



**US Army Corps  
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St. Louis District

# News Release

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**Contact: Diane Hellhake  
Phone Number: 573-735-4097  
Fax: 573-735-2750**

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**20642 Highway J, Monroe City, Missouri 63456-9359 • marktwaininfo@usace.army.mil**

## MOGA 2008

**Mark Twain Lake-April 18, 2008**---The clear skies and warm temperatures was a welcome greeting for the participants of the 2008 Midwest Open Geocache Adventure (MOGA) at Mark Twain Lake held on April 4 through April 6. Over 600 registered participants gathered in the John Spalding Recreation Area and participated in various geocaching competitions, or just spent the day geocaching for fun. Participants traveled from all across the country, representing 27 different states. Even a group from Canada made the trip to find the 60 caches hidden for the event by the St. Louis Area Geocachers Association.

Geocaching is a fun and challenging activity that requires a very basic knowledge of Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. Utilizing hand-held GPS units, participants seek hidden caches placed by other “cachers”. Coordinates for the caches are posted on [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com). The caches are generally element-proof boxes that contain a log book and small trinkets. It is a fun activity that can be shared with your family and friends, and provides an avenue for people to spend quality time in the outdoors.

This event attracted local and national sponsorship and support. The Corps of Engineers hosted the event by providing the facilities to hold the event. The St. Louis Area Geocachers Association (SLAGA) provided the coordination of the event and the cache placement. Many local and regional businesses provided materials or service discounts in support of the event. Groundspeak ([www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)), the primary internet-based geocacher’s reference, designated the event as a “Mega Event” due to the participation of 500+ people, and provided materials to event participants.

There were three primary competition categories: individual, two-person, and four-person events. Each category was divided into gender and age classes. The premise of the competition is simple. Find as many caches as possible on the course within the three hour time limit. Two courses were developed, one for the individual competition, and

one for the two and four – person teams. Each course contained 30 caches. The difficulty of the hide, distance, topography, and vegetative growth provided the many difficult and challenging variables. Local participation in the event this year included Dennis Gil, owner and proprietor of the Timber Ridge Resort, who led a team to a third place finish in the four-person competition.

The Saturday competition culminated in an evening supper and awards ceremony. With a meal catered by the Rustic Oak Restaurant, event participants gathered in the Warren G. See South Spillway to share in the victories of the competitors, and to share the adventures that each had that day.

The caches that were placed for the competition will remain in place to provide further recreational opportunities at Mark Twain Lake. At this time, over 150 geocaches are hidden at the lake with hopefully more to come.

The Corps of Engineers at Mark Twain Lake would like to thank all the participants and partners who made this event such a success. We look forward to the return of the Midwest Open Geocache Adventure in 2009. For further information about geocaching opportunities at Mark Twain Lake, feel free to contact the Mark Twain Lake Project Office at 573-735-4097.