



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District

DistrictDigest

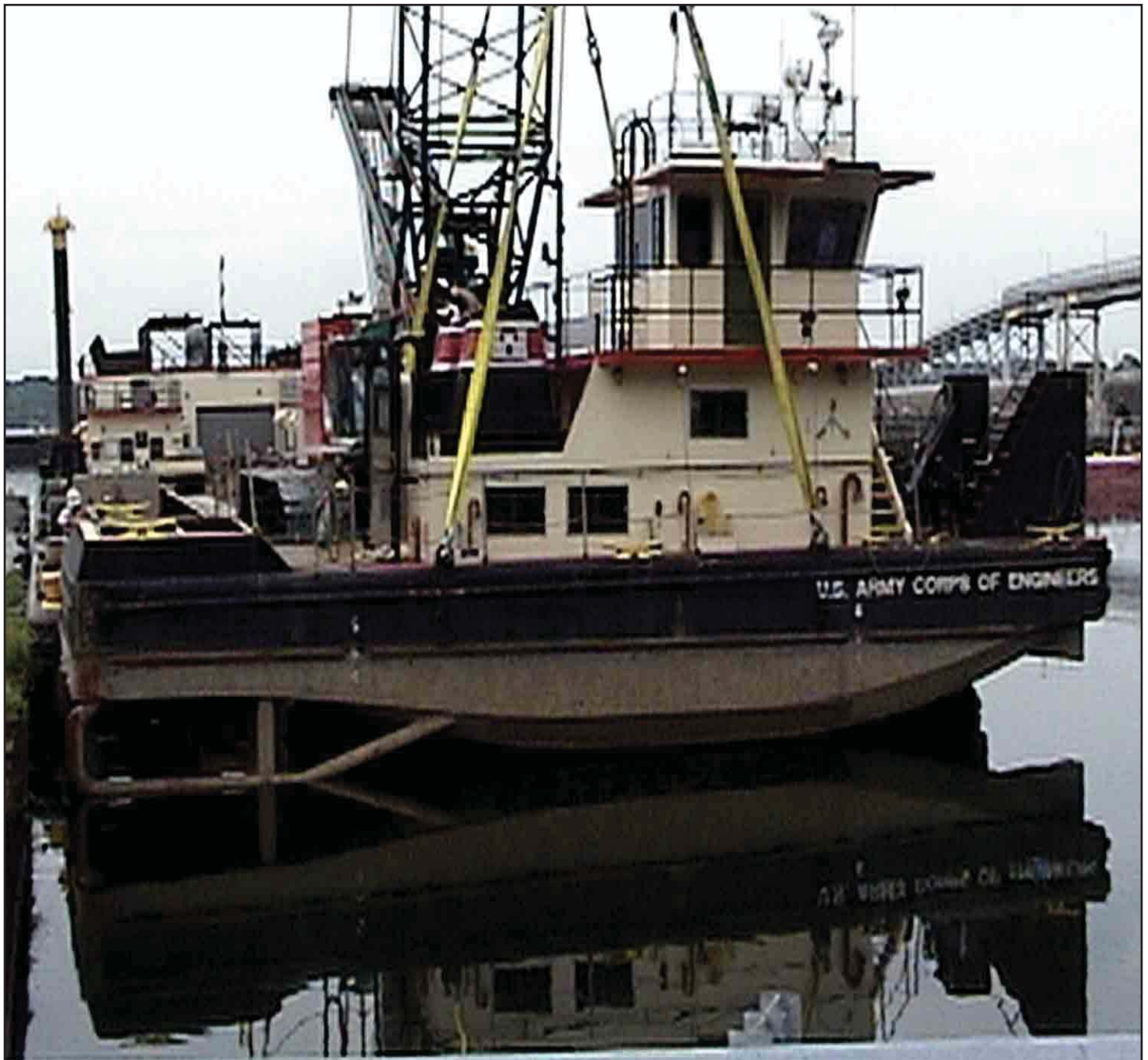
Volume 107, Number 8

Relevant-Ready-Responsive-Reliable

August 2007

Heavy Lift Now Easy for Fleet

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Lake Barkley Power Plant Operator Cynthia Martin is presented a Commander's Award for Civilian Service July 25 by Chief of Operations Division Mike Ensich in recognition of the part she played in the rescue of fishermen below the dam on April 22.



photo by Tom Battles

On the Cover

The Crawler Crane mounted on the Barge BINKLEY easily lifts the 87.5 ton Motor Tender Tennessee at Wilson Lock and Dam after the Tender was repaired and ready to go back on the water. Without the new crane, the lift could not have been performed 'in-house'. For complete details, see page 8.

District Digest

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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.

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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>.

Lieutenant Colonel Bernard R. Lindstrom

Lindstrom Sends

Greetings, The purpose of this letter is to reach out to all the employees, Civilian Soldiers, and teammates of the Nashville District Team, to say hello, to tell you a little bit about us (the new command team), and to start an open line of communication with you.

Communication

It is with great pleasure that we (Cara, Jakip, Alex, Ray and I) come to you with an attitude of gratitude and appreciation for the opportunity to serve with the Nashville District Team. We come to you with our sincere appreciation for the wonderful welcome. Every one of you demonstrated the obvious commitment to excellence as you took on the task to include us as new members of the Team. We realize that your daily pursuit of excellence through confidence and commitment serves approximately eight million people in the Twin Rivers Region and contributes to a long tradition and heritage of homeland protection, navigation, water resources, environmental, and infrastructure management. This marks a legacy of accomplishment that dates back to 1888. You have much to be proud of.

Now a little bit about us. We are a typical Army family who has served our country in good times and bad. We consist of a degreed nurse (Cara) whose daily vocation is currently homemaking; three children (John William Kip, aka "Jakip", who is a serious eleven-year-old; Alexander Ray, aka "Alex", who is a not-so-serious nine-year-old; and Ray, who is a four-months-old and who has not yet decided which moment of the day to be serious); and an Army Soldier and Leader (myself).

Cara has a deep commitment to taking care of people, even if it does not relate to health and medicine. She has a unique talent for determining how best to assist people where and when they need it most. Jakip is a serious and dedicated eleven-year-old who loves science, music and sports. Alex is a light-hearted nine-year-old who loves X-Box, art, and being creative. They are both currently members of the Franklin Cowboys football team and enjoy showing off their bruises from

practice.

I have an undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Masters in Business Administration. I am a very active parent in my boys' lives and have even demanded parent-teacher conferences via telephone while deployed to the Middle East.

You will see me out on the ball field with the boys whenever I can. I try to make Cara happy by being home for dinner even if it means leaving the house in the early hours of the morning. My best quality is also my worst quality – being painfully honest.

We look forward to serving with passion and commitment, leading our organization and preserving the legacy of excellence and achievement that makes



this organization GREAT. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you. One team! Ready! Relevant! Reliable! Responsive! Essayons! Army Strong!

Jackson Named Employee of the Month for July

Daphne Jackson, soils engineer in the Soils and Dam Safety Section of Civil Design Branch, has been named Nashville District Employee for the Month of July.

Jackson has worked many long days and weekends to ensure the preparation of the plans and specifications was complete for both the Wolf Creek Major Rehab cut-off wall contract and the Center Hill Seepage Rehab left rim and main dam embankment contract, totaling more than \$150 million.

While accomplishing that, she also coordinated the independent technical review (ITR) for the Center Hill contract. For critical subsurface seepage investigations, she composed Scopes of Work and coordinated on-the-ground survey efforts with contractors ARCADIS, Inc., and Aquatrack, Inc., for both Wolf Creek and Center Hill.

She then evaluated the results of the surveys to further determine the critical areas requiring priority monitoring and seepage treatments.

She worked extensively with drill crews from the Savannah and Baltimore Districts to coordinate investigative drilling at both projects. Her diligent efforts proved vital to the success of these critical

projects.

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.



Daphne Jackson

Rangers Help Rescue Injured Child

by Resource Manager Mike Looney

Two Corps Park Rangers at Lake Barkley were at the right place at the right time during the July 4th holiday weekend and their quick actions prevented what could have been a tragedy for the parents of a 7-year-old boy.

Rangers Kayl Kite and Mike Kuntz were conducting routine boat patrol near Lake Barkley State Park when they noticed the occupants of a pontoon boat frantically signaling them for assistance.

When the pair came along side, they learned the couple's son had just been run over by the pontoon boat. The 7-year-old had been riding on the front of the craft when a large wave tossed the young boy into the water. The boat operator could not react quickly enough to avoid running over the youngster. The parents quickly pulled their son from the water but not before he had been struck by the engine's propeller. The parents immediately spotted the Corps of Engineers Patrol Boat and flagged them down.

"We approached the craft and were told that a child had been injured," said Kuntz. Ranger Kuntz, who is also a Certified CPR Instructor with the American Red Cross, grabbed the first aid kit onboard the patrol craft and boarded the pontoon boat where he immediately put his training to good use.



photo by Carol McDaniels

Mike Kuntz (left) and Kayl Kite were at the right place at the right time on July 4th.

"What I found," revealed Kuntz, "was a 7-year-old with several deep lacerations to the back side of his right thigh. I cut his pants leg off and applied direct pressure to the wounds, which amazingly were not bleeding very much. The child was conscious, which was good, and crying. I then wrapped the wound."

Ranger Kite, the patrol boat operator, immediately began coordinating with local rescue officials and secured the help of a Trigg County Kentucky Paramedic who was also patrolling the Lake with the local rescue squad.

"When they arrived," said Kuntz, "I

turned the patient over to the paramedic who called for an air evacuation team." Kuntz, accompanied by Kite, then piloted the pontoon boat back to the dock where the injured boy was placed aboard a life-flight helicopter en route to Nashville.

The performance of Rangers Kite and Kuntz in this stressful situation reflects confidence in the Corps of Engineers' safety training and preparedness for emergency situations. Their courage, leadership and execution of duty in this situation reflect positively on a ranger workforce that is Relevant, Ready, Responsive and Reliable.



Paul Davis, director, Tennessee Department Environment and Conservation, displays a sign that will soon be erected on a highway to announce entrance into a state watershed. One of six planned state initiatives to broaden participation by members of the public and discourage pollution, the signs will be erected for each of the state's 55 watersheds. Officials with the Water Pollution Control Division plan to also post enforcement measures on the state website and encourage development of watershed associations, perhaps modeled after the Harpeth River Watershed Association <http://www.harpethriver.org/>. Davis revealed the initiative at a June 28 partnering meeting attended by Congressional, state and federal representatives.

photo by Dave Treadway

Carlton Selected to Lead Contracting Division

Story and photo by Tiffany Hedrick

Valerie Carlton recently took over as chief of the Nashville District Contracting Division.

Carlton has been with the Corps for 25 years, working in the Nashville District for the last 10, and has spent that entire time in Contracting. Prior to that, she spent five years doing contracting in the private sector.

“The work is never dull,” she said of her chosen field. “It’s always different, even if you do the same thing twice.” She also enjoys the fast pace, which makes her days go by fast, but Carlton says she likes

interacting with customers and people in other districts the best.

“You really have to like people to do this job,” she said. Carlton said she has enjoyed the job so far and that she had been busy, since taking on her new position, with work on the Wolf Creek Dam and Center Hill Dam projects. She gives much of the credit for her success to her staff.

“I have been blessed with a great staff,” she said. “They make my job so much easier. They make me look good.”



Valerie Carlton

Huntington Employee Chosen for Western Kentucky Job

by Dave Treadway

Tim Fudge, chief of the Maintenance Section, Huntington District, has been selected as the new Opera-

tions Manager for the western Kentucky Area. His appointment will be effective August 19.

The Ft. Worth, Texas, native grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and earned a bachelors degree in Civil Engineering at West Virginia Institute of Technology in 1994.

He first worked for the Corps as a student aide in 1987.

Following graduation, he served in the Civil Design Section of Design Branch, the Plan Formulation Section of Planning Division, and as Project Manager/Team Leader for the Dredging Team, Technical Support Branch, Operations and Readiness Division.

Fudge served a year as Project Manager for the Ohio River Mainstem System Study and is a recent graduate of the first Operations Project Management Career Assignment Program.

He leaves a job where he managed and directed a District maintenance program for nine high-lift dam and navigation structures along 400 miles of the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers and 35 flood control projects spread over four states.

Wife Tammy is a regulatory project manager in the Huntington District.

The new OM, whose father lives in Sharps Chapel, Tenn., says he and his wife enjoy “just about any outdoor activity” and that includes hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, boating, and riding dirt bikes.



Tim Fudge



The Man Behind the Name of Halcomb's Landing

by Wesley Robertson

Halcomb's Landing has been used for years as a boat ramp at Lake Cumberland. Thousands of buoyant boaters utilize this landing, though many probably do not know the origin of the name "Halcomb's Landing." To start with, the name involves a former ranger at Lake Cumberland, the late Wallace Halcomb. It was while working during the first rehabilitation of Wolf Creek Dam that the idea of Halcomb's Landing originated.

Currently Wolf Creek Dam is again under repair by the Nashville District Corps of Engineers. After the Corps rehabilitated Wolf Creek Dam for the same reasons during the 1970's, excess construction supplies and material remained.

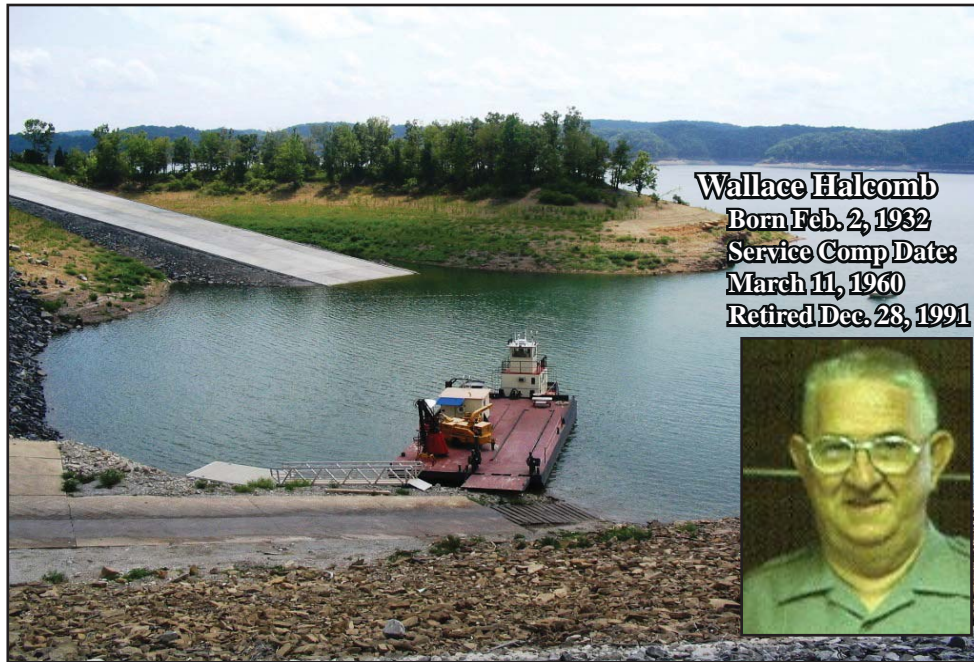
Bernie Kearns, currently working at Lake Cumberland, was a civil engineering technician at the construction site in 1976. He actually aided in the construction of Halcomb's Landing. Kearns recalls the story of Halcomb's Landing because he was part of the construction of the boat ramp. He remembered how some excess sheet piling and stone remained from the diaphragm wall contract.

"The question was 'Where to put?' the excess materials," said Kearns. Excess sheet piling just lay on the backside of a work platform, and when they needed to use the work platform, they also needed to find a use for the extra material. Enter Wallace Halcomb, supervisory ranger at the time, who suggested they utilize the extra materials by constructing a boat ramp.

"It was just an old narrow access road," is how Kearns described the location of the landing. To provide a more convenient access point, Ranger Halcomb suggested that the construction team fill out a cove on that end of the lake near the haul road.

Workers finished Halcomb's Landing in 1979.

In the end, Tom Wilkerson, Resource Manager, decided to name the landing in honor of Wallace Halcomb's suggestion.



Wallace Halcomb
Born Feb. 2, 1932
Service Comp Date:
March 11, 1960
Retired Dec. 23, 1991

A renovated Halcomb's landing as it appears today. The site was named for Corps Ranger Wallace Halcomb (inset).

The innovative ranger also received a \$700 reward for his frugal and practical suggestion.

Bill Jackson, now an Environmental/Safety Ranger for the Ouachita Project Management Office in the Vicksburg

District, fondly recalled his time with Halcomb while a young ranger.

"I learned more about being a park ranger from Wallace, than I had ever thought," said Jackson. "It is through his

mentoring that I've been able to move through my years as a park ranger. Not only was Wallace my mentor, but he was also a dear friend. Wallace was always there for anyone who needed him. He always had a way to make a bad day good."

Nowadays,

Halcomb's Landing still serves the public just as well as it did 27 years ago. "It was a boon for the area," said Kearns. The new landing increased visitation and "gave access to that part of the lake. It turned out to be a great idea."



Jackson with Halcomb in 1988

Wallace will be missed, but his comments and wisdom that he passed along to all of us 'rookie Rangers' will carry on forever. - Ranger Bill Jackson

Quarantine on Wood Products Affects Visitors to Corps Lakes

by Tiffany Hedrick

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has placed into effect a Federal Domestic Quarantine Order regulating the interstate movement of wood and wood products from the states of Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania to limit the spread of the exotic Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

This insect, a ½-inch-long metallic-green beetle from Asia, most likely arrived in the US in wood packing materials used on ships or planes. The EAB attacks only ash trees, but it can attack all species of true ash found in the US. Infestation is always fatal, with trees dying within 1-3 years of infestation. Although woodpeckers will eat them, they have no real predators in North America.

The beetle was first discovered in southern Michigan in 2002, but it has now been found in Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia as well.

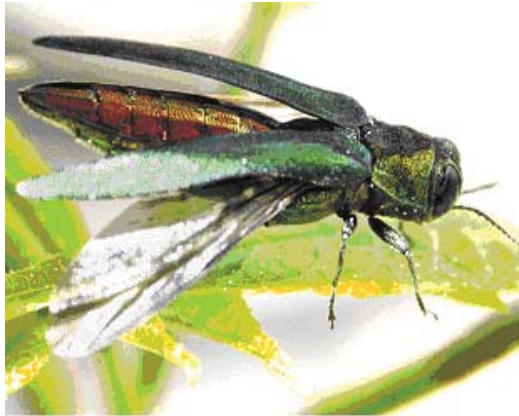
It is estimated that this insect has been responsible for the death and decline of more than 25 million trees so far. Experts believe the spread of EAB has been so rapid because these insects can be easily transported in ash wood products, particularly firewood.

The Federal quarantine includes firewood from all hardwood tree species, nursery stock, lumber, green waste, compost and ash chips. However, it does not apply to the movement of coniferous species of firewood, such as pine, spruce and fir.

The state of Kentucky has also enacted a new law banning all out-of state firewood from their campgrounds. Tennessee has not yet decided whether to enact a similar ban, but State Entomologist Steve Powell believes both visitors and the people of Tennessee need to be informed about the quarantine.

Since many visitors to Corps lakes come from other states, it is important that they are aware of the threats posed by the EAB and cooperate with the bans to prevent the spread of this insect.

“If out of state firewood is brought into our parks,” said Environmental Protection



Specialist Sondra Carmen, Dale Hollow Lake, “we recommend visitors burn all that wood during their visit and not leave it onsite.”

More information about the Emerald Ash Borer can be found at <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>.

-photo from APHIS website (photograph taken by APHIS PPQ employee Dr. James E. Zablotny)

Nantahala Outdoor Center Guide Clinus goes airborne (at right) July 28 on the Middle Ocoee River near Cleveland, Tenn., while escorting the 2007 Leadership Development Class on a team-building exercise.

Coordinators Freddie Bell and Chip Hall, along with class members Kim Franklin, Brad Long and their spouses, do their best to stay within the friendly confines of the craft on the Class III and Class IV rapids. The second boat (below) has LDP members Cory Morgan and spouse Julie Morgan, Tim Dawson and friend Blessing Aimuan and Lanae Long and friend Matt Andrews.

LDP Teambuilding on the Ocoee



Photos courtesy of Nantahala Outdoor Center



Heavy Lifts Now Easy for District Fleet

by Dave Treadway

Nashville District's newest workhorse got the call to perform in June and easily proved that it was up to the task.

The **Motor Tender (M/T) TENNESSEE** was dry docked at Wilson Lock and Dam so that employees could make repairs to the steering and flanking rudders. Enter the **Motor Vessel (M/V) IROQUOIS** and the **BINKLEY Crane Shop Barge** outfitted with a Link-belt 300 ton crawler crane and the task was a 'piece of cake'.

The **BINKLEY's** new crawler crane easily lifted the vessel onto the timber cribbing, a lift of 87.5 tons.

"Prior to the 2006 acquisition of the **BINKLEY** and crawler crane," said Pete Leighty, chief of the Nashville

District Floating Plant Unit, "this lift could not have been accomplished in-house."

The lifting crew was made up of Master Pilot John Nunley, Derrickboat Operator Jacob Traughber, Chuck Nichols, Ronnie Bordenet and Bobby Holt. They raised it from the water and positioned it where repairs could be most easily made.

Once the vessel was out of the water, Plant Unit employees made the necessary repairs. Marine Machinery Mechanic Joe Adawag served as the lead technician to perform and oversee the work.

Those repairs included the complete removal of all six rudders, all steering linkage and related components. Once the rudders were removed, Adawag ensured that lower bushings and top support bearings were replaced on all rudders, and that all steering linkage connecting pins and links were realigned and rebored.

Once repairs were completed, a different crew consisting of Master Pilot Tom Battles, Pilot Marvin Gray, Jimmy Greer, Johnny Traughber, and Anthony Certeza then lifted the boat from the cribbing on July 17 and placed it into the water in preparation for performance tests.



photo by Tom Battles

The Motor Tender TENNESSEE is lifted from the cribbing at Wilson Lock July 17 after repair work is completed. The crawler crane mounted on the BINKLEY Crane Barge easily lifted the 87.5 ton load.

"The total team effort was performed both timely and successfully," said Leighty, "which prevented the work schedule from being altered."

The assigned Plant Unit personnel discovered that the **M/T TENNESSEE** needed repairs while using the boat to move the floating caisson in November last year at Wilson Main Lock when it was being used as the upper gate during repairs following an accident August 3. That work at Wilson Lock was completed

and the Lock was put back in service December 2, four days ahead of schedule. Repairs to the vessel were urgent because of the need for completion so the **M/T TENNESSEE** could be used for dredging operations on the Hiwassee River this month.

The **BINKLEY** Crane Shop Barge replaced the 30-year-old Derrickboat # 10. It was named after former Corps derrickboat operator Louis M. Binkley and christened February 3, 2006, at Cheatham Lake not far from where he grew up.

The **BINKLEY** is 255 feet long, and 56 feet wide, with a maximum draft of nine feet. It is fully self-supporting with two generators that produce 170 kilowatts of electrical power and has a fully-equipped machine/fabrication shop and other facilities.

The new 300-ton crawler crane more than doubled the District's heavy-lift capabilities when it was delivered and installed late this spring.

The **M/V IROQUOIS** serves as the power source to move the floating plant group as it carries out missions on the Tennessee, Cumberland, Clinch and Hiwassee Rivers. Those missions include major maintenance, lock dewaterings, channel dredging and mooring cell construction.

Many local youngsters enjoyed the Fishing Rodeo at Old Hickory Lake on June 9. Rangers Crystal Tingle and Courtney Wilson assisted young anglers, who were all visited by the Corps of Engineers' Sea Serpent named Seamoor.



photo by Courtney Wilson



Salt Lick Creek In Spotlight

by Park Ranger Travis Wiley

Salt Lick Creek Campground on Cordell Hull Lake was recently named in the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) "Top 100 Family Campgrounds" listing for parks across the United States. The list was developed in part by park rangers, regional park management and campers who write

testimonials, rate campgrounds and provide feedback throughout the year.

The Top 100 Family Campgrounds were selected based on criteria requested by family campers, including park amenities, stunning outdoor scenery and educational facilities.

The quality and availability of hot showers, laundry facilities, hiking trails, family beaches, radio-free zones, visitor centers, educational programs, children's events and location were also considered.

Salt Lick Creek is located approxi-

mately 75 miles east of Nashville near Gainesboro, Tennessee. The park offers 150 sites for tents or motor homes and also contains a picnic shelter, playground, basketball court, volleyball court, and a swimming beach. It is renown in the Upper Cumberland Area for scenic views, abundant wildlife and spacious campsites.

Winners of the award are featured under the Top 100 tab of The Camping Club website <http://www.thecampingclub.com/zztop100/top100list.html>

Driftwood Cleanup Planned at Lake Cumberland

Driftwood now clutters the shoreline of Lake Cumberland in many areas, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is looking for help from local communities to remove the debris.

Volunteers are needed August 25 - 26 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. for what may be some rigorous, yet rewarding, activities to help clean up driftwood left on the shore and perhaps made more visible by the lake drawdown.

Volunteers will be asked to help carry driftwood down to the shoreline, where it then will be chipped by *The PRIDE of the Cumberland* or burned. The project will involve heavy lifting and walking on rough, steep terrain, so the day's activities will not be appropriate for children.

Assembly locations will include Waitsboro Recreation Area, Conley Bottom Marina, Rowena Landing and Grider Hill Marina. The Friends of Lake Cumberland will provide lunch and work gloves for participants.

Those wishing to sign up for the Driftwood Cleanup Days should contact Ranger Judy Daulton at (606)679-6337 or by email at Judy.K.Daulton@lrm02.usace.army.mil. Driftwood Cleanup Days are in addition to the 18th Annual Lake Cumberland Cleanup that will be held on September 15.



Woody debris lines the shoreline of Lake Cumberland as volunteers sort trash for disposal at Waitsboro during a former cleanup event.

The Corps Crowd

Welcome to...

...Brook Brosi, a geologist at Wolf Creek Dam Resident Office who arrived June 11. Brosi comes to Nashville from the Louisville District, where she had worked for five and one-half years.

...Mark Klimaszewski to the Old Hickory Resource Office as the conservation biologist.

...Chris Vega, park contract inspector, to Cordell Hull Lake.

...Martha Robertson, who came to Center Hill Resource and the Mid-Cumberland Area Office as an administrative assistant on July 22. Martha previously worked at Veterans Administration in Murfreesboro.



Robertson

Farewell to...

...Daniel Keenum, lock operator, who leaves Cheatham Lock September 16 for his new assignment at Pickwick Lock.

...Lesslie Williams, office assistant who departed Center Hill and Kenny Claywell, conservation biologist who left Old Hickory. Both are now at Cordell Hull Lake.

Congratulations to...

...Patti and Anthony Morris, an operator at Cordell Hull Power Plant, whose daughter Maeghan Morris graduated from Bethel College in McKenzie, Tenn., August 5th with a B.S. degree in elementary education. Maeghan was a four-time all-conference softball pitcher while at Bethel.



Morris

...Josh Barker for graduating from the lock operator training program on June 28 and was assigned to Cheatham Lock.

...Chris Clabough on his assignment to Cheatham Lock as a lock operator effective August 19.

...William Greg Thomas, civil engineering tech (facility manager), J. Percy Priest Lake, for his recent promotion to Major, Tennessee National Guard, 194th Engi-

neering Brigade, Jackson, Tenn.

...John Derby, Cordell Hull park ranger, on his promotion as Natural Resource Specialist in the Seattle District. He left July 23.

...Tiffany Hedrick, Public Affairs student aide, who is the daughter of Mary and Ray Hedrick, PPPMD, upon her marriage to Chris Hopper of Nashville. The couple was married July 28 in Burns, Tenn.

Baby Brigade to...

...Bert Merritt, Cordell Hull civil engineering tech/facility manager, and wife Jamie on the birth of Shailee Sierra who weighed 8 pounds, 14 ounces, when she entered the world on January 17.



Shailee Sierra

Sympathy to...

...Ronnie Barnes, lock and dam equipment mechanic, Pickwick Lock, whose sister, Judy Philbin, passed away July 5.

...Rhonda Varnell, Information Management, whose brother, Iaron Keath Varnell, passed on Friday, July 13.

...Tommy Haskins, Engineering-Construction Division, whose mother Ruby Haskins, passed away July 13.

...the family of Eugene (Gene) Christian, a retired Center Hill Maintenance Mechanic in 2005, passed away on July 14.

...the family of John Welbern, former maintenance foreman and diver at Nashville Repair Station, who passed away July 17 of health complications.

...the family of Joe Patterson, who retired from the maintenance section at J. Percy Priest Lake, died July 17 prior to scheduled open-heart surgery at Centennial Hospital.

...the family of Jack Scott Fanning, who passed away July 19. His son, Bill Fanning, retired as a geologist in Engineering Division, and his grandson, Scott Fanning, is a Park Ranger at Center Hill Lake.

...Dennis Pealer, Dale Hollow Resource Office, whose father, Roy Pealer, retired Corps operator, passed away on July 21.

Thank you to...

...On behalf of the family of Eugene

(Gene) Christian, my uncle, I want to express our deep appreciation to the Corps family for the many kind expressions of sympathy. Gene retired from Center Hill Lake as a Maintenance Mechanic in 2005. The many phone calls and home and hospital visits during his illness for the past several months encouraged and comforted him. We are forever grateful to Tony Crow, Center Hill Lake, for his pastoral care to Gene and the family during his illness and death. *Shirley C. Puckett, Park Contract Inspector, Center Hill Lake*

... Well friends, it's time for me to put on the dancing shoes and dance on out of the Nashville District. Due to this major illness, and another major medical procedure yet to come, I'll be retiring the 30th of September. I have enjoyed so very much working, laughing, crying and being a part of the Corps of Engineers. Many, many thanks to those of you who donated blood, platelets, and annual leave for me. Thank-you just doesn't seem satisfactory for all you have done. I pray God's blessings upon all of you and ask that you continue to remember me and my family in prayer. I Corinthians 13:13, Love you all! *Sharon Wilson*

...I would like to inform everyone that I have returned from 3 tours, 22 months in Iraq. I was a Project Engineer assigned to the Gulf Region Central, Victory Area Office, Victory South Resident Office. I want to thank all of the people in the Nashville District for their emails, their support and their friendship. I would like to especially thank the people within our Construction Division for allowing me the opportunity to represent the Nashville District in support of the Global War on Terror. I would also like to add if given the opportunity to serve again I would gladly volunteer. If there is anyone wish-



ing to ask questions about serving in Iraq I would be glad to answer them. While in Iraq I took well over 3,000 photographs and would love to share them. *Mark Gibson, Civil Engineering Technician*

Impact of Supreme Court Decisions

by Wesley Robertson

Two recent Supreme Court decisions will mean new ways of conducting business for the Corps of Engineers.

In June 2006 the Supreme Court issued rulings on Rapanos v. United States and Carabell v. United States, two civilians trying to backfill on protected wetlands which challenged the authority of the Corps to regulate such practices.

The verdict in each case addressed the scope of the Clean Water Act's (CWA) jurisdiction over certain waters. The legal guidance derived from the verdict will also affect the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

William James, Regulatory Branch, helped put the guidance in layman's terms.

"In simple terms, the Corps of Engineers regulates all working waters of the United States," said James. Those include the waters "to protect water quality and navigation. In the 1800s, the Corps regulated the waters to protect for navigation." He indicated that newer developments have led to more responsibility for the Corps.

"The Clean Water Act in the 1970's provided that the Corps regulate discharge or dredged material in all waters of the United States." Additionally, to ensure wetlands protection, the Clean Water Act of 1972 directed citizens to obtain a permit if they wanted to carry out work on Corps' wetlands.

This power of the Corps includes the ability to decline permits for settling, filling, dredging, or erecting structures such as wharfs, jetties, weirs, bulkheads, transmission lines, and piers on certain wetlands. Of course, developers disliked the Corps' increased jurisdictional power.

"Developers thought they regulated too much," James noted. On the other hand, environmental groups wanted the Corps of Engineers to "protect everything under the sun." Rapanos and Carabell, in similar situations, were denied permits to fill wetlands the Corps felt should be protected, therefore both took their cases to the Supreme Court.

What is the significance of the Rapanos decision?

"This is about the scope of our jurisdiction," said James. After the ruling, the CWA issued guidance for the Corps to follow concerning water area regulation. These guidelines include the continued regulation of "traditionally navigable waters," including waters large enough for boating and any wetlands adjacent to these waters. The guidance also states that erosional features, swales, small washes and many ditches are generally non-jurisdictional under the CWA.

How does the Rapanos Case affect the Corps?

"The regulatory process will be more labor-intensive and more complicated than it used to be," James pointed out. "It is a steep learning curve to figure how to use the guidance." The case affects waters over which the Corps has jurisdiction and can continue to regulate.

The new CWA guidance requires a more extensive jurisdictional determination. Consequently, the Corps cannot deny permits on wetlands affected by the ruling. This includes swales or erosional features and ditches that do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water.

The regulation process of the Corps was altered to follow the guidelines taken from the Rapanos ruling.

Those guidelines are:

1. Regulate "traditionally navigable waters," including all rivers and other waters that are large enough to be used by boats that transport commerce and any wetlands adjacent to such waters;

2. Regulate "non-navigable tributaries that are relatively permanent and wetlands that are physically connected to these tributaries"; and

3. Regulate based on case-by-case determinations for other tributaries and adjacent wetlands

that have certain characteristics that significantly affect traditionally navigable waters.

The Rapanos decision also directly affects the staff by altering the Corps' regulation process.

"We need to devote more resources for doing the initial jurisdictional determinations," James said.

As opposed to the Corps of Engineers denying permits by their solo consent and judgment, the Corps must now work with the EPA to determine which permits are acceptable and which actually pose a threat to the aquatic environment.

This change to the regulatory process will require more agency coordination. For example, all JDs (jurisdictional determinations) involving a "significant nexus" (significant in that the nexus affects the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the traditional navigable water by more than a speculative or insubstantial motive) must be reviewed by the appropriate USEPA Regional Office, with possible evaluation by HQUSACE and HQUSEPA.

In addition to an increase in cooperation with other agencies, the Corps of Engineers must assess the flow characteristics and functions of the nexus itself to determine if it significantly affects the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of downstream traditional navigable waters.

"It's going to be a bit of a struggle until we get some more resources," claimed James.

Overall, this new guidance from the Rapanos and Carabell decisions will require more coordination with the EPA concerning permits and jurisdictional determinations. Furthermore, the Supreme Court decision will require an extended evaluation by the Corps to support jurisdictional determinations.

James offered regulatory branch employees two bits of advice: "You do not need to get frustrated," and "We should try to figure out more efficient ways to do this."

For more information, the CWA guidance is posted at <http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/>.

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Just To Be On The Safe Side . . . Dangers of summer heat

Exposure to abnormal or prolonged amounts of heat and humidity without relief or adequate fluid intake can cause various types of heat-related illness. Children adjust more slowly than adults to changes in environmental heat. They also produce more heat with activity than adults, and sweat less. Sweating is one of the body's normal cooling mechanisms. Children often do not think to rest when having fun and may not drink enough fluids when playing, exercising, or participating in sports.

Children with chronic health problems, or those who take certain medicines, may be more susceptible to heat-related illnesses. Children who are overweight or wear heavy clothing during exertion, such as marching band or football uniforms, are also more susceptible.

There are three types of heat-related illnesses: heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Heat cramps are the mildest form of heat injury and consist of painful muscle cramps and spasms that occur during or after intense exercise and sweating in high heat.

Heat exhaustion is more severe than heat cramps and results from a loss of water and salt in the body. It occurs in conditions of extreme heat and excessive sweating without adequate fluid and salt replacement. Heat exhaustion occurs when the body is unable to cool itself properly and, if left untreated, can progress to heat stroke.

Heat stroke, the most severe form

of heat illness, occurs when the body's heat-regulating system is overwhelmed by excessive heat. It is a life-threatening emergency and requires immediate medical attention.

Some general guidelines to help protect yourself, a co-worker or a child from heat-related illnesses include the following:

- * Drink plenty of fluids during vigorous or outdoor activities (including sunbathing), especially on hot days. Drinks of choice include water and sports drinks; avoid alcohol and fluids with caffeine such as tea, coffee, and cola, as these can lead to dehydration.

- * Dress in light colored, lightweight, tightly-woven, loose-fitting clothing on hot days.

- * Schedule vigorous activity and sports for cooler times of the day. Take rest periods in shady or cool areas.

- * Protect children from the sun by having them wear a hat and sunglasses and by using an umbrella. Use a sunscreen that is at least SPF (sun protection factor) 15.

- * Increase time spent outdoors gradually to allow your body to get used to the heat.

- * Adults should teach children to take frequent drink breaks and "wet down" or mist themselves with a spray bottle to avoid becoming overheated.

- * Try to spend as much time indoors as possible on very hot and humid days.

- * Do not leave children unattended in a hot automobile.

- * Teach children to warm-up and cool-down before and after exercising.

- * People with a medical condition or those taking medication should consult with a physician for advice about preventing heat-related illnesses.

Celebrate with Cumberland River Compact

The Mid-Cumberland Watershed Committee, action arm of the Cumberland River Compact, along with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, are holding the Snorkeling in the Stones Watershed - Where do the Critters Live? on Sept. 8.

This event is one of the Cumberland River Compact's 10 Events for their 10 Year Anniversary and they want everyone to help them celebrate.

For more information, call Art Newby 615-313-0344.

Events already held include ...

Canoe-t to Work, Wildflower Walk in

the South Fork and Middle Cumberland Committee's Creek Clean-up, Riverside Photography for Beginners, and Introduction to Fly Fishing in the Caney Fork.

You can read about those events at www.Cumberlandrivercompact.org.

Other events planned this year include:

- Sept. 8 Snorkeling in the Stones Watershed

- Where Do The Critters Live?

- Sept.15 River Critter Identification class in the Red River Watershed

- October Fall Foliage Tour on the Blue Heron - the Cumberland to the Harpeth

- A Compact fun event slated for August 25 is Dragon Boat Races - Racing long canoes on the Cumberland - Wow.