



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District

DistrictDigest

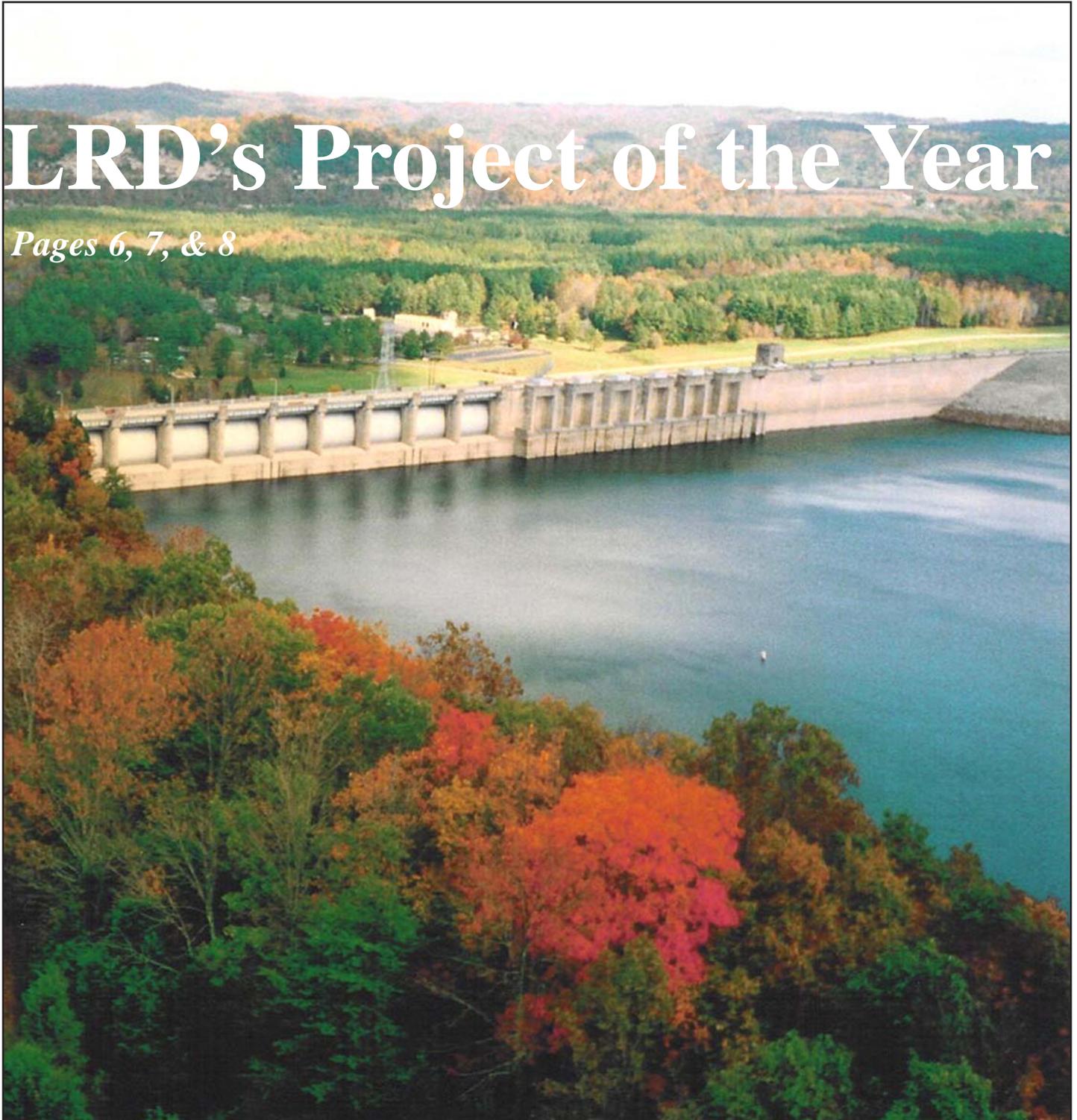
Volume 103, Number 11

Respected-Responsible-Reliable

November 2003

LRD's Project of the Year

Pages 6, 7, & 8



Contents

From Where I Sit	3
Employee of the Month	3
Mission to Restore Iraqi Electricity	4
Young Ashley Pealer Produces First CD	5
Lake Cumberland Named LRD Project of the Year	6
Volunteers Critical to Lake Cumberland	8
Communication in Smooth, Cajun Style	9
Corps Crowd	10
Just Call Perry Bruce "The Rain Man"	11
Be On the Safe Side	12
Hispanic Heritage Month	12

Shooting Range Opens at J. Percy Priest Lake

Operations Chief Mike Enschrup represented Nashville District Oct. 18 for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Stones River Shooting Range on the south shore of J. Percy Priest Lake off Hobson Pike.

He praised representatives from the Tennessee Wildlife



Resources Agency and a number of Corps employees for never giving up on what is now recognized as one of the best such facilities in middle Tennessee. Though commitments kept Governor Phil Bredesen from attending, in a letter read at the ceremony, he also praised those responsible for the new Hunter Education Center. 

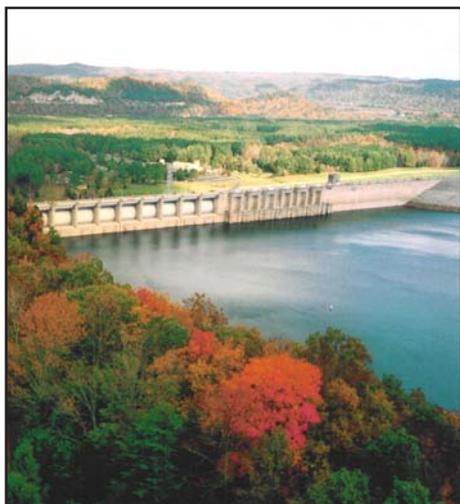


Photo by James O. Johnson

On the Cover

Wolf Creek Electrician (and Historian) James O. Johnson snapped this photo of Wolf Creek Dam while working high atop a transmission tower. The photo then won first prize in the Scenic Category of the 2002-2003 USACE Water Safety Photo Contest. Lake Cumberland was the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division choice for USACE Project of the Year. To learn more about the project and the people who maintain it, turn to pages 6, 7, and 8.

DistrictDigest

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Information about the Nashville District may also be found on the District's homepage at: <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil>.

Lieutenant Colonel Byron Jorns From Where I Sit

During this month of Thanksgiving, I find myself thankful for many things.

...I'm thankful for our terrific workforce and what you've accomplished during this past fiscal year. I'm thankful for our attention to safety, at all levels, and that all our employees can expect to return home each day in good health.

...I'm thankful that our deployed workforce is safe and vigilant in support of our nation's objectives overseas. I'm also thankful for all of LRN's uniformed extended-family members (spouses, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters) that are serving around the world in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Communication

...I congratulate the entire Nashville District team for accomplishing the goals you set for yourselves in the FY'03 Business Plan. I know that employees, at all levels, worked hard to achieve these goals. I'm proud to extend my congratulations . . . you've earned it!

...many of you heard my 2012 (pronounced "twenty twelve") comments at last month's townhall meeting. For those of you who could not attend, I provide a summary of this important undertaking as well as add my latest insights into where we're going and why.

...the next few years will be a busy time for Headquarters USACE, as well as all of its Divisions and Districts. In many ways, the moniker 2012 could just as well be 2004 or 2005 because much of the implementation will occur in the near-term as opposed to a decade from now.

...I want to remind all employees that there is a Nashville District website <http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/stakeholders/> that allows any employee to access the latest information on the topic.

...many asked during last month's townhall if the Headquarters realignment will promote a "trickle-down" effect that will impact us at the District level. The answer is no...the strategy is to shape Headquarters USACE thru VERA/VSIP type efforts. There is no intent (at any

level) to employ a RIF-type effort whereby employees are asked to leave the workforce involuntarily. Our senior leaders have been clear on this issue...involuntary separations are simply not going to happen. So, some of the take-aways of 2012 are: 1) everybody who seeks employment will have employment, 2) few employees (if any) in Nashville District will incur a move, 3) many Nashville District managers/leaders will have new relationships with our Division's Regional Business Center (RBC).

...the heart and sole of 2012 lies with the structure and operation of the Divisions. In this way, Divisions will have more authority to set priorities of work and allocate resources. The Districts will operate much as they always have, yet will become more interdependent on other districts to accomplish work. The District's primary mission is to execute work. Teamwork among many districts (regional concept) is key... "going it alone" or the idea of "full service districts" will become more of a memory and no longer reflect how work gets done.

...I'm excited to be a part of this milestone in our Corps' history. Change will happen and it will happen well before



2012. I believe this change is necessary for our survival as a Corps of Engineers . . . and for us to remain relevant and cost effective in serving our nation well into the 21st Century.

Since Thanksgiving is upon us, I thought I would give you a couple safety tips on thawing and cooking your holiday turkey.

* Thaw the turkey in its original wrap on a tray placed in the bottom section of the refrigerator. Allow about 24 hours of defrost time for every 5 pounds of turkey.

* Allow the cooked turkey to sit for 20 minutes before carving. During this time juices will be redistributed and the turkey will be easier to carve.

I wish everyone a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving. 🍗

October Employee of the Month

Mike Looney, the resource manager at Lake Barkley, was selected as the Nashville District Employee of the Month for October.



Mike Looney

Looney was recognized for several recent significant contributions for Lake Barkley and other Corps elements. He served as the day-to-day field contact for the

Army training exercise, Determined Promise '03, which means he coordinated all onsite preparations/support for the exercise. This meant numerous meetings with participating active Army and reserve units.

Looney participated in the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Focus Group as a member of a selection panel for a vacant Resource Manager position in the Louisville District and involvement on the Evaluation Panel reviewing submittals for a Requirements Contract for Lake Barkley. He performed all this while juggling the many demands of the final draft revisions to the Lake Barkley Shoreline Management Plan and end of year execution. 🍗

In the War on Terrorism

Mission to Restore Iraqi Electricity

Story by Dave Treadway

Photos by Ed Evans

Several District employees are currently deployed in Iraq as part of Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity.

Ed Evans, Chuck Ogle, Ted Ryon, and Jose Garcia are supporting U.S. Ambassador L. Paul Bremer and the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) to restore national power production to all areas of Iraq.

On Oct. 6, Bremer reported that power generation hit 4,518 megawatts of electricity. Six months ago the country could barely generate 300 megawatts. Public Affairs Officer Ed Evans indicated that morale among Army soldiers and DoD civilian employees is high.

"If ever I were going to be a member of a team undergoing hardships and difficult times," said Evans, "this is the one to be on. These are highly motivated people, working to do something for a people who surely deserve something better, and (we are) actually seeing our efforts make a difference."

On a recent trip through Baghdad with a Central Team and two civilian contractors from America, Evans recounted what he saw.

People

"The first place we stopped was in a dangerous part of town, at a small substation supporting a large local area. It was so old and damaged it doesn't even contribute to the electrical grid, but draws from it. We can replace much of the equipment, though it may not actually happen until after we leave. Two contractors from Holland were also there, telling the Iraqi manager it would take a year in terms of transportation and installation.

The two contractors with us had new transportation methods and newly designed generator equipment that could be in place within three months. The manager had a hard time believing that. But his current equipment was such a patchwork, and the things we watched them do to make it work was highly hazardous, and it's a wonder any of them are still alive. But, as he pointed out, when you have a gun to your head, you can make anything work.



Iraqi children show their support as they display the thumbs-up sign to passing Americans in Baghdad.

"The second place we visited was in a little more sedate part of town. Again, the same problems, a sub-station off the grid but drawing from the grid, flowing small amounts of electricity to a large area. The equipment was better here, but only one of the three ancient generators was able to operate and, again, we can help.

"But the remarkable thing about this stop was that right next door was what appeared to be a school. At least 20 young children were hanging out the barred windows yelling to us and waving the "thumbs up" sign. They were grinning from ear to ear. Such a noise you never heard before! Even our security men, with the Uzis and other 'machinery' (as they called them) hanging off them, were grinning and waving.

"Over and over we hear the same thing from these people, many of whom can speak English. They now have a chance for a life, a chance to marry and support a family, a chance for a job. Fathers tell us they no longer fear for their children's safety as they did when Saddam's thugs drove through the streets and simply pulled into their cars anyone they wanted, and no one could say anything. Schools have been rebuilt and furnished with books and materials donated by individual organizations from the States.

"We were not here five days," Evans reported, "before I received an email from some stranger who had seen one of

my forwarded emails, saying their organization had already collected boxes and boxes of children's toys, clothes, etc., and wanted to know where they could send them. I was able to immediately hook them up with four orphanages.

"We sleep on cots, no sheets, no pillows. Water was off two nights in a row. Our generator quits on us regularly so that while we have electricity for our computer system, the lights and air conditioning are very infrequent. (See <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/> for complete story)



Charlie Ogle volunteers as a bus driver to get people back and forth from Camp Essayons on the Tigris River to the al Rasheed Hotel.

Young Ashley Pealer Produces First CD

by Alyson Hayeland

Ashley Pealer, daughter of Kathy and Dennis Pealer of Allons, Tenn., is a girl who has a lot going for her. The lovely 19-year-old Livingston Academy graduate recently released her debut Christian album entitled simply *Sanctuary*.

Pealer has been singing from an early age. Her first public performance was at the tender age of one year old. She could literally sing before she could talk. "I have no idea how I did it, I couldn't even talk. I just stood up there and sang."

"She has always been very talented," said mother Kathy Pealer, "and she may have inherited her love of music from my father. He was very musically inclined, always played bluegrass on Friday nights. Even at two years old, I remember how she wanted to go listen to him play. At four she began playing a toy piano and when in the first or second grade, she wanted to take piano lessons. She said then, and many times afterward, that she wanted to be able to play church hymns and be the pianist at her church. She has attained that goal and plays now for the Fellowship Baptist Church in Allons, Tenn." Kathy works for the Upper Cumberland Development District, at the Area Agency on Aging, in Cookeville.

Ashley has been transferring her two passions, a gift for music and a love of the Lord, into song, by singing at her local church and playing the piano for as long as she can remember.

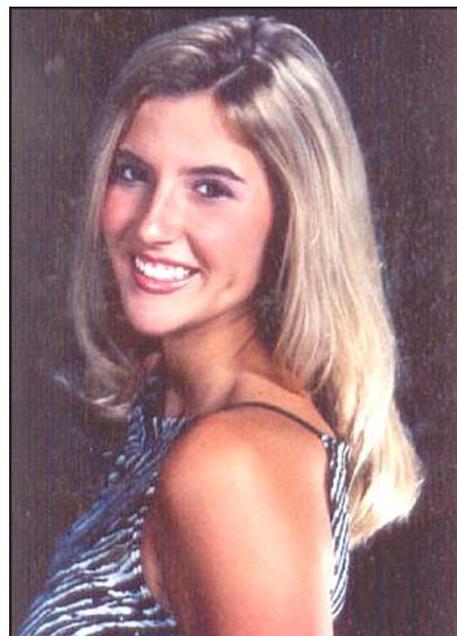
Her chance performance at a local benefit created a stir when a man named Wade Mitchell took an interest in young Ashley. He suggested that they sing a few songs together at his private studio.

Timid at first, Pealer hesitantly agreed and soon found herself in a state-of-the-art studio that rivaled those in Nashville. Mitchell mentioned an album and Pealer agreed to attempt the venture.



Cover of the CD titled *Sanctuary*

It took seven months to compile the eleven songs included on *Sanctuary*. Some songs that are included on the CD are *Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord*, written by Paul Balosche, and *Go Rest High on that Mountain*, written by Vince Gill. Of the eleven uplifting and spiritual songs found on her CD, Ashley's favorite



Ashley Pealer

is the title track *Sanctuary*, written by Randy L. Scruggs.

When asked who she looked to for inspiration, without hesitation she answered her parents and, of course, Christ. "I have been led by the Lord throughout the production of this (album) and have already received a wonderful blessing." Her role model is Ms. Geneva Harris, her local pastor's wife, due to her courage and ability to get through anything.

Father Dennis, a Civil Engineering Technician at Dale Hollow Lake, had high praise for his daughter.

"I think it's (her talent) great," beamed an obviously proud Dad, "she is pretty on the outside and pretty on the inside as well. She

definitely has a good head on her shoulders for a 19-year-old." He says that her good Christian foundation and upbringing have greatly influenced her attitudes about life.

The 2001 Livingston Academy Homecoming Queen is currently enrolled at Tennessee Technical University in Cookeville, Tenn. She is majoring in Elementary Education and, while still hoping to pursue a singing career, when she graduates she will be certified to teach children in Kindergarten through eighth grade.

She is currently a member of several organizations, including FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) and AmeriCorps (a national service movement dedicated to getting things done in communities across America), and serves as the youth director at her local church.

Turn on your speakers and go to <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/1103/STORY03.HTM> to hear Ashley sing her title song, *Sanctuary*.

To order a copy of her CD, contact:
Ashley Pealer at 3080 Chilton Road, Allons, TN 38541.

Lake Cumberland Named LRD Project

by Dave Treadway

Lake Cumberland has been selected as the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD) Natural Resources Management Project of the Year for 2003. District Engineer Lt. Col. Byron Jorns will present the award to Resource Manager Craig Shoe during November.

Such an award is based on many factors, said Park Ranger Troy Hawks, the person responsible for nominating the project for the prestigious award, but high on the list would be the level of professionalism and teamwork demonstrated by the Resource Management staff.

"We have a super Resource Manager," said Hawks, "who can wisely use all of his resources to effectively care for the project."

The resource manager chose to talk about his staff.

"It is an honor to be selected as the Division Project of the Year," said Resource Manager Craig Shoe. "Lake Cumberland is truly an outstanding natural resource that has an equally outstanding staff. Every Lake Cumberland team member is committed to providing quality recreational opportunities to the public while protecting the future of the resource."



Volunteers plant trees within Kendall Forest after southern pine beetles destroyed the original pines planted when the project was constructed.

Former District Engineer Lt. Col. Steve Gay, USA, (Ret) nominated the project earlier this year. "Lake Cumberland has an exceptional management team," wrote Gay, "that strives to provide outstanding customer service, lead the nation in

environmental stewardship, apply the Chief's Environmental Operating Principles, develop partnerships with a wide variety of stakeholders, and manage contract support services in a superior, cost-effective, efficient, and safe manner."

He cited several particularly noteworthy achievements in 2002; the Kendall Forest Restoration Project, selection as one of only a handful of lakes to participate in the Federal Lakes Recreation Demonstration program, and large-scale public involvement programs. These programs included updating the five-year Shoreline Management Plan, finalization of a supplement to the Master Plan dealing with public access, and sponsorship of numerous events involving

the public like Earth Day and lake-wide clean-up activities.

These programs helped the 101,385-acre lake project meet the flood control, hydropower and varied recreational needs of the surrounding region. Spread over portions of six Kentucky counties, the lake hosted more than 7.2 million visitors in 2002 to make it again the fourth most-visited Corps of Engineers Lake in the nation. The economic impact of those visitors to local communities was more than \$157 million dollars. The enormous number of houseboats constructed in the area has earned Somerset, Kentucky, the title of 'Houseboat Capital of the World.'

Surveys of visitors reveal that most come to the lake to enjoy its scenic beauty and the many recreational opportunities in the



Youngsters take part in the 2003 "Catch a Trout" fishing derby below Wolf Creek Dam near the National Fish Hatchery.

of the Year

area. Lake Cumberland offers fishing, boating, skiing, scuba diving, picnicking, camping, hiking, sight-seeing and resort accommodations. This variety, according to return visitors, combined with breathtaking scenery, makes Lake Cumberland one of the premier sites for recreation in the nation.

The project includes 11 Corps recreation areas and 11 commercial marinas that together can accommodate 5,024 watercraft and also provide such amenities as houseboat rentals, lodging, fishing, restaurants and marine supplies. Three state parks and one county park are situated on a shoreline that stretches 1,255 miles.

Invest in People

Cumberland Falls State Park is unique in that it has one of only two naturally occurring moonbows in the world. The moonbow is similar to a rainbow and is visible only on clear nights as the mist rises from the bottom of the falls and is lit by the rays of a full moon. Thousands come each year to the falls to see this incredible sight. The other location where the phenomenon occurs is a falls in South Africa.

Lake Cumberland also provides many opportunities for wildlife and fisheries enthusiasts. The Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources maintains three wildlife management areas where whitetail deer and wild turkeys are a common sight at viewing areas. The agency stocks approximately 300,000 walleye and 350,000 rock fish into the lake each year for the enjoyment of anglers.

Below Wolf Creek Dam, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service operates a national fish hatchery where rainbow and brown trout

are raised year-round to provide fish for the stocking of more than 50 streams in Kentucky. The hatchery is made possible by the cold water, ideal for trout, which flows from the lower depths of the lake.

More than 90 threatened and endangered species of plant and animal life call Lake Cumberland home. These range from a fall-flowering broadleaf plant named Grass-of-Parnassus to the Gray Bat to several species of fish and mollusks.

The Lake hosts numerous public events each year. These range from major fishing tournaments, to youth fishing derbies, to boating regattas to a national personal watercraft event. It annually hosts one of the largest volunteer-supported shoreline cleanups in the nation.

This event is made possible by the Friends of Lake Cumberland (FOLC), a not-for-profit corporation founded in 1990 and made up of a cross-section of citizens from various counties around the lake who raise about \$10,000 each year for the yearly shoreline cleanup. Funds are used for cash prizes, door prizes, and food for participant picnics as well as to pay the cost of disposing of trash collected. Each year, more than 600 volunteers clean and remove an estimated 3,500 bags of garbage and 800 tires from the shoreline. Since 1990, more than 70,500 bags of trash and more than 11,200 tires have been removed from the lake and surrounding land.

FOLC partners with Cumberland Boys Camp, Boy Scouts of America and Junior ROTC groups from area High Schools to clean other areas such as illegal dumpsites. 🏠



Students from the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps at Wayne County High School unload old tires from a pontoon boat at Conley Bottom Marina after recovering them from the Lake Cumberland shoreline in Sept. 2001.



The Corps of Engineers partnered with the U.S. Forest Service, local area tourist commissions, and concerned citizens to install a Loaner Life Jacket Station at Fishing Creek Day Use Area.

Volunteers Critical to Lake Cumberland

by Dave Treadway

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Lake Cumberland where more than 101,000 acres of land and water spread over seven Kentucky Counties make it challenging for a paid staff of 16 assigned to the offices of the Operations Manager and the Resource Manager to monitor more than 1,200 miles of shoreline.

"Each of our volunteers is vitally important," said Volunteer Coordinator Marshall Jennings. "We just couldn't provide our current level of service to visitors without them."

"Our volunteers," added Resource Manager Craig Shoe, "accomplish a tremendous amount of work each year and their attitude is great. They take a great deal of pride in protecting and improving the natural resources and recreational facilities of Lake Cumberland. It is a pleasure to work with people who are doing something simply because they want to."

When asked to single out some for recognition, Jennings was reluctant but finally named five.

Charlie Denny, the Owner of Conley Bottom Marina, is a big promoter of The Friends of Lake Cumberland's Annual Shoreline Cleanup each year. The annual cleanup was held Sept. 13 in coordination with The Friends and compliments the



Charlie Denny



Landon & Geri Williams

regional fall PRIDE (Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment) Program.

Jennings said, "He promotes it in so many ways."

"I've got five pontoon boats," revealed Denny, "set aside for rangers to use to help in the annual cleanup. It's to my benefit, business wise, I live in the area and I would like to know it's a clean lake. I think it's a good idea for the kids to get out and do the cleanup, it teaches them to take care of the environment and not discard trash when they are using the lake. The cleanup educates the young as well as adults about taking care of this beautiful lake.

"We give away a houseboat vacation for the weekend as a door prize and I think that encourages others to get in on the cleanup. We have done that every year and I will continue to do that because I think it works.

"The cleanup is working," continued the proprietor of Lake Cumberland's largest Marina, "because there is less for them to find each year. It's harder for them to find trash. For many years, we used old car tires as wave breaks and unknowingly were contributing to the problem when those would then come loose from where they were installed for that purpose. We don't use them any

more. Now we use 26-inch steel tanks with a concrete slab underneath those floating steel tanks. This works as good or better than the old tires and doesn't pollute the lake."

Denny usually provides lunch for all volunteers who participate in the cleanup at his Marina Restaurant. "I expected 30 or 40 to be here Saturday," said Denny.

"I thought from the beginning it (the cleanup) was a great thing. The beauty of the lake is why a lot of visitors are here. Two couples from Michigan today were talking about how beautiful the lake is. They will definitely be back, they spent a lot of their time swimming. They enjoyed the clean water and if it had not been in this condition, they would not have enjoyed it.

Conley Bottom accommodates 16 houseboats, boasts an occupancy rate of 99 percent for 1,000 slips and has plans to apply for a permit to add 30 more.

Landon and Geri Williams, Camp Hosts for Lake Cumberland's Fall Creek Recreation Area, perform two critical functions that allow campers to enjoy the site, according to Jennings.

"They serve as Camp Hosts," said Jennings, "and also run the Entrance Station as Campground Monitors, normally a paid position. They perform minor repairs and also enforce the Launch Fee policy at the Boat Ramp. But perhaps the most important function they perform for us is public relations, spreading public awareness of Corps policies and putting a friendly face on the Corps, causing customers to want to return year after year."

For full story, see <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/>



Marvin & Sue Brown

Communication in Smooth, Cajun Style

Story and photo by Steven Foshee

Dr. Joseph V. Trahan, III, provided a short course in Dealing with the Media Nov. 4-7 at J. Percy Priest Lake for more than 30 District employees.

The 14-hour media course offered experience to resource managers, project managers and subject matter experts in on-camera interviews and news conferences and exposed them to positive interview techniques.

Trahan, who holds a Ph.D. in Mass Communications and is a certified Public Relations professional, kicked the training up a notch by providing live interviews and news conference opportunities complete with cameras, lights and aggressive media types. The glare of camera lights rated at more than 3000 watts, the heat generated by those lights, and employees' inability to gain eye contact with the interviewer provided several obstacles to good communication that participants had to overcome. Project Manager Jay Sadler enjoyed the experience.

"The training was excellent," said Sadler, "but should have been longer to provide more on-camera experience especially with those who are in contact with the media on a weekly basis."

"Understanding the difference between a camera interview and an in-depth interview for a print publication is key to understanding the media," said, Dr. Trahan, who incorporates stories from his early childhood in Louisiana and also experiences from several teaching positions, most recently in the Defense Information School at Ft. Meade, Maryland.

He quickly taught 'students' what communication looks like, smells like and tastes like in his smooth Cajun style. Trahan explained that an on-camera interview scratches the surface. A live interview is what you said and a taped interview can be altered. Students learned that broadcast news isn't necessarily accurate in details. They also now know that an interview for a print publication is more accurate and an interview for which you are more accountable. They learned the elements of news; tragedy, accident, sex, suspense, and disaster.



Laurel and Martins Fork Lakes Resource Manager Toni Rushing (left) is interviewed by Dr. Joseph V. Trahan, III, during media training Nov. 5 at J. Percy Priest Lake.

Trahan discussed the three C's of media relations; control, competence and concern.

"Never lose control of an interview," said Trahan. "You have a wealth of information and training. Stay in your lane of knowledge (while being interviewed) and if you step out, STOP. Don't keep digging yourself a hole (competence). Finally," said Trahan, "show concern. If it is a tragedy with loss of life, express your condolences even if the public affairs officer or colonel already gave their condolences.

Trahan, who has taught people all over the world, explained how to prepare for an interview. He suggested knowing the format to be used (live or taped). Know your reporter and the agency for which he or she works. Is the news agency liberal or conservative in their views? Understand the reporter's deadline. He said a good rule of thumb is the 5X5X5. Know the answers to five good questions, five bad questions and five ugly

questions. Also, develop and know by heart key messages or command messages. These are messages or statements that explain what you want your audience to remember or what you or your agency is doing about a problem.

Resource Manager Toni Rushing demonstrated for the class how that is done.

"Laurel and Martins Fork Lake," said Rushing, "offer quality recreation opportunities such as fishing and boating for numerous people. We would love for you to come visit one of our many Corps of Engineers lakes in the Nashville District." Using these types of key messages, explained Trahan, reinforces your mission and credibility with your audience. He urged participants to never miss an opportunity to insert a key message, especially when the reporter asks if there is anything else you want to add. Key messages should always be drafted with the support of both supervisors and the public affairs office. 📺

The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to... . .

...Stacy Bennett, whose employment status changed from temporary to permanent.

...Jennifer K. Steed, upon her promotion to Major on Oct. 1 in the Tennessee Army National Guard and her three-year active duty assignment in Washington, D.C.

...Morris Hatmaker, Barkley Lock, upon the selection by LTC Jorns of his suggestion for a safety slogan, "Safety – It's a Team Effort." The new safety slogan for the District will be used during LTC Jorns' tenure.

...Mike Adcock upon his promotion to GS-09 Park Ranger at Center Hill Lake. Prior to joining the Nashville District as a Seasonal Park Ranger at Center Hill Lake in 2000, Adcock spent 21 years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the last 13 years of which he served as the District Conservationist for Wilson County.

...Vicki Miles, information technology specialist, upon her marriage Sept. 12 to Kenny Isham. They were married and spent their honeymoon in Maui, Hawaii.

...Lannie Summers for his selection as the Team Leader/Contracting Officer for the A-E/Construction Team in Contracting Division. Summers prevailed as the "Best Qualified" among a competitive pool of candidates.

...members of Hydropower Training Class XIV, which includes Ron Gatlin, Jr., John Glasgow, Vince Harriman, Jeff Hayes, Alex Hays, Jimmy Johnson, Brian Jones, Jake Kennedy, Chris Meeks, Chris Stempson, Sylvia Watkins-Porter, Monte Wells and Brad Wilkerson. They completed training assignments and oral evaluations for Phase 1A during the week of Oct. 6, and progressed to the next phase of training that began Oct. 20.

Welcome to ...

...Lynn Womack, the new accounting technician in RM. She is in the payroll office and comes to Nashville District from the Air National Guard in Nashville.

...Gary Bruce, Park Ranger Co-op, who came from Dale Hollow Lake to continue his training at Old Hickory Lake.

...Philip Earhart, Co-op Ranger at Center Hill Lake. He formerly worked in the Natural Resources Management Branch at the District Office and at Old Hickory Lake.

...Ariana Beck-Scott, secretary in Planning Branch, who began work on Nov. 3.

Baby Brigade

...Andrew Jordan Earl McMahan, grandson of Elaine Bustillos, was born Oct. 8 to Bustillos' daughter Susannah and Brett McMahan.

Andrew arrived weighing 6 pounds and 6 ounces.



Thanks to

...my Friends at the Corps. I want to thank all of my friends at the Corps for your prayers. I thank you for showing your concern over the loss of my diamond setting of my engagement ring.

Thanks so much! *JO MILLER*

...I want to express my thanks to all the members of my Corps family for your kind words of sympathy and encouragement following the loss of my father. I appreciate all your thoughts and prayers during this tragic time. I especially want to acknowledge my fellow Budget Technicians, whose willingness to step in and help during a time when their own workload was tremendous has earned them a special place in my heart. A special thanks goes to the staff of all the Eastern Kentucky Area projects who went above and beyond to ensure that my responsibilities at work were being taken care of. I also want to send a special thank-you to Dave Treadway who, being a former Marine like my dad, helped me locate a Marine Corps honor guard to officiate at my father's graveside services. I truly feel as if I had another family helping me through this trying time and words alone can never express my appreciation.

Teresa J. Perkins.

Farewell to.

...Tadd Potter, Conservation Biologist at Old Hickory Lake who accepted a position at Cheatham Lake. Tadd will be greatly missed by the staff at Old Hickory.

Get Well to... . .

...William Nelson, lock operator at Cheatham Lock, who is recovering from surgery to repair a hole in his heart and also from a stroke suffered in July.

...Bill Brown, who underwent more radiation treatment and chemotherapy in early November at Paducah's Western Baptist Hospital. We wish you well.

Upcoming Events . . .

...Flu vaccine is available until Nov. 30, in the Federal Employee Health Unit, Room A440, Estes Kefauver Federal Building, Monday through Friday 7 a.m.-2:30 p.m. daily. No appointment is necessary. If you have questions concerning the flu vaccine, call Melissa Cothron, RN at 250-5323 or email Melissa.Cothron@irs.gov.

Plan for District's Annual Christmas Play and Lunch

The Annual Christmas Play will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at First Baptist Church, beginning at 11:30 a.m. [Tickets can be purchased](#) from Shalanda McMurry, 736-7944.

The cost is \$10, and the menu is roast chicken quarter, long grain and wild rice, whole green beans, yeast rolls, tossed salad, tea/water/coffee, pecan pie/with chocolate sauce. If you wish to see only the play, be at the church at approximately 11:45 a. m. The deadline to purchase tickets will be Nov. 21.

Federal Employee

Health Benefits Fair

The Federal Employee Health Benefits Fair will be held on Thursday, Nov. 20, in Cafeteria A from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. You may obtain information on FEHB vendors at www.opm.gov/insure. 

Just Call Perry Bruce 'The Rain Man'

Story & photo by Dave Treadway

When fishermen and other water sports enthusiasts visit Nashville District's Water Management Information web site, <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/lakeinfo/>, they are looking at the fruits of Technician Perry Bruce's labor.

Bruce is literally Nashville District's Ombudsman in that he can perform stream flow measurements, hydrographic surveys, minor construction in the course of installing stream gages, operation of those gages, and marking of high water profiles.

The Tennessee native, who holds a pilot's license from Middle Tennessee State University, is the caretaker for 75 rain and stream gages scattered throughout the Cumberland River Basin.

"I am responsible for maintaining about a third of those in the Basin," said Bruce while en route to the Kingston Springs gage on the Harpeth River Oct. 28, "the U.S. Geological Survey Office maintains about a third and this year we have begun taking responsibility away from USGS and giving it to a private contractor. By the end of FY 06, we may have transferred most of what USGS maintains to that private contractor."

Both types of gages record and also transmit data, via satellite, to computers in the Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Geological Survey Office, the National Weather Service, and other agencies concerned with rainfall and how that rainfall impacts stream stages, or levels. Some sites are also equipped with a wind gage and a water quality monitor. Water quality monitors are situated below five of the District's 10 dams and provide critical data associated with levels of dissolved oxygen, pH, water temperature and presence of metals.

"You cannot operate a car without gasoline," said Dennis Williams, chief of Hydrology & Hydraulics Branch, better known as H&H, "and we can't operate a stream like the Cumberland with its reservoirs without precipitation and streamflow information." Williams explained how this critical data permits experts to define inflows for each reservoir, something one must know



Perry Bruce notes the time as he makes an entry after inspecting a stream gage.

before the proper releases from each dam can be calculated.

Bruce monitors all data collected via a web site where he views the raw data coming from each rain gage and each stream gage. Raw data, such as signal strength out of the antennae and the battery voltage, gives him clues about whether something is not functioning properly and needs maintenance. It even tells him if moisture is reaching the coax cable.

Maintenance means replacing batteries, cleaning out rain gages in November once all the leaves have fallen, and cleaning gages that are popular bird roosting spots. Ideally, Bruce plans to visit each gage for which he is solely responsible at least once every eight weeks unless a problem is detected that demands his immediate attention. On water quality monitors, maintenance may be required weekly to ensure the equipment is clean enough to read the correct levels of dissolved oxygen. The porous membrane on the end of the water quality probe must be cleaned or

replaced. A maintenance stop for water quality equipment takes longer because devices must be recalibrated to ensure proper readings. Outright replacement of equipment is rarely required and Bruce has found a vendor who can rebuild a rain gage for a fraction of the replacement cost.

Besides Corps gages in the basin, the USGS has additional gaging stations and Tennessee Valley Authority owns and maintains a few more.

"We develop rating curves (for waterways) from Doppler measurements," explained Bruce. "We know the cross sectional area where the gage is located, and based on the stage, we calculate the cubic feet per second (cfs) passing that location to determine flow." Certain times of the year, Bruce indicated, are busier than others.

"When we get high water in the spring," said Bruce, "we are out there making a lot of measurements because that is the end of the rating curve that needs the most calibrations."

Bruce explained that during this time of year, fishermen may be the most frequent users of the information collected by the stream gages. During high rain events, however, the National Weather Service may use it the most.

"We transfer data to them," said Bruce, "they get everything from all the gages, and they send us data on rainfall they collect and we then compare it with our data. Everywhere we have a stream flow site, we have a rain gage with it and data collected is used to create models in the District Office."

Engineer Lester King updates the District Water Management web site hourly. Gages are programmed to transmit data via satellite within a one-minute window, on either one-hour or two-hour intervals.

"Every time we program one of the gages," said Bruce, "we have to be careful about setting the time, or we will 'walk on' someone else's transmission."

Since Bruce has oversight responsibility for the entire basin, if he detects a problem with a gage maintained by the USGS, he asks them to perform a maintenance check on the equipment. **(For full story, go to <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/>)**

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Be On The Safe Side . . .

by *Safety Officer John Tibbles*

Defensive Driving is driving to save lives, time, and money in spite of road conditions and the actions of others, according to the National Safety Council (NSC).

Another term used by the Council is "Preventable Collisions," those in which the driver failed to do everything reasonable to avoid the crash. Some things you can do to prevent a collision are:

- * Scan the road ahead.
- * In the city, practice short visual scanning about one block ahead.
- * In rural areas and on expressways, practice longer visual scanning by looking to the next hill, curve, or exit/entrance ramp.
- * Check the traffic behind, using your mirrors, every five seconds.

Safety belts are very important items. They help protect you in a collision by:

- * Absorbing the forces of a crash.
- * Helping you control your vehicle.
- * Keeping passengers in their seats.

Statistics show that if you wear a safety belt, you have better chances of surviving a serious crash and avoiding severe injuries.

Air bags offer supplemental protection for front seat occupants in a head-on or frontal crash only. In a frontal crash of 12 mph or more, the air bags inflate

automatically in one-tenth of a second after impact and deflate less than one second after the collision.

The use of alcohol or other nervous system depressants should be avoided while driving. They can greatly reduce your ability to quickly react to road conditions.

Following too closely is a practice that should be avoided. Apply the "Two second rule" by watching the vehicle ahead of you pass a specific stationary mark - a phone pole or mile maker. When the rear bumper of that vehicle has passed that marker, begin counting to yourself: "One thousand and one, one thousand and two." If your front bumper reaches the marker before you finish counting, you are following too closely.

Keeping your automobile brakes in good condition is also very important. If your brakes are worn, you will not be able to stop nearly as quickly to avoid a collision.

If you have not had a defensive driving class or are ready for a refresher, by all means attend a class. There are instructors who give classes and you can also take defensive driving classes on line.

Remember, if you have a safety or health topic you would like the Safety Office to research and report on, please let me know. Send me an Email or call 615-736-7170.

Safety – It's a Team Effort

Hispanic Heritage Month

Tim Chavez, noted columnist for *The Tennessean*, was guest speaker for the District's 2003 National Hispanic Heritage Month Oct. 31.

The Kansas native told a standing-room-only crowd in Room A640 that there is not a typical Spanish American, most are identified by the country from which they came.

He spoke of the future.



Tim Chavez

"Heritage months," said Chavez, "are important to talk about the past but they must set us up for the future. Who are going to be our leaders?"

"One of the things that is so hopeful is the future of this nation. Some countries are dealing with a severe population decline and are asking, 'How are we going to keep our economies going?' We don't have that problem here. We have people who want to come here to America. By 2020, there will be a shortage of half-a-million nurses in this country. We, as older Americans, will be going into hospitals for procedures. What are we going to do? We are fortunate because Hispanics represent the youngest population of any group of people in this nation.

JFK said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Look at that in terms of Hispanics today. Look at what Hispanics can do for this nation. Ask that question," said Chavez.