



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Nashville District

# DistrictDigest

Volume 107, Number 4

*Relevant-Ready-Responsive-Reliable*

April 2007

*You Always Look Best in Your Life Vest!*



## District Lakes Welcome Visitors

*See related stories, pages 4, 6, 7, 8, 9*

# Contents

Commander's Corner.....	3
Anchor High Flies Clean Marina Banner.....	4
Elm Hill Third to be Called 'Clean'.....	4
Four to be Honored as Distinguished Civilians.....	5
Gates Open at Old Hickory Lake.....	6
Volunteer Achieves President's Award.....	7
Dale Hollow Named a 'No-Discharge' Lake.....	8
Threat of Identity Theft Still Very Real.....	9
Hatchery/Education Center Dedicated.....	9
District Closes One Recreation Area, Shortens Season on Others.....	9
The Corps Crowd.....	10
Help Prevent the Spread of Invasive Alga.....	11
Robert Jarrett Praised for Work in Afghanistan.....	11
Just To Be On the Safe Side - When an Itch is More Than an Itch..	12

## Employees Observe Women's History Month

Jennifer Rawls, executive director of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, told District employees gathered to celebrate Women's History Month March 28 that more than 50 percent of eligible voters are now women and by the year 2014, more than 50 of the labor force in the U.S. will be women.

She encouraged women to try new things and cited Memphis resident Ida B. Wells as one who did and because of her willingness to do so, helped found the NAACP and create anti-lynching legislation across the United States. Wells is credited with helping Tennessee become the 36<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment on August 18, 1920, which gave women the right to vote. Rawls recalled how the young Ida was accompanied to school by her mother who in that way learned to read as her own children learned. Inspired by her mother, Ida then became a famous writer who later owned a newspaper, for which she often wrote articles that put her own life in danger. Against such odds she still made a difference and Rawls encouraged Nashville District employees to do likewise.



Jennifer Rawls, executive director, Tennessee Economic Council on Women.

## District Digest

### Commander

LTC Steven Roemhildt

### Chief of Public Affairs

Bill Peoples

### Editor

Dave Treadway

### Special Contributors

Holly Taylor, Lindsey Houchens, 'Woody' Woodruff, Carolyn Bauer, Harry Newkirk, Sondra Carmen, Gary Burke, Jamie Holt, Connie Hardeman, Velma Cross, Ginia Bevis

The District Digest is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. It is designed through desktop publishing and printed by offset process for the Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Circulation is 1,400.

The editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army.

The District Digest is printed monthly and is a Command Information publication of the Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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

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

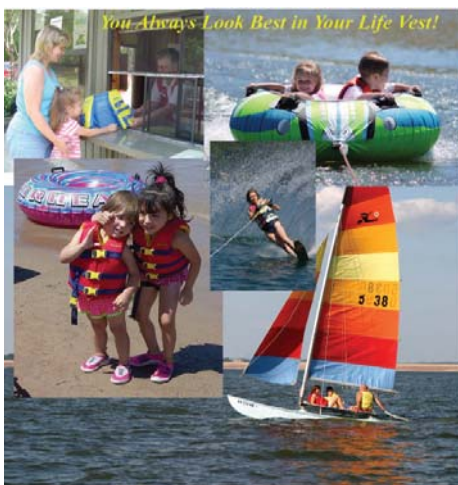
Written material may also be sent electronically to the editor at the following e-mail addresses: [david.s.treadway@us.army.mil](mailto:david.s.treadway@us.army.mil)

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

## On the Cover

Nashville District led the nation in 2006 with more than 35.3 million visitors looking for a place to play in the water. Many District Recreation Areas opened in March and April with the remainder set to open next month. Whenever you play around the water, remember to take along your personal flotation device, better known as a life vest. Remember, you always look best in your life vest! For related stories, see pages 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

photo collection from USACE Water Safety Photo Contest by



# Commander's Corner

## Nashville Team

The senior leaders of the District and I recently returned from Fort Knox, Ky., where we attended the National Security Personal System (NSPS) Management Course. After attending this training, I am even more excited and convinced that NSPS is a great human resource system and process. I fully expect that implementation of NSPS will allow for less complex hiring procedures, streamline position classifications and provide pay-for-performance.

### Communication

This training cleared up a number of questions that I had; specifically in the areas of pay pool structures, roles and rules; assessment of the ratings and how these ratings relate to funding shares and payout distributions. As part of the training, we conducted a number of performance assessments.

While undergoing this training, I was convinced that NSPS is a fair and equitable system that will reward superior performance while enhancing supervisors' ability to efficiently conduct personnel actions within the organization.

As you are aware, supervisors have already converted to NSPS. We are preparing for conversion of all GS employees by February 14, 2008.

You may see these conversion cycles referred to as "spirals". The spiral for WG employees is not yet set; however, expectation is sometime after this year.

As we undergo this transition to NSPS, please keep in mind that conversion will require:

- **Increased communication between supervisors and employees**
- **A clear understanding of how to link individual performance to organizational goals**
- **Employees understanding their roles and responsibilities**
- **Managers, supervisors, and**

## employees, at all levels, being held accountable

Additional training will be provided and we can expect to see more guidance, along with question-and-answer periods, as we progress through this summer.

I am looking forward to addressing concerns and issues that I am sure will surface as we transition into this new system; however, I am certain that NSPS is a fundamental change for the positive and will become second nature very quickly.

As a closing thought, I would like to highlight an area of safety. Composite Risk Management (CRM) is a process for identifying hazards and controlling risks. Since we have adopted and communicated CRM within the District, we have seen a marked decrease in lost-time accidents; the process works.

I believe that knowledge of the CRM process is critical to the success of all supervisors and, consequently, I plan to



begin using knowledge of CRM as part of the screening criteria during recruitment actions.

I foresee questions related to the CRM process, as well as application of this process to specific areas. This will be especially true during the interview process associated with the hiring of any supervisor.

I would hope that this reinforces the attitude that CRM is a supervisor responsibility and knowledge of such is critical for success within the Army Corps of Engineers.

## John East Named Employee of the Month

John East was selected Nashville District Employee of the Month for March.

East currently serves in a dual role as both Power Project Manager and Power Project Specialist at Barkley Power Plant. He is commended for providing exceptional leadership during an arduous time at the plant.

In the midst of an ongoing CRA, the absence of a Power Project Manager, and the untimely accidental death of an employee, East has kept his team focused and united while maintaining a safe work environment. He has fully supported the Hydropower Training Program and made himself available for quarterly and bi-annual student trainee examinations. He made liberal investments of his time and energy into trainees and journeymen employees, ensuring the perpetuity of a capable workforce.

His support to other area offices demonstrates his commitment to teamwork and mission accomplishment beyond the hydropower program. His respect towards others, integrity, and personal courage

make him an integral part of the leadership team in the western Kentucky Area.

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.



**John East**

# Anchor High Flies Clean Marina Banner

by Dave Treadway

Old Hickory Lake Resource Manager Carl Crews presented the Clean Marina Banner to Anchor High Marina March 30. Anchor High became the first Marina on the Lake to earn the Banner and the second in the Nashville District. Dale Hollow's Willow Grove Marina earned the first banner in 2005.

Marina Co-Owner Justin Miller accepted the blue, white and green banner which will be flown beneath the National Ensign.

The Clean Marina certification culminated a process that proved the concessionaire adheres to a number of practices that will help keep the Lake free of pollutants and preserve the pristine environment along Old Hickory's shoreline.

Representatives from the Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and the Cumberland River Compact inspected the Marina last year and pointed out areas of concern as well as some deficiencies for owners Mitch Miller and son Justin to correct.

"We corrected all those discrepancies," said Justin, "and addressed some other areas as well. We removed several dump-

sters of trash and debris near our entrance to make it more attractive to customers." Runoff from the area cleaned by the Marina staff flows into Old Hickory Lake thereby ensuring that none of the debris can wind up in the water to pollute the Lake.

The staff of Anchor High plans to officially celebrate the event with patrons during "Bring A Friend to the Lake Day" on August 11.

Shelley Harwell, Cumberland River Compact, witnessed the presentation.

"It's exciting to see a Marina," said Harwell, "that is also interested in enhancing the water quality of the Cumberland River, a goal towards which we are all working. So this partnership between the Corps, TWRA and now Anchor High Marina will just be one more entity that is working with us to make sure the water quality is protected."



Park Ranger Tim O'Connell watches as Anchor High Marina Co-Owner Justin Miller hoists the Cumberland Basin Clean Marina Banner March 30 with the help of Nathan Agee.

## Elm Hill Third to be Called 'Clean'

Elm Hill Marina became the first concessionaire on J. Percy Priest Lake and the third in the District to earn the right to fly the Cumberland River Basin Clean Marina Banner April 5.

"The Clean Marina Program is worthy of recognition," said Nashville District Operations Chief Mike Ensich, "and the Corps is proud to be a part of it. In the Nashville District we have over 60 marinas and concessions on our projects. All of them are there because the lakes are there, because the rivers are there. Three Marinas now are recognized as recipients of the Clean Marina designation. That is a great statement, a great testament to the hard work that you have performed, working with Jim (Short) in making this day possible. We take care of our environment, we take care of the folks who come to use that, and we will all benefit from that. I present you this flag that recognizes your accomplishment."

Jim Short accepted the designation and banner on behalf of his employees.

"We have learned and we will continue to learn," said Short. "When the Cumberland River Compact first came, we told them we had some things in the works that we were planning. We are working on some drainage projects, one is how to deal with runoff from one of our parking lots and mediate that situation. This is a proud day for us."

The new banner was then raised over the marina in a stiff breeze.



Nashville District Operations Chief Mike Ensich presents the Clean Marina Banner to Elm Hill Owner Tim Short April 5.

# Four to be Honored as Distinguished Civilians

by Park Ranger Lindsey Houchens

Amidst the annual volleyball tournament, cook-out, and children's games, this year's Engineer Day Picnic June 8 will honor four of Nashville District's most Distinguished Civilian Employees who recently retired: David L. Day, Robert C. Miller, Sarah Leveda Parton, and Dennis R. Williams.

David Day began working with the Corps in 1969 as a civil engineer with the



**Dave Day**

Kansas City District. In 1998, he joined the Nashville District as Deputy District Engineer for Project Management, a position he held until his retirement in 2005.

During his tenure, Day was renowned among his peers for encouraging a culture of professional improvement and fostering team leadership and team involvement, while still taking care of his employees and customers.

His constant commitment to upholding high standards helped Nashville District



**Bob Miller**

achieve its status as a learning organization and even helped facilitate the Congressional authorization of the new lock at Chickamauga Dam. Day's integrity and genuine concern for others were an example to all during his seven-year career with the Nashville District and 35 years with the Corps.

Robert Miller is another exemplary retiree of the Nashville District. Miller used his legal expertise to help re-invent the Corps' legal missions and functions during his 34 years of service. He also gained favorable publicity for the Corps by pioneering efforts to encourage alternative resolution processes when handling contract claims.

Perhaps most importantly, though, Miller left a lasting legacy by imparting his legal knowledge and dedication to his students in the PROSPECT program.

For more than 20 years, he trained Corps attorneys and commanders on the intricacies of contract law. In recognition of his superb leadership, Miller was awarded the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal by the Chief of Engineers in 2002.

Leveda Parton is recognized as a Distinguished Civilian Employee for



**Leveda Parton**

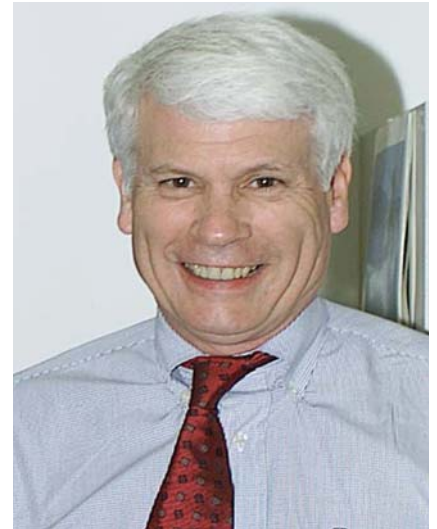
numerous reasons. Her strong work ethic was evident throughout her 30 years of employment with the Corps of Engineers. As a contract specialist, Parton oversaw both civil works and military construction contracts and worked to ensure that the Nashville District exceeded goals for contract awards to small businesses.

In 1986, Parton joined the Nashville

Post, Society of American Military Engineers, where she enjoyed the role of Secretary every year from 1987 to 2000. Within the Post, Parton offered her encouragement, example, expertise, and enthusiasm to assist Post members in becoming more effective and successful.

Through her efforts, Parton exposed significant sectors of the community to the engineering profession in general, and the Corps of Engineers in particular.

Dennis Williams began his tenure



**Dennis Williams**

with the Nashville District in 1969 in the Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch, an office he did not leave until his retirement in 2004.

During his career, Williams distinguished himself and the Corps with his calm, effective leadership and technical competence while dealing with a wide variety of flood events, hydrologic issues, and flood reduction projects including Martin Forks Dam, the Williamsburg Levee, and the Barbourville Cut-Off.

Using both his field experience and his involvement in numerous committees, Williams was able to improve the Corps' performance on issues ranging from stream bank erosion to water quality restoration to user conflicts surrounding multi-purpose reservoirs. His professionalism, insight, integrity, and outstanding abilities set him apart as a Distinguished Civilian Employee.

The name of each retiree will be inscribed on a bronze plaque displayed in the Nashville District Office.

# Gates Open at Old Hickory Lake

by Walker "Woody" Woodruff

After being closed nearly five months for the winter season, the gates to Corps of Engineers campgrounds that drew more than 8.5 million visitors in 2006 opened March 30 at Old Hickory Lake.

While that number ranked Old Hickory Lake fourth in the country among Corps lakes, it also helped Nashville District place number one among Corps Districts in number of visitors, more than 35 million.

Rangers expect Cedar Creek and Cages Bend campgrounds to be maxed out on their site occupancy. Day use areas are already being filled with visitors. The Lake has experienced a steady increase in the number of visitors to the area each year.

As repairs at Wolf Creek Dam get underway, some customers are already making reservations at Old Hickory Lake project, a virtual guarantee that it will again rank high as one of the country's best locations for a family vacation. The Lake has gained a reputation as a crown jewel for summer camping.

Factors that may keep some folks close to home are the traveling distance to coastal waters and gas prices which could approach \$3.00 per gallon this summer. So Rangers believe visitation to the Lake will only increase.

Old Hickory Lake features some of the

most visited beaches near Nashville, Tennessee. Covered with white sand, the beaches are complemented by picnic tables, shelters and comfort stations. With such attractions, visitors are eager to flop on the sand and relax during sunny days, weekends and holidays. And with parking lots bursting at the seams, Rangers weekends may be filled with directing traffic and promoting beach safety.

And safety may very well be the number one topic around the Lake, as Rangers and other Corps employees maintain a constant watch to help protect those intent on playing on and in the water. The calendar is filled with bass tournaments, which will compete with boat skiers for space on 22,500 acres. Posters and bulletin boards have been placed at launching ramps and beaches around the Lake to warn visitors of the dangers associated with not wearing a life vest and other unsafe practices.



photo by 'Woody' Woodruff

Early 2007 visitors check out an Old Hickory Campsite.

To the question, "How do you handle it all?" some Rangers would say, "We just do it," with some help from TWRA and local law enforcement. They feel the Lake is relatively safe.

Cedar Creek Campground is equipped with 60 campsites and Cages Bend has 43 sites. Each campsite is equipped with water and electrical hookup. Each campground features a shower house, washer/dryer and a dump station for RV holding tanks. All of these campsites are anticipated to be occupied this summer. Each campground has a hold site for unexpected guests and maintenance repair, but these sites will be scarce this season.

"Corps employees at Old Hickory Lake take great pride in providing safe and appealing facilities," said Facility Manager Tommy Mason. "With minimal operating budget and minimal staff, everyone must go above and beyond the norm to make sure it all gets done. We try to make upgrades each year as money becomes available, not only to meet the many requests we get from the public on comment cards, but to also correct ongoing maintenance and safety issues."

The Lake project has seen their campgrounds transformed from primitive campsites to accommodate pop-up campers and even luxury-class motor coaches that retail for more than \$500,000. These giant rigs need more space for both parking and maneuvering. The project has put their annual budget to good use. Several campsites have been upgraded with concrete pads, a major improvement from the compact material used years ago.



photo by Dave Treadway

The Waltons of Smryna, Tenn., relax at a Nashville District campground in 2005.

Electrical service at several sites has been upgraded from 30amp pedestals to 50amp, upgrades necessary to prevent damage to appliances in bigger rigs.

Maintenance workers are pleased with the result because service calls on weekends have been reduced to almost zero.

Former visitors accustomed to old wooden pressure-treated material or metal playground equipment will now find climbing obstacles and equipment in bright colors.

With benches and picnic tables situated near playgrounds, parents can easily keep a close watch on children at play. Fall protection is provided around playgrounds by an ample supply of soft recycled barky beaver material.

Several campers and visitors are returning customers, well-known to Rangers and staff, who give the Lake high marks. They are one reason Old Hickory continues to rank high in the country as a crown jewel for family camping and vacations. Ask many of them where they plan to go for the weekend and often you will hear, "Old Hickory Lake, Go Figure!"

### Other District Lakes and Opening Dates

#### Barkley

Eureka: Apr 27 - Sep 4  
Canal: Mar 30 - Oct. 29  
Hurricane Creek: Apr 27 - Oct 29  
Bumpus Mills: May 4 - Sep 4

#### Center Hill

Long Branch: Mar 30 - Oct 31  
Floating Mill: Apr 9 - Oct 22  
Ragland Bottom: Apr 16 - Oct 15

#### Cheatham

Lock A: Apr 1 - Oct 31  
Harpeth River Bridge: May 1 - Oct 31

#### Cordell Hull

Defeated Creek: Apr 5 - Oct 28  
Salt Lick Creek: May 24 - Sep 30

#### Dale Hollow

Dale Hollow Dam: Mar 30 - Oct 29  
Willow Grove: May 18 - Sep 4  
Lillydale: Apr 27 - Sep 4  
Obey River: Apr 13 - Oct 15

#### J. Percy Priest

Seven Points: Apr 2 - Oct 30  
Poole Knobs: Apr 30 - Oct 1

#### Lake Cumberland

Kendall: Open all year  
Fishing Creek: Apr 20 - Sep 24  
Waitsboro: Apr 6 - Oct 29  
Cumberland Point: May 4 - Oct 22  
Fall Creek: Mar 31 - Oct 29

## Volunteer Achieves President's Award

by Recreation Planner Carolyn Bauer

LTC Steven Roemhildt, accompanied by Park Ranger and Volunteer Coordinator Robert Davis, presented the President's Volunteer Service Award to Jim Neal March 19 to recognize him for his outstanding performance as a volunteer at J. Percy Priest Lake.

Neal has donated more than 4,000 hours since 2002 and performed numerous tasks to provide safe recreation facilities for the public. His list of tasks could easily fill a journal. He removed hazardous trees and limbs that might endanger visitors. He proved himself worthy with a paint and brush by painted striping, speed bumps and direction arrows on streets and parking areas, then used the same brush to remove unwanted graffiti. He installed fences, gates, garbage cans and sign posts either missing or in need of repair.

To say Neal was invaluable would be an understatement. He also assisted J. Percy Priest staff when they staged National Public Lands Day and Shoreline Cleanup events. He even helped staff the entrance station, opening the park in the morning and clearing it of visitors in the evening prior to closing the gates. Traffic cop was even

in his repertoire of tricks as he assisted with traffic flow at busy recreation areas so that visitors could enter and exit safely. Boy Scouts who visited the lake to earn badges while constructing or repairing trails even got an assist from the man of many talents. His mere

presence many times enhanced safety and security of recreation areas.

The modest volunteer was quick to give credit to others, when he accepted the honor.

He talked about what a blessing it was to be able to volunteer his time at the lake and work with the great team at J. Percy Priest. The award included a certificate from the USA Freedom Corps for The President's Call to Service Award and a letter signed by President Bush.

"Jim Neal is quite a guy," said Volunteer Coordinator Robert Davis, "his dedication and service have definitely made a difference at J. Percy Priest Lake. He demonstrates the best of the American spirit."

Neal is only one of 52,300 people at Corps lakes across the country who worked more than 1.3 million hours last year, time valued at more than \$23.7 million.

Information about volunteer opportunities is available from the Corps of Engineers Volunteer Clearinghouse, housed in the Nashville District, at 800-865-8337 (800-VOL-TEER) or [www.corpslakes.us/volunteer](http://www.corpslakes.us/volunteer).



photo by Harry Newkirk

LTC Steve Roemhildt and Park Ranger Robert Davis, volunteer coordinator, honor Jim Neal with the President's Call to Service Award for more than 4,000 hours of donated time.

# Dale Hollow Named a 'No-Discharge' Lake

by Environmental Protection Specialist  
Sondra Carmen

**D**ale Hollow Lake was designated a No Discharge lake by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) late last year near the end of the recreation season.

On October 3, 2006, the EPA posted in the Federal Register a Notice of Determination that Dale Hollow Lake qualifies as a No-Discharge Zone. The designation became effective on that date with that act of publication and several agencies deemed the action a great success in the current and future preservation of Dale Hollow's aquatic resource.

"This new designation is quite a milestone," said Willow Grove Resort Owner Darren Shell. "It allows marinas a legal avenue to force compliance, replacing what was once only a friendly agreement between dock operators. It's a designation we've always wanted but could not legally enforce until now."

Such designation supports several Corps Environmental Operating Principles; Achieve Environmental Sustainability, Consider Environmental Consequences of Corps programs and Act Accordingly, Accept Accountability and Responsibility Under the Law for Activities and Decisions, and Mitigate Impacts to the Environment.

EPA and the Corps was and still is being provided invaluable assistance by both



the Dale Hollow Lake Marina Association and the Friends of Dale Hollow Lake, Inc. The Friends are currently working on a designation sticker to acknowledge those vessels which are compliant. The 'Friends' plan to also help Dale Hollow staff educate the boating public.

Resource Manager Ronnie Smith said this landmark designation as a No-Discharge lake will provide for the future protection of Dale Hollow water quality.

"Dale Hollow is unique and its resources are worthy of our best management and conservation measures," said Smith. "I offer my sincerest thanks as we all partner in this initiative that is vital to protecting water quality for future generations."

The Resource Management Staff at

Dale Hollow Lake long ago insisted that the pristine reservoir should be considered a unique environmental and economic resource.

Early in 2004, the staff began the detailed process of seeking the reclassification of Dale Hollow from a 'Discharge' lake to a 'No-Discharge' lake to prohibit the discharge of wastewater from vessels on the Lake.

Dale Hollow, with its mountainous setting, protected natural shorelines, outstanding water quality, unique beauty, and a sport fishery of national significance ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation among Corps of Engineers lakes, with more than 3.3 million visitors annually.

These visitors add approximately \$120 million annually to the regional tourism industry, the number one industry in north-central Tennessee and south-central Kentucky.

The increasing popularity of Dale Hollow Lake, however, has also brought with it a potential environmental threat to the long-term water quality of this 27,700-acre lake.

Specifically, the lake is now one of the most popular boating lakes in America with more than 1,000 houseboats, sailboats, and yachts currently moored on and sailing its waters. All agencies realized it is imperative that all such vessels capable of generating wastewater be managed properly.



Willow Grove Resort Owner Darren Shell (left) proudly displays a sign presented him by the Cumberland River Compact.



A large number of houseboats ply the waters of Dale Hollow Lake.



## Threat of Identity Theft Still Very Real

by Security Manager Connie Hardeman

This is a reminder that the District is still experiencing an identity theft problem which is being investigated by the local Postal Inspector's office. At this time, we still do not know what information was compromised or how the information was obtained.

If you haven't already done so, you are strongly encouraged to take the following steps:

1 - Obtain a free credit report from all three credit bureaus and look over them closely. (You are entitled to one free credit report from each of the three credit bureaus once a year.) To obtain a free copy of all three credit reports, go to: [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or you can call toll-free 1-877-322-8228.

2 - After checking your credit reports, place a 90-day fraud alert. (NOTE: YOU CAN RENEW THE FRAUD ALERT EVERY 90 DAYS.) To place a fraud alert, contact ONE of the following credit bureaus:

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285 or [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

Experian 1-888-397-3742 or [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)

TransUnion 1-800-680-7289 or [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

The Security Management Office has additional copies of Federal Trade Commission brochures on Identity Theft. If you would like a copy, call 615-736-5567 or 7397.

Please don't think this can't happen to you--it can! For more information, including a District Identity Theft slide presentation, visit the Security Management intranet site at: [https://www2.lrn.usace.army.mil/sm/identity\\_theft.htm](https://www2.lrn.usace.army.mil/sm/identity_theft.htm)

## Officials Dedicate Education Center



Representatives from six agencies gather April 4 to cut the ribbon to the new facility.

Officials from several agencies gathered April 4 to dedicate the new Visitor and Environmental Education Center at the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was joined by members of the Friends of Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery, Inc., the Southern & Eastern Kentucky Tourism Dept., the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Russell County Schools, and elected officials for the dedication, followed by a luncheon.

As one of 70 hatcheries in the National Fish Hatchery System, the hatchery has been helping to conserve America's fisheries for more than 30 years - with science-based and efficient fish production practices, strong partnerships, dedication to conservation education and environmental stewardship, participation in threatened and endangered

species recovery work, and a commitment to enhancing the natural resource and economic sustainability of the state, region and nation for this and future generations.

Nashville District helped design a Corps display last year that graphically depicts the role played by the Corps of Engineers to make the Hatchery and Education Center possible at the present site.



photos by Velma Cross

Visitors tour the Education Center which includes this Corps of Engineers display about Wolf Creek Dam.

## District Closes One Recreation Area, Reduces Season on Others

Nashville District will close Anderson Road Campground on J. Percy Priest Lake for the 2007 recreation season and shorten the season at six other campgrounds. The closure is temporary and the Corps anticipates re-opening Anderson Road on schedule next

spring. The adjacent Day-Use area that includes a picnic area, beach, launching ramp and fitness trail will remain open.

Reductions in the recreation portion of the overall operations and maintenance budget made changes necessary this year as a way of reducing costs.

The reduction to Nashville District's recreation budget resulted from overall reductions to the Operations and Maintenance budget for fiscal year (FY) 2007. Following several continuing resolutions to the federal budget, a final resolution for

(See Recreation, page 12)

# The Corps Crowd

## Welcome to...

...The Resource Management Staff at J. Percy Priest would like to welcome Sherry Etheridge. Sherry was selected as the new office administration assistant at J. Percy Priest, and starts her new assignment April 30. Sherry previously worked as a management assistant at the U.S. Marine Corps Facilities Maintenance Department in Havelock, N.C. She is a native Nashvillian, and is looking forward to returning to Tennessee.

## Congratulations to...

...Michael Abernathy upon his selection as chief of acquisition for the Project Support Branch, Real Estate Division.

...It is with great pleasure that the Distinguished Civilian Award Committee announced the selection of Dave Day, Bob Miller, Leveda Parton, and Dennis Williams as Distinguished Civilian Award recipients for 2007. They will be honored during the Engineer Day Picnic June 8 at Rockland Recreation Area.



...David Stafford, Cheatham Power Plant, who retired from the Nashville District after 31 years with the Corps of Engineers.



... Retiree Cleo Howard, who received the Civilian Award For Humanitarian Service for his exemplary work during the 9/11 emergency when he traveled to New York City as a member of the readiness team.

## Baby Brigade to...

...A very proud grandfather, Jack Midgett, who retired as a supply technician from Center Hill Lake, on the birth of his grandson, Luke Lee Allen born April 1 at 8:50 p.m. Luke weighed in at 7 pounds, 11 ounces and is the first born to Casey and



**Luke Lee Allen**

LeVaughne Midgett.

## Farewell to...

...Resource Manager Craig Shoe, who leaves Lake Cumberland for a new job in North Carolina.



...Jerry T. Holt, lock & dam operator at Wilson Lock, who retired March 3.

## Sympathy to...

...Retiree Betty Powell, whose husband,

Thurm, passed away on March 19.

...the family of Corps Retiree Sue Sharpe, who worked in a number of positions over the course of her career, passed away March 25.

...Tommy Haskins, whose father passed away March 29 after an extended illness.

...Gary Bruce, park ranger at Center Hill Lake, whose grandmother, Verliah Bruce, passed away March 2.

...the family of Retiree Robert Lee Snow, who passed away April 9. Snow retired as maintenance foreman at Center Hill Lake in 1980. He was 91 years old.

## Upcoming Events

The Red Cross will stage a blood drive Friday, May 4, in Cafeteria Conference Rooms A and B from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call or e-mail James Fleming by April 27 at 615.695.6816/james.fleming@gsa.gov for an appointment. The Red Cross will also give a \$25 gas card to the agency with the highest percentage of participation, (sign-up must be by April 27). The winning agency will then have a drawing to determine the winner of the gas card. The Red Cross is also requesting volunteers to "work" at the intake table for a 30-minute to an hour time slot. If you would like to volunteer, you may also contact James Fleming.

## Son Graduates from Military Training

Gary Burke, Pilot of the "*PRIDE of the Cumberland*" recently spent some time with son John Paul in Georgia after the younger Burke graduated from infantry training at Fort Benning. John Paul is a member of the Kentucky Army



Nation Guard. Gary and wife Donna used the graduation as a way to spend time with him, his fiancée Angie, and her son at a chalet aboard Fort Benning. The Burke's other son, Chad Edward, who is in the Army, graduated from a course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., April 6. They expect him home for a visit in July.

# Help Prevent the Spread of Invasive Alga

by Dave Treadway

These signs, like the one depicted here, are being erected by the Tennessee Chapter of Trout Unlimited with the aid of Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency along state waterways to help people identify an invasive alga called didymo and provide instruction about how citizens can help the state fight it.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Service also likes the signage and may, with assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, adapt it for placement on Kentucky waterways.

In the late 1980s, a freshwater alga began mysteriously blooming in the rivers of Vancouver, British Columbia, covering once-pristine riverbeds with a thick, woolly mat. Dubbed “rock snot” for its yellowish color and globular form, the sudden dominance by a previously benign alga presented something of a puzzle. Thought of as native to the area – and to many rivers and streams throughout the northern hemisphere – this particular alga was acting as if it had just been introduced.

“This is the mystery,” said Max Both-

well, a research scientist with Environment Canada who studied the Vancouver blooms. “How could an endemic species invade?”

Scientists, who often refer to Vancouver’s experience as the “epicenter” of an ongoing global epidemic, are still not quite sure. Known as *didymosphenia geminata*, or “didymo” for short,

the alga (algae is the plural form) has since bloomed in the Ozarks, the Rockies, Iceland, and Eastern Europe. And its worldwide spread seems to be accelerating. In 2002, didymo appeared in South Dakota, causing a near collapse of the Rapid Creek brown trout fishery. In 2004, it jumped hemispheres, covering New Zealand’s famously scenic rivers with mats the likes of which scientists had seen nowhere else. And just last year, the alga appeared in Quebec’s Matapedia River, an important East Coast salmon fishery.

## Prevent DIDYMO in Tennessee Tailwaters

Protect our trout fisheries by stopping the spread of an invasive alga called didymo.

### CHECK:

Before leaving a river’s edge, look for clumps of algae and sediment, and remove them from all your gear. Leave them at the site.

### CLEAN:

Soak all gear for at least one minute in a 5% (by volume) solution\* of household bleach or dishwashing detergent. All surfaces must be in contact with the cleaning solution for a full minute. Water-absorbent equipment, especially felt-soled wading boots should be soaked thoroughly to ensure complete contact.

### DRY:

If cleaning is not practical, after the item is dry to the touch, leave it to dry for at least another 48 hours before using in another river.

\*5% solution: Add 1 cup household bleach or liquid soap to a gallon of water.



The signs tell boaters to remove clumps of the alga and sediment from their gear before leaving the water’s edge.

Boaters can clean gear by soaking it in a 5 percent solution of household bleach or dishwashing detergent for at least a minute. Water-absorbent equipment should be soaked thoroughly to ensure complete contact. If cleaning is not practical, leave the gear to dry for at least 48 hours before using it in another body of water.

## Robert Jarrett Praised for Work in Afghanistan

Senior Electrician Robert C. Jarrett, Barkley Power Plant, was presented a plaque for his service in Afghanistan by Operations Chief Mike Ensich on March 13.

Jarrett was detailed to Afghanistan from April 2005 to October 2006 and served as project engineer for an Afghan National Army Garrison being constructed 26 kilometers west of Khost,



Robert Jarrett ‘in country’.

a desert region in the southeast corner of the country near the Pakistani border. After working 32 years in the Nashville District, he was offered the opportunity to serve the nation in Operation

Enduring Freedom and willingly accepted the challenge. Language barriers and the problem of getting supplies to this remote location were two of the major obstacles Jarrett had to overcome in this remote location.

He was also responsible for overseeing the construction of a power plant that would generate 500 kilowatts of electricity, the installation of a power transmission system and the construction of barracks with offices for a contingent of 3,000 Afghan soldiers.

Jarrett said he found the assignment a challenging and rewarding experience and would

not hesitate to recommend it to others so they could also take advantage of the opportunity to serve in a similar assignment.

photo by Jamie Holt



Operations Chief Mike Ensich presents a GWOT Award to Robert Jarrett March 13.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Nashville District  
P.O. Box 1070  
Nashville, TN 37202-1070

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR-STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
NASHVILLE, TN  
PERMIT NO. 559

## *Just To Be On The Safe Side . . . When an Itch is More than an Itch*

by Holly Taylor, Office of Safety

**I**ndustrial dermatitis gets under your skin - literally. It can cause permanent disabilities and serious illnesses.

Prompt treatment is important, so watch for these early symptoms:

- itching
- burning
- irritated skin

If corrosive substances come in contact with your skin, this can quickly cause serious dermatitis. To stop the damage, the skin must be flushed with water for at least 15 minutes and medical help should be called immediately.

Sensitizers are other substances which cause dermatitis. This means your skin

### **(Recreation, cont. from page 9)**

the remainder of the year left the Corps' Nashville District with a \$5 million reduction from FY 2006 levels. The budget cuts are not related to the repairs at Wolf Creek Dam as that funding is from an entirely different appropriation.

A section of Ragland Bottom and Floating Mill Campgrounds at Center Hill will open later and close earlier. Cheatham's Harpeth River Campground will open one month later on May 1. Cordell Hull's Salt Lick Campground will open two weeks late on May 24, and 50 percent of the campsites will close on September 4, three weeks early. At Dale Hollow, one section of Lillydale Campground will be closed. At Lake Barkley, one loop of Canal Campground will close earlier in the year.

becomes sensitive to a particular substance over time. You could be working with it for years and then suddenly display symptoms. Once you become sensitized to a substance, it is likely you will remain so for the rest of your life.

Mineral oils cause an acne which progresses to inflammation and infection. Skin contact with mineral oils should



**This symbol on a product label means it is highly toxic and should be handled with caution.**

be kept to a minimum and contaminated areas should be washed frequently and thoroughly.

Solvents used to remove grease from objects also remove the natural oil from the skin, leaving it vulnerable to infection. Excessive contact with water also removes natural oils from the skin and makes it dry, uncomfortable and vulnerable to cracking and infection.

Skin reactions in some people may be caused by plant and animal products and certain metals.

You can take these measures to help prevent industrial dermatitis:

Read the label and Material Safety Data Sheet for any chemical substance you use

to learn the hazards of dermatitis and how to protect yourself from other possible effects.

Avoid contact with irritating substances by using tongs and other long-handled tools.

Use splash guards and screens when handling liquids.

Wear the proper Personal Protective Equipment to prevent contact with irritating substances. PPE such as gloves, boots and aprons should be made of the correct material to protect against the particular substance.

Do not use solvents to clean your skin.

Use barrier creams before work and after washing as directed. Different barrier creams are used for different substances. Find out what you should be using before you use it.

Wash thoroughly after contact with a potentially irritating substance. Use a mild soap rather than an abrasive one which can further damage the skin. Use a soft brush to clean the skin and under the nails.

Moisturize the skin after washing to replace natural oils and prevent irritation.

Remove contaminated clothing immediately, and do so in a way to prevent further chemical contact. Do not wear oil-soaked clothing. Wash clothing frequently.

Learn about the potential for dermatitis involving substances used in your workplace.

Follow all the precautions printed on the Material Safety Data Sheet. And remember, cleanliness is the key to preventing dermatitis.