



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Sacramento District

Vol. 80, Issue 3

THE PROSPECTOR

Fall 2009

www.spk.usace.army.mil

80

1929 - 2009

SACRAMENTO DISTRICT CELEBRATES EIGHTY YEARS OF SERVICE

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The Prospector is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. It is published by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, 1325 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Tele: (916) 557-7461; FAX (916) 557-7853; e-mail: spk-pao@usace.army.mil. This publication is available on the Sacramento District Internet homepage and will be printed and mailed to those requesting it in writing. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army.

Working Hard to Accomplish Our Mission

*"A LOVE FOR TRADITION HAS NEVER WEAKENED
A NATION, INDEED IT HAS STRENGTHENED
NATIONS IN THEIR HOUR OF PERIL."*

– SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL



COL. THOMAS C. CHAPMAN

In October, we came together to celebrate our District's 80th anniversary. At 80, you might think we'd be slowing down. But the fast pace of what we're doing continues, and last fiscal year was one of our busiest on record.

Now one of the largest engineer districts in the nation, shouldering our greatest, most diverse workload ever, it's amazing to remember where we started. On our birthday, Oct. 7, 1929, we were a modest outpost of the San Francisco District with just one mission: to regulate the waterways of the San Joaquin and Sacramento basins. But we have since been called upon to do much, much more.

Through 80 years of enormous economic growth, peace, war and staggering technological change, we have stood up to serve an increasing variety of needs for the communities in our District and the nation.

When Congress enacted the Flood Control Act of 1936, designating the Corps as America's primary flood control agency, we employed just 300 people. Within five years, we completed Englebright and North Fork dams. Over the coming decades, we would build even more - Pine Flat, Isabella, Folsom, New Hogan, Success and Black Butte dams among them - helping give the Central Valley the flood protection and world-class recreational opportunities we still provide today.

An emerging environmental awareness in the 1970s resulted in legislation to better protect and preserve America's natural resources. With the Clean Water Act of 1972, we took on our regulatory mission, serving the critical role of protecting much of that precious resource.

Over these 80 years, we've served our military family, too. From standing up installations for the

American effort in World War II, to restoring them for public use through the Formerly Used Defense Sites program, to our ongoing support for Overseas Contingency Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and administering today's Homeowners Assistance Program, we have built strong for our armed services and continue to serve a key role in our national defense.

That's not to mention the launch facilities we helped build for NASA, or the hospitals for the Veterans Affairs or a bridge for the people of Folsom, to name just a few.

From 300 in 1929, we are more than 1,100 dedicated professionals today - with projects in eight states and military installations across the country. We are an incredible team of Soldiers and civilians, all working together to build a stronger America at home and abroad.

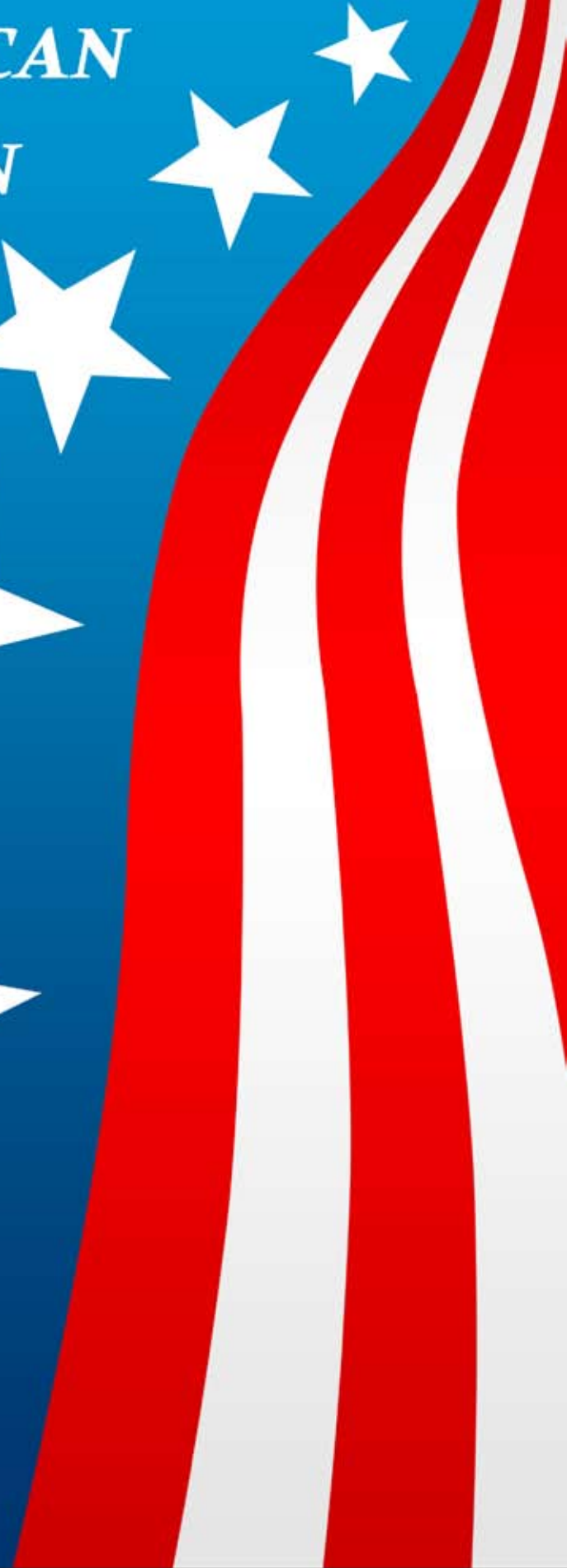
Looking back as we did during our 80th anniversary celebration, it's clear our predecessors have done so much that we, today's Sacramento District, can be proud of.

While we can't know what the next 80 years will bring, we can be certain there will be challenges, possibly greater ones than we've ever faced.

As we move to address climate change, and begin to expand our approach to resources management, our workload can only increase and diversify. But whatever challenges may come, I'm certain that if we continue to work with the same dedication, determination and integrity I see here everyday, we will make the Sacramento District of 80 years from now just as proud.

Essays and Building Strong!

*NATIONAL AMERICAN
INDIAN & ALASKAN
NATIVE HERITAGE
MONTH*



NOVEMBER 2009

Trabajando Duro para Cumplir Nuestra Misión

"LA VIDA NO ES LA QUE UNO VIVIÓ, SINO LA QUE UNO RECUERDA, Y CÓMO LA RECUERDA PARA CONTARLA"

— GABRIEL GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ



COL. THOMAS C. CHAPMAN

En Octubre, venimos juntos a celebrar el aniversario de 80 años de nuestro Distrito. Siendo 80, usted puede creer que estaríamos más lentos. Pero el paso rápido de las cosas que hacemos continúa, y el año pasado era uno de los más ocupados en historial.

Ahora uno de los distritos de ingenieros más grandes de la nación, llevando a hombros nuestra más grande y diversa mayoría de trabajo, me sorprende recordar donde comenzamos. En nuestro cumpleaños, el 7 de Oct. de 1929, éramos un puesto avanzado modesto del distrito de San Francisco con solo una misión: regular los canales de los lavabos de San Joaquín y de Sacramento. Pero nos han invitado desde entonces para hacer mucho, mucho más. Con 80 años de enorme desarrollo económico, de paz, de guerra y de cambio tecnológico, hemos hecho frente a dar servicio a una variedad, cada vez mayor, de necesidades de las comunidades en nuestro distrito y la nación.

Cuando el congreso decretó el Acto del Control de Inundación de 1936, señalando al Cuerpo de Ingenieros como la agencia primaria del control de inundación de América, empleamos a apenas 300 personas. En el plazo de cinco años, terminamos las presas de Englebright y Norte Fork. Durante las décadas que vinieron, construiríamos aún más — las presas de Pine Flat, Isabella, Folsom, New Hogan, y Black Butte entre ellos — ayudando a dar al Valle Central la protección de inundación y las oportunidades recreaciones de calidad mundial que todavía proporcionamos hoy.

Un conocimiento ambiental emergente en los años 70 dio lugar a la legislación para proteger y para preservar mejores recursos naturales de América. Con el Acto del Agua Potable de 1972, adquirimos nuestra misión reguladora, sirviendo el papel crítico de proteger mucho de ese recurso precioso.

Durante estos 80 años, hemos servido a nuestra familia militar, también. De levantando las instalaciones para el esfuerzo Americano en la Segunda Guerra Mundial, a restaurando esos mismo sitios para el uso público con el Programa de An-

tes Usado para la Defensa, a nuestra ayuda para las Operaciones de Contingencia de Ultramar en Irak y Afganistán y la administración del Programa de Ayuda a Dueños de Casa, hemos construido fuerte para nuestras fuerzas armadas y continuamos sirviendo un papel dominante en nuestra defensa nacional.

También se puede mencionar las instalaciones de lanzamiento que ayudamos a construir para NASA, o a los hospitales para la Administración de Veteranos o un puente para la gente de Folsom, para nombrar apenas algunos. A partir de 300 en 1929, hoy somos más de 1.100 - con proyectos en ocho estados e instalaciones militares a través del país.

Somos un grupo increíble de Soldados y civiles, todos trabajando juntos para construir una América más fuerte en el país y en el extranjero.

Mirando atrás como hicimos durante nuestra celebración del 80 aniversario, es claro que nuestros precursores han hecho tanto que, el distrito de Sacramento de hoy, también podemos estar orgullosos.

Mientras no sabemos lo que traerán los próximos 80 años, podemos estar seguros de que habrá desafíos, posiblemente mayores de los que hemos enfrentado. Mientras que nos trasladamos al cambio de clima y comenzamos a ampliar nuestro acercamiento a la gerencia de recursos, nuestra carga de trabajo puede solo aumentar y diversificar. Pero cualquier desafío que venga, estoy seguro que si continuamos trabajando con el mismo esmero, determinación e integridad que veo aquí a diario, haremos el distrito de Sacramento de 80 años, de ahora en adelante orgulloso de nosotros también.

Essayons!
Building Strong!

Happy Birthday Sacramento

Corps employees celebrate 80th Anniversary

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL NEVINS
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



*A Special Thank You to all the
Retirees in attendance*

*Laura Asay
Don Denny
Nolan Jackson
Lou Whitney
Jack Kennedy
Debby Layton
Jack Osborn
Steven Rowe
Richard Vasquez
Fred Williams*



Congratulations

Corps employees recognized at 80th Anniversary celebration



Award Recipients

*JJ Baum
Tiffany Filbert
Erin Hanlon
Rachael Hersh-Burdick
Alexander Kan
Kylan Kegel
Eric Kennedy
Daniel Killup
Charles Crivellaro*

*Kevin Lee
Rick Poeppelman
Arianna Raymundo
Tom Walker
Cory Koger
Robert Thompson
Zachary Simmons
Ryan Larson*

National



PHOTO BY CHRIS GRAY

Public Lands Day

BY CHRIS GRAY-GARCIA,
WILLIAM WARREN BYRD
AND CARLOS J. LAZO
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Nearly 1,200 volunteers joined Corps of Engineers park staffs in celebrating National Public Lands Day Sept. 26, completing dozens of park improvement projects at seven U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District parks.

Volunteers planted trees, restored wildlife habitat, installed sprinkler systems, removed invasive species and litter, even constructed a disc golf course. Both volunteers and park staff said their efforts not only beautified the parks, but strengthened the community around them.

“Our volunteers make an enormous contribution on National Public Lands Day,” says Sacramento District Senior District Ranger Jonathan Friedman. “These lands belong to all of us, and it’s an important and needed opportunity to remember and celebrate as a community our shared responsibility and privilege to keep them healthy, clean and beautiful.”

All but one of the parks enjoyed its highest volunteer turnout yet, with projects varying across them all. At Black Butte Lake, representatives from two area disc golf clubs continued construction on a new disc golf course at the park and also participated in trash pickup.

Volunteers planted 14 trees and installed a new sprinkler system at Success Lake, and repainted shade shelters at Lake Kaweah. At New Hogan Lake, volunteers repainted signs and rehabilitated one-and-a-half miles of bike trail. Pine Flat Lake volunteers planted 28 trees. Habitat redevelopment and trail building were the focus at Stanislaus River Parks.

Eastman Lake and Hensley Lake volunteers teamed for tree planting, campground improvements and repainting Eastman’s amphitheater screen. Just a few miles apart, Eastman and Hensley alternate hosting National Public Lands Day each year.

Englebright Lake observed National Public Lands Day together with California Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, Sept. 19. More than 80 volunteers from the Englebright Lake Houseboaters Association, the Nevada County Sheriff’s Department and the South Yuba River Citizens League helped clean up the park.

“We really feel like we’re making a difference out here,”

Lake Kaweah volunteer Peggy Swanson says. “Making a place better than you found it is the Girl Scout motto, and that’s exactly what we’re doing here.”

Most parks hosted a barbecue lunch for their volunteers, several with live music and educational booths put on by partner agencies like the U.S. Forest Service. Volunteers received free admission to the park for the day, as well as a pass for free-day use admission any time in the next year at any project site managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or other participating agencies.

The Corps has been involved with National Public Lands Day since its inception in 1994, and has consistently been one of the largest providers of sites and volunteers participating in the event. Last year, more than 1,000 volunteers contributed to park improvement projects across the Sacramento District’s 10 parks. National Public Lands Day is a program of the National Environmental Education Foundation.



PHOTO BY CARLOS LAZO



1325

1325



SACRAMENTO

DISTRICT



PHOTO BY MICHAEL NEVINS

Eighty years ago, the Sacramento District, known at the time as the Second San Francisco District, moved into its office at the California Fruit Building (pictured above) on 4th and J Streets. The newly-created district's only job was to focus on flood protection and navigation for the communities in and around the Sacramento Valley.

Much has changed since then...



BY HUNTER MERRITT
AND CARLOS J. LAZO
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

The Sacramento District's deep and colorful history began 80 years ago, near the end of 1929. The country was still riding the high of the Roaring '20s. Technology was making life easier in many ways; thanks to Henry Ford, people could drive their horseless carriages to work; telephone lines were

more than three decades of heated debate over the various impacts of unregulated hydraulic mining on agriculture and shipping, the Sawyer Decision in 1884 put an official end to "hydraulic mining" in California. This resolved the issue until 1893, when Congress, pressured by the miners in the face of a

A BRIEF HISTORY OF T

popping up all over the country making it easier to call people across the nation; and for the first time in the nation's history, more people lived in urban areas than the countryside. It was a different time and the central mission of the Corps was different as well, but many of the challenges that brought about the creation of the district are still relevant to this day. The reason for its existence, though, began almost 80 years prior, with the discovery of gold in the ancient stream beds of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains.

MINING

In 1852, a method known as hydraulic mining was popularized, making affordable the search for gold beyond simple panning. Sediment from the process, however, was devastating to the rivers. After

failing national economy, passed the Caminetti Act. The act was signed into law by President Grover Cleveland amid the "Panic of 1893," the first major economic crises of the nation's young life. The act allowed hydraulic mining to resume, provided that the debris was captured in order to prevent downstream impacts to navigation, agriculture and flooding. Miners were also required to pay three percent of the gross proceeds of a mine for storage of the debris. Along with this requirement, the Caminetti Act formed the California Debris Commission, with three U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officers made members, and with explicit authorization to make plans that would "improve the navigability of all the rivers comprising said systems, deepen their channels and protect their banks." The commission built debris basins and dredged the Yuba River, piling its banks

THE PROSPECTOR

with mountains of sediment. The mission of flood control and navigation in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys was so large, though, that on Oct. 7, 1929, the Second San Francisco District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was officially formed into the Sacramento District, under the command of Maj. J.R.D. Matheson.

A ROCKY START

The Stock Market Crash in October 1929 brought on another national financial crisis, one unlike any the nation had seen before. The Great Depression saw millions of Americans losing their jobs and homes across the nation. The Dust Bowl in the Midwest had scattered hundreds of thousands of farmers and farm workers off their farms; the hatred for banks made heroes of bank robbers like Bonnie and Clyde; and unemployment reached 25 percent (33 percent in some urban areas).

The Great Depression also brought about many federal New Deal projects for the Sacramento District. The Stockton Deep Water Channel was started in 1930 and completed in 1934 (it was the largest project of the Sacramento District in the 1930s). Revisions to the Caminetti Act in 1934 authorized the use of concrete high arch dams for the purpose of debris control, and the Flood Control Act of 1936 authorized four projects to meet the need of potential hydraulic miners. The North Fork Dam on the American River

was started in 1937 and completed in 1939; it was the first concrete arch dam ever built by the Army Corps of Engineers. The "Upper Narrows" Dam on the Yuba River was completed in 1940. It would later take the name of Harry L. Englebright, the Congressman from Nevada City, Nev., who fought so hard to have the Caminetti Act amended in order to resume hydraulic mining. Only these two of the four authorized projects were completed, and neither of these projects realized the purpose for which they were built, as the hydraulic monitor and the need for debris control became obsolete. The Army Corps of Engineers and the Sacramento District changed its focus almost overnight, from civil works to military support. The year was 1941, and the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor had just thrust the district into



THE SACRAMENTO DISTRICT



action.

MILITARY FOCUS / 1940s

Through the war years, the District grew from around 300 to more than 2,000 staff members. As of February 1944, more than 500 Sacramento District employees were in uniforms of the various armed services. The completion of several military and civilian projects was accomplished in record time.

The assignment of all Army airfield construction was given to the Army Corps of Engineers in January of 1941. The Sacramento District was subsequently responsible for the enlargement of the Sacramento Air Depot (McClellan Air Force Base) and Mather Field (Mather Air Force Base). During this time, the District boundaries grew as well, to include the Great Basin west of the Sierra Nevada.

Many projects were authorized as a result of the Flood Control Act of 1944, and were completed in the decade following World War II. These projects included the dams at Lake Isabella, Folsom and Pine Flat.

YUBA FLOOD / 1950s – 1960s

Flooding continued to be an issue for California into the 1950s. The Yuba City Flood in December of 1955 inundated more than 100,000 acres and killed 38 people. It was rated the worst natural disaster since the San Francisco earthquake of 1906.

One large project, the New Hogan Dam, and several smaller dam projects, Success Dam, Terminus Dam, Hidden Dam and Buchanan Dam were completed in the 1960s.



During this time, the District took on more and more projects, including those that assisted the newly created space program. The district was responsible for building the SV1 launch pad for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and several missile silos in the area surrounding Sacramento.

The Hydraulic Engineering Center (HEC), located in Davis, was formed as part of the Engineering Division.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF THE 1970s

The cultural and environmental awareness brought about by Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring," published in 1962, and the intense activism that grew from a cultural and generational shift, resulted in new legislation in the decade of disco. New laws were implemented, including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air and Clean Water acts, and the National Historic Preservation Act in the early 1970s. This new era of environmentalism changed the focus of the district significantly, in ways that are still being felt today.

One project in particular, the New Melones Dam on the Stanislaus River, drew considerable attention and raised a fierce conflict between the District and an organized group of recreational whitewater rafters who aimed at preserving the section of the Stanislaus River known as Camp 9. Despite a deeply intense battle over the project between many agencies and the newly formed Friends of the River, the controversial New Melones Dam was completed in 1979, 13 years after it was authorized. It was the last major dam project built in California.

1980s

Work was steady throughout the decade with many smaller dam projects, such as Fancher and Little Dell dams, completed. Although the District began as a regulatory agency, its main focus was primarily on the human impacts of projects; but following the passage of the environmental acts, the Corps expanded its mission. This included a component of ecological restoration to other water-related missions and thus was born what we now know as the regulatory division of the district. The division continues to monitor the impacts of all actions that involve the waters of the United States, expanding its focus to include the natural and cultural resources as well as human interests.

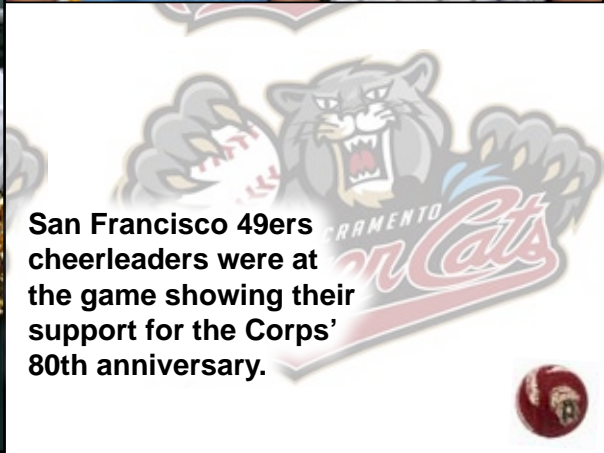


During the 1980s, the district continued to focus on the impacts of military operations within its boundaries. The Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Program, initiated in 1986, continues to this day, and has mitigated and cleaned over 500 sites across the District's area of responsibility.

1990 - CURRENT

A recent historical moment includes the dedication of the Vic Fazio Wildlife Area on the Yolo Bypass. This project was completed in November 1997, and was dedicated by former President Bill Clinton. It stands as a testament to collaboration among agencies, as well as a dedication to the ecological resources in our own backyard.

Almost a century after it began, our district and our nation are facing many similar problems. Flooding in New Orleans, much like the flooding of the Mississippi River in the mid-1920s, brought national energy and focus on the possibility of major flooding in the Sacramento Valley, and the economic impact of that



San Francisco 49ers cheerleaders were at the game showing their support for the Corps' 80th anniversary.



District celebrates birthday with River Cats

STORY BY WARREN BYRD
PHOTOS BY MICHAEL NEVINS
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Almost 12,000 Minor League Baseball fans helped the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District recognize its approaching 80th anniversary – and call attention to water safety – during a Sacramento River Cats game Aug. 28.

Col. Thomas Chapman, district commander, threw out the first pitch, and district park rangers and other Corps employees were on hand at a booth to hand out Corps of Engineers water safety fliers and other promotional items.

“This was a wonderful opportunity for the Army Corps of Engineers to interact with our neighbors and share some important water safety tips ahead of the Labor Day holiday,” Chapman said.



A most unusual hobby

BY WARREN BYRD
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
PHOTOS COURTESY OF
CHANDRA JENKINS

Most people find their hobbies enjoyable and relaxing. But Sacramento District's Chandra Jenkins' hobby is driving her batty - in a good way.

Jenkins, you see, spends countless hours 'hanging' out with and studying bats. In two or so short years, she has gone from being just intrigued and curious about the mysterious, oft-feared nighttime creatures to actively conducting research and considering it for a master's degree thesis.

"Bats are very interesting animals," she said, noting that more than 1,100 species have been identified. "All bats have such different life habits. Everything from where they roost and their different feeding habits, to migration versus hibernation, their reproduction, and the individuality between each species, just draws me in."

A student at California State University-Sacramento, Jenkins works in the district's regulatory division through the Student Career Experience Program, or SCEP, which provides degree seeking students with Federal work experience related to their academic program and career goals.

Though unrelated to her job with the Corps for now, her passion for bats is something she hopes to soon be able to bring to her work. Most of her research for this unique hobby concentrates on what she terms the basic ecology of bats: roosting, foraging habits and reproduction.

"This gives us a better understanding of the roles they play in our lives," said Jenkins, who personally funds some of her research and receives grants from several agencies. "We take data such as weight, sex, forearm length, whether they are adult or juve-



nile, their reproductive status, the general health of the animal, and, of course identify the species. We look at the type of habitat we have caught them in, and in some cases, we collect guano to have analyzed. The information collected is compiled and turned into the state agencies every year. The data can be used for various reasons."

When some people think bats, they tend to conjure up frightening or macabre thoughts - Dracula and the various forms of bloodsucking, eerie creatures. Jenkins offers a more factual explanation.

"What most people do not realize is that bats are a great ally to us," Jenkins said. "A single little brown bat can eat up to 700 crop-destroying insects in a night. That's just one little bat! Mexican free-tailed bats live in very large roosts. The caves in central Texas are home to 100 million bats. These bats are estimated to eat about 1,000 tons of insects nightly.

"Think about how many insects these bats are exterminating for our agricultural needs on an economic level," Jenkins continued. "It's safe, pesticide free and helps keep our insect populations in check. They eat mosquitoes, too. If we were to take bats out of the animal population, we would see a devastating outcome, globally. Just like all other species, preser-

SEE HOBBY - PAGE 38

USACE PEOPLE

*Phyllis Svetich
prepares for second
overseas deployment*

BY CHRIS GRAY-GARCIA
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PHOTO BY MICHAEL NEVINS

It was 4 a.m. and freezing and there was Phyllis Svetich, 54 year-old former stay-at-home mom, shivering through an Army physical training session at Fort Bliss, Texas, thinking, "What have I gotten myself into?"

Svetich is a paralegal specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District. Nine months after she had volunteered to work with the Corps' new Gulf Region Division in Iraq, and two weeks into her mobilization, she was spending a week at Fort Bliss in February 2004, completing required training in preparation to deploy to Baghdad.

When she received the mobilization call, she says, "It was really exciting. I was excited to go over and support the mission, but it was also an adventure." Then came Fort Bliss. "We were really treated like

we were military," she explains. "I was a 54 year-old woman and I was being treated like an 18 year-old soldier, and it was pretty rough."

It was a necessary first step of what would prove to be a grueling tour, one that left her thinking she'd never deploy again. But this month, she will: as a paralegal specialist to the Corps' Afghanistan Engineer District.



The Iraq deployment was her first, though she'd worked for the Corps off and on since the 1970s. Starting as a file clerk in the Sacramento District's office of counsel, Svetich moved up quickly, rising as high as a paralegal specialist may. When the call went out for volunteers to deploy to Iraq with the Corps' newly-formed Gulf Region Division, "this was a chance," she told herself, "I'm never going to get again."

SEE DEPLOYMENT - PAGE 36

CORPS WORKS TO REDUCE SACRAMENTO FLOOD RISK

BY TYLER STALKER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation are teaming up on a project aimed at greatly reducing the risk of a catastrophic flood in the Sacramento region. The combined effort looks to not only reduce the risk, but the time necessary to complete the project, aiming to provide Sacramento with near 200-year level flood protection by 2016.

A cooperative effort between the Army Corps of Engineers' Sacramento District, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the state of California Central Valley Flood Protection Board, and the Sacramento Area Flood Protection Agency (SAFCA), the \$977-million Joint Federal Project (JFP) is designed to shave five years and approximately \$1 billion off the project compared to performing separate projects to achieve the same results.

Following Hurricane Katrina, eyes turned to Sacramento as a potential high flood risk. Currently, most of the greater Sacramento area has at most 100-year level flood protection, meaning there is a one-in-100 chance of flooding each year. As a result, many scientists and engineers quickly declared that Sacramento was the number one city in the nation in danger of facing the same fate as New Orleans, leading state and local officials to place a greater emphasis on what could be done to hasten a solution.

The Corps and its partners are working to significantly increase flood protection in the Sacramento region with the JFP, an additional feature at Folsom Dam that will help reduce flood risk. The project is highlighted by a spillway at the dam and reservoir, located downstream from the confluence of the north and south forks of the American River. Folsom Dam is located in Folsom, Calif., about 20 miles northeast of Sacramento.

The JFP will create another outlet for water to quickly be released from Folsom Lake. The project will see a 1,100-foot approach channel constructed that will filter the water from the lake into the spillway; a control structure with six submerged gates that will be controlled in coordination with the gates on the dam to control water releases; a 3,000-foot long spillway chute that will work like a large slide for the water from the top of the dam down to the American River below; and a stilling basin that will slow the racing water back to normal flow levels that the levees will be able to withstand. The entire spillway structure will operate in conjunction with the existing operations of the Folsom Dam and is not intended to replace any of the dam's current functions.

Currently, the JFP is in the second phase of excavating more than 3.5 million cubic yards of rock and soil on land parallel to Folsom Lake Crossing that will become an auxiliary spillway for the dam. Reclamation is performing the first two phases of the project before the Corps of Engineers begins work on its portion of the project beginning with the control structure and its six gates in the fall of 2010.

With so many parts, it can be difficult to bring it all together.

"One thing that makes this type of partnership difficult is that there are very few models for a joint Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation construction project," said Larry Hobbs, Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region dam safety project manager. "Each agency has a specific mission and procedures that don't always align with each other. Our challenge is to address these differences collaboratively in order to complete the project."

The Bureau of Reclamation has responsibility for the water delivery and the Folsom Dam facility, while the Corps of Engineers is responsible for flood dam-



age reduction, which mostly involves the levees downstream because they are often the last level of protection for the communities behind them. With the JFP, the needs of both the dam facility and the levees have to be met for the upgrades to be effective. Other projects, including additional Reclamation projects at Folsom Dam and the Corps' American River Common Features and Folsom Dam Raise projects - which will strengthen the levees along the American River and raise the dam three feet to reduce the risk of overtopping - aim to improve structures at the main dam as well as downstream of Folsom Lake to ensure both sets of improvements work cooperatively.

That makes teamwork between the two agencies vital. The communication and coordination developed between the agencies during the construction of the Folsom Lake Crossing bridge provided a significant amount of help when it came to the JFP. Earlier this year, the Corps and the Reclamation worked with the state of California, the city of Folsom and SAFCA to complete the bridge, which replaced a major commuter thoroughfare closed following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. The bridge was completed in just about five years, about half the length of the typical civil works project.

"There were a lot of lessons learned from the bridge project that significantly improved our ability to coordinate with one another on the JFP," Hobbs said.

David McDaniel, Corps of Engineers project manager, agrees with Hobbs. "On both projects, the Bureau was and has been of great assistance with the logistics. They processed the required security investigations for contractors and facility staff and obtained required permits and rights of entry."

With the experience from working on the Folsom Lake Crossing, the Corps, Reclamation and its

partners expect to complete work on the JFP sooner rather than later.

"We're currently ahead of schedule and fully expect to have phase two completed by next fall," Hobbs said.



Meet the Sustainability sub-committee

Their goal: To create culture awareness through education so people can incorporate sustainability in their own lives



April Murazzo (far left), joined the Sacramento District in May as a social sciences environmental manager with Planning Division's Environmental analysis section. She worked for the San Francisco District as a park ranger from 2005-2007 and served seven years in the California National Guard and Army Reserve as a medic. April initiated the Sustainability sub-committee as a part of the Employee Council in July. The sub-committee has about eight members that represent different areas of the

District.

Terry Hershey (middle), joined the Corps as a park ranger in the San Francisco District and came to the Sacramento District in 2005. She became district park ranger in 2008. Terry focuses on natural resource management issues, has a passion for environmental stewardship, and is always looking for ways to become more "green."

Q&A

What is sustainability? What do you want to achieve?

Sustainability is looking at the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. There are three dimensions of sustainability: equity, environment and economics, also known as the "3 Es." (i.e. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, aka the 3 Rs).

How are you going to accomplish this?

We are working with facilities to increase awareness on energy and water use, and waste management. We are educating employees through the PAO Weekly Announcements by providing tips on how they can reduce their impact in the office and at home. We are going to put on "brown bags" that focus on the District's sustainability efforts and how individuals can help with the cause. We are working on providing each department with a "green" buying guide for office supplies.

Actions to date.

Sacramento District office is doing some things to reduce its "ecological footprint," such as, purchasing government hybrid cars, promoting public transportation with transit vouchers and carpooling, and offering bike racks to accommodate the additional bike commuters. Our parks have also been joining the efforts by installing solar panels at the park headquarters and waterless urinals in the day-use areas. There are efforts CBRE and facilities are doing to reduce its "ecological footprint," such as getting the building Energy Star and LEED certified, increasing

recyclability, ensuring cleaning products are "eco-friendly" and bathroom paper goods have post-consumer content, and promoting carpooling.

Energy Star is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices.

- LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. It is a program operated by the US Green Building Council (USGBC) to save energy, water, and CO2 emissions; improve indoor environmental quality; and increase stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

Long-term goals

Through awareness and education, we are hoping to reduce Sacramento District's ecological footprint.

- An ecological footprint is a measure of human consumption and demand on energy, water, food, shelter, and the absorption of our wastes.
- If everyone in the world lived like an American, we would need 5.5 planets to sustain us all. We only have one.

How can others help?

We are hoping to establish "Sustainability" reps on each floor, so that all of you with questions can get answers. We know we can't do this alone, it's a team effort, so if you're interested in being a representative, please contact April Murazzo or your local employee council rep.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY OFFICE

My name is Tamara Moland, I joined the Sacramento District's EEO Office in Feb. 2009. I'm the EEO specialist managing Special Emphasis Programs (SEP) for the District, helping with career development opportunities, Diversity and Awareness Training, and Conflict Resolution skills. I was the Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinator (ADR) at my previous employer, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). I'm here to assist with bringing quality programming to our District employees to enhance your careers, bring awareness of our diverse workforce and help all employees reach their full potential.

The job market is competitive and career development seminars are in high demand. Are YOU ready to take charge when a career opportunity comes knocking?

Our office can help you:

- Update your resume (update your training and awards...have your resume available in different formats...)
- Practice interviewing skills (what are the top 5 questions interviewers like to ask... what questions are illegal to ask?)
- Look for the developmental positions (do you know where to look?...why should you look for a developmental position?)
- Sharpen your technical skills (what skills are in demand?... Where can you get no/low-cost training?)

Did I mention planning and participating in Special observance events? The EEO staff features many observances during the year. November we will be celebrating American Indian/Alaskan Native Month. We've started including a crossword puzzle to stimulate your brain. And we encourage having FUN! There are many career development ideas in the works so keep looking for more information in future issues of The Prospector.



Tamara Moland

Leia Sherer

I joined the EEO Office in the Sacramento District in June 2007. My previous employer was the Oklahoma Merit Protection Commission where I processed complaints for state employees. My time as a PTA President sharpened my organizational and interpersonal relationship skills and gave me added experience to handle difficult situations and difficult people. I feel fortunate to have a job that not only challenges me, but also offers a terrific chance to serve and work with such a diverse group of people.

When you spend most of your waking hours at the office, it's important to maintain a good working relationship with your supervisor and co-workers. But what if your problem is your co-worker or supervisor? Should you ignore the problem? Should you file a complaint? What do you do? The EEO Office is available to help sort out your concerns before your small problem turns into a huge problem. Armed with some solid information and practical choices, you may be able to avoid a very long, stressful complaint process. Oh - and if it turns out that you want to file a complaint, I'll be here to help you with that, too.

Here are a few upcoming Special observances:

- October
National Disability Employment Awareness
- November
National American Indian Heritage Month
- January
Martin Luther King Jr.
- February
National Black History
- March
National Women's History

Fire protection at Black Butte



PHOTO BY BILL MILLER

BY *BILL MILLER*
PARK RANGER
BLACK BUTTE LAKE

As winter approaches, Black Butte Lake looks ahead to more joint fire-control exercises with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or CAL FIRE.

Our most recent collaboration, a control burn exercise with CAL FIRE's Salt Creek Station work crew at Black Butte Lake Oct. 2, 2008, saved the Corps tens of thousands of dollars and taught Black Butte staff important lessons about fire-fighting cooperation.

The exercise was a result of a recent annual dam inspection, when Sacramento District dam safety engineers discovered that minor structural repairs were needed on a Black Butte dike due to slumping and small sections of erosion. To repair them, some overgrown vegetation in the way first needed to be removed. Black Butte park rangers put out a contract for the repairs, including the vegetation removal. The lowest bid for that portion of the job came in much higher than expected.

We knew we could do better, and a call to the Salt Creek Station crew confirmed it. For the one-day service, they would charge just \$200 – more than \$28,000 less than the lowest bid. After negotiations with that bidder, the vegetation portion was removed from the contract and a control burn exercise with CAL FIRE was set.

During the exercise, two Salt Creek Station fire crews completed the burn within a five-acre section of Black Butte's Eagle Pass recreation area, using it as a training opportunity for new crew staff.

The Salt Creek Station forms their fire crews with carefully selected low-risk, non-violent offenders from California prisons. A high turnover rate, created as inmates are

paroled, makes it hard for Salt Creek fire crews to keep a large unit of experienced wildfire-fighting personnel.

The control burn allowed the new fire crews to experience wildfire flames in person for the first time and begin the long process of learning to work together as an effective wildfire-fighting team ahead of the next fire season. In addition, both the fire crew members and Black Butte staff learned about fire behavior and suppression techniques from experienced CAL FIRE crew captains.

The relationship between the CAL FIRE's Salt Creek Fire Station and Black Butte has continued to strengthen since the first joint fire agreement was created at the District in 1996. Black Butte staff work with Salt Creek work crews to conduct classroom fire-protection trainings and complete tasks that would be impossible without their staffing contribution. Campground reconstruction, cutting fire breaks, tree trimming and wildlife habitat structure construction are just a few of the jobs that have been completed with the assistance of these crews.

Having CAL FIRE conduct the control burn had an additional benefit: The money saved by having Salt Creek burn the dike was used instead for a tractor needed for park maintenance. The new tractor and brush mower attachment will bolster Black Butte's existing fire prevention plan, allowing us to quickly mow areas of dried grass near park facilities, reducing their fire hazard. Mowing these grassy sections will also improve the survivability rate of native oak plantings and plant restoration projects within these same areas by removing competing plant species.

It's a win for CAL FIRE, a win for Black Butte and the Corps, and a partnership we look forward to developing in the years to come.

Sacramento Boy Scout helps Corps protect habitat, achieves Eagle Scout

BY TYLER STALKER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

A Sacramento Boy Scout took an innovative route to become an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America – he worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Sacramento District to develop habitat for bluebirds at a Corps mitigation site.

Brian Lau, like many 15-year-olds, enjoys playing the latest version of the "Call of Duty" video game with his friends. But his desire to reach Eagle Scout provided him an outlet to reach outside normal teen extracurricular activities and led him to his partnership with the Corps. It was a new endeavor for the Sacramento District.

"This is the first time the Sacramento District has done a project with a Boy Scout," said Corps planner and project supervisor Liz Holland. "Brian had to put in a lot of time and effort into the project."

Brian spent three months planning, preparing and producing his finished project. The task was to design and construct bluebird houses that would create an opportunity for the species to thrive. The mitigation site, near River Bend Park in Rancho Cordova, Calif., provides 35 acres of land that is protected from predators and a natural habitat for the bluebirds.

Constructing things isn't new to Brian. When he's not doing school work or playing video games, he can often be found in the family garage using his dad's tools to construct his latest project. Brian has long been interested in building. As a young boy, he would often play with his Lego sets and create all kinds of structures. When he was 10, he decided to join Boy Scout Troop 136.

He was a quick learner and a perfect fit for Eagle Scout, reached by just five percent of all Scouts in 2008, according to the organization's Web page. Scouts must progress through five ranks – Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star and Life – and earn 21 total merit badges before serving in a troop leadership position for six months and completing a

community project.

"I got into it (Scouts) because my friends were in it," said Brian, who lives in the Green Haven community, just south of Sacramento. "But it really is a lot of fun and you get good real life experiences. It definitely teaches you a lot."

Five years after joining, Brian found the perfect opportunity to further his goals of becoming an Eagle Scout and an engineer. Brian's road to this project was not unlike that of the Corps.

As part of the Sacramento District's American River Watershed Program, a 35-acre mitigation site was assembled near River Bend Park to help preserve the endangered Valley elderberry longhorn beetle. Moving the beetle's main habitat, the elderberry bush, became a necessity because the Corps required the land for the Folsom Bridge project and three Common Features projects that will bolster the levees along the American River in conjunction with upgrades at Folsom Dam. To continue the projects and maintain the livelihood of the beetle, the Corps transplanted the bushes.

The Corps found a prime location down the American River near River Bend Park, which is nestled behind a residential community and leads up to the riverbank.

In 2007, the Corps, along with the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, California Department of Water Resources, Sacramento County Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worked together to develop a long-term habitat for the beetle. The site, which is shared and maintained until 2016 by the Western Area Power Authority, contains the transplanted elderberry bushes and numerous native plant seedlings.

As part of the maintenance of the site, Corps team members monitor the progress of the habitat. During these site visits, the Corps team made an interesting observation – bluebirds were taking to the habitat as much as the beetles.

SEE SCOUT - PAGE 38

AN AMAZING CAREER

Park Ranger completes three decades with Corps

BY CHRIS GRAY-GARCIA
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Over more than three decades with the Corps, Angie Wulfow has compiled a hulking scrapbook.

In a photo towards the front of the book, she is a young park ranger at the Sacramento District's Martis Creek Lake - the park's first ranger, in fact - encircled by the Sierra Nevada mountains. A few pages on, she stands beaming before a muddied bulldozer - a relic from her years writing environmental assessments for the San Francisco District's regulatory division. And at the end, one last photo: she is hugged by a little girl outside the visitor center at Stanislaus River Parks, where since 2002 she has served as park manager. On Sept. 30, Wulfow will conclude this latest chapter of her career, when she retires after more than 25 years of service to the Corps.

"I love nature, I love the outdoors. And I like working with people," Wulfow says, explaining why she took her first job with the Corps. It was 1977. She had just completed a degree in environmental planning at the University of California-Davis, when she met a Corps representative at a career fair. She'd forgotten it until she later got a phone call, she says.

"When someone called saying they were with the Corps of Engineers, I said, 'The what? Who are you?' But they had a job, and they were interviewing," she says.

She was hired, and spent two summers at Martis, working as a park technician. From there, she moved to a full-time park ranger position at Black Butte Lake, and in 1981, became the visitor center manager at the Corps' new Lake Sonoma.

"That was really exciting," Wulfow says. "We were still building the (Warm Springs Dam), and we were in construction night and day, seven days a week."

Companies providing equipment for the construction were bringing in customers from around the world to see it in action, Wulfow says. Part of her job was to explain the project to those visitors. "It was a lot of fun," she says. "I met all these engineers from Japan, a guy who was building a railroad across Africa. I was constantly meeting interesting people."

Then, in 1983, she got a chance to further her conservation work. "I saw an opening in San Francisco District's regulatory division, and I thought, 'Why not?'" Her work focused on writing environmental assessments of the potential impacts of proposed development; for that, her degree in environmental planning was critical, she says. What she enjoyed most about the job, though, was the input she had on protecting the environment.

"I wanted to make a difference. And when you're a project manager in regulatory, you can do that," she says. "In one instance, we were looking at a development project on one of the last wild creeks in the Bay Area," she explains. "With something like that, you deserve to give it every bit of protection and study you can."

It was a sensibility she brought to her seven-year detour from Corps service: as a deputy sanctuary manager - and later education coordinator - at the U.S. Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, near San Francisco.





"I was doing educational programs in the San Francisco school district," Wulfow says. "I'd present in these big auditoriums for up to 300 kids - and they'd actually be listening! I tried to show them the majesty, the mystery of the oceans. There's so much to be discovered right off the coast of San Francisco. I encouraged them to get out and explore it."

As the years passed, though, Wulfow says, "I missed the community of people I worked with at the San Francisco District. Regulatory work is really a forum. It's an opportunity for everyone with a stake in a project to provide input on that project's outcome." In 1995, she returned to the district's regulatory division. Then, in 2000, she felt drawn back to the outdoors, and took a park ranger job back at the San Francisco District's Lake Sonoma.

"It was the land, I missed the land," she explains. "You never know what you're going to find any given day on the job as a park ranger. You may see an osprey swoop down to grab a fish, or a rattlesnake. You may meet a visitor from Finland. There's an element of surprise there I just missed."

Still, going back to park ranger work wasn't easy, Wulfow says. "I was 48 when I went back, and it was hard! You're on your feet for eight hours a day, often in the summer heat. I'd come back into the office and sit down and just go, 'Ahhhhhhh.' Sitting down isn't supposed to be that much fun, but it was."

Hard, but worthwhile. Because in 2002, that experience - along with her regulatory work and her experience in education - set her up, she believes, to take on what would be her last and most rewarding job with the Corps: park manager at Stanislaus River Parks.

"What I have loved most about this job is the opportunity we have to make a contribution to the communities (around the park)," Wulfow says. "We have a big stewardship role. We take care of this place for all the communities, to give the public a place to come that's peaceful, quiet and pretty. A place to go for the afternoon just to get away."

What will she miss when she retires? "Everything!" she says. But she doesn't intend to spend her retirement sitting around, she says. "I love the idea of land preservation. So I'd love to find a volunteer position, maybe with someone like the Trust for Public Lands or the Nature Conservancy. Maybe even just work with a wilderness group, lobbying for wilderness preservation."

Looking back on her career, "I'm proud that I stuck with it," she says. "It's a challenging job. But there's no shortage of diverse work to do. And you really get to have an impact on the community. I hope the generation of rangers that follows will continue to be community-out-reach minded."



Sacramento District employees graduate advanced leadership program

BY CARLOS J. LAZO
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Three Sacramento District employees joined 11 other participants in a graduation ceremony for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Leadership Development Program (LDP) Tier III hosted by the Corps' South Pacific Division headquarters Sept. 18.

Cathy Wise, resident engineer for the Valley Resident Office, David Serafini, civil engineer and technical lead for the Isabella Dam safety project, and Jonathan Friedman, Sacramento District senior district ranger, all successfully completed the program.

As part of graduation requirements, participants presented a project they completed that was assigned by the commander.

The graduating class' project was an implementation plan for certification, Friedman said. Friedman, who took part in the 30-minute presentation, offered his reasons for participating in LDP.

"I wanted to gain additional leadership training," said Friedman, who has gone through all three tiers of LDP consecutively. "I wanted to make an investment upfront on my training. It was a great experience to work with people from other districts."

Unlike other programs or schools, graduation does not mean an end to homework assignments for participants in LDP Tier III. One of the program's requirements is a post-graduation utilization assignment. Graduates are assigned, in coordination with the division and district commanders, to essential



PHOTO COURTESY OF USACE SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION HEADQUARTERS

Graduates of the Leadership Development Program Tier III class for fiscal year 2009 pose for a class photo Sept. 18 at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Pacific Division headquarters office in San Francisco. Among the graduates are three Sacramento district employees: Jonathan Friedman (second from left) Sacramento District senior district ranger, Cathy Wise (sixth from left), resident engineer for the Valley Resident Office, and David Serafini (far right), civil engineer and technical lead for the Isabella Dam safety project.

projects or designated positions within the district. This may include working with the family readiness group, assisting employee council or as a coordinator for LDP Tiers I or II.

"I am now the chairperson for SDRAC (Sacramento District Recreation Association Committee)," said Friedman. "It's been a lot of fun...to learn all the components and meet all the individuals associated with the group."

"It's a way of using the leadership skills they learned and giving it back," said Montag.

The goal of the Leadership Development Program is to develop leaders at all levels, across all functional areas and career programs. There are four tiers in LDP, each designed to teach and build on the leadership qualities of participants.

WANT EVERYONE ELSE TO READ YOUR STORY



THEN SEND IN YOUR STORIES & PHOTOS TO THE PROSPECTOR
AND LET EVERYONE ELSE READ YOUR STORY FOR A CHANGE, NOT THAT OTHER GUY

SIMPLE RULES TO REMEMBER WHEN SUBMITTING STORIES & PHOTOS

Stories

- Include all the many projects (new, ongoing and recently completed) SPK is involved in as well as personal stories.
- If you are actively involved in the local community and would love to tell your story, send your information.
- If you have something important you would like to share with everyone, send it in.

Photos

- If you have great photographs, work related or not (but still tasteful), send them in.
- Please remember to include your name, section and all photo information, aka the 4 W's (What, Where, When and the big one WHO).
- In other words, explain what is going on in the photo.

PROSPECTOR@USACE.ARMY.MIL

SPK SAFETY AND



Marjorie McDonald joined the Sacramento District Office from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). She worked as a Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) Manager at FEMA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. She began her duties with FEMA in 2005. Ms. McDonald has served as the Lead Safety and Health Officer in the Baton Rouge Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office, the Safety Coordinator at the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) for Hurricanes Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Ike, and Mid-West flooding, as well as the Safety Coordinator for the 2009 Presidential Inauguration.

She brings extensive knowledge of Safety and Occupational Health and Emergency Response. As an SOH responder to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita she has a firm understanding of how important Occupational Safety and Health is during a disaster situation. Prior to working with FEMA, Ms. McDonald worked as an Industrial Hygiene Contactor for the Corps of Engineers during the initial response phase of Hurricane Katrina and Rita.

She holds a Masters Certificate in Safety Management from Eastern Kentucky University and is currently completing a Master Degree in Emergency Management. She is a graduate of Montana Tech of the University of Montana with a BS in Occupational Safety and Health Science and Engineering. She looks forward to working with everyone in the District to create safer and healthier work environments for our employees, contractors and visitors! To achieve safety excellence it takes everyone to anticipate, recognize and control workplace hazards.

SEASONAL FLU SHOTS ARE HERE H1N1 SHOTS ARE ON THE WAY!



Did you know that beginning the first week of October Seasonal Flu shots are available here at work to all USACE employees? Yes, and all you need to do is fill out the FOH form 52 available online or from Jan Luoma on the 1st floor, between 9a.m. and 3p.m. Please take completed forms down to Jan Luoma, RN, on the 1st floor between the

hours of 7am and 3pm. The H1N1 Flu shots will be available here at work


beginning in early November. An announcement will be made in PAO, similar to the one for the Seasonal Flu shot, and will provide exact dates and times. Remember to be courteous to the folks working in the area!

H1N1 vaccines are expected to arrive on site in the beginning of November. Announcements will be made when the vaccines become available.

If you have any questions regarding seasonal or H1N1 Flu vaccines, please contact:

Jan Luoma, RN, at x6934, Room 110C, or at jan.luoma@foh.hhs.gov.

HEALTH UPDATE



**THE SPK SAFETY OFFICE IS HERE TO ASSIST YOU IN MAKING
YOUR WORKPLACES FREE OF RECOGNIZED HAZARDS.
WE ARE LOCATED ON THE 9TH FLOOR RM. 960
SEE YOU SOON!**



FY10 SAFETY SLOGAN UPDATE

***The SPK Safety Logo and Winner will be
announced at the Holiday Party.
Thank you for all your participation.***



SAFETY OFFICE UPDATES / INITIATIVES

SPK Safety Office would like you to join us in welcoming Mr. Curtis Morris our newest Safety and Occupational Health Specialist. Mr. Morris joins us from Edwards AFB. He brings a wealth of knowledge in Systems Safety as well as general industry safety and health. He will be assisting with our park and lake projects as well as program planning and development.

FY09 Injury and Illness Data:

SPK tracks incidents in three categories.

Civilian employee Lost Times Cases Contractor Lost Workday Cases Public Fatalities

Annual Goals are established by HQ, USACE. Here is how SPK measured up to our goals.

Civilian Employee Cases for FY09

Two Sacramento District employees received injuries resulting in days away from work SPK's made its goal.

As a reminder if you are injured at work advise your first line supervisor.

Contractor Lost Workdays Cases for FY09

Three contractor incidents occurred resulting in one or more days away from work. Our District did not reach its assigned goal; however all injuries were minor.

Public fatalities In FY09

SPK recorded four public fatalities. The first two fatalities involved a capsized fishing boat. Two fishermen not to wear life jackets while boating drowned. The third fatality involved a collision of two personal water crafts. The fourth fatality also involved two men fishing. One man was wearing a personal floatation device (PFD), the other was not. The fisherman wearing a PFD survived.

Message—remember to wear your PFD at all times while out on the water.



Eagle population continues to thrive at Eastman Lake

STORY BY CHRIS GRAY
PHOTOS BY MICHAEL NEVINS,
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
AND KEITH WILLIS
EASTMAN LAKE PARK RANGER

she saw them: all three bald eagle fledglings, swooping over the water with one of their parents, learning to hunt. “Oh my God!” she whispered, reaching for her binoculars.

She watched them until they glided off into the trees, then made for the park office. She burst in, smiling. “I just saw all three!”

It was a heart-warming discovery for everyone at Eastman Lake, made more so by the loss of two fledglings last year, when high winds blew their nest out of its tree.

The bald eagle pair has fledged 35 young since they first nested at Eastman in 1993, making them among the most consistently productive parents in the Pacific region, according to the California Department of Fish and Game. Now they were part of the Eastman family.

“Fledging three birds is rare,” says U.S. Fish and Wildlife wildlife biologist Ken Sanchez, who has advised Eastman on protecting their resident eagles. “You usually see one, maybe two come out of a nest,” he says. “Three is unique.”

Since the pair’s first nesting site was discovered in 1993, Eastman park rangers have worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game to protect them and their offspring during nesting season.

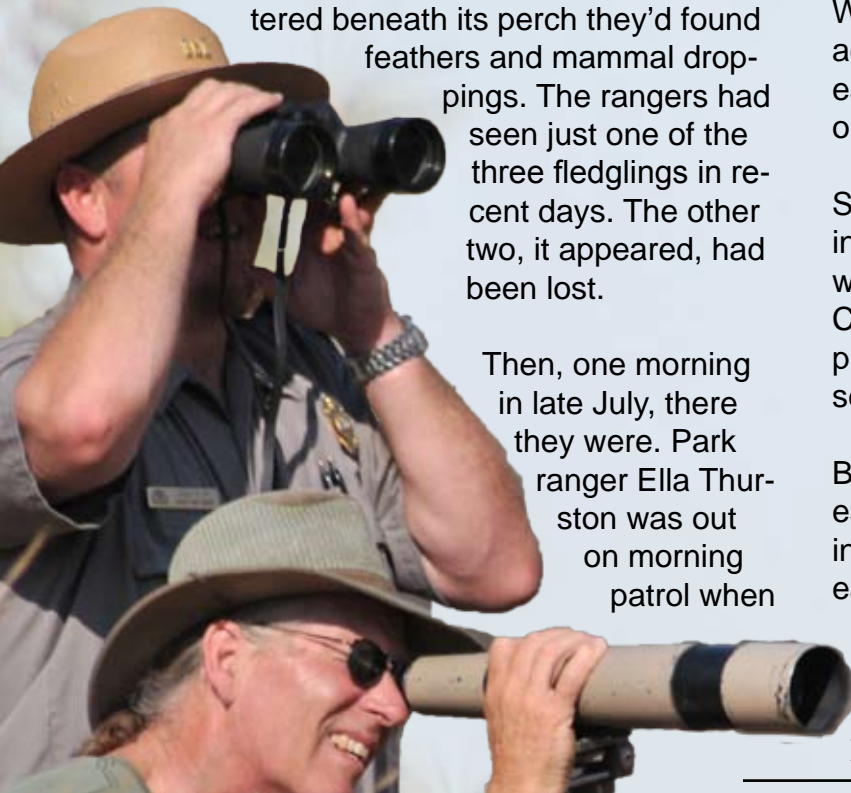
Bald eagles are sensitive to human activities, especially when they’re nesting, and thrive best in seclusion. So Eastman developed a bald eagle management plan in accordance with Army natural resource management regulations and both agencies’ recommendations.

DOUG PLITT AND BOWMAN LOONEY AT EASTMAN LAKE

For one long week this summer, Eastman Lake’s park rangers feared the worst.

The bald eagle nest, home to one of America’s most fertile eagle pairs, had fallen, Eastman volunteer Bowman Looney had reported. Scattered beneath its perch they’d found feathers and mammal droppings. The rangers had seen just one of the three fledglings in recent days. The other two, it appeared, had been lost.

Then, one morning in late July, there they were. Park ranger Ella Thurston was out on morning patrol when



***“AS OUR NATIONAL BIRD, THERE’S
A CERTAIN PRIDE THAT COMES
WITH HAVING THESE BALD EAGLES
NESTING HERE.”***

***- JERRY MAGNUSON
EASTMAN PARK MANAGER***

The plan protects the eagles by limiting access to recreation areas near the nesting site and provides observations about the pair’s productivity and habits to Fish and Wildlife and Fish and Game.

Dale Steele, a wildlife biologist with the California Department of Fish and Game, says the collaborative observation and reporting of bald eagle population data have been essential to the species’ recovery.

“The work we’ve done with our partners like the Corps has been essential to documenting the nest productivity of a number of threatened and endangered species, including the bald eagle,” says Steele.

“It’s only through this kind of documentation that we’ve been able to gauge the health of the species and the effectiveness of our efforts to protect them. It’s important work, and invaluable to their conservation.”

Tracking the eagles is a big job, but Eastman has kept it up with the help of several volunteers. Area resident and teacher Bowman Looney has been following the eagles since the first nest was discovered. As a wildlife enthusiast, he says, “I’ve always been interested in predators. And the bald eagle is just beautiful.”

For over than a decade, Bowman has been leading groups of special-needs students on eagle-spotting excursions to Eastman. It’s a valuable education experience for them, he says, but also an emotional one.

“It’s surprising, actually. Some of these kids are from the city, and they’ve

had it pretty tough,” Bowman explains. “But seeing a bald eagle in the wild, it’s just exciting. You see it in their faces – it’s just thrilling for them. And that’s thrilling for me.”

Eastman Park Manager Jerry Magnuson says that’s a feeling he and the park staff share.

“As our national bird, there’s a certain pride that comes with having these bald eagles nesting here,” he says. “For years there wasn’t a nesting pair of bald eagles within 200 miles of us. So to have been a part of their recovery, and to have seen so many eagles fledged here at the lake, gives us a feeling of great satisfaction and reward.”



TIGER CRUISE

REGULATORY EMPLOYEE TAKES A DIFFERENT KIND OF CRUISE

BY EILEEN IMAMURA
REGULATORY DIVISION



Eileen Imamura, with the regulatory division, Kenny Kiriu, Eileen's grandson, and Lawrence Imamura, AT3 U.S. Navy pose for a photo at the anchor room of the USS John C. Stennis. Lawrence is Eileen's son and serves on the Stennis.

"From 30 June until 6 July, I participated in the Tiger Cruise of the USS John C Stennis."

What is Tiger Cruise?

When a Navy ship is deployed, the last part of the deployment, half of the sailors and marines on the deployment depart for leave and are replaced with family members.

My son, Lawrence is stationed on the USS John C Stennis and recently returned from a 6 month deployment to the Middle East.

My grandson, Kenny and I joined my son on the Tiger Cruise. We traveled from Everett, Wash., to San Diego, Calif. We slept in the same type of beds the sailors sleep on (our "racks" were the "racks" that were vacated by the sailors on leave." We ate the same food (but my son says during Tiger Cruise the food is much better) and we learned about what our family members do while they are deployed.

Why did I go?

Because I have been looking forward to being on a Tiger Cruise since my oldest son joined the Navy in 1993. He is now in the Marines, but the younger two sons are in the Navy. This was the first time that work and school (I am a college student) didn't conflict with the dates of the "cruise."



Chalk-It-Up



A picture of artwork by Michael Comeau, SPK Planning Division administrative officer, begun Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009, and completed Monday, Sept. 7, 2009, titled "The Colors of the World" during the Chalk-It-Up to Sacramento sidewalk chalk art festival. Comeau produced the sidewalk artwork, located at John C. Fremont Park, to sponsor the David S. Orr Foundation Fund for the Earth (5th year participating, various sponsors) over the Labor Day weekend.

Reduce ♦ Reuse ♦ Recycle



Electrical Use: Lighting

You can reduce energy by using cubicle work lights and turning off half the overhead lights

American GI Forum of California Sessions on Domestic Violence Awareness “Men and Women of Honor”

BY HELEN GALVAN

The Capital City/Sacramento Women of the American GI Forum of California, recently hosted a presentation attended by Veterans and their spouses, as well as other persons who work with Veterans. It was very well received and appreciated by the two dozen participants.

The Domestic Violence Awareness Program, “Men and Women of Honor” is a four-hour session presented by Jerry Tello, an internationally recognized expert in the areas of family strengthening and violence prevention/intervention issues.

The sessions are being presented throughout the state with funding from Verizon. The focus of the grant is to give returning Iraqi/Afghanistan soldiers strategies to deal with trauma related to combat so that it won't escalate into domestic violence, and to maintain healthy and fulfilling partner and family relationships.

This highly informative and engaging session is free to participants, and is available for presentation to groups of Veterans and their family members, with several open dates in November.

If interested in obtaining more information, please contact Helen Galván at 805-478-6230 or helen.galvan@gmail.com.

Lisa Gibson Named 2009 SPK Regulator of the Year

This year's recipient of 2009 Randy Snyder Regulatory Excellence Award is Lisa Gibson, a senior project manager in the Sacramento office.

Lisa is recognized for her outstanding service from January 2008 to December 2008 in support of the Sacramento District regulatory mission.

Lisa demonstrated an excellent knowledge of regulations and guidance, an exceptional level of professionalism and customer service, and a fresh, pragmatic and efficient approach to permit application review.

In 2008, despite carrying one of the largest workloads of standard permits and environmental impact statements, Lisa routinely took on additional and challenging work, mentored new employees, and volunteered for special initiatives to benefit the entire division, including leading a team that developed a comprehensive reference document for regulators. Without Lisa's



involvement, many of the successes the team had during 2008 would not have been realized.

The regulatory of the year award was established in July 2002 to honor the memory of Mr. Randy Snyder, who was killed in an automobile accident. Randy served as a regulatory project manager in the Grand Junction office for nearly 10 years before his death. He was a well-respected regulator and team member, who exhibited excellent public service skills and superb technical competence.

Meet two of SPK's cycling folk - Roger and Beth Henderson

BY BETH HENDERSON
CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM MANAGER

Roger is currently the project manager for the Truckee Meadows GRR. Beth is currently the Continuing Authorities program manager for SPK, as well as the project manager for several projects in that program, the Farmington Groundwater Recharge project, and other environmental infrastructure projects. Roger has been with the SPK since 1988 and Beth since 1997. They've been married since 2008.

Roger has been an avid cyclist since his days at University of California-Davis, when he used to ride his bike from there to Sonoma State (ask him about Trinity Grade sometime!). Thanks to Roger, Beth rediscovered cycling in 2005. She hadn't been on a bike in more than 20 years, but the adage about riding a bike is true – you don't forget how! If you live in Rocklin, Lincoln or Loomis, you may have seen them tooling around on the weekends over the last few years. Most recently, Beth participated in the Princess Promenade, a local ride along the American River Bike Trail established in 2007 for women and girls as a way to encourage female bonding as well as tackle the growing problem of obesity in our area. Four local

charities also benefitted from some of the riders in this year's event – WEAVE; Team Donate Life; CureBreast-CancerInc.; Running School, Inc. Earlier this year, she volunteered at a rest stop along the Partry Pardee ride held in Calaveras County and sponsored by the Sacramento Bike-Hikers, a local bike club which donates to various charities throughout the region. Roger recently participated in cleaning up a stretch of the American River Bike Trail with his club, Team Revolutions out of El Dorado Hills, in late September. He donated his time to the Princess Promenade to help set up a rest stop at a nearby bar, providing support to riders on the course between Negro Bar, Beals Point and the Hazel Ave bridge. Roger also completed his first 100-miler mile ride, the Marin Century, in August.



Whether riding together or separately, Roger and Beth support each other's cycling endeavors as well as the various clubs and charities supported by the organized rides they participate in. Cycling is great exercise that we are blessed to be able to do nearly all year long in the Sacramento area, and these two partake as often as they can!



Engineering Freedom

BY MITCHELL JAMES BAGE
MONTEREY PROJECT OFFICE

**Sometimes we are forced to fight
'Cause freedom isn't free
And once the battles' over
The whole world waits to see**

**How chaos after war
Leaves everyone depressed
Looters, theft and mayhem
Are all it seems are left**

**How do we leave a nation
Who fought and killed our own
Are they left broken and shattered
No...we help rebuild their homes**

**We clear away their rubble
Level out the ground
Keep pride and culture going
Replace lost, with found**

**We re-establish order
Replace what used to be
By Engineering Freedom
With life's necessities**

**So, be very proud America
Through the blood, sweat and tears
We restore what's been broken
The Army Corps of Engineers!**

DEPLOYMENT - from page 17

"I'm a pretty patriotic person, and I wanted to support our troops over there," she explains. "I just wanted to go support the mission without much idea – I'd never deployed before, never served in the military – of what it would involve."

Her husband, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, understood her need to help, she says. Equally important was the support of her boss, Carl Korman, Sacramento District's chief of counsel, and the rest of the office of counsel staff. "This isn't an easy thing to ask an office of 10 people," Svetich says. "When one person leaves, one tenth of (Korman's) staff leaves. And everyone else has to absorb what I'm doing now."

Buoyed by their encouragement, Svetich was off. The workload was enormous, she says, requiring staff there to take on whatever they could. She wound up managing payments for Iraq's State Oil

Marketing Organization and running transports to and from Baghdad airport as she "was one of the people to volunteer to go into the red zone to do that," she says, referring to areas outside of American bases in Iraq.

"I went out into the red zone two or three times a week, because that was where the work was. And I think if I hadn't been willing to do that, it wouldn't have been as fruitful, because that is where I feel I was able to do the most good."

Svetich fought stress by staying busy, she says, working up to 18-hour days, seven days a week. "It was extremely difficult, in that you've left your family – your support group," she says, of the hardships of the work environment. "I'd never been away from my husband, and it was hard. The shoulder to cry on wasn't there."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Over the months, it wore her down. Then, just weeks before she was to return home, she narrowly avoided a mortar attack.

"I was pretty depressed, because I had lived with that (war environment) for this length of time," she explains. "This was at the height of the war... It affected me. I lost a ton of weight. A lot of it was stress."

Returning to Sacramento, Svetich threw herself back into her work until she could no longer put off taking required post-deployment leave. She was ready for the rest, she says, but reluctant to face her deployment experiences.

"When I came back, I said no way (would I go again). And if people had asked me if they should go, I'd have said, 'don't do it,'" she says. "But then you get some rest. As time goes on, the bad fades, and the good stays in your memory. You begin to remember the good parts of it, the friends you made, the moments you shared with fellow Corps employees. We still keep in touch, clear across the country. And pretty soon, what was a depressing experience, becomes a happy experience; one that you hold dear."

By 2005, she was ready to deploy again. When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, she was among the first Corps employees into New Orleans, supervising debris removal.

"It was the most satisfying mission I've ever had," she says, "because I was working for the American people. I could see immediate results. When we went in, people couldn't get to their homes. They had animals in there, and you'd find them crying in the streets, saying 'I need to get to my animals, and I can't get through the streets.' So I'd go to my contractor and say, 'Clean this street. Get her to her

home.' And they would do it. You knew you were making a difference, right there at that moment."

For Svetich, it was a reminder of the importance of the Corps' mission. Not long after she returned, Svetich decided she wanted to deploy again in support of Overseas Contingency Operations. In the summer of 2009, she received her chance. A colleague in Afghanistan e-mailed her about an opening for a paralegal specialist. She checked with her husband, checked with her boss. Both said, "Go." She departs for Afghanistan this month, for a six-month tour.

"I expect things will be different this time. I'll be going into the same job I work here, so it'll be nice to go in my own field for a change, so I can hit the ground running."

As she prepares to deploy again, she looks forward to the rewards of contributing again to the Corps mission overseas, and seeing familiar faces. She credits her deployments with helping build her professional confidence. "(Deploying) has helped my satisfaction with my job, because it's given me the confidence to say, 'I can do anything you want me to do'," she says. "It opened up my job to newer, exciting duties. And that's been wonderful. If someone from a different part of our organization came to me and said, 'I want you to take over my job today, now go ahead and start it,' I'd say, 'You're completely out of your mind!' But (in Iraq), you didn't think anything about it. You said, let's sit down and show me what I need to do. That's wonderful, that you really are challenged to be so much more than you ever thought you could be."

While she doesn't believe this deployment will be easy, either, she does feel better prepared to go this time, she says.

"The hard part is leaving the people you love. I missed my husband terribly. But it helps knowing he's 100 percent behind me," she says. "I think when I go back this time, it'll be easier because I already understand (the challenges of deployment). Yes, there'll be some sad times, but the happy times are what you'll take back with you. So, I'm really looking forward to going. You run into the same people who deploy again and again, and we keep seeing each other...so you get to see people who you've formed close relationships with again. I just feel excited to go."



HOBBY - from page 16

vation is crucial.”

Her bat hobby has taken her outside of California, where she has conducted extensive research.

“I have been blessed with many opportunities while working with bats,” she said. “I have worked in many different places throughout California and into Baja. I have also worked a bit in Belize. I have been so fortunate to work with some of the greats of the bat biology world. My goal is to go to either Panama or Costa Rica, or both, next year.”

While there is no direct connection between her bat research and Corps job, yet, Jenkins believes she will link the two eventually.

“I’m still trying to find a way to tie in my bat work with the work I do for the Corps,” she said. “I would like to do a study on wetland restoration and how bats use these areas. Maybe a master’s thesis. I have also helped numerous people within our District office with bat related issues, like bats in attics or sick bats found on properties.”

Prior to studying bats, Jenkins worked as a small business owner and manager for over a decade before returning to the classroom. That’s about the time she turned to the Corps of Engineers and the SCEP, which allows a student to work full-time or part-time while going to school. SCEP students also receive the same health, retirement and leave benefits as career government employees.

“You also gain experience in the career field of your choice,” Jenkins said. By the time you graduate, you have a good amount of experience with the Corps and become eligible for other positions within the agency. I love it!”

So, a hobby has turned into a career for Jenkins, who said she didn’t necessarily start with those intentions.

“I worked with bats extensively for about two years and carefully observed others working with them and



studied them for about a year before that,” she said. “I wanted to make sure it was really a passion before I delved in.”

Based on her recent track record, it appears safe to say she is serious about her hobby-turned-lifelong pursuit.

“I have learned an incredible amount, but at the same time haven’t even scratched the surface of what is still out there to be learned or discovered,” Jenkins said. “I will be assisting on a few different projects this year involving bats. One entails acoustic monitoring (using the analysis of the echolocation frequencies to identify species). The other is assisting other researchers with their studies. I am in the process of obtaining my own permit, so right now, most of the work I do is with other researchers.”



Corps employee participates in "Autism Speaks" walk

BY GINEVRA A. HIGHTOWER
MECHANICAL ENGINEER/CONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR
SACRAMENTO RESIDENT OFFICE

I was a walker in the Sacramento Autism Speaks event Oct. 4, at Raley Field. This is an annual event, in just its second year, and is conducted in major cities throughout the country.

Autism Speaks is a non-profit organization established to raise awareness for autism and raise money for research to find a cure.

Did you know that autism affects one in every 91 children?

That number recently changed from 1 in 150 (recorded in 2007) to 1 in 91 just this month.

The disease is on a spectrum in which the most severe cases of children may never speak, only utter sounds and have varying levels of developmental delays. The less severe cases include children with pervasive developmental disorder (PDD) who exhibit social, physical and communicative delays but with continued therapy, can make tremendous strides in development.

My son Joshua was diagnosed with PDD at age 3. Because of him, I became immersed in the autism world and do whatever I can to learn about this mystifying disease that seems to have no

explainable cause or cure. There were thousands of people like me at the event Sunday, a total of 7,500. There were more than 35 resource booths with agencies who serve the autistic community providing valuable information. It was a beautiful day for a 1-mile walk, and volunteers served bagels, fruit and coffee throughout the day.

A few high powered speakers gave some enlightening speeches to pump up the crowd. Among them, Mayor Kevin Johnson and state Senator Darrell Steinberg.

There were also great kid-friendly activities such as bounce houses, crafts and games at the information booths, and entertainment provided by Toys "R" Us' Geoffrey the Giraffe, Dinger from the River Cats, Stormtroopers from the Rebel Legion Endor Base, and a pre-walk performance by SENSE Theatre.

The walk raised \$232,000 with participants forming teams to represent their agencies. My team was Project RIDE, an agency that provides horse-rides to special needs kids.

This was my first walk in the event, but from the fun, smiles and excitement generated by everyone there, it definitely won't be my last.

SCOUT - from page 23

According to the North American Bluebird Society, the bluebird population has declined in recent years, most notably due to the lack of suitable nesting habitats. The discovery of bluebirds at the site created the perfect opportunity to bring the local Boy Scouts and the Corps together. And the Sacramento District had just the man to make it happen.

Sacramento District Senior Project Manager Dan Tibbitts helps manage the American River Watershed Program. He is also a parent volunteer for Troop 136. Knowing both the project site and the Eagle Scout requirements, Tibbitts pitched the idea to Brian to work with the Corps and develop something to help the bluebirds thrive in the area. And so, in May, Brian had an Eagle Scout project under way.

As part of the Eagle Scout process, Brian was required to research the bluebird species to determine which kind of houses to build, which way to face the houses and learn about their typical habitat. After researching the project, he had to design, fund and build the project.

Each weekend, Brian continued to work to reach his goal. To get the job done, he recruited fellow Scouts from Troops 136, 118 and 45 to help along the way. In mid-July, the team of about 30 Scouts gathered to build more than 50 bird houses. Brian told the Scouts about the specifications of the project and supervised to make sure the job was done well. July 28 was mounting day. Brian assembled his team and they met at the mitigation site bright and early.

"The boxes can go any direction but south," Brian instructed his team that morning. With the supervision of Corps staff, the Scouts

began nailing the boxes into their final location. The Scouts performed all the work, with Brian nailing in the 53rd and final box about an hour after they began.

Brian would yet have to present a paper on the project to the Eagle Scout Board of Review. But today, the work was done. His parents said they couldn't be more proud.

"His grandfather was an Eagle Scout and I know that Brian is very proud to carry on that tradition," his mother, Lynn, said about Brian, who attends Hiram Johnson High School's West Campus and aspires to attend California Polytechnic State University of San Luis Obispo.

Brian's Eagle Scout project was the first of its kind with the Sacramento District but it certainly won't be the last. In August, another future Eagle Scout completed a similar project at a mitigation site near the Cal Expo fairgrounds in Sacramento. While the houses are expected to help the bluebirds at both sites, they also represent the foundation for a promising opportunity between local Boy Scout troops and the Corps of Engineers.

"We're definitely looking to take advantage of this more often with our sites," Holland said. Still, the project isn't finished for the Corps. The American River Watershed Program team will still have to monitor the site for the elderberry habitat that they have transplanted to the area, and now they will keep an eye on those bird boxes while they are out there.

"Hopefully next season we'll see a lot of bluebirds in these houses," Corps planner and volunteer supervisor Mike Dunphy said.

HISTORY - from page 13

potential flooding has raised the priority level for the federal government. The current economic crisis is challenging all aspects of projects and people, much like the challenges faced in the Great Depression.

Sacramento District employees continue to serve the nation in combat situations through both civil and military service.

The completion of the Folsom Bridge, dedicated in 2009, was another accomplishment for the district, demonstrating its ongoing support of the nation.

Future work, like the ongoing Joint Federal Project, are projects that we are looking forward to accomplishing, with the same spirit and dedication that has been demonstrated for the past 80 years.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

COLUMN

Row

2				1		8		
	5	3	4				9	
							6	
			6		4		2	
	4	8		7	2	5		9
				3				
	2	4		9	5		1	
1		6	7		8		5	2
3				6				

SUBMITTED BY RENE MCGAUGH, CIVIL ENGINEER PLANNING DIVISION

DIFFICULTY: HARD

RULES OF PLAY

Fill in the game board so that the numbers 1 through 9 occur exactly **ONCE** in each row, column, and 3x3 box.

The numbers can appear in any order and diagonals are not considered.

Your initial game board will consist of several numbers that are already placed.

Those numbers cannot be changed. Your goal is to fill in the empty squares following the simple rule above.

*Summer edition
caption winners*

"Let's make a goldfish pond, after you find the precious."

"Wouldn't it be easier if you just bought me a litter box?"

"Trust me, there really is gold down there. You just have to scoop up all the cans of tuna and sardines to get to it."

What caption would you give this photo?

Man, this guy's good.

*It's been 20 minutes and he
still hasn't blinked.*



Send your caption ideas to Prospector@usace.army.mil

The top two captions will be selected and printed in the upcoming issue of The Prospector.

Send in any funny or interesting photograph and we may use it for a future caption challenge.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SACRAMENTO DISTRICT
1325 J. STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814