



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
Rock Island District

# Tower Times

Volume 25

No. 4

June 2003





# Spotlight on the District

Story and photo by Mark Kane

If you ask the District's new Deputy Director for Small Business what his hobbies are he'll tell you wildlife art and music, but dig a little deeper and you'll find out that, like his job, there's a lot more than most people might expect.

Doug Davis does enjoy wildlife art and music, so much so that he creates them.

Davis says he paints wildlife art in a variety of mediums including watercolor, acrylics, pencil, and pen and ink. He says he also plays the guitar and enjoys a variety of musical genres including blues, jazz, rock, and country.

On the surface, his job title of Deputy Director for Small Business might not mean much to people, after all, the Corps of Engineers isn't a small business, so what does Davis do?

Specifically, Davis says he serves as the advisor to the District commander and other District staff members on all policy and procedural issues related to small business.

The District interacts with small businesses all the time.

"The District procures service and supplies which are typically suited for acquisition from small businesses including construction and architectural and engineering services," said Davis.

That's where Davis says he comes into the picture, and if you dig a little further into his job you'll find out that the specifics are exactly what he like, most about it.

"My job gives me the very unique opportunity to help develop and sustain the ability of small businesses to compete for and win government contracts," said Davis. "There are 23 million American small businesses that generate more than 50 percent of the Gross National Product, create more than 50 percent of industrial



**Doug Davis, left, speaks with Leonard Ernst, lockmaster, Lock and Dam 12, about his new position with the District and how employees can use his position to make sure they purchase from small business when it is required.**

innovations and inventions, employ more than 50 percent of the private workforce, and are the principle source for new jobs."

When asked, Davis says he chose the Corps because it seemed to be operating on the cutting-edge of organizational leadership and management practice.

Davis started his new job at the District April 20, but has plenty of government experience behind him.

"I have been with the Department of the Army for more than 20 years (29 years total government service), and I have

worked in private industry as an Organizational Development Consultant and Training Manager," said Davis.

Davis also served eight years of active duty (1970 - 1978) and three years reserve (1981 - 1984) with the U.S. Navy. He was stationed on board the USS Bryce Canyon (AD-36), homeported in Pearl Harbor,

Hawaii; on board the USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63), homeported in San Diego, Calif.; and at the Naval Construction Battalion Training Center in Gulfport, Miss.

Davis earned a bachelor's of art from the University at Albany, State University of New York, Albany, N.Y., and is a native of Shenandoah, Iowa.

He currently lives in Davenport with his wife and says he likes the area and the Corps.

"I have found the Corps to be very family oriented and proactive regarding professional development," said Davis.

Davis and his wife have two sons, two daughters, eight grandchildren (five girls and five boys from ages eight to 16). Not surprisingly, he says almost all his grandchildren are also musicians.

"They are very active in sports and we love to watch them play," said Davis.

Davis' advice to anyone reading this article is, "Listen to your neighbors in the community of life and do whatever you can wherever you are, for no one is devoid of resources or opportunity."

To put it in a nutshell he simply said, "Think globally, act locally." ■



**Tower Times**  
U.S. Army Corps of  
Engineers  
Rock Island District  
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District Engineer  
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June 2003

# Tower Times

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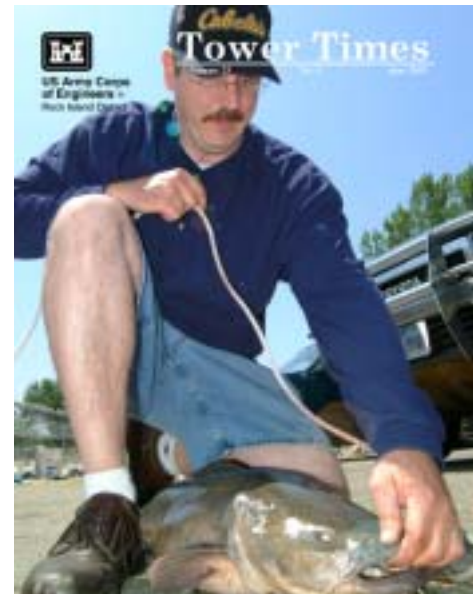


### Corps Day 2003 (Insert)



### Russians Visit District Sites

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### On the Cover

Coralville Lake offers an abundance of excellent fishing opportunities as demonstrated here by Rick Frasher of Manchester, Iowa. Frasher holds his 30-pound catfish he caught at the Dam, May 30, using a nightcrawler.

Photo by Mark Kane.



# Pepper Spray is Here

Story by Scott Strotman, Operations Division, photo by Mark Kane

It was clear and sunny, but a fairly cold day at Coralville Lake on Feb. 12. With the temperature in the low- to mid-20s, rangers stood outside, some in T-shirts, waiting their turn to be sprayed, while others waited to help with decontamination. Once sprayed, students were required to fend off other rangers who posed as attackers in order to earn a good dousing of decontamination spray. They were then escorted into a heated maintenance garage. There, the welcome relief of the warmth, plenty of fresh water, shampoo and more decon spray awaited them.

However, getting sprayed is one thing, spraying another person is an entirely different matter, especially when that another person is your own team member.

"I was somewhat hesitant about spraying other people at first," said José Rivera, a pepper-spray instructor and ranger at Saylorville Lake. "I knew what it felt like and wasn't sure I wanted to deliver that discomfort to people I work with."

But, after considering the safe and controlled environment, and his own personal experience, Rivera volunteered to spray the first group of students. And on

Feb. 12, the District's first group of rangers certified to carry pepper spray graduated from the pepper-spray training course.

Pepper spray was approved as a defensive tool for use by rangers in April of last year. The next step was to train a select few as trainers. Therefore, train-the-trainer training occurred in September of 2002. At that time, a select amount of rangers from every district in the Mississippi Valley Division were trained as trainers, which included four rangers from the District, one each from Coralville Lake, Red Rock Lake, Saylorville Lake, and the Mississippi River. Then, in February, training efforts for all park rangers in the District were initiated.

While the training is mandatory, getting sprayed and carrying pepper spray is voluntary. So far, 47 rangers and two District-office team members have received basic pepper-spray training. Of those, 17 have elected to carry pepper spray and have received live spray. A second training session was held on Feb. 25, but there was no opportunity to be sprayed. A third training session is being

held this month, so the total number of volunteers carrying pepper spray will change.

Now that summer and this year's recreation season are in full swing, rangers who volunteered have already begun carrying pepper spray. Most are grateful the Corps has finally authorized pepper spray as a defensive tool that rangers can use to extricate themselves from a sticky situation, if the need ever arises.

"At first I didn't plan to get sprayed at all, but I hadn't really thought about the fact that I might be called upon to assist another ranger in trouble (not just myself), and I would regret not having the ability to assist them as fully as possible," said Tracy Spry, Red Rock Lake. "Even so, I most sincerely hope that day never comes."

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option."



**José Rivera, Saylorville Lake, hesitantly looks down the nozzle of a canister of Oleoresin Capsicum (pepper spray) milliseconds before being sprayed directly in the face as a part of train-the-trainer training held at the Clock Tower Building last fall. As a result of successfully completing the training, Rivera is now a certified pepper spray instructor.**

"It's a good thing," said Cindy Klebe, Mississippi River Project. "Hopefully I won't need to use it, but I'm glad I have the option."

"Pepper spray will be a good defensive tool for rangers to have," said Jeff Rose, Saylorville Lake. "I will still use good

judgment and be aware of my surroundings to stay out of situations. However, in the event I am involved in a situation beyond my control, it will be nice to have some method of self-defense besides throwing my radio at someone."

Kevin Ewbank, Illinois Waterway,

has similar thoughts.

"Pepper spray is something that, hopefully, will never be needed," said Ewbank. "We need to continue our emphasis that our people are trained and

experienced in interpersonal communications, verbal Judo, etc., and that they have the right personality to be dealing with visitors in a stressful situation. I am concerned that some people within the Corps will put the emphasis on getting out of bad situations, instead of avoiding them."

With the excellent ranger safety record present in the District (and throughout the rest of the Corps for that matter), in addition to many years of experience gained by some, it is easy to understand why others are not as concerned.

"I do not want to personally carry it," said Marvin Morris, Saylorville Lake. "I thought back over 28 years of serving as a park ranger and could not recall one instance where I think I would have been safer carrying it."

John Noble, Mississippi River Project, has similar feelings.

"I do not believe I need it," said Noble. "I am not going to get myself in a situation where I need it -- I will be long gone using my cell phone and radio by the time it escalates. If someone jumps me and I am unprepared for the attack, the spray

could be used against me anyway."

Some declined for other reasons, largely because of the requirement to get sprayed. Some did not like the idea of getting sprayed, while others had medical considerations that caused them to avoid being sprayed.

As reported in a previous article, Rock Island District decided that someone who carries pepper spray must be sprayed during the training to better prepare carriers in the event of indirect exposure. For some, it was very frustrating that the rest of the Corps had the option of carrying pepper spray without the requirement of being sprayed. Procedures for spraying carriers have been negotiated with the Union.

But whether rangers want to carry it, don't want to, or are sitting on the fence, the consensus is nearly unanimous and could be summed up by Joseph Laird, Lake Red Rock.

"I think it was good that the Corps approved carrying pepper spray," said Laird. "Pepper spray is a valuable tool for all rangers to have. It is just like having access to radios, cell phones, etc." ■

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- *Cindy Klebe*



By Col. William Bayles, District engineer

# Silver Linings

It seems as though I often write about challenges. Perhaps that is a good thing, because challenges are what keep quality motivated people interested in what they are doing. Someone once said, for there to be a silver lining, there also has to be a cloud. So, as I relate a couple of challenges, let me begin by saying that there are also myriad opportunities -- silver linings -- for each of us.

The first challenge is that some of our valued coworkers have retired. In some cases these were people who had served loyally for a number of years and I'm certain that many of us have asked, "Whatever will we do when so-and-so retires?" The answer is that we always find someone to take their place, or we find ways to do what that person did. We miss them, but they are not irreplaceable, and we always find a way to carry on.

This gives us opportunity in two dimensions. First, it gives us a fresh look at that position and what the person actually did. In some cases, we may find that we can do some things more effectively. Secondly, it gives the next generation of employees an opportunity for advancement. As we see more and more of these opportunities, I am particularly encouraged by four initiatives recently developed to prepare our employees for future responsibility.

Our Leader Development, Wage-Grade

Coop, Wage-Grade Training, and Pathfinders Mentoring programs, are aimed at preparing our workforce for the future. The Leadership Development Program finished its initial class last winter and the next class of 11 set the course for their 2003-2004 academic year just a couple of weeks ago. Our Wage-Grade Training Program aims at developing those skills, which are hard to hire from the workforce at large -- crane operators and boat operators, among others -- to ensure we have a steady supply of people who can operate this equipment safely and efficiently. Similarly, the Wage-Grade Coop program will provide greater opportunity for college students to work with us during breaks in their studies. The Pathfinders Program matches employees with mentors who have experience to provide career and job advice. These are part of the District's program to support the Corps' and Mississippi Valley Division's goals of preparing our workforce for the future.

We also face other uncertainties. For example, what changes do we expect as we deploy parts of our workforce to provide vital support overseas? First, please realize that contingency operations are a vital part of our business -- it's why we exist as a part of the Army. The Army retains the civil-works mission to ensure the nation has a trained engineering and construction capability to meet defense

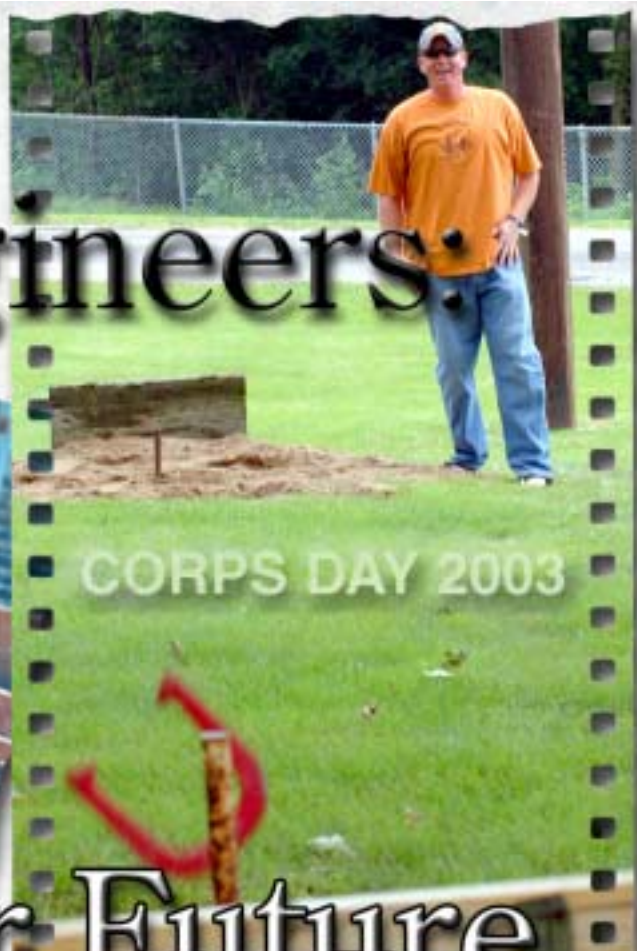


and international needs. Therefore, it's vital that we respond, both corporately and individually, when the need arises. I am proud that many of our fellow employees volunteered for overseas duty and, as of this writing, five are slated to serve in Southwest or Central Asia. The very nature of contingency operations is that they are unpredictable -- things change. When the president makes a decision, or the United Nations takes a vote, we react. These missions are constantly evolving, so if you are asked to go, please be patient as changes occur. Deployments provide the District with the opportunity to gain new ideas and new experience from those who actually do deploy.

As always, I ask you to be thorough and safe in all you do. With construction season in full swing and good weather for outdoor work, we will face greater exposure to hazards. This does not have to mean an increase in our accident rate. Please be careful and use your protective equipment. As many of you have heard me say, a minute for safety each day is one way to prevent a second of injury. Please take that minute for safety. ■



# The Corps of Engineers:



CORPS DAY 2003

# Keeping Our Future as Strong as Our Past



US Army Corps of Engineers  
Rock Island District

**June 12, 2003**

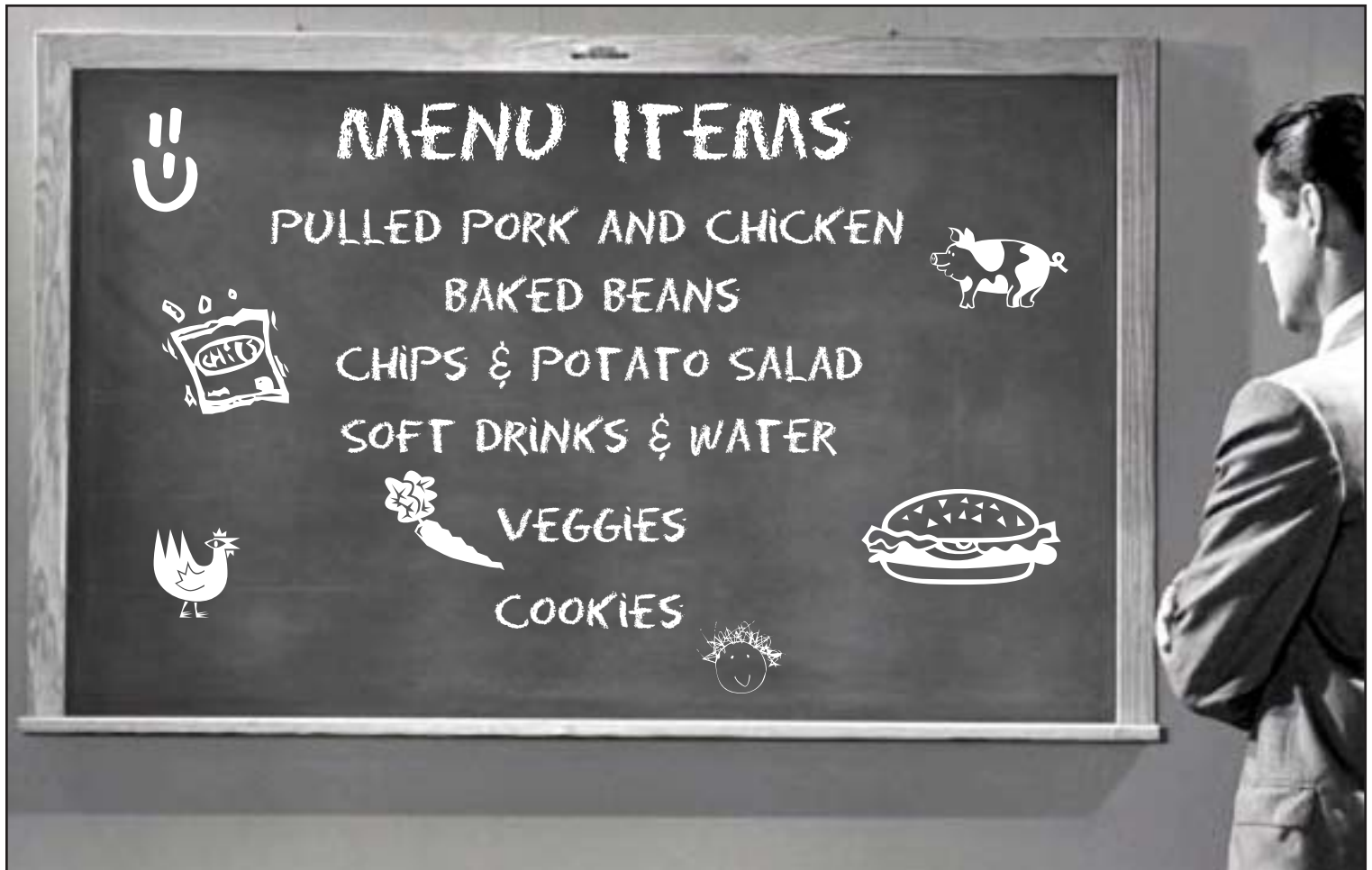
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Rock Island District  
Rock Island, Ill.



**Thursday, June 12**  
**Arsenal Island, Memorial Field**  
**8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**The 137th Anniversary**  
**Rock Island District Program**

<u>Master of Ceremonies</u> .....	Roger Brown
<u>Retiree Program</u> (Clock Tower Building, Conference Rooms A, B & C)	
Opening Remarks by Col. William Bayles .....	8 a.m.
<u>Awards Presentation at the RIA Memorial Field</u> .....	10 a.m.
<u>Lunch</u> .....	11:15 a.m.
<u>Activities and Games</u> .....	Immediately after awards
<u>Door Prize Drawings</u> .....	During lunch
<u>Closing and Cleanup</u> .....	4 p.m.





## Rock Island District Welcomes ...

James Abbitt Jr., Michael Ballard, Randy Brotherton, Cynthia Brown, Justin Carter, Kenneth Cook, Gary Coursey, Verna Coyle, Timothy Crisp, Douglas Davis, Henry DeHaan III, James Grederickson, Stephen Goben, Cory Haberman, Eric Hackbarth, Christian Hawkinson, Michael Hoh, Marvin Hubbell, Eric Johnson, Stephen Moseley, Robert Nelson, Timothy Olson, Kiran Patel, Dean Peters, Joel Peterson, Bryon Ray, Michael Reed, Arturo Rodriguez Jr., Jeffrey Rose II, Carol Rothert, Gary

Rutledge, Douglas Schauer, David Schipper, Nancy Schnoor, Bryan Smith, Shawn Steeples, Tami Storm, David Valentino, Heather Whitman, Jennifer Zeitler, Adam TJ Zeigler, Michael Zukowski



Carol Rothert, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center

## And Says Goodbye To ...

Laura Abney, Patricia Ballman, Nancy Bivens, Kelly Ulrick-Blackledge, Perry Blake, T. Mike Bunch, Barbara Carlock, Roy Chapman, John Coleman, Janet Cook, Jerry DeMarce, Virginia DeMarce, Gerald Dowell, Connie Duffy, James Farris, Larry Folger, Thomas Fratzke, Richard Fristik, Vicki Gabrysiak, Victor Gervais,

Scott Gilbertson, Mike Guldemon, Florence Gupton, Charles Henyan, Ted Hinds, Monte Hines, Jean Hollinrake, Michael Hrzic, Lori Jones, Amy Klein, Erika Mark, Thelma McCoy, James McKeon Jr., Kraig McPeck, Dennis Metz, Mohamed Moussa, Patricia Nemerguth, Gayla Pacheco, Jerome Peter, José Rivera, Dale Rossmiller, Gary Rutledge, Robert Shaw, Elliott Stefanik, Kent Stenmark, Robert Stevenson, Rosemary Strohbehn, E. Florence Taets, Robert Thomas, Wen Tsau, Louis Uptmor, William Vaughn Jr., Russell Weeks, Virginia Zimmerman

## Length of Service Awards - July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003

**40 Years** - Terry Stieger

**35 Years** - Russell Gruenwald, Carl Johnson, Marvin Martens, S.K. Nanda, Joseph Raoul, Jr., Larry Straight, Galen Wanderscheid, David Washington, Jr.

**30 Years** - Millard Engelkins, Daniel Fetes, Victor Gervais, Rodney Hallstrom, Hugh Harness, Danny Johnston, Gregory Lannan, Paul Moltmann, Michael Murtha, Betty Nash, Elizabeth Robinson, Richard Samson, Michael Sowa, Mary Strassburger, Joe Vann II, Gregory Weist

**25 Years** - Holly Alford, Mary Bartemeyer, Charles Bates, Jr., Richard Campbell, John Carr, Dean Cerny, Noah Clatt, David Clements, Jeanne Elliott, Rocky Flynn, Carl Fox, Dennis Franks, Dawn Gatlin, Marian Goetzmann, Karen Grizzle, James Headley, Katharine Higdon, Charles Hodges, Alfonso Lopez, Kevin Marker, John Miller, Joseph Morris, Thomas Pickett, Larry Reeve, Scott Rolfes, Harold Schweiger, Kathryn Soska, Robert

Steele, Steven Vacek, Warren Vincent, Jr., Patrick Wharry, Robert Yager

**20 Years** - Suzanne Apple, Harold Atherton, Jr., Michael Barndollar, Glen Baugh, Jr., Kenneth Brenner, Ronald Brown, Otis Capps, Robert Cokley, Jose Coronado, Anna Cramblett, Diane Demeyer, Alois DeVos, Raymond Dzurisin, Larry Folger, Stephen Frank, George Gitter, Fred Hanshaw, Lorraine Jestel, James Kankel, Larry Melaas, Ronald Meyer, Frank Monfeli, Kenneth Mulally, Patricia Nemerguth, Stephen Nylin, Timothy Olson, Jonathan Perrault, John Quick, John Roodhouse, Richard Rupert, Harold Shepler, Jeffrey Sniadach, Sally Stewart, David Strickler, Danny Till, James Turner, Aimee Vermeulen, Robert Ward, Herbert Wendt, Philip Whiston, James Wilson

**15 Years** - Annette Bealer, LaVeta Bear, Edward Bell, Diana Buck, Dale Carton, Verna Coyle, Ronald Deiss, Marsha Dolan, Richard Doyle, Alaena Ensey, Ronald Faletti, William Hallam, Donna Hardy,

James Hipschen, Robert Hoffman, Jeffrey Inks, Rex Johnsen, James Kelley, Jr., George Kimbrell, Randall Kinney, Jon Klingman, Howard Lardi, James Luellen, William McCarthy, Timothy Mitchell, Lynn Parker, James Punkiewicz, Bryan Radtke, Jody Schmitz, Brian Smith, Denise Tyler, Nancy Vanderleest, Eugene Walsh, Jr., Ronald Williams

**10 Years** - Heather Anderson, David Avenarius, James Bounds, Peter Corken, Willie Crayton, Lyle Crum, David Dean, Cory Delong, Thomas Gambucci, Timothy Holland, David Husted, Rodney Jones, Theodore Kerr, Junifer Kruse, Thomas Mack, Erika Mark, Randall Mayse, Lucas McCutcheon, Thomas Nock, Carlos Olvera, Bryan Pattschull, Jeffrey Peck, James Ross, Alan StClair, Catherine Tillberg

**Accrued Sick Leave: 3000 Hours** - James Hart, Galen Wanderscheid; **2000 Hours** - Bernard Dolezal, Janet Hodges, Michael O'Keefe, Pauline Zitzke

## Corps Day 2003 Activities Committee

**General Co-Chairpersons** - Annette Bealer, Mark Lampe

**Set-Up/Clean-Up Committee** - John Punkiewicz, chair; Gene Walsh

**Food Committee** - Sherri Lewis, co-chair; Heather Whitman, co-chair; Heather Gilbert; Lynn Parker; Nancy Schnoor; Penny St. Clair

**Fund Raising Committee** - Aimee Vermeulen, chair; Beth Baze; Holly Hintzke; Gary Huston; Al Lopez; Jody Schmitz

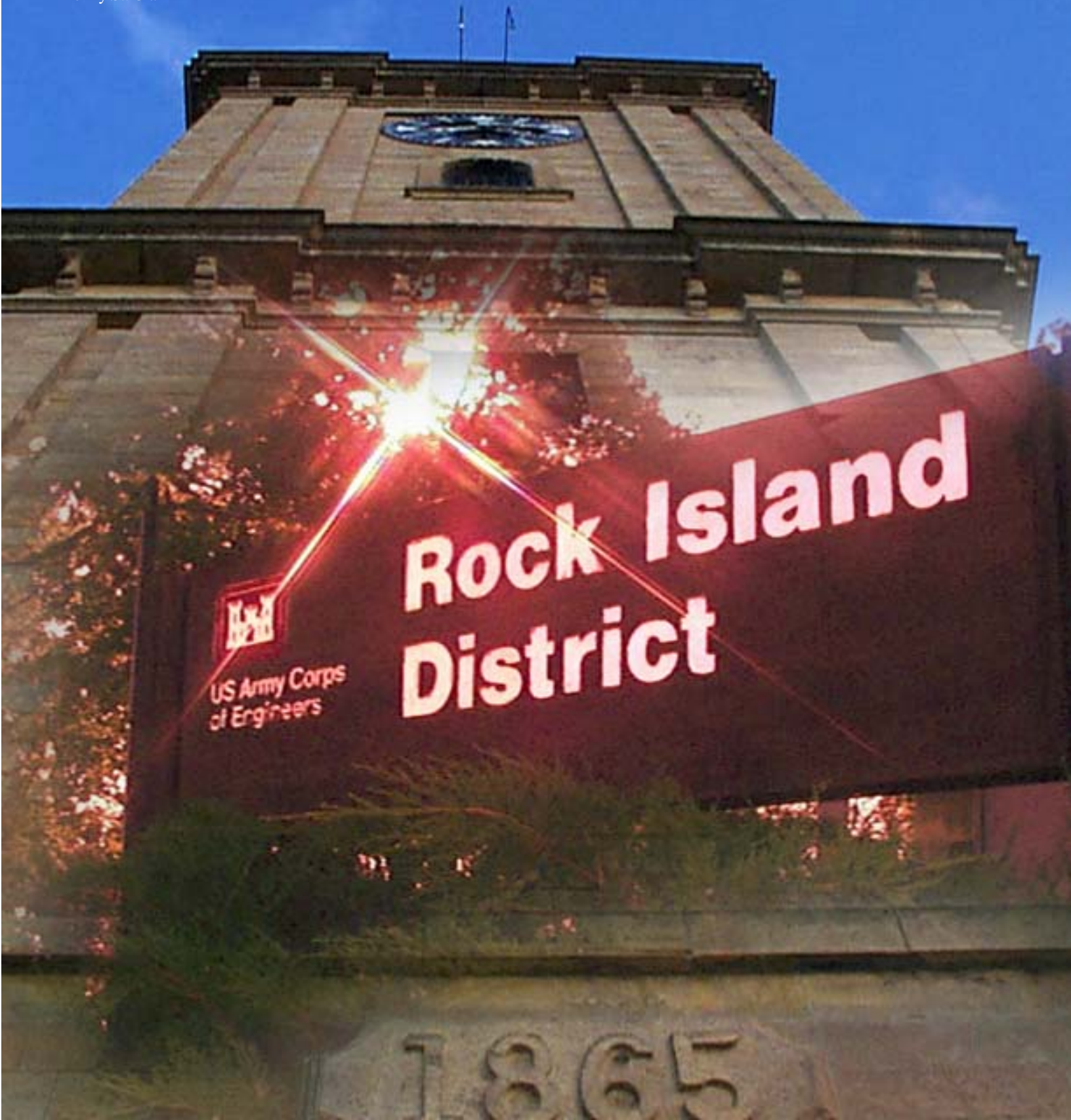
**Retirees Committee** - LaVeta Bear, co-chair; Tony Zemo, co-chair

**Logistics Committee** - Mary Strassburger, chair; Gaylord Helms; Sue Pauli

**Games Committee** - Judy Walters, chair; Cliff Artis; Damon Barati; Tom Gambucci; Chris Haring; Heather Schroeder

**Awards Committee** - JoAnn Wilgenbusch, chair; Theresa Duvall; Joseph Nobiling; Angela Rursch

**Publicity Committee** - Mark Kane, chair; Ron Fournier





The District played host to a 10-member Russian delegation, sponsored by the Iowa National Guard, as they visited the Saylorville Lake Project, Locks and Dam 15, the Mississippi River Visitor Center, and the Clock Tower Building May 19 and 21.

The visit included 10 Russian officials and translators. It took place at their request, so they could become more familiar with the Corps' flood mitigation practices, first hand.

Several years ago, Corps Headquarters established a program to provide Corps support to Russian emergency services personnel, said Terry Stieger, Emergency Management.

Kevin Carlock, Operations Division, personally made a visit to Moldova (former Soviet Republic) and Germany (to work with the Moldovans) to provide briefings on Geographic Information System applications to emergency response, said Stieger. Kevin Anderson, a former District employee, also made trips to Russia during his tenure.

"The Corps' emergency management community have sent several folks to Russia to brief the Corps' approach to all hazards emergency response," said Stieger.

This was the District's chance to play host to the Russians and showcase our equipment, personnel and accomplishments.

During the Russian officials' visit to the District's Emergency Operations Center, Dennis Hamilton, Programs and Project Management, provided an overview of federal programs designed to mitigate flood impacts. Jim Stiman, Engineering

Division, then provided an overview of the District's reservoir system operation, which included gaging systems and data collection and analysis. Stieger then provided an overview of the District's flood-fighting team practices and levee-inspection program.

"I felt they were probably frustrated in that they would like to explore issues in greater detail, but the language barrier was cumbersome," said Stieger. "It seemed to me they were very impressed with our water management system. The automation and extent of the system, in my opinion, boggled their collective minds."

During the Russians' visit to the Saylorville Lake Project they toured the Bob Shetler West campground, Saylorville Dam control tower, outlet, and pneumatic-crest gate spillway. While they were at the campground, they also had the chance to see the inside of a camper's recreational vehicle.

"They were very impressed by the RV and the open reception they received and presented the camper with a pin," said Marvin Morris, Saylorville Lake Project. "I believe they were genuinely impressed with what they saw of our operation."

Al Frohlich, Mississippi River Project Office, gave the Russian visitors their tour of the Visitor Center and Locks and Dam 15.

"As with many first-time visitors to the Mississippi, I thought they were excited to see it up close," said Frohlich. "When the District hosts international visitors, it gives us the chance to showcase what we do. Sharing information with others is a great way to learn about their country and culture." ■

## Russians Visit District Sites

Story by Mark Kane, Photo by Dan Crone, Saylorville Lake Project

Chief Park Ranger Marvin Morris (right) waits to field a question from one of the Russian visitors through an interpreter (left) regarding Saylorville's role as a multipurpose project.



# Summer Heat Injuries

By Darrell Taylor, Army Medicine News Service

**W**ith rising temperatures, outdoor activities increase and the potential for heat injuries rises. However, they can be prevented with a bit of knowledge and planning.

Here are tips to prevent heat injuries.

- Drink water frequently. When training in the heat, know the water requirements per person, per hour, and increase water intake as work activity increases. When out and about, take along bottled water to ensure your body is getting its daily requirement. It's recommended we drink at least 64 ounces of water every day. Never rely on thirst as an indicator for water replacement. Drink water moderately throughout the day to ensure your body maintains its proper water levels.
- Avoid excessive salt intake and heavy midday meals to decrease your chances of becoming a heat casualty.
- Acclimatize your body to the heat. Do not stay closed up indoors playing video games for half the summer and then suddenly decide to run five miles in the July heat. If you intend to do outdoor activities during the summer, you should gradually get used to the heat by maintaining proper work and rest schedules - lighter work, longer periods of time; heavier work, shorter periods of time. This includes taking advantage of the cooler hours of the day for heavier work.
- Stay in good physical condition.
- Protect yourself from the environment with proper clothing. Wearing loose-fitting clothing helps air movement over your body, which will in turn cool you down. Tight-fitting clothing restricts your circulatory system from properly functioning.
- Realize alcohol and drugs decrease the body's ability to deal with heat stress and heat loss.
- Sick people should limit or avoid physical activity in the heat. A fever increases the amount of heat to be dissipated.
- The wet-bulb globe temperature index should be monitored frequently. The temperature does not necessarily have to be 90 degrees or higher for heat injuries to happen. Heat injuries should be anticipated once the temperature hits 75 degrees. Pay particular attention to children and less-experienced people performing in outdoor activities. Often they have not been

exposed to extreme heat or they are not used to being active in it, so they can be more susceptible to heat injuries.

There are three stages of heat injuries - heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Heat cramps are caused by an excessive loss of salt from the body and result in painful cramping in the arms, legs and stomach. If a person continues to be exposed to heat and intense physical activity, he or she will go into the second stage of heat injury known as heat exhaustion.

Heat exhaustion is caused by the body's excessive loss of both salt and water. Symptoms include profuse sweating, tingling sensation in the hands and feet, paleness, difficulty breathing, irregular heartbeat, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, trembling, weakness, lack of coordination, and a slight clouding of the senses-up to momentary loss of consciousness. Many times the skin will be cool and moist with a lower than normal temperature. A rapid pulse rate and low blood pressure may also occur.

Further exposure to heat can shut down the body's heat-control mechanism and result in heatstroke. Some early signs include headache, dizziness, delirium, weakness, nausea, vomiting, and excessive warmth (sweating may or may not be present). At this point, the heat casualty has become a medical emergency due to the rapid deterioration of the individual's condition.

Contact a local health facility's preventive-medicine section for guidelines on fluid replacement and work-rest times during warm-weather training and work. ▮

## On the 'Net

<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/heat/>

DRINK WATER FREQUENTLY







## On the 'Net

**TIP:** Accessing Rocky is easy! From any District computer connected to the network, you can quickly access the page by going to our homepage and clicking on the red District Intranet button in the upper-left corner.



[www.mvr.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil)

# Rocky Hits the District

By Damon Barati, Information Management

The Rock Island District has a new Intranet and we've dubbed it Rocky. It was designed to accommodate feedback received in the past to allow all District employees to find useful information, fast and easily.

The design will accommodate anyone who knows of a useful file on the network, or a web page on a web server no matter where it is (in the District, on the Internet, at Mississippi Valley Division or Headquarters). To create a new link, send Information Management information about where the information is located so others can find it from the home page.

Think of a portal like Yahoo!® or MSN®. You could find your favorite coffee shop by looking under the categories coffee shops > Quad-Cities or Quad-Cities > coffee shops. We've designed the new Intranet to accommodate this.

For example: Parking at the Clock Tower is one web page that informs you where to park at the Clock Tower complex. From the Intranet home page, how would you

start looking for it Parking > Clock Tower or Logistics Management > Parking or Clock Tower > Parking > Where to Park Well, let us know how you would categorize this one web page, and it will be entered as such (after obtaining any approvals, if needed). Any combination is possible. Keep in mind ... while it is possible, it may not necessarily be authorized. Who decides?

For the moment, the first stop will be with your immediate supervisor. After that, the Information Integration and Implementation Branch will look at it and, if we are not aware of any issues from the Executive Office, we will enter the proposed categories into the database that stores the category navigation for the Intranet.

Future plans are for you to be able to submit your suggested categories on any file, web page, or web site, and have the system notify the appropriate folks to approve your proposal.

Another feature is the search capability.

This will allow you to search the collection of web pages here in the District. It will take us a bit longer to add the capability to add outside sites of interest into the collection of web pages that are indexed for the search. But once that is done, a search on a keyword may also give you other web sites that have the keywords you entered.

The links to the categories on the Intranet could be to other web pages. If they are, a new browser window will open to show you the other web page that is not directly a part of this new Intranet. They may also be links to a collection of other sub-categories and information that is part of the category you have entered. In that case, you will be presented with a possible list of sub-categories, as well as possible information listed in chronological order for that category.

If you have any questions, suggestions or comments please give us a call at ext. 5759 or e-mail us at

[WebManager@mvr02.usace.army.mil](mailto:WebManager@mvr02.usace.army.mil)



# Investing In Our People

## Around the District

### Designers Receive National Design Award

The principal design group for the Devonian Fossil Gorge Visitor Facility received a national award, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Merit Award, at an award ceremony at the Devonian Fossil Gorge Visitor Facility at Coralville Lake, Iowa, on May 30.

Recipients of the award were: the Rock Island District Corps of Engineers of Rock Island, Ill.; Shoemaker & Haaland Professional Engineers of Coralville, Iowa; Armadillo Arts of Iowa City, Iowa; McComas-Lacina Construction of Iowa City, Iowa; and Devonian Fossil Gorge Inc. of Davenport, Iowa.

The Chief of Engineers Design and Environmental Awards Program is a national program of the Corps that recognizes design excellence in projects accomplished by Corps team members working in partnership with the private sector design and construction community.

The Visitor Facility received the award for turning a scoured flood-spillway into a community-learning asset. This grassroots community initiative and funding effort resulted in an excellent interpretive design at minimal cost and environmental impact.

### Vander Horn Earns Liberty-Bell Award

Steve Vander Horn, Operations Division, received the Liberty Bell award given out during Law Day festivities by the Office of Counsel, May 1.

The award is given annually to recognize community service that has strengthened the American system of freedom under law.

### Thomson Camping Sites Rehabilitated

The Mississippi River maintenance staff continue the work of rehabilitating 10 select sites prone to floodwater damage at Thomson Causeway Recreation Area.

The pads are being enlarged to meet, or exceed, Corps design standards for pad construction and are being converted from gravel surface to concrete.

Long-term savings will most likely result through the elimination of herbicide and mowing requirements, as well as the placement of pads that can withstand flood events without damage and costly repairs.

### Mississippi River Project Office Involved in Avian Monitoring

Forester Joe Lundh, Mississippi River Project Office, assisted avian contractor Kelley McKay in developing point locations for avian monitoring in the Long Island Refuge Area of Mississippi River Pool 22.

The large forested tract is Corps fee-title land incorporated into the Mark Twain Complex of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge system.

Avian surveys have been an important component of the Mississippi River Project Office's forestry management program for the past 20 years, and have provided the basis of support for active management of forested resources in Mississippi River Pools 11 through 22.

### Sympathy ...



**Martha Beldin**, 89, of East Moline, Ill., died May 22, at Davenport Lutheran Home.

Beldin had worked with the District in the personnel office.



**John Jorgensen**, 83, of Davenport, Iowa, died May 18, at his home following a brief illness.

Jorgensen worked with the District and retired in 1982.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1942-1946.

**Richard "Dick" Falls**, 75, of Thomson, Ill., died at the Savanna Marina, Savanna, Ill., when a large pontoon boat, that was being welded, exploded May 12.

Falls had worked for the District and served as a lockman at Lock and Dam 13 in Fulton, Ill.



**Mary Jane Blumenthal**, 94, of Rock Island, Ill., died May 3, at Rosewood Care Center, Moline, Ill.

Blumenthal worked for the District at the Clock Tower Building for 33 years and retired in 1963.



## Notes from the Mississippi\*

### *Lock and Dam 11, Dubuque, Iowa*

- ✓ Bridge crane undercarriage serviced.
- ✓ Depth sounders installed.
- ✓ Chains on dam oiled.

### *Lock and Dam 12, Bellevue, Iowa*

- ✓ Handrail installed.
- ✓ Storage cabinet in scooter shed built and installed.

### *Lock and Dam 13, Fulton, Ill.*

- ✓ Lockhouse lockwall entryway painted.
- ✓ Lifeboats checked for new navigation season.

### *Locks and Dam 14, Le Claire, Iowa*

- ✓ Semi-annual hoisting equipment service and inspections completed.
- ✓ Storage yard fence modified.

### *Locks and Dam 15, Rock Island, Ill.*

- ✓ Roller-gate machinery chains oiled.
- ✓ All lock machinery degreased and painted.

### *Lock and Dam 16, Muscatine, Iowa*

- ✓ Six roller-gate bulkheads pulled, washed and stored.
- ✓ All lock gate pans cleaned.

### *Lock and Dam 17, New Boston, Ill.*

- ✓ Semi-annual maintenance on lock machinery completed.
- ✓ Tool board for maintenance shop built.

### *Lock and Dam 18, Gladstone, Ill.*

- ✓ Area around new security fence landscaped.
- ✓ Lower tow-haulage sheave repaired.

### *Lock and Dam 19, Keokuk, Iowa*

- ✓ Missing miter-gate timber replaced.
- ✓ Upper guide wall and bull nose painted.

### *Lock and Dam 20, Canton, Mo.*

- ✓ Upper shelter painted.
- ✓ Concrete at upper building poured.
- ✓ Cables on crane replaced.

### *Lock and Dam 21, Quincy, Ill.*

- ✓ Safety rail on upper gate repaired.
- ✓ Couplings and shafts moved to pier house.

### *Lock and Dam 22, Saverton, Mo.*

- ✓ New breathers installed on all valve and miter-gate speed reducers.
- ✓ Broken water lines repaired.

\*This is a small sample of work completed at District locks and dams throughout the month.

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## Speakers Bureau

By Shannan Walsten, Public Affairs

**Rick Nickel**, Engineering Division, interviewed five high-school juniors and seniors during a mock job fair held at United Township High School in East Moline, Ill., on April 10.

Federal budget and appropriations was the topic of discussion when **Dave Hays**, Programs and Projects Management, spoke with more than 30 college students at the Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, on April 16.

On April 23, more than 100 students participated in the Rockridge High School career fair. **Tom Heinold** and **Kevin Holden** from Engineering Division; **Jim Ross** from Programs and Project Management; and **Roger Bollman** from Operations Division all spoke with students about their careers with the Corps.

Two Wilson Junior High School students interested in the field of biology, job shadowed **Kenny Brenner**, Operations Division, on April 29. Three other WJHS students interested in heavy-equipment operation, participated in a job shadow with **Steve Felderman**, Operations

Division, and another WJHS student interested in civil engineering, job shadowed **Rachel Fellman**, Engineering Division.

**Perry Hubert**, Programs and Project Management, discussed his Corps career with 8th graders at Sudlow Middle School on April 30 in Davenport, Iowa.

Environmental management and hazardous waste was the topic of discussion when **Bob Hoffman**, Engineering Division, spoke with more than 18 students from United Township High School, in East Moline, Ill., on May 6.

On May 8, **Larry Jones**, Executive Office, discussed the mission of the Corps with more than 50 members of the South Park Presbyterian Church Brotherhood in Rock Island, Ill.

**Scott Whitney**, Programs and Project Management, presented a Corps update on the Mississippi River to more than 30 members of the Moline Conservation Club on May 20 in Rock Island, Ill.

A special thanks goes out to the Spring

2003 Junior Achievement classroom volunteers. They are: **Janel Schaeffer**, Emergency Management/Security Office; **Cliff Artis**, **Christian Hawkinson**, **Tom Heinold**, **Rick Nickel**, **Heather Bishop** and **Toby Hunemuller**, Engineering Division; **Jimmy Aidala**, **Sue Clevestine** and **Steve Russell**, Operations Division; and **Andy Leichty**, **Frank Monfeli** and **Tracy Street**, Programs and Project Management.

The Speakers Bureau is part of the District's outreach program. Through these programs, employees work to foster positive relations between the community and the Corps. Contact with our public provides an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the District's role in our communities, the Midwest and the nation. District employees interested in these outreach opportunities can learn more by visiting our website at [www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/CommunityRelations.htm](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/CommunityRelations.htm) or by contacting Justine Barati at ext. 5204.

# Seeking All Those Interested in Doing a Small Part to Cleanup Our River

By Public Affairs



Steve Vacek, Mississippi River Project Office, instructs river-cleanup volunteers about where to pickup trash and debris during last summer's event. Photo by Mark Kane.

## On the 'Net

[www.cleanrivers.com](http://www.cleanrivers.com)



On June 28, District employees and their families are invited to participate in the District's annual cleanup of our river miles adopted through the Adopt-a-Mississippi-River-Mile Program. We will be meeting at 9 a.m. at Locks and Dam 14 in Pleasant Valley, Iowa. If you are interested in participating, you must contact Justine Barati at ext. 5204 or e-mail her at [Justine.A.Barati@usace.army.mil](mailto:Justine.A.Barati@usace.army.mil) by June 13.

The District has adopted river miles 493-495. These miles are located at LeClaire Base, Iowa. The locations to clean include the area around Locks and Dam 14 and Smith's Island.

There will be a cookout for participants at the Smith's Island recreation area after

the cleanup. The cookout is sponsored by the Rock Island District Welfare Association.

If you are interested in participating in the cleanup, it is important to remember to wear long pants, long shirts, and gloves, since nails and other debris will be present. It is also important to wear sunscreen and bug spray and be up-to-date on your Tetanus shot.

"Each year, Corps employees and their families have made a difference by assisting with this cleanup effort. We have always appreciated everyone's efforts in chipping in for a good cause, and we look forward to another large turnout this year," said Justine Barati, Public Affairs.

The Adopt-a-Mile Program is an important part of the Mississippi River Beautification and Restoration Project. Schools, organizations, companies, and families have adopted shoreline miles since the program started in 1999. There are no fees involved in adopting shoreline miles, only a voluntary commitment to stewardship. Chad Pregracke, coordinator of the MRBRP, estimates that by the end of the project more than 100 groups will be adopting Mississippi River miles.

The MRBRP was founded in 1997 with the objective of cleaning up the Mississippi River. In addition to cleaning the shoreline, the project's mission is to involve as many people as possible in the hands-on project. 🇺🇸

## 228th Birthday of the United States Army

### June 14, 2003

[www.army.mil/birthday/228](http://www.army.mil/birthday/228)

