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LRDispatch

Six Corps lakes in White River Basin help prevent millions in flood losses

by **Jamie Oliver**
LRDispatch staff

If the six Corps of Engineers lakes in the White River Basin had never been built, catastrophic floods from two months of repeated rain would have occurred. But because they and the federally-built levees were in place, \$28.5 million in flood losses were prevented this spring. This didn't come without cost. Resultant high lake levels created recreational challenges for the district's field offices.

"By storing runoff from rainfall, the peak flows that are experienced downstream are reduced," said White River system engineer John Kielczweski, who oversees Beaver, Bull Shoals, Clearwater, Greens Ferry, Norfolk and Table Rock lakes. "Stored flood waters are later released when downstream conditions permit."

Kielczweski said releases are based on lake levels and river stages.

"Releases from Beaver are dependent on lake elevations at Table Rock and Bull Shoals," Kielczweski said. "Releases from Table Rock are dependent on elevations at Bull Shoals. Releases from Bull Shoals, Norfolk and Greens Ferry are keyed to downstream regulating stations."

Public Affairs Specialist P.J. Spaul said the lakes are all doing what they were designed

to do.

Without the lakes, Spaul said, floodwaters from the upper White River would rush downstream at one time. This would cause the flood crests to push higher, causing the water to spread over more land and possibly resulting in a loss of life.

The biggest problem tourists faced during the holiday weekend was higher-than-normal lake levels. Several recreation sites and boat ramps at the lakes were under water or had limited access, forcing campers and boaters to find alternate places to camp or launch their boats.

Spaul added that with the higher lake levels, boaters were encouraged to slow down on the water. Several swim beaches were closed because they were submerged.

Clearwater

Randy Devenport, Chief Park Ranger at Clearwater Project Office, estimated that 28 percent of the project's campsites were underwater over the holiday.

"Eighty-nine were underwater and 13 were without power because of the high lake," Devenport said.

On May 21, Clearwater's lake level peaked at 566.60, the highest recorded level in the lake's 54-year history, Devenport said.

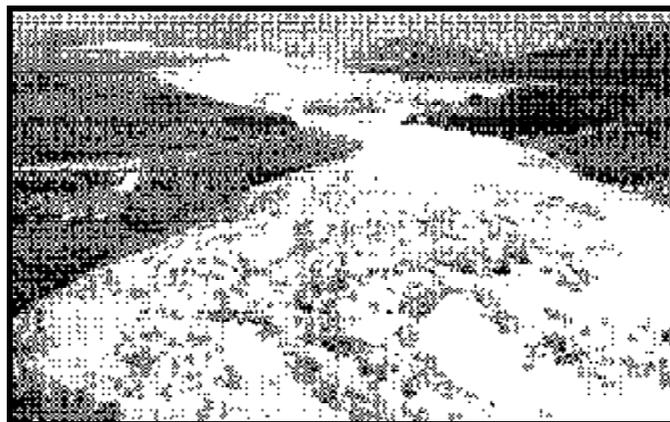
Since Clearwater crested at an all-time high, Devenport said he's heard almost any kind of rumor imaginable about the condition of the lake and dam.

"Holes, slumps and cracks, full releases, no releases. We've heard everything but alien encounters," Devenport said, referring to the flood of phone calls Clearwater Project Office received asking about rumors of the dam being in danger.

Clearwater came within five inches of having to spill water, Devenport said. The only other time that has happened at

Clearwater was in 1957 when the pool elevation hit 556.60

(See "High Water" on page 8.)



The Black River below Clearwater Lake spills over its banks into the nearby land and overtaking trees in the area.

Into Little Rock District, a little rain did fall

May was an exciting month. The consistent weekend rains finally filled three of our lakes north of the Arkansas River to more than 93 percent capacity.

Historic high levels at Clearwater had us all concerned. But our dams and the reservoir control plan did what they were designed to do and saved more than \$28 million in flood damage. Thanks to all that helped in this endeavor.

The Mississippi also rose, forcing us to implement Stage 1 of our plan to do a controlled flooding of the cofferdam at Montgomery Point. Our forecast is that we will not need to go to Stage 4 and actually flood the project, a multi-million dollar action, but we continue to watch it closely.

The Arkansas-White Cutoff is again in danger. Once the waters recede, we will be better able to assess the damage and determine our next step.

SWD & Army News

On May 31 SWD changed commanders, with Col. Robert Crear replacing Brig. Gen. Dave Melcher. We wish BG Melcher well at he takes over Program, Analysis & Evaluation Office of the G-8 at the Pentagon and are ready to follow Col. Crear as he leads us to being an even better organization than we already are.

The Army's Birthday and Flag Day are June 14. We will have a ceremony celebrating this day.

And, in case anyone ever asks: yes, the Army is older than the country. It was formed in 1775, more than a year before the Declaration of Independence was signed.

A Corps Transformation

As the Army celebrates its 227th birthday, it is undergoing a major transformation. We are making ourselves better able to fight wars of the 21st century, with lighter, more agile and better-equipped fighting vehicles so we can respond quickly and effectively to areas around the world.

The Corps of Engineers is also undergoing a transformation as we implement the new Project Management Business Process. You have already received the first two CD-ROMs on this and will be receiving more in the near future. This training is a priority for everyone and must be taken seriously.

This endeavor is not just another management initiative but is a culture shift that will require hard work. It will require that we get out of our comfort zones as we make our organization better able to serve the needs of our nation.

As we evolve from a structured, one-dimensional organization to a fluid, multi-dimensional interaction, you will

From where I sit

by Col. Benjamin Butler
District Engineer



notice that this is not completely new to Little Rock District, but it is a more formal way of doing things that we have already started doing.

I have served in matrix type organizations before. Such organizations can be more effective than the traditional stovepipe organizations and are often more complex.

The very nature of the matrix organization means that all must have more knowledge of what is outside their old lanes and must be empowered by their bosses to make decisions. This means that supervisors will have less control and must have faith that they have properly trained their subordinates.

Transitions

I am currently experiencing something similar as both of my boys are moving out of the house and going to college this fall.

Neither my wife nor I will be able to supervise them, and we must trust that the training we have provided them will carry them through. Supervisors must train, guide and empower employees in a similar manner.

My boys will also need to change. Until now, they relied heavily on us for making important decisions. At college, they will be making many more important decisions without our input. They can still ask our assistance on occasion, but they are expected to make decisions and then live with the consequences.

This is not totally new for them, but the number of decisions and the magnitude of the impact has greatly increased. This will be the same for us as we implement PMBP.

I ask each of you to put forth your best effort as we transition to this new process. At times it may be difficult to see the logic of doing things this new way.

As I have asked my boys to trust me that going to college will be best in the long run, even though they will be expected to work hard for little reward now, I ask the same of you. Trust that the effort that we put forth in the near term to learn and

(See "Colonel" on page 3.)

LRDispatch



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Little Rock District

LRDispatch is an unofficial monthly publication authorized under AR 360-1, published under supervision of the Little Rock District Public Affairs Office and printed by the Defense Automated Printing Service on recycled paper. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. News items are solicited. Publication depends on general interest as judged by the editors. Submitted articles will be edited to meet standards of the Associated Press Style Guide. Circulation is 1,300. Correspondence should be addressed to *LRDispatch* Editor, Public Affairs Office, Little Rock District. P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203-0867. The PAO telephone number is (501) 324-5551. Fax number is (501) 324-6699.

District Engineer
Col. Benjamin Butler

Public Affairs Officer
Robert G. Faletti

Command Information Officer
Laurie Driver

Issue Editor
Jamie Oliver

Writer
Dorothy Seals

Toad Suck Park to house population monument

by Dorothy Seals
LRDispatch staff

Where would Arkansas perfectly balance if the entire population weighed exactly the same?

Near Toad Suck Park of course.

Little Rock District is constructing a monument 1.5 miles west of Toad Suck to mark the symbolic center of population for Arkansas. This is the position where an imaginary, flat, weightless, rigid map of the state would perfectly balance if everyone were of identical weight.

"The purpose of this project is to add another point to the National Geodetic Reference System and to bring attention to the profession of surveying," said Steve Corley, land surveyor in Engineering and Construction Division.

After the 2000 Census was taken, the National Geodetic Survey requested that a symbolic center of population be marked in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Maryland was the first state to install a monument, and approximately 10 states have followed. Several other monuments are in the works.

Because the center is based on population, it is a constantly moving target. The population in 2000 that was used to determine the site for Arkansas was 2,673,400.

"The monument will stay in place no matter where the population center is located in 2010," said Brinda Jackson, project manager for the operation and

maintenance program. "It was here in 2000, so this point is historical."

The NGS established criteria for determining the center site. The site must be as close to the computed center as possible, be clear of obstructions 15 degrees above the horizon, and be publicly accessible.

The NGS also requested that the marker be at least 8 inches in diameter due to the unique nature of this project.

Corley said the marker will be "a slab of concrete in the shape of Arkansas" and will have an actual survey marker in the center.

Colonel

(Continued from page 2.)

execute this new process will pay benefits in the long term.

As we move into the summer months and begin spending more time in and around the water, I ask that each of you be cautious and safe. Just as safety belts are important in the car, personal flotation devices are important around water.

Many deaths are attributed to a minor, non-life threatening accident, which became life threatening because there was no vest to keep the person afloat. A little alcohol, normal

The survey marker will be a 6-inch diameter brass cap with the Corps' logo as well as the NGS and the American Society of Professional Surveyors logos. Jackson added that the monument will resemble a sculpture garden and will include plants and benches.

"Hopefully some non-surveyors will be interested to visit the population center point and thus increase the visitation at one of the Corps' parks," Jackson said.

The monument is expected to be completed in August.

but wet clothing or a full stomach can quickly tire even good swimmers who suddenly find themselves in the water.

If knocked unconscious (which happens more often than you think), even the best swimmer will drown in four minutes without a vest. Please do not take chances. We need you back at work just as your family needs you.

Have a great month, and I'll see you at Engineer Day on the 21st.

Tell us what you think

Editor's note: The LRDispatch staff welcomes your opinions. Letters must be signed. If you choose to have your name withheld from publication, we will honor that request.

Comments and Family News submissions must be received by June 15 for publication in the next issue. Send your comments to laurie.driver@usace.army.mil or mail them to the Public Affairs Office at P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203-0867. We reserve the right to refuse publication of any letter that is deemed libelous.

Remember to keep the criticism constructive and the questions coming.

**Engineer Day
2002**
*Join us June 21 at
Sherwood Forest
for a day of food,
awards, games and
plenty of fun!*

*For more information please call
Theresa Morris at 324-5532 or
Patty Watford at 324-5652. Hope
to see you there!*

Family news

Births

Bryce Aaron Keaton was born March 1 to Michelle and **Glen Keaton**. Keaton is a hydraulic engineer in Hydrology and Hydraulic Section.

Ava Grace Strack was born May 27 to Jennifer and **Paul Strack**. Strack is a mechanical trainee at Ozark Powerhouse.

Congratulations

Nathaniel Keen successfully defended his thesis and will have his MSCE degree conferred during August commencement at the University of Missouri – Rolla. Keen is a hydraulic engineer in Hydraulics and Hydrology Branch.

Laura Clift married Iain Cameron on May 4 in Little Rock. Clift is a civil engineer in the Geotechnical-Civil Design Section.

Christina Faletti married Joshua Cantor on May 18. Christina is the daughter of **Bob Faletti**, chief of Public Affairs Office.

Justin Allen, son of **Ralph Allen** in Office of Counsel, received his Eagle Scout badge June 2 from the Boy Scouts of America.

Deaths

Jim Sanders, a former powerhouse electrician at Table Rock Lake, died April 30.

John Remar, father of **Will Remar**, died April 24. Remar is a mechanic at Beaver Powerhouse.

Pastor Curlee Thomas, father of **Miriam Thomas**, died April 20. Thomas is an accountant in Finance and Accounting.

William Brook died April 22. He was a retired senior engineer.

Farewell

Table Rock Lake summer ranger **George Cutbirth** left to pursue a local political career.

New Student Aides and Temporaries

Dorothy Seals is the new student aide in Public Affairs Office.

Promotions

Mark Freedle was named as the new Project Manager in Programs and Project Management Division.

Alan Spraggins was promoted from Associate Scientist to Scientist at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Alan is the son of **Jerry Spraggins** of Greers Ferry Project Office.

Speaker's Bureau

Ruth Millsaps manned a booth and presented water safety programs to 435 students in 35 classes during the Crawford Elementary School Health Fair held April 26. Millsaps is a park ranger at Russellville Project Office.

On May 6, 87 students from four Crawford Elementary School classes toured four stations at Russellville Project Office, including the Visitor's Center, Lock and Dam, Nature Trail Hike and a water safety station. Park rangers **Allison Smedley**, **Ruth Millsaps** and **John Bridgemen** conducted tours at three of the stations.

Nathaniel Keen made a bridge kit presentation to 80 fifth-grade students during Lone Star Elementary School's career day April 26.

Russellville Project Office Park Ranger **Allison Smedley** conducted a water safety program April 16 for 17 St. John Elementary School third-grade students.

Russellville Project Office Park Rangers **Allison Smedley** and **Ruth Millsaps** conducted three water safety programs for 90 Sequoyah School third-grade students April 24.

Russellville Park Ranger **Ruth Millsaps** conducted a visitor center tour and water safety talk with 80 kindergarten students from Oakland Heights Elementary School April 25.

Millwood Park Ranger **Beverly Glanville** presented a hypothermia program to the Little River County Senior Citizen Center. She also has presented 27 water safety programs, three to Boy Scout troops and 24 to school groups.

Millwood Park Ranger **Kyle Clark** presented a water safety program during a local industry's monthly safety meeting. He also did an interview on a local radio station about water safety and annual passes and presented five programs to school groups at the 4-H Conservation Carnival.

Millwood Park Ranger **Robin Grooms** presented programs about birding on Millwood Lake and Wings 'N Things to the Fairfield Bay and Ark-La-Tex Audubon Society.

Thank You

I want to take this opportunity to thank **Col. Butler** and the **Little Rock District** for your tangible and verbal support during the passing of my father. My heart was comforted by your special acts of kindness. My heart rejoices in the fact that my father is not suffering anymore and that he died in the Lord. He's absent from the body, but he's present with the Lord. My father preached the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout this country and he made sure that all nine of his children received Christ into their hearts. Because Jesus Christ is my Savior, I will one day see my father again. Thank you again for your support. May God bless each of you, **Miriam Thomas**

Toddler overcomes odds, provides inspiration

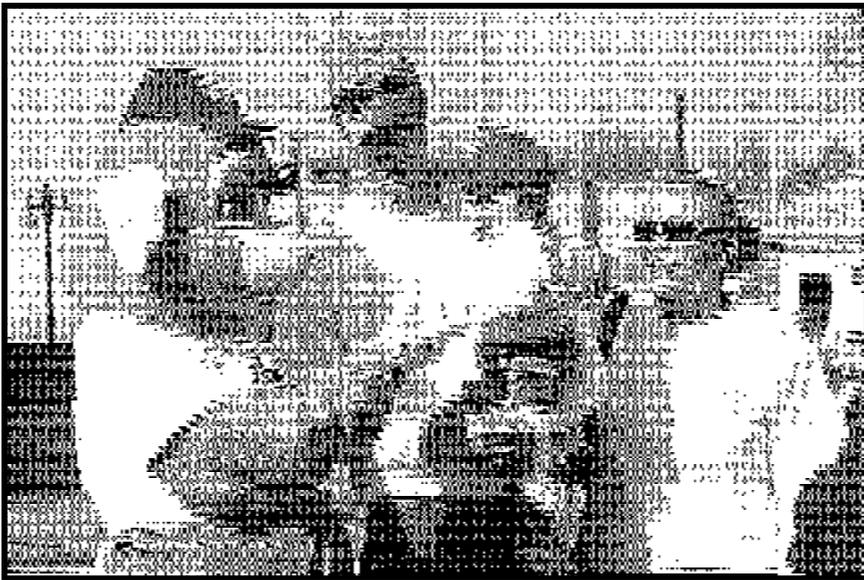
by Dorothy Seals
LRDispatch staff

Seeing Keegan Smith today no one would imagine that just one short year ago, the bouncing, chocolate-loving baby boy was undergoing the fight of his life.

"The day Keegan was born was such a wonderful day," said Keegan's grandmother, Jane Smith, an emergency management specialist in the Emergency Management Office. "It was hard to believe when the next day we were told that he had serious heart problems."

Keegan, the son of Britt Smith and Dawn Schichtl of Conway, was born with a life-threatening heart condition called Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome.

HLHS, commonly known as Shonis Syndrome, is a



Britt Smith and Dawn Schichtl of Conway laugh while son Keegan is amused by a cartoon character during Faulkner County's American Heart Walk.

condition in which the left side of the heart is underdeveloped and the right side begins shutting down due to the excess strain.

According to Jane, doctors tried to strengthen Keegan's heart with medications, but failed. The only option for Keegan was a heart transplant. He was placed on the heart transplant list at Arkansas Children's Hospital on May 2, 2001.

"We wanted to be with Keegan and constantly hold him," Keegan's grandmother said. "But we could do neither of these as the slightest illness would remove him from the transplant list. We had to be so very careful."

The child's mother was only allowed to hold him twice before the operation.

He was placed inside a plastic box that provided a combination of oxygen and given medications that made his body believe that he was still inside the womb, Jane said.

HLHS is not discovered until after the baby is born for two reasons.

Babies receive oxygen from the placenta while in the womb so the blood does not have to go through the lungs. Also babies have an opening between the pulmonary artery and the aorta, called the patent ductus arteriosus, that allows the blood to go from the right ventricle out to the body, bypassing the left side of the heart, according to a web-site for parents of children with HLHS.

Keegan was on the transplant list for 12 days before he received a new heart on May 15. According to Keegan's grandmother, the normal wait for receiving a heart transplant is six weeks. She added that Keegan is doing very well after having the surgery.

"Keegan is doing awesome," Jane said. "If you saw him, you would never guess that he ever had a problem, other than we've really spoiled him."

This year, Keegan was selected as the poster child for Faulkner County's American Heart Walk held in Conway. His parents spoke at Conway Regional Fitness Center to kick off the event and gave another speech on the day of the walk.

Several of Jane's co-workers in the Little Rock District Office sponsored her in this event.

According to Jane, Corps employees provided \$1,144 of the \$1,524 that she raised for the American Heart Association. Jane received recognition as being the "Top Walker" in the event.

Jane's friend and co-worker Elaine Whitlow, administrative support assistant in Operation Division, joined her in the 5K walk in support of Keegan.

"I want to thank the Little Rock District for their support in the American Heart Walk," Whitlow said.

"By their giving, more research can be obtained. Imagine, the technology that was needed in order to perform the operations to keep Keegan alive wasn't even available ten years ago."

The family is still hopeful for even more improvements in technology to ensure that Keegan's future remains bright.

According to the *Log Cabin Democrat*, Keegan is taking two medications to keep his body from rejecting the heart. He is expected to be on these medications for the rest of his life.

"We also keep in mind that Keegan's chances to have a long, healthy life will most likely be greater as new medicine is discovered," Keegan's mother said.

Jane said that Keegan will never play contact sports such as football or be able to swim in most lakes. These are his only limitations.

Most people in the Conway area are aware of Keegan and his situation, according to Jane. There have been several articles written about him in local papers like the *Log Cabin Democrat*.

(See "Keegan" on page 11.)

Little Rock District employees announce, celebr

Ted Toulouse, son of **Ray Toulouse**, an operator at Table Rock Powerhouse, graduated in May with a Masters Degree from Peabody Conservatory.

Jane Hubsch, daughter of **Don Hubsch**, park manager at Arkansas Post Field Office, graduated May 17 from University of Arkansas at Monticello with a bachelor's of science degree in social work.

Lee Wills, son of **Sharon Wills**, support services specialist at Clearwater Project Office, graduated May 12 from Greenville High School in Greenville, Mo. He plans to attend Three River Community College in Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Jeremy Jones, son of **Jerry Jones** of Nimrod-Blue Mountain Project Office, graduated from sixth grade May 20 at Fourche Valley Elementary School.

Jason Hankins, son of **Jerry Hankins**, a Facilities Maintenance Inspector for the Russellville Project Office, graduated May 16 from Dover High School. He plans to attend UA Community College at Morrilton to earn a technical degree in welding.

Bethany Hightower, daughter of Joanne and **Rick Hightower**, graduated May 17 from Rogers High School. She plans to attend White River School of Massage in Fayetteville. Hightower is a park ranger at Beaver Lake.

Justin Yeager, the son of **Karen Yeager**, administrative support assistant at Millwood Tri-Lakes Office, graduated May 31 from Pleasant Grove High School, in Texarkana, Texas. He plans on working at Txx.net in Texarkana and attending Texarkana College in the fall.

Jamie Lancaster, daughter of **Carla Lancaster** of Nimrod Blue Mountain Project Office, graduated May 13 from Plainview-Rover High School. She plans to attend Arkansas Beauty College in Russellville.

Chassidy Lacy, the daughter of **Marcy Short**, a realty assistant in Real Estate

Division, graduated May 21 as a Registered Nurse from the Texarkana Community College Nursing Program.

Ellen Bratton, daughter of **Marilyn Bratton**, Real Estate Division, and **Don Bratton**, Operations Division, graduated May 18 from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock with a bachelor's of arts degree in business administration.

Monica Moody, student-aide in Contracting Division, graduated with honors on May 11 from Philander Smith College. She received a bachelor's of business administration degree.

Devonya Humphrey, niece of **Stephanie Bobo**, accountant in the Finance and Accounting Branch, graduated May 17 from Holly Grove High School. She plans to attend University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff where she received a four-year scholarship.

Bethany and Christopher Light, daughter and son of **Sarah Light**, administrative support assistant at Blue Mountain Lake, graduated May 14 from Plainview-Rover kindergarten in Plainview.

Daniel Johnson, son of **Miles Johnson**, Russellville lake manager, graduated May 11 from Ouachita Baptist University with a bachelor's of arts degree in biblical studies and theology. He plans to attend graduate school at Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mitchell Minyard, son of **Tom Minyard**, resident engineer at the Table Rock Dam Safety Resident Office, graduated May 17 with honors from Lighthouse Academy Home School. Mitchell plans to attend College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Mo., to pursue a degree in business.



Hannah Clarke, the daughter of **Louis Clarke**, a project manager in the Northeast Regulatory Field Office, graduated May 17 from Jonesboro High School. She plans to attend Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.

Jeffrey Clarke, the nephew of **Louis Clarke**, graduated May 16 from Conway High School. Jeffrey plans to attend the University of Central Arkansas in Conway.

Samantha Clarke, the niece of **Louis Clarke**, graduated May 17 from Oden High School.

Justin Allen, the son of **Ralph Allen**, Office of Counsel, graduated June 1 from Mills University Studies High School in Little Rock. He plans to attend St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn

Samantha Tedford, the niece of **Laurie Driver**, a public affairs specialist in Public Affairs Office, graduated May 17 from Robert E. Lee High School in Baton Rouge, La. She plans to attend Southeastern University in Hammond, La.

Emili Anne Morehouse, the daughter of **Norman Morehouse**, lock and dam operator at Norrell Lock and Dam, graduated May 17 with honors from DeWitt High School. She plans to attend Phillips Community College.

Emily Palmer, granddaughter of **Theresa Morris**, secretary in the executive office, graduated May 11 from David City High School in David City,

graduations as school year comes to finale

Neb. Emily received a scholarship to attend Brigham Young University in Utah after completing cosmetology school in Fremont, Neb.

Shalisha Thomas, niece of **Miriam Thomas**, an accountant in the Finance and Accounting Office, graduated May 24 from Pine Bluff High School. She plans to attend college.

Ashia Jackson, wife of **Sylvester Jackson**, a park ranger at the Pine Bluff Project Office, graduated May 18 from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock with a master's degree in secondary education. She plans to work toward a doctorate in administration and supervision.

Jenny Jones, daughter of **Stan Jones**, chief of hydropower branch at Table Rock Lake Project Office, graduated May 18 from Branson High School in Branson, Mo. Jenny will attend the University of Missouri at Kansas City, Mo.

Katie Holmes, student aid in Office of Counsel and daughter of **Janet Holmes**, contract specialist in the Contracting Division, graduated May 24 from North Little Rock High School. Katie plans to attend Ouachita Baptist University.

Katherine Marie Rains, daughter of **Carroll Osburn**, construction representative at the Table Rock Auxillary Dam Safety Office, graduated May 11 from Central Missouri University in Warrensburg, Mo. with a bachelor's of science in nursing. She plans to attend Southwest Missouri State University to obtain her master's degree.

Stephen Lindsey, son of **David Lindsey**, crane operator at Dardanelle Marine Terminal, graduated with honors from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Matthew Bagley, son of **Michael Bagley**, towboat supervisor aboard the Motor Vessel *Shorty Baird*, graduated May 2 from Southwestern Assembly of

God University in Waxahachi, Texas, with a bachelor's of science degree.

Suzanne Haney, daughter of Vivian and **Ben Haney**, graduated May 11 with a bachelor's of arts degree in journalism. Haney is the civil engineering technician in Mountain Home.

Jennifer Singletary, an administrative SCEP employee in Mountain Home, received her associate's degree in business management May 13 and plans to continue her education towards a bachelor's degree.

Marceia Hopkins, daughter of **Janet Hale**, a realty assistant in Real Estate Division, graduated May 28 from Heights High School in Wichita, Kan. She accepted a basketball scholarship and plans to attend Pratt Community College in Pratt, Kan.

Tamika Slaughter, realty specialist Real Estate, graduated May 11 from Philander Smith College with a bachelor's of arts degree in business administration.

Brian Butler, son of **District Engineer Benjamin Butler**, graduated May 25 from Georgetown High School in Georgetown, Texas. He plans to attend Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

Kevin Bechhold, a park ranger at Beaver Project Office, graduated May 11 from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with a bachelor's of arts degree in criminal justice.

Jared Trammell, a civil engineering technician at Beaver Project Office, graduated May 10 from NorthWest Arkansas Community College with an associate's degree in computer aided drafting.

Timothy M. Bass, son of **Lee Bass** of Programs, Planning and Management Division, graduated May 31 from Catholic High School in Little Rock. He plans to attend Drury University in

Springfield, Mo.

Capt. Richard K. Deal, chief of Security, graduated June 23 with a master's degree in business administration from the Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Jiovanni Gilbert, a budget technician in Information Management Office, graduated May 11 from Webster University in St. Louis with a master's degree in human resource management.

Amy Crow, student aide in Emergency Management, graduated May 18 from the University of Central Arkansas with a bachelor's of science degree.

Ryan Remar, son of **Will Remar**, a senior mechanic at Beaver Power Plant, graduated with honors from Rodgers High School. He plans to attend the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Melanie Harlan, daughter of **Dan Bailey**, an engineer technician at Greers Ferry Project Office, graduated from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences with a bachelor's of science degree in medical technology.

Amy Bailey, daughter of **Dan Bailey**, graduated from the University of Arkansas Community College at Bebee with a liberal arts associate's degree.

Lindsey West, daughter of **Royce West**, a civil engineer in Design Branch, graduated May 24 from North Little Rock High School. She plans to attend Arkansas State University on a Presidential Scholarship.



High water

(Continued from page 1.)

feet.

Despite the rumors and the public's initial anxiety about the lake's high water levels, Devenport said Clearwater Project Office saw no big problems over Memorial Day weekend. All the staff, he said, handled the situation in stride and "showed a surprising amount of patience and flexibility."

Visitation was down, he said, but the facilities not under water were as crowded as they had been in years past. Most of the swim beaches at Clearwater will reopen when the elevation drops to 525 or below. However, Devenport said he could not make a prediction as to when that would happen nor could he give an estimate on damages to the lake's facilities.

"The lake has only dropped three feet since cresting so it is too early to tell the exact amount of damage," Devenport said. "The project's highest boat ramps are still under 30 feet of water."

Greers Ferry

Of course, every cloud has a silver lining. The high lake levels have beneficially impacted spawning on the lake, Greers Ferry Operations Manager Tommy Park said.

"A biologist with game and fish said that nature improved spawning with high water in one spring what it would normally take them 15 years to do with stocking programs," Park said.

That doesn't mean Greers Ferry Project Office employees weren't busy during the holiday weekend.

They played a key role in keeping traffic flowing smoothly around the lake during the holiday weekend, Park said. "They have all worked especially hard to minimize the problems."

Because all the swim beaches were underwater and most boat launch areas were flooded, visitors were forced to launch boats from flooded roadways, Park said. The staff developed an alternate traffic plan to ease the flow of traffic for Dam Site, Heber Springs and Shiloh parks because the main roads were also flooded.

"The plans paid big dividends as the public stopped and thanked our rangers,

stating that congestion had been less than they anticipated," Park said.

This team effort by the project office staff will be needed to get some of the campsites back in order once the water recedes.

"We have a small percentage of our facilities in horrible shape due to the wave action created by the high water," Park said. "The most impacted areas will be to the 'hardened campsites' or those areas where we have built level living

underwater," Jones said. "Another 46 were affected by not having electricity because power was turned off up line or the roadway to the site was underwater."

With Beaver at 95 percent of flood storage capacity, Jones said she does not expect to see any improvements in these conditions in the near future until the lake can release larger amounts of water.

"We are anticipating the worst, in that we are preparing to have campsites still underwater during the Fourth of July



Because the high water levels closed most of the boat ramps at Beaver Lake, boaters were forced to launch from the sides of roads.

surfaces with timber and fill."

Now, the "fill" has been pulled out into the lake by the wave action created by the water. That must be replaced. Additionally, Park said he anticipates some damage to the roads as well. All the repairs will take some time.

Park praised the project office staff for their work during the event.

"Our entire staff was pressed into service taking care of visitors and project facilities," Park said. "Responding to the problems is all a part of that effort."

Beaver Lake

During the holiday weekend, all available campsites were rented through the weekend, acting Operations Manager Marilyn Jones said. However, with 80 percent of picnic areas closed, cooler temperatures and rain most of the weekend, day use numbers dropped.

"We had 110 out of 487 campsites

holiday," Jones said, noting that with the exception of Dam Site Day Use, all of Beaver's swim areas are closed. The beaches are expected to remain closed as long as the campsites are closed.

Although official numbers were not available, Jones said she expects the dollar amount of damages to roadways, tables, beaches, picnic facilities and erosion repairs around the lake to reach into the millions.

"We don't have a real handle on the damages that have occurred," Jones said. "However, just to get us back into some sort of order to be able to reopen the parks, we are looking at a minimum of \$1.1 million."

Bull Shoals/Norfolk

Bull Shoals and Norfolk Lakes Park Manager Tracy Fancher said Memorial Day went "very well" despite having lower numbers at the lakes' recreation

sites. Thirty inches of rain since Jan. 1 made 35 percent of the campsites unavailable for the weekend, Fancher said.

“Crowds were down some only because there were less facilities for them to utilize,” Fancher said. “There were few launching areas on Norfolk or Bull Shoals, no designated swim beaches and very limited parking.”

Visitors made the best of the situation, though, improvising launch areas from road endings and parking wherever they could. Fancher said the high lake levels have been a topic of conversation in the communities.

Last year at this time, both lakes were 10 feet below the conservation or “normal” pool elevations. Now the levels are 30 feet above normal.

“The public has seen a tremendous change in only one year,” Fancher said. “It has been approximately 12 years since either Norfolk or Bull Shoals reached these elevations, so it’s been a

topic of interest in North Central Arkansas and the host communities.”

With Norfolk at 92 percent of storage capacity and Bull Shoals at 75 percent, Fancher admitted the public’s response to the high water has been mixed.

“It has run the gamut from curious and interested to angry and belligerent,” Fancher said. “But for the most part, the public has been very understanding and adaptable in their use of the projects and their expectations.”

Table Rock

Although Table Rock Lake has risen another foot since Memorial Day weekend, Chief Ranger over recreation Rodney Raley said the lake is still able to accommodate most anyone who is looking for a campsite.

“We just had to close off 24 more sites in one campground,” Raley said. “But we can still accommodate most everybody who is looking for a place to camp.”

Raley said only 60 of about 850 sites

were affected over the holiday weekend, resulting in some shuffling of campers, but nothing drastic.

“We didn’t have anything in terrible shape,” Raley said. “The week before we called the people who had reservations and had to do some shuffling around, but we had enough spots.”

Moonshine Beach was the only swim beach open for the weekend, Raley said, and two launch ramps were closed. The rest were open but had limited access. Despite it all, Raley said Table Rock had a “full and busy super weekend.”

Though he expects some road erosion, Raley is not anticipating any big damages to the parks around the lake.

“We’re not in any condition like the other lakes,” Raley said. “We’ll probably have some road erosion and some campsite timbers washed out into the lake. There will be lots of debris and cleanup but nothing major.”

Learning to define personal goals, successes part of PPEP

I applied for the PPEP program for several reasons. I knew this would be an opportunity to learn and develop leadership and management skills, as well as increase my marketability.

I talked first hand with program graduates and thought I was ready for the challenge. I knew the requirements of the program. I convinced my wife that this would only be a small sacrifice.

I even convinced myself of the personal success this program would help me achieve.

After the first meeting, the PPEP team started reading books, talking with managers and attending team meetings. It was only then we realized what we had gotten ourselves into. The program was not what we had imagined it would be.

We realized there were a few things we would have to learn quickly: What is really important to us? How do we achieve it? What are we currently doing that we are going to have to stop doing.

We had to start prioritizing soon.

Speaker and author Steven Covey tells of a way to prioritize your life. He says to begin with a vision of what is most important to you. Then define your goals and objectives and couple that with strategies to accomplish them.

Goals define personal success. A vision keeps the proper focus and strategies propel the steps to achieve the purpose.

Covey said, “Men perish when there is no vision.” The death is one of unfulfillment and lack of purpose, importance and direction.

When the journey of life is finished, we want to be remembered for the eternal impact we have on people and the

satisfaction of seeing their lives enriched.

Like many people, we have just been getting “things” done.

We have been doing what is expected and seems important. Yet we have managed to neglect the really important things.

We talked about our priorities and what was important, but our actions revealed something completely different.

The PPEP program has given us the opportunity to visit several managers in various occupations from whom we have gleaned pearls of wisdom. These pearls have truly come from the heart. A key ingredient of a true leader is the love, passion and commitment to do what they do as well as the discipline to keep the most important things first.

I challenge you to take a long and serious look at your current situation. Evaluate your situation and ask yourself the following questions: Where do you want to go? How are you going to get there? What do you want to be remembered for?

The PPEP program is simply that, a program. While it is not a guarantee to anything, the program is an opportunity. What you choose to do with opportunities presented before you determines your future successes.



PPEP 2002
High Performance
Leadership
by Roger Howell

Good housekeeping key to accident prevention

While most accidents result from multiple causes, one cause involved in many mishaps is a messy area.

Good housekeeping is one of the basic elements of accident prevention. I have heard employees complain of housekeeping being an endless job, but if too much debris, dirt or disorder is allowed to build up, unexpected accident traps can form.

The paper towel left carelessly on the bathroom floor may cause someone to slip and fall. A faulty electrical tool not inspected prior to use may cause an electrical shock. Materials piled high in the woodworking shop may dislodge and cause a foot or leg injury, just as an office worker that has piles of paper cluttering his work area may present a fire hazard.

Cluttered offices, aisles or congested work areas are all open invitations to trouble. You can probably recall accidents, which were partially caused by something that was not properly cleaned.

Whereas disorder is unpleasant and hazardous, an orderly work area will help prevent accidents and even enable you to be more productive. If you want order to prevail, you must contribute to keeping the work environment tidy.

You can do this simply by making sure things are placed where they should be every time you are finished using them. A spring-cleaning will not do, although you may first need to undertake a big housecleaning in order to get started. Afterward, a constant effort must be made to keep your area



clean or conditions will deteriorate back into the mess you had before.

If you make order and cleanliness a regular habit, after only a week or two the cleanup will be almost effortless.

You have the responsibility for keeping things clean and in place. If you who want to keep the workplace safe and pleasant, you will readily shoulder that responsibility.

Unfortunately, it takes just one bad housekeeper to set a bad example. Don't be that bad example. While it takes just one

person to make a work area messy, it also takes just one tidy individual who cares about safety to serve as a positive role model for everyone else.

If there is a mess in your area, fix it. If the area of responsibility belongs to someone else, let that person know, but don't just leave a hazard. Alert workers around you to avoid the area. If necessary, place a barrier around the hazard until the hazard has been cleared.

Don't let cleanup be a dangerous task. Take appropriate safety precautions and use right gloves, goggles and wipes for cleaning. Also be alert to hazards that can appear without warning such as a floor tile that has suddenly popped up.

Take care of those housekeeping hazards that you can handle and report anything needing special skills or tools to the supervisor or team leader. By keeping the work environment neat and orderly, you can take pride knowing that you took ownership for your own personal safety and for the health of

Tips for building successful PowerPoint presentations

More and more people are creating presentations in Microsoft PowerPoint. Here are a few things to consider as you create a presentation.

First of all, ask yourself how the intended audience will view the presentation. One way to distribute the presentation is by burning it on to CD. A CD will hold up to 640 megabytes of data. Most presentations range between five to 20 megabytes, but anything over 20 megabytes would be better viewed from CD.

Another option is to send an e-mail with a link to the presentation. Storing the presentation in a shared folder on the network, either the P: drive for the district office or the X: drive for field officers, enables you to connect the presentation to your e-mail.

Only send a few slides, less than five megabytes, since large presentations impact a user's mailbox limit by showing that the system is locked up and not allowing him or her to send e-mail. The Information Management Office, IMO, will assist you in copying presentations to field office servers.

Save the presentation as a PowerPoint Show (.PPS). This allows the user to open the presentation in slideshow mode.

Also consider whether or not your presentation will include audio and video. Keep in mind that many systems in the district do not have speakers attached. If you do choose to include

audio, the files can be embedded in your presentation in the form of MP3 files or WAV files.



By Randy Prentice
Customer Assistance
& Applications Section

MP3 files are smaller than WAV files, so that is the preferred format to use. If you add video to the presentation, video files must be saved in the same folder as the presentation.

Systems are being upgraded in the district, but some older and slower systems are still being used. Therefore keep graphics and animation in your presentations as simple as possible.

Finally, when creating your presentation keep in mind that not all systems have the same settings as yours. This will effect how the presentation will display on someone else's system.

Presentations should be created with the basic settings in mind. For example, they should be created with settings of width 960 X height 720 72 DPI and with a regular font.

If you have any questions about PowerPoint, please call the Help Desk at ext. 6824 or 1-877-885-6675.

Library offering access to Current Contents

The Technical Resource Center now offers access to *Current Contents*, a web-based subscription to journal tables of contents. Users can search by keyword to generate a list of articles on a specific topic.

Setting up an alert profile initiates e-mail delivery of a list of new titles within the search criteria to the searcher each week. Although the journal articles are not full text, many can be retrieved through the EBSCO Host on Army Knowledge Online or the library can borrow many of the articles through interlibrary loan. Employees can access *Current Contents* through the Library Home Page

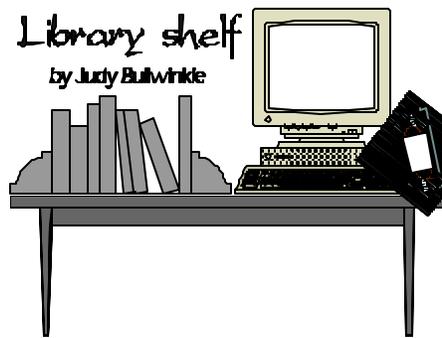
<http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/library/index.html>

The product is available to all the ERDC labs, Headquarters and SWL. The license limits use to three concurrent users, so one may get a "busy" signal and will need to try again. See the librarian for further details or searching assistance.

Accessing Your Library Account

You can access your circulation records in the new automated library system. All you have to do is contact the library to set up the account and choose a PIN number.

Accessing your account allows you to see what is checked out to you and to place a hold on items already checked out. You will be notified when these items are returned. However, you may want to check with the library staff on the due date as many materials are



checked out on permanent loan and will never return.

Ideas for Teaching Children about Nature

The TRC has added two guidebooks on nature education. "Sharing Nature with Children" (QH53 .C77 1998) and "Sharing Nature with Children II" (QH53 .C77 1989) are filled with ideas for activities and games to teach children about the natural world around them.

Praised by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the books offer creative exercises for anyone involved with teaching children about nature.

"Please Understand Me" Is Here!

Many participating in CorpsPath have taken the Keirse personality test in the second module. "Please Understand Me: Characters and Temperament Types" (BF698 .K357 1984) and "Please Understand Me II" (BF698 .K45 1998) offer expanded information on personality types.

These types correspond to the Myers-Briggs personality tests that

many employees have taken.

The library also has a 75 minute video titled "Please Understand Me." Understanding different personality types can play a major role in the success of relationships at home as well as at work.

New Works on Concrete

"Fundamentals of Cleaning and Coating Concrete" (TA440 .N486 2001) provides comprehensive, practical information about preparing and coating concrete surfaces for long-lasting protection.

This covers concrete substrates, their deterioration and recommended repair techniques.

The new edition of "Design and Control of Concrete Mixtures" (TA439 .K665 2002) addresses all aspects of concrete and cement, including special types of concrete such as shotcrete and no-slump concrete.

Numerous photographs, charts and other illustrations highlight significant points. Appendices include a glossary and references to both ASTM and AASHTO standards.

Hot Web Site of the Month

<http://memory.loc.gov>

Library of Congress
American Memory Project

Keegan

(Continued from page 5)

PrimeTime with Diane Sawyer will air a segment this month on Arkansas Children's Hospital that will include Keegan's story.

Jane hopes that the publicity Keegan is receiving will make people aware that organ donation is important no matter the age.

"Most babies like Keegan die waiting for a heart," Jane said. "Most important, though, is the mercy and grace of our Lord, who answered the many, many prayers of family, friends and co-workers."

Keegan recently celebrated his first birthday on April 23.

The family released 100 red balloons with prayers attached in honor of the donor and his family.

"A lot of parents have a hard time with organ donation," Jane said. "We are grateful that this family was able to see past their own grief and see what a blessing they could provide for another child."

Keegan is the blessing their family provided for Jane and her family. Like any toddler, she said he loves to play patty-cake, go outside, eat chocolate, and drink ice tea.

Keegan will undergo more tests on June 10 to check for complications from the transplant, but Jane is confident there will be no rejection.

Millwood festival celebrates second success

by Robin Grooms
Special to LRDispatch

The second annual Millwood Lake "Wings & Things" Nature Festival has come and gone. The only thing left to do is start planning for next year.

This year was even more successful than last, nearly doubling last year's estimated attendance. More local schools welcomed the programs. An estimated 600 adults and 1,500 kids participated in at least one of the festival's many activities.

Festival events included field trips, workshops and seminars that took visitors to locations around Millwood Lake that many never knew existed. These areas include the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Grandview

Prairie, the Ash Grove Cement Wildlife Area, Beard's Lake Trail & Boardwalk, Millwood State Park, Millwood Overlook, Beard's Bluff Overlook, Matteson Peanut Farm, Millwood Lake itself, and other back-road bird-watching areas they may never find again without a guide.

Fundraising activities were held for various organizations. Ashdown Jr. High students earned money for a class trip by running a concession stand.

A favorite activity that brought visitors to the area was the birding tours. Our two local guides are well-known in the Audubon arena and are a highlight of the festival. They are responsible for many people discovering how wonderful bird watching is at Millwood.

Another highlight was the Little Rock Zoo Live Birds of Prey program. This

program was so well-liked last year that it was offered six times this year – for school days at the park, at the Friday night barbecue, at Foreman Elementary School, at Ashdown Intermediate School, and Saturday at the main festival. Almost all of the 1,500 kids saw this presentation that featured hawks, owls, and other raptors, including an adult bald eagle.

Several people signed up for next year's mailing list, but only one couple took the time to fill out a comment/suggestion sheet. They rated the festival a 10 on a scale of one to ten, with ten being the highest. What they liked most about the festival was that it was fun, educational and informative.

Specifically, they liked the "snakes and other live exhibits" most.

Falgout receives ASCE civil engineering student award

Leslie Falgout, a civil engineering intern in Engineering and Construction Branch, was selected as the Outstanding Civil Engineering Student by the American Society of Civil Engineers-Louisiana Section.

Falgout graduated in December 2001, from Louisiana Tech University and was the seventh Tech student to win this award in the last 10 years.

She described the award as an honor. "I never thought that what I was doing throughout my college career was worthy of an award of such magnitude," Falgout said.

During her time at Tech, she served as president of the Tech chapter ASCE. She was a member of Tau Beta Pi and Chi Epsilon, both engineering honor societies, the Society of Women

Engineers and Louisiana Tech's Engineer's Association.

Falgout said working with Corps offers the kind of diversity she was looking for in a job.

"I knew I wouldn't be stuck in one specific area of civil engineering for the rest of my life with the Corps," she said.

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