

# St. Louis District *Esprit*

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## America's Great Outdoors listening session gives youth opportunity to share ideas, experiences

By MARY MARKOS

*MVS Public Affairs*

More than 320 youth cast a fishing line, learned about water safety and river engineering and discovered the secrets of tracking animals Aug. 20 at the Rediscover the River youth event held at the National Great Rivers Museum in Alton, Ill.

The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy, with the support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the USACE St. Louis District, hosted the event and listening session to better understand what the youth feel officials can do to conserve our environment and help others connect with the outdoors.

Highlighted by more than 15 hands-on workshops that introduced the youth

to things such as canoeing, watchable wildlife, river research and geocaching, the event concluded with Darcy and St. Louis District Commander Col. Tom O'Hara listening to how the teens spend their time in the outdoors, and what they feel can be done to protect the natural environment.

Part of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative, the goal of the event, and the more than 22 like it that have been or will be held across the country, is to help shape the President's conservation agenda.

A former teacher, Darcy said she understands the need for and significance of a youth's involvement.

"Working with the children brings the importance of the America's Great Outdoors initiative to the forefront," Darcy said. "Even at a young age, these children understand the need to preserve and protect our outdoor spaces."

See ST. LOUIS Page 6



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
St. Louis District

COMMANDER'S CORNER



# Individual contributions propel MVS on the path from “Good to Great”

Last month, I began a discussion regarding our journey from “Good to Great.” I believe there are four individual contributions that each of us can take – and must take - to help propel us forward on this path. They are:

1. **Do your job and do it well**
2. **Take care of our people and the public**
3. **Deliver what you/we promise**
4. **Play well with others**

I would like to discuss the first contribution, and how it relates to each of us.

**Do your job and do it well.**

I know you are all highly qualified and skilled, so you may wonder what exactly that means and what you can do to help us on our journey. What I mean by “Do your job and do it well” is to constantly strive to deliver superior performance. I challenge each of you to find ways to rise above the status quo and raise the expectations of our District, then rise to meet those expectations.

As we raise expectations, we will set a new standard for all areas of our mission and profession. We must seek opportunities to implement and develop cutting edge engineering, to employ innovative service delivery and world-class leadership.

Another aspect of this fundamental is striving to meet the needs of the future – to work for tomorrow’s solutions today. We must think past the mission to not only provide a solution, but to provide the answer’s for tomorrow’s problems before they arise. I challenge you all to “think outside the box” and push yourselves to find new ways to address current issues. And, I challenge you to provide creative, innovation solutions.

This was seen at the highest degree last month when the District hosted the Assistant Secretary for the Army Jo-Ellen Darcy and an America’s Great Outdoors Initiative listening session.

President Obama inaugurated the Initiative to bring

together administrative officials and the public, and to gather ideas that will get people connected with the outdoors. Seventeen listening sessions were held before the one here, and our event far surpassed the expectations and standard that was previously set.

My sincere appreciation goes to all the Rangers and staff members at the Rivers Project Office and throughout the District who worked so hard to make the event such a success. They truly did their job and did it well!

A final thought on this individual contribution is that we all must continue to push ourselves professionally. We should continually look for opportunities in both the academic and non-traditional learning environment that will allow us to gain new skills and rise to the next challenge. If you are not certified, licensed or accredited in your profession, I challenge you do to that.

In closing, I would like to remind you all to “think safety” this Labor Day weekend. We have lost far too many lives as a result of not wearing the proper flotation device on the water. Remember, friends don’t let friends on the water without their life jackets. We all must do our part to remain safe and we must inform those around us of the measure they should take to remain safe as well.

And as you celebrate this long-weekend, I ask you to give thought to the 15 MVS family members who are currently serving in overseas contingencies. They, and their families, are make tremendous sacrifices and their actions are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for all you do!



O'Hara

*Col. Tom E. O'Hara, Jr.  
MVS District Commander*

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**Cover: More than 320 youth gather Aug. 20 at the National Great Rivers Museum for an America’s Great Outdoor Initiative listening session with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.**  
*(Photo by Keith Hyde)*



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# St. Louis Veterans Curation Project graduates eight veterans

Story and photos by  
**GEORGE STRINGHAM**  
*MVS Public Affairs*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers graduated eight veterans August 6 from the St. Louis District's Veterans Curation Project at the District's headquarters in St. Louis. Congressman Russ Carnahan attended the ceremony.

Cody Gregory; Conway Slaughter; Trey Stone; Ashley House; Cory Tabbert; Ron Thurbe; Jeff Knelange and Kurt Walther worked in the VCP for up to eight months.

"The transition from military to civilian life can be challenging, but these individuals rose to meet and overcome the challenges put before them," said Col. Tom O'Hara, St. Louis District commander. "The VCP helped them to improve their skill set, and they helped the St. Louis project office process more than 150 cubic feet of archaeological materials. We are proud to have had them in this project."

The VCP was implemented for vocational rehabilitation of disabled veterans using USACE managed archaeological collections.

The project, which was designed to provide vocational training and employment to veterans from the current contingency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and previous conflicts while rehabilitating Corps archaeological collections, opened three laboratories between October



**Graduates of the Veterans Curation Project take a moment to meet with Congressman Russ Carnahan (back, center) and St. Louis District Commander Col. Tom O'Hara.**

2009 and January 2010 in Augusta, Ga., St. Louis, and Washington, D.C.

Funding for the VCP was provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009 and selection of the individuals enrolled in it is coordinated closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The role of USACE has been to provide the collections, and to design, coordinate, implement, and manage the program at these three facilities.

Veterans working at the three labs are being trained in archaeological records processing, computer, photographic and scanning technologies.

The technical skills learned at the labs will be transferrable to potential future jobs outside the labs. Jobs

that employ these skills are growing segments of the record keeping and document archiving requirements of industries such as medical, financial and legal fields.

To date, the VCP has provided training and temporary employment to 50 veterans and employment to 10 non-veterans. In addition, 12 veterans have obtained permanent outside employment during or after their participation in the project and at least 11 of the veterans are furthering their formal education by enrolling in college or job training courses.

To date, the three VCP labs have rehabilitated over 300 cubic feet of Corps archaeological collections to Federal standards.

**Left: Trey Stone celebrates his VCP graduation with his Lab Manager Andrea Adams. Right: Congressman Russ Carnahan speaks with Cody Gregory prior to the VCP graduation.**



# Mississippi River Commission holds public hearing at Cape Girardeau

by MARY MARKOS

*MVS Public Affairs*

The Mississippi River Commission held a public hearing August 16 at the Cape Girardeau, Mo., riverfront as part of its annual low-water inspection trip.

Local officials, stakeholders and members of the public expressed their concerns of the Mississippi River watershed aboard the Motor Vessel Mississippi.

The Southeast Missouri Regional Port, levee certification and flood maps were among the topic presented

The commission conducted the hearing to maintain a dialogue and to exchange viewpoints and ideas with stakeholders and the public.

The public hearing process is unique to the Mississippi River Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Commission members said the benefits of hearing firsthand the issues and concerns through the public hearing process are invaluable and crucial to the decision-making process.

## MRC Firsts

This year marked the MRC and M/V Mississippi's first trip to Tulsa, Okla., and Fort Smith and Little Rock, Ark., to visit the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System.

The visit, said Maj. Gen. Michael Walsh, MRC president, allowed the



Photos by Bob Anderson

**Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson expresses her concerns of the Southeast Missouri Regional Port before the Mississippi River Commission August 16 in Cape Girardeau, Mo.**

Commission to engage new stakeholders and partners, and to work the long-standing process of listening, inspecting, partnering and engineering

The Commission also communicated its 200-year working vision for the Mississippi River.

## About the MRC

The MRC, established in 1879, is composed of seven members, each nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate.

Three of the organization's members are officers of the Corps of Engineers; one member is from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and three members are civilians, two of whom are civil engineers.

General duties of the Mississippi River Commission include making recommendations on policy and work programs, studying and reporting on whether modifications or additions are needed for flood control and navigation projects, providing recommendations on any matters authorized by law, and making semi-annual inspection trips.

This year marked the MRC's 383rd low-water inspection trip.

"I am convinced the Mississippi River Watershed provides tremendous value to the people of our nation - from clean water to navigation, agriculture and wildlife habitat," said Walsh following his third low-water trip.



**Kent Puchbauer, chairman of the Southeast Missouri Port Commission, testifies to the MRC in Cape Girardeau. Puchbauer also gave the Commissioners a windshield tour of the Southeast Missouri Port.**

Community members gather with local officials Aug. 2 at Eagle Park Acres in Madison County, Ill., for the groundbreaking of a new collector sanitary sewer system.



## American Recovery and Reinvestment Act brings new sanitary sewer system to Madison County

Story and photo by  
**GEORGE STRINGHAM**  
*MVS Public Affairs*

A groundbreaking for Eagle Park Acres new collector sanitary sewer system was held on Aug. 2 at the intersection of Carver and Hill streets, Eagle Park Acres in Madison County, Ill.

St. Louis District Commander, Col. Thomas E. O'Hara, Jr., was joined by keynote speaker, Cong. Jerry Costello (D-Belleville), who was instrumental in securing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding for this project.

"This is something this community's needed for awhile and the passing of the Recovery bill is making it a reality," Costello remarked during the event.

Costello and O'Hara were joined by Alan Dunstan, Madison County Chairman, Andy Economy and Ken Davis, Venice and Nameoki Township Supervisors and members of the community for this commemorative ceremony.

Construction of the \$1.68 million ARRA project was awarded to H&M Backhoe Services of Belleville, Ill.

The subdivision of Eagle Park Acres, which sits in Venice and Nameoki Townships, currently suffers from aging, inadequate and inefficient individual wastewater treatment systems for the 142 households resting in the 87-acre community.

The new sewer system will replace the individual systems and reduce sewage seepage. The Corps was first approached

by Madison County officials in March 2006 to address the sewage issues.

"Corps-wide, we recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment," said Col. Thomas O'Hara, Commander for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' St. Louis District. "By installing this sanitary system, we are removing several inefficient wastewater systems. This community and the environment will be greatly improved by this project."

This particular project is one of four under the same funding umbrella in Madison and St. Clair counties that addresses sewer issues. The first part to be completed was the rehabilitation of a portion of the combined sewer system in the downtown area of East St. Louis.

The second, also a combined sewer overflow project, is located in Belleville, Ill. It is also an ARRA-funded project to upgrade its system to remain in compliance with environmental regulations regarding the overflow of combined sewers. It is currently under construction.

The final project in Glen Carbon is currently in the design phase. Total projected cost for all projects is estimated at \$13.3 million.

The American Society of Civil Engineers conducted a nationwide survey in which wastewater systems were identified as the second highest of a list of seven infrastructure systems listed as having major problems and needs. A community's first step to providing quality environmental services is to identify its environmental infrastructure components.

Eagle Park Acres is one such example.

**Corps-wide, we recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment. By installing this sanitary system, we are removing several inefficient wastewater systems. This community and the environment will be greatly improved by this project.**

**Col. Tom O'Hara**  
St. Louis District commander



Photo by Keith Hyde

America's Great Outdoors Initiative listening session participants gather Aug. 20 at Mel Price Locks and Dam following the youth listening session.

## St. Louis District hosts America's Great Outdoor Initiative listening sessions

*continued from Cover*

While the teens' outdoor experience varied from walking in their neighborhood, to camping, to riding their bike 1,500 miles in one summer, the youth shared an enthusiasm for outdoor education and connecting with nature.

"The kids have a real passion for getting involved in their environment," O'Hara said. "They encouraged each other and shared their outdoor experiences. The event not only exposed them to aspects of the outdoors they may be unfamiliar with, it will help the President understand what is important to them and what would further encourage them to get outside."

The youth event was followed by a public listening session at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, Ill., where Darcy was joined by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. More than 150 Missouri and Illinois residents spoke about their desires and

concerns for the environment and the Mississippi River.

"Today's listening session, located near the confluence of the Illinois and Missouri Rivers with the Mississippi, brought to light the importance of conserving the nation's water resources

and connecting with the environment," Darcy said. "The people living here are true environmental stewards and have a passion for our American outdoors. Their drive and commitment to the outdoors will serve as a foundation for the 21st century conservation agenda."



**USACE Ranger Robert Cosgriff discusses river habitats with youth Aug. 20 at the "Rediscover the River" youth event at the National Great Rivers Museum.**

Photo by Keith Hyde



**Left: Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy learns to cast Aug. 20 at the “Rediscover the River” youth event.**

*Photo by Hilary Markin*

**Below: Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar welcomes participants to the America’s Great Outdoors Initiative listening session at Louis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, Ill.**

*Photo by Keith Hyde*

Salazar said he sees the initiative as a spring-board to the future.

“From the banks of the Mississippi River to the nation’s iconic Gateway Arch, this region is home to many special and historic treasures,” said Salazar. “We continue to build momentum with each America’s Great Outdoors session and it is because of the passion and commitment we all share in protecting the places we love. Thank you for joining a conversation that will help shape a conservation agenda for generations to come.”

President Obama inaugurated the America’s Great Outdoors Initiative at the White House Conference on the Great Outdoors in April.

The conference brought together leaders from communities across the country that are working to protect their outdoor spaces and focused on developing and supporting innovative ideas for improving conservation and recreation at the local level.

In a presidential memorandum, he called on the Secretaries of the Interior and of Agriculture, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality to lead the initiative, in coordination with the departments of Defense, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Labor, Transportation, Education, and the Office of Management and Budget.



**St. Louis District Commander Col. Tom O’Hara gives Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy a tour of the Riverlands Bird Sanctuary.**

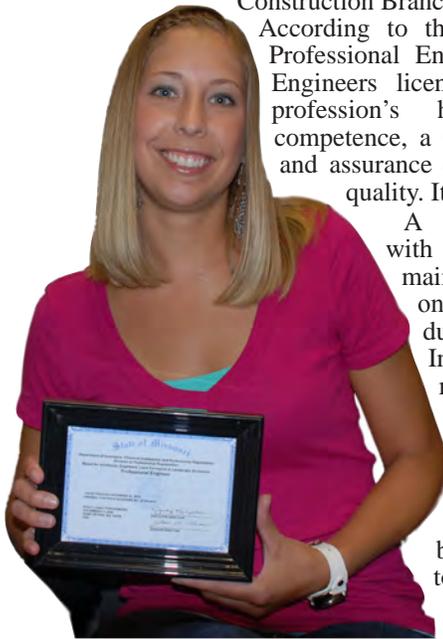
*Photo by George Stringham*

DO YOUR JOB AND DO IT WELL

# Professional Engineer license marks career achievement, professional competence

**Story and photo by  
ROMANDA WALKER**  
*MVS Public Affairs*

Determined, dedicated, mother; Professional Engineer. These are just a few words that some may use to describe Stacy Friesenborg, Resident Engineer in the St. Louis District Construction Branch.



According to the National Society of Professional Engineers, a Professional Engineers license is the engineering profession's highest standard of competence, a symbol of achievement and assurance of dedication, skill and quality. It's a mark of dedication.

A PE license comes with the responsibility of maintaining and improving one's proficiency for the duration of their career. In Missouri, an engineer must complete 30-hours of continuing education every two years.

Friesenborg began working with the District in May 2009, but she wasn't a stranger to the District.

While working on her Civil Engineering

degree at Washington University in St. Louis, Friesenborg interned with MVS from 2000-2002.

Her quest for obtaining her PE license began at the end of her senior year of college. Friesenborg passed the Fundamentals of Engineering exam, which is the first step of a long list of requirements.

Passing the FE exam classified Friesenborg as an "engineer-in-training." After graduation, she began her training in structural design under the supervision of a registered professional engineer, at an architectural design firm.

An engineer must work no less than four years under the supervision of a registered PE in order to be eligible to take the PE exam.

Friesenborg said preparing for the PE exam is similar to training for a marathon. It required motivation, goals, time and stamina to be set for the eight-hour exam.

Friesenborg's training began in January, four months before she was to attempt the exam. Her routine included studying a couple hours a day and taking practice tests.

"I pretty much had no life, in those four months leading up to the exam. My friends would call and would want to hang out, but I couldn't," she said.

All work and no play definitely paid off for Friesenborg. Her certificate sits proudly on her desk. "It felt good to pass," she said. "It was worth all the effort... because I never have to take it again," Friesenborg said jokingly.

Friesenborg serves as an example of an MVS employee who "Does her job and does it well." Through her leadership, hard work and dedication to the field of engineering, she meets and exceeds the individual contribution that will help propel the District on its path from "Good to Great."



A Missouri Department of Conservation Area in Jefferson County, Mo., located on LaBarque Creek, is an example of the MVS Regulatory Program working with our partners, customers and stakeholders to utilize valuable mitigation funds to preserve and protect our aquatic environment, contribute to the watershed approach for mitigation, and to implement Goal 2 of the MVS Campaign Plan.

The conservation area is a high quality stream, and is known as the LaBarque Creek Conservation Opportunity Area. This watershed has been identified by the state as a high priority watershed for protection and preservation.

# Mark Twain Lake sets grand opening for M.W. Boudreaux Memorial Visitor Center

by **MARY ANNE HEIMEYER**  
*MTL Park Ranger*

The Grand Opening of the new M.W. Boudreaux Memorial Visitor Center is set for Oct. 2.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials and the Mark Twain Lake Visitor and Educational Resource Center Committee extend invitations to everyone to visit the new facility.

The Visitor Center is located at the south end of the Clarence Cannon Dam, 12 miles south of Monroe City, Missouri, off of Route J.

Some of the features of the new Visitor Center include a multi-purpose community room with a pull down projection screen, sound system and spectacular views, a covered outdoor classroom with a fire ring and amphitheater style seating and a drive around vista so visitors can see the lake from their vehicles.

Spectacular views of the lake and dam are provided by a large viewing deck that surrounds the north side of the new building and extends across a foot bridge to a dam and spillway overlook.

Inside the building you will be treated to a great room with a large stone fireplace and the Batty Mural hanging over the mantle. Overhead, partners and volunteers are honored with a large copper leaf sculpture with acorns that light up when a name is chosen.

The Visitor Center also boasts new exhibits that provide information on construction of the dam, history of the area, environmental stewardship activities and hydroelectricity.

A replica of a turbine/generator unit provides visitors an interactive opportunity to learn about hydroelectricity and hand cranks to generate electricity to energize light bulbs. Primitive artifacts and fossils of the area will be on display along

with the Gander Mammoth tooth and historical items.

Visitors to the dam area have watched construction transform the Boudreaux Recreation Area and have anticipated the opening day.

It was one year ago this month that officials announced a \$4.482M contract was awarded to John J. Kirlin Special Projects, LLC of Rockville, Md., for the design and construction of the new M.W. Boudreaux Memorial Visitor Center. Construction is almost complete and plans for the grand opening are underway.

"I'd like to thank our many partners, the Mark Twain Lake Visitor and Educational Resource Center Committee, and those who have worked hard for years to get the Visitor Center reopened," said Sandra Spence, Operations Manager at the lake. "Many of the features and options for the new design were suggestions made by many of our neighbors, teachers, community members, visitors and stakeholders," she added.

"It is a great day for all of us to learn that the new visitor center is a reality and that the local and regional economy will benefit from its construction and continue to benefit from the lake's operation."

The Northeast Missouri Vietnam Memorial will also open October 2.

It has been relocated to a place of prominence at the southeast corner of the building and visible above Route J. The Memorial's eleven foot tall gnomon and twelve monuments with plaques have been refinished. The Memorial lists 45 men from Northeast Missouri who died serving their country during the Vietnam War.

**The M.W. Boudreaux Memorial Visitor Center is set to open Oct. 2. It is located at the south end of the Clarence Cannon Dam, 12 miles south of Monroe City, Missouri, off of Route J.**

*Courtesy photo*



## MVS CONGRATULATES THE MEMBERS OF THE 2011 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Jonathan Bailey  
Timothy Eagan  
Stacy Friesenborg  
Rob Heer

Donovan Henry  
Dawn Lamm  
Rosie Lemons  
Geoff Mueller  
Matt Rector

Jon Summers  
Dave Ulrey  
Marty Werdebaugh  
Jason Farmer

# Environmental science series educates audience on owl habitats, encroachment

Story and photo by  
**SHERRI WURTZEL**

*Rend Lake Park Ranger*

Free Again Wildlife Rehabilitation Center's owner and lead rehabilitator, Bev Shofstall, was the featured speaker during the August 21 Environmental Science Series program held at the Rend Lake Visitor Center.

Shofstall brought with her five residents of the center - owls. Three of the feathered special guests are common to southern Illinois area. They are the great horned owl, the barred owl and the screech owl.

The great horned owl, one of the largest owls found in Illinois, is commonly identify by the large tufts of feathers that protrude from its head and give the appearance of large ears; the barred owl, which has a distinctive call that sounds like he is asking "who-cooks-for-you, who-cooks-for-you-all"; and the screech owl, one of the smallest owls found in Illinois.

In addition, two not so common feathered guests were present as well. These two guests are state endangered owls: the barn owl and short-eared owl.

During the program visitors learned that there is good news for the barn owl, as their population has increased over the past 30 years.

It is speculated that if the trend continues the barn owl may soon be moved from the endangered species list to the threatened species list.

The second of the endangered owls at the program was the short-eared owl. The short eared owl is the state's only migrating owl and lives in Illinois only



**Bev Shofstall, Free Again Wildlife Rehabilitation Center owner and lead rehabilitator, displays a barred owl at Rend Lake Visitor Center August 21 as part of the Environmental Science Series program.**

during the winter.

Shofstall reminded visitors that cavity nesting birds oftentimes become the victim of storms and yard cleanup projects. She reminded visitors that removing trees simply because of their unsightly appearance will affect these species.

Homeowners are encouraged to leave those trees and allow them to die naturally. More than 150 different species will use a dead or dying tree as their habitat.

Removing an animal's natural habitat will encourage owls and other wildlife will search out an alternative housing plan - oftentimes selecting chimneys and house overhangs on roofs.

"As we keep encroaching into fields and woods with our homes, subdivisions and mini malls, we are eliminating the homes and hunting grounds of many different animal species," Shofstall said. "Unless we learn to live with these animals and to share our environment, we may lose them entirely."

## Be Social!

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## RETIREE CORNER

# Rehired annuitant program, puts MVS retirees back to work

by **BOB WICH**  
*MVS Retiree Liaison*

Last month's column started with "Welcome to the world of the retired." Well, based on info accumulated since then, MVS retired folks haven't quite figured out how to do retirement very well.

Based on info provided by Dick Boudreau, himself a retiree back working in MVS, there are 50 retired employees currently working in the District under the auspices of the Department of Army's Rehired Annuitant Program. Work schedules vary from full time to part time to intermittent.



Wich

Here's a quick rundown of who's working where:

### Engineering and Construction Division

There are 33 working in what is now the Engineering and Construction Division. These include Mike Dace; Charlie Dees; Ed Demsky; John Dierker; Gary Dyhouse; Stan Ebersohl; Dario Franz; John Gaal; Charlie Grojean; Joe Hartman; Gary Jones; Ken Koller; Kathy Kornberger; Jim Kuehnle; Jim Lamkins; Jim Lampe; Canny McMurphy; Dennis Morgan; Ron Rauh; Mike Rector; Ed Riff; Dennis Seibel; Bill Selvo; Mel Stohl; Brad Strauser; Claude Strauser; Larry Strunk; Charlie Turlin; Ron Viehweg; Gary Webb; Bob Wich; Jim Worts and Stan Zurweller.

### Operations Division

In Operations Division there are ten RA's, as they are called, including Gerry Berning; John Branson; John Cannon; Cheryl Cooper; Steve Dierker; Larry Gutzler; Donna Henrichs; Steve Johnson; Bill Maxedon and Kathy Queathem.

### DE's Office

Rich Astrack; Bob Hughey; Lois King and Jim Zerega are in Project Management, while Dick Boudreau, Natalie Eschmann and Kathy Feld are assigned to the DE's Office.

### Outside the District

The astute reader might notice that both Kathy Feld and Kathy Kornberger are working in the District while neither of their retired husbands' names appears above.

It turns out that Wally Feld has been working part-time the past four years at St. Francis de Sales Church as general manager for their extensive renovation work, including stabilizing the 300-foot church steeple, which is the highest in the city. The campus consists of five large

buildings ranging in age from 70 to 110 years old, all in need of TLC.

The church building itself is on the National Register of Historic Places. No word on his remuneration, but hopefully he gets his ticket punched and gets a free pass when he gets to the pearly gates.

Paul Kornberger on the other hand is babysitting the grandkids, so that his wife can work! His retort was "I enjoy my status as one rugged individual who chose to face retirement cold turkey." Kornberger, by the way, claims to be the only retiree to ever throw a sitting District Engineer (COL Mike Morrow), whilst in uniform, into a swimming pool, get away with it, and never have to forfeit his pension. There's got to be more to this story.

In addition, there are those who have found opportunities elsewhere. The Census Bureau hired Rich Mills to count heads in South County. According to Rich's counting, he made enough money to support his golf habit for the balance of 2010.

Then there's Bill Sutton who "works" as a marshal at Tapawingo Golf Course to support his golf obsession. Rich Astrack is so busy that he has two jobs. In addition to working in MVS, he's doing volunteer work at the Missouri History Museum in conjunction with the Vatican Splendors: A Journey Through Faith and Art exhibit.

As news trickles in about others and their success, or lack thereof, at being retired, it will be added to future editions.

Busy as the retirees are, 12 were able to make it to lunch July 21 at the Lazy River Grill out in Ballwin. Those who were not there missed out on great food and conversation. All retirees can mark their calendars for the third Wednesday of each month when the ROMEO group gets together for fun and food.

### Farewell to Friends

Along with good news, unfortunately, we need to share a little not-so-good news. First, Paul Kornberger informed me that Tony Dietrich, who retired as the assistant lockmaster at Lock and Dam No. 24, passed away recently. We extend our condolences to Tony's family and friends.

Rich Mills sent information that Bill Stroud passed away August 23 due to congestive heart failure. Bill worked for many years in the Water Control Section before retiring in 1993. He was active in the Corps' bowling league and had managed the men's softball team. Bill had been living in Birmingham, Ala., with his wife Dorothy. Our condolences are likewise extended to his family and friends.

Also, Joe Bisher dropped me a line to say that his wife Ellie took a spill and broke a femur. We wish her a speedy recovery.

# Rend Lake Rangers save life, incident serves as reminder to wear lifejackets

by **MARY MARKOS**  
*MVS Public Affairs*

"I feel we did what anyone would do in the situation – we helped a person in trouble," said U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rend Lake Park Ranger Marla Sawyer. But, what Sawyer and fellow Ranger Scott Page did July 14 saved a man's life.

It was early in the evening when Page noticed something in the water outside the swim buoys at South Sandusky Beach. He yelled to Sawyer, and they started walking to the shoreline. The park rangers called for the swimmers to move toward land, and one made it quickly, Page said. The other swimmer began showing signs of distress.

Neither swimmer was wearing a life jacket.

"The swimmer was going up and down in the water and even went under the surface of the water," Sawyer said. "He put his hands above his head a couple of times. Both Scott and I realized this swimmer was in distress and needed assistance quickly."

A nearby recreational boater offered to take Page to the swimmer. After reaching him, Page ensured the distressed individual had a firm grasp on the boat. "The swimmer held onto the pontoon for a few moments to catch his breath," Sawyer said.

With the help of the boater and Page, the swimmer made it safely back to shore. "Ranger Page stayed beside the swimmer the entire time," Sawyer added.

While that swimmer was lucky and had the help of park rangers, park rangers who exceeded the "Do Your Job and Do It Well" individual contribution, many others are not.

Drownings occur more often than we would like for them too because one drowning is too many, said Pam Doty, St. Louis District Water Safety Team chairperson. "The near-drowning, like the six drownings the District has seen this year, could be have easily been prevented by wearing a life jacket."

According to the U.S. Coast Guard that tracks boating-related fatalities, 2009 saw an increase of 3.8 percent in recreational boating deaths.

Nearly 75 percent of the 736 people who died in boating accidents in 2009 drowned, and 84 percent of those victims reportedly were not wearing a life jacket.

"Wearing a life jacket is the most important thing people can do while they are recreating either on or near



the water," Doty said. "Not only should people wear life jackets, they should encourage others to wear them as well. If you love someone, one of the best things you can do is encourage them to wear their jackets so they will return home safely."

Doty added that swimmers must also be smart about where they choose to swim. "Most drownings occur in non-designated areas where swimmers exceed their abilities," she said. "Everyone should use the buddy system and swim only in designated areas."

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