



GEOCACHING TAKES HOLD AT MARK TWAIN LAKE



Geocachers find their treasure during the Children's Geocaching portion of SLAGA's 2008 MOGA at Mark Twain Lake.

courtesy photo

STORY BY *GEORGE STRINGHAM, PA*

The childhood-favorite game, hide-and-seek, gets upgrade for twenty-first century. In a nutshell, that's what Geocaching is and Mark Twain Lake is using this outdoor entertainment adventure game to take visitors to parts of the lake that they wouldn't normally see.

The basic idea of Geocaching is to have individuals and organizations set up caches all over the world and share the locations of these caches on the internet. GPS users can then use the location coordinates to find the caches. The caches are typically sealed in a water-tight container like a Tupperware dish or an empty ammunition can and contain a log (journal) for Geocachers to leave notes. Geocachers can swap out the cache (often a trinket like what you'd find

in a Happy Meal), with a different one.

According to www.Geocaching.com, the official Geocaching organization, the accuracy of non-government GPS units improved dramatically on May 2, 2000, when the "selective availability" function for twenty-four GPS satellites around the globe was disabled. Tens of thousands of GPS receivers around the world had an instant upgrade. This opened the door for the average person to use GPS units for ways that weren't dreamed of and brought new meaning to the childhood game of Hide-and-Seek.

For the second year in a row, Mark Twain Lake, in northeast Missouri, was host to the Midwest Open

Commander's Perspective



Col. Lewis F. Setliff III

Safety. Safety should be the first thought in all that we do, so I think it's very appropriate that I make it my first word this month!

We have had a couple of recent notable successes in our drive to tell, sell and dwell on safety.

One part of the just-concluded 12th Annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit in San Diego, was awards for public safety campaigns, efforts and products. There were 191 entries in six categories in this competition. Many came from organizations that are considerably "better heeled" than a single Corps of Engineers District, but I am pleased to report that five entries from St. Louis garnered awards.

St. Louis swept the Radio Public Service Announcements arena – 1st and 2nd place for Wappapello Lake and 3rd for

the Rivers Project. Magnets promoting the wearing of life jackets grabbed 2nd place in the "giveaways" category. A stand-alone card highlighting the district water safety team's work in an "If you love me" campaign rounded out the awards to St. Louis with a 3rd place in booklets and brochures.

That was a mouthful, but what an amazing score. This was not a Corps competition. This was international competition. Our small district was recognized at that level with five of 18 awards, including a sweep in one category! Bravo! Hooah!

Then, closer to home, we recently completed emergency repairs at Lock 25 at Winfield. When our engineers and lock operators determined that progressive failure of the gate suspension system had gone as far as we could safely allow, we shut the lock down for emergency repairs.

As you may well imagine, the navigation industry, just getting out of the grip of the winter freeze up north and eager to resume shipping, was extremely interested in our completing repairs as rapidly as possible.

As you read in the last *Esprit*, repairs brought two districts together, Rock Island and St. Louis. This team worked 24x7. They worked in darkness, wind, a torrential downpour and stopped only for an incredible lightning display – and then went right back

to work.

It was good that they completed the repair ahead of schedule. But I am just absolutely ecstatic that I can report to you that they did this with no, none, zero, accidents or injuries.

If you consider all the opportunities that were there – working in a high pressure situation, working with a two-district team, working in inclement weather – all without injuries, you can see why I am so very proud of our people. Safety isn't just an important item – it's the important item.

That brings me to the road ahead.

In April we had rain, floods, snow, hail, a series of earthquakes and are heading out of the month with the season's first heat. About all we missed was drought.

– SEE PERSPECTIVE, NEXT PAGE

In this issue:

<i>Geocaching at MTL</i>	<i>Cover</i>
<i>Commander's Perspective</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>District Water Safety Awards 4</i>	
<i>KWA National Merit Award</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Randy Jones Remembered</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>St. Louis City , COE Sign Floodwall Agreement</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Wings of Spring</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Trimble: Exception Civil Service Award</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>ACE-IT 101</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Chief, ASA Thow First Pitch</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>No Accidents... Is Not An Accident</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Upcoming District Events Back</i>	



US Army Corps of Engineers®
St. Louis District

ESPRIT is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. It is published monthly, by contract, in 550 copies, by the Public Affairs Office, US Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

District Commander..... Col. Lewis F. Setliff III
 Chief, Public Affairs Alan J. Dooley
 314-331-8002
 Public Affairs Specialist..... Nicole Dalrymple
 314-331-8068
 Editor..... George Stringham
 314-331-8095
 US Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District
 ATTN: CEMVS-PA
 1222 Spruce Street
 St. Louis, MO 63103-2833
 www.mvs.usace.army.mil



GEOCACHING, FROM COVER

Geocaching Adventure. MOGA was started by the St. Louis Area Geocachers Association in 2004. This year's event, held at the John F. Spaulding Recreation Area on the eastern end of the lake, had more than 500 participants and an estimated total attendance in excess of 800, representing 27 states in the union and Canada.

"We are really happy with the way that it has worked out here," said Allen Mehrer, Mark Twain Lake Park Ranger. "This is only the second year we've hosted this event and we can already see its benefits."

Mehrer said that they can't definitively tie park attendance to Geocaching, but they do feel that

having the sites located on the property brings people out that wouldn't normally visit the lake.

"People will come out in the dead of winter to look for caches. They have no other reason for coming out here that time of the year," he exclaimed.

Mehrer explained that up until November 2005, he had no idea what Geocaching was or what he was getting himself into when he granted a Special Use Permit to Eric East, a local Geocacher, to place a cache at the lake.

"Geo-what? was the first thing that came out of my mouth," Mehrer recalled. After a short tutorial on the phenomenon, he tentatively agreed to the permit.

People would log their findings and comments online as they found East's cache and Mehrer said that that's when he realized the value of this new, high-tech adventure. Mehrer remembered thinking that "People are actually searching for this cache filled with insignificant treasures!"

Mehrer said he could really tell the potential effects Geocaching could have on Mark Twain Lake when the first event was held in May 2006. One of the 50 Geocachers in attendance was Mike Griffin from SLAGA.

"I heard an off-the-cuff comment from Mike who said this would be a great place for a MOGA," Mehrer remembered.

Griffin and Mehrer would meet in July where they agreed that SLAGA could use Indian Creek Recreation Area in its entirety for the 2007 MOGA event. It was scheduled for the last week of March, before the recreation season begins, to avoid any user conflicts.

Creating Partnerships

In addition to finding a great location for this event, Griffin also found a great partner in Mark Twain Lake and the surrounding communities.

"Most land management agencies that we've worked with before

— SEE **GEOCACHING**, PAGE 14



Here, Geocachers work in teams with their handheld GPS units to look for treasures.
courtesy photo

PERSPECTIVE, FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

With this extraordinary transition time, I want to emphasize to everyone that we are also sliding into a dangerous period. Barbecues. Fireworks. Power mowers and chain saws. Ladders to clean gutters... You name them and they can hurt you.

Do you see the pattern?

Take a round turn as we enter the warm months of the year. The end of ice and snow doesn't mean we can exhale and take it easy on safety. Again and again, check out your equipment. Is it ready for the season? Have you checked the equipment's safety features to make sure they are operating? Have

you reviewed the instruction manual, particularly for power equipment?

Look ahead at each job and evaluate its safety aspects. If you don't remember exactly how to set the tension on a chain saw blade, stop. Review the instructions and then do it by those numbers.

Yes, summer is approaching and with it, we can anticipate a lot of family fun and enjoyment – if we also anticipate the essential nature of safety.

Think safe. Act safe. Be safe. Please.

Essayons. Hooah!
Col. Lewis F. Setliff III

District brings home honors for water safety efforts

Numerous District efforts to promote water safety were recognized at the 12th Annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit in San Diego.

Public Service Announcements (PSAs)

Wappapello Lake took 1st and 2nd place honors, with Rivers Project bringing home 3rd.

“The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a few simple safety tips to help keep your family safe on the water this July 4th holiday.

Make sure you have enough properly fitting, Coast Guard approved lifejackets for every person on your vessel.

Always designate a qualified boat operator. Be respectful and observant of other boaters. And please remember sun, water and alcohol can be a lethal combination. Don't let people you care about operate a boat when they've been drinking. These simple tips from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will help ensure you have fun and return to shore safely.”

Magnets promoting the importance of wearing life jackets took 2nd place in the giveaways category. And the MVS Water Safety Team captured 3rd place in the booklet/brochure column for their “If You Love Me” campaign card.

“Don't cross your stupid line. The stupid line is that line of choice we all have when faced with risk. It separates smart risk from stupid risk. It's up to you to decide where to draw the line. Exceeding your abilities such as swimming farther or drinking more than you should is a risk often associated with peer pressure and it can lead to deadly consequences. This has been a friendly reminder from ___ and the USACE @_____.”

“Hi, this is Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson with the USACE at Wappapello Lake reminding you to be responsible this recreation season. Make sure that as you travel up and down the highways that everyone buckles up. And if you are boating, water skiing or swimming, wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device known as a PFD or life jacket. Being safe on and near the water is just as important as being safe on land. So, buckle up!”



Boat = \$\$\$\$

Life Jacket = \$

Staying Alive = Priceless

Wear Your Life Jacket!




If You Love Me...

Make sure you put a life jacket on me before I get near water.

96% of drowning victims would be alive today if they had worn a life jacket.

<http://watersafety.usace.army.mil>



Kudos to the District's Water Safety Team and all individual winners! We all look best in our safety vests.



KMA receives national merit award

STORY BY FRED VENTURINI, CARLYLE LAKE PARK RANGER

The Kaskaskia Mariner’s Association is among the 2008 National Water Safety Congress Award of Merit recipients for their work in enhancing emergency response on the Kaskaskia River in Illinois. Joan Vasquez, past president of the KMA, accepted the award at the 12th Annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit in San Diego, Calif., on April 18. The KMA received one of only four merit awards given by the congress this year.

The KMA was integral in implementing the 911 emergency response system along the Kaskaskia River. In partnership with the Corps of Engineers and with a grant from the Boat U.S. Foundation, the KMA worked to create a more organized emergency response plan from the Kaskaskia Lock and Dam (Mile 1) to Fayetteville (Mile 36).

The focus of this plan was to install mile marker signs and designated “emergency response point” signs so that visitors on the river will know where they are when reporting an emergency and where they can go to meet an ambulance in case of an emergency. KMA volunteers installed the signs, marking 36 miles and indicating six emergency response points. The response points are indicated by signs with a Red Cross symbol.

Maps were “cost shared” among the various contributing organizations that support implementing the response points and mile markers, and are distributed to the public free. In addition to explaining the system and showing locations, they offer water safety and boating requirements information.

“The system increases the safety of our customers



Members of the Kaskaskia Mariner’s Association were in San Diego to accept the award. Left to Right: John Punkiewicz (Corps employee), Cindy Galle, Dennis Galle, Norma Hall (Corps Employee), Leonard Vasquez and Joan Vasquez.

Courtesy photo

on the Kaskaskia River Project,” said Norma Hall, a Carlyle Lake Park Ranger involved with the project. “The value provided from this work is immeasurable. It’s a truly win-win project for all parties involved and we’re pleased to see the KMA recognized for their hard work and dedication, as they were integral to the successful completion of the 911 system.”

Many other organizations donated to the project, including Vasquez Metal Products, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Kaskaskia Regional Port District, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois Water Survey and the Southwestern Illinois RC&D, among others. However, the KMA performed all physical labor involved with the task of installing the signs, and will maintain the signs in the future—a \$30,000 value in volunteer hours.

The Kaskaskia Mariner’s Association was organized in 1995 and has approximately 200 members. The KMA’s goals are promoting safe boating, water safety, and maintaining the Kaskaskia River.



(Left) Volunteers install mile marker 26 along the Kaskaskia River. Mile markers were installed for all 36 miles of the lower Kaskaskia River from Kaskaskia Lock and Dam to Fayetteville, Ill. (Right) KMA volunteers also installed signs for six emergency response points, where visitors can meet first responders in case of an emergency.



Courtesy photo



Randy Jones remembered

STORY BY NICOLE DALRYMPLE, PA

St. Louis District employees were shocked by the news Friday, February 15 that Randy Jones, Locks 27 (Granite City, Ill.) lockmaster, had died from injuries sustained in a car accident two days earlier.

District commander Col. Lewis F. Setliff III notified the district via e-mail stating that, “Randy was an excellent example of a professional and dedicated employee. He deployed overseas in two deployments to Afghanistan, served as a member of the Corps family for over 20 years, and mentored too many employees to count. His service to his country, the Corps, and this District has been exceptional.”

News of Randy’s death traveled quickly. John Tatum, Locks 27 electrician, currently serving as a Project Engineer in the Afghanistan Engineer District, stated, “Randy made a big impact on a lot of people, at home and here in Afghanistan. I have had several people talk to me about him. He was one of the good guys and will be greatly missed.”

Randy spent the majority of his adult life working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis. “Randy loved working for the Corps,” said Sharon Jones, Randy’s wife of 33 years. “He never mentioned going anywhere else.”

“Randy was tied to the river his whole life,” she went on to explain. He was born August 9, 1953 in Granite City, Ill., the same year Locks 27 went into operation.

Sharon told a family story of Randy’s father taking him to see the lock when young Randy was just months old. At the time the public was permitted access to the lock, including walking right up to the railing of the auxiliary lock chamber.

As in life, his final resting place lies close the river where he worked for 20 plus years. Randy was buried in a family cemetery just about a mile from the Mississippi River in Columbus, Ky.

Prior to working for the Army Corps of Engineers, Randy spent almost eight years in the U.S. Army in armor, working as a loader, gunner and tank commander. He enlisted in March 1972 after discovering his number had come up for the draft. Just six months later he and Sharon married on September 16; Randy was 19 and Sharon was 17.

The couple spent their first three years of Army life at Ft. Riley in Kansas. They transferred to Manheim, Germany for three years, and with Sharon back in



Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, former Chief of Engineers, meets with Randy Jones (left, middle), Jim Zerega (right, middle), Andy Schimpf (lower right), Bruce Munholand (lower, left) and others at Locks 27 on Sept. 26, 2006.

USACE photo by Alan Dooley

Illinois with the kids, Randy finished out his service at Ft. Knox, Ky.

“We really enjoyed the military life,” Sharon said. The couple had three kids, one son and two daughters, while in the Army, and they welcomed a third daughter after settling down in Illinois.

After working for National Maintenance as a welder and being laid off, Randy got his first job with the Corps as a summer hire laborer, painting the hand rails at Old Locks 26. He then accepted seasonal work with the dredge.

In the mid-1980s, he got a permanent lock operator job at Locks and Dam 26. It was here that he forged lifelong friendships with Tom Miller, future lockmaster of Melvin Price Locks and Dam; Lon Montgomery, future assistant lockmaster of Mel Price; and John Branson, future lockmaster at Lock and Dam 25. “We advanced together and became very good friends,” Miller explained.

— SEE JONES, PAGE 10



St. Louis City, COE sign floodwall agreement

STORY BY ALAN DOOLEY, PA

The City of St. Louis and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently signed a funding agreement to repair the St. Louis floodwall. The total project is projected to cost \$17 million.



On Wednesday, February 21, 2007, Corps of Engineers inspectors and City of St. Louis public works officials conducted a PL 84-99 annual operations and maintenance inspection of one of two major sections of the St. Louis Flood Damage Reduction System. A reporter from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch was also in attendance for the inspection.

USACE photo by Alan Dooley

The city presented matching local funds with a ceremonial check for \$1,059,000, presented to Col. Lewis F. Setliff III by Mayor Francis Slay in a city hall ceremony April 4. Those funds, from a bond issue approved in 2006, will be matched up with \$1,968,000 approved by the Congress in 2007, to start the first portion of the work.

The so-called floodwall project will repair the entire 10.5 mile flood protection system. Work will repair closure gates and relief wells. Sen. Christopher “Kit” Bond (R-Mo) and Congressmen Carnahan (D-3rd District) and Lacy Clay (D-1st District) teamed up to support the necessary Federal legislation to start providing that 65 percent share for the project.

Both Mayor Slay and District Commander Col. Setliff praised the spirit of cooperation underlying the joint Federal-local effort to reduce risk from floods in St. Louis. Setliff noted that the city had led the funding effort by securing its bond issue a year before Federal

funding was provided. He pledged the full and energetic support of the St. Louis District to provide the necessary protection to the people and businesses.

The first stage of the project will focus on upgrading 103 relief wells that intercept underground seepage to return it safely to the river. In addition to improving those wells, recommended plans call for adding 70 new relief wells to reduce the risk of under seepage and eventual undermining of the floodwall’s foundation that can occur under some circumstances.

Another phase of the project will shift its focus to the closure gates that permit traffic and people to flow back and forth through the system. Gates at 20 closure structures that have deteriorated badly will be replaced. Thirteen more will be closed permanently. During the record 1993 flood, many of those gates could only perform to cut off flood waters with massive sand bagging and other temporary measures. Fixing these gates will greatly reduce the threat of their failure.

The St. Louis Floodwall system extends some 10.5 miles from Riverview Boulevard at Hall St., south to Laclede’s Landing. It restarts south of the Arch and runs southward to Potomac Ave. The area of the Arch is protected by its elevation.

While the floodwall provides protection to elevation 52-feet on the St. Louis Gage, some elements such as the relief wells and closure gates must be restored or augmented to better assure that level of protection. The President’s FY-09 budget recommends another \$2 million in Federal funding to continue the project to reduce flood risks.



Col. Lewis F. Setliff III, with Mayor Francis Slay and U.S. Rep. Russ Carnahan on his right, speaks at the signing of the funding agreement to repair the St. Louis floodwall. The total project is projected to cost \$17 million.

USACE photo by Alan Dooley

Thousand-plus "Flock"



Eastern Screech Owl



American Kestrel

STORY BY *KIM REA, NATIONAL GREAT RIVERS MUSEUM*

The 3rd Annual Wings of Spring Confluence Birding Festival was held April 25 - 26, 2008 at the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary in West Alton, Mo. The festival sponsored by the Meeting of the Rivers Foundation, Audubon Missouri, and Rivers Project Office in cooperation with numerous local, state, federal and not-for-profit organizations provided something for everyone.

On Friday the festival committee hosted 80 students from local schools during education day. Students participated in numerous bird awareness and environmental education activities.

On Saturday visitors braved the cool temperatures and came to the sanctuary to enjoy a combination of field trips, bird programs, family activities, and more.

More than 1,000 visitors strolled through the Migration Marketplace, constructed a blue bird house, sampled a Segway, kayaked in Ellis Bay and hiked through the bird sanctuary and participated in off site birding trips. Guests also searched for treasure on Ellis Island as they participated in geocaching programs.

Confluence Birdi



Barn Owl

“k” to Wings of Spring

USACE PHOTOS BY ALAN DOOLEY

The “Heron” excursion boat provided guided tours along the Mississippi River and Ellis Bay. Brian “Fox” Ellis presented “Bird Tales - Stories and Songs from Many Cultures” and the World Bird Sanctuary was on hand for birds of prey programs as well as pelican programs.

The festival grounds came to life with the musical talents of the Buckhannon Brothers and the Lodge Brothers. Over 100 girl scouts attended the festival and student winners of the Bonkers for Bird Coloring Contest were on hand to be recognized for their outstanding art work.

At the end of the day festival committee members were already discussing how to make next year’s festival even better. Festival Committee Chair, Kim Rea, stated “this year’s festival had something for everyone and was a true celebration of community. Together with our partners we can make a difference and provide fun outdoor education programming that is relevant and exciting for the public. When you bring a smile to someone’s face you know you are doing something right.” Next year’s festival is sure to bring more exciting features and will be held the last weekend in April.

ng Festival



American White Pelican



1. An Eastern Screech Owl shows her best side to visitors at the Wings of Spring Confluence (Illinois, Missouri and Mississippi Rivers) Birding Festival at the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary in West Alton, Illinois. The facility has become one of the nation’s premier bird watching sites, and offers opportunities to view numerous migratory and native species in their natural habitat, as well as opportunities to examine a broad variety of plant life native to the prairies of rivers of the Midwest.
2. American Kestrel - This bird, also known as a Sparrow Hawk, is one of the smallest of the raptor family of birds.
3. Barn Owl - Barn Owls are endangered because of the destruction of their habitat, including old farm structures.
4. American White Pelican - With her handler, Jamie Risho, at her side, “Mudflap” makes her public debut at the festival. She is named “Mudflap” in recognition of her having to have most of her right wing removed surgically after she was injured.
5. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, Park Ranger Phil Manhart (R) assists Kira Bricker, 7, of Belleville, Ill., to build a bird house at the festival. Materials were donated by a local building supply firm, and each child was able to take their new bird house home.

Andy Schimpf, Rivers Project Office operations manager, remembers meeting Randy in 1988, when Randy was the crane operator at Locks 26.

The Melvin Price Locks and Dam, replacement for Locks 26, was under construction. The two gentlemen were standing out on the lock wall of Mel Price’s new main lock chamber and Schimpf remembers Randy saying that he sure hated giving up the old lock. “He really had affection for the old lock,” his wife recalled, “but he came to love the new one too.”

While the lock had been a mess, it had been fun keeping it together, Randy told Schimpf. Schimpf remembers Randy saying he hoped that Melvin Price was a maintenance man’s worst nightmare because he didn’t want to be bored.

This was certainly in keeping with Randy’s personality. Schimpf said he was fascinated with equipment and worked with something until he had fixed it and then continued to work with it. “He

loved both operating equipment and repairing it,” Schimpf said.

Tom Miller, former lockmaster of the Melvin Price Locks and Dam, said Randy could do anything. “He was a good mechanic, welder and crane operator,” Miller said. “Randy was always in the middle of every fray, every job. He dove right into whatever needed to be done. I never had to tell Randy to do something. He’d just do it.”

Randy’s tenacity was one reason Miller selected him to lead sandbagging efforts at Melvin Price Locks and Dam during the Great Flood of 1993. “I picked Randy for the job because I knew he was aggressive enough to tackle the job.”

Randy led a crew of Mel Price and dredge employees. They worked in chest deep water, sandbagging the lock’s control houses. Work days often exceeded 12 hours and he worked every day. “They prevented damage and saved the government an enormous amount of money by keeping water out of the lock’s galleys,” Miller remembered.



Randy Jones loved playing Santa. Here he’s with his grandson, Kenny. *courtesy photo*

All agree that Randy’s favorite thing to do was operate the crane. He was the crane operator at both Old Locks 26 and Melvin Price.

Miller said that Randy’s decision to apply for the lockmaster job at Locks 27 was tempered by the fact that he would miss being the crane operator.

“He was a little hesitant because he wouldn’t be the crane operator anymore,” Miller said, “but I told him to do it because it was a rare opportunity that he might be sorry he passed up.” Randy became the lockmaster in February of 2005.

Schimpf said in a short time, Randy made a difference at Locks 27. “In the time he was at 27, Randy made a huge difference,” he said. “The attitude of the leader makes all the difference, and Randy has definitely left a void.”

During his time at Locks 27, Randy volunteered for two deployments to Afghanistan.

Sharon, recalling his love for operating a crane, told a story of



Randy Jones and his wife, Sharon, at Locks 27. Below them, in the lock chamber, the Lewis and Clark Expedition make their return to St. Louis in 2006.

courtesy photo

— SEE JONES, PAGE 12

Army Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service goes to St. Louis Corps of Engineers employee

STORY BY ALAN DOOLEY, PA

Dr. Michael K. “Sonny” Trimble, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis was announced as one of 26 Army Civilians receiving the Army’s top awards to civilian employees for 2008. Trimble received the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service from Army Secretary Pete Geren in a Pentagon Ceremony Tuesday, April 15.

Dr. Trimble was cited for his leadership of a team of experts that performed forensic mass-grave exhumations and analyses in Iraq following Gulf War II. Travelling to Iraq for seven extended periods, Trimble personally testified against Saddam Hussein, “Chemical Ali” and several other former Iraqi government officials in the Anfal Trial in Baghdad.

In announcing the honor accorded to Trimble, the Army said that his work demonstrates America’s support to the Global War on Terrorism by emphasizing our resolve to bring to trial those individuals accused of unthinkable crimes against other human beings.

Trimble and his hand picked teams applied proven techniques and technologies of archaeological and anthropological investigations, as well as specially adapting methods to curate and preserve information in forms that would stand up in court trials against war criminals.

The teams spent a series of lengthy periods in Iraq identifying and selecting mass grave sites, and then excavating remains from these graves before assembling a body of evidence and data that



Dr. Trimble was recognized with the top Army award for civilians. Here, he is pictured at the Muthanna Mass Grave Complex in the Iraqi desert in April 2005. *courtesy photo*

has been used in a series of trials of former Baath Party officials accused of numerous atrocities against the people of Iraq. Trimble’s teams also worked closely with Iraqi colleagues to help them to develop their techniques so they can continue to bring justice to victims after U.S. involvement in

this program ended.

In St. Louis, Dr. Trimble is the Chief of the Curation and Analysis Branch for the District and Director the Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers worldwide.

Randy during one of his deployments.

“When he was in Afghanistan, the water pump at his post went out during Ramadan when there were no Afghans working,” Sharon said. “The post had been without water for a day or two. Randy got into the crane, which had all its instructions and labels written in Chinese, and figured out how to operate it and fixed the pump.”

She said that was just like Randy, he threw himself into the challenge of learning equipment. “When he put his mind to it, he could do anything,” she said.

When asked if Randy had a hard time convincing her to let him deploy to Afghanistan, Sharon said no, because she thought it was exciting. She remembers sending candy and little toys to Randy so he could pass them out to the children that would meet him outside the post every day. Sharon also did donation drives for shoes and socks so that Afghan men could work on the construction sites and collected coats and blankets for the children. She did that after a tribal leader told Randy that children froze to death in the winter because of exposure.

Randy’s first deployment to Afghanistan in 2005 lasted four months and was spent in Gardez. He went back in 2007, this time for a seven month deployment in Khost, where he worked as a project engineer for police stations on the border. He had only been home from his second deployment 100 days prior to his death.

“When he was in Afghanistan we were of the mind frame that something could happen, but once he was home we thought everything was okay,” Sharon said. “The accident was so unexpected, it happened just two miles from our home.”

Sharon and the family continue to grieve the loss of their beloved husband, father and grandfather. Sharon and Randy’s four kids have eight grandchildren who all live in the area.

“This is a tragic loss,” Schimpf said. “Randy was close to the Rivers Project Office staff. He was a guy in good health and in the prime of his life. Everyone liked and appreciated him. It’s a shame we’re too busy to find out how wonderful people are around us at work, that we have to learn about it at their funerals. I had no idea Randy was so involved in his community.”

Schimpf was referring to a number of young men who spoke at Randy’s funeral, saying that he was like a father to them. Sharon explained that she and Randy were members of the Hibbard Masonic Lodge 249 and that for a number of years during the 1990s they were involved in program called DeMolay. This program,

sponsored by the Masonic Lodge, mentors young men, ages 13-21. The young men called Randy “Dad Jones” and Sharon “Mom Jones”.

“Randy helped a lot of those boys through some difficult things,” Sharon said.

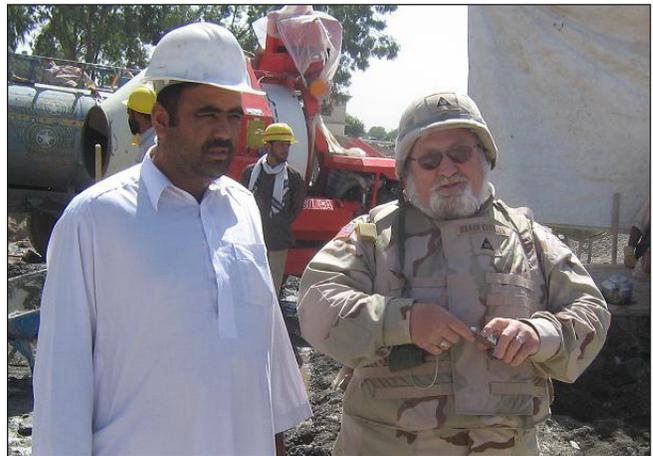
A song with special significance at dances once held for DeMolay youth was played at Randy’s funeral. Sharon explained that at the first dance when Randy announced the dance was over the kids asked for one more dance, and Randy said they could have just one more. They requested the longest song they could think of, “Stairway to Heaven,” by Led Zeppelin. It became tradition at all following dances for “Stairway to Heaven” to be played at the very end. Sharon chose to have the song play at the end of Randy’s funeral as everyone was leaving.

“I really miss him,” colleague and friend Tom Miller said. “I think about him every day.”

Sharon, who has links to the river herself, served as the site coordinator for the Lewis and Clark encampment at Hartford, Ill., during the bicentennial event, and gave tours of the Melvin Price Locks and Dam for many years prior to the construction of the National Great Rivers Museum.

“I have lots of great memories,” Sharon said. “We had fun. On Randy’s death bed I told him it had been a good run and that we’d had a lot of fun and while it wasn’t suppose to end this way we’d made the most of it.” Sharon said she is very appreciative of all those from the Corps family who have reached out to her and the family offering help and support.

Sharon and their grown kids Chad (33), Lori (32), Shara (30), and Meredith (28), will cherish the memories of Randy, and we in the District will do the same.



Randy with a contractor in Khost, Afghanistan during his second deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism, in May 2007. His first was to Afghanistan as well, in 2005.

courtesy photo

ACE-IT 101: What you need to know

STORY BY NICOLE DALRYMPLE, PA

Haven't had time to read the "Countdown to Transition" document on the ACE-IT website? Well here is a snapshot of some of the most important things you need to know with the May 15 assumption of duties by ACE-IT.

The New Virtual Help Desk

- The biggest immediate change for the entire U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the activation of the ACE-IT Enterprise Service Desk (ESD), located in Madison, Ala. Effective May 15 all Information Management and Information Technology services (PC helpdesk, audio-visual requirements, printing, records management, copier issues, special IT related tasks or projects) will be requested through the ACE-IT ESD.
- The ESD will provide first line customer support, and will log and track progress on all service and support requests until completion. If required, the ESD may dispatch locally-stationed ACE-IT staff to assist you. The ESD will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. The ESD may be contacted at 1-866-56ACEIT (1-866-562-2348).
- After the refresh, an estimated 80 percent of all PC problems will be handled virtually by the ESD.
- Service calls will be handled one of four ways: virtually by the ESD customer service representatives, in person by ACE-IT folks at your Corps location, virtually by ACE-IT employees at another Corps location, or through contract services.

Refresh

This calendar year all desktop and laptop computers will be refreshed (i.e. replaced), as well as wireless equipment (cell phones, Blackberries and aircards). The St. Louis District is slated to do its wireless refresh September 15-19 and its computer refresh October 27 – November 14. The refresh date for copiers and printers is to be determined.

- Each site's equipment refresh and transition will be managed by a site Integrated Process Team. The core team for the District's conversion includes Sam Bradley in Vicksburg District, who is the Senior Regional Information Officer; Ron Fennell in Memphis District, who is the Transformation Manager and from St. Louis

District Ron Singleton, Regional Information Officer; Ron Jones, Senior Regional Information Officer and Christy Huskey, Quality Manager.

- To prepare for the computer refresh employees are asked to take these steps just prior to their appointment. Additional information, including a checklist, is available on the ACE-IT website, but here are the highlights.
 - During refresh, estimated to take three hours, employee or trusted agent must be present.
 - Physical area around computer needs to be cleaned and de-cluttered to provide easy access for technician. Clear access to electrical outlets. Remove all personal belongings on or attached to your computer and remove any valuables from work area.
 - Review and purge all unnecessary and personal electronic files from your hard drive.
 - All data you want transferred to new hard drive needs to be moved to "My Documents" folder.
 - Back up any critical data in your "My Documents" folder prior to refresh.
 - Technicians are not authorized to restore files of a non-work, personal nature. Remove these files prior to refresh.
 - Any software that is required, but is not in the standard software list, must have corresponding legal licenses for loading to new computer.
 - Properly store and secure information, media and documents that are classified, sensitive or considered For Official Use Only.
 - To validate the refresh, employees will be asked to ensure all hardware and software is working properly, email is operational, printers are processing jobs correctly, network drives are accessible, data files have been restored properly and Internet is accessible. Laptop users will also verify that Virtual Private Network (VPN) is accessible and functioning correctly.

— SEE ACE-IT, NEXT PAGE

GEOCACHING, FROM PAGE 3

for events like this required that we remove the geocaches when we were done,” Griffin explained. “But Allen wanted us to leave them in place so others could continue to use them.”

Mehrer explained to Griffin that it was a low impact form of maintenance which required very little maintenance. Mehrer’s plan has worked. By 2009’s event, he expects to have more than 250 caches across the lake.

Mehrer added that the event is also good for the community. “We fill up hotels when they normally wouldn’t be full and the businesses supply coupons for the participants packages.”

Outdoor Adventure

One of the unique and fun aspects of Geocaching is that it takes people to places they wouldn’t normally go.

“I’ve placed one called ‘Middle Fork Palisade’,” Mehrer explains. “The view is unbelievable and the chance of anyone discovering it without Geocaching is just as unlikely.”

Mehrer has used a variety of trin-



Geocachers download all the coordinates for the 60 caches in John F. Spaulding Recreation Area that were being used for the 2008 MOGA. The previous year’s event had the same number of caches, but they were located in Indian Creek Recreation Area. *courtesy photo*

kets in his caches, but the ones that disappear the quickest are the water safety items.

Another aspect of the game is that anybody can do it. GPS units are less expensive and easier to use. Geocachers can also pick and choose their hunts based on the difficulty level.

For Mehrer, though, it’s a family

affair. “Although I had no idea what it was less than three years ago, I’ve managed to get myself and the rest of the family excited about it.

“When we go on trips, we’ll pull up some Geocaching sites along the route and build it into the schedule,” Mehrer says.

“It’s great family sport.”

For more information about Geocaching at Mark Twain Lake, call the project office at: (573) 735-4097

ACE-IT, FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

- After employees verify that the computer is fully operational and applications are working properly, they will be asked to sign a corroborating form stating as much.
- The old computer will then be removed from the work area and will no longer be available. The old hard drive will be removed and destroyed in accordance with DoD security guidelines.

Additional information is available at <https://www.aceit.usace.army.mil/> Employees are encouraged to read “Countdown To Transition” and the “Customer’s Guide to ACE-IT Services” documents and questions can be directed to Ron Singleton, 314-331-8660 and Ron Jones, 314-331-8655.



1-866-56ACE-IT
1-866-562-2348

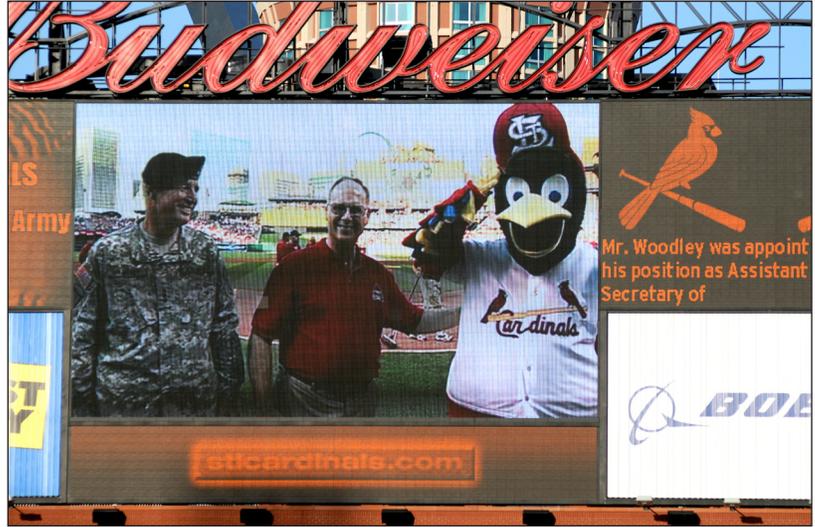


Chief of Engineers, ASA throw out first pitch



Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, and Assistant Secretary of Army for Civil Works, John Paul Woodley, Jr., threw out ceremonial first pitches at a Cards-Cubs game at Busch Stadium on May 4. Both Corps leaders tossed strikes over home plate and rooted the home team to victory over the Chicago Cubs.

USACE photos by Alan Dooley



No accidents... *is no accident*



In the afterglow of the super job of making emergency repairs at Lock 25 last month, there's something else to talk about.

Navigation Business Line Manager Andy Schimpf reports that there were about 2500 man-hours expended making the repairs, all without a single accident or incident.

This safety performance is all the more remarkable when the circumstances are taken into account. An eager navigation industry was looking over their shoulders. They wanted the work done right, but they wanted it done as quickly as possible.

So the joint St. Louis-Rock Island Districts repair team pressed on, around the clock and through some nasty weather to get the job done, swiftly and safely.

"This wasn't an everyday job," Schimpf noted. "There are a lot of risks that go along with heavy work, a tight schedule and bad weather, but the team met all of the challenges. That's a top flight effort on everyone's part. I couldn't be prouder," Schimpf concluded.

UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS

Change of Command

July 2, 2008, 10 a.m.
Sheraton St. Louis City Center Hotel

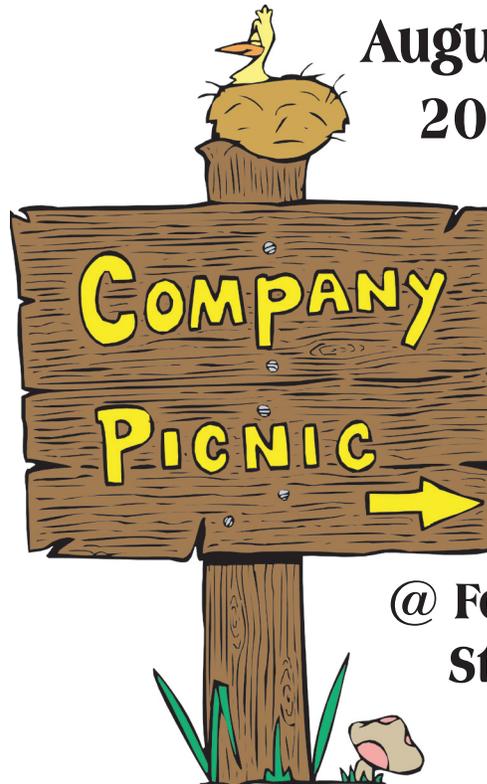
Outgoing District Engineer
Col. Lewis F. Setliff III

Incoming District Engineer
Col. Thomas E. O'Hara Jr.

Attire

Military: Duty Uniform
Civilian: Civilian Business

August 7,
2008



@ Forest Park
St. Louis

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

CEMVS-PA
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1222 SPRUCE ST
ST LOUIS MO 63103-2833