



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Tulsa District

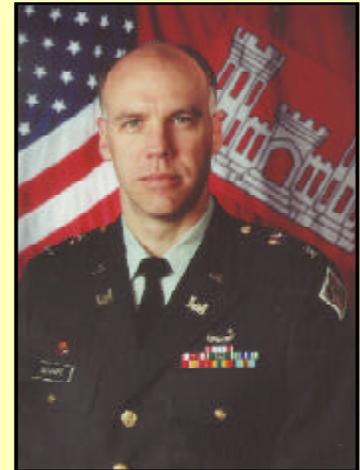
# TULSA

## DISTRICT RECORD

November/December  
Vol. 25, No. 4



# Commander's Column



**COL Robert L. Suthard, Jr.**  
**District Commander**

Over the past year Tulsa District has deployed personnel overseas to the Afghanistan, Middle East and Horn of Africa regions to support USCENTCOM in the War on Terrorism. These great American volunteers from the District have once again demonstrated the commitment to our nation and selfless service necessary to preserve the freedoms and way of life that we all enjoy.

The holiday season is a great time to thank all of you for your service to our country. You are second to none! Keep up the great work. Be safe and enjoy your family.

Happy Holidays!

Bob



# Home for the Holidays

If it seems harder to get in the mood for the holidays this year, you're not alone. Being in the midst of the war on terrorism and a bad economy can squelch any holiday spirit and make peace on earth and joy to the world seem distant. One sure cure for the holiday blahs is to actively participate in the holidays.

And participate is just what Tulsa District employees did on Dec. 6 during the annual tree trimming party at the district headquarters. The Equal Employment Office and CARE Council sponsored tree trimming event was a sure cure for the holiday blahs. In true district tradition, employees sang Christmas carols, ate cookies and drank punch while trimming the tree.

Planning Division helped create a festive atmosphere by decking the halls of the second floor hallway and conference room. Dominion Leasing adorned the entranceways and building with decorations of bright colors, seasonal lights, and a sled with Saint Nick.

Be it in a field office, on the Mr. Pat Barge or even in the Tulsa District Headquarters, there's no place like home for the holidays.

Happy Holidays To All!



*Tulsa District employees singing Christmas carols during the tree trimming event on Dec. 6.*

**Cover – Tulsa District retirees, family members and employees enjoying a ride on the districts barge towed by the Mr. Pat towboat.**



## **Tulsa District Record**

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The *Tulsa District Record* is an unofficial publication authorized by AR 360-1. Contents are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or Tulsa District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is published monthly using offset lithography. Contributions of articles, graphics and photographs are encouraged. All manuscripts are subject to editing. Printed circulation: 1,700.

**District Commander**  
*COL Robert L. Suthard, Jr.*

**Public Affairs Officer**  
*W. Ross Adkins*

**Editor**  
*Alicia Embrey*



*Photos by David Stewart, Hugo Lake environmental specialist*

*Ken Hobson from the Museum of Natural History and volunteers identify some of the 1,017 insect specimens found during the October Blitz.*

# BioBlitz swarms Broken Bow

*by David Stewart, Hugo Lake environmental specialist*

What do you call a bunch of biologists, botanists and scientists roaming over hill and dale for 24 hours on a mission to count as many different species as they can? Some would call it nuts, crazy or perhaps a few other colorful names, but in Oklahoma we call it BioBlitz.

The technique of BioBlitz has been around for several years and used by local, state and federal agencies as a way to observe a snapshot view of a particular ecosystem. The Oklahoma Biological Survey is the agency charged with administering BioBlitz in Oklahoma. The process itself is fairly simple. Members of academia, professional biologists, recognized subject matter experts and the public are invited to participate in this event. A member of the public who is interested in bats for example is placed on a team with someone who specializes in them. This team then proceeds to trap, identify and count as many different species as they can in a 24-hour period.

One group of participants frequently seen at BioBlitz are college and university teams. Professors from these institutions use the bait of "extra credit points" enticing students

to participate and use the actual "on the ground" experience as a valuable teaching tool. The biological data collected during this blitz is useful for making a prediction of the overall ecosystem health. The number and variety of organisms inhabiting an ecosystem is referred to as ecological diversity and used to determine the overall health of an ecosystem.

Southeastern Oklahoma stands out as the most ecological diverse region of Oklahoma. The variety of species that occur there is unrivaled anywhere else in Oklahoma. This made scenic Broken Bow Lake the natural site for BioBlitz 2002. Within a few days, all the arrangements had been made to provide maps, tables, chairs, and a large cooker to support this worthwhile endeavor. With the logistics taken care of, the wait was on for September 13 and 14.

The check-in time arrived and teams began to assemble September 13. All major universities and colleges in Oklahoma were represented as well as several from surrounding states. Staff from the American Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian Institute were also in attendance and ready to go to work. All watches were synchronized and precisely at 3 p.m. the "gun" was fired and BioBlitz 2002 was off to a running start.

See BioBlitz page 4

### BioBlitz page 3

The next several hours were devoted to the frenzy of setting traps, nets, gathering plants and insects and using binoculars to identify birds in the canopy. At sundown a shift change of sorts began. The botanists began trickling in with specimens that required further examination to determine species. While they were setting up their identification equipment, biologists were making last minute checks to spotlight and mist nets in preparation for their shift counting the critters. Tables had been prepared in advance with lights, microscopes, and identification manuals for use by teams identifying species. The activity of running traps, identifying and cataloguing species continued throughout the night and the next morning.

Day two was devoted to public education activities. Several tables containing a variety of aquariums were filled with a sampling of some of the critters collected including reptiles, insects, amphibians, and plants.

Skiatook Lake park ranger Patricia Gilbert, Hugo Lake environmental specialist David Stewart and volunteers answered questions and interpreted the exhibit to spectators. Gilbert and Stewart took advantage of this opportunity to explain the Corps of Engineers role in ecosystem management and restoration. Through this, it was hoped to encourage and foster an interest in the natural sciences in the youth visiting the exhibit.

At 3 p.m. on day two, the closing “gun” was fired and the official tally was finalized. The final tally surprised even the experts who had anticipated the count to remain below 1,000 species and only had space on the tally board for 999 entries. A little imagination and duct tape quickly corrected this oversight



*Valerie O'Brien, a student volunteer from Northeastern, Ken Hobson and volunteers Sandy and Bill Dengler setup a tent used to trap insects for identification.*

and allowed the board to accurately reflect the final “official” tally of 1,017 species. A hamburger cookout followed the awards presentation where Stewart was given a plaque for the Corps of Engineers support and participation. As the event wound to a close, the location for the 2003 BioBlitz was announced.

The scheduled location for the 2003 BioBlitz is Woodward, Okla. If you would like to participate in next year’s event or would like more information on BioBlitz, I encourage you to visit the official website at <http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/> and click on the BioBlitz link.



*Kristi Silvey from the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department; and Jennifer and Dustin Stewart engaged in making critter crafts as part of show and tell.*

# Employees catch the Combined Federal Campaign Spirit

by Alicia Embrey, Public Affairs Office



This year's Greater Tulsa Area Combined Federal Campaign theme was Catch the Spirit. Tulsa District employees, in spite of economic uncertainty, gave nearly \$57,459 more than last year and more than our average for the previous three years, helping the Tulsa Area United Way reach their goal for this campaign.

According to Louis Vogele Tulsa District Combined Federal Campaign coordinator, "Looking at the local, state, and national events taking place today, some of you may initially feel that you are unable to contribute to the CFC at this time. But it is at times like these that our generosity and support to the individuals, groups, and organizations supported by our CFC contributions are the most critical and needed."

The 2002 campaign also benefited from five well-planned fundraisers in the district office.

## Retiree Barge Ride

"Nearly 70 Corps retirees and 14 employees left Newt Graham Lock and Dam 18 around 10:30 a.m. and returned around 2:30 p.m.," reported Cathey Williams, Operations Division civil engineering technician and retiree barge ride hostess. Towboat Captain Kelly Youngblood and barge crewmen treated groups to tours while others enjoyed the sunny day and calm waters. Attendees enjoyed a lunch of soup and salad, which generated \$500 toward this year's effort.

## Silent Auction and North 40 Contest

Karen Lichtenberg HTRW Design Center administrative assistant and Gina Artech, Engineering and Construction Division secretary were this year's coordinators of the Silent Auction. "Total sales from the Silent Auction were \$1559.40. This was the result of the sale of 165 items donated by corps employees, including the 11 terrific baskets turned in by the divisions, and 4 cakes selling for \$75 each donated by Cathey Williams," Lichtenberg explained. "I'm also pleased to report that the Make Your Boss Park in the North 40 contest raised \$167 for this year's campaign. The winner/loser of the North 40 contest is Lt. Col. Stephen Zeltner, deputy district engineer."



Photo by Alicia Embrey, Public Affairs Office  
**Laura Long stops to give Scooby a squeeze while checking out the items for sale during the silent auction.**

## Giant Candy Jar Fundraiser

"How many pieces of candy are in the giant water bottle was the question people tried to answer," said Mary Blackburn, Programs and Project Management Division. "Some turned it over and shook it as they sought the answer. Several people asked the weight of the bottle, so I carried it down to the gym and plopped it on the scale. With all the engineers here, I'm surprised there weren't more people using rulers and calculators as they made their best guess." When the contest ended, Tammy Moreno of Contracting won the candy and jar with the winning guess of 771 pieces. "This event raised \$38.80 for the CFC," Blackburn said.

## Ice Cream Social Fundraiser

"The Ice Cream Social Fundraiser was a resounding success," said Carole Freemeyer realty specialist and CARE Council representative. "The social collected around \$200," she said.

## End of Year Picnic

The Resource Management office sponsored an "End of year Picnic" that contributed around \$135 to the campaign.

According to Carol Freemeyer, the CARE Council sponsored all the fundraising events for the Combined Federal Campaign, except the Barge Ride. "Karen Lichtenberg volunteered and did a super job coordinating the Silent Auction, in particular," said Freemeyer. "Mary Blackburn handled the Jar Fundraiser by herself, and help was recruited from Real Estate Division for the Ice Cream Social. Louis Vogele also volunteered to help with the social. We had a lot of fun and a great team."

See CGC page 6



*Photo by Alicia Embrey, Public Affairs Office*

**Willie Grimes loads his ice cream sundae with chocolate and nuts during the ice cream social.**

friends, and families. Many of these agencies touch our own lives, either indirectly or through the benefits that they provide which result in a better community and the betterment of the young people as they grow up to take their part in our society,” Zeltner added.

“Thank you to all who contributed this year, and a special thanks to those employees that volunteered their time and resources to help make this a successful and fun campaign,” Vogeles added. The CFC continues to be the largest and most successful workplace fundraising model in the world.



*Photo by Edward Engelke, Public Affairs Office*

**Joyce Heim laughs after playing joke on Larry Hogue during the Resource Management sponsored end of year picnic.**

**CGC page 5**

**Final tally of givers and fundraising events**

Fair Share givers (those donating \$260 or more) received a CFC donor’s pin and CFC t-shirt. One hundred district employees gave at the Fair Share level, which represents giving one hour of pay per pay period.

Key Club givers (those donating \$500 or more) received a special Key Club lapel pin, a CFC mug, and a CFC t-shirt. A total of 43 district employees gave at the Key Club level this year. As an added bonus, Lt. Col. Stephen Zeltner, this year’s Combined Federal Campaign chairman, offered the top 13 Key Club givers in the district use of his highly desirable, designated front row parking space at the District Headquarter for one month each.

Lt. Col. Zelther represented the campaign efforts for the over 90 federal agency campaigns that help make up the CFC portion of the Tulsa Area United Way Campaign.

“This campaign is, as it always is, about people. Its about the thousands of people in our city who depend on United Way services throughout the year. The more than 300,000 who are fed by the Salvation Army, the thousands of kids who receive programs from the Girl and Boy Scouts and Campfire Girls, the over 1,000 kids who are matched with big brothers and sisters and many others,” Zeltner said.

“It is also about you and me, as well as our coworkers,

**What is the Combined Federal Campaign?**

The Combined Federal Campaign’s tradition of commitment to the community through the selfless efforts of federal employees has its roots in the many charitable campaigns of the early 1960s. Seeing a need to bring the diversity of fundraising efforts under one umbrella, federal employees created the CFC — one campaign, once a year. By allowing employees to select from a single guide of over 2,000 organizations and make their contributions through payroll deductions, the CFC opened wide the door for generous giving.

The CFC is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations.

# National conference attracts students and professionals

This year, 24 Corp volunteers gave up part of their week to help at the 2002 National American Indian Science and Engineering Society Conference Nov. 7-10. Each year the AISES National Conference attracts the nation's brightest American Indian students and professionals in the fields of science, engineering and technology.

The AISES, a national, non-profit organization, was founded in 1977 by American Indian scientists, engineers and educators, professionals who resolved to create an organization that would identify and remove the barriers to academic success for American Indians and Native Alaskans.

The four-day event included a Career Fair, panel discussions, and workshops for students, educators and professionals. "The 2002 conference was a success, greatly



*Left to right - Beverly Cowan, Marjorie Courtright, Dawn and Keith Rice, in front Brett Cowan take a lunch break while volunteering at the career fair.*

impart to the Tulsa District," said Brett Cowan, Engineering, Construction Division, and AISES members. "In addition, Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division manned the water model for the hands-on event at the Career Fair. Information Management Office support from the Tulsa District also assisted USACE Headquarters in the presentation of the career fair booth manned by representatives from Kansas City and Huntington districts, and Headquarters."

The fair offers companies a unique forum for recruiting American Indian students and professionals. Over 2,000 participants and 200 exhibitors booths attend the conference each year.

## Corps Volunteers

### *Tulsa District*

Dawn Rice  
Brett Cowan  
Carolyn Schultz  
Joe Remendini  
Chuck Miles  
Sue Morris  
Angela Chavez  
Paula Perkins-Willits  
Marjorie Courtright  
Nancy Crenshaw  
Cheri Ferguson  
Karla Fleming  
Leviene Hearne-Fleming  
Ralph Hight  
Cynthia Kitchens  
Ahmed Majali  
Cliff Murray  
Angie Short  
Lucy Spaulding  
Burgin Towe II  
Ramona Wagner

Marshall Boyken  
Jean Wilkins  
Dan Birnbaum  
Mary Blackburn  
John Sparlan  
Joyce Yarbrough  
Michelle Rhodes

### *USACE Headquarters*

Col. Mark Tillotson  
Anthony Johnson

### *Kansas City District*

Left Kimberly Oldham

### *Huntington District*

Tammy Fudge  
Tim Fudge

### *ERDC*

David Horner

## Stress Prevention and Job Performance

St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company conducted several studies on the effects of stress prevention programs in hospital settings. Program activities included:

- ? **Employee and management education on job stress**
- ? **Changes in hospital policies and procedures to reduce organizational sources of stress, and**
- ? **Establishment of employee assistance programs.**

In one study, the frequency of medication errors declined by 50% after prevention activities were implemented in a 700-bed hospital. In a second study, there was a 70% reduction in malpractice claims in 22 hospitals that implemented stress prevention activities. In contrast, there was no reduction in claims in a matched group of 22 hospitals that did not implement stress prevention activities.

*-Journal of Applied Psychology*

**- From your CISM friends -**

4th Quarter  
Customer Care Award  
**Winner**



**Russell Holeman**

**R**ussell Holeman has taken his role as Engineering and Construction representative on the move committee seriously, assisting in sequencing and planning the move of employees in the district office. He supervised the development of a GIS-based floor plan that greatly improved the efficiency of the move and helped employees see where they fit into the overall plan.

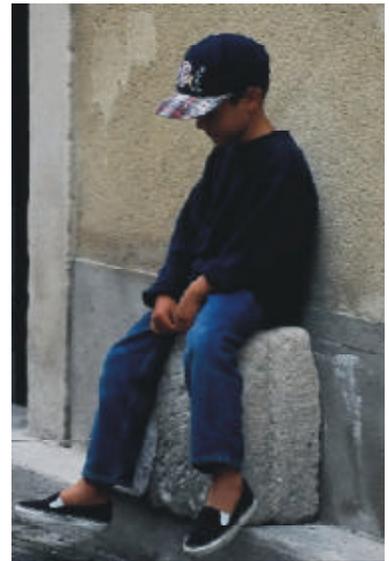
During one of the busiest days, Holeman helped a fellow employee change a flat tire. Even though it had just rained, he unloaded the spare, took off the flat, and installed the spare. He did this all with no hesitation and a big smile on his face.

Holeman continually conveys to each employee that they are a valued member of the district, and despite all the upheaval, people are still our most important resource. He has demonstrated an exceptional level of customer care throughout the move and should be commended for his performance.

**Fourth Quarter Nominees**

- Nancy Crenshaw – Operations Division*
- Carol Roberts – Engineering and Construction Division*
- John Schaefer – Contracting Division*
- Russell Holeman – Engineering and Construction Division*

**Tulsa District  
Speakers Bureau**



**Who will inspire  
our future:**

- Engineers**
- Environmentalists**
- Park Rangers**
- Hydrologists**
- Designers**

**YOU CAN!**

**The District will benefit and  
so will YOU!**

Knowledgeable speakers are needed to attend conferences, schools, club and business meetings or events.

**Call the  
Public Affairs Office  
669-7366**

# Protecting our past from the present

by Grady Dobbs, Park Ranger

Imagine only a few hundred years ago sitting quietly working on the tools that would keep you alive by helping provide food and shelter. With billet or hammer stone, a craftsman would create knives, scrapers, spears, arrows or bird points from stone commonly called flint. These tools were used in many walks of life for early Native Americans. The chips from making these tools give us insight into early traders because of different types of stone found not native to the region. They provide a window into the past, that once removed cannot be replaced.

Campsites where this occurred are now called archaeological resources and are protected places on government property. Unfortunately many folks called looters do not respect the laws and dig for artifacts in the sites. It is impossible with our limited staff to watch each site all the time since many lakes have hundreds of known sites and probably several unknown as well. One solution is to place a protective mat over sites with chain link fencing. It is wired together and staked down in large areas. As vegetation grows up through this it makes it very difficult to remove.

At Pat Mayse Lake in November we placed a protective mat a site that has been the site of looted over the years. Cole Lewis supervised this project as his, Eagle Scout project. Working with Lewis were five other scouts Scott Manley, David Lyckman Jr., Taylor Lyckman, Paul Bratteli, and Atticus Miller,



*Cole Lewis helps to secure a protective mat over a historical site at Pat Mayse.*

and adult leaders Tim Manley and David Lyckman Sr., Grady Dobbs, park ranger helped.

An area was cleared of small brush and vegetation so the mat could be placed flat on the ground with holes cut for existing large trees and 14 rolls of fencing 6 feet x 50 feet each secured to the ground with metal stakes.

The fencing material used was purchased a couple of years earlier with restitution money from three individuals who were caught digging on a different site at Pat Mayse Lake and successfully prosecuted. We feel it is fitting that their money not only protects the site they vandalized but others as well.

We hope that this effort will help reduce or eliminate future problems and was a great learning experience for all involved. Lewis did a fine job of planning and executing his plan and even placing more wire than first believed possible. He is to be commended for his efforts to help the Corps of Engineers with its site protection program.

## What is Job Stress?

Job stress can be defined as the harmful physical and emotional responses that occur when the requirements of the job do not match the capabilities, resources, or needs of the worker. Job stress can lead to poor health and even injury.



According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, workers who must take time off work because of stress, anxiety, or a related disorder will be off the job for about 20 days.

*-Northwestern National Life*

*-Bureau of Labor Statistics*

*- From your CISM friends -*

# Day of Caring A tribute to 9/11 and commitment to community

by Alicia Embrey, Public Affairs Office

**M**ore than 60 district volunteers came together Sept. 11 to build, clean, paint and help wherever needed in support of the Tulsa Area United Way's Day of Caring. Although the Day of Caring events only lasted for a day, the spirit of generosity and community goodwill created feelings of personal connection with friends and co-workers that will endure throughout the year.



Photo by Alicia Embrey, Public Affairs Office

*Lt. Col. Stephen Zeltner, deputy engineer and 2002 Tulsa Area Combined Federal Campaign chairman, serves up pancakes during the United Way Day of Caring kickoff celebration at Drillers Stadium, Tulsa, Okla.*

Day of Caring officially kicked off the Tulsa Area United Way's 2002-2003 fundraising campaign. The day began at 7 a.m. with breakfast at Drillers Stadium, a program filled with patriotic music, a salute to our heroes and participation in the National Moment of Silence. Tulsa's Day of Caring was the largest in the nation with over 5,000 volunteers giving their time and talents.

At the district office, Corps employees, family members and friends joined together at a flag raising ceremony. The flag was raised to full mast, then lowered and presented at half-mast as a salute to the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. According to Ed Engelke, "We joined the Americans around the world in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and stood in silence as a tribute to those lost."

Then it was off to our volunteer duty stations. The facilities included four locations to assist elderly residents, two-day care facilities, a community center, and tutoring at an elementary school.

According to Lt. Col. Stephen Zeltner, our Tulsa Area United Way Campaign chairperson, "The past year has brought both good and bad times to the residents of the Tulsa area. The current economic downturn, coupled with the recent layoffs and



Photo by Mary Beth Hudson, Public Affairs Office

*Margaret Johanning listens with students during a reading session at a Tulsa elementary school. Johanning and 59 other district employees took annual leave to volunteer during the Tulsa Area United Way Day of Caring on Sept. 11.*

challenges facing several of Tulsa's largest employers is placing an added burden on the donations and gift-giving of community residents, while increasing the need." Zeltner also asked that we look inside and consider our own individual situations, and with a positive and charitable outlook consider what we could do to contribute to those who are needy in Tulsa and the surrounding communities.

At day's end, Tulsa Area United Way volunteers logged almost 42,000 hours of work on 552 projects. This year Tulsa Area United Way goal is \$25 million that will fund 69 agencies in Tulsa, Okmulgee, Wagoner, Creek, Osage and Rogers counties. "The Corps family, as one of the Area's largest federal agencies, turned out in big numbers to show our support for fellow federal workers who lost their lives in the terrible events of September 11th", Zetner added.

*Photos by Mary Beth Hudson,  
Public Affairs Office*



# 2002 Ranger Conference

## Something for everyone

by Don Underwood, Fort Supply Park Ranger

I volunteered as a committee member for the Southwestern Division Park Ranger Conference, Oct. 22-24 in Fayetteville, Ark. About 135 rangers from SWD, South Atlantic Division, and Pittsburgh, Louisville, and San Francisco Districts were present. Rangers work in situations that lead them to focus on their specific work environments. We often forget how many different duties and disciplines comprise the park ranger workforce. I met two foresters who almost never interact with the public, rangers whose main duties revolve around boat patrol, and a ranger that works solely on interpretation. They met me, a jack-of-all-trades from little old Fort Supply, Okla. What a great opportunity to compare notes and learn from each other.

The conference kicked off with (then) Col. (P) Crear addressing the audience. He spoke of vision and motivation. We were also introduced to Army-speak with a primer on the correct use of the word HOOAH. Use of the word carried through the week. Almost anywhere more than five rangers gathered you could hear it being used. Our new SWD Chief of Operations Elisa Pelicciotto also spoke, giving her perspective on the ranger environment, also offering assistance and encouragement as she moves forward with her new role.

The primary focus of this year's agenda was ranger safety and training. Bill Jackson, lake manager at Martin's Fork Lake, Kent., is a licensed facilitator for Verbal Judo©. Jackson presented the annual refresher which rangers are required to take. Verbal Judo© teaches rangers command and control through use of specific phrases, voice tone, and visual presence. Chris Arthur presented personal protection training. Interacting with our visitors and gaining compliance is the basic element of the ranger profession. The social climate we work in has changed over the years. You see it on the nightly news. Assaults and other crimes committed against figures of authority are commonplace. Personal protection training focuses on empty handed self defense and provides rangers with techniques that, when combined with Verbal Judo©, can be helpful in dealing with

aggressive visitors.

A bonus for the session was Little Rock District's; District Engineer and District Deputy Engineer both changed into Physical Training gear and joined the fun during Tulsa District's personal protection session.

Charlie Burger, Fort Worth District Operations manager, gave an overview of Visitor Assistance policy. His presentation on the Engineer Regulation and corresponding documents allowed us to remember where our priorities should be and see previews of what the future may hold.

Tulsa District attendees gave several presentations. John Marnell, Natural Resources Branch chief, and Kathy Carlson, Canton area manager provided information on justified levels of service in Corps public use areas. Marnell also fielded questions for Tulsa District during a chiefs panel question and answer session. Terry Holt, Marion Reservoir lake manager, was the presenter for a session on Critical Incident Stress Management; Earl Groves, Keystone area manager, spoke on the Leadership Development Program and developmental assignments; and Jeremy Caldwell, Hugo Lake Office park ranger brought a

program on the youth and handicap deer hunts.

Aimee Jordan, Colleen Thayer, and Rick Smither, Eufaula Lake Office park rangers, brought a large display touting good things at Eufaula. I was proud to hear those from other districts say how they benefited from the assistance Tulsa District provided.

Other topics during the session covered a broad range - retirement planning, GIS, explosives, drug labs, master planning, cultural resources, and an overview of legal issues to name a few.

After the final morning session ended, rangers and guests' boarded buses for field trips. Selections included Pea Ridge National Military Park, Roaring River Trout Hatchery, and a canoe trip on the White River that offered a first hand view of an

1135 project.

A unique aspect of this conference was the conference website. Not only did it cover the purpose and topics for the week, it provided online hotel and field trip registration, comprehensive information on the city of Fayetteville, and a conference memorabilia link. Kris Brown, park ranger and committee member, conceived the website and worked closely with Angela Williams in SWD to make the site informative and easy to use. Feedback on web availability was so positive, the next conference will also incorporate use of a website.

If you have never been on a committee like this one, I encourage you to volunteer. It's work, but you'll have fun doing it. You will learn new things, make lasting friends, and help the Corps foster knowledge and bonding with fellow employees.



Logo designed by Cindy Buchanan, Tulsa District's Texoma Area Office park ranger.

# Waurika Lake partnership recognized by tourism industry

by Bobby Parkey, Waurika Lake Park Ranger

The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and Oklahoma Travel Industry Association recognized the Waurika Chamber of Commerce and Waurika Lake with a Merit Award at the Annual Redbud Awards Gala October 14.

Lt. Governor Mary Fallin, Cabinet Secretary for Tourism Jane Jayroe and Chair of OTIA Tina Gilliland presented the Redbud Awards for excellence in tourism at the Governor's Conference on Tourism in Oklahoma City. The awards are the

highest honor given for tourism in the state. They recognized the outstanding works of businesses, organizations and individuals that help promote and develop tourism.

Waurika Lake park ranger, Tim Adkins supplied the Waurika Chamber of Commerce with pictures of the lake and pertinent lake data. The pictures and data were included in a brochure to promote visitation to the city of Waurika and Waurika Lake. The brochure won the Redbud Merit Award for its class. Merit Awards are runners-up to Redbud Awards.



## Photo Contest 2002 - 2003



The HQUSACE National Water Safety Committee sponsors a Corps-wide photo contest, with a focus on promoting water safety. This contest is open to all Corps employees.

Submissions should depict the promotion of water safety, demonstrate safe water practices, and/or showcase our water-based recreation facilities. All uniformed employees shown in the photos should be wearing the appropriate uniform for the activity they are engaged in.

### Categories:

1. Commercial Boating
2. Winter/Fall Recreation
3. Spring/Summer Recreation
4. Corps employees in action
5. Scenic

Photos will be judged for clarity, composition, originality, visual impact, and theme.

Each photographer may submit up to three photos per category. Submit contest entries to the Tulsa District Public Affairs Office. Include photographer's name, park/project, district, date taken, and category. Entry deadline is Jan. 23, 2003. Submission attests that the submitter took the photo.

Winners will be announced in April during the USACE session at the 2003 International Boating and Water Safety Summit in Las Vegas. Category winners will receive a plaque and one overall winner will have travel and registration expenses for the 2004 IBWSS paid by the committee.

### Submission Formats:

- 35mm slide or
- Digitized image: Quality 300dpi or better on CD ROM or zip disk

All photos become the property of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for use in publications, exhibits, and web pages.

For more information, call Arlyn Hendricks at 918-532-4334.

Visit our web site at <http://watersafety.usace.army.mil/>

**NATIONAL WATER SAFETY COMMITTEE-SPONSORED PHOTO**

# Signs of Winter sweep Fort Supply

by Ray L. Kunka, Fort Supply Lake Manager

As the first cool spell of winter arrives, everyone scrambles for the sweaters and rushes to throw another log on the fire. You may think camping season is over but there still remains plenty of decent weather and lots of firewood for the camping pyromaniacs.

The weather changes also cause most wildlife to alter their behavior as they seek to find the perfect place to winter. The yellow jacket wasps seem to swarm in and around our bathrooms and other buildings. The wasps don't seem to be particularly aggressive but they will sting if caught between a shirt collar and you (guess what they sting—not the shirt collar!). The flies also seem to modify their behavior in that they can't just be shooed away from your plate of food—they move away slightly and make a bee-line straight back to their/your meal.

Other signs that fall is here: the sounds of Sandhill cranes trilling can be heard as they make their southward trek, the resident Canada geese (the ones that departed just before the special hunting season) have begun to return to the lake, and naturally the sumac exudes its brilliant red color. Come out and be a part of it.



Ray Kunka, Fort Supply lake manager at his office in November 2002.

## Carbon Monoxide warning

If you camp in an area without electrical service, beware. A family of three in their camper was using a generator to provide electricity for the unit. They had left a window near the generator open. As you can guess, the carbon monoxide fumes found their way into the camper and overcame the three occupants. Fortunately, a National Park Service ranger was making his rounds and checked in on the campsite. All three occupants were near death but due to his actions, they recovered. Now that was in a National Park, but it could just as easily happen at a Corps of Engineers campground or in your own back yard. The moral to the story is to make sure gasoline engines exhaust away from any open windows and that the wind currents don't return the exhaust towards your camper, either.

## Kunka hangs his hat

This is my last lake report after eight interesting years at Fort Supply Lake. The spit and whittle club has reserved a special place for me and I've already sharpened my knife to cut off a chaw of tobacco and make wood shavings. The Corps of Engineers will eventually be putting me on maturity leave.

This is kind of a sad but yet joyful time as I am about to leave something I have been doing for the biggest part of my life



Corps of Engineers, 1973 historical photo of Oologah Lake park ranger, Ray Kunka.

and prepare to go into the arena of unknowns. We all dream of retirement from the first day of our employment and I hope it's all it has been cracked up to be. If not, I've made a terrible mistake. Ah, to be a gentleman farmer and husband in the suburbs of Slapout, Okla. That will be a life with plenty of

challenge. I'm sure the old biological alarm clock will still attempt to awaken me at 5:30 each morning to make the trek to the Corps office. Old habits are hard to break. But waking up that early will allow me plenty of time for establishing and caring for the Ray Kunka National Forest on the west hundred and sixty.

I would like to thank those with whom I work, for their perseverance in putting up with me and I would like to thank my wife, Cuddles, (otherwise known as Linda). Without her support, I could never have achieved my 33-year career. Last, but not least the volunteers who helped do the many things that would not have been done without their help.

So for another couple of weeks and then some, as I approach retirement, I hope someone will be seeing you as you enjoy your lake and its surrounding lands.

# Lakes reap benefits from National Public Lands Day

## *A success at Canton Lake*



*Volunteers installing interpretive markers at the Frank Raab Nature Trail, Canton, Okla.*

*by Debbie Chaloupek, Park Ranger*

The Frank Raab Nature Trail, located at Canton Lake, received a well-needed boost when 26 volunteers donated approximately 100 hours to improve the nature trail during the National Public Lands Day, Sept. 28. For years to come, many people will enjoy the accomplishments made on the nature trail by these volunteers. Without their help the trail improvements would not have been accomplished in such a timely manner.

Registration of volunteers started at 10 a.m. and work groups were established. Trees were pruned and trimmed, as were tree roots and shoots, along a newly dozed path that is now a new walking loop of the existing Frank Raab Nature Trail. Six Blue Bird boxes were attached to posts and installed along the trail and four new interpretive markers describing trail features were painted and installed. Trees and shrubs on the already established and frequently used interpretive trail were also trimmed. Some areas of the trail path that had become eroded were leveled up for safer footing. By 3 p.m. everyone had endured the afternoon's warmer temperatures ending the day with a feeling of great accomplishment.

The fall season's mild weather and fall foliage colors make the trail very enjoyable during this time of year. In the spring, the blooming flowers and trees found along the trail invites you for a different experience. While walking along the

trail its not unusual to spot animal tracks and see deer, squirrels, and armadillos. Because of the variety of trees, shrubs, and grasses, bird watchers will be kept busy identifying the many types of birds. The longer part of the nature trail, or hiking part of the trail, parallels the Canadian River for a short distance providing an additional change in scenery.

## *Enjoyable day at Eufaula*



*Boy Scout Troop 516 volunteering at Eufaula Lake.*

*by Aimee Jordan, Park Ranger*

Eufaula Lake NPLD event was held at the Memorial Overlook, a half-mile south of the dam. Approximately 45 volunteers and Boy Scout Troop 516 from Broken Arrow showed up for the NPLD held at the Eufaula Memorial Overlook from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Eufaula rangers Randy Shannon and Aimee Jordan worked with volunteers placing three benches, putting up signs and a bird boxes, putting in a new wildflower plot, cleaning out a flower bed, and doing general brush clearing on Eufaula's 3-mile Nature Trail.

NPLD brings together thousands of individual volunteers to refurbish and restore the country's public places. These encompass national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, forests, grasslands, marine sanctuaries lakes and reservoirs managed by government agencies, but belonging to and enjoyed by everyone. "The event went very well, and the day was really enjoyable for everyone involved," Jordan added.

## *Waurika points trash free*

A dozen workers participated in the 2002 Public Lands Day at Waurika Lake. There were two groups of workers, one from the Waurika Community Service

*See NPLD page 16*

# Fort Gibson hosts hunt

*Hunters report deer activity heavy during youth hunt*

by Cheri Dixon, Fort Gibson Park Ranger

A special muzzleloader hunt was held for youth at the old Boy Scout Area on Fort Gibson Lake Oct. 12. Eight hunters ranging from 12 – 14 years of age and their adult partner participated in the annual event sponsored by the corps and run by Fort Gibson Lake park rangers Kirt Curell, Cheri Dixon, and Jim Montgomery.

Deer activity was heavy with all the hunters sighting deer from their selected hunting posts. Oklahoma Cities' Deenae Beckett reported seeing 21 deer before noon from her ground blind. Even with the arrival of a cold front, hunters' facing a drop in temperature and a gusty north wind, the event ended with a 50 percent success ratio and the harvest of four deer. The hunt allowed for one either sex permit; however, only does were harvested with an average field dressed weight of 82 pounds.

This was a great experience for all of the young hunters; but especially for three young men: Big Cabin's Austin Seay, Broken Arrow's Ty Fields, and Keota's Kalen Perdue who successfully harvested their first deer.



*Kalen (front left) and Lance (front right) show off Kalens first deer harvest. The deer weighed 80 pounds. Lance is an Engineering Technician at the Robert S. Kerr office.*

NPLD from page 15

Center, an Oklahoma Department of Corrections work release center and a group from the Jefferson County Immigration and Naturalization Service Detention center in Waurika.

The groups went in different directions and picking up several yards of roadside trash from some of the most used primitive access points around the lake. All workers were treated to a hamburger cookout after the work was completed.

## Oologah brushes up

Forty-five volunteers worked side-by-side with corps rangers and area wildlife officials placing brush piles in Oologah Lake for NPLD as habitat for white and black crappie. The Corps of Engineers, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife and Conservation, and group of dedicated volunteers to create attractive habitat for crappie place brush piles around the lake each year. Oologah Lake supports one of the finest crappie fisheries in Oklahoma.



*Photo by Oologah staff*

*Oologah Lake Bass Club members go to extremes to make sure that their brush piles are placed in just the right location at Oologah Lake.*



*Photo by Oologah staff*

*Five crews on five boats placed 43 brush piles during the Sept. 14 Annual Brush Pile Day at Oologah Lake.*



# Where Were You?

*Where were you that September day,  
when the world stop turning?*

*by Kacy, daughter of Lesa Schroeder, Falls River Area Office*

**R**emember that day, when all you could think of was the poor souls who had their lives thrown away. Remember that dramatic day when our nation, a part of our world, was endangered by another country.

I remember! I was going to school on a nice crisp sunny day. As I got on the bus, I could smell the aroma of flowers and the fresh clean air. I thought to myself, "This day is going to be good!" What I didn't know was at the same time as I was getting off the bus and walking into the school, there would be a family about to get a phone call from their loved one. They would be in a gasp and would sit and cry, and cry, and cry. At that same time, there would be another brave man ready to save a troubled person's life, not even caring what might happen to him.

Then my thoughts go to the person sent from his country to kill our innocent people, just for the pride of their country. While I sat and watched the TV in our school's lunchroom I can almost feel the hot tide of air and smell the heavy smoke. My heart races faster, and

faster, and faster! Then I see both towers drop! I felt like everything came to a halt at that moment and I couldn't catch my next breath. I remember asking myself, "Why, why would someone do this?"

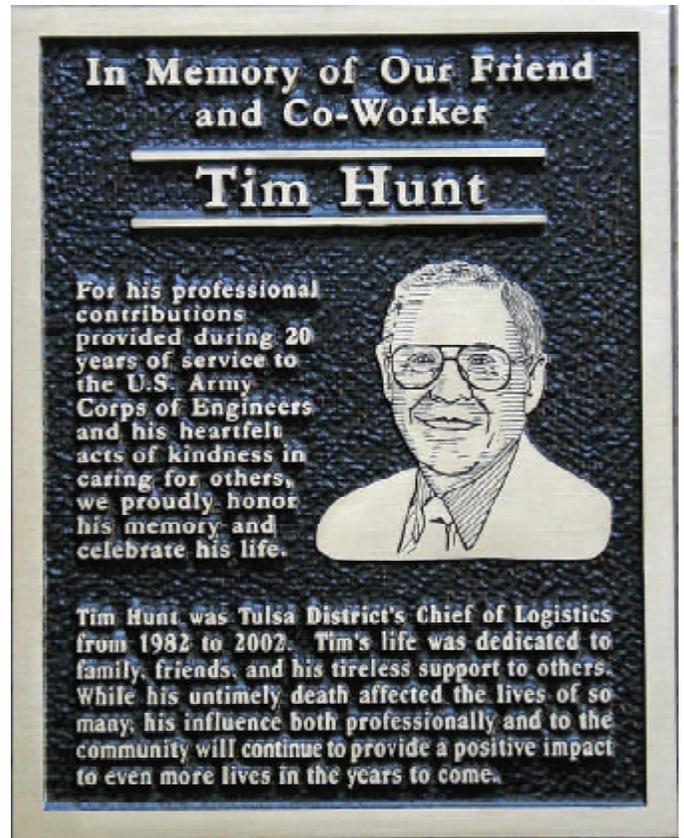
When I got home I turned the TV on and saw our nation coming together as one. For the first time in my life, we truly are one nation under God!

## Memory of friend and co-worker lives

**A**s part of the district's Day of Caring response, a September 10th memorial service in remembrance of Tim Hunt was held at the district Headquarters pavilion. Hunts 20 years of service to the district and exemplary acts of kindness in caring for others was recapped during the ceremony by Lt. Col. Zeltner, Deputy District Engineer and Leo Coffman, Dominion Leasing. In his memory Dominion Leasing presented a tree and the corps presented a plaque in Tim's memory during the service. The tree is located on the northside of the pavilion and the plaque is located on the westside of the Corps building.

"Prior to his untimely death, Tim was fired up about heading our Day of Caring efforts again this year", said Zeltner. "He and I attended the kick-off event at the Tulsa Country Club just four days before he passed away, and he was very excited about the corps family, as one of the area's largest federal agencies, turning out in big numbers to show our support."

Hunts children also participated September 11 with over 60 district employees that volunteered a day of their time for the Tulsa Area United Way's 2002 Day of Caring. "We hope this memorial service reminds everyone of Tim's commitment and caring for the well-being of others, which is the essence of those who serve in the logistics field," Zeltner added.



*Plaque located on the westside of the building.*

# Don't cook your own Goose

by Bob Vandegriff, Safety Office chief

There is nothing more exciting than dropping a 10-pound Turkey in hot oil over an open flame. If you absolutely must use a turkey fryer, here are some tips for safer use.

Turkey fryers should always be used outdoors a safe distance from buildings and any other material that can burn.

Never use turkey fryers on wooden decks or in garages.

Make sure the fryers are used on a flat surface to reduce accidental tipping.

Never leave the fryer unattended. Most units do not have thermostat controls. If you don't watch the fryer carefully, the oil will continue to heat until it catches fire.

Never let children or pets near the fryer when in use. Even after use, never allow children or pets near the turkey fryer. The oil inside the cooking pot can remain dangerously hot hours after use.



Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts when touching pot or lid handles. If possible, wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from oil splatter.

To avoid oil spillover, do not overfill the fryer.

Make sure the turkey is completely thawed and be careful with marinades. Oil and water don't mix, and water causes oil to spill over, causing a fire or even an explosion hazard.

The National Turkey Federation recommends refrigerator thawing and to allow approximately 24-hours for every five pounds of bird thawed in the refrigerator.

Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire. Remember to use your best judgment when attempting to fight a fire. If the fire is manageable, use an all-purpose fire extinguisher. If the fire increases, immediately call 9-1-1 for help.



*Pictures show the danger of dropping a turkey in frying oil over an open flame.*

**Have a Safe and Healthy Holiday Season!**

# Tulsa District



## Family

### Condolences

Retiree Walden Evans passed away Nov. 28. Evans worked in Construction Division and retired some 15 years ago.

Cheryl Wickson's sister Gaynell Kassanavoid passed away Nov. 26.

Retiree Don Prentice passed away Nov. 24. Prentice previously worked in the Structural Section, Design Branch, Engineering and Construction Division.

Lt. Col. Stephen Zeltner's grandson Colin Jason Ebsen passed away Nov. 14. Baby Colin was born on Oct. 29.

Retiree James Yadon passed away Nov. 13 at the age of 82.

Retiree Edward "Snow" Johnson passed away Nov. 9.

David Harde's Father-in-Law, Bennett Enfield passed away Nov. 7.

Retiree Allen Bryan passed away Nov 3. Bryan retired at the age of 55 from Hydrology.

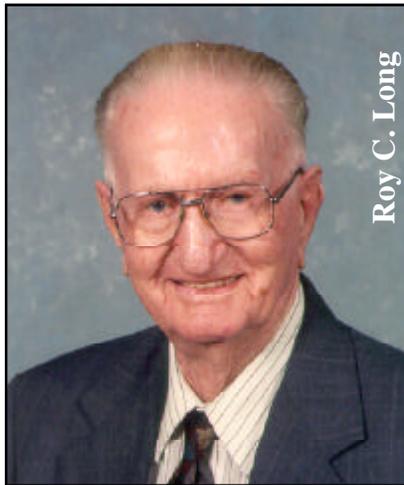
Employee Cynthia Wade passed away Oct. 9.



Congratulations to Kalli Clark, HTRW Design Center, and her husband Shawn on the birth of their son on Oct. 11. Nolan Ray and weighed 7 pounds and 1 ounce at birth.

Congratulations to Joe and Becky Custer on the birth of their son on Oct. 24.

### Long Celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Roy C. Long

**R**oy C. Long a Corps retiree celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Projects he worked on included Tenkiller, Fort Gibson, and Eufaula dams, and the Arkansas River and Robert S. Kerr projects.

According to his daughter, Kay Scott Grant, he is in good health and enjoys playing dominos and entertaining friends and family with his harmonica. Long retired from the Corps just prior to his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

KNOW OF AN ORGANIZATION OR SCHOOL THAT WANTS TO send holiday gifts AND CARDS to deployed soldiers?



The United Service Organizations can help!

**Only prepackaged items such as:**

- ? Razors
- ? Travel size personal hygiene items
- ? Soaps, etc.
- ? Writing supplies - paper, pens, envelopes
- ? Hard candies
- ? Bakery items – (NOT HOMEMADE)
- ? Books
- ? Popcorn - microwave bags, or kernel (a Favorite!)
- ? Non-perishable snack foods

**Prohibited Items include:**

- ? Magazines or newspapers
- ? Pornography
- ? Religious items
- ? Alcohol
- ? Fireworks or ammunition of any kind
- ? Home-baked items

Mail items to:  
USO of Fort Hood  
761st Tank Battalion  
Bldg 121, Ft. Hood, TX 76544

For more information, call Janet L Eva, Fort Hood USO administrative assistant at 254-285-2137 or email Richard.Ross@hood.army.mil



## Office of History

# The Corps has been engaged in disaster recovery since 1882

*When the Mississippi River floods of 1882 forced thousands from their homes, Corps of Engineers steamboats ferried scores of people to safety and delivered tons of desperately needed supplies to stranded refugees. That effort marked the beginning of the Corps' formal disaster recovery efforts. In the decades that followed, the Corps of Engineers responded to dozens of other disasters including the San Francisco earthquake in 1906 and the Texas City explosion in 1947. In each case, Corps of Engineers personnel were among the first to the scene to help care for the injured and protect lives and property.*

The Corps of Engineers received its first federal disaster recovery assignment in February 1882 when heavy floods along the Mississippi River forced thousands of people to flee their homes and seek refuge on levees and hilltops. Although Congress provided \$100,000 for recovery supplies, the Army Quartermaster Corps could not deliver the desperately needed food and tents to the shivering refugees. Chief of Engineers Brig. Gen. Horatio Wright proposed that Corps boats could deliver the supplies, but noted that the vessels could not be used for disaster recovery without congressional authorization. Congress pushed through a disaster recovery bill that very same day, and soon engineer vessels were steaming up and down the river, plucking people off levees and rooftops and dispensing hundreds of tons of supplies to the needy. Over the next six weeks Corps of Engineers steamboats, snagboats, and towboats delivered hundreds of tons of desperately needed supplies to communities all along the Mississippi.

In 1906, the Corps called on its engineer troops to assist with disaster recovery efforts following the San Francisco, Calif, earthquake. The massive quake—measuring 8.3 on the Richter scale—struck the city in the early hours of the morning of April 18. Roused from their beds at nearby Fort Mason, 150 men of the First Battalion of Engineers were the first troops to enter San Francisco and quickly began patrolling the devastated city to keep order.

Soon after the earthquake subsided a new danger emerged; dozens of fires were burning across the city, and with the water mains broken the city's firefighters were powerless to



*Office of History photo  
San Francisco, Calif, following the April 1906 earthquake and fires. The area shown is north of Bush Street and east of Grant Avenue.*

stop them. Fleeing both the earthquake and the subsequent conflagration, thousands of frightened city residents descended on Fort Mason where engineer troops worked around the clock to feed and shelter the refugees. Meanwhile, by April 19, fires in the city began burning out of control and the engineers were forced to undertake a new and dangerous mission: blowing up hundreds of homes to establish a firebreak to prevent the flames from consuming the western part of the city. Ultimately the firebreak held and two days later the San Francisco fires were finally brought under control.

On April 16, 1947, the Corps responded to a tremendous explosion in the port of Texas City, Texas. Following a shipboard fire, a freighter loaded with 2,400 tons of ammonium nitrate exploded with a blast so intense that vibrations were felt 65 miles away. Fires and secondary explosions soon broke out all along the waterfront, and 16 hours later a second freighter loaded with ammonium nitrate also exploded. The two explosions turned Texas City into an inferno, killing 500 people and injuring thousands more.

Immediately after the first explosion, Galveston District Engineer Col. D.W. Griffiths rushed to Texas City and coordinated recovery operations from City Hall. The first task was to get the fires under control and evacuate the area. During that initial frenzy of activity, Corps personnel helped remove the dead and injured, drove emergency vehicles, set up kitchens for relief workers, patrolled the harbor, and maintained an emergency communications network. Col. Griffiths also asked the Fourth Army for reinforcements, and as other Army units arrived, Corps personnel helped integrate the incoming units with local recovery efforts already underway.