

Falls City Engineer

March/April 2013

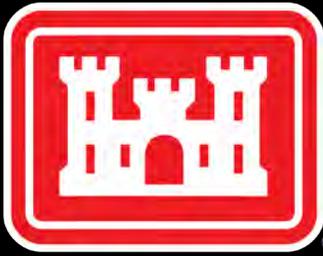
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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOUISVILLE DISTRICT



***Corps scopes out
endangered species
at Kentucky Army
National Guard
training facility***
page 5



Falls City Engineer

Vol. 5, Issue 2

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On the cover: Great White Egret forages for food in a wetland at Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Kentucky during a site visit September 2012.

 **Please conserve:
Think before you print.**

Commander's Comments

Team,

As you are aware, the government sequestration went into effect March 1. DoD has worked to develop a plan to meet the resulting budget shortfall which unfortunately requires furloughing personnel that are funded by Defense appropriations. Because of this we must move forward with plans to issue furlough letters. You can be assured we are working closely with the local union to align the furlough realities with mission accomplishment and care for our employees.

If furloughs are implemented, the latest guidance states the number of civilian furlough days will be no more than 14 days instead of the 22 days originally planned.

By exemption, approximately 600 employees in the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division will be furloughed. To confirm if you will be furloughed, see your supervisor.

In May, supervisors will notify employees of their status with a "furlough proposal letter." Included in the furlough notice will be administrative instructions pursuant to the furlough, including how and when to reply to your furlough notice. The furlough period will begin in June and is expected to continue through Sept. 30. Affected employees can expect to be furloughed eight hours per week. The standard furlough day for the Louisville District will be Friday, with few exceptions.

By Sept. 23, 2013, all furloughed employees will return to their normal work schedules. If a budget resolution or other action eliminates the need for furlough sooner, the process could be halted at an earlier date.



Col. Luke T. Leonard
Commander and District Engineer
Louisville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

I realize this puts a great emotional and financial burden on our employees, and I want to encourage you to avail yourself of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The EAP is a voluntary, work-based program that offers free and confidential assessments, short-term counseling, referrals and follow-up services to employees and their immediate family members who have personal and/or work-related problems. This includes financial consultation services.

As things evolve, we will do our best to keep you informed, and I hope you'll continue to let us know your concerns. I thank you for your continued patience as we work through this difficult time.

Building Strong!
Luke

Contents

Repurposed Christmas trees make valuable fish habitat	3
Play Ball: Corps constructs softball facility for Fort Knox H.S.	4
Remembering the Great Flood of 1913	4
Corps scopes out endangered species at KYARNG training facility	5
Roanoke Army Reserve Center on track for completion	6
Buckley Personnel Center receives national recognition	6
Operation Warfighter helps Soldiers assimilate into workforce	7
Lewis named Engineer of Distinction	8
USACE and FLW Outdoors connect youth with nature	8

Repurposed Christmas trees make valuable fish habitat at Carr Creek Lake



Dakota Kendall, Carr Creek Lake ranger, ties old Christmas trees together. The trees will be placed in the lake to attract fish.

Kevin Wright, Carr Creek Lake

During January and February, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife biologists and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers rangers were busy with habitat enhancement projects at lakes across Kentucky. Although these two months are typically the coldest of the year they are also prime months for these kinds of projects because the lakes have been drawn down to winter pool levels making the shoreline that is normally under water at summer pool more accessible.

Each year, Carr Creek Lake, Sassafras, Ky., hosts a drop-off point for Christmas trees in the back parking lot of the marina. Rather than having their Christmas trees hauled away or burned, local residents can donate their expired Christmas trees to be used as fish attractors, benefiting the fish populations in the lake.

These fish attractors serve several important purposes. First, they provide suitable habitat for important fish species such as largemouth bass, white and black crappie, bluegill, redear and catfish. Second, the fish attractor sites will concentrate fish in one location for increased angler success.

Last, but certainly not least, these

fish attractor sites increase efficiency of electrofishing by Fish and Wildlife biologists. Electrofishing uses electricity in water to capture fish and is a commonly used method to sample and evaluate fish populations. Carr Creek Lake is one of four Kentucky lakes involved in a Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife study using electrofishing to determine the impacts of stocking the lakes with white crappie. By concentrating fish around attractor sites, Fish and Wildlife biologists and technicians can greatly reduce staffing hours required to conduct sampling.

The construction of these Christmas tree fish attractors usually consists of one or more trees tied together and attached to concrete blocks, placed in areas devoid of suitable habitat. Ideal sites for placing deep water fish attractors include sloping points, near creek channel drop-offs, and on deeper flats. Along with these deep water sites, shallow water fish attractor and spawning sites are installed. Shallow fish attractor sites are usually located along exposed mud flats that will provide anywhere from two to five feet of water once the lake reaches summer pool elevations in late spring/early summer.

This year, Kentucky Fisheries Biologist Kevin Frey and his staff along with Corps

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Kevin Frey, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Ranger Dakota Kendall used 102 donated Christmas trees to refurbish seven existing fish attractors and created two new attractors at Carr Creek Lake. A large amount of effort goes into these habitat enhancement projects, all with the goal to increase angler catch rates and provide suitable spawning habitat for sport fish.

For any fishermen interested in the locations of fish attractors at Carr Creek Lake or another lake you can find the information at <http://fw.ky.gov/navigation.aspx?cid=1027&navpath=C110>

Play Ball

Corps constructs softball facility for Fort Knox High School

Katie Newton, public affairs

Spring is in the air and baseball season is starting up across the Bluegrass. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District, has helped to make this season more enjoyable for Fort Knox High School softball players by providing them with much needed amenities at their softball field.

The \$672,000 project was constructed by Polu Kai Services, LLC., Falls Church, Va., and managed by the Louisville District. The facility is 2,500 square feet and consists of new locker rooms, new public restrooms, a new concession stand, and a storage space for the equipment used to maintain the facility. There is a washer and dryer hook up for coaches to wash the team uniforms.

“Getting a new softball complex is very exciting news for Fort Knox Community Schools,” said Jacqueline Prather, Fort Knox Community Schools Athletic Director. “We have long had to play without the added amenities. We will now have one of the top facilities in our district and



Jeff Cannady, Fort Knox Resident Office

The Corps recently completed a new facility for the Fort Knox High School Girls Softball Team complete with new locker rooms, restrooms and concession stands.

region for hosting games. The ability to provide these to our high school community as well as to the visiting schools will make Fort Knox a more desirable place to play softball.”

The Fort Knox softball team takes the field for its first game March 23. “We are bursting with pride and excitement to be able to host our first home game,” said Prather.

History

Remembering the Great Flood of 1913



Portland, Ind., on the Wabash River in Fountain County, was one of the many communities affected by the Great Flood of 1913.

One hundred years ago, heavy rains came to the Ohio Valley bringing floods that washed away roads, homes and businesses. Hundreds died as a result and thousands were left homeless. Reaction to the disaster—at the time one of the worst in United States history—helped bring about many of the federal, state and local flood prevention and education efforts in use today.

The Silver Jackets teams of Ohio and Indiana, with support from the Midwest Regional Climate Center, have launched a website commemorating the 100th anniversary of the great flood: <http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/1913Flood/>

See the events page on the site for 1913 flood commemoration events.

USACE

Corps scopes out endangered species at Kentucky Army National Guard training facility

Katie Newton, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Louisville District has been working closely with the Kentucky Army National Guard (KYARNG) at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Muhlenberg County to identify and protect habitats of any endangered species found at the site.

KYARNG requested support from the Louisville District to perform a Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species investigation of the center where hundreds of National Guard Soldiers train each year. It is the largest Army National Guard training facility in Kentucky and encompasses approximately 11,400 acres. Most of the training facility has been mined in the past; however, the area still provides aquatic and terrestrial habitats for many state and federally protected plant and animal species.

“They looked to us for the expertise to identify and conclusively determine whether threatened or endangered species are present on the site,” said Glen Beckham, Louisville District project manager.

“KYARNG asked me for assistance during the semi-annual Kentucky Tier 2 Meeting, a meeting that allows the Army to meet face-to-face with its regulators,” said Beckham. He quickly set up a meeting between the KYARNG and several leaders from the Louisville District to discuss the path forward.

USACE employees suited up—binoculars in hand—to take a closer look. Led by Ecologist Mike Turner, a four-person environmental team conducted multiple visits to the site between July and September 2012 to evaluate the property and gather data.

A Great Egret was observed by the team in wetland areas of the property on several occasions. The large white heron is listed by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission as threatened, and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources reports it as endangered.

“Protecting the Great Egret as a part of Kentucky’s natural heritage also serves to protect at least three other endangered species that use the same habitat and are likely to be present on the training facility,”

said Turner. “Protecting its habitat—wetlands — also provides recreational hunting and fishing opportunities for the trainees.”

Potential bat habitat was also located in several areas including habitat for the grey bat, which is a federally-listed endangered species.

“Sink holes were found in an unmined portion of the facility and are likely interconnected through wet cave passages, which could serve as bat habitat,” said Turner. “This habitat has been destroyed on almost all of the facility and the identified sink holes are the only opportunity to protect cave resources, including the bat and many other cave dwellers, on the facility.”

Based on these findings, USACE completed a Threatened & Endangered Species (T&E) Management Plan in December which provided detailed management recommendations for eleven species including nine birds, one snake, and one bat documented on the training facility. Conservation and habitat restoration recommendations were made for the other 55 listed species that could potentially be found on the facility. The T&E management plan is designed to recommend a number of species-specific investigations to conclusively determine whether threatened or endangered bats, butterflies or other species are present on the site.

“All of our recommendations take the KYARNG training mission into full consideration as the primary purpose of the facility,” said Turner.

That understanding helped forge a great working relationship between the two organizations. “Working with USACE was like working with someone in our own office,” said Ricky French, natural resource manager. “The group knew the mission, the roles to achieve the mission and the path forward to achieve those goals.”

The \$100,000 investigation included completing the field work and a threatened and endangered species management plan by the end of the year.

“This was a substantial achievement on a very tight schedule,” said Beckham. “The project delivery team and our plan-



Jesse Helton

The Barred Owl was observed several times during a threatened and endangered species survey at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Kentucky in August 2012. This owl is a predator of the Long-eared Owl, which is protected. Habitat management techniques that benefit the Long-eared Owl while discouraging predation from Barred Owls may be developed in future studies.

ning section have really provided outstanding service with minimal direction,” said Beckham.

“Kentucky National Guard is a great partner to work with and we really appreciate the opportunities we have received from them to work together,” said Beckham.

The process went so well that the KYARNG anticipates contracting the Corps to conduct a wetlands delineation survey. It is expected to start in late spring 2013 following approval and funding by the KYARNG.

“Previous wetland surveys of the facility are of questionable value as relates to wetlands regulated under the provisions of the Clean Water Act,” said Turner. “The survey by Louisville District staff will correct this deficiency and allow the Kentucky Army National Guard to focus on areas needing protection and to train in areas that are not of such concern.”

Roanoke Army Reserve Center on track for completion



Carol Labashosky, public affairs

The Army Reserve Center at Roanoke, Va. is currently under construction. The project is approximately 50 percent constructed and is on track for completion in the summer of 2013. The site sits on 20 acres and will support approximately 400 Army Reservists.

This center is part of the Grow the Army Initiative. Like many Army Reserve Centers the Louisville District constructs under the “Grow the Army” initiative, the facility is necessary as new Reserve units activate.

The facilities that Reserve Soldiers currently use for training are inadequate because the structure of the force is changing to meet current and future war fighting missions.

Randal Struckus, Norfolk District

Buckley Personnel Center receives national recognition

Carol Labashosky, public affairs

The Louisville District would like to acknowledge the project delivery team for the Air Reserve Personnel Center, Buckley, Colo.

The team won the 2012 United States Air Force Citation Award for Facility Design.

- Project Manager Mark Ringenberg;
- Project Engineers and Architects Sharon Raque and Bruce Doughten;
- Omaha District Denver Resident Office Jennifer McQueen of Real Estate;
- Project Officer Tim Greene from Air Force Reserve Headquarters;
- Frankfurt Short Bruza, the design agent;
- Four Front Kurtz Joint Venture of Omaha District Front Range



Louisville District supports service members

Operation Warfighter helps Soldiers assimilate into workforce

Carol Labashosky, public affairs

During the fall of 2012, Louisville District's Chief of Construction Division Kirk Dailey began the district's involvement with the Department of Defense Operation Warfighter (OWF) program. With the help and guidance of Lisa Matthew, civilian personnel advisory center, Dailey organized a recruitment campaign at the Fort Knox Wounded Warrior Transition Battalion—which the Corps designed and constructed—to match Soldiers' skills with job opportunities at the district.

Maj. James Thompson has set up shop in Louisville District's construction division working on Reserve projects. He is currently in a medical recuperation status from an injury sustained while deployed. The details of his presence in the civilian workforce are unique. He is among the first Soldiers from Fort Knox to work at the district under the OWF campaign.

Staff Sgt. Char'reise Vincent is the district's second OWF intern and works as an environmental protection assistant in regulatory. She has supported more than 2,400 contracts for civilians who work in Afghanistan.

Like Thompson, she is assigned to Fort Knox's Wounded Warrior Transition

Battalion and experienced an injury while serving her country. Both Soldiers work at the district part-time.

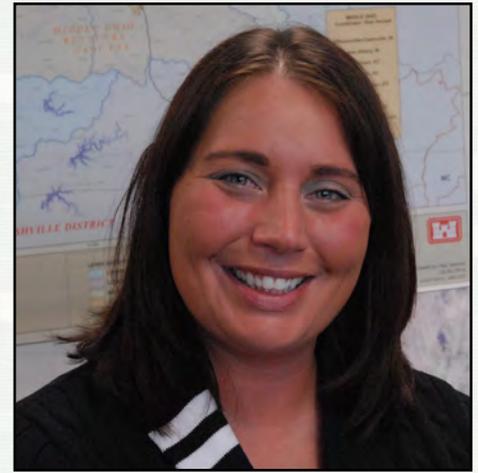
Thompson's and Vincent's work at the district is part of the Department of Defense federal internship program that assists wounded, ill and injured service members as part of their recuperation. These soldiers are required to either take classes or pursue work as part of their recovery while part of the Warrior Transition Program.

"It's an important program," said Dailey. "Bringing these Soldiers on board was an easy decision. Thompson's military experience combined with his professionalism and work ethic adds value to our mission execution."

OWF is beneficial to both the Soldier and the government. Soldiers build their resumes, explore employment interests, develop job skills and gain valuable government work experience, while helping to execute the district's mission.

"The government benefits from the talent, dedication and skills of the Soldier," Thompson said.

Thompson is an engineer officer, the 12B Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). As a construction engineer, he has built roads, dams and been involved



Carol Labashosky

Staff Sgt. Char'reise Vincent is an environmental protection assistant in the district's regulatory branch.

in heavy horizontal construction. He most recently deployed to Afghanistan. He has spent 26 years in the Tennessee Army National Guard, including the last 18 months as Resident Office Officer-in-Charge.

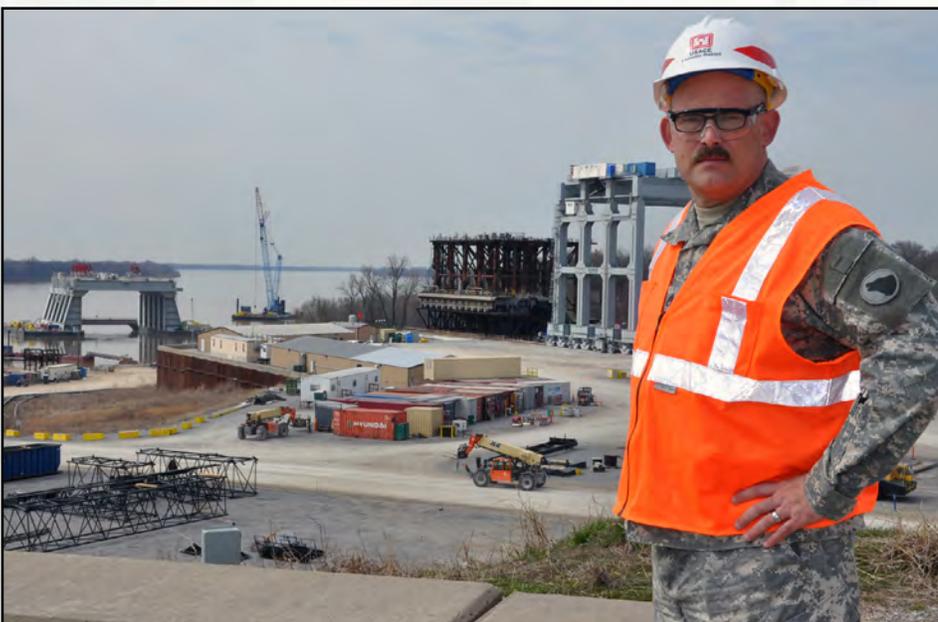
Thompson is familiar with working closely with civilians, he said. In Afghanistan, he helped the civilian staff with logistics so they could complete projects.

"The program here has brought me full circle. The Corps built the Warrior Transition Battalion; I'm a part of that facility. Now, I'm here at the district and have 'closed the loop,'" Thompson reflected. "I'll continue to be in the intern program here for as long as it takes for me to return to the civilian workforce."

While on active duty, Vincent supported mobilization and demobilization in Afghanistan. Previously, she had served with the 372nd Engineer Brigade Fort Snelling, Minn., and comes to the area from St. Paul, Minn. Vincent's dual MOS are firefighter and human resources specialist.

"The work here will help me reintegrate when I go back home to St. Paul, Minn.," Vincent said. "OWF gives Soldiers hope and a foot in the door. We all have to start somewhere, and it's hard. I have motivation to look forward."

The district recently brought a third Soldier, Staff Sgt. Jackie Wallace (left), into OWF to work at the Olmsted Locks and Dam construction project on the lower Ohio River in Olmsted, Ill.



Jon Flesherman

As part of DoD's intern program for convalescing wounded warriors, Staff Sgt. Jackie Wallace is assigned to the Olmsted Locks and Dam construction project on the Ohio River. "I'd definitely recommend the internship to other Soldiers," Wallace said. "It continues your education, keeps your mind going and challenges you to do something different."

Lewis named Engineer of Distinction

Sarah Mattingly, public affairs

Marilyn Lewis, chief of the Louisville District's engineering division, is a member of an elite group. On Feb. 21, 2013, she was named an Engineer of Distinction by her alma mater, the Tennessee Technological University (TTU) College of Engineering.

According to TTU, the award recognizes friends and alumni of the university for their professional success over a distinguished career, taking into account "outstanding professional record, distinguished service to the profession, interest in and dedication to the College [of Engineering], and personal reputation for outstanding character and citizenship."

Lewis, who has received many Louisville District honors over the years, including Civilian of the Year, serves as a model for others in the profession.

"Ms. Lewis is distinguished not only because of her lifetime of civil service, but for her passionate involvement in every engineering related organization and function in the area," said Col. Luke Leonard, Louisville District commander. "If there is an outreach program, a science fair, some city-wide professional training or a service project, it is likely that not only is Marilyn

involved in it, she probably organized it."

With this honor Lewis joins the company of university professors, leaders in government, business and the military — even an astronaut.

"I am very proud of Marilyn and happy that she has been recognized for her accomplishments," said her husband Rick Lewis, who is chief of maintenance section in the Louisville District's operations division and is also a TTU alumnus. "The previous winners of this award are an indication of how prestigious it is to be recognized in their association. That it is by the university where we were educated makes the award even more honorable."

As chief of the Louisville District's engineering division, Lewis has responsibility for the engineering oversight of the civil works and military construction mission covering a broad spectrum of activities, from environmental, regulatory and flood control work to planning, design and construction.

Lewis is a registered professional engineer in Tennessee and a member of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) and the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers (KSPE). She is a past president of the Kentuckiana



USACE

Engineering division chief Marilyn Lewis was recently named Engineer of Distinction by Tennessee Technological University.

Post, SAME, and was inducted into the SAME Academy of Fellows with the class of 2011. She was elected to serve on the SAME National Board of Directors for 2012-2015.

She is currently a member of the TTU Civil and Environmental Engineering Department Advisory Board.

USACE and FLW Outdoors connect youth with nature

Doug Garman, Headquarters

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) announced March 11 it will partner with FLW Outdoors and the FLW Foundation on future events and activities designed to connect America's youth to their natural resources while promoting education, conservation and an active lifestyle.

FLW Outdoors, named after the founder of Ranger Boats, Forest L. Wood, is a nationally-recognized fishing tournament organization. FLW Outdoors offers anglers of all skill levels the opportunity to compete in more than 231 fishing tournaments annually across five tournament circuits. USACE officials estimate that more than 60 percent of these tournaments are held on USACE-managed lakes.

In the months ahead, USACE, FLW Outdoors and the FLW Foundation, a non-profit cooperating association of FLW Outdoors, have agreed to work together to

accomplish the following:

- maintain and enhance environmental and natural resources stewardship;
- promote conservation and appreciation for the outdoors, along with public safety awareness and boating education to the public, with particular focus on America's youth; and
- connect the American public with nature, parks and outdoor activities, with particular focus on activities related to fishing.

"Partnerships like this are key to engaging the public and getting the word out about the variety of recreation opportunities at USACE lakes," said Steven L. Stockton, director of USACE Civil Works. "More importantly, these opportunities build future good stewards among America's youth of our nation's natural resources."

"This partnership between FLW, the FLW Foundation and USACE reinforces

FLW's commitment to conservation and educating today's youth about the sport of fishing," said FLW President of Operations Kathy Fennel. "Today's young people are the future of recreational and competitive fishing, and we are pleased to be working side-by-side with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that our fishing resources will be enjoyed by generations to come."

The FLW Foundation functions nationwide and strives to maximize the impact of existing FLW partnerships and to support youth fishing and boating safety programs as well as career pathway programs for high school and college students. The foundation also supports conservation programs to enhance aquatic habitat and sustain quality fisheries for future generations. For more information, visit the community outreach section of FLWOutdoors.com.