



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District

DistrictDigest

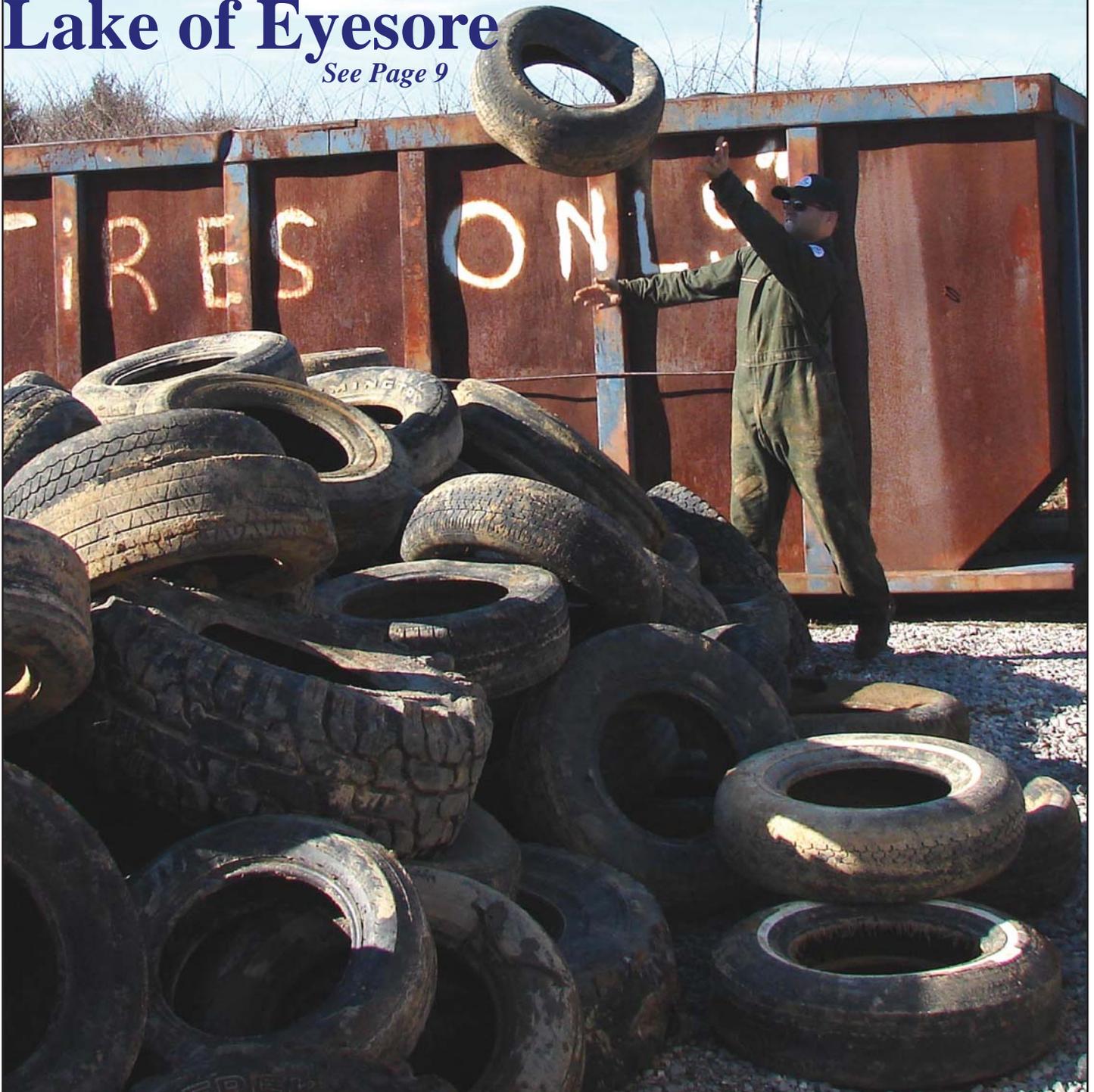
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Relevant-Ready-Responsive-Reliable

January 2007

Center Hill Rids Lake of Eyesore

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A Special Note of Thanks

I wanted to do more than just a quick "Thank You" in the back of the Digest because it warrants so much more than even this. Last year was extremely difficult for my family. I had major surgery followed by the total shock and devastation of losing a son. As we continue to struggle with this loss that has forever changed our lives, it has been the compassion, expressions of sympathy and, most important, the promise of prayers from my extended Corps family that helps sustain us. It has shown the inherent good in people that we don't always see in each other in our everyday work interactions. I heard from all corners of the District, some from a few of you I've never met. Every card, letter, or personal contact means so much to us.

Kevin was a wonderful, loving, and caring kid. As we have gone through this we've learned he touched people's

lives we never knew in ways we never saw. A close friend of mine described Kevin through a poem entitled, "There are Some Men too Gentle to Live Among the Wolves". That was Kevin.

Right now we have bad days and worse days but we are surviving, in part, to all of you. Again, I give a heartfelt thanks to each of you for supporting us. I ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers for us to draw strength from.

Since we've seen a number of losses to fellow employees or family members recently, I offer the following poem that has brought some comfort to us and hopefully to those of you dealing with a loss.

Mike Zoccola

THERE IS NO DEATH

I am standing on the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. The ship is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch her until at length she is a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says, "There! She's gone!" Gone where? Gone from my sight, that is all. The ship is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side, and she is just as able to bear her load of living weight to her destined harbor.

The ship's diminished size in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says, "There! She's gone!" there are other eyes watching her come, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "There she comes!"

AND THAT IS DYING.

Author Unknown



photo by Resource Manager Tim Dunn
 Park Ranger Gary Bruce unloads old tires collected from the shoreline of Center Hill Lake while the water level was lower. For complete story, see page 8.

District Digest

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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.

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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>.

Commander's Corner

The Nashville District recently announced the decision to lower the lake level at Wolf Creek Dam. I would like to explain the rationale and the magnitude of this decision. Wolf Creek Dam impounds Lake Cumberland, which is the largest reservoir east of the Mississippi. For a long time we have had problems with seepage at the dam that is causing erosion of the earthen embankment. We have already initiated plans to fix the problem through design and construction of a large cut-off wall. This is an approximately \$310M contract that will place a concrete wall in the earthen embankment which will literally "cut-off" the seepage from the reservoir to downstream. We are scheduled to award this project by the end of this year and it will take approximately 7 years to complete.

As part of a National-level program within USACE to help quantify risk, we received the results of two engineering reports (an internal USACE and an independent, non-USACE report).

Both of these concluded that the risk at Wolf Creek was high for structural failure. Given the grave consequences of any such failure, we felt that we had to immediately reduce risk. We immediately began emergency draw-down of Lake Cumberland to 680 feet and expedited our grouting program, which was originally part of the cut-off wall project. Both of these activities immediately reduce risk on the project. We have more than 300 instruments on the dam designed to measure hydrostatic pressure, ground settlement, and water temperature. Our instrumentation, observations, and engineering judgment lead us to believe that the dam is safe but continued erosion is slowly degrading the stability of the dam. Our emergency measures are intended to reduce pressure on the dam and lessen the effects of erosion.

The lowering of Lake Cumberland will have tremendous impacts on the people, businesses, and communities that rely on the Lake for project purposes. We estimate that this could reduce tourism by up to 50 percent and we cannot take this

fact lightly. Conversely, the consequences of failure of Wolf Creek Dam would be catastrophic. We estimate that loss from a dam failure would be \$3.4 billion of damage and almost surely would entail loss of life. This result, or even the chance of this result, even though not probable, is just not acceptable.



Wolf Creek Dam

Public safety is our paramount concern and, consequently, taking these pro-active measures is the right decision. This decision is arguably one of the most important actions undertaken by the District since



our inception. Nothing has physically changed at the Dam and this decision is solely a result of risk-mitigation planning.

Speaking of risk mitigation, our utilization of Composite Risk Management in our Safety Program is another form of identifying risk in our everyday activities. We are well into our second quarter of the fiscal year and historically this is when accidents by employees occur most frequently. We have a great record of no lost-time accidents; let's keep it up. Keep on the look-out for knee sprains, back sprains and contusion, the most common type of accidents which have historically been experienced during this quarter.

Communication

December Employee of the Month

Kimberly Moore, Upper Cumberland Real Estate Office, selected as the Nashville Employee of the Month for December 2006 because of her continuous efforts to succeed above and beyond the call of duty. In her most recent efforts, she was able to secure closure from one of Nashville District's most difficult landowners.

From the inception of the Cumberland Project many years ago, homeowner Oscar Baird has been a vocal opponent. He voiced his objections at all planning meetings and at the Real Estate Public Meeting. Moore met with Baird before the appraisal was completed for the structural project to begin negotiations. His home is eligible for the nonstructural portion of the project, which is strictly voluntary, and we wanted to know if he wanted to sell his house. He reiterated to her that he was not selling any of his property.

Moore hand delivered his offer letter and began negotiations. The negotiations were particularly difficult, with Baird insisting the Corps could not acquire his property. Moore's persistence and great

negotiation skills finally succeeded in getting Baird to agree to a settlement. However, when it was time to sign the offer, Baird again refused. Moore persisted and again negotiated with him, finally getting his signature on the Offer to Sell, which kept the project on schedule.

Moore's persistence in dealing with a very difficult landowner reflects great credit on herself, Upper Cumberland Real Estate, Nashville District, and the Corps of Engineers. Moore's action also saved time and money. Because of her diligence, the contract will be advertised on time.

Senior leaders select the District

Employee of the Month from those identified by the District's chain of command. Selected individuals personify the seven Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage.



Kim Moore

Dr. Robert Gates Named New Secretary of Defense

Dr. Robert M. Gates was sworn in on Dec. 18, 2006, as the 22nd Secretary of Defense. Before entering his present post, Secretary Gates was the President of Texas A&M University, the nation's seventh largest university. Prior to assuming the presidency of Texas A&M in 2002, he served as Interim Dean of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M.

Secretary Gates served as Director of Central Intelligence from 1991 until 1993. He is the only career officer in the history of the CIA to rise from entry-level employee to Director. He served as Deputy Director of Central Intelligence from 1986 until 1989 and as Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser at the White House from Jan. 20, 1989, until Nov. 6, 1991, for President George H.W. Bush.

Secretary Gates joined the Central Intelligence Agency in 1966 and spent nearly 27 years as an intelligence professional, serving six presidents. During that period, he spent nearly nine years at the National Security Council, the White



Dr. Robert M. Gates

House, serving four presidents of both political parties.

Gates has been awarded the National Security Medal, the Presidential Citizens Medal, two National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medals, and three Distinguished Intelligence Medals, the CIA's highest award.

He is the author of the memoir, *From the Shadows: The Ultimate Insiders Story of Five Presidents and How They Won the Cold War*, published in 1996.

Until becoming Secretary of Defense, Dr. Gates served as Chairman of the Independent Trustees of The Fidelity Funds, the nation's largest mutual fund company, and on the board of directors of NACCO Industries, Inc., Brinker International, Inc., and Parker Drilling Company, Inc.

Dr. Gates has also served on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the American Council on Education, the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, and the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America. He has also been President of the National Eagle Scout Association.

A native of Kansas, Secretary Gates received a bachelor's degree from the College of William and Mary, his master's degree in history from Indiana University, and his doctorate in Russian and Soviet history from Georgetown. Dr. Gates is 63, and he and wife Becky have two adult children.

USACE Water Safety Photo Contest Deadline Nears

The deadline is fast approaching for Corps employees to submit entries for the 2006 USACE Photo Contest. Submissions in most categories should promote water safety, demonstrate safe water practices, and/or showcase water-based recreation facilities.

All uniformed employees shown in the photos should be wearing the appropriate uniform for the activity in which they are engaged. Photos will be judged for clarity, composition, originality, visual impact, and theme.

2006 Categories:

1. Commercial Boating
2. Hunters and Anglers (in/on/near water)
3. Water Sports (swimming, boating, water play)
4. USACE employees in action around water
5. Volunteer employees in action around water
6. Scenic Water Scenes (must feature a Corps project)
7. Environmental Stewardship at Corps water-resource projects
8. Boat Accidents/Water-based Recreation Mishaps occurring at a Corps project
9. Flora/Fauna (should be related to Corps projects)

All photos will be accepted for entry, but only those with a water safety theme will be considered eligible for awards in categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8.

Categories 6 and 9 do not require a water safety connection. Awards will be a plaque or framed award that showcases the winning entry. Also, entries into categories #7, Environmental Stewardship, and #9, Flora/Fauna, are NOT eligible for overall "Best of Show" award, as this is a water safety-themed contest. Only first, second and honorable mention awards will be given for best in those categories. Winners in all other categories will be considered for "Best of Show" overall award.

Photos may be submitted as 35mm slides or digital images in at least 300dpi resolution on Compact Disc (CD). Images not in this format will not be judged.

Each photographer may submit up to three photos per category. All entries must be accompanied by a completed ENG Form 5067-R, Digital Library Image Information (Appendix B of ER 25-1-91).

Indicate the category you are entering in the 'remarks' box. <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/usace-docs/eng-regs/er25-1-91/a-b.pdf>

Close-up images of people should be accompanied by a signed DD Form 2830 (general talent release) <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2830.pdf> or district equivalent.

Employees should submit contest entries to Dave Treadway, Division Water Safety Committee david.s.treadway@us.army.mil

Submission deadline is Monday, Feb. 5. Winners will be announced in March 2007 at the USACE session of the International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS) in San Antonio, Texas. Previous sweepstakes winners may enter.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reserves the right to use any photos entered into this contest in exhibits, publications, web pages or other forms of public information, regardless of contest outcomes.

Carol Warren Tapped for New Customer-Focused Position

by Dave Treadway

Carol Warren, who has served as the District executive liaison and protocol officer since 1994, has been given a one-year temporary assignment to serve as the Nashville District Customer Relationship Manager.

While serving as the customer relationship manager, Warren will be putting in place processes and plans that will be vital when this position is filled on a permanent basis. This position will serve as a vital link between the District and customers, stakeholders, and congressional offices to expand and improve the Corps relationships with these important entities.

Warren has long been a proponent of improved customer relationships and such a position in the District.

“Ever since I worked on the customer focus portion of the Total Quality, APIC, and Tennessee Quality packages,” revealed Warren, “I have felt we needed to improve our customer relationship focus and processes. Then while I was in the LDP program, our team project was to review our District Outreach Program. While reviewing our Account Executive Program and reviewing other district/division customer relationship processes, our team felt Nashville needed to revamp the processes in place to ensure our viability into the future.”

Her involvement proved vital to the development of new District web pages designed to enhance Outreach, <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/outreach>.

Warren accepted the position because, as she put it, “It is something that I have great passion for. I feel our number one priority should be looking at the future direction of the District and our customers and to prioritize our capabilities to match our customer’s needs and to ensure we meet those needs.”

The new customer relationship manager detailed several specific goals for the one-year assignment: complete a 2007 Outreach Plan, develop a strategic customer relationship matrix which prioritizes District customers, develop an outreach team and a team charter, develop outreach tools, develop

lessons-learned from other districts/divisions, develop metrics to measure progress or decline in outreach efforts, document processes, develop a budget, assemble a portfolio which could be easily presented to customers and congressional staffers, create a training curriculum for employees who interface with strategic customers, develop a customer relationship team which would include OMs, project managers, etc., to monitor success, revamp the customer list for the yearly customer survey that Headquarters developed to ensure critical feedback is received from strategic customers, and to develop a strategic process for speaking engagements to take the Corps story and successes to customers.

“I would like to see a strong congressional program,” she continued, “that allows us to visit the congressional staff on a developed time schedule to ensure our new congressional staffers are educated on what the Corps does.”

Warren also wants to develop a process to integrate partnering efforts with various cities such as Knoxville, Chattanooga, Huntsville, etc., into the customer relationship process. She plans to work closely with the Operations Managers and Project Managers who may be co-located with customers and congressional offices to ensure all the key individuals are integrated into the plan.

“I feel one of my biggest strengths is getting along with people and developing relationships. I am excited and view this new assignment as a real challenge but one that I am enthusiastic about and want to ensure



Carol Warren

that whatever I do in this new position will make a difference for the future of the District for many years. I want all of our employees to know how important relationships are with our customers, and for our customers and stakeholders to know how important they are to the Nashville District. Communications will be key, communications with District key individuals and teams as well as with customers/stakeholders outside the Corps of Engineers,” concluded Warren. Her bottom line is, “How can we best serve our customers and how we can educate our customers on what we do?”

Warren is working part-time right now on this effort but will be working full-time when her position as executive liaison is temporarily filled. She has been in the Nashville District since 1980 in various positions ranging from field locations

to the District Office. Before coming to the Corps, she worked for the federal government at the United States Automated Logistics Management Systems Agency in St. Louis, Mo.

She completed the Army Management Staff College, Sustaining Base Leadership and Management Program, in December 1998 and received the “best in the seminar” award. Warren has served as

President of the Middle Tennessee Federal Executive Association for two years, as well as an officer and director of the Society of American Military Engineers.



The entrance to the District Outreach web site designed to provide critical information to customers.

Navigation Retirees Praised for Service

Five Nashville District employees were honored Dec. 14 at J. Percy Priest Lake by Operations Chief Mike Ensich on the eve of their retirement from federal service.

C. David Bethurum, chief of the Navigation Branch, Gary Bowling, navigation facility supervisor for Wheeler and Wilson Locks, James "Eddie" McBride, facility manager, Gunter'sville Lock, Mildred Cabaniss, budget technician for the East Tennessee River Area Office, and Gerald Cunningham, navigation facility supervisor, Barkley and Kentucky Locks, were honored.

Ensich also presented a Certificate of Appreciation for Patriotic Civilian Service to Robert F. Flood for five-plus decades of service.

U.S. Merchant Marine Master David Bethurum was presented a Corps Ensign that had been flown over each Nashville District navigation project in recognition of more than 30 years of dedicated service to the Nashville District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Marine Corps and the Nation.

Lockmaster Gary Bowling was awarded an Achievement Medal for Civilian



Gary Bowling

Service for more than 32 years of outstanding performance with the Nashville District from Sept. 9, 1974 through Jan. 3, 2007. His positive attitude and leadership abilities proved to be a great asset to both Wheeler and Wilson Lock projects. His dedication to the Nashville District's Dive Team as both a diver and dive supervisor resulted in numerous successful diving activities at Tennessee River Locks, Cumberland River Locks and Powerplants, as well as several projects in other districts.

Eddie McBride was awarded an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service



Eddie McBride

for more than 35 years of outstanding performance with the Nashville District from June 9, 1971 through Jan. 3, 2007, and especially his service as facility manager, Gunter'sville Lock. He was lauded for managing and maintaining the Gunter'sville Lock project at such a high level that it became a role model project for the entire District.

Mildred Cabaniss was presented an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service which spanned two decades and an exemplary career with the Nashville District while serving as a secretary, Navigation office assistant, and budget technician. Cabaniss has a work history of exceptional performance and has been recognized for



Mildred Cabaniss

numerous performance achievements that have been imperative to the successful accomplishment of operational missions. Her clear understanding of the Corps' financial management system and excellent support to area managers was instrumental in achieving budget execution goals for



Gerald Cunningham

the East Tennessee River Area projects.

Gerald Cunningham was commended for outstanding performance with the Nashville District from July 13, 1970 through Jan. 3, 2007, and especially his service as Navigation facility supervisor, Barkley and Kentucky Locks where he finished 36 years of federal service.

After serving three years as a Marine, including a tour in Vietnam, he joined the Nashville District in 1973 as a Laborer at Kentucky Lock. He was accepted into the Lock Operator Training Program in 1975 and saw duty at Kentucky Lock in that role. There he excelled in safely locking commercial tows and pleasure craft. He also worked with the Nashville District Repair Party on various major maintenance projects throughout the District during his tenure as an operator/mechanic. Then he volunteered for the District Diving Program and served with distinction during the late 70's and early 80's. Cunningham was promoted to lockmaster (Lock and Dam equipment mechanic supervisor) at Barkley Lock in 1986 and then Navigation facility supervisor in 2004.

Ensich noted that Robert Flood's vast experience and technical knowledge has had a positive influence on Nashville Dis-



Robert Flood

trict's lock operators and mechanics as he unselfishly shared with others his ability to troubleshoot and solve the most complex operational and maintenance problems.

Dave Bethurum Hangs Up His Hard Hat

by Peter Robertson

It will be tough for Dave Bethurum to throw in the towel.

Currently the chief of the Management Support Branch in Operations Division, Bethurum has decided to end his career with the Corps after 31 years of service.

"It's going to be hard to leave," he confesses.

With such a rich career, how could it be easy? Bethurum joined the Marine Corps straight out of high school, rejecting offers from several colleges to play football.

"I wasn't ready for it," he says.

After two tours in Vietnam as a Marine, he came to the University of Tennessee and majored in Veterinary Medicine. However, college lasted a bit longer for Bethurum than the average collegiate. "I took what I guess you could call a 23-year break between my junior and senior year."

This requires an explanation.

After serving with the Marines, Bethurum had worked part-time on the rivers. Some fellow pilots told him about a new company in Georgia, and he decided to give it a shot. He became a Merchant Marine Master in 1972, and has piloted literally all over the nation. California, Mexico, Texas, Ohio, West Virginia, Tennessee, Florida—you name it. "I just grew to love the river," he laughs in summation.

After his little break from college, he returned in 1993 and was accepted into Vanderbilt's MBA program, earning his degree in Organizational Management. Bethurum continued to broaden his horizon of experiences with some time in law school while continuing his career with the Corps.

And what a career it has been! Since Bethurum became a Merchant Marine Master, he has acquired several titles and fulfilled many positions. Of several honors, he has served on a HQUSACE Safety PDT focusing on navigational maintenance, co-chaired and served on a Great Lakes and Ohio River Division PDT to consolidate and regionalize district maintenance fleets, and has served as a management representative on the negotiating team that resulted in the first I&I bargained union agreement within the Corps. He also helped establish and served on



photo by Dave Treadway
Dave Bethurum displays the Corps flag which was flown over each Nashville District project.

Nashville District's Partnership Council in 1999, a council that discusses and resolves issues in workforce and management.

When asked what his favorite experience has been, Bethurum could not narrow it down to any single event.

"Resolving problems has been my favorite experience," mused Bethurum. "I love to help overcome obstacles."

This passion of his has come in handy for the Corps countless times, as well as for the Coast Guard. He has devised traffic control plans after accidents at Cheatham and Wilson Locks, marked hazards and saved countless dollars by evaluating and assessing the need or lack of need for some buoys in the Tennessee/Cumberland System, and has developed navigation plans for commercial vessels in the Cumberland River Waterway Management Plan and the Tennessee River Waterway Management Plan.

For the Corps, he has held leadership roles in the integration of district-level maintenance operations (a position in which he has saved the Corps a projected \$1 million annually) and in the joint LRD MVD team that created a Federal Register document outlining safe passage requirements for the Ohio and Mississippi River Systems. He has also co-authored an update in the USACE safety manual and authored some of the safety-related Engineering Regulations adopted by USACE.

He helped design, plan, and acquire the *Henry Shreve*, the Corps 550-ton floating crane and the largest of its kind in the nation. More recently, Bethurum played a huge role in the response to the emergency at Wilson Lock.

Bethurum admits that "the hardest part of the job is dealing with bureaucracy and having to do repetitious paperwork or routines." As chief of the Management Support Branch, Operations Division, he superiorly and efficiently maintains the hydroelectric powerplants, navigation locks, navigable channels, and natural resources management areas.

"Up here," he signals with his hands, "every job is different. It keeps me interested."

One of the main reasons Bethurum stays interested, he claims, is because of the people he works with. He is thankful and knows for certain that, since he began working for the Corps, he has had the best crews. "I couldn't have handpicked a better staff."

To his coworkers, Bethurum is well-known as a selfless, modest, hardworking man. Companies he's worked with have said he is the most knowledgeable person when it comes to the entire inland waterway system and Intracoastal Waterway. He is renowned as "a consummate professional, a visionary, and a man who finds ways to do seemingly the impossible." Many believe that he has created one of the most dynamic and functional union/management relationships in federal service.

With his retirement, Bethurum expects to spend more time with the essentials: golfing, fishing, cooking, and playing with his grandchildren.

"I've done a little work in Real-Estate, too, but I'm not sure what'll happen there," he says.

However, retirement won't keep him from the rivers he's known for 31 years. He just received his eighth five-year piloting license renewal and recently completed training to become a Designated Examiner for assessing prospective pilots in the Coast Guard. "I've been offered several part-time jobs on the river," he says, "but I won't be taking up any of those offers until I make my replacement comfortable up here."

Rushing, Crowe Selected for Inaugural Program

by Dave Treadway

Keith Crowe, a park manager from the Savannah District, is currently serving a four-to-six-month assignment as the operations manager at Western Kentucky Area Office for Operations Division under a new career development opportunity.

Nashville Resource Manager Toni Rushing began an assignment under the same program January 7 at Mid-Brazos Project, Fort Worth District, which includes seven Lake Offices and one Hydropower Plant.

Crowe and Rushing were half of only four selectees for the inaugural year of the Operations Project Manager - National Career Assignment Program (OPM-CAP), established to provide actual field experience to aspiring OPMs in a district and division other

than their own.

"I will be the Operation Project Manager for 120-day appointment," said Rushing. "I am really excited about this opportunity."

"I feel very fortunate," said Crowe, "that the Nashville District made such a great position as the Western Kentucky OM position available for the OPM-CAP program. But then again, I know Nashville District has a proud tradition of being

a national player in the Operations arena and wanted to help this new program get off to a good start."

Crowe is no stranger to Nashville District. He served as a park ranger at Martins Fork, Dale Hollow, Old Hickory, and Lake Barkley from 1982-'89 before taking a job in the Savannah District as a Park Manager.

"It is great to have the opportunity to work in the Nashville District again, to get to work with all my old friends and meet a lot of new people as well."

The program is also designed to benefit Crowe and Rushing by interaction among all national program participants while they manage a multi-purpose field project. Program participants are paid by their own district but work under the gaining Chief, Operations Division.



Toni Rushing



Keith Crowe

Center Hill Lake

Staff Takes Advantage of Low Lake Levels to Remove Hazards

by Park Ranger Gary Bruce

With the water level at Center Hill Lake drawn down for winter pool, it is a reminder to everyone who frequents the lake of exactly what lurks beneath the depths during the summer recreation season.

This year is especially unique in that the water level has been lowered to levels not seen in more than 12 years, and only experienced five times since 1959. Of course you would expect to find the usual trees, stumps, rocks, and even a tire or two... but 162 tires? That is exactly what the staff at Center Hill Lake removed from the shoreline near Ragland Bottom Campground on December 27.

Prior to the mid 1990's, it was common practice to construct fish attractors by bundling together old tires and placing them at various depths. Over the years, many of these tires have broken loose and have washed ashore or moved from where they were originally placed. As one might imagine, with the water level at winter pool, these tires have become an eyesore.

With the use of a two-ton stakebed truck as well as a pick-up truck serving as dumpsters, Resource Manager Tim Dunn and two of his rangers pulled each of the mud-filled tires from the shoreline and loaded them for disposal. Once the trucks could hold no more tires, they were driven to a state certified collection site where all 162 tires will be recycled and used for asphalt paving, molded rubber products, landscape mulch, or other environment-friendly uses.

By the end of the day, the beauty of the shoreline adjacent to Ragland Bottom was restored, and not dotted with discarded tires. In recent years, fish attractors constructed of natural woody material have been added to this area to help provide the public with additional angling opportunities. Studies have shown that fish attractors constructed of such natural material are more successful and more environmentally friendly than those built of man-made materials.



photo by Resource Manager Tim Dunn

Two vehicles loaded with tires collected from the shoreline of Center Hill Lake prepare to move them to the recycling center.

Corps Will Honor New Recreation Admission Passes

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will honor two of the four America The Beautiful – the National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands passes to give a 50 per cent reduction in day use and camping fees to pass holders at its recreation areas beginning in January 2007.

The Corps will accept the Senior Pass for citizens and permanent residents age 62 and over, the Access Pass for citizens or permanent residents with an established permanent medical disability. The other two passes cover entrance fees and standard amenity fees at other federal recreation areas. The Corps does not charge these types of fees.

The new passes are available as a result of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004. The legislation established the new discount pass program to replace the Golden Passport Program for all agencies. The Corps will continue to accept Golden Access and Golden Age Passports according to the provisions of the pass. In addition, paper Golden Age

and Golden Access Passports may be exchanged free for new plastic passes.

The new passes may be obtained in person at USDA Forest Service, National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service facilities. The Corps will not issue the passes.

Additional information about the recreation pass program is available at <http://www.recreation.gov/recpass.jsp> or by dialing 1-888-275-8747 (1-888-ASK-USGS).

The Corps encourages all Americans to enjoy the nation's public lands and waters. The Corps is the largest federal provider of outdoor recreation opportunities, operating more than 2,500 recreation areas at 456 projects (mostly lakes) and leasing an additional 1,800 sites to state or local park and recreation authorities or private interests.

The Corps hosts about 375 million visits each year at its lakes, beaches and other areas, and estimates that 25 million Americans (one in ten) visit a Corps project at

least once a year. Additional information about the Corps' recreation program is available at <http://cornslakes.usace.army.mil/visitors/visitors.cfm>

Customers in Kentucky may be referred to the (NPS) Cumberland Gap National Historical Park in Middlesboro (606-248-2817), the (USDA-FS) Daniel Boone National Forest Whitley City office (606-376-5323), Daniel Boone's London office (606-864-4163), or the (USDA-FS) Land Between the Lakes Golden Pond Visitor Center (270-924-2233).

Customers in Tennessee may call the (NPS) Obed Wild & Scenic River Wartburg office (423-346-6294), the (USDA-FS) Watauga Ranger office (423-735-1500), or the (USDA-FS) Land Between the Lakes The Homeplace (931-232-6457).

Customers in Georgia may call the (NPS) National Military Park in Ft. Oglethorpe (706-866-9241).

Alabama customers may be referred to the (NPS) Bankhead National Forest in Double Springs (205-489-5111).

Scouts Improve Aquatic Environment

Cub Scouts from Pack 157 and Boy Scouts from Troop 156, in Cookeville, Tenn., made a positive impact on the environment with the completion of a recent project below Dale Hollow Dam. The Scouts addressed severe erosion problems on one of the effluent canals below the Dale Hollow National Fish Hatchery that carries water back into the Obey River.

Scouts first began the bank stabilization project in 2004. The project helps fulfill the requirements for the Cub Scout's

Webelos II Den World Conservation Award and conservation training requirements for the Boy Scouts who participated. Members of the Scout Pack and Troop hand placed rock along eroded areas of the creek bank. A total of six tons of ballast

stone and four tons of crushed limestone were used in the project.

When work was completed, Scouts toured the hatchery, fed the hatchery fish, and stocked 500 rainbow trout into the creek.

The Dale Hollow Hatchery in Celina is a coldwater, mitigation hatchery operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The hatchery annually produces nearly two million rainbow, brown, and lake trout for stocking federal waters in Tennessee.

(Continued on page 10)



Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts work together to place stone along the waterway to prevent more erosion.



This artwork earned the Information Management Office First Place in the Christmas Door Decoration Contest at the District Office. Second Place went to Real Estate Division and Resource Management earned Honorable Mention.

The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to . . .

...Jerry Brown, Dale Hollow Resource, upon his retirement from the Corps Jan. 3. ...Chris Stempson, mechanic, Old Hickory Power; Jason "Jake" Kennedy, electrician, Old Hickory Power; Alex Hayes, mechanic A, Cheatham Power; Chris Meeks, electrician, Barkley Power; and Brian Jones, mechanic, Barkley Power, for recently passing their journeyman test. ...Long Truong of the Electrical/Mechanical Design Section and Cory Morgan of the Civil/Structural Design Section for passing the Professional Engineering Exam for the State of Tennessee.

Farewell to . . .

...Ashley Tye, student aide, Laurel River Lake since April 2002, whose last day was January 6. She will be greatly missed. She began her student teaching the following week at Keavy Elementary School. Congratulations are also in order as she and Tom Shepherd were married January 6 in Gatlinburg, Tenn.



Ashley and Tom Shepherd

Thanks to . . .

...We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of our Corps family for your many acts of kindness during Shirley's lengthy illness and eventual passing. The calls, get-well cards and hospital visits were greatly appreciated. Shirley passed away Nov. 28, 2006, and your generous love and support will always be remembered by our family. The food; flowers; cards from all over the District; visitation at the funeral home; and for her final journey, pallbearers Mike, Ralph, Jeff and David as escorts to her eternal resting place. Thanks to each and all of you for your love and compassion during this difficult and grievous time. *John, Lisa and Michael Wilson*

Baby Brigade to . . .

...SSGT Jason (USA ret) and Heather Pepper welcomed a new addition to the family; Cheyanne Noelle Pepper, born Oct. 29, 2006, at 1:09 p.m., weighing in at 7 pounds and 1 ounce, and measuring 20 inches.

...Shirley Puckett, park contract inspector at Center Hill Lake, on the birth of her second grandchild, Sophia Taylor Long, on Nov. 17, 2006, weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces.



Sophia Long

...Debbie and Walter Green, Project Management, who welcomed their third grandchild, Parker Barrett Stough, on Dec. 17, 2006. Born to Mike and Katherine Stough, he weighed 8 pounds and measured 21 inches.



Parker Stough

Reed on Dec. 20, 2006. Isaiah is three months old, and was adopted in Mississippi. Justin and wife Nikki are enjoying being new parents, and are experiencing parenthood for the first time.

...Linda and Jamie Holt, Power Plant electrician at



Carter Holt

Barkley Dam, upon the birth of Carter Evan Holt on January 5 at Lourdes Hospital, Paducah, Ky. Carter arrived weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces, and measuring 21 and 1/2 inches.

Sympathy to...

... the family of Retiree James Gail Acuff, who worked at Barkley Powerhouse, recently passed away in Maryville, Tenn. ...Retiree Rosa Swanner wanted to let friends know that she recently underwent surgery for cancer and is presently taking chemo treatments. Acquaintances may write to her at 126 Neverbreak Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075.

...the family of Shirley Wilson, Operations Division, who passed away Nov. 28, 2006. She is survived by several grandchildren, husband, John; son, Michael; and daughter, Lisa.

...Operations Manager Tom Hood, whose father Thomas E. Hood, Sr., passed away Dec. 27, 2006.

...the family of retiree Joe A. Gill, who passed away Dec. 23, 2006, in Dickson, Tenn. He retired after 33 years as a surveyor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He was an Army veteran of the Korean War.

...Lisa Boling, senior shift operator, Old Hickory Power, whose mother, Edna Slaughter, passed away Dec. 31, 2006.

...the family of Roy Perry, retired Power Plant superintendent at both Cheatham and Old Hickory, passed away Sunday morning, January 7. He is survived by wife, Nancy, and children, Jeff and Amanda.

Scouts (Cont. from page 8)

see and Georgia. These fish are reared in outdoor, concrete raceways with the aid of cold water supplied by Dale Hollow Reservoir. Once the water passes through these raceways, it enters two effluent canals before flowing back into the Obey River. These canals are regularly stocked with nine-inch rainbow trout and offer a unique fishing opportunity to local anglers and to campers staying at the adjacent Corps Campground.

The staff of the Dale Hollow National Fish Hatchery is indebted to Pack 157 Cubmaster and Webelos II Den Leader Steve Alexander and Troop 156 Scoutmaster Frank Bush, as well as the parents and siblings who accompanied the Tiger Cubs, Bear Cubs, Webelos II, and Boy Scouts on their habitat enhancement project.

The result is better water quality in the creek below the hatchery and in the Obey River, thereby providing direct benefits to area trout anglers.

Stay Safe, Get an Award for Diligence!

by Peter Robertson

What usually comes to mind when you think of safety? Most likely, those hours of lecturing, days and months of training, and years of steady precaution come back and give you that oh-too-familiar backache.

Well, here's your chance to get something in return for your commitment, besides all of those gray hairs.

Over the past year, the Corps has been presenting the Safest Office/Project of the Quarter award to any office or project team that has exemplified safety. The award, shown in the picture below, has just been awarded for the fourth time. Here are the recipients and some of their criteria for receiving the honor.

► Wolf Creek Power Plant was cited for:

- Having no lost-time accidents for more than 25 consecutive years
- Recent accident-free testing, installation, and studies

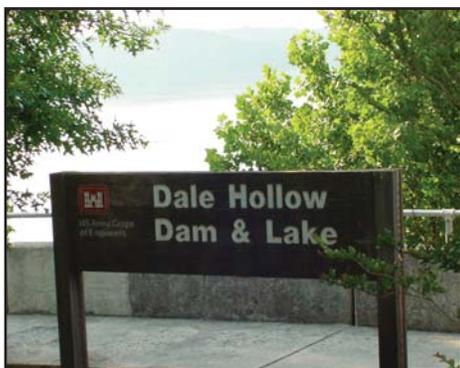


Olga Beddingfield accepts the award for Wolf Creek Power.

tion, and studies

► Dale Hollow Lake Resource Office was cited for:

- Having no lost-time accidents for five consecutive years



- Participating in the Boat U.S. Life Jacket Loaner program
- Conducting water safety programs and presentations

► Chickamauga Lock was cited for:

- Drilling 19 holes in the new lock without any lost-time accidents
- Starting an aggressive maintenance program



Chickamauga Lock

► Natural Resources Management Branch in the District Office was cited for:

- Providing safety in various forms to 36 million lake visitors
- Acting as the Nashville District Water Safety Task Force

These are just a small portion of each of these recipients' achievements. If you think your office or project has got what it



At a J. Percy Priest Fishing Rodeo, Carolyn Bauer, Natural Resources Management, demonstrates the improper fit of a life jacket, one too large for this youngster.

takes (the epitome of safety), contact Bill Bennett for more information. Keep up the safe work!

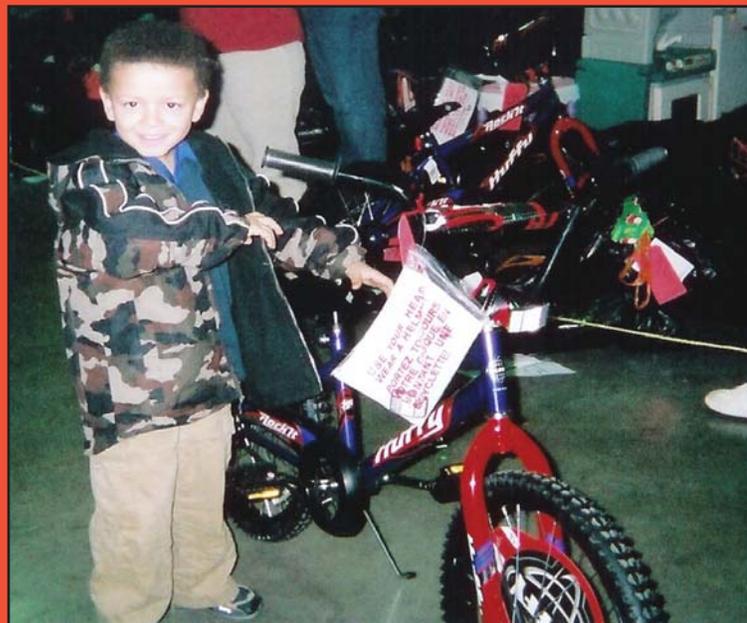


photo courtesy of Teana Burns

A youngster in Harlan, Ky., wears a big smile as he takes possession of a brand new bike donated by an employee from the Nashville District and delivered to the Harlan Countians for a Healthy Community by Danny Ferrell, Upper Cumberland Area Office, on Dec. 4, 2006. The agency helped make Christmas better for more than 600 needy children. Teana Burns, coordinator for the agency, said children ranged in age from newborn to 16.

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Just To Be On The Safe Side . . . Avoiding Skids

Although this winter season has not produced much in the way of slick roads, drivers should always be prepared for that kind of driving. The next three months may be much different than the preceding months. It is always good to review proper procedures for handling your car, truck or van on slick roadways.

All employees who have an AKO password can log on and take the defensive driving course entitled **Army Accident Avoidance**, a procedure recommended every four years. Course completion is electronically tracked and a course completion certificate is provided.

Simply log on to the Combat Readiness University at <https://safetvlms.army.mil/librix/loginhtml2.asp?v=usasc>

Until you can complete the course, the National Safety Council offers the following advice:

Skidding and Hydroplaning in Rainy Conditions

Losing control of your car on wet pavement is a frightening experience. You can prevent skids by driving slowly and carefully, especially on curves. Steer and brake with a light touch. When you need to stop or slow, do not brake hard or lock the wheels and risk a skid. Maintain mild pressure on the brake pedal.

If you do find yourself in a skid, remain calm, ease your foot off the gas, and carefully steer in the direction you want the front of the car to go. For cars without anti-lock brakes, avoid using your brakes. This procedure, known as “steering into the skid,” will bring the back end of your

car in line with the front. If your car has ABS, brake firmly as you steer into the skid.

While skids on wet pavement may be frightening, hydroplaning is completely nerve-racking. Hydroplaning happens when the water in front of your tires builds up faster than your car’s weight can push it out of the way. The water pressure causes your car to rise up and slide on a thin layer of water between your tires and the road. At this point, your car can be completely out of contact with the road, and you are in danger of skidding or drifting out of your lane, or even off the road.

To avoid hydroplaning, keep your tires properly inflated, maintain good tread on your tires and replace them when neces-

sary, slow down when roads are wet, and stay away from puddles. Try to drive in the tire tracks left by the cars in front of you.

If you find yourself hydroplaning, do not brake or turn suddenly. This could throw your car into a skid. Ease your foot off the gas until the car slows and you can feel the road again. If you need to brake, do it gently with light pumping actions. If your car has anti-lock brakes, then brake normally; the car’s computer will mimic a pumping action, when necessary.

A defensive driver adjusts his or her speed to the wet road conditions in time to avoid having to use any of these measures.

Safety – Because You Are Important!



photo by Park Ranger Michael Kuntz

This boat caught fire Dec. 4, 2006, about noon at Green Turtle Bay Marina on Lake Barkley. The Grand Lakes Fire Department from Grand Rivers, Ky., responded and extinguished the blaze. No injuries were reported and the craft was removed from Lake Barkley.