



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Nashville District

# DistrictDigest

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*Relevant-Ready-Responsive-Reliable*

October 2006

## EAGLEs Build for Others

*See Story on Page 6*



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photo by Dave Treadway

## On the Cover

EAGLE classmates Tim Dawson, (left) and Courtney Wilson prepare to cut a piece of siding so that other members of the class (background) can place the material on one of six storage sheds in the Providence Park neighborhood. Class members worked September 13 with Habitat for Humanity. For complete story, see page 6.

## 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



We just completed a successful close-out for the fiscal year. I am proud of Nashville District's accomplishments; some of which include our program execution rates, fiscal efficiencies, small business achievements, strategic relationships, operational status of our projects, positive recreational opportunities, environmental protection and support to emergency deployments. All of these areas have metrics that show success and they enable us to quantify progress towards achieving our overall mission of protecting people from water, protecting water from people and making water useful in the Tennessee-Cumberland River Basins. I would like to thank each one of you for your contributions toward accomplishment of the mission.

I am excited about the future of the District, in terms of achieving the standards we have set for ourselves. I am even more excited about our goals and the opportunities we will face in FY07, and

## Communication

beyond. We definitely have challenges, some of which are NSPS implementation, integration of the most efficient organization (MEO) in Information Management, aging infrastructure with a flat line Operations & Maintenance budget, Dam safety, and maintaining emphasis on our safety program. Within all these challenges, we have numerous opportunities to excel and to continue with the growing strength of the District.

The Nashville Business Plan contains initiatives and metrics that shape our course for the coming fiscal year. Highlights of the various initiatives include: continuation of the Tennessee-Cumberland River System Study, initiation of construction at Wolf Creek and Center Hill, emphasis on leadership training, integration of lean-six sigma into District operations, continued emphasis on New Madrid earthquake planning, utilization of asset management within Operations projects and increasing our regional interdependence within our Division.

As we progress through our new fiscal year, I look forward to providing updates

on the status of these and other initiatives. I also intend to continue my support and commitment to equal opportunity and creating the best working climate for all employees.

As part of this working climate, I need to solicit your support in the engagement with our safety program. This continuing effort requires everyone's involvement. We had too many people hurt in accidents last year and I want to prevent that this year. I need everyone's support and engagement in creating a positive safety climate in our workplace. I am absolutely committed to reducing our accidents by 50 percent and further integrating risk

management into District operations. I am looking forward to this opportunity to excel and I want to do so with everyone's assistance. I am sure we will meet all our goals for this coming year, and I want you to take strength in this commitment with the knowledge that we have such a highly dedicated and skilled workforce. I am very proud to be your commander. Essayons.

## September Employee of the Month

Roy Joines, lock and dam equipment mechanic supervisor and chief of the Repair Party in Navigation Branch, Operations Division, was named Employee of the Month for September.

Joines performed especially commendable work in responding to an emergency when a barge accident in the Wilson Lock



**Roy Joines**

main chamber resulted in extensive, multi-million dollar damages to the upper lift gate, lift chains, lock machinery, and riverward lock wall.

Work could not begin until the damaged barge loaded

with highly volatile xylene was secured and removed. Joines supervised and directed the repair work through both hired labor and contractors. He also demonstrated creativity, innovative technical applications, and sound management decisions to resolve numerous issues associated with this accident, which were unprecedented.

The accident caused the most substantial damages ever inflicted to the chamber of Wilson Lock Main. Joines' outstanding leadership, work ethic, courage, and selfless service around the clock under adverse conditions reflected positively on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Senior leaders select the District employee of the Month from the many excellent employees 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.

## Corps Exhibit Added to Wolf Creek Fish Hatchery

The remodeled Wolf Creek Fish Hatchery, owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and located just below Wolf Creek Dam, will soon contain a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Exhibit, thanks to the hard work of several District employees.

When invited to add the exhibit, Carolyn Bauer, Natural Resources Management, began assembling materials for four 'pieces': the Corps Mission, the story of Wolf Creek Dam, the value of Recreation

customers and the impact of Water Quality on the aquatic environment.

She was assisted by Larry Craig, Sammy Alley, Velma Cross and Marshall Jennings, without whom she "could not have pulled it off." A photo of Connie Flatt's husband and son is even prominently featured with prize fish taken from Lake Cumberland.

Southern Custom Exhibits delivered the finished product to James Gray (USFWS).

# Lakes Host Volunteers for National Public Lands Day

by Ranger Tadd Potter

Organizers could not have ordered better weather with which to celebrate National Public Lands Day (NPLD), the nation's largest annual coast-to-coast, single-day volunteer restoration effort, at Cheatham Lake on September 30. A total of 94 volunteers decided to roll up their sleeves and devote their day to improving both an interpretive trail located next to Sam's Creek in Ashland City and the Harpeth River Bridge Campground.

A total of 175 native plants were placed in man-made berms that surround the interpretive trail. With the help of adults, each specimen was carefully planted by the hands of Tiger Cubs, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts from areas in middle Tennessee. Volunteers assembled 20 bluebird houses and mounted 10 on 4X4 posts. They also installed an interpretive bulletin board near the head of the trail along with a park bench so visitors could relax and enjoy the new native plants.

The Harpeth River Bridge Campground was given attention when 21 Scouts from Pack 566 decided to camp overnight and construct park benches at the shoreline.

Each volunteer was urged to work up an appetite since 26 pounds of barbecue, 4.5 gallons of baked beans, and 3 gallons of cole slaw were served. Many did just that and made their way through the line for a second helping.

As the day came to a close, many volunteers asked about working NPLD 2007. Planners at Cheatham are eagerly looking forward to next year's event.

by Ranger Lindsey Houchens

More than 130 volunteers donated time and energy to Old Hickory Lake September 30 to make the event a huge success. Volunteers began arriving shortly after 8 a.m. and worked throughout the morning.

Volunteers completed five different projects consisting of shoreline cleanup and removal of more than 70 bags of trash, removal of hundreds of exotic invasive plants such as privet and bush honeysuckle from Rockland Recreation Area, re-strip-

ping of parking lots at Stark Knob and Sandersville Launch areas, maintenance/cleanup of trails and the planting of native perennials at the Environmental Study Area.

Their efforts contributed in making the Old Hickory environment and natural resources better for our visitors.

*Nine Nashville District projects had NPLD events with 1,619 volunteers donating 7,612 hours of service with a value of*

**Lake Barkley hosted 30 volunteers, most of whom were local Girl Scouts (right). They planted 20 trees in a new loop at Canal campground. When they finished planting trees, they collected garbage along the shoreline of the canal that connects Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake, enough to fill two trucks.**

*\$137,320.48 - numbers that represent double what the District had last year! Look for more results in the next issue.*



photo by Ranger Brian Mangrum



photo by Dave Treadway

**Representatives from the Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and the Cumberland River Compact inspect Anchor High Marina on Old Hickory Lake September 14 with co-owners Buddy Wilkins and Justin Miller. The Marina is attempting to earn Clean Marina certification to help protect the Old Hickory Lake environment. With that certification comes the right to fly the Cumberland River Clean Marina flag.**

# NSPS Implementation Dates Set

by MG Ronald L. Johnson, deputy chief of engineers and deputy commanding general

I wanted to make you aware of some very recent developments in the implementation of the National Security Personnel System (NSPS) as it relates to USACE. In a memorandum dated 15 June 2006, Secretary Harvey directed **all** Army Commands to implement NSPS for specific numbers of employees in Spiral 1.2. The Chief is fully committed to USACE doing its share. Thus, we have notified the Army NSPS Program Management Office of our commitment to transition the following organizations and categories of employees to NSPS IAW designated dates:

## January 21, 2007

All USACE supervisors, **excluding** Wage System and Maritime supervisors **and** those in GRD, AED and the Engineer Research and Development Center

(Nashville District Supervisors must select one of three scheduled courses to effect the required training; 1) October 30-31, 2) November 15-16, or 3) November 20-21.)

**All non-bargaining unit and non-supervisory** employees assigned to the following locations –

Headquarters, USACE  
Humphreys Engineer Support Center  
USACE Finance Center  
Transatlantic Command  
249<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion  
Institute for Water Resources

## April 15, 2007

All USACE non-Wage System and non-supervisory employees assigned to the Logistics High Performing Organization

All non-bargaining unit, non-Wage System and non-supervisory employees in the *following locations:*

Pacific Ocean Division, except for Japan District, Far East District and Alaska District South Atlantic Division, except for Savannah District, Mobile District, Charleston District and Wilmington District, Omaha District of the Northwestern Division.



I understand that those employees who are directly affected

by this decision want as much specific information as possible. If you haven't already done so, please take a look at the NSPS website at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps> for information. You are also welcome to contact your local Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

By implementing NSPS in this manner, we not only demonstrate leadership by example, but we also establish a learning base across the entire Command, and simplify the delivery of training. This will give implementation the best chances for success.

Working together, we have an opportunity to do this right. I appreciate your continued support.

## Trio Helps Restore Home in Gulfport, Mississippi

Over the Labor Day weekend, three Nashville District employees traveled to the Gulfport, Miss., area to assist local residents in their post-Katrina reconstruction efforts. Myrna King – Information Management, (from left) Dane Owens – Internal Review, and Gail Floyd – Resource Management, along with five other members of the workgroup, were sent to help at the Long Beach home of the Allen Childress family.

The Childress' former 1,000-square-foot home was destroyed leaving only the pilings and three walls standing after the 23-foot-high flood waters retreated from this beachfront town. But through the efforts of volunteer workers, their new 2,300-square-foot home is closer to completion.

This family decided to stay and rebuild, while most of the neighboring lots held only broken trees or buildings left unrepaired by families who decided not to return.

Allen said he returned to the area two days after the storm to find water and mud covering what used to be his home. He continues to work seven days a week as a

heavy equipment operator helping others clear their property, while trying to build his own home. He said rebuilding has been a very slow process because of his

work schedule and the high cost of building supplies, but with the help of volunteers he hoped to have his family out of the FEMA trailer by Christmas.



# Helping Build Som

by Cory Richardson

I awoke September 13 to a sky threatening rain, which caused me a little worry for lack of rain gear. But as Chris Taylor and I finished breakfast, the sky cleared and it promised to be a beautiful day. As we arrived at the Providence Park job site to find most of the 2006 EAGLE class already there, the subdivision was buzzing with activity. Many homes had already been constructed, each one a little different from the rest. Families occupied finished homes and children there seemed accustomed to the presence of front end loaders, concrete trucks, and excavators parked in the yards of unfinished structures. Roads were covered with dirt, houses stood in various stages of completion, some with wet muddy yards no lawn mower would dare traverse, others with only a concrete foundation sporting odd pieces of plumbing. We were all unsure what kind of job lay ahead of us, because there appeared so much to do.

Three Habitat for Humanity volunteers greeted us. Maggie, a young college graduate, Curtis,

a young man with biceps the size of my head, and an older gentleman named Johnny told us we would be assembling storage sheds for six new homes. While eight hours seemed like a short time to accomplish that task, we had some advantages - stud walls for the sheds were already assembled and there were 16 of us.

Jerry Kennedy confidently spoke up when a volunteer was needed to run the circular saw, specifically someone who could easily cut a straight line. We kept him moving at top speed all day. Two EAGLEs at a time carried the stud walls onto a pair of adjacent house foundations. Three sheds would rise atop each concrete slab.

The volunteers gave us a quick lesson on how to build the sheds and then set us loose on the unsuspecting lumber. We soon realized all of us couldn't build the same shed at the same time, so we peeled off into ragged groups and started hammering. The sounds of hammers, laughter, and frustration quickly filled the air. I was experienced with a hammer, but I had another problem: clumsiness and big thumbs are a dangerous combination. My poor thumb may never regain its original shape! Under technical guidance from Habitat volunteers, stud walls rose under cloudy skies, which were then topped by rafters. Next came the siding. 'Saw-man Jerry' then became very busy since every other piece had to be cut to fit. Cooperation was key to our success, nobody fought about differences in technique, sometimes a problem on a job

**Kathy Canaday (left) takes a measurement for a piece of siding while J. R. Simpson and Chip Hall (above) attach siding and roofing to adjoining sheds under cloudy skies.**



photos by Dave Treadway



# neone's Miracle

site with lots of workers.

By noon, others had worked up the courage to spell the saw-man and found they also had a knack for cutting a straight line. Tim Dawson and Holly Taylor volunteered to go fetch lunch for everyone, which called for a welcome break upon their return.

Adam Walker and I shared our food order, while everyone enjoyed a chance to sit and trade small talk. We discussed the nutritious qualities of dirt after watching Chip Hall eat a piece of roast beef that fell on the ground.

All too soon it was back to work. The siding job required openings for doors to be cut with a saws-all, a tool with a pointed blade that moves back and forth very quickly and is very handy for odd wood-cutting jobs. It's also messy, loud, and annoying. We quickly became friends, since we shared such wonderful qualities. After a little practice with my new friend, I felt right at home creating new doorways.

Next came roofing for our structures. Toting a pack of shingles is no small task, I quickly learned after volunteering to move shingles from storage to the job site.

All six sheds were almost completed when it was time to begin cleaning up the mess we had created. Everyone shifted gears, carrying ladders and sweeping sawdust off foundations. While some expressed frustration over not being able to finish, we had completed so much in so little time that whoever volunteered after us would not have much left to do. Habitat workers Maggie, Curtis and Johnny congratulated us on a job well done and thanked us for our contribution through Habitat for Humanity to enrich the lives of those less fortunate.

The friendly trio helps make miracles happen in people's lives. They are living proof that love, compassion, and generosity don't just happen, there must be people like them carrying the weight each day to build miracles.

I am happy to play a small part of someone's miracle, a feeling shared by the rest of my friends in the EAGLE class. As we said goodbyes and went our separate ways, my car was filled all the way home with a feeling of accomplishment, the happiness that comes from a job well done, and, thanks to the saws-all, a lingering smell of sawdust.

**Saw-man Jerry Kennedy cuts siding (below) for a busy crew while Cory Richardson (right) trims a doorway with a handy saws-all.**



# Readiness Update . . . *Be Prepared!*

by Jared Gartman

**D**eployed Personnel: Civil Emergencies: 0 GWOT: 3 Total Deployed: 3

## Readiness Activities:

**a. New Madrid Earthquake Planning:** Nashville is leading the charge. In July, LTG Strock and BG Berwick were briefed by TEMA Director MG Jim Bassham (retired) and LTC Roemhildt on the response plans for Tennessee in the event of a catastrophic earthquake.

The New Madrid Earthquake Response Plan continues to improve. Each month LTC Roemhildt is being briefed on changes to the annexes to the Nashville OPLAN. To continue improving our plans, these briefings have been scheduled:

Oct – Contracting, Nov – Human Resources, Dec – Information Management

**b. Hurricane Preparations:** It's official. The peak 2006 hurricane season has arrived with Hurricane Ernesto making landfall in Florida and North Carolina. The RRV-03 team was put on alert, but wasn't required to deploy.

Temporary Roofing and RRV-03 team members have been working hard to complete Level 1 & 2 training and other required certifications to maintain their team affiliation. It is time consuming, but shows the dedication and level of commitment from each team member.

**c. Deployments:** Persons interested in deploying in support of disaster operations should begin preparing now! You must get your supervisor's approval, then complete your Personal Data Sheet (PDS) and Medical Screening in ENGLink <https://englink.usace.army.mil>. You must then get the Hepatitis A and Tetanus shots {Contact the Safety Office for assistance} NOTE: **Everyone's immunization information was erased in ENGLink.** Please go into ENGLink and provide the required immunization info on your PDS.

You must also get Personal Protective Equipment: Hardhat, safety boots, safety glasses, etc., and you must hold a government credit card in good standing.

\*Note: Supervisors, Timekeepers, and Travel Clerks should complete the 'Phone/Commo' section of their Personal Data Sheet. This information is required and

displayed on the deploying person's PDS.

**d. Hail and Farewell:** Jerry Breznican returned from a six-month tour in Iraq as a Security Specialist. He was able to utilize his active duty Army training and USACE Emergency Operations experience on this tour. We're glad to have him back.

Farewell to Anita Jarrett for her 120-day temporary assignment in Readiness while Jerry was deployed. She says she learned more in four-months than she has in the last four years. She has done an OUTSTANDING job, as the Emergency Operations Specialist, managing all the Nashville deployments to Mississippi, Louisiana, Afghanistan and Iraq.

**Emergency Guarantee:** *There will never be a good time to have an emergency. Prepare now and be ready!*

**Get a Kit** - See article below.

**Make a Plan** - Plan in advance what you and your family will do in an emergency. Your plan should include a communications plan, shelter and evacuation. Go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for more information and templates to help get you started.

**Be Informed** - Learn more about different threats that could affect your community and appropriate responses to them. Go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for more information. You may also visit the site for more information about emergency plans that have been established in your area.

**Get Involved** - After preparing yourself and your family for possible emergencies, take the next step: get involved, visit [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov) to find your local Citizen Corps Council. *Readiness, it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle.*



**E**arthquake preparedness is easy and inexpensive, and works for other natural disasters, too. Here is a guide to help families and individuals prepare for surviving a major earthquake.

## HOME SURVIVAL KIT

### General Supplies

**Water** – 1 gallon per person per day

**First Aid Kit** – ample, freshly stocked

**First Aid Manual** – know how to use it

**Food** – canned or individually packaged; precooked; requiring minimum heat and water. Consider infants, pets and other dietary requirements. Use frozen and refrigerated food first.

### Manual can opener

**Blankets** or sleeping bags for each person

**Critical medication and eyeglasses**

**Fire Extinguishers** – dry chemical, type

ABC

**Flashlight** – spare batteries and bulbs

**Watch or clock** – battery or spring wound

**Dust Masks**

**Portable Radio** with spare batteries

**Spare Cash**

**Duct Tape**

**Basic Tool Kit**

**Cooking Supplies**

**Grill** – use outside ONLY – charcoal, lighter, or sterno

**Plastic bags** – various sizes

**Paper plates, plastic utensils, paper**

## towels

### Sanitation Supplies

**Large plastic trash bags** – for trash, waste, water protection

**Ground cloth**

**Large trash cans**

**Toiletries** - personal hygiene supplies, pre-moistened towelettes, toilet paper, feminine supplies, soap

**Infant Supplies**

**Chlorine bleach** and powdered chlorinated lime (found in hardware stores). Add to sewage to disinfect and keep away insects

**Newspapers** – wrap waste and garbage  
*Store kit in central location in large covered plastic garbage cans.*

## MINI KIT FOR YOUR AUTOMOBILE

**Non-perishable food**

**First aid kit** and manual

**Flares**

**Fire Extinguisher**

**Blanket**

**Sealable plastic bags**

**Flashlight** – extra batteries

**Critical medication**

**Extra Eyeglasses**

**Tools**

**Pre-moistened towelettes**

**Cell phone charger**

**Toilet Paper**

**Sturdy shoes and gloves**



# Partners Celebrate End of Duck Island Phase III

Story and photo by Dave Treadway

Kentucky officials gathered at Lake Barkley's Duck Island September 8 with representatives of organizations that helped make it possible to dedicate a Wetland Habitat Improvement Project literally built 'for the birds.'

Phase III involved construction of a 2,100-foot interior levee so that Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife officials could better manage water levels on more than 100 acres of the island in the Lake Barkley Wildlife Management Area. The levee permits managers to plant crops for migrating waterfowl on the lowlands and then flood those croplands via gravity at times that are advantageous for the wildlife. Without the levee, maturation of the crops would not be possible and the food supply would not be there for migrating duck populations.

Hank Pat, deputy commissioner, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, called the event "a celebration of a great partnership."

Charles W. Martin, chairman, First District, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission, said Duck Island is a cooperative effort of a lot of different stakeholders, not the least of which was Vulcan materials, the company that donated much of the stone used to construct the levee.

Pat Hahs, wildlife biologist and area manager for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, described Duck Island as a bathtub that managers need to keep the water out of during the growing season when the lake water levels are two to three feet higher in order to produce crops suitable for waterfowl. Without the 2,100-foot levee, all the area in Duck Island would be underwater at the wrong time of the year and to 'dry out' the 100 acres suitable for cropland, water would have to be pumped into the lake from the entire 300-acre sub-impoundment, a very long process.

"A water-control structure allows us to flood the cropland," said Hahs, "from the sub-impoundment where water is stored when we want to, not when we have to."

"This is truly a celebration," said Dr. Brian Priddle, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., "because it is the conservation world coming



**Representatives from Ducks Unlimited, Inc., the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Vulcan Materials gather around a bronze plaque marking the completed 2,100 foot levee (at left) that makes the island much more valuable to migrating waterfowl.**

together with the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the private sector."

Former Commission Member Allen K. Gailor called himself a hunter and fisherman who has pursued his hobbies in the Lake Barkley/Kentucky Lake area each year since 1965. He partnered with friend Foster V. Jones to form the Jonathan Creek

Rod and Gun Club through which the pair channeled \$95,000 to Ducks Unlimited to help build the Duck Island Phase III.

A bronze plaque at the site commemorates the cooperative effort between the various agencies to construct the Wetland Habitat Project to benefit migratory and resident wildlife species.

## Officials Plan Dedication for Completed Jonesborough Flood Reduction Project

The Section 205 Flood Damage Reduction Project to help protect Jonesborough, Tenn., from floodwaters resulting from heavy rain events has been completed and will be dedicated by officials on October 27.

Jonesborough, the oldest town in Tennessee, in the extreme northeastern corner of the state, is subject to flooding from Little Limestone Creek and an unnamed tributary. The primary damage center is in the historic district of downtown Jonesborough. Intense rainfall, steeply sloped terrain and extensive basin development

created hazardous conditions. Damages before the project was completed averaged about \$120,400 annually.

The project features include a retaining dike, a six-foot by eight-foot box culvert and a concrete block-lined outlet channel to direct the unnamed tributary to Little Limestone Creek and away from the historic downtown. The city elected to fully fund a sewer upgrade within the culvert excavation trench. Cost of the project was \$1.7 million. This project will provide a 50-year-frequency level of protection for the city.

# The Corps Crowd

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## Welcome to...

...Jessica Sloan, new student aide at Old Hickory Power Plant. She graduated from Gallatin High School and attends Tennessee Technological Center in Hartsville, Tenn.

...Gary Davis, park ranger at Lake Cumberland, who moved to the Regulatory Family. Davis will now work as an environmental protection specialist at the Western Regulatory Field Office in Decatur, Ala.

...Becky Smith (Jolly), park ranger at Cheatham Lake, who is on temporary assignment to the Western Regulatory Field Office.

## Farewell to...

...Sherry Roberts, conservation biologist at J. Percy Priest, who retired September 30. Sherry worked at Center Hill, Dale Hollow, Laurel, and J. Percy Priest during her career in Natural Resources Management. Sherry and husband Phil Neil plan to be full-time RVer's, and to enjoy themselves discovering our beautiful country and what it has to offer.

...Zan Blackburn, office assistant at J. Percy Priest, who retired after 37 years service with the Corps. Zan plans to devote her time to gardening, grandchildren, and enjoying leisure time with husband Jackie.

...Beryl Newsome, Contracting Division, who took a promotion September 30 for a new job at General Services Administration.

...Tommy Haskins, Engineering-Construction Division, who retired Sept. 30.

## Baby Brigade to...

...Jennifer and Joe McMahan, Eastern Regulatory Office, who welcomed their first child into the world September 14. Clint Joseph was 6 pounds, 4 ounces and measured 19 and 1/2 inches.

...David and Mary Ann Brannan, Eastern Regulatory Office, welcomed their second child August 17. Lily Kate was 6 pounds, 7 ounces and also measured 19 and 1/2 inches.

## Sympathy to...

...Mike Mohlere, former chief of Human Resources Office, whose father, a retired

Army Colonel, passed away September 6. ...Gary Conley, park ranger at Old Hickory Lake, whose father passed away on September 12.

...the family of James (Simp) Majors, former lockmaster at Wilson and Pickwick Locks, who passed away September 18.

...Jimmy Johnson, electrician trainee at Cordell Hull Power Plant, whose mother, Evelyn G. Johnson, passed away September 22.

...Kathy White, sister of Corrine Paris, Cordell Hull Resource Office, whose husband Joseph White passed away on September 21.

...Stephen Hurst, Cordell Hull Resource

## People

Office, in the death of his sister-in-law, Deborah Hurst on August 11, and the death of his aunt Jean Hull on August 20.

...Shirley Puckett, park contract inspector, Center Hill Lake, whose nephew, Matt Christian, passed away on September 27.

...Jerry Lindsey, electrician, Maintenance Unit, Cumberland River Operations Center, whose son Jerry Lindsey, Jr., passed away October 1.

## Thank You...

...I would like to thank all of the people who donated leave to help me while I have been recuperating from a recent automobile accident. Your leave donations helped relieve much of the stress on my family and helped me to focus on healing. I am looking forward to getting back to work and I cannot wait to see everyone.

*Sincerely, Jennie Emmons, CO-OP Park Ranger, Center Hill Lake*

...I would like to thank everyone for the cards we received after the death of my father. Although we have not been part of the Corps of Engineers in many years, this show of concern shows us we are still part of the Nashville District family. We are very proud and comforted to know we have friends who still care about our family. *Thank you again, Mike Mohlere*

...I want to thank everyone who came to my retirement party. It was GREAT! Don't ever let them tell you a man can't plan a great party, because they have shown that they can. I'm sorry that I'm one of those people that can't stand up

in front of everyone and say what they want to say. I would have told you how blessed I feel I've been during my 37 plus years with the Corps. I have made so many wonderful long lasting friendships. I want to thank John Lambrecht for taking the chance and hiring me when I was only 17 years old fresh out of high school. Most of my career with the Corps was with him. I also want to thank Dick Copeland for giving me the opportunity to experience the closeness that comes with working out in the field at Old Hickory Power Plant and to Ron Raines and Roger Deitrick for giving me the opportunity to finish up my career at BEAUTIFUL J. Percy Priest. I am so looking forward to sleeping a little late, playing with my grandchildren, gardening, quilting and anything else that I might take a notion to want to do. Thank you again. *Zan Blackburn*

...Thank you Nashville District Corps of Engineers for the past six years. I have made many friends while working here, and the learning curve hasn't been too bad either. I know I will only be as far away as the first floor of the federal building, but over time that distance will seem further away. I want you to know that the challenges we have faced together have made me a better or at least more informed person. I had no idea how important the Corps Mission was until I lived it. My work took on real meaning when I went to the sites where my contracts work and worked on contracts in sites that should have never needed our help. You are caring and courageous people. God Bless each of you. I will miss you all. *Beryl Newsome*

...It is with deep appreciation and thanks for all the cards and phone calls during my recent illness, they brightened up my day and helped me get through each day. Your heartfelt prayers and thoughts were also greatly appreciated. You all proved that the Corps Family is truly a family! *Thanks again, Donald Dean, lock & dam equipment mechanic, Wilson Lock*

## Upcoming Events

The National Disability Awareness Month Program will be October 25, at 10 a.m. in conference room A-640.

# Did You Ever Wanna' Ride A Harley . . . ?

by Gail Floyd, Resource Management

If asked, "What have you always wanted to do if you could?" Would you answer - Ride a Harley? Forty-two senior citizens from Nashville answered that question on a recent survey - just that way.

On Saturday, September 16, members of the Harley-Davidson Owners Group (HOG) Rivergate Chapter met these adventurous senior citizens to help make their wishes come true. Three chapter members work for the Nashville District. George Groghan, Information Management, an experienced Harley rider and former Chapter President, rides a 2005 Ultra Classic. Dane Owens, Internal Review, a retread rider who again picked up the hobby about three years ago, also rides a 2005 Ultra Classic. And yours truly, Resource Management, who began riding motorcycles for the first time about three years ago, rides a 2006 Heritage.

We were very surprised to find two retired Nashville District members among those eagerly awaiting us at the Senior Citizens Center near the Nashville Fairgrounds. Shirley Overby, retiree of Real Estate, and Catherine Hale, retiree from Operations, were among those who dreamed of riding a Harley. Shirley said her father had forbidden her to get on a motorcycle when she was young and she

had obeyed him until that Saturday. Shirley teamed up with Dane, and she was very surprised how much more you can see from the back of a bike. Catherine rode the back of a policeman's personal Harley and said it was a thrill even without the blue lights and siren. George gave two different 'wannabe senior Biker-Babes' rides to remember. I didn't think I would have to carry anyone because there were more bikes than seniors, which was good since my experience in doubling anyone was limited to a bicycle about 40 years ago. But my relief was shortlived. As I lined up in formation with my group planning to just enjoy the ride, a lady ran up to ask if I could take someone. I agreed to take a small person and up walked a transplanted "Northerner" named Star. Star traded her red hat for a gray helmet and hopped on. This day was truly a fun day for everyone. All the seniors wore big smiles after the ride. And best of all, I've made a friend for life.

We were treated to lunch and a lot of hugs at the end of the ride. The air was



Riders (from left-back) Dane Owens, Catherine Hale, George Groghan, (front) Shirley Overby, and Gail Floyd.

filled with calls of "Thank you" before we left.

I personally felt like I had just played "Genie" without even blinking an eye. I'm just glad I don't have to wait until someone offers to take me for a ride on a Harley, I can just take myself, a feeling I'm sure I share with all the other riders.

## Where Are They Now?



Richard Downing, (right) was accompanied on a recent visit to the District by brother Frank and friends Anita Jarrett, whom he hired in 1975, and Janis Clark, with whom he worked in the Office of Administrative Services. Downing worked in the District Finance Department for many of his 34 years of federal service. He now lives in Donelson, Tenn., owns a farm in Bedford County and a Camp with a Pontoon boat on Center Hill Lake. The second cousin of former Real Estate Chief Bill Barnes retired in 1976 and managed more than 20 parking lots in Nashville in partnership with a friend but now devotes his spare time to raising goats, ponies, guineas, and hay for livestock, when he isn't relaxing in pursuit of smallmouth bass on Center Hill Lake.

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## *Just To Be On The Safe Side . . . October Focus on Fire Safety*

by Bill Bennett

**W**hat would you do if there was a fire in your house? Are you prepared? Would you be ready? Think about these three questions and the answers you would give to each one of them.

### **Smoke Alarm Safety**

#### *Tips for Installing Your Smoke Alarms Correctly*

Install smoke alarms Listed (examined and tested to appropriate product safety standards) by a qualified testing laboratory on every level of your home, including the basement (but not unfinished attics). Make sure there is an alarm in or near every sleeping area.

Mount the smoke alarms high on ceilings or walls – remember, smoke rises. Ceiling-mounted alarms should be installed at least four inches away from the nearest wall; wall-mounted alarms should be installed four to 12 inches away from the ceiling.

Don't install smoke alarms near windows, outside doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation. Don't paint your smoke alarms; paint or other decorations could keep them from working when most needed.

#### *Tips for Keeping Your Smoke Alarms Working Properly*

Test your smoke alarms at least once a month by using the alarms' "test button." Never use an open-flame device to test the alarm as you could burn yourself or start a fire. If the smoke alarm manufacturer's instructions permit the use of an aerosol smoke product for testing the smoke alarm, only use one that has been Listed by a third-party product testing agency, and utilize it in accordance with the product instructions.

Replace the batteries in your smoke alarms once a year, or as soon as the alarm "chirps," warning that the battery is low. **Helpful hint:** schedule battery replacements for the same day you change your clock from daylight to standard time in the fall.

Regularly vacuuming or dusting your smoke alarm following manufacturer's instructions can help keep it working properly.

Replace alarms every 10 years.

Never "borrow" an alarm battery.

Make sure that everyone in your home can hear and recognize the sound of the alarm and knows how to react immediately.

#### *Home Fire Escape Plans*

Developing and practicing a home fire escape plan that everyone understands can mean the difference between life and death. Fire can grow and spread through

your home very quickly. It's important that you be prepared to react as soon as the smoke alarm sounds. These tips can help you put together – and practice – an effective home fire escape plan.

Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Draw a floor plan of your home, showing two ways out of each room, including windows. Don't forget to mark the location of each smoke alarm.

Test all smoke alarms (Listed by a qualified testing laboratory) monthly to ensure that they work.

Make sure that everyone understands the escape plan. Are the escape routes clear? If windows or doors in your home have security bars, make sure that the bars have quick-release mechanisms so that they can be opened immediately in an emergency.

Practice the escape plan at least twice a year, making sure that everyone is involved – from kids to grandparents. Agree on an outside place where everyone can meet after they've escaped. Remember to get out first, and then call for help. Have everyone memorize the emergency phone number of the fire department. Be fully prepared for a real fire: when a smoke alarm sounds, get out immediately. And once you're out, stay out – **Safety, Because You Are Important.**