to improve the environment.

The District, together with the city of Quincy completed the salt marsh restoration at Broad Meadows Marsh in 2013. A portion of the project was partially funded by the Neponset River Watershed Association. The restoration replaced the low value common reed (Phragmites australis) with salt marsh, wet meadows and grasslands, improving habitat for fish and wildlife. A major milestone was reached on Dec. 21, 2011 when the marsh was flooded by tidal water for the first time after being buried under dredged material for more than 80 years. The District and city improved the walking paths in the summer of 2014 and will continue to manage Phragmites throughout the site.
Bill Hubbard introduces Dr. Joseph Westphal, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, during the Sagamore Marsh Restoration ceremony in this April 10, 2000 photo.