

## Speakers Bureau

By Justine Dodge, Public Affairs

More than 150 members of the Macomb Rotary Club in Macomb, Ill., spoke with **Paul Soyke**, from Planning, Programs, Project Management Division, about the importance of navigation on the Upper Mississippi River on May 23.

On May 14, **Donna Jones**, from Operations Division, presented a program on the new and modified nationwide permits and the administrative appeals process to approximately 200 attendees of the state-wide meeting of the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management in Peoria, Ill. **Shirley Johnson**, from Engineering Division, provided the group with an update on the Upper Mississippi River System Flow Frequency Study.

**Kara Mitvalsky**, from Engineering Division, assisted Junior Achievement and the Pleasant Valley Community School District in mock interviews for fourth graders involved in Junior Achievement's Exchange City program. The purpose of the activity was to give students experience in job interviewing. More than 250 fourth graders were interviewed on May 3.

Students at Wells Elementary School in East Moline, Ill., talked with **Gary Martin**, from Lock and Dam 16, during their career day on May 12. More than 100 students were present at the panel discussion where Martin told students about his career on the river.

On May 18, **Brad Palmer** and **Vern Greenwood**, both from Engineering

Division, spoke at Edison Junior High School's career day in Rock Island, Ill. They spoke to more than 60 seventh- and eighth-grade students about their careers at the Corps.

**Erika Mark**, from Planning, Programs, Project Management Division, hosted a job shadow student on May 22. The student was a freshman from Calamus-Wheatland High School in Wheatland, Iowa. The student was interested in a career in marine biology.

**Randy Kraciun**, from Planning, Programs, Project Management Division, spoke with more than 30 people at the Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve near Muscatine, Iowa, on June 10. The topic of the discussion was zebra mussels. 



## Water Safety to the Max

A boating course participant races against the clock to secure his personal flotation device during a boating course held at the Clock Tower Building.

Mississippi River Visitor Center staff completed their third Illinois Safe Boating Course, done in consort with the Illinois Department of Conservation. Eighteen people participated in the session offered on May 20.

## District Becomes ADT Trail Affiliate

Chief Ranger C. Leon Hodges represented the Corps at a news conference for the American Discovery Trail Team, <http://www.backpacker.com/adt/>, May 22.

The news conference was held at the Mississippi River Visitor Center promoting national trail use and designations. The Corps was presented a certificate by the Team recognizing it as an ADT Affiliate for its support of the American Discovery Trail.

The Visitor Center is located at the intersection of two national trails. Bike use in this area is expected to increase dramatically with the completion of local bike trails and as the national trails become more publicized.



### Reflecting, Remembering

Timmy Johnson (left) waits for his grandmother to finish measuring the designated distance used to post the American flags at the Rock Island Arsenal National Cemetery, prior to Memorial Day weekend, May 25. Timmy took great pride in posting the American flag at the foot of the grave marker seen in this photo ... it belongs to his great grandfather. Timmy is part of the Lutheran Pioneers, a youth group headed by Scott Pettis, Engineering

Division. The group is from Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Davenport, Iowa.

The remainder of the group (above) display some of the flags they were getting ready to post. Twenty members of the youth group participated in placing its share of the 20,000 flags placed at the National Cemetery that day.



“Some of the kids weren’t so excited about being involved when I first told them about it, but once they got out to the site they really got into it,” said Pettis. “You can learn history in school and learn about the battles, but when you go to a cemetery it really brings it home. It gave us an opportunity to give a little back to those who sacrificed so much for us.”

Each member of the youth group received a patch (seen above) for participating in the event.

## SEPC Brings Culture, Training to District Employees

By Mark Kane, Public Affairs

The Special Emphasis Program Committee has recently presented two special events to District employees. The programs included a training opportunities seminar held at the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center May 5 and Asian/Pacific American Month activities held May 15 at the Clock Tower.

The first event featured several speakers that presented information on the importance of an employee’s individual development plan, RESUMIX and scholarships. Several colleges and schools who attended include St. Ambrose University, Marycrest International University, Blackhawk College, and Western Illinois University. The presentations were taped and are available to District employees by request.

Ten days later, the SEPC presented two activities at the Clock Tower building in celebration of Asian/Pacific American Month.

Shu-Lin Graham taught attendees

Origami, the art of folding paper.

Jeff Cruz, Iowa Branch Master of the Iowa Shorinji Kempo Branch, demonstrated Shorinji Kempo to everyone in attendance. Shorinji Kempo is a martial art that was developed simultaneously with seater-Zen meditation for the sake of both self-defense and health by the monks at the temple Shorinji in Hunan Province, China.

August 26 is Women’s Equality Day and the SEPC is presenting Christine H.B. Grant as guest speaker August 9. Grant is associate professor, Department of Sport, Health, Leisure and Physical Studies and women’s athletic director at the University of Iowa.

A location and time for the event is forthcoming.



Photo by Mark Kane, Public Affairs  
Jeff Cruz, left, deflects a punch from one of his students during a demonstration of Shorinji Kempo at the Clock Tower building May 15.

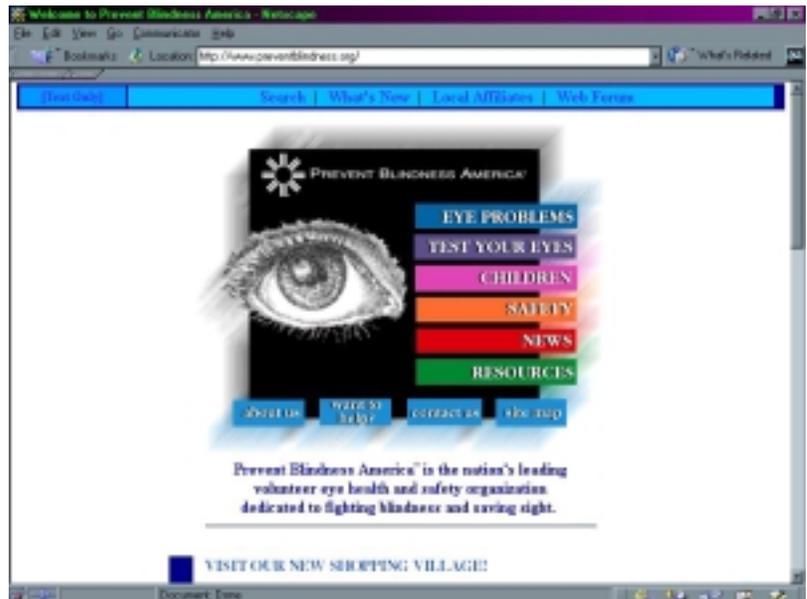
# Observances for July and August

July is ...

**Fireworks Safety Month**  
**Anti-Boredom Month**  
**Baked Bean Month**  
**Tennis Month**

August is ...

**National Parks Month**  
**Medic Alert Awareness Month**  
**National Catfish Month**  
**National Golf Month**



Prevent Blindness America's website supports Fireworks Safety Month.  
The website address is: <http://www.preventblindness.org/>

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## Next Month in the Tower Times



**An introduction of the new  
Rock Island District Commander,  
Col. William J. Bayles**