



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Nashville District

Cheatham Lake Lake



**Spring
2004**

2004 CHEATHAM LAKE FISH BUSTIN' RODEO

Mark your calendars for the 13th Annual Cheatham Lake Fish Bustin' Rodeo. The annual fishing contest, sponsored by Pro Fishing Endeavors, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will take place on Saturday, June 12, 2004. This will be a free event for ages 15 and under and will take place at Cheatham Dam Right Bank Recreation Area during the morning of Statewide Free Fishing Day. Lucky anglers will receive prizes for their winning catches and numerous door prizes will be handed out during the rodeo.

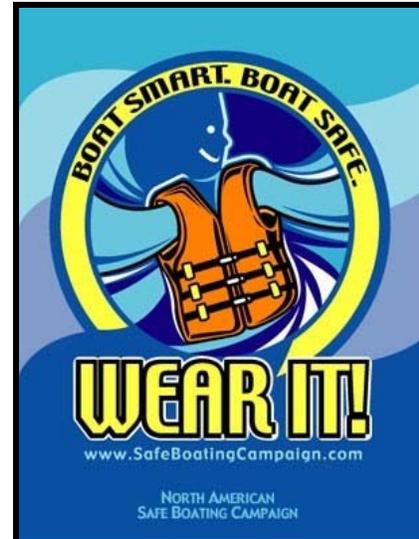
Last year's event proved to be a great success for many of the participants who were able to "haul in" some nice catches. Samuel Blades caught the biggest fish of the rodeo, a carp weighing in at 7 pounds, 5 ½ ounces. Devin Ross had the biggest stringer with 32 pounds, 3 ounces total weight.

We invite you and your friends to participate in this year's Annual Fish Bustin' Rodeo. For further information, call Conservation Biologist Tadd Potter at (615) 792-5697.



PFD REQUIRED FOR YOUNG BOATERS

State and Federal boating laws require that anyone in a boat under the age of 13 wear an approved personal flotation device (PFD) unless he or she is inside an enclosed cabin. This requirement applies except when anchored, moored, or aground. Common sense dictates that everyone, regardless of age, put on a PFD when the boat leaves the ramp or dock. Remember your life jacket can't save your life unless you wear it!



WATCH OUT FOR BOAT THIEVES

The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) reports that about 1,000 boats are stolen each month, costing the insurance industry \$40 million a year. To make your boat more difficult to steal, NICB recommends that you mark it and your boating equipment with the hull identification number and your driver's license number. When disembarking, take the keys, secure the boat to the dock, secure equipment to the boat, and remove any equipment that can not be locked up. Never leave the boat

running when you aren't present. Here are some other suggestions from NICB:

- Record the serial numbers of electronics and other equipment.
- Remove detachable motors, or chain and lock them to the boat.
- Take photos of your boat, including a close-up of the hull identification number.
- Always use a lock on your trailer hitch.
- Beware of someone who offers to sell a boat or equipment at a price too good to be true.
- Before buying a boat, make sure that the hull identification number on the boat matches the one on the registration certificate.

CHEATHAM LAKE MAINTENANCE STAFF

Our maintenance staff is busy again this year keeping the recreation areas around the lake clean, safe, attractive, and ready for visitor use.



Left to right: Laurie Bugg, Supply Technician, Tommy Cushman, Civil Engineering Technician, and Peyton Orten, Contract Representative.

Day Use Fees Collected

A charge of \$4 applies to each vehicle entering Cheatham Dam Right Bank Recreation Area from May 14, 2004 through September 6, 2004. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began charging day use fees when Congress enacted a law to reduce the national debt. These fees, which are set nationwide, help recover a portion of the costs associated with operating and maintaining recreational facilities. An honor box is provided for collection of fees at times when the entrance station is not staffed. Annual passes for the use of day use facilities at Corps parks are available at our office, Lock A Campground, Harpeth River Bridge Campground, and

Cheatham Dam Right Bank Entrance Station for \$30.

STAFF CHANGES

There have been several changes in the Cheatham Lake Staff since the last issue of Lake Casts. Dena Williams, Environmental Protection Specialist, left us to accept a promotion in the Natural Resources Management Branch, Nashville District Office. Dena served as a Park Ranger and Environmental Protection Specialist at Cheatham Lake from March 1998 through May 2003. Charlie Leath and Crystal James joined us as Park Rangers. Both are graduates of the cooperative education program in natural resources management at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Charlie reported for duty in May 2003, and Crystal arrived in January 2004. Charlie and Crystal will be assigned to other lakes in the area after completing training at Cheatham. Tadd Potter, who worked as a Park Ranger at Cheatham Lake in 2001, returned to our staff in September 2003. Tadd is a Conservation Biologist. Pat Summers, Park Contract Inspector, retires in April 2004. Best wishes and thanks for a job well done, Pat!

The recent changes in our staff might make you wonder which ranger to call with questions on the location of the public property line, shoreline use permits, flowage easements, bank stabilization, and other issues related to the management of the shore-



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1-800-865-8337
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www.lrn.usace.army.mil/volunteer

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !

Do you enjoy being in the outdoors, working with people, and sharing your skills and talents? Then you may enjoy becoming a volunteer at Cheatham Lake. Still not sure? Come give it a try Saturday, September 18, 2004, as part of National Public Lands Day. From participating in the shoreline cleanup to tree identification, everyone has something to offer. Come spend the day, and see what a positive contribution you can make to our environment and public lands.

line. Here are the current ranger area assignments:

Rangers **Charlie Leath** and **Crystal James** - Cheatham Dam upstream to the Highway 49 Bridge in Ashland City.

Ranger **Tadd Potter** - Highway 49 Bridge upstream to Briley Parkway Bridge in Nashville.

Ranger **Jerry Strother** - Upper section of Lake Barkley from Cheatham Dam downstream to the Stewart County line.

For information on the portion of Lake Barkley within Stewart County, Tennessee, please call Ranger **Jeff Hancock** at the Stewart County Resource Office, at (931) 232-7724.

SHORELINE STABILIZATION

Are you concerned about shoreline erosion of the lake adjacent to your property? The placement of riprap (large quarried stone) on a suitable slope is the most common method of stabilizing eroding areas. Conventional land-based heavy equipment or a crane operating from a barge may be used to place the riprap. At some sites, lack of access may dictate that the work be performed by floating equipment. The stone must be free of debris, dirt, gravel, metal, wood, broken concrete, etc. The stabilization work should be planned to preserve existing trees.

In some cases, vegetative or "biotechnical" measures can also be used to retard shoreline erosion. Examples of these stabilization tech-

niques include brush layering; placement of wattlings (staked plant bundles), fiber mats, or fiber rolls; construction of cedar tree revetments; and planting native trees and shrubs that are adapted to grow along waterways. The black willow, which roots easily, is particularly suitable for this purpose. Other desirable shoreline plantings include red maple, silver maple, green ash, sycamore, river birch, alder, buttonbush, sweetgum, stiff dogwood, and silky dogwood. The "biotechnical" approach results in a more natural appearance, and the vegetation helps intercept sediment runoff.

If you wish to stabilize a section of the shoreline, please contact your ranger **before performing any work**. He or she will assist you in applying for a permit. In most cases, the work can be approved under a no-fee nationwide permit.

REAL Program Affects Areas at Cheatham Lake

The Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is initiating the "Recreation Excellence at Army Lakes," or REAL program in 2004. Under this plan, some areas including campgrounds, day use areas, and boat launching areas have been closed and some placed under management of other agencies. This will allow us to operate and maintain the facilities visitors value most in a high-quality manner.

You may ask how this will affect your recreational opportunities on Cheatham Lake. The day use area at Bull Run and Sams Creek Launching Area on Cheatham Lake will be closed. These will be the only two areas affected. These closures are planned to be permanent. We do not anticipate re-opening these areas unless another governmental body wishes to operate them. Public launching ramps are available nearby at Cleece's Ferry and Brush Creek.

The Corps recognizes its role as a key recreation provider and we do not want our levels of service to further decline. Our goal is to serve our customers, the visiting public, by being sensitive to their needs by providing excellence in our recreation facilities. For more information, and the latest that is available, visit our website at <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/issues/> by clicking the REAL Program.



1-877-444-6777
www.reserveusa.com

**National Recreation
Reservation Service**
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CONTACTS

To obtain more information about the items in this issue or other aspects of the management of Cheatham Lake, contact the Resource Manager's Office at 1798 Cheatham Dam Road, Ashland City, Tennessee 37015-9805; Telephone (615) 792-5697 or 254-



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**Resource Manager's Office
Cheatham Lake
1798 Cheatham Dam Road
Ashland City, Tennessee 37015
www.lrn.usace.army.mil/op/che/rec/**

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You can also visit our website at
<http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/op/che/rec/>.



For information on lake and tailwater elevations, generation schedule, water temperature, and fishing call (615) 792-2190.

To find out about the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, go to www.cgaux.org. Want to become a volunteer and do your part for water safety? Contact Commander Ronnie McNeil at (615) 792-1592 or call the Auxiliary's toll-free number at 1-877-875-6296.

To make a reservation at a campground operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, go to www.reserveusa.com or call 1-877-444-6777. Harpeth River Bridge is first-come first-served and does not accept reservations

To receive a brochure on landscaping with native plants in Middle Tennessee, contact the Resource Manager's Office.