

# Detroit District Soundings

Winter Quarterly Issue 2002  
Vol. No. 24



US Army Corps of Engineers

www.lre.usace.army.mil



A barge sits in the Soo locks as water fills the lock. New funding will provide construction of a similar lock.

Photo by Carmen Paris

## President approves new Soo lock funding

On Nov. 12, President George W. Bush signed the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2002. With approval of this bill, the Soo Replacement Lock project finally moves into the construction phase.

In 1986, Congress authorized construction of a new large lock at Sault Ste. Marie to accommodate the large amount of lake-traffic that is currently restricted to the Poe Lock. After a 15-year wait, it appears the construction of the lock will finally be a reality. On 2 November 2001, the U.S. Congress sent the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2002 to President

George W. Bush for signature. Within this package was one line item of tremendous significance to the Detroit District and to the Great Lakes communities: "Sault Ste. Marie (Replacement Lock), MI.3,000,000."

The project has been delayed by several factors over the years. At the same time, the project was authorized in 1986, the cost-sharing formula was revised. This revision required a non-Federal sponsor to step forward to provide a total of 35 percent of the project cost, or about \$80,000,000 in 1986 dollars. Due to the number of interests served by the locks and the associated

shipping, no one state or community was willing or able to step forward as a project sponsor.

Congressional action in 1996 and 1999 eased the non-Federal requirements, and in September 1999, the Great Lakes Commission passed a resolution to act as the non-Federal sponsor, with costs to be allocated among the eight member states. With a current construction cost estimate of approximately \$220 million, the Non-Federal cost would be about \$52 million, paid off over a 50-year period.

*(See Soo Locks on page 3)*

### Soundings Insideout

• Corps employees learn leadership ways from within, see page 4.

• Holiday cheer takes on unique twist at district gathering, see pages 6 & 7.

• Army Reserves open Walker Center after decade wait, see page 8.

**Commander's Column**

# Corporate behavior benefits us all

**D**uring a recent quarterly meeting of the District Commanders, Brig. Gen. Steven R. Hawkins, the division commander, started the meeting with a discussion on "corporateness" and "corporate behavior." He said it was his most important issue because it affects the way we fundamentally operate as one regional business unit.

Three months prior to this meeting, Michelle Thrift and Carl Platz, our District representatives on the Division Focus committee queried the entire district for ideas, comments, and thoughts on "corporateness."

We received the proverbial "bad news, good news story." The bad news reflected a misunderstanding of corporateness or the opinion that the district had a long way to go in implementing corporate behavior. The good news was everyone submitted thoughtful, cogent observations or asked for an explanation of the goals of "corporateness", to include concrete examples.

What does it really mean to be or to act as a unified body of individuals? Let me give an example.

Who has heard of McDonalds? Regardless of one's opinion of McDonalds, I submit that McDonalds is the quintessential example of a corporation.

Walk into any McDonalds in this nation and you will be able to order a similar food item. McDonalds invented cloning a long time ago! Allowing for a few regional variations, they have a national menu, national policies and a consistent national philosophy.

Do McDonalds compete against other McDonalds? I think not. Make no mistake, McDonalds competes against other hamburger chains and other fast food establishments.

Turning our attention back to the Corps of Engineers. If our district were a McDon-



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

alds, would the Buffalo District be another McDonalds? Or do we act and treat them as if they were the competition?

What about our internal behavior? If you work in Engineer Technical Services, are your buddies in Planning, Programs and Project Management working under the same golden arches as you, or do you think of them as outsiders?

Corporate behavior starts first with an attitude. It is an issue of identification.

Our fundamental challenge in this district is to make everyone believe their success ultimately hinges on helping a team. In return, we should all expect that we can also depend on that team to come to our rescue.

Our policies should reward this type of corporate behavior and outlook. I submit that a team will always beat an individual.

What are some examples of corporate behavior right here in the division? Think of our \$200 million dollar Replacement Soo Locks project. The Huntington District is doing the design work and the Navigation Center has been heavily involved in the preparation of the Limited Reevaluation Review. How about the Great Lakes Navigation Review? Our district is leading the effort, but at least three other districts are involved and providing assistance. Our Deputy District Engineer teamed-up with

fellow Deputy Project Managers and went to visit members of Congress in states outside our district, but inside the division's region.

Nashville District is helping with hydropower issues at the Soo. We buy HR resources from Buffalo and Buffalo buys real estate services from us. Four district commanders assisted Chicago District in recruiting an important position that needed other districts to commit to buying future services in order to support the FTE. We helped because it was the right thing for Chicago and the division, not necessarily Detroit. In turn, Chicago buys significant dredging services from us. Lastly, Louisville District, as you know, handles all military construction in our region, but then turns the projects over to us for the construction management and inspection.

The division has a Regional Management Board that looks at issues that cut across all districts. We are getting ready to hire a number of regional technical experts and regional planners.

Let's charge ourselves to work corporately inside the district as well. Look at the person next to you. Their Corps of Engineer nametag represents our team.

Think of our project managers as working the cash registers. While we all interface with the public, they are the primary interface. They collect the money and give our customers complete meals. But the PM's don't make any of the meals, they just assemble them after taking the orders. The rest of us are putting together the order. Every order has to be complete to a standard and the experience has to be enjoyable. If not, the customer will go elsewhere.

Believe me when I say that acting in a "corporate" manner will benefit us all. Let us think about working as a team and I guarantee the corporate behavior will follow. 

## **Soundings**

**Lt. Col. Richard J. Polo**—District Engineer  
**Lynn Duerod**—Chief, Public Affairs Office  
**Larry Reilly**—Managing Editor  
**Alia Bracey**—Student Clerk  
**Barbara Morris**—Editing/design/layout,  
 RPI Marketing Communications (contractor)

**Authorization:** *Soundings* is an authorized unofficial newspaper of the Detroit District. It is published quarterly, under supervision of the Public Affairs Office, in accordance with provisions of Army regulation, AR 360-1. It is prepared using desktop publishing and printed by offset press. Also available on the internet at: <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/functions/pa/press/html>

**Circulation:** We print 600 copies per issue and circulate them to employees, retirees, and anyone requesting a copy in writing.

**Contents:** Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. The U.S. Army doesn't endorse any product or service that may be advertised or mentioned in this publication. News copy is prepared in accordance with Associated Press, AP, Style Guide. All photos are U.S. Army photos unless otherwise indicated.

**Submissions:** The Public Affairs Office welcomes comments and opinions about the information published in *Soundings*. News tips, ideas, suggestions and articles may be mailed to: *Soundings* • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District • P.O. Box 1027 • Detroit, Michigan 48231-1027 • Fax: 313-226-5993 e-mailed to: [Lynn.M.Duerod@lre02.usace.army.mil](mailto:Lynn.M.Duerod@lre02.usace.army.mil) • For general information, call toll free: 1-888-694-8313

# Contractor to secure river bank of research center

BY LARRY REILLY  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit district awarded a contract to build a protective seawall at Grand Valley State University's Lake Michigan Center located on the banks of the Muskegon Lake to MCM Marine Inc. based out of Sault Sainte Marie, MI.

The more than 1.1 million-dollar contract requires MCM Marine Inc. to construct a 600-foot long steel seawall around the small peninsula, which houses the 24,500-square-foot research center. The construction of the protective seawall began immediately following the awarding of the contract.

"We wanted to ensure the construction of the seawall would start before winter set in," said David Gesl, project manager with the U.S. Army



MCM Marine workers construct a protective steel seawall along the shoreline between Lake Muskegon and the Grand Valley State University Center.

Corps of Engineers, Detroit District.

"It's crucial to get a portion of the existing wall, which is collapsing, reconstructed before winter ice conditions interrupt construction."

The University's Lake Michigan Center was officially opened on June 21, 2001 and concerns about the possible deterioration of the seawall were already being addressed.

"Grand Valley State Uni-

versity and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had been conducting studies and putting together plans for a protective seawall during construction of the Center," Gesl said. 

(Soo Locks from page 1)

With the sponsorship issue resolved and final approval given, now a construction start date must be set. Due to

the amount of time since the project was approved, a Limited Reevaluation Study was conducted to reevaluate project costs and benefits to determine whether the project is still justified.

This study, conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Detroit District, resulted in a report that was submitted to the Corps' Washington office in October 2000. This report, which is currently being revised in response to HQUSACE comments, recommends proceeding with the project.

In Fiscal Year 2001, the Detroit District initiated geo-technical investigations and other activities necessary to proceed with design efforts, and initiated design of the cofferdams required for project construction. Cofferdams would be constructed across the north canal on both sides of the Davis and Sabin Locks in order to de-water the construction site. This would be the first construction contract awarded, and plans and specifications could be completed as early as next spring.

More information on this project can be found in the July-September 2001 edition of Great Lakes Seaway Review. 

## Welcome new employees

Permanent employees to the District since Sept. 1. **Nicholas Zager**, Civil Engineer intern, **Valerie Lemons**, Secretary in H&H, **Larry Reilly**, Public Affairs Office, **Thuy Dao**, Attorney, Office of Counsel, **Kevin Farnquist**, Equipment Mechanic—Soo, **Mary Jesionowski**, Hydraulic Engineer, H&H, **Elizabeth Reimer**, Civil Engineer intern, **Paula Zimmerman**, Physical Scientist intern, **Keith Kimpoltowicz**, Physical Scientist intern and **Michael Panik**, Civil Engineer intern.

## Equal Employment Office news

The Equal Employment Office is gearing up for the following observances:

**Black History Month** in February. The point of contact is Tyrone Crear.

**Women's History Month** in March. The point of contact is Valerie Stevenson.

Please call the point of contacts to serve on a committee.

The Department of the Army Minority College Relations Program has published its Fiscal Year 2002 career fair schedule for recruitment of interns. A major job fair will be held in Detroit on Apr. 10.

Call the Equal Employment Office at 313-226-6248 for more information

# Program enhances leadership skills

By **CARLETTA DeGROAT**

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICE

For the second consecutive year, the Detroit and Chicago Districts have joined forces in the Leadership Development Program (LDP).

The two districts kicked off the 2001-2002 program in Detroit Oct 15 - 19. Last year, the LDP graduated 25 people from the program. Nineteen people are participating in this year's program.

LDP is a program geared toward helping the participants to develop those skills necessary not only for effective leadership, but also for working more effectively with other people.

The program is geared toward improving the individual's communication skills (both oral and written) and by promoting self-esteem. LDP emphasizes organizational success through team building and the development of problem solving, decision making, critical thinking, and conflict management skills.

General Robert B. Flowers', commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, vision statement encourages the Corps to use synergy to find better solutions and the LDP partnering program helps create such a synergy. Rich "Mr. Pos" Wilkins, of San Diego, California, returned for the fourth consecutive year to present his formula for leadership success during the first three days of the five-day session.

Wilkins is an internationally recognized speaker and motivator who has

conducted more than 1,000 presentations worldwide. He has been named one of the top 10 motivational speakers in America. He emphasizes how positive attitudes are contagious as well as very effective at improving teamwork and performance. "Mr. POS" also spent time with the group discussing personality traits and how to work with others more effectively by recognizing their individual styles.

"'Mr. Pos' provided an enjoyable and relaxed environment from which to learn. Not only did he demonstrate ways to strengthen and enhance one's leadership skills, but he offered a means to positively develop the leadership skills as well," said Eric Warda, Detroit District.

An icebreaker dinner was held during the first evening at a local Detroit restaurant. "I thoroughly enjoyed the icebreaker dinner. The atmosphere energized our group and made it easy to socialize," said Cheryl Svec, Chicago District.

During the second day, Lt. Col. Richard J. Polo, Detroit District commander, spent many hours observing the group and then offered some personal insight on leadership before presenting a Commander's coin to Rich Wilkins.

The group spent the fourth day at the



Corps employees learn teamwork as they participate in the University Michigan's Challenge Program.

University of Michigan where they participated in the school's Challenge Program, which had them conducting several team-working activities to improve communication and build trust.

"The Challenge Program was not only fun, but it was a very rewarding experience for me. I can actually say that during the program I learned something about myself that I didn't know before," said Charles Muhammad, Detroit District. "I think everyone should have the opportunity to participate in this kind of development activity."

The session wrapped up on Oct. 19, with a "Team Punch" ceremony, which has its origins in the military. Joyce D. Hess, Detroit District Executive Officer and Ethel M. Dixon, Detroit District Asst. Chief of Planning, Programs, and Project Management, addressed the group with leadership inspiration and information on how to obtain knowledge in the Corps.

The group also discussed the next two team building project sessions, which will be held in Chicago. The yearlong LDP, which has been held during the past five years, is offered to all full-time permanent employees. Graduates of each class are encouraged to volunteer their time as steering committee members who assist and mentor the next year's group of LDP participants. 



Participants of the Leadership Development Program enjoy the social environment of the course.

# Winter safety precautions can prevent accidents

BY RON BARKLEY

SAFETY OFFICE

What would winter be like without beautiful white snow? Well, driving would probably be a lot safer. Many people don't realize the increased risks of driving in inclement weather. Just taking a simple trip to the grocery store can be dangerous in some cases. The leading cause of death during winter months is due to transportation accidents. During inclement weather, it is best to stay home; however, this is not always feasible. Taking a few simple precautionary steps can help make a difference in your winter travels.

## Vehicle Preparation

Wintertime is the harshest season for

vehicles. Prepare your vehicle for winter by scheduling a complete maintenance check in the fall.

**Battery:** Cold weather starts require a battery that is fully charged. Recharge or replace weak batteries. Have your charging system checked, too.

**Ignition system:** Damaged ignition wires or a cracked distributor cap may cause a sudden breakdown.

**Lights:** Regularly check that all lights are functioning properly and that headlights are properly aimed.

**Brakes:** Brakes should be checked and, if needed, serviced to ensure even braking.

**Tires:** The traction between the tires and the road surface determines how well your vehicle starts, turns and stops.

Make certain your snow tires or all-season radials are properly inflated and in good condition. Ensure all four tires have the same tread pattern for even traction.

**Exhaust system:** Have the exhaust system fully checked for leaks that could send carbon monoxide into your vehicle.

**Heating and cooling system:** Check your radiator and hoses for cracks and leaks. Make sure the radiator cap, water pump and thermostat work properly. Test the strength of the anti-freeze, and test the functioning of the heater and defroster.

**Windshield:** Make sure wipers are in good condition and fill up on winter washer fluid. 

## Driving in bad weather

When driving in bad weather plan ahead. It may save you a lot of hassle. The following are some things to think about during your planning process.

- \* Make sure you have enough fuel.
- \* Clear your vehicle of ice and snow. Make sure your windows are clear of ice and fog. Turn on your lights when driving. If visibility becomes poor while driving pull off until it clears up.
- \* Measure your speed conditions.
- \* Stick to main roads so if you have car trouble you can seek help easier, back roads are not always maintained.
- \* Wear your seat belt at all times.
- \* Let someone know where you plan to travel and the route you are taking so people can find you if you don't show up at a reasonable time.
- \* Listen on your radio for current and future weather conditions.



## Winter car survival kit

- Shovel
- Sand, salt or kitty litter
- Traction mats
- Tow chain
- Compass
- Cloth or roll of paper towels
- Warning light or road flares
- Extra clothing and footwear
- Emergency food pack
- Axe or hatchet
- Booster cables
- Knife
- Water containers
- Ice scraper and brush
- Water-proof matches or lighter
- Road maps
- Matches and a 'survival' candle in a deep can (to warm hands, heat a drink or use as an emergency light)
- Fire extinguisher
- Methyl hydrate (for fuel line and windshield de-icing)
- The following items should be kept in the cab of your car:
  - Flashlight with extra batteries
  - First-aid kit
  - Blanket (special 'survival' blankets are best)/sleeping bags
  - Non-perishable, high-energy foods.

## Trapped in vehicle during severe weather

- If you have a cellular phone, call for help.
- Stay in your vehicle. Disorientation occurs quickly in wind-driven snow and cold.
- Run the engine about ten minutes each hour for heat.
- Watch out for carbon monoxide poisoning. Keep exhaust pipe clear of snow and open a window slightly for ventilation.
- Make yourself visible to rescuers. Turn on the dome light at night when running engine. Tie a brightly colored cloth to your antenna or door. Raise the hood indicating trouble after snow stops falling.
- Do mild exercises to sustain circulation. Avoid staying in one place too long.
- If more than one person is in the car, take turns sleeping.

# Corps enjoys 2001 holiday party...

Photos by Ben Harrison



Kaylin Autumn Forester gets close and personal with Santa.



Mary Jesionowski gets a Commander's Coin from Lt. Col. Richard J. Polo, Jr. for her Christmas tree ornament design.



Members of the District Resource Management office enjoy the party.



Robert Jameson's fingers dance across the piano keyboard.



The Jungle Choir prepares to sing another Christmas carol.



A number of Corps members try their skill at the fine art of dancing.



...y a moment of socializing during the Holiday party.



...s he entertains everyone with classical selections.



Robert DeRouche puts a little twist to his Karaoke performance.



Joyce Hess reads from the naughty boy and naughty girl list.



(L to R) Denise Gulley, Sabrina Ayers, Twylla Lucas and Sandra Jones combine their voices on a song.



...line dancing.



Carletta DeGoat sings out a popular tune as her fellow Corps members cut the rug on the dance floor.



The new U.S. Army Reserve Center in Walker, Michigan was officially dedicated on Nov. 3.

## Reservists thank Corps for new home

**BY LARRY REILLY**  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

**W**ith hundreds of Army Reservists and community members in attendance, the Chief of U.S. Army Reserve, Lt. Gen. Thomas Plewes officially dedicated the new United States Army Reserve Center in Walker, Michigan. The project was started years ago by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District and completed by the Detroit District.

The dedication of the 73,000 square foot, \$9 million center on Nov. 3, 2001, brought to an end nearly a decade-long wait the Walker community endured as plans for the facility were developed then shelved and then activated again. The facility will house two medical and one quartermaster reserve units, which include a total of 40 active duty and more than 400 reserve soldiers. The center includes a drill hall, medical treatment and examination facilities, large motor pool inside and

13 acres of landscape outside, where the medical units can set up field hospital tents. A six and one half-foot deep pond will allow the quarter master unit to conduct water supply training.

The center's opening also marked the first time that the Detroit District has been involved in a military construction project since November 1965.

The project enabled the Detroit District to establish a unique working relationship with the Louisville District, which first designed the reserve center project in 1994 and opened the door for the Detroit District to perform more military construction projects in the future: historically the responsibility of the Louisville District.

The change in how the two Corps districts now do business didn't go unnoticed during the dedication ceremony by General Plewes, who talked about how the Walker Reserve Center project was first started by the Louisville District and then was transferred to the Detroit District for completion. The general showed the U.S. Army Reserve's gratitude when he had

two Grand Haven Corps' Area Office personnel, Carl Platz, Project Engineer, and Jim Schulz, Construction Representative, come on stage and receive Civilian Achievement Awards for their participation in the project.

"The Walker Reserve Center was a very successful project from several aspects. Especially notable is the level of customer satisfaction that the Army Reserve has expressed to us (the Corps)," said Carl Platz, Project Manager at Grand Haven Area Office. "Considering this MILCON project was unique to us and to Detroit District, I believe each member of the entire project team contributed to and was a vital part of its success."

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was instrumental in the successful completion of this Reserve Center and we are very grateful," Plewes said prior to the two Corps employees receiving their awards. He went on to personally thank a number of Detroit and Louisville District Corps' employees and the civilian contractors involved in the project. 

## Emergency shoreline mitigation performed at St. Joseph

**BY JOHN LOVE**  
PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

**T**he U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District received a letter from the Michigan City of St. Joseph requesting emergency shoreline repair assistance. The Corps' response and action provided protection to an exposed water pipeline.

Heavy winds from a three-day storm (Oct 25-27) generated unusually high waves off Lake Michigan and caused severe erosion to the sand that covered the city's water

plant's water pipelines.

Because the pipelines provide water to the city of St. Joseph, any damage to the exposed pipelines would jeopardize the city's water supply.

The Detroit District was able to expedite the city's need for sand and/or dirt material to cover the exposed piping by utilizing the authorities afforded the District under the Section-111 program.

The sand-type material was delivered on January 3, 2002 and will provide the necessary protection the pipeline needs throughout the winter. 

# Corps closes gate on flood control project

By Lynn Duerod  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

After 20 years of construction and coordination between the city of Fort Wayne, IN. and the Detroit District, the Fort Wayne Flood Control Project has finally been completed.

Numerous Corps personnel, city, county and state officials and Fort Wayne citizens attended the Oct. 24 dedication ceremony and viewed portions of the 54,000 feet of floodwalls and levees that border the shorelines of the St. Joseph St. Mary and Maumee Rivers,

which snake their way through the city of Fort Wayne.

"We are here today celebrating the completion of our project. Challenges on this project were great, but we stuck it out with true tenacity," said Kim Schieferstein, Fort Wayne, Flood Control coordinator. "The Corps came to our rescue like true guardian angels: bringing with them talent and consistent professionalism."

"Our people gave 100 percent dedication to the mission, banding together their skills, which resulted in a very positive project for the people in this city, the county and at the Corps," said Lt. Col. Richard Polo, district engineer, Detroit



The built-up Fort Wayne river banks and the three rivers that snake through the city were just one part of the recently completed Flood Control Project. Photos by Joe Kubinski



Thousands of feet of walking paths were part of the Flood Control Project.

District.

The 10-mile shoreline project will now provide protection against the "100-year" flood to hundreds of homes and businesses located in low-lying areas that parallel the three rivers. "This project will benefit us now and for future generations in ways that are unimaginable," said Hodge Patel, regional director for Indiana Senator Evan Bayh.

According to city officials, lives will be spared and government money will be saved, but most importantly, several

homes were taken off the flood insurance rolls as a direct result of this project.

"I want to thank the Corps for doing exactly what they do best, make communities across the country safe," said Andy Down, City of Fort Wayne, chief of staff, speaking on behalf of the city mayor, Graham Richard. 

*(Editor's note: An in-depth article on the construction of the Fort Wayne Flood Control Project was printed in the Detroit District's Spring 2000 "Soundings.")*

# Soo Area Office gets large format scanner

The Soo Area Office Technical Support Section maintains over 17,000 Drawings dating back over 100 years. Daily they are handling requests for information from or making copies of these drawings for in-house personnel, contractors, other Corp offices or Freedom of Information Requests.

The Technical Support Section wanted a better way to handle the drawings, access the information and get that information to the people who request

it in a more timely way while cutting down on the wear and tear to the drawings. So after several years of planning and attempts they purchased a large format scanner, which arrived at the Soo Area Office on November 5.

With the scanner, the drawings, along with photos, posters or other large documents up to 40 inches wide, 0.5 inches thick and of indefinite length, can be scanned at up to 800 dpi resolution and converted into Black & White, Grayscale or Color image files in any of 12 differ-

ent formats.

Once the documents are placed in a database on the Soo Area Office LAN, each individual can access the image files and with their various software programs the images can be viewed, copied, printed out as hard copies, markup for updating, E-Mail dating back over 100 years led or do other needed calculations as necessary in an instant. In time, the Soo Area Office personnel hope to convert a number of the image files into CADD drawing files. 

## Hair shaving earns Corps member polished dome

"I should've put an inflation factor in," said Pat Klever, who was in the midst of having his head shaved by Eagle Scout Cyrus Groeneveld: thus fulfilling a challenge Klever, Chief of Operations, Grand Haven Area Office, has been putting out since 1996. Klever, an Eagle Scout himself and now an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 165 in Grand Haven, first made the challenge when his son, Joey Klever, was in Cub Scouts and he was the Cubmaster. He would let the first scout to sell \$2,000 worth of popcorn shave his head. After the first year, when his son sold \$1,650 in popcorn and twice as much as the next scout, Klever thought he had issued a safe challenge, which also kept his wife happy. This is the first year a scout has matched his challenge.



But it wasn't only his hair that he put

on the line. Shortly after his head was shaved, Klever stepped forward to take shaving cream pies in the face from each of the three scouts who exceeded \$500 in popcorn sales. The pie in the face act was another challenge Klever has issued during the Boy Scouts' annual fund-raiser

"I consider myself a success, and part of the foundation of that success was the character building I got in the Boy Scouts. The program is so worthwhile that finding ways to encourage scouts to raise money is worth it. Besides, it saves me at least three months of haircuts!"

After cleaning off the shaving cream and polishing his newly shaved head, he left for Grand Haven Township's Planning Commission meeting, where he has been a commissioner since 1998. "I hope they won't mind too much!" he said. 



Pat Klever gets his head shaved by Boy Scout, Cyrus Grieneveld

## Project will strengthen Rouge River embankment

A contract to complete an emergency bank stabilization project along the Rouge River in

Southfield, Michigan was awarded on Sep. 29, 2001 to E.C. Korneffel Company of Trenton, Michigan in the

amount of \$227,080.

The bank is being constructed to protect a 30-inch sanitary sewer line located within

the embankment, which has been threatened due to the failure of the streambank.

The project involves the removal of temporary protection measures, excavation of unsuitable fill materials, installation of steel sheet piling, and backfilling to reestablish a stable streambank.

The contractor broke ground on Nov. 1 and is progressing ahead of schedule. So far, the bank excavation has been completed, the steel sheet piling has been installed, and the toe stone is being installed. The project is being supervised on site by personnel from the Detroit Area Office. 

A worker from E.C. Korneffel levels dirt on the top of the river embankment along the Rouge River.



## Employees of the Month

AUGUST

### Theresa Gray

Since assuming her new position, as Executive Secretary, two years ago, Theresa has reorganized the office, established many new office procedures, and brought key Executive Office activities back into the office. Theresa exhibits exceptional courtesy and kindness in all she does. Theresa represents the Detroit District to our public, her co-workers and customers with pride and attention to detail that is unparalleled. She is a treasured friend, aunt and mother to many whom seek her counsel and assistance in and outside of the District. She is active not only in her professional work, but also in her family and within her church. 



SEPTEMBER

### Bill Rito

Bill is a very important cog in the E&C Division's drive wheel. He goes about his work in a very quiet, yet in a highly professional and influential way. His comments on the PMBP were highly detailed and thought provoking. Though not a directed assignment, his comments were in the best interest of the organization. Bill



has collateral duties as a technical coordinator and Value Engineering Officer. He got a set of documents together for team study at a VE workshop, which provided excellent data for VE "students" to learn from. He has been very helpful to other co-workers to ease some temporary peak workload in the AE Contracting Arena. 

OCTOBER

### Charles Muhammad

Charles has been a member of the Resource Integration Branch since January 2001 where he has excelled in his new duties. He is responsible for responding to Information Assurance Vulnerability Alerts from Corps Headquarters. In that capacity, he has consistently provided timely responses to the alert acknowledgments and has ensured that proper measures were taken to implement the recommended solutions. During the Month of October, in the absence of the Branch Chief, Charles prepared a briefing at a District IT Meeting on the DOD Information Technology Security Certification and Accreditation Process (DITSCAP). This was Mr. Muhammad's first experience in briefing, yet he undertook the task with enthusiasm and determination to distinguish himself and his organization. His can-do attitude contributes to his high success rate in accomplishing new challenges. 



COMPILED BY DEBORAH McCOLLA-BUTLER

## Marquette office participates in festival

The Marquette County Conservation District held its annual conservation festival. This year's festival focused on Watersheds and was held in Marquette Michigan on Sept. 21, 2001.

The Marquette Regulatory Field Office's display exhibited the important role wetlands have in the watershed.

Richard Gutleber of the Marquette Regulatory Field Office provided handouts and answered questions regarding wetlands, their place in the watershed, and the Corps' Regulatory Program.

The Corps' display was setup in conjunc-

tion with exhibits on area soils, dynamics of soil erosion, and groundwater.

The nearly 300 attendees, which included students from elementary schools, Northern Michigan University, and the general public were presented information on the scope of watersheds, the important role humans play in protecting them, and how wetlands, a component of the watershed, contribute to the health and well being of the overall system.

Other displays detailed the diversity of area trees and reptiles. 



Richard Gutleber of the Marquette Regulatory Field Office gives information on the wetlands to Marquette's Festival attendees.



# Corps Speaks...

## Employee shares wetlands knowledge with students

**O**n Oct. 25, Pam Horner, Environmental Analysis Branch, gave a presentation on wetlands to her son's first grade class at Grosse Pointe Academy. She used the wetlands demonstration kit from our 2000 Boat Show booth. The presentation went over well with the children. Horner emphasized the importance of wetlands and how they provide lots of food for wildlife. One of the children had been at the Boat Show and remembered our display.

## Seminar highlights Arab culture complexities

**T**he Detroit District hosted a Lunch & Learn seminar on Oct. 31 entitled "Arab Culture Complexities". This event featured two speakers affiliated with The National Conference for Community and Justice - Linda West, Associate Director, and Ahmad Ezzeddine, Director for Professional Development at Wayne State University's School of Business Administration. Ezzeddine provided fascinating accounts of his childhood and young adult life in Lebanon, an overview of the significant historical events that have come to shape the Middle East, and valuable insight into the Islamic faith and Muslim lifestyle. He drew a loud round of applause when he mentioned that he had recently taken his oath of citizenship.

## Corps' employees serve as panel members

**S**haron Lawrence and Wanda Carter-Davis served as Acquisition Panel Members at a forum sponsored by the National Black Chamber of Commerce. The forum was designed to educate small businesses in the local area in obtaining contracts with the federal government as well as highlighting the use of electronic commerce in the federal sector.

## Sprecher speaks at national meeting

**S**teve Sprecher of the Detroit District Regulatory Office gave a lecture at the national annual meeting of the Soil Science Society of America in Charlotte, North Carolina, Oct. 25. Sprecher's presentation was



## Honour Society inducts Corps employee

**Charise LaTrell Daniel**, student hire with resource management, has accepted membership in the Golden Key International Honour Society through Wayne State University. Membership into the Society is by invitation only to the top 15 percent of juniors and seniors in all fields of study.

Golden Key International

Honour Society is a non-profit, academic honors organization that provides academic recognition, leadership opportunities, community service, career networking and scholarships. Daniel is a junior at Wayne State University and plans to pursue a career in corporate law.

## Mailman delivers profile appearance

**Fred Griffin** is living proof that people can overcome most any serious diversion with determination and

desire. The district mailroom clerk's story of how he overcame a serious gunshot to the head was profiled in the September issue of the NISH Workplace magazine.

## Biologist speaks during science day

**Les Weigum** spoke on Sept. 13 to several classes of 6th grade students at the Birmingham Derby Middle School during the school's Science Day. Les Weigum (a Corps' biologist) was one of several scientists to talk about their professional fields. Weigum explained what biologists do and in particular what he did as a wildlife biologist as a Peace Corps volunteer in Malaysia and now as a Corps biologist.

"Sixth graders are the ideal age. They still aren't concerned with impressing their peers, and are unabashedly curious," said Weigum. "One of the more unique questions came from a young boy who came up to me after my talk and in a hushed tone so no one could hear, he asked me "if I would please tell him the truth. Are there really UFO's?," Weigum did answer the lad's question, but told the youth it was their secret.

## Engineer brings Sept. 11 disaster to classrooms

**Terry Long** talked on Dec. 7 to more than 200 eighth grade students at the L'Anse Creuse Middle School about his assignment at Ground Zero after the World Trade Center disaster. Long provided maps and photographic displays of the location as he talked about the devastation that occurred not only to the World Trade Center but the surrounding area.

## Engineers enlighten association on water levels

**O**n Oct. 3, **Marie Strum** and **Pat Klever** spoke at the West Michigan chapter of the American Water Works Association concerning water levels and the Corps' Continuing Authorities Programs (specifically Sec 14 projects for emergency utility protection). 

The full-page feature highlighted Griffin's fight back from the gunshot accident that left him partially paralyzed and suffering from brain damage to his graduating from the Dexter Career School in Detroit and eventually earning a mailroom clerk job with the Corps. A large color photo of Griffin

adorned the page and Fred's comments on seeing the feature! "Not a bad photo."

## Corps gets new family member

**Cadet Mariann Hop** received her branch assignment on Wednesday evening, Nov. 14. Assignments were received at Eisenhower Hall, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY. Mari was happy and excited to receive her first preference for branching, which was the Engineer Branch. 