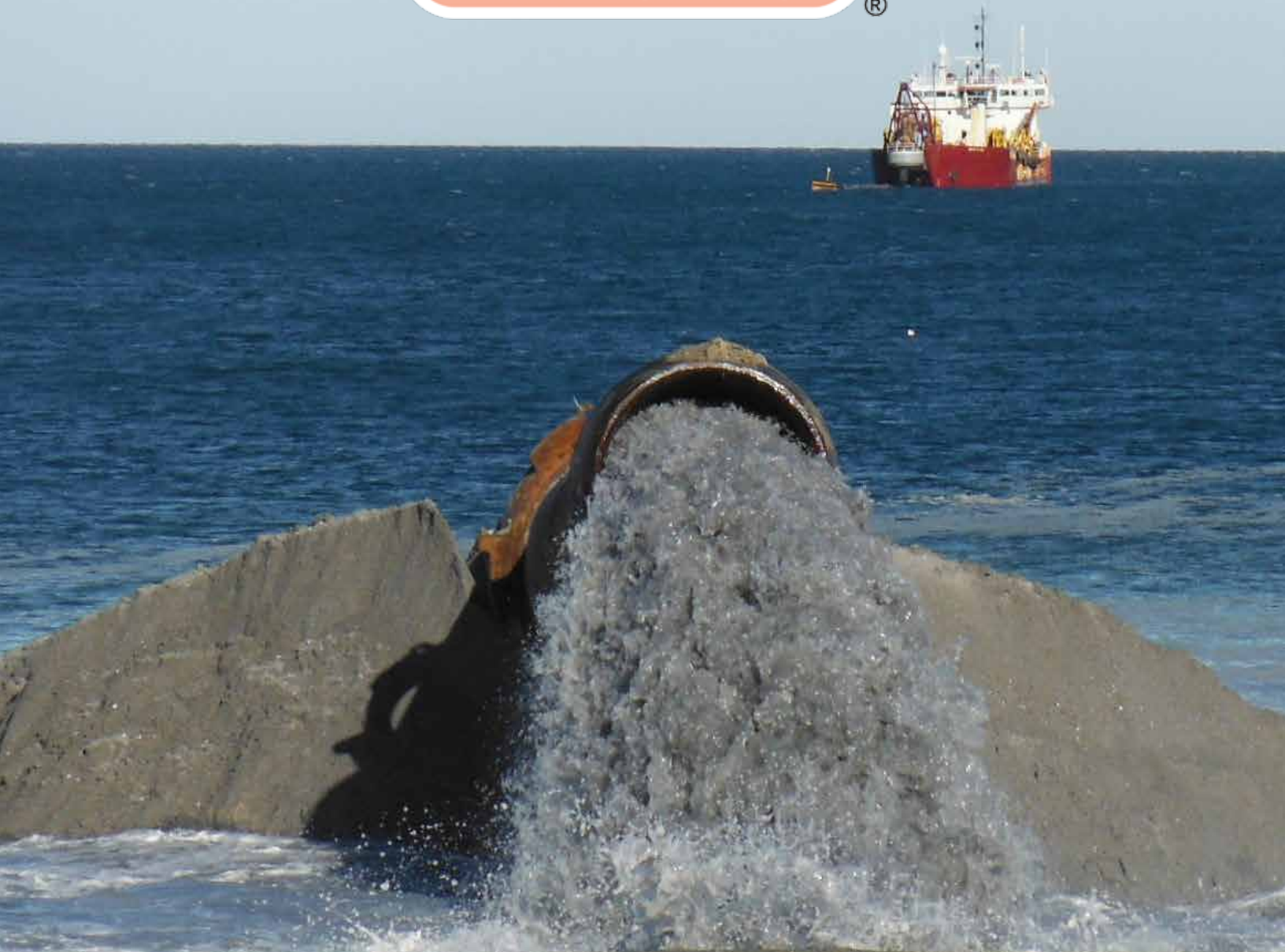


# Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 49, No. 4 January 2016

*Building Strong*

®



Cape Cod Canal dredging, Town Neck  
Beach sand placement complete

Story on page 5

# Yankee Voices

Maj. Daniel Herlihy, Bob Casoli and Sean Dolan



## Thrift Savings Plan 'Stick to Your Plan'

Once you've established your retirement goals and a savings strategy that fits your needs, you'll have the best results if you stick to your plan. Don't get sidelined by distractions. Make adjustments to your strategy only after careful consideration.

It's always a good idea to periodically ask yourself whether your retirement portfolio properly reflects your willingness and ability to take risk. But if you are certain about the amount of risk you can tolerate, don't allow short-term market movements to steer you off course.

Suppose, for example, that you have many years before retirement and you have determined that investing in the TSP's stock funds is appropriate for your time horizon because of the potential for higher long-term returns. If you move your money out of your TSP stock funds when the market starts to dip, you may miss out when it bounces back.

An investment strategy of chasing returns or trying to "time the market" means you have to be consistently correct two times: exactly when to get out of a particular asset class and exactly when to get back in. Most investment experts agree that such success is highly unlikely over long periods.

([www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov))

## Employee Spotlight: Valerie Cappola, Engineering/Planning



Valerie Cappola is a Marine Ecologist with New England District's Evaluation Branch, Environmental Resources Section, Engineering/Planning. She will have 12 years with New England District in March. "I am responsible for the preparation of NEPA documents and Clean Water Act Section 404 compliance for navigation and planning projects," she said. "I write the environmental assessments and coordinate the projects with the state and federal agencies."

Cappola received her Bachelors of Science in Biology from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, her Masters of Science in Biology from the University of Texas, her Ph.D. in Marine Estuarine Environmental Sciences from the University of Maryland and her Post-doctorate in Systematics of Sea Anemones and Corals from Kansas University.

Although not on an official committee, Cappola volunteers for various Work Environment Committee and other District events. When asked what she liked most about working for the District, she said, "The people and the work. I enjoy working with people from the various sections, although there are many people I only interact with while passing in the halls. For the work, even though I do many of the same types of projects, there is always something different about each one."

In her spare time and when she is able, Cappola likes to travel for research. "I worked on mantis shrimp (Stomatopods) which is a type of crustacean, for both my Masters and Ph.D.," she said. "I used specimens from the collection at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum in D.C. For my research and through the Smithsonian Biodiversity Program, I was able to go to Cuba to collect mantis shrimp from shallow water regions of the Isla du Juventide (a small island off Cuba)."

According to Cappola, when one of her professors worked on corals, she was able to spend time in the Florida Keys and the Bahamas working on corals before heading to Kansas to conduct research on the evolutionary relationship between sea anemone and corals.

Nowadays, being a human to two beagles doesn't allow her to travel as much. "While I love traveling for research or pleasure, and I did get to visit India this past year, my two beagles restrict my ability to just get up and go these days," she said. "When I am not trying to entertain the dogs, I love to make bead jewelry or sew."



# Corps of Engineers completes Final Dredged Material Management Plan, and Final PEIS for Long Island Sound

By Meghan Quinn

## Project Management

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has completed a Final Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Long Island Sound. The DMMP was requested by the Governors of Connecticut and New York, in their letter of Feb. 8, 2005 to the Chief of Engineers. The need for a DMMP was also identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) June 3, 2005 Rule that designated two of the Sound's historic open-water placement sites, the Central Long Island Sound and Western Long Island Sound Sites (CLDS and WLDS) for continued use. The EPA's rule required preparation of a DMMP to examine alternative placement practices, with the goal of reducing or eliminating open-water placement of dredged material in the waters of Long Island Sound wherever practicable.

USACE is responsible for maintaining 52 Federal Navigation Projects (FNP) in Long Island Sound (LIS) and adjacent waters that include dredged general navigation features (channels, anchorages and turning basins) requiring periodic maintenance dredging. These include 31 projects in Connecticut, 17 in New York and four in Rhode Island. Dredging is necessary for the continued maintenance, and occasional improvement of these harbors to maintain safe navigation. Other Federal agencies, including the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, and the Maritime Administration, operate facilities around Long Island Sound requiring navigational access.

The DMMP and PEIS identify a range of dredged material placement options for all Federal projects in the Long Island Sound region which might be dredged. Options are also identified for consideration by non-Federal dredging proponents. Collectively these federal, state, local and private dredging activities total about 53 million cubic yards over a 30-year period. However, only a portion of these are likely to be dredged in that period, as future actions are contingent on Federal and non-Federal budget decisions. The DMMP was tasked with identifying options to be considered in the future by those projects that are ultimately funded.

Placement alternatives are identified based on the types of material expected to be dredged for each project. Most

sandy materials dredged in and around the Sound are already beneficially used for beach nourishment purposes under Federal/State partnerships, and that practice is expected to grow in the future.

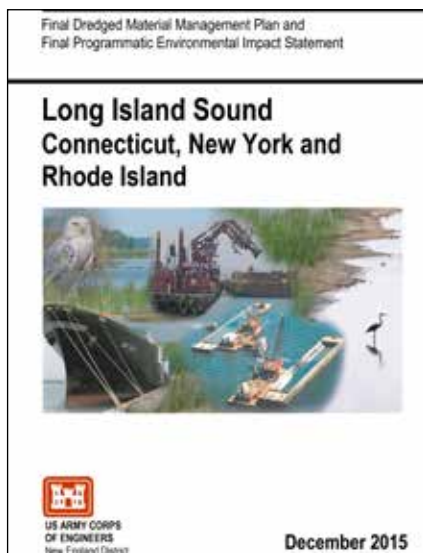
Dredged materials which do not pass the stringent testing requirements and are determined to be toxic are not, and will not in the future, be placed in the open waters of Long Island Sound. These materials presently and in the future will require either containment or treatment.

Fine-grained dredged materials which do pass the stringent testing requirements may be used for beneficial uses such as marsh creation or remediation capping of former disposal areas, should State and Local governments wish to sponsor such projects. Federal cost-sharing may be available for those uses subject to further study. If beneficial uses are not pursued then those materials may be placed in open water sites in the Sound.

The draft DMMP and PEIS were released for a 60 day public comment period beginning on Aug. 17, 2015 and ending on Oct. 16, 2015. During that time, USACE held six public hearings: Aug. 24, 2015 in Port Jefferson, New York; Aug. 25, 2015 in Uniondale, New York; Aug. 26, 2015 in Stamford, Connecticut; Aug. 27, 2015 in New London, Connecticut; Sept. 16, 2015 in Riverhead, New York; and Sept. 17, 2015 in New Haven, Connecticut. Over 1,800 comment letters and emails were received during the comment period and were addressed in the Final DMMP/PEIS, in addition to comments made at the public hearings. Implementation of the DMMP's recommendations to further study and pursue beneficial uses and other alternatives to open water placement of dredged materials in Long Island Sound will require state and local government sponsorship of such projects. Partnerships between the Federal, State and local governments to share the costs of these beneficial uses may be possible under existing Federal programs. State and local cooperation and involvement will be key to achieving the goals of the DMMP to reduce, where practicable, reliance on open water placement of dredged materials in Long Island Sound.

The Final DMMP and PEIS are available to the public as of Jan. 11, 2016, on the Corps of Engineers web site at:

<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/ProjectsTopics/LongIslandSoundDMMP.aspx>





Joan Gardner and Park Ranger Claudia Hixson explain the items displayed during the Corps of Discovery presentation.



A student is all smiles as she tries on a Soldier's uniform from the Corps of Discovery era.



Students touch real animal pelts during the presentation.

Photos by Brian Murphy



Joan Gardner, Viola Bramel and Claudia Hixson help a member of the "battalion" cross a bridge the "engineers" built.

## Park Rangers bring students on the 'Corps of Discovery'

Park Rangers Viola Bramel and Claudia Hixson traveled to the Alice Barrows Elementary School in Reading, Massachusetts on Dec. 10 to teach third graders about the Corps of Discovery, otherwise known as the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

The Park Rangers presented three, 50-minute sessions to about 75 third grade students. The sessions were hosted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher's Core Group. "The youth learn about how the Corps Discovery Team took on this military expansion mission for President Thomas Jefferson by learning about how the explorers prepared for a trip," said Bramel. "Preparation included their assembling their packs with comfort and essential items."

Bramel and Hixson displayed artifacts during their presentation. They narrated some stories about the trip which allowed the children to experience good and bad days on the journey. The Park Rangers discussed how long it takes to paddle and walk across the United States and the children were able to dress in period costumes as soldiers with special skills such as a hunter, cook, medical officer, astronomer, marksman, seamstress and engineer. Students also had the opportunity to taste test flavoring still used from plants the Lewis and Clark Discovery Team found

and identified for the nation. These plant flavors included sassafras, ginger and birch. Special guest, Operations retiree Joan Gardner, assisted the Park Rangers with the day's presentations. At each session, she selected her "engineers" to build a "bridge." She also picked children to form the battalion that would cross the bridge.

New England District Park Rangers have been visiting the Alice Barrows Elementary School for about nine years as part of the Massachusetts Westward Expansion Program. The Corps Discovery presentation continues to be a high demand event. "This exploration of the Louisiana Purchase is a critical part of our nation's history," said Bramel.

According to About.com, on May 21, 1804, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark left from St. Louis, Missouri with the Corps of Discovery and headed west in an effort to explore and document the new lands bought by the Louisiana Purchase. With only one death, the group reached the Pacific Ocean at Portland and then returned back to St. Louis on Sept. 23, 1806.

In addition to the traveling presentation that is presented at no charge to any school that requests it, West Hill Dam offers Lewis and Clark campfires during the summer for the public to learn and enjoy.



The hydraulic dredge operating in the canal. (inset) Sand being pumped onto Town Neck Beach.

## Cape Cod Canal Dredging and Town Neck beach sand placement complete

The maintenance and advance maintenance dredging of the Cape Cod Canal and the sand placement onto Town Neck Beach in Sandwich, Massachusetts is complete. Work on the project concluded on Jan. 20.

Approximately 130,000 cubic yards of sand was dredged from six areas in the authorized, 32-foot-deep by 500-foot-wide main ship channel and the 25-foot deep East Mooring Basin portions of the Canal. “Shoaling in the main ship channel consists of large wave formations,” said Project Manager Bill Kavanaugh. “These formations cause draft restrictions, tidal delays and hazardous conditions for deep-draft commercial vessels transiting the canal.”

The Cape Cod Canal is a toll-free, open-to-all waterway that connects Buzzards Bay and Cape Cod Bay. The project is used by both commercial and recreational vessels and eliminates

the need to transit around Cape Cod, a distance of approximately 135 miles and a more hazardous route.

The District’s contractor, Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, LLC of Oak Brook, Illinois, used the Dodge

directly on the 2,500-foot-long eroded section of Town Neck Beach.

Originally scheduled to take 2-3 months to complete, the entire dredging and sand placement only took two and a half weeks. In addition to adding

sand to the beach, New England District and its contractor are also going to add dune grass plantings. “Great Lakes has the planting on the schedule to begin late January and going into February,” said Kavanaugh. “It should take a month to complete, but that is very dependent on weather conditions. Work must be completed by the end of March.”

The sand was placed just prior to Winter Storm Jonas hitting the Cape on Jan. 23. Early indications are that the sand held well during the storm. The town of Sandwich provided \$2,957,900 in funding to place the sandy material directly onto the beach and for dune grass plantings.



Great Lakes Dredge and Dock’s dredge navigates the Cape Cod Canal.

Island, a hydraulic hopper dredge with pump out capability and ancillary equipment necessary for direct beach placement of the dredged material. The Contractor pumped the material

## Water Management Section Chief retires with over 41 years of service

Co-workers of Townsend Barker, Chief of Water Management Section, Hydraulics and Hydrology, Engineering/Planning, held a coffee and cake reception to celebrate his over 41 year career, Dec. 15 in the Concord Park café.

Approximately 50 friends, co-workers and retirees attended the event. Scott Michalak served as Master of Ceremonies. Speakers who made presentations to honor Barker were Scott Acone, Chief, Engineering/Planning, Rosemary Schmidt, Heather Rausch, Leanna Martin, Lisa Winter, Marilyn Mroz, retirees Farrell McMillan and Bob Meader.

Barker stepped up to the microphone to say a few words after the rest of the speakers made their presentations. Barker told a story of how he and a team of engineers went out to inspect high hazard dams in Rhode Island some years ago. When he and the team went to inspect a couple of dams that were in good shape, they were accompanied by a television crew looking for a story. By design, there was no story. Barker called the experience a beauty pageant. Less than two weeks later, a coastal storm hit and Barker and the team were



Ann Barker looks on as her husband, Townsend Barker, cuts his retirement cake.

Photos by Brian Murphy

out again looking at public infrastructure that was in good shape. When Barker spoke to Bruce Williams, he told him that he thought that the trip was another beauty pageant. Williams explained that it was a phenomenon called the Abe Lincoln process which meant the exact opposite of a pageant.

Leanna Martin presented Barker's wife, Ann Barker, with flowers and a plant in appreciation for supporting her husband throughout his career. Barker received an REI gift card, a Dilbert

calendar and some personal gifts.

Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, presented Barker with his retirement certificate and pin. After his reception, Barker also received the Superior Civilian Service Award, signed by the Chief of Engineers. When the official part of the ceremony concluded, Barker cut into his retirement cake that had a picture of him and his wife kayaking, which ties into some of Barker's retirement plans.

In addition to kayaking, Barker plans on biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, making repairs to his home and whittling down a sizable honey-do list Mrs. Barker has been compiling since the day she let the District "borrow" her husband.

In addition to working for the Corps of Engineers, Barker served his country faithfully during the Viet Nam War as part of the U.S. Army's 577th Engineers.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery member Paul Marinelli and William Mullen joined fellow retirees Meader and McMillan in welcoming Barker into the New England District's retirement community.



Col. Christopher Barron presents Townsend Barker with his retirement certificate during Barker's retirement reception.

## Contracting's Elaine Law retires after 28 years of service

Elaine Law, Procurement Technician, Contracting Division, made the decision to retire after 28 years of federal service. A pizza party to celebrate her career and to wish her well was held in the Concord Park cafeteria, Dec. 17. About 30 people attended the event.

Jessica Kidd, and Maj. Daniel Herlihy, Deputy Commander, both co-hosted the official part of the event. Among the gifts Law received were a New England District raincoat and a gift card.

Maj. Herlihy presented Law with a Bunker Hill plaque in recognition of her distinguished 28-year career. He also officially retired Law by presenting her with a retirement certificate and pin.

Law began her 28-year career with the Corps in 1987 as a Management Assistant in the Operations Branch, Regulatory Division.

After a few years, she transferred to Engineering/Planning Division to join the administrative team. From there,



Maj. Daniel Herlihy, Deputy Commander, presents Elaine Law with a Bunker Hill plaque for her dedicated years of service to the New England District.

Law moved once again to Contracting in 2007 where she took the position of Procurement Technician, the position from which she retired.

While in Contracting, Law managed the Contracting file system and performed time and attendance among other duties. The citation on her plaque

read in part, "Elaine has served USACE well over the last 28 years and we wish her well in her retirement."

Retirees who attended the party included Ella Minincleri, Joe Faloretti, Bob Hanacek and Bob Meader.

During her retirement, Law plans to travel.



Event participants enjoy some pizza before the official ceremony begins.



Ella Minincleri and Joe Faloretti traveled to Concord Park for the retirement party.



Elaine Law prepares to open one of her gifts at her retirement party.



Jessica Kidd addresses the audience during Elaine Law's retirement party.

Photos by Brian Murphy

# Dredging up the past



New England District Commander Col. Curtis Thalken meets with Ray Goff (at left), Bill Scully and Jeff Perchak prior to cutting the ribbon on the Westover Air Reserve Security Building at Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts in this Jan. 17, 2006 photo.

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