



Tower Times

Rock Island District's News Magazine

October 2011

Improving the environment

More than 100,000 acres of habitat restored



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

Tower Times

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October 2011

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The sun sets at Lake Chautauqua located in Mason County, Ill., along the Illinois Waterway. The Lake Chautauqua Upper Mississippi River Restoration - Environmental Management Program - Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project has increased the availability of reliable habitat for waterfowl and fish at the Lake Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge. *Photo Francis Walton, St. Louis District.*

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Tower Times

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A message from....

Colonel Shawn McGinley, District Commander



District, Region celebrate 25 years of the Environmental Management Program

At the end of September, the Rock Island District along with its many partners on the Upper Mississippi River, celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration-Environmental Management Program (UMRR-EMP). The ceremony took place in Dubuque, Iowa, Sept. 29 and was highlighted by the attendance of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy. The event was an excellent opportunity to spotlight a program that has done outstanding work to improve the health and well being of the river system.

UMRR-EMP was established in 1986 as part of that year's Water Resource Development Act (WRDA). Congress recognized the Upper Mississippi River as a nationally significant ecosystem and a nationally significant commercial navigation system. It directed that the river be administered and regulated in recognition of its several purposes. When WRDA 1986 established the UMRR-EMP it became the first program in the nation to combine ecosystem restoration with scientific monitoring and research efforts on a large river system. The establishment of the UMRR-EMP was historically significant and represented the nation's commitment to environmental restoration -- a primary mission within the Corps of Engineers. More on the web at www.mvr.usace.army.mil/EMP/.

Since its establishment, the UMRR-EMP has recorded significant accomplishments in the areas of Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects and in the Long Term Resource Monitoring (LTRM) component. Almost \$290 million has been spent on ecosystem restoration efforts. That funding has allowed for 54 projects to be planned, designed and completed. Whether its projects like Pool 8 Islands or Lake Odessa, those 54 projects have benefitted more than 100,000 acres of habitat on the Upper Mississippi River System. The UMRR-EMP has also received nearly \$125 million that has been used in monitoring and research through LTRM. The data from this program has assisted in the design and management of the Upper Mississippi River and has been used in critical efforts relating to Asian carp.

The UMRR-EMP sets the example for other programs to follow. For 25 years, our teammates within the District have been helping to implement this program and have had many successes. But, like with almost anything we do within the Corps of Engineers, partners have been imperative. As the federal agency authorized to implement the program, the Corps is accountable for management and execution. That mission has been carried out very well with the help of our teammates in the St. Paul and St. Louis Districts. Managing the program has been a prime example of regional cooperation within the Mississippi Valley Division. But, the UMRR-EMP is far more than a regional Corps program. It is a true partnership which relies heavily on many organizations like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Service, the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association, The Nature Conservancy, as well as the states of Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Missouri. This entire region has a rich heritage of interagency partnerships and the UMRR-EMP has been a benefactor of those partnerships.

It was fitting that the 25th anniversary celebration brought together so many of our partners because there would not have been an event without the efforts of all those who work to preserve and protect the Upper Mississippi River. And, the celebration was of historical significance, enough so to attract one of our most senior leaders in Ms. Darcy as well as our Division Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Michael Walsh. The ceremony took place at Eagle Point Park in Dubuque, with the Mississippi River and one of the ecosystem restoration projects -- Sunfish Lake -- acting as the backdrop. The event was a success and gave the program and the people who implement it well-deserved congratulations.

Special thanks goes out to all those who made the event a success. Marvin Hubbell, our program manager, was integral in making the celebration a reality. Mari Fournier, the executive assistant, and the executive staff ensured planning for the event was seamless. And, Bill Gretten, our Mississippi River Project Office chief, provided the critical navigation support needed to carry out all aspects of the ceremony. It was an outstanding effort and all those involved with the planning and execution have my sincere thanks.

The UMRR-EMP is just one of many programs our District is helping to implement. You all have much to be proud of and you continue to impress me with your diligence and hard work. Thanks for all you do and continue **BUILDING STRONG®** 

See photos from the ceremony on page 8.



Right, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees Aleshia Kenney and Kristen Lundh teach students from Denkmann Elementary School, Rock Island, Ill., about wildlife commonly found in the Mississippi River. In the background Col. Shawn McGinley, district commander, discusses the America's Great Outdoors event with Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). [Learn more about America's Great Outdoors at americasgreatoutdoors.gov.](http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov)

America's Great Outdoors

By Hilary Markin, Editor

The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, and sixty 4th-grade students from Denkmann Elementary School, Rock Island, Ill.; celebrated America's Great Outdoors on Sept. 28.

Students got the opportunity to be involved in a variety of hands-on educational opportunities and have fun in the great outdoors. President Barack Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative to develop a 21st Century conservation and recreation agenda. Americans across the nation made it clear that they want to reconnect - or connect for the first time - with the great outdoors.

During the half-day outdoor education and awareness event, six stations provided students the opportunity to interact on environmental and recreational issues with members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and the Nahant Preserve, Education & Recreation Area. Students also received a backpack filled with items needed at each station and a field guide that was stamped after each activity was completed.

The students got to keep the backpacks and field guides to continue exploring and learning about the outdoors. Both the backpacks and field guides were provided through donations by Walmart and the Quad City Conservation Alliance. 

Recognized for hard work

By Hilary Markin, Editor

The Cedar Rapids, Iowa Flood Risk Management Study Team received the 2010 Outstanding Planning Achievement Award. The award was presented during the Senior Leaders Conference in August.

"This award, and my personal thanks, goes to you for your dedication and commitment to complete the feasibility study on a very expedited schedule to provide a comprehensive flood risk reduction solution," said Theodore "Tab" Brown, chief, Planning and Policy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in an e-mail to the team.

Team members were also recognized at the September District Awards Ceremony for their hard work and dedication to the Rock

Island District and Corps.

In September, while the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy, was visiting the District she sat down with planners to discuss the new planning paradigm, Integrated Water Resources Management and regional support to National Planning Initiatives. During the discussion Ms. Darcy was very interested in the successes and challenges the team faced with the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Flood Risk Management Study. The updating of Principles and Guidelines were also discussed.

Ms. Darcy also took a moment to recognize Marshall Plumley with an ASA coin for his efforts as the Illinois River Basin Integrator and Illinois River 519 Program Planner. 



Honorable Dennis Pauley, Mayor of Rock Island, Ill., officially christens the District's newest vessel - the Motor Vessel Rock Island.

Mayor christens new vessel

Story and photos by Allen Marshall, Public Affairs Specialist

A new vessel was dedicated to the city of Rock Island and joined the Mississippi River Structures and Maintenance fleet located at the Mississippi River Project Office in Pleasant Valley, Iowa.

The Motor Vessel (M/V) Rock Island was delivered to the Rock Island District in June by Patti Marine Enterprises, an award-winning shipyard in Pensacola, Fla. She is 65 feet by 24 feet and is powered by two 600 horsepower C-18 Caterpillar Engines. It was designed and contracted through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Marine Design Center in Philadelphia.

The vessel, which replaces the previously named M/V Rock Island built in 1970, has two state rooms that can accommodate up to six crew members and has a full galley on board. As a tender vessel, the M/V Rock Island will maneuver a variety of crane and service barges on short and long-range tows to aid units engaged in maintenance and repair activities on the river throughout the Rock Island District. 

Right, ceremony participants tour the Motor Vessel Rock Island.



Partnership = land donation at Red Rock

By John Holt, Assistant Operations Manager, Lake Red Rock

For 15 years, the management staff at Lake Red Rock has wanted to acquire Hickory Ridge. The 47-acre abandoned commercial campground on the south shore of Lake Red Rock fit the missions of the project perfectly: flood risk management, environmental stewardship and recreation.

The property is contiguous with existing project boundary. For years, the Red Rock staff had an agreement with the owners to access Corps managed resource areas by traveling through Hickory Ridge.

The property has direct lake access and for some reason during original reservoir property acquisition, typical purchasing guidelines were not followed. The taking line for original acquisition was based on a five-year flood frequency of elevation 760 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum 29. These guidelines were not followed on this tract, allowing private access to the lake.

Hickory Ridge has the best remaining stand of mature oak and hickory timber on Corps managed ground on the south side of the reservoir and provided the opportunity to create a primitive recreation experience.

Over the years, the Red Rock friends group, the Red Rock Lake Association, has assisted the project with many improvements: boat docks, special events, recreation area development, fish cleaning stations, etc. What this group of private citizens accomplishes, depends upon who was active in the group at the time. The current generation of board members has an active paddling component. When they heard that Hickory Ridge was up for sale, they had a vision for the place – a paddle-in primitive campground.

Once they had a vision, they went into action. The first step was acquiring the property. Lake Association founding mother, Eunice Folkerts, contacted the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) whose mission is protection of the threatened landscapes. They are an Iowa based non-government organization with a very effective track record of purchasing environmentally sensitive properties and turning them over to others for management.

INHF director Mark Ackleson led his staff in purchasing the property from the owner. Once this was done, the burden was on the Lake Association and the INHF to raise \$450,000 to reimburse the foundation.

The other side of the equation was who receives ownership and management responsibility once fundraising is complete. In this case the Corps seemed to be the perfect fit and Stu Jackson, chief, Real Estate Division, determined that the Corps could accept this tract of land as a donation from the INHF.

Red Rock Operation Manager, Sherri Duey, coordinated with Operations Division (Sue Clevestine) and Programs and Project Management (Dorie Bollman/Wendy Frolich) to obtain National Environmental Policy Act and master planning assistance. As part of this process, required public input meetings were held to



Anita O’Gara (top), vice president, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, speaks at a ceremony celebrating the successful partnership and property transfer of Hickory Ridge. Photo by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

determine what type of facility Hickory Ridge should be.

“Meetings were well attended – and at times emotional – as people expressed themselves about what a primitive paddle-in camp should look like,” said Duey.

The Master Plan supplement resulted in Hickory Ridge being classified as Project Operations: Multiple Resource Management – Recreation-Low-Density.

While both the fundraising and Corps processes were proceeding, another partnership was developing. The Red Rock Lake Association entered into an agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) which designated Red Rock as a water trail and took on the responsibility of designing and building the primitive campsites and water access at Hickory Ridge.

“This is the only paddle-in campground in the State of Iowa. It is a perfect fit for paddle sports,” said Nate Hoogeveen, river trails coordinator, Iowa DNR.

Following signing of the Real Estate Design Memorandum on February 7, all of these efforts culminated in a transfer of the property deed on June 29.

Col. Shawn McGinley, commander, accepted the deed from the INHF at a dedication ceremony on July 23. Partners got a chance to mingle, reminisce, and congratulate each other on a successful partnership.

Find out more on Hickory Ridge at www.mvr.usace.army.mil/redrock/. 



The contractor, Grimes Asphalt & Paving Corp., Grimes, Iowa, lays asphalt on the Neal Smith Bike Trail at Saylorville Lake in 2010. Photo by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Trail improvements **COMPLETE**

By Hilary Markin, Editor

Thirteen miles of the Neal Smith Trail located along the east side of Saylorville Lake has been reconstructed. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held August 23 culminating 11 years of planning and seeking funds to widen and resurface the trail.

Funds received in 2009 from the Federal Highway Administration and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided the missing piece and construction was officially complete this spring.

“It was a long time coming, but the wait was worth it. We

really ended up with a well built and safe trail,” said Jeff Rose, operations manager, Saylorville Lake. “The public has been very appreciative and complimentary of the work that was completed.”

The Neal Smith Trail is a 26-mile multi-use trail extending from Big Creek State Park north of Polk City, Iowa, winding its way down through the Des Moines River Valley ending near the Botanical Center in downtown Des Moines, Iowa. It is named after the former Congressman Neal Smith who attended the ceremony. 

Renovations finished

By Hilary Markin, Editor

There will be one less headache along the Illinois Waterway when the water rises. Renovations are now complete at the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center moving offices and the auditorium out of the basement and into a new addition.

Flood Supplemental funding allowed the Corps to contract with Hammer LGC, Inc., Caseyville, Ill., to construct the addition that includes an extension of the balcony and an elevator providing accessibility to those with disabilities.

“For those of us who work at the Visitor Center, these renovations make a world of difference,” said Kevin Ewbank, supervisory natural resources specialist. “We take great pride in our facility and our ability to provide the public with a valuable educational resource. I think people who use the Visitor Center will get a much better experience now that the renovations are complete.”

The contract also included flood proofing of the central control station at Starved Rock Lock. Other work included structural repairs to entrance steps and brick and mortar repairs to the historic building’s exterior. 



The new addition (far right) to the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center at Starved Rock, completed this summer, moves offices and the auditorium out of the flood-prone basement. Photo by Kevin Ewbank.

UPPER MISSISSIPPI ENVIRONMENTAL MA



Above, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy gives the keynote address at a ceremony celebrating 25 years of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration - Environmental Management Program and the 100,000 acres of restored ecosystem at Eagle Point Park in Dubuque, Iowa.

Below, Mike Steuck (left), northeast regional fisheries supervisor, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, shows ceremony attendees fish that have benefitted from the 100,000 acres of restored aquatic habitat on the Upper Mississippi River.



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RIVER RESTORATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy and Tom Melius, midwest regional director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, cut the ribbon celebrating 25 years and 100,000 acres of restored river ecosystem on the Upper Mississippi River System through the Upper Mississippi River Restoration - Environmental Management Program. Joining them (from left) Barb Naramore, executive director, Upper Mississippi River Basin Association; Maj. Gen. Michael Walsh, commanding general, Mississippi Valley Division; Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy; Tom Melius; Roger Lande, director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Gretchen Benjamin, assistant director, The Nature Conservancy; and Leon Carl, midwest regional executive, U.S. Geological Survey.



Col. Shawn McGinley, district commander, Rock Island District, presents Ms. Darcy with a picture commemorating the 25th anniversary celebration of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration - Environmental Management Program.

Photos by Allen Marshall.

and Monitoring

WATER HABITAT OVER 25 YEARS

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HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

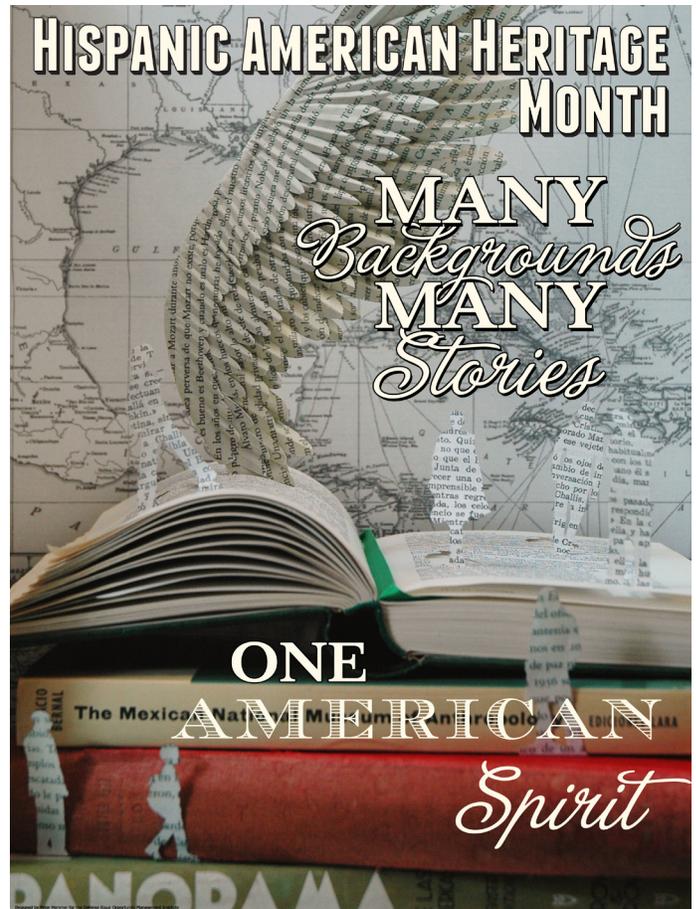
September 15 - October 15

By Felix Castro and Vicky Terronez, Hispanic Employment Program Managers

The theme for 2011's Hispanic Heritage Month is, "Many Backgrounds, Many Stories...One American Spirit." In September 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week. In 1988 the observance was expanded to a month long celebration.

The term Hispanic denotes the culture and people of countries formerly ruled by the Spanish Empire. This includes, but is not limited to, the majority of Central and South American countries, and the Spanish speaking island nations of the Caribbean. The U.S. Census Bureau defines Hispanic as: "those who indicate that their origin was Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, Mexicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Hispanic."

Hispanic is also a broad term that describes multiple cultures; each of them having the same origin but in the course of more than 520 years, have developed into different customs, cuisine and traditions. The struggles Hispanics face today are no different than those faced by the founding fathers of the United States. They had a vision of progress and had the determination to reach for a better life and the dignity they deserved. Today, millions of Hispanics contribute to our America, working to defend our freedom, improve infrastructure, and represent the American People in Congress. 



NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS

By Leah Deeds, Programs for Individuals with Disabilities Co-Manager

The theme for 2011's National Disability Employment Awareness month is, "Profit by Investing in Workers with Disabilities." This year's theme focuses on improving employment opportunities that lead to good jobs and a secure economic future for people with disabilities and the nation as a whole.

Often employers and hiring officials have questions and concerns about hiring people with disabilities. The following questions and answers were provided by the Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Service. Additional questions, answers, and information about hiring people with disabilities can be found at <http://www.ivrs.iowa.gov/employers/employersFAQ.html>.

Q. Do employees with disabilities perform as well as employees without disabilities?

Yes. According to many employers who've hired people with disabilities, these individuals are motivated, capable and dependable. A local Harris poll found that almost 90 percent of workers with disabilities received good or excellent performance ratings from their managers.

Q. Will employees with disabilities be absent more than employees without disabilities?

No. A study by International Telephone and Telegraph of a 2000 member plant with 125 employees with disabilities found these employees had fewer absences than their co-workers. Sears Credit of West Des Moines, Iowa, found their associates with disabilities had above average attendance records.

Q. Do employees with disabilities have good safety records?

Yes. National studies find that its employees with disabilities are ranked by supervisors higher on safety issues than their non-disabled peers. U.S. Department of Labor Studies supports this finding.

Q. Is it expensive to make adjustments to the workplace for employees with disabilities?

Generally no. In fact, a Harris survey found that nearly 70 percent of adults with disabilities who are working or are willing to work do not need special equipment or technology. Of those needing accommodation, 20 percent were at no cost and 51 percent were less than \$50. In addition, there are a number of resources available to employers to assist with accommodations.

If you are interested in hiring an individual with disabilities, please contact the EEO Office or CPAC for information about non-competitive hiring authorities. 

It is not our disability that is the problem, but rather it is the way our disabilities, are viewed by others." ~ Drexel Deal

Our “Door to the Corps” - Flood Area Engineers

By Hilary Markin, Editor

Additional duties as assigned are usually found somewhere in your job description and for some those are assigned by supervisors while others volunteer to take on additional duties with supervisor approval. One of those duties that is popular in the District is being a Flood Area Engineer (FAE).

The District is divided into nine flood emergency areas each one having a team assigned to respond if the need arises. Each team is led by a Lead Flood Area Engineer who leads the fight as well as the team of flood area engineers who assist. They also conduct levee inspections, lead project modification review requests and conduct training for assistant flood area engineers and customers in their flood areas.

The District recently announced two new volunteer Lead FAEs who will be starting their new “additional duties” by the

end of the year.

Congratulations to Mark Anderson, who will be the Lead FAE for the Des Moines flood area, and Brent Anderson, who will be responsible for the Rockford flood area. Anderson will also retain his Lead FAE responsibilities for the Dresden area.

Over the last several years Flood Area Engineers have been kept on their toes. Some even having a bag packed and in the trunk just in case. They are often considered the “door to the Corps” as they are the ones on the ground working with local communities and citizens before, during and after a flood event.

The other Lead FAEs are Burlington – John Fleischman; Clinton – Larry Melaas; Peoria – Mike Zerbonia; Quad Cities – Josh Cackley; Quincy – Hank DeHaan; and Waterloo – Kirk Sunderman. 

New Emergency Management team conducts exercise

By Corey Hardt, Emergency Management Specialist

Unbeknownst to many Rock Island District employees there is an emergency response function called “RSO&I-ing.” Well, the -ing part may be unofficially added, but nonetheless, it is an emergency function. RSO&I is an acronym for Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, & Integration and is something that all first responders have been doing in secret for many years. Okay, maybe not in secret, but you have been doing it and probably didn’t know it. Reception, Staging, Onward Movement & Integration is an elaborate way of describing the in and out-processing of first responders.

The development of an RSO&I Plan was a requirement determined through planning for a New Madrid Seismic Zone Earthquake. In the event of an earthquake impacting southern Illinois, the Rock Island District has the responsibility for overseeing Emergency Support Function (ESF) #3, Public Works & Engineering missions for the State of Illinois. ESF #3 missions include combined commodities, debris removal, emergency power, temporary housing, temporary roofing, and infrastructure assessment. Due to the potentially large number of first responders deploying into our area of responsibility, Emergency Management has developed an RSO&I Team, which is responsible for receiving, educating, equipping, and integrating first responders into the field.

On Sept. 13, the RSO&I Team - which is comprised of employees from Emergency Management, Operations Division, Resource Management, Human Resource, Safety Office, Security and Law Enforcement, Contracting, Logistics Activities, and ACE-IT - exercised our plan at the Peoria International Airport. The RSO&I Team set up operations and began their exercise by having role players process through acting as first responders. Of course, many of those role players weren’t your typical well-prepared first responders; these first responders had problems ranging from an expired driver’s license to not being medically cleared to respond. All the while, the team had to determine the



Sara Jones (left), emergency management specialist, plays the role of a first responder while Sara Paxson asks questions during the Reception, Staging, Onward Movement & Integration Team exercise. Photo by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

proper courses of action to take for these responders.

As with any exercise, there were gaps identified, and now Emergency Management is adjusting the plan to be better prepared in the event the team would respond to an actual event.

“It was a very informative exercise that helped identify shortfalls and develop best-practices to prepare us for actual response operations,” said Jeff McCrery, safety and occupational health specialist.

Developing the RSO&I Team ensures that all first responders are provided with vital supplies, equipment, and life sustaining support during a large scale disaster, such as a New Madrid Seismic Zone earthquake. So, the next time you are responding to a natural or man-made disaster within the District, and you say to yourself, “man, I’m well prepared,” you can thank the hard work of our District’s RSO&I Team. 

SAFETY CORNER

Fire safety is everyone's responsibility

Fire safety is an extremely important part of any workplace safety program. It's everyone's responsibility to help prevent fires.

Here are some fire-safe tips:

- Practice good worksite house-keeping habits. Do not let trash and waste material accumulate. Empty trash bins regularly.
- Do not store materials or allow clutter to accumulate around exits and stairways. Fire doors should be kept closed and fire exits should always remain free and accessible.
- A common cause of workplace fires is machinery or equipment which becomes overheated. Be sure to follow operating guidelines to prevent overloading. Follow manufacturer's instructions in using and maintaining equipment.
- Electrical malfunctions are also a major contributor to fires in the workplace. Electrical equipment should be checked regularly for signs of trouble such as damaged cords or worn insulation. Never overload circuits or force circuit breakers to remain in the "on" position. Only qualified and authorized personnel should carry out electrical repairs and maintenance, but everyone is responsible for being alert to the signs of electrical malfunction.
- It is important to understand the fire hazards of the materials you work with. They may be combustible, flammable, explosive, or reactive. Read the labels and know where to the Material Safety Data Sheets are for further information. Carefully follow the instructions when you are using any materials which might pose hazards.
- Be sure to observe any smoking restrictions. Smoking only in designated areas. Smoking in unauthorized areas such as storage rooms has resulted in serious fires. Do not empty ashtrays until smoking materials are cold.
- Observe security policies and be alert to any suspicious persons or activities. Many workplace fires are set by arsonists; do your part to prevent these incidents.



A successful fire prevention program begins with identifying all potential fire hazards. Here's a list of the 8 most common fire hazards:

- **Scrap and trash.** When waste materials are allowed to build up, the danger of fire increases. All it takes is an ignition source to get a fire going, and then the fire has plenty of fuel on which to feed.
- **Dust.** An excess of dust or powder in the air from wood, plastic, or metal operations can, if ignited, cause an explosion. Combustible dust explosions are among the most destructive and deadly types of workplace accidents.
- **Flammable liquids.** Improper handling, storage, or disposal of flammable liquids used in production processes, as fuel sources, or for cleaning operations is a leading cause of workplace fires.
- **Combustible materials.** Ordinary combustibles like paper, cardboard, cloth, and wood, or products made from these materials, can create fire hazards as well. Other combustible materials, such as oily rags or other materials soaked with oil, can spontaneously combust if left carelessly lying around.
- **Electrical problems.** Overloaded circuits and outlets, damaged wiring, defective switches, and damaged plugs can all lead to dangerous electrical fires. Electric coffeemakers, fans, space heaters, and other appliances used by employees are also potential fire hazards.
- **Heat and ignition sources.** Any source of heat or ignition (such as a spark) can lead to a fire when combined with combustible or flammable materials.
- **Machinery.** Inadequately lubricated or dirty machinery can also cause fires, as can mechanical defects.
- **Smoking.** Although smoking is prohibited except in designated areas, employees may ignore the rules and sneak a smoke in restrooms or some low-traffic hideaway. A smoker might toss a match or cigarette butt into a wastebasket thinking it's extinguished when, in fact, it's still burning.

Know what to do in case of a fire. Make sure your safety training includes this information:

- What is your responsibility in case of fire – to report the fire, fight it or evacuate the building?
- Where is the fire alarm located?
- Where are the fire extinguishers located? Do you know how to use them and on what kinds of fires?
- Do you know how to use other fire emergency equipment such as fire blankets, hoses, and sprinklers?
- What safety procedures should you carry out in case of a fire? Are you responsible for shutting down equipment or operations before you leave?
- Do you know where you and your co-workers are supposed to meet for a head count after evacuating?



Everyone has a responsibility for preventing fire. It is up to you to report any unsafe situation, and to correct it if you are qualified and authorized to do so.

District gains another peer supporter

By Hilary Markin, Editor

Stress is something we all have in our every day lives but sometimes we find ourselves in situations that create unusually strong emotions. Fortunately, the Corps has peer supporters trained to help co-workers deal with the stress that accompanies these high-stress moments.

The Critical Incident Stress Management Program (CISM) is a peer support program for any Corps employee dealing with critical incidents. This national program recently held training in Dallas, bringing in 12 new peer supporters selected from a pool of applicants. Kelli Phillips, natural resources specialist, Saylorville Lake, was one of them who joins the previously-trained peer supporters as a valuable assests to the CISM program and the USACE family.

CISM is a formal process that has been clinically shown to reduce the harmful effects of an upsetting, stressful event within a team or organization. It helps accelerate the normal recovery process in normal people who are reacting to an abnormal event.

Begun as a grass-roots pilot program in Southwestern Division in 2002, CISM was implemented Corps-wide by the Chief of Engineers in 2006 with subdivisions at the Division and District level.

When a critical incident occurs such as a line-of-duty death, serious injury or a significant event involving children; employ-

ees and responders can experience unusually strong emotional reactions which may have the potential to interfere with their ability to function either immediately or following the event. The CISM team can be activated and provide confidential peer support to those involved.

"I tailor the response to the incident and needs. There is no need for three peer supporters to show up when there were two Corps folks involved in something. At the same time, if only one supporter responds and the situation is more involved than thought, we will send additional help. There have been several incidents where only one supporter was needed, but two were sent just in case," said Kevin Ewbank, supervisory natural resources specialist, Illinois Waterway and Mississippi Valley Division CISM point of contact.

Any Corps employee should feel free to contact any individual peer supporter whenever there's been a critical incident. Peer supporters in the Mississippi Valley Division include Mark Roderick, St. Louis District (National Program Co-Manager), Peggy Pleasance, New Orleans District; Lenny Bonnell, Vicksburg District; newly trained Mark Wade, Vicksburg District; Kelli Phillips and Kevin Ewbank. More information can be found on the Natural Resources Management Gateway at <http://corpsslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/cism/cism.cfm>. 



Col. Shawn McGinley, district commander, poses with crew members from Lock and Dam 16 after presenting them with awards following their successful rescue of two individuals. Receiving awards were (from left) Stephen Moseley, Corey Ritter, David Dierickx, Derrick Glisan and Chris Rush. Also receiving an award but not photographed was Dan Higgins. Photo by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Training put to good use

By Nick Schnerre, lockmaster, Lock and Dam 16

On August 16, Lock and Dam 16 personnel put their training into action rescuing two individuals from the Mississippi River.

Matthew Crofton, who was traveling the Mississippi River on a paddle board, and his companion Suzie Lane, who had joined him in an inflatable kayak, came down Wyoming Slough and tried to cross the Mississippi above the lock to lock downstream. In doing so, they became caught in extremely heavy flow and the two attempted to turn around mid-channel and return to the Iowa shore.

The current pulled both individuals down into the dam. The lock crew observed their predicament and deployed lifeboats above and below the dam as well as the bridge crane with the man basket and were able to rescue both individuals after they had been sucked under tainter gate number 17. The crew was also able to retrieve both vessels and all of their belongings except for one sandal.

On September 1, Col. Shawn McGinley, district commander, presented the rescuers with an on-the-spot cash award and a commander's coin. 

Around the District

Sympathy ...



Wayne Weyhgandt, 87, of Bellevue, Iowa, died June 14, at Mill Valley Care Center.

Weyhgandt was employed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Lock & Dam 12 in Bellevue and retired in 1984.

He also served in the U.S. Army during World War II.



Wadena Radosevich, 83, of Rock Island, Ill., died August 23, at her home.

Radosevich retired from the Corps of Engineers after 23 years.



Thomas Freitag, 66, of Flat Rock, Mich., died August 25, at home.

Freitag was employed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Rock Island and Detroit districts.

He also served in the U.S. Army during Vietnam where he earned the rank of Sergeant.

Retirements ...

JoAnn Wilgenbusch, human resources specialist (employee benefits), Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, retired August 31, after dedicating 31 years and eight months to the federal government.

Pamela Sue Dannacher Zepeda, secretary, Engineering and Construction Division, retired August 31, after dedicating 32 years, two months and 12 days to the federal government.

Denise Tyler, supervisory program analyst, Management Support Branch, Operations Division, retired August 31, after dedicating 24 years, one month and nine days to the federal government.

Kenn Shoemaker, chief, Operations Division, retired September 3, after dedicating 30 years, seven months and 27 days to the federal government.

Upcoming Events ...

Combined Federal Campaign season is just around the corner...be looking for more information on how you can donate to local charities.

Iowa Silver Jackets receive award

The Iowa Silver Jackets Flood Risk Management Team was selected as the 2011 Silver Jackets Team of the Year.

The team provides an important forum for state-wide coordination and communication of interagency floodplain management roles and responsibilities and flood risk reduction efforts. Their establishment has resulted in the development of invaluable working relationships between agencies and at multiple levels of authority. They evolved from the Interagency Levee Work Group that was formed to coordinate the review of levee repairs or identification of non-structural alternatives to levee repair following the disastrous floods of 2008.

Representing the Rock Island District on the Iowa Silver Jackets is Jerry Skalak, project manager, who helps facilitate the team.

The Silver Jackets is an innovative program providing an opportunity to consistently bring together multiple state, federal, and sometimes tribal and local agencies to learn from one another and apply their knowledge to reduce risk. State agencies come together with the federal family of agencies, including the Corps and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in a common forum to address the state's flood risk management priorities. Programs are developed at the state level with 22 active state teams; the ultimate goal is to offer an interagency team in every state. Learn more at www.nfmp.us/state. 



Support & Sacrifice for Corps

Thanks to our employees who are deployed to the Afghanistan Engineer District - North (AEN) and the Afghanistan Engineer District - South (AES)!



Andrew Barnett, AEN



Robert Balamut, AEN



Celeste Iverson, AEN



Mark Hoague, AEN



Peter Corken, AEN



Brian Lane, AEN



Gordon Rush, AEN



Richard Rupert, AES



008	Family Membership (\$50 value)	Quad
009	\$20 Gift Card	Pinnoc
010	2 foot Party Sandwich	Hungry



**August/September Answer:
Rice Lake**

**Winner: Mary Rodkey, Programs
& Project Management**

Can you name where this photo came from? If so, send your answer to Hilary.R.Markin@usace.army.mil. The first correct answer will receive a special prize and be recognized in the next Tower Times.



USS LST-325 stopped at Peoria Lock and Dam on September 1 before heading upriver to Henry, Ill. Photo by Randy Peters.

Landing Ship, Tank stops at Peoria Lock and Dam

By Hilary Markin, Editor

The Landing Ship, Tank (LST) 325 journeyed up and down the Illinois River in late August and early September. The ship traveled from Evansville, Ind., to Henry and Peoria, Ill.; where it was available for tours.

While stopped at Peoria Lock and Dam, Illinois Waterway personnel assisted vessel staff with loading two bus loads of dignitaries and invited guests onto the ship before continuing its journey to Henry.

“I coordinated with the lock and local sponsors of the vessel for locking and boarding,” said Mike Zerbonia, chief, mainte-

nance section, Illinois Waterway Project.

The LST’s are amphibious vessels designed to land battle-ready tanks, troops and supplies directly onto enemy shores. The LST-325 was originally known as LST-325 during the Second World War, USNS LST-325 during its arctic operations in the 1950’s and later L-144 (A/G Syros) while it was in the service of the Greek Navy.

The ship was acquired by The USS LST Ship Memorial, Inc., in 2000 and its homeport is Evansville, Ind. 