



US Army Corps  
of Engineers ®  
Rock Island District

# Tower Times

Volume 30 No. 1 October - December 2007





# Spotlight on the District

By Justine Barati, Corporate Communications

The District's newest attorney has quite literally seen the world. She has worked in, and visited, multiple African countries, the Middle East, and received a master's degree, while living in Europe. Lynn Marshall started working for the Corps in September, but her life experiences have already taken her on a long journey.

Marshall's journey began in Chicago, but she grew up in California. In high school, she studied dance and won a scholarship to the prestigious Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York. Unfortunately, she won the scholarship dancing on a broken foot and the extent of the injury did not allow her to continue with a dancing career.

She then got a bachelor's degree in English from the University of California, Los Angeles. After graduation, Marshall began traveling the world by joining the Peace Corps and working in the Republic of Mali. She worked in the agricultural sector and was involved in natural resource management and communal gardening. Her project consisted of catalyzing women in local villages to develop a community garden and then sell the items grown at the local market. This revenue was then reinvested into the community and often translated into an improved quality of life for the community's children.

After working with the Peace Corps, Marshall continued working in Mali for

Helen Keller International. HKI provides expertise, training, and technical assistance to establish nutrition and eye health programs. Marshall assisted in opening the field office in Mali for HKI. Her work included translating for the organization, since Mali citizens speak French.

Marshall then transferred to AfriCare, a leading non-profit organization specializing in aid to Africa. AfriCare works in partnership with African communities to

## Lynn Marshall Attorney, Office of Counsel

a translator and managed the personnel, accounting and administrative offices for the country's seven projects, trained employees in project management, assisted accountants in accounting for a \$19 million budget, and wrote grants.

Her life's journey then took her to New York, where she took a job at HKI headquarters.

Marshall's travels took her to Germany where she got a master's degree in international relations. After pursuing a variety of career opportunities, she decided to move back to the United States and pursue a career in law.

Marshall's journey through law school began when she took the Law School Admission Test and was accepted to Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago, one of the top twelve law schools in the nation. During her studies, she completed a year-long clinical experience with the International Human Rights in U.S. Courts and International Tribunals Clinic. Her work there led her to participate in the Malawi Homicide Backlog Project in Malawi, Africa. While in Malawi, her team worked with

the government to remove as many people as possible from death row in an attempt to reduce prisoner overcrowding in horrendous prison conditions. The team successfully mitigated charges from murder to manslaughter for 21 prisoners during their two-week stay in Malawi. That occurred in March.

**Marshall cont. on page 12 ➔**



**Lynn Marshall, Office of Counsel's newest attorney, receives her Illinois law license from Justice Kilbride at the Supreme Court of Illinois (Third District) Oath Ceremony for new lawyers, which took place at the Holiday Inn, Rock Island, Ill., on Nov. 8. Photo by Justine Barati, Corporate Communications.**

achieve healthy and productive societies. They believe that only through strong communities can Africa feed itself, appropriately exploit its natural resources, educate, care and protect its children, promote the economic well being of African people and live in peace. Marshall was their administrative officer in Mali. As such, she continued her work as

***Tower Times***  
**U.S. Army Corps of  
Engineers**  
**Rock Island District**  
**Vol. 30 No. 1**  
**Oct. - Dec. 2007**

District Commander  
Col. Robert A. Sinkler

Editor  
Mark Kane

Chief, Corporate  
Communications  
Ron Fournier

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It is published quarterly using offset press by the Corporate Communications Office, Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Clock Tower Building, Box 2004, Rock Island, IL 61204-2004. Phone (309) 794-5730. Circulation 1,500.

Send articles to Editor, Corporate Communications Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004, Rock Island, IL, 61204-2004.

The Tower Times is printed on recycled paper.

On the web, in living color, at:  
[www.mvr.usace.army.mil/  
PublicAffairsOffice/TowerTimes](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/TowerTimes)

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### On the Cover

Eric Aubrey, Engineering and Construction, stands atop a MiG-17 outside of an Afghan National Army base in Mas-e-Sharif, Afghanistan. Aubrey took several award-winning photos during his last volunteer deployment to the country. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tim Corrigan, Afghanistan Engineer District. See page 8-9 for the story.

# 2007 WRDA Becomes Law

By Mark Kane

The 2007 Water Resources Development Act became law on Nov. 8, after the Senate voted 79-14 to overturn President George Bush's veto of the bill from the previous week. The Senate vote followed on the heels of the House's vote of 361-54 on Nov. 6 to overturn the veto. Numerous proponents of the bill were confident the President's veto would be overturned because the measure passed by large majorities in both the Senate and House of Representatives.

The measure passed the House by a 394-25 margin and the Senate by a 91-4 count.

It has been seven years since the passage of the last WRDA in 2000, a bill which had previously been passed every two years. During the lapse of time since the passage of the last WRDA bill, the perceptions about the bill may have been skewed a bit from reality.

While WRDA is important to hundreds of Corps projects from locks and dams to beach restoration, each water resources bill only contains authorization for the projects ... not an appropriation of funds needed to make it happen.

The \$23 billion water resources bill authorizes \$3.7 billion worth of new locks and environmental projects on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, as well as authorization to spend money for the

hurricane-hit Gulf Coast and for Florida Everglades restoration efforts.

While it contains authorization to spend the money, it doesn't contain the money.

"Contrary to what is commonly portrayed in media reports, WRDA does not provide any funding to projects," said Dave Hays, chief, Programs Management Branch, Programs and Project Management.

"Funding comes from Congress via appropriation acts. As a government agency, we need to be given the authority to construct projects, and that's what WRDA does, among other things. Authorization is a vital step, but no dirt is turned until Congress appropriates funding for a project. One analogy I use is that I might give permission (authorization) to my teenager to buy a car, but that doesn't equate to my giving him money to do it (appropriation)."

So for an individual who has been following the play-by-play of the possibility of constructing five new 1,200-foot locks on the Mississippi River, two new 1,200-foot locks on the Illinois River, and hundreds of new ecosystem restoration



projects, the passage of WRDA does not make it time to turn your radio off yet.

The next step will come when Congress passes, and the President approves, the Corps' annual bill appropriating funds for the Corps to act on the authorizations contained in WRDA.

"Although WRDAs authorize the Corps to construct, there are projects that do not receive a subsequent appropriation by Congress and, therefore, are never begun," said Ron Fournier, chief, Corporate Communications. With funding we can begin construction ... it's not that time just yet." 📺

## How the Corps is Funded

*Example for Fiscal Year 2008*

- The FY08 President's Budget is submitted to Congress February 2007 and made public at the same time. This budget is the Administration's request for funding for all of the federal agencies.
- The House and Senate independently "mark up" the President's Budget to reflect the desires of Congress. The markups take the form of additions, subtractions, and revisions to the budget. The markups are done by subcommittees that are part of the appropriations committees. The

House has an Appropriations Committee under which are 13 subcommittees. The Corps is included in the Energy and Water Development subcommittee; the same for the Senate side.

- The differences between the House and Senate markups are reconciled in Conference, which is a committee made up of House and Senate appropriation committee members (hence the term "House and Senate conferees.") The result is an Energy and Water Development appropriations bill.

- Once this bill is passed by the full appropriations committees in both the House and Senate, and also passed by the full House and full Senate, it is sent to the President for his signature or veto.
- If the bill is signed, it becomes an act. Then the Corps receives the funding which is specified in the act.

As of Nov. 27, for FY08, Congress had not sent the E&WD bill to the President and a conference had not taken place. Therefore, the Corps is operating under a stopgap funding bill called a Continuing Resolution.

# An Impressive Showing

## Christening of the M/V City of Ottawa

By Susan Yager, secretary to the chief, Lock and Dam Section, Illinois Waterway

Having made the journey up the Illinois River with the crew, I believe the crew was just as proud of the motor vessel as was the town of Ottawa. More than 400 people, young and old, boarded and discovered what a real towboat looked like on the inside on the day of its christening held Oct. 13.

Capt. Layne Yager had everyone, including myself, cleaning, polishing and putting the finishing touches on the vessel on the 8-hour journey to the landing in Ottawa. "Only to do it all over again," joked Yager. "I'm proud of this boat and want to keep it as spotless as possible."

The ceremony went as scheduled with Rev. Gerald Meyer giving the blessing, Col. Robert Sinkler, District Commander, saying his remarks, and ending with the Ottawa Mayor Robert Eschbach saying a few words and accepting a framed picture of the M/V City of Ottawa.

The actual christening of the vessel commenced on the port side, second level, with Sinkler, Eschbach and Yager all taking a hand in the breaking of the champagne.

The tours started immediately afterwards and continued on through 4 p.m. with questions and comments. The crew was situated throughout the boat to answer questions and navigate everyone on to the ultimate destination, the pilot-house, where Yager was posted. I moved through different sections of the boat to lend a hand only to hear - 'Wow, she is

really beautiful, I've never been on the inside of a towboat before,' and my favorite 'Are you a real captain. I've never met a real captain before.' With that, the young man of 11- or 12-years-old shook

easier fleeing of the 350-ton Hercules crane, and will provide for a maximum speed of 8 mph. She can accommodate a crew of 12 when working 24-hour-shifts, otherwise a crew as little as four, counting



City of Ottawa Mayor Robert Eschbach breaks the ceremonial champagne bottle across the side of the Motor Vessel City of Ottawa thus officially christening it during the ceremony held Oct. 13 at the confluence of the Fox and Illinois Rivers on the north bank of the Illinois River near Ottawa, Ill. Photo by Jeremy Reed, Ottawa Daily Times.

Yagers' hand and thanked him. It was a very proud moment for all.

The M/V City of Ottawa is a beautiful boat, however, she is a working vessel. Assigned to the Illinois Waterway Project Office, she will provide support for repairs and maintenance for the Illinois River. The capability and power of her twin 1,050-horsepower diesel motors will allow for

the captain, is all that is necessary.

The M/V City of Ottawa is the largest vessel to join the fleet for the Corps of Engineers on the Illinois River. She measures 78 feet and 2 inches in length, 37 feet wide, and 45 feet in overall height, to the top of flag. She is suitable for year-round operation in the shallow, ice and drift-strewn rivers of the Illinois Waterway. She's ready and waiting. ■



The M/V City of Ottawa seen on the Illinois River already being put to good use prior to its christening ceremony.



### On the 'Net

[www.mvr.usace.army.mil/  
PublicAffairsOffice/mv-ottawa-  
program.pdf](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/mv-ottawa-program.pdf)

More than 9,000 Higgins' Eye mussels were dispersed into area waters in late-September and early-October through a multi-agency effort led by the Corps and geared toward repopulating the endangered fresh-water mollusk in area rivers.

The Corps leads a multi-agency panel known as the Mussel Coordination Team that has developed a conservation plan to

involved with the propagation, relocation, and cleaning of these endangered mussels. In 2006, the Corps also began a national effort called the Invasive Species Leadership Team to examine agency strategies for dealing with invasive species like the zebra mussel on Corps' lands.

"The Higgins' Eye Relocation Plan was developed in response to the Fish and

Wildlife Service's 2000 Biological Opinion, which stated that continued operation of the Nine-Foot Navigation Channel project on the Upper Mississippi River system would likely jeopardize the continued existence of the federally endangered Higgins' Eye and result in the incidental take of winged maple leaf," said Charlene Carmack, Programs and Project Management. "The Fish and Wildlife Service

determined that operation and maintenance of the navigation pools and project-dependent commercial barge transportation would encourage continued zebra

This cooperative effort to save the Higgins' Eye mussel is taking place in the Mississippi and many of its tributaries from St. Louis to the Twin Cities. For a century, as those rivers were altered by locks and dams and fouled by sewage, the mussels' prospects diminished, and they were relegated to isolated sections such as the St. Croix River between Minnesota and Wisconsin.

"They were hammered pretty hard in the early part of the (20th) century," said Dan Kelner, Programs and Project Management, St. Paul District. "Native mussels were virtually wiped out of this area."

Nicole McVay, Operations Division, and Steve Johnson and Mark Cornish, Programs and Project Management, were also involved in the multi-agency effort to relocate the mussels, along with Lucie Macalister, Engineering and Construction, who was involved in the effort as part of her rotation through various divisions and offices in the District.

While the Corps initiated and led the effort, its success is credited to all of the agencies involved.

"The contribution of time, materiel support, and expertise by these folks and their representative agencies was both essential and invaluable in accomplishing this effort," said Carmack. "It's important to emphasize that. The placement and collection activities accomplished that week were the result of a cooperative effort between two federal agencies (the Corps and FWS), two state agencies (Illinois and Iowa DNRs), and a

university research station (University of Iowa). All of the players have a stake in protecting this important resource of the Upper Mississippi River System and no one agency can do this alone. As in past years, coordinating and executing this year's relocation activities is challenging and dependent on favorable physical conditions and scheduling constraints.

Can a suitable site be located? Will the National Environment Protection Agency process be complete? Are enough people and boats available? Will weather conditions allow placement? But it all seemed to work out this year, and monitoring these areas in future years should help to evaluate the success of this effort over time."

Once prevalent in area waterways, the mussel was used as a source of food by fish and mammals, and its shells were prized by American Indians as currency for trading purposes. Buttons were

punched from the pearly shells from the late 1800s until about 1940. Small beads made from the shells still are used in Asia to make cultured pearls.

But over-harvesting, pollution and the invasion of non-native species such as the zebra mussel nearly wiped out the mollusk, said Dan Sallee, a biologist for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources who participated in the planting.

"This site was selected because it is relatively free of zebra mussels, and it



Rich Lewis, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, places Higgin's Eye mussels in the main channel border (Iowa side) immediately upstream of the Fairport Hatchery and near the downstream end of the Corps' Shady Creek Recreation Area. Photo by Charlene Carmack, Programs and Project Management.

will give the Higgins' Eye a chance to establish itself," Sallee said.

The mussels used for planting are grown in Lake Pepin, a wide spot in the Mississippi on the border between Minnesota and Wisconsin at Lake City, Minn., Brady said. They are allowed to mature for about three years before they are hauled to sites in tank trucks and deposited in waterways.

"The bigger they are, the better," said Tony Brady, a mussel propagation biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service based in Genoa, Wis. "These are 3 to 4 inches, and there are an average of 12 ounces to a pound. The bigger they are, the more likely they are to survive. Fish can't get their mouths around them and crush the shells."

Multiple plantings at a single site over a period of years also are desirable, Sallee said. It improves the diversity of the genetics in a single colony and makes it less likely that there will be inbreeding.

The mussels brought for planting were each marked with a black dot on their shells. That aids in identifying them when biologists return in the future to see how the colony is doing, Brady said.

But efforts to find last year's planting proved more difficult than expected. Bob Schanzle and Richard Lewis of the Illinois DNR donned diving gear and went into the river and felt around in the near-zero visibility water to find an anchored cable used to mark the bed.

Schanzle initially tried to site the location from shore by looking through the space between two forked trees that were used as landmarks when the bed was planted. But, said Nicole McVay, a biologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, last year's crew neglected to get a firm fix on exactly how far from the shoreline it was located.

McVay stood at the ready with a global positioning device to mark the bed more precisely once it was found.

"Once they find it, we'll know exactly where to come back next time," she said. More background information on the recovery plan can be found at the following link:

[www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/section7/higgins.html](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/section7/higgins.html)

Tom Saul, Quad-City Times, contributed to this article. ■



Tony Brady, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Genoa National Fish Hatchery, checks a female Higgins' Eye to determine if she is gravid (i.e. has larval mussels, called Glochidia, attached to her gills ready to be shed and hopefully attach to a host fish). A total of 8 gravid females were collected to be transported to the Genoa hatchery to continue propagation efforts. Photo by Charlene Carmack, Programs and Project Management.

try to save the endangered Higgins' Eye Pearly mussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*) from possible extinction from zebra mussels.

The Iowa and Illinois departments of



Lucie Macalister, Engineering and Construction, holds a female Higgins' Eye shell during her observation of efforts to collect gravid female Higgins' Eyes to send up to the Genoa hatchery to continue propagation efforts. Photo by Charlene Carmack, Programs and Project Management.

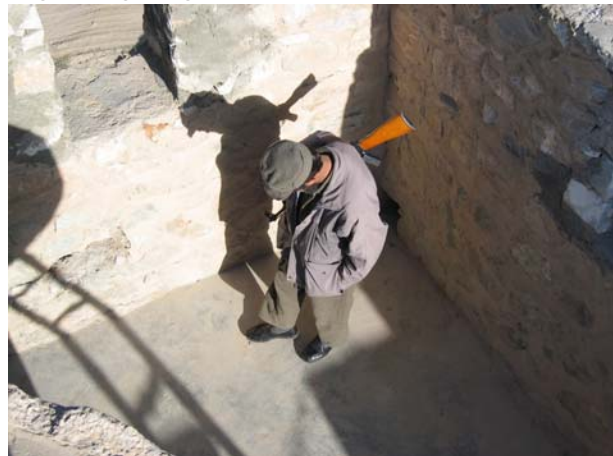
## Corps Leads Multi-Agency Effort to Reestablish Mussels

By Mark Kane

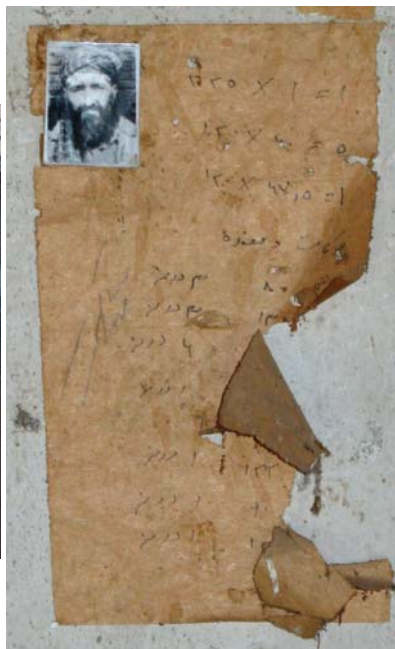
natural resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Corps came together to revive the population of the endangered pearly mussels to carry out the reasonable and prudent measures as guided by the Endangered Species Act jeopardly Biological Opinion issued by the FWS on May 15, 2000. In 2007, this group was

mussel dispersion throughout the Upper Mississippi River system. Zebra mussels negatively affect the survival and recovery of these endangered mussels. The Higgins' Eye Relocation Plan will take 10 years to fully implement, with long-term, 20 years, monitoring continuing after the implementation period."

Below -- "Afghan Prison Guard," 1st place, civilian division, color military life category  
Aubrey said he took this shot at the Pol-e-Charkhi Detention Facility in Afghanistan, a project of the Corps'. "I just happened to be looking down, saw the prison guard and the shadows from the sun and, took the shot. I felt good about it and thought it was a good image from the start."



Right -- "Wall Mugshot," 1st Place, civilian division, color people category  
Aubrey said he took this photo at an old Corps project inside a vehicle maintenance facility in Afghanistan. "It was just hanging there on the wall, and I thought it looked interesting, so I shot it. I'm surprised it placed so well. I took it for fun really."



Above -- "Combat Training," 3rd Place, civilian division, monochrome military life category  
This photo was taken at the Kabul Military Training Center in Afghanistan Aubrey said.

Above right -- "Three New Recruits," Honorable Mention, civilian division, color people category  
Aubrey said he took this shot at the same military training center.



Right -- "Broken Jingle Bus," Honorable Mention, civilian division, color object compressed  
This shot was taken on our way to the detention facility said Aubrey. "We were going through town, backed up in traffic, and I saw this truck with two logs propping it up. I thought it was really unique."

## Aubrey Photography Earns 5 All-Army Photo Awards

For many people life passes by much too quickly, and the phrase made famous by the fictional Ferris Bueller, "Life moves pretty fast, you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it," rings too true.

Eric Aubrey, Engineering and Construction, is bound and determined not only to keep from missing it, but to seize, document, capture, and share whatever the "it" is that he comes across in his life; and he does it with a click of the shutter.

Aubrey's interest in capturing life was recognized this year with two first place awards in the civilian division of the Army's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation's 2006 All-Army Photography Contest. The two first place awards capped off a showing for Aubrey, which also included a third place award along with two honorable mention placements. The five awards tied Aubrey for the most awards in the civilian division.

"I like the fact that my photos ranked against others," said Aubrey. "To know that three professional judges looked at my work and thought it was good makes you feel pretty nice."

Along with the prestige of placing in the awards, winners were also awarded \$300 for first place awards, \$200 for second place awards, and \$100 for third place awards. In all, Aubrey netted \$700 for his showing in the photography contest, but underscored that, while he likes the money, it had nothing to do with why he entered.

"The money's a bonus," said Aubrey. "I like to capture and create memories of places I've been, people I've met, things I've done.

Getting recognized is a bonus. I like doing it for the memories and looking back."

While taking photos and filling scrapbooks is something a lot of Americans do, it's no wonder Aubrey's photos go further than looking like your run-of-the-mill snapshots.

Aubrey said his interest in photography started in junior high when he took a photography class at Fort Leonard Wood when his father was in the military. That interest continued when he took a year of photography, while he was in high school and saw his photos published for the first time.

"They used my photos in the yearbook, and I thought it was great to see them there," said Aubrey. "A lot of my photography back then was sports, but I liked taking photos of almost anything."

Aubrey said he continued his interest in photography during college where he had the opportunity to develop his own film and make his own prints when he was home from school using the Fort Leonard Wood MWR photography center.

"That's probably when it really became a hobby," said Aubrey. Since then, Aubrey said his photography is definitely different. "I look for opportunities to compose a good photo from an artistic standpoint," said Aubrey. "A lot of times it's being at the right place

at the right time. That's probably why I keep a camera with me most of the time ... just in case."

When it comes to his success in the 2006 photography contest, Aubrey said he believes a lot of things came together to make it happen.

"The uniqueness of the location and the situations weren't typical," said Aubrey. "A good chunk of the winners' photos were taken outside the United States; probably because those photos captured scenes that were unique. Even with that, I'm surprised I placed that many times."

While Aubrey admits that he tries to keep a camera around as much as possible, most of his photography is taken when he's on some kind of trip, vacation, or deployment. Aubrey has deployed four times with the Corps in support of the Global War on Terrorism, twice through his Army Reserve unit in support of the GWOT, and once with the Corps in support of recovery mission in Florida after Hurricanes Charlie, Ivan,

Frances, and Jeanne. Aubrey said those are the times he works hard long hours, but that he forces himself to squeeze in the time to take some photos.

"After I got back from my most recent deployment to Afghanistan, I took a three-week vacation to Peru with some friends," said Aubrey. "I took more than a 1,000 photos during the trip."

Aubrey's photos continue to pay off in memories and recognition.

*Aubrey attributes some of his photography opportunities to the subjects he's able to take photos of during deployment. "You can be a part of those experiences by checking out the Corps' program in support of the Global War on Terrorism at: <http://cpolwapp.belvoir.army.mil/coe-gwot/>*

# Coralville, Saylorville Lakes Host National Public Lands Day

By Mark Kane

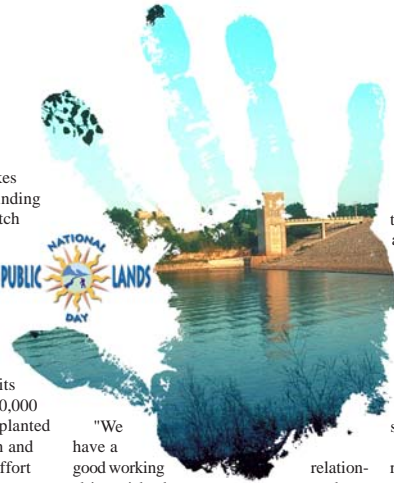
Coralville and Saylorville Lakes coordinated with the surrounding community volunteers to pitch in, get dirty, and get stuff done around each of the reservoirs on a day created to organize a coast-to-coast effort focused on cleanup of parks, forests, rivers, lakes, wetlands, cultural and historic sites and neighborhoods.

National Public Lands Day is in its 14th year, and in 2006, more than 100,000 volunteers built trails and bridges, planted trees and plants, and removed trash and invasive plants during the annual effort which takes place on Sept. 29 each year.

At Saylorville Lake Park Ranger Leah Deeds organized the event, which concentrated on cleaning up two different areas at the reservoir. Deeds reported that 10 volunteers picked up trash in the Big Creek Spillway, as well as the Bob Shelter area.

At Coralville Lake, National Public Lands Day has been taking place for the past six years.

Park Ranger Jeff Peck coordinated this year's effort at the reservoir and said over the years numerous volunteers groups have been involved.



"We have a good working relationship with these groups that keep them coming back each year," said Peck. "The work they do helps to make their park and recreation areas look nice for the vast number of users that take park maintenance for granted."

Peck said the work the volunteer groups complete during the day-long effort, and other events, is work that would otherwise not be completed.

"Coralville Lake has established revolving volunteer agreements with the Iowa Coalition of Off Road Riders, the Iowa City Disc Golf League, the Snowdrifters, and Kirkwood Community

College parks program," said Peck. "These agreements make it possible for these areas at Coralville Lake to be kept at a very high standard and receive national recognition for the recreation opportunities they provide and teach land stewardship to young persons wishing to enter the field of Natural Resource Specialist (Park Ranger). These groups should be highly commended for their continuing efforts and dedication to keeping on the leading edge of land stewardship."

Specifically, this year, the event went really well Peck said.

"The Snowdrifters groomed and marked several miles of snowmobile trail on government land," said Peck. "The Iowa City Disc Golf League moved two golf holes at Turkey Creek Recreation Area, they added a couple of new ground mounts, and performed routine maintenance. ICORR performed routine maintenance on various trails along the bike trail system. Prairie seed was collected from one of the prairies for prairie restoration, and Troop 216 of North Liberty, Iowa, finished an Eagle Scout project creating a new picnic area along the Tail Water River Walk trail."

Mel Rinehart of North Liberty, treasurer



*"Improvements to the trails not only benefit ourselves, but by keeping them open, it can benefit others. If more people volunteered, things would be a lot better for everyone."*

- Jeff Peck



## On The 'Net

[www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org)  
[www.lrn.usace.army.mil/volunteer](http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/volunteer)

### Coralville Lake Volunteerism

Iowa Coalition of Off Road Riders - A mountain-biking group that has performed maintenance on the mountain biking trail at Sugar Bottom Recreation Area.

Iowa City Disc Golf League - A disc-golf group that has performed maintenance on the two 18-hole disc golf courses located at the Turkey Creek and Sugar Bottom recreation areas.

The Snowdrifters - A local snowmobile group that has performed maintenance and signing on the snowmobile trails, which cross government land.

Kirkwood Community College Parks Program - Has provided natural resource based activities such as prairie seed collection, prairie burns, and invasive species removal.

Master Gardeners - Have helped to spruce up various high-profile areas around Coralville Lake, such as the visitor center, restroom buildings, and the Devonian Fossil Gorge.

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts - Have performed trash pick up along the roadways around Coralville Lake.

of Snowdrifters, said club members annually put 200 volunteer hours in with the Corps at Coralville Lake.

Not only do they clear overhead and otherwise maintain trails for snowmobilers, but they mow and work to keep the trails open for hikers and equestrians in warm weather.

"Improvements to the trails not only benefit ourselves, but by keeping them open, it can benefit others," he said. "If more people volunteered, things would be a lot better for everyone."

While the effort paid off at both Coralville and Saylorville Lakes at the cost of sweat, hard work, and elbow grease, Peck said just being outside made it a lot of fun.

"Working outside with nature is always an added bonus ... especially when you can see your efforts enjoyed by others," said Peck. "Again if it were not for the efforts of volunteers across the country, the people's parks and lands would not be what they are today. Volunteerism is a wonderful thing that can be a family activity, create new friendships, while adding value and understand-

ing for land stewardship that can be passed down from generation to generation."

In regard to getting involved in next year's effort, Peck said it's easy.

"They need to get a hold of the volunteer coordinator such as myself, and we will get them in touch with the group

working on the project they want to work on, or we will work with them on a project that they are interested in doing," said Peck.

At Coralville, Peck emphasized his appreciation for the team work involved making the effort a success each year. He specifically thanked Randy Haas for the Cedar Rapids Gazette interview, which helped to make the event a success and increases the number of volunteers each year; Rick Knoke for gathering prairie seed and teaching how to identify the native seeds that should be harvested in order to help re-establish native prairies at the reservoir; and Mary Sue Bowers for leading land-stewardship efforts and working with numerous volunteers throughout the year to maintain many of the natural areas around the project.

Both Saylorville and Coralville Lake underscored their high appreciation for various volunteer groups who came out to participate in this year's event.

*Jim Slosiarek, Cedar Rapids Gazette, contributed to this article.*



## ☪ Marshall Cont. from page 2

Marshall then took approximately two months to study for the Illinois State Bar Examination, a rigorous two-day test covering 23 points of law. This was followed by the one-day Multi-state Professional Responsibility Examination, which tests attorneys' understanding of the laws and ethics governing their profession. She received her law license on Nov. 8 at a ceremony at the Holiday Inn in Rock Island, Ill.

Marshall's journey took her to the Corps during her second year of law school.

"I actually interviewed with the Corps' Honors Program on campus during my second year of law school," said Marshall. "The Honors Program recruits highly-qualified law students to join the Corps' Office of Counsel after graduation. I knew

that, after law school, I would become a public servant. So, working as an attorney at the Corps' offered me the best opportunity to work on complex legal issues given the Corps' multidisciplinary mission."

Marshall was also impressed with the Corps' employees.

"I have interviewed extensively with other agencies and private firms and have never met such a fascinating group of people," said Marshall. "Collectively, the attorneys, here at the Corps, represent the agency well and knowing that I would work with such colleagues made it quite easy to choose the Corps."

She works as an attorney for Office of Counsel in Real Estate, and her work involves, "primarily, identifying, defining, researching and analyzing legal issues

pertaining to the acquisition, management and disposal of real estate," said Marshall. "Secondarily, identifying, defining, researching and analyzing legal issues pertaining to ethics, contracting and environmental regulation."

She also reviews contracts, memoranda of agreements, and project cooperation agreements.

"The work here allows me to analyze a variety of legal issues from various practice areas, ethics, contracts, real estate, regulatory and environmental, and I find this variety both exciting and rewarding," said Marshall.

Her advice to anyone reading this article is, "outside of work, take time to develop a hobby that defines and centers you, one that leads you to discover the joys of living." 📌



Top left -- Lynn Marshall in front of the prison in Malawi. Prisoners on death row stand next to the fence.

Top right -- Classmates on the Malawi Homicide Backlog Project with men recently freed from death row.

Bottom left -- The poor living conditions for prisoners in Malawi are readily evident in this photo. Men may spend years confined to this facility or may even be executed.



## Around the District

### District Commander's Award

**Mike Zukowski**, Programs and Project Management, received the August Commander's Award.

Zukowski earned the award for successfully concluding the Engineering Documentation Report for Phase 1 of the Des Moines Riverwalk project. The project will include the reconstruction of a railroad bridge, construction of new pedestrian bridge restrooms, plazas and a trail to form an approximate 1.2 mile loop adjacent to the Des Moines River in downtown Des Moines, Iowa.

The project is non-standard, in that it allows for Corps participation along with sponsor work in-kind to achieve the project goals. Completion of the report demonstrates flexibility, commitment to customer service and problem solving bias.

**LuAnn Steen**, Operations Division, received the July Commander's Award.

Steen earned the award for her work in the Management Support Branch, during the period of Dec. 3, 2006 through April 2. During that time, Steen accepted a temporary promotion when a key branch employee temporarily worked in another district office.

During the assignment, she not only quickly learned new job requirements; she also demonstrated leadership by training newer employees within the branch. After the temporary promotion ended, and until the permanent branch employee returned, she performed her own job duties along with additional Operations Division and District duties during a critical point in the fiscal year.

**Steve Mohr**, Operations Division, received the June Commander's Award.

Mohr earned the award for his efforts at Lock and Dam 11 in 2005, when the site began researching the electric motor drives for the Tow Haulage Units on the Mississippi River. Mohr developed a retrofit for the existing THUs because the original motor drives were well past their design life, parts and circuit boards had become obsolete, and breakdowns were becoming more frequent.

In Fiscal Year 2006 and 2007, THU motor drives were purchased and installed at Locks and Dams 12 through 18, and at 20 through 22. Mohr assisted with the installation of the units at each of the sites. This improved the reliability of the THU and thus positively impacted navigation at the locks and dams.

### Congrats ...



Congratulations to **Dan and Heather McBride**, Engineering and Construction, on the birth of a baby girl, Natalie Elizabeth, Oct. 14. She weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

### Retirements ...

**Charles Hood Jr.**, lockmaster, LaGrange Lock and Dam, Operations Division, will retire Jan. 3, after dedicating 43 years and eight months to the federal government.

**Rustin Jackson**, assistant lockmaster, Locks and Dam 14, Operations Division, will retire Jan. 3, after dedicating 32 years, four months, and 28 days to the federal government.

**Gary Loss**, deputy, Programs and Project Management, Executive Office, will retire Jan. 3, after dedicating 36 years and 11 months to the federal government.

**Marvin Martens**, chief, Hydrologic Engineering Section, Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch, Engineering and Construction, will retire Jan. 3, after dedicating 40 years and three months to the federal government.

**Richard Moss**, lockmaster, Peoria Lock and Dam, Operations Division, will retire Jan. 3, after dedicating 42 years, five months, and 15 days to the federal government.

**Rocky Flynn**, lock and dam operator, Dresden Island Lock and Dam, Operations Division, will retire Jan. 1, after dedicating 30 years, three months, and 14 days to the federal government.

**Robert Cokley**, lock and dam operator, Marseilles Lock and Dam, Operations Division, will retire Dec. 31, after dedicating 25 years, five months, and 22 days to the federal government.

**James Kilburg**, lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam 12, Operations Division, will retire Dec. 31, after dedicating 26 years and seven months to the federal government.

**Charles Lovekamp**, lock and dam operator, LaGrange Lock and Dam, Operations Division, will retire Dec. 31, after dedicating 26 years and four months to the federal government.

**Glen Stillmunkes**, lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam 12, Operations Division, will retire Dec. 31, after dedicating 22 years and five months to the federal government.

**Judy Walters**, program analyst, Programs and Project Management, will retire Dec. 31, after dedicating 19 years and four months to the federal government.

**James Hart**, lockmaster, Marseilles Lock and Dam, Operations Division, retired Nov. 3, after dedicating 36 years, four months, and 15 days to the federal government.

## Sympathy ...



**Lois Pritchard**, 86, of Davenport, Iowa, formerly of Geneseo, died Nov. 15, at Genesis Medical Center, East Campus, Davenport.

She worked as a property officer with the District and retired in 1984.



**Grace Hedquist**, 85, of Rock Island, Ill., died Nov. 1, at Silver Cross Nursing Center, Rock Island.

She worked for the District in the mid-1940s.

## Tower Times Survey is Complete

The Tower Times Survey is complete and the results are available for anyone to see on the Tower Times Online. The information gathered from the survey respondents has already impacted the content of the publication and will continue to be used to improve the Tower Times to meet the needs of District employees.

By a narrow margin, survey respondents said they would like to see the publication as both an Internet and monthly print publication. That input has already been evaluated and the Tower Times will be produced as both an online and monthly print publication starting in January.

While 100 employees filled out the survey, many respondents took the extra step and provided comments in addition to the multiple choice answers.

A sampling of survey respondents' comments included: "When it is an online publication I don't seem to have the time to read it, but when I get the printed form, I take the time to read through it." "No need to kill trees when anyone can access the TT online." "Many of us are in positions where we can't spend much time

on the computer. The hard copy magazine is better for us." "Reading the Times is an option and I don't have a labor code to read the times, so technically I have to do it on my own time and/or just give it a glance, which is what I do normally. I'm doing this survey during my lunch."

The publication will strive to meet the needs of our readership. To assist, employees are highly encouraged to submit content for inclusion in the online and print Tower Times. Anyone can submit information, and while receiving completed articles is great, an employee can also submit information in any form, and if possible please submit photos as well. Digital photos are the easiest to submit and the higher the resolution the better. Hard copy photos are fine as well and will be scanned and returned. To submit information to the publication, e-mail the editor at [mark.a.kane@usace.army.mil](mailto:mark.a.kane@usace.army.mil) or by phone at 309-794-5730.

The Corporate Communications staff thanks all who participated in the survey, which will continue to enable us to meet the needs of our employees.

## Need some help finding a book, an article or obscure report?

The USACE Technical Library, located on the lower level of the Clock Tower Building, has a trained library staff with a professional librarian available for your research.

The library staff conducts searches and obtains interlibrary loans of articles, reports and other pertinent material for your informational needs.

Their website - [www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Library](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Library) - offers an example to some of the many services provided. Call the District library at 309-794-5884 for more details.



## NOTE

Please send achievements, births, and obituaries for this page to the editor at: [mark.a.kane@usace.army.mil](mailto:mark.a.kane@usace.army.mil).

Without your input, we may not receive the information that enables us to inform the District.

# SUPPORT, SACRIFICE FOR CORPS

Thanks to our employees who are deployed or have completed duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism, as well as those who are deployed or have completed duty in support of Natural Disaster Relief Operations

## Thank You For Serving!



A listing of all the current District employees who are, or have been, involved in supporting the Global War on Terrorism and Natural Disaster Relief Operations can be seen on the District's Internet at:



[www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/TowerTimes/support-for-corps/support-for-corps.htm](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/TowerTimes/support-for-corps/support-for-corps.htm)



## Postcards from Iraq

### Ramadi — an awesome mission

By James Sager, Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District

Every day I serve in this effort to rebuild Iraq, I see tangible results. The most rewarding part is getting out and meeting local townspeople and hearing from them how important this work is.

I'm serving as an engineer overseeing a variety of projects in and around Ramadi. We're currently managing 16 active projects valued at \$40.2 million and in the next couple months expect to award another 11 projects valued at \$125 million. These projects include new primary healthcare centers, repairing roads and bridges, rebuilding substations and upgrading electrical distribution networks. We're also installing rural water treatment facilities in small communities that had no fresh water before. They were just drinking raw, untreated water from the Euphrates River and you can imagine the health hazards they faced.



I recently was invited by a local sheik to an outdoor picnic he hosted at his home to celebrate fresh drinking water being available in his community for the first time ever. His genuine gratefulness and hospitality are a highlight of my tour here — a day I'll always remember. His message to us was how important the teamwork and friendship we were developing in Al Anbar Province was to the future of Iraq — he believes we're on the right road leading to a brighter future for his children and grandchildren.

I made a commitment to myself that day — seeing the challenges this sheik and his family were facing and how special sharing a meal can be. I vowed that when I return stateside, I'll never eat dinner in front of the TV again. Time is just too precious.



A sheik hosted a picnic recently to celebrate the opening of a water treatment facility — first time ever families in his community had fresh, potable water.



Al Anbar Governor Mamoon expresses his thanks for our efforts to rebuild the Provincial Government Center in Ramadi during a ribbon cutting ceremony.

One of my biggest accomplishments during my first four months in country was supervising the rebuilding of the Al Anbar Provincial Government Center which had significant battle damage when Ramadi was a hotspot of insurgent activity. We fixed the windows, doors and ceilings, and also made electrical and air conditioning repairs. Gov. Mamoon officiated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in September and personally thanked me for our efforts. As I left that project for the final time, I walked away thinking about how much history would come from the decisions the Provincial Council would be making in the coming months and years. That group had been unable to meet for most of the past year and they were now a functioning group again, just like any governmental entity in the United States, working hard for their constituents to make a tangible difference in the daily lives of thousands of families who make Al Anbar Province their home.

What I see here are people who are grateful that terror and intimidation have been significantly reduced. The workers on our various construction sites go to work every day knowing how much the local townspeople value what they do. I'm grateful to be part of the tremendous team here. We continue to make a difference.

Sponsored by  
RIDWA

# Holiday Gala

December 15

The Lodge  
Bettendorf, Iowa

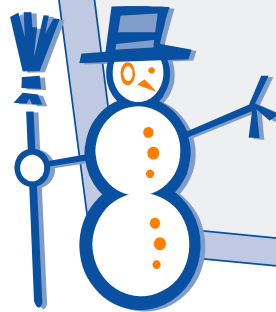
Social Hour from 5 – 6 p.m.  
Dinner at 6 p.m.  
Dance Following Dinner

Dinner Buffet featuring:

- Lemon Pepper Chicken
- English Cut Roast Beef w/Pan Gravy
- German Style Green Beans
- Corn O'Brien
- Oven Roast Potatoes
- Tossed Salad w/Dressing
- Pasta Salad
- Fruit Compote
- Breads & Cinnamon Rolls
- Coffee, Tea & Milk

**TICKET PRICE: \$15 a person**

You may purchase tickets from: Justine Barati, CC, x5204; Beth Hann, RM, x5602; Heather Rentz, PM, x5491; Rich Rupert, ED, x5457; or Aimee Vermeulen, OC, x5311.



Evening Attire \* Music Provided by a DJ \* Cash Bar \* Rooms available for \$65

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