



# Spotlight on the District

## Jim Homann

Park Ranger

By Mark Kane, Public Affairs

"I decided I wanted a career working outside ever since I was in high school," said Jim Homann. Today, he's a key part of the success at Muscatine Ranger Field Station.

That success stems from Homann's continuous efforts coordinating the station's volunteers and interpretive services.

He also oversees contracts and plans special events such as the annual Lock and Dam 16 Bald Eagle Watch or the annual "Eco Meet" competition involving four area schools on environmental subjects.

Homann also coordinates a craft show held at Shady Creek in August, and is working on an old-time picnic event that will be held at Clark's Ferry Recreation Area, Montpelier, Iowa, in June. His responsibilities and accomplishments are a culmination of experience and education.

Homann's first exposure to the Corps of Engineers reaches back to the summers of 1989 and 1990. At that time, he worked at Shelbyville Lake in St. Louis District. Homann worked in interpretive services and received his first taste of being a Park Ranger. In May 1992 he started a Student Career Experi-

ence Program internship with the Rock Island District, where the Corps left him with a lasting impression.



Homann raking up debris outside the Muscatine Ranger Field Station.

"The opportunity presented itself to work with the Corps," said Homann. "Shelbyville was 30 miles from my hometown and having gotten experience with the Corps, I was interested in getting

an internship. It was advertised at my school. I applied for it and I got it. After the internship, I looked into other agencies and fields. Some state agencies are good, some aren't, but I have family ties to the area and wanted to stay close, this gave me the opportunity to do that."

Although Homann loves the area he lives in, he also loves his job.

"I came up on an incident at Lock and Dam 17 where a boat drifted into the dam," said Homann. "I assisted in getting the folks out of the boat without any injuries. The job is different everyday and you don't always know what is going to happen, but you get through it."

Homann especially loves to work with the public, but he wishes more people would realize how beneficial the Corps of Engineers' projects are to the environment.

"There is a lot of public relations in our jobs everyday. People should see that our navigation projects are the reason that the recreation areas even exist. We have tried to keep that aspect there.

"On a weekly basis we hear people say, 'we love to camp in Corps campgrounds, they're always so clean and so nice.' We try to maintain that."

Homann is engaged to be married in June to his fiancée Carrie. They live in Port Byron, Ill., where Homann is a lieutenant in the cities' fire department. He has volunteered with the fire department since 1996. His wife is a cake decorator and plans to make their wedding cake.

He also competes in trivia contests and contributes to the following webpage made by his friends: [www.coredcs.com/~span/beerpigs](http://www.coredcs.com/~span/beerpigs).



### "Spotlight Someone You Know"

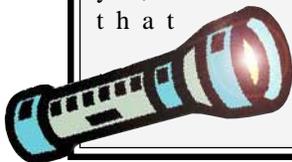
The next District Spotlight employee could be working right beside you, the only way you'll see that person here is if you let the Tower Times know it.

If you know

someone who you feel is doing a good job, setting a good example or is just a pleasure to work around, maybe it's time the District knew it.

Ready to tell the rest of the District, then E-Mail me at:

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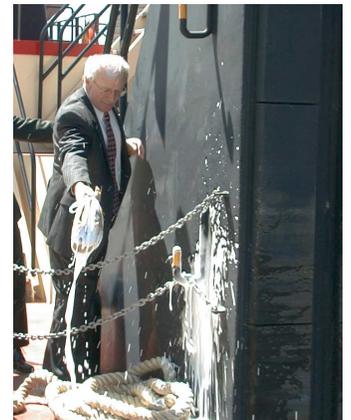
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### On the Cover

Marvin Prather, Mayor of Creve Coeur, christens the Rock Island District's newest motor vessel, M/V Creve Coeur. Photo by Mark Kane, Public Affairs