

Yankee Engineer

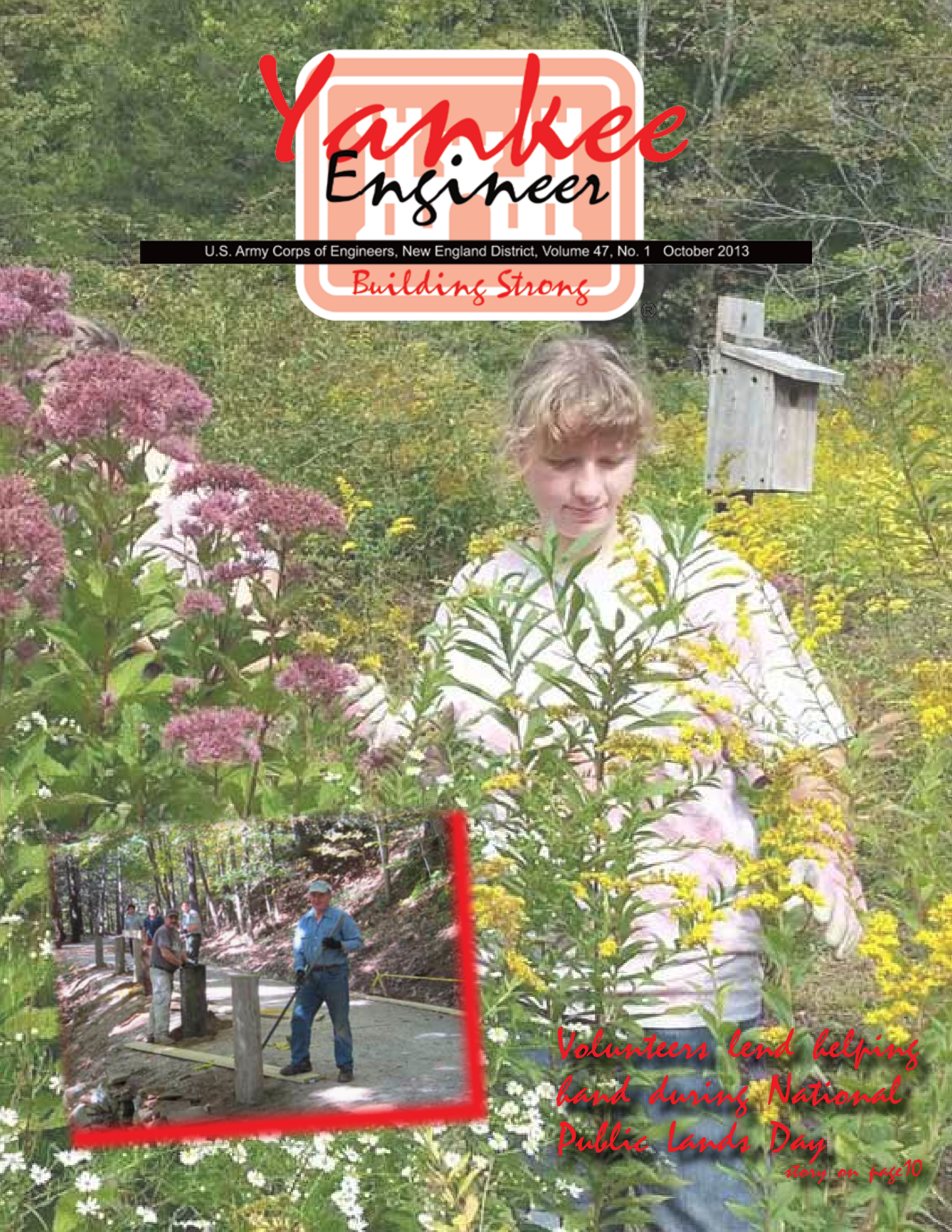
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*Volunteers lend helping
hand during National
Public Lands Day*

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District contractor receives top award from U. S. Small Business Administration

**By Evamarie D'Antuono,
Deputy of Small Business and
Ann Marie R. Harvie,
Public Affairs Office**

One of New England District's small business contractors recently received a prestigious honor in recognition of their hard work and commitment in growing into a successful small business company.

TANTARA Corporation of Worcester, Mass., was named the 2013 Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year for Region I by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The company received the honor during an awards presentation held at Fenway Park, Boston, Mass., in June. Eva Marie D'Antuono, New England District's Deputy for Small Business and nominator of the award, attended the ceremony with TANTARA Corporation's CEO Dawn Dearborn and several other members of her company. Dearborn received the award from former U.S. Small Business Administration's Administrator, Karen Mills.

The criterion for consideration for the award is stringent. Nominees must have performed exceptionally well in the following categories: overall management, financial strength, labor relations, customer interface, technical capabilities, resource utilization, cost preference, deliver performance and exceptional results.

In addition to meeting or exceeding all of the criteria, TANTARA Corporation's nomination package contained over a dozen letters of commendation and high-rated performance evaluations from very satisfied clients. "Tantara is an example of the vision SBA had for small businesses in establishing the

8(a) Business Development Program," said D'Antuono.

TANTARA Corporation provides environmental and heavy civil construction and remediation services along the Eastern Seaboard to clients that include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the



Photo provided by SBA

Karen Mills, former Administrator for the SBA stands with Dawn Dearborn, CEO of TANTARA Corporation, after congratulating her on TANTARA's award.

U.S. Navy, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Air Force, the Air National Guard, the National Park Service, as well as numerous municipal, private-sector commercial, utility and institutional organizations.

Since Dearborn founded the company in 2000, TANTARA Corporation has grown from two employees to twenty employees and has evolved from a supporting subcontractor to a prime contractor, winning many competitive contract awards nationally.

Jim Morocco, New England District Resident Engineer, worked with the company on a repair project for Patertdam Bridge in Holland, Mass. "All

materials and quality met or exceeded all contract requirements," he said.

TANTARA Corporation also worked on a sediment removal project at Union Village Dam in Vermont, even in the face of Hurricane Irene in August 2011. "The dewatering area and crane staging area were submerged for weeks, the haul road was washed out and all large equipment was needed elsewhere to repair roads and storm damage," said Christine Johnson-Battista, Deputy Chief of Construction Division. "TANTARA Corporation was able to get the crane back to the site. The contractor worked in more water and colder weather than anticipated. Still, TANTARA Corporation was able to excavate all 4,100 cubic yards by December 2011."

For many years, TANTARA Corporation has provided service on many New England District Projects to include erosion repairs at Edward MacDowell Lake Dam in New Hampshire, Pownal Tannery Superfund Site in Vermont, Eastern Woolen Mill Superfund Site in Maine, remediation work at the former Fort Devens in Massachusetts and many more.

Although receiving the 2013 Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year Award for Region I is the latest honor bestowed upon the company, it is not TANTARA Corporation's first. The Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC) and FORTUNE Magazine recognized TANTARA Corporation on the "2013 Inner City 100" fastest-growing urban business list. The company also received The Pacesetters Select 70 Award, ranking as the 15th fastest-growing firm in the region by the Boston Business Journal.