

Yankee Engineer

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Building Strong®



*New England District assists
in Gulf Coast hurricane
response, recovery*

Story on page 4

Yankee Voices

Lynne McKenney Lydick and
Denise Kammerer-Cody



Congratulations

...to **Bill McIntyre**, Engineering/ Planning, on his selection as the WEA Committee's Employee of the Month for August. McIntyre received the honor for his recent efforts and extended hours in support of year end project awards and overall support of the District.

Guard against germs in public areas

Germs. You can't avoid them completely, but you can't live your life in a bubble either. Just be cautious when you're out and about. Here are some of the most common spots where you're likely to pick up an unwanted passenger:

- ATMs
- Gas pump handles
- Sidewalk mailbox handles
- Playground equipment
- Vending machine buttons
- Shopping cart handles
- Public restroom faucets
- Office telephones and desks
- Escalator handles

Stay safe: wash your hands with soap and water frequently, and carry an alcohol-based hand sanitizer wherever you go.

(First Draft Magazine)

Legal team receive awards for jobs well done

Members of the New England District's Office of Counsel team **Terry Negron, John Almeida and Julie D'Esposito** were recently recognized by the Chief Counsel for the delivery of outstanding legal services.

Negron was recognized for her deployment to Afghanistan. She provided vital legal assistance to the important OCO mission for three months this summer. Almeida and D'Esposito received the E. Manning Seltzer Award, which recognizes an attorney who has made one or more special contributions to the Corps' legal services mission through the development of a legal theory, a legal management innovation or practice or outstanding performance in solving a legal or management problem.

"It's great to see these folks get recognized officially by the Chief Counsel for their outstanding support to NAE," said John Astley, Chief of the New England District's Office of Counsel. "They do a great job each day, along with others in the office, helping accomplish the mission."

According to his citation, Almeida received the award for his extraordinary initiative, critical thinking and unparalleled litigation skills as evidenced in his handling of the highly contentious dredging of the Kennebec River. "His stellar preparation, anticipation and comprehension of the complex legal issues, were instrumental in ensuring that dredging was completed in time for a \$1 billion Navy destroyer to transit the river and meet its operational commitments."

D'Esposito received the award because, due to her efforts, the Corps received Congressional authorization and funding for CRREL to purchase approximately 20 acres from Dartmouth College. "As part of this effort, she successfully negotiated a reasonable purchase price for an extremely unique parcel, negotiated a favorable lease extension pending a final sale, and completed the entire real estate transaction well in advance of the expected closing date," according to her citation.

Words Worth Repeating

"Doing what you love means dealing with things you don't."

- David Shore

"Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work."

- Aristotle

"Every single person I know who is successful at what they do is successful because they love doing it."

- Joe Penna



Commander's Corner:

Looking forward to a great new year!

by Col. Charles P. Samaris
District Commander



"Be daring, be different, be impractical, be anything that will assert integrity of purpose and imaginative vision against the play-it-safers, the creatures of the commonplace, the slaves of the ordinary."

~ Sir Cecil Walter Hardy Beaton

New England Team:

As we close out the last Fiscal Year; congratulations are certainly in order! Our team delivered some tremendous results to the people of New England and the nation. Our partners appreciate that we shoot straight, take action, and "do what we say we're gonna do!" As such, our regional relationships are strong, our portfolio remains balanced, and –although many challenges lie ahead – our future is bright.

But the most important aspect of the future is our ability to "see it." Why? If we can visualize the future, we can effectively chart a course to achieve it. Just what is it that we want to do or be; what do we really aspire to? Do we accept the status quo... "but, we've always done it this way?"

Or do we see a better future, think strategically, initiate positive change, and advance – individually and organizationally – towards an endstate that resides on a higher plane of performance and service. As a fan of Steven Covey's *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, there are two that I attempt to employ almost daily: Habit #1 - Be Proactive and Habit #2 - Begin with the end in mind.

So, as we kick off the new Fiscal Year (and my second year of command), we've reloaded our organizational values, vision and guiding principles. They're clear, achievable and provide a launch pad for progress.

As you peruse the pages of this issue of the YANKEE ENGINEER, you'll see great people and teams achieving great results while performing a wide variety of actions in a myriad of conditions! This resident capacity – the tremendous strength of our people and teams – is the foundation upon which we'll advance into an exciting future.

But it all starts with each one of us living our values, sharing our vision, applying our guiding principles...and taking that first positive leap forward! More to follow...

New England District

VALUES	
Character Live Army Values	Passion Be A Catalyst
Service Nation Before Self	Results Quality, Cost, Time

VISION

To be a model USACE District and a trusted public servant to the people of New England and the Nation.

1. Be Professional, Values-based, Ethical Leaders and Experts
2. Deliver Superior Results, Under Budget, Ahead Of Schedule

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Develop principled leaders
2. Grow credentialed technical experts
3. Empower a 100% engaged workforce
4. Hire great people with our values
5. Build strong partnerships
6. Implement effective systems
7. Integrate emerging technologies
8. Steward federal resources

"No one is less ready for tomorrow than the person who holds the most rigid beliefs about what tomorrow will contain."

~ Watts Wacker, Jim Taylor and Howard Means,

"The Visionary's Handbook: Ten Paradoxes That Will Shape the Future of Your Business (1999)."

Essayons!



Photo by Master Sgt. Connie Reed, Air Force, 172d Airlift Wing

Post Hurricane Isaac the Vadilla, Louisiana Army Corps of Engineers assisted in pumping water out of the Tangipahoa Dam. Engineers used special machinery to pump water faster toward the relief outlet to reduce the pressure on the dam.

New England Water Team aids in Hurricane Isaac event

Days before Hurricane Isaac made landfall in Louisiana on Aug. 29, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had resources in place to protect and support residents in the storm's path. The Corps of Engineers plays a vital role in the federal government's unified national response to disasters and emergencies. It is the designated lead for Emergency Support Function (ESF) #3, which provides public works and engineering-related support.

Closely watching weather forecasts that predicted Isaac would make landfall on the Gulf Coast somewhere between Louisiana and Alabama, the New Orleans District made ready its

new \$14 billion, 133-mile Greater New Orleans District Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System, which includes the 1.8-mile Lake Borgne Surge Barrier (locally known as the Great Wall of New Orleans), 24 pumping stations, an impressive series of floodgates, levees, floodwalls and other gated structures.

When disasters occur, it is not just a local Corps District office that responds. Personnel and other resources are mobilized from across the country to carry out our response missions.

The New England District Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activated for the hurricane event on Aug.

27 when it received the mission from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that the Water Team would be needed to assist. The New England District is home to one of two national water teams that share duties with the Kansas City District every other year, with New England being on call this year. The water team's mission is to provide potable drinking water to disaster victims.

The EOC deployed Heather Sullivan to serve as Action Officer at the FEMA Headquarters, National Response and Coordination Center (NRCC) in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 27. Rick Kristoff, Quality Assurance,

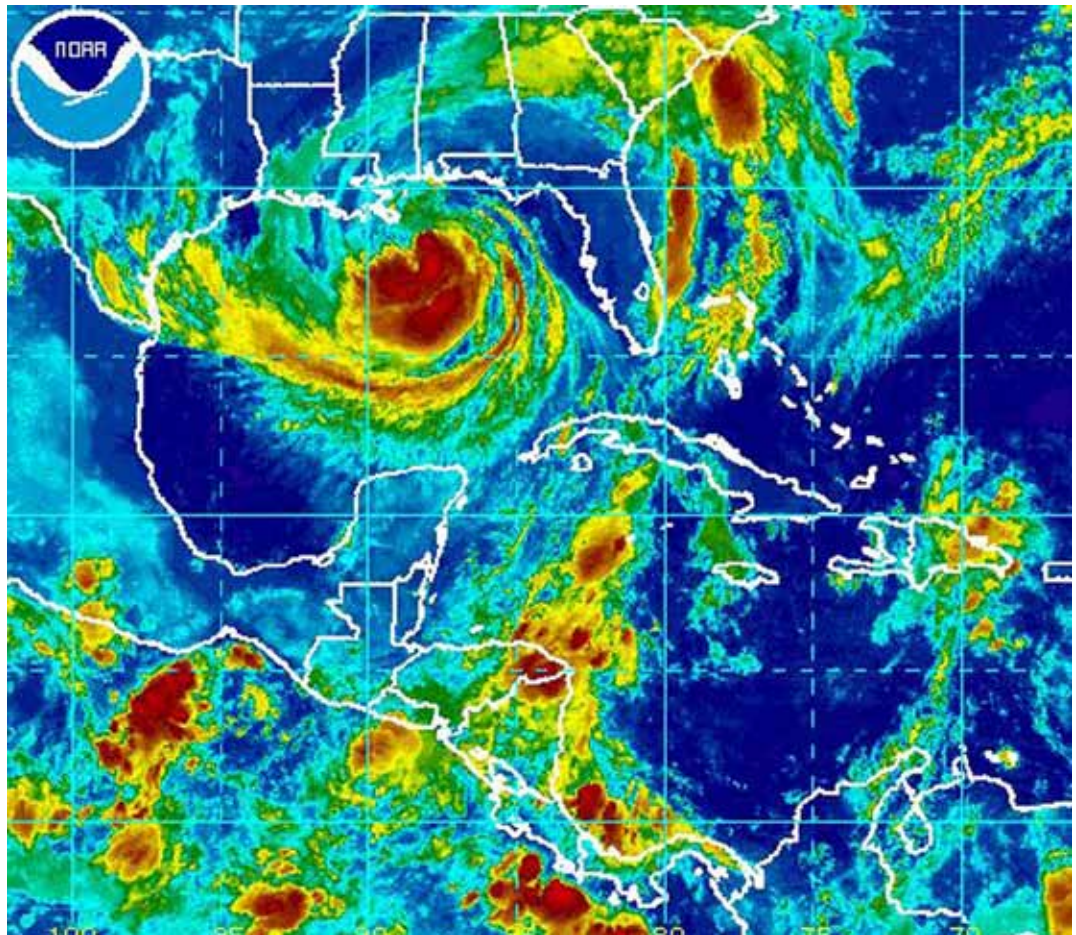
and John Asseng, Site Manager, traveled to Alabama ahead of the storm to be in place and ready to receive deliveries of bottled water.

Two days prior to landfall, David Goodrich, Mission Manager, Wendy Gendron, Mission Specialist, Sheila Winston-Vincuilla, Contracting Officer, Shaukat Syed of the New York District, Contract Specialist, as well as Duban Montoya, National Water Subject Matter Expert, began coordinating with IAP the Corps National Water contractor to be ready to make deliveries of truck loads of water to Alabama and Louisiana as soon as FEMA issued any orders. David Schafer and Rachel Fisher, Emergency Operations Managers, provided additional support by insuring that the water team was fully staffed and had all the necessary resources.

Nationally, USACE deployed Emergency Power teams to Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Commodities, Debris and Temporary Roofing teams also deployed to Louisiana.

Teams were put on alert status to support Florida, Alabama and Mississippi if needed. Emergency Command and Control Vehicles that would aid with communications were placed in Alabama and Mississippi, with one on alert to go to Louisiana. The Louisiana Emergency Command and Control Vehicle deployed on Aug. 30.

The New Orleans team began to prepare for the hurricane by closing the surge barrier, six of the gates and an outfall canal. According to the National Hurricane Center, Hurricane Isaac made landfall as a Category One storm



Infrared satellite picture of Hurricane Isaac about to make landfall in Louisiana.

NOAA Image

in Southeastern Louisiana, bringing with its 80 mile per hour winds, slow-moving heavy rains, and storm surges as high as 14 feet in the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal in Louisiana. New England District's Steven Patchkofsky, Site Manager, and Dara Gay, Quality Assurance, deployed to Louisiana.

The New Orleans District continued to focus its resources on implementing the rest of the HSDRRS, successfully operating the entire system throughout the storm. Once Isaac was downgraded to a tropical storm and started moving away from the Gulf Coast, the New Orleans District began opening up major structures as the storm surge subsided. By Sept. 4, the District successfully completed the opening of the entire HSDRRS.

During the hurricane event, the New England District sent a total of 185 trucks carrying 3,330,000 liters of drink-

ing water to Alabama and Louisiana. All of the New England District's team members returned home on Sept. 6.

Under the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Act, USACE provides disaster preparedness services and advanced planning measures designed to reduce the amount of damage caused by an impending disaster. Under the Stafford Act, the Corps supports the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA in carrying out the National Response Plan, which calls on 30 federal departments and agencies to provide coordinated disaster relief and recovery operations.

In any disaster, USACE's top priorities are to support immediate emergency response priorities; sustain lives with critical commodities, temporary emergency power and other needs; and initiate recovery efforts by assessing and restoring critical infrastructure.



The Great New England Hurricane of 1938 leaves Providence, Rhode Island under water.

File photo

History of notable hurricanes in New England

Although the Hurricane Season in New England is defined as June 1 through Nov. 30, the vast majority of the 40 tropical systems that have impacted our region over the past century have struck during the months of August and September. Because Massachusetts is such a relatively small state, it is important to realize that these are not just ‘coastal events,’ but, in fact, everyone in the Commonwealth can be severely impacted by a major storm.

“New England is in the unenviable position of receiving all three types of hurricane threats,” states former Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Director Don Boyce.

“Depending upon the storm’s track and landfall location, we can experience coastal inundation from storm surge, widespread inland river flooding, and widespread wind damage.”

To best prepare ourselves for the future, it is important to revisit the past, and examine a dozen of the most notable New England hurricanes and their catastrophic impact upon our region.

The Great Colonial Hurricane of 1635 Aug. 25, 1635

This was the first historical record of an intense hurricane striking New England. The highest winds have been estimated at Category 3 or greater, with winds of 115-plus mph. The storm’s eye

passed between Boston and Plymouth causing at least 46 casualties. A 20-foot tidal surge was reported in Boston, ruining farms throughout the area. Reports from Governor William Bradford describing the drowning of dozens of Native Americans, the toppling of thousands of trees and the flattening of houses suggest that this storm possessed even greater intensity than the storms of 1815 and 1938.

The Great September Gale of 1815 Sept. 23, 1815

This storm was the first major hurricane to impact New England in 180 years. It initiated in the West Indies, growing to a Category 3 with winds of

135 mph. After crossing Long Island, New York, the storm came ashore at Saybrook, Conn., funneling an 11-foot storm surge up Narragansett Bay. There, it destroyed 500 houses, 35 ships and flooded Providence, R.I. Impacting Central and Coastal Massachusetts, 'The Great Gale' destroyed the bridge over the Neponset River, connecting Dorchester and Milton, Mass. At least 38 deaths have been attributed to this disaster.

The September Gale of 1869

Sept. 8, 1869

A Category 3, this 'September Gale' was first observed in the Bahamas. It ultimately made landfall in Rhode Island just west of Buzzards Bay, dissipating in Northern Maine. This storm was very compact, but intense. It was reported to have been only 60 miles wide, but it caused extensive damage in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Maine. Fortunately, its arrival coincided with low tide lessening the storm surge and resulting damage.

The Great New England Hurricane of 1938

Sept. 21, 1938

This Category 5, which has also been dubbed "The Long Island Express," was first detected in the Tropical Atlantic. As it slowly moved northward, it suddenly accelerated to a forward motion of 60 to 70 mph, when it was 100 miles east of North Carolina. Without warning, it made landfall as a Category 3, during an astronomically high tide along Long Island, N.Y., and the Connecticut coast. The Blue Hill Observatory, outside of Boston, measured sustained winds of 121 mph, with gusts of 183 mph. Storm surges of 10 to 12 feet inundated portions of the coast from Long Island to Southeastern Massachusetts, most notably in Narragansett Bay and Buzzards Bay. Heavy rains of 3" to 6" produced severe flooding, particularly in areas of Western Massachusetts and along the Connecticut River. Downtown Provi-



File photo

Waves from Hurricane Donna damaged this cottage and washed out the Shore Road at the Point O'Woods in Old Lyme, Conn.

dence, R.I., was impacted by a 20-foot storm surge. Sections of the towns of Falmouth and Truro on Cape Cod were under eight feet of water. The widespread destruction resulting from this storm included 600 deaths and 1,700 injuries. Over \$400 million in damage occurred, including 9,000 homes and businesses lost and 15,000 damaged. Damage to the Southern New England fishing fleet was catastrophic, as over 6,000 vessels were either destroyed or severely damaged.

The Great Atlantic Hurricane of 1944

Sept. 14-15, 1944

Sometimes compared to the Great Hurricane of 1938, this storm was first detected northeast of the Lesser Antilles. From there, it hugged the United States coast, crossing Long Island, New York, the Rhode Island Coast, emerged into Massachusetts Bay and impacted Maine. With 140 mph winds, this Category 4, produced hurricane force winds over a diameter of 600 miles causing over \$100 million in damage. 70-foot high waves were also reported. Up to 11" of rain fell in areas of New England. 390 deaths, mostly at sea, were attributed to this

hurricane. It wreaked havoc on World War II shipping, sinking a U.S. Navy destroyer and minesweeper, as well as two U.S. Coast Guard cutters.

Hurricane Dog

Sept. 11-12, 1950

A strong Category 5, Hurricane Dog reached a peak intensity of 185 mph. First observed east of the Lesser Antilles on Aug. 30, this was a major hurricane that never actually made landfall, passing within 200 miles of Cape Cod. However, it was responsible for the deaths of at least a dozen fishermen off the New England coast. It also caused about \$3 million in damage. To this day, it retains the record for the longest continuous duration for a Category 5 Atlantic Hurricane of 60 hours, from Sept. 5 through Sept. 8. "Dog" also fluctuated between Category 4 and 5 strength on four different occasions, which is also a record.

Hurricane Carol

Aug. 31, 1954

This compact, but powerful Category 3 battered New England, killing 68. With 100 mph winds, gusting up to 135 mph, 'Carol' caused over \$461

Continued on next page

Hurricanes in New England

Continued from previous page

million in damage, destroying 4,000 homes, 3,500 cars, and over 3,000 boats. This was arguably the most destructive storm to hit Southern New England since 1938. It formed as a tropical storm near the Bahamas, making brief landfall along the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The storm passed over Long Island, New York, through Central New England into Canada, bringing a storm surge of 14.4 feet to Narragansett Bay and New Bedford Harbor.

Over 6" of rain fell. Water depths reached 12 feet in downtown Providence, R.I. Some consider 'Carol' the worst storm in the history of Cape Cod. All of Rhode Island, much of Eastern Connecticut, and much of Eastern Massachusetts lost power, with a 95 percent loss of telephone service. The name 'Carol' has been retired.

Hurricane Edna **Sept. 11, 1954**

'Edna' arrived right on the heels of Hurricane Carol. It formed off of Barbados, reaching Category 3 strength at the Outer Banks of North Carolina, with its highest winds of 120 mph. Before striking New England, its eye split into two different ones, up to 60 miles apart at times, moving over Cape Cod and the Islands where peak gusts were recorded at 120 mph. Its eastern track, which resulted in heavy rain and major inland flooding, adding 5" to 7" of rain to Carol's previous 6". The storm was responsible for 29 deaths and \$40 million damage. Ultimately, it made landfall near Eastport, Maine, becoming one of Maine's worst-ever hurricanes. The name 'Edna' has been retired.

Hurricane Diane **Aug. 17-19, 1955**

Born in the tropical Atlantic, this

storm reached Category 3 status, as it followed the path of Hurricane Connie of 5 days earlier. Maximum winds were recorded at 120 mph. Although it weakened to a Tropical Storm as it reached the Southern New England coast, 'Diane' dropped heavy rain of 10" to 20", setting flood records throughout the region. The storm was blamed for between 185 and 200 deaths. The \$832 million damage qualified it as the most costly hurricane in U.S. history until Hurricane Betsy in 1965. The name 'Diane' has been retired.

Hurricane Donna **Sept. 12, 1960**

Hurricane Donna was a Category 5 Cape Verde-type hurricane that impacted most of the Caribbean Islands and every single state on the U.S. Eastern seaboard. It recorded 160 mph winds with gusts up to 200 mph. 'Donna' holds the record for retaining



Angry seas churned up by Hurricane Carol tear at the Edgewood Yacht club in Cranston, R.I., as the club's signal hoist is reduced to tatters and its roof shingles lift in the wind.

File photo.



File photo.

Hurricane Diane leaves a path of destruction in Winsted, Conn.

'major hurricane' status of Category 3 or better in the Atlantic basin for the longest period of time. From Sept. 2 to Sept. 11 it sustained winds of 115 mph as it roamed the Atlantic for 17 days.

This storm is the only one on record to produce hurricane-force winds in Florida, the mid-Atlantic states and New England.

'Donna' hit New England in Southeast Connecticut with sustained winds of 100 mph, gusting to 125-130 mph, cutting diagonally through the region to Maine. It produced pockets of 4" to 8" of rain as well as 5 to 10-foot storm surges. The storm ultimately killed 364, and caused over \$500 million in damage. The name 'Donna' has been retired.

Hurricane Gloria
Sept. 27, 1985

Hurricane Gloria was a powerful Category 4 Cape Verde-type storm

that prowled the Atlantic for 13 days, with highest winds of 145 mph. Hugging the coastline, as it made its way north, 'Gloria' crossed Long Island, N.Y., making landfall at Milford, Conn.

In spite of arriving during low tide, it did cause severe beach erosion along the New England coast, as well as the loss of many piers and coastal roads. There was a moderate storm surge of 6.8 feet in New Bedford, Mass.

The storm left over 2,000,000 people without power. It dropped up to 6" of rain in Massachusetts, causing many flooding issues in the region. Overall, casualties were relatively low with 8 deaths, but damage reached \$900 million. The name 'Gloria' has been retired.

Hurricane Bob
Aug. 19, 1991

Formed east of the Bahamas, Hurricane Bob made landfall in New

England near New Bedford, Mass., with 115 mph winds, cutting a path across Southeastern Massachusetts towards the Gulf of Maine. Peak winds of 125 mph were recorded in the towns of Brewster and Truro on Cape Cod. Over 60 percent of the residents of Southeastern Massachusetts and Southeastern Rhode Island lost power. There were four different reports of tornadoes as 'Bob' came ashore. Buzzards Bay saw a 10 to 15-foot storm surge. A number of south-facing beaches on the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard lost 50 feet of beach to erosion. Up to 7" of rain was reported to have fallen throughout New England. 'Bob' was blamed for 18 storm-related deaths. The damage total for Southern New England was set at \$1 billion, with \$2.5 billion overall damage from the storm. The name 'Bob' has been retired. (MEMA Release)



From left: Col. Charles Samaris, John Winkelman, Irene Watts and John Almeida visit Charlestown, R.I. at the Ninigret Pond project Charlestown Breachway.

Photo by Bill Hubbard

District Commander travels to Rhode Island for site visits, meetings

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, along with New England District team members from Coastal Engineering, Planning and Regulatory, took a trip to the Rhode Island coast to view regional coastal processes, on July 16.

The Galilee Salt Marsh and the Ninigret Restoration projects were on the list of stops for Col. Samaris' day trip to Rhode Island. The District Commander also packed his schedule with visits with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Commissioner Janet Coit, the Director of Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Management Council Grover Fugate and with permit applicants Chris Van Beek (president), Aileen Kenney and Jeff Grybowski from the Rhode Island Offshore Wind Power Project.

New England District team members who accompanied Col. Samaris were John Winkelman, Irene Watts, Scott Michalak, Jennifer McCarthy, Mike Elliott, John Kennelly and Bill Hubbard.

The Galilee Salt Marsh is located in Narragansett. It was the first Section 1135 restoration project constructed by the New England District and won the coveted Coastal America Partnership Award in 1999.

Concerns about the Galilee Salt Marsh began in the 1950's when dredged material from the Point Judith Harbor of Refuge Navigation Improvement Project filled a portion of the salt marsh. This fill cut the salt marsh off from tidal

exchange for decades, degrading most of the marsh from a high value salt marsh habitat to a lower common reed marsh.

Work on restoring 34 acres of the former salt marsh included reconstructing the historic channel and excavating the dredged material that was placed there in the 1950's. Work also included installing new, twin six-foot- by 10-foot box culverts and tide gates on the east side of the marsh. Construction on the \$1,172,450 project was successfully completed in 1994.

The Ninigret and Cross Mills Ponds are located in Charlestown. Construction on the project began in the summer of 2004. Work included dredging 150,000 cubic yards of sand out of the flood tidal delta, planting about two acres of eelgrass and dredging 47,000 cubic yards of sand from the eastern lobe of the flood tidal delta. The project cost about \$3.5 million and was successfully completed in January 2008. The dredged material was used to nourish nearby town beaches.

During the tour, the erosional force of the waves at several locations along southern Rhode Island was evident. Numerous areas were significantly impacted by Hurricane Irene storm waves and beach faces are very narrowed.

Some roads and structures are at risk and RIDEM has asked for USACE assistance on one highly eroded area in Point Judith.

District celebrates Women's Equality Day with a 'visit' from Clara Barton

The Federal Women's Program (FWP) partnered with the Equal Employment Opportunity Office and sponsored a very special presentation for Women's Equality Day.

Reenactor Lynne McKenney Lydick portrayed Clara Barton in her presentation "Follow the Cannon: A reading of Clara Barton's Civil War Letters" on Aug. 29 in the theater.

Denise Kammerer-Cody, FWP Manager, began the event by welcoming the audience and reading the 19th Amendment, a document that gives all U.S. citizens the right to vote, regardless of sex. The Amendment was passed by Congress on June 4, 1919 and ratified on Aug. 18, 1920. Kammerer-Cody then introduced the guest speaker and read her biography.

McKenney Lydick began by acting out Barton's letter to Edward Hammond in which she described Barton

comforting a dying young Soldier who was crying for his sister. She spent the night pretending to be his sister, which gave the Soldier comfort. In the morning light when her ruse was discovered, the Soldier expressed much gratitude towards her for helping him through the night. As Barton, McKenney Lydick described the Battle of Chantilly – the horrors Barton saw and all of the injured Soldiers she nursed.

The second letter that McKenney Lydick acted out was one that described her dread over the upcoming Battle of

Fredricksburg and the band of unruly, rude men she traveled with to the battle. She described how initially they didn't want to take orders from a woman and



Photo by Brian Murphy
Lynne McKenney Lydick as Clara Barton performs at the Women's Equality celebration.

then how their attitude changed towards her when she made them supper from her own supplies. The men traveled with her for six months and remained loyal throughout their journeys together.

The third letter was one to Barton's cousin Alvina in which Barton described the Battle of Cedar Run. Barton thanked her cousin for all the boxes of supplies she sent to help the Soldiers. In the letter, Barton said that the Soldiers were so grateful for her help, they sent word to their families, who in turn began sending Barton small gifts of appreciation.

The final letter McKenney Lydick acted out was to a Mrs. Harlow, thanking her for the supplies and money she had sent to aid Barton's work. Barton took the money and bought fresh butter and eggs to go with the bread and coffee she had before heading out to the battlefield. She arrived to find 600 wounded with no food, no fires and no comfort. According to the letter, Barton began feeding the soldiers. They were so happy to have the fresh butter and eggs, they sent up a cheer to both Barton and Harlow in appreciation.

During the letter reading, McKenney Lydick inserted some historical facts about the events of the day and the conditions that Soldiers had to face during the Civil War.

After the letter readings, McKenney Lydick talked about Barton's life after the Civil War, to include her founding of the American Red Cross in 1880. She

served as president of the organization until 1904. In addition to her incredible work in support of Civil War Soldiers, some of her vast accomplishments include the distinction of being the first female federal employee – working for the Patent Office from 1864 to 1857 for equal pay – as well as opening a free school in New Jersey in the early 1850's. Barton died in 1912 at 91 years old.

After a question and answer period, Kammerer-Cody presented McKenney Lydick with a Bunker Hill plaque in appreciation for her very special presentation.



Boaters line up to race at West Thompson Lake during the annual regatta.

Photos by Kevin Burke

West Thompson Lake site of local annual regatta

Dozens of power boats crowded the dock at West Thompson Lake during the Connecticut Outboard Association's Annual Regatta July 6-8. West Thompson Lake has been hosting the event for about three decades, which draws thousands of participants and spectators to the New England District Project.

The Connecticut Outboard Association (COA) is affiliated with the National Organization, the American Powerboat Association, which is an organization for powerboat racing enthusiasts.

Registration for the event began on July 6, with the actual racing taking place on July 7 and 8. "The Association rents the boat ramp, lake and surrounding area for three days," explained Park Ranger Michelle Dwyer. "We post signs weeks before to let the public know that the boat ramp, lake, river and disc golf course will be closed for those three days."

The public was invited to go to West Thompson Lake and watch the races. "The organizers of the event handle everything involved with the race," said Dwyer. "The Park Rangers work from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., regulating parking, speaking with visitors and handling any problems that may arise."

Dwyer coordinated with Cathy St.

Andres of the COA to ensure the safety of the event. Summer Rangers that assisted Dwyer on the morning shift that weekend were Dana Robbins and Tim Schiavo. Jason Robinson and Summer Ranger Michelle Wood worked the night shifts.

West Thompson Lake, located in Thompson, Conn., is a 200-acre lake that has a boat ramp and supports bass, perch, pickerel and hornpout fishing. Its campground is open from the third Friday in May through the Sunday after Labor Day, and then weekends only through Columbus Day. The project also has an 18-hole disc golf course that is available to visitors for free. West Thompson also offers hiking trails, hunting, snowmobiling and a bevy of free public programs.

For more information on all West Thompson has to offer, please visit <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreation/wtl/wtlhome.htm>.



Park Ranger Jason Robinson (right) with boating enthusiasts during the regatta.

Former Junior Rangers Join Forces with Hop Brook Staff to educate young children during summer programs

by Park Ranger Marci Montrose
Hop Brook Lake

The annual Junior Ranger and Junior Project Manager programs were recently conducted at Hop Brook Lake.

The Junior Ranger Program is a free outdoor environmental education program for children 6-12 years of age. The Junior Project Manager program is a free environmental education program offered to all children that have already participated in the Junior Ranger Program. Children can participate in this program until they are 13 years old. After 13, Hop Brook invites their graduates to return as volunteers to assist Park Rangers with the program.

Naugatuck River Basin Operations Manager Christopher Way said he couldn't be more proud of the project staff, the volunteers or the program itself. "The kids have a great time while learning about a multitude of topics, and the staff and volunteers do a great job," he said. "I've seen them in action. It's

impressive."

Since Hop Brook began collaborating with past graduates in 2007, there has been increasing interest in volunteering amongst graduates. This year received the most program graduate volunteers to date with six volunteers accumulating a total of 356 hours, a significant value to the U.S. Government. They assisted with general oversight and helped teach things they had learned from the program themselves. They were instrumental in setting up games and assisting children with their crafts, especially with the creation of hurricane proof houses made of construction paper, toothpicks and tape which were tested using leaf blowers. Unfortunately, only two of the eight houses built by the younger group survived; however, five of the seven built by the older group fared much better than that of the earlier group.

Hop Brook Lake's Project Manager, and initiator of the Junior Ranger and Junior Project Manager programs, Diana Errico-Topolski, never envisioned the programs to be as popular as they have become. She is excited that the interpretive programs at Hop Brook have spawned increasing interest in the volunteer program, and provide a pool of future Corps hires.

The Junior Ranger program consists of a series of interpretive programs and activities, conducted by a Park Ranger, covering the subject areas of "The Corps Ranger," "Environmental Protection," "Wildlife Management," "Forest Management," and "Water Resources." This program educates young people about the Corps of Engineers, the

Corps recreation and resource management programs, and helps develop environmental ethics.

A Junior Project Manager is one who has already pledged to help protect our natural environment and now wishes to gain further knowledge in a variety of environmental subjects so as to become aware of the importance of all life on earth. Topics touched upon are water quality, natural history, adaptation, forestry, geology, populations and resource conservation, air and groundwater pollutions. This program changes every year and requires a great deal of assistance.

Hop Brook staff members recognize the efforts of these volunteers at the end of the week during a small ceremony where certificates of completion are handed out. The staff members also talk to the graduates and parents to notify them of their volunteer program. Several of this year's graduates seemed to be very interested in helping next year and the volunteers from this year indicated a desire to return again as well.

Five-year volunteer and summer hire Norah Young, second year volunteers Brandon Arnold, Jordan Capone and Nicole Fleming and first year volunteer Wyatt Bosma were instrumental in assisting the Rangers. On Weather Day, Natural Disaster Day, Water Safety Day and Survival Day, the volunteers helped with instruction, as well as assisting with crafts and games. Norah Young provided instruction for most of Water Safety Day. She is a certified lifeguard and was able to show the children some different forms of survival swimming, as well as ways to recognize potential drowning victims. Assisting with the Junior Ranger Program was Brandon Arnold, Wyatt Bosma and second year volunteer Noah Baujin.



Photo by Marci Montrose

Volunteer Nicole Fleming plays with a Junior Project Manager after helping him finish his binoculars craft.



Photos provided by Martin Curran

David Currier, Dr. William Haller, Carlton Layne, Dr. Linda Nelson, and Ms. Kathryn Montague, Dr. Kurt Getsinger aboard the pontoon boat waiting for the tour to begin.

Aquatic Plant Control Field Assessment tour conducted at Hopkinton Lake

**By Martin Curran
Merrimack River Basin**

Dr. Kurt Getsinger, leader of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC) Chemical Control and Physiological Processes Team (CCPPT) led a three day field tour in July in three north eastern states (New Hampshire, Vermont and New York) to give U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Pesticide Programs (EPA-OPP) personnel a better understanding of the relationship between operational aquatic plant control activities and applied research and development (R&D) efforts at ERDC. The tour focused on aquatic herbicide use patterns and began at New England District's Hopkinton Lake in New Hampshire, followed by Lake Morey and Lake Champlain in Vermont, and finally at Saratoga Lake in New York.

"These tours and follow up efforts with EPA-OPP Headquarters have assured the re-registration of critical old chemistries still needed in the field, and have led to the registration of several new aquatic herbicides that are now being used in Corps of Engineers waterways to selectively manage invasive plants," said Getsinger.

The EPA personnel in attendance included Dan Kenny,

Chief, Herbicide Branch, Registration Division, Kathryn Montague, Product Manager, and Grant Rowland, Technical Label Reviewer.

Support for the tour was provided by the Army Corps Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP) and the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (AERF), a non-profit R&D partner with ERDC. Other participants in the three day tour included Dr. Linda Nelson, Assistant Technical Director and Program Manager for APCRP, Carlton Layne, Executive Director of the AERF, and Dr. Bill Haller, Director, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, University of Florida.

The Hopkinton Lake tour represented the first leg of the three day tour. Additional participants to the Hopkinton tour included Amy Smagula, Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Watershed Management Bureau, Marc Bellaud, VP/Aquatic Biologist, Aquatic Control Technology, Inc. of Sutton, Mass., and Martin Curran, Environmental Compliance Coordinator, Merrimack River Basin (MRB).

The field visit at all four locations allowed EPA officials firsthand interactions with Corps and state agency personnel who occupy front line positions in controlling invasive aquatic

plants in public waters of the northeast. At Hopkinton Lake EPA officials were shown the infestation problems associated with variable milfoil and at Lake Morey, Vt., and Saratoga Lake in N.Y., they compared the problems with Eurasian milfoil. On Lake Champlain in Vt., they observed the mechanical harvesting of water chestnut.

The tours enabled EPA officials to gain a better understanding of the problems and the site specific solutions to regional herbicide use patterns and the appropriate use of mechanical harvesting.

The Hopkinton Lake tour began with a Power Point presentation at the Elm Brook Park ranger station with Smagula and Curran followed by an informal discussion. The tour then took to the water so that all participants could actually see the treatment results and gain a better understanding of the site specific issues pertaining with the use of aquatic herbicides.

In order to facilitate a tour to accommodate all participants David Currier of Bradford, N.H., agreed to the use of his pontoon boat and his services as skipper for the tour. The use of the pontoon boat greatly facilitated open discussions during the tour.

The Hopkinton Lake tour ended with a working lunch with much discussion which benefitted us all. "I would like to offer my thanks for an excellent trip," said Kenny. "I really appreciate both the time and the effort that was put in to showing us the challenges and strategies that you work with.

The opportunity to see what you are dealing with and talk to you in person about your experience is absolutely the

most valuable tool we've got here at the EPA to learn how to better address issues pertaining to aquatic herbicides. This kind of trip is extremely helpful in changing just another piece of paper crossing our desks into an important document that needs careful consideration. It was a pleasure to meet all of you, and the tour was superb. We are still talking about the issues we learned from you, and the unique challenges each of you work with."

Smagula has provided enormous support to the MRB with variable milfoil infestation at both the Hopkinton Lake and Franklin Falls Dam projects. In 2007, she prepared a Long-Term Variable Milfoil Management Plan for Hopkinton and Drew Lakes and in January of 2012 she also prepared a Long-Term Variable Milfoil Management and Control Plan for the Pemigewasset River, Franklin Falls Dam Project. In the interim period she assisted with the mapping and monitoring of milfoil infestation at both projects. This past summer she assisted with the enormous task of mapping the aquatic vegetation at Hopkinton and Drew Lakes. Bellaud provided valuable information concerning the efficacy of various herbicide treatment options.

Currier is a 1971 summer laborer at the Hopkinton project and a graduate of New England College. He went on to serve in the U.S. Coast Guard and later became manager of Pats Peak Ski area. Currier is also a former member of the New Hampshire House of Representative and the State Senate. He has fond memories of his time as a student working for the Corps and was pleased to volunteer his services.



From left: David Currier, Dr. William Haller, Dr. Linda Nelson, Kathryn Montague and Dr. Kurt Getsinger listen to Martin Curran explain the progression of Milfoil in the lake.

Dredging up the past



Photo by CJ Allen

Cape Cod Canal Park Ranger Tom St. Denis (left) shows off some creatures that live in Cape Cod waters at the New England District touch tank that was on display at the Big E! Exposition in Springfield, Mass., on Sept. 2, 2003.

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