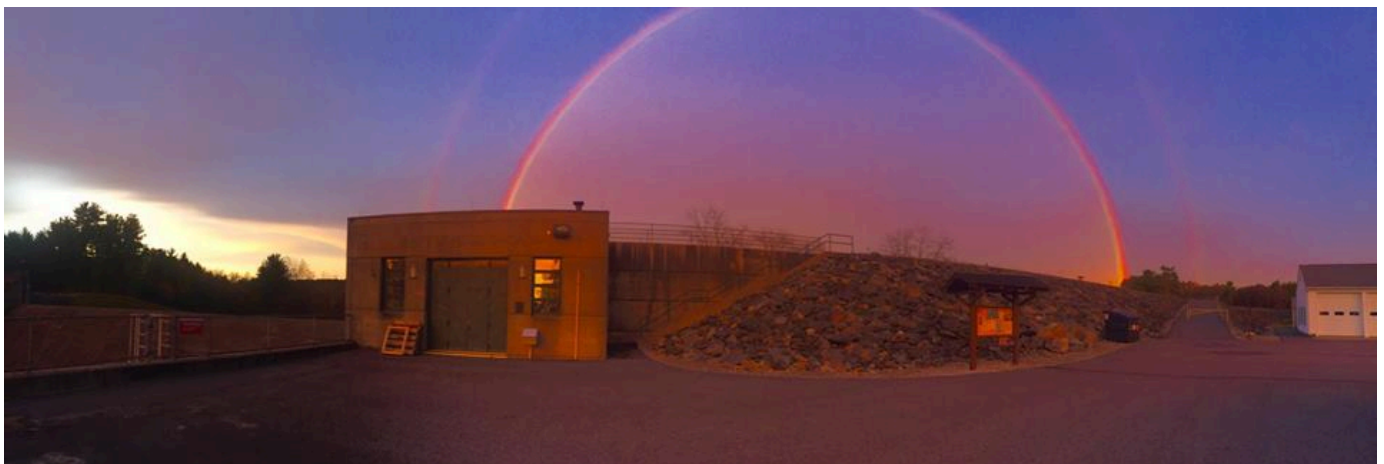


U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
New England District  
Buffumville Lake and Hodges Village Dam

Dredging up the past - The staff at Buffumville Lake and Hodges Village Dam have a long history of fostering public stewardship of the nation's public lands; a history that precedes even the official National Public Lands Day event as it is known today! The jointly managed projects were some of the first U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sites to host federal lands clean-up days for the public, before it became a nation-wide event in 1995. In fact, the 1995 Public Lands Appreciation Day event, as National Public Lands Day was named at the time, was the projects' 4th annual clean-up event. The joint site was one of three USACE sites selected to host the event, out of 17 sites total from multiple federal agencies. What began as a small clean-up event with 27 local volunteers, grew to a large-scale, annual event with hundreds of volunteers. Buffumville Lake had over 400 enthusiastic volunteers working on 29 projects during the 1995 Public Lands Appreciation Day event, an impressive feat that received recognition in an article in the December 1995 issue of Ski magazine. Dr. John H. Zirschky, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, attended the event, along with Colonel Earle Richardson, Division Engineer, and Mr. Francis Pandolfi, Chairman of Times Mirror Magazine. The event was supported by numbers local partners, and Times Mirror Magazine's cable station, the Outdoor Life channel, provided a live broadcast throughout the day.

Every year since 1992, volunteers of all ages have dedicated countless hours of their time to clean up national lands at the projects. Volunteers and partners have cleaned up miles of trails, removed hundreds of pounds of invasive species, painted picnic tables and benches, and restored food plots for a variety of native species. In 2009, project staff partnered with the non-profit organization, Leave No Trace, for their 18th annual event, where they were joined by 225 volunteers to complete a variety of projects. Project staff even celebrated a milestone in 2016 with their 25th annual National Public Lands Day event. They were supported by partners the Toyota Motor Corporation and The Last Green Valley, and joined by 189 volunteers, including volunteers from the New England Mountain Bike Association and the Boy Scouts of America- Mohegan Council. Buffumville Lake and Hodges Village Dam will continue to host this annual event to restore national public lands for visitors to enjoy for years to come.





Park Ranger Jamie Kordack with volunteers at the 1995 PLAD event



Thames River Basin Manager, Robert Hanacek with Assistant Secretary of the Army, Dr. Zirschky, and USACE COL Richardson and COL Bradbury at the 1995 PLAD event.





# in balance



DOING WHAT'S RIGHT FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

## America Turns Out For PLAD

**O**n Sept. 30, 5,000 Americans paid a bill. Call it an installment. With a backlog of \$4 billion in repairs needed on our 700 million acres of public lands, the volunteers rolled up their sleeves, put their feet to shovels and their hands to rakes to rebuild trails, lakes, streams, shorelines, wetlands and wildlife habitat at 20 sites across the country.

From Anchorage to New York, from wildlife watering holes in Arizona to Connecticut's Appalachian Trail, Public Lands Appreciation Day (PLAD) showed what Americans can do to restore our nation's natural resources. In doing so, they've made the outdoors more enjoyable, and more accessible, for all of us.

Here's a sampling of what PLAD accomplished:

At **Canyon Lake** near San Antonio, Texas, 570 volunteers turned out to build hiking trails, a handicap-access path and fishing platform, plant 325 trees, build 26 birdhouses and create a 10-acre wetland and wildlife observation deck.

Despite four inches of early snow, 170 volunteers based out of **Winter Park**, Colo., cleared two miles of trail on the Continental Divide and rehabbed old trails into wetlands.

At **Gateway National Recreation Area** in Queens, N.Y., 270 volunteers showed up to build snow fencing, plant beach grasses, paint buildings and give the site a long needed spruce-up.

In Kentucky, 650 volunteers



widened trails, erected benches, birdhouses, trail signs and took in a hog roast at **Lake Cumberland** near Russell Springs. One volunteer came from New Mexico; another came by motorcycle from Michigan.

An energetic crowd of 450 volunteers showed up at **Buffumville Lake** near Oxford, Mass., to tackle a whopping 29 projects, from trail restoration to erosion control, fence installation and tree planting.

At the **Empire-Cienega Resource Conservation Area** near Tucson, Ariz., 410 volunteers erected 13 miles of fencing, created three

It's all in a PLAD day's work at (top center) Gateway National Recreation Area, N.Y. and (above and left) Canyon Lake, Texas.

wildlife watering holes and reinforced soil erosion areas. Said Bureau of Land Management spokesman Jesse Juen, repeating what many organizers at other PLAD events had to say: "This event galvanized the community behind making a better home for wildlife and for everyone who loves the outdoors. We've had so much volunteer interest and such great support from the local business community that we're committed to do it again!"

For the thousands of PLAD volunteers, and for the caretakers of our public lands—the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management—who partnered with Times Mirror Magazines, McDonald's and Chevrolet/Geo Environmental to create Public Lands Appreciation Day, it was a day to remember. And a day to repeat.



Times Mirror Magazines wishes to thank McDonald's and Chevrolet/Geo Environmental for their sponsorship and support of Public Lands Appreciation Day.



## National Public Lands Day



On Saturday, we joined 225 volunteers at Buffumville Lake in Charlton, MA to take part in the 18th annual National Public Lands Day.

Although National Public Lands Day is only 15 years old, this park has been going for 18 years strong. Every year folks come and volunteer their time to clean up the trails, paint fences, and assist in a variety of other projects in the park. National Public Lands Day provides an opportunity for people to give back to the areas they enjoy recreating at throughout the year. We had a wonderful time chatting with the volunteers about ways they can incorporate Leave No Trace in their everyday lives. Did you get out and participate at your local park for National Public Lands Day? We would love to hear about it!

Safe travels...Kate and Tracy

SHARE 1

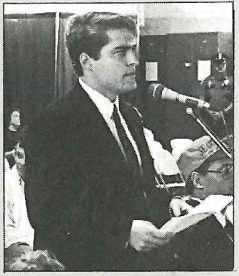
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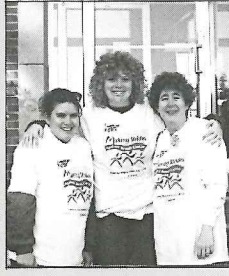


Volunteers fixing a multi-purpose trail bridge during the 2013 National Public Lands Day event.

Sears Island  
Public Hearing  
Page 6



Walk Against  
Breast Cancer  
Page 8



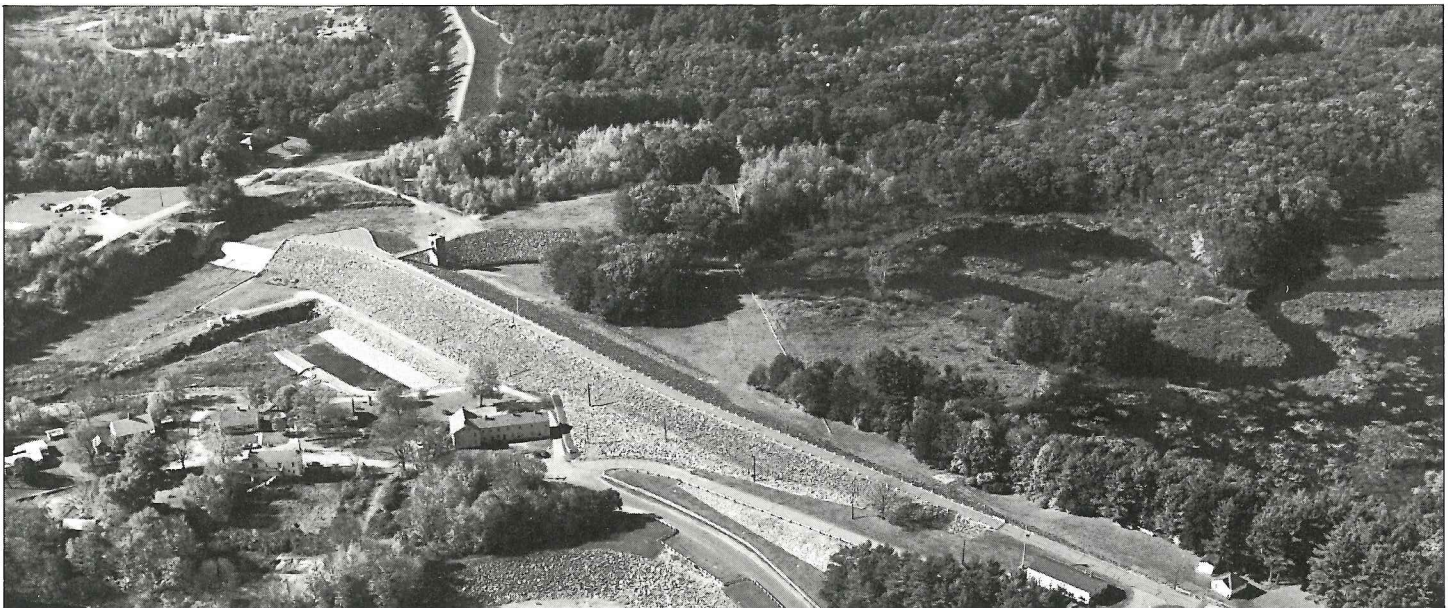
Yankee Voices.....	2
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**US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England Division**  
Volume 32, No. 1

# Yankee Engineer

October 1995



*An aerial view of Hodges Village Dam in the fall. NED's Hodges Village and Buffumville Lake were chosen as one of 17 sites to host the 1995 Public Lands Appreciation Day by Times Mirror Magazine.*

## Public Lands Appreciation Day 1995 held at Hodges Village Dam and Buffumville Lake

The New England Division and Times Mirror Magazine celebrated Public Lands Appreciation Day (PLAD), September 30 at Hodges Village Dam and Buffumville Lake.

Over 400 volunteers turned out to participate in the celebration and to provide assistance in improving the two NED flood control projects. The purpose of PLAD was to showcase the nation's public lands and the importance of preserving them through volunteers.

The Hodges Village Dam/

Buffumville Lake site was only one of 17 chosen by Times Mirror Magazine from around the country.

Dr. John Zirschky, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army, Col. Earle C. Richardson, Division Engineer, and Mr. Francis Pandolfi, Chairman of Times Mirror Magazine, were on hand to roll up their sleeves and take on a project. In addition there were many groups who came to lend a hand. Three Boy Scout Troops, one Brownie Troop, 11 Girl Scout Troops (2 cadette troops), the Buffumville Lake Junior Rangers,

the Hodges Village Environmental Education Association, and the Midstate Trail Committee contributed to all 29 projects.

Field work began at 8:30 a.m. following registration. The projects that needed to be completed entailed a lot of hard work. Some of the projects included renovating trails, building and placing wood duck nesting and bluebird boxes, rehabilitating a wood turtle habitat, installing a split rail fence, spreading woodchips in the picnic area,

*Continued on page 4*



Photos by Mark McInerney and Ivan Massar

*Dr. Zirsckhy and co-workers take a break from their hard work for a picture.*

## NED projects host Public Lands Appreciation Day

*Continued from Page 1*

performing erosion control at a boat ramp and causeway, performing plant and animal inventories, and other clean up work. In addition, an antique wool carding wheel was located to a secured area.

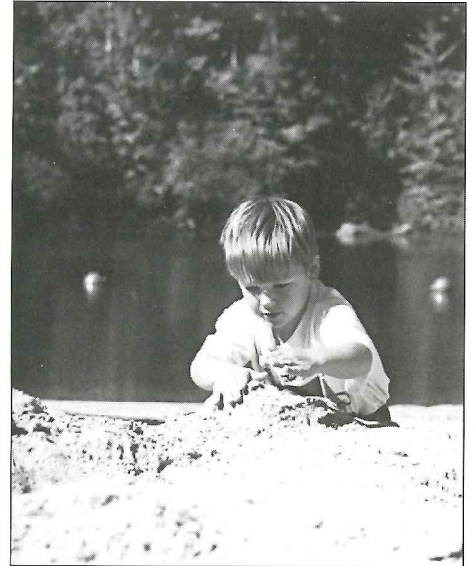
Safety was priority at PLAD. Hard hats, steel toes, safety glasses, and gloves were worn at the project areas,

and volunteers were asked in advance to wear sturdy shoes.

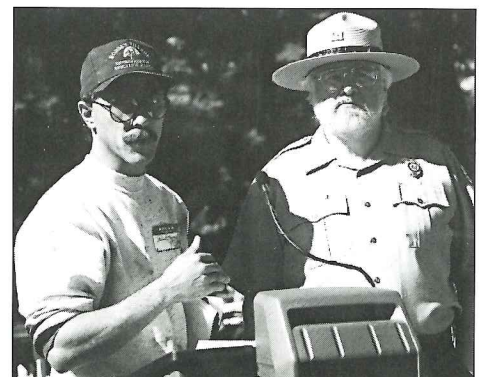
The volunteers' efforts were not only valuable to the improvement of Hodges Village and Buffumville, they also saved taxpayers money. It is estimated that the volunteers saved the U.S. Government approximately \$40,000 in labor alone.

After hours of hard work, volun-

teers were treated to a hamburger lunch provided by the McDonald's Corporation. A little later in the day, a special awards ceremony was held for the volunteers. Each volunteer received a certificate of appreciation signed by Col. Richardson. Volunteers also received a PLAD tee shirt, a PLAD water bottle, and a New England Division baseball cap. An environmental fair



*One of the younger volunteers takes a break for work to play in the sand at Buffumville Park's small beach.*



*Above: The Richardson family joins the other volunteers in rolling up their sleeves and setting down a base for a picnic area in Buffumville Park. Right: A volunteer carefully saws off a branch from a tree as part of his team's project while Ranger Dave Stiddem and Times Mirror Magazine's Chairman, Francis Pandolfi, prepare to pass out certificates of appreciation to the volunteers at the awards ceremony.*



*Workers nail a Wood Duck box to a tree in Stumpy Pond. Other boxes were placed in French River. Blue-bird boxes were placed in fields east and west of the French River.*

followed the ceremony. Among the exhibitors were the New England Division, Hodges Village Environmental Education Association, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Department, the U.S. Coast Guard's Sea Partners, the American Bass Association of Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife.

NED rangers gave tours of Buffumville Dam to interested volunteers.

Times Mirror Magazine's cable station, the Outdoor Life channel, broadcasted live throughout the day. Along with taping the volunteers working on their projects, the channel conducted interviews with Dave Stiddem, Dr. Zirschky and others. Times Mirror

publications and various local print media covered the event.

In addition to NED and Times Mirror Magazine, PLAD was also sponsored by Hodges Village Environmental Education Association in conjunction with McDonald's Corporation, Chevrolet/Geo Environmental, John S. Lane and Son, Inc., and the Occupational Training Center of Worcester.



*Above: A group of volunteers nail a foot bridge together and then later install it as part of their trail renovation and maintenance project during Public Lands Appreciation Day. Right: Rocks are placed in a wheel barrow to be transported to an erosion control project while another volunteer discovers the various wildlife that lives in the area as part of the wildlife and plant inventory project.*

