



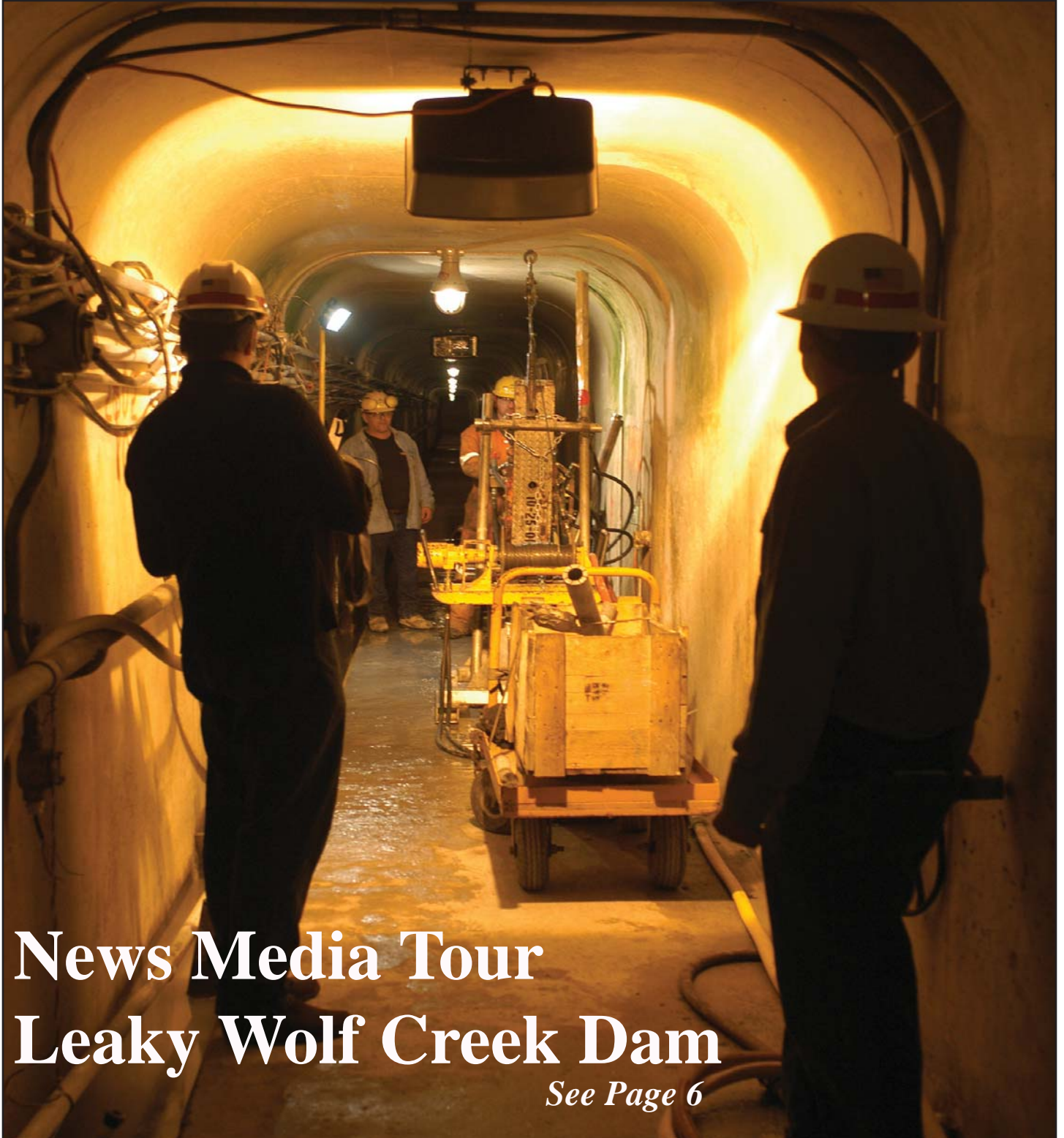
US Army Corps
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Nashville District

DistrictDigest

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March 2007



News Media Tour Leaky Wolf Creek Dam

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Corps Revises/Renews Nationwide Permits

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has revised and renewed the nationwide permits for regulating work in wetlands and other waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

The new nationwide permits took effect on March 19.

“We have simplified the language of the new nationwide permits to provide clarity and certainty,” said John Paul Woodley Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). “While we will improve regulatory efficiency, we will also sustain essential levels of environmental protection.”

The nationwide permits authorize activities that are similar in nature and

cause only minimal adverse environmental impacts individually or cumulatively. They cover activities such as repairs of uplands, time-sensitive pipeline repairs, repairs to ditches and canals to control erosion, commercial aquaculture operations, reclamation of surface coal mining areas and underground coal mining.

The Corps' division engineers may add, after public review and consultation, regional conditions to protect local aquatic ecosystems such as fens or bottomland hardwoods or minimize adverse effects on fish or shellfish spawning, wildlife nesting or other ecologically critical events.

More information about the Corps' nationwide permits can be found at <http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/citizen.htm>



photo by Jeff hawk

On the Cover

Jerry Barlar, a TV reporter from WKRN Channel 2 TV in Nashville, (left) videotapes grouting operations underneath Wolf Creek Dam March 8 during a media day event which hosted 20 members of the media. See page 6 for complete story.

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>.

Lieutenant Colonel Steven Roemhildt

Commander's Corner

I WANT YOU!

I am excited to announce a professional development opportunity designed to solicit support to the Corps efforts toward GWOT as well as provide a unique opportunity for professional growth. A program is available to anyone within the Nashville District and consists of volunteering for a six-month assignment in Iraq or Afghanistan. Upon completion of a tour overseas, Nashville District will create an appropriate six-month developmental assignment of choice for you. This assignment of choice could be located anywhere within the District or with duties at the Louisville, Little Rock, or Mobile Districts. This program is designed to assist you in your career aspirations; either in your existing career path or to allow an opportunity to explore other options avail-

Communication

able within the Corps. Upon return from GWOT service, you will have up to two years to participate in your pre-arranged developmental assignment. This developmental position may include increased pay based upon applicable government service, wage grade, or NSPS rules.

As you are well aware, the US Army is at war with combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Corps of Engineers' support to GWOT is our number one priority. The Corps has the Gulf Region Division (GRD) in Iraq and the Afghanistan Engineer District (AED) in Afghanistan; they have the missions of rebuilding those countries and supporting the US Forces. Both of these engineer organizations rely upon civilian volunteers and, despite being the number one priority, GRD and AED are experiencing personal shortages. There are numerous opportunities available, with 228 jobs current-

ly advertised. Positions currently available include IT Specialists, Program Managers, Engineers (all disciplines), Project Engineers, Safety Specialists, Construction Representatives, Budget Analysts, Attorneys, Realty Specialists, Protocol, Admin Assistants, and many others. You can find these advertisements through the District Intranet Site with the link entitled 'Support the Global War on Terror'. Please ensure that your supervisor is aware of your desire or consideration of volunteering for a GWOT position; however, I am the only one in the District who can deny a GWOT position request.

I hope you consider this developmental opportunity. It is not for everyone, but it is certainly a unique opportunity to enhance your support to GWOT while increasing your professional progression. You all know men and women who have served in this role, talk with them about their experiences. I think you will find that everyone who has stepped up for this critical mission is better for having done so. The Corps of Engineers and the US Army needs your support and there has never been a better time for volunteering. If you are interested, contact your supervisor, CPAC or Emergency Management. Once you see your supervisor, feel free to make an appointment to talk with me directly. We will work with you as you endeavor to volunteer for GWOT and start the process for your



developmental assignment of choice upon return.

As usual, I would like to close with a note on Safety. We are entering the summer months and, historically, we see accidents at this time of year associated with outdoor activities. These accidents can come in many forms and, typically, we see a higher rate of injuries resulting from contusions, lacerations, sprained knees, insect bites, and skin irritations (through contact with poison ivy/oak). With these types of accidents in mind, take the necessary precautions such as the right PPE (gloves, face guards, insect repellent) or operating procedures to minimize risk. Don't be a statistic this quarter and remember,

Safety because you are important!



photos by Norris Jones

Students applaud (above) during the opening ceremony February 5 for a new girls high school in north Baghdad. The \$470,000 project includes 16 classrooms that will be able to handle an enrollment of 450 students. Ali Bunni, (left) Qada Council's Deputy Chairman in north Baghdad, cuts the ribbon to officially open the facility. He said he could not adequately express his community's happiness about the new facility.



Wilmore Named Chief of Construction Branch

by Dave Treadway

Johnny Wilmore was recently named chief of the Construction Branch, Engineering-Construction Division, Nashville District, a job he has filled at various times as the acting chief.

"I guess good things come," said Wilmore, "to those who wait." And he has waited 33 years for this day.

Wilmore began working for the Corps in September 1973 after earning a degree in civil engineering from Tennessee Tech University.

He grew up just west of Cordell Hull Dam in Monoville where he could sit on his porch at home and hear the heavy equipment as the project was being constructed.

When he began work at Cordell Hull under supervisor Dan Hall, his first project was helping finish the powerplant and some recreation facilities around the lake.

"I lived at home the first couple of years, before I married, and continued working for my dad in the country store, the one store from which Monoville derived its name. Mono means one and

hence the town's name."

He then moved to the Nashville District Office for the Intern Program and has since played a supporting role for some monumental construction projects.

Those included the Tenn-Tom Project, the Smithland Dam Project, the first seepage cutoff wall at Wolf Creek Dam, development of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, and flood damage reduction projects at Harlan, Pineville, Barbourville, Middlesboro, Williamsburg, and now the City of Cumberland.

Wilmore is planning for the future as he starts on his new assignment.

"For the first time since the Tenn-Tom," revealed Wilmore, "we're in a growing mode, and we're going to have to add staff, mostly at our field offices but some here as well. We will add a modular field office just below Wolf Creek Dam, perhaps 10 people at first, and the same thing at Chickamauga Lock, a resident engineer building to house at least 10.

"Kentucky Lock is looking better, funding wise, where we will soon begin excavation for the lock and hanging steel for the bridges on the recently completed

piers.

"We are also going to begin ramping up for work at Center Hill, and eventually staff a resident office there. Grouting work, as well as construction of a seepage cutoff wall, will be completed there."

He and wife Deborah, who teaches Special Ed, now live in Hendersonville.

They have two daughters, Heather who uses her degree earned at Union University to do photography and graphic design work, and Jennifer who is completing her degree in political science at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.



Johnny Wilmore

Pendergrast Goes From Assistant to Branch Chief

by Dave Treadway

Joe Pendergrast was named chief of the Operation Support Branch in Real Estate Division, on Feb. 18, 29 years after he first went to work for the Corps.

Pendergrast, a Nashville native who attended Pearl High School, then the University of Tennessee and Tennessee State University, will now be directing the Branch responsible for outgranting the use of lands to other state, local and federal agencies, as well as cities, counties, corporations and private citizens.

He will help ensure that grantees who use Corps project lands comply with applicable real estate instruments. He will also help the District dispose of government-owned real property and oversee all real estate activities provided in support of reservoir projects.

This is no small task.

Operation Support Branch is responsible for about 4,300 outgrants that have

been issued within the boundaries of the 10 reservoir projects in the Cumberland River Basin. These outgrants include leases for public parks, recreational facilities, and fish and wildlife licenses, as well as various easements for roads and utilities.



Joe Pendergrast

The Nashville District Marina Concession Program, one of the largest in the nation, encompasses 50 marinas with a combined estimated private investment of

nearly \$200 million.

Pendergrast spoke of a recent accomplishment where Nashville District served as a test District to transfer government-owned improvements to capital leases under the Chief Financial Officer's Act.

"Title to government-owned improvements was a part of the commercial concession lease allowing the relocation of Hidden Harbor Marina," Pendergrast revealed, "located on Center Hill Lake which will soon move from its present location at the head of Holmes Creek to Holmes Creek Recreation Area, about a mile downstream from the current marina site."

Holmes Creek Recreation Area was one of the areas closed via the Recreation Excellence at Army Lakes (REAL) program in 2004.

The marina is relocating primarily due to challenges at their existing site which include shallow water depths, limited or

(See Pendergrast, page 11)

Dale Hollow Rangers Win Water Safety Award

by Dave Treadway

The Dale Hollow Lake Park Rangers were presented an Award of Merit by the National Water Safety Congress March 6 at the eleventh annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit in San Antonio, Texas. Outdoor Recreation Planner Carolyn Bauer accepted the award on behalf of the Rangers.

The award recognized the efforts by the Dale Hollow team in promoting water safety to reduce public accidents and fatalities. The park rangers focused on education, publicity and partnerships as ways to promote water safety by the visiting public.

They implemented a variety of programs that demonstrated a dedicated team effort focused on water safety.

The team coordinated a very special water safety event with the Macon County Football Team in 2006 as a kickoff for National Safe Boating Week. Rangers Jamie Summers and Mark Willis coached members of the football team on water safety and provided water safety materials. Wearing their blue and white football jerseys, team members talked to boaters and fishermen and distributed literature about the importance of boating safely and wearing life jackets. This was done in honor of team member Jonathan Hudson who drowned earlier in the year when he fell overboard from a 17-foot vessel while



Carolyn Bauer accepts awards March 6 from National Water Safety Congress Region Three Vice President Mac Wimbish.

boating with friends. The team's coach said after losing a friend and a valuable member of the team, the players wanted to honor Hudson by drawing attention to safe boating.

Environmental Protection Specialist Sondra Carmen implemented and coordinated the new Life Jacket Loaner Program at Dale Hollow Lake. She applied for and received a grant from Boat US Foundation to install a life jacket loaner program at both Lillydale and Obey River Campgrounds. This provided loaner life jackets for those who needed them and provided publicity for the important message to "Wear Your Life Jacket."

Direct on-site contacts exceeded 500, and off-site contacts nearly reached 1,800.

The rangers conducted numerous water safety programs for schools and community groups including 450 young people at Trooper Island Youth Camp, an event coordinated by Ranger Bobby Bartlett, in partnership with the Kentucky State Police. Water safety was also included in the program for the Environmental Education Camp. In partnership with the Friends of Dale Hollow Lake, the Dale Hollow staff conducted an Eagle Watch for members of the public, which included wearing life jackets as part of the program.

Rangers used a number of community events to distribute the water safety message. Exhibits with water safety materials were provided for the Overton County Fair, Overton County Agricultural Safety Day, Celina Health Fair, Tennessee Technology University Health Fair, and Cumberland River Hospital Health Fair.

They prominently displayed water safety brochures in the visitor center, put posters on bulletin boards, and posted a daily water safety message on the web.

Rangers, led by Greg Nivens, conducted more than 350 hours of water safety patrols during the summer recreation season, in partnership with the Kentucky State Po-



Dale Hollow Rangers (from left-front row) Greg Nivens, Bobby Bartlett, Brock Jones, (back row) Mark Willis, Jamie Summers, and Sondra Carmen.

lice and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. They performed numerous boating safety equipment checks during weekend patrols and rewarded youth with safety badges when they were found wearing lifejackets during inspections.

"Being both visual and accessible to the public," said Resource Manager Ronnie Smith, "by land and water are extremely important for the promotion of water safety. Our Ranger staff does an excellent job at this and the public definitely notices."

In partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the rangers distributed water safety coloring books, crayons and other educational materials at the Dale Hollow Fishing Rodeo. More than 250 children and 500 adults were exposed to those materials at the event.

Five rangers participated in the field test of inflatable PFDs, the results of which may be announced before the 2007 recreation season begins. Nivens, Carmen, Willis and Ranger Brock Jones serve as instructors for the Motorboat Operator Training Program to provide safe boat operation across the District.

Bartlett serves on the District Water Safety Task Force to promote water safety and reduce public accidents and fatalities.

Rangers helped Conservation Biologist Dena Williams promote the Clean Marina Program, which resulted in Willow Grove Marina being the first in the District to qualify and earn the privilege of flying the Clean Marina Banner.

News Media Tour Leaky Wolf Creek Dam

Corps experts help reporters understand complex dam risk-reduction efforts

Story and photos by Jeff Hawk

Two dozen journalists recently descended into the concrete bowels of seepage-prone Wolf Creek Dam near Jamestown, Ky., to photograph grouting operations underway to fill limestone voids located deep below the structure.

The photo opportunity was part of a Nashville District media day March 8 that sought to educate reporters about the complexities of trying to remediate serious seepage problems while operating a functioning 5,736-foot-long, 258-foot-high dam and six-million-acre-foot capacity Lake Cumberland reservoir.

“We have a serious situation at the dam, and we’ve taken measures to greatly reduce the risk of a failure. Protecting the public is our number one objective,” said District Engineer LTC Steven Roemhildt.

Those efforts include lowering the reservoir 43 feet from the typical summer pool elevation, performing daily dam inspections, expediting grouting operations, and installing additional water pressure measurement devices.

“These measures are helping us operate the dam at a safe level,” said Roemhildt.

Part of the public safety piece is accurately communicating the level of risk associated with this seepage concern and the Corps’ efforts to reduce that risk, he told the assembled reporters. He stressed the importance of taking the time to educate the media so that they can accurately convey information to the public.

“Citizens need the right information,” he added, “to make smart decisions about how they can protect their families.”

During the six-hour event, Corps experts specializing in geology, construction, engineering design, dam safety, environmental mitigation and recreation opera-



Resource Management Chief Craig Shoe briefs the news media during a houseboat tour of Wolf Creek Dam.

tions briefed reporters on specific issues tied to the dam’s operation and rehabilitation. Reporters received technical presentations, toured seepage-soaked areas, witnessed grouting operations, viewed the construction of a drilling platform along the upstream side of the dam, and toured the length of the earth and concrete structure by houseboat.

The Corps shuttled media to Halcomb’s Landing, where crews are constructing a new boat launch ramp where the contractor will also locate offices, and stage supplies and equipment. Corps contractors will follow grouting operations with the construction of a 4,000-plus-foot-long, 275-foot-deep, 3-foot-thick concrete cutoff wall running slightly longer than the length of the earthen portion of the dam. Scheduled to begin construction next spring, the wall will prevent water from seeping through and under the dam’s embankment, significantly minimize the potential for serious erosion, and greatly reduce the risk of failure.

The media event helped Corps officials communicate the agency’s major rehabilitation plan for the dam.

“We want to be transparent and build trust with the media and the public,” said Roemhildt. “We recognize that this multi-

year project will need sustained public support to successfully meet the Corps’ dam safety objectives,” he added.

The media day seemed to help meet that goal. “It was great to meet the people involved in the project and to raise issues and have them addressed,” said Bill Estep, a reporter with the Lexington Herald-Leader newspaper. “Situations like this are emotional and complex and this helped me get a better perspective,” said Estep. “It builds relationships and a level of trust.”

Corps officials also benefited from the outing.

“It was good to educate reporters on technical issues,” said Mike Zoccola, chief, Civil Design Branch, Nashville District. “We got to see each other as real people.” Zoccola added that the event helped him better understand reporters’ deadline requirements and the story development process.

Both Corps and media representatives expressed appreciation for the event.

“A reporter told me he appreciated the Corps’ openness,” said Jody Stanton, chief, Geology Section, Nashville District. “Some reporters were pretty psyched when we gave them core samples to take home with them.”

The media day joins other outreach

activities hosted by the Nashville District. The Corps provided a tour of the dam to local, state and federal political representatives and government agency officials March 15 and is holding a series of public meetings to listen to concerns and address issues raised by citizens living around and downstream of Lake Cumberland.

Planned Public Meetings

March 22 - Celina, TN, Clay County High School Gym, 6:30 p.m.

March 27 - Gainesboro, TN, Jackson County High School Gym, 6:30 p.m.

April 2 - Carthage, TN, Smith County High School Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

April 12 - Hartsville, TN, Trousdale County High School Gym, 6:30 p.m.

April 19 - Mt. Juliet, TN, Mt. Juliet High School Gym, 6:30 p.m.



Corps Listens to Lake Cumberland Concerns

Mike Zoccola (above), chief, Civil Design Section, Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, talks to a Lake Cumberland property owner at the end of public meeting held in Russell County March 8. More than 250 Lake Cumberland area residents crowded into Russell County High School's gym to receive an update on Wolf Creek Dam rehabilitation issues and to voice concerns about impacts to the communities in and around the lake. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-hosted public meeting gave residents and property owners an opportunity to hear technical presentations about the Corps' effort to address serious seepage concerns at the dam. That effort includes risk reduction measures to grout-fill limestone voids in the foundation rock below the dam and to relieve pressure on the structure by significantly lowering Lake Cumberland. County emergency management and State of Kentucky dam safety officials joined Corps experts on a panel composed to address a wide range of concerns including impacts to recreation activities and businesses, emergency planning efforts, and the Corps dam rehabilitation plan.



Geotechnical expert Tim McCleskey (left) answers questions from Lexington Herald Leader newspaper reporter Bill Estep. Wolf Creek Maintenance Worker Leonard Rankins (right) reads a water pressure measurement device called a piezometer for a group of media touring the facility.



Creating Aquatic Habitat at Cordell Hull Lake

Corps Park Rangers at Cordell Hull Lake are trying to improve anglers' chances for success. The Rangers are constructing 'spawning benches' around the lake which will serve as artificial habitat to help fish accomplish their daily and seasonal nesting tasks. The end result may be improved bass populations which would mean better chances for fishermen.

As impoundments such as Cordell Hull grow older, native stump fields may disappear due to several factors, two of which are erosion and annual maintenance draw-downs. As stump fields disappear, a valuable aquatic habitat is no longer available to fish species which use them for cover.

According to Park Ranger John Derby, spawning benches should provide similar cover to pre- and post-spawning adult largemouth bass and adult pan fish.

Benches are built by attaching a slab of wood on top of two large concrete blocks with wire. The 'bench' resembles a traditional park bench but, in this case, the bench is designed for fish instead of people. The bench offers the necessary shade during the warmer months when female largemouth bass are seeking such areas against the shore line on which to build a nest. The benches are being placed in four to six feet of water.

In 2006 Cordell Hull Rangers placed 30 benches in areas of the lake where

boat traffic was minimal. Some of those benches were subsequently destroyed last year by people who did not recognize the bench as a management tool to improve fish habitat. Three benches were disassembled and burned at the Environmental Study area located across from the Defeated Creek Fire Station and five more were removed and burned near the Horse Shoe Bend boat ramp.

To preserve other benches built last year and those added this year by the ranger staff, the Corps of Engineers is asking the public to leave the structures in place if they observe them during times of lowwater levels, typically during the winter.

"Their selfless efforts," said Derby, "will increase everyone's chances at landing more bass."

The first thirty benches were placed last year at river mile 315

near Two Prong Cove below the Bear Waller Gap hiking trail, at river mile 314 near the Needle Dam Boat Ramp, and inside War Trace cove at river mile 344. An additional 10 benches are being placed at Two Prong and the remaining 15 will be near Defeated Creek Marina. These areas were chosen because of the gravel bottoms in which fish like to build their nests.

Anglers or concerned volunteers can assist with the construction of the 'bench' habitat by contacting Park Ranger John Derby during normal business hours Monday through Friday at (615)735-1034.



Newly constructed benches line the sloping banks of Cordell Hull Lake.

Tom Browder Moves Into On-deck Circle

Tom Browder is the newest addition to the Office of Counsel team.

He calls himself an Air Force brat who was born in Florida but has lived 'all over'.

Browder came to Nashville from Jacksonville and now calls Franklin, Tenn., home.

He earned his undergraduate degree at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia, followed by law school at William & Mary in Williamsburg.

He served four years prosecuting a wide variety of cases as an Assistant District Attorney in Georgia. He then met and married the former Emily Harshbarger, a speech therapist for the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine. He

took the Florida bar and worked as an Assistant State Attorney in Jacksonville prior to entering private practice in Macon, Ga. He later relocated to Jacksonville to join another firm.

In the Office of Counsel, he will fill in for Qiana Davis on Equal Employment Opportunity issues as she completes a 120-day assignment in New Orleans, La. He will also work on contracting and environmental compliance issues.

In his spare time, Browder enjoys hiking and backpacking. He has already explored Savage Gulf, a 15,590-acre natural area in Grundy County, and he is looking forward to expanding his experiences in Tennessee. He and his wife have two girls, aged four years and nine months.



Tom Browder

Football Team Wins National/Division Safety Awards

The Macon County Football Team garnered both an Award of Merit from the National Water Safety Congress and a 2006 Award from the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division for their participation at Dale Hollow in kicking off National Safe Boating Week.

Park Rangers Jamie Summers and Mark Willis coached the football team about promoting water safety before team members, wearing their blue and white football jerseys, talked to boaters and fishermen and distributed literature about the importance of wearing life jackets while boating.

“It was an honor,” said Summers, “to have the chance to work with this group of young men and



Two members of the Macon County Tigers football team provide literature to a boater at Dale Hollow Lake in 2006.

their coaches on the promotion of National Safe Boating Week. Their efforts were welcomed by

the public, and their water safety message had significant impact, not only at Dale Hollow Lake, but also

across the state of Tennessee, and with this award, across the Nation.”

The team helped promote water safety in honor of a team member who drowned when he fell overboard from a 17-foot vessel while boating with two friends. Jonathan Hudson, an outstanding member of the Macon County Tigers, drowned March 27, 2006. After an extensive search, his body was recovered on April 14.

The team’s coach said after losing a friend and a valuable member of the team, the players wanted to draw attention to safe boating and honor the team member while also making the community aware of how much they cared. The same team members earlier helped raise \$11,000 to offset the costs of Hudson’s funeral expenses.



John Manor, Engineering Construction Division, enjoys life in the pits during an earlier Engineer Day Picnic battle.

Picnic Plans Coming Together for June 8, Stay Tuned for More 2007 Details

The frigid cold of winter has broken and the days are getting longer.

Soon it will be time again for the annual Corps picnic on Friday, June 8! Have you been practicing your horseshoe pitching lately? Last year’s competition was particularly exciting.

Competition in the 2006 Corps Horseshoe Pitching contest was fierce. Eight two-person teams took part in the first round. Four teams accumulated the required 21 points to advance to the quarter finals. When the dust kicked up by the shoes had settled, two teams, Dave Treadway/Bill Bennett and Elaine Bustillos/James Gunnels moved on to the championship round. (James replaced Gordon McClellan who helped Elaine win the first round but bowed out to compete in volleyball.) The clang of steel on steel rang repeatedly as competitors sought the coveted ringers. In the championship round, 30 points were required for a win. Round after round, the points piled up. The Bustillos/Gunnels team, led

by Bustillos, pulled out to an early lead, which they never relinquished. Gunnels proved a worthy sub, thanks to his many years of pitching experience first gained by playing with much smaller real horseshoes. The Treadway/Bennett duo, champs in 2004, kept up a steady pressure on the leaders. In the end, the Bustillos/Gunnels team prevailed to capture the lucky horseshoe prizes!

Stay Tuned For More Details

The theme for 2007 will be Ole Time Southern Style Picnic with fried chicken, barbecue, cole slaw, baked beans, corn on the cob, potato salad, moon pies, watermelon, peanuts and RC Cola. Real Estate will make sure there is plenty for everyone. There may be crafts, square dancing, a hayride, bingo, and pie auction. Master Cook Curtis Malone will preside over whatever is on the grill. Cullum Miller is the contact for volleyball fanatics and Phyllis Kohl will coordinate horseshoes. Contracting will handle ticket sales. The Deep Water Boys may call the square dancing.

The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to ...

...Tech Sergeant Robert W. Tuck, husband of Deborah Tuck, Regulatory Branch, Operations Division, who received the 2006 Air Force Outstanding Civil Engineer Unit Award, Air Reserve Component as a member of the 118th Civil Engineer Squadron, Tennessee Air National Guard, based at Berry Field. In doing so, they bested all the nation's Air National Guard and Reserve Bases for their exemplary leadership and skill in the Commander's programs.

...Joe Pendergrast upon his selection as chief of Management & Disposal Branch (Operations Support), Real Estate Division.

...Gary Hayes, park ranger at Lake Cumberland, who will retire at the end of March. Co-workers celebrated the event with him on Mar. 22.

Farewell to...

...Billy Evans, Real Estate Division, who accepted a position at Ft. Campbell with the 101ST Airborne Division.

...Robert Franklin recently transferred from the Internal Review Office to the RM Budget Office, where he is assigned as a Budget Analyst. Unfortunately, he was simultaneously called to active duty with the US Army for a year. He has been sent to training at Ft Jackson, SC. After completing training, he will be assigned overseas (location to be determined) with a Postal Group. Resource Management looks forward to his return in 2008.

...Kim Moore, realty specialist at Upper Cumberland Real Estate, who accepted a job with MSHA (Mine Safety & Health Administration) in Pikeville, Ky., near her home.

Baby Brigade ...

...to Jeff Neely, lock electrician at Old Hickory Lock, and his wife, Erica, who celebrate the arrival of their daughter, Kaylee Michelle. Kaylee was born March 7 weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces and measuring 19 3/4 inches long.

...to Grandpa Jerry Kennedy, senior mechanic at the Old Hickory Power Plant, whose grandson, Andrew Thomas Harrison, was born February 22 to daughter and son-in-law, Kristin and John Harrison,

who live in Ridgetop, Tenn. 'Drew' weighed 9 pounds, 5 1/4 ounces, and measured 21 inches long.



'Drew' Thomas

Sympathy to ...

...Sandy Walters, Administrative Assistant, Eastern Kentucky Area Office, upon the passing of her mother, Orpha Roy, on February 7.

...the family of James C. Petty, retired lock operator at Pickwick Lock, who passed away February 10.

...the family of Josh Hayden, Barkley Power Plant mechanic, who passed away February 18.

...J. W. Purcell, contract specialist, Contracting Division, whose mother passed away February 18.

...Pat Lamkin, lock & dam mechanic/operator at Cordell Hull Lock, whose father, Alvin Lamkin, passed away March 7 at his home in Kentucky.

...the family of Jack Dean Clayton, retired maintenance worker at Wolf Creek Power Plant, who passed away March 11, at Somerset, Ky.

...the family of Dorothy S. Stephenson, a retired Corps employee who passed away January 19.

Thank you...

...I would like to thank everyone in my Corps family for the many prayers, words of encouragement, and cards during the illness and death of my mother, Orpha Roy. Your acts of kindness truly made a difference in a difficult situation. *Sandy Walters, Adm. Assistant, EKY/A & WOL/R*



James Sowell, (above from left) Ken Laster, and Jared Gartman are presented Civilian Awards for Humanitarian Service March 12 by District Engineer LTC Steven Roemhildt for service in the Global War on Terror. Bill Bennett, (left) was awarded a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his participation in recovery operations in support of Restore Hope following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Students Turn Refuse into Fish Habitat at Cordell Hull Lake

by Ranger John Derby

For the past two years, volunteers from Smith County and Gordonsville High Schools have been sinking discarded Christmas trees at Cordell Hull to improve fish habitat.

Under the direction of District Conservationist Heather Connor and Officer Derrick Triplett of the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA), these high school students have learned how important old discarded Christmas trees can be to fish populations at Cordell Hull Lake.

Students bound the trees together dur-

ing February into clusters of 20 to be sunk for fish habitat. Once the structures were completed, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), along with volunteers from the Macon County Bass Club and the Cordell Hull ranger staff, donated their time and boats to move the Christmas tree structures from the Defeated Creek staging area to key points in and around Cordell Hull.

After sinking these structures using concrete blocks, the Corps of Engineers marked the areas with 'Fish Attractor' buoys to inform the public of their locations.

On March 13, Aquatic Habitat Protection Specialist David Sims came to Defeated Creek to film an underwater video of this year's efforts. The weather was perfect and temperatures were unseasonably high as Sims plunged into the frigid waters.

Armed with a video camera and microphone, Sims transmitted live feed to students waiting aboard his patrol boat. From this vantage point, the students were able to experience the underwater sights for themselves and gain a glimpse of how their efforts had benefited the fish population.

Although no fish were seen topside on the video screen, the students all enjoyed talking to Sims as he swam from one attractor to another monitoring fish populations.

The staff at Cordell Hull worked closely with Smith County High School students Holly Dickens, David Zoner, Matt Garmon, Cody Mitchell, Andrea Porter, and Justin Porter, and Gordonsville High School students Jamie Williams and Luke Randolph.

With continued support from volunteers, the Cordell Hull staff is looking forward to making next year's event an even bigger success.



TWRA Aquatic Habitat Protection Specialist David Sims prepares to dive and record video while communicating with students who helped construct habitat.

photos by Ranger John Derby

Pendergrast

(Continued from page 4)

no vehicular access to the area during periods of high lake levels, and site limitations due to antiquated utility hook-ups.

This was the first relocation move Pendergrast assisted with since he has been a member of the Support Branch, but it certainly won't be his last.

The District is presently fully engaged at Lake Cumberland with the relocation of two marinas, Alligator 1 and Buck Creek, and problems encountered by the remaining seven marinas, all affected by lower water levels during the Wolf Creek Dam Rehabilitation project.

Pendergrast and wife Dorothy still make their home in Nashville. A stepson lives in Gulfport, Miss.



TWRA District Conservationist Heather Connor supervises students as they assemble discarded Christmas trees into bundles which can be sunk in Cordell Hull Lake and become ideal habitat for different aquatic species.

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Just To Be On The Safe Side . . . Driving While Distracted

A recent study funded by the American Automobile Association (AAA) Foundation for Traffic Safety, about distracted drivers prompted the organization to create a campaign to fight the hazard.

“Education is the key to helping the public recognize and manage distractions while driving,” said Mark Edwards, PH.D., AAA managing director of AAA Traffic Safety. “We will also encourage manufacturers to design devices that are the least distracting to drivers and emphasize to Congress the need for funding necessary research.”

In its ‘10-Point Action Plan’, AAA launched a national campaign to educate drivers about the hazards of driving while distracted. AAA kicked off its campaign by offering a free educational brochure entitled “Drive Safer, Talk Later—A Guide to Cell Phones and Driving”.

The organization will work closely with state departments of motor vehicles to educate novice drivers and to ensure beginning drivers understand the dangers of distracted driving.

Other actions the organization plans include:

- * Test telemetric devices. Work with international motor clubs to develop a protocol to test the distractibility of in-vehicle devices.

- * Develop safety standards for telemetric devices. Encourage manufacturers to adopt standards for in-vehicle communication devices.

- * Collaborate with policy makers.

Nashville District Cell Phone Use Policy

Must adhere to Safety and Health Requirements Manual, EM 385-1-1, which says operators of USACE motor vehicles/equipment or USACE employees using their vehicles on official business, either on or off USACE projects, and operators of Contractor motor vehicles/equipment being used on USACE projects, may only use cellular telephones with hands-free devices while the vehicle is in motion. Prior to using a hand-held cellular phone, drivers shall find a safe place to bring their vehicle to a stop. The use of headphones and earphones is prohibited while operating a motor vehicle/equipment.

AAA will testify at congressional hearings on distracted driving in the House of Representatives. AAA will also promote educational remedies to state and local policy makers.

- * Encourage new research to better understand the effects of distraction on drivers.

- * Disseminate current research on the results of its driver distraction study and communicate the results of other studies to policy makers and the public.

- * Revise AAA driver training manuals. Incorporate instruction on driver distractions into driver education programs to include novice driver, driver improvement and older-driver programs.

- * Encourage corporations to educate their employees and customers. AAA will work with partners in the traffic safety community to disseminate safety information to employers.

As North America’s largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA provides its 44 million members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding in 1902, AAA has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers.

University of Utah psychologists have published a study showing that motorists who talk on handheld or hands-free cellular phones are as impaired as drunken drivers.

Psychology Professor David Strayer, the study’s lead author, adds: “Just like you put yourself and other people at risk when you drive drunk, you put yourself and others at risk when you use a cell phone and drive. The level of impairment is very similar.”

In September 2006 California prohibited people from driving while using a hand-held cell phone. When the law goes into effect in July 2008, California will be the fourth state to have such a ban.

New York was the first state to enact such legislation in 2001. In October 2005 a Connecticut law banning the use of hand-held cell phones while driving went into effect. In January 2004 New Jersey passed a bill prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving and in April of that year the District of Columbia (DC) followed suit.