



# CURRENTS

NORTH ATLANTIC DIVISION

## WATER SAFETY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023  
VOL 1- ISSUE 4



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NEWSLETTER CONTENT NEEDED

Thanks to those of you who sent me info for this edition of *Currents*. Please remember to send me **1 to 2 short sentences** and a picture highlighting a program, initiative, rescue, or some other cool water safety stuff you've been up to each quarter!

### Due Dates Time Table:

**Winter Edition:** Info for Dec, Jan, Feb --> Due **March 15th**

**Spring Edition:** Info for Mar, Apr, May --> Due **June 15th**

**Summer Edition:** Info for June, July, Aug --> Due **Sept 15th**

**Fall Edition:** Info for Sept, Oct, Nov --> Due **Dec 15th**

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# NAE UPDATES

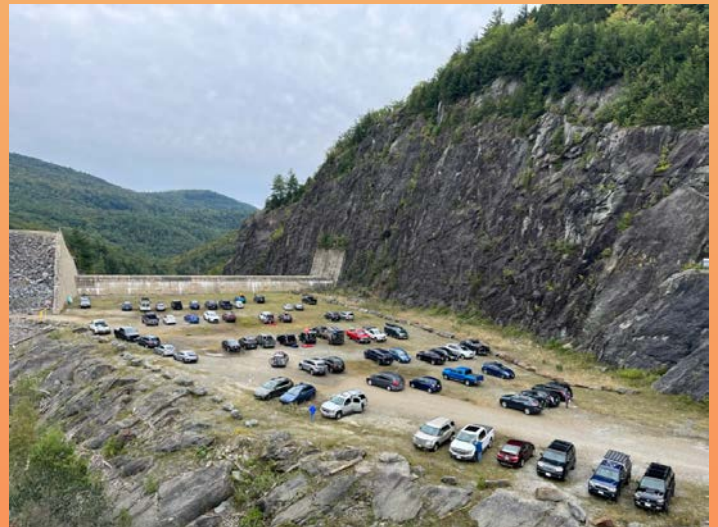


## BALL MOUNTAIN AND TOWNSHEND LAKES, VT

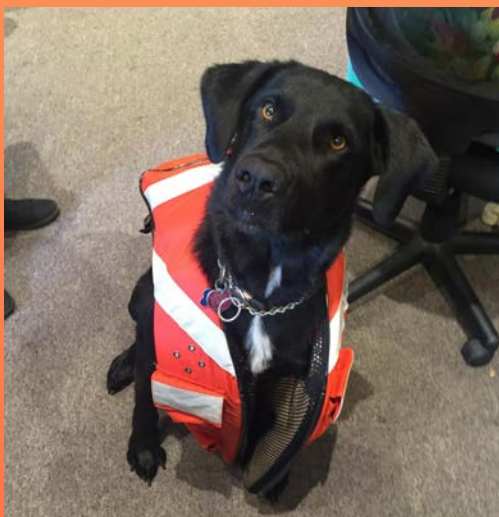


Rangers at Ball Mountain & Townshend Lakes in Vermont had a white water release in September!

Rangers began opening Ball Mountain Dam at 3am to time the incremental increases of flow into the West River. Visitor turn out was phenomenal! Look at all those safe paddlers in life jackets!



## WEST HILL DAM, MA



Staff at West Hill Dam posted this water safety message for hunters this season " Please wear your safety orange, protect your pets and if you hunt from a boat, wear your life jacket! This pup is giving Bobber some competition!



# NAE UPDATES



## CAPE COD CANAL, MA

Around Thanksgiving, Cape Cod Canal showed some love on Facebook for their 343 individual volunteers and partners that shared their time, knowledge, skills & creativity. In total, these volunteers donated over 8,000 hours to supporting Cape Cod Canal's missions in 2023!

Partner groups, including USCG Auxiliary, Station Cape Cod Canal, and Flotilla 013-11-08, helped to promote boating safety through multiple collaborative public outreach events and Vessel Safety Check opportunities along the Canal.

Additionally, the USCG Auxiliary secured, installed and maintained a Life Jacket Loaner Station at the Sandwich Marina boat ramp, the sole boat ramp at the east end of the Cape Cod Canal.



# NAE UPDATES



## HOPKINTON EVERETT LAKES, NH

Hopkinton Everett Lakes hosted the second annual Hopkinton Fall Festival on Saturday, September 16, 2023 at Elm Brook Park. Hundreds of visitors came to the park to enjoy cornhole games, live music, food trucks, and a fireworks display presented by the Contoocook Chamber of Commerce and Hopkinton Police Association. Hopkinton Everett Lakes staff utilized the New England District's water safety trailer to teach families how to choose the correct size life jacket and practice throwing a floatation device to Tackle the Bulldog. Staff handed out water safety frisbees, temporary tattoos, and other items to visitors at the event.



Additionally, 95 students from the Hopkinton 7th grade class visited the dam and Elm Brook Park during a two-day field trip in October. One of the stations they participated in was about water safety, where they learned how to choose and properly fit a life jacket, as well as the importance of wearing a life jacket when out on the water. Ranger Matt Hackett lead the program and guided the students through the "Sink Fast" activity.



# NAE UPDATES



## HODGES VILLAGE DAM, MA

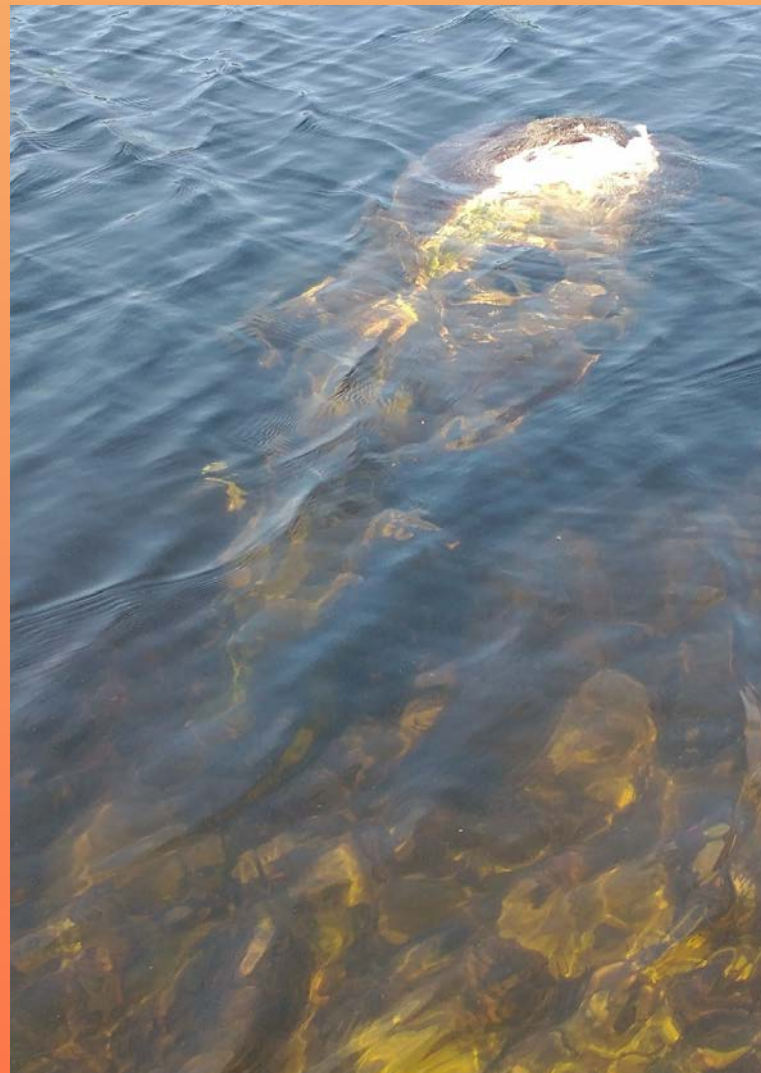


Staff at Hodges Village Dam held a “Walktober” event on October 14th, which consisted of a 2.2 mile float through a portion of the French River. The program included discussions highlighting water safety and the natural features of the river, including biotic & abiotic life in the water and on the banks.

## COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE, CT

Park Ranger Jylkka at Colebrook River Lake shared this picture to serve as a reminder to everyone that has ice fishing at their projects...

“We often think about water safety as a rec season issue, but thin ice, like we had last winter, can lead to some hazardous water safety issues as well. The picture is of a juvenile moose that likely wandered out onto thin ice during the winter. He fell through and couldn’t get out, and has been in the lake ever since. A good reminder to test the ice before going out!”





# NAE UPDATES



## WEST THOMPSON LAKE, CT



This fall, West Thompson Lake utilized funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to make some much needed repairs to their boat ramp facility.

These exciting improvements included paving a portion of the parking area, improving drainage, and adding 5 parking spaces for boat trailers, thus improving visitor safety and accessibility to the lake for water-based recreation activities.

We look forward to seeing how the staff decides to decorate the new and improved launch with some water safety signage ;)

Staff also conducted "Walktober" events at the project in October, teaching participants about some species make up the New England landscape, history of the dam and local communities, and a water safety message or two as well!





# NAB UPDATES



## JENNINGS RANDOLPH LAKE, MD/WV

Bobber the Water Safety Dog made appearances at the Annual Halloween Event at Jennings Randolph Lake (JRL), the Elk Garden Primary School Halloween Parade, and the community Halloween Parade in Elk Garden, WV. Bobber participated in Trunk-or-Treat at these events and walked along during the parades, helping to hand out candy and water safety items to all the kids!



Also, check out this creative, spooky truck-or-treat display that JRL admin Diana Foster's made to hand out candy and educate the public about paddlesports safety!



# NAP UPDATES



## BLUE MARSH LAKE, PA

Bobber and the ranger staff from Blue Marsh Lake went to the King Frost Halloween Parade in Hamburg, PA, attended by approximately 20,000 community members. The theme of their float was Cold Water Safety, reminding visitors to wear their life jacket for Pennsylvania's Mandatory Wear season from November 1 - April 30. The staff also handed out Safe Passage coloring books, flying rings, and fisherman's towels during the parade.





# NAD DIVISION CONFERENCE

In early December, many of us had the opportunity to gather at West Point Military Academy for the NAD Division NRM Conference. Presentations covered a wide spread of topics related to water safety, such as Harmful Algal Blooms, ISOP, Cross-Training Opportunities, etc. Copies of these PowerPoints were assembled by Kim Russell, so if for some reason you didn't get them, email Mike Vissichelli for a link to the SharePoint.

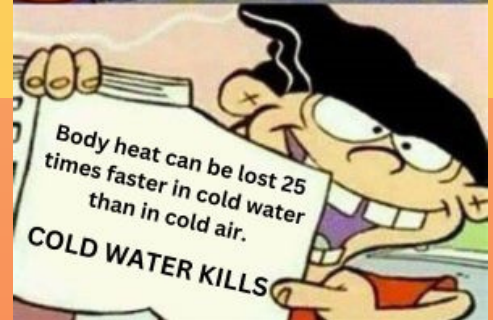
## MAKE ME A MEME CONTEST

We also wanted to say thanks to those of you who participated in Round 1 of our water safety "Make-A-Meme" Contest: Theme- Cold Water Safety. Winners were judged by a panel of your esteemed colleagues based on a combined score of Originality (20%), Creativity(20%), Relevance (20%) and Humor (40%). The top 3 meme makers took home some swag!

If you would like to post any of the memes that you especially enjoyed on your social media, please reach out to Jenna for a copy! Be on the look out for Round 2 in the future!

**Top right:** Meme submitted by Noah Brausch

**Bottom right:** Meme submitted by Alexis Albu



Congrats to Corina Danielson from NAE Cape Cod Canal for taking home the Golden Ranger Hat at the 2023 NRM Conference for her superior trivia knowledge! We're all coming for your crown the next time we meet, so enjoy it while you can!



# DID YOU ORDER YOUR WATER SAFETY SUPPLIES?

It's not too late to submit your water safety product order, but get on it because ordering closes **January 31, 2024!**

Note that these products are FREE, but only available in limited quantities on first-come first-serve basis.

Your orders will be shipped out in February/March 2024.

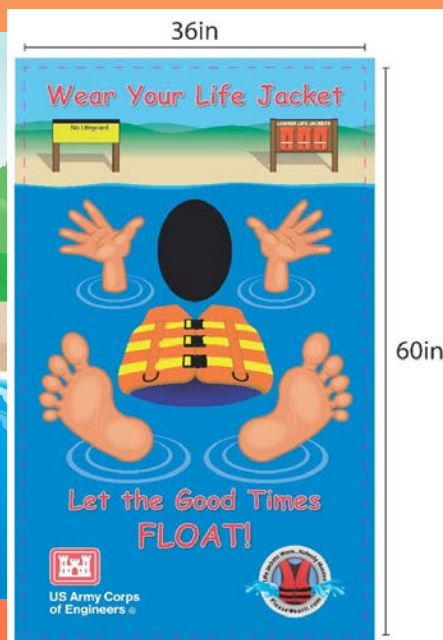
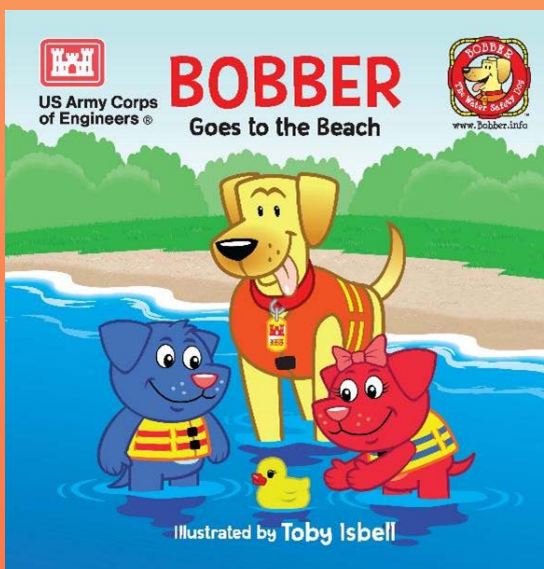
Contact Jenna at [jenna.m.conner@usace.army.mil](mailto:jenna.m.conner@usace.army.mil) to request an order form (if you didn't already get one) and submit your order before the end of January!

## Did you know?

Lake and River Project Offices and District and Division Safety, Public Affairs, and Operations Offices can also submit an order!



## NEW 2024 PRODUCTS



# RIDDLE ME THIS

Answer my riddles five to better learn how to stay alive!!!

Around your middle, I should feel snug,  
On the water's surface, I'm your trusty hug.  
Orange or yellow, a buoyant embrace,  
You should always keep me on, just in case.

**What am I?**

In the air, a taste of flight,  
One swift jump from a great height.  
Rocks and currents, a hidden threat,  
A thrilling second you may regret.

**What am I?**

In waters deep, a mantra to heed,  
A way to help someone in dire need.  
Repeat these words, I do not doubt,  
They may just help a swimmer get out.

**What am I?**

Details of your voyage, drafted with care,  
Tell all your loved ones, I'm meant to share.  
Before you set sail, leave me behind,  
A lost seafarer, I may help them to find.

**What am I?**

Colorless, tasteless, a silent killer,  
Invisible enemy from a horror thriller.  
Headaches, dizziness, the symptoms are subtle,  
The cause of death may sometimes befuddle.

**What am I?**