



CONSTELLATION

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District
Digest

Kingman Lake focus of Earth Day celebration

by Doug Garman

During Earth Day celebrations April 20 in Washington, D.C., local middle school students took to the mud to plant the first of many wetland plants that will be used to restore lost marshlands at Kingman Lake in the Anacostia River watershed.

As part of a science project, students from Edison Friendship School in Washington grew a number of wetland plant seedlings in their classroom over the past several weeks. About seven students participated in the actual planting.

Joining the students at the ceremony were Washington Mayor Anthony A. Williams; Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, District of Columbia; Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Joe N. Ballard; Bradley M. Campbell, regional administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III; and Joe Lollier, deputy director of the National Capital Region, National Park Service.

In December 1999, the Corps began the multi-agency effort to restore lost wetlands at the lake. Using material dredged from the navigational channels of the Anacostia River, engineers shaped and con-



Edison Friendship Junior Academy students plant the seedlings they have nurtured in their classroom during the winter months.



A Corps project is returning this area to wetland in Washington, D.C. at Kingman Lake. The Corps is undertaking a total of 13 environmental restoration actions in the Anacostia watershed.

toured about 186,000 cubic yards of material to form 41 acres of rebuilt mudflats.

To restore the area to its native marsh state, efforts are under way to plant about 700,000 native wetland plants in the rebuilt area.

As these plants grow, they will serve as a filter for pollutants and contaminants and provide valuable bird

and aquatic habitats.

The Kingman Lake project is one of 13 environmental restoration actions the Corps is undertaking in the Anacostia watershed. The restoration of Kingman Lake is estimated to cost about \$3.6 million. Officials estimate the restoration project will be completed in August .



U.S. Army Corps
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Baltimore District

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District Engineer
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From the Commander

by Col. Bruce Berwick
Commander & District Engineer

There's a saying in real estate that the most valuable assets a property can have are "location, location, location." Similarly, for government employees, who routinely deal with public trust and taxpayers' money, the most valuable assets are "integrity, integrity and integrity."

Integrity is fundamental. In fact, severe penalties ranging from administrative disciplinary actions to criminal penalties await those who cross the line. We can be absolutely certain that criminal actions will be reported.

Going to trial over unlawful behavior in the workplace is uncommon, but it does happen. One former District employee is facing charges in federal court right now on four counts of bribery.

Illegal activity, such as accepting bribes, is clear-cut. Far more often, however, government employees are faced with ethical questions that fall into gray areas. Is it okay to accept a turkey from a contractor at Thanksgiving? Can we be hosted for lunch by folks with whom we're dealing in an official capacity? What about negotiating for employment with a company that has a contract on which we're working?

The Joint Ethics Regulation of 1993 governs these issues and has the force of law for federal employees. The regulation spells out what we can and cannot do when it comes to conflicts between our personal interests and those of the government.

Circumstances that can spell trouble include:

- **Negotiating for outside employment with a company with which you are dealing in your official capacity.** Recuse yourself. Employees may not influence any action from which they could benefit financially, now or in the future.

- **Receiving a gift worth more than \$20 because of your employment.** Decline the gift. Employees may accept coffee and donuts or lunch during a working session, and they may accept nominal gifts of less than \$20 for a total of up to \$50 a year.

- **Steering business to a company owned by your spouse.** Turn down that company as a resource. Employees may not benefit financially from their official actions even through family members.

These are just a few examples of situations where ethics come into play. You may face others. It's important to understand that employees must avoid even the appearance of unethical behavior.

When in doubt, phone or send an e-mail message to our **ethics counselor, Omar Zen**, Office of Counsel. He will answer questions, determine exceptions to rules and help employees work through the fine points of ethical questions.

The Corps of Engineers is a contracting agency, and we make decisions and determinations that have major impact on the public, state and local governments and private industry. It is, therefore, imperative that our integrity be kept at the highest level possible. The integrity of the Corps and of this District is reliant on the integrity of each employee.

I urge you to call on our ethics counselor whenever you have a questionable situation. He can help find an answer.

Essays.

Excavation for WWI remnants complete at Spring Valley

by Doug Garman

Last month, Army ordnance experts finished their search for buried World War I chemical agents in the backyard of the South Korean ambassador's residence in the Spring Valley neighborhood of Washington, D.C.

During the yearlong effort, experts investigated two disposal pits once used by researchers at the former American University Experiment Station between 1917 and 1919.

While excavating the pits, workers safely removed 288 ordnance-related items and about 435 various kinds of cylinders, pipes, glass containers, metal drums, wooden training aids and various pieces of unidentifiable scrap metal, glass and ceramic pieces.

"We carefully checked each of these items to determine if they contain any traces of chemical warfare agents," said Maj. Brian Plaisted, Baltimore District project manager.

"Fortunately, many of the items were empty or contained smoke compounds, sulfuric acid and other laboratory compounds, but we did find 14 items that contained chemical warfare agent," added Plaisted.

All of the soil excavated during this search, nearly 1,400 55-gallon drums and several large truckloads, was tested and analyzed for compounds related to chemical warfare agents before being removed from the site.

"We had hoped to begin restoration of the site this spring, but the results of soil sampling taken late last year from the ambassador's property indicated that portions of the backyard contained levels of arsenic higher



Workers complete the final phase in the excavation of two disposal pits found in the backyard of the Korean ambassador's residence.

than acceptable for residential areas," said Plaisted.

At that point, site restoration efforts were placed on hold until Army officials could better characterize and assess the extent of the arsenic issue.

In February, 266 additional surface soil samples were collected from the property. These samples are being reviewed and analyzed.

Using these results and previous data, Army experts are preparing a comprehensive risk as-

essment for the site to evaluate if any risk to human health is posed by the elevated arsenic levels.

"We will recommend appropriate cleanup actions as part of an engineering evaluation of possible alternatives," said Plaisted.

To help determine if any properties adjacent to the ambassador's property contain elevated levels of arsenic, additional soil sampling data will be collected later this year.



During the excavation of two disposal pits, Army ordnance experts safely removed 623 items, some of which are pictured here. It's been determined that 14 of the items contained World War I chemical warfare agent. All of the items removed have been properly disposed.

District's camping sites among best in the nation

by Cori Brown

There's still a crackling nip in the air. The waters are quiet and dreamy with sleep, except for the occasional landing of a duck or trolling motor of a fisherman's boat. The smell of wood smoke meanders into the nooks and crannies of the hills. For hardy souls, early May is the perfect time to be camping at a Corps of Engineers' lake.

Neophyte or seasoned pro, it doesn't matter. Baltimore District's lakes offer a wide range of camping experiences sure to please everyone's needs. The District manages four lakes where camping is one of the most popular activities.

Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes are located in north central Pennsylvania, about a five-hour drive from Baltimore. Jennings Randolph Lake is just south of Cumberland, Md., in West Virginia. Raystown Lake, near State College, Pa., is a comfortable three-hour drive from Baltimore.

Just ask District employees Bill Haines, Sharon McCain or Joe Ignatius, and they'll tell you that camping at a Baltimore District lake is an excellent adventure!

Haines has camped at Raystown and Cowanesque. He and his family have enjoyed all the activities that Raystown has to offer—swim-

ming, boating, hiking, and visits to local tourism spots. He has camped at the height of the summer season when the campgrounds were already full at midweek.

Haines particularly enjoyed the newly built visitor center at the Seven Points Recreation Area.

"The visitor center is really super," said Haines. "It's as good as any I've seen in national parks."

For McCain, summertime camping at Raystown meant quality time to spend with extended family, including her brother and his wife. One feature McCain especially liked was the location of her campsite.

"We could swim in the lake right next to our campsite," she said. The family also swam at the beach facility and hiked on the trails in the day use area.

Of course, one always takes a chance with Mother Nature when it comes to camping. Ignatius and his son, Joseph III, were unlucky enough to camp on a very hot weekend with temperatures over 100 degrees and severe thunderstorms.

"We really enjoyed the air

conditioning in the visitor center," said Ignatius. He quickly added that Joseph took the opportunity to experience how to build a dam using a touch screen interactive exhibit.

Cooler nighttime temperatures brought a welcome diversion of entertainment from a rock band at the amphitheater.

Contrast the bustle of activity at Raystown with Cowanesque and one quickly sees why the District has something to suit everyone's taste. Cowanesque's natural environment lends itself to quiet sunlit mornings with mist rising off the waters. Many campers at Cowanesque and nearby Tioga-Hammond Lakes come from the neighbor to the north, Canada.

"It's quieter, not so crowded," said Haines on his visit to Cowanesque. Haines also used this area as a jump-off point for visits to the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania and the Corning Glass factory in southern New York.

Like Cowanesque and Tioga-Hammond, Jennings Randolph Lake also imparts a slower pace of life. The campground, tucked away in the West Virginia woods above the lake, offers seclusion and privacy.

The District is fortunate to have these facilities within a day's drive, according to the Corps employees, who urge others to experience first hand some of the best camping east of the Mississippi.



District employee Sharon McCain's children work off their energy on giant water trampolines at Raystown Lake.

Contracting chief sees contracting as vital member of team

James J. Rich, the District's new chief of Contracting, views the function of acquisition in the Corps of Engineers as changing. Instead of being just an extra task, Rich sees acquisition as an integral part of the project team's work.

Rich began work for the Corps' North Pacific Division in 1979 as a presidential management intern recruited from Portland State University's graduate school. He's also worked for the Corps in the Alaska, Galveston and Kansas City Districts, in the Kuwait Program Office and the Water Resources Support Center at Fort Belvoir, Va.

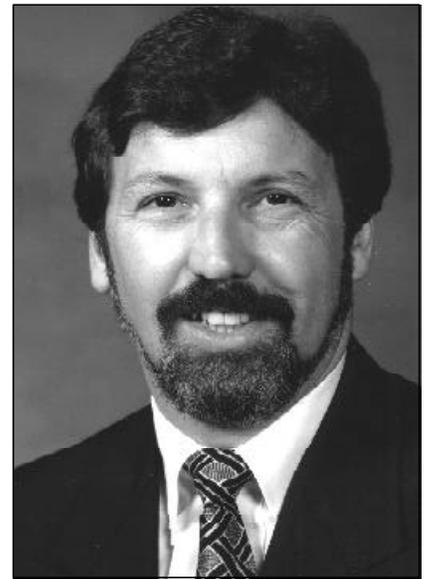
"What I've seen in the past 20 years is a tremendous growth within the Corps of Engineers in the role contracting plays," he

said. "Customers are becoming more demanding in the types of contracting tools they expect us to have."

Rich, who recently moved from a position with the Pentagon Renovation project to District headquarters, said he is excited about his new job.

"My responsibility here is really integrating contracting into a total project team," Rich said. Learning to think of "acquisition" as a cradle-to-grave term is part of the process. The effort to acquire what's needed for the project will be laced together with the work of other members of the team, he added.

"What's going to define success," Rich said, "is when we as a District, in a number of program areas, make



James J. Rich

our customers happy, and we in acquisition feel ownership of that success as part of the team that made it happen."

Courteous employee for May keeps payroll running smoothly

About 85 District timekeepers deserve thanks from the rest of the workforce for getting paid on time, every time. Joe-L Yancey, customer service payroll liaison in the Resource Management Office, is a crucial member of that group.



Joe-L Yancey

Yancey, named Courteous Employee of the Month for May, makes sure all time and attendance data for the District gets processed on a bi-weekly basis. He troubleshoots processing problems as they crop up and sees that labor is certified.

"He is, in effect, the conduit between nearly all Baltimore District employees and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Central Payroll Office in Denver," said William J. Nicholson, chief of the Finance and Accounting Branch. "He realizes the impact payroll problems have on employees' lives and does what it takes to correct the situation in a prompt and friendly manner."

Yancey's professional, caring attitude reassures employees with payroll or leave difficulties.

"The first thing I tell them is,

'I'm here to help you,'" Yancey said. Then he proceeds to take care of the problem. The challenge comes when the difficulty is a matter controlled in Denver instead of here. Then Yancey has to rely on another person in a remote location to fix the trouble. However, Yancey goes the extra mile, according to Nicholson.

"Customer satisfaction makes me happy, so I make sure what I do for them makes them satisfied," Yancey said.

His desire to satisfy customers and his genuine concern for others is reflected in the courtesy he shows in his day-to-day interactions with people.

"Being courteous means being able to give the type of response to individuals that you want to receive yourself," Yancey said.

Maryland, Corps sign PCA to perform work at Smith Island

A project cooperation agreement for a shoreline protection project at Tylerton, Smith Island was signed at a ceremony on the island April 24.

Joseph W. Westphal, assistant secretary of the Army for civil works, and Sarah J. Taylor-Rogers, secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, endorsed the agreement that will allow the Corps to proceed with its first cost-shared, design-build project.

The crowd that gathered to witness the signing heard these and other dignitaries speak, including Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes and the Rev. Ashley Maxwell, the island's

Methodist minister. District Engineer Col. Bruce A. Berwick served as master of ceremonies.

This Tylerton project is one part of a larger effort to study ways to restore and protect Smith Island, Maryland's last inhabited Chesapeake Bay island.

To prevent further erosion of the island's western shoreline, a bulkhead will be constructed. Along the island's southern edge a stone structure will be built to slow erosion and shield against damages to wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation.

Design and construction costs will be shared at 75 percent from the Corps and 25 percent from

the state. The estimated cost for the project is \$2 million.

Corps officials anticipate the design-build method will pave the way for savings in both costs and time. They expect to award the contract this month. Construction is projected to start in late summer, and estimated completion is July 2001.

Smith island straddles the Maryland-Virginia state line. The island is populated by a unique culture of watermen descended from the original settlers of 350 years ago.

The project was authorized under Section 510 of Water Resources Development Act of 1996.

Washington Aqueduct employee receives CFC award from SecArmy

Dennis Fisher of the McMillan Water Treatment Plant was recognized as HQUSACE's "best CFC keyworker," and nominated for the National Capital Area's "Keyworker of the Year" award.

"Dennis Fisher is an excellent

employee all around," said Thomas P. Jacobus, chief, Washington Aqueduct.

Although a keyworker from another Army office won the regional award, Fisher received a certificate and a special pen from Secretary of the Army Louis

Caldera at a Combined Federal Campaign "thank you" ceremony on March 17.

Washington Aqueduct employees fall under the Washington Area Combined Federal Campaign, rather than the Baltimore District campaign.

District employee TDY in Kuwait accompanies Defense secretary

Harold Clingerman, Planning Division, on a special detail in Kuwait, accompanied Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen when he visited Camp Doha, Kuwait, April 8 as part of his Middle East tour.

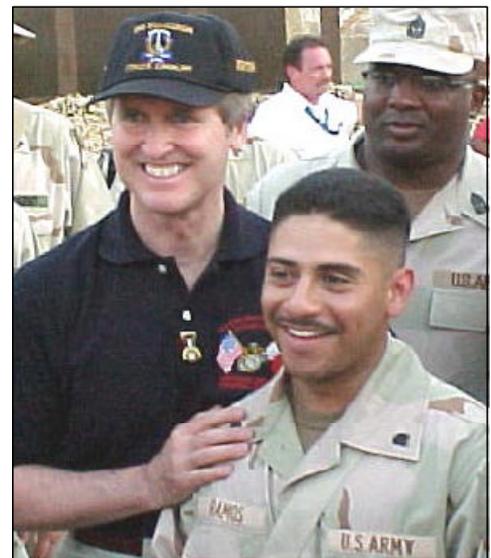
Cohen told the assembled troops that he valued their sacrifices in serving in distant posts far from family and friends.

He added that their presence there sent a strong message to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein

that the United States would not tolerate any aggression to deny the Kuwaiti people their freedom.

After answering questions from the troops, Cohen shook hands, answered more questions and posed for pictures with them.

Camp Doha is under the command of the U.S. Army Central Command headquartered at Fort McPherson, Ga., and is located near Kuwait City.



Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen (I) greets soldiers in Kuwait.



Corps employees help clean up Baltimore—Mary Hollobaugh, Real Estate, reaches to pick up a cigarette butt at the Super Spring Sweep Thing, the city's two-day campaign against trash and graffiti. Hollobaugh and other Corps employees participated in the March 24-25 cleanup that resulted in clearing an estimated 2,000 tons of garbage. The Corps team received complimentary remarks from Everett C. Fullwood, the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore's director of public space management, who said, "the Corps had a wonderful group of hard-working people in the cleanup."

Know the rules of safe bicycling to prevent injury

Bicycle injuries result primarily from riders not knowing or understanding the rules of the road, failing to follow traffic laws, and not having sufficient skill or experience to handle traffic conditions.

Head injuries are involved in about two-thirds of bicycle-related deaths.

Some safe cycling strategies include the following:

- Wear safety equipment—helmet, eye protection, gloves and proper footwear. Secure the bottom of your pant legs with clips

and your shoelaces so they don't get tangled in the chain.

- Maximize your visibility by wearing light-colored reflective clothing. Equip your bike with reflectors, and use lights, especially at night or when riding in wooded or other dark areas.

- Ride with the flow of traffic, not against it, and follow all traffic laws.

- Stop at all traffic lights and stop signs. Know and use hand signals.

- Keep your bike in good working order.

Safety Squirrel teaches school — Baltimore District's Safety Squirrel was spotted teaching the three shelter-in-place steps to the children and staff at "Going Places Daycare" in Edgewood, Md., last month. His visit was in support of the Lauderick Creek removal action. Children and educators alike at the area schools and daycare centers are being taught shelter-in-place procedures as a precautionary measure during the intrusive work which is scheduled to begin this month.



Happenings

Upcoming EAA events

The following events and discounts are open to employees, friends and retirees:

Charles Town Race Track — May 21, 11 a.m. Cost, \$15per person; includes bus transportation and buffet. Reservations required immediately.

Discount tickets for Six Flags America Park, Largo, Md.; Baltimore Zoo; and Maryland Science Center.

Contact Angie Blizzard, Room 7710-K or 410-962-4649.

Additional activities will be listed in future issues of the *Constellation*.

Christmas in New York – Dec. 3-4, \$200 a person. Bus transportation, motel, breakfast, ticket to Christmas show at Radio City Music Hall. \$50 a person deposit due by May 12.

District Golf Tourney

Fort Meade Golf Course, May 23, start 8 a.m. (check in at 7). Cost is \$45 includes 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch, course refreshments and prizes; format is foursome scramble. Contact Cliff Burdeaux at 410-962-4920.

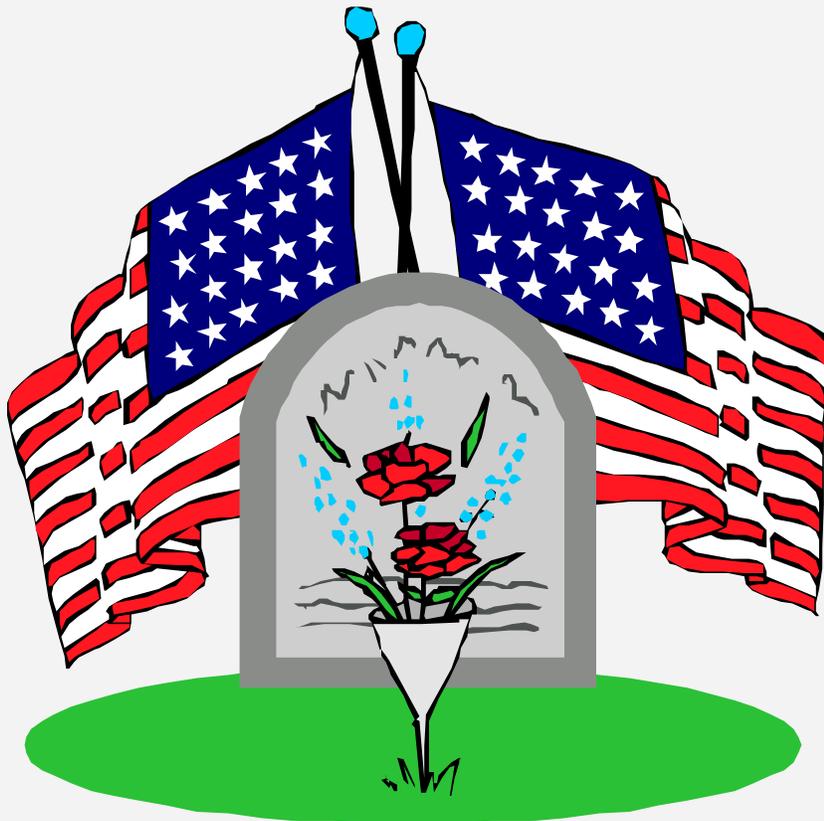
Baltimore District
2000 Organization
Day Picnic

June 16
Blob's Park
near Fort Meade
All employees and retirees
are invited.



Department of the Army
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Baltimore District
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Official Business



Memorial Day
We remember

May events

- Better Sleep Month
- National Arthritis Month
- National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

7-13: Be Kind to Animals Week

20-26: National Safe Boating Week

22-29: Buckle Up America! Week

6 — Kentucky Derby
125th annual running

8 — V-E Day. Anniversary of Germany's surrender to Allies, 1945.

8 — World Red Cross Day

14 — Mothers' Day

20 — Armed Forces Day

28 — Indianapolis 500-mile Race

29 — Memorial Day