



CONSTELLATION

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New twists mark District's annual awards ceremony

By Christopher Augsburger
Public Affairs Office

After spending more than two-thirds of his life in federal service — all of which he spent working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Washington Aqueduct — George Monch carries with him an encyclopedia of memories.

But as he accepted his 60-years of service award during the 2007 Awards Ceremony on April 10, he said that the memories that stand out the most are not the projects and individual accomplishments, but the people with whom he has shared his career.

"I worked with some outstanding people," said Monch. "I owe them a lot."

Monch's words, as well as his dedication to federal service, epitomized the theme of this year's awards ceremony: We Make a Difference!

In Col. Peter W. Mueller's first awards ceremony since taking command of Baltimore District in July 2006, he took

a moment to thank Baltimore District employees for all that they achieved in the last year and emphasized how each team member counts.

"What we do requires synergy," said Mueller.

To further highlight the importance of teamwork, this year's ceremony featured a few new twists and awards.

The first award came in the form of a complimentary note from the Commander and a stick of gum, provided to all employees.

"The gum symbolizes the camaraderie and cohesion that allows Baltimore District to 'stick' together through thick and thin," said Maj. Andy Off, the deputy district engineer for support operations and narrator for the ceremony.

Pinned to the Commander's note was an Army Superior Unit Award lapel pin.

"The Army Superior Unit Award is given for outstanding meritorious performance of a unit during peacetime in a difficult and challenging mission

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(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

Brenda Parsons, EOC, hugs Col. Peter W. Mueller, Baltimore District Commander, after receiving the "Hugs and Kisses" award at the 2007 Awards Ceremony. The District added a few interesting twists to this year's ceremony, which included such Superlative awards as the Lifesaver Award, Aspirin Award, Noteworthy Award and "Hats-Off" Award.

during peacetime in a difficult and challenging mission

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U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

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Commander's Comment

The Power of Teamwork!

By Col. Peter W. Mueller
Commander and District Engineer

Henry Ford, a great American entrepreneur, said, *"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."*

Popular Island, Wyoming Valley, Spring Valley, Tioga-Hammond Dam, Whitney Point Dam, Washington Aqueduct, DC Public Schools, the Levee and Dam Safety Programs and Walter Reed apartment leases.

We all know these high visibility project and program names and how critical they have been to the success of the Baltimore District. They have been referenced in major publications and on television. Members of Congress as well as the international community have visited several of these projects or they have been referenced in Congressional testimony. What has defined the successes of these projects? The Power of Teamwork!

Teamwork is more than just showing up to work, attending project meetings or writing a portion of a report or presentation. It is about adding value to the process, sharing knowledge or expertise to mentor others and occasionally it means putting your needs and priorities aside to assist someone else. Stephen R. Covey defines synergy as *"...the creation of third alternatives that are genuinely better than solutions individuals could ever come up with on their own."* This is the Power of Teamwork!

We experience teamwork and synergy in our personal lives as we play on an intramural softball team, volunteer for community programs such as Harvest for the Hungry or Habitat for Humanity, or do something as basic as working with our spouses to get our children to school on time. We also do this every day in the Baltimore District

Offices, field offices or at project sites.

Casey Stengel of the New York Giants said, *"Finding good players is easy. Getting them to play as a team is another story."* Every day, I see how all of our good players come together and work as a team to meet our mission requirements. Glory and recognition are rarely involved, but your pride, passion and professionalism shines through.

In April, Baltimore District honored several teams that demonstrated these very characteristics. We also took the time to honor some of the unsung heroes whose team participation has made a process better, who tackled and resolved difficult issues or whose very presence smoothed the way. Our project delivery teams are built upon diversity, made up of people with unique backgrounds, expertise, cultures and disciplines who create synergy.

We continue to face new challenges, striving to deliver facilities better, faster, cheaper, greener and safer. We are challenged by the unique requirements of our classified programs, answering the call to improve conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, implementing legislated deadlines under the Base Realignment and Closure Program or finalizing the Dredged Material Management Plan. We face deployments to quickly respond to natural or manmade disasters, meet the call in Afghanistan and Iraq to support our military and sister agencies in the Global War on Terror or simply implement the National Security Personnel System.

If we consider facing these challenges as individuals they are overwhelming. But if we harness all the energy of our District, Region, Corps and stakeholders together we will accomplish our mission. The Power of Teamwork will continue to be the cornerstone of the Baltimore District's success.

— Essayons

Awards Ceremony (continued from the cover)



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

Henry Dunn, IM, and George Monch, WA, wait to receive their 50 and 60-year federal service awards, respectively, at the 2007 Awards Ceremony held April 10.

under extraordinary circumstances,” said Off.

“The unit must display such outstanding devotion and superior performance of exceptionally difficult tasks to set it apart from and above other units with similar missions.”

The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army approved the Army Superior Unit Award for the entire U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, according to Off. The award is given for

the Corps’ response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

Also new to this year’s ceremony was the addition of superlative awards and a team photo contest. Superlative awards included the Lifesaver Award, Aspirin Award, Hugs and Kisses Award, “Buns” Award, Noteworthy Award, “Raisin” Award and “Hats-Off” Award.

Photo award winners showed up in categories such as “Somewhere a Village is Missing Its Idiot” and “Just say No!”

A highlight of the ceremony was the induction of Wayne McKnight into the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees. McKnight, a former maintenance supervisor at Raystown Lake in Baltimore District’s Operations Division, retired in January 2004 after dedicated and outstanding service to the Baltimore District throughout his 32 years of federal service.

With 60-year veterans, Department of Army interns and everyone in between attending, Mueller took the opportunity to reinforce the importance of building and strengthening teams within Baltimore District and across the Corps.

“When your career moves on or comes to a close, the lasting images will not be of things that you did as an individual,” said Muller. “Those things that stick in your mind...are the things you did as a team.”



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

Joanne Lovick, CT, and Marie Johnson, EEO, sing the National Anthem at the 2007 Awards Ceremony.

Stepping into Africa

District Employee visits a whole new world

By Katisha Draughn
Public Affairs Office

When Ken Baumgardt stepped into Africa, he stepped into a whole new world.

After a 4-hour flight from Hamburg, Germany, to Paris and a 12-hour flight to Niamey, Niger, Baumgardt walked into the airport terminal and was greeted with the aroma of a mixture of burning rubbish and barbeque meat. After locating his luggage, he was immediately approached by porters trying to earn tips by helping him carry his belongings. Walking outside, he saw approximately 50 kids begging patrons for change. Baumgardt was embarking on a new and unforgettable experience.

A historian in the Planning Division, Baumgardt deployed to Niger, Africa, in January to help with the construction activities at Niamey Airport.

Although he has deployed numerous times, he said he was surprised by the African culture.

“The city was very congested. To the foreign eye it looks like a mad jumble. There were people, bicycles and motor-cycles all over the street.”

As a member of the Environmental Support Team, Baumgardt’s mission was to help support U.S. Government efforts to complete Environmental Baseline Surveys on Niger Air Force Base.

Baumgardt started his days at the base at 8 a.m., spending the majority of his time interviewing the military staff at the site, documenting the site conditions, conducting water sampling, inspecting the grounds and sampling the soil. In the evenings, Baumgardt and his colleague Tania Smith, a certified civil engineer from the Europe District, worked on the 30-to-40 page Environmental Baseline Survey report, which was turned in at the end of their trip.

After seven days in a “new world,” Baumgardt returned to the Baltimore District and his normal routine of conducting historical research and playing with his dog.

Baumgardt, who has been with the Corps for more than 15 years, has been all over the world performing Corps missions. He has traveled to the Virgin Islands, Israel, Germany, New York, Texas, Alabama and Florida.

“I love traveling,” Baumgardt said. “The thing that keeps me going is visiting new places and meeting new people. I am happy that I was able to go somewhere so foreign and distant from a lot of the other places I have been.”

Baltimore District’s Emergency Management Branch assisted Baumgardt with his pre-deployment activities and managing funds for his trip to Africa. Maria de la Torre, acting chief of EMB, said she worked with Baumgardt in the Planning Division for eight years and is very impressed with his work ethic.

“He is enthusiastic and willing to assist wherever and however needed,” she said. “He is easy to work with and has been a great supporter of EM operations.”

De la Torre said traveling to other places to do Corps work has always proved to be very valuable to District employees.

“The Corps offers unique opportunities not often available in a civilian-based organization,” she said. “You get on-the-job training, you get outside your “box” and comfort zone and you get to meet people you may not have met otherwise.”

The Environmental Support Team that Baumgardt deployed with is part of the Field Force Engineering Program. Employees interested in formally signing up for FFE should contact the Emergency Management office at (410) 962-4223.



(Photo by Tania Smith, Europe District)

Ken Baumgardt takes a soil sample at Niger Air Force Base as a local African guide helps him. Baumgardt deployed to Africa in January to help with construction activities at the air force base which is located at the Niamey Airport.

Partnerships make a difference at Susquehanna River projects

By Cori Brown
Operations Division

They dot the landscape like jewels on a necklace. From southern New York to central Pennsylvania, the flood protection projects of the Susquehanna River Section are some of the best kept secrets in the District. They include Almond Lake, Arkport Dam, East Sidney Lake, Whitney Point Lake, Stillwater Lake, Aylesworth Creek Lake, Alvin R. Bush Dam, Curwensville Lake, Foster Joseph Sayers Dam, and Indian Rock Dam.

While most of these projects may not have the glitz or glamour of the larger lakes in the District, such as Raystown or Tioga-Hammond Lakes, what they do have are very special working relationships with many partners. The Operations Division staff knows that successful execution of project missions relies on working hand-in-hand with these partners.

Flood protection is a highly visible mission at the Susquehanna River Section projects. Recreation, though, is one mission not normally associated with these lakes and dams. Unlike our larger projects, where the Corps actively manages recreational opportunities, more than 8,000 acres of land and water are leased to recreation partners at seven Susquehanna River projects. These projects range from local communities to county governments to state parks, and they play a vital role in providing recreation to the public on Corps-owned lands.

Bald Eagle State Park at Foster Joseph Sayers Dam in Pennsylvania is a prime example of a highly successful partnership. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources manages more than 5,900 acres of land and water at Bald Eagle State Park. The park is second

only to Raystown Lake in the variety of facilities it offers, as well as the number of people who visit the park. It offers camping, swimming, hiking, boating, fishing, hunting and winter sports. The Corps leases the land to the state at no cost and in return the state provides recreational opportunities and economic benefits to the region that otherwise would not exist. This mature partnership also allows the state and the Corps to work through challenging times such as when the Corps draws down the lake or conversely, holds back water for flood protection purposes. The Corps' lease with the park, now in its 36th year, speaks highly of everyone who works so diligently to provide so many benefits to the public,

not the least of which are flood protection and recreation.

Whitney Point Lake in southern New York is another example of a thriving partnership with the local government. In this case, the Broome County Parks Department runs Dorchester Park, which provides boating, swimming and picnicking amenities, as well as great fishing. An added twist to this partnership includes a Section 1135 ecosystem restoration project where the Corps will also manage the renovation and construction of new park facilities beginning this year. Additionally, the park hosts numerous special events, such as

the Crappie ice fishing tournament, which attracts a crowd of 5,000 to 10,000 each winter; the Broome County triathlon; the New York State Collegiate Rowing Championship; and other activities sponsored by local civic groups.

The next time you are in central Pennsylvania or southern New York, stop by one of these little gems. Not only will you enjoy the scenic beauty and wonderful recreation opportunities they have to offer, but you will have a greater appreciation for the critical partnerships we maintain with other agencies to meet common goals and leverage our resources.



(Photo by Mike Decker, Whitney Point Rotary Club)

A sailboat glides across Whitney Point Lake during sunset. Broome County Parks Department, Dorchester Park, provides boating, swimming and picnicking services for the public at Whitney Point Lake.



State-of-the art fire station opens at Fort Detrick



By Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

Firefighters at Fort Detrick have a new place to call home. Officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Fort Detrick community gathered at a ribbon cutting ceremony last month to officially open the Fire and Emergency Services Building.

Equipped with maintenance facilities for the installation's fire-fighting vehicles, as well as supplies for the firefighters, the renovated and expanded 13,400-square-foot fire station will help Fort Detrick's firefighters respond to fires and emergencies that occur at the installation.

But Fort Detrick's community members are not the only ones who will benefit from the completion of the new fire station.

"The station is mutually supportive of Frederick City and Frederick County," said Col. Mary Deutsch, garrison commander. "The firefighters often respond to emergencies in the local area."

The new station also solves many of the problems that firefighters at the installation have encountered.

"The old firehouse did not provide enough space to house the fire engines and during construction, employees assigned to the fire station were temporarily housed in a tent," said Jeff Snyder, Corps project manager.

The new fire station, however, not only includes ample space to store the engines, but also includes such modern amenities as a watch/alarm room, hazmat supply room, dormitory unit, upgraded male and female showers, a kitchen and a dining area.

"It has the feeling of a home away from home," said Israel Miller, project engineer.

Deutsch said Fort Detrick's firefighters deserve nothing but the best. She praised the Corps of Engineers for its commitment in getting the fire station completed.

"I appreciate the tenacity and perseverance of the Corps," said Deutsch. "They showed tremendous support in getting the job done."

The completion of the fire station was also applauded by

Rep. Roscoe Bartlett of Maryland's sixth Congressional District. Bartlett said firefighters put their lives on the line and their contributions should not be taken lightly.

"We really take a lot for granted, and do not think about firefighters until we have a fire," said Bartlett. "I hope we keep remembering what blessed people we are."

Although the fire station is complete, Baltimore District employees are still hard at work at Fort Detrick. The Corps is currently constructing a new medical research laboratory for the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases and creating an Integrated Program Office to handle the influx of work coming to the installation as a result of the development of the National Interagency Biodefense Campus.

The workload may be demanding, but Lt. Col. John Osborn, deputy commander for Baltimore District, said he is confident that Baltimore District is up for the challenge.

"We are committed to continuing our legacy of providing quality infrastructure to Fort Detrick," said Osborn. "We share with Fort Detrick a commitment to serving our Armed Forces and the nation."



(Photo by Jennifer Walsh, Public Affairs)

Fort Detrick firefighters push a fire engine into their new fire station for the first time April 2. Fort Detrick hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the Fire and Emergency Services Building.

Memorial Day:

A time to honor, remember and reflect

By Katisha Draughn
Public Affairs Office

Memorial Day is not just another holiday which allows federal employees to have a day off work. It is a day of remembrance for all those who lost their lives serving their country.

Many Americans observe Memorial Day without truly knowing the history behind it.

In 1866, Henry C. Welles, a druggist in Waterloo, N.Y., wanted Soldiers who died in the Civil War to be honored. He suggested the townspeople decorate the Soldiers' graves. The townspeople began to make bouquets, wreaths and crosses for each grave.

On May 5, 1868, Gen. John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, proclaimed this occasion Decoration Day. In 1882, the name was changed to Memorial Day and Soldiers who died in all of America's wars were remembered.

The first state to officially recognize the holiday

was New York in 1873. Several years later, it was recognized by all of the northern states. After World War I, the southern states chose selected days to honor their deceased Soldiers.

In 1971, then-President Richard Nixon declared Memorial Day a federal holiday to be celebrated on the last Monday in May.

This special day can be observed in different ways such as visiting local graveyards and war monuments, attending the Memorial Day concert at the U.S. Capitol or seeing the National Memorial Day parade in Washington, D.C.

Many people also observe this holiday by participating in the National Moment of Remembrance. This order was passed by Congress in December 2000, asking that on Memorial Day at 3 p.m., all Americans pause for a moment of silence to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

This year on May 28, we can all take the time to honor those who sacrificed so much for the country's freedom.

Quick Poll: After serving overseas in the GWOT, what does this year's Memorial Day mean to you?



Walt Garman

Programs and Project Management Division
Returned from Iraq in October 2006

"It means that we must not forget those that are still in danger nor those who have yet to go."



Maryam Khan

Resource Management Office
Returned from Afghanistan in January 2006

"It is special because you feel like you have been a part of an important mission for the country."



Milt Boyd

Office of Counsel
Currently deployed in Iraq

"Seeing the sacrifice that our Soldiers are making first hand will make Memorial Day very real to me."

A Call to Arms:

An employee's 15-month deployment to New Orleans

By Jennifer Walsh
Public Affairs Office

Every person in the District has a story to tell. Maybe it is a story of courage, peppered with images of a deployment in Iraq. Maybe it is a story of triumph with vivid descriptions of the winning play during Saturday's softball game. Or maybe it is a story of despair told by someone who left their Common Access Card in their computer when they ran out for lunch.

Joe Hollshwander, a construction representative at the Tobyhanna Army Depot, also has a story to tell. Although he is currently working on shop closures and fire protection upgrades for several buildings in Pennsylvania, his story takes place at the heart of the Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts in New Orleans, La.

Returning from his most recent deployment last December, he recalls the 15 months he spent re-building New Orleans.

"It was completely devastated," said Hollshwander. "You can only imagine destruction of that magnitude."

Hollshwander deployed as a quality assurance supervisor with the Baltimore District Debris Task Force, formerly known



(Courtesy photo)

Joe Hollshwander defines the limits of a no-work area in New Orleans during May of last year. Hollshwander deployed in 2005 for 15 months in support of the Hurricane Katrina efforts.

as the Baltimore District Debris Planning and Response Team. He has participated in disaster response missions since he began working for the Corps in 1989. Hollshwander deploys when his team is activated by the Emergency Management Branch, headed by Maria de la Torre.

"When Mama Maria calls, the boys come to dinner," said Hollshwander.

During his time in Louisiana, he trained quality assurance inspectors, helped public officials with Federal Emergency Management Agency applications and oversaw the safety programs.

According to Hollshwander, it is rewarding to know the Corps completed a tremendous amount of work under tough conditions. However, the most rewarding thing for him was something a little more personal.

"It would be getting the glass of lemonade from the little old lady with tears in her eyes, whose debris you just removed," said Hollshwander.

While Hollshwander was busy re-building New Orleans, his co-workers at the District kept things running smoothly by taking on extra tasks. Many of his co-workers have deployed and his supervisor continues to be supportive of deployment efforts.

"If we can help out with any high priority mission of the Corps, we're very supportive," said Jim Moore, resident engineer of the northeast resident office. "And we're proud that we continue to send quality people like Joe, to support those efforts."

Another person extremely proud of Hollshwander is his wife of 38 years.

"He's been to almost every disaster since he began working for the Corps," she said. "But I'm OK with it as long as he stays stateside."

Although Hollshwander's wife prefers for him to stay stateside when he deploys, it is never guaranteed. A disaster could happen anywhere at anytime and Hollshwander plans to help any way he can.

"Of all the times I have deployed, I have never regretted for a moment that I did," said Hollshwander. "Once you go and you know in your gut that you are doing something to make a difference in someone's life, you will never say no to another call to arms."

Do you have a suggestion?

By John Houvener
Safety and Occupational Health Office

When you have a good idea for your project or office, share it. Your suggestion could be the one improving the quality of your project, speeding up the process or preventing an accident or injury. We started the process with the Safety Climate Survey, now it's your turn...

As the worker actually doing the job, you are in a unique position to see problems and find solutions. Since you are the one doing the job day after day, you might see things your supervisors and/or the design engineers have overlooked. Your input before a decision is made to alter a work process or invest in major equipment purchases could save significant money and more importantly, save lives.

Whether your suggestion is to remove a hazard or speed up the process, it is important for you to communicate it. Your inspiration could save everyone some perspiration. It may save someone much, much more — like their life or limb!



How you present your suggestion makes a difference in whether it is considered. These tips may help you to get your point across:

- Talk to the right person. Your supervisor is a good place to start. He or she may ask you to expand on your idea and present it to someone else, like the District safety committee who also looks for ideas to solve problems.
- Bring up your ideas at your weekly/monthly safety talks or your pre-job briefing. Other team members may be able to add to your suggestions.
- Be positive. Instead of complaining about what is wrong, talk about how the problem can be solved.
- Be courteous. It is difficult to get anything useful out of an angry, rude speech.
- Timing is everything when it comes to approaching your boss with a suggestion. If it is one of those days when a big job has to be finished and everything seems to be going wrong, your idea might not get the best reception. Unless someone may get hurt, wait for a

time when your boss can give your idea the attention it deserves.

- Many supervisors encourage their team members to speak up. Some even hold brainstorming sessions to come up with possible solutions to problems. If you are part of an idea planning meeting, contribute as much as possible and encourage your coworkers to participate. Even the suggestions which are not chosen can lead to answers that work out. These meetings can be energetic and fun. Remember to keep your comments on the topic.

- Some workplaces use suggestion boxes, allowing you to make a suggestion without being identified. We do the same at the District and encourage you to submit suggestions directly to us. We are always willing to accept great ideas for improvements and/or requests for an evaluation of workplaces that may be hazardous. The suggestion box is near the Safety Corner bulletin board on the eighth floor.

Save the Date for Baltimore District's Organization Day!

Date: June 22

Time: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: Oregon Ridge Park
13401 Beaver Dam Road
Cockeysville, Md.



(Photo by Lorie Moses, Resource Management Office)

The water balloon toss was one of the many games played at the Organization Day Picnic last year. District employees and their families and friends engaged in many games and activities at the picnic, which was held at Sandy Point State Park.

Additional Details

- Employees have the option of buying a food/beverage ticket or bringing their own food (grills are available).
- There will be many games and activities such as volleyball, horseshoes and softball.
- Kids can enjoy dress-up, face painting, balloon toss, bean bag toss and sack races.

For more information contact Lisa Lipford at (410) 962-6116, Nancy Cox at (410) 962-1738 or Sandy Hanson at (410) 962-7962.

Breast Cancer Seminar

Sponsored by the Equal Employment Opportunity Office

Date: May 15

Time: 10:30 a.m. - noon

Location: EEOC Conference Room
Fourth Floor



Guest Speaker: Carol Bovaird from
Baltimore Medical Systems.
Bovaird's presentation will highlight
Inflammatory Breast Cancer.

*For more information, contact Joyce Elder at
(410) 962-4044.*

Harvest for the Hungry a huge success!

Great Job Baltimore District!

Once again, Harvest for the Hungry has had another successful year. From January until the end of March, the District raised \$588 in donations and received 758 pounds of food.

The food and money raised will be doanted to the Maryland Food Bank to feed those who are less fortunate.





Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program benefits government employees

By Katisha Draughn
Public Affairs Office

Wouldn't it be nice to have peace of mind knowing that your future is secured and your financial assets are protected?

The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program helps make that possible.

The FLTCIP, which is sponsored by the Office of Personnel Management, assists and protects enrollees against the high costs of long term care. It is the largest group long term care insurance program in the country.

This program is aimed at members of the federal family. Active and retired members of the uniformed services and federal employees and their qualified relatives have the opportunity to apply for coverage at group rates.

"Many members of the federal family will find themselves in need of this type of care as they age, particularly with the aging of the baby boomers," said Paul Forte, chief executive officer, FLTCIP. "Long term

care insurance can help avoid the kind of financial devastation long term care can bring."

According to the Genworth Financial 2006 Cost of Care Survey, the daily cost for living in a nursing home varies by the state and the person's medical condition. Based on the survey, the daily rate for the state of Maryland is \$181, Pennsylvania is \$209 and the District of Columbia is \$220.

Through the FLTCIP, benefits are paid to cover services for enrollees who are unable to care for themselves. They can receive services such as nursing home care, assisted living facilities, home health care and adult day care.

"The plan is comprehensive and flexible, tailored to the needs of the federal family and is easily understandable with an array of built-in consumer protection features," Forte said.

Members can pay for their premiums a number of ways such as having it deducted from their paychecks, paying by check or doing an electronic funds transfer.

For more information about FLTCIP call (800) 582-3337 or visit www.LTCFEDS.com.

Who wants cake?



(Photo by Tammy Cleveland, Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes)



Gary Miller said goodbye to the Baltimore District at his retirement party in March. Miller spent 36 years working for the federal government and served as head dam operator at Cowanesque Lake since 1980. Truby Emerson, assistant dam operator at Tioga-Hammond Lakes, spent four hours baking and decorating Miller's retirement cake. The cake is a model of Cowanesque Lake, displaying a dam, a control tower and boat piers.