

Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 54, No. 1 October 2020

Building Strong®



Lt. Gen. Spellmon visits New England District

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Yankee Voices

Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon and Scott Acone



Congratulations

...to **Sheila Warren**, Planning, who received the 2020 SAME Boston Post Regional Vice President Medal. SAME's Regional Vice President's Medal is presented to individuals who demonstrate consistent and outstanding service to SAME.

The award is typically presented annually to one individual in a SAME post as a way of recognizing their service and contributions to the society.

...to **Chris Veinotte**, Regulatory, who helped develop the first-ever scalable mitigation approach for harmful algal blooms (HABs). This HABITATS program was recently chosen as the USACE Innovation of the Year Project.

Words Worth Repeating

"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

American Climbing Fern survey a success at West Hill Dam



Photo by Catherine St. Andre

Members of the Native Plant Trust examine a colony of the American Climbing Fern during their survey.

The West Hill Dam team hosted the members of the Native Plant Trust who performed an American Climbing Fern survey at the project, Oct. 20.

"Surveys such as these help Park Rangers and Project Managers record updates in their Operational Management Plans (OMP's) and USACE headquarters environmental compliance requirements," said Park Ranger Viola Bramel.

Bramel and Catherine St. Andre assisted the Trust with their survey.

The American Climbing Fern is an endangered plant native to New England. It is found in various parts of the six-state region, including West Hill Dam. The Trust team conducted the survey to monitor the status of the rare plant's population.

In 2007, the Native Plant Trust conducted a survey and found one colony of the endangered plant. But this year, Pam Dumart of the Native Plant Trust reported finding two healthy colonies of the Climbing Fern at West Hill.

"It was very rewarding to locate the large population and small new population of Climbing Fern with the bonus of a beautiful fall day," she said.

The Native Plant Trust's Plant Conservation Volunteer Corps is a part of the New England Plant Conservation Program and is the oldest rare plant monitoring program in the United States. Activities such as rare plant monitoring seed collection and habitats management.

"We have been very fortunate for the concern for this endangered species in Massachusetts and the support of Native Plant Trust for over 20 years to review and protect the Climbing Fern at West Hill Dam," said Bramel.





Kennebec River jetty

Photo by Coral Silgato

Corps proposes Kennebunk River jetties and wing walls repair and maintenance project

By Bryan Purtell
Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District is proposing to repair the east and west jetties and wing walls of the Kennebunk River Federal Navigation Project (FNP) in Kennebunk and Kennebunkport, Maine. The towns of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport are the local sponsors for this project.

The proposed work involves needed repair and maintenance of jetties and wing walls of the Kennebunk River FNP that sustained damage during Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and consecutive Nor'easter storms in March 2018.

Repair work will target loss of armor stone along both jetties, undermining of the east wing wall and unbalanced settlement of the west wing wall. The project features provide protection for vessels entering and exiting the Kennebunk River. The work is estimated to begin in the summer of 2021

and take approximately seven months to complete.

The proposed work is being coordinated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Coastal Program, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine Geological Survey, Maine Historic Preservation Office, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the town of Kennebunk and the town of Kennebunkport.

An Environmental Assessment is in preparation and will be available for review upon request once complete.

The public notice, with more detailed information, is available for review on the New England District website under Navigation public notices at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/Topics/PublicNotices/2020/20200923-Kennebunk-Jetties-PN-September2020.pdf>.

Public comments on this proposed project were accepted through Oct. 22.

District, CRREL break ground on new Climatic Chamber Building

Col. John Atilano II joined U.S. Senator Maggie Hassan and Dr. Joseph Corriveau, Director of the Cold Regional Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL), at a groundbreaking ceremony, Oct. 16 to kick off the construction of a new climatic chamber building.

“This is a critically important project as it will provide CRREL a new facility to support innovative research which requires an environment with increased cold temperature capabilities,” said Col. Atilano.

Work on the new, \$3.9 million climatic chamber building will include demolishing an existing concrete pad and constructing a new 3,800 square-foot facility. The building will house a cold chamber, office, restrooms and showers for personnel. A staging area for vehicle access through the cold chamber to an exterior concrete pad is also part of the project.

“The facilities will be capable of rapidly changing temperatures with computer-controlled precision, and large spaces for conducting the testing of complex equipment and systems,” said Col. Atilano. “Additionally, this modular facility, with flexibility built in, will allow CRREL to adapt to figure mission changes as the need arises.”

Dr. Corriveau welcomed the beginning of construction.

“The climatic chamber building provides the research team at CRREL with an important new response for performing its mission,” he said. “Indeed, the new facility will allow us to conduct research, development, testing and evaluation on vehicles at temperatures as low as -54 degrees Celsius.”

Sen. Hassan praised CRREL for the work they do, not only for the country but for the world.

“The Cold Regions Research and



Photos by Brian Murphy

Col. Atilano joins other officials in breaking ground on the new climatic chamber building at the site.

Engineering Laboratory does essential work to keep our country safe,” she said. “One of the things that I think is so critical is it’s important to have a strong, laid out at strategy for National Defense. It is important to have the equipment and tools that we need for National Defense to support our troops, but it is also important to have the knowledge and the capacity to innovate as smartly and as well as we can. This new climate chamber building will help bolster your efforts.”

Dr. Corriveau read letters from Rep. Ann Kuster and from Sen. Jean Shaheen. In her letter, Rep. Kuster expressed her pleasure at the facility’s construction moving forward.

“I would like to commend the



Sen. Maggie Hassan talks with Col. John Atilano and Scott Accone before the groundbreaking ceremony.

scientists and researchers here at CRREL for your important contributions to our national defense,” she wrote. “The research you’re conducting helps ensure our men and women in uniform can protect our freedom and national interests in the most extreme climate conditions.”

Sen. Shaheen lauded CRREL’s work in keeping the country safe.

“This new facility will be an asset to CRREL as it continues its efforts to help us better understand our complex relationship with colder climates,” she wrote. “The information and data that you collect at your Hanover campus is critical to our national security. With this new facility, CRREL will be better equipped to build on its long legacy of contributions to this important endeavor.”

The District’s contractor, Colby Company Engineering of Pallard, Maine, completed the building design. P&S Construction, Inc., of North Chelmsford, Massachusetts was awarded the construction contract. The contractor mobilized to the site in September and construction has begun. The new facility is expected to be completed in October 2021.



A small group of local scouts help pick up trash along the canal.

Photos by Elsa Carey

District celebrates National Public Lands Day COVID-19 style

Much like everything else in 2020, the New England District's National Public Lands Day (NPLD) celebrations were different this year. Two projects – West Hill Dam and the Cape Cod Canal – held modified, scaled-down events.

Instead of having one day when volunteers would come and do cleanup and improvement projects, West Hill Dam scheduled small groups to come to the dam and to work throughout September.

“We had very small, independent work parties this year,” said Park Ranger Viola Bramel. “We had a work crew of two people remove invasive species on a quarter acre of land during a four-day period.”

Members of Boy Scout Troop 2 in Milford, Massachusetts, removed invasive species and improved grassland habitat on one acre of land during a two-week period.

“Areas where invasive species are removed annually, whether it's done during National Public Lands Day or with regular scout projects, helps

prevent the strangling and dying off of desired tree species and shrubbery for wildlife habitat,” said Bramel.

A team from the Blackstone Valley Chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association improved half a mile of Lima Trail that included trailblazing



A group from the New England Mountain Bike Association install a new bulletin board at West Hill Dam.

and improved trail signs, according to Bramel.

The crew of eight people, who donated most of the materials, were able to install a new entrance bulletin board that replaced the one near the

trail head of Oscar Trail.

At the Cape Cod Canal, the team chose not to have a traditional NPLD either. Instead, they hosted a virtual cleanup from Oct. 9-19.

According to Park Ranger Elisa Carey, Cape Cod Canal, volunteers chose from 11 different locations along the canal for their cleanup sites. The volunteers brought their own supplies and were encouraged to use an app on their mobile phones to record their trash collections.

“Over the 10 days, we had 56 volunteers remove 252 pounds of trash,” said Carey. “The most items removed were 1,400 cigarette butts, 747 food wrappers, 275 plastic bottles, 270 plastic bags and 770 pieces of fishing gear,” said Carey.

Although smaller versions of the popular annual cleanup, volunteers and the District teams who ran the events used creativity and ingenuity to stay within CDC guidelines to safely improve lands the public enjoys visiting.

Lt. Gen. Spellmon visits New England District

Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon, Chief of Engineers, traveled to New England District, Oct. 7, to tour several projects throughout New England. Command Sgt. Maj. Patrickson Toussaint accompanied the chief on his tour.

The New England District was the last leg on a multi-district tour of North Atlantic Division projects. This was Lt. Gen. Spellmon's first visit to the New England District since he took command.

The Chief of Engineers visited Boston Harbor in Boston, Massachusetts, the Cape Cod Canal Bridges, also in Massachusetts, the Rhode Island Coastal Study site visit and New Haven Harbor in New Haven, Connecticut. Lt. Gen. Spellmon received briefings from subject matter experts at the beginning of each stop.

Prior to coming to the New England District, the Chief of Engineers also toured projects in the New York District and met with leadership at the North Atlantic Division headquarters in Fort Hamilton, New York.



Lt. Gen. Spellmon goes over maps with John MacPherson during his visit to the New England District.



Photos by Brian Murphy

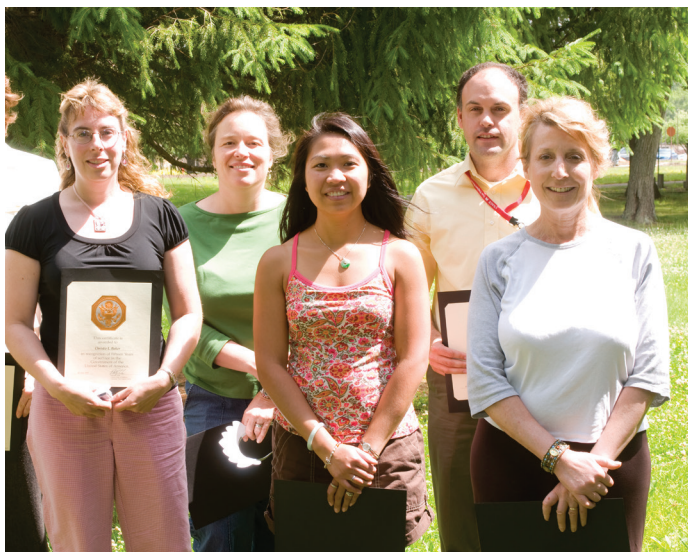
Col. John Atilano II, Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon, Scott Acone and Command Sgt. Maj. Patrickson Toussaint at the Cape Cod Canal Railroad Bridge.



John MacPherson and Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon listen as Scott Acone makes a presentation during the Chief's visit.



Command Sgt. Maj. Patrickson Toussaint, Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon, Col. John Atilano II and Scott Acone prepare for a tour of the Cape Cod Canal.



Barbara Newman (right) poses for a Length of Service Award picture during Founder's Day.



Barbara Newman smiles for the camera during an event held at New England District.



Barbara Newman tries to decide on which pie to choose during the District's Pie Fest.



Barbara Newman attending one of New England District's holiday parties. Photos by Brian Murphy

Virtual retirement ceremony honors Barbara Newman's 26-year federal career

Barbara Newman, Chief Permits and Enforcement Branch A, Regulatory Division, made the decision to retire after 26 years of federal service.

A virtual retirement ceremony was held in her honor, Sept. 28. Ruthann Brien served as emcee. Tammy Turley, Chief of Regulatory, spoke first. She introduced Newman's family – husband Charles and daughters Joanna and Ariel – and welcomed Newman's friends and District team members.

Lt. Col. Mark Gillman, Deputy Commander, said he was glad he was able to get to know Newman.

"She is a gem," he said. "She retires with 26 years of service, 18 of them with us," he said. "That's impressive."

Lt. Col. Gillman virtually presented Newman with a retirement certificate and a Civilian Service Commendation Medal for her significant contributions to the Regulatory mission.

"It's been a pleasure to get to know you," said Lt. Col. Gillman. "I wish you the best of luck in your next steps."

Turley went through some of Newman's career highlights, saying she had a positive attitude even when confronting

difficult challenges.

"She has a caring nature and genuine smile," she said. "No matter what the challenges, she always came in and left with a smile."

After official remarks, Brien opened the floor to the audience for remarks. Those who offered their congratulations included Bob Desista, Frank DelGuidice, Kevin Kotelly, Brien, Gary Lacroix, Charles Farris, Paula Kullberg, Mike Wierbonics and Alan Anacheke-Naseman. Retirees who said a few words to welcome Newman into the retirement community were Jennifer McCarthy, Ruth Ladd, Philip Nimeskern and Alexine Raineri.

Following all the well-wishes, Newman said she never thought she would work anywhere for 18 years but did for the Corps of Engineers. She recognized people who influenced her career: her branch, Bob Desista, Frank DelGuidice, Christine Godfrey, Greg Penta, Diane Ray, Jennifer McCarthy, Tammy Turley and Ruth Ladd.

"It's been an honor to work for this great organization," she concluded.

Dredging up the past



Paul Marinelli, Chief, Reservoir Control Center (RCC), receives the Superior Civilian Service Award during his retirement ceremony, Sept. 29, 2011. Marinelli retired from the New England District with 33 years of federal service. He went on to be inducted in the New England District's Distinguished Civilian Gallery. Photo by C.J. Allen.

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