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Nashville District

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Raising the Banner at Drakes Creek

See Story Page 7



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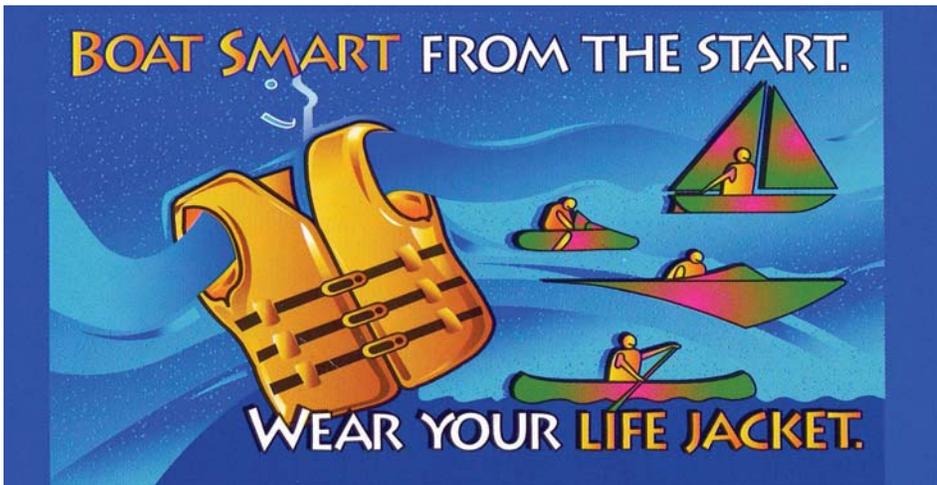


photo by Steven Foshee

On the Cover

Drakes Creek Marina Environmental Coordinator Michael Murphy (left) and Casey Wolford, wife of owner Don Wolford, proudly raise the Clean Marina Banner above Old Hickory Lake April 13. Drakes Creek became the fourth Marina in the Cumberland River Basin to earn the Corps' designation for environmental awareness and compliance steps required to become an environmental friendly marina. See page 7 for complete story.

District Digest

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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

I recently returned from three days of NSPS training. At this training, all the District Commanders in our Division participated in a mock pay pool where we simulated the process of assigning ratings and monetary shares for the senior leaders of each LRD district based on interim performance assessments. I came away from this training convinced that NSPS is a fair and consistent system that efficiently provides a mechanism to allow pay for performance.

Communication

We reviewed the records of 44 employees, focusing on objectives, self-assessments, rater's assessments, and rater's recommended ratings. A panel of 10 members (composition included seven District Commanders, two SESers and the Division Commander) reviewed the records and formulated a rating independent to the raters.

We then compiled an average rating from all the panel members and compared this average to that of the rater. In approximately seven records, there was a slight discrepancy between the recommended rating and the panel's average rating.

In each of these cases, we reviewed the record and the rater, who was on the panel, and provided additional commentary. We then made a decision to adjust up to or down from the rater's recommendation. In about half the cases, we adjusted the rating toward the rater's recommendation. For the 44 senior leaders throughout the Division, the panel endorsed a rating breakout of (17) "four" ratings and (27) "three" ratings.

There were no ratings of either "five" or "two". Individuals received monetary shares based on actual numerical (unrounded) ratings. For those receiving a rounded rating of "four", one individual received four shares and 16 individuals received three shares. For those receiving a rounded rating of "three", fourteen individuals received two shares and 13 individuals received one share.

In my opinion, the process was fair and clearly dependent on the strength of the self and rater's assessment as opposed to

the rater's actual numeric recommendation. Checks and balances with the system were evident and I believe the pay pool has the tools to distribute shares equitably, based on individual performance.

I am excited that NSPS appears to be an effective tool in managing personnel performance. Currently, all supervisors and EEO employees are under the NSPS system with the remaining GS employees scheduled to transition in February 2008. Wage grade employees will convert at a date yet to be determined.

I would like to end on a note highlighting our District problem with identity theft. We have made progress in the investigation and authorities have made arrests.

It is apparent that the majority of problems we are seeing resulted from a personnel roster from December 2001 containing personal information (SSNs, service computation dates, birthdays, positions, and salaries by name) which was



lost or stolen at least two years ago. Every employee or retired employee who was a Nashville District employee at that time is incredibly vulnerable to identify theft.

I would highly recommend that those who fall into this category immediately check their credit history and I strongly encourage everyone to use a fraud alert. Please see Connie Hardeman in Security for more details.

I would recommend that all employees, regardless of when you entered service here in the District, remain vigilant and consider obtaining all three free credit checks annually.

April Employee of the Month

Kelly Wanamaker, realty assistant in the Operations Support Branch, Real Estate Division, was named Employee of the Month for April.

Wanamaker was recently assigned additional responsibilities of compliance inspector, upon the incumbent's promotion and departure. Prior to his departure, she worked directly with the inspector by conducting approximately 30 on-site compliance inspections. This included the review monitoring of annual management plans for public park leases and development plans for commercial marina leases. She completed compliance inspection reports for all on-site inspections, including all related correspondence.

During this time, Wanamaker maintained her present duties of oversight and processing of the Agricultural Leasing Program, Consent to Easements, monitoring/issuance of Licenses, and input of payment of licenses for all projects within the Nashville District.

Her dedication and willingness to

assume additional responsibilities has allowed for a smooth transition and the continuation of the Operations Support Branch, Compliance Inspection Program.

Wanamaker's dedication and willingness to assume additional responsibilities reflects great credit on herself, the Real Estate Division, Nashville District, and the Corps of Engineers. Her actions are a great example of individuals within the Operations Support Branch, Real Estate Division, doing more with less.

Senior leaders select the District Employee of the Month from those identified



Kelly Wanamaker

by the District's chain of command. Selectees personify the seven Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage.

Employee's Quick Actions Help Save Boaters

by Dave Treadway

Shortly after midnight on Sunday, April 22, young Leonard Harris ran up the rip-rap, where he had been fishing from the bank, climbed over the security fence that surrounded the parking lot at Barkley Lock and Dam in western Kentucky and pushed the intercom button on the keypad near the front entrance.

Power Plant Operator Cynthia Martin was on duty.

"The young man was frantic and hard for me to understand," recalled Martin.

Harris told her that a boat had overturned in the tailrace and two people were in the water.

Martin rushed to the draft tube deck to confirm the report as Harris scaled another fence to reach an area where he could help with rescue efforts. She found one man wearing a life jacket in the middle discharge slot of Unit 1 clinging to a capsized boat and the second man just outside the slot who was not wearing a life

jacket. Martin and Harris quickly tossed a USACE lifebuoy ring on a rope to the man not wearing a life jacket.

"The men in the water were really scared and exhausted," said Martin.

She immediately went back inside to the control room and hit the emergency shutdown button to halt hydropower units 1 and 3 which were on line and flowing 7,200 cfs (cubic feet per second) to generate 20 MW each. She then called the Lyon County Emergency Rescue Squad. Squad members arrived minutes later.

Martin was thankful for the presence of Harris because he could attend to the men in the water and assure them that help was on the way while she was calling for emergency rescue and notifying Barkley Power Plant Specialist John East. The Kentucky State Police promptly dispatched an ambulance.

Harris and other by-standers pulled the man in the life ring to shore first and then used the same technique to retrieve the second man.

"When I arrived," said East, "the two men were in the ambulance warming up, but refused to go to the hospital."

East also found an officer from the Kentucky State Police, two deputies from the Lyon County Sheriff's Office, and several members of the Lyon County Rescue Squad on scene. Two officers with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Services (KDFWS) arrived soon after.

"The Rescue Squad and KDFWS both had boats in the water to retrieve the capsized boat."

By 2:30 a.m. the tailrace was cleared of boats and men, allowing power generation to resume.

"Cynthia Martin did an excellent job," said East, "in a very precarious situation and is to be commended for her performance. The tailrace area was very dark and it was difficult to determine exactly what was going on. The quick actions of Leonard Harris and Cynthia Martin probably saved the lives of the two men involved in the accident."

Mike Abernathy Promoted to Branch Chief

by Dave Treadway

Mike Abernathy was recently promoted to chief of the Project Support Branch, Real Estate Division.

In that role, he is responsible for the acquisition of all lands necessary for the Section 202 projects in eastern Kentucky, (Clover Fork, Cumberland County, City of Cumberland). The Branch is responsible for in-leasing of Corps lands for tower sites and field offices, and places a member on each project delivery team that has real estate requirements. Members perform gross appraisals and real estate plans, ensure local sponsors comply with P.L. 91-646 real estate acquisition laws, then do LERRD's (Lands, Easements, Rights of Way, Relocations and Disposal Areas) crediting at the end when the sponsor is given credit for any land that they already own or that they purchased so that the project could proceed.

"I plan to develop and diversify our employees," said Abernathy, "and keep

our acquisition capabilities strong here in the Nashville District."

Working with the Corps has been both enjoyable and a challenge for Abernathy.

"I like the Civil Works Projects," said the Fairview native, "and I like to see the good it does in some of these communities."

Abernathy earned his bachelors degree in finance at Middle Tennessee State in 1990.

He and wife Tiffany then moved to Charleston, S.C., where he took a position as a real estate specialist with the Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

While there he began looking for an opportunity in the Corps because he knew that was his ticket to return to Tennessee. That opportunity came in January 1997 when he took a position with the Memphis District, where he stayed until 2000 when he moved to the Louisville District and worked at Ft. Campbell until 2001. In October that year he came 'home' to the Nashville District, right where he wanted to be. He even moved back to the same

street in Fairview where he grew up.

He has two daughters, Peyton and Allison, who both enjoy barrel racing on seven horses they own and most of Abernathy's weekends are devoted to coaching them as they participate in the sport they love.



Mike Abernathy

Hallar Named Chief of Management Support Branch

by Dave Treadway

Mark Hallar was recently selected as chief of the Management Support Branch, Operations Division.

The New York native grew up in the town of Granville, graduated from high school there and then left at age 18 to attend the Indiana Institute of Technology in Ft. Wayne, In., where he earned a bachelors degree in Civil Engineering.

The new Chief got his first taste of working with the Corps of Engineers at a place far from home.

"I worked in Europe, at Nuremberg, Germany, from 1978 to 1985," revealed Hallar, "as a combat engineer in the 16th Engineer Battalion as a platoon leader and as executive officer. Then I went to work for the Director of Engineering and Housing (DEH), equivalent to Base Operations, that supports all the military personnel assigned there."

He was advanced to captain in less than three and one-half years and was assigned to work for the DEH and help administer a \$380 million program.

"That's where I first met Tom McGee," said Hallar, "who worked for the Corps of Engineers there. He and I worked hand in hand on many projects. We were renovating everything over there to get ready for the new M1 tank and a new jeep (HMMWV). We were constructing a new PX, Commissary, Schools, everything."

During his Corps career, he has been involved with a number of interesting projects.

"My trip to Iraq, where I stayed near the ancient city of Babylon while working there almost 3 months, was a very interesting assignment. A big powerplant that provided a third of the power to Iraq was a challenge to keep up and running. I worked on a water treatment plant that served towns around there. I worked with United States Agency for International Development (U.S.A.I.D.), the agency had a civil affairs team, and I helped them out with estimates and scopes of work. Right across the river was ancient Babylon, a real historic area.

"I definitely say that going over to Iraq was the most interesting because of the



Mark Hallar stands beside one of the turbines at Mussiab, Iraq, which helped supply a third of the power to the country.

time and the effort. I felt like I really had a mission to help them build their country. You were there to support them, 100 percent. You had a direct influence on them, especially if you lost that one power plant."

Another interesting project for Hallar was his first with the Corps.

"The other one would have to be Fort Drum (NY) from 1985 to 1990, my first place that I worked for the Corps of Engineers. I was a project engineer there. I had all the vehicle maintenance facilities, about 120 million dollars, the last one being about three acres under roof, you could drive an M1 tank in one end and out the other, it had an explosion-proof test room for the engines. The last year that I was there, we had a new airfield contract that was let, about a 60 million dollar project, with runway lighting and a hot refueling pad. I was responsible for all of the infrastructure. I was the supervisory civil engineer for that project."

Hallar also enjoys the small projects for a different reason.

"Another interesting thing," said Hal-

lar, "is all the little projects you work on where you can see that you save thousands and thousands of dollars. I could name all kinds of projects where you had estimates for say 200 and some thousand and you would get them done for 20 some thousand dollars. You just try to find a better mousetrap and in the process save thousands.

A framed certificate decorates Hallar's office, a testimony to his diligence and hard work. The Deputy Commander of the Corps' newest Division cited him for "meritorious service as the area engineer for the Gulf Region Division, United States Agency for International Development project office (UPO), in Hillah, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom from Jan. 15 to April 30, 2004." He was credited with "setting the stage for the strategic success of the Corps of Engineers' newest operational division, and the effective integration of Iraqi people who will influence the destiny of post-war reconstruction in Iraq."

Hallar was previously the senior civil engineer in Management Support Branch.

Drakes Creek Marina Earns ‘Clean’ Banner

story and photos by Steven Foshee

Old Hickory Lake’s Drakes Creek Marina became the fourth in the Basin to earn the right to fly the Cumberland River Clean Marina Banner, a designation that says they are environmentally responsible.

Tim O’Connell, Old Hickory natural resources specialist, and Conservation Biologist Dena Williams, District Natural Resources Management, presented the Banner April 13 to Michael Murphy, Drakes Creek environmental coordinator.

“We have worked diligently to earn the right to fly the Cumberland River Basin Clean Marina banner,” said Murphy, “and are proud of our environmental awareness.” Murphy accepted the banner on behalf of the Wolfards, owners of Drakes Creek Marina.

The Clean Marina Program is voluntary and implemented by the Corps and watershed partners (TVA, TWRA, & Cumberland River Compact) to promote environmental responsibility and good boating practices.

The program is modeled after the Tennessee Valley Clean Marina Initiative and established in support of the National Clean Boating Campaign.

Shelley Harwell, Cumberland River Compact, discussed her support of the

program designed to reduce water pollution and erosion in the Cumberland River watershed.

“It’s exciting to witness the Clean Marina Banner ceremony,” exclaimed Harwell, “as marina operators get involved in protecting the very resource that provides their livelihood.”

Williams manages the program for the Nashville District.

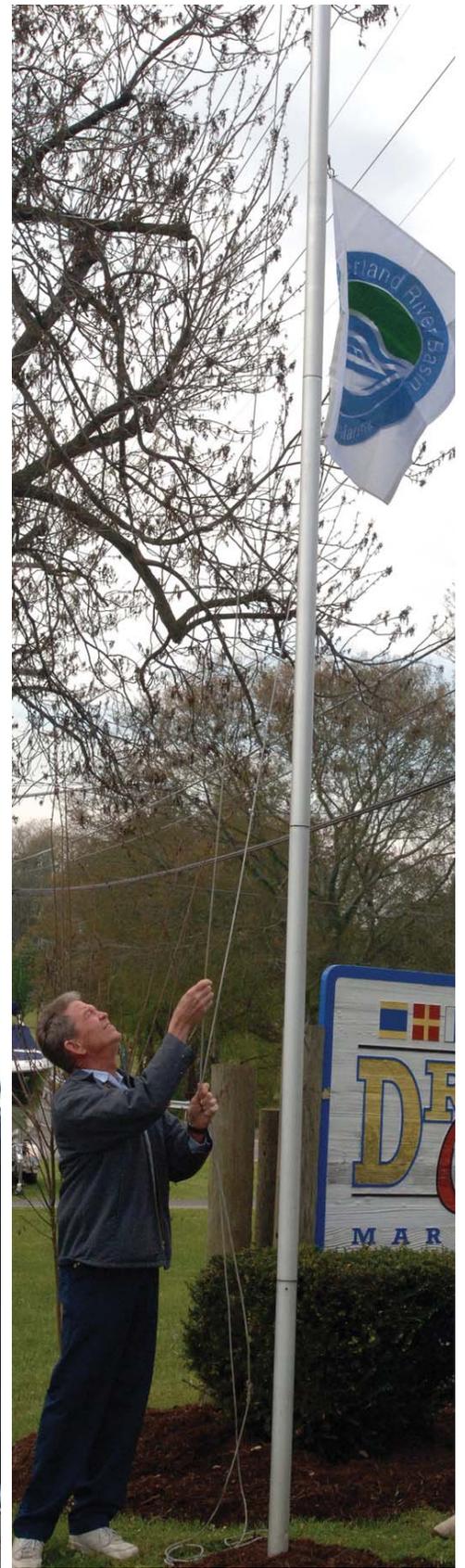
“Currently we have three other marinas (Dale Hollow’s Willow Grove, Old Hickory’s Anchor High, and J. Percy Priest’s Elm Hill) in the program,” said Williams, “and we have three more marinas that have pledged to become a Clean Marina within the next two years.

“Everyone on the staff at Drakes Creek Marina demonstrated their willingness to become involved and educate others on the importance of making sound environmental choices and I applaud the Wolfards management team,” concluded Williams.

Other marina owners interested in the program should contact their local Corps Resource Manager or Dena Williams at 615-736-7827.



Ranger Tim O’Connell (above) presents the Clean Marina Banner to Mike Murphy (center) who then raised it above the Marina as a testimony of the concessionaire’s attempt to partner with the Corps for a cleaner environment.



Partnering Efforts Benefit Wild Turkeys

by Gregg Nivens

Partnering efforts have once again proven beneficial for the Dale Hollow Resource Management Office.

They work for the sportsman, they work for land management agencies and they especially work for the wildlife at Dale Hollow.

The Lake recently received habitat equipment, a quantity of seed and tube trees from the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf).

This was made possible by local partnering efforts and project nominations submitted by the local Overton County Longbeard Chapter in Tennessee. Such local chapters are coordinated and manned by dedicated conservationists.

These conservationists are usually a group of sports enthusiasts of both genders who are more than willing, excited and also encouraged to support local public land management agencies for the enhancement of wild turkey habitat. Each year, local chapters nominate projects that are to be aided or funded by the NWTf Superfund.

Funds are made possible and available nationally through fund raisers, club sponsors and tax exempt donations during annual local heritage banquets. Each year prior to the June deadline, local club chapters can get together with federal, state, and other public land managers to submit habitat projects for nomination by state Chapters.

Since the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and National Wild Turkey Federation, was signed in 1999 by LTG



photo by Gary Bruce

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger Jamie Summers (left) accepts donated habitat seed and a plotmaster-cultivator/seeders from NWTf Tennessee Regional Director Tim Yates.

General Ballard (USACE) and Rob Keck, CEO (NWTf), the Dale Hollow Resource Staff has sought aid for a variety of habitat projects from local volunteer chapters.

Since that date, Dale Hollow has been the beneficiary of several funded projects. These conservation projects have proven vital in promoting wildlife management practices that would not have been pos-

sible without the funding and support of these local chapters.

Dale Hollow Resource has reaped the benefits of the planting of more than 4,000 hard and softwood seedlings, 300 balled and burlaped mast producing trees, 125 tube trees, more than four tons of habitat seed, lime, fertilizer, herbicide, approximately \$5,200 worth of habitat equipment and one hand-held GPS unit.

For more information about the NWTf, for seeking the appropriate point of contacts for local club chapters, partnering opportunities or memberships, call Rob Abernathy at (803) 637-3106 or visit www.nwtf.com.

Regional Directors for Tennessee are Charlie Tollet (middle TN) (931)707-0043, Tim Yates (east TN) (432)253-3227, and Mark Jackson (west TN) (615) 441-3747.

Kentucky Regional Directors are Joe Broughton (606)324-1247, Pat Cardin (270)360-9985, and Phil Rawlings (859)448-9367.



Corps Unites Pen Pals

by Dave Treadway

Eleven-year-old Allison was playing at the home of her grandmother's best friend in Hector, Ark., in 1987 when a balloon landed in the backyard. Attached to the balloon was the name Andrea Jill Ball with an address in Rock, Kan. Andrea had launched the balloon, along with 10 fifth-grade classmates under the direction of her teacher, Mrs. Burdette, hoping finders would contact the senders.

Allison sent a letter to Andrea, which initiated a lifelong diary to which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently added another chapter.

The pair, only a year different in age, shared everything: pictures, school, families, friends, boyfriends, college, marriage, and the trials of growing up.

With birthdays only a month apart, the two developed a unique relationship. "We were each other's diary," asserted Allison, now a ranger at the Corps' Russellville, Ark, project. "We asked each other for advice about dating. When we were sick, we told each other what was going on in our lives. It was a written release."

They quickly became fast friends. Several times they planned to meet but schedule conflicts always prevented it. Andrea went to college at Kansas State University and Allison studied at Arkansas Tech. Plans to attend each others' weddings and



Photo by Karla Zeutenhorst

Corps of Engineers Ranger Allison Smedley (left) and Andrea Ball get together in Washington, D.C. April 19 during a break from the USACE Water Safety Products Development Team meeting.

graduations didn't work out.

Then their big break finally came.

"I was appointed to the USACE Water Safety Products Development Team," revealed Allison. "Andrea was working in Washington and I was to help design a booth display and then help staff it at the 2005 USACE Engineer Day Picnic!"

The two quickly made plans to finally meet face-to-face after being long-distance friends for nearly 20 years.

"The bizarre thing," recalled Andrea, "is of all the times we wrote, spoke, emailed and chatted and became close friends...we never saw each other in person...until work brought her to Washington. Little did I know (in 1987), my 'penpal' would become my very dear friend and nearly 20 years later we'd be sitting and having dinner in Washington, D.C.!"

Allison brought along her Mom and new-born daughter Brooke to meet her long-time friend.

"It was great," exclaimed Andrea. "She is already one of my best friends and finally getting to meet face-to-face was icing on the cake."

"When you meet someone for the first time," said Allison, "it might be awkward but Andrea and I weren't strangers. We had so much in common. We had been friends since we were small children. It

was like we had always been together. It was a super feeling! The water safety team brought us together (in 2005) and again this year for our annual meeting in April."

Allison told Andrea, "It was so good to finally hug your neck!"

"It's interesting really how some of the most special people in your lives come into your realm in the craziest ways," concluded Andrea, who is currently the Executive Director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau in Martinsburg, W.Va.

Friends since 5th grade, and nearly age 30 before they got to exchange hugs, they are now making plans for their husbands to meet and continue the odyssey which began by chance when a balloon traveled 400 miles across three states and delivered an invitation to a little girl in Arkansas.



Andrea (left) circa 1987 and Allison as they appeared when they first began corresponding.

Dam Gets Dressing for Boating Safety Week

by Park Ranger Mark Vaughan

The Corps of Engineers and staff at J. Percy Priest Lake will promote National Safe Boating Week in a big way this year as they try to remind visitors about the importance of wearing a life jacket, also known as a Personal Flotation Device (PFD).

Plans are underway to paint a large color image on the earthen portion of J. Percy Priest Dam that will be highly visible by passing motorists on Interstate 40.

The 50' x 50' image will promote the importance of wearing a life jacket while enjoying activities on area lakes this summer. National Safe Boating Week is celebrated nationwide May 19-25. The Memorial Day weekend is typically considered the beginning of the recreational boating season.

"We are planning to paint a water safety message on the grass portion of J. Percy Priest Dam," said Park Ranger John Baird. "We chose this location because we hope it will be highly visible from Interstate 40. We hope this will remind or inspire people to wear their life jacket."

In many instances, a person may unexpectedly find themselves in the water.



The image above will be painted 'larger than life' on the earthen berm of J. Percy Priest Lake this month to coincide with National Safe Boating Week where it can easily be seen by motorists passing the dam on Interstate 40. A total of 20 people perished on Nashville District lakes last year.

The Corps of Engineers wants to remind everyone that a person's chances of survival after an unexpected entry into the water are much greater if a victim of such an event is wearing a life jacket. Individu-

als operating smaller vessels are much more likely to be involved in capsizing- or man-overboard situations, therefore it is especially important for them to don the life jacket when operating such a vessel.

"We're excited to be able to reach so many people with the 'Wear It' message on the dam," said Carolyn Bauer, Water Safety Task Force Coordinator for the Corps. "The Corps Water Safety Task Force is focused on public safety, with wearing life jackets as a top choice of having fun and being safe on the lake. It's easy to wear a life jacket with so many choices now, including light-weight inflatables. We're envisioning a shift taking place where people know that a life jacket is smart and what you wear on the lake, just like a seat belt is worn in a vehicle."

Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, wants you to have a great boating season, and wearing a properly-fitting life jacket may be the best way to start out on the safe side when on area lakes. Park Rangers at J. Percy Priest will also be out on the Lake to provide water safety promotional information and to remind boaters to just "Wear It!"

2006 Fatalities at District Projects

- Lake Barkley - 3
- Cheatham Lake - 3
- Old Hickory Lake - 1
- J. Percy Priest Lake - 2
- Cordell Hull Lake - 0
- Center Hill Lake - 1
- Dale Hollow Lake - 4
- Lake Cumberland - 6
- Laurel River Lake - 0
- Martins Fork Lake - 0

Park Ranger Mark Vaughan also arranged for a sign on Interstate 40 near the Briley Parkway exit to display the sign below during morning drive time starting the week of May 19th.

**SAFE BOATING WEEK
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
REMINDER BOAT SAFE
WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET**

Rangers Convert Tree Loss into Habitat Restoration

by Conservation Biologist Kenny Claywell

It was a gloomy February day when the Old Hickory Ranger staff received the news that a section of thirty-year-old pine forest within Rockland Recreation Area was destined for destruction.

That news came after Environmental Protection Specialist Tim O'Connell met with Nashville Electric Service (NES) about clearing the right-of-way for the DuPont feeder line leaving the Old Hickory Power Plant. The feeder line would have to cross the pine forest.

The day improved, however, when O'Connell successfully negotiated for the delivery of 100 balled and burlapped native trees to the Old Hickory Lake Greenhouse for replanting on public lands.

Once the new trees arrived, each Ranger scrambled to find the perfect location for replanting, one that would accommodate a majority of the trees. That 'perfect' location was a large 10-acre peninsula of public property designated as an Environmental Restoration and Conservation Area adjacent to a newly developed subdivision on former agricultural lands. The previ-



Rangers Courtney Wilson and Jamie Summers put the finishing touches on another planting.

ously farmed land had begun primary succession with pioneer species such as briars, green ash, honey locust, box elder and cedar trees.

After a comprehensive review of all pertinent Activity Hazard Analyses, the Ranger Team headed to Wilson County on March 21 to begin the planting operation.

The team had to first clear meandering strips around the scattered trees to create planting lanes.

By the end of the day, the Old Hickory Ranger Staff had completed a significant habitat restoration project by planting 52 trees to aid in the natural succession process.

"Not only was this a major Habitat Restoration Project," said Resource Manager Carl Crews, "but it was an excellent team-building exercise for the staff!"

To be continued.....!

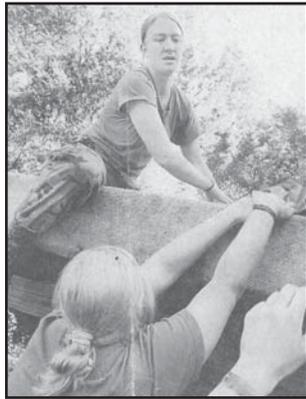


The Old Hickory tree-planting crew celebrates the end of a very successful environmental day.

photos by Crystal Tingle



CPT L. Jamie Carta



Tyler Mason, ROTC



SFC Jeff Landrum



SGT Vincent Harriman



SGT Ricardo Booker, III

Month of May Dedicated to Appreciating Servicemembers

by Gene Harper, American Forces Press Service

Both chambers of the U.S. Congress have adopted a resolution calling for Americans to recognize and honor U.S. service members during May's National Military Appreciation Month.

Virginia Rep. Tom Davis, along with 16 cosponsors, introduced Concurrent Resolution No. 328 in the House in November. The Senate agreed to it by unanimous consent April 26.

The resolution states that the House, with the Senate concurring, "supports the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month."

Finally, the resolution urges the White House Commission on Remembrance to "work to support the goals and objectives" of the month.

The Senate first passed a resolution in 1999 designating National Military Appreciation Month. That declaration summoned U.S. citizens to observe the month "in a symbol of unity, ... to honor the current and former members of the armed forces, including those who have

died in the pursuit of freedom and peace."

Traditionally, May has focused on the military in many ways. For example, Public Service Recognition Week, celebrated the first full Monday through Sunday in May since 1985, recognizes the roles of public servants, including the military, at local, state, regional and federal levels. As a part of PSRW, communities across America showcase military equipment and service members. The largest PSRW event takes place on Washington's National Mall, where more than 100 federal agencies, including the military services, put their activities, people and equipment on public display.

Armed Forces Day, created in 1949, is an annual event held on the third Saturday in May, with activities at U.S. military bases around the world.

The month culminates with Memorial Day. The day, dating from the Civil War era, traditionally has marked recognition of those who have died in service to the nation. Each year on Memorial Day, the White House Commission on Remembrance promotes one minute of

silence at 3 p.m. local time to honor the military's fallen comrades and to pay tribute to the sacrifices by the nation's service members and veterans.

Sgt. Darryl Allen Cross



MSG Kevin Taylor



Pvt. Jamie Abbamont



MAJ Brian Welch



SMN Mary Haw



SGT Jeremy Akers



SPC Matt Laster



Partnership Brings Tangible Results to J. Percy Priest Lake Trails

by Park Ranger Justin Reed

Corps of Engineers Park Ranger Justin Reed and Metro Nashville Outdoor Recreation Planner Traci Bennett-Hobek teamed up to bring the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) Trail Care Crew to the Hamilton Creek Mountain Bike Trail for a weekend workshop on J. Percy Priest Lake April 20th – 22nd.

As part of a national memorandum of understanding with the IMBA, the Corps of Engineers recognizes the benefits of sustainable trail systems and the economic benefits realized in local communities. Partnering with a national organization like the IMBA provides tangible benefits for trail users and land managers.

Attendees were amazed by the positive impact that a group of trained volunteers can have in just one weekend. Trail Care Crew representatives Ryan Shutz and Kristin Butcher conducted a weekend workshop covering topics such as trail care, planning, and building supplemented by a group ride with the local Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association chapter (SORBA).

On Friday April 20, Butcher and Shutz toured the trail and held an afternoon Land Manager's workshop at Long Hunter State Park.

On Saturday morning, the duo conducted a trail building workshop for SORBA volunteers to teach proper planning and mechanics of building sustainable trails. They talked about the proper tools to use, as well as construction techniques for a variety of trail conditions and technical skill levels. The classroom session was followed by a hands-on opportunity to put new-found knowledge to work on the trail.

Butcher and Shutz chose a poorly drained portion of the trail that was showing signs of excessive wear. Twenty hearty and enthusiastic volunteers from the Nashville and surrounding area converged on the trail to make this new, fun section a lasting legacy in the Hamilton Creek Trail System.

On Sunday morning, the IMBA crew and SORBA volunteers went for a ride on the trail, and enjoyed the fruits of their labor.



Members of the trail care crew improve J. Percy Priest's Hamilton Creek Mountain Bike Trail April 21.

Readiness Update

Deployed Personnel: Civil Emergencies: 5 GWOT: 1 Total Deployed: 6

Disaster Guarantees: 1) Eventually there WILL be a disaster the District will have to manage, 2) It WILL NOT happen at a 'good time', and 3) No TWO disasters are alike.

Preparedness Activities: Over the past year, the District staff has been working hard to incorporate lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina into the New Madrid Earthquake Operation Plan (OPLAN). The OPLAN addresses how the Nashville District will support the state of Tennessee, FEMA and USACE. A major earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone could significantly impact eight states and be felt in most of the central and eastern United States.

Over the past several months, the Crisis Management Team (Corporate Leadership)

and the Crisis Action Team (EOC staff) have participated in training to prepare for managing a disaster. To enhance the District's ability to respond to a disaster, an exercise will be conducted 19-21 Jun, to train District staff and team members on operations during the 'First 96 hours'. The first 96 hours is a critical period during disaster operations because it initiates response activities and prepares for future recovery missions.

This training is developed as an 'All Hazards' approach to prepare for any size man-made or natural disaster.

Readiness Reminder: Employees should regularly review the **Occupant Emergency Plan** and know their office reporting location in the event the Federal Building must be evacuated. Supervisors should review proper personnel accountability procedures and know how to report their status.

Readiness, it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle.

The Corps Crowd

Welcome to...

...Josh Barker, lock operator trainee, who arrived at Cheatham Lock April 2. Barker will become a full-time shift operator when he graduates from the training class in June.

...Chris Stempson, power plant mechanic A, who transferred to Center Hill Power Plant from Old Hickory.

Congratulations to...

...Alfonso Banks, son of Charyse McDaniel, Human Resources, for his performance at the La Vergne High School Track and Field Events on April 26. The sophomore won 1st Place in the Boys District 9AAA Finals for the 110 meter hurdles, while



A.J. Banks (right) takes the 110 meter hurdles.

his 4x400 meter hurdle relay team also captured 1st place. After falling during his 300 meter hurdle run, he still managed to capture 3rd place for a bronze medal. Overall, the La Vergne High School boys scored 216, and the girls added 157 points, to give them the 2007 District 9AAA Championship title.

...Christopher Taylor, lock operator at Watts Bar Lock, who was married on top of Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga on March 10 to April Howard. Chris is the son of Dale Taylor, work leader at Wilson Lock.

...Miranda and Jacob Shadrick, who were married March 24. Miranda is a student aide at Wheeler Lock.

...Denise D. Robertson, student-aide in the Information Management Office, earned her Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from Tennessee State University May 5 with a 3.0 GPA.

Baby Brigade to...

...Chester W. Lowery, instructor of the Hydropower Training Program, who

became a "GRAND-PA" for the second time in three months.

Austin Wayne Givens was born to daughter Jessica and Jason Givens on April 4, weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces, and measuring 19 inches.

...Dan Dowlen, maintenance worker at Cheatham Resource, his wife Wendy and daughter Hannah. They welcomed daughter Haylee Grace into the world on April 2. She weighed in at 8 pounds and 12 ounces.

...Bernie and Cara Lindstrom are excited to announce the birth of Ray William, born at 5:58 a.m. on March 17 in Heidelberg, Germany. Ray entered the world weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces, and measuring 19 3/4 inches. LTC Lindstrom will assume command of the Nashville District in July.

...the Craig family, upon the birth of Alana Gabrielle Craig, daughter of Jody, electrical engineer at ESS-Dale Hollow Power Plant, and Cerina Craig and the granddaughter of Larry, power project manager at Wolf Creek and Laurel Power Plants, and Gail Craig. Alana was born April 30. She weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces, and measured 20 1/4 inches.

...Bobby Bartlett, park ranger at Dale Hollow, is proud to introduce the newest additions to the family-his second and third grandchild. Hillery (20 months), daughter to Angela and Charles Treece and Jameson (3 months), son of Anita and Darnell Spann.



Austin Wayne



Ray William



Jameson and Hillery

Sympathy to ...

...Corps Retiree Ed Locket, whose wife Maxine passed away April 17.

...Larry Craig, power project manager at Wolf Creek and Laurel Power Plants, whose mother Mary F. Barber, and the grandmother of Jody Craig, electrical engineer at ESS-Dale Hollow Power Plant, passed away April 23 in Albany, Ky.

...Brent Thompson, electrician at Wolf Creek Power Plant, and Tommy Thompson, operator at Old Hickory Power Plant, whose grandmother and mother-in-law respectively, Alberta Murray, passed away April 9 at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital.

...Don Spann, retired Navigation Branch employee, whose father, Junior Spann, died April 30.

...Gary Burke, Wolf Creek Resource, whose mother-in-law, Dolores Munzf, passed away April 30 in Glenolden, Pa.

...Tonia Scott-Carney, Information Management, whose grandmother Johnnie Cox passed away May 2.

...Archeologist Rob Karwedsky, Planning Branch, Project Management Division, whose mother-in-law, Wilma Schleicher, passed away May 3.

...Lawrence Engman, Information Management, whose mother Gladys, passed away May 4.

Congratulations to Ashley Klimaszewski, Real Estate, who graduated from Tennessee State University with the highest GPA in the College of Arts and Sci-



ences. That GPA earned her the honor of parading the banner at the head of her class as she came forward to accept her bachelors degree in early childhood education. She plans to return to college in the fall to further her education.

by Ranger Richard Rice

Fantastic weather on April 21 helped contribute to a great 10th Annual Laurel Lake shore cleanup.

More than 500 volunteers, many representing a number of civic groups, gathered early at the Laurel Lake spillway, then set out with the determination of pioneers to clean up the shoreline.

Rangers Judy Daulton and Richard Rice, accompanied by Maintenance Worker Randall McFall, first briefed water safety rules, then shuttled volunteers to different drop-off points around the lake.

They were assisted by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Services and U.S. Forest Service, as well as many individual boat owners and marinas.

After registration, which began at 9 a.m., the invasion began both by land and water. What workers found, or rather what they did not find, was surprising.

Much less trash was collected this year and, according to The Friends of Laurel Lake, that may be because the community is making a difference.

When all was said and done, the \$50 gift certificate "Catch of the Day" prize, given for the most unusual piece of trash collected during the day, went to the collector of a "talking cat doll" that still worked.

Laurel County captured the coveted "Clean up Cup" award, given to the county from which came the most volunteers.

The day was not all work, however. Promptly at 1 p.m. work ended and everyone returned to the spillway, where they were treated to a lunch of hot dogs, fruit, chips and drinks, courtesy of Krogers, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Pepsi, and Eastern Kentucky Telephone.

After lunch was served by employees from partner agencies, the fun began. Prizes, donated by area businesses, were awarded to volunteers. That collection

Trash Getting Harder to Find on Laurel Lake Shores

Tourism Commission, and other concerned citizens and businesses in the area all pitched in.

Through education and community service, the event teaches the value of a clean environment. The results of the 2007 cleanup prove that such participation produces community pride where everyone wins!

Anytime you are near the water, just



included bicycles, basketballs, gift certificates, food items and others too numerous to mention.

The Friends of Laurel Lake did an excellent job organizing the event and they had lots of help. Representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Laurel and Whitley County Governments, London/Laurel County

A group of volunteers rides a pontoon boat donated by a local businessman as they return to shore April 21 with what they were able to glean from the Laurel River Lake shoreline. Shoreline cleanups are typically scheduled to coincide with Earth Day as a way to draw attention to the environment.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Nashville District
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Just To Be On The Safe Side . . . The Dog Days of Summer

Common sense tells most people that leaving a pet inside a parked vehicle on a hot, summer day could be dangerous. But most people don't realize that the temperature inside that vehicle can skyrocket after just a few minutes. Parking in the shade or leaving the windows cracked does little to alleviate this pressure cooker.

Pets, more so than humans, are susceptible to overheating. While people can roll down windows, turn on the air conditioner or exit the vehicle when they become too hot, pets can't. And pets are much less efficient than people at cooling themselves.

Dogs are designed to conserve heat. Their sweat glands, which exist on their nose and the pads of their feet, are inadequate for cooling during hot days. Panting and drinking water helps keep them cool, but if they only have overheated air to breathe, dogs can suffer brain and organ damage after just 15 minutes.

Tips for pet owners

- Don't leave pets in parked cars for any period of time. On a warm day, even with the windows cracked, the temperature in a car can reach 120° in a matter of minutes. Dogs and cats can't perspire and can only dispel heat by panting and through the pads of their feet.

- It is very dangerous, and in some states illegal, to drive with a dog in the back of a pick-up truck. Not only can flying debris cause serious injury, but a dog may be thrown into traffic if the driver suddenly hits the brakes, swerves, or is hit



by another car. Dogs should ride either in the cab (in a crate or wearing a seat belt harness designed for dogs) or in a secured crate in the bed of the truck.

- Summer is often a time when people fertilize their lawns and work in their gardens. But beware: plant food, fertilizer, and insecticides can be fatal if ingested by your pet.

- Make sure your pet is always wearing a collar and identification tag. If you are separated from your pet, an ID tag may very well be his or her ticket home.

- Check with your veterinarian to see if your pets should be taking heartworm prevention medication. Heartworm disease, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, can be fatal in both dogs and cats.

- Pets and pools can equal disaster. Prevent free access to pools and always supervise a pet in a pool.

- Provide plenty of water and shade for your pets while they're enjoying the great outdoors so they can stay cool.

- If you plan to travel with your pet during the summer, take time to prepare

for your furry friends in advance. Many airlines have summer pet embargoes, and most trains and ships do not allow pets unless they are service animals.

- Pets need exercise even when it is hot, but extra care needs to be taken with older dogs, short-nosed dogs, and those with thick coats. On very hot days, limit exercise to early morning or evening hours. Keep in mind that asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws.

- Another summertime threat is fleas and ticks. Use only flea and tick treatments recommended by your veterinarian. Some over-the-counter products can be toxic, even when used according to instructions.

- Pets can also get sunburn, and your pet may require sunscreen on his or her nose and ear tips. Pets with light-colored noses or light-colored fur on their ears are particularly vulnerable to sunburn and skin cancer.

- Don't take your pets to crowded summer events such as concerts or fairs.

The loud noises and crowds, combined with the heat, can be stressful and dangerous for pets.

