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District Hosts National Small Business Conference

By Nicole Dalrymple

For the first time since the conference's inception, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Small Business Conference pulled up chocks from Washington D.C. and headed west to America's heartland.

The City of St. Louis was selected to host the 2006 event and will repeat for the 2007 conference. Acknowledging the significance of the occasion, St. Louis Mayor Francis G. Slay issued a proclamation making November 13, 2006 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Small Business Day in the city.

The Small Business Conference is unique in the Corps' conference calendar in that every HQ program chief, Division Commander, District Engineer, District Contracting Officer and District Small Business Chief are required to attend. Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, in town for both the Small Business Conference and the Commander's Conference, joked with Corps attendees that part of their presence was because "I told you to."

The 10th Annual USACE Small Business Conference, a joint effort between the Corps and the Society of American Military Engineers, was held November 13-15 in the downtown Renaissance Grand Hotel, a block from the St. Louis Rams football stadium. The conference drew 523 attendees from industry and 204 from USACE.

Nancy Myrick, acting chief of USACE HQ's Small Business Office, a post she's held for two months, opened the confer-



U.S. Army Small Business Program Director Tracy Pinson, told an audience of more than 700 attending the USACE National Small Business Conference that the Corps of Engineers contracts with small businesses for \$11 billion each year – second only to the Army Material Command.

ence Monday afternoon. Lt. Gen. Strock stood before the crowd of over 700 and highlighted the unique occasion where the USACE vertical team for Small Business is in one place at one time.

"To our Small Business partners we are here to inform you of our program and changes, and to listen to you," the general said. He added that even the move to St. Louis had been in response to several

partners saying that travel to Washington D.C. was not convenient and was expensive. A different location brings out different people and Strock said he enjoyed seeing new faces in the audience.

He requested feedback on this year's conference and the location, welcoming suggestions should people like the conference held in further points west or south.

Small Business Conf. Cont. page 3



Commander's Perspective



Col. Lewis F. Setliff III

As 2006 draws to a close, it is a great time to do some looking around. The end of the year is a time when we as members of an organization can look back at 2006 and see what we've accomplished; and look forward at both what we can do better and what we have yet to accomplish. Here is what comes to my mind when I look around....

2006. "The Year of The Cardinals" was, despite what some may think, also a tremendous year for the Corps of Engineers and the St. Louis District. The people of this District proved that they can deliver; here in St. Louis, down in the Gulf Coast, and in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

I could not be any prouder of the members of this District who always seem to get the job done. Statistically (always thin ice to discuss) the St. Louis District is at or among the best of the best in almost every measurable category. And this includes improvements in Safety, Small

Business Utilization, and Project Execution.

Significant achievements include the successful management of the Mississippi River watershed during the middle of a 7 year drought; our tremendous successes in demonstrating the Corps "Expeditionary Mindset" by our Support for Others (SFO), Gulf Coast, and GWOT programs support; the continued successful operations of our lakes and river projects which continued to receive commendatory comments from both our visitors and the Chain-of-Command; and in the effort to support the prosecution of the Former Iraqi Regime.

These all stand out as major significant accomplishments – among many others of course. It is obvious that the standards that you all set for yourselves are reflected in our performance as a District. And that is my main observation. Our strength as a District resides in our people. You are our credentials. And a great 2006 was enabled by the willingness, professionalism, and dedication of our workforce. Job well done? You bet!

Now for 2007. What's ahead? Challenges – and we'd have it no other way. If things were easy, and if there were no problems, then we'd need no District to tackle 'em. The drought and consequent low water will continue to focus us on creative watershed, including water-level management. The SFO programs must be sustained as their value is important to the District and the Corps. The public's demand for quality operations of our lakes and rivers projects will continue to rise. And our resident engineering expertise across many different disciplines will continue to be challenged to provide innovative solutions to the many different problems facing our watershed manage-

ment activities.

And we'll do all this while under some less-than-facilitating budgetary/fiscal distribution practices. With a major water resources bill still in legislative limbo, it is tough to nail down long term plans. But part of our job is to look forward. Our customers and stakeholders need this District, and we won't let them down.

Our job is to meet our challenges head on, deliver what we promise, and work with our stakeholders to get the job done. Despite constraints. And a long line of success in the past will prove that at this time next year, we'll all be proud once again for what we have done as a District.

To wrap-up: what a great year we've just had. And the future looks like it's filled with some great opportunities as well. I am confident that we will step up to the plate and deliver once again. That's why we're here. The people, customers, stakeholders, and the nation need this District and need us to be successful. Don't forget that. I won't.

As a final message for the year, I'd like to focus once again on safety. We as a District do some inherently dangerous things. As human beings, we also sometimes do some inherently dangerous things. I ask that each and every one of you make safety a priority in EVERYTHING that you do.

Don't find yourself after an accident saying: "I wish I would have..." Please take those steps to prevent accidents. If you find yourself rushed I ask you to stop and take a breath. Nothing that we are doing is so important to risk life and limb.

I mentioned previously that our employees are our credentials. We need each and every one of you to be successful. So do those things to keep our credentials safe. Wear your seat belts.



US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District®

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Do an analysis of the hazards for your work and take those measures necessary to be safe. Get the appropriate amount of sleep before driving. Don't speed. Use common sense. And watch out for your buddy; be he/she a family member, cubicle mate, or your boss.

Together we can prevent accidents. And together we will make 2007 one to remember for all the right reasons – that we managed our watershed, we supported others, and we enhanced an already stellar reputation as a District which delivers.

Lizabeth and I wish every member of the St. Louis District a Very Happy, Safe, and Prosperous New Year. May it bring all of us great joy and happiness.

Hooah!
Essayons!
COL Setliff



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Small Business Conf. from page 1

Karen Fountain, the St. Louis District's number two in the Small Business Office, has been to all but the first USACE Small Business Conference. She said the new location brought out some new people and was an easier trip for business representatives traveling in from the West Coast. "St. Louis was a good mid point for all attendees," she said.

The conference is an annual networking opportunity for small businesses and the Corps. It allows people to put faces with names, share new capabilities, listen to high level Small Business administrators and share lessons learned and new initiatives.

"It's good that small businesses have an opportunity to network with people from all over the country," Fountain said. For example, if a company from Oklahoma wants to do business in Florida, the expense of traveling back and forth to Florida is a luxury most small businesses can afford. "This is an opportunity for businesses to meet staff from all of the Corps districts and divisions," she said.

Guest speakers included Honorable Steven C. Preston, U.S. Small Business Administration, and Stan Z. Soloway, president of Professional Services Council. There were eight breakout sessions covering topics on Military



Lt. Gen. Carl Strock stressed small business' critical role in meeting the construction and supply needs of the Corps, stating proudly that the agency's goals for small business utilization top those of the Department of the Army.



Honorable Steven C. Preston, U.S. Small Business Administration, delivered an eagerly anticipated keynote message to attendees of the USACE Small Business Conference.

Transformation, the Hurricane Protection Office, the Federal Procurement Process and Lessons Learned from Small Business Hurricane Responders.

Strock stressed the vital role small businesses play in Corps project execution. "Everyone knows we don't build anything anymore," he said. "One hundred percent of our construction is performed by the industry. We cannot get the job done without you."

Advantages of small businesses include their size, diverse abilities and willingness to take calculated risks to get the job done.

The U.S. Army and the Corps have established benchmark percentages and goals for contracts awarded to different categories of small and disadvantaged businesses. Myrick and General Strock were both proud to share that USACE sets higher standards for itself on top of the ones set by the Department of Army.

Tracy Pinson, Director of the U.S. Army's Small Business Program, was on hand to report on the Army and the Corps' Small Business initiatives and contract obligations.

Pinson began by saying that, "USACE has been very vigilant and busy [when it comes to small business]." Last year the U.S. Army awarded \$70 billion in contracts and of that the USACE awarded \$11 billion to small businesses, 16 percent of the total dollar amount.



More than 700 business people, Corps and other federal agency representatives gathered in St. Louis for the USACE National Small Business Conference. The conference's move to St. Louis marked the first time it has been held outside of the Washington, DC area. It will return to St. Louis in 2007.

"In all dollars awarded to Small Business in the U.S. Army, the Corps of Engineers is number two," Pinson said. The Corps is second only to Army Material Command, who is first with \$41.9 billion going to small businesses.

"This is the best conference because you have such a variety in businesses," Fountain reflected, pointing out that A&E,

service and construction contractors all attend this annual conference. "It also provides a platform for large businesses to meet small businesses because they have requirements to meet as well."

When asked why the conference is important Fountain said, "Every large business started as a small business. Our intent is to grow small businesses into

medium and large ones. Small businesses play an important role in the work we do every day."

Excellence from around the Corps was honored at a luncheon on November 15.

Awardees included:

Ivonne Drake, Alaska District – recipient of the USACE FY05 Small Business Specialist Award

Marc Gutterman, Norfolk District – recipient of the USACE FY05 Program Support Award

FY05 Small Business Team of Excellence recipients:

Marc Gutterman Norfolk District
Thomas Hengst Vicksburg District
Melea Crouse Fort Worth District
Antwinette Goodman

South Atlantic/ North Atlantic Divisions
Shirley Reed Vicksburg District

FY05 Program Support Team of Excellence recipients:

Thomas Hengst Vicksburg District
Brig. Gen. Robert Crear Mississippi Valley Division

Col. Charles O. Smithers III Memphis District

Shauna Martinez Sacramento District
Edward Slana Mobile District



The Mississippi Valley Division display told the story of the watershed's work from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico.



Vet Benefits Subject of District Lunch and Learn Session

Tom Dalrymple, Department of Veterans Affairs, St. Louis Regional Office representative, came to the District headquarters Thursday, Dec. 7, to brief more than a dozen District personnel on their Veterans' benefits and how to obtain them. Dalrymple, husband of District PA specialist Nicole Dalrymple and a former Army Warrant Officer, told of the numerous benefits available. He also answered individual questions during and after the "lunch and learn."

Dalrymple noted that numerous Veterans are eligible for benefits from their service to our country and in some situations, their family members may be eligible too. He told how veterans can learn if they are eligible for help and where to seek information on what benefits may be afforded them.

"You can come directly to the VA, apply on-line at www.va.gov, or even start an application for benefits with a phone call," he said. "You can follow up with necessary paperwork later, but that first call (1-800-827-1000) starts the clock," he said.

First time applicants will need to present a copy of their discharge (DD-214 or other discharge document), and submit a signed copy of VA Form 21-526, available on-line also, but the VA can help them get those documents too.

"Veterans organizations like the VFW or DAV can be especially helpful," he told listeners. "They can help pull information out of your memory that may assist you to establish eligibility and help you obtain necessary information to support your claims," he said. "They can be powerful, knowledgeable advocates," he noted.

Dalrymple outlined benefits including: Education (GI Bill), Life Insurance, Home Loans, Disability Compensation and Pensions, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance, Health Care, Family Survivor Benefits and Burial Benefits for the Veteran and spouse.

He also indicated that most states



"I sure didn't know that," was a common statement from attendees at the session's end. But they do now and very soon the VA will likely receive several applications for consideration for benefits.

provide benefits to qualified veterans, including free hunting and fishing licenses in Missouri and free tuition at some state colleges and universities in Illinois based on your disability rating granted by the VA. Of note, Veterans' who have a 50 percent disability rating

from the VA can obtain a free lifetime hunting and fishing license for the State of Missouri.

Copies of various forms and handouts, including the 2006 Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents Handbook were available for all attendees.

Dalrymple noted that while disability criteria may not be met at the first application, updating changes in situations can result in later benefits. "It's free to ask and you have earned what the law will provide," he said.

Several attendees learned that their Veteran parents might be eligible for help.

On quality of medical care, Dalrymple told attendees that VA medical personnel are often at the top of their professions because the health care facilities are often close to major medical schools. "For example, the VA has led by far, the civilian world in developing prosthetic devices because of the number of disfiguring combat injuries we treat."

"I sure didn't know that," was a common statement from attendees at the session's end. But they do now and very soon the VA will likely receive several applications for consideration for benefits. "You've earned these benefits with your service to our country. Thank you for that service" Dalrymple concluded.



Tom Dalrymple shared a number of benefits for individuals as well as family members.



Pinnacle Rock Removal

By Nicole Dalrymple

Dangerous, sharp pinnacle rock located in the Middle Mississippi River's navigation channel near Grand Tower and Thebes Gap, south of St. Louis, poses a potential threat to navigation as low water conditions continue to plague the area.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District is developing plans to remove the hard limestone rock, which would interfere with navigation should river stages descend to about -4 feet on the St. Louis gage and +3.8 feet on the Cape Girardeau gage. The Army Corps of Engineers is charged with maintaining a 9 foot deep, 300 foot wide navigation channel and this rock would cause depths of less than 9 feet in the channel at these locations and river levels.

These near record low river stages are a distinct possibility this winter due to below normal precipitation, depleted reservoirs and possible winter freezes on the Upper Mississippi River, explained Joan Stemler, the District's water control manager.

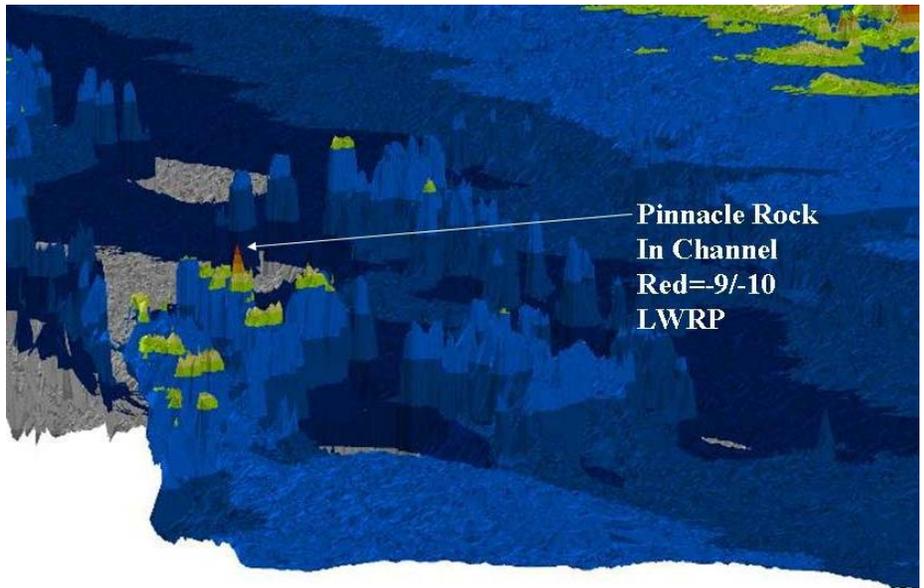
"We are experiencing low water on all three of the upper river basins [Illinois, Mississippi and Missouri]", Stemler pointed out, "and the effects are being compounded in St. Louis."

The pinnacle rock is in approximately the same areas as rock removed in the late 1980s, although far less rock will be removed this time. In the late 80s, about 145,000 cubic yards of rock was removed from the river. This time, about 4,700 cubic yards will have to be removed from the navigation channel.

Two hundred and seventy isolated points within the navigation channel have been identified in 13 areas. Project Manager Leonard Hopkins noted that while a great deal of rock was removed in the 1980s, better survey technology helped identify these remaining points.

Unless removed, the low water will cause these rock pinnacles to impinge upon the safe operation of the Mississippi River navigation channel.

Falling river levels increase the river's



The real rock pinnacles don't show from the river's surface, but appear in this computer image from sonar instruments. The vertical scale is exaggerated to make the pinnacles easier to see. To rid the river of these potential navigation hazards will require about 4,700 cubic yards of rock to be removed.

velocity and make navigating extremely difficult, and the rocks would make these stretches treacherous and impassable.

Additionally, some environmentally hazardous cargoes, such as petroleum products and chemicals, are routinely shipped on the river with a high measure of reliability and an excellent safety record.

"This safety record may be compromised if submerged rock poses a hazard to navigation," explained Hopkins.

Recent Corps' statistics state that 195 million tons of commodities travel up and down the Middle Mississippi River between the confluence of the Missouri and Ohio Rivers annually. It has been estimated that shutting down Mississippi River navigation for only a week could cost about \$16 million. Costs would include delays to tow companies, barge companies, manufacturers, retailers and farmers all along the distribution chain.

District Commander Col. Lewis F. Setliff III has directed that contracting actions move forward with priority being placed on completing the necessary environmental preparations.

Environmental and biological assessments have to be completed as part of the National Environmental Policy Act

and the Endangered Species Act, and the District has to obtain all necessary permits before starting work.

The rock will be removed by drilling into the pinnacles, and then detonating explosives in them. The blasted rock will then be lifted from the river bottom using a clamshell dredge. The rock material has been assessed as being too hard to remove with cutter head dredges. Some of the removed rock will be used to create habitat diversity for aquatic species.

Two endangered species have been identified in these areas: the Least Tern and the Pallid Sturgeon. The Least Tern, a migratory bird, is only in the area in the spring and summer so it will not be impacted by the work, Hopkins explained. Pallid Sturgeon are mobile and expected to move when work begins.

"We are taking all possible precautions to ensure against impacts," said Tom Keevin, fisheries biologist and Pallid Sturgeon expert with the St. Louis District.

A bird expert will be on site to halt operations if a bald eagle or any other bird is in the blast zone. Additionally, underwater precautions will be taken. Poppers, noise instruments, will be set



off prior to the blast to frighten any sturgeon or fish out of the blast area.

“The Corps and partnering agencies will also have fish monitoring equipment that will help detect any tagged fish,” Hopkins said.

“Blasting operations will require intermittent navigation closures,” Hopkins added, “but we don’t anticipate any protracted economic impact to the industry.”

For safety reasons, tows will not be allowed to pass when explosives are being set and charged. Following detonation, crews will have to remove the material from the navigation channel. While there is no schedule yet for removal operations, the District will

coordinate closely with the U.S. Coast Guard and the navigation industry.

“We anticipate no long duration closures,” Hopkins said. “Navigation will be halted for short hours. Additionally, the contractor will not be working 24 hours a day so there will be large blocks of time when there will be no interruption to traffic.”

The Army Corps is currently soliciting contractor proposals for the rock removal.

“Under normal timelines, which requires completing all environmental assessments and obtaining all permits before issuing a contract, work cannot start earlier than February,” explained Hopkins.

The Endangered Species Act consultation process is targeted for completion on February 7 and then the Corps will have to evaluate all agency and public comments before proceeding.

If the situation deteriorates the District Commander, Col. Setliff has the authority to declare an emergency but unless the situation warrants it, the District staff will follow normal procedures.

Throughout this process the District will continue to coordinate closely with the navigation industry, the United States Coast Guard, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Missouri Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Phishing

In recent days you may have received a spate of emails purporting to be from Bank of America. In various forms they claim to be deeply concerned for the security and safety of your government credit card account.

If you have a computer at home you are probably getting similar messages there.

Some may indicate that a bank has observed unusual activity on your account and they want you to click on a link and confirm information about your finances so that allegedly, they can ensure your interests.

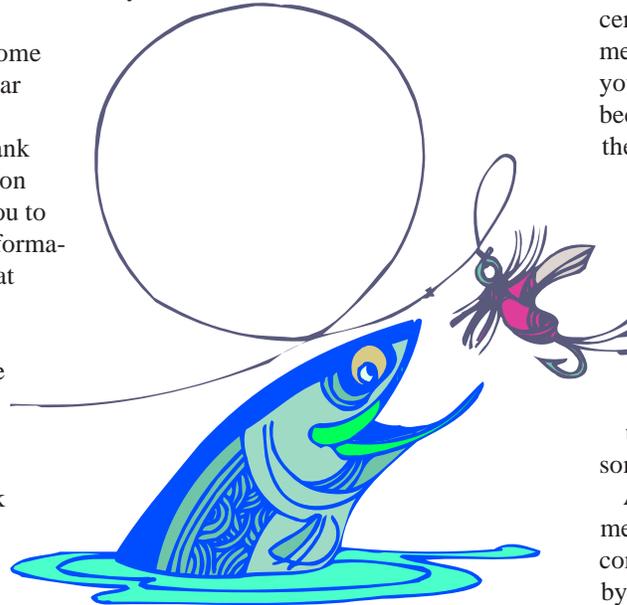
Absolutely nothing could be further from the truth.

If you are naïve enough to fill in the blanks in their search for links into your bank accounts, they will exploit them either to drain assets or to saddle your name (and you!) with unexpected debts.

They may also use data you supply to implicate you into other schemes which will further damage your finances or reputation.

These emails are known in computer

security circles as “phishing.” They appear to be from legitimate financial institutions and may even use realistic graphics to enhance their attempted legitimacy. Their purpose is to hook you into divulging information that will place you at financial risk.



Most are being distributed because your email address is out in the electronic universe and has gotten into the hands of unscrupulous people. Many come from overseas location. There may even be

some elements of your real financial information attached to these email addresses.

However realistic and urgent these messages may appear – “If you do not reply today your account will be suspended” – do not reply. And certainly, do not open any attachments that may come with them or you and your computer will likely become another link in distributing these messages. According to Chris Bonucchi in the District Resource Management Office, no legitimate bank or other financial institution will ever send you an email asking you for account numbers, pass words or any other personal financial data.

They already have that information and in fact, probably assigned some of it to you in the first place!

Again, banks don’t send out email messages asking you to supply or confirm financial data. They do this by mail. Even then, you should call the bank or financial institution – at a number you have vice anything in the letter – before replying.

As for the emails, delete them and then delete them from your delete file. Do not reply to them: not ever.



Sesser-Valier High School's gym is transformed into a sea of blaze orange. This is the location of the S-V Outdoorsmen Club deer hunt banquet. Held each year to honor the hunters and their family members, this event receives huge support by the entire community. Here hunters, family members, community supporters and S-V Outdoorsmen Club members prepare to begin the evening's activities which include tributes to past, present and future hunters, camaraderie between hunters and supporters, prize raffles and dinner.

2006 Rend Lake Deer Hunt Most Successful in 27 Year History

By Nicole Dalrymple

The 2006 Rend Lake Deer Hunt for Persons with Disabilities was a successful hunt. In fact it was the most successful hunt in the 27 year history of the event. Twenty-nine hunters participated this year the weekend before Thanksgiving, November 17-19.

Twenty-two got a deer, for a 76 percent success rate. "The best year previously was 2000, with a success rate of 73 percent," said Rend Lake Park Ranger Dawn Kovarik. "This was definitely a great year for our hunters."

She added that the largest deer killed was an 11 point buck by Bob Prescott of Fairview Heights, Illinois, a eight year hunt veteran.

The annual Rend Lake Deer Hunt began in 1980 and was started by then-park ranger, Dale Miller. Miller modeled the hunt after a program started by the Easter Seals in Roanoke, Va.

During the first hunt, five hunters from

the Southern Illinois University's wheelchair basketball team participated, and the SIU Recreation Department provided students to assist. No one shot a deer that first year. Through word of mouth, hard work and dedication, the hunt has grown and today typically includes 25-30 hunters each year.

During the hunt a deer camp is established to serve as a gathering place and staging area for the dozens of volunteers and hunters. The camp is in a recreation area named after Miller — The Dale Miller Youth Area. Miller, who went on to become the lake's assistant manager, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in the early 1980s and died in 1994. The recreation area was named for him a couple years after his death.

"It is very meaningful and symbolic having the deer camp in the area named for Dale," Kovarik said. "This event was his vision and it's nice to still have him a part of it."

A few years after the hunt began, the lake teamed up with the Sesser-Valier High School Outdoorsmen Club, which has become an integral part of the event.

The Outdoorsmen Club was started in

1978 by Gene Morgan, a biology teacher at Sesser-Valier, part-time Corps park ranger, and Dale Miller's neighbor. Mike Sample, an inaugural member and current Outdoorsmen Club leader, says the most important thing about the hunt is the relationships forged between the students and hunters.

"The relationships are what's most important," said Sample, "not the hunt."

Each year a senior and an underclassman are teamed up with a hunter. Once a student is assigned to a hunter they remain with them each year until graduation, or as long as the hunter continues to participate. And even those students who have graduated can't help but come back.

On Friday, Nov. 17, the hunt's opening day, Sample pointed out two graduated girls who were back to help.

The club is very popular. The school has about 250 students and 63 are members of the Outdoorsmen Club. Shelbi Roberts, a sophomore and second year club member, says she is grateful for the Outdoorsmen Club. "I'm thankful I go to Sesser-Valier and not some other school. Sesser is the only school that has an Outdoorsmen Club."



For twenty years the club has hosted a banquet the evening before the hunt. Hunters, families, Corps employees, Outdoorsmen club members and folks from the surrounding communities gather in the high school's gymnasium for an evening of raffles, skits and awards. It is a sea of blaze-orange.

"The club gets 110 percent support from the school," Sample said. Its activities are considered school activities and the safety record and outreach of the program enables the club to bring shotguns into the school for raffles and auctions at the banquet.

They also participate in the annual Southern Illinois Hunting and Fishing Days at John A. Logan College in Carterville, IL, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Rend Lake Shooting Classic in partnership with the Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the Paralyzed Veterans of America BASS Tournament.

The Rend Lake Deer Hunt for Persons with Disabilities is a collaborative effort between the Corps and the Outdoorsmen Club, Kovarik said. "The Corps clears for the blinds, scouts, provides platforms and materials, provides several meals for the volunteers, as well as supervision during the hunt.

Safety is key to the event's success. Sample said, "We emphasize four things:

Safety, Safety, Safety, and Having Fun."

The hunt opened at 4 a.m. in the Rend Lake Visitor Center parking lot. After all the hunters were checked in and provided radios and breakfast, they were led to their hunting locations.

Four Corps recreation areas are used for the hunt. They are ideal for the hunt because they provide ready wheelchair access and are closed to the general public during the hunting season. The areas comprise over 1,500 acres.

As Park Rangers Randy Cordray and Landon Satterfield led six hunters to locations Friday morning, several deer were seen alongside the road. Cordray, the Corps' hunt coordinator, explained it would be good conditions because the new moon offered little light for nighttime foraging, so many of the deer would be out looking for food in the morning dawn.

And conditions were ideal for the hunters. Once the hunt began a deer was harvested within 30 minutes.

"The hunt has a good safety record," Cordray said the evening before at the banquet. "A lot of effort goes into planning the hunt. We've identified good blinds and good locations to give you good shots. Please take care to have good aim before firing and stay safe."

Accurate shooters seemed to be in the majority for this year's deer hunt with 76

percent of the hunters getting a deer. There were 8 does and 14 bucks harvested. Participants included 16 year old AJ Williams, who got his first deer this year, and Greg Vowell, who drives up from Mississippi for the hunts.

There's also Kenny Kreher, who has participated since 1990 and tends to get a deer every year. Kenny's wife, Lori, spent her days in the deer camp while her husband and their 8 year old son Blake sat in the blind. Lori talked about the life changing event in 1989 when Kenny's back was broken in a construction accident.

The hunt is good for him, she said. Prior to his accident he wasn't into hunting and sports, but since then he has found a good outlet in the hunt and in sports competitions.

"It's been good for him to be around other guys who have the same limitations he does," she said. "He's been able to connect with fellow hunters and students over the years."

The event is certainly unique and anticipated each year, Kovarik said. "You really get a sense of family seeing everyone catching up and talking in the deer camp," she said. "All our other events have different people at them each year. With this event we have a lot of hunt veterans but we really enjoy seeing the new faces too."

The hunt benefits not only the hunters but also instills a service attitude in the Sesser-Valier High School students.

Kovarik, who has been to all 20 banquets and whose son has been in the club the past four years, says the kids commit themselves to help and serve others. Sample agreed saying, "The students graduate and go into a variety of career fields but most will have an attitude of service their whole life after being a part of the Outdoorsmen Club."

The very successful hunt drew to a close Sunday afternoon and as the camp was broke down and everyone said their good-byes there was already anticipation for next year's event.

For information on the Sesser-Valier Outdoorsmen Club, visit their web site at <http://www.outdoorsmenclub.com>



James Clayton, Bunker Hill, IL, along with his assistants from the Sesser-Valier Outdoorsmen Club display the buck he harvested during the 2006 Rend Lake Deer Hunt.

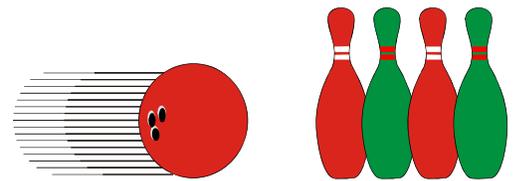


All of Olivette Bowl was ours, all twenty four lanes! A good time was had by all.

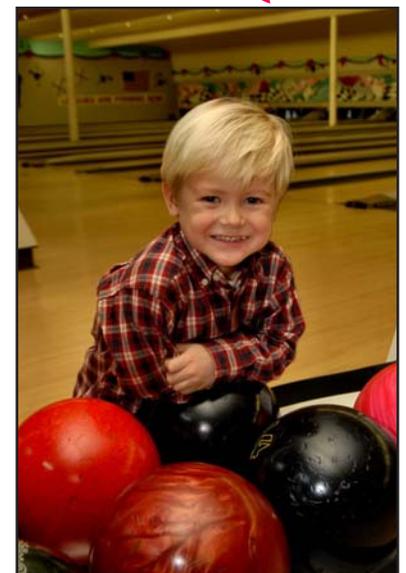


Vivian Ratliff and JoAnne Long enjoyed the buffet.

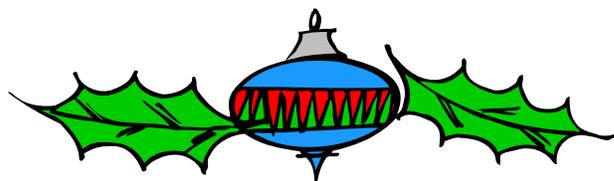
Holiday Party 2006



This event would not have happened without the hard work of these CAC volunteers: (L) Tandika Gates, Maoise Palmer, Karen Bautsch, Phyllis Thomas and Shirley Bledsoe.



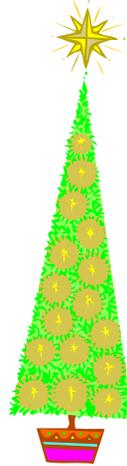
Connor Gramke, son of Regulatory Branch's Rob Gramke, shares a holiday smile.



Note. Additional holiday photos are posted on the Corps share point directory.



Project Management's Ruth Townley and Regulatory Branch's Alan Edmondson compete at Crazy Bowl.



St. Louis District tops 2006 CFC Target



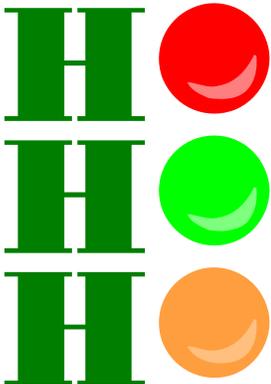
"The St. Louis District response to the 2006 Combined Federal Campaign was amazing," according to campaign chairperson Catherine Cummings. "Our goal this year was again, \$55,000. Contributions from 184 people well exceeded that giving target, as a total of \$57,542.36 was pledged," she beamed.

"St. Louis District people are givers in the truest sense of the word," she noted. "They are serving across the Gulf Coast, meeting the Global War on Terrorism challenge worldwide and filling resulting gaps here in the District," Cummings added. "Then in the midst of all that, they reach into their hearts and wallets to help others who need their support."

In addition to praising District employees for their giving, Cummings credited key workers who personally met with each employee to present the opportunity to give.

"We had a couple of changes in key workers," she noted, "due to illness and job changes. But the team that brought the campaign to the finish line should get all the credit." They included: Dana Barrentine, Shelly Barunica, Shirley Bledsoe, Kathy Crone, Connie Driscoll, Karen Fountain, Andrea Gathing, Sharon Gebhardt, Dawn Lamm, Chris Leffeler, Alice Lovett, Millie Meyer, Teresa Montgomery, Phyllis Murphy, Lesa Nohren, Maoise Palmer, Sherry Regot, John Roberts, Chris Rosenkranz, LaDonna Supancic, Trisha Stavely, Vel Swindle, Kent Thomas, Barb Townsend, Fred Venturini, Maureen Wagner, Anne Woodrome and Cindy Zimmerman.

The St. Louis District performance was part of the highly successful Gateway region-wide CFC drive, which netted a record \$3,203,647 for 2006 pledges. As before, this year's participants were able either to target donations to specific organizations and causes or to permit the CFC to determine the best distribution.



The "Gutter Gals" a.k.a. (L) Sonja Moore, Pat Augustyniak, Vel Swindle, Angie Grimes, Nicole Dalrymple and Karen Bautsch.



Deputy Commander LTC Raimondo (L) tested his skills at Crazy Bowl.



Cold Air + Cold Water = Happy Ending for Corps Employee

When U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contract employee Ted Hayn came to work Friday, Dec 8, he certainly didn't plan to find himself in the Mississippi River at about 7 a.m. But that's what time Hayn tumbled some 15 feet into the frigid water while adding mooring lines to barges to prepare for a visit later in the day by a dredge to scour out a sand bar at the Corps Service Base at the foot of Arsenal Street in St. Louis.

With a combined air and water temperature of only 50 degrees (13 degree air and 37 degree water, according to the National Weather Service), Hayn was trying to throw a large line around a piling when a railing chain broke and dumped him into the river.

Fortunately he was working on the land side of the barge and had only about 15 feet to negotiate to get ashore. But according to Hayn, it was a long, cold 15 feet. Fortunately also, he was wearing a proper work personal flotation device (PFD – life jacket) and was working with a team equipped with radio communication.

Fellow employee Joe Nash secured the end of the line that Hayn held with a vice-like grip and Foreman Danny Bowman immediately radioed for help.

Another Corps employee, Arnold Washington, heard the call in the base office building, called 911 for emergency assistance and departed the building to meet responders at Broadway and Arsenal to guide them to the precise location.

As Ted worked his way ashore and then with assistance, up the steep bank, oncoming shift security guard Robert Hollander raced to the scene with his already warm vehicle. Gathering Hayn up, he quickly took him to the base metal shop building where workers helped remove Hayn's sodden, icy clothing and wrap him in blankets from the adjacent Coast Guard Base.

St. Louis Emergency Medical Services arrived soon and transported Hayn to nearby St. Alexis Hospital for precautionary measures. After being checked out by physicians, Hayn elected to return to work where he waited briefly in borrowed dry clothing for his equipment, which had been taken aboard a Corps vessel to be washed and dried.

By 10 a.m., Hayn was back at work on the river.

Almost immediately all work at the water front was halted and Safety Manager Gary Groeneman, with Assistant Operations Chief Dennis Fenske, pilot Willem Loupatty and (acting) foreman Danny Bowman initiated a safety investigation.

THINK SAFETY

Even though the employees had held a safety meeting to start the day's work, all were instructed to go beyond the standard morning safety measures to reexamine each work situation before performing it in coming days. They were told to look for potential dangers and to correct them before proceeding. Finally, they were advised not to take existing safety systems such as cables or chains for granted.

During the week of Dec. 11-15, a PDT evaluated safety in the fleeting area. Interim measures were determined and implemented while longer range improvements are being identified and changes are made.

Print and television media reporters descended on the base to interview the man who had so recently been fighting for his life in the icy waters but was back at work in less than three hours. Garbed in his now clean and dry, heavy canvas winter clothing and the life jacket that had saved him, Hayn was a bit bewildered by the attention, but cheerfully and patiently answered television and print media reporters who descended on the scene Friday.



Ted Hayn told media reporters that he didn't have time to be afraid when he fell 15 feet into the frigid Mississippi River Dec. 8.

"Yes Ma'am, I've fallen in before – twice. But that was when I was younger and thinner."

"I didn't have time to be scared."

"Yes, I retired two years ago and came back for four months as a contractor – two years ago."

"No Sir, I wasn't afraid. I didn't have time to be."

"No, this doesn't make me want to reconsider retiring for good right now. It's in my blood. They say when you go out on the River, if you stay long enough to wear out a pair of shoes you're hooked for life."

Assistant Ops Chief Dennis Fenske was quick to point out that while the fall had occurred as a result of an equipment failure, a team of skilled, dedicated professionals, including the victim Hayn, had responded promptly and correctly.

"He was wearing a proper personal flotation device. He was working as part of a team. They called for help immediately, got Hayn out of the water, into a warm building, out of his cold, wet clothing and off to a hospital – all within minutes," he concluded.

"It's not over yet either," he added.



“We started our safety review before Ted’s clothes were dry and will continue to review the event and circumstances for days,” he said.

Safety Manager Gary Groeneman said, “We’re glad Ted was OK. But we aren’t going to take relief in that. Sometimes incidents that turn out well can be tremendous learning opportunities. We have everyone back and will be able to learn from all of them.”

Of course, one element that contributed to Hayn’s survival might be his mental and physical toughness... and experience. “I’ll be 66 years old the 30th of December, he told a local TV reporter. “I called my wife and told her about this. I’ll keep doing this for awhile. This is what I do.”

Annual Water Safety Photo Contest



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sponsors an annual Water Safety Photo Contest. This year’s edition has been announced and entries are due not later than February 2, 2007.

Entries must be submitted as prints and cannot be emailed. They must be sent to Pam Doty at Lake Shelbyville. Pam is the MVD representative to the USACE National Water Safety Team.

There are nine different categories in which photos may be submitted. Seven focus on water safety and two more include other Corps-related imagery.

For additional information on requirements and options, check the contest web site at: <http://watersafety.usace.army.mil/photocontest.htm>

You may also contact Pam Doty at: Pam J. Doty, MVD Rep
USACE National Water Safety Team
Lake Shelbyville
RR 4, Box 128B
Shelbyville, IL 62565
217-774-3951

pamela.j.doty@mvs02.usace.army.mil



Dredge America paid a week-ending visit to the Service Base at the foot of Arsenal Street Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8-9. The purpose of the contract cutter head motor vessel’s visit was to excavate a sand bar that was restricting access at the service base. America, seen here close to Dredge MV Potter’s “parking spot,” is ideally suited for such detailed material removal and repeats this work as needed, approximately every two years. The Service Base location, in a gentle bend of the Mississippi River is subject to periodic silt accumulation.



Faces & Places

St. Louis District Employee deploys to Persian Gulf with Naval Reserve

St. Louis District Public Affairs Specialist George Stringham deployed with the U.S. Naval Reserve to the Persian Gulf on Oct. 25. Stringham, part of the District public affairs staff, is also a Lieutenant Commander (selectee for promotion to that rank) in the Navy, and is assigned to Navy Mobile In-Shore Undersea Warfare Unit (MIUWU) 112, serving as that units training officer.

MUIUW-112 is made up of nearly 100 reserve personnel and trains at the Naval Reserve Center in St. Louis. Before deploying, the unit trained for several weeks at the



Naval Reserve Lt. Cmdr (selectee) and Corps Public Affairs Specialist George Stringham is seen here during training in California before deploying to the Central Command region with Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 112.

China Lake Naval Weapons Station and in coastal waters off Southern California.

During their training, members of the unit focused on protecting high value assets, emphasizing weapons skills and other methods designed to provide

security to Naval units in and out of mid east ports. The unit operates small water craft for this mission.

The MIUWU is a component of the Navy's new Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC), headquartered at Naval Base Coronado, Calif. Its missions include antiterrorism and force protection. The NECC brings Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), Naval Coastal Warfare, Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support and the Seabees together under one organization to support Navy operations in coastal regions around the world.

Stringham is no stranger to deployments worldwide. Before coming to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a student in Memphis, he served on active duty for four years, including one tour forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan with the flagship of the U.S. Seventh Fleet. Most recently, he also deployed to New Orleans the day that Hurricane Katrina came ashore to support public affairs efforts there.

His activation and deployment is slated to last approximately one year.

Hooah, and Anchors Aweigh!

When you call Lake Shelbyville, Leila Wills is usually the first voice you hear.

I started here at Lake Shelbyville on May 23, 2005. Before I started here, I worked for Quebecor World in Effingham, IL for nine years on 2nd shift. I



Leila Wills

worked in the bindery department and filled the pockets in the machines with printed paper stock. The factory closed in September 2004 after over thirty years in business.

Also, I have worked for Linda Radloff Accounting for twenty years during tax season. I work part-time during tax season when I have a full time job. I put tax returns together, do bookkeeping, answer the phone, wait on clients, etc. This past tax season I worked evenings and weekends.

We live on our family farm and all three of our sons have homes on the farm. Our two grandchildren are the 7th generation to live on this farm. We have raised corn, beans, wheat, hay, cows and hogs on the farm. We now rent out our farmland and both my husband and I have jobs off the farm. Now we have six Morgan horses that graze our pastures. Our farmland borders the Kaskaskia River and we have put 126 acres of land in the CRP and WHIP programs. In 2006 we were named the Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation Farm Family. We feel very honored to have received this award.

In the summer I have two large gardens and do a lot of canning and freezing of our produce. We have a root cellar that we store our canned goods and potato crop in. The cellar stays cool all summer and it does not freeze in there in the winter. In the fall we usually cut about eight loads of wood to heat our home with and that runs us all winter long. Mike, my husband, runs the chainsaw and I load the wood and help run the log splitter.

I like to spend my free time with our granddaughter, Alyvia, who will be 2 years old in November. Also, I look forward to going to our grandson, Christopher's basketball games. Christopher is a freshman in high school. I feel so blessed to have my sons and their families so close to us.

Leila Wills



On-line *Esprit* Soon to Predate Internet

The on-line version of the St. Louis District newsletter, *Esprit* and its predecessor, will soon be available back through more than three decades. This means that through the Internet, you will be able to read and print copies of *Esprit* and the Information Bulletin back to a time when no such thing as an Internet was in existence.

Thanks to Claude Strauser's pre-science (or as some might accuse, pack rat tendencies), the public affairs office gained custody of a nearly-complete collection in several white three-inch binders dating back to 1975. Recently we decided to scan these paper copies into Adobe Acrobat (.pdf format) files. When the project is complete, they will be available at the existing web site: <http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/pa/esprit2006.html>

When he was informed of this development, Strauser responded, "This is fantastic. I think this is an important part of the St. Louis Engineer District's history. Thank you for preserving this for all future researchers, historians and Corps employees."

The District newsletter hasn't always been called *Esprit*. Before *Esprit* unfurled its banner in May 1988, it was known as the *Information Bulletin*. A contest was conducted to name the District's newsletter publication. The winning entry, by Debbie Lanier (ED-HS) was *Esprit*. IM-S's Kathy Hayes also submitted the same suggestion.

It met the criteria: short, applicable to the whole District and not being used by any other District. It also harkened back to the original French heritage of St. Louis and its founder, Pierre Laclède. Appropriately the word is also part of the phrase *Esprit de Corps*, defined as "a sense of union, common interests and responsibilities among a group of persons associated together."

We don't have a comprehensive list of the runners-up, but Russell Elliott tells that one was SLED News – SLED for



Visual Information Specialist Russell Elliott scans individual pages of a trove of hard copy District news letters and bulletins that cover more than three decades of history of the St. Louis District. When he finishes this project, these historical resources will be available to Corps employees and the general public on the St. Louis District web site.

"St. Louis Engineering District."

Originally, District newsletters were typed in columns by hand, cut and pasted into 8.5 x 11-inch sheets and then reproduced by an offset printing press in the District. Debbie Kuhlmann, who today sends a computer disk and sample layout print to a commercial printer, used to staple them together.

The project is moving ahead under Elliott's careful hand. By the time you read this, at least the first decade will be available on-line.

We hope this resource will be both a tool for people wishing to learn about the last 30-plus years of the St. Louis District as well as a joy for those who just want to stroll back to revisit friends and events in their lives. Essayons!



Help!

We're missing the January and February 1988 issues of *Esprit*. Perhaps someone saved the copies we need. The originals would not be harmed and returned to the owner. This is an opportunity to get your name in our paper and the gratitude of the rest of us who don't keep things.

Retiree Evelyn Grote informed us that Zona Moore had passed away. Zona Moore was married to Percy Moore namesake to one of our vessels. Percy attended the Rolla School of Mines as it was known then. He started with the Corps in 1930. During his federal career he worked on the ALCAN highway project along with another Corps notable, Carl Baron. Percy retired from the Corps in 1973. Mrs. Moore passed on December 9th at 96 years.



Sunrise photo at the St. Louis District's Riverlands Project, Thursday, Dec. 14, by Charlie Deutsch.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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