

# *Detroit District* **Soundings** *US Army Corps of Engineers*



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## Chief of Engineers visits Detroit

BY LYNN DUEROD  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

More than 200 Corps employees took advantage of an opportunity to hear about current issues affecting the Corps when Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, the Corps' Chief of Engineers, conducted a town hall meeting at the District headquarters on March 13.

General Flowers recognized local District heroes by presenting them with his commander's coin. He evoked emotion from the audience when he showed a slide presentation of the Corps' family.

During the town hall meeting, General Flowers laid out the expectations, plans, and accomplishments he hopes to achieve during his four-year term.

He stressed the Corps' three-point vision "People, Process, and Communication" as he updated how his second-year goals have measured up to the four-year plan.

He talked about the "USACE University" and how that

concept will train and equip the "People" of the Corps to continue their great work into the future.

Flowers pointed out that the Corps' "Process" is the Project Management Business Process and everyone should anticipate getting on board with that initiative tentatively by October 2002.

He then addressed the aspect of "Communication" and how each Corps member can build better relationships through, among other things, being a learning organization, sharing lessons learned, and through active listening.

To assure his fellow team members that the Corps has a place in the current administration's plan, he described how the Corps fits into the President's national priorities.

"First, the Corps is 'Combating Terrorism' by providing strategic and operational mobility on inland waterways. Then, furthering 'Economic' initiatives by funding work that eventually get funds back into the local economy," said General Flowers.

After the town hall meeting, Flowers continued his one-day visit to Detroit with a stop at the Society of American Military Engineers Detroit Post luncheon. As the Army's highest-ranking military engineer, General Flowers presented their annual scholarship award.

He then went to Warren, Michigan and talked with District employees working at the Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) while viewing Corps projects there.

At TACOM, the general presented his commander's coin to Verna Borota for her many years of dedicated service to the Corps of Engineers.

Throughout his visit, the Chief of Engineers stressed the importance of the role the Corps plays in America and how important Corps employees are to that role. "Thanks to all of you for being the people you are and for the things that you do," said General Flowers. 



**Lieutenant General Robert B. Flowers, Corps' Chief of Engineers, addresses District employees during a recent town hall meeting. (Photo by Mark Brewer)**

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## Corps cookout and Engineer Day awards

The Detroit District will hold its annual Corps Cookout and Engineer Day awards ceremony at the Metro Beach and Park on June 28. This all-day event will include games, food, entertainment, swimming and sporting events. The point of contact for this event is Ethel Dixon at 313-226-6774.

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# Soundings

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## What's your 30 second commercial?

**Maj. Regan McDonald,  
Deputy District Commander**

I am Maj. Regan McDonald, Deputy Commander of the Detroit District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Detroit is one of 41 districts in the US Army Corps of Engineers and one of the seven districts in the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division.



The Detroit District, established in 1841, covers 82,000 square miles and includes 4,000 miles of Great Lakes' shoreline. About 14 million people live within the District's boundaries.

The District's mission is to investigate, plan, design, construct, operate, and maintain congressionally authorized water resource projects related to navigation, flood control, beach erosion, and other activities. As a steward of the environment, the District exercises regulatory authority over wetlands adjacent to navigable waterways.

The District remains poised to provide emergency management and disaster response services in times of crisis. The District also provides support to other government agencies.

We employ nearly 500 people and have an operating budget of about 90 million dollars.

The District staffs five area offices: Detroit, Grand Haven, and Sault Ste. Marie, MI, Kewaunee, WI, and Duluth, MN. The District operates the world famous Soo Locks, which is visited by approximately 750,000 people annually.

Like all districts in the Corps, Detroit District stands ready to work with our customers to provide the best service possible to the people of the Great Lakes region and wherever the nation needs us.

# Spring weather increases Great Lakes' water levels

Springtime is here! Well, at least that's what the calendar states. We had snow on the opening day of baseball season in Detroit, and after a relatively mild winter, we endured unseasonably cold temperatures during most of April. The most important result from this weather is that water levels on the Great Lakes are significantly better (higher) than last year at this time, even though four of the five lakes are still below their long-term averages. Let's hope this trend holds for the summer commercial navigation and recreational boating seasons.

Speaking of averages, a district normally hosts a visit from the Chief of Engineers every two to three years. We've had two visits in less than a year, and General Flowers will visit us again in late April when he comes to the Detroit metro area to accept a national award. It's clear that the Chief enjoys visiting the district and for one reason only. He has met many of you, hard-working, patriotic and dedicated civil servants. In one sentence General Flowers summed it up, "I get recharged every time I get the opportunity to give a Town Hall in Detroit."

Our Division Engineer, Brig. Gen. Steven R. Hawkins, has made several trips to Detroit, along with key members of his staff. They have been similarly impressed with the collective performance of the district.

In other news, the cliché, "our plates are full", is more true than ever. Between implementing the Project Management Business Process (PMBP), developing a Mission Essential Task List (METL) at all levels, conducting CorpsPath training, and updating our district Business Plan, we are as busy as ever. And, of



*Lt. Col. Richard J. Polo, Jr.*

course, the nuts and bolts of what we do goes on such as dredging harbors, constructing structures, maintaining locks, carrying out planning studies, protecting the environment and ensuring navigation. In short, serving the Army and the Nation.

At this point, I will simply ask all of you to continue doing what you have already been doing. Your work is not only 'good enough,' it's superb. Do not lose sight of the three important areas the Chief has charged us to concentrate on: people, communications, and process, while treating everyone with dignity and respect. 

*Soundings*

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# MREA fundraisers benefit employees

BY LARRY REILLY  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Established in 2001 to plan and promote social activities within the Detroit District, the Morale and Recreation Employee Association's (MREA) biggest challenge has been to help District employees understand the purpose of the MREA.

"MREA was originally established to conduct fundraisers which would help offset the cost for employees to attend district social events such as the holiday party and the summer cookout," said Pam Horner, current MREA president. "The biggest challenge we have had is instilling the image in district employees that MREA can be more than a just fundraiser type organization."

During its first year the MREA conducted a number of fundraiser activities, such as candy, hotdog, books, and baked goods sales. Although these activities have brought in funds to help the association offset employees' costs at district social events, it has also come at a cost to the MREA committee members.

"These activities do bring in revenue, but it is very difficult to get volunteers to help out during the fundraisers and most often it's always the same people doing the work," said Horner. "We are often told that MREA should do more fundraisers so that more money can be available for social events. To do so, we need the District employees to help implement and participate in the fundraisers."

To better understand how it can benefit the District, the MREA recently conducted a survey. Although only a handful of surveys were filled out and returned, the results did give some insight into what the consensus toward the MREA is.

"Generally, people believe the MREA is doing a good job of offsetting some of the costs of district activities. Of course, we received some comments that the social events should be paid in full by the MREA, but those comments were supported by comments that more fundraisers should be organized," said Tammy Ramos, MREA, vice president. "A number of the comments we received in the survey reflected the need for more information on the MREA. Area office personnel want to find ways to become more a part of the District MREA. And almost everyone who sent in a survey,

***"The biggest challenge we have had is instilling the image in district employees that MREA can be more than a just fundraiser type organization."***

expressed an interest in having more social activities with their fellow employees."

The dilemma over what the District employees want the MREA to do and what it is able to do has put the association in a catch 22. The district employees want to have more social events, yet they don't seem to have the time or the desire to volunteer to work at the fundraisers. One solution being considered is to require district employees to become paying members of the MREA. In the survey, District employees were asked if they would pay to be a MREA member.

"The comments ranged from being a good idea if the cost of the membership also included discounts at various events and local stores to a bad idea because creating a membership would make the association seem too exclusive,"

said Ramos. "We actually received a split between those who would pay for membership and those who would not."

The issue of membership dues and organizational format will be topics the new MREA officers and directors will face in May after new members are voted into the positions.

For another Corps District, the aspect of membership dues and doing business as a club has helped it remain active.

"We only conduct two major fundraisers per year, because membership fees help offset the remaining funds needed to pay for social events for our members," said Rita Boccieri, Louisville District's Federal Employees Cooperative Club, Incorporated, publicity chairperson. "We currently have more than 250 active members and membership into the Coop club is available to employees of all the federal agencies within our building."

Boccieri mentioned that getting volunteers to help at fundraisers or to attend social events isn't always easy just because they have membership fees. However, being a membership-based club does offer the opportunity to socialize more as a group outside the work environment. "We do hold our holiday party during work hours, but we also have a day at the races each year and are looking to start a Lunch and Learn function."

Whether the District's MREA remains a fundraising association or changes to a membership-based club, there will still be a need for more people within the District to volunteer their time at fundraisers and to participate in the social events.

"We can all benefit from what the MREA does, but only if we all get more involved in the MREA," said Horner. 

# College grads revitalize district

BY DAVE SCHWEIGER  
ENGINEER & TECH. SERVICES

Initiative and "outside the box" thinking by a number of Detroit District employees has helped move the District into the 21st century in terms of its workforce recruitment.

During the fall of 2001, employees from the Hydraulics and Hydrology Office and Design Branch attended engineering job fairs (a District first) at Michigan State University and at Michigan Technological University, in an effort to promote the Corps as a premier engineering firm in the country.

This venture resulted in the District receiving 30 resumes and after an extensive interview process, hiring six student-graduates into the engineering and scientist intern program.

The recruitment idea started in August of 2001 when the engineering/scientist intern selection committee identified persistent shortfalls in engineering/scientist positions throughout the District. The committee made a recommendation to the District Commander to hire seven new engineering/scientists. Although three of these positions could come from converting three existing Co-op students into the program, the committee decided it needed to go a step further. The question was where to find these people. Through the concerted effort of several employees in the Great Lakes Hydraulics and Hydrology Office, ideas started to flow.

Although initially their efforts were focused on the recruitment of Co-op students to fill needs in H&H, the group broadened its focus to fit the selection committee's recommendation.

The group agreed that a good starting point was to look at what the Corps has to offer in terms of a monetary package, leave, retirement, and other benefits.

Handouts, along with bookmarks advertising the District and its web site, were considered prime "handout" material. Also, material provided by the Corps

headquarters was useful in this endeavor. Display material was prepared and a powerpoint presentation was provided during the job fair to attract attendees to the Corps booth and give students an idea of what the Corps of Engineers represents.

The results were very positive. Nearly 80 resumes were obtained at Michigan State and Michigan Tech during September and October of 2001.

Although several of these were for other engineering fields, about 30 Co-op resumes were collected and about 26 resumes for prospective interns were gathered. The effort had turned out to be a rousing success.

Within three weeks of the job fairs, all perspective interns had been interviewed and evaluated. The challenge was to make job offers to the students. Using conventional methods could take at least two months. Fortunately, a new program, called the Federal Career

Intern Program, only requires we submit resumes, transcripts and a request for personnel action for each student. No vacancy announcement is required under this program. Then Civilian Personnel Operation Center would just qualify each student either as a GS-5 or 7, and send us the referral list back accordingly. The only other requirement of the program is that each intern be rotated throughout the District during a two-year period.

The intern program in the district typically involves rotational assignments for 18 months, and then either a six or 12-month assignment in one specific area, depending whether the intern started as a GS-5 or 7. The starting grade for an intern is GS-

7 if their overall college grade point average is 2.95 or higher. If not, they start as a GS-5.

Armed with this innovative process, the Human Resources Office in Detroit began to work through the details with Southwest CPOC on how to get this program to work for us. Since this was a totally new process, our district served as the test case in developing the procedures. Within two weeks, the District was able to send offers out to the perspective students. One engineering intern started with the District in December, while three physical scientist and two engineering interns started in January. Additionally, three more engineer interns may begin working with the District in May. 



**District Intern Paula Zimmerman points out an item of interest to Sarah Uhlarik on the computer. Zimmerman helped out during Engineer Week activities when students visited the District Headquarters. (Photo by Mark Brewer)**

# Skies beckon watchful eyes

conditions are favorable for thunderstorms to become severe or for severe thunderstorms to move into the watch area. Watches are intended to heighten public awareness of the possible severe weather threat. Keep an eye on the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio, television, or cable to know when severe weather warnings are issued for your area.

 **A Severe Thunderstorm Warning** means severe thunderstorms pose an imminent danger to life and property for those in the path of the storm. When severe weather is indicated by weather radar, or is reported by trained SKYWARN Severe Weather Spotters or law enforcement officials, a warning is issued immediately. Those in the warning area should take cover immediately.

 **A Tornado Watch** means conditions are favorable for tornadoes to develop or move into the watch area. Watches are intended to heighten public awareness of the possible severe weather threat. Keep an eye on the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio, television, or cable to know when severe weather warnings are issued for your area.

 **A Tornado Warning** means a tornado poses an imminent danger to life and property for those in the path of the storm. When a tornado is indicated by weather radar, or is reported by trained SKYWARN Severe Weather Spotters or law enforcement officials, a warning is issued immediately. Those in the warning area should take cover immediately.

March 24-30 was Severe Weather Awareness Week here in southeast Michigan. Keep in mind that severe weather can occur in any month of the year, but typically occurs from mid-March to November in Michigan. Here is some information about severe weather and what to do when it is threatening.

All weather watches and warnings are issued by the National Weather Service. When watches and warnings are posted for the Detroit area, I am notified via an email alert system. I will then pass the bulletin along to you.

Thunderstorms are classified severe when at least one of the following is observed: 1) Winds of 58 mph or greater 2) Hail 3/4 of an inch or greater 3) Tornado

 **A Severe Thunderstorm Watch** means

## Tornado strength is classified by the Fujita Scale

Scale Number	Intensity Phrase	Wind Speed	Type of Damage Done
F0	Gale tornado	40-72 mph	Some damage to chimneys; breaks branches of trees; pushes over shallow-rooted trees; damages sign boards.
F1	Moderate tornado	73-112 mph	The lower limit is the beginning of hurricane wind speed; peels surface off roofs; mobile homes pushed off foundations or overturned; moving autos pushed off the roads; attached garages may be destroyed.
F2	Significant tornado	113-157 mph	Considerable damage. Roofs torn off frame houses; mobile homes demolished; boxcars pushed over; large trees snapped or uprooted; light object missiles generated.
F3	Severe tornado	158-206 mph	Roof and some walls torn off well constructed houses; trains overturned; most trees uprooted
F4	Devastating tornado	207-260 mph	Well-constructed houses leveled; structures with weak foundations blown off some distance; cars thrown and large missiles generated.
F5	Incredible tornado	261-318 mph	Strong frame houses lifted off foundations and carried considerable distances to disintegrate; automobile sized missiles fly through the air in excess of 100 meters; trees debarked; steel re-enforced concrete structures badly damaged.

For more information on severe storms and tornadoes, including safety tips, visit <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dtx/?page=dtxedu>.

For additional information call:

Keith W. Kompoltowicz,  
Physical Scientist/  
Meteorologist U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers, Detroit District,  
Great Lakes Hydraulics and  
Hydrology Office at 313-226-  
6442. 

# It's a small world

BY DON HOLLY

TECHNICAL SUPPORT SECTION

Several months ago as I was getting a haircut, my hair stylist, Rosanne Promo, asked if I worked for the Army Corps of Engineers. When I said I did, she explained that she had just attended the funeral of a man who had retired from the Detroit Office of the Corps after 31 years of service. She showed me the funeral literature and that was the first time I heard about Gilbert Ropes.

Mr. Ropes had retired from the U.S. Lake Survey (USLS) in 1965 and then taught 10 years at the Macomb County Community College (MCCC). He passed away at the age of 92. I told Rosanne I had never heard of him because I started working for the Corps in 1979. She asked if I would just ask around and find out what he did and if anyone still remembers him.

I assumed that the District would have little connection with someone who retired 37 years ago. The linkage we still have with Gilbert Ropes was pretty amazing. I found out it's a small world.

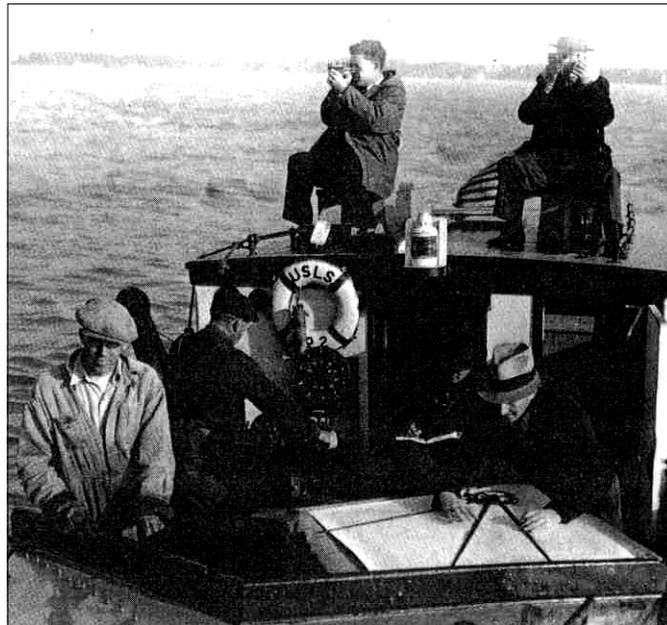
Arnie Rybak (Detroit Area Office) knew Gilbert and his family. Arnie also did surveying work with Ropes'

son, Jim.

My brother, Chet Holly (Programs) met Gilbert after he retired and had moved to Port Sanilac, MI (he was the Mayor) when Chet was doing field surveys in the 1970's.

My trusty beagle Buddy Holly and I often visited the retirement community that Gilbert and his wife lived in, as part of a pet visitation volunteer group, although I don't recall ever meeting them.

Tom Dziadosz (Real Estate) attended numerous classes that Gilbert Ropes taught at MCCC and remembers him well.



**In 1939, a survey crew takes soundings on board U.S. Lake Survey Launch NO.2 in the Detroit River. From left to right: wheelman, J.S. Moore; sounding machine operator, E. Jewel; recorder (seated) E. Every; at the chart table, A.S. Purdy; sextant observers seated on the cabin roof, L.D. Kirshner, left, and G.E. Ropes. (Photo courtesy, U.S. Lake Survey Installation Historical Files, National Ocean Survey)**

I believe Gilbert Ropes knew my late father, Chester Holly Sr. (Detroit Operations and later Chicago Division Operations), since they were both heavily involved in hydrographic surveying in Detroit District during the 1940's and 50's.

I am also heavily involved with

hydrographic surveying, however if you look at the accompanying photo from 1939, you'll note that Gilbert and company had to actually know what they were doing- this was before computers and GPS. You might also notice that the safety regulations were pretty lax back then. Note Gilbert and the other person on the roof of the boat cabin with no life jackets taking sextant readings.

Neal Gehring (Engineering and Construction Division) and his father both knew Gilbert. His father worked with Gilbert at USLS and Neal, as a summer hire employee, worked at USLS with Jim Ropes and Arnie Ryback. Also, Gilbert's wife's cousin is Neal Gehring's wife's aunt.

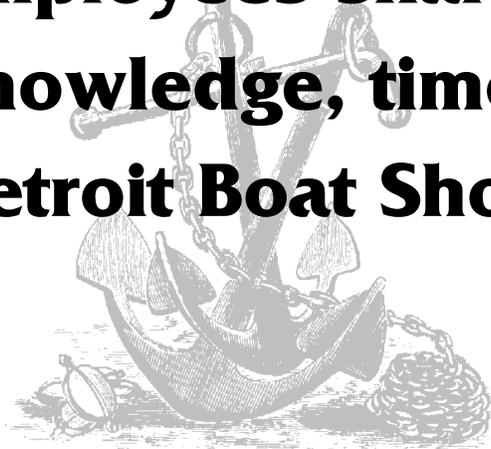
Several current employees remember Jim Ropes, who also worked at the District Office for a couple years.

The most important thing I learned from this affair actually came from reading things that Mr. Ropes had written which were distributed for his funeral service. He was thankful for "30,000 days" (90 years) of not wanting for food and shelter and he felt for those who were less fortunate.

It was refreshing to learn about a man who was able to enjoy the fruits of his labors even 37 years after retiring from the Corps and who took the time to count his blessings daily.

When the current news is filled with stories of people whose retirement dreams are quickly destroyed by a company's collapse, I'm thankful to work for an organization that began in 1775, opened our district office in 1841 and is still going strong! 📷

# Employees share knowledge, time at Detroit Boat Show



Hundreds of visitors who attended the annual at the Cobo Convention Center Feb. 9-17 were treated to more than just a close-up view of a million dollar yacht or a live shark show: they were educated on how the multi-million dollar Soo Locks works.

Dozens of district employees volunteered their time during the boat show to help educate the general public on how the Soo Locks operate.

They also provided information on how to apply for dredging permits and what the Great Lake water levels are now and projected to be this summer. Information



**Corps' employee, Dale Williams, explains how the Soo Locks operate to a young visitor to the Detroit Boat Show. (Photo by Larry Reilly)**

on water safety was provided as well.

"It was very enjoyable talking about what the job of the Corps of Engineers on the Great Lakes is," said Dale Williams, Resource Management Office. "Many people were aware of what the Soo Locks were, but were not sure how they worked."

The district put together a miniature model of the Soo Locks, which allowed the visitors to actually send a boat from one body of water to another body of water just as the locks do.

"The children got pretty excited when they learned that gravity, as well as other laws of physics, did most of the work," said Williams. "Although less vocal, the adults were just as impressed when they learned."

Additionally, the volunteers handed out various literature on water safety, boat safety, and wetland protection and guidelines.

*(Editor's note: The District Public Affairs Office provided information for this story.)* 

**At Left: Doug Zande talks to a family about the Soo Locks display during their visit to the Boat Show. (Photo by Paul Baxter)**



# Black history month

## Employees treated to food, education

BY CARLETTA DEGROAT  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Detroit District employees celebrated Black History Month viewing educational articles, a video series on past and contemporary Africans and African Americans and ended the month-long celebration with the treat of an assortment of ethnic foods.

"I found the articles on the ancient empires in West Africa quite fascinating," said Richard Dickson, Chief, Project Management. "The thing I found most interesting was these cultures left little in the way of massive buildings of stone or written histories. As such, I've read that the European explorers, who first visited these areas, thought displaced Europeans (for instance, people from Atlantis) created them. These European visitors simply couldn't conceive that the locals they encountered could be sophisticated enough to have created the tremendous civilizations they saw evidence of. Thanks for providing some real interesting information."

There were three lunch and learn videos provided to employees in the district headquarters in Detroit. The first, "Underground Railroad," facilitated by George Fedynsky, Contracts Division, was an A&E production that documented many details about the Underground Railroad.

"The documentary provided many details about the Underground Railroad that are not always taught," said Maj. Regan P. McDonald, Deputy District Commander. "It provided a very thorough account of the entire history of the movement from its earliest beginnings."

The second video, "Glory," facilitated by David Kurty, Resource Manager, was the

inspiration for the academy award-winning movie. "I found this documentary to be very informative," said Sandra Watson, Logistics Management Office. "It heightened the awareness of how Frederick Douglas had significant involvement in recruiting freed slaves to participate in this regiment. I recommended this documentary to a teacher to show students for observance of Black History Month."

Sammie Hart, Contracts Division, facilitated the final video, "Sprawling," a PBS documentary that journeys through Detroit from World War II to present. "The film *Sprawling* was a good effort to make people aware of some of the prejudices and catalysts that caused socio-economical and geographical changes to the black community within the City of Detroit," said Rosa Thomas, Engineering Technical Services.

As a finale to the February ethnic celebrations, a free banquet was prepared and presented. Employees from the Corps of Engineers, Customs Office, HUD, Veterans Administration and Senator Carl Levin's office served an estimated 400 people a home-cooked luncheon on Feb. 28. 



**Carletta Degroat, right, prepares to serve the next customer during the Black History Month ethnic celebration banquet at the Detroit District Headquarters building on Feb. 28. (Photo by Ben Harrison)**

# Theft: You may not be the only one using your identity

BY DAN COBERLY

Usually, there is only one you.

But when the phone rings and a collection agency demands that you pay past-due accounts for things you never ordered, or the supermarket refuses your check and you normally pay bills on time, someone may be impersonating you. If someone steals your identity, you could find yourself fighting a long, frustrating battle to clear your good name.

Believe it or not, since July 1, 2001, major credit bureaus in the U.S. were allowed to release your credit information, mailing addresses, phone numbers and other personal information to anyone who requests it. But you can "opt out" of that situation by dialing 888-567-8688. Generally, victims of credit and banking fraud are liable for no more than the first \$50 of the loss (15 USC 1643). However, the victim must notify financial institutions within two days of learning of the loss, although that is often waived. The Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act, enacted by Congress in October 1998 (and codified in part at 18 U.S.C 1028) is the federal law directed at identity theft.

Among ordinary citizens, Washington D.C. is tops when it comes to identity theft. Annually, 20 incidents occur for every 100,000 people in the Washington DC area. Statistics for Huntsville were not available, but a local law enforcement official acknowledged a "growing problem".

Gangs of thieves buy and sell stolen identities like commodities, according to government reports. Often, they begin by obtaining a credit card number or bank statement. But the basic bandit's

best tools are simply your Social Security number and date of birth. A home address and telephone number are icing on the cake.

Armed with that information, an identity thief can begin impersonations by obtaining credit cards and opening bank accounts. Thieves can use your identity to sign up for cell phones, get a driver's license or buy a car.

## DoD Identifications

Passports, military and civilian ID cards, even Department of Defense (DoD) stickers, parking permits, and government license plates are also subject to use for identity theft, prompting recent government warnings. DoD personnel were reminded to remove the identifications when ownership changes and to report any thefts or attempted thefts, and anyone who wants you to leave your decal or other IDs on the vehicle. According to media reports, several incidents involving DoD decals took place at the Pentagon and in the Washington and Baltimore areas throughout September.

## Take action!

Sign your credit cards as soon as they arrive. Write "Check ID" next to your signature. Carry only one or two cards with you. Keep the others at home in a safe place with a photo copy of the cards.

Keep a record of all credit card numbers, expiration dates, company addresses, and phone numbers in a secure location.

## What to do when you are a victim

If you are a victim, contact financial institutions, local police and Sheriff's departments, the social security office, and credit bureaus. Place "fraud alerts" on your credit file, to protect your name and social security number.

The alert means that you have filed a "victim's statement"; any company that checks your credit then knows your information has been stolen and is required to contact you by phone prior to authorizing any new credit.

Be sure and ask how long the alert will stay on your accounts, and how you can extend it, if necessary. Keep a log of all conversations with officials and expenses incurred. Confirm conversations in writing and keep copies of all documents.

## Contact Information

### To opt out of pre-approved offers of credit:

**TransUnion:** 1-800-680-7289 or write P.O. Box 97328, Jackson, MS 39238. 800-680-7293 or 888-5OPTOUT. Web: [www.tuc.com](http://www.tuc.com).

**Equifax:** 1-800-535-6285 or write P.O. Box 740250 Atlanta, GA 30374-0250. (888) 567-8688. Web: [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com).

## FTC Complaint Center

Identity Theft Hotline: 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338).

Call (202) FTC-HELP or contact [www.ftc.gov/ftc/complaint.htm](http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/complaint.htm) and fill out an on-line Complaint Form, or write the Consumer Response Center, Federal Trade Commission, CRC-240, Washington, DC. 20580.

## Social Security Administration

To contact the Social Security Administration, check you local phone book or call the Fraud line: 1-800-269-0271. To order a Earnings and Benefits Statement: 800-772-1213. Web: [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

Meanwhile, report anything suspicious to your credit card companies and law enforcement immediately. Keep those toll free reporting numbers handy so you can cancel your cards quickly. Quick reporting also helps protect

# Center receives exhibits, programs from fundraiser

BY BETH DUNCAN AND THOM HOLDEN

Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center and its cooperating group, the Lake Superior Marine Museum Association (LSMMA), hosted a successful fundraising event on November 9th and 10th in Duluth.

A Friday evening reception was sponsored at the Visitor Center by Lake Superior Magazine/Lake Superior Port Cities, Inc. for all attendees at the 14th Annual Gales of November shipwreck and diving seminar. Saturday saw a wide variety of programs throughout the day for divers and non-divers from the U.S. and Canada complete with opportunities to visit some of the local research vessels. The highlight of the weekend was undoubtedly the splendid program on the world's oceans presented by renowned explorer and conservationist Jean-Michel Cousteau. He addressed more than 300 people at a dinner and then a crowd of about 600 in the evening. He also took the time to autograph many books and tee shirts and have his picture taken. Cousteau said he enjoyed the event and was quite pleased the local support for the event and in caring for Lake Superior.

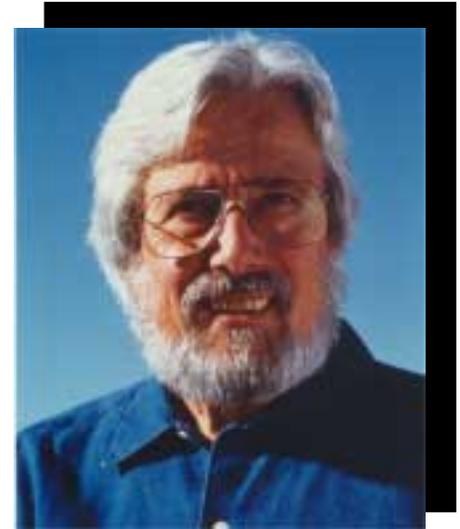
More information on the event, programs, and speakers can be found on the Internet at [www.lsmma.com](http://www.lsmma.com).

The weekend concluded at the Visitor Center on Sunday with a series of seminars by the Wisconsin Underwater Archaeology Association on steam engines that powered Great Lakes vessels. One of the speakers was C. Patrick Labadie, former director of the Visitor Center, speaking on the evolution of the engines and the ships that used them. Ken Merryman, founder and past president of the Great

Lakes Shipwreck Preservation Society, spoke on engine operation and how to recognize engine room components underwater. He made excellent use of the compound steam engine from the former Corps tug ESAYONS displayed inside the Visitor Center.

LSMMA President Bruce VonRiedel said "We were very pleased with the turnout and the enthusiasm of attendees, vendors, speakers, and the large group of volunteers that made this event possible. Proceeds will go to various programs and exhibit projects at the Visitor Center including a new Lewis & Clark Bicentennial exhibit and completion of the lighthouse lens exhibit. We are also delighted that Elmer Engman, who began this event 14 years ago, has presented all rights to the event to our Association. It is an honor and a responsibility."

"I know the museum staff is looking forward to developing new programs related to our new exhibits," said Thom Holden, Visitor Center director. He added that, "New subject matter lends itself to using new and different interpretive techniques that will help improve all of the 15 or 20 programs we offer schools and community groups. It is going to be a very busy, but quite enjoyable winter." 📷



**Jean-Michel Cousteau, guest speaker at fundraiser. (Courtesy Photo)**

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*(Editor's Note: Coberly is the Chief, Public Affairs Officer with the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville, AL.)* 📷



*Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow receives a briefing on the Soo Locks' operation from District Deputy Commander, Maj. Regan McDonald and Mike O'Bryan during her recent visit to the Soo. (Photo by Carmen Paris)*

## Senator Stabenow visits Soo locks

While on a visit to the Upper Peninsula, Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow, her Upper Peninsula Representative Sheri Davie and aide Teresa Placheta, visited the Soo Locks on Tuesday, February 19th.

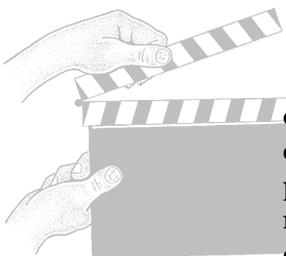
Senator Stabenow was given a briefing on the operation and commodities carried through the locks and recent security measures by Area Engineer Stan Jacek and Assistant Area Engineer Ray Lane. Chief

Technical Services Michael O'Bryan of the District Office was also on hand to field questions from the Senator.

This was followed by a presentation on the proposed new super lock by Deputy District Engineer, Major Regan P. McDonald.

Senator Stabenow was also given a short tour of the locks dispatch tower. 

### What's your 30 second commercial?



**Mary Gidner,  
Realty Specialist**

"I work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a premier engineering organization. We are the best public engineering organization for the value. We are your problem-solving partner, your strategic ally, and will help you succeed. We maintain a highly trained and fully capable workforce dedicated to customer service and ready to serve. Is there anything that we can do for you? How may I help?"



## Corps assists in completing wetlands study

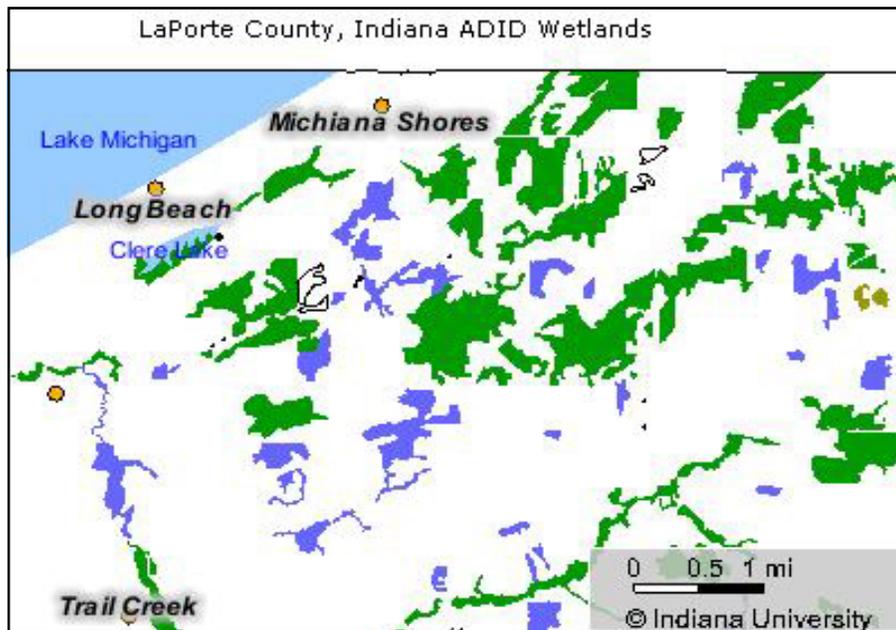
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region V, Chicago, recently completed the Northwest Indiana Advance Identification of Wetlands Study (NWI ADID).

The USEPA sponsors ADIDs with the COE and other partners in areas where development, mining, agricultural, or other pressures threaten high quality or locally critical wetlands with destruction or deterioration.

Northwest Indiana, the most rapidly developing area in the state, has several wetlands that are critical to controlling storm water and reducing water pollution, that provide good wildlife and plant habitat, and some, which are globally and regionally rare systems.

The study was designed to provide landscape-level information on critical wetlands in advance of development pressure so that planners, regulators, developers, landowners, and others would consider the information when making land-use decisions. The basic purpose of the study is to further the protection of wetlands in the region.

"Work began on the study in 1997," said Greg McKay



Environmental

of the South Bend Regulatory Field Office who participated in the study since its inception. "The project area includes portions of Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties that are within the Lake Michigan basin."

Area wetlands were assessed, characterized, and mapped for their plant and animal habitat and their capacity for storing storm water and filtering pollutants. The interactive map product can be viewed at the Indiana Geological Survey's Lake Rim web site: [http://adamite.igs.indiana.edu/arcims/lrim/lakerim\\_front.html](http://adamite.igs.indiana.edu/arcims/lrim/lakerim_front.html). Hard copies of the maps are also available for viewing.

"The study was designed by a diverse group of partners to identify which area wetlands provide important wetland functions," said McKay. "This work is an excellent example of how the Corps can increase its public value and enhance its position with the customer and government partners."

According to McKay, this project will provide real benefits to the general public for decades to come while helping to protect the few remaining wetland resources in the region. 



# Children partake in Engineer Week events

Keith Kompoltowicz and Paula Zimmerman gave several presentations to approximately 300 fifth graders, explaining how the US Army Corps of Engineers serves the nation. When the presentations showed pictures of the Soo Locks, the students became rather excited. We discovered that in the fourth grade an entire unit is dedicated to learning about the Soo Locks. We plan to allow the school to utilize our working model of the Soo Locks used at the International Boat Show to further enhance their understanding of how the locks operate and their international importance.

A group of younger students spent the afternoon in the District talking with employees in various disciplines and participating in interactive experiences.

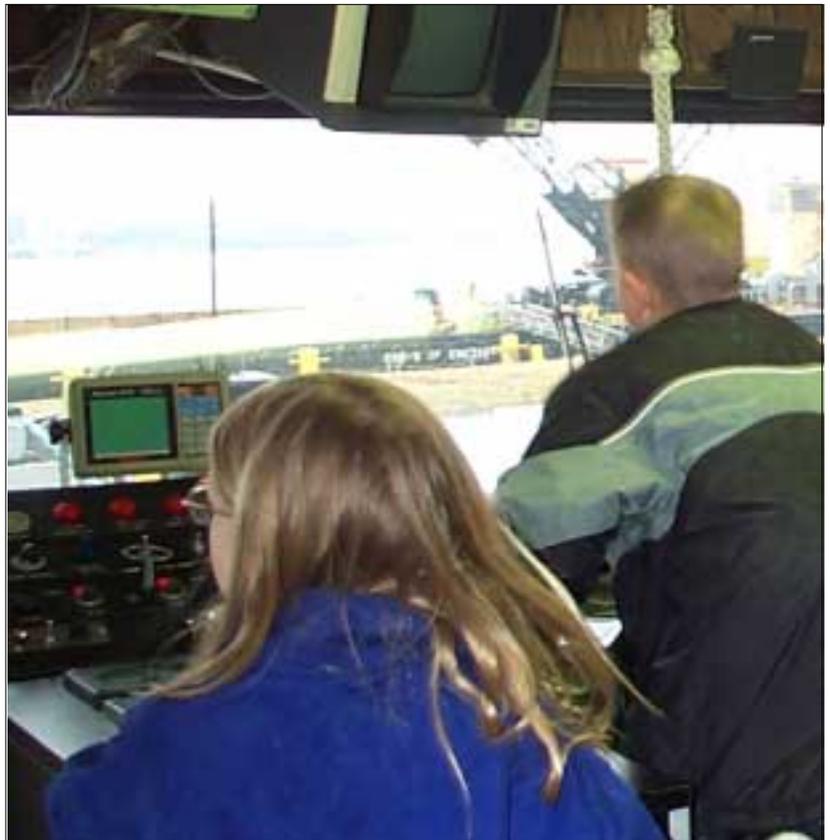
The kids were able to operate our Soo Lock model. They did such a great job (no lost time accidents), we hired them all as lockmasters! Our IMO department set up the new training room allowing the future lockmasters an opportunity to network on the computers. Each child was able to individually log-on and work on a computer while they collectively created a picture in the paint brush software.

The highlight of the day was the tour at the Detroit Area Office. Former Navy SEAL Ken Zmikly and Mike Milspaugh showed the kids dive equipment and allowed them to try some of it on. They showed the children a video of an actual dive where they were removing a large boulder from a navigation channel by using a jackhammer. The kids were quick to ask why the divers were not electrocuted! The presenters then had to provide an impromptu explanation to the second graders about how their equipment operated on air and not electricity!

The day ended with a tour of the Survey Vessel, The PAJ. The children were thrilled with the Survey Boat where Fred Douglas and Rick Arpan demonstrated how the equipment gathers data and plots it out on maps. We will see these kids back in about 15 years as interns and COOP engineers and scientists. 



**Children look over the control panel of the Survey Vessel PAJ during their visit to the Detroit Boat Yard on Engineer Week. (Photo by Mark Brewer)**



**Students visiting the Detroit Boat Yard during Engineer Week peer out the front window of the Survey Vessel PAJ. (Photo by Mark Brewer)**



#### DISTRICT EMPLOYEE ADDRESSES LOCAL CLUB

**Jim Gries**, from the South Bend Field Office, gave a presentation to a local boating club. His presentation included the South Bend Power Squadron, the History of the Corps, the Great Lakes water levels, and the Regulatory Program. The group had many questions about the Great Lakes water levels and the regulatory program.

#### METEOROLOGIST SPEAKS TO FIFTH GRADERS

**Keith W. Kompoltowicz**, Physical Scientist/Meteorologist, conducted a presentation at the MacGowan Elementary School in Redford in January. He spoke to fifth grade students about some of the Corps projects, the Great Lakes, and about weather. He also doing did a presentation for the United States Power Squadron in Port Huron about Great Lakes water levels and other corps projects.

#### ENGINEER ADDRESSES ASCE MEMBERS

**David L. Foster**, P.E. recently addressed the West Michigan Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) in Grand Rapids, MI. Foster was the featured speaker at the monthly luncheon meeting and discussed the local, regional and national role of the Corps of Engineers. Approximately 60 civil engineering professionals and educators from throughout Western Michigan attended the presentation.

#### ENGINEERS PRESENT SEMINAR TO STUDENTS

Three District employees accompanied the Equal Employment Officer, Aquilla Kellar, to present the "Leaders, Balancing for Success" seminar to students at the Davenport University in Dearborn, Michigan. The two-hour seminar focused on workplace concerns such as communications, workplace rights, personal investments as well as strategies for balancing work and family responsibilities. The panelists, Mark Brewer (Engineering Technician), Valerie Stevenson (Realty Specialist) and Michelle Thrift (Project Planner) brought — to the discussion by sharing their career and home responsibilities, and strategies they implemented to help them in the balancing act.

The seminar was attended by a diverse group of males and females including two exchanged students from the Netherlands. They were particularly interested in the role that Mark Brewer plays in his home after he encouraged his wife to pursue her dreams after being a housewife and mother to their three daughters for more many years.

Mark said he organized a neighborhood support group for working parents. The group utilizes the Internet resources to find answers to questions regarding childcare and preparation of meals. He said that his biggest challenge was grooming his daughters' hair, however, he has now become an "expert."

#### CORPS' EMPLOYEE ADDRESSES ENGINEER CLUB

**Rich Dickson** spoke to approximately 40 members of the Marquette Range Engineers Club, in Marquette Mich. on Mar.6. He was asked to speak, by former deputy District Engineer St. Paul District, **Col. George T. LaBlonde** (retired), and told the club, currently in its 66th year of operation, about the design and construction of the new lock project at the Soo Locks. 



During the invasion of Normandy Beach in World War II, Morgan Wickman was one of thousands of soldiers involved in that attack. A half decade later, in 1949, Wickman joined the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and served for more than 30 years, until his retirement in 1980 from the Detroit District.

In November 2001, Wickman was awarded the Medal of the Jubilee of Liberty for his valiant actions on Normandy Beach.

This summer, Wickman was to go to Normandy, where the town's people will honor him for his actions on D-Day. Unfortunately, Wickman passed away in February of this year. In his place, his granddaughter, Morgan Koprince, who was named after her grandfather, will visit the European town in honor of her grandfather.

#### CORPS' KID PAINTS WAY TO STARDOM

**Mark Brewer**, Engineer Technical Services, encourages his children to show their artist talents on surfaces other than the kitchen walls. It seems that his 11-year-old daughter, Brittney, took dad's advice and entered her drawing of Olympic ice skater, Michelle Kwan, in the Detroit Free Press's Winter Olympic art contest. Brittney captured first place at

the Washington Elementary. School in Wyandotte and was selected by the Detroit Free Press to be printed in its Yak section.

#### EMPLOYEES RECEIVE RECOGNITION

The District Commander, **Lt. Col. Richard J. Polo, Jr.** and LRD Division Commander, **Brig. Gen. Steven Hawkins** presented Civilian Service awards to two District employees.

**Ross Kittleman**, Chief of the Grand Haven Are Office was awarded the Superior Civilian Service award and **Dave Foster**, Grand Haven Are Office was awarded the Commander's Award for Civilian Service.

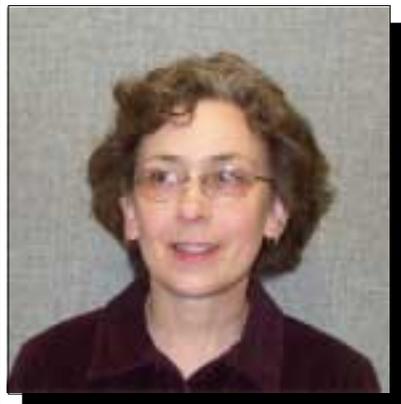
Ross, who has retired from federal service, served in the Detroit District for more than 38 years, nearly all as the Chief of the GHAO, in Grand Haven, MI. As the Area Engineer, Ross supervised military construction, civil works construction and operations and support for other activities in the western half of the lower Peninsula of Michigan, parts of Northern Indiana, and more than 300 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline. He was responsible for overseeing projects and activities that have received national recognition, including the highly acclaimed Pier Safety video, which won the 1999 Region III award from the National Water Safety Congress.

Dave Foster has served the Detroit District with distinction for 26 years, 20 of those as a supervisor at the GHAO. As the Chief of the Construction Branch at the GHAO, Foster has been responsible for managing six of the seven largest construction projects in the Detroit District since the Soo Locks were built. Foster was the resident engineer on the first Civil Works partnered project in the District, which was the \$50 million Fort Wayne Flood Control Project. 

# Employees of the first quarter, 2002



**Andy Wadysz's** work and professional effort related to the Grand Valley State University Section (GVSU) 14 has proven to be beyond the norm. To ensure this highly visible project got off the ground without any damage being done to the existing GVSU research facility, Andy set his other work aside. He went through several different design types to ensure that the existing structure did not get damaged during the construction. Once the project was defined and a contractor was on board, our customers requested that the project begin as soon as possible due to continuing erosion and possible damage to the GVSU research center. Andy took the initiative to drive to New Orleans on a holiday weekend to inspect the used materials to ensure that they were suitable for the specified construction requirements. This inspection showed the material was acceptable and the project could be expedited. Andy is very customer oriented, has high standards and is concerned about the success of the projects he has designed.



**Karen Krepps**, the Detroit District's Archeologist, excels in both teamwork and communication. She works closely with the Native Americans as our coordinator to the tribes. She just finished a cultural resource study for the Bay Mills Tribe under Section 22 Studies Authority. She was responsible for crating MOAs with the State Historic Preservation Officers in both Minnesota and Michigan, making it easier to do routine maintenance work at historic offices in Duluth and the Soo Locks. Krepps conducts exit interviews with all departing District

Engineers. This interview becomes part of the historic record of the District and is sent forward to the History Division at headquarters.

**John Niemiec**, the Detroit District's infrastructure security officer, has recently performed tremendously beyond his normal duties. He placed two structure repair projects on the street in South Haven and in Ontonagon and he completed the submission of the District's design award package for the Fort Wayne Flood Control project. He serves as the system administrator responsible for implementing DrChecks. John is a steady and solid worker. He demonstrates outstanding stability while carrying out his duties.



## What's your 30 second commercial?

**Charise Daniel,**

**Student clerk with Resource Management Office**

"If it were not for the little things, the big things could never be accomplished. I assist the Resource Management Office, specifically the budget branch in those little things. I have multiple data entry tasks. To name a few, I maintain time and attendance records, balance funding authorization documents, enter MIPRS and update Manpower data. As a clerk, I am highly qualified to serve in all capacities throughout the entire district due to my strong will attitude and willingness to learn. These small things allow for larger things... the balance of the United States Army Corps of Engineer budget."

