

Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 55, No. 1 October 2021

Building Strong®



New England District celebrates National
Public Lands Day
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Umbrell and Pechhold receive Contracting Officer Warrants

Courtesy of Construction Division

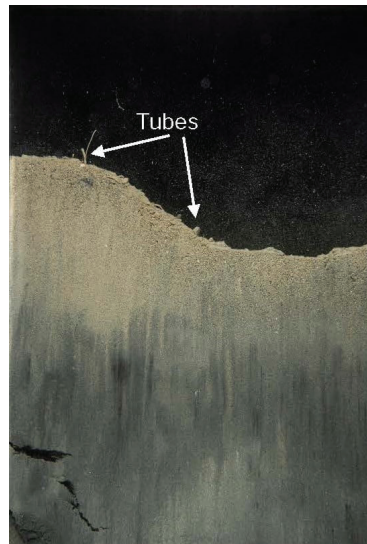
Congratulations to Construction Resident Engineers Stephen Umbrell and Bert Pechhold, who were awarded their Contracting Officer Warrants.

Sheila Winston-Vincuilla, Chief, Contracting Division and Sean Dolan, Chief, Construction Division, presented them with their Contracting Officer Warrants on Sept. 9 during the Area Engineer/Resident Engineer meeting held at New England District headquarters at Concord Park, Concord, Massachusetts.

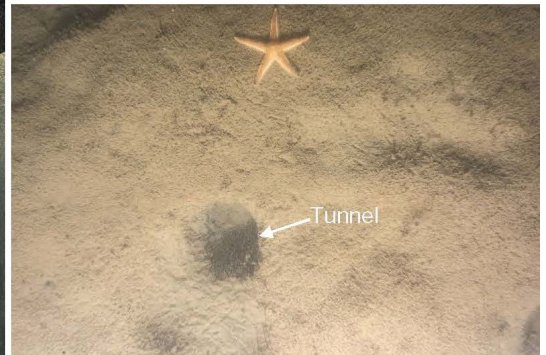
Small arms range project at Westover completed

by **Richard Doughty**
Project Engineer, Construction

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the construction of Westover Air Reserve Base's (WARB) new \$10 million Indoor Small Arms Range, Aug. 12. The 28-lane facility provides WARB's Security Forces and Reserve personnel, along with local law enforcement agencies, a conditioned year-round training space. WARB held the official ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 19. The Honorable Richard Neal, U.S. House of Representatives, and other dignitaries attended the event. The Louisville District designed the Indoor Small Arms Range, P&S Construction completed the construction contract and New England District's Westover Resident Office administered the contract.



Top left: The SPI Camera. Top Right: The SPI camera is lowered to the sea floor. Below: images of specimens on the sea floor.



District scientists conduct survey at Isles of Shoals North Disposal Site

By **Albinko Hasic**
Public Affairs Office

Scientists from the New England District's DAMOS program conducted a sediment profile imaging (SPI) survey to monitor the benthic ecosystem at the Isles of Shoals North Disposal Site after the placement of dredged material from the Rye Harbor Federal Navigation Project, Oct. 13.

The SPI camera was lowered to the sea floor where a plan view image was first collected of the sediment surface and then a prism penetrated the sediment to allow the camera to collect a cross-section image of the sediment-water interface.

SPI surveys are one of the primary monitoring tools in the DAMOS program to evaluate seafloor habitat conditions and recovery over time.



Commander's Corner: Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

by Col. John A. Atilano II
New England District Commander

We celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. I know it's an unusual way to celebrate a month, but we do this because many significant events for numerous Hispanic communities take place during this time. This month's theme is Esperanza: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope.



From the very beginning of our country's existence, Hispanic Americans have been fighting alongside other Americans for our freedom. General Bernardo de Galvez, the Spanish Governor of the Louisiana Territory at the time of the American Revolution, assisted General George Washington in fighting the British who tried to advance into the southwest portion of the United States. He also provided food and weapons to the Continental Army.

Acts of bravery performed by Hispanic American service members are documented throughout our history. There are 60 Hispanic American recipients of the Medal of Honor. Boston native Joseph De Castro of the 19th Massachusetts Infantry was the first Hispanic American to receive the award by capturing the enemy's flag during the Civil War. Master Sgt. Leroy Petry is the latest recipient. In Afghanistan, after being shot in both legs, Master Sgt. Petry picked up a live grenade in an attempt to save his fellow soldiers. While throwing it, the grenade exploded. Petry lost his hand, but saved the lives of soldiers he was trying to protect. In 2017, Hispanic Americans made up 16 percent of our Armed Forces members.

Hispanic Americans are very

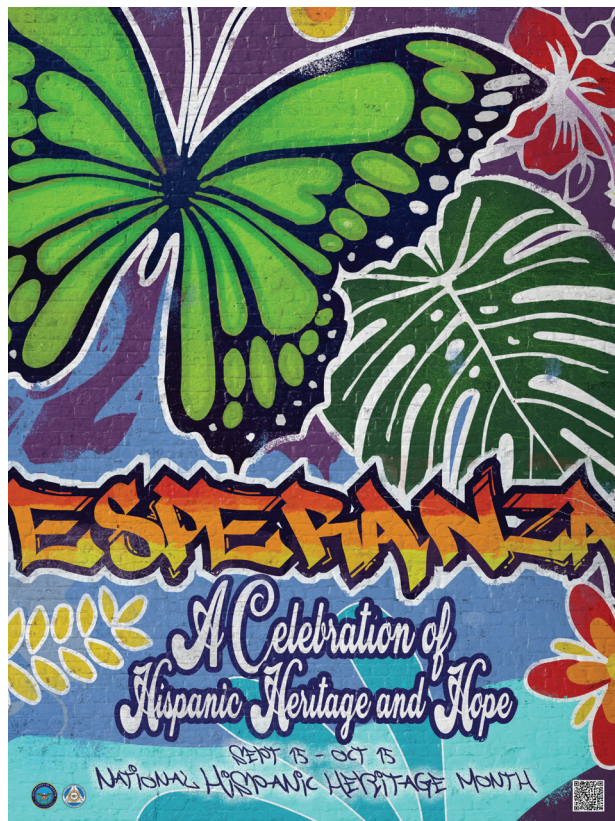
much part of the fabric of American life, and many have notable accomplishments:

- Joseph Marion Hernandez became the first Hispanic member of Congress when he was elected to represent Florida in 1823.
- Ellen Ochoa was the first Hispanic American woman to go to space with a nine-day mission in 1993. Years later, in 2013, she became the first Hispanic American director of the Johnson Space Center.
- The honorable Sonia Sotomayor became the first Hispanic American to serve on the Supreme Court in 2009.
- Baseball great Roberto Clemente was the first Latin American and Caribbean to win a World Series as a starting player in 1960. In 1973, he became the first Latin American and Caribbean to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.
- Actress Rita Moreno was the first Hispanic American woman to win an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in 1962 for her role in West Side Story.
- Recording artists Cardi B became the first person of Dominican descent to reach Number 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 in 2017.

Tragically, on Aug. 26 of this year, 13 service members

lost their lives in Afghanistan helping Americans and Afghanistan citizens escape from Taliban rule. Among them were Hispanic Americans, to include Lawrence, Massachusetts native Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo. All of these brave service members posthumously received the Purple Heart. My thoughts are with the families of all these brave men and women and I thank them for their sacrifice.

Here at the New England District, the contributions and hard work of our Hispanic American teammates make us a better organization. I encourage everyone to take some time during Hispanic Heritage Month to learn a little about the culture that makes us such a diverse nation.





Students from Saint John Paul II arranged two canal clean ups in September in honor of National Public Lands Day.

Photo by Elsa Carey

New England District teams host National Public Lands Day

Buffumville Lake, West Hill Dam and the Cape Cod Canal all held September events for volunteers to come and improve their facilities through clean ups and small improvement projects in honor of National Public Lands Day (NPLD).

At Buffumville Lake, Boy Scout Troop 273 of Dudley, along with the entire Buffumville team, completed various projects around the dam.

“Troop 273 were the only volunteers at NPLD,” said Project Manager Nicole Giles. “We wanted to have NPLD on a very small scale due to Covid.”

The Scouts along with Giles, Angela Erskine, Jay Lamell, and Jason Monteiro worked on the Buffumville Lake Big Island, fixing the stairs, painting tables and the woodshed, repairing the tent sites, trimming branches over the tent sites, and removing standing dead trees.

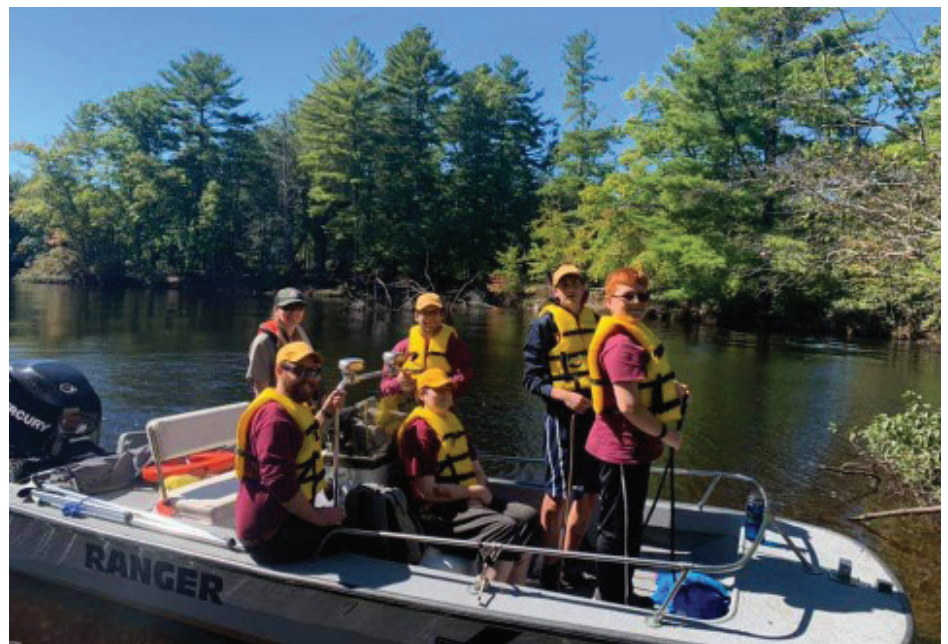
“Another group did trail work which included trimming back encroaching

branches, trail blazing, bridge deck repair, and trail erosion repair,” said Giles.

Boy and Cub Scouts were everywhere at West Hill Dam’s NPLD event, with representatives from

six different troops and packs from Massachusetts totaling 115 people participating.

“What a great day,” said Park Ranger Viola Bramel. “Everyone arrived at the shelter for a safety briefing



Boy Scouts get a lift over to Big Island to do some work during Buffumville’s NPLD event.

Photo by Nicole Giles



A Boy Scout paints a boat ramp at Buffumville Lake during the NPLD.

Photo by Nicole Giles

and then we adjourned to the lawn for a group photo. Then we got all our tools and headed out with our ranger/crew leaders.”

Troop 131 of Sutton, Troop 4 of Milford, Troop 1 of Blackstone, Troop 108 of Medfield, Troop 141 and Pack 118 from Bellingham joined Project Manager Joe Zanca, Park Rangers Bramel and Ron Woodall, Seasonal Park Ranger John Renzoni and Volunteers hosts Robin Todd and John Andrews to get projects done. In addition Connor Pattison, of Troop 131 came to the project to finish the last item on his Eagle Scout project involving installing fishing line receptacles.

The volunteers removed and disposed of several acres of invasive species (Multi-flora rose, Oriental Bittersweet and Japanese honeysuckle). Two miles of trail were cleared for overgrowth and water-bars repaired.

Over an acre of encroaching small trees were removed from the grassland habitat. The playground was completely raked out and top-dressed new wood chips for public safety.

“It was great and fun and all were

so excited for this annual, traditional event,” said Bramel.

According to Bramel, Eric Robeau, the scout leader for Troop 1, is a West Hill Dam Junior Ranger graduate and has been participating in NPLD for over 15 years. “Now as an adult, he brings his Scouts to come to NPLD and teaches them the lessons in environmental stewardship he learned as a child through our programs.”

At the Cape Cod Canal, students from Saint John Paul II organized two canal clean ups in September to celebrate NPLD. According to Park Ranger Elisa Carey, this is the school’s

third year organizing the event. Carey hosted the clean up and assisted the volunteers.

“At the first cleanup, volunteers spend two hours picking up trash along the North Service Road of the Canal,” said Carey. “At the second clean up, volunteers picked up trash along the South Service Road.”

NPLD is the largest volunteer event for public lands and is held annually during the last weekend of September. NPLD has been celebrated since 1979 and is nationally organized by the National Environmental Education Foundation.



A Cub Scout helps to load invasive species cleared from West Hill Dam onto a truck for disposal.

Photo by Viola Bramel



Students and teachers from the Whitinsville Christian School visited West Hill Dam to perform invertebrate sampling for a school science project.

Photos provided by Viola Bramel.

West Hill Dam hosts STEM event for local Elementary School

West Hill Dam partnered with the Whitinsville Christian School in nearby Whitinsville, Massachusetts for a two-day STEM field trip for the school's entire third grade class, Oct. 6-7.

The invertebrate sampling field trip was part of the school's STEM Water Quality Elementary School Science Class and fulfilled the hands-on experiment requirement. A total of

52 students, 26 on each day, as well as four teachers participated. Viola Bramel, Park Ranger, West Hill Dam, represented the project and hosted the students.

"We've done this type of event with our Junior Rangers," she said. "So, we already had the materials needed for the project."

Before being divided into two

groups, each student received a net and scoop to collect their samples. Once they entered the water, they were given 30 minutes to catch their specimens. Bramel said each child collected around five specimens and placed them in containers to study and write down the required information.

"All the students recorded their data on sheets that had photos of the habitat for them to circle if they caught one of them," she said. "They were able to take the sheets home, but the specimens were safely released when the student were finished."

The West Hill Dam team has worked with the Whitinsville Christian School in the past, with other educational programs. They have also participated in off-site events such as a water safety program at the Whitinsville Community Center. Although this is the first time the team hosted the invertebrate study, Bramel says she looks forward to seeing the third grade class next year.

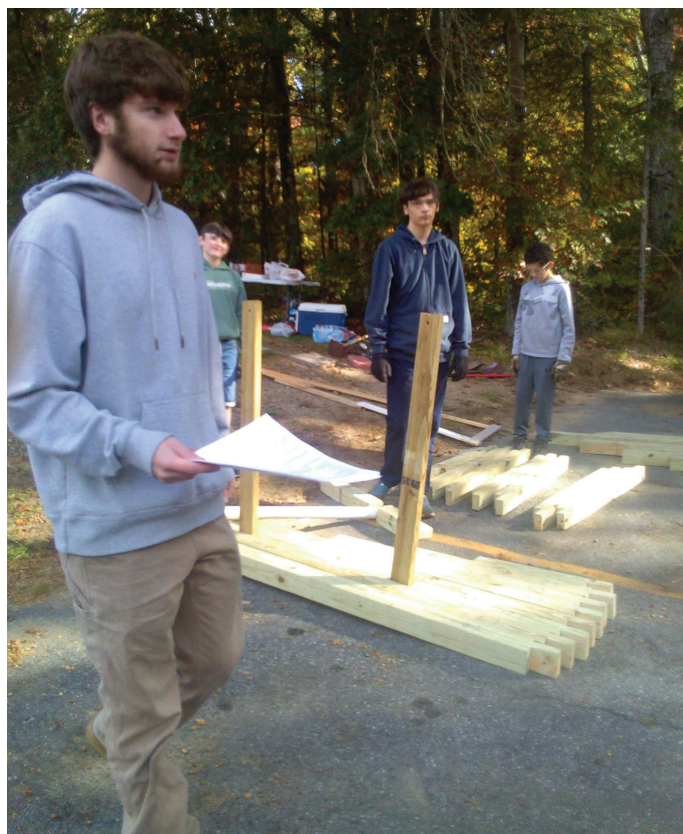


Park Ranger Viola Bramel assists students in collecting invertebrate samples at West Hill Dam.



Students hike to the waterfront at West Hill Dam to collect samples for a science class.

Eagle Scout builds access ramp at West Hill Dam



Eagle Scout Ben Takessian and his crew begin assembling the loading ramp at West Hill Dam.

Eagle Scout Ben Takessian, Troop 1122 in Uxbridge, Massachusetts, made the lives of horseback riders and owners of older pets a lot easier when he constructed a loading ramp at the dam for his Eagle project, Oct. 26.

According to Park Ranger Viola Bramel, the project was completed in two phases – the design of the project and then off-site construction of the wood frame that was erected at the site. After consulting with Bramel and getting his designs approved, Takessian got straight to work building his project.

“Once he and his dad had drawn out their plan and met with the project manager and me to get all the paperwork out of the way, Ben worked off-site with his dad and crew of 10 for about 16 hours on the ramp,” said Bramel.

Physical work at the dam to install the ramp began right at 9 a.m. Takessian and his crew, assisted by Bramel and seasonal Park Ranger Jon Renzoni, completed the ramp by 4 p.m.

“This ramp is a great benefit to senior dogs and horseback riders,” said Bramel. “Dogs owner can pull right up to the ramp and their dogs can get right out. Horseback riders no longer need lean ladders. They go about eight steps up the lawn and onto the ramp to mount their horse with no effort.”



Photos provided by Viola Bramel.

Older dogs sit patiently while they wait to try the newly installed loading ramp. The ramp, built by Ben Takessian for his Eagle Scout project, will allow owners of older dogs to pull up to the ramp and let them out. The ramp will also allow horseback riders to easily mount their horses without the need of a lean ladder.

Dredging up the past



Photo by CJ Allen

Lt. Col. Michael Bradbury, New England District Deputy Commander, and his volunteer group gets instructions from Buffumville Lake Park Manager Dave Stidham during National Public Lands Day held on September 27, 1997.

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