



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District

DistrictDigest

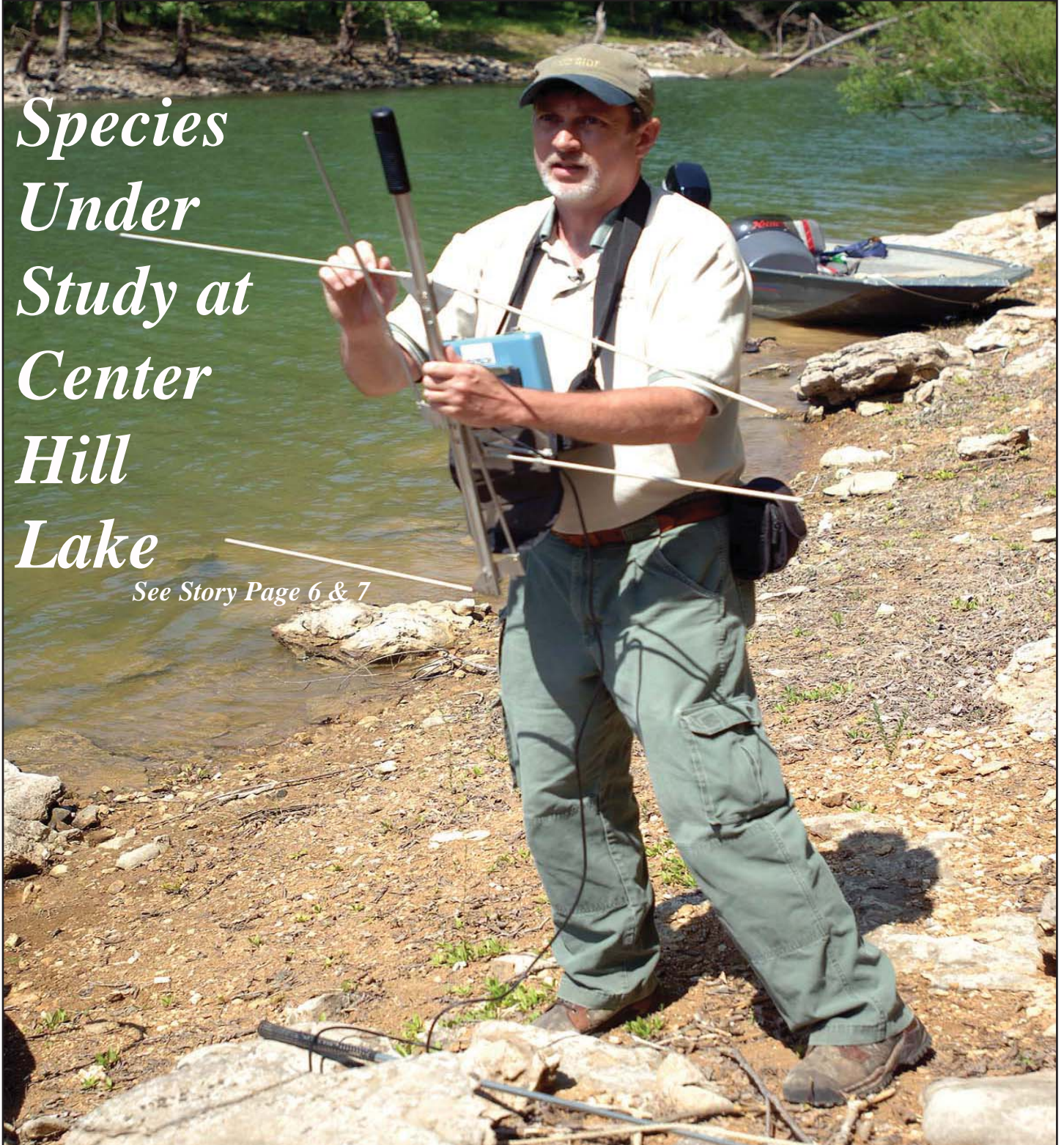
Volume 107, Number 6

Relevant-Ready-Responsive-Reliable

June 2007

Species Under Study at Center Hill Lake

See Story Page 6 & 7



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Mandatory Lifejacket Wear Under Corps Review

Corps officials in Operations Division and the Safety and Occupational Health Office are researching the feasibility of establishing a mandatory life jacket wear requirement for all visitors on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers waters. The process will include a full and objective review of effects and impacts of such a requirement.

Director of Civil Works MG Don T. Riley has asked for final recommendations by May 2008.

Corps public fatality records main-

tained since 1998 show that 90 percent of drown victims in Corps waters were not wearing a life jacket.

Although educational outreach on the value of life jackets has succeeded in saving countless lives on Corps waterways during the past two decades, still more than 150 individuals die while participating in water-based recreation annually on Corps projects.

Lynda Nutt, program manager, National Operating Center (NOC) for Water Safety, will coordinate the review.

On the Cover

Cumberland University Professor Danny Bryan prepares to use a radiotelemetry receiver to find a timber rattlesnake May 23 at Center Hill Lake. He hopes his study will contribute to a decision by the state of Tennessee to place the species on the threatened and endangered list. For the full story, turn to page 6.

photo by Dave Treadway



District Digest

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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

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

Major Craig Guth

Deputy Commander's Corner

This month the commander invited me to use his space in the District Digest. As of May, I've been with the District now two years, minus my six months in Iraq. Although I requested an extension for a third year, the Army decided that it was time for me to head off to Heidelberg, Germany.

Communication

This has been my second time assigned with USACE and my fourth tour dealing primarily with Department of the Army Civilian Employees. I continue to be impressed with the professionalism and dedication of those I encounter. Living and working in Nashville has been a pleasure. Over the past two years, I have seen the District face and overcome a number of obstacles through your determined efforts. Whether it is deployed in support of GWOT or hurricane recovery, working at projects, or here in the District Office, Nashville employees serve the public with a cheerful spirit. My replacement, MAJ Teresa Strauss, will be arriving on August 13. She is returning from Iraq where she was a resident engineer and I know that you will make her welcome.

We continue to face many challenges and both the Corps and the Army continue to transform. We had a successful mock pay pool in conjunction with the normal interim assessment process that is built into NSPS. The mock pay pool was conducted primarily to train senior leaders on the process we will use at the end of the year. I have written a detailed description of the process and sent that description to all supervisors currently in NSPS. I asked that they share this with their employees so that we can all understand NSPS a little better.

All remaining Nashville Government Schedule employees are scheduled to convert in February 2008. Overall, I believe that NSPS will be a positive for both employees and management. It appears that, under NSPS, there will be both annual bonuses and pay raises for valued employees who meet their objectives. We will encounter some issues and I know Army has already requested a number of

improvements from DoD.

Logistics Management recently converted to a High Performing Organization. Although they are now like HR and not officially assigned to the Nashville District, they will continue to remain part of the Nashville family and continue to provide us excellent support. There will be some changes as they streamline their service. One major change will be the removal from the property book of many items valued under \$5,000. As stewards of the public's money, we must continue to ensure that we properly maintain all property. Over the next year we will see big changes in Information Management as the new Army Corps of Engineers – Information Technology organization takes over this function. All computers and printers will be replaced about next January. Although some of our equipment may not be ready for replacement, having standardized computers all loaded with the same applications will save money.

I want to encourage each of you to



remain vigilant in safety. Accidents are generally the result of shortcuts that we take. Every time we take a shortcut, we are rolling the dice and opening ourselves up to chance. By using composite risk management to identify hazards, and taking steps to remove or reduce those hazards, and then being disciplined to follow our plan, we can reduce the number of times we roll the dice and reduce the number of accidents that occur.

As my wife and I move on to Heidelberg, Germany, I want to thank you all for the opportunity you have given me to work with you here in Nashville and to enjoy my time among you.

Employee of the Month for May

Linda Adcock has been selected as the Employee of the Month for May. For the past three years, Adcock, formerly the dam safety manager for Nashville District, has been the driving force on Center Hill major rehabilitation seepage issues and her efforts produced contract documents in May for the first large grouting contract at Center Hill's main dam embankment and left rim.

She first managed this effort from Engineering-Construction Division and now does so in the Programs and Project Delivery Branch as the Center Hill project manager. Center Hill Dam was ranked high in the 2005 and 2006 Corps Portfolio Risk Assessment (PRA) in Dam Safety Action Classification I -- the highest category of risk and urgency for dam safety major rehabilitation. During the month of May, Adcock continued to support the District by serving as the subject matter expert for briefings on both Wolf Creek and Center Hill Seepage to interest groups

outside the Corps of Engineers.

Senior leaders select the District Employee of the Month from those identified by the District's chain of command. Selected employees personify the seven Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage.



Linda Adcock

LTG Van Antwerp Selected to Lead Corps

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp became the 52nd Chief of Engineers and Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on May 18. He assumed this position from Lieutenant General Carl A. Strock who retired after 36 years of military service.

General Van Antwerp's previous assignment was as Commanding General, U.S. Army Accessions Command and Deputy Commanding General for Initial Military Training at Fort Monroe, Va. The Army Accessions Command consists of U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Fort Knox, Ky.; U.S. Army Cadet Command, Fort Monroe, Va.; and the U.S. Army Training Center, Fort Jackson, S.C. Additionally, General Van Antwerp exercised Department of the Army directed executive agent authority over the Military Entrance Processing Command.

Command assignments include the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center and Fort Leonard Wood/Commandant, U.S. Army Engineer School; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District during the Northridge Earthquake of 1994; the U.S. Army Division, South Atlantic, Atlanta, Ga.; and the 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) during OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM in Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Other assignments include Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, Washington, DC; Director, Office of Competitive Sourcing, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Research, Development and Acquisition), Washington, DC; Executive Assistant to the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC; Executive Office, Office of the Chief of Engineers, Washington, DC; Chief, Military Engineering and Construction Division, U.S. Army Western Command, Fort Shafter, Hawaii; Executive Officer, 84th Engineer Battalion, 45th General Support Group, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and Instructor, Department of Mechanics, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N. Y.

Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp graduated from the U.S. Military



Command Sergeant Major Robert A. Winsenreid (right) accepts the USACE Colors from new Chief of Engineers Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp May 18.

tary Academy in 1972. He completed Ranger, Airborne and Air Assault training, the Engineer Officer Basic Course and the Engineer Officer Advanced Course. He holds a Master of Science Degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan and a Master of Business

Administration Degree from Long Island University in New York. He is a Registered Professional Engineer.

General Van Antwerp and his wife, Paula, have three sons, Jeff, Luke and Rob; and two daughters, Julia and Kathryn.



New District Engineer to Take Command Next Month

by Park Ranger Lindsey Houchens

Lieutenant Colonel Bernard R. Lindstrom will take command of the Nashville District in a ceremony July 20. He comes to Nashville from Heidelberg, Germany, where he served as the Construction Management Chief, 18th Engineer Brigade (Theater Army) in support of United States Army Europe, Deputy Chief of Staff Engineer.

While in Heidelberg, he also served as the Brigade Executive Officer of the 18th Engineer Brigade (Theater Army), Combined Joint Task Force-76, Afghanistan; and Executive Officer, Deputy Chief of Staff Engineer USAREUR/7th Army.

A native of Pittsburgh, Penn., LTC Lindstrom was commissioned in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1988 with an

Associate in Engineering Science from Georgia Military College, Milledgeville, Ga., and a Bachelor of Science Degree in mechanical engineering from Mercer University, in Macon. He holds a Masters Degree in business administration, from Benedictine College. He is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College in Ft. Leavenworth, Ks., and the Engineer Officers Career Course and Basic Course, Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.

LTC Lindstrom's prior assignments include Battalion Executive Officer, and Battalion Operations Officer, 94th Engineer Battalion (Combat), 130th Engineer Brigade, V Corps, Baghdad, Iraq; Battalion Executive Officer and Team Leader, 3-315th Engineer Regiment, 5th Brigade (Training Support), Harrisburg, Penn.; Company Commander, 317th Engineer



Lieutenant Colonel
Bernard R. Lindstrom

Readiness Update

Deployed Personnel: Civil Emergencies: 4 GWOT: 1 Total Deployed

EXERCISEEXERCISE**EXERCISE:** What if the New Madrid Earthquake happened today? What would you do? That's the scenario Nashville District will face during exercises June 18-21.

Exercise Summary

18 Jun: RRV team deploys to participate in a TEMA communications exercise and a RRV exercise with the St Louis, Baltimore and Ft Worth District RRVs in west Tennessee.

19 Jun: Crisis Management Team (CMT), District ENLink Strike Team, and Reception Staging Onward-movement and Integration (RSOI) Teams will be activated for a Table Top Exercise.

20 Jun: The RSOI Team will establish an operational RSOI at J. Percy Priest and in/out-process the Crisis Management Team for a simulated deployment.

21 Jun: How will the District Office respond to an emergency?

Everyone should know:

- Where your rally point is located
- How to report personnel accountability by phone (HR HOTLINE 615-218-1418) or by sending a runner to the HR location (ask your supervisor for this location)

- HR will provide the 'All Clear' noti-

fication to return to the Federal building

Farewell: This is my final 'Readiness Update' to the District Digest. I'll be departing Nashville for opportunities as the Vicksburg District Emergency Manager.

As an Air Force Reserve Flight Commander, I always asked persons retiring or transferring to provide some words of wisdom upon their departure. Keeping with this tradition, I leave you with my three-point disaster guarantee....

1. There will be a disaster.--Prepare for the inevitable!

2. It won't happen at a good time.--There's never a GOOD time for a disaster!

3. No two disasters are alike.--You can't afford to learn lessons twice; capture lessons learned and retain them. The next disaster will provide its own unique learning opportunities!

I've enjoyed the last six years with the Nashville District. The World Trade Center, Iraq and Bulgaria are my most memorable deployments, but those places don't compare to being able to work with some of the best people in USACE right here in Nashville.

I look forward to working with you again. Keep up that 'Volunteer' spirit!!

Best wishes.....Jared C. Gartman

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

Battalion (Combat), 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Benning, Ga; Construction Engineer, Joint Task Force Provide Promise, Naples, Italy; Battalion Assistant Operations Officer; Platoon Leader, 16th Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade, V Corps.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Afghan Campaign Medal, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, and the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal.

He is also a combat veteran of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM – Afghanistan, and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM – Iraq.

LTC Lindstrom is married to the former Cara Jane Scully of Atlanta, Ga., and they have three children: John William Kip, who is 11 years old, Alexander Ray, who is nine years old, and Ray William, who is two months old.

Center Hill Provides Ideal Environment for Study

Story and photos by Dave Treadway

Danny Bryan is currently conducting a study at Center Hill Lake on a wildlife species most people do their best to avoid.

“Such a study on the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus horridus*) has not been done before in Tennessee,” said Professor Bryan who teaches biology at Cumberland University, in Lebanon, Tenn., “although



Professor Danny Bryan uses a GPS to plot a specimen's exact location. He has filled several notebooks with data during a three-year study.

studies have been done in other northern states. In 1999 and 2000, there was a coalition among several states, directed by Earl Possardt of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, working on a Conservation Action Plan for timber rattlesnakes. It looks like the intent of this plan is to see if and when the rattlesnake needs to be put on the threatened and endangered species list here.”

The professor's study may contribute to that decision by the state of Tennessee. According to Bryan, the timber rattle-

snake was originally found in 30 states but has been extirpated from three, is listed as endangered in seven, and is listed as threatened in five others. It is currently protected in five states. It is protected from harvest in Tennessee and is listed as in need of management.

The Corps of Engineers provided ideal habitat for the study.

“It would have been much more difficult for him to conduct the study without this ideal environment,” said Center Hill Park Ranger Stephen Beason. “This unsegmented land area is there because of our environmental policies. Our shoreline management plan does not permit development of this property.” One of the Corps' environmental principles calls for maintaining an environment in a healthy, diverse and sustainable condition necessary to support life.

Bryan regularly visits areas around the Lake to observe 13 specimens which he locates with the aid of surgically implanted radiotelemetry transmitters. Both Tennessee Technological University (TTU) in Cookeville and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) have supplied transmitters for the study.

He is collecting lots of data on the habits and habitat of the timber rattlesnakes, some of which were provided by others and some he collected by scouring likely areas around Center Hill, to complete his dissertation for an Environmental Science Doctorate of Philosophy at TTU.

Bryan, accompanied by Dr. Daniel Combs, TTU Biology Department Chair, made a visit to the wooded ridges around the Lake May 23.

He first visited the den site of ‘Big Daddy’, a 64-inch-long male.

“Right after he leaves the hibernaculum,” explained Bryan, “he will move to the top of a downed beech tree and use that for cover early in the season. When blackberries ripen, the snake then uses a power line right of way to move about a mile to his favorite feeding spot, in search of cotton rats, near the blackberries.”

‘Big Daddy’ was not at home so the group then searched for and located ‘Peaches’ a 10-year-old 54-inch male, named for the color of his underside. Peaches easily blended with the leaves on

which he lay coiled.

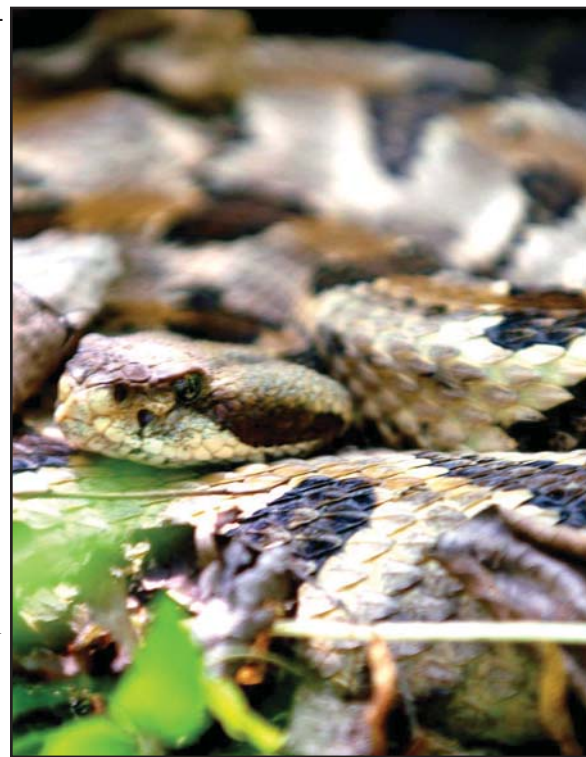
During each visit, Bryan takes meticulous notes that include details about the percent of overhead canopy, the types of trees near where the snake lies, and the exact location, based on a Global Positioning System. Those notes cover his observations over a three-year period.

“Snakebook number six is now full,” declared Bryan, as he tucked it into a trouser pocket. The snake under observation lay motionless.

“He is using camouflage as his first line of defense,” explained Bryan. “Snakes feed primarily on chipmunks and gray squirrels at this time of year, but later this one will move, via the powerline right-of-way, to where the blackberries are ripening.”

He studies their range of movement, and all details related to habitat. He wants to know the length of active season for rattlesnakes in Tennessee.

“So what these snakes are doing,” mused Bryan, “does it parallel with what is going on farther north? I think we have a much longer active season. Scar, a big male I have been tracking, has not gone into hibernation yet before Thanksgiving.”



The species is not aggressive and prefers to avoid human contact.

Tennessee Status

Originally found in 30 states, the Timber Rattlesnake has been extirpated from Delaware, Maine, and Rhode Island. The species is listed as endangered in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Texas, Vermont, and Virginia and threatened in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, New York, and Texas. Timber rattlesnakes are protected in Kansas, Maryland, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. It is protected from harvest in Tennessee and is listed as in need of management.

Existing Threats

Increased residential development has led to the loss of snakes and their habitats. The collection of timber rattlesnakes for hides (used for hat bands, belts, and boots), meat, venom, and artifacts (rattles and freeze dried snake heads) has continued to deplete already threatened populations.

Ecology

The Timber Rattlesnake is highly dependent on the existence of suitable winter denning habitat. Timber Rattlesnakes are a long-lived species, often living to 20 years or more. They will return to the same den year after year to hibernate.

Threats and Management Issues

Habitat loss and fragmentation are the chief threats facing Timber Rattlesnakes. Human persecution and harvesting have also had devastating effects on this species. Timber Rattlesnakes are

known to den communally. In some areas, Timber Rattlesnake populations have dropped to critically low levels as a result of dens being abused and used as activity centers from which to collect snakes.



'Peaches' relies on camouflage to avoid detection. Bryan marks her location with a GPS.

He prefers to call them by names based on his observation, rather than numbers.

'Yellow Mom', a pregnant female with 14 rattles, lay coiled partially in sun 150 yards above the Center Hill Lake shoreline. Only a few days before, Bryan found her near the shoreline and visible from his boat. He plans to collect her in August once the young are more fully developed. Such collection at this early stage of pregnancy might cause her body to absorb the new offspring. She has been under his observation for more than three years, and has carried two different transmitters.

The doctoral student, who lives in Smithville, Tenn., has lost three study specimens to hawks, one to a deer, and one to exposure to cold temperatures.

His study will end late this fall once the last transmitter battery dies, probably when the snakes go into hibernation.

"Development is the biggest threat to rattlesnakes!" claimed Bryan. "When you get development, landowners are going to take that snake out. Snakes get pretty habitual and follow the same trails."

TWRA Wildlife Officer Mike Beaty pointed out that killing rattlesnakes is prohibited by Tennessee law.

"It is illegal to kill anything for which there is not an open season," said Beaty. "The best thing to do, if you see one

around where you live, is to just leave it alone. We have seen today that you can get inches away from a snake and it won't bother you. The best thing to do is just walk away from it. People have this image of snakes as 'aggressive' but they are not, as we witnessed today at Center Hill."

Bryan may not be finished with observation of the timber rattlesnake when his doctoral study is complete this fall. TWRA officials at the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area want him to conduct a similar study of the reptile species at that location.



Center Hill Park Ranger Stephen Beason transports members of the observation party to remote locations around the Lake May 23.

Cordell Hull Lake Raises Environmental Awareness

Story and photo by Park Ranger Stacey Bilbrey

The staff of Cordell Hull Lake hosted an Environmental Awareness Day May 1 at the Cordell Hull Visitor Center for several local elementary schools. The event was designed to help children learn more about the environment.

Natural resources professionals, representing various agencies from the mid-state area, were invited to serve as teachers for a day to the 240 students who participated. Students from Forks River Elementary, Union Heights Elementary, Smith County Middle School, New Middleton, and Gordonsville Elementary, viewed demonstrations and participated in activities that emphasized the importance of environmental stewardship and the conservation of the nation's natural resources.

Derrick Tripplett, from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, displayed several different types of mussels that live in the Cumberland River during a lecture on that topic.

Jim Replogle, from the Tennessee For-

estry Department, helped students learn about forest fires and provided good examples of wise forest management.

Park Ranger Travis Stover, who works at Standing Stone State Park, thrilled the students with an eye-opening demonstration about snakes native to Middle Tennessee. The live specimens he brought along kept the students

spellbound. The students learned how to identify dangerous snakes commonly found in the area and how to avoid them. Bill Haley, representing the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga, helped students



Park Ranger Travis Wiley gives students an example of the importance of camouflage.

learn more about turtles.

Other topics included water conservation, native wildlife and water quality. Students' eyes were opened to past, present, and future environmental conditions.

Corps' Sea Serpent Promotes Water Safety

by Co-op Ranger Aurora Scott

Seamoor the Water Safety Sea Serpent made his first appearance at Cordell Hull June 2 with the help of volunteers Tom Colby, who passed out water safety activity bags and quizzed children on their knowledge of water safety, Christopher Shockley, who operated Seamoor's many animated features, and Co-op Ranger Aurora Scott, who also helped distribute water safety activity bags and interacted with the children on water safety issues.

Seamoor cruised the Defeated Creek Day-Use Recreational Area beach with his water safety music that had a beat no one could resist. He was welcomed by many curious young onlookers with hugs, kisses, smiles, and sometimes an occasional conversation on how his day was.

Overall, the day was a success,



Seamoor mugs the camera with some new friends at Cordell Hull Lake June 2.

children were proud to point out to Seamoor that they were wearing their life vest, that they knew what life jugs were, and where the life-saving devices were located.

Reach, Throw, Don't Go was the popular tip of the day, with a little girl telling Co-op Ranger Scott, "I already know that, I've known that forever."

The first mission of the Cordell Hull staff was to reach the children in a fun, interactive way which would cause them to remember water safety tips to live by.

Staff members agreed, "Mission accomplished!"

Corps Assembles Construction Team at Wolf Creek

Lake Cumberland and Wolf Creek Dam have experienced many changes during the past year, and those have intensified greatly since January as construction activities increased on the Rehabilitation Project.

The project has also brought together talented and experienced Corps folks to work together in this remote corner of south-central Kentucky.

David Loyd and Donny Davidson are the acting resident and project engineers, respectively. Both reported to Wolf Creek from the Nashville Resident Office. The Wolf Creek Dam Rehabilitation project takes up much of their time as they monitor and regulate the multiple contracts and task orders currently underway.

Kim Warner is the new office engineer for the Wolf Creek Resident Office, and is also new to the Corps of Engineers. She is not, however, new to Russell County or Lake Cumberland, having lived in the area for the past seven years. And while new to the Corps, Kim is not new to government employment, with 17 years of federal service on such projects as the Cumberland

Gap Tunnels and a dam rehabilitation in southern Ohio.

Larry Brown is a rehired annuitant



Senior Geologist Paul Ross oversees drilling and grouting operations.

whose home is in the county just south of the dam. He retired in 2002 as a civil engineering technician with Resources at Dale Hollow Lake. Larry now serves as construction inspector and his primary task is overseeing construction activities at the Halcomb's Landing Relocation. The original Halcomb's Landing boat ramp and parking area will be used as a staging area for the contractor selected to build the cut-off wall for the dam. As this is one of the most heavily used lake access points, a new boat ramp and parking area are being constructed close to the existing ramp.

Jody Robinson, a mechanical engineer from Kentucky Lock, oversees the rewind work on Generators # 6 and # 4.

Dave Wolfarth is a civil engineering technician currently on loan from the Huntington District. His primary duty is to monitor the construction of the permanent work platform along the upstream face of the embankment from which the cut-off wall will be constructed.

Paul Ross, senior geologist on site, is from the Kentucky Lock project. Ross oversees all the drilling and grouting operations, as well as geotechnical needs at the Halcomb's Landing area.

Tom Lerner is a District geologist on loan from Engineering Division. Lerner is tasked with monitoring the overburden drilling, rock drilling and grouting along the work platform. This work is in acceleration to increase the stability and safety of the dam by sealing off or slowing any unwanted seepage paths.

Scott Massa is also a geologist, based out of the Nashville Resident Office at J. Percy Priest. Scott is currently watching over the drilling and grouting operations in the Gallery, the concrete portion of the dam, and assisting as needed on the platform and Halcomb's Landing project.

There is much to cover for these three geologists as four drills are often running simultaneously, on double shifts and through the weekends!

While awaiting the arrival of an on-site modular office (due this summer), these Construction employees are working out of spaces in the Wolf Creek Powerhouse, in offices and on computers graciously supplied by Operations Division.

- Submitted by Kim Warner

Scouts Learn Safety is Up to All of Us!

by Park Ranger Jamie Summers

A large group of Boy Scouts from the Hendersonville area stormed the beaches and ramps of Laguardo and Davis Corner on Old Hickory Lake May 19 to help the Corps of Engineers promote safety during "Project Ramp Camp".

The Warioto District Scouts, representing a number of different Troops, were enjoying a camping trip at the Boxwell Reservation when they were called to attention by Scoutmaster Martez Moore.

The entire group of more than 100 eager Scouts first listened intently to a water safety message delivered by the Old Hickory Rangers.

Moore then asked for volunteers to take part in a service

project.

"The boys willingly left fun activities," said Moore, who is also Senior District Executive for the Warioto District, "to volunteer to do the service project."

The Scouts were then supplied with water safety materials that included stickers, pamphlets, frisbees and coloring books. These materials, however, were not for their own enjoyment. The Scouts had a specific mission to accomplish.

Their task was to inform the recreat-

ing public about water safety and the importance of wearing properly fitting life jackets when near the water. The Scouts handed out documentation about the proper sizing and fit of life jackets and gave informative (See Scouts, page 12)



A Boy Scout delivers another packet.

The Corps Crowd

Welcome to...

...the staff at J. Percy Priest Lake welcomes Chris Cantrell, Co-op Ranger, who is on loan from Middle Tennessee State University, and will be providing his services to the Natural Resources Management Staff this summer.

...Kenny Claywell, conservation biologist, to Cordell Hull Lake from Old Hickory.

...Student Trainee (Park Rangers) Nick Luper—Old Hickory, Allen Earhart—Dale Hollow, Aurora Scott—Cordell Hull, and Dale Lock—Lake Barkley. They arrived May 14.

...Steven A. Robinson, co-op student, to Office of Counsel, who accepted the student aide administrative assistant position May 14.

Congratulations to...

...Olga M. Beddingfield, power project manager for Old Hickory, Cheatham, and J. Percy Priest Power Plants, who received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in management and human relations from Trevecca Nazarene University on May 5.

... David Capshaw, lock and dam operator at Nickajack Lock, whose son Caleb Hugh earned the Boy Scouts of America's highest award, the Eagle Scout. The award ceremony was held May 12.

...Jeff Orten, Natural Resources outdoor recreation planner, and wife Patti, whose daughter, Emily Corinne, graduated



Emily Orten

Summa Cum Laude from Union University in Jackson, Tenn., on May 19 with a BS in family studies. She is a member of Alpha Chi - National College Honor Society and Phi Gamma Mu - International Honor Society of the Social Sciences.

...Ronnie Smith, resource manager, Dale Hollow Lake, retired to enjoy time with his family, and his hobbies of fishing and hunting. He served at Center Hill Lake, Cheatham Lake, Regulatory Branch, Planning Branch, Natural Resources Manage-

ment Branch, and finally his 'dream of a lifetime', Dale Hollow Lake. Smith is proudest of the work done by the Dale Hollow staff to protect the natural resources of that very special place.



Smith

...Ray Hedrick, Project Planning Branch, whose daughter Tiffany graduated Summa Cum Laude from Murray State University and was accepted into a PhD program at Texas Tech to work on a research project near Sydney, Australia.

...William L. James, Regulatory Branch, and wife Vicky, whose son Joshua (Josh) Alan graduated Magna Cum Laude from UT, Knoxville, on May 11. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a double major in philosophy and political science. He will attend George Washington University Law School in the fall.

...Rachel Owens, Human Resources, and husband Theuron, whose daughter



Brittney Owens

Brittney graduated from Laverne High and will attend Auburn University where she will major in pharmacy.

Baby Brigade to...

...Rob Baulsir, mechanical engineer in the Electrical/Mechanical Design Section, whose wife Jesse gave birth to a baby girl May 10. Adria Claire weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces.

...Brad Wilkerson, an operator A at Wolf Creek Power Plant and wife Melissa upon the birth of Allison Joy. She was born May 7 weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces. She measured 19 3/4 inches.

...Dee Rivera, Operations Division, and



Adria Claire

husband Michael who are proud grandparents for the first time. Grandson Seth Crocker was born to daughter Michelle and son-in-law Jeff on May 22 at Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg. He weighed 8 pounds and 3 ounces and measured 19.5 inches.



Seth Crocker

Farewell to...

...Jennie Emmons, Co-op Ranger, Center Hill Lake, who resigned from the USACE to pursue other career interests.

Sympathy to...

...David Wilburn, Real Estate Division, whose granddaughter, Clara McKinney, passed away May 18 in Lexington, Ky.

...Jan Neely, Real Estate Division, whose mother, Edwinna Neely, passed away May 20.

...David Hendrix, Programs and Project Management, whose father, John E. Hendrix, passed away May 22.

...Tasha Alexander, park ranger at Lake Cumberland, whose mother, Teri Perdrix, passed away May 28.

...Deana Gerding, civil engineer tech at Lake Barkley, whose mother, Dorothy, passed away May 30.

Thank You to...

...I really appreciate the thoughts and prayers we received from my Corps family during the recent open heart surgery and ongoing health issues and recuperation of my little granddaughter, Allison. We have received very encouraging news for a full recovery over the coming months. The care and concern my family and I received certainly helped during this trying and stressful time. *Valerie Carlton*

...This Thank You note is for all in the Corps Family who donated their time and all the prayers to help me along. I'm doing well, three more months of treatment. I thank all of you. Because of your help, I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. *Thanks Liz & Jim Hughes*

Rangers Paint Image on J. Percy Priest Dam

Stroy and photos by Steven Foshee

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers park rangers promoted safety during the National Safe Boating Week by painting a 50-foot-square image of a life Jacket on the earthen embankment of J. Percy Priest Dam.

“We chose the earthen left embankment of J. Percy Priest Dam,” said Mark Vaughan, J. Percy Priest conservation biologist, “because it was readily visible from the tailwater area as well as Interstate 40. Special care was necessary to place the image on the upper portion of the dam to make it easier to transport paint and materials (to the site).”

The image was completed one day before the official start of National Safe Boating Week May 19-28. Positive news reports from *The Tennessean* newspaper, as well as WTVF (Channel 5) and WKRN (Channel 2) television further promoted safety on Corps lakes and may have contributed to a fatality-free Memorial Day weekend, typically one of the busiest of the year on area lakes.

Rangers first contacted Project Dam



Park Ranger John Baird applies white paint May 18 to the image on the steep portion of J. Percy Priest Dam. The inset shows the finished product.

Safety Officer Kyle Hayworth and J. Percy Priest Superintendent Olga Beddingfield to confirm there were no safety concerns in painting the logo on the embankment. Then the J. Percy Priest staff contacted Nashville Area Office Operations Manager Tony Bivens and Metro Police Department Commander Michelle Richter for their advice on the unconventional safety idea.

Vaughan then consulted the Tennessee Titans and groundskeepers at the University of Tennessee since both paint similar graphics on turf in the end zone for football games. World Class Athletic Surfaces then produced the life jacket stencil, and supplied environmentally friendly paints and technical assistance.

“Safety is a team effort,” said Park Ranger John Baird, “and this idea would not have happened without all the folks who played a role.”

Baird said fellow rangers Greg Thomas, Justin Reed, Robert Davis, Chris Cantrell and Resource Manager Todd Yann all played a part in successfully painting the first water safety logo on J. Percy Priest Dam.

Baird researched numerous avenues to promote safety includ-

ing billboards, radio spots and the painted safety logos. He first suggested the idea during the January District Water Safety Task Force meeting.

Theta Technologies helped mow the area to be painted shorter than normal. Creating the image then required two full days. The first day was used to lay out the image and paint the dark blue background. Baird and Vaughan spread the life jacket stencil on the second day, marked the color boundaries, and added the light blue, orange, and white.

“Two-thirds of the people who drown never had any intention of being in the water,” said Baird. Rangers liked the reminder that visitors wear a life jacket.

The majority of aquatic fatalities nationwide involve adults aged 18-35. Within Corps-managed recreation areas, 27 percent are within the ages of 11-20, according to the Army Corps of Engineers National Water Safety Program.

The ranger staff at Old Hickory Lake implemented another safety ‘first’ for the District.

“Local Boy Scouts at Camp Boxwell were provided a water safety presentation, brochures and boating tips,” said Environmental Specialist Tim O’Connell. “The Scouts were then strategically located at busy ramps around the lake to help promote safety awareness.” The program was quickly referred to as “Ramp Camp.”

The Dale Hollow ranger team implemented the honorary park ranger program for youngsters who were ‘caught’ using their life jackets and being safe around the water.



Chris Cantrell, (from Left) Greg Thomas, and John Baird prepare equipment before beginning to paint (inset) a life Jacket on the earthen part of J. Percy Priest Dam.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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Just To Be On The Safe Side . . . Severe Weather

by Bill Bennett

Severe weather safety is a serious topic. It is a sad reality that many deaths and injuries associated with severe weather each year could have been avoided. The bottom line is poor judgment kills more people than any other factor. Lightning usually kills those who refuse to come inside when they should. Flash floods kill those who insist on remaining in the flood zone with their doomed possessions or they risk trying to cross flowing water.

The National Weather Service has a number of terms to warn you of approaching severe weather. A severe weather watch means that the weather situation mentioned in the watch statement is possible in the designated geographical area. A tornado watch means conditions are right for thunderstorms that may produce tornadoes. Tornado and flash flood watches are issued so citizens can review safety procedures and plan where to go for shelter if the watch is upgraded to a warning for the affected area. A severe weather warning means the mentioned weather situation is imminent or taking place at that moment in the warning area.

A tornado warning means a tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar. Residents should go quickly to the basement or lowest level of the building in which they find themselves. Weather officials advise individuals to lie flat with arms covering your head because a tornado's winds are weakest within a few feet of the ground.



This allows you to present a smaller target for flying debris.

In a flash flood warning, you should immediately move to high ground and stay away from streams or natural drainage areas. The severe weather watch means "have a plan and know what to do". The severe weather warning means "act on your plan immediately". Don't take chances during severe weather warnings. They were developed to help you live another day.

Safety "Because You are Important!"

Career Enhancement Workshops Planned

The 10th Annual SEP Career Enhancement Workshops will be held June 26-29.

Employees can sign up for:

Tues., 9 a.m. - The Cycle of Change - Mary Fink, Belmont University.

Wed., 9 a.m. - Dealing with Domestic/ Workplace Violence - Metro Police Chief Ronal Serpas

Thurs., 9 a.m. - Conducting an Effective Meeting - Audra Davis, Davis & Associ-

ates, LLC.

Thurs., 1 p.m. - I Did That?! - Selling Yourself on Paper - Christine Rossi, Chief, Resource Management Office.

Fri., 9 a.m. - Pay for Performance: Is it Really New? - Tyler Eldred, LifeChampion International, Inc.

Fri., 1 p.m. - NSPS: What You Want to Know - MAJ Craig S. Guth, Deputy Commander.

Scouts

(Continued from page 9)

coloring books with key water safety messages to children in advance of National Safe Boating Week, May 19 – 26.

"While they were talking to people," explained Moore, "they learned the value of safe boating practices. It was just a 'win-win' situation."

'Project Ramp Camp' was developed by the Old Hickory staff as a joint venture to help raise public awareness of National Safe Boating Week. "Ramp Camp" was not camping at all. There was no tent, no fire, no marshmallows, and no sleeping bag! There was, however, a goal; to let the public know Water Safety is up to each of us and, to be safe, they should just 'Wear It!'