



Tower Times

Rock Island District's News Magazine

May 2010



WEAR IT!

National Water Safety Week May 22-28



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

Tower Times

Contents

May 2010

ON THE COVER



Park Ranger Leah Deeds, Saylorville Lake, shows children at Oak Grove Beach how to properly put on a life jacket and ensure it fits correctly.

- 3 Summer Months Mean Boating and Water Safety**
Col. Shawn McGinley, District Commander
- 4 Building Partners**
Hickory Ridge to be added to Lake Red Rock
- 6 Saylorville Hosts Wheelin' Sportsman Turkey Hunt**
Third annual hunt held for individuals with disabilities
- 9 Trained, Prepared and Ready to Respond**
District holds flood fight training for Flood Area Engineers
- 10 Bring on the Season**
Recreation areas are open for the public
- 12 Safety Corner - Work Zone Safety for Drivers**
- 13 Around the District**
- 14 Spotlight on the District**
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center

A Note from the Editor

Thank you to everyone who submitted feedback in regards to the possible name change. The results showed the majority of readers liked the name Tower Times. Please enjoy the new look and continue sending feedback .

Tower Times

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A message from....

Colonel Shawn McGinley, District Commander



Summer Months Mean Boating and Water Safety

Boaters, skiers, fishermen and other water enthusiasts will be taking to our rivers and lakes as the summer months are upon us. This District provides recreational opportunities throughout the five-state region and because of that, one of our primary concerns, as always, is public safety.

As we approach the official kick off of summer, which is generally considered Memorial Day weekend, our rangers and other staff at the lakes and rivers project offices have been out in full force emphasizing the importance of boating and water safety. Most notably, our folks have been promoting the annual “Wear It!” campaign to reinforce the importance of life jackets.

Many of you have heard me preach the importance of safety, whether in the work place or off duty. That message becomes even more important as many of you will venture out to enjoy your boats or other water activities. We, at the Corps of Engineers, have to be stewards of safety and lead by example which means we should all adhere to the “Wear It!” campaign. Life jackets are only good if you are wearing them properly. Every year, throughout the country and within our District boundaries, people lose their lives in boating accidents. Many drown due to those boating accidents and nearly 90 percent of those people are not wearing life jackets.

We are carrying over our internal message of safety to the public. No one wants to see fatalities on our waterways and our employees intend to ensure the public is well informed and encouraged to practice boating and water safety. For example, staff at Saylorville Lake will issue free boat launch passes to boaters who are wearing their life jackets during a water safety contact. Staff at Coralville Lake will be doing something similar.

In addition to encouraging safety through incentives, our rangers will be out marketing boating and water safety at parades and festivals, Iowa Cubs games, state fairs and many other venues. The marketing campaign will also include public service announcements and personal interviews for local radio and television. It’s a concerted effort that stretches District wide.

Public safety is the top priority at our recreation sites. Safety in general is always my top priority and I hope all of you take it seriously. It would be devastating to lose a team member no matter the circumstances but it becomes even more senseless if that loss comes as a result of a safety risk that could have and should have been mitigated.

Most safety issues are common sense. More often than not, being safe is simple and relatively effortless. I encourage anyone who will be enjoying our boating and water recreation opportunities to contact one of our Natural Resources sites or Safety Office. The staff from these offices can provide helpful tips and checklists to ensure you are prepared for your boating and water experience.

Once you have prepared yourself to head out on the water, there is one final step you can take to keep safe – **DON’T USE ALCOHOL**. The bottom line is that boating, the water and alcohol don’t mix. Be smart and be responsible. I want everyone to enjoy the outdoor opportunities we have in this area. Have fun, but stay safe. I need all of you to continue **BUILDING STRONG®** 





Building Partners

By Hilary Markin, Editor

Hickory Ridge is a former timeshare campground that was located on private property now owned by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. It is a 47-acre site located along Lake Red Rock that was not acquired during the original land acquisitions when the dam and reservoir were built. This area has been relatively untouched. Aerials dating back to the 1930s and 50s show Hickory Ridge in a sea of agricultural land and today the site includes mature hickory and oak trees.

The Rock Island District has been working on updating Lake Red Rock's Master Plan in preparation for acquiring the land from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Part of this process includes getting input from the public on how they would like to see the area used and/or developed.

On March 10 a public scoping meeting was held and members of the public gathered together and brainstormed possibilities for the future development of Hickory Ridge.

"The public was interested in seeing Hickory Ridge developed to a minimum standard versus asphalt and concrete roads, high impact camp pads typical of our modern recreation facilities," said Dorie Bollman, outdoor recreation planner, Environmental and Economics Branch. "This is a very collaborative planning effort. The public is having more input in to the future development of the area."

The Corps will use the information generated at the scoping meeting to further define the alternatives in the Master Plan. The Plan serves as a guide outlining the intentions of an area and how it shall be used, developed, and preserved.

"The plans so far indicate minimal development of Hickory Ridge to accommodate a growing number of recreationalists looking for a primitive experience," said Wendy Frohlich, biologist, Environmental and Economics Branch. "The public indicated at the meeting they want a primitive place to camp, recreate and paddle to. This area is perfect for that and it will allow the high quality habitat and forest resources to remain in-tact."

There have been numerous partners involved in this project. The Red Rock Lake Association, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Central College, paddling clubs, staff from Lake Red Rock and others have been collaborating together to determine the future of Hickory Ridge.

"We feel this project is a great project and are excited about working with our partners. The Hickory Ridge project meets our recreation, environmental and flood risk management missions here at Lake Red Rock," said John Holt, assistant operations manager, Lake Red Rock.

While the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation is stepping up fundraising efforts for the property the Red Rock Lake Association has been working with Central College to clear invasive species by working with Russ Benedict, a biology professor, Central College, to bring students out to the Lake for hands-on work experience.

The students recently held their fourth service day removing invasive species like Russian olive and honeysuckle. They worked in groups to identify the species, remove them and haul them to a designated area.

"Russ has a passion for the area," said Jamie Gyolai, community planner, Lake Red Rock. "This project has formed unique partnerships within the community. There are a lot of community leaders and public involved with it."

The Red Rock Lake Association has also been coordinating clean-up days at the site restoring the area to its natural beauty.

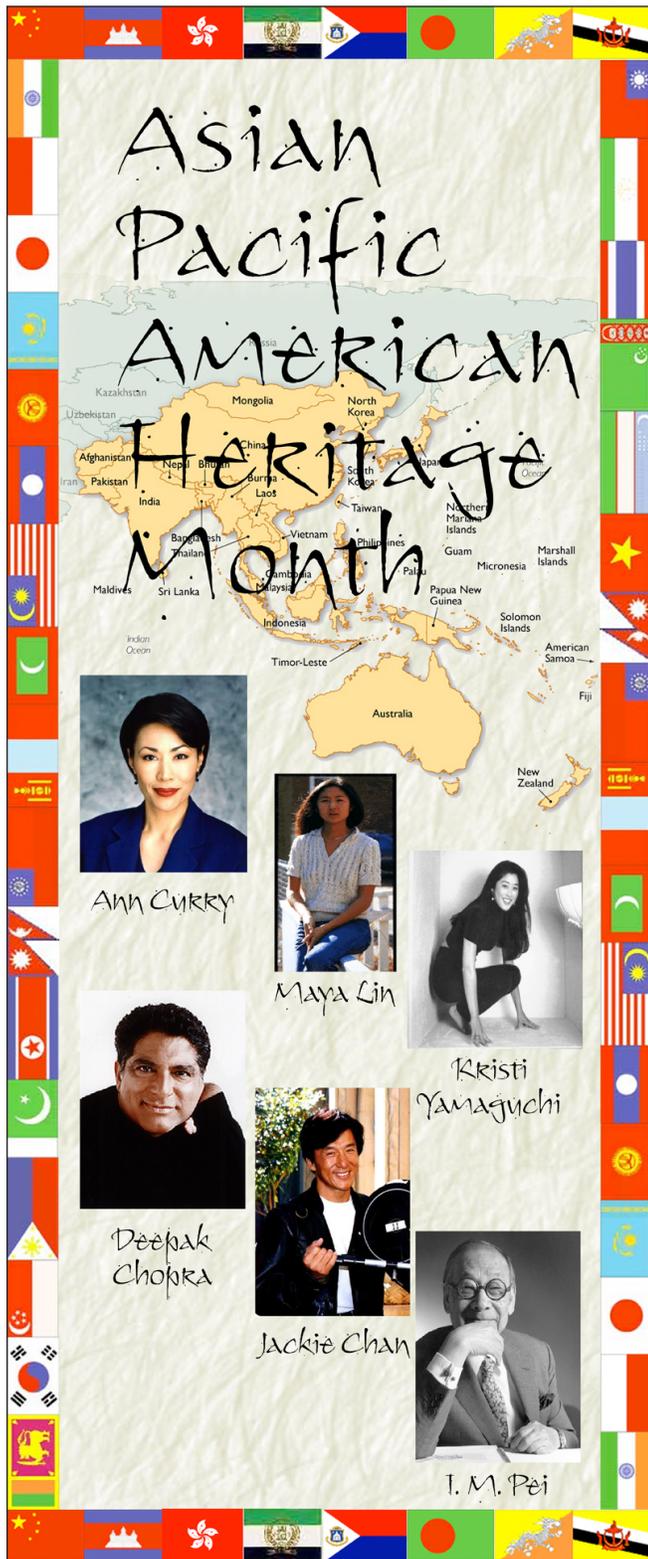
"This is a place where youth can become engulfed in nature," said Gyolai. For more information visit the Iowa Natural Heritage website at www.inhf.org. 



Above, students from Central College pose before starting work removing invasive species from Hickory Ridge. Left, students work to identify and remove honeysuckle that has invaded the oak/hickory forest. Photos by Ron Huelse.

May is

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month



Asian Pacific Americans are among the nation's fastest growing racial groups making up nearly five percent of the total population in the United States. They are also among America's most diverse racial groups. With roots in China, Hawaii, India, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Vietnam, and throughout Asia and the Pacific, Asian Pacific Americans encompass dozens of distinct ethnic groups and speak a multitude of languages. The vast diversity of languages, religions, and cultural traditions of Asian Pacific Americans strengthens the fabric of American society.

Today, more and more Asian Pacific Americans are seeking the American dream and leading a life bound by the American ideals of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. As the population expands, new communities are being developed in different parts of the country.

Within the Rock Island District, populations within our communities have been increasing and they are forming organizations like the Iowa Asian Alliance, Chinese Association of Iowa and Filipino-American Association of Iowa. These community based organizations are charged with fostering economic growth, community development, ensuring equal opportunities, and promoting cultural diversity.

The theme for 2010 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is "Diverse Leadership for a Diverse Workforce." It focuses in on our accomplishments thus far and lays the framework for the future. Asian Pacific Americans are serving in leadership positions within the government more now than ever before. By continuing to build on that momentum and create a diverse workforce we will continue to grow our communities.

For more information on Special Emphasis Programs in the Rock Island District and how to actively recruit, hire and advance employees, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity office or any of the Special Emphasis Program Mangers.

Background Information

Like most commemorative months, Asian Pacific Heritage Month originated in a congressional bill. In June 1977, Reps. Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the president to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed. On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration. Twelve years later, President George H.W. Bush signed an extension making the week-long celebration into a month-long celebration. In 1992, the official designation of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month was signed into law.

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants. 



Saylorville Hosts Wheelin' Sportsmen Turkey Hunt

Story and photos by Tyler Hill, Saylorville Lake

At the base of a 130 year old white oak tree two men sit motionless. The sun is just beginning to peek over the horizon as the first rays of light are hitting the tree tops. In the distance a barred owl lets loose with his last "hoot" of the night, and quick to respond is a male wild turkey, called a tom, with his unmistakable gobble. The two men shift only their eyes towards the direction of the distant gobble. One man slowly removes a small wooden box from his vest pocket. In the other hand he holds a small wooden dowel that has been carefully carved and sanded, these are his tools. He begins rubbing the dowel against a circle of slate on the top of wooden box. The pattern, pressure, and speed with which the man moves the stick across the slate produces a sound that most people would not recognize. It is however very recognizable to one creature in the woods, the tom that just flew down from the tree he was roosting in across the valley. Thinking that he just heard a lonely female turkey calling for his attention; the tom responds with a loud gobble, and the hunt is on.

For those who have been fortunate enough to enjoy a sunrise in the forest in early spring; there is nothing better. The sights, sounds and smells of the forest coming out of its winter dormancy are a welcome sign that spring is finally here. For many hunters this is the time to head to the forests in search of wild turkeys. Once abundant in Iowa; the eastern wild turkey was hunted to the point where it was extirpated from the state in 1910. In the early 1950s, Iowa began reintroducing birds to the state and with the combination of regulated hunting seasons and an increase in suitable habitat, turkeys have made a comeback. Today, turkeys can be found along the major rivers and streams all across Iowa.

In 2008, the U.S. Army Corps of En-

gineers at Saylorville Lake partnered with the Central Iowa Longspurs Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) to host the first Wheelin' Sportsmen Turkey Hunt. The Wheelin' Sportsmen program provides people with disabilities the chance to experience the beauty and excitement of the outdoors. The program pairs individuals with disabilities to volunteer turkey hunting guides from the local NWTF chapter for a special hunt.

Prior to the hunt, Saylorville Lake park rangers spend time searching and scouting locations for the hunt. The criteria they have established for locations include being safe to hunt, meaning that public access to the site is controlled and that the area is far enough away from major recreation areas and housing developments.

Secondly, the areas have to be accessible for the hunters; several of them are confined to wheelchairs or have difficulty walking long distances over rough terrain. Lastly, the hunting sites have to be in close proximity to turkeys.

The event has fostered a great partnership with the Central Iowa Longspurs Chapter of the NWTF. They have been able to cooperatively purchase a top of the line handicap accessible hunting blind, manufactured by Darkwoods Blind, Okla. It is large enough to accommodate three people comfortably and has its own highway trailer which allows it to be moved easily.

The Wheelin' Sportsmen Hunt has also breathed new life into the chapter and helped them to better promote the Whee-

Pictured above are the participants in the 2010 Saylorville Lake Wheelin' Sportsman Turkey Hunt. Front row from left, Chris Hewlett, Kendell Strausser, David Woods, Donny Daughenbaugh, Tim Cox, Brad Carre, Jesse Mulder, and Jesse Godwin. Back row from left, Brett Hewlett, Darren Scheider, Tom Ballard, Dave Whittlesey, John Swanson, Jack Lancaster, Bill Dedecker, Todd Brummer, Rod Slings, Tyler Hill, Jeremy McCarty, and Jay Croon.

lin' Sportsmen Program in the community. Several park rangers have attended chapter banquets to help promote the partnership and event.

"After being on the committee for 21 years we were getting a little burned out. When the chapter got hooked up with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for our annual turkey hunt a few years ago it became one of the most rewarding days of our lives. There is no way to describe the thrill these hunters have without being there. It has given us a whole different way of looking at everyday things we take for granted," said Maurice and Amy Herold, committee members for the Central Iowa Longspurs Chapter of the NWTF. They

have been participating in the hunt since it started in 2008.

In 2009, the Corps also partnered with the Coalition to Salute Americas Heros to encourage participation of recently disabled veterans from the Iraq/Afghanistan wars. These men have brought great attitudes and a lot of enthusiasm to the hunt. This spring, three of the four successful hunters were veterans.

The Corps is also developing a plan to have chapter members volunteer to help them implement a new forestry management plan that is being created by Saylorville Lake. The plan will look at the areas currently being hunted and suggest management activities to promote the

population of wild turkeys in the area. Examples of work to be done include timber stand improvement, tree plantings, and additional food plots.

"Partnering with the Turkey Federation and the local "Longspur" chapter has been a really awesome experience. Their commitment to volunteering and going the extra mile is impressive. Their drive is what makes the hunt and turkey management so successful. I hope this program continues to grow throughout the District," said Scott Rolfe, natural resource specialist, Saylorville Lake. 

A Successful Day

On April 17 Saylorville Lake hosted the third annual Wheelin' Sportsmen Turkey Hunt in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF). Park rangers and volunteers arrived at the picnic shelter at 3 a.m. starting a fire and making the coffee. The hunters all showed up before 4 a.m. and were introduced to their guide that would be taking them on their hunt. Everyone visited while enjoying coffee, juice, and a variety of breakfast foods provided by the NWTF. Following breakfast a short safety talk was led by Rod Slings former Iowa Department of Natural Resources Recreational Safety Officer and volunteer guide for the hunt.

As dawn approached, the hunters got together with their guides and made sure they had all of their gear before heading to the blinds. Bringing added excitement to this year's hunt was a partnership with a local hunting video production company filming the event. Four videographers from Nock'd Up Productions went with the hunters to the blinds hoping to capture a successful turkey hunt on film.

The hunters were transported to their blinds a variety of ways. Some hunters were taken to their blinds on all terrain vehicles, some sites were accessible by 4x4 trucks, and others were able to walk to their sites. Once settled into their blinds the hunters, guides and videographers



The four successful hunters from the 2010 Wheelin' Sportsman Turkey Hunt proudly display their turkeys. From left, David Woods, Kendell Strausser, Joseph Andrews, and Donny Daughenbaugh.

enjoyed the predawn hours, thinking about what the morning might bring.

As the sun began to rise the turkeys began gobbling and the hunters grew anxious. It was cooler than it had been during the previous week and the turkeys took a little longer than usual to get out of the trees. But once on the ground the turkeys were on the move. Between 7 and 8 a.m. four hunters successfully harvest a turkey out of the seven hunters participating in the event.

After photos were taken at the hunting blind the hunters headed back to the shelter to share their experiences. Once all of the hunters returned to the shelter they enjoyed a wonderful lunch prepared by the NWTF chapter.

The videographers were able to capture three of the four successful hunts on film and after lunch everyone gathered around a television to watch the video's that were captured.

"It was great to see everyone gathered around the TV so excited for the hunters. It allowed everyone to feel as if they were in the blind with the hunters. The guy's at Nock'd Up Productions said that they had enough good video of the event to put together a segment for their next DVD," said Darren Schneider, park ranger, Saylorville Lake.

It was a great day for everyone involved with the hunt and Saylorville is looking forward to hosting the event again next year. 



Left, Dennis Shannon, Chief, Lock and Dam section, Mississippi River Project Office, and Todd Ernenputsch (right), park ranger, Illinois Waterway Project, are mediated by Rachel Marshall, equal employment opportunity specialist, Rock Island Arsenal Garrison during Alternative Dispute Resolution training. Each class participant was given the opportunity to mediate two different scenarios with the disputing parties played by fellow classmates.

Learning to Mediate

Story and photos by Hilary Markin, editor

The Rock Island District Equal Employment Opportunity office (EEO) hosted an Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program on Basic Mediation in April. Linda Myers, deputy director, Army Alternate Dispute Resolution Program, presented the program to an audience of District employees as well as employees from the St. Paul District and Rock Island Arsenal. This training serves as a stepping stone to the District developing its own ADR Program and being able to share resources within the Division and local installation.

ADR is “any procedure that is used to resolve issue in controversy, including, but not limited to, conciliation, facilitation, mediation, factfinding, minitrials, arbitration, and the use of ombuds, or any combination thereof,” Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1996.

The formal ADR program includes a mediator who is a neutral third party that upholds confidentiality and guides the parties to pursue an “interest-based” approach to develop options for resolution. The process allows both parties to hopefully see the others perspective and find a solution that is agreeable to both sides.

One of the goals of the program is to promote the early identification of controversy at the lowest level possible. The skills gained at the training hopefully help attendees resolve conflicts

before a reach the formal complaint process is started through EEO.

“This training gave me some tips on how I can better resolve conflicts in the workplace, hopefully before the situation escalates,” said Tilford Flowers, security specialist.

Throughout the training, participants were given opportunities to mediate prepared scenarios with the disputing parties, acted out by fellow classmates. This provided a unique opportunity for participants to role-play and see things from a different perspective. It also generated lots of good discussion and feedback amongst the participants. The sessions were also observed by certified mediators who provided great insight into the mediation process and helped the participants developing skills.

This training allowed the EEO office to continue developing partnerships with the Rock Island Arsenal and within the Mississippi Valley Division.

“The skills gained by the participants will be extremely valuable to our organization,” said Amy Hess, chief, Equal Employment Opportunity office. “Resolution is a winning scenario for all parties involved in a conflict situation. To bring these skills to the lowest level possible can turn about resolution sooner versus later.”



FUN

FOOD

GAMES



Corps Day is brought to you by the Corps Day Committee.



John Behrens, pump subject matter expert, explains to flood fight training attendees how to operate a 4 inch diesel pump.

Trained, Prepared and Ready to Respond

Story and photo by Hilary Markin, Editor

In April, the Rock Island District held a two-day flood fight training workshop. The training was intended for current and prospective flood area engineers but also open to other employees interested in learning about flood fighting techniques and emergency operations.

More than 90 people attended the workshop and gained a better understanding of how flood teams respond to flood events. Participants also learned about the Emergency Operations Center and the procedure for requesting flood assistance.

Roger Less, Chief, Design Branch, Engineering and Construction Division, and retired flood area engineer, gave an insightful presentation entitled "So you want to be a Flood Engineer." The presentation walked participants through the ups and downs of the position and he provided a few tricks of the trade to remember.

"Being a Corps' Flood Engineer has been a highlight of my engineering career," said Less. He went on to say that he truly enjoyed working with the local communities and using his technical engineering skills to help them during their time of need.

The training brought in many subject matter experts (SME) to relay important information when it comes to flood fighting terms, techniques, safety, and forecasting.

"Having so many flood fighting experts in one room was a feat on its own, let alone the incredible benefit it provided to new, less experienced Flood Area Engineers," said Josh Cackley, flood area engineer, Quad City Flood Area.

The second day participants worked through flood fight scenarios using modeling developed by the Readiness Support Center. These scenarios were generated using hydrological information provided by Water Control and were coupled with questions developed by Emergency Management to generate thought and discussion about solutions associated with the problems presented.

"I think the scenarios gave the participants a good idea of some problems that can arise in a flood event and made them develop real time solutions to those problems," said Corey Hardt, Emergency Management Specialist.

Following the scenarios, participants went out in the field to see flood fight techniques and demonstrations. Although the weather was more suited for ducks, employees gathered along the Mississippi River to see a Hesco Barrier flood wall set up and filled with sand. They also filled sandbags and stacked them into a wall, learned about pumps and how to properly manage a boil. SME's were on hand to answer questions and share lessons learned from past experiences.

"Overall the workshop was extremely valuable for advancing the District's readiness posture," said Rodney Delp, Chief, Emergency Management. "We have a lot of new faces on the team rosters and this provided them an opportunity to learn more about flood fight techniques. It also provided current Flood Area Engineers the opportunity to share information and hopefully learn a few new techniques for flood fighting." 

Bring on the

Campgrounds are open, boat ramps are in use, and picnic shelters are reserved. The 2010 recreation season is in full swing and the public is enjoying all of the Corps' recreation sites throughout the District. Each project site offers unique recreational opportunities throughout the recreation season and even through the winter months.

Did you know...

- Saylorville Lake has an 18-hole disc golf course located at Walnut Ridge Recreation Area.
- The Mississippi River Project Office has 5 non-fee camping areas located along the Mississippi River.
- Sugar Bottom Campground has a beach for registered campers at Coralville Lake. Sandy Beach and West Overlook Day Use areas are also extremely popular family-friendly (alcohol-free) beaches.
- Lake Red Rock is the largest lake in Iowa and includes the state's largest expanse of public land encompassing over 50,000 acres (15,250 acres is the lake).
- Farmdale Reservoir, a dry reservoir in Illinois, maintains a mountain bike trail and hosts several events there during the recreation season.

General Information on Corps Recreation Areas

To make an individual or group camping reservation for the Corps of Engineers contact the National Recreation Reservation Service by calling 1-877-833-6777 or make your reservation online at www.recreation.gov.

Day use fees for use of identified boat ramps is \$3/day or purchase an Annual Pass good for unlimited, nationwide use at Corps facilities.

Designated swimming beach fees are \$1/person or \$4/vehicle; 12 and under are free. Annual Passes are also accepted.

Persons with Golden Age or Access Passports or the America the Beautiful Federal Lands and Recreation Senior or Access Passes are entitled to a 50% discount on camping and day use fees. Discount is not valid on group camping or shelter use fees.

BE A LIFESAVER!

- Wearing life jackets saves lives.
- Boater education saves lives.
- Safe boats save lives.
- Sober boating saves lives.

WEAR IT!

SafeBoatingCampaign.com

Funded in whole or part from the Bechtel Foundation (Bechtel/Bechtel) Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Season

Help Prevent the Spread of Emerald Ash Borer

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an exotic beetle species first discovered near Detroit, Michigan in 2002. Since then, these penny size insects, have rapidly spread to 12 states killing more than 25 million ash trees primarily by the movement of infested firewood.

EAB is a native to Asia and is believed to have been brought to North America through shipping material. It has now become an international pest problem found in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Ontario and Quebec.

The larva stage of the borer's life is the most damaging to the ash trees. The female lays approximately 60-80 eggs in crevices of tree bark. Once the eggs hatch, the larvae start to chew on the cambial region where they feed on the phloem and outer sapwood (the living tissues of the tree that transport water and nutrients). Heavily infested trees exhibit canopy die-back usually starting at the top of the tree. One-third to one-half of the branches may die in one year. Most of the canopy will be dead within two years of when symptoms are first observed.

Symptoms and signs of Emerald Ash Borer

- Adult beetles have a bronze head and thoracic area with emerald green wings
- Larvae are white to cream colored 10-segmented flat worms
- Larvae create S-shaped galleries in the sapwood just under the bark
- D-shaped emergence holes are present on the trunk of the tree
- Infested trees lose more than 30% of the canopy within two years and die after three to four years
- Epicormic branching, which is new growth shoots sprouting out of the trunk

The United States Department of Agriculture has established quarantine areas to contain the infestation and prevent further spread of EAB. The Rock Island District has also established a policy restricting out of state firewood in all campgrounds and recreation areas. It also restricts firewood from state and federal quarantined areas from entering Corps recreation areas.

When you bring firewood...You may also be bringing these...



Photo by Tracy Spry



Photo by Tomathon Wuebker

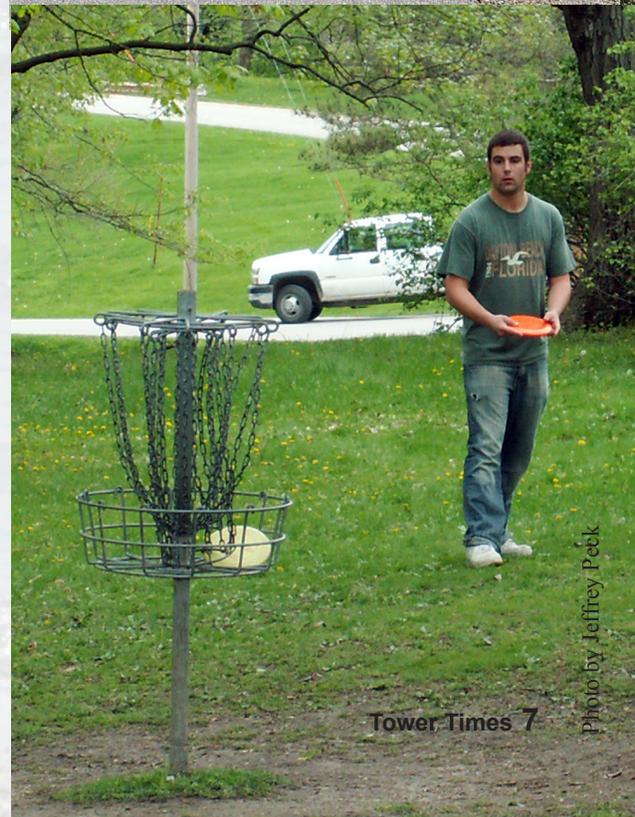


Photo by Jeffrey Peck

SAFETY CORNER

Work Zone Safety for Drivers

From the Safety and Occupational Health Office

In the past five years 4,400 people have been killed in work zone crashes and 200,000 others were injured. The majority of these fatalities are drivers. Accidents involving rear-end crashes are the most common type of work zone related accidents. The majority of fatal work zone crashes occur on roads with speed limits greater than 50 mph. In an effort to improve awareness the U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration have put together a list of safety tips for drivers. Remember these driving tips to avoid becoming a statistic and perhaps save a life - including your own.

Stay Alert and Minimize Distractions

- Dedicate your full attention to the roadway
- Avoid changing the radio station, using a cell phone, eating or other distractions that can remove your concentration from the road

Keep Your Headlights On

- Allows workers and other motorists to see you

Pay Attention to the Road

- "Listen to the signs"
- Watch brake lights on vehicles ahead
- Watch traffic around you and be prepared to react

Merge into the Proper Lane

- Merge well before you reach the lane closure
- Be aware that traffic patterns can change daily

Don't tailgate

- Follow other vehicles at a safe distance

Obeys the Posted Speed Limit

- Workers may be present just a few feet away
- Fines may be doubled for moving traffic violations
- Be prepared to slow down further if conditions indicate the need

Change Lanes Safely

- Change lanes only where pavement markings indicate and only when traffic conditions permit

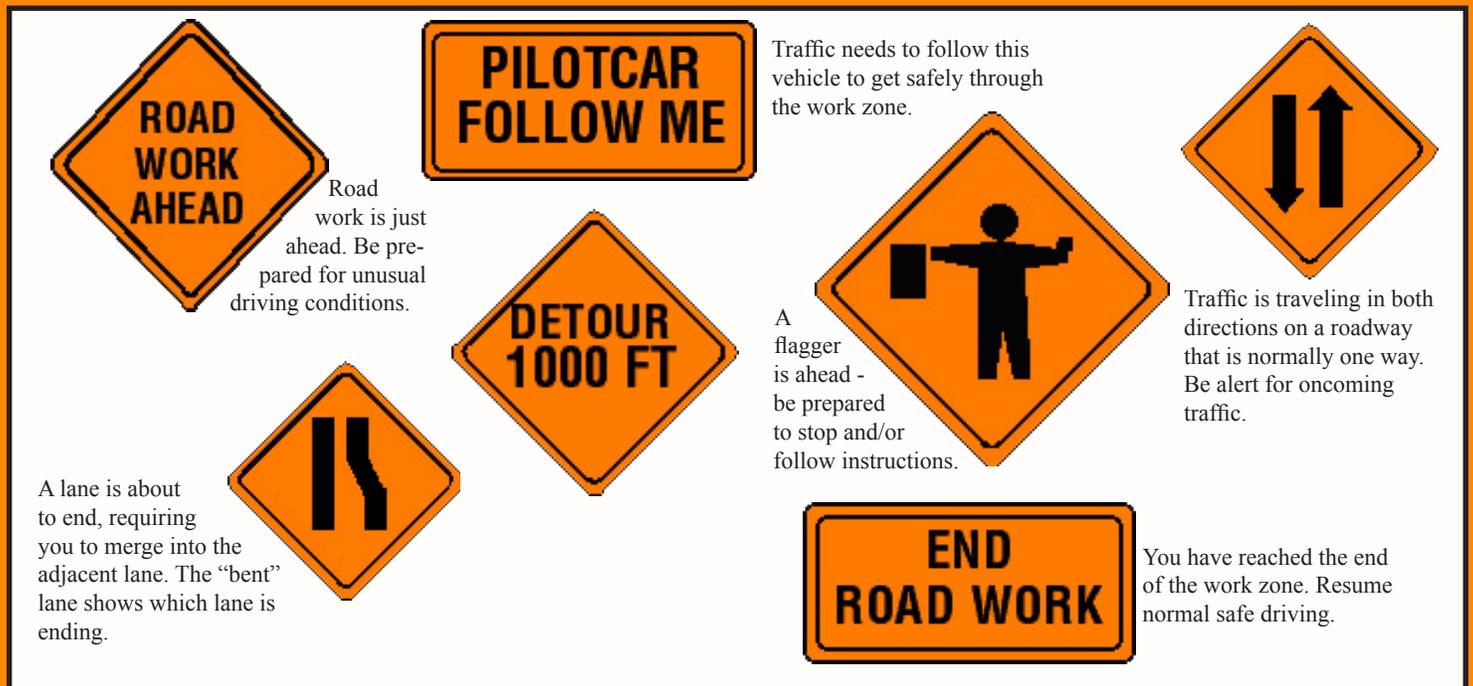
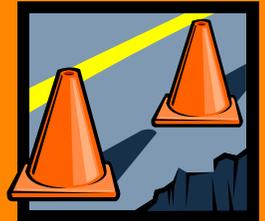
Follow Instructions from Flaggers

Expect the Unexpected

- Workers, work vehicles, or equipment may enter your lane without warning
- Other vehicles may slow, stop or change lanes unexpectedly

BE PATIENT

- Give yourself extra time when traveling through work zones
- Do not attempt to save time by speeding (it takes only an extra 25 seconds to cover 1 mile at 45 mph compared to 65 mph) 



ROAD WORK AHEAD
Road work is just ahead. Be prepared for unusual driving conditions.

PILOT CAR FOLLOW ME
Traffic needs to follow this vehicle to get safely through the work zone.

DETOUR 1000 FT
A flagger is ahead - be prepared to stop and/or follow instructions.

END ROAD WORK
You have reached the end of the work zone. Resume normal safe driving.

A lane is about to end, requiring you to merge into the adjacent lane. The "bent" lane shows which lane is ending.

Traffic is traveling in both directions on a roadway that is normally one way. Be alert for oncoming traffic.

Around the District



Sympathy ...



Norma Mahl, 77, of Little Falls, Minn., formerly of Davenport, Iowa, died March 31 at the Diamond

Willow Nursing Home in Little Falls, Minn.

Mahl worked for the Rock Island District in Information Management. She was also involved with the Special Emphasis Program Committee.

Retirements ...

Diana Buck, secretary, Construction Branch, Engineering and Construction Division, retired April 30, after dedicating 22 years and eight and one-half months to the federal government.

Robert Riebe, civil engineering technician, Project Engineering Section, Design Branch, Engineering and Construction Division, retired May 1, after dedicating 50 years to the federal government.



Lt. Col. Jared Ware, deputy commander, presents **Maj. Eric Ekstrom** with an Army Commendation Medal in recognition of his valuable contributions to the Rock Island New Orleans Support Operations Center.

Maj. Eckstrom planned, equipped, established and maintained the Center which greatly enhanced the Project Delivery Team and other stakeholder operations to facilitate regional team mission accomplishment in support of projects in New Orleans.



Photo by Phil Cray

Long-time Volunteer Retires

The Mississippi River Project recently recognized Richard Haggard for his 19 years and 7,344 hours of volunteer service to the project's Visitor Center at Locks and Dam 15. A luncheon to honor Haggard's retirement from this "second career" was held at The Boat House in Davenport, Iowa, with many past and present co-workers in attendance.

Haggard was presented with a certificate honoring his years of service, and is shown, above accepting a watercolor painting of the Clock Tower Building presented by Mississippi River Project Office Operations Manager Bill Gretten and Visitor Center Ranger Samantha Heilig. 



Spotlight on the District

Put a face with the employees in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center of the Rock Island District. Front row going up the stairs: Andrea Wyman, JoAnn Wilgenbusch, Tammy McCartney, Vicki Kohl. Back row: Dan Dickman, Carol Rothert, Kim Schaecher, Leona Vilmont, and Susan Foss.



There are a few new and many familiar faces in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC). The employees have more than 217 combined years of service to the federal government and 131 years with the Rock Island District.

Leona Vilmont

Leona Vilmont became the chief of CPAC in November 2009. Prior to that she worked as a training coordinator at the North Central Regional office for the Civilian Human Resources Agency, Rock Island Arsenal.

She has a bachelor's degree in Computer Networking and Communication and a master's degree in Organizational Leadership. She is also a graduate of the Department of Defense Executive Leadership Program and certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources from the Society for Human Resource Management.

"I strive everyday to contribute to the organization in some kind of positive way," said Vilmont.

When not working Vilmont enjoys the outdoors and traveling. She recently returned from the Big Island of Hawaii where her and her husband hiked through Volcanic National Park.

Carol Rothert

Carol Rothert has a bachelor's degree in Human Services from Marycrest College and a master's degree from St. Ambrose University.

She began working for the District in 1985 as an office automations clerk with Operations Division before transferring to the personnel office in 1990. In 1997, she went to work at the North Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center (CPOC), Rock Island Arsenal. In 1999, she went to work at Wuerzburg, Germany. She returned to the District in 2002 as a Human Resources Specialist where she advises management and employees on discipline/adverse actions. She also advises management of their rights/obligations concerning labor relations issues and works directly with the Union.

Her hobbies include cooking, sewing and relaxing when there's time.

"I like to spend time traveling with my husband and enjoying my family," said Rothert. That includes her six children and their spouses and her 14 grandchildren.

JoAnn Wilgenbusch

JoAnn Wilgenbusch began her career with the Corps in 1979 after 15 years in private industry. She was hired as an office assistant in the Motor Shop for Operations Division (then located in the Annex). She also worked in programming, personnel and resource management before rejoining CPAC in 2003.

Her job includes the workers' compensation program, drug test program, employee assistance program, staffing student hires and organizing the District's blood drives (next blood drive July 6).

"I think the Corps work environment, in general, is a more family oriented atmosphere than any other place I've worked," said Wilgenbusch. She also added that she enjoys working in CPAC because her coworkers are extremely knowledgeable, provide outstanding customer service and work well together as a team.

In her free time she enjoys playing with her grandchildren, bowling, crocheting, planting flowers, and traveling. Her goal is to visit all 50 states and has already been to nearly half of them.

Vicki Kohl

Vicki Kohl has been with the Rock Island District for 32 years. She started her career in Emergency Management (then an office of two before finding a home in personnel. She also worked in Operations Division processing permits in Regulatory.

She is currently a Human Resources Specialist working closely with Operations Division on staffing. She also works with the benefits and retirement program.

"I really enjoy the people. There is never a dull moment, always something going on," said Kohl. She went on to say that the Corps is a great place to work with a family environment.

In her spare time she enjoys reading, cross-stitching, walking and traveling. Kohl and her husband recently traveled to the Dominican Republic where they experienced a magnitude 5.1 earthquake.

Andrea Wyman

Andrea Wyman has been working in human resources for 10 years, starting with nonappropriated funds. She then worked for the Air Force before joining the Rock Island District as a Human Resources Assistant. Her job includes processing actions, doing corrections, building positions, and greeting people who come into CPAC.

"I enjoy working for the Corps. It's like a little family," said Wyman.

She is married to her high school sweetheart from Albia, Iowa. They have been a military family for the last 25 years traveling around the country, including six years spent in Germany.

They have two daughters currently in college and Wyman enjoys visiting them. She also enjoys gardening and playing with her dog.

Dan Dickman

Dan Dickman is a rehired annuitant who has 30 years of federal service. He served in the Army as a Arabic linguist translating documents before launching into a career in human resources.

He his a graduate of the University of Dubuque and Western Michigan University. He has worked for the Air Force and Rock Island Arsenal, retiring from the Joint Munitions Command as a Senior Classifier. He has also been teaching classes at St. Ambrose University for 28 years in the Master of Business Administration program and the undergraduate Business Program.

In recent years he has gone back to his roots of horsing around. He currently raises horses and participates in area trail rides.

"I ride just about every day," said Dickman. In June, he hopes to be part of the Guinness Book of World Records largest trail ride being held across all 50 states.



Susan Foss

Susan Foss began her career as a secretary in the Design Branch, Engineering and Construction Division. After nearly eight years with the Corps, Foss took a position with the North Central CPOC on Arsenal Island. She worked there 13 years before accepting a position back at the District as a human resource specialist in October 2009.

"I always wanted to come back to the Corps," said Foss. "It is very family oriented."

She has twin boys that are ten years old and a step-daughter who keep her busy. When she does have free time she enjoys camping, hiking and playing tennis. One of her favorite places to recreate at is Starved Rock State Park.

Tammy McCartney

Tammy McCartney began her career with the Corps in 2006. She has worked in Programs and Project Management, the Executive Office and Engineering and Construction. She is currently a human resources technician in CPAC where she works to build positions, code actions, process in new hires and help with the National Security Personnel System.

Prior to working for the Corps she worked many years as a licensed insurance office supporter for State Farm, a secretary at Trinity Lutheran School and did in-home daycare while raising her two boys. She has been so busy keeping up with their activities that she now hopes to really enjoy life and reconnect with her husband.

In her free time she enjoys watching movies and hanging out with friends.

Kim Schaecher

Kim Schaecher graduated from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, with a degree in Elementary Education. Before going into teaching she took a test for federal jobs and was selected for an interview and hired by Operations Division as a permits processor in Regulatory. That position led her to the personnel office where she has been for the last 31 years.

She does mostly staffing and classification of positions and also works on some special projects.

"I work with managers to fill their jobs, using a variety of appointment authorities, in an effort to get the right person into the job," said Schaecher.

She has grown up with many of the people and working with them provides an easy, comfortable working environment.

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