

# Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 51, No. 8 May 2018

*Building Strong*



The New England District Celebrates Earth Day  
Story on page 4

# Yankee Voices

Park Ranger Viola Bramel, West Hill Dam, and Earth Day volunteers.



## Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey

The Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) is an annual government-wide survey that measures federal employees' perceptions regarding critical work-life areas that drive employee satisfaction, engagement, and retention in the workforce.

All full-time or part-time, permanent, non-seasonal employees onboard with the Army/USACE as of October 2017 have been invited to take this year's survey, not just a percentage like in years past. The window of opportunity to take the survey closes June 19.

## Understanding The Federal Savings Account-FSAFED

The FSAFED program's goal is to maximize the value you receive from the important benefit. You can find answers to most FSAFEDS questions on our website at [www.FSAFEDS.com](http://www.FSAFEDS.com). The Resources and FAQs provide valuable information about the FSAFEDS program.



Photo by Ed O'Donnell

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen discusses Hampton Harbor dredging with Col. William Conde during a boat tour of the harbor.

## Sen. Shaheen, District Engineer tour Hampton Harbor

Col. William Conde, New England District Commander, toured Hampton Harbor in New Hampshire with Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, May 11 to see the condition of the harbor and to talk about the possibility of dredging it. The area has not been dredged since 2012.

"The winter storms have added quite a bit of shoaling to the anchorage and also damaged the jetty," said Project Manager Ed O'Donnell, who accompanied the official party on the tour. "The locals explained that the shoaling was severely impacting their businesses."

The channel is only 20 to 30 feet in some places and commercial fishing boats cannot get in or out of Hampton Harbor for about 3 to 4 hours a day.

"Appropriations may come out in the next couple of weeks that will give us some federal dollars to complete some design and some environmental coordination," said Col. Conde. "And then we would need additional appropriations next year in Fiscal Year 2019 to do the dredging. We're hopeful that will happen."





Many activities are available at the 31 New England District recreational facilities and include trail biking, horseback riding and swimming.

## New England federal recreation areas to open

**By Timothy J. Dugan**  
**Public Affairs Office**

Most recreation areas at the 31 federal flood risk management reservoirs in New England operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District will open to the public in mid-to-late May 2018. Some recreation areas in Connecticut opened in late April.

The Corps of Engineers recreation program provides quality outdoor public recreation experiences to serve the needs of present and future generations and contributes to the quality of American life, while managing and conserving natural resources consistent with ecosystem management principles. Most areas offer a wide-range of recreational opportunities, including picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing and hunting, while a few also provide facilities for overnight camping, according to officials with the U. S. Army Engineers, New England District, with headquarters in Concord, Massachusetts. Fishing is permitted at all federal flood risk management reservoirs in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. The only requirement to fish the lakes is a state license and adherence to state regulations. Trout, bass, pickerel, hornpout and perch inhabit most reservoirs, while a few areas have their

own specialties. Many of the areas are stocked by state fish and game agencies to provide some of the finest fishing in the region.

Developed facilities, including beaches, picnic areas, athletic fields and campgrounds, are available at some locations. Many are open to individuals or small groups free of charge on a first come, first serve basis. A nominal fee is charged to reserve covered picnic shelters. Large groups may be required to obtain user permits for a small fee. Some areas collect a user fee from the weekend before Memorial Day to the weekend after Labor Day.

For a free brochure about 2018 Corps recreational opportunities in New England, including directions to each site, write to the New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Public Affairs Office, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751. Or for more information about Corps of Engineers recreation and activities in New England visit the website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation.aspx>. The Corps of Engineers nationwide manages 12 million acres of recreation lands and waters in 43 states and hosts approximately 370 million visitors a year. For more information on Corps of Engineers recreation nationwide visit the website at <http://www.CorpsLakes.us>.



AmeriCorps volunteers gather by a boat full of trash they collected along the Cape Cod Canal during the Earth Day event.

## New England District projects celebrate Earth Day

New England District is steeped in tradition – from ceremonies of old to current annual events. One of these traditions—celebrating Earth Day—has become as time honored as reciting the District’s history during Founder’s Day.

Three New England District projects – West Hill Dam, Hodges Village Dam and the Cape Cod Canal – all held Earth Day events. Earth Day, a national event that began in 1970, celebrates the birth of the modern environmental movement. The annual event usually results in the clean up of public lands, as was the case at the District projects.

West Hill Dam held its trail clean up on April 22 at the project. Thirty people spent their day clearing brush and storm damage, improving trail surfaces, water bars and erosion areas. The New England Mountain Bike Association Black Stone Chapter, the New England Bike Association Black Stone Chapter, and the Bay State Trail riders provided most of the volunteers and partnered with the West Hill team for the event. “Bay

State Trail Riders, Inc., has been with us since 1995 when we first opened the Woodland Trail,” said Earth Day event planner and West Hill Dam Park Ranger Viola Bramel.

Bramel and USACE Volunteer Linda Lestus represented the West Hill

Dam during the trail clean up.

At Hodges Village Dam, five science students from the Shepard Hill School in Dudley, Massachusetts, planted four pollinator gardens for their contribution to Earth Day. “Their task was to dig out grass on a 4’x4’



Viola Bramel and some volunteers get ready to prune some branches to help clear a trail during West Hill Dam’s Earth Day celebration.

plot, rake it out and plant provided wildflower seeds,” said Hodges Village Park Ranger Nicole Giles. Giles also organized the project’s Earth Day event. “It was all native, mostly perennial seed.”

Giles said she provided the group with Anyse Hyssop to plant in the middle of the gardens. “One garden even got a cool rock wall around it,” she said.

In addition to the work performed at Hodges Village, Giles also traveled to Charlton Center for the town’s Earth Day celebration. “I had a display table and taxidermy critters from the office,” she said. “I was there for about three hours and answered a lot of questions about the dams, the Corps and the wildlife I had on display.”

According to Giles, about 100 people came to visit her at the display.

At the Cape Cod Canal, 221 volunteers performed trash removal activities along seven miles of the North Service Road. They picked up a boatload of trash—literally. To illustrate the amount of refuse removed, and to be able to have a creative way to transport the trash to the dump, G&S Marine donated a vessel for the day. The Cape Cod Canal team partnered with AmeriCorps,



Over 220 volunteers picked up trash while taking in the sites during the Cape Cod Canal’s clean up event.

Cape Cod for their 18<sup>th</sup> Earth Day event.

In addition to trash clean up, nine federal, state and local organizations hosted exhibits and displays with an environmental theme. Activities were also part of the displays and included making paracord and water cycle bracelets, origami planters, rock painting, a fishing game, bocce ball, bag your own compost and first aid. The

hundreds of volunteers that came to the New England District sites helped save the government thousands of dollars in labor and cleaned up the facilities so that everyone could enjoy them for another season. Based on the number of volunteers and the success of the New England District events, the Earth Day tradition will continue next year and for years into the future.



Volunteers help clean up West Hill Dam’s trails.



In addition to the clean up at the Cape Cod Canal, there were plenty of activities to try.



Jim Conway speaks to students during their tour of New England District projects on Hanscom Air Force Base during the Bioengineering Symposium.

Photo by Brian Murphy

## District hosts day of Bioengineering Symposium

The New England District coordinated with educational partners, Schools to Careers to cohost one of the three days of School To Careers' Bioengineering Symposium. Participation in the annual Symposium is part of the District's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Program.

The New England District hosted 30 students who gave up a day of April vacation, April 18, to visit the District headquarters in Concord, Massachusetts.

"The School to Careers Program supports member schools such as Holbrook, Avon, Dedham, Blue Hills Technical, and other typically disadvantaged schools located south and southwest of Boston," said Mark Anderson, New England District's STEM coordinator.

Anderson did all the planning, coordination of the staffing of speakers for the event and David Heislein served as host. According to Anderson, while visiting the District, students went to the theater to get an overview of the Corps of Engineers and the New

England District missions, presented by Gary Morin.

A panel discussion followed Morin's presentation. Robert Leitch represented Program/Project management, Jim Conway and Michelle O'Donoghue represented Construction and Jason Paolino and Angela Frisno represented Engineering during the panel discussion.

According to Anderson, this part of the event focused mainly on educational and career paths. "In addition to these discussions, students were briefed on the Hanscom Dormitory and Primary School projects in advance of on-site tours of both ongoing projects," said Anderson.

Accompanied by Heislein, the students proceeded to Hanscom Air Force Base to get project tours of the dormitory and primary school. "We were at Hanscom for about one and a half hours split evenly between the dorm building under construction and the existing Middle School and Elementary School also under construction," said Heislein. "That allowed everyone to see the details of the before, during

and after products and the extensive level of design detail and construction work that goes into the process."

According to Heislein, the dorm tours were provided by District construction engineers. The school tours were provided by the District construction engineer and the School Department construction manager. Heislein accompanied the students on the tours so he would talk with the students and teachers along the way for additional interaction.

"We've been trying to give the students a broad cross section of our work over the years," said Anderson on the tour selection of the Hanscom projects. "We have done environmental tours such as New Bedford and Civil Works tours such as Muddy River the last two years."

After the site visits, students boarded the school bus and made their way home.

The other two days of the Bioengineering Symposium was comprised of visits to the MWRA Deer Island Water Treatment Facility, the BROAD Institute and Biogen.

## Gonglik receives award for work in Thailand

Joseph Gonglik, structural engineer in Engineering Division, received an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service in the Executive Office, April 6. Gonglik received the award for “exceptional service as a structural engineer for the 62<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Detachment (FEST-A), Alaska District from July 2017 to February 2018.”

According to the citation, Gonglik’s dedicated service ensured the FEST-A was able to accomplish a diverse set of missions in support of several endeavors to ULCHI Freedom Guardian (UFG) military exercise 2017 and a Thailand Bridge Assessment during Cobra Gold 2018. “The Cobra Gold Exercise may be the biggest military exercise in the Asia-Pacific region,” said Gonglik.

Gonglik deployed to Thailand in support of the mission. “The mission itself was very fast-paced,” he said. “The team assessed 30 bridges and several box and pipe culverts while performing a route assessment in just a few days.”

Gonglik said he found the experience to be very rewarding. “We were able to meet and work with Thai government officials, experience a different culture and successfully complete our mission providing our customer with a finished report in such a tight suspense,” he said.

Gonglik joined the New England District Team in July



USACE Photo

Joseph Gonglik received an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for his work in Thailand.

2016. Prior to coming to New England he worked for the Middle East District for 7-1/2 years. His first deployment with the 62<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Detachment FEST-A took place in August 2014.

## Laura Lally retires with over 30 years of service

Laura Lally, the Branch B Legal Instruments Examiner for Regulatory Division has retired. She had over 30 years of federal service.

To celebrate her distinguished career, dozens of family,



Laura Lally receives a Commander’s Award for Civilian Service from Bob DeSista during her retirement dinner.

friends, co-workers and retirees gathered at the Chateau Restaurant in Waltham, Massachusetts for an after-hours retirement dinner.

Robert DeSista, Lally’s supervisor, served as host for the official portion of the celebration. Lally received a Commander’s Award for Civilian Service for her many faithful years working for the District. She also received her retirement certificate. Jennifer McCarthy, Chief of Regulatory, presented Lally with flowers and a gift card on behalf of the attendees.

Lally spent her entire career with the New England District, starting in Resource Management before moving to Regulatory Division.

Accompanying her to the celebration were Lally’s brothers and sisters, her two sons, her daughter-in-law and grandchildren. Retirees who came out to welcome her into the retirement community were Susan Mehigan, Gladys Leone, Brian Valiton and Barbara Duffin.

Now that she has time to do it, Lally plans to fill her days playing golf, traveling and spending time with family and friends.

Lally said she planned to attend District events such as Founder’s Day and the holiday party if her schedule allows.

# Dredging up the past



Photo by C.J. Allen

The Westville Lake Team, along with the trail committees of the towns of Southbridge and Sturbridge, held a dedication ceremony and trail walk of the completed Westville Community Trail and Heritage Connector Bridge, May 8, 2004. Cutting the ribbon for the event were Park Manager Keith Beecher, Ed Calcut, president of the Grand Truck Trailblazers, Todd Smola, legislative aide to State Rep. Reed V. Hillman and State Rep. Mark Carron.

First Class  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Concord, MA  
Permit No. 494

Public Affairs Office  
New England District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
696 Virginia Road  
Concord, MA 01742-2751  
Meter Code 40