



US Army Corps
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Nashville District

DistrictDigest

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October 2005



Employees Help With Hurricane Cleanup

See Pages 6 & 7

Contents

Commander's Corner	3
September Employee of the Month	3
Attorney Garners Prestigious Award	4
District Modifies Streamgagge Maintenance	4
Rehab Planned for Wolf Creek Dam	5
Team Reports from the Front Line	6
Readiness Update	7
Volunteers Give Old Hickory a Facelift	8
Campfires, Canoe Paddles and Cave Helmets	9
Corps Crowd	10
Financial Assistance for Corps Employees	10
Trees Improve J. Percy Priest Overlook	11
Cordell Hull Lake Draws Crowd for Shoreline Cleanup	11
SAME Awards Scholarships	12
Just to Be on the Safe Side - Workplace Safety	12

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photo by Beryl Newsome

On the Cover

A total of 50 District employees are currently at work supporting other districts, divisions and USACE as the Corps helps clean up in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which devastated the Gulf coast in August and September. For complete story and photo coverage of the relief effort, see pages 6 and 7.

District Digest

Commander

Lt. Col. Steven Roemhildt

Chief of Public Affairs

Bill Peoples

Editor

Dave Treadway

Special Contributors

John Tibbels, Jared Gartman, Mark Willis, Travis Wiley, Beryl Newsome, Lynn Bowden, William James

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Articles, photographs, and other contributions are welcomed and encouraged. The editor reserves the right to make editorial changes to all material submitted for publication.

Story ideas and articles may be submitted to P.O. Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37202-1070. Details may be obtained from the editor at (615) 736-7163.

Written material may also be sent electronically to the editor at the following e-mail addresses: david.s.treadway@usace.army.mil

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

Commander's Corner

Happy New Year! As many of you are aware, we recently closed our financial books on FY-05 and have officially entered the financial year of 2006. As simple as this may seem, a great deal of work and effort from many employees made this event happen so successfully. My congratulations to everyone as we met all of our financial goals and, more specifically, my heartfelt thanks for those who were personally involved in this process.

I would like to share a few thoughts with you as we enter FY-06. First, the District is in excellent financial shape as we begin to navigate through our continuing resolution authority which is currently in effect. We have a sound budget and have achieved a good balance with our personnel strength. Right now, we have approximately 720

Communication

employees in full-time-equivalent positions and we project that by the end of this fiscal year, we will see a slight decline in numbers to around 703 employees. We will reach this mark through natural attrition and, in fact, we have to hire personnel to ensure we do not drop significantly below this number. We have recently begun recruitment actions on approximately 30 positions, most of which are in Operations Division.

As part of this round of recruitment actions, I am very pleased to announce that we will soon start the hydro-power training class. I believe this is absolutely critical to the future success of this fine program.

Our commitment to hurricane relief operations and GWOT requirements remains. We currently have more than 45 personnel deployed in support of relief efforts for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita with another 5 that will soon depart. We also have 5 heroes from the Nashville District who are deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. We will need to maintain various commitments to these operations through the next calendar year. We continue to seek volunteers for deployment and ask that you consider such a professionally rewarding experience.

During the course of the next year as we gradually decrease personnel numbers, it will be harder for us to maintain the

deployment numbers we have previously seen, both for these operations and future emergencies. I have asked the senior leaders to take a look at various initiatives to tap into a valuable resource, that of our retired personnel. I feel that this is a vital source of manpower that we could utilize better; not so much for actual deployments but for returning to work within the District in order to allow others to deploy. Our retired employees are part of our family and I suspect they may be willing to take more of an active role in District activities. We certainly will need this valuable resource to ensure that we continue to accomplish our missions. I look forward to participating in various events that welcome and honor the contributions of our retired personnel. You will see more details on these various initiatives in the near future as part of the rollout of the 2006 Nashville Business Plan.

The senior leaders and I have been working on the next iteration of the Nashville Business Plan. I am very happy with our results and we will soon publish the various strategies and initiatives, one of which is our plan to more formally utilize retired personnel. I will be discussing this initiative and the entire plan in more detail next month. Before I close, I would like to highlight a safety note.



Safety belts are absolutely critical in saving lives during automobile accidents. This is so recognized that there are both primary and secondary laws mandating use of safety belts. A primary (standard) safety belt law allows law enforcement officers to stop vehicles and issue a citation if the officer simply observes an unbelted driver or passenger.

A secondary law means that a citation for not wearing a safety belt can only be written after the officer stops the vehicle or cites the offender for another infraction. Primary safety belt laws are much more effective in promoting their use, because people are more likely to buckle up when there is the perceived risk of receiving a citation. Whether it's primary or secondary laws that are in effect, let's all remember to buckle up when driving. It's the smart thing to do!

September Employee of the Month

Jerry Breznican, Readiness Branch, Operations Division, was selected Employee of the Month for September.

Breznican worked tirelessly during the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to ensure Nashville District support to the division and the nation. He oversaw the recruitment and deployment of 61 District responders. He coordinated mission taskers with the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, money issues with victim districts, and



Jerry Breznican

time and travel issues with associated offices. During September he coordinated the deployment of two employees in support of the Global War on Terrorism. The emergency operations specialist performed these feats while simultaneously training another employee to assist in the Emergency Operations Center.

Breznican also performs community service with a Harley Davidson club during his free time. His continuous support and expertise contributes greatly to the overall success of the District and the division. His knowledge, professionalism, dedication, and personal sacrifice have distinguished him as a leader in the Emergency Management arena.

Senior Leaders select the employee of the Month from the many excellent employees identified by the District's chain of command.

Attorney Garner Prestigious Award

by Dave Treadway

Grady C. Moore, Jr., Office of Counsel, was presented the Ramon J. Powell Legal Scholarship Legacy Award Sept. 12 by District Engineer Lt. Col. Steven Roemhildt.

"He was one of eight individuals who developed the initial course materials for the Corps of Engineers Contract Law Course," said Joseph J. Cox, chief counsel for North Atlantic Division, "and has continued his participation as the course's outstanding instructor."

The CE Contract Law Course was developed in 1988 to instruct Corps attorneys in the basic legal principles and procedures related to Corps of Engineers construction contracting.

"Grady Moore was a presenter in the first session in 1989," wrote USACE Chief Counsel Earl H. Stockdale in recommending the Nashville attorney for the award. "Since then, four other sessions have been presented, each requiring an updating of the material. Since the first session, students' written critiques have identified him as the outstanding instructor."

Moore also teaches in the Visitor Assistance Program for Natural Resources Management.

"He provides the students," continued Stockdale, "with the minimum requirements to qualify under ER 1130-20-550 to be granted citation authority under Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations. His portion of the course covers Title 18 of the US Code authorities and jurisdiction, magistrate court, tort claims, legal constraints and enforcement procedures. Again, he excelled as an instructor as indicated in student evaluations."

The Ramon J. Powell Legal Scholarship Legacy Award recognizes a Corps attorney who has, through word and deed, exemplified thoughtful and principled legal scholarship throughout his or her career. The award is named for Ramon J. Powell, a USACE attorney who served with distinction in the Office of the Chief Counsel until his untimely death in 1993. His advice and opinions were

consistently of the highest caliber and illustrated sheer academic brilliance. This award honors the finest tradition of intellectual excellence exemplified by Mr. Powell - a gentleman, an intellectual, a wise counselor, and a friend.

"His participation in the Huntsville Professional Development Support training program," concluded Stockdale, "demonstrates both Moore's commitment to scholarship and his willingness to assist the next generation of Corps leaders by providing them the knowledge to excel in their positions. He is a natural teacher; his classes are interesting and informative, and his excellent,



photo by Lynn Bowden

Grady Moore, Office of Counsel, is awarded the Ramon J. Powell Legal Scholarship Legacy Award Sept. 12 by District Engineer Lt. Col. Steven Roemhildt.

continually updated written materials serve as a valuable resource long after the students return to their offices. He has helped to train an entire generation of Corps attorneys." 🇺🇸

District Modifies Streamgauge Maintenance

The Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch of the Nashville District discontinued operation of five streamgauge stations in the Cumberland River Basin on October 1.

District officials evaluated these gages for usefulness and judged them unnecessary for operational purposes. Streamgages measure the rainfall and stream flow at various locations and help engineers determine possible effects of those factors further downstream.

The five gages are at the following locations:

1. South Harpeth River near Kingston Springs, Tenn.
2. Cumberland River just upstream of the Barbourville Diversion Channel, Ky.
3. Station Camp Creek near Gallatin, Tenn.
4. Crocus Creek near Burkesville, Ky.

5. West Fork of the Stones River at Nices Mill near Smyrna, Tenn.

Also beginning in FY-06, all Corps of Engineers stations previously operated by the U.S. Geological Survey will be operated by Contractor or Corps of Engineers employees. Six are in Tennessee and 10 are in Kentucky.

These maintenance measures are being taken for economic reasons, according to Bill Barron, chief of the Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch.

The Kentucky District of the U.S. Geological Survey is attempting to secure funding from local governments for operation of yet undetermined stations. The daily values at these and other District stations are currently and will continue to be listed at <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/lakeinfo/>. 🇺🇸

Rehab Planned for Wolf Creek Dam

The Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Safety Officer approved a major rehabilitation of Wolf Creek Dam in August to correct seepage problems at the large embankment section of the project.

This is not a new problem but one that has plagued Wolf Creek Dam for many years. An extensive grouting program more than 35 years ago, generally credited with saving the structure, was followed by the installation of a concrete diaphragm wall in 1979.

Acting on the evidence of continued seepage, the District prepared a Major Rehabilitation Report in May 2005 that evaluated several alternatives to improve the long-term reliability of the dam. Engineers used a reliability analysis based on an analytical model built upon historical instrumentation data to recommend construction of a new concrete diaphragm wall using the secant pile method, supplemented with grouting.

This new wall, approved as the best repair option, will start immediately upstream of the right most concrete monoliths and run the length of the embankment into the right abutment. It will be constructed to a depth which is deeper than the deepest sections of the

original wall and as much as 75 feet deeper than the majority of the original wall. The estimated cost is \$307.5 million.

As a result of the seepage problem, the District leadership decided to reduce high pools typically experienced in the winter and spring months to help take some stress off the foundation. Even this relatively mild change in the pool could potentially have significant economic and environmental impacts to customers who depend on the lake for their livelihood. This decision is a compromise between the need to lessen stress on the dam and the needs of customers who benefit from the dam.

The study team has conducted five public meetings to date to discuss the proposed method to address Wolf Creek Dam's seepage problem with local residents and the news media. Meetings have been held in Somerset, Jamestown and Burkesville in Kentucky and in Celina and Carthage in Tennessee. A website has been established to address customers' concerns: <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/issues/WOLcommo/>

As early as 1968, muddy flows in the tailrace and two sinkholes were detected around the embankment section that

meets the dam. These three indicators signaled serious seepage problems within the embankment. A review of the dam foundation construction data indicated the problems were due to the natural openings in the ground. This is known as Karst geology, the appearance of which could be compared to Swiss cheese, with numerous holes.

In 1972, a board of consultants studied numerous alternatives and recommended the concrete diaphragm wall completed in 1979. The length and depth of the wall were reduced during construction.

Since completion of the wall, District personnel have continued to closely monitor the project. In recent years instrumentation readings, persistent and increased wet areas, and investigative borings have encountered very soft, wet material at the top of the rock foundation in the embankment. These findings confirm that seepage avenues still exist within the embankment and have not been cut off.

Water moving through the dam created channels that carried seepage under and around the wall and perhaps through defects in the wall itself, since erosion of solution features continues at an increasing rate.

The study found that seepage was a serious problem that needed to be addressed now. The Wolf Creek Major Rehabilitation Team will design the new cutoff wall during FY-06 and expects to award a construction contract in early FY-07.

More public meetings are planned before actual rehabilitation work begins.

Facts about Wolf Creek Dam

***Designed and constructed 1938-1952
Dam is 5,736 feet-long, a combination
rolled earthfill and concrete gravity
Maximum height: 258 ft above the
streambed***

***Power Plant equipped with six
generators with a capacity of 270,000
kw***

***Lake Cumberland impounds 6,089,000
acre-ft at elevation 760, maximum pool
Largest reservoir east of the
Mississippi, ninth largest in the U.S.***

Lake hosted 4.98 million visits in 2004



A persistently wet spot below Wolf Creek Dam (in background) provides evidence that water is circumventing the structure through the karst geology. Rehab of the structure will be designed to prevent such seepage.

Team Reports From the Front Lines

by Beryl Newsome

Things are okay here (Keesler Air Force Base, in Biloxi, Mississippi, from which the Nashville District roofing team is working), busy but very interesting — at times exciting, other times heartbreaking. This area is devastated, but the people aren't. I got to look at the house I lived in 24 years ago. The house made it through the hurricane with limited damage. Somehow it looks smaller. It's like going back to my elementary school.

My old subdivision was surrounded by water, but the only water that got inside was about two inches in the garage area, which had been turned into a den. It had some roof damage, and I don't think the chain-link fence had ever been replaced. It will now, because it's a tangled mess.

We are so busy sometimes that we run into each other, and then there will be a lull. It's just like a hurricane. The wind gusts can be pretty strong, and then it's calm and even. Everyone works their own jobs and pitches in on other jobs if they need to. I can tell you Corps



photo by Beryl Newsome

Nashville team members Cullum Miller (second from left) and Vickie Isham (second from right) brief Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works John Paul Woodley, Jr., in Biloxi, Ms.

employees are jumpin' to get these roofs on as soon as possible. Our contractors have to ramp up to a thousand roofs per day, and we should be producing at a regular pace pretty soon.

We were visited one day by John Paul Woodley, Jr., the Assistant Secretary of the Army who is responsible for the supervision of the Army's Civil

Works program. He presented each of us a coin.

One day when we were given four hours off, Joanne Mann and I drove downtown and took the picture that appears on the cover of this issue. It's so devastating.

The entire team assessed the damage one day from the air. Cullum Miller, Britt Henderson, Bill Debruyne, Steve Beason, Cory Morgan, Chris Rosenkranz

(MVS) and I boarded a helicopter to evaluate the damage.

Some of the stories affected residents tell you will break your heart.

Process

We were at WalMart one night. The lady at the checkout said she didn't have a job, since Katrina had washed away the company she worked for, so WalMart hired her to be a cashier. She thanked us, the Corps, for all the work we are doing and said we had helped her with her roof.

We talked to another customer (also in the WalMart line) who was a refuse worker. He said he was working 16-hour days, but he stopped to say he appreciated what the Corps is doing.

Of course, people don't realize that we just can't come out the next day to put on their roofs, and they don't realize they aren't put on in numerical order, or in order of the date the application was submitted. There are many variables to deal with, which is why we have a two-month blue-roof placement due date after the date of application.

We have a 9-1-1 process for elderly and special-needs cases. One lady, named Mrs. Monroe, was 91 years old. Her husband had passed away years ago, and her daughter-in-law died in the storm. Her roof was leaking badly with shingles missing, which caused mold and mildew to develop. We rapidly escalated her case. We spoke to her during the day, and that night a Quality Assurance Inspector from the Corps was out there, not only to estimate the cost to repair the damage, but to direct the contractor to place the blue plastic roof on the house the next



photo by Beryl Newsome

The Nashville Roofing Team arrives in Biloxi, Mississippi, and prepares to go to work to help residents in the storm-ravaged area.

Readiness Update

by Jared Gartman

Deployed Personnel: Civil Emergencies: 50 GWOT: 5 Total Deployed: 55

Support to Civil Emergencies: There are more than 3,100 USACE employees supporting disaster recovery operations. The Great Lakes and Ohio River Division has almost 300 personnel deployed along the Gulf Coast states from Texas to Alabama. As of Sept. 30, the Nashville District has 50 persons deployed. Both the primary and alternate Temporary Roofing Teams have deployed. A third and fourth team are being developed to replace the first two teams when they rotate. The Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV 03) deployed before Hurricane Katrina made landfall and continues to support the Readiness Support Center. In addition to deploying the RRV team, several Class A drivers were deployed to assist with moving other Deployable Tactical Operations System (DTOS) vehicles to preposition throughout the Gulf Coast region prior to landfall. Many others are supporting operations in various capacities, and most are gaining valuable experience by working outside their career fields. These employees are utilizing their skills and abilities and contributing to the success of the total mission.

Global War on Terrorism (GWOT): There are four Nashville employees deployed to Iraq, one is deployed to Afghanistan and one is awaiting deployment to Afghanistan.

Personnel interested in deploying must complete the following steps: 1) Get your supervisor's approval, 2) Complete your Personal Data Sheet (PDS) and Medical Screening in ENGLink <https://englink.usace.army.mil> (We have instructions in the EOC), 3) Get the Hepatitis A and Tetanus shots, and 4) Get Personal Protective Equipment: hardhat, safety boots, safety glasses, etc.

Note: Supervisors, Timekeepers, and Travel Clerks must also complete your Personal Data Sheet 'Phone/Commo' so your information is displayed on the deploying person's PDS

Gee Whiz Hurricane information:

Hurricane Season is from June 1 to November 30
Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

- Category 1: Winds 74-95 mph
- Category 2: Winds 96-110 mph
- Category 3: Winds 111-130 mph
- Category 4: Winds 131-155 mph
- Category 5: Winds greater than 155 mph

Disaster Assistance:

If you or someone you know is housing evacuees, be sure those evacuees have applied for assistance from FEMA, the Red Cross, and their State Unemployment Office. For more information, go to <http://www.fema.gov/>.

And finally, refer contractors to the USACE homepage at <http://www.usace.army.mil> or the Mississippi Valley Division web site for contracting opportunities: <http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/hurricane/chr.php>.



photo by Jeanne Ann Mullins, Huntington District

The setting sun and an American flag highlight another blue roof.

morning. Now - a 24-hour response time in the federal government - that's service!

We had another case of an elderly couple whose roof was leaking and the sheetrock was falling from the ceiling. The lady came in with her husband, who had Alzheimer's, and talked with us for a long time. They obviously couldn't wait for insurance and repairs. They also could do nothing to help themselves. We couldn't even find blue plastic from the county to give her. This was during Hurricane Rita, so we escalated her case right away under 9-1-1 and began the process of fixing their roof out of sequence.

One 78-year-old woman who lived by herself had various immune diseases. Her kitchen was also caving in, with more rain from Hurricane Rita causing a buildup of bacteria and mold. We drove out to her residence, met with her daughter, and had her sign a Right of Entry (ROE) to escalate repair.

Jeanne Ann Mullins, from Huntington District, joined our roofing team as an administrator, and she has jumped in the middle of these desperate situations and helped take care of people. She has added a lot to our team.

I have heard a wide array of comments from Corps employees

dispatched to help in the recovery effort. They reflect the attitudes of many who are here to help.

"Man I thought I had problems until I saw what these people are dealing with." "I've been on several of these, and this is the worst I've seen." "I have nothing to complain about." "I feel like everyday is groundhog day."

Then there is the young woman who stood in front of me trying to find out when her roof will be replaced, and I could not tell her for sure. She was not a special needs case, and she was on the verge of tears. All I could do was hug her and tell her, "I can't even imagine how you feel."

I also told her, "We're working as fast as we can." 🏠



Joanne Booker is presented a coin by COL John E. Pulliam, Wilmington District.

Volunteers Give Old Hickory a Facelift

story and photos by Dave Treadway

Several Old Hickory sites got the undivided attention of 70 volunteers Sept. 17.

Students and faculty from Volunteer State Community College numbering nearly 30 worked on a walking trail near the Rockland Recreation Area. Saturday's activities were a continuation of work already in progress.

"It has been a project for the environmental science students for the past two semesters," explained Lea Ellen Dayhuff, Ph.D., Environmental Sciences, associate professor of math and science at Volunteer State Community College.

"This has been a project the class has undertaken. We've walked the area with a GPS and we've looked at different soil types in the area. Students have also, as one of their assignments, come up with prospective native plants to go back into this area, based on soil type."

Before Saturday, students performed what Dayhuff called 'grub work,' the removal of invasive exotic plants during 500 hours of work.

"We have three target species that we are removing; autumn olive, and two that were not planted by humans, privet and Japanese honeysuckle. We see the privet and honeysuckle in local yards. We are also trying to increase awareness for our



Vol-State Professor Keith Bell totes a sleeping daughter Ellie as he works.

community to at least not support the planting of these species in our local landscape, maybe even do some removal."

Process

Ranger Charlie Leath used more than 300 yards of blue ribbon to map out a trail which students raked free of limbs and debris, then lined with mulch transported in wheelbarrows from a pile near the road.



Brain Adcock and Erin Harmon load mulch into a wheelbarrow for transport to and placement upon a hiking trail in a natural area near the Resource Management Office. Ranger Steven Gregory walks a new bridge (below) floored by volunteers on the Archery Range.

"The students have gotten an appreciation for nature," added Dayhuff. "Many have received extra credit to encourage them to come out. Not only have students come from environmental majors, but we have had students from different disciplines, different courses; biology, physiology, calculus, and algebra."

With the layout of the trail on Saturday, students also ended the plant removal phase.

"Hopefully in the next couple of months we will start planting some native species," revealed Dayhuff, selections dictated by the soil type revealed in testing.

Geography professor Keith Bell brought along his daughter Ellie, who, at 11 months, observed activities from her back-pack vantage point. "She loves to go everywhere I go so I take her along when I can. My older daughter saw much of Zimbabwe and South Africa in the same way."

Faculty members found that some students had no idea what they were getting into.

"It does increase their appreciation for nature," said Dayhuff, "some have never before come out into a wooded area. When I tell them we are going to come out in the woods and pull bushes, they have no idea what that means."

Ranger Steven Gregory coordinated a number of other activities.

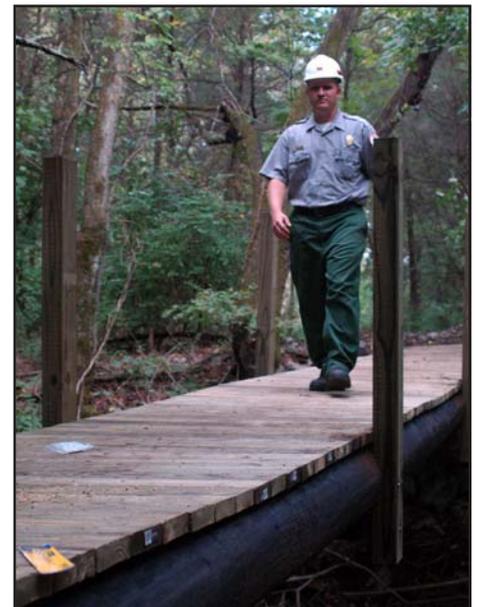
Several Scouts from Pack 75 in Hendersonville were joined by other

volunteers and collected 35 bags of garbage at various sites along the Sanders' Ferry Access.

The Stark Knob parking lot got a facelift as 14 members of the Old Hickory Lake Ski Club re-stripped all the white and yellow paint at the boat ramp.

Five members of the Pine Creek Archery Club built bridges at the Archery Range. Old Hickory Rangers and Shop employees prepped the Archery Trail before volunteers arrived. They removed several old bridges the week before Public Lands Day. The staff then set new poles spanning the creek at two locations. Pine Creek Archery Club members then

installed flooring on the new 40-foot bridges and began installing the railings that will keep users from falling into the stream below. 



Campfires, Canoe Paddles and Cave Helmets...

story and photos by Mark Willis

It happens once a year – each September a convoy of big yellow buses from Hermitage Springs, Clarkrange, Jackson County, and Putnam County high schools will roll through the gates of Dale Hollow Dam Campground, as Dale Hollow’s ever-popular Environmental Education Camp prepares to get underway.

After setting up their tents and establishing camp, this year’s Environmental Camp participants proceeded to their first session, conducted by leaders of the Upper Cumberland Boy Scouts of America. During the session, these high school juniors and seniors were given expert instruction on such intriguing outdoor cooking techniques as how to prepare “Cave Man Steak”; how to make an omelet in a bag of boiling water over a camp stove; and how to make mouth-watering fruit cobbler in Dutch ovens, buried in heaping piles of glowing coals.

In the next session, Tennessee State Naturalist Mack Prichard presented “The Cumberland Wonderlands”, a fascinating evening program which focuses on the many natural wonders and areas of historical interest that can be found throughout Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland Plateau.

In the days that followed, students were busily involved in a wide array of other environmental sessions as well, including a Cave Conservation session which provided a close-up look at bats and their underground habitats, and a Snakes of



Students from four area high schools (above and below) enjoyed rock climbing, canoeing and a host of other ‘outdoor’ activities during the 2005 Dale Hollow Environmental Education Camp in September.

Tennessee session, which dispelled many common myths and superstitions about

Process

these much-feared reptiles, and gave the students a greater understanding of their niche in our environment.

Some students also got their first-ever exposure to certain outdoor recreational activities - such as canoeing down the Obey River, and trying to maneuver their way up a vertical climbing wall provided by the Tennessee National Guard.

The students finished their week with other environmental sessions that included a Stream Study, led by

representatives of the Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation, and Threatened and Endangered Species, conducted by Wally Brines, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This year marked the 27th consecutive year for the arrival of the big yellow buses at Dale Hollow Lake’s annual Environmental Education Camp, and it also marked one other consistency as well – the obvious reluctance with which these young participants boarded those same buses as they prepared to make their way back home. They obviously enjoyed their stay and learned much about the environment in which they play a major part. 🏕️



The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to . . .

...Shirley Wilson, Operations Division, who retired from the Corps on Sept. 30 after more than 32 years service.

...Terry Collins, civil engineering technician, who retired from federal service on Sept. 30. Terry worked in the District 34.67 years, all in the Geotechnical Branch (now combined with the Civil Design Branch). Terry worked on some of the great projects completed by the District, including Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway, Wolf Creek Diaphragm Remediation, Smithland Lock and Dam, Big South Fork National River and Recreational Area, and Upper Cumberland Flood Protection Projects.

...Mandy Sage, accountant, Finance and Accounting Branch: Mandy took a job with the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 19. She was first a Co-op student and then converted to a permanent position within the Finance and Accounting Branch.

...Amanda D. (Gill) Taylor, accountant, Finance and Accounting Branch. Amanda married Jonathan Taylor on Sept. 9 and moved to Naples, Fla.

...Charlie Swor, son of Tom Swor, married Rachel Holman in Cookeville. The last week of August, Charlie, Rachel, Tom, and son Steve departed for Eugene, Ore., where Charlie has enrolled in graduate school at the University of Oregon. Charlie is seeking a PhD in Chemistry.

...Cleo Howard, maintenance worker, Cheatham Power Plant, who retired from the Corps after 27 years service on Sept. 30.



Olga Beddingfield presents Cleo Howard a Commanders Award for Civilian Service.

...Charles M. Reed, lock & dam equipment mechanic, Navigation Branch, Plant Unit,

who retired Sept 30 after a 30 year career, much of which was spent assigned to the M/V Iroquois. During his career, Charles was involved in more than 60 lock dewaterings, the construction of over 50 mooring cells and channel maintenance dredging involving the removal of several million cubic yards of material on both the Cumberland & Tennessee Rivers. His pleasant demeanor and mentoring of the many new Plant Unit employees over the years has been invaluable and will be missed by all who have had the pleasure of working with him.

Baby Brigade to . . .

...Doug & Clarissa DeLong are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter, Madeline Danielle DeLong. She arrived at 5:59 p.m., Sept. 26. She weighed 8 pounds, 4.25 ounces and was 20 inches long.



Doug holds Madeline Danielle DeLong.

...Billy and Ginia Bevis on the birth of their second child, Max Wyatt Bevis. He was born on Sept. 29, weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 21 inches long. Ginia is the Navigation Office assistant for Mid-Tennessee River Area Office.



Max Wyatt Bevis

Sympathy to . . .

...Ralph Ownby, deputy director, Operations Division, whose mother, Helen Ownby, passed away Oct. 3.

...Loretta Peoples, wife of Bill Peoples, chief of Public Affairs, whose mother passed away Oct. 2.

Upcoming Events . . .

...The National Disability Month celebration will be held October 26 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in Room A640. Sharon Terrell-Lindsay, dexterity team leader for Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program (CAP), Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), will be the featured speaker.

...Federal Employee Health Benefits representatives will visit the Federal Building on Wednesday, Nov. 16, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in Cafeteria A. 🏠

Financial Assistance for Corps Employees

Many team members have asked how they can help fellow Corps team members who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Relief Fund has been established, and the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA) also is available. FEEA is a Combined Federal Campaign participant and provides tax-free grants and/or no-interest loans to eligible Corps employees. To donate to this fund:

- 1.) You may send checks to: FEEA Army Corps of Engineers FUND, 8441 W. Bowles Ave., Suite 200, Littleton, CO 80123-9501
- 2.) By telephone: 303-933-7580 (credit card contributions)
- 3.) By Web: <https://www.givedirect.org/give/givefrm.asp?Action=GC&CID=4683>
- 4.) Through the Combined Federal Campaign, designate your CFC pledge to the Corps Fund as usual, or complete a CFC pledge card with "CFC #1234." Make a copy and write "FUND" across the top. Mail it to FEEA COE FUND, 8411 W. Bowles Ave., Suite 200, Littleton, CO 80123

The Safe Haven Program permits the Corps to pay the travel expenses, salary and a subsistence allowance to USACE employees and/or families who evacuated after a DoD evacuation order and whose home has been declared uninhabitable. See http://www.cpms.osd.mil/fas/pay/pdf/Alternate_Safe_haven_designation.pdf Also check with FEMA and state emergency agencies for assistance. 🏠



Trees Improve J. Percy Priest Overlook

Ranger Mark Vaughn (left) anchors one of the southern red oaks so it will not be adversely affected by the wind. At right, Resource Manager Tim Dunn, Biologist Joy Broach and Ranger Freddie Bell prepare a tree for placement in its final 'planting spot'.



story and photos by Dave Treadway

The J. Percy Priest overlook got a new 'look' Sept. 17 courtesy of the 2005 Leadership Development Program.

Planning by LDP member Mark Vaughn set the stage for work on Saturday. He ensured that necessary equipment was loaded for easy transport and that holes for trees were dug with an auger in advance.

Team members Joy Broach, Tim Dunn, Freddie Bell, Dave Treadway, and Richard Rieger met with Vaughn for a safety brief

over breakfast at a local restaurant. Team members then transported items to the remodeled overlook and off-loaded native pin oaks, chinquapin oaks and southern red oaks with peat moss and bags of topsoil.

Brad Bishop joined the team at the work site. Resource Manager Todd Yann provided materials for the weekend working party.

The former parking lot, constructed as a site for officials to dedicate J. Percy Priest Dam when it was completed in December 1967, now will be shaded by the oaks' spreading branches. The crew

fanned out in pairs, quickly removed the containers, placed trees in respective holes, filled and packed them so each could grow and add to the skyline east of the dam.

By mid-morning, 12 new saplings were staked down, watered and in place to improve one of the best places to view J. Percy Priest Lake over a picnic lunch.

Team members walked away with a few blisters, muddy boots and a better appreciation for an area that will continue to provide an excellent place to view one of Nashville District's most popular recreation destinations. 🌳

Cordell Hull Lake Draws Good Crowd for 2005 Shoreline Cleanup

story and photo by Travis Wiley

Park Rangers at Cordell Hull Lake hosted the 2005 Shoreline Cleanup and National Public Lands Day event Sept. 24 at both Defeated Creek Recreation Area and Roaring River Day Use Area.

A total of 81 volunteers from the surrounding communities gave up part of their weekend to work on several projects to help beautify Cordell Hull Lake recreation areas and the shoreline.

Volunteers replaced benches, helped seal the basketball court, constructed wood duck boxes suitable for nesting, and mounted them at various locations. Others improved the appearance of various structures at Defeated Creek by applying a fresh coat of paint.

Those volunteers who searched for debris along the shoreline filled one dumpster full of trash and ensured that future guests will be greeted by a more pristine view from the shoreline of Cordell Hull Lake. After the National Public Lands Day work activities were completed, Smith County Nature Group hosted a cookout for all of the volunteers that helped make this event a great success. 🌳



Volunteers load old tires and bags of trash in a government vehicle Sept. 24 for transport to a dumpster.

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Just To Be On The Safe Side... • Distracted Drivers

by John Tibbels

It only takes seconds for events to occur which can cause a crash. Drivers are distracted when they concentrate on something other than operating their vehicles – such as talking on a cell phone.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that 25 percent of all crashes involve some form of driver distraction. A recent NHTSA survey found that nearly 75 percent of drivers reported using their phone while driving, and an estimated 60 percent of cell phone use takes place behind the wheel.

Driving safely can be challenging enough even when full attention is given to the road and its potential hazards. Driving while operating a cell phone, adjusting the radio, or eating and drinking can be distracting and potentially dangerous.

Here are some tips from the National Safety Council:

- 1) Make adjustments to vehicle controls such as radios, air conditioning, or mirrors before beginning to drive or after the car is no longer in motion.
- 2) Don't reach down or behind the driver's seat, pick up items from the floor, open the glove compartment, clean the inside windows, or perform personal grooming while driving.
- 3) If you must use a cell phone:

Keep both hands on the steering wheel and eyes on the road. Remember that safe driving is the priority.

Assess the current traffic situation before making or receiving any calls. Do not answer or dial the phone when driving in hazardous conditions.

Pull over to the side of the road before beginning a cell phone conversation, or wait until you reach your destination. The safest

time to use a cell phone while driving is after you have come to a complete stop.

Become familiar with how to use the phone. Read the manual and know how to use the available features.

The National Safety Council strongly recommends using a cell phone that allows "hands free" operation, preferably with a microphone mounted in the sun visor above the driver's line of vision. 

SAME Awards Scholarships

The Nashville Post Scholarship Committee has completed its evaluation of scholarship applications for the 2005 - 2006 academic year. This year, the post is awarding a total of \$20,000 to 20 deserving students majoring in the fields of engineering, architecture, mathematics, or computer science. Since 1990, the Post Scholarship Program has awarded 181 scholarships totaling nearly \$232,000. This year's recipients and colleges they are attending are:

David M. Barry	Vanderbilt University
Diane W. Bennett	University of Florida
Joy M. Bolin	Tennessee Tech University
Christopher T. Bowie	Vanderbilt University
Clayton W. Cochran	Tennessee Tech University
Jocelyn Feliciano	University of Tennessee
Savannah L. Gill	Vanderbilt University
Talbot R. Hansum	Vanderbilt University
Joshua A. Harvey	Middle Tennessee State Univ.
Niels M. Hauff	Vanderbilt University

Brent L. Hunter	University of Tennessee
Scott C. Jennings	Vanderbilt University
Thomas R. McCurdy	Vanderbilt University
Erin L. McMullin	Auburn University
Matthew R. Milazzo	University of Tennessee
Sarah K. Mowery	Tennessee Tech Univ.
Emma K. Neuhaus	Tennessee Wesleyan Coll.
Kerry D. Rice, Jr.	Tennessee Tech Univ.
Stephanie R. Shoe	Vanderbilt University
Fleming W. Smith, IV	Auburn University

Diane W. Bennett is the daughter of retired Corps employee, Warren Bennett.

Jocelyn Feliciano is a Corps employee in the Geotechnical Branch.

Brent Hunter is the son of John Hunter of Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch.

Sarah K. Mowery is the daughter of Watts Bar Lock Master Jim Mowery.

Stephanie R. Shoe is the daughter of Lake Cumberland Resource Manager Craig Shoe. 