



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Nashville District

# District Digest

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July 2008

## Corps Dedicates Ecosystem Restoration Project



Story on Pages 10-11

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## On the Cover



The Nashville District joined with local, state and federal officials to celebrate the completion of the Ely and Puckett Creeks Ecosystem Restoration Project. For complete story, see pages 10 - 11.

## District Digest

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## Lieutenant Colonel Bernard R. Lindstrom

# Lindstrom Sends

### **G**reetings! Recreation Season is in!

Over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, Cara and I took the kids out to J. Percy Priest Lake to enjoy the recreational opportunity. Wow! What a beautiful area to go boating on one of our immensely popular and well preserved natural resources in this region. Even our youngest son, Ray, who is all of 16 months old, had a wonderful, safe, and enjoyable experience. As we strolled along the shoreline, I thought about the countless hours of effort and work that USACE, and in particular our District, provides to national treasures like this one across the country to maintain safe, clean, and environmentally friendly public recreational experiences for all Americans to enjoy. Camping, boating, fishing, swimming, etc. can all be enjoyed because of your efforts. Amazing! Our whole family wishes to express our "Attitude of Gratitude" to you for your dedication to excellence, and we hope you are taking some time during the summer to enjoy these too.

In my last article I talked at length about the Nashville Business Plan, and how everyone can link our own personal goals and interests to the plan as a method to measure success. Just to recap, here are our organizational goals.

1<sup>st</sup>: Deliver Enduring, Innovative, and Sustainable Civil Works Operations Programs and Projects

2<sup>nd</sup>: Execute Consistent, Effective Civil Works Engineering Programs and Projects

3<sup>rd</sup>: Conduct Transparent Communication and Collaborative Approaches to Water Resource Problems

4<sup>th</sup>: Build the T.E.A.M (Trust, Excellence, All about People, Motivating)

This is just a starting point. To make this plan successful, I need your help. I asked our senior leaders to take a look at the next level in our plan to link critical tasks to our organizational objectives so we can not only measure success but also see results in the implementation of our plan. So, how can you help? I need you to speak with your supervisors about ideas, issues, or concerns that you think may need to be addressed within these goals. A few of the areas of discussion that you may want to have addressed include: alternative work schedules, leader development, lateral reassignments, deployments, lengthy hiring process, and NSPS. With your valuable input, we can link your ideas to critical improvement tasks in the plan. And with that link we can work together towards improvement in our organization...essentially taking us from Good to GREAT!

So, in the spirit of constant improvement and to contribute to our 3<sup>rd</sup> organizational goal, I am very happy to an-



nounce that we will be venturing into the blogosphere and marking our entry into the age of interactive networking and communications by creating the first Nashville District Blog page. Blogging is the way of the future, and the Nashville District should be out there too providing open and transparent communications to the public we serve. I can think of no better way to continue to be ready, relevant, reliable, and responsive to the people who live in the 34 congressional districts that cover over 59,000 square miles through parts of 7 states that we serve in the Tennessee-Cumberland Valleys.

Venturing into the blogosphere will be a new challenge for the Nashville district since our area of responsibility is so broad and impacts so many diverse interests. However, the benefits far outweigh the costs. Blogging can bring the elements of an organization closer together by closing the communication gap. Blogging will help to develop new ini-

(Continues on page 15)

# Unsung Water Safety Heroes Avert Possible Tragedies

By Carolyn Bauer

On June 15, 2008 on J. Percy Priest Lake, Park Ranger Lindsey Houchens and Student Conservation Association Intern Trey Church averted what could have been a tragedy by taking three exhausted teen-age male swimmers that were in the boating channel safely to shore. Earlier, the teenagers had been jumping off the cliffs and were taken by a boater to an island. The boater departed as the young men planned to swim back to shore. The plan went astray as the distance was further than it seemed, they were in the channel where it was difficult for boaters to see them, and they were using a float that was starting to lose air. Ranger Houchens and Intern Church took quick action as they observed the teenagers in this unsafe situation

while on boat patrol. They got the teenagers into the patrol boat, had them put on life jackets, and took them safely to shore.

In a separate incident on the same day on J. Percy Priest Lake, Ranger Trainee

Chris Cantrell and Intern Trey Church averted another possible incident by taking a man on a float in the channel to the shore. The man started on the float at the swim area at Long Hunter State Park and drifted into the middle of the boating channel. Ranger Cantrell and Church stopped to advise him of the unsafe situation: it was difficult for boaters to see him, he was relying on a float that could lose air, and the distance to shore may be beyond his ability. The man asked them to take him back to shore. They let him on the boat via the ladder, put a life jacket on him and took him back to the swim area close enough to swim to shore.

Salute to Ranger Houchens, Ranger Trainee Cantrell, and Intern Church for their quick action. These are examples of heroic actions being taken across the district by park rangers and temporary summer staff on boat patrol to provide public safety.



Photo by Mark Vaughan

**Student Conservation Association Intern Trey Church (left), Park Ranger Lindsey Houchens (center), and Ranger Trainee Chris Cantrell averted what could have been tragedies by taking exhausted swimmers safely to shore.**

## June Employee of the Month

Mr. David Kay, a civil engineering technician in the Civil Design Branch, is June's Employee of the Month. David deserves recognition for his exemplary service to the Nashville District as an instrumental member of the Chickamauga Lock Design Team. His superior technical ability and "can-do" attitude were vital in preparing 100% Lock Plans and Specs under an extremely compressed schedule. David worked extended hours for many weeks in order to meet deadlines. While completing his technician duties, David also provided guidance and support to other Nashville District and A/E

technicians to ensure a quality project folio was developed. While conducting his critical work for the Chickamauga Lock project, he was also more than willing to perform tasks for others in support of various District projects. Additionally, David has taken the lead in rolling out USACE's new file archival system "Project Wise," as well as supporting the District's CADD Manager in numerous functions. David has also shown excellent initiative in taking advantage of training opportunities to improve his skills and computer knowledge. David is dedicated to his Branch, Division, District, and most importantly the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Photo by Janis Clark  
**David Kay**

# Orifice Gates Removed and Installed at Wolf Creek Dam

Story and Photos by Reshea Norris

On June 3, 2008 an orifice gate, borrowed from Center Hill Dam, was removed from service at Wolf Creek. The difficult procedure required total team efforts from employees from Wolf Creek, Laurel, and crane operator from Dale Hollow Resource. Part of the team was on a pontoon boat with an ROV (underwater camera) to confirm when the lifting device was properly fastened to the orifice gate and could be safely raised by the crane operator, Brandon Masion-gale. After several obstacles, such as, hot severe weather and heavy traffic on Highway 127, the task was completed by the team and the gate returned to Center Hill the following day to be placed in service there.

Larry Craig, Power Project Manager at Wolf Creek Dam, commended all employees on a great team effort and a great job.



**Chuck Ervin (Laurel) signals Brandon Masion-gale (Dale Hollow) in the crane, while John Roberson (Wolf Creek) steadies the auxiliary hoist and Christopher Marlow (Wolf Creek) directs large semis around the crane.**



**A crane hoists the orifice gate that was removed from Wolf Creek Dam.**

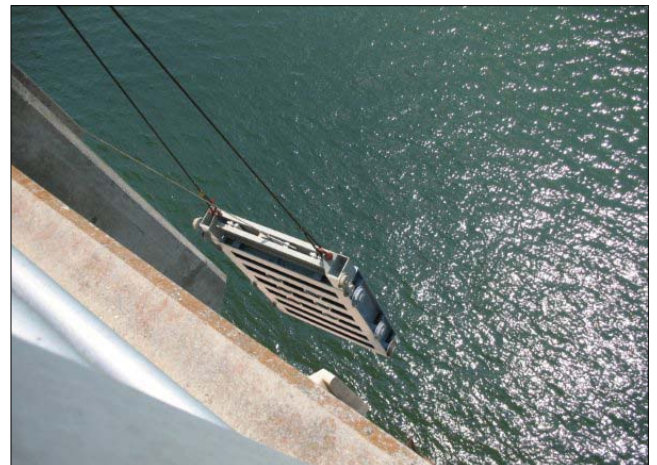
On June 9, 2008, two orifice gates were installed at Wolf Creek Dam. An orifice gate is designed to maximize the lakes

water level, but still allow river flow.

The orifice gate slides over the opening of the sluice gate acting like a bulkhead. A sluice gate can only be fully opened or fully closed, in the fully opened position discharge is approximately 1400 cfs, which

is approximately 15,120,000 gallons of water per day. When the orifice gate is in place and the sluice gate is fully opened, only 260 cfs or 2,808,000 gallons per day is discharged through the six holes in the orifice gate. This is 81% less than just opening the sluice gate. The orifice gate also protects the interior of the sluice gate opening. As the water pushes through the six holes of the orifice gate, at a vertical angle, the force of the water is diffused causing no deterioration in the sluice way.

By 2:30 p.m., the two gates were successfully



**An orifice gate is being lowered over the opening of the sluice gate.**

installed to help regulate the lake level and river flow at Wolf Creek Dam. The gates are necessary to better manage the much desired water in Lake Cumberland. The gates will conserve water while providing minimum river flow, water quality, and dissolved oxygen levels in the river without the release of more water than needed.

# Nashville District Retirees Honored With Distinguished Civilian Awards

The prestigious Distinguished Civilian Award is presented to employees who have been retired from the Nashville District with at least 20 years of service as a civilian employee with the Corps of Engineers.

The retiree must have accomplished assigned duties in such a manner as to be clearly exceptional and preeminent among all who have performed like or similar duties. They must have developed and/or improved methods and procedures or supervised/managed the development of improved methods and procedures that produced extraordinary benefits for the Corps of Engineers. They must have contributed substantially to the reputation and honor of the Corps of Engineers. Also, the retiree must have performed his/her assigned duties in a efficient and effective manner, while serving faithfully and loyally throughout the period of service.

At the Engineer Day Picnic, the Nashville District honored four retirees with Distinguished Civilian Awards; Lynn F. Bowden, III; Richard H. Puckett; Robert V. Smyth; and Victoria A. Hooper.

**Lynn F. Bowden, III** retired from the Nashville District, Corps of Engineers in 2005 after more than 34 years of distinguished service. Mr. Bowden worked with the Information Management Office in the Audio Visual Section until his retirement in 2005.



Lynn F. Bowden

Beginning in the early 1980s, Bowden videotaped many important moments in the history of the Nashville District, including the ground-breaking and dedications at the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Bay Springs Lock and Dam (Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway), the Harlan Tunnels, plus numerous special events. More recently, Mr. Bowden covered the

groundbreakings for the new locks at the Kentucky and Chickamauga Projects. He helped to create water safety announcements and had a major role in the production of "The Ballad of the Twin Rivers" song by the Nashville District group, The Deep Water Boys. During what could have been a contentious time for the Nashville District, Mr. Bowden provided exceptional assistance with the Wolf Creek Dam Public Meetings by giving audio and visual support.

**Richard H. Puckett** retired on March 3, 2005 after 42 years of exemplary service as a civilian employee of the Nashville



Richard H. Puckett

District Corps of Engineers. As Resource Manger at Old Hickory in 1971-73, Mr. Puckett han-

dled the challenges of managing a lake with minimal government land ownership along the lakeshore. Mr. Puckett's efforts were instrumental to the pioneering work of the Natural Resources Management Branch in protecting public shoreline areas that served as the model for the nationwide Corps policy.



He was selected as the first full-time Resource Manager at the recently impounded Cordell Hull Lake in 1973 and served there to 1984. He also served as Area Resource Manager for Cordell Hull, Dale Hollow, and Center Hill Lakes from 1994 to 1997, and as the Mid-Cumberland Area Operations Manager with responsibilities over the hydro power, natural resources, and recreation programs for the area's three lake projects. As OM, Mr. Puckett excelled in building a high performing team for the management, operation, maintenance, construction, and repair of all project facilities.

**Robert V. Smyth** retired from the Nashville District Corps of Engineers in 2006 after 35 years of distinguished service. Mr. Smyth is unique in that he worked in all practice areas for a



**Robert V. Smyth**

and environmental law. His areas of practice also included contract and labor law, civil works authorities,

water supply, Freedom of Information Act, torts, and general administrative law. He served as District Counsel for extended periods of time and as Acting District Counsel on numerous occasions. One of Mr. Smyth's primary strengths lies in his ability to handle sensitive matters in a professional yet considerate manner. In the environmental and regulatory arenas, his more recent litigation matters have dealt with a variety of complex legal issues of regional and nationwide significance. Mr. Smyth has, without exception, provided the highest quality legal comments and guidance. His expertise in the law contributed significantly to the award of several contracts and the amicable resolution of many sensitive contracting issues.

**Victoria A. Hooper** was a loyal and dedicated employee of the Department of Defense for 36 years and 7 months. Ms. Hooper worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District, for 34 years and 9 months, with 31 of those years spent in the Human Resources Office. As the transformation from a full service personnel office to an advisory center occurred from 1997-1998, Ms. Hooper stepped up and was key to the success of the regionalization of the Civilian Personnel function. The regional-

ization required the highest dedication to duty and attention to detail, and Ms. Hooper was an integral part of this transition. She was a key component of the Labor-Employee Relations team and was known for her technical knowledge and attention to detail in all the cases, as well as her compassion. Ms. Hooper used her patience and compassion to solidify the Human Resource working relationship with the Office of Counsel and Equal Employment Opportunity Office. Her skill in working with managers and employees is unequaled in the Management Employee Relations area.



**Victoria A. Hooper**

Distinguished Civilian Employees U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	
Jerry O. Rainer	1963 - 1998
Janet M. Caffey	1973 - 1996
Daniel F. Hall	1963 - 1998
Ronald G. Rains	1966 - 1995
Harold Lynn Midgett	1961 - 1997
Thomas M. Wilkerson	1963 - 1999
John U. Miller, III	1966 - 2001
Clifford G. Reinert	1963 - 1997
Albert J. Dunn	1964 - 2000
John N. Lambrecht	1961-2002
Donald E. Spann	1963-2000
Curtis Malone	1970 - 2005
David L. Day	1969-2005
Leveda Parton	1973-2003
Robert C. Miller	1971-2005
Dennis R. Williams	1969 - 2004
Lynn F. Bowden III	1971 - 2005
Victoria A. Hooper	1970 - 2006
Richard H. Puckett	1963 - 2005
Robert V. Smyth	1971 - 2006

# Joe P. Faustina, Jr. Offers Deployment Diary

By Victoria Hooper with Joe Faustina

Joseph P. Faustina, Jr. is a real Corps family member. His Dad, Joseph P. Faustina, Sr., retired from Nashville District five years ago and is now back at Cordell Hull Power Plant as a reemployed annuitant. Joe's Mom, Treina, is a home health nurse. Joe's beautiful daughters are the "apples of his eye." Morgan, 13, plays clarinet in the school band and loves to read, swim, and shop. Lelani, 10, loves animals and sports, and she collects American Girl dolls.

Joe, Jr. came to Nashville District, starting in Operations Division with the fleet, and moving on to Navigation Branch in the



Joseph P. Faustina, Jr. stands with the Corps flag.

I am the COR for all projects, I do close-outs on projects as they are completed and final company evaluations. I do employee evaluations both beginning and end of tour. I have just completed the Deputy Safety Office

kilometers of roads. I am responsible for a security upgrade on the ANA base which has them putting up two kilometers of stone wall, ten fighting positions, and 40 bunkers, a CID building downtown, ten Afghan police compounds, and ten Border Police Post compounds along the borders. But thanks to a great team here, the work is fun as well as challenging. Thank you and the whole district for the support so Nashville can shine while we continue to volunteer to come overseas. We need many more volunteers here and in Iraq."

well as challenging. Thank you and the whole district for the support so Nashville can shine while we continue to volunteer to come overseas. We need many more volunteers here and in Iraq."



Faustina's daughters Lelani (left) and Morgan

District Office, where he serves as a Civil Engineering Technician.

Joe deployed to Iraq in May 2004 to January 2005. In November 2007, Joe volunteered to serve in Afghanistan. The experience of performing so many different roles in Afghanistan has been unbelievable for Joe. From one of Joe's emails he states, "As a Resident Engineer (in Khost Province) it is my job to make sure the projects are started on time. I hold pre-construction meetings with the contractors, I review and comment on design build plans, I do monthly pay outs in RMS, I



Children enjoying their lesson at an Afghanistan school.

course since I am the Safety Officer for Khost Province. I am responsible for operations and maintenance on the base. I am responsible for the building of three roads and structures along the roads which includes bridges, culverts, and waddy crossings, a total of 100



Faustina 'Living the Dream'

Joe was recently involved in a "Humanitarian Day" at a local school site. Joe states, "As you see the kids sitting outside on the front steps of the school porch being taught their school lesson, there are approximately 700 chil-



## HOW TO APPLY FOR A GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM (GWOT) POSITION

dren, boys and girls, that go to this school. The school has ten rooms that are filled with boy and girls. Usually there are boys' and girls' schools, but since this community is one of the poorest in the area they are taught together and the teachers risk their lives teaching since the Taliban try to break them by keeping them ignorant. The boys sit in the back of the class and there is a ten foot gap between the girls in the older classes. The school is four years old and there is no electricity or a water well, so the children sit in these hot buildings to learn as well as outside in the heat and flies." He continues, "As you see in the pictures, the children are happy and enjoy class. Look at the smiles on their faces; this is why I am here. I enjoy it when I am on our job sites and get to interact with the kids. Most speak some English and they always ask for pens and pencils, which I am out of. If you would like to send some pens, pencils and school items, it would be appreciated." More from Joe, "I know you don't get to see or hear much about the good things that go on here. I just wanted to share this. As I looked at these kids, it reminded me of why I came here. I hope through the construction of the police stations and border post check points, and the Afghan Army camps and paved roads, one day these young children will have a life that is safe and can continue what we started."

If you would like to donate school supplies for Joe to send to this Afghanistan school, please contact the Deployment Support Coordinator, Victoria Hooper at (615) 736-7965.

To volunteer for a position, contact the Nashville District Operations Division, Readiness/Emergency Management Branch.

To see what is available, GWOT positions are posted on several sites, such as ENGLink, (<https://englink.usace.army.mil>), CPOL (<http://cpol.army.mil>), USA-JOBS ([www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)), and the USACE homepage has a link to CPOL as well. (<http://www.hq.usace.army.mil>). Then look at GWOT Recruitment Page)

Once you find a position for which you feel you can qualify, you must build a resume in the RESUME builder to link with the position you want. Without the resume being linked with the position, there is no way to be considered for the position. There are a number of ways to find a position overseas. You can use a vacancy an-

nouncement, a placement from division or higher, or by word of mouth.

No matter how you find a position, paperwork MUST be processed through Readiness/Emergency Management Branch for processing. As with most Government processes, there is a large amount of paperwork to be completed. The Readiness/Emergency Management Branch has a step by step instruction to expedite the deployment paperwork. Due to the ever changing deployment requirements, please stay flexible during your pre-deployment preparation.

-- You can reach the staff at the Readiness/Emergency Management Branch at (615) 736-7037, email [Kathy.a.grimes@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kathy.a.grimes@usace.army.mil), or [jerry.breznican@usace.army.mil](mailto:jerry.breznican@usace.army.mil).

### Abdulnasir I. Farah Deploys to Afghanistan



Mr. Abdulnasir I. Farah deployed on June 8. He is stationed at Herat, Afghanistan, but as soon as he arrived he was sent to Farah Province for a mission. Abdul is a Power Plant Mechanic A at Old Hickory Power Plant. He and his wife Rahma have three children, a son, and two daughters, who are supporting Abdul well. Abdul's tour is June 8 to December 4, 2008.

# Corps Dedicates Ecosystem Restoration Project



Story and photos by Allison Jarrett

**C**ongressman Rick Boucher joined the Corps of Engineers

Nashville District and state and local officials in Lee County, Virginia, to celebrate the completion of the Ely and Puckett Creeks Ecosystem Restoration Project. The ceremony took place on June 23 at the Lick Branch Site of the Ely and Puckett Creeks project with nearly 50 guests in attendance.

Ely and Puckett Creeks in Lee County, Virginia, feed the ecologically diverse Powell River Basin, second only to the Clinch River with the greatest number of threatened and endangered species of fish and mussels in the nation. Acid mine drainage from coal mines that were abandoned years ago have severely degraded that ecosystem. According to a study conducted by Dr. Don Cherry of Virginia Tech, a 2% solution of this acid mine drainage was enough to kill 100% of

the organisms in the water.

With Congressman Boucher's help, funding was pro-



**Lt. Col. Lindstrom and Congressman Boucher listen to remarks from local partners.**

vided in the late 90's for the Nashville District to study the areas along the Powell River and its tributaries. Ely and Puckett Creeks, essentially devoid of aquatic life, were prioritized. With the help of the non-federal sponsor Lee County, the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME), and the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission, the Corps endeavored to restore the aquatic ecosystem.

The project was constructed in two phases and consists of

a series of ponds, designed to rid the water of acid mine drainage. Some of the ponds contain crops of cattails which clean the water, while other ponds are called Successive Alkalinity Producing Systems, or SAPS cells. These cells use limestone to neutralize the water, keeping the habitat viable. The ponds are constructed such that gravity moves the water through the systems, continually cleaning the water without using a single watt of electric power. The cost of



**Local resident, Tom Long, describes the creek conditions to Lt. Col. Lindstrom.**

project construction was \$3.4 million.

The completion of this phase of the Powell River Basin restoration project was a significant milestone for Jeff Linkinhoker, the Project Manag-



**(From L-R): Benny Wampler, Lt. Col. Lindstrom, Cong. Boucher, Mark Carter, Claude Ray, and Ron Flanary join in cutting the ribbon.**  
*Photo by Tim Williams*

er for Ely and Puckett Creeks. "It has been a pleasure for me to have been the Project Manager on this project from its beginning in 1997 to its completion," says Linkinhoker. Taking time to celebrate the completion of the project was important to Linkinhoker, who said, "Over a career at the Corps it is important to take time to smell the roses -- and to count the successes. This is a success and a very significant project for the Virginia ecosystem."

Linkinhoker notes, however, that the real success of this project lies in the cooperation of so many talented and diverse people and organizations. He explained that the project partners were incredibly dedicated and passionate about their work. The input of these partners influenced the success of this project, and Linkinhoker says he feels blessed to have been a part of that team.

The ceremony was held on-site, and the rain held long enough for the event to be successful. Remarks were offered by Congressman Boucher, Lt. Col. Bernard Lindstrom, and representa-

tives of the project's sponsor and partners. Lt. Col. Lindstrom also presented an Award of Appreciation to a local high school student, Ms. Samantha Perry. As a science fair project, Samantha constructed a working SAPS cell, modeled after those used in the Ely and Puckett Creeks project. The cere-

mony ended with a ribbon cutting, as Congressman Boucher, Lt. Col. Lindstrom, Ron Flanary of LENOWISCO, Claude Ray and Mark Carter of Lee County, and Benny Wampler of DMME signified the completion of this collaborative effort.



**The bog site before and after construction.**



**Samantha Perry and Jeff Linkinhoker show off Perry's award.**



**A crowd of approximately 50 guests attended the ceremony.**

# Old Hickory Promotes Water Safety in Unique Way

Story by Carolyn Bauer, photos by Jonathan Wuebker

**P**ark Ranger Jonathan Wuebker, Old Hickory Lake, took initiative with the staff at Old Hickory Lake to recover a damaged boat from the lake. After removing the glass and other items to make it safe for display, the wrecked boat is now displayed as an attention-getting way to promote water safety.



A wrecked boat is used by Old Hickory Lake as a water safety educational tool.

Reach, Throw, Row, but Don't Go - concerning a person in trouble in the water.

The wrecked boat is part of the new District life jacket promotional campaign: Expect the Unexpected—Wear It!

The boat has already proven to be an effective tool. The Johnson Family was enjoying their family reunion in Rockland Recreation Area when the wrecked boat on display caught their attention. Ranger Wuebker took the opportunity for an impromptu water safety demonstration including



The Johnson Family receives a water safety demonstration from Ranger Wuebker.

## Retired Corps Employee Visits Wolf Creek Dam

**R**obert Boyd, a retired Corps employee, and two guests visited Wolf Creek Dam on June 17. Mr. Boyd started working for the Corps as an operator at Wolf Creek Dam when the units were put on line for the first time. Boyd was the Power Plant Superintendent at Old Hickory Power Plant and also worked in the Hydropower Branch in the District office. He is eighty-nine years old and is soon to turn ninety. This was his third visit to Wolf Creek during the rewinds of unit 4 and unit 6. Boyd was at the plant to watch the installation of unit four's rotor.



Pictured from Left to Right: Bobby Williams (Laurel Power Plant Superintendent), Forrest Martin, Robert Boyd, and Bill Campbell.

# EAGLE Training in Full Swing

Story and photos by Ronald Gatlin, Jr.

Applying for the EAGLE training class was my boss's idea. I had read about EAGLE and had considered the opportunity but I never really knew if it would be right for me. I am glad that I followed my supervisor's advice. With this just being our second monthly meeting, I am learning not only leadership skills but the internal workings of the Nashville District.

The first day of our June meeting consisted of briefings from several senior leaders covering the work of their individual offices. Our first session was a leadership briefing from LTC Lindstrom, in which we discussed his leadership philosophies and how we can incorporate them in our own work place. We then went on a "tour" with senior leaders and their representatives: Barney Davis (Engineering and Construction), Ralph Ownby (Operations), Bill Colvin (Real Estate), Valerie Carlton (Contracting), Mike Wilson (Planning, Programs, and Project Mgmt.), and Christine Rossi (Resource Management). Each leader discussed their division's role in the Nashville District. Since I am a field worker, I was amazed to see all that goes on just within our District.

The next day we met at the Old Hickory Resource Manager's Office. Rangers and EAGLE classmates Crystal Tingle and Kenny Claywell gave



Senior Mechanic Jerry Kennedy explains the generator's governor function to the EAGLE Class.

the class a brief summary of a day in the life of a Ranger. The next stop was Old Hickory Power Plant where Senior Mechanic Jerry Kennedy and EAGLE classmate Alex Hays gave the class a tour. At Old Hickory Lock, classmate Daniel Keenum and the Shift Operator explained to the class about typical Lock operation and maintenance. At the CROC classroom, we were introduced to Steve Foshee and Allison Jarrett of the Public Affairs Office. Steve and Allison gave us a briefing on media techniques, then assigned each of us a disaster scenario we had to explain on camera. A new appreciation for those individuals quickly became evident.

On Thursday, several EAGLE participants volunteered

to help with the kid's games during the Engineer' Day Picnic. This was a great chance for the class to work together as a team and also provide a service to the District. It was also a good time to talk to old friends and make new ones, as well as an opportunity for Kenny to throw water balloons at innocent bystanders. If you were hit by one, you can reach him at the Cordell Hull Resource Manager's Office.

The week was beneficial to all in the class. We were able to experience the wide variety of services that our district offers and meet people we do not



EAGLE class member Jocelyn Feliciano paints faces at the Engineer Day Picnic.

run into everyday. I appreciate the District's forward thinkers in offering these training opportunities. If the chance to apply for the EAGLE class comes your way, I will be the first to say that it is well worth your time.

# Volunteers Clean Up Stones River

Story and photos by Mark Vaughan

Due to the efforts of volunteers and Lose and Associates, the area along the Stones River below Lebanon Road is much cleaner.

This area along Stones

River Road

is not nearly as bad as it used to be due to recent inaccessibility due to Stones River greenway. Old dump sites along the river are getting attention. Increased use of the Stones River by folks floating the river when there is water available will place more attention on these areas.

The clean-up was a success, with about 20 volunteers cleaning up the dump



The volunteer clean-up team prepares for work.

site. The team also picked up most of the trash along Stones River Road. A group on the water found another dump site about 100 yards down from the one cleaned up, and that site will be addressed in the fall.

The J. Percy Priest team offers special thanks to Emily Houston, ASLA, Lose & Associates, Inc., and all the volunteers for their help.



A volunteer loads trash onto a trailer.

## Corps Family Member Receives Bronze Star



MAJ Greg Thomas presents an award box to his grandfather, Rev. Fred Thomas.

A Nashville District family member was recently honored for his military service during World War II. Reverend Fred Thomas, grandfather of MAJ Greg Thomas (Facility Manager, J. Percy Priest Lake), received the Bronze Star Medal and the WWII Victory Medal for his service during the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign. COL Stephen London presented the awards and MAJ Greg Thomas presented an awards shadow box from the family.

Rev. Thomas enlisted in the Army on July 3, 1943 and served valiantly during WWII. He was wounded in action on March 3, 1945 in Leyte, and served under General Douglas MacArthur. Thomas was also in Japan during the formal surrender ceremonies on the USS Missouri.

The Bronze Star Medal was awarded to SGT Fred Thomas not only for his service during combat, but also his loyalty to his fellow soldiers and Country.

# Lindstrom Sends

(Continues from page 3)

tatives and ideas. Blogging breaks down social barriers. And blogging will help the organization to engage the culture and customers in a positive manner. So, please join me in taking our district from Good to GREAT by discussing our most favorite district... Nashville.

To wrap this article up, I want to tell you that as you follow my lead and take the family out to enjoy the summer holiday season please remember to "Own the Edge" by taking personal Ownership of Risk. Before taking the family out to share your favorite high risk sport, take a moment to think through the composite risk management (CRM) process. Even on our most pristine recreational projects there are hazards that are associated with family fun activity. Before you set out, make sure you identify the hazards and implement appropriate control measures to mitigate risk. This is how you "Own the Edge" and take ownership of risk, and enjoy nature.

Also, I want to recognize a few high performing folks that are "Owning the Edge" and taking this organization from Good to GREAT!:

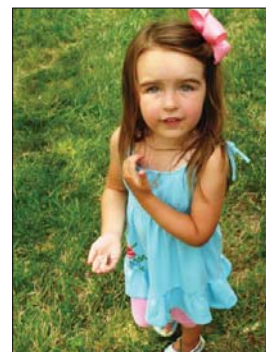
- The Wolf Creek TEAM for keeping your eye on the ball, managing expectations, and risk. World Class TEAM!
- The Kentucky Lock TEAM for exceptional leadership and management during a recent construction fatality. 'When the going gets tough, the tough dig in.'
- Patty Coffey for being selected to serve regionally on the Division Regional Management Board. Super example of a growing leader.
- Qiana Davis for receiving the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service while deployed to Gulf Region North District. Hooah for negotiation!
- Danita Jones for being selected for the USACE Centrally Funded University Long Term Training Program. MBA's lead the way!
- Danita Jones again for leading the district through an Engineer Inspector General's systemic inspection of Nashville's implementation of the USACE Safety Program. Nothing like getting it done quickly on short notice.
- Connie Flatt, Tom Cayce, Jim Deal and the programs TEAM for blazing the way into the FY10 budget foray! Every battle starts with the first shot.
- Kathryn Firsching for bringing to an end ten years of dispute between Smyrna and USACE over JPP water usage.
- Jerry Kennedy for being the Division nominee to receive the FY2008 Operations and Maintenance Castle Award.
- Joanne Mann for leading the planning, organizing, and preparation of the District picnic. What a wonderful day!
- Todd Yann for delivering a great safety speech to promote the Wear It Tennessee campaign. Yes, we do have a 'vested interest.'
- Tim Dawson, Jon Stinson, and James Byrd for providing rapid response to assist with Midwest flooding. Responsive and Reliable.
- Jeff Linkinhoker, for his outstanding accomplishments on completing the Ely and Puckett Creeks Ecosystem Restoration Project.

Your selfless-service and dedication to our mission is continuing to promote a legacy of engineering excellence that will serve the future of this region as it has since 1888. One hundred twenty years of service on August 18, 2008! Thank you all for taking the tough tasks, setting new objectives, and reaching for higher achievement. Your efforts will take you and the district from Good to GREAT! Every day is a new day for achievers. Cara and I look forward every day to serve you with the passion and commitment to lead our organization and preserve our legacy of excellence and achievement that makes this organization GREAT. Again, Cara and I appreciate the opportunity to serve you. Summer is here! God Bless America! One team! Ready! Relevant! Reliable! Responsive! Essayons! Engineer Strong!

# District Celebrates 120 Years at Engineer Day 2008



It was a beautiful day for the 2008 Engineer Day Picnic. Families enjoyed fun games, great food, exciting entertainment, and wonderful fellowship.



Additional Picnic photos can be found on the District Nashville Share Drive, in a folder titled 'PICNIC08'







#### Contest Winners:

Tug O'War - Hydropower Training Class 15 came in 1st with Class 16 bringing up 2nd place.

Fun Run - Clint Neel (1st Place), Daniel Tribble (2nd), and Paul Tribble (3rd).

Water Safety - Charlie had 31 total participants. Joseph Jones won with a 105' toss and Nikki Wanamaker won the Under-16 category with a 66' toss.

Volleyball - The tournament had seven teams participating and ended with a "Battle of the Branch" championship game. Design Team A emerged as the winner over Design Team B. A new Corps Picnic Volleyball Trophy will proudly be displayed in their area.



Photos by Steven Foshee

# The Corps Crowd

## ***Congratulations to...***

...Joshua James, son of William and Vicky James of Lebanon, was married to Susan Crawford at Cedars of Lebanon State Park on May 24. William is the Chief of the Eastern Section of the Regulatory Branch. Josh and Susan are living in Washington, DC where Josh is a second year law student at the George Washington University Law School. Susan is an elementary school teacher and will be teaching at a local DC area school.

...Dustin Kelley, a co-op lock and dam equipment mechanic stationed at TROC in Florence, AL for being recognized as the outstanding welding student for the 07-08 school year during the recent honors program. Dustin excelled in his welding ability, attendance, and character.

...Joanne Mann as Executive Assistant to the District Commander. Joanne has been serving as the District's Executive Assistant since June 2007 on a temporary basis. Her background in the Resource Management Office, her detailed-oriented leadership and management skills, and a demonstrated ability to work well with the Nashville District Team, our customers, and stakeholders have made her an excellent choice for this position. She's already proven that she's a great fit for this position and we all look forward to her continued exemplary contributions to the District.

## ***Farewell to...***

...Jon Summers, Park Ranger at Lake Barkley. Jon transferred to the Rivers Project Office, West Ahom, Missouri in the St. Louis District on June 23, 2008.

...Harry Lancaster, Mechanic A, Dale Hollow Power Plant, and good luck after his retirement on June 30, 2008.

## ***Baby Brigade to...***

...Elisha and Kayl Kite on the birth of their son, Daxton Kayl Kite. Dax was born on June 1, 2008. His dad is the Conservation Biologist at Lake Barkley.



**Daxton Kite**

...Steven and Kimberly Gregory on the birth of their daughter Delaney Evelyn Gregory born



**Delaney Gregory**

June 8 at 1:04 a.m. weighing 7 lbs 11 3/4 oz. Steven is a Park Ranger at the Cordell Hull Lake.

...Stephen and Marla Beason are the proud parents of a new baby girl, Katlyn Breann. Katlyn was born May 13th at Cookeville Regional Medical Center, Cookeville, TN and weighed 8lb, 3 oz. and was 20 inches long. Stephen is the Resource Manager for Dale Hollow.



**Katlyn Breann**

...Paul and Shelly Weaver on the birth of their 7 lb. 9 oz. son, Maddox, on July 9, 2008 at 9:38 a.m. Paul is a Lock and Dam Equipment Mechanic/Electrician at Chickamuga Lock.

## ***Thank you to...***

...all of you who expressed your sympathy on the death of my father. Your thoughts and kind words meant so much during my time of sorrow. *Johnnie Hayes*

## ***Welcome to...***

...Ms. Cara Nelson who joined the Eastern Regulatory Field Office in Lenoir City on June 23, 2008. She will be working as a student aid while attending college. She is the daughter of Chuck, Watts Bar Lock Operator and Melinda Nelson of Decatur, TN.

...Derrick Gray, Student Conservation Association intern at Old Hickory Lake, who will be helping with boat patrols this summer. Derrick has served tours in Afghanistan and Iraq with the U.S. Air Force and will be entering his junior year at UT-Knoxville this fall.

...Dylon Anderson, Temporary Summer Ranger at Dale Hollow Lake. Dylon is a junior at Tennessee Tech majoring in agricultural engineering.

...Curtis Hendricks, a recent graduate from the University of Wisconsin, is a SCA Intern working the summer promoting water safety on Lake Barkley.

...Kyle Lock, Park Ranger Trainee, who is working his second summer at Lake Barkley before he returns to UT Martin for the fall semester.

...Stacy Billbrey, who began a temporary assignment as the environmental specialist at Dale Hollow Lake on June 23. Stacy came to Dale Hollow from Cordell Hull.

## ***Sympathy to...***

...Carl Scott, L&D Equipment Mechanic Supervisor at Tennessee River Operations Center, whose grandmother, Stella Coffee, passed away June 15.

...Johnnie Hayes, Maintenance Mechanic at Old Hickory Lock, whose father, Johnnie R. Hayes, Sr., passed away July 1.

# Counsel's Corner

By Pam Schmaltz

## Religious Expression in the Federal Workplace

What? Religious expression in the federal workplace? Your automatic reaction may be, "But that's not allowed because of the separation of church and state." Separation of church and state is a legal principle derived from the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, which reads, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . . ." The phrase separation of church and state derives from the first part (the "Establishment Clause") of the First Amendment but does not directly appear in the Constitution.



The First Amendment also contains a "Free Exercise Clause," that Congress shall not prohibit the "free exercise" of religion. Religious expression in the federal workplace is governed by these two sometimes contradictory concepts – the separation of church and state and the freedom of expression.

### So, What's Allowed?

The rules vary based on where you are – private work areas versus public areas. For example, an employee may keep a Bible or Koran on his or her desk and read it at lunchtime. But in federal work areas with public access, the agency must not create the impression that any particular religion is being sponsored, endorsed or inhibited. Employees may display religious art and literature in their personal work areas to the same extent that they may

display other art and literature so long as it does not create the appearance of government endorsement.

### What about Verbal Expression?

Here, again, the rules vary. Expression among employees differs from expression directed at employees and the agency may take into consideration the impact on workplace efficiency. If employee speech is disruptive, it can be regulated to some extent, notwithstanding the First Amendment. In informal settings, such as cafeterias and hallways, employees may discuss their religious views with one another as they would discuss any other topic. But an employee must refrain from sharing his or her views if



a fellow employee specifically asks that such religious discussions stop, or otherwise indicates that it is unwelcome.

Supervisors must be particularly careful in expressing religious views with subordinates so that such expression is not viewed as coercive. But supervisors enjoy the right to freedom of expression as other employees do. If an employee perceives a supervisor's religious expression as coercive, and so informs the supervisor, the supervisor should take immediate steps to dispel such misconceptions.

### What about Prayer or Invocations at Official Events?

You may have heard prayers or invocations at official government events. Why is this allowed? Once again, it is due to every employee's right to free speech. That right only extends to religious speech

that is not disruptive and to religious speech that does not create the impression that any particular religion is being sponsored, endorsed or inhibited by the agency.



There is no Army regulation or guidance covering invocations, or prayers, at government events. COL Sherrill F. Munn, USACE Chaplain, has provided the following information to assure that prayers are conducted with sensitivity and respect for our multi-cultural, multi-faith workforce. COL Munn suggests that the one praying or offering an invocation should use common sense and understand that many belief systems will be represented at functions such as a Change of Command, a retirement dinner, or a conference luncheon. He always begins with the statement "I invite you to pray in your tradition as I offer this prayer in mine." Inclusive language, such as "Let us pray" or "We ask you Lord" should be avoided. That gives the people present the freedom to offer their own prayer, affirm the spoken prayer, or not pray at all, in accordance with their belief.

Religious expression in the Federal Workplace is a complicated issue.

If you have any questions regarding this article, contact Bill Hill or Pam Schmaltz in the Office of Counsel.



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# Lake Cumberland Opens New Recycling Center

Story and photo by Amy C. Cline

Lake Cumberland was thinking green as it kicked off its 2008 summer recreation season by offering new recycling stations for lake visitors. Containers were donated by recently opened recycling centers in Pulaski and Russell Counties.

Two permanent stations were installed at Kendall campground in Russell County and Waitsboro campground in Pulaski County. Accepting mixed paper products, plastic, and mixed metals, these recycling stations are maintained by Corps of Engineers volunteers and emptied weekly free of

charge by the courtesy of both counties.

In addition, two smaller recycling stations were installed at the Resource Manager's Office and Shop Compound in Pulaski County for use by the natural resource staff. Recycling Coordinator

Amy Cline stated that the recycling stations at Kendall and Waitsboro campgrounds provide another opportunity for the Corps to promote awareness to its environmental mission and to be at the forefront of this newly developed program in this area.

Cline also stated that Waitsboro and Kendall campgrounds are preliminary recycling sites this season. If these two sites continue to show increased interest, recycling stations will be installed in additional campgrounds on Lake Cumberland for the 2009 summer recreation season.



Members of the public recycle at Waitsboro Campground.