



PReserver

News for the U.S. Army Reserve Environmental Community



65th RRC receives the Army Community of Excellence Award

Five winners were honored in May for being the best in the Army as winners of the 2008 Army Communities of

Excellence (ACOE) competition. First place went to Fort A.P. Hill, VA; second place to Fort George G. Meade, MD, and third place went to U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan in the Republic of Korea. Then there were the special category winners which included the Virginia Army National Guard and the **65th Regional Readiness Command** (RRC) headquartered at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico respectively.

The team members responsible for making this award possible are Col. Jesus Galvez, Lt. Col. Lucilla Ibarra, Lt. Col. Frederick Vazquez and Command Sergeant Major Rene Rivera.

“Our communities - our posts, camps and stations - support our Soldiers. They’re not just power projection platforms, they’re homes,” said Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody, who presented the awards to the commanders of the winning installations. “A community of excellence is a community that provides a quality of life for our Soldiers, Families and civilians that is equal to the quality of their service to this nation.”

Along with a trophy and a flag, the 65th RRC received a check for \$750,000. The money is meant for investing in future services and improving the overall quality of life for the communities.

The annual ACOE Awards recognize performance excellence in installation management by Army Garrisons.

Participants are judged against the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Program Criteria for Performance Excellence and not against each other. Winning installations are selected by an independent panel of six judges, based on the evaluation of the installations’ written applications and additional information gathered during site visits by examiner teams.

“We are extremely proud of these installations for preparing themselves and holding themselves up to the critical self-evaluation that is the true value of the ACOE program,” said Maj. Gen. John A. MacDonald, deputy commander of the Installation Management Command. “This award represents the pride and dedication the IMCOM garrison workforce brings to making our installations the kind of home our Soldiers and Families deserve.”

*Article by CPT Anthony John
1st MSC PAO*

General Richard A. Cody, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, presents the \$750,000 representative check to Brigadier General David S. Elmo, Commander of the 1st Mission Support Command (formerly the 65th RRC) for having won the Army Community of Excellence Award in the Special Category for being the best in the US Army Reserve. Holding the accompanying trophy is Command Sergeant Major Macial O. Felix, CSM of the 1st MSC. Colonel Jesus Galvez, the team leader of the group that was responsible for putting the winning packet together stands next to Major General John A. MacDonald, the Deputy Commanding General of US Army Installation Management Command.

Photo taken by: CPT Anthony John,
1st MSC PAO



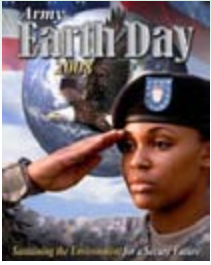
The PReserver Newsletter is a functional bulletin authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1 for members of the United States Army Reserve Command (USARC). It is published quarterly by the Army Reserve to provide the Total Army Reserve Environmental Community with information on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of and about the U.S. Army Reserve Environmental Division. This publication has a circulation of 300 printed copies and an internet access point.

Manuscripts of interest to U.S. Army personnel are invited. Direct communication is authorized to ACSIM-ODR Environmental, 2511 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202-3926

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9th MSC Army Reserve Soldiers Clean Up for Earth Day

The Army Reserve's 9th Mission Support Command (MSC) and several other organizations partnered with the City and County of Honolulu April 19 for the Pearl Harbor Bike Path Clean-Up to promote awareness of Hawaii's fragile ecosystem.

9th MSC volunteers cleaned the one-mile stretch of bike path, which prevented unwanted debris from polluting the environment where we work, live and play.

The one-mile section is regularly covered with common trash items and

in serious need of clean-up. This was one of many community clean-up opportunities coordinated by the City & County of Honolulu during April, or Earth Month. It also coincided with Army Earth Day.

The annual Army Earth Day is acknowledged as a time to reflect on our deeds and achievements with respect to the environment, and to renew and energize our efforts for the future.

However, this year Earth Day for the 9th MSC was celebrated a little differently. Those who attended were definitely prepared for a day in the dirt, and the soldiers were more than willing to assist.

9th MSC volunteers were actively engaged with cleaning the bike path and restoring its unsightly appearance while extending the command's environmental vision to the community. Many of the passersby expressed their gratitude for the clean-up effort and their support for the cause.

For all volunteers, secondary effects of the event were educational, influential, and most of all an inspiration for future generations. The most common response regarding the event was that we all need to be concerned about sustainability and the ecological impact from the human footprint.

"I wanted to be a part of the community, and represent the Army Reserve for a good cause," said Col. Stacey Yamada who brought his 8 year-old son Brian. "My son will inherit the earth that I leave him, and despite all



Earth Day volunteers ready to clean up!



Kunieda USARC, Hilo Soldiers PV2 Jeffrey Aurelio (left) and SGT Kevin Hiles (right) looking over the Earth Day Display (photo courtesy of Sharon Kuniyoshi)

of the eco-friendly activities we do, this was a hands-on experience that (Brian) will hopefully carry on."

The event was consistent with the 9th MSC's environmental policy statement.

"(We) will strive to be a leader in environmental stewardship as an integral part of our mission" said Brig. Gen. Alexander I. Kozlov, Commander of the 9th MSC.

The event was showcased in our annual Earth Day exhibit, with resource conservation and green procurement. Gifts and prizes from the USAR Environmental Program were distributed to all 9th MSC Reserve Centers, and to personnel and soldiers who participated in the exhibit.

A big Mahalo (thank you) to all of the 9th MSC volunteers, and Earth Day participants!

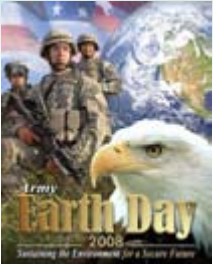
*Article and photos by Amanda Barbier
9th MSC Environmental Specialist*



Ssg Jerry Reyes on the bike path



Kunieda USARC, Hilo Environmental Compliance Officer Mr. Henri Keen (photo courtesy of Sharon Kuniyoshi)



90th RRC Active in several Earth Day events

Earth Day 2008 was an exciting time for the 90th RRC environmental staff this year. Participating in several activities across the area allowed the command to communicate to the public its commitment to environmental stewardship.

This year the 90th RRC was able to participate in the Arkansas Earth Day Festival held at the President William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Library in downtown Little Rock, Arkansas. The event drew thousands of visitors from all over the state where the 90th RRC environmental section set up one of many booths that displayed environmentally-friendly projects taking place across the command. They also gave away recycled promotional items and Army Earth Day posters. The event proved very successful in getting the

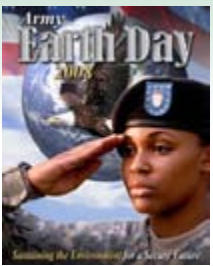


The 90th RRC's booth at the Arkansas Earth Day Festival

word out about what the 90th RRC environmental section is all about.

Aside from the Earth Day festival, several of the environmental section staff visited local schools giving out useful items made from recycled materials and discussing with students ways they can help protect our environment.

*Article and photo by Brad Fischer
90th RRC Environmental Specialist*



ACSIM-ODR Back to school for Earth Day

Forty-eight smiling faces—what a great way to start Earth Day at Roy Allen Elementary. Mrs. Santo's first grade class and Mrs. Downs and Ms. LaFon's fourth graders were excited to kick off a little Earth Day fun.

The first graders participated in a recycling activity and listened to a story about the rainforest ecosystem. We held surprisingly in-depth conversations about recycling, product reuse, species conservation, pollution, eco-friendly products, and many other not-so-first grade topics. We talked about how the Army Reserve protects threatened and endangered species; they were especially interested in the burrowing owl, kit fox, tiger salamander, and red-legged frog at Camp Parks. It was refreshing to see such a young group

of kids so eager to learn about the environment.

The fourth graders seemed to enjoy hearing a story that I used as an example of why you should avoid exotic plants and animals—I showed pictures of a python (non-native) in the Everglades that “exploded” when it ate an alligator. They were partly amused, partly grossed out. The kids participated in a word scramble and we talked about many of the ways that the Army Reserve is working to protect the environment and then brainstormed about the ways that they can help at home and school.

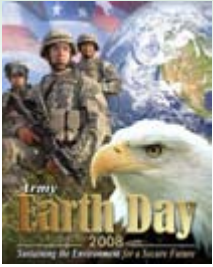
Each student received a goody bag—Frisbees, pens, pencils, seed packets, chocolates, T&E bookmarks. The teachers were given two eco-friendly t-shirts, made from organic cotton or



recycled materials, to be used for prizes within the classroom... these were very popular.

The classes were given the opportunity to vote for a species to adopt in their class name at the Brevard Zoo. The fourth graders adopted the otter, while the first graders chose the bobcat. In addition to the animal adoptions, ten Lodgepole pines and Douglas firs per class will be planted in the Gallatin National Forest through a donation program sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

*Article and photo by Sara Jackson
ACSIM-ODR Environmental Contractor*



1st MSC

Fort Buchanan Comes Clean

Individuals can make a difference. Those were the words of Rudy E. Stine, Chief, SERO Environmental Branch, IMCOM Southeast region. The trick is - sustainability.

Stein provided attendees of the Fort Buchanan's 2008 Earth Day celebration an insight to the effect of human population and their subsequent demands on the environment.

Speaking on behalf of Fort Buchanan, Command Sergeant Major David Davis, also said, "The new Army strategy for the environment — sustain the mission, secure the future— establishes a long-range vision that enables the Army to meet its mission today and into the future. Sustainability is the foundation for the strategy that focuses on our thinking to address both present and future needs while strengthening community partnerships that improve our ability to support our soldiers and the mission."

"The Army strategy for the environment does not pretend to dictate all the answers. It is only the starting point that commits Army leaders at all levels to certain goals and challenges them to develop innovative methods to achieve these goals," Davis said.



A creative use of "recycled" materials on display at Fort Buchanan's Earth Day event.

The 2008 celebration was held at Fort Buchanan's Community Club. Planned and coordinated by the garrison's DPW Environmental Office, the event featured many agencies from the garrison and the Puerto Rico community who are intimately involved with bringing attention and remedies to a sustainable environment. Information and displays ranged from animals (snakes, turtles and birds) to artwork created from discarded materials.

There was also a lot of printed information attendees were encouraged to take with them that addressed the many facets of environmentalism. Earth Day is just not a single day reminder of what sustaining the environment means. It is the 365th day of a year-long commitment by Fort Buchanan to practice the principles within the concept. The Army leads the way in demonstrating that it is possible to live in an earth friendly way.

*Article by Marc McCormick
Fort Buchanan El Morro*



The DPW Environmental Division of Fort Buchanan honors the guest speakers with an appreciation award. From L to R: Alicia Navedo, Rudy Stine, James Cobb, and Anibal Negron.



A woman attending Buchanan's Earth Day activity holds a friendly snake. There were several snakes, turtles and birds on hand for visitors to view close up.



Students from Antilles High School participated in a fashion show. The clothes they are wearing are made from recycled and used clothing as well as newspaper and plastic bag materials.



The Fort Buchanan 2008 Earth Day celebration had excellent participation. Those joining in the festivities included:

- DPW Environmental Division
- Environmental Protection Agency
- United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (Rio Piedras)
- United States Geological Survey
- U.S. Coast Guard/Sea Partners Community Outreach
- Environmental Quality Board of Puerto Rico
- IMCOM South East Region
- Army Environmental Command
- PRDNER Rangers
- National Weather Service- NOAA
- PRDNER Forest Service San Juan
- Antilles High School Environmental Science Display, Wildlife photography contest winners, Biology class display
- Elementary School
- Child Youth Services Child Development Center, Teen Center, School Age Services, Middle School Program



Camp Parks Educates Open House visitors on programs

Camp Parks held its Earth Day activities this year on April 19, 2008, in conjunction with Camp Parks' Open House to celebrate the Army Reserve's 100th birthday.

While visitors enjoyed the 91st Division band, a jump house, a video game demonstration on impaired driving, and booths on Improvised Explosive Devices, they were also pleased to see booths featuring Camp Parks' Recycling Program, flora and fauna, and threatened, endangered, and protected species.

Over a few hundred visitors passed through the Environmental displays, including military families, the surrounding community, and the Dublin Mayor. The booths were manned by four environmental professionals from Camp Parks, all of which assisted with questions by visitors about the environmental programs.

At the recycling booth, visitors enjoyed a wide variety of goodies made of 100% recycled materials (bags, pens, pencils, bottle openers, native seed packets, and lanyards). Children were given crayons and coloring books, which contained information on recycling and how they could do their



part to prevent pollution and to reduce the waste of valuable resources. There were also informational handouts and a display showing the recycling efforts at Camp Parks.

Next to the recycling booth were the displays of the plants and animals that could be found at Camp Parks. Children, as well as adults, were fascinated with the types of creatures living on the installation. Several visitors pointed to the pictures on display, and cited their favorite animal. Questions about

Camp Parks garrison Commander LTC John Cushman admires the Camp Parks flora and fauna display

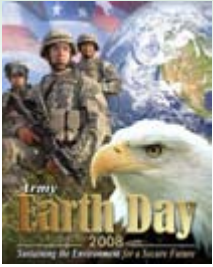


Michelle Gebel of the CSTC Environmental Dept. educates visitors about threatened species

animals included the amount living at Camp Parks, the types of food they eat, the area on the installation they are located, and how long they had existed in the area.

Aerial photographs sparked interest in many local residents, as they were amazed at the size of the installation near their homes, but expressed their understanding for the need to train soldiers. Visitors were impressed by the examples shown and how the environmental programs help the local community, the environment, and those who train at Camp Parks presently and in the future.

*Article by John Billecci and Michelle Gebel
Camp Parks Environmental Specialists*



Fort Dix Trees do more than you “wood” think!

On April 19, 2008 over 500 guests at Fort Dix learned how trees enhance our lives and provide us with hundreds of everyday products. With 90 volunteers and presenters, the Fort Dix Environmental Division and Natural Resource Office were able to present a variety of topics all themed around the concept of “Trees do more than you wood think.”

Guests attending the event had the chance to meet Smokey Bear, watch a sawmill in action, learn about “goods from the woods,” observe chainsaw and decoy carvers at work, take interpretive hikes with naturalists from local Nature Centers, investigate trees of the New Jersey Pine Barrens, interact with live animals, learn to read tree cookies, and even get harnessed up and climb a tree.

One of the main highlights of the day were the van tours to Fort Dix’s Champion Sweetgum tree. At 108 feet tall and over 18 feet around, this 289 year old tree has earned its title as the New Jersey Champion Sweetgum.



Ken Taffee, Joe Schwartz & Bill Lewendowski lead tours to the oldest Sweetgum tree in NJ.

The event, held at Laurel Pond, also featured a new puppet show written by Natural Resource Management Scientist Roger Smith, and performed by the Woodland Creature Theatre cast. During lunch guests were entertained by local musicians playing wooden instruments such as a didgerie doo and Native American style flutes.

Fort Dix Outdoor Recreation sponsored canoeing on the pond throughout the day and the Arts & Crafts Center, with Child & Youth Services, hosted a tent with four different activities. The USCG Atlantic Strike Team was also on hand to give demonstrations and showcase their new robotics.

As a part of the national Earth Day Groceries Project (www.earthdaybags.org) two local supermarkets donated paper bags for kids to decorate with Earth Day messages about products that trees provide. The bags were returned to the stores and used to bag groceries on National Earth Day.

And, if these activities didn’t provide enough action guests could attend a prescribed burn led by Roger Smith and the Fort Dix Fire Department. After a discussion on wildfire ecology and the importance of fire management, the crew prescribe-burned an area adjacent to Laurel Pond.

In addition to the Earth Day activities at Laurel Pond, Fort Dix Elementary School also celebrated National Environmental Education Week from April 14-19. Jennifer Tronco-Armento and Mike Dunphy from the Natural Resources Office visited the school throughout the week to give lessons for grades K-3. The kids got a chance to become a living tree factory, plant



Roger Smith demonstrates a prescribed burn & discusses fire ecology.



Jessica Tronco & Mary Santiago show how to read tree rings and help kids make their own tree cookies.

Tree Experts show kids a birds-eye-view of what it’s like to work in a tree.



seedlings, play games about tree life cycles, and make tree cookies of their own lives.

Earth Day and Environmental Education Week are just one part of the Natural Resource Continuing Education Program at Fort Dix. The office hosts summer camp activities, a nest box monitoring program, a volunteer program, distributes brochures featuring Natural Resource related topics, and publishes a species of the month to educate the community about the flora and fauna of Fort Dix.

Article by Jennifer Tronco-Armento

Fort Dix Natural Resources

Photos by Jennifer Tronco-Armento, Joe Schwartz, Josh Smith, and Aaron Smith

Twelve hundred Soldiers, family members and support staff from the Army Reserve's **9th Mission Support Command (MSC)** participated in the first annual Spring Festival at Fort Shafter Flats, Hawai'i May 10 with music, food, and children's activities.



The Halau performing for the Spring Festival

The 9th MSC's Environmental Division celebrated with something else in mind, to educate the audience and to reduce the waste impact of the event.

With the event close to Earth Day, the Environmental Division did as much as possible to "green" the festival.

The Spring Festival was an opportunity to be eco-friendly, with minimal waste for disposal, and it established a foundation for future events at the 9th MSC to have a solid environmental focus.

Every trash bin at the event was partnered with a recycling bin, tripling our monthly recycling quota in less than eight hours. In close coordination with the promoter and suppliers to the event, the Environmental Division found cost-effective food service items that were either biodegradable, contained recycled content, or were recyclable. Aluminum and other easily renewable items were used instead of Styrofoam and certain hard-to-recycle plastics.

"I think the best product was the plates made from sugar cane fibers," said Marybeth Racette, 9th MSC Environmental Division Recycling Manager "However my focus is the recycling bins, everyone is keeping me busy, feeding the blue bins."

All of the attendees were very receptive to the recycling bins, and pleased that the event incorporated eco-concepts from design to execution.



Marybeth Racette hosts the Environmental Booth

Spring Festival creates opportunity for environmental education and Eco-friendliness



Making paper leis with the Halau



Recycled gifts for the attendees

The Environmental Division hosted a booth with earth-friendly prizes for the keiki (Hawaiian for children), paper lei making, and hula dancing by Na 'Opio 'O Ko'olau Hula Halau from Honolulu.

The Environmental Division's booth provided a cultural and ecological educational outlet for Army Reserve Soldiers, family members and civilian staff.

Environmental Division employees interacted with attendees providing environmental tips and facts for their home, office and daily routine. They also answered questions about the environmental programs managed by the division.

The Spring Festival was a success on all fronts. Soldiers and family members enjoyed the event and learned about environmental issues and sustainability.

*Article and photos by Amanda Barbier
9th MSC Environmental Specialist*

Restoring a Piece of the Valley

The 88th RRC works to keep the native green

Nearly 190 years ago, in 1819, the 5th Regiment of Infantry arrived at the junction of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers. In 1825, Colonel Josiah Snelling's officers and soldiers completed construction of what is now known as Fort Snelling and permanently changed the landscape.

Since that time, millions of people have come to live in what is now the Minneapolis-St. Paul Twin Cities area bringing with them plants from around the planet. Not all of those plants were welcome.

The invasive garlic mustard, a plant native to Europe, was first recorded in the United States about 1868, on Long Island, New York. It was likely introduced by settlers for food or medicinal purposes. A biennial, garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata* (M. Bieb.) frequently occurs in moist, shaded soil of river floodplains, forests, along roadsides, trails and forest openings. Native ephemeral wildflowers that complete their life cycles in the springtime (e.g., trilliums, wild ginger, bloodroot, Dutchman's breeches, and hepatica) occur in the same type of habitat as garlic mustard. Once established in an area, the invading garlic mustard dominates native plants by aggressively monopolizing light, moisture and nutrients. It is easily

recognized by its triangular to heart-shaped leaves that give off a distinct garlic odor when crushed.

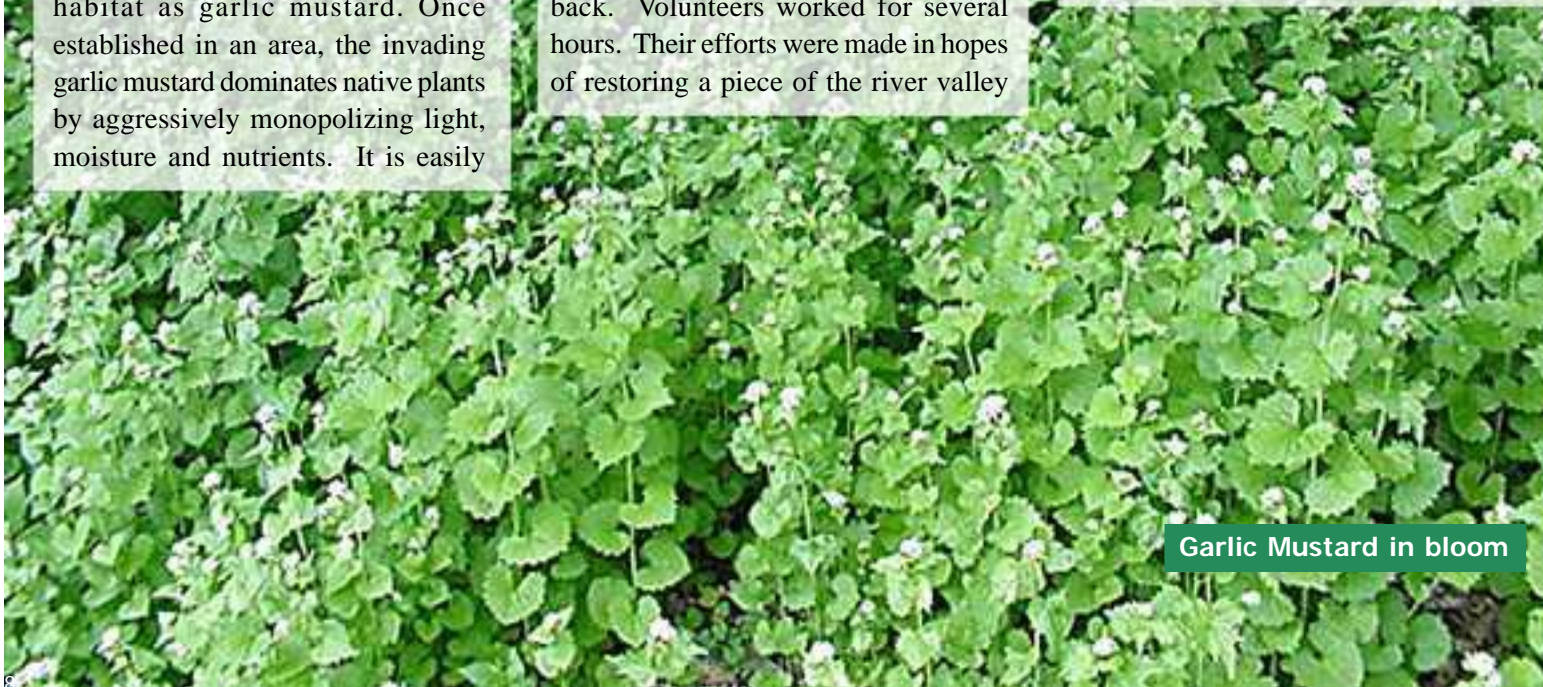
On May 3rd, 2008, volunteers from the **88th RRC**, joined with several other groups of volunteers in the statewide GreenTouch State Park Clean-up Program. Contractor Vicki Dvorak, Water Program Manager for the 88th RRC, recruited and organized our volunteer team of fifteen people, which included Jean Dietz, Environmental Planner, Morgan Mains, Systems Integrator and 88th RRC Troop Program Unit (TPU) Soldier Lisa Ahnefeld. They were accompanied by friends and family members. Upon arrival at Fort Snelling State Park, the volunteers were offered the option of performing three tasks including buckthorn removal, rubbish collection and pulling garlic mustard. The majority of the team was brought to an infestation area within the park where they were introduced to the invasive species and instructed how to pull the plants so they would not have the opportunity to grow back. Volunteers worked for several hours. Their efforts were made in hopes of restoring a piece of the river valley



back to the way that Colonel Snelling, his officers and soldiers may have found this very same ground nearly 190 years ago.

After the cleanup, the group gathered in front of the Fort Snelling State Park Visitors center for a photo and lunch. Those present in the photo (above) include (L to R) Cindy Miller (friend of Vicki Dvorak), Greg Dvorak (husband of Vicki Dvorak), Vicki Dvorak, Sophie Macklem-Johnson (friend of Alexa Dietz), Alexa Dietz (daughter of Jean Dietz), Alex Kallal (son of Vicki Dvorak), Jean Dietz, on the far right- 88th TPU Lisa Ahnefeld standing with her children to her right, Eric Dvorak (nephew of Vicki Dvorak) (kneeling).

*Article by the 88th RRC
Environmental Division Staff*



Garlic Mustard in bloom