



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®

TOWER TIMES

Rock Island District's News Magazine

November / December 2016



Rock Island Helps to Give New Orleans District a Heavy Lift



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

TOWER TIMES

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The Quad Cities Lift Crane carefully lowers a 574,000 pound Inland Harbor Navigational Canal (IHNC) Lock gate onto the work barge of the Motor Vessel Bettendorf. Removal of the gate was part of a five-month dewatering project that Rock Island District maintenance crews assisted with in New Orleans.
Photo provided by Justin Carter

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Tower Times

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A message from....

Colonel Craig Baumgartner, District Commander



District Meets and Exceeds Goals in 2016

Another year is coming to a close and for the Rock Island District that means the end of another banner year. The collective team shined again, delivering the mission and staying true to our commitments to the Mississippi Valley Division, USACE and the Nation.

Your successes and accomplishments have been many over the past year, a fact I was reminded of at a recent regional meeting with MVD senior leaders. In early November, leaders from across all six MVD Districts met with Division headquarters staff as part of the regional summit meeting (R5). We discussed focus areas for the Division as we move forward in Fiscal Year 17. We also took a look back at how each of the Districts met prior year focus areas goals and the accomplishments related to those areas. It was no surprise to me that Rock Island District had many accomplishments to share with our regional team.

I think it is appropriate to say that the Rock Island District is leading the way within MVD. Our District had 17 milestones to meet this past year and all were met. We executed our budget, exceeded our goals and earned national accolades for the District's performance during procurement management review. A total of 825 contract actions were completed by our District, obligating nearly \$88 million while having zero overaged contract closeouts, which was the best in MVD. Also, our small business goals were far exceeded, again setting the standard within the Division.

Completing contract actions and executing our budget is a critical commitment and everything we accomplish is predicated on carrying out that commitment. Proof of this can be seen in places like Lockport Lock and Dam Upper Pool project on the Illinois Waterway. This multi-year, multi-million dollar rehabilitation project was finished this year. The project is the largest civil works project ever completed by our District and is a prime example of our team leading the way in the Division's commitment to sustain aggressive delivery of the civil works program.

Completing a project the magnitude of Lockport's upper pool took a lot of hard work over numerous years. But hard work is only one of many attributes within our District; innovation is also something for which Rock Island District is known. We are the lead District for the Inland Navigation

Design Center (INDC), an organization that was stood up just a few years ago but has grown exponentially. The INDC had 55 projects in its FY16 program, providing support to headquarters and multiple Districts. The INDC even supported a headquarters' international initiative to assess locks in Ukraine. This year the INDC and the Illinois Waterway Project Office won a national innovation award, which recognized their efforts in designing and fabricating new composite wicket gates for installation at dam projects across the country.

The maintenance and up keep of our District's 22 lock and dam facilities is a never-ending process. Lock and dam operations staff work day and night to expertly provide sustainable, reliable and resilient navigable waterways to the Nation. The District's maintenance teams also play a major role in keeping the system operational. During the winter of FY16, maintenance crews completed three simultaneous lock dewaterings that provided much needed repairs to the aging infrastructure on our river systems.

Our Emergency Management division met a critical milestone this year as they led the District-wide effort to become accredited through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. EMAP is not a USACE program, it is a national program for which accreditation is sought out by a multitude of agencies. The Rock Island District is one of only nine USACE Districts that have achieved accreditation through EMAP. Earning the accreditation took a lot of dedication from our team and is something for which we should all feel proud.

The EMAP accreditation was one of many unique milestones for the District in 2016. Most notably, this year was our District's 150th Anniversary. After a century and a half of serving the Nation, we were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to celebrate aboard the Motor Vessel Mississippi, which was in our area of operation as part of a semi-annual inspection conducted by the Mississippi River Commission. For months leading up to the arrival of the M/V Mississippi, District teammates met and planned an outstanding event. An open house aboard the vessel portrayed a visual history of our District, sharing that history with nearly 900 visitors, an attendance number that

(continued on page 4)

staff aboard the vessel said was rarely matched. In addition to the public open house, we also hosted an employee gathering aboard the vessel, celebrating our history and sharing in comradery. The 150th anniversary celebration was an event most worthy of our organization's heritage and the team responsible for its planning and execution really went above and beyond to make the event special.

Another milestone celebrated by the District this year was the 30th Anniversary of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program. The success of this regional program, which has resulted in more than 102,000 acres of restored habitat on the Upper Mississippi River System, is a direct result of the strong relationships that the Corps has preserved with its partners over the years.

These anniversary celebrations were highlights for the year that allowed us to reflect on the work that has been accomplished and gave us a chance to look ahead at the possibilities of the future. Moving forward into FY17, we continue to see progress on several projects across the District including the Red Rock Hydroelectric Plant, which is estimated for completion in 2018 and will provide energy needs to thousands of people near Lake Red Rock when it is finished.

One highlight, of sorts, that didn't paint as bright a picture was the Dakota Access Pipeline, which has sparked controversy for much of the year and will continue to do so into the New Year. The Rock Island District had a significant role to play as our regulatory team worked diligently to verify permit actions related to the pipeline. USACE has been scrutinized exhaustively by those who oppose the pipeline with protests held outside Corps' offices across the country, to include a protest just outside our District headquarters. Through the scrutiny and controversy, I was proud of our District. My pride in our effort stems from the fact that I know we always approached each action professionally and appropriately and that, as much as anything, is what we owe the Nation.

From execution, to innovation, to reaching milestones and doing things right, 2016 was filled with your successes. The District's Emergency Operation Center and National Flood Fight Materiel Center responded to a rare winter flood on the Illinois River followed later in the year by response to record flooding on the Cedar River. There were little to no uneventful moments throughout the year, something I am sure the entire workforce can attest to. The Rock Island District was up to the challenge due to your technical excellence. This expertise was seen and rewarded at the national level. In addition to the INDC's award for innovation, our Afghanistan Police Academy project delivery team was recognized nationally for providing first-rate reach-back support and our Lock and Dam 16 staff won a Chief of Engineers Safety Award for Special

Recognition. Even the product you are currently reading was lauded this year as the Tower Times received national recognition winning a Herbert A. Kassner award for excellence in USACE public affairs publications.

Our District's employees continue to impress me and this year was no different when two of our employees volunteered to travel to Laos in Southeast Asia, where they assisted in archeological efforts to recover the remains of American service members who went missing during the Vietnam War.

The District's accomplishments are far reaching and run the gamut of our business lines. What I have listed only represents a snapshot of your success and doesn't reflect the day-to-day, imperative tasks that must be carried out in order for the District to deliver the mission.

It goes without saying that every organization has room for improvement and the Rock Island District has many challenges to meet in the near and long term. But, you all deserve a moment to marvel in your successes and celebrate what you have accomplished over the past year. It's an honor to lead this great team. Your professionalism and dedication are unmatched. Your hard work makes my job easy.

As the year ends and we turn our attention to the holidays and the start of a new year, know that your collective efforts are not going unnoticed. I am very proud of the Rock Island District and I know that because of the work ethic that is ever present across our entire organization. We are postured for another banner year, one in which we will meet and exceed goals and continue to be leaders within the Division and USACE. Thanks for all you do to actively support our District values of people first, professionalism, technical excellence, innovation, public service, and stewardship and **CONTINUE BUILDING STRONG!** 

COMMENTS, CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS WELCOME

Anyone looking to find answers to work-related questions or who has a comment or concern that they would like to submit directly to the commander in an anonymous fashion can do so using the [Feedback Link](#) on the District's intranet.

Messages received via this link are reviewed by the Deputy Commander and are completely anonymous unless contact information is provided.



DISTRICT RECEIVES ACCREDITATION FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

By Samantha Heilig, Editor

On Oct. 14, the Rock Island District officially became the eighth District in the country to become accredited through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). District personnel traveled to Savannah, Georgia, to meet with the EMAP Review Committee to discuss the on-site assessment report and talk about lessons learned during the EMAP process.

After deliberation by the Committee, the EMAP Commission accepted the recommendation and presented the accreditation certificate to the District.

To achieve accreditation, applicants must demonstrate through self-assessment, documentation and peer assessment verification that its emergency management program meets all the requirements of the Emergency Management Standard. The Standard, which is actually a set of 64 standards, covers areas including program management, hazard identification and mitigation, incident management, training and many more.

“Going through the process of meeting the EMAP Standards we focused our efforts on improving the Emergency Management Program, said Emergency Management Specialist, Sarah Jones. “Achieving accreditation was the icing on the cake. We have seen



many improvements as a result of this effort. We no longer allow procedures to only be stored away in someone’s head. Everything is now documented to ensure future EM personnel, District staff and stakeholders understand how we do business.”

Now that the District has received accreditation, it will be valid for five years as long as the program maintains compliance with the Emergency Management Standard. At the end of the five years the District can then be reassessed and apply for reaccreditation.

In addition to the improvements made within the District, Jones said that information sharing among the District, states and other agencies has also increased providing greater transparency and improved relationships for everyone involved. 



Emergency Management Specialist, Sarah Jones (center), and Rock Island District Commander, Col. Craig Baumgartner, along with Mississippi Valley Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Michael Wehr and his staff accept the Emergency Management Accreditation Program plaque from Corps of Engineers EMAP Commissioner, Jared Gartman, during regional meetings in Vicksburg, Mississippi. *Photo provided by Vicksburg District*

ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT MAINTENANCE CREWS GIVE NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT A HEAVY LIFT

By James Trail, Safety Specialist

On July 21, the Motor Vessel Bettendorf departed the Mississippi River Project Office in Pleasant Valley, Iowa, headed for New Orleans. Piloted by captains Rex Johnsen and Pat Flaherty, and staffed with a small crew of maintenance workers, the M/V Bettendorf made the long trip down the Mississippi River to transport the Quad Cities Lift Crane and assist the New Orleans District maintenance crew in long overdue repairs to the Inland Harbor Navigational Canal (IHNC) Lock.

After five days of non-stop traveling down the river, they arrived onsite. Structural Maintenance Crane Supervisor, Justin Carter, along with Crane Operators, Joe Goin and Cary (Shorty) Hahn, began working right away

with the New Orleans District engineering and operations personnel in preparation for the lifts. Coordination efforts between the Districts began several months earlier so the crew was ready to get started upon arrival. Eight of the lock's 10 gates were worked on by the Quad Cities crane during the dewatering projects.

The Rock Island maintenance crew is accustomed to lifting gates on the Upper Mississippi River with the Quad Cities crane but conditions at the IHNC Lock were a little different than what they were used to. The team worked closely with the New Orleans crew to make necessary weight calculations to determine the proper crane settings for the lift. Each gate weighs approximately 494,000



Maintenance crews from Rock Island and New Orleans Districts use the Quad Cities Lift Crane to remove the No. 8 gate from the Inland Harbor Navigational Canal (IHNC) Lock in New Orleans.

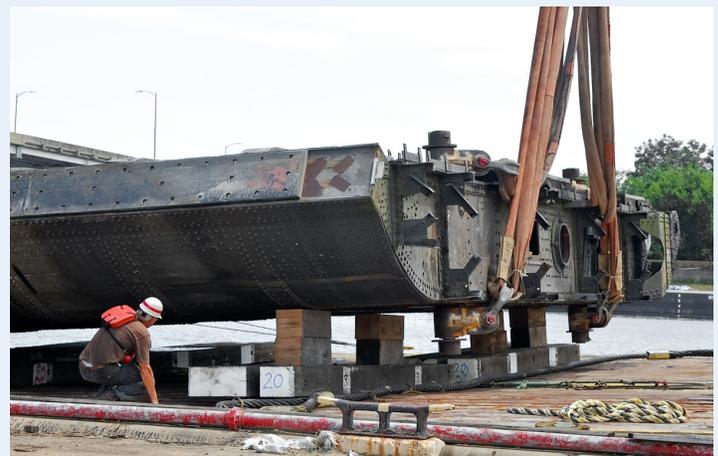
Photo provided by Justin Carter



The Quad Cities Lift Crane carefully lowers a 574,000 pound IHNC Lock gate onto the work barge of the Motor Vessel Bettendorf during a dewatering project in News Orleans, Louisiana. Photo provided by Justin Carter

pounds, dry. Typically the crew anticipates a 10 percent increase in weight due to silt build-up from sitting in the water. Because these gates had been submerged for an extended period of time, the team increased their estimate to 20 percent to be sure the crane would be properly prepared to safely lift the gate. During the first lift it was determined that the team had made the right call. The final weight of the gate, including silt, ended up being 574,316 pounds, which was an increase of nearly 15 percent.

In addition to assisting with gate lifts, the Rock Island District maintenance team also provided their expertise in assisting the New Orleans crew with dewatering the lock chamber on the IHNC four times; a process regularly done on the upper river by the Rock Island District staff. Maintenance work at the IHNC Lock was completed in early December and the lock was officially reopened to navigation on Dec. 14 .



A maintenance crew member watches closely as the Quad Cities Lift Crane slowly lowers the IHNC lock gate onto supports that will hold the gate in place as it is moved. Photo provided by Justin Carter

TEAM MEMBERS FROM MULTIPLE CORPS DISTRICTS HELP BUILD AFGHAN CAPACITY

By Capt. Jason Fabijanowicz

From Sept. 26-28, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers team members across several home-station Districts came together to help create and deliver an Afghan Project Management Course.

A group of 28 students, made up of members of the Ministry of Energy and Water, Ministry of Public Works, Kabul Municipality and the University of Kabul, participated in the specialized 24-hour prospect course. The goal of the Project Management Course was to provide a better understanding of how USACE conducts project management and to enhance Afghan capacity to deliver projects.

Modules presented during the course included details on project management business practices, leadership skills,



Program Manager, Arnold (Rob) Newman, explains project management business practices along with leadership and team building skills during a Corps of Engineers Afghan Project Management Course at Kabul University. Photo by Damon Durham

team building, project delivery teams, scheduling and project management plans.

Students who participated in the three-day course were very receptive and asked numerous questions about the USACE project management process. Participants also inquired if other courses could be offered by the group regarding other USACE practices. This effort, along with a prior Construction Management Course, was a result of collaboration between the Corps and the United States Forces-Afghanistan Engineering and Civil Military Operations Offices. 



Transatlantic Afghanistan District Commander, Col. Jon Chytka (right), presents Capt. Jason Fabijanowicz a USACE Transatlantic Afghanistan District coin for his assistance in supporting the project and classes. Photo by Damon Durham



COL Jon Chytka stands with program graduates and instructors of the Afghan Project Management Course. Graduates of the course are now better prepared to oversee the many projects across the various ministries, the Kabul Municipality and can enhance instruction at Kabul University. Photo by Damon Durham

STEM EXTERNSHIP PROVIDES REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE FOR LOCAL TEACHER

By Samantha Heilig, Editor

By definition, an externship is a temporary training program in a workplace, especially one offered to students as part of a course of study. But it's not just the students who are looking to expand their knowledge of certain careers, it's the teachers. For this reason, the Iowa STEM Teacher Externship Program was created and the Rock Island District is reaching out to those teachers who are interested in learning more about the Corps.

This summer the Mississippi River Project, Natural Resources Management Section, took full advantage of the program and gained volunteer assistance from Bettendorf Middle School life science teacher, Erin Allen. During her assignment, she helped the project with its environmental stewardship mission. She monitored forests, aquatic vegetation, forest management sites and bats as part of the six-week program. Her work also included cooperative efforts with other agencies and provided opportunities to learn about environmental restoration projects and challenges along the river.

"I really enjoyed my time with the Army Corps of Engineers this summer and I learned so much," said Allen. "I feel that I walked away from the externship with a whole new tool belt full of information that I can bring back to my classroom."

The Iowa STEM Teacher Externship Program was designed to provide educators with the opportunity to work side-by-side with knowledgeable and skilled industry employees who can help them to better connect classroom curriculum to real life. It is not uncommon for a teacher to hear the age-old question of "When am I ever going to use this?" Teacher externships provide educators with the exposure to realistically answer this question and prepare students for careers they may have in the future. 



Bettendorf Middle School life science teacher, Erin Allen, assists the Mississippi River Project with environmental monitoring during her six-week STEM externship with the Natural Resource Management Section. Photo provided by Mississippi River Project Staff

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Spotlight on the District

DENNIS (DENNY) GRUBER SEASONAL PARK RANGER

By Samantha Heilig, Editor

When park ranger, Dennis (Denny) Gruber, signed on to be a seasonal staff member at the Coralville Lake Project Office in 1976, he had no idea that his love of the great outdoors and passion for helping people would carry him into a second career. Now after many years of supporting the project, Gruber says it's one of the best decisions he ever made.

Gruber, who lives near Lake McBride which spills into Coralville Lake, works full time as a high school teacher and coach. His career with the Corps began as a way to make a little extra money during his time off in the summers, but it quickly grew into something he loved. As a seasonal ranger, Gruber fulfills a variety of roles around the lake; he spends much of his time helping visitors, giving directions and providing information.

"My primary function is to assist the permanent rangers with whatever tasks they need me to do," Gruber said. "They often get pulled from the field to attend to stuff in the office and I can fill in to make sure the field is covered."

Once in a while Gruber says he gets involved in maintenance work and other duties as assigned, but he really enjoys the visitor assistance work the most.

Over the years, Gruber has seen some tremendous changes around the lake. Roads have been added and camping amenities have improved.

"When I started there were no camping pads; everyone just parked in the grass," Gruber said. "Now there are nice paved camping sites with electricity and some with full hookups."

Gruber has served as a shift leader, mentor and friend to many people who have worked at or visited Coralville Lake.

"He provides quality customer service to our visitors, and is skillful at resolving problems with the least amount of enforcement," said Coralville Lake Project Manager, Dee Goldman. "Denny's professional demeanor gains



Coralville Lake Project Manager, Dee Goldman (left), presents Seasonal Park Ranger, Denny Gruber (right), with a cake to celebrate Gruber's 40 years of service to the project.

Photo by Jeff Peck

respect from his co-workers, sheriff deputies, contractors, volunteers and visitors."

On Sept. 28, Gruber completed his 40th season with the Coralville Lake Project, and in celebration of this milestone event, he was awarded the Commander's Award for Civilian Service.

"It's amazing how fast the years have gone by," Gruber said. "I have been privileged to work with so many great people over the years and it is an honor to receive the award."

Gruber said he is unsure about whether he will return for another recreational season. He hasn't said he is ready to throw in the towel just yet, but he is starting to think about retirement. With his wife, three grown children and eight grandchildren, he thinks he probably won't have any trouble finding something to keep himself busy in the off season. 

REDESIGNED WICKET GATES ON THE ILLINOIS WATERWAY GAIN NATIONAL RECOGNITION

By Katie Rosario, Public Affairs Specialist

This fall, members of the Rock Island District Illinois Waterway Project, Inland Navigation Design Center (INDC) and Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) were nationally recognized for innovation efforts in the design, fabrication and installation of new composite wicket gates at Peoria Lock and Dam.

Recently the Structures Section conducted an assessment of the condition and function of the new composite wicket gates, which were installed at Peoria in September 2015. During the assessment, personnel from ERDC also conducted thermal imaging and hammer pinging to search for voids in the new design.

Wicket dams are made up of movable, rectangular planks, traditionally constructed from wood and steel. These planks can be raised to hold back water when needed and lowered to allow boats to pass over when not in use. Historically, these dams, constructed from wood and steel, needed replacing often due to rot and corrosion.

The new gates, made of Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP) composites, are an innovative alternative to the high maintenance wood and steel structures. The new gates, fabricated by Composite Advantage, are 16 feet long, four feet wide and eight inches thick which allows them to fit into the existing hardware already in place at the dam. 



A newly designed wicket gate is prepared for installation at the Peoria Lock and Dam on the Illinois River. This new gate is made of Fiber Reinforced Polymer and was designed by the Corps' Inland Navigation Design Center and Engineer Research and Development Center to replace outdated, high-maintenance wooden gates.

Photo provided by Doug Morgan

Around the District

Congratulations...



Congratulations to **Lucie Sawyer** and her husband, Neal, on the birth of a baby girl on Oct. 12. Iris Jebens weighed in at 7 pounds 10 ounces and was 20 inches long.



Congratulations to **Steve Caudle** and Shanna Wright, on the birth of a baby boy on Oct. 17. Salem Craig weighed in at 8 pounds 4.5 ounces and was 21.5 inches long.



Retirements ...

Debra Vanopdorp, realty specialist for the Regional Real Estate Division North, retired Sept. 2, after dedicating more than 34 years of service to the federal government.

Terry Escher, park ranger at the Coralville Lake Project, retired Sept. 30, after dedicating 31 years of service to the federal government.

Sympathy ...



Beth Urmy, 54, of Wilmington, North Carolina, passed away Oct. 12.

Urmy was a current employee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District and had previously been employed at the Rock Island District as a safety specialist.



Robert "Artie" Shaw, 89, of Lindale, Texas, passed away Nov. 19.

Shaw worked at the Rock Island District for 15 years prior to his retirement in 2002. Shaw also served his country as a member of the U.S. Air Force from 1946 to 1947 serving with the 20th Air Force, 3rd Photo Division in Guam.



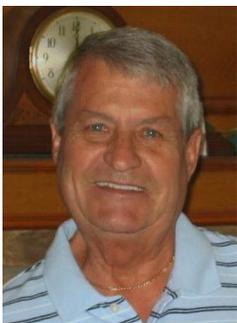
Dorothy Anderson, 92, of Davenport, Iowa, passed away Sept 1.

Anderson worked for the Rock Island District's Real Estate office for 24 years prior to her retirement in 1989.



Robert Carstens, 89, of Davenport, Iowa, passed away Sept. 7.

Carstens worked in the photo lab for many years at the Rock Island District before his retirement from the Corps.



Marv Williams, 81, of Allen, Texas, passed away Oct. 4.

Williams worked at the Rock Island District in Planning Division and Emergency Management for many years. Williams also served his country as a member of the U.S. Army.



Verna L. Peters, 95, of Davenport, Iowa, passed away Oct. 31.

Peters worked as a secretary for the Rock Island District Planning Branch/Division for many years prior to her retirement in 1982.

EMPLOYEES ENJOY SOME HOLIDAY SPIRIT



The Rock Island District held its annual holiday celebration Dec. 8 with employees participating in a variety of holiday festivities. An ugly holiday sweater contest was 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 Clock Tower cafeteria. Following the concert, District Commander, Col. Craig Baumgartner, presented a recap of 2016 District accomplishments and wished all the employees a safe and happy holidays. *Photo by Katie Rosario*



Can you name where the photo to the left was taken?

If so, send your answer to samantha.a.heilig@usace.army.mil to be entered for a prize and be featured in the next issue of the Tower Times



July / August Answer: Log jam on the Sangamon River near Hager Slough

Winner: Derek Clark

SAFETY CORNER

Carbon Monoxide Safety



By Troy Larson, Safety Specialist

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.

FACTS

- ❗ A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.
- ❗ In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine calls per hour.

THE EAGLES HAVE LANDED

By Samantha Heilig, Editor

Every year tens of thousands of people flock to the banks of the Mississippi River to catch a glimpse of our Nation's symbol, the bald eagle. Eagle watching events hosted by the Corps and its partners help visitors to not only see the birds but also learn about the species.

Thousands of bald eagles overwinter along the Mississippi and other tributary rivers found within the Rock Island District. Turbulence created by locks and dams along the larger rivers provide open water and a smorgasbord of fish for the eagles to feast upon. Wooded bluffs that line the banks of the Mississippi are also excellent habitat for the large roosting birds.

Bald eagle watches take place throughout January and February, but eagles can be seen from mid December through early March. Viewing conditions heavily depend on the weather. Typically the colder the weather, the better the viewing.

As warm weather arrives, most of the eagles will leave the area to return to nesting sites in northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Canada to prepare for the nesting season. 



Three adult bald eagles roost in the trees above the Mississippi River near Locks and Dam 15 in Rock Island, Illinois. Photo by Katie Rosario

Upcoming Eagle Watching Events

Quad City Bald Eagle Days

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 6-8
QCCA Expo Center, Rock Island, Illinois
Viewing at Locks and Dam 15 and other Quad City areas

Clinton Bald Eagle Watch

Saturday, January 7
Clinton Community College, Clinton, Iowa
Viewing at Lock and Dam 13, Fulton, Illinois

Dubuque Bald Eagle Watch

Saturday, January 21
Grand River Center, Port of Dubuque, Iowa
Viewing at Lock and Dam 11, Dubuque, Iowa

Keokuk Bald Eagle Days

Saturday and Sunday, January 20-22
River City Mall, Keokuk, Iowa
Viewing along the Keokuk, Iowa riverfront

Muscatine Bald Eagle Watch

Saturday, January 28
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 4
North Central Junior High,
North Liberty, Iowa
Viewing at Tailwater West
Campground, Coralville Lake

Saylorville Lake Eagle Watch

Sunday, February 26
Saylorville Lake Visitor Center
Viewing at multiple locations around Saylorville Lake

Illinois Waterway Bald Eagle Watch Weekend

Saturday and Sunday, January 28-29
Starved Rock Lodge, Starved Rock State Park Visitor
Center and the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center
Viewing at Starved Rock Lock and Dam, Ottawa, Illinois



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ANNUAL RETIREES' LUNCHEON



The 2016 Annual Rock Island District Retirees' Luncheon was held in September at the Quad City Botanical Center in downtown Rock Island, Illinois. Event organizer, Dudley Hanson, said this year's luncheon had a great turnout with a total of 43 people attending including two WWII veterans.

Photo provided by Dudley Hanson