Repairing Hampton Harbor's North Jetty
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Welcome...

… to **David Bylund** (pictured right) who has been selected as the new Park Ranger at Birch Hill Dam and Tully Lake Dam.

… to **James Newman** who is the new Chief of the Civil Works/IIS Project Management Branch.

… to **TJ Atwell** who has been selected as the new Community Relations Manager in Public Affairs.

…… to Engineering Division’s two latest employees **Ethan Peck**, Cost Engineer (left in first photo), and **Joseph Simonetta** Sr. Tech Lead, (pictured in first photo right). Photo by Crystal Daley.

Sympathy…

… to **Randy LeCuyer**, Construction, on the passing of his father, Ernest LeCuyer, who passed away Jan. 19. Mr. LeCuyer’s obituary can be found here: [https://www.andersonfuneral.com/obituaries/Ernest-Lecuyer/#!/Obituary](https://www.andersonfuneral.com/obituaries/Ernest-Lecuyer/#!/Obituary)

… to the family of retiree **Ann (Wright) Descoteaux**, who passed away Feb. 18. Descoteaux served in our Audio-Visual Section, before leaving us to become the Director of Docents at the Fitchburg Art Museum.

She was also married to Dave Descoteaux, of General Engineering in Design Branch in Engineering Division. Ann’s obituary can be found here: [https://www.lcafh.com/obituary/Ann-Descoteaux](https://www.lcafh.com/obituary/Ann-Descoteaux)
Commander's Corner: Celebrating Black History Month

by Col. Justin R. Pabis, PE
New England District Commander

We celebrate Black History Month as a nation every year in February. This year’s theme is “African Americans in the Arts.”

You cannot name any form of art in the United States and not have it significantly influenced by African Americans, many of whom are native New Englanders.


In 1859, Harriet Wilson became the first African American woman to publish a novel in the United States. When she was a resident of Milford, New Hampshire. She published her book, “Our Nig; or Sketches from the Life of a Free Black.”

According to the Harriet Wilson Project, her book “became a powerful and controversial narrative that continues to touch and unsettle readers around the world.”

Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller, of Framingham, Massachusetts, was the first Black woman to receive a U.S. government art commission. Fuller, who was both a painter and a sculptor known for her ground breaking depictions of the African and African American experience received the commission in 1907. The Danforth Museum now has a permanent space devoted to Fuller.

Other, more contemporary artists who were born in Boston were singer Donna Summer, also known as the “Queen of Disco,” and actresses Jasmine Guy and Shar Jackson who have all made contributions to the artist communities throughout America.

As a District, we celebrate our artists, our Soldiers and Civilians who are of African American descent here in New England. The professional talent that our African American team members exhibit every day is cause for celebration.

Our Black History Program Manager this year is Grace Moses. Grace, thank you for stepping up and volunteering for this month-long celebration. I look forward to seeing what you bring to us this month.

Please consider attending a local event that celebrates this very special month. I appreciate all our team members for everything you do everyday for the people of New England and the nation.

References:
https://www.thefamouspeople.com/black-us-massachusetts.php
Barbara Blumeris, Planning Division, received one of USACE’s highest honors during a brief ceremony held at the New England District Headquarters in the Concord Park cafeteria, Concord, Massachusetts, Feb. 2.

Col. Justin R. Pabis, PE, New England District Commander, presented Blumeris with the 2022 Lifetime Planning Achievement award.

There is stringent criterion for the prestigious award, which is designed to honor an individual who has distinguished themselves by making significant and lasting contributions to the USACE Planning Community during their career. These contributions could include demonstrations of leadership, mentoring, facilitating groups, collaboration, teaching or providing support to help other planners overcome obstacles and accomplish goals.

Branch Chief Byron Rupp and Section Chief Christopher
Hatfield collaborated on the nomination and made the award a reality. According to their nomination, Blumeris received the honor due to her outstanding work as a lead planner and project manager on more than 100 planning efforts within the Continuing Authorities Program and General Investigations program.

Throughout her career she has long been the “got-to planner” to lead the most complex and controversial planning studies within the New England District. She has led many high-profile efforts including a major watershed study for the greater Massachusetts Bay region as well as a Dam Safety Modification study for the Waterbury Dam in Vermont.

In addition, she has long served as the Secretary to the International Joint Commission for the St. Croix watershed and successfully worked with many District Commanders during their tenures as Commission chairperson.

Blumeris’ husband Patrick, who works in Engineering Division, and members of the Plan Formulation and Environmental Branches all came out to support Blumeris at the event.

**USACE launches new Regulatory Request System**

by Bryan M. Purtell
Public Affairs Office

USACE announces the launch of its new Regulatory Request System (RRS). RRS is designed to make the review of permit requests a transparent and efficient process for the public. RRS, currently in a beta version, provides general information on the Regulatory Program and allows the public to submit pre-application meeting requests and jurisdictional determination requests.

Additional capability is scheduled in Spring 2024. This added capability will allow users the ability to electronically submit individual and general permit applications and other necessary information, saving time and reducing the need for paper-based submissions.

RRS will streamline the permit application process and underscores USACE commitment to modernizing our application process, meeting user expectations, and providing a transparent, straightforward process for the timely review of permit requests.

Stay tuned for further updates on the full release of the RRS. Please click on the following link to access RRS: rrs.usace.army.mil

For additional information on or to provide feedback on RRS, please contact the rrs@usace.army.mil.
District Commander signs agreement with Saco Officials for Shoreline Erosion Mitigation project

By Linnea F. Shirley
Public Affairs Office

New England District Commander Col. Justin R. Pabis, PE sat with Ward 6 City Councillor Tricia Huot and Saco Public Works Director Patrick Fox to sign a Project Partnership Agreement on Jan. 30., in Saco, Maine. This Project Partnership Agreement is a binding agreement between USACE and the city of Saco to move forward with the design and construction of a $45 million Section 111 Shoreline Erosion Mitigation project.

The proposed project includes the construction of a 750-foot-long stone spur jetty and an estimated 300,000 cubic yards of sand beach fill, with future sand renourishment on a 10-year cycle.

The spur jetty intends to reduce the overall wave energy arriving at Camp Ellis Beach and seaward material removal from the beach.

This project is intended lessen the main jetty’s impact on accelerating and intensifying erosion and storm damage in Camp Ellis. The next steps are to develop a detailed schedule for design and construction of this multi-year project.
Repair work on the Hampton Harbor North Jetty in Hampton, New Hampshire is ongoing. The contractor Lucianos Excavation, a small disadvantage business (8A) of Taunton, Massachusetts, mobilized to the site in October 2023, and has been working to make repairs to the storm-ravaged jetty ever since.

The North Jetty lies at the entrance to Hampton Harbor and is at the southern section of Hampton Beach State Park and extends approximately 1,000 feet into the Atlantic Ocean on the norther side of Hampton Harbor inlet. The North Jetty was last repaired in 2016. Following the 2016 repairs, damages from an undocumented small vessel strike and subsequent winter storms had resulted in an overall loss of protection.

Work on the $7.22 million project includes performing repairs along 465 linear feet of the jetty and includes the removal, rehandling, and resetting of existing armor stone, installing new 6-10 Ton armor stone (11,000 Tons), new 3-4 Ton armor stone (400 Tons) and new underlayer stone (3,300 Tons). Construction of a new jetty toe on the ocean side with armor stone will be part of the repair work as well.

Construction methods to repair the North Jetty are both land and water-based. A majority of the work is being completed by marine-based equipment, specifically there are two jack-up barges located on either side of the jetty (channel side and ocean side) to allow for production of work with long reach excavators on each jack-up barge. New armor stone and underlayer stone is delivered from various quarries by truck and stockpiled within the Hampton Beach State Park. The stone is then loaded onto a stockpile barge by a crane. The stockpile barge is then transported to the channel side jack-up barge and off-loaded for use in the repairs.

Work on the jetty is scheduled to be completed by May 17, 2024.
August 23, 1997 - 11 retire during a special retirement ceremony at the Murphy Federal Center theater in Waltham, Massachusetts. Retirees are: Al Laraway, Donna Calini, Bill Coleman, Andy Lamborghini, Marge Cotter, John Hart, Bob Mireck, Ed Kazinski, Joe Ignazio, Jim Wong, and Bill Mulcahy.