

Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 53, No. 9 September 2020

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**New Division Commander makes first site
visit to New England District**

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Yankee Voices

Dave D'Angelo and Brig. Gen. Thomas Tickner



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

by Bryan Purtell

Public Affairs Office

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 the summer of 2021 and take approximately seven months to complete.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to resume collection of day use recreation fees October 1

By Gene Pawlik
Public Affairs, Headquarters

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that it will resume the collection of fees at its day use recreation areas beginning Oct. 1. Fee collections were suspended earlier this year when recreation areas were closed due to COVID-19 precautions.

USACE collects fees at its day use swimming beaches and boat launches. Fees are also collected for camping and for a Special Use Permit, which covers events, facilities and activities. For more information on recreation fees and passes visit <https://corpslakes.ercd.dren.mil/visitors/pdfs/discount-chart.pdf>.

USACE began the gradual reopening of its lake and river projects in April. Visitors are encouraged to contact USACE lake and river projects before visiting to ensure recreation areas are open. The status of USACE-managed campgrounds, boat ramps, swimming beaches and other sites is available at <https://corpslakes.ercd.dren.mil/visitors/status.cfm>.

While visiting USACE recreation areas, visitors are encouraged to practice social distancing and other COVID-19 safety precautions required and recommended by local, state and federal authorities, to include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC guidance on visiting parks and recreation facilities can be found online at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/visitors.html>.

USACE is one of the nation's leading federal providers of outdoor and water-based recreation, hosting millions of visits annually to its more than 400 lake and river projects. It's estimated that 90 percent of the USACE-operated recreation areas are within 50 miles of metropolitan areas, offering diverse outdoor activities for all ages close to home.

To discover a USACE recreation site nearest you, please visit www.corpslakes.us, or www.recreation.gov.





Brig. Gen. Thomas Tickner meets the Muddy River team during his site visit of the project. Photos by Brian Murphy



Dave D'Angelo briefs Brig. Gen. Thomas Tickner in the Marine Traffic Control Room at the Cape Cod Canal.



Brig. Gen. Thomas Tickner sees the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier operate during his visit to the project.



Brig. Gen. Thomas Tickner (left) gets a briefing on the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier as Col. John Atilano II looks on.

New Division Commander makes first site visit to New England District

Brig. Gen. Thomas Tickner, North Atlantic Division Commander, had his first visit to New England District, Sept. 28-30. The visit gave the new NAD Commander an opportunity to visit the various projects sites around the six-state region.

Brig. Gen. Tickner's first stop was the Stamford Hurricane Barrier in Stamford, Connecticut on Sept. 28. Christopher Way, Naugatuck River Basin Manager, provided the briefing.

The following day, Brig. Gen. Tickner met with New England District leadership before heading out to Boston, Massachusetts to see the District's Muddy River project. Project Manager Jennifer Flanagan made a presentation about the project during the visit.

Following the tour of Muddy River, the NAD commander visited Boston Harbor where Jenifer Thalhauser, Project Manager, briefed him on the project.

Brig. Gen. Tickner's last project visit of the day was to the Cape Cod Canal in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts. While there, he toured the field office, received a briefing from Canal Manager John MacPherson and ended the day

with a boat tour of the canal itself.

The final day of Brig. Gen. Tickner's first visit was a trip to the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Drew Cattano briefed the NAD Commander who then departed to see the last of New England District's hurricane barriers – Fox Point in Providence, Rhode Island. After leaving Fox Point Hurricane Barrier, Mike Riccio met Brig. Gen. Tickner at the Rhode Island Coastal Study Area.

The NAD Commander then made his way to New Haven Harbor in Connecticut to discuss the project with Project Manager Barbara Blumeris. The New Haven Harbor project served as Brig. Gen. Tickner's final site in New England for this trip. He returned to Fort Hamilton, New York the same day.

Brig. Gen. Tickner recognized New England District team members throughout his visit, awarding Commander's coins during his stops. Team members recognized were Kane Turmelle, Jack Perry, Jeanie Cline, Jennifer Flanagan, Jenifer Thalhauser, Bob Casoli, Dave D'Angelo, Ty Cummins, Mike Riccio and Barbara Blumeris.



Scenic view looking out at the dredge CURRITUCK. Inset: the CURRITUCK releases dredged material.

CURRITUCK dredges Wells Harbor, District team monitors endangered species

**Story and photos by Coral Sigliato, PE
Project Manager, Navigation Section**

The dredge CURRITUCK performed maintenance dredging in Wells Harbor, Maine, over the summer to increase the navigability of the dynamic entrance channel and to create capacity in the settling basins. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District performed the work with fiscal year 2020 work plan funds.

The CURRITUCK removed approximately 20,000 cubic yards of sand and placed it at a nearby, near-shore site.

The District coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor of Terns, Red Knots and Piping Plovers in an effort to study how the various species interacted with the dredge.



District team members looking into the dunes to monitor piping plovers during the dredging.



A curious piping plover in the dunes of Wells, Maine.

Regulatory team members garner top honors from Environmental Business Council

Two members of the Regulatory Division team received two of the Environmental Business Council's (EBC) most prestigious awards in August. Crystal Gardner and Lindsey Lefebvre received the recognitions.

Gardner received the "2020 James D.P. Farrell Award for Brownfields – Remediation Project of the Year" for the Encore Boston Harbor project. She was both surprised and excited about receiving the award.

"We worked hard on this project for several years and it was the largest private project in Massachusetts history," she said. "It was heavily contaminated from the Monsanto Chemical Company."

The Encore Boston Harbor project involved the redevelopment of the former Monsanto Chemical Company site on the Mystic River in Everett, Massachusetts. Work on the \$2.6 billion project included removing 890,000 tons of contaminated soil from the site and constructing a living shoreline, a 1 milliwatt (MW) solar array, 3 MW cogeneration plant, 4MW battery energy storage system and a rainwater irrigation system. Because of Gardner's efforts, the former chemical company is now a 27-story hotel tower, convention area, as well as gaming, retail and dining venues. The project has revitalized a formerly industrial area of Everett and now hosts a public harbor walk and ferry transportation to and from downtown Boston.

Gardner is a scientist and senior project manager in the Permits and Enforcement Branch, Regulatory Division. She has been with the New England District since 1986.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology/Pre-Medicine from Wilberforce University and a Master of Management degree from Cambridge College.

Lindsey Lefebvre received the "2020 Nicholas Humber Award for Outstanding Collaboration" for the Little Bay Submarine Cable Crossing project.

"I had no idea about the award so it was a total surprise for me," she said. "I am honored to receive this award. It was truly a team effort to get this project completed and it wouldn't have been possible without everyone involved."

The Little Bay Submarine Cable Crossing project was a technically challenging project involving the installation of one mile of buried submarine cable utilizing jet plow technology across Little Bay, an environmentally sensitive estuary



Historic cable house moved and being restored. Inset: Lindsey Lefebvre.

located in Durham and Newington, New Hampshire. According to Lefebvre, the cable crossing is part of Eversource Energy's Seacoast Reliability Project, a new, 13-mile 115-Kilovolt (kV) transmission line that enhances reliability for current and growing energy needs in the Seacoast Region.

To get the controversial project accomplished, rigorous environmental surveys and studies had to be developed and coordinated with state and federal agencies. Work also included the development and implementation of numerous monitoring plans, including a comprehensive water quality monitoring plan, and required intensive coordination and collaboration by the utility, environmental consultants, engineers, laboratories, and the cable installer to ensure negligible water quality or ecological impacts.

Lefebvre is a physical scientist and project manager for Branch C (New Hampshire) in Regulatory and has been

with the District since 2014. Prior to joining the District, she worked for the U.S. Army Engineering Research and Development Center at the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Conservation Biology from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. The EBC is a nonprofit organization, established in 1990 to support and foster the development of the environmental industry. The EBC's goal is to enhance business and job growth by creating networking opportunities that facilitate meaningful relationships between leaders in the industry, leading to collaboration and teaming.



Crystal Gardner at the Encore Casino.

West Hill Dam cohosts fall Story Walk

West Hill Dam team members partnered with the Uxbridge Public Library and Beginning Bridges, CFCE to hold an interpretive program focusing on the Monarch Butterfly at the dam in Uxbridge, Massachusetts, Sept. 22. The event featured a self-guided story book walk featuring the book, "Fly, Butterfly."

"In keeping with our COVID-19 plan, we kept the event to 90 minutes total, having families come through at 10-minute intervals, social distancing and wearing masks," said Park Ranger Viola Bramel. "Beginning Bridges limited the event to 15 families who had to pre-register. About 95 people attended the event."

According to Bramel, the theme of the Story Walk was timely due to the presence of milkweed plants – the staple food for Monarchs – and the start of the butterflies' migration to the warmer climates.

"There were milkweed plants right next to a story panel on the larvae/caterpillar stage," said Bramel. "We



Photos by Viola Bramel

Story walkers stop to read a page of the "Fly, Butterfly," book before heading to the next one.

showed participants the plants and had them play detective by searching for larvae on the plants."

This was the seventh year West Hill Dam co-hosted the event with Beginning Bridges and the library. Other collaborations include youth

safety fairs, vernal pool hikes, Spring Vacation week events and National Mud Day.

In addition to Bramel, Park Ranger Angela Erskine, Buffumville Lake and volunteer Cameron Lubas assisted with the Story Walk event.



Emily Murray and Lindsey Centrella finish posting the Story Walk book panels in time for families to come out and read it.



A little story walker and his mom take a break from reading to enjoy a peek at the water at West Hill Dam.



Jamie Kordack (second from right) participates in the Concord Patriots' Day parade as a part of the Ranger Color Guard. File photos



Jamie Kordack answers questions during the Family Fun Festival held at Hodges Village Dam.

Park Ranger Kordack retires with 29 years of service

Jamie Kordack, Park Ranger at Buffumville Lake and Hodges Village Dam in Charlton, Massachusetts, retired from federal service after 29 years, July 31.

“In her time at Buffumville Lake, Jamie learned to be adaptable in all aspects of the Park Ranger position from flood risk management operations, visitor assistance, volunteer coordination, budget development, contract writing, recreation and interpretation,” said Eric Pedersen, Chief of Operations. “Jamie assisted with the strategic flood risk management mission of Buffumville and Hodges Village Dams.”

During Kordack’s nearly three-decade career, high pools were recorded six times above the geotechnical reconnaissance level which included the near failure of Hodges Village Dam in 1993 and the installation of the remedial cut off wall from 1997 to 1999, according to Pedersen. Kordack is largely known for creating and heading up Buffumville’s massive, educational interpretive programs. Some of the wildly popular programs included Junior Ranger, nature and full moon hikes, haunted dam tours, Hodges Village Environmental Education Association, water safety and historical dam tours.

“Always thinking outside the box, Jamie continually developed new and exciting ways to present programs and deliver the USACE mission,” said Pedersen.

Buffumville Lake’s National Public Lands Day – an annual celebration when hundreds of volunteers descend on the park to complete dozens of improvement projects, has been the most popular and well attended event in New England District. Kordack organized the event for 28 years that resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars of

improvements at the project.

Always the teacher, Kordack helped develop the Interpretative Training and instituted ranger training for summer rangers. She trained dozens of rangers in interpretation for visitors assistance and education for many years.

“She provided key mentorship to incoming park rangers, summer staff and volunteers as well as timely advice and support to the leadership team,” said Pedersen. “Jamie was the keystone to organizing park attendants and volunteer hosts for successful recreation seasons at Buffumville Lake Park. Jamie’s work with interpretive programs, summer rangers and volunteers has led to positive and lasting memories for the lives she touched.”

The Operations Division team plans to recognize Kordack with a retirement celebration once the COVID-19 pandemic is not a safety issue.



Jamie Kordack with her cat Floozy. Floozy was a rescue cat from Hurricane Katrina.

Dredging up the past



Photo by CJ Allen

Park Ranger Nicole Giles assists volunteers install a new boat ramp during Buffumville's 20th celebration of National Public Lands Day in this September 2011 photo.

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