



CONSTELLATION

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Corps helps polluted Anacostia watershed recover

by Mary Beth Thompson
Public Affairs Office

On most days, the Anacostia River rambles leisurely through the nation's capital. Often overshadowed by its more famous neighboring waterway, the Anacostia outdoes the Potomac in one dubious respect. It ranks highly among American rivers that can be described as "severely polluted."

The situation was not always so. The nine-mile long Anacostia once supported plentiful animal life. But even though the river is now edged with public parkland, the settlement and urbanization of the region have led to dramatic changes in stream flows, erosion, sedimentation, sewage

and contaminated runoff. Today, fish survive in the shallow river as it flows unhurriedly through Washington, but eating them is considered unsafe. People are also cautioned against swimming in its waters.

The Anacostia, with a total drainage area of 170 square miles, runs from the suburban regions of Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland through the urban northeastern and southeastern quadrants of Washington, D.C., where it joins the Potomac. The Anacostia's polluted waters eventually reach the Chesapeake Bay, adding to the estuary's environmental problems.

Upriver, in Montgomery County, several shallow runs and rivulets feed the Anacostia. Here, streambanks had eroded and

streambeds had become clogged and strewn with debris. Aquatic habitat was damaged, but the fish could be safely eaten, if they could be found.

In recent years, a number of government agencies and citizen groups have begun initiatives to clean up the Anacostia. Baltimore District plays a strong role in the effort.

The District has 13 environmental restoration projects in the watershed. Among these are projects that have been active this spring and summer at Kingman Lake in Washington and in four streams in Montgomery County. Claire O'Neill, Programs and Project Management, manages these projects.

Kingman planting

Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Dominic Izzo spent part of the morning July 9 viewing the Corps' ongoing effort to establish a wetland at Kingman Lake. Located near RFK Memorial Stadium, the lake is separated from the main river channel by an island.

He witnessed employees from the Corps' contractor, Ecological Restoration and Management, planting wetland vegetation in the project's upper cell along the Langston Golf Course. Izzo's tour also



Herons fly over Kingman Lake. The Corps planted vegetation in dredged material placed here to recreate a wetland. (Photo by Claire O'Neill)

(Continued on p. 6)



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

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Commander's Comment

Why PMBP?

by Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr.
Commander & District Engineer

In June you received the first two CDs of the Project Management Business Process curriculum. I'd like to talk to you this month about the importance of this training to you and the Corps.

The Chief of Engineers stated it very well in his introduction to the program:

"I view this curriculum as an opportunity for each of us to increase our already significant contribution to the Corps by enhancing our skills in teamwork, planning and schedule accountability.

"This is a self-paced program. Pop the CDs in your computer and review the program parts that you feel are important to your learning. During the small group discussions that will follow, be an active participant, learn from your teammates. Share your knowledge with them. Build smarter, stronger teams to tackle the nation's engineering challenges. Our customers want our ideas, want to share theirs and want to be part of the synergy that leads to better solutions."

I know you are busy. I know you're working on CorpsPath, too, and you're

trying to fit the Environmental Principles into all your work, but PMBP is the heart of how we do business so it is imperative that you take this training seriously and devote the time required to do the self-paced work and the small group discussions.

Now that we've been working in the PMPB environment for a few years, it's time to step back and look at how we are doing—what we can do to improve the process—and what we **MUST** do to continue meeting our customers' needs.

All this will mean change—change in how we do business and change in our attitudes. We will continue working in teams, sharing ideas and listening to each other and, especially, to our customers.

PMBP is not just for the folks in PPMD—it is for everyone in the Corps. It is our culture, how we do business now and in the future.

As the Chief continued, "We are in a period of transformation. We may not all be at the same place on the journey. I ask each of you to make the effort to increase your understanding of the PMBP and to help a coworker understand..."

"Success can't happen with vision alone. Approach this curriculum with an open

mind and hold yourself accountable for completing it."

So, what's in store for you with these first two CDs?

The first CD is an introduction with some overlap with the CorpsPath CD, so move through this quickly.

The second CD includes three modules:

The **first module** focuses on the Corps strategic vision and how PMBP will help the Corps be the world's premier engineering organization, and how each employee contributes to the vision through his or her job.

The **second module** defines PMBP. It looks at how each employee can create a culture that instills PMBP as our way of doing business throughout the Corps.

And the **third module** addresses the question, "Why PMBP and me?" The module uses the analogy of building a house, with the PMBP as the foundation, to help team members understand their relationship to PMBP and their importance to the team.

That's it. Now it's up to you to get on the bandwagon. Take the time to go through the PMBP CD program and participate willingly in the discussions. It is your future and the future of the Corps.

Essays!

Pentagon Memorial competition under way

by Mary Beth Thompson
Public Affairs Office

Baltimore District released the program that details the requirements and procedures for entering the Pentagon Memorial artistic competition in mid-July.

The program, accessible on the competition website, <http://memorialcompetition.pentagon.mil>, covers the first stage of the competition. It includes a statement by the Family Steering Committee, a group that represents the victims' families; deadline and delivery address information; entry requirements; site plans, elevations and photos; competition rules and guidance; Pentagon history and other background information.

"We are looking for an artistic vision for an exquisite memorial," said project manager Carol Anderson-Austra, Planning, "one that satisfies the families, the nation and the artistic community as well."

Working with competition consultants, Anderson-Austra and assistant project manager Michael J. Rogers, Programs and Project Management, developed and refined the program, which spells out the competition's parameters.

Many others played roles in the process, too, Anderson-Austra said. Family members of the victims, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the military service

chiefs, Washington Headquarters Services, the Pentagon Renovation project, the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, and program managers and legal and public affairs advisers from headquarters and the District all contributed, she said.

The project team set up a database to handle requests for information about the competition. Several hundred people are entered in the database, and the team believes that many more are obtaining information directly from the websites.

"There are many ways to select a memorial concept," Anderson-Austra said. "An individual or firm can be asked to develop a design, or proposals can be requested from a small group of contractors. The broad interest in this memorial led us to the decision to use an open, anonymous, two-stage competition."

She said that the project team is confident that this competition format will offer the widest opportunity for interested professionals and non-professionals to

put forward their ideas.

"Planning an open competition was challenging, but wide coordination, solid advice and great teamwork helped us succeed," Anderson-Austra said.

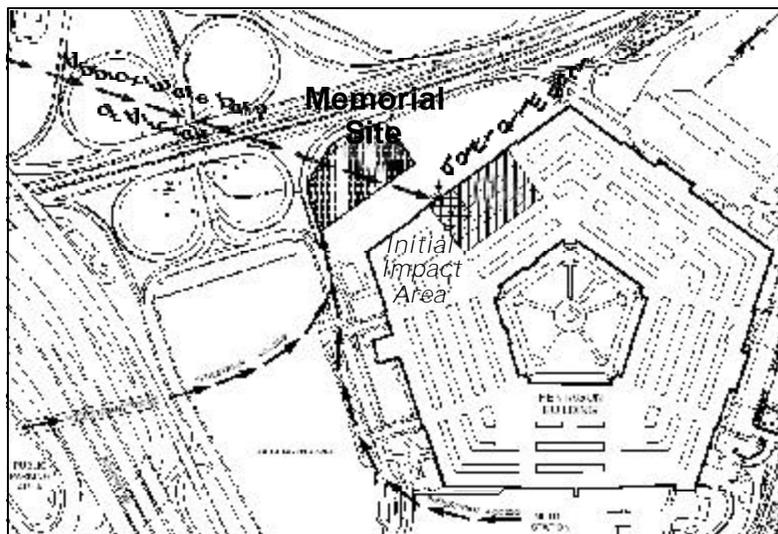
The competition rules bar relatively few people from entering. Excluded are Department of Defense employees and consultants involved in planning, administering, reviewing or approving the Pentagon Memorial project; the jury members who will judge the competition; and family members and business associates of these individuals.

The jury will include respected professionals and at least one representative of the victims' families.

The competition deadline is Sept. 11, 2002. People may enter individually or in teams. Initially, all entries will be judged, and up to five finalists will be chosen. These entrants will be asked to further develop their concepts and create models before a final selection is made.

The Congressionally authorized outdoor memorial will be located on the grounds of the Pentagon. The memorial will honor the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack at the military headquarters.

The target date for completing construction of the memorial is the second anniversary, Sept. 11, 2003.



Drawing of memorial and crash sites

Low rentals available at some resorts

Service members and Department of Defense civilians are eligible to rent condominiums in certain resorts around the world as part of a vacation club arrangement between the Army and a civilian corporation.

Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation arranged with Cendant Corp. and one of its subsidiaries, Resort Condominiums International, to offer the condos at reduced rates to active and reserve service members, military retirees, DoD civilians, and any other persons eligible to use military morale, welfare and recreation services.

The deal offers condominium unit rentals for \$234 per week at selected resorts. The normal rates are \$600 to \$1,500 per week in season, according to Verlin Abbott, Cendant national vice president for DoD and government marketing.

"I have gotten phone calls from scores of individual MWR offices talking about how great the program is—received e-mails from hundreds of places around the country from active duty soldiers, retired military and DoD civilians, asking how to sign up," said Dan Yount, chief of Army leisure travel services. "The program has generated a lot of positive response from people."

More than 327 military bases currently take part in the program, which started as a test project with 18 Washington, D.C.-area military installations in 1998. The program expanded nationwide in August 1999.

Military officials recently

began to promote the program overseas to take advantage of the many condominium resorts outside the United States, MWR representatives said.

Cendant/RCI manages more than 3,700 time-share resorts worldwide. The discount arrangement is possible because not all resort units are used by owners or rented all the time.

To get information

The vacationer can get information about the Armed Forces Vacation Club from any MWR Information, Tickets and Reservation office or Information, Tickets and Tours office. Or they can get information and book reservations either online or via a toll-free telephone reservation center.

Access to club information is available by visiting the Army's "Great Travel Deals" website at www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/traveldeals and clicking on the Armed Forces Vacation Club logo.

In navigating the club website, visitors will find a list of available units and dates among the

thousands of participating resorts for booking, all for \$234 for seven nights. Reservations can be made by using a major credit card. The MWR office receives \$22 for every reservation booked.

Some restrictions apply. Confirmed vacations are not transferable. The customer purchasing the space-available voucher must check in at the resort and be at least 21 years old. Pets are not allowed at any location.

Abbott said service members and civilians must be flexible with their requests.

"Generally, what's available is off-season or on relatively short notice. In fact, most vacancies aren't posted until 14 to 21 days before the scheduled date of arrival, he said.

Condo features

Participating resorts have different amenities. Typically, condos feature up to three bedrooms, a living room and fully equipped full or partial kitchens. Many units have laundry facilities and such amenities as whirlpool tubs or fireplaces.

Guests have access to onsite or nearby facilities, such as beaches, golf courses, tennis courts, spas, ski slopes, fishing lakes, hiking paths, horseback riding, restaurants and shops. Many resorts also provide planned adult and children's activities.

For more information on the club program and other discount travel packages and specials, check with installation MWR ITR or ITT offices, or visit www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/travelresources.

Resort condos for \$234 per week



Retiree stays busy helping others

by Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

When Harold Nelson retired from the Corps, he thought that he was on his way to enjoying some restful days, but in actuality, his days of retirement have been just as busy as his working days. Nelson, who worked for the Corps for over 30 years, says he has been quite occupied since his retirement in 1999.

"I've gone through various phases since I retired," said Nelson. "My activities are so time-consuming that I almost feel I have another job."

Nelson, 60, who served as the assistant chief of Planning Division, helped set up the first electronic mail system in the District and established a standard form of slide presentations. At times, he was responsible for supervising a workforce that ranged between 40 and 80 people.

But retired life has taken Nelson away from the job, and he admits that he misses the time he spent in the District.

"The most enjoyable aspect of working for the District was helping others do a better job," Nelson said.

Volunteer?

If you are interested in volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, please contact Joann Blewett at 410-879-2168, or e-mail her at JCBlewett@aol.com.

Though Nelson no longer renders his services at the District, he is certainly helping others within his family and neighborhood. He spent the first couple of months of retirement caring for his mother. Now, he is caring for the needs of the community by working with the Harford County Habitat for Humanity.

Nelson, who has lived in Bel Air for over 30 years, volunteers his time by helping build homes for low-income families. The retiree stresses that the program aims to help people purchase affordable homes.

"It's a hand-up, not a handout," said Nelson. "The people get a boost up, but they pay for it."

Nelson developed the designs for a few of these Harford County homes using special computer software. He uses spreadsheets to prepare estimates for the cost of building the homes and also creates drawings to illustrate how the homes are put together. Nelson credits the design courses he took this past year at Harford Community College with teaching him more about designing houses.

"I used the computers at the college to develop a design for the house we are working on now," said Nelson.

His decision to take a few college courses had one additional benefit.

"In the state of Maryland, once you reach 60, you can take classes tuition-free," said Nelson.

The retiree says he is grateful for the tuition waiver because he



Harold Nelson

knows the expense associated with college. He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Maryland at College Park in 1963.

Nelson and his wife, Peggy, have two sons, Mark and Christopher. He also has two grandchildren. Nelson says that he and Peggy plan to do a bit more traveling in the future.

One of Nelson's hobbies is woodwork. He added a porch to his home a few years ago. His woodworking talents also allowed him to give an unusual present.

"I made my son and his wife a bed for their wedding gift," said Nelson.

His other hobbies include hiking, jogging, photography and golf.

Although Nelson's preoccupation with designing and building homes keeps him very busy, he hasn't given up actually working on the houses.

"When you retire, you miss the day-to-day interaction with people on your job. This work helps to fill that void," said Nelson.

Corps helps Anacostia (continued from cover)

included the lush upland vegetation growing in the adjacent wild meadow and upland wetland areas that the Corps planted in 2001.

Although planning and design began earlier, construction on the project started in 1999 when the District led a multi-agency effort to restore lost wetlands at the lake. Engineers shaped and contoured about 179,400 cubic yards of material dredged from the navigation channels of the Anacostia to form 33 acres of mudflats. To restore the area to its marsh state, about 750,000 native plants were placed during the summer of 2000.

But, the planted area attracted Canada geese—lots and lots of them. Before the plants became firmly established, the birds were feasting on the gourmet salad

bar, and many plants were lost.

To repair the damage caused by the geese, O'Neill and her project team, working with the landowner, the National Park Service, modified the original contract to re-plant portions of the two cells at Kingman Lake. About 71,000 spatterdock, arrow arum, soft stem bulrush, common rush and duck potato plants were planted this summer.

The contractor has also put in 7,700 linear feet of heavy duty fencing around the perimeter of the cells. The six-foot nylon net fence will prevent the geese from freely walking or swimming into the newly planted areas, according to project team member Robert Blama, Operations Division.

Another 23,000 linear feet of regular fencing was installed inside the perimeter fence during the planting process. This fencing was placed in a criss-cross pattern.

"It's designed to make it difficult for the geese to fly into and land in the cells until the plants are established," Blama said.

The \$192,693 contract modification work was completed in July.

According to O'Neill, the assistant secretary was extremely impressed with the wetland results to date, particularly given the urban setting just 10 minutes from his Pentagon office.

"The success of this project is di-

rectly attributable to the fantastic partnership among the D.C. Department of Health, the National Park Service, the contractor and the District project team members," O'Neill said.

Montgomery County streams restoration

At the upper reaches of the river's tributaries in Montgomery County, the focus is on environmental and habitat restoration. Planning's James Ludlam, project team member, described the situation that existed as "localized severe degradation."

Conditions for aquatic life were erratic or nonexistent. Shallow pools collected water that heated under the summer sun. Storms washed the warm water out of the pools and into the streams where it passed through fish nursery areas. The young trout and other aquatic species could not tolerate the hot water.

"There was good habitat, but it was transient and constantly threatened," Ludlam said. "On the Paint Branch, there is a naturally reproducing trout population, but on a year-to-year basis, you couldn't tell what the survival rate would be. Some years it was good; some years it was bad because of the dynamic nature of the streams and the habitat."

Baltimore's team developed projects with local sponsor Montgomery County and property owner Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission officials. Work has been completed in four tributaries of the Anacostia: Northwest Branch, Lockridge Drive tributary, Sligo Creek and Paint Branch.



Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., helps look for aquatic insects after the ceremony to dedicate the completion of the work on the four branches of the Anacostia. (Photo by Claire O'Neill)

"We realized that there were many things wrong with the stream systems," Ludlam said. "We had a chance to holistically address the problems and not just apply a Band-Aid approach, but fix as many aspects of the problems as possible."

Parallel pipe systems were installed. They took the hot water from the shallow stormwater management ponds and routed it around a trout nursery area. Boulders placed in the streams forced the water to zip around rocks, scouring deeper places in the streambed. Imbricated boulder revetments, for which stones were carefully placed with deliberate gaps, created new nooks and crannies. Timber and log structures provide overhead cover for adult trout.

All these habitat improvements should yield a significant increase in the survival of the fish, Ludlam said.

Baltimore District is proud not only of the net effect but also of the way it was achieved.

"A lot of credit goes to the contractor," O'Neill said. "They did the work in an environmentally friendly way, with minimum repercussions to the environment. They did super quality work, and were speedy to boot, thus minimizing possible environmental impacts and inconvenience to local residents."

The work is so well done that Jim Keil of Trout Unlimited wrote an article about it for their website, giving credit to both the Corps and the contractor.

"If you have to engineer a stream," Keil wrote, "this work was just plain elegant."

"One thing EQR did was to use a lot of mulch chips or wood chips on the access trails to keep from tearing up the ground,"

Ludlam said. They used specially designed off-road vehicles that are rubber tracked, instead of wheeled vehicles, like dump trucks, to haul materials.

To minimize the impact on the trees and the stream banks, EQR worked at Paint Branch within the stream, Ludlam explained. They dewatered up to 1,100 feet of the stream by day and put the water back in the stream at night.

"That was one of the construction techniques that really went a long way to minimize the visual impact to the parkland," Ludlam said.

Revetments, some of which go on for hundreds of feet, were built slowly, with stones placed carefully to allow for the gaps that improve habitat.

The \$1.15 million contract for restoration work on the four branches was completed in April. The County and Corps celebrated the construction completion with a dedication ceremony May 28. They were joined by Montgomery County middle school students in releasing fish in Paint Branch.

These projects, along with the others in various stages

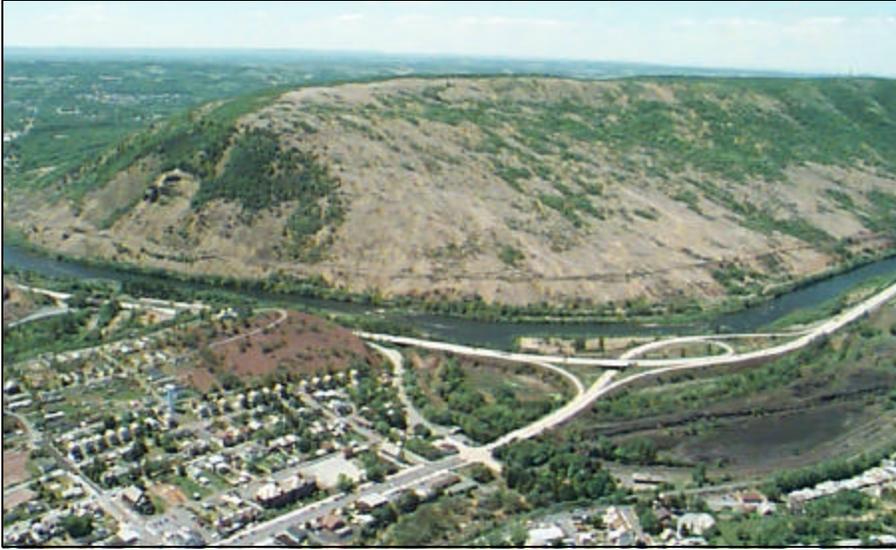
of Corps planning and funding, will not completely cure the watershed's woes, but they each contribute to lessening the problems.

"Every little bit helps," Ludlam said. "We do what we can, where we can."



Top: Before construction; middle, during construction; bottom: completed Paint Branch project.

(Photos by James Ludlam)



Blue Mountain, partially revegetated, comes back to life.

Environmental project restores mountain

by Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

Blue Mountain, a mountain that runs through the small town of Palmerton in eastern Pennsylvania, appears to be one of nature's jewels. Surrounded by tall, robust trees and green, healthy grass, this mountain serves as a nurturing habitat for birds, beasts and other wildlife. The mountain seems to be a typical example of nature and its beauty. But Blue Mountain has not always been beautiful.

In fact, its vibrant environment is partly the result of a joint restoration effort by the Environmental Protection Agency, in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers and Zinc Corporation of America, to repair the rapidly decaying mountain.

Before the restoration

Fifteen years ago, visitors to Blue Mountain witnessed a scene

quite different from the one that exists today. Parts of the mountain were severely damaged. Barren trees populated the region and wildlife deserted the area in search of a better environment.

"There was nothing there," said Larry Piazza, a Corps project engineer who has been working on the Blue Mountain multimillion dollar restoration project since 1986. "You could walk on the mountain in the middle of the summer and you wouldn't get a single bug bite because there was nothing there."

John Lombardo, another Corps employee, said that Blue Mountain was quite a disaster when he came on the scene over 10 years ago.

"When we first arrived here, it looked like a nuclear disaster," said Lombardo, who serves as the construction representative on the site. "It was nothing but dead trees. There were no animals anywhere."

During the first half of the 20th century, the primary employer in Palmerton was the New Jersey Zinc Company, the predecessor of Zinc Corporation of America.

For nearly 70 years, this company emitted huge quantities of heavy metals such as zinc, lead, copper, cadmium and arsenic. Eventually, the fallout from the smelting operations caused buildup of these metals on the mountain. Contact with rainwater spread the contamination from the soil to the surface water runoff and groundwater.

This pollution led to the decay of 2,000 acres on the mountain. Soon, runoff and erosion carried contaminants into the nearby Aquashicola Creek and Lehigh River.

All helped to destroy it

Joseph Plechavy, who has lived in Palmerton since his birth 88 years ago and who worked at the zinc company for 43 years, knows that he indirectly played a part in polluting the environment.

But while the New Jersey Zinc Company is widely held responsible for destroying parts of the mountain, Plechavy said that the zinc company should not be blamed entirely for the mountain's decay.

"We all had a part in destroying the mountain," said Plechavy, who also serves as the town historian. "We brought down wood from its trees to heat our homes, and we plucked its huckleberries so we could eat huckleberry pie."

Restoration in progress

By the late '80s it was evident that Blue Mountain was in need of remediation. In 1987, the EPA

identified a number of companies as potentially responsible for the mountain's decay and initiated an effort to clean up the mountain. The majority of the responsibility of restoring the mountain was assigned to Zinc Corporation of America. But the Corps also played an important role in this process.

"The Corps was primarily responsible for overseeing the ongoing restoration work by the responsible parties and giving technical assistance to the EPA,"

said Lilian Chudnovsky, Programs and Project Management project manager for the Blue Mountain project. Chudnovsky said that the Corps was also responsible for enforcing the guidelines and regulations of the EPA.

The first half of the restoration began in 1991 and ended four years later. This remediation process provided an application of a sludge and fly ash mixture to the slopes of Blue Mountain, and the planting of grass and tree seed-

lings into the mixture to form vegetative cover.

Zinc Corporation of America treated the run-off from the mountain to ensure that the contaminants would not pollute nearby lakes, streams and rivers.

In 1996, the Corps involvement with the project changed from restoring the mountain to maintaining the parts of the mountain that had been restored.

"The contaminants are still there, so maintenance of the site lasts forever," said Piazza.

There still remains on the mountain, however, an additional 1,000 acres that need to be revegetated.

Community reaction

Today, Blue Mountain is quite close to regaining its former beauty. The grass is greener, the trees are stronger and the wildlife has returned.

"Since the mountain has been restored, turkeys, pheasants, foxes, deer— everything is back on the mountain," said Piazza.

With about one half of the mountain restored, the residents of Palmerton say they are grateful for the work the Corps and other agencies have done.

"Every time I go out, I look at the mountain," said Plechavy. "Now I can say that the mountain looks good."

Plechavy's niece, Pat Huber, who also serves as the deputy for small business in the District, is also pleased with the restoration effort.

"I know the townspeople are extremely happy with what the Corps has done and it makes me extremely proud as a Corps employee," said Huber.

Piazza said he is glad that he has played a role in preserving nature.

"It's really been a rewarding job," said Piazza. "Anybody can restore a building, but to bring an environment back is just amazing."



A truck moves up the mountain spewing a mixture of sludge and fly ash to help in the revegetation process.



Joseph Plechavy sits in his World War II jeep that he keeps in his garage.

Spring Valley soil removal moves forward

On June 24, the Corps began removing arsenic contaminated soil from the American University Child Development Center and adjacent intramural fields as part of its continuing investigation and cleanup of World War I military activities in the Spring Valley neighborhood of northwest Washington, D.C.

Testing in these areas last year identified elevated levels of arsenic. In all, 1.5 to 2 acres of soil will be excavated to a depth of two feet. To date, this work is about 60 percent complete. Workers take confirmation samples to ensure no elevated levels remain.

The excavated soil is moved in covered trucks to a permitted non-hazardous waste facility in Virginia.

The excavated area is then filled with clean soil. During this work, workers use dust control measures, such as wetting the soil and monitoring equipment set up to check air quality.

Run to remember

Baltimore is sponsoring a 5K or 1 mile run/walk Sept. 11 to honor those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11 attacks on America. The proceeds from the registration fee of \$25 (until Sept. 1) or \$30 (through Sept. 11) will go to the Baltimore Police Foundation and Baltimore Fire Department.

To register, visit <http://www.charmcityrun.com/runto-remember>. If you would like to run with Baltimore District employees, contact Susan Jones at (410)962-4675 or 1-800-344-2501.

On July 8, the Corps also began cleaning up arsenic soil at the first of seven residential properties identified for an expedited soil removal action following the area-wide soil sampling last year.

Using the same removal process as that followed at American University, workers have finished the first property and are now working on the remaining six properties.

Once these seven properties are completed, the contractor will move on to the next set of properties and proceed with the same process. The Corps and its project partners, the Environmental Protection Agency and D.C. Department of Health, have identified the next area.

As a result of area-wide sampling, the Corps estimates that 151 residential properties out of the 1,363 properties and lots sampled will qualify for arsenic contamination soil removal. This removal is estimated to take several years to complete.

Brooks to have another booksigning

Author Steve Brooks, Baltimore District librarian, will have a book signing at Book Rendezvous, 3 N. Calvert St., Aug. 7, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Brooks' first novel, *The Raid*, is about a government raid on a private home that goes horribly wrong. Then, ATF agents are being sequentially murdered. Special Agent Dave Hughes has to find the killer and save his career.

Brooks has begun work on his second novel.

From sea to shining sea and beyond. . .

The Pentagon Memorial project attracted widespread interest from its start last fall. Inquiries continue to pour into the Baltimore District offices daily.

People across the country—from the woods of Maine to the beaches of Hawaii, from the lakes of Minnesota to the plains of Texas, and from the frontier of Alaska to the everglades of Florida—have inquired. All told, people in at least 44 states and the District of Columbia have called, written or emailed.

Individuals at educational institutions are interested, too. Queries came from Columbia, Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton, Rhode Island School of Design, Yale and the Universities of Maryland and North Carolina in the eastern part of the country.

And from the Midwest and west—persons associated with the Southern California Institute of Architecture, Iowa State, and the Universities of California at Berkeley, Illinois, Nevada and New Mexico, to name a few.

And that's just the United States. The project has also attracted attention beyond the United States' borders.

Foreign queries came first from Mexico, Germany, Japan and Korea. Then people in Canada, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Iceland, Panama, Israel, the West Indies and Saipan responded.

In all, Baltimore District had documented over 500 queries by the middle of July.

What to do before and after a disaster

Most people are not fully prepared to cope with disasters that damage property, destroy records and interrupt income. These are the first steps:

- Check your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy to make sure you are adequately protected.
- Make a household inventory so you are prepared to file a claim. Take photos or videos, and save receipts for high-priced items. Store a copy in a safe place away from your home.
- Compile an inventory of credit cards and financial assets with company name, account or policy number and value. Store it away from home.
- Have cash available through an easily accessible account.
- Always carry your health insurance and photo identification cards.
- Buy life and disability insurance.

After a disaster

- Contact relief organizations for immediate necessities.
- Contact your insurance agent to file necessary claims.
- Consult a professional to review your financial situation.
- Contact credit card companies to see if balances will be paid off.
- After receiving a settlement, put the money into a savings or money market account. Restore your normal lifestyle first, and don't make big financial decisions for three to six months.

District of Columbia, Baltimore break ground for school renovation project

Lt. Col. W. Scott Flanigan, deputy district commander, joined District of Columbia officials July 11 for a groundbreaking ceremony at Cleveland Elementary School campus.

The \$10.4 million contract will renovate the existing

school and construct a new addition. Quin/Evans Architects designed the project, and Coakley-Williams Construction of Gaithersburg, Md., will co the construction.

The school is scheduled to open in the fall of 2003.

Richard Dean wins writing award

Richard Dean, Capital Area Office, won first place in the Federal Managers' Association Writing contest for his article, *Amphibious Float Bridge Systems*.

Dean entered the writing contest while attending the Sustaining Base Leadership and Management Course at the Army Management Staff

College. The course is a 12-week resident program at the Army Management Staff College at Fort Belvoir, Va. The program provides graduate level advanced professional development across functional areas in the sustaining base.

This award qualifies Dean as a contestant for the Federal Managers' Association Writer of the Year Award.

Courteous employee of the month

"As a realty specialist who also performs facilities management duties, Stacy Ellis exemplifies what it means to



Stacy Ellis

live by the Corps motto, 'Esayons.'

"Stacy has oversight responsibility for ensuring that government-leased facilities under the control of the Realty Services Field Office, are operating at near 100 percent capacity 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"With the utmost politeness and the 'patience of Job,' she addresses trouble situations every work day that would test the virtues of most persons.

"Stacy never tells a customer or colleague that something can't be done; she always figures a way to resolve any issue.

"She exhibits such professional character and fortitude in accomplishing her work that both customers and colleagues alike have come to recognize her as setting the standard for work ethic and meeting the highest of expectations.

"She is clearly the hub of the Realty Team wheel.

"And yes, she can leap tall buildings in a single bound!"

Mike Johnson
Team Leader

Realty Services Team
Realty Services Field Office



Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

Official Business

National Women's Equality Day



Aug. 26, 2002

Congratulations to...

Gary Miller, OP, for being NAD's Wage Grade Employee of the Year. Miller is the head dam operator at Cowanesque Dam.

Terri Davis, OC, for receiving the Bert P. Pettinato Award, one of the 2002 Chief Counsel honorary awards from HQUSACE. This award recognizes an individual in the Corps' legal services community who has demonstrated the ideals of "Pride in Public Service" through leadership, concern for people and a personal belief that public service is both a noble calling and a public trust.

Tony Santiago-Rios, SE, who received a HQUSACE Commander's Award. Lt. Col. Joseph A. Szoboszlay, HQUSACE security officer, presented the award at a ceremony in the City Crescent Building, and said this was the top security award in the Corps.