

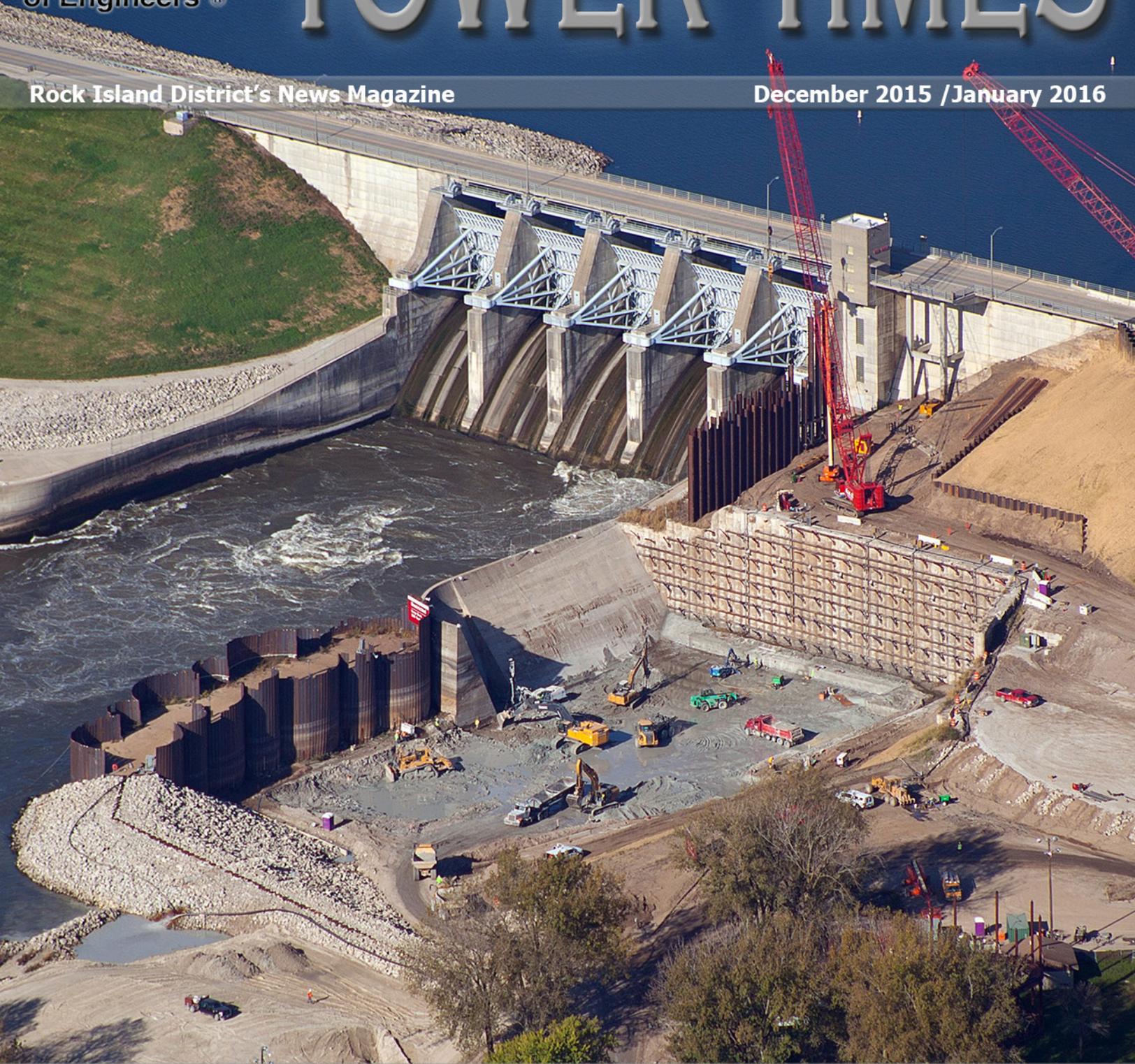


US Army Corps
of Engineers

TOWER TIMES

Rock Island District's News Magazine

December 2015 / January 2016



Blasting Forward with the Red Rock Hydroelectric Project



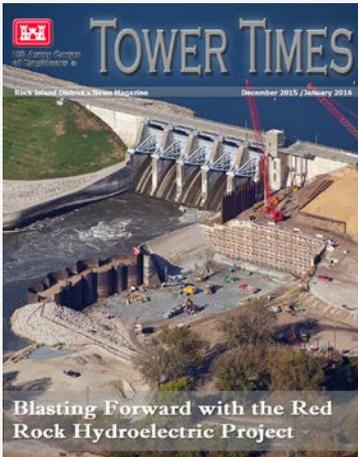
**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Rock Island District

TOWER TIMES

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December 2015/January 2016

On the Cover



Work is moving forward at the Red Rock Hydroelectric Project located just outside of Pella, Iowa, on the Lake Red Rock Dam. Recently, contractors used explosives to loosen bedrock on the downstream side of the dam for continued excavation of the powerhouse construction site. *Photo provided by Missouri River Energy Services*

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Tower Times

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It is published bimonthly by the Corporate Communications Office, Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Articles or photographic submissions are welcome and should be submitted by the 15th of each month preceding publication. Circulation 1,500.

On the web at: www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Media/Publications/TowerTimes.aspx

A message from....

Colonel Craig Baumgartner, District Commander



Hunting the Good Stuff of 2015

Recently I challenged the District's leaders to do something I like to call "Hunt the Good Stuff." Since taking command this past June, I have been astounded by all that is going on within our District. I have at times realized that it is easy for us, during the course of our daily routines, to forget about all that is being accomplished by our teammates.

It would be nearly impossible to highlight all the great things the people of the Rock Island District are doing; however, this list of accomplishments from the past year is a good representation of the District's success.

We began the year addressing some age-old infrastructure concerns. After nearly 80 years, the interceptor sewer, which is part of the original Nine-foot Navigation Channel Project, was in need of significant improvements to remove sediment blockage. Our District began the multi-million dollar project to remove the blockage and was able to complete the work this summer. This was a great example of our team's commitment to project management and ability to get the job done.

Another infrastructure concern was addressed at the T.J. O'Brien Lock and Dam, a 54-year old facility just outside of Chicago on the Illinois Waterway. It had been 35 years since sector gates at the lock had been removed for critical maintenance. We tackled this task using our District maintenance crews. It was a complex job that was carried out seamlessly with little disruption to navigation; a shining example of our maintenance teams' capabilities in carrying out one of our most critical missions of navigation.

Outside the rivers, some major planning was accomplished at one of our reservoir projects. After several years of hard work and determination, the Saylorville Lake Master Plan was completed. This plan, which conceptually establishes the development and administration of natural and recreational resources within the project, is a vital tool in displaying our commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. It was a culmination of a lot of hard work by a wide variety of District employees.

Although much of what the District accomplishes can be touched and seen in the form of infrastructure and construction, some of what we have done is planning for the future. The Corps of Engineers is committed to the idea of STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Focusing on the next generation

and encouraging young minds to develop through STEM is preparing the Corps' future leaders. Within the Rock Island District, we have reached out to the community to recruit those future engineers and scientists. Engineering and Construction provided volunteers during National Engineers Week who gave their time and expertise to further the exposure of STEM to hundreds of local children. One of these youngsters may some day head up a project within our District and I think it is an imperative effort on our part to encourage the next generation to ensure our expertise carries on.

Speaking of our expertise, leaders at the highest level turned to Rock Island District this past year to assist with a nationally significant and nationally divisive issue – the invasive species problem on the Illinois Waterway. The Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) has been looking into the invasive species problem brought on by Asian carp. The Chicago District is leading the Corps' efforts with regard to GLMRIS but the Rock Island District was called on for project management at Brandon Road on the Illinois Waterway, a location where much of the efforts are focused in addressing the Asian carp problem and solutions. I think it was proof of the confidence shared at the highest levels to call on our Project Management team to take over this effort. Both the Chief of Engineers, Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick, and Assistant Secretary of Army for Civil Works, Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy, visited Brandon Road and were briefed by our Project Management team.

The Rock Island District is showing its expertise nationally in another way. We have a team leading the Inland Navigation Design Center (INDC). The INDC was established in 2013 but really began to take shape in 2015 and has expanded significantly, going from a \$400,000 operation to just over \$2 million this past fiscal year. The INDC designs, provides reviews and gives general technical advice for navigation structures throughout the Corps. The Rock Island District was chosen by the Corps to lead this effort because of the wealth of knowledge which resides here.

Technology is a big part of what we do throughout the District. In 2015, we expanded our use of technology

(continued on page 4)

Hunting... (continued)

in some intriguing ways. We partnered with Google, a technological pioneer, to capture Google Maps Street View images at our project sites in areas previously inaccessible to this type of imaging. Sites like shorelines, hiking trails, campsites and other natural areas are now being added to the Google mapping system. This will serve as a great educational and promotional tool by informing people about our project areas, how they are used and what is available for their own enjoyment. We also turned to technology to improve our capabilities in flood risk management. The District is now using a mobile application to improve data collection. This application, known as MICA, is helping us gather flood risk data.

From an environmental restoration perspective this year was another stellar year. For several decades now, the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program has been rehabilitating and monitoring habitats throughout the Mississippi River valley. Nearly 60 projects have been constructed and more than 100-thousand acres have been restored through this program, which is led by the Rock Island District. Another milestone was reached and a rehabilitation project was completed as the Fox Island Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project finished up construction. This project restored forest land and wetlands critical to wildlife.

Additionally, from a milestone perspective, a \$150 million dollar project has moved into the final stages. Lockport Lock and Dam major rehabilitation project is now in the final stages of construction after nearly 10 years of work. This multi stage project has included a wide variety of work to include the construction of a 4,300-foot wall, stabilization of a powerhouse, bulkhead repair and the construction of a forebay wall. This is critical work that is ensuring the safety and functionality of very important infrastructure.

In August, the city of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast commemorated Hurricane Katrina after 10 years. What was good about the commemoration was how far the city has come since the devastation brought by that hurricane. The Corps and the Rock Island District was a big part of that progress. Our RINOS team was integral in building the storm protection system that is now in place around the city. Dozens of Rock Island District employees worked on that project and should be proud to be part of the commemoration and the completed system.

This year, luckily, did not see any major flooding. But that doesn't mean our emergency management function was not engaged. For years the District has served as the regional Flood Fight Center, serving the Midwest. Now, the District has also been designated as the National Flood Fight Materiel Center, serving the entire United States. Our

District is managing a vast inventory of flood fight supplies and equipment and we are fortunate to have the honor to lead the effort.

The last accomplishment I will point out relates to sheer volume. A look at the numbers and it is easy to see how much is being done within our District. We executed nearly \$280 million in funding this past fiscal year. More than 950 contract actions were carried out totaling nearly \$65 million. Our Regulatory folks completed nearly 1,900 permit actions. Twenty three people from the District deployed in support of emergency management efforts across the country. The breadth of your responsibilities and the fact that all are accomplished is an achievement in itself.

This list of achievements truly only scratches the surface. Our lock and dam operators kept commercial navigation and the river recreation community moving while our Natural Resources Management team protected communities and served the public through our reservoirs and river management projects... the list goes on.

None of this was accomplished in a vacuum. Everyone took a District-wide commitment in some form or fashion. From the folks in Contracting ensuring needed actions are carried out, to specialists in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center working diligently to fill positions with the right candidates. Every administrative office not already mentioned, including ACE-IT, Corporate Communications, Equal Employment Opportunity, Internal Review, Logistics, Office of Counsel, Real Estate, Resource Management, Safety, Security, and Small Business, provided support that allowed us all to do our jobs more seamlessly.

At this time of year, keep in our thoughts those who will work through the holidays like our lock and dam teams, community first responders and those who serve to keep our Country safe.

It has been a true team effort throughout the year and since I have had the honor of leading this District, not a day goes by that I am not humbled by your efforts. I feel very fortunate to be your commander and I am inspired by your professionalism, competence and deep commitment to the enterprise, region and Rock Island District mission.

I look forward to meeting the challenges of the coming year as we stand ready to provide value to the Nation and keep BUILDING STRONG! 

Questions, comments or concerns

Work-related questions, comments or concerns can be submitted anonymously to the Deputy Commander via the District's intranet page or by clicking [HERE](#).



STAYING CONNECTED WITH THE FIELD

By Samantha Heilig, Editor

With roughly 60 percent of the Rock Island District's staff employed in the field at locks and dams, reservoirs and recreation sites, keeping people connected is an ongoing process. Conducting Staff Assistance Visits, or SAVs as they are regularly called, is one of the ways the District works to maintain a connection with its staff and close the gap between headquarters and the field.

In years past, Command Inspections were conducted by division and office chiefs to identify issues at field sites that might otherwise go unnoticed. A select group of people from the District headquarters would visit each field site every couple of years and make a list of all the things that needed attention. This list was then provided to the site managers and they were left to correct the issues.

"The problem with Command Inspections was that areas of concern were identified and brought to the attention of the staff in the field but those staff weren't given the resources to correct the issues," said Annette Bealer, coordinator of the SAV program. "The support staff at the District offices was also often not made aware of the issues and therefore did not know when assistance was needed by the field."

Today, SAVs are used in place of Command Inspections and are no longer designed to be inspections but rather a way for support staff to assist field offices in complying with Corps of Engineers policies and procedures at the District, Division and national level. Each field site is scheduled for an SAV every 18 months and the sites are given a tentative schedule before the start of each calendar year. Resource Management then notifies each site at least 30 days in advance of the actual date of their visit.

The visits are conducted by a team of people lead by the Deputy District Engineer. The team consists of representatives from Resource Management, Operations, Training, Security and Law Enforcement, Equal Employment Opportunity, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Contracting, Army Corps of Engineers - Information Technology, the USACE Logistics Agency and the Executive Office. This team, considered to be experts in their functional areas, is there to assist with the management of administrative, logistical, mobilization, operational, technical, training and any other applicable missions of the Corps. During the visit, checklists are used to ensure consistency at each site receiving an SAV.

"Although in some cases the checklists still resemble an inspection-type form, the SAV team focuses on remedies and solutions rather than reprimanding the sites



Deputy District Engineer, Lt. Col. Dan Segura, presents an award to Lock and Dam 11 Assistant Lockmaster, Gary Kilburg, during a Staff Assistance Visit (SAV). Photo by Annette Bealer

for areas that need improvement," said Bealer. "The lines of communication between the field sites and the District office have improved immensely since changing the program."

Feedback is provided and training is made available to the staff at the time of the visit to assist in areas of need and an After Action Report is sent to the site within a couple of weeks after the SAV.

"SAVs are a great way for us in the field to get our questions answered," said Jim Piper, lockmaster at Lock and Dam 11 in Dubuque, Iowa. "It's nice to have people from the Clock Tower visit so we can show them exactly what we need or explain that a process we are doing is not working the way it should."

According to Bealer the success of the program, over the past few years, has grown and results are being seen in what is accomplished between visits rather than what happens during a visit. Bealer also feels there is always room for improvement and welcomes ideas or suggestions on ways to improve the program. To contribute ideas or suggestions, contact Annette Bealer at (309) 794-5752 or email annette.m.bealer@usace.army.mil. 

CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AT MANY LEVELS OF THE DISTRICT

By Samantha Heilig, Editor

Over the past year, a number of Rock Island District employees had the opportunity to improve on leadership skills and get a better understanding of how leadership plays a role at all levels of an organization.

In September, Rock Island District Operations Division Chief, Michael Cox, congratulated three Rock Island District senior leaders who completed this year's regional Senior Leadership Development Program (SLDP). Kevin Ewbank, Christopher Rush and Jeff Scukanec were selected to participate in the year-long program which is offered regionally in the Rock Island, St. Louis and Memphis Districts.

The goal of the SLDP is to offer existing supervisors the opportunity for continued leadership growth and development. All supervisors who have never completed the Leadership Development Program or who have completed the program more than 10 years ago are eligible to apply. Objectives of the program include enhanced understanding of self, further increased effectiveness in leading people and expanded awareness of a supervisor's role and influence in the larger organization.

"We all understand the concept of leadership," said Chris Rush, Assistant Lockmaster, Starved Rock Lock and Dam. "By taking the course, I received a better understanding of what being a leader really means. I also see how each person's traits contribute to the mission and help to make a stronger and happier team."

In November another group was congratulated at a ceremony held for 11 employees who graduated from the District's 2015 Level 2 Leadership Development Program (LDP2). Participants of the program spent the past year learning about various training topics and participating in District meetings and leadership events. As part of the program the class also completed a team project that resulted in revamping the Rock Island District Handbook for Emergency Flood Fight and Risk Management.

The 11-month LDP2 program gave participants the opportunity to focus on self awareness, working in teams and leading teams. Participants met once per month for a formal training session with facilitator, Susan Conklin, from Evans and Associates Consulting Corporation. Conklin facilitated monthly training sessions on topics such as conflict resolution, managing teams, listening skills, effective communication and delegation.

"It is important for employees to know that career



Operations Division Chief, Michael Cox, presented graduation certificates to Kevin Ewbank (top), Christopher Rush (middle) and Jeff Scukanec (bottom) for completing this year's regional Senior Leadership Development Program. *Photos by Sara Paxson*

development is an ongoing process,” said District Training Coordinator, Sara Paxson. “There are a lot of resources available to our staff but sometimes they are not aware that they are eligible.”

The latest training opportunity which will officially kick off in January 2016 is the District’s Level 1 Leadership Development Program. This 12-month self-paced online training program is open to all full-time District employees. There are currently 32 participants registered for the program including many employees from the field.

“There was a real interest by employees in the field wishing to participate in the Leadership Development

Program,” said Paxson. “Shifting the program to an online curriculum has allowed for more participation from employees in the field, especially at the lock and dams. Ensuring training opportunities are open and manageable for all eligible employees is an essential component of our workforce development initiatives.”

Although the program incorporates mentoring into its curriculum, no face-to-face meetings are required to complete the course. For more information on Leadership Development Programs in the Rock Island District and other employee training opportunities visit:

<https://team.usace.army.mil/sites/MVR/trng/default.aspx>. 



During a graduation ceremony on Nov. 19, District Commander, Col. Craig Baumgartner congratulated 11 employees for completing the District’s 2015 Level 2 Leadership Development Program. Col. Baumgartner also thanked program coordinator, Sara Paxson, and facilitator, Susan Conklin, for their work in organizing the program. Back row (from left) Sara Paxson, Calvin Kalafut, Matthew Zehr, Cory Haberman, Bryan Eggers, Riley Post and Dan McBride. Front row (from left) Jeff Tripp, Amanda Geddes, Benjamin DeRoo, Col. Craig Baumgartner, Susan Conklin, Dawn Ewan and Elizabeth Bruns. *Photo by Samantha Heilig*

Training Tidbits

By Sara Paxson, District Training Officer

Important Note: FY16 mandatory training for all employees is now available on the District training SharePoint site at <https://team.usace.army.mil/sites/MVR/trng/default.aspx>.

Did You Know... Retirement training is coming in March 2016. Be sure to speak with your office training coordinator or supervisor if you are interested in attending.

We Want to Hear From You... Do you have ideas on how to improve the current District training program including on-site course suggestions, developmental assignment opportunities, innovative ways to communicate developmental opportunities, etc? Please e-mail your comments and suggestions to sara.r.paxson@usace.army.mil using the subject line: I Want to Help.

BLASTING FORWARD WITH THE RED ROCK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

By Samantha Heilig, Editor



Since the ground breaking ceremony for the Red Rock Hydroelectric Project at Rock Island District's Lake Red Rock Dam near Pella, Iowa, on Aug. 13, 2014, many things have changed. Areas both above and below the dam have visible signs of progress and although the completion date of April 2018 is still more than two years away, Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) says they are pleased with the work being done and feel the project is moving forward as scheduled.

On the downstream side of the dam the project's general contractor, Ames Construction, has completed installation of a secant pile wall designed to hold back the existing portion of the earthen dam. This wall, made out of reinforced concrete secant piles with nine rows of horizontal steel I-beams, tension anchored into bedrock has been important for keeping the dam stable during preparations for powerhouse construction. Removal of the bedrock below the dam was necessary to create the depth and expose

a solid base for the new construction. Explosive blasting was used to loosen the bedrock for removal. Blasting began in early November and was completed in mid-December.

District Hydropower Coordinator, Jim Bartek, who manages the Non-federal Hydropower Program which includes the Red Rock Hydroelectric Project, says the blasting is needed to excavate bedrock about 30 feet in depth. The resulting excavation will allow the new hydroelectric powerhouse foundation to be set deeper than the foundation of the dam.

Each time an explosive is used, the highway which runs on top of the dam is temporarily closed and sirens are sounded to inform the surrounding area of the pending blast. After the blast is verified to be complete, the area is given the "all clear" and traffic is reopened across the dam. Videos of the blasts from early November can be viewed online at www.redrockhydroproject.com.

On the upstream side of the dam changes can also be



A 360-degree view of the construction area below Lake Red Rock Dam where construction is ongoing for a hydroelectric powerhouse. The large wall in the center of the image is a secant pile wall, designed to keep the earthen dam stable during excavation and construction. The large rocks at the bottom of the image are a result of blasting efforts by the contractor to remove the final layers of bedrock from the area where the powerhouse foundation will be set. Photo by Joss Voss (enhanced for publication)

seen. A support structure, called a diaphragm T-wall, has been built to hold the existing dam in place and provide a channel that will eventually allow water to pass into the intake structure, through the penstocks, and into the turbine and generator. A sheetpile cofferdam for the intake structure has also been installed.

The Red Rock Hydroelectric Project is licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Although the powerhouse will be owned and operated by MRES, the Red Rock Dam and spillway will continue to be operated by the Corps of Engineers. The license requires the release of water from the lake and that the reservoir levels be maintained the

same as they were prior to construction of the project.

Once completed, the electricity produced by the facility will flow through a transmission line to a substation located on the west side of Pella. From there the electricity will be distributed to the regional transmission grid. The estimated annual energy produced by the project will be 178,000 megawatt-hours which is enough to power approximately 18,000 homes for a year.

For more information about progress at the Red Rock Hydroelectric Project visit the Missouri River Energy Services website at www.redrockhydroproject.com. 



Spotlight on the District

KEVIN EWBank SUPERVISORY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

By Samantha Heilig, Editor

It's not uncommon for people working in the natural resources field to move around and change jobs several times during the course of their career. For Supervisory Natural Resource Management Specialist, Kevin Ewbank, moving was not a priority. After working for the Illinois Waterway Project's Natural Resource Management Section for more than 25 years, Ewbank has held multiple positions but has always had the same desk.

Before joining the Rock Island District, Ewbank worked three summers as a Park Aid at Hartwell Lake in the Savannah District while finishing his Bachelor of Science degree at North Carolina State University. Upon graduation he transitioned into a permanent forestry technician position and spent five more years working for the Savannah District converting to a Park Technician in 1985 and eventually to a Park Ranger when the technician positions were eliminated.

In 1990 Ewbank made the move from Hartwell Lake to the Illinois Waterway and says he is happy to be working with such an amazing group of people. As a Supervisory Natural Resource Management Specialist, Ewbank oversees four staff members who manage the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center, provide support to the locks and dams and assist in emergency management functions such as levee inspections. He and his staff are also responsible for providing water safety education and interpretive programming at local schools, the Visitor Center and along more than 200 miles of the Illinois Waterway.

"My favorite part of being a Park Ranger is interacting with the public," said Ewbank. "I try to get away from my desk several times a day and walk around the building to talk with people. I really enjoy seeing them reach that 'ah ha' moment when a complex subject becomes clear."

Another part of Ewbank's job involves overseeing the operations of the Farmdale and Fondulac reservoirs which are part of the Farm Creek Flood Control Project. These reservoirs, which are typically dry, are made up of nearly 1,000 acres of land that is open to the public for hiking, mountain biking, wildlife watching and horseback riding.



Supervisory Natural Resource Management Specialist, Kevin Ewbank, oversees all of the Illinois Waterway Project's recreation and natural resource areas including more than 200 miles of the Illinois Waterway. He and his staff work to promote water safety both on and off the river by conducting river patrols and providing educational programs at many area schools.

Photo by Kathy Casstevens

In 2006 Ewbank took on an additional role as a Peer Supporter and Mississippi Valley Division Program Manager for the Corps' Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Program. As part of the CISM team, he and other team members provide information and peer support to help people make healthy life choices in response to stressful work environment incidents. Since joining the CISM team, Ewbank has deployed to natural disaster recovery operations such as Hurricane Sandy and has assisted with response efforts in the Chicago, Rock Island, St. Louis and Vicksburg Districts.

“I like being part of the CISM team because I get to see the relief in people’s eyes when they realize that their feelings are normal, they are normal and that the situation will get better,” said Ewbank.

In his spare time Ewbank continues to support others. He is active in his church and serves his community of Oglesby, Illinois, as a paramedic with the local Emergency Medical Service. He is also heavily involved with the Special Olympics Program. As a parent of a daughter with special needs, who is an athlete in the program, Ewbank assists by coaching swimming and other sports as well as serving as a family ambassador for Special Olympics Illinois.

“My wife Kimbra and I get to travel around the state, with our daughter Kelli, giving presentations about the Special Olympics mission and our experiences with the program,” said Ewbank. “The program has done so much for Kelli that it is very rewarding to be able to give back to the program in this way.”

Earlier this year, Ewbank’s daughter was selected to represent the state of Illinois as part of the Special Olympics Global Messenger program and was featured in a video at the Inspire Greatness Gala in October. As part of the program Kelli travels around speaking to groups of up to 400 people and Ewbank says he is pretty sure she is the only Global Messenger using the Corps’ Interpretive Services process to develop her



In addition to working on the Illinois Waterway, Kevin Ewbank serves as a peer supporter and Mississippi Valley Division Program Manager for the Corps’ Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Program. After a critical incident occurs, Ewbank and other CISM team members travel to other Districts to assist in response. Photo by Ginger Bjornson

presentations. For a chance to see Kelli and her father in the video featured at the Inspire Greatness Gala visit <http://bit.ly/1Jcjk1r>. And if you are looking for a place to visit in the Ottawa, Illinois, area, check out the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center at Starved Rock Lock and Dam. Ranger Ewbank will be glad you stopped by. 

Can you name where this photo was taken?

If so, send your answer to samantha.a.heilig@usace.army.mil. People answering correctly will be entered to receive a prize and be recognized in the next Tower Times.



October/November Answer:
Lake Red Rock Dam
Tainter Gate

Winner: Chad Weuste

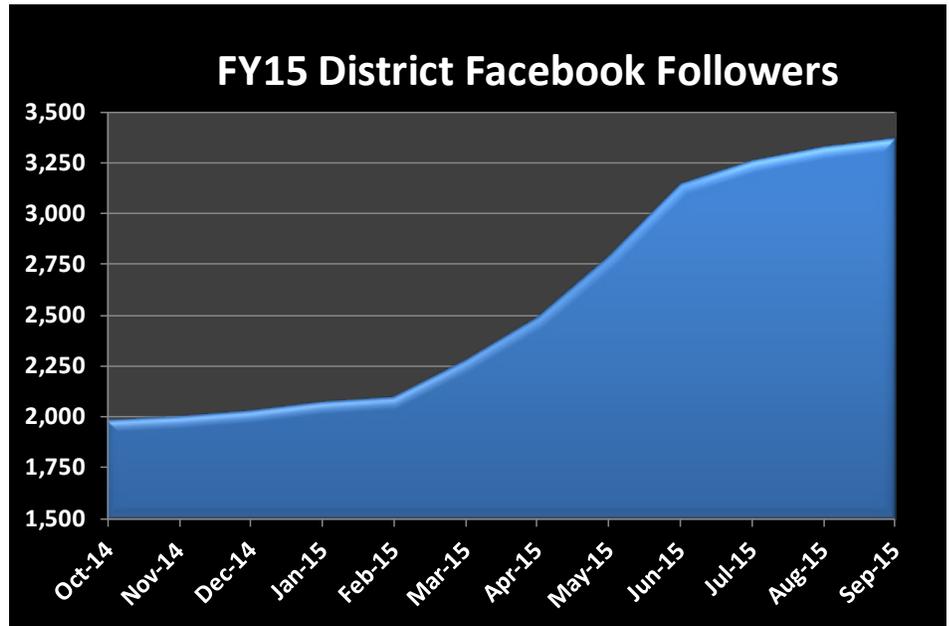
SOCIAL MEDIA KEEPS FOLLOWERS INFORMED

By Samantha Heilig, Editor

In today's world of fast-paced news and on-demand information, social media has become a major player in helping people stay in-touch. Social media platforms like Facebook are now being regularly used by more than a billion people and are helping agencies like the Corps of Engineers create an open line of communication with stakeholders at all levels of the organization.

Corps-wide a total of 134 Facebook presences assist in communicating the agency's missions. Of these, four are managed by the Rock Island District. For several years the District has managed two Facebook pages, one for the District office and another for Coralville Lake, for sharing information with the public. In FY15 the District decided to double its Facebook presence by adding two new pages, one for Lake Red Rock and another for Saylorville Lake. The creation of these two pages helped to add more than 1,200 people to the District's ever-growing population of social media followers.

Over the past year the combination of the four pages produced 385 social media postings which received more than 489,000 views. Although each post may only be seen by a fraction of the followers when initially posted, as people share and "like" each post it becomes more



popular and more people are able to see it. An example of this phenomenon was when a photo of hundreds of bald eagles sitting in the trees near Lock and Dam 15 was posted last January to the District's Facebook page. Initially the photo was seen by just a few hundred people. As social media users liked, shared and commented on the photo the viewership quickly rose and now almost a year later it has been seen by nearly 9,000 people.

Social media also allows for information to continue to circulate long after it is first shared with the public. A photo that was initially posted years ago can continue to be liked, shared and commented on. Each time this happens, it refreshes the post and makes it visible to users who have never seen it before.

USACE Headquarters has also taken notice of the increased use of social media and started collecting Facebook data from each of the Districts and Divisions in October 2014. According to an overview report distributed from USACE Headquarters of all the data submitted, the Corps created 38,636 posts which resulted in more than 166 million views in FY15.

Facebook is not the only social media outlet being used by the Rock Island District. Since 2010 a Twitter account has also been used. Although the same type of information is provided on both platforms, having the additional outlet adds 900 followers to the already 3,368 who follow the District on Facebook. This brings the District's social media following to more than 4,300 people. 



Follow Us



Stay up-to-date on what's happening in the Rock Island District by following us on social media.

The District's Facebook page can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/RockIslandDistrictUSACE>

or follow us on Twitter [@USACERockIsland](https://twitter.com/USACERockIsland).

Stay in touch the three District reservoirs by following their Facebook pages at:

<https://www.facebook.com/coralvillelake>

<https://www.facebook.com/SaylorvilleLake>

<https://www.facebook.com/lakeredrock>

SAFETY CORNER

TUNE YOURSELF UP FOR WINTER WALKING

By Troy Larson, Chief, Safety and Occupational Health

Waking up and going to work in the winter when there is snow and ice requires extra care, time and planning. You may have to shovel the car out of the street or driveway. When you arrive at work, you realize no one has even cleared the snow away from the parking lot, walkways or even building entrances. That is when you realize, you should have worn snow boots. With the onset of winter upon us, many only focus on getting our vehicles and driving habits tuned up for the next few months of snow, slush and ice. Many people forget that walking from the parking lot into the building is part of their job too and that winter weather walking can be a significant part of their day. Those who are not prepared can put themselves at risk for not only hypothermia, but also nasty falls and other injuries.

Things to remember about winter walking hazards:

- One of the most common causes of injuries is slipping and falling on thin, clear ice. The thaw of snow and ice during daylight that refreezes into a thin sheet of ice when temperatures drop, is called clear or black ice. This nearly invisible ice is difficult to see making it very dangerous for unprepared pedestrians or drivers.
- Snow-covered sidewalks and parking lots that are not cleared after a storm can harden into ice and make for dangerous walking conditions. Avoid walking on icy parking lots if possible; sometimes it is better to walk on the lawn or unpacked snow.
- Even though some footwear may appear to be a winter or insulated boot, often times they are more about fashion and warmth than traction and safety. Boots with smooth soles increase the hazard of slipping on ice or snow.
- Boots should be inspected regularly. Boots that are worn or have lost tread need to be replaced; especially when the

heel or ball of the foot surface is worn.

- Reduced hours of daylight make it more difficult for drivers to see pedestrians and for pedestrians to see moving equipment and other hazards. Stay aware of your surroundings both while walking and driving during evening hours.
- In areas that lack sidewalks, plowed roads are often much narrower in winter. This means approaching drivers may have less room to maneuver around pedestrians.
- If someone is underdressed for the weather they can become distracted by the cold and lose focus on staying safe. Their eyes may be diverted to the ground instead of watching for traffic or other hazards.
- Avoid exhaustion or fatigue to stay alert and safe. Energy is needed to keep muscles warm; a tired person is more likely to get injured conducting routine tasks.

Winter walking tips to help keep you on your feet:

- Slow down. When conditions get treacherous, pedestrians and drivers may be unable to stop.
- Dress for the conditions. Ensure you are warm and visible to traffic and equipment.
- Wear footwear with slip-resistant soles. It may not look great but it can help keep you upright. Products such as yack-tracks or slip on spikes can also help keep foot traction in extreme conditions.
- Try not to carry excess packages or bags that could affect your balance on slippery surfaces.
- Take shorter steps and bend your knees slightly when walking to reduce your chances of falling.
- Wear bright clothing or reflective gear at night.
- Do not step onto a crosswalk until traffic has stopped. Having the right-of-way doesn't mean traffic will be able to stop in slippery conditions.
- The key to meeting the challenge of winter weather walking is to always be prepared. 



Around the District

Retirements ...

Marcia McCloskey, realty specialist with the Regional Real Estate Division North office located in St. Paul, Minnesota, retired October 31, after dedicating more than 30 years of service to the federal government.

Steve Johnson, planner and biologist with the Regional Planning and Environmental Division North office located in Rock Island, Illinois, retired October 31, after dedicating more than 14 years of service to the federal government.

Thomas Guillaume, administrative officer with the Saylorville Lake office, retired Nov. 30, after dedicating 34 years of service to the federal government.

Sympathy ...



David Borck, 77, of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, passed away Nov. 11.

Borck retired from the Rock Island District in 1995 after working in Flood Plain Management for 36 years.



James Clark, 71, of Colona, Illinois, passed away Nov. 15.

Clark retired from the Rock Island District in 2010 after working 18 years with Operations Division as a hydrographic surveyor. Clark was also a member of the U.S. Coast Guard and worked in many locations during his 30 years of service.



Wayne Hannel, 66, of Bettendorf, Iowa, passed away Nov. 25.

Hannel worked for the Rock Island District in the Regulatory Branch and retired in 2014 after 40 years of service. Prior to working for the Corps, Hannel served in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged in 1975.

Upcoming Eagle Watching Events

Quad City Bald Eagle Days

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 8-10
QCCA Expo Center, Rock Island, Illinois
Viewing at Locks and Dam 15 and other Quad City areas

Clinton Bald Eagle Watch

Saturday, January 9
Clinton Community College, Clinton, Iowa
Viewing at Lock and Dam 13, Fulton, Illinois

Dubuque Bald Eagle Watch

Saturday, January 16
Grand River Center, Port of Dubuque, Iowa
Viewing at Lock and Dam 11, Dubuque, Iowa

Keokuk Bald Eagle Days

Saturday and Sunday, January 16-17
River City Mall, Keokuk, Iowa
Viewing along the Keokuk, Iowa riverfront

Muscatine Bald Eagle Watch

Saturday, January 23
Pearl City Station, Muscatine, Iowa
Viewing at Lock and Dam 16, Illinois City, Illinois

Quincy Bald Eagle Watch

Saturday, January 23-24
Lock and Dam 21 in Quincy, Illinois

Coralville Lake Bald Eagle Watch and Expo

Saturday, February 6
North Central Junior High, North Liberty, Iowa
Viewing at Tailwater West Campground, Coralville Lake

Saylorville Lake Eagle Watch

Sunday, February 28
Saylorville Lake Visitor Center
Viewing at multiple locations around Saylorville Lake

Illinois Waterway Bald Eagle Watch Weekend

Saturday and Sunday, January 30-31
Starved Rock Lodge, Starved Rock State Park Visitor Center and the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center
Viewing at Starved Rock Lock and Dam, Ottawa, Illinois



Have something you would like to share?

If you have something you would like to submit for the Around the District section of the Tower Times please send it to samantha.a.heilig@usace.army.mil.

DISTRICT HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES



The Rock Island District held its annual Holiday Party on Dec. 10 with employees participating in a variety of holiday festivities. To set the mood around the building several offices participated in a door decorating contest sponsored by the Rock Island District Welfare Association. A small group of musically inclined employees joined together for caroling and moved from office to office singing holiday tunes accompanied by a traveling guitarist. After office caroling, the carolers joined the Rock Island District's band, River Bend Brass, for a short concert for employees gathered in the District's cafeteria. Following the concert, District Commander, Col. Craig Baumgartner, presented a recap of 2015 District accomplishments and wished all the employees a safe and happy holidays. *Photos by Samantha Heilig*

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ROCK ISLAND
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ROCK ISLAND, IL 61204-2004

NEW LAKE GUARD APP NOW AVAILABLE

By Samantha Heilig, Editor

Take control of your trusty Safety Cannon and prepare to launch safety gear to unprepared boaters in this new game created as part of the Corps' latest water safety campaign – Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns. Developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard, this free app helps educate users about the importance of safety gear and boating hazards. This game puts you in charge of keeping the lake safe by ensuring that all boaters have their safety equipment. The app is available from both the Apple App Store and the Google Play App Store. Visit <http://watersafety.usace.army.mil> for more from the Corps' Water Safety Program. 



Lake Guard is a highly competitive game designed to test the player's speed, reflexes and boating safety knowledge. You are tasked with guarding a lake that has been overrun with unprepared boaters. Keep guard of your lake for as long as you can while increasingly hazardous conditions and visitors try to overrun your waters. Share your high score with friends, earn achievements and become the greatest Lake Guard in the world!



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