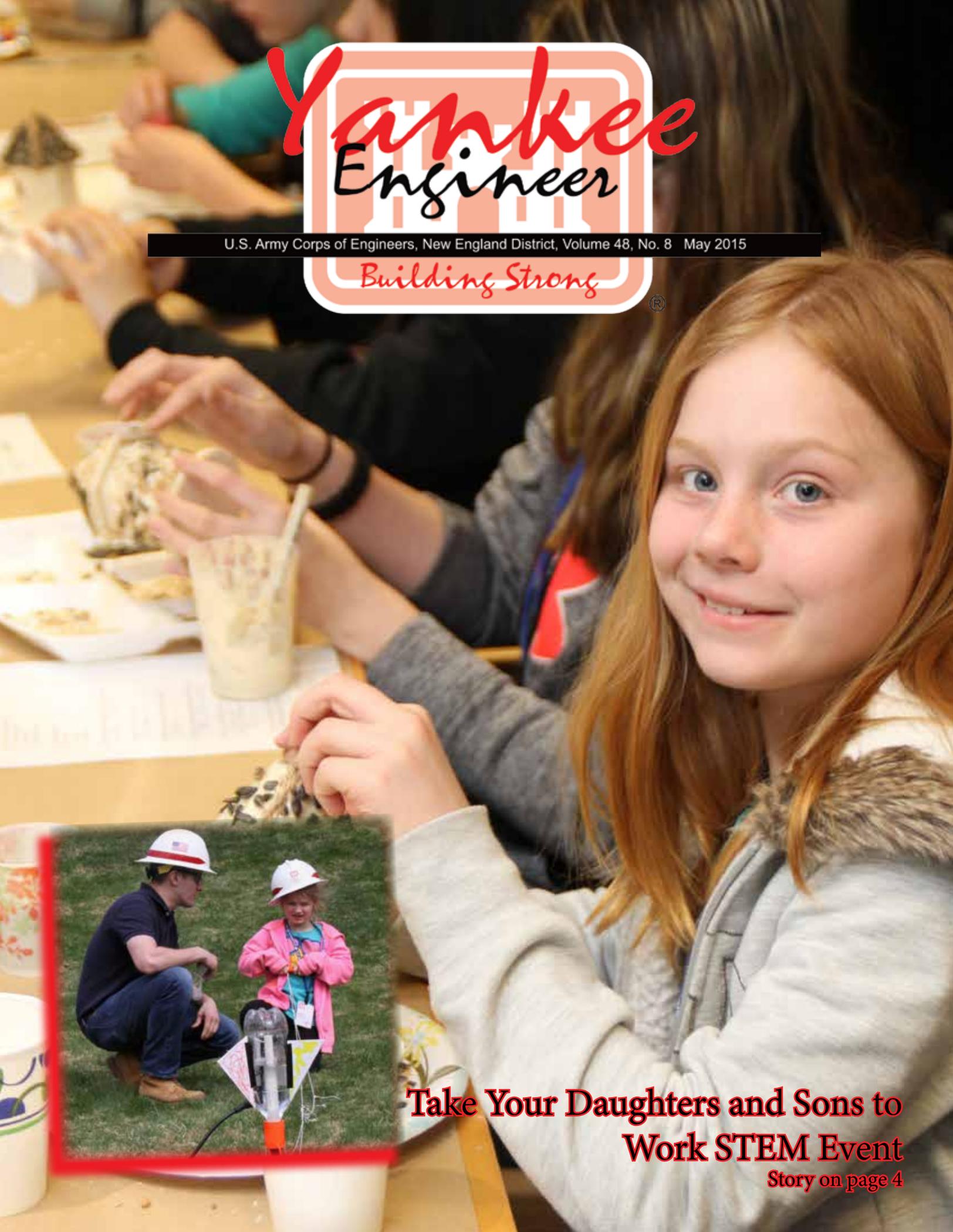


# Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 48, No. 8 May 2015

*Building Strong*



**Take Your Daughters and Sons to  
Work STEM Event**

Story on page 4

# Yankee Voices

Grace Bowles and Judy Antonellis



## Thrift Savings Plan News

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## Words worth repeating

"Man is happy only as he finds work worth doing -- and does it well."

- E. Merrill Root

## Employee Spotlight: Grace Bowles, Engineering/Planning Division



Catherine (Grace) Bowles is a biologist working in the Environmental Resources Section (ERS), Evaluation Branch, Engineering/Planning Division. She is a graduate from Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia and has been with the District for the past four and a half years.

Her duties include writing environmental assessments for the District's navigation projects and coordinating with state and federal agencies on those projects. She is currently assisting Planning Division on the Long Island Sound Dredged Material Management Plan. "In the summer I am usually out in the field for the water quality program taking samples and electroshocking for fish habitat studies," she said.

In addition to her work in Engineering/Planning, Bowles also serves on the Work Environment Association (WEA) and is the New England District's Black History Month Program Coordinator for the Equal Employment Opportunity Office.

Bowles was recently named WEA's employee of the month for February 2015. She received the honor for taking the initiative to provide bagel and coffee breakfasts to the workforce for several weeks leading up to this year's holiday parties. According to Greg Penta, Regulatory Division and the team member who nominated Bowles, providing breakfast involved purchasing bagels on her own time every morning before work twice per week, setting up and cleaning. "This effort raised hundreds of dollars for the WE Committee's employee fund," he said. "In addition, by providing breakfast and coffee when there is no other means to obtain breakfast at Concord Park, she contributed towards the accomplishment of NAE's mission by enhancing the morale and welfare of the District workforce."

Bowles' annual International Breakfast is a quality event with a tremendous investment of her own time, according to Penta. In addition, she frequently supports her fellow coworkers by volunteering to assist with many WE Committee events, and always strives to ensure quality execution, which sets a positive example for the District.

Based on all she enjoys doing for the New England District Team, her answer about her favorite thing about working for New England District is no surprise. "The people," she said. "My co-workers are excellent teachers, motivators and friends."

When she's not at work, Bowles is an avid camper, hiker and cat friend maker.





Col. Christopher Barron and the New England District Ranger Color Guard march through the town of Concord during the Patriot's Day parade.

Photos by Brian Murphy



Tim Hays, District Librarian speaks with a fellow Lincoln Minuteman during a break.



Col. Christopher Barron with Merlon Bassett before the parade.

## District participates in Concord's Patriot's Day Parade

The first battles of the American Revolution were fought in Concord and Lexington, Massachusetts on April 19, 1775. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was formed only a few days later on April 26. When the town of Concord commemorates those early battles on Patriot's Day, held every third Monday of April, they extend an invitation to the New England District to participate.

This year, Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, the New England District Ranger Color Guard and Tim Hays, District Librarian, dressed as a Lincoln Minuteman, marched in the town's Patriot's Day parade, April 20.

The parade route spanned about three miles, beginning on Everett Street, going on for several more streets, through Monument Square and then stopping at the historical North Bridge for a wreath laying ceremony.

After the ceremony, the parade headed back on Monu-

ment Street through the town center.

The parade was the last of many commemoration activities the town held in April that included a re-enactment of the capture of Paul Revere and a Dawn Salute at Buttrick Hillside.

Days after the American Revolution began, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress recognized that military engineering skills would be important to the war and appointed Col. Richard Gridley the first Chief of Engineers. The Corps of Engineers has been the premier engineering organization in the world ever since.

The New England District Ranger Color Guard that accompanied Col. Barron during the parade were Jason Robinson, Brad Clark, Jenn Samela, Matt Coleman, Natalie McCormick and Merlon Bassett. This year marks Col. Barron's first year participating in the Patriot's Day activities and marks Bassett's last before his retirement.



Children measure the imaginary bottom of the seafloor using a paper box and wooden measuring instrument.

Photos by Brian Murphy

## New England District takes their daughters and sons to work

Future engineers, scientists and park rangers filled the conference rooms at the New England District's Concord Park Office, April 24 during the Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

Sponsored by the Federal Women's Program and the Equal Employment Opportunity Office, the District's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) event is one of the most popular activities of the year. Over 43 children ages 8-12, the largest attendance so far, participated. This year, the District was able to partner with CRREL and ERDC and members of their staff to assist in this year's program.

After a morning snack and a "Bingo" ice breaker activity, the children were broken into manageable groups and rotated through three morning activities. Richard Fortuna and Rick Kristoff led the bird and bird feeder activity in the New England Conference Room. They were assisted by Tina Chaisson

and Christine Renzoni. The children learned facts about birds native to Massachusetts and the importance of building and maintaining bird feeders. Using wooden pre-made bases, the children added bird seed in decorative ways to make the structures appetizing

for the birds. The children also learned about Massachusetts' state bird, the Black Capped Chickadee.

Steve Gaughan, CRREL, and Lindsay Lefebvre ran the mapping, Geographic Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems activity



Christine Renzoni assists a young participant decorate his bird feeder.

in the cafeteria. Grace Bowles assisted the activity leads in teaching the children to understand the fundamentals and importance of geography. In addition to the geography, the children got lessons in map making history, modern map making, GIS and global positioning systems. During the activity, the children learned that science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) and art are key elements in map making and GIS.

Park Ranger Samantha Gray and Dan Bradley led the Hydro Survey-In-A-Box activity in the Massachusetts and Connecticut Conference Rooms. Valerie Cappola and Ann Marie Harvie assisted. Gray used a PowerPoint presentation to explain how the Corps of Engineers works to ensure that the nation's waters are safe for navigation. She and Bradley showed the children the technology, both past and modern instruments, used to explore the depths of a waterway and an ocean floor. The children then measured and mapped out parts of the Cape Cod Canal ocean floor using copy paper boxes and measuring sticks.

After a pizza lunch with their parents and sponsors, the children returned to their groups for another set of three fun and entertaining activities.

Capt. Daniel Brady instructed the children in Land Navigation. He was assisted by ERDC's Cate Fox, Cappola and Harvie. After explaining the importance of learning directions and showing the children how to use a compass, Capt. Brady took the children from the cafeteria where the briefing occurred out to the Concord Park courtyard. He provided them with sets of directions for a pace count that led the children to letters that spelled a word related to the Corps of Engineers. A small treat was provided to the children after their hard work finding the words.

Dara Gay and Drew Cattano hosted the Build a Dam activity in the New England Conference Room. Chaisson was on hand to assist. Gay and Cattano



Dara Gay tests a dam made by participants to see if it will hold water.



Capt. Daniel Brady looks on as children adjust a compass to find letters.

explained that a dam is a structure that stops a river from flowing. Afterwards the children built a dam using sticks and small rocks. Once completed, the newly built dams were tested to see if they held up against water.

Mike Riccio, assisted by Bowles and Renzoni, held the Rocket Launching Activity briefing in the Massachusetts and Connecticut Conference Rooms. After Riccio explained aerodynamics as well as volume and propulsion, the children created their own rockets using 2-liter bottles, fins and various decorations. Riccio explained the basic science behind water-

propelled rockets and the children then determined how much water – or rocket fuel – they would need to put in their rockets to launch correctly. The children and their instructors traveled to the New England District Space Station – located just outside Office of Counsel – to test the rockets and their hang times.

After rotating through the final three activities, the children were dismissed to the custody of their parents and sponsors. Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day supports the Corps of Engineers Campaign Plan to “Prepare for Tomorrow.”



Lt. Col. Charles Gray and his wife, Olivia, cut the goodbye cake at his going away party.

Photos by Brian Murphy

## Deputy District Commander leaves New England District, will assume Battalion Command at Fort Leonard Wood

Lt. Col. Charles Gray, Deputy Commander, New England District, and his family are preparing to leave New England and go to Missouri for his next assignment. Lt. Col. Gray has taken a command position with the 31<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood.

About 40 District team members, past and present, joined the Gray family at the Tavern on the Commons at Hanscom Air Force Base, Bedford, Mass., on April 30 for a send-off celebration. Steve Andon, Executive Assistant, served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. "These two years went by very fast," he said.

Before getting to Lt. Col. Gray, Andon presented Mrs. Olivia Gray with a pink T-shirt that read, "I Survived the Blizzard of 2015." Andon also presented her with a bouquet of pink tulips in appreciation for supporting her husband during his assignment in New England and for being a valued member of the New England District. Andon then went on to present Lt. Col. Gray with an array of New England memorabilia to include a gray, "I Survived the Blizzard of 2015" T-shirt, a commemorative beer bottle with a label that read, "Wicked Pissa" (a common New England term meaning uniquely fantastic), and a New England Patriots winter hat

and scarf. Gray laughed upon inspecting the wording on the commemorative bottle, saying, "I'll be saying Wicked Pizza' with my Southern drawl and no one is going to understand what I'm talking about."

Andon jokingly reminded Lt. Col. Gray that his send off coincided with the all important NFL draft pick and that the large turnout to his party on such a night was a great tribute to him. He presented Gray with a photo frame with the inscription, "Best Wishes to the Gray Family from your Friends at the New England District." Inside the frame was a photo of Lt. Col. Gray and his family during the promotion ceremony that was held at the District. He also presented Lt. Col. Gray with a gift card to a local Mexican restaurant.

Greg Lantz, ACE-IT, said that when Lt. Col. Gray came to the District as a major, he brought with him many tactical words and expressions. Lantz also remarked on Lt. Col. Gray's now renown enthusiasm for graphics and PowerPoint presentations during his monthly meetings. He presented Lt. Col. Gray with a card that had a picture of the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers with Lt. Col. Gray's head super-imposed on the lead Ranger. "You are New England District's favorite PowerPoint Ranger," said Lantz.

Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, rounded out the evening's speakers. He cautioned the Gray's not to wear their T-shirts just yet. "It's still technically April so wearing them now may be premature," he joked, referring to the unpredictable New England weather. "I would not put those on for another couple of weeks."

The District Commander kept everyone chuckling when he said that he was pretty sure he knew what "wicked" meant, but unsure about the other part of the New England expression pasted on the commemorative bottle. "I took Latin in High School, so I can look at the roots of words, but I'm really wrestling with the rest of the term."

Col. Barron said that typically when someone on the "green-suited" side of the Army leaves, they get ready to depart and everybody gets together, has some food, say a few words and they get a gift. He said he was not quite sure what to get Lt. Col. Gray, so he decided to go with his love of graphs. Col. Barron presented Lt. Col. Gray with a 9,000 cell spread sheet and six different colored highlighters. Col. Barron thanked Mrs. Gray and their children, sons Chase and Noah and daughter Kate for showing Lt. Col. Gray so much love and support.

The colonel said that Lt. Col. Gray is a good example of Army Values. "I could talk about his love for his family and his faith and his great work as the Deputy Commander, but I want to talk about his loyalty to people," he said.

Col. Barron talked about how Lt. Col. Gray would drop everything if someone came to his door and needed to talk. "That is unique and special and he will be taking that with him when he leaves," he said.

About Lt. Col. Gray's new assignment, Col. Barron said, "He will be taking our most precious gifts – our sons and daughters – and turn them into officers," he said.

The colonel concluded by presenting Lt. Col. Gray with a Concord Minuteman statue as he wished him well on his new assignment.

Lt. Col. Gray thanked everyone and said that his experiences at the New England District had left an imprint on him. "I've had multiple conversations with everyone in the room and you have educated me," he said. "I'm deeply humbled. Six years ago I would never have dreamed I'd become a Battalion Commander."

Among the people he thanked, Lt. Col. Gray mentioned Col. Charles Samaris, the previous District Commander, for giving him a chance and picking him as his deputy. He said he enjoyed working with Col. Barron and he loved working for the District. "I love this place," he said. "I love the history and I love the people. It's not true that New Englanders are rude. You've been great to me and my family. These two years went by too fast."

The Grays will be making their move to Fort Leonard Wood early this summer.



Steve Andon presents Olivia Gray with tulips.



Lt. Col. Charles Gray shows off his PowerPoint Ranger card.



Col. Christopher Barron presents Lt. Col. Charles Gray with a Concord Minuteman statue.



Lt. Col. Gray receives a commemorative bottle labeled with a common New England term.

# Dredging up the past



Photo by Brian Murphy

Paul Young and Sheila Harvey teach children about rocks and minerals during the Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day held April 20, 2007.

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