

Wilmington

District News

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Analyzing Made Easy With GIS

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US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

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On the Cover:

This hardcopy of a GIS printout lets analyzers pinpoint water quality in certain parts of Wake County.

Engineer Day

On June 16, we pause to celebrate the history and accomplishments of the Engineer Regiment and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. On that day in 1775, the Continental Congress established the position of the Chief Engineer of the Continental Army, just two days after the Congress established the Army itself.

In his first mission, Col. Richard Gridley, the first Chief Engineer, directed construction of fortifications for the Battle of Bunker Hill from which American artillery forced the British to evacuate Boston.

That heritage of service to the nation continues today. I'm enormously proud of the entire Regiment – active duty, National Guard, Reserve, and civilians. The Regiment's soldiers and civilians are serving around the world, often in dangerous conditions and doing a tremendous amount of work on behalf of the nation and the Armed Forces. What we are accomplishing as we help build democracies in Iraq and Afghanistan is remarkable.

In Afghanistan, we established a District office to support the important initiatives underway. Army Engineers are building garrisons for the Afghan National Army, overhauling the national hospital, and building police facilities at 50 locations in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. We are assisting the U.S. Agency for International Development in developing roads, schools, clinics, power generation and transmission, and water resources.

Engineers are building or improving facilities at Kandahar Air Base, Bagram Air Base, and Karshi-Khanabad Air Base. This work includes a new joint operations center, temporary barracks for 6,000 troops, repairing runways, and building a new modular hospital.

In Iraq, the Corps of Engineers stood up the Gulf Region Division (GRD) to consolidate the \$12.6 billion in construction work we are doing to support the Coalition Provisional Authority and Iraqi ministries. About 600 of the Corps' civilian and military personnel are in GRD right now, and we are always looking for more volunteers to take part in this historic mission.

Thanks to them, the Iraqi people enjoy a better quality of life. Most Iraqi citizens now have 16-18 hours of electricity per day, and our goal is for the national power grid to produce at least 6,000 megawatts of power. The electrical distribution system is much more stable, so the Iraqis now endure few blackouts.

After the war began, our first mission was to extinguish fires on the oilfields and help to rebuild Iraq's oil production capability. The average crude oil production is up to 2.4 million barrels per day, up from 1.8 mb/d before the war. Iraq now produces 50 percent of its refined fuel requirement in-country, up from zero before the war.

Continued on next page



Robert B. Flowers
Lieutenant General

Ops Plan Update:

Expand Environmental Education

FY04 District Operations Plan Objective 3.1, "Expand Environmental Education Program" is progressing well towards completion. Champion Bob Sattin leads the Project Delivery Team (PDT), consisting of Ashley Hatchell, Jenny Owens, Carmine Forcinito, Trudy Wilder, Eric Edwardson, Allen Piner, Lisa Hetherman, Hank Heusinkveld, Susanne Hicks, Sherrill Storm and Jeff Manning. The initial effort began in the FY03 Operations Plan with Objective 3.4, "Environmental Education Program." The team is proud of its work done this year and last year, and believes this was one of the best FY03 Operations Plan achievements. The FY04 Objective 3.1 continues and expands upon this public education initiative.

This year's Objective has two primary public education focuses. The first requires development of an interactive learning tool to demonstrate the water management decision process. The PDT is developing a computer program based on a basic, generic, watershed model. They plan for the model to show three main flow or water level conditions; normal, flood, and drought. The design will show impacts to the stakeholders and be able to display their satisfaction level. Users

will be able to manipulate water releases in order to change impacts to the stakeholders. Once completed, the program will be available at kiosks at District Reservoir Project Visitor Centers and also on the District Web site.

Be sure to look for this interesting module coming soon!

The second requirement of Objective 3.1 is for a public education program about the District's implementation of Corps Environmental Operating Principles for dredging and shore protection projects. During FY04, the PDT has added to the District's Environmental Outreach Program and Activities collection of fact sheets that highlights the Corps of Engineers approach to the EOPs environmentally sensitive activities. A new Power Point is just about complete. The presentation specifically addresses Corps work in areas of dredging and shore protec-



A requirement of Objective 3.1 is a public education program about implementing Environmental Operating Principles for dredging.

tion. The material is on CD, and will be posted to the District's web page. A recent presentation of this Environmental Education Program at the North Carolina Natural Museum in Raleigh, NC was most memorable. The team did so well that the museum invited them to come back at a future date. Fantastic job team members!

Congratulations to the Environmental Education Program Team for such great vision and wonderful work! We look forward to greater public understanding of Corps mission and environmental challenges as a result of your efforts.

Continued from page 2

The oil and electricity missions are just two of the many jobs that the Army Engineers are doing in Iraq and Afghanistan. Several senior leaders served as advisors in reconstituting Iraqi ministries. We continue to secure and destroy captured ammunition, which is helping create a safer Iraq. In both countries, Army Engineer soldiers and civilians volunteer their time to support orphanages and schools. Their donations of clothes, books, and other materials are giving the Iraqi and Afghan children a good start as their countries are rebuilt.

Since the Global War on Terror began, 1,700 military and civilian employees have deployed. Through it all, Corps employees have accomplished their work in austere and dangerous conditions. Yet all have accepted the challenge with courage, dedication, and professionalism. Through their work, they are not only providing valuable service, they are serving as ambassadors and showing what good government is all about.

I'm also proud of everyone who continues to accomplish our vitally important work here at home and around the world. Thanks to you, our civil works, military construction, environmental, and research and development efforts are making a lasting difference in the life of our nation.

This marks my last Engineer Day as the Chief of Engineers. It's been a privilege to see everything you have accomplished. Thanks to you, the proud legacy that began 229 years ago continues to be strong. This summer, when I leave the U.S. Army after 35 years of service, I will leave knowing the Army and the nation is in good hands. Engineers have never let the country down and, thanks to all of you, we never will.

Essayons!

Robert B. Flowers, *Lieutenant General, USA, Commanding*

Geographic Information System Eases Data Analysis



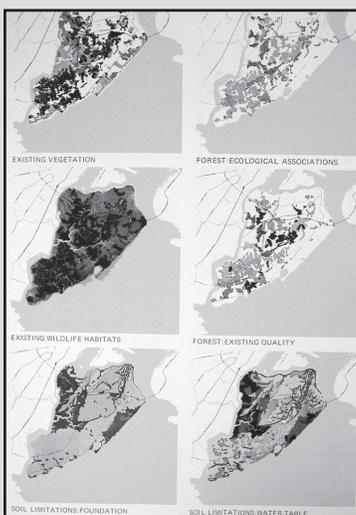
Jocelyn Collins double-checks a map to make sure it has all necessary information.

When Coleman Long was going to school in the late 1960s he used a textbook titled "Design With Nature" that was considered a bible for those who would later become planners and landscape architects. It described ways to create graphic representations of land and cultural features, so decision makers could decide where or where not to build roads, sewer lines or anything related to urban and regional development. It was tedious work and could take several months to recreate an area of thousands of acres.

"It was originally called Spatial Data Management," he says. "It was a way to take data that could be mapped like soils, geology, vegetation, and do some 'what if?' questions. It was used for suitability studies like looking for the best place to build a residential area, a park or a road."

Today, that method of collecting and analyzing data can be easily done with GIS or Geographic Information System. The Army Corps of Engineers was one of the first agencies to use the system, according to Jim Jacaruso, District GIS Coordinator and his GIS team members Doug Wall and Jocelyn Collins. In the early 1980s USACE's Construction Engineering Research Laboratory in Champaign, Illinois, began to explore the possibilities of using GIS to conduct environmental research, assessments, monitoring and management of lands under the stewardship of the U. S. Department of Defense. Part of the motivation for this action was new responsibility for the environment encoded into the National Environmental Policy Act of the late 1970s.

One of the main benefits of GIS is improved management of an organization and its resources. A GIS can link data sets together by common locational data, such as addresses or



The information gathered on this page from the book "Design With Nature" took several months to complete. GIS could do the same thing in a matter of days or weeks.



Jim Jacaruso- "Just about anyone can use GIS up to a certain point."

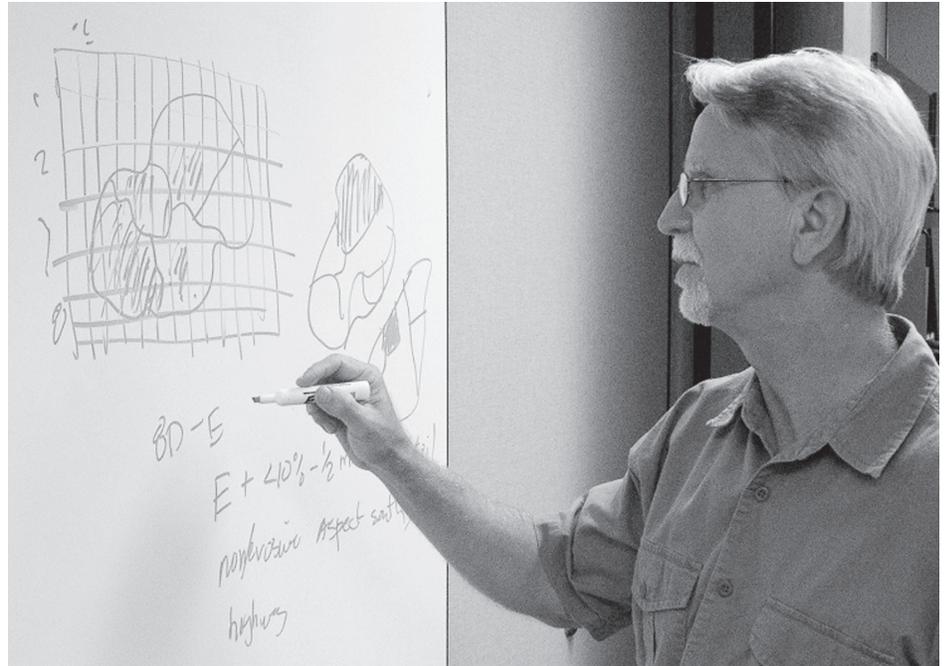
geographic coordinates, which helps departments and agencies share that data. By creating a shared database, one department can benefit from the work of another. Data can be collected once and used many times. And in the decision making process GIS is a tool to query, analyze, and map results.

GIS team member and the Computer-Aided Design Development (CADD) coordinator Doug Wall says there's a common misconception of what GIS is used for.

"It's not just a map maker. The real power of GIS is the database or attributes that are associated with the geographic data. Where the real interesting stuff comes in is when you can perform analysis based on the attributes that are in the data."

The process of using GIS for a particular project involves several steps. Jacaruso says the first step of any project is to assemble the project delivery team and develop a project management plan.

"Using the PMP the team can determine what data will be needed to put together, for the project. We then do 'data



Coleman Long describes the painstaking way he used to have to plot out a simple map that could take months to make.

drilling', mining for data over the internet and through various sources and contacts at different municipalities, county governments, state and national along with other Corps districts. From there we can determine what, if any, additional data will be needed to collected."

One current project that occupies a lot of Jocelyn Collins time is studying the Neusse River Basin.

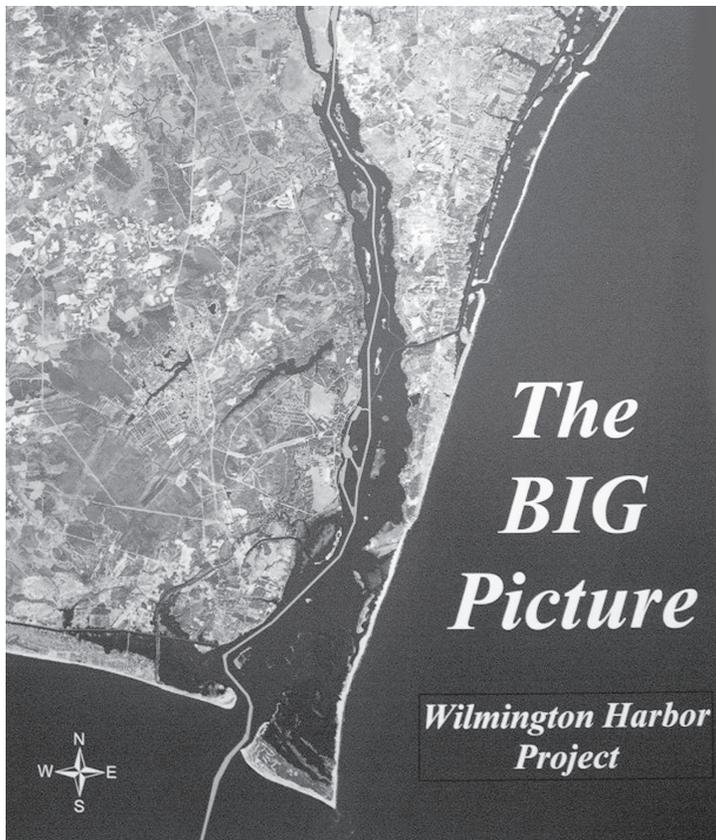
"We're doing analysis regarding endangered species and water quality. A lot of data has been collected through the state of North Carolina and I'm pulling it all together to get a better picture."

Jacaruso, who's background is in geography and surveying, says anyone can use GIS.

"GIS spans various disciplines at different user levels throughout the District. We're continually working toward serving the masses making the GIS environment more user friendly."

His team works well because of diverse knowledge of GIS components. Wall combines graphic and engineering expertise while Collins adds extensive computer database management. Jacaruso says they feed off each other's strong points.

"And that's the whole geographic analysis side of it. We all learn a lot from each other; using graphics, 1's and 0's. It's great to have an expert on each side. It would be hard to find one person that has the combined education, experience and knowledge of this team."



This aerial view of the Wilmington Harbor Project created by the GIS team gives people a concrete image of the size and complexity of the project.

Taking a Second Look at Our Projects

Editor's note - We've asked three of our park rangers at W. Kerr Scott, B. Everett Jordan and Philpott to give you a behind-the-scenes look at their projects. We'll feature John H. Kerr and Falls in the June issue.

Dream of Making a Memory at Philpott Lake

By Susan Traxel

We're delighted you have chosen to "Ride-Along with a Ranger" at Philpott Lake today and we hope you will enjoy this opportunity to experience the beautiful sights and sounds that we are privileged to enjoy on a daily basis. We'll check a vehicle out of the compound this morning and get started. I'm glad to hear you didn't have any trouble finding us. We are easily accessible from major routes such as Routes 220, 40 and 57 easy to get to from I-81, I-77 or I-40. We are in an area that people often dream about coming to or have been to and hold treasured memories of having been there. The mountains have many secrets and treasures and famous places like Mabry Mill aren't too far away. In fact, we are very close to a place where people have come for many, many years to hunt for lucky staurolite crystals called "Fairy Stones". The Philpott Project, located in Henry, Franklin and Patrick counties of Virginia and consists of approximately 6,770 acres of land and 2,880 acres of water. The lake is about 15 miles long with 100 miles of shoreline. That means we've got a lot of driving to do today so fasten your seatbelt.

As you know, Philpott Dam has been serving the local community in flood control and power generation for 50 years now. Down here at the tail race we can see the fishermen who come from miles around to delight in the cold water of the Smith River where brown and rainbow trout make their home. You can also see the segment of Philpott Park trail

system known as the Smith River Trail, which meanders adjacent to the Smith River. Although this section is only a short 1/2 mile trail, it offers interpretive opportunities for the inquisitive person. We have some other small trail systems in other park areas, and we are hoping to develop an additional hiking, biking, equestrian trail in the future. We have many volunteer opportunities at Philpott Lake but our trail development and maintenance is just one area where volunteers will be very welcomed.

Above the dam is Philpott Park where our visitors find the best view this side of the Blue Ridge Parkway. In fact, from our overlook area we can see the lake framed by the Blue Ridge Mountains in the background. Philpott Lake glistening in the sunlight is truly the hidden jewel of the mountains. Romance is in the air at Philpott and we have hosted many weddings at our overlook.

Visitors may come into the exhibit area of the visitor assistance center to learn more information about the history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its role here at Philpott through interpretive exhibits. The park has a large picnic area filled with tables and a shelter too. Multi-generational families and church groups, scouts and friends all come here to have

large gatherings and reunions, but it's always nice to see the romantic couple or the parent and child with their picnic lunch spread out on a blanket as well.

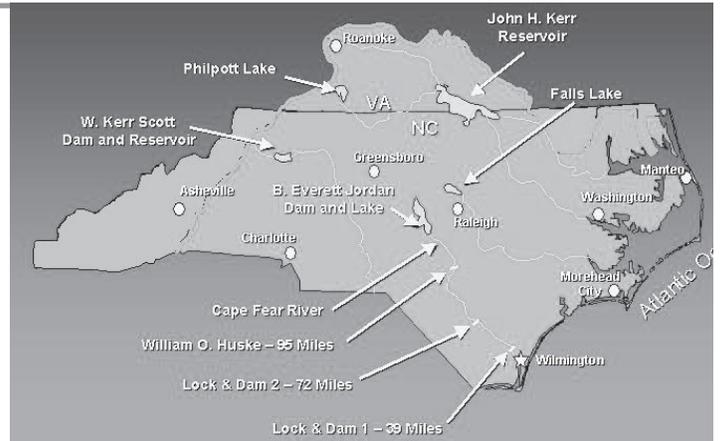
Philpott Overlook is a designated stop on the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) Birding and Wildlife Trail. Often one of our nesting

eagles is seen flying over the dam. Another common sight at the overlook is our flock of walkers. Every morning our overlook loop is filled with many walkers who enjoy meeting their friends for a morning work-out in a refreshing environment. It is motivating and invigorating to exercise in a natural setting with the sounds of morning birds, flowering trees and a view that fills you with energy. Hey, look over there!— there are some walkers by the butterfly garden waving to us!

As we leave Philpott Park, the area on the right leads to the group camp area and the building on the left is RBS, our maintenance contractors' headquarters. We are also in the process of setting up an environmental education center in there which we look forward to sharing with school groups and others who seek to learn more about our environmental stewardship and the natural resources at Philpott Lake. Let's go out and check on the boat ramps, day use areas and campgrounds now.

Day use visitors can launch from boat ramps at Philpott Park, Bowens Creek, Ryans Branch and Twin Ridge Parks. Our fishermen enjoy fishing for large and small mouth bass, walleye, crappie, bluegill, and catfish, in addition to the brown and rainbow trout of the Smith River. Of course, it's always a lot of fun just to go boating with the wind blowing through your hair.

Wow, look at all of those turkeys crossing the road. As we drive around the lake we can see all the natural beauty of the surroundings and the wildlife that live



This map shows the locations of our projects, each within a few hours drive from Wilmington.



Park Rangers will answer just about any question you have about Philpott Lake.

here. Approximately 6000 acres are licensed to the VDGF for wildlife management purposes. Timber stand improvements, prescribed burning and field planting are just a few management activities that provide excellent habitat for deer, wild turkey, squirrel, rabbit, quail, and ruffed grouse. Beaver, muskrat, wood duck, mallard, and black ducks populate the bottomland regions. Whether you are a hunter or a naturalist, Philpott Lake has something for everyone. Our wildlife biologist will be happy to answer any questions you might have about the wildlife that live at Philpott.

Philpott Lake offers primitive camping experiences, and for those who enjoy bringing the kitchen sink too, we have sites with water and electric. Our campgrounds are located at Salthouse Branch, Horseshoe Park, Jamison Mill, Ryans Branch, Deer Island and newly renovated Goose Point Parks. Camping fees range from \$15 to \$18.00 per night depending on location and/or hook-ups. Tonight a ranger is going to be conducting an interpretive program about Black Bears at the amphitheatre. No, we don't have bears at our campgrounds, but there has been an occasional bear sighting just a few miles away.

Speaking of things to see around here, there are quite a few interesting things just a short drive from here. In addition to the attractions of the Blue Ridge Parkway we have a wonderful winery and restaurant called Chateau Morrisette where tours and wine tastings are conducted. We also have the Virginia Museum of Natural History where you can discover and explore the wonders of Virginia and the world. Covered bridges conjure up sights and sounds of days gone by. One can almost see a barefoot youth with a fishing pole or hear the hollow sound of horses' hooves. We have two covered bridges in Patrick County waiting for you to sneak a kiss from your loved one in. The Reynolds Homestead was built in 1843 and Hardin Reynolds' descendants founded RJ Reynolds Tobacco and Reynolds' Metals. The Homestead and its 717 acres is a historical attraction and it was deeded to Virginia Tech. Ferrum College's Institute and Museum sponsors the Center for Blue Ridge Folklore exploring traditions of the past and present showcasing folklife in the 1800s. Every weekend you can find blue grass music being played in local establishments and gatherings of

the communities surrounding the lake, and yes, each April and October the Martinsville Speedway hosts the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series Race. July 3rd Trace Adkins will appear at the Speedway, with a tremendous fireworks display after the concert. Everyone can attend at no charge.

Let's stop at one of our beaches and see how things are going. The park attendants are here to assist our visitors. They share information about the lake, provide maps and safety information and of course, will collect the day use fees if there isn't an annual pass affixed to a vehicle's rear view mirror. We have a fishing rod and tackle loaner program and a life jacket loaner program here at Philpott that folks can take advantage of and our Park Attendants will be happy to sign one of these items out to someone who needs to borrow one of these items for the day.



Lifelong anglers can get their start at fishing at each project.

B. Everett Jordan Offers Nature Trails, Camping, Swimming

By Carmen Boyette

As temperatures warm, the 46,768 acres of land and water known as Jordan Lake located near the geographical center of North Carolina are bustling with activity. Across the lake, the Corps and our state partners including the NC Division of Parks and Recreation, the NC Division of Forest Resources, and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission partner together to make the lake a safe, fun, relaxing and educational site to visit.

It's pretty hot today so the beach is getting lots of use. See everyone relaxing on the beach, catching the sun's rays with their feet in cool waters? After we update the bulletin board with safety messages, our roving ranger will stop and talk to the children about wearing their life jacket and other water safety tips. We'll give out some water safety tattoos and activity books too. Parents really appreciate us taking the time to educate the young ones about being safe around the water. And our local Wal-Mart has partnered with us this year to offer discount coupons on the purchase of children's life jackets. It's a great opportunity to keep our children safe.

We need to check on the campgrounds now. Campers are starting to settle in for the evening. They are roasting hotdogs and marshmallows over the glowing campfires. You can smell the tantalizing aroma of combined wood-smoke and burgers. Children are playing together with new friends they've met since arriving. Soon they will be called "home" and everyone will be sleeping beneath a wondrous sky filled with twinkling stars.

Our day too is coming to an end and we will return the vehicle to the compound, our radio to its charger, and the keys will turn the padlock on the gate closed for another day. We will go home now to rest and dream. Dream and remember.

Yes, it is true, fun is in full bloom all around the lake, so don't just sit there and dream of the outdoors! Live it at Philpott Lake! Create a summer memory with a refreshing visit to Philpott Lake. Come find your fun and take memories home today.

The project encompasses 46,768 acres of land of which 13,900 acres are flooded. The project purposes include flood control, water supply, water quality control, outdoor recreation, and fish and wildlife conservation. The lake area offers visitors a variety of water- and land-based activities. Visitors who enjoy the water may choose to go boating or fishing.

Day use visitors may choose to launch from one of six boat ramps across the

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lake including Poe's Ridge, Ebenezer Church, Robeson Creek, Vista Point, Farrington Point, and New Hope Overlook. Those visitors with an interest in paddle sports may launch from areas specifically designed for those uses including Parkers Creek State Recreation Area, Robeson Creek Canoe Launch, Vista Point, and the Beaver Creek sub-impoundment. The sandy beach at Vista Point is a great location for sailboats to launch from. One of the recent additions at the ramps, are signs donated by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary explaining the new life jacket rule for children under 13 in both English and Spanish.

For fishermen, the shoreline, the Jordan Dam Tailrace, and the open lake are all popular places to find fisherman throughout the day. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission manages three public fishing areas including Bell's Church, Weaver Creek, and Rock Quarry. These areas provide gravel parking lots and spots where fish attractors and cut hardwood trees have been cabled to the shoreline to provide fish habitat. Bell's Church fishing area is specially designed for people with disabilities. Fish found in the lake include largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish, white bass, striped bass, hybrid striped bass, carp, Bodie bass, and crappie.

The land surrounding Jordan Lake provides excellent opportunities for bird watchers, hikers, swimmers, and campers. Chatham County, where a majority of Jordan is located, is home to the largest population of bald eagles in the state. This year Jordan is home to five breeding pairs of bald eagles. An eagle observation platform and interpretive trail have been established off of Highway 751 to view the eagles and other birds including great blue herons, osprey, and cormorants. Along the trail, there are early and late succession forests where visitors may see a variety of birds including northern cardinals and red-eyed vireos. After a quick hike down to the observation platform, visitors can find several other trails at the state recreation areas, including a newly built five-mile trail at New Hope Overlook State Recreation Area. The trail is one of

the most challenging at the lake and features groves of mountain laurel and scenic views of the lake. An excellent place to take children and learn about trees is the Jordan Lake Educational State Forest managed by the NC Division of Forest Resources. The forest features a "Talking Tree Trail," a Forest Demonstration Trail, and a Wildlife Trail.

After a hike, visitors may cool down in the lake at a swim beach. The Corps has partnered with the State to provide life



Stake your claim on the beach and have fun! Loaner life jackets are available if you don't have one.

jackets for visitors to use while they swim at all three public day use beaches and at the public camping areas. The program has been extremely successful and consists of eight stations with three sizes of jackets available for visitors. Recently, the NC Safe Child Coalition donated 24 life jackets to the stations at Seaforth.

As the sun lowers in the sky, campers can choose to stay at one of the four camping areas managed by the State including Poplar Point, Crosswinds Campground, Parkers Creek, and Vista Point. Each of these areas offers water and electric hookups. Primitive sites are available at New Hope Overlook.

The Corps and the State also work to educate the community through water safety presentations and interpretive programs. In March, the Corps mailed letters to all schools within a 50-mile radius offering a water safety program or materials to students. Our goal is to teach children about water safety before they step foot at the lake. As the school

year comes to a close, rangers have had several requests for presentations.

Since Jordan is located in a rapidly growing area, it is also crucial that the Corps and our partner agencies teach the public about Environmental Stewardship. State Parks and the Division of Forest Resources offer programs on a regular basis to groups and to campers. The Corps has partnered with State Parks to provide programs in the campgrounds this summer around holidays and other select days throughout the summer.

The biggest change this year at Jordan is the renovation of the Jordan Lake Visitor Assistance Center. In late March, the staff moved back into the center after being stationed in a temporary office trailer. The renovated building offers more space for interpretive exhibits and features an interactive touch screen monitor for visitors to learn more about recreational opportunities at the lake and about natural resources. The conference room can be setup as a classroom to host environmental education programs. Outside the center, visitors may enjoy a picnic by the

overlook or sit on the porch and watch for birds at the feeders or by the purple martin houses or bluebird houses. Soon an amphitheatre will be ready to stage outdoor educational programs.

B. Everett Jordan Dam and Lake is full of opportunities for individuals or groups to enjoy. In fact, we like to say there is something here for everyone to enjoy! If you are driving through the area, please take a moment to stop in and say hello here at the Visitor Assistance Center or call 919-542-4501 extension 21 for more information about Jordan Lake.

W.Kerr Scott: Head West for Great Fishing, Boating!

By Miriam Fleming

At first glance, visitors to W. Kerr Scott Reservoir may simply see a body of water created by an 1,740 foot long earthen dam. Nestled in the foothills of Western North Carolina, this 5,775-acre project offers myriad opportunities for education, recreation, and relaxation. The reservoir is located within an hour west of Winston-Salem and a short 45 minutes to the highest peak of the Blue Ridge, Grandfather Mountain. Kerr Scott Lake boasts two campgrounds and 10 days use areas. Within the lake's parks are found scenic overlooks, playgrounds, fishing piers, swimming areas, boat ramps, hiking, biking and nature trails, and picnic shelters. Camping fees range from \$14-18 per night. Some of the day-use areas require a day use fee, however, many are free.

While the lake is home to largemouth, smallmouth, striped, and hybrid bass, crappie is the most popular draw. Locals also come for the large catfish, often caught along the banks at night. The prehistoric gar has also made an appearance lately. Feel free to ask what's currently running; however, don't ask where—local fishermen are quick to show their spoils but hold fast to the location of the best holes. For visitors who want ideas of where fish may gather, maps of fish attractor locations are available at the Visitor Assistance Center. There are many spots from which to fish from shore around the lake including four fishing piers. Fishing en-

thusiasts particularly like the spacious and free fishing piers found at Blood Creek Wayside and Tailwater Acces Area. The Tailwater Access Area is by far the most popular area for pier fishing as the water exiting the dam's conduit churns the water and attracts fish with its abundant nutrients. Keowee Park has a pier specifically designed for persons with disabilities.

Boaters and fishermen have seven ramps around the 1,075-acre lake from which to put-in. Year round ramps are conveniently located at Boomer Park, Keowee Park, Dam Site Park, and Smithey's Creek. Seasonal ramps are located within the Bandit's Roost Campground and Ft. Hamby Park. Kayak and canoe users may launch at all ramps, as well as, the beautiful Yadkin River Canoe Trail put-in located adjacent to the Tailwater Access Area.

The 2,284 acres of forestland that surrounds the lake offers many opportunities for hunting, wildlife viewing, hiking and biking. In 2003, the staff at W. Kerr Scott debuted three new wildlife management areas at Marley's Ford, Boomer, and Ft. Hamby. These areas are open for archery and black powder hunting only. Seasons follow the dates prescribed by the North Carolina Wildlife Commission. The successful 2003 youth hunt took place at Marley's Ford with all comers taking one deer a piece.

In addition to hunting, wildlife viewing is a popular pastime. Two viewing plat-

forms are located in the Dark Mountain Recreation Area. While deer are seen frequently, lucky visitors caught a glance of beaver in action at the Warrior Creek swim beach. If you're lucky, the winter season may bring an opportunity to see our local river otters. Released 10 years ago, the otters are mostly seen swimming from the dam to the Dam Site cove. The Kerr Scott staff recently partnered with several organizations for the release of raptors. In early March 2003, the Carolina Raptor Center released an immature bald eagle at Smithey's Creek Park. Both adult and immature eagles are occasionally seen. Wild Haven, a state-approved wildlife rehabilitation organization, also released a great horned owl during an interpretive program at the Bandit's Roost Campground amphitheater in August 2003.

The Dark Mountain Recreation area is quickly becoming one of the most popular areas on the project. In addition to an exercise walking track and fantastic lake views, this area boasts seven miles of new International Mountain Biking Association approved trails—the only such trails in Western North Carolina. Six miles of these trails are single track and offer a wide variety for differing skill levels. This was accomplished through a partnership between Kerr Scott and the local Brushy Mountain Cycling Club (BMCC) and boy scouts. Plans for trail extensions include six additional miles running from the Visitor Assistance Center to the corps-managed Bandit's Roost Park. This section was designated by the National Park Service as part of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. Eventually, Kerr Scott trails will connect with the Yadkin River Greenway, thus providing a continuous 30 mile scenic trail along the Yadkin River to the town of Elkin, NC.

For the educational minded, a short 0.4-mile trail is co-located to the Visitor Assistance Center. The Lakeside Nature Trail offers a glimpse of life in the surrounding forest. Visitors may see deer on the trail in fall or skinks at the trail entrance in the spring and summer. Some visitors may even have an opportu-



Take a trip by kayak on W. Kerr Scott's beautiful water.

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Our roundup of websites for this edition takes us from a site called the Birdhouse Network, to a government site dedicated to eradicating what is becoming the biggest preventable health problem in America, to a site looking to develop georeferenced data to be used on Internet cell phones and car navigation systems. But don't fail to 'view' our One For Fun! Site this month for some incredibly 'bad' art, and learn of a museum's goal to preserve it. Discover something new this month—have fun and happy surfing!

Dialect Survey

<http://hcs.harvard.edu/~golder/dialect/index.html>

This rather interesting dialect survey, conducted by Professor Bert Vaux (with his colleagues) at Harvard University, "uses a series of questions, including rhyming word pairs and vocabulary words, to explore words and sounds in the English language." Discover how the over 30,000 participants, who took part in the survey, gave answers for such geographically pronounced words as caramel, pecan, aunt, and lawyer. Also included are a group of questions which highlight that there are regional differences in terminology. Examples are, "What do you call the drink made with milk and ice cream?" and, "What do you call the insect that flies around in the summer and has a rear section that glows in the dark?" Visitors to the site can view dialect maps and learn more about the breakdown of the participants in the survey as well.

Digital Earth: GeoWeb

<http://www.dotgeo.net/>

GeoWeb is part of SRI International's DARPA-sponsored Digital Earth Project and spirits itself as "a vision for making all geographically referenced, or georeferenced, data available over the Web." The infrastructure allows for open, global, and scalable Internet searches associated with a specific latitude/longitude location. Clients can query the GeoWeb to "discover relevant metadata and use Web-based or peer-to-peer communications to retrieve the actual data." The data can be used, for example, with Internet-connected cell phones and car navigation systems. The website describes the project goals and work on building the standards, tools, browsers, and infrastructure necessary to develop GeoWeb.

SmallStep.gov

<http://www.smallstep.gov/>

A recent study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Disease Control indicated that deaths due to poor diet and physical inactivity rose by 33 percent over the past ten years, and may soon overtake tobacco use as the leading preventable cause of death. To combat a potential public health nightmare, the Department of Health and Human Service has created this site designed to provide information on the subject of diet and exercise that will help people make improvements through incremental change in

their habits. The site is divided into four primary sections each with some quick tips such as: "It's hard to judge the calories in food. For instance, a can of regular soda can have more sugar than a slice of cake!" or "You need to burn 3,500 calories to lose a pound of body weight?" This visually pleasing site allow visitors to sign up to receive a helpful e-newsletter.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology: The Birdhouse Network

http://birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse/getting_started/getstart_index.html

The natural environment is in a state of seemingly unstoppable decline and one of the greatest causes is destruction of natural habitat. Loss of nesting spaces for birds is a prime example of a major consequence The Birdhouse Network website from the renowned Cornell Lab of Ornithology offers all sorts of good information on bird houses, including construction plans and where to put the house(s) once finished. Backyard birders will enjoy the Bird Bios section. This area gives short snippets on common backyard birds like the Black-capped Chickadee to the House Sparrow.

Military Campaign Maps

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/milhome.html>

Created as part of the American Memory Collection at the Library of Congress, this fine digital archive brings together thousands of maps that offer great detail about major military conflicts, including such information as troop movements, defensive structures and groundworks, campsites, local buildings, topography and vegetation. Learn about how the maps were digitized, along with specific information about the various technical equipment used to capture the full content of each document. Maps of more contemporary conflict sites, such as Iraq and Afghanistan, are also included.. The entire contents of the archive may be searched in a variety of methods, including through the use of keywords, browsing through a subject list, a creator index, and a geographic location index.

One For Fun!

The Museum of Bad Art (MOBA)

<http://www.museumofbadart.org/>

Some museums of fine art pride themselves on their diverse collections of Old Masters, or their attempts to locate the latest visual artists working on the very cutting-edge of contemporary aesthetic or political expression – not MOBA. "The pieces in the MOBA collection range from the work of talented artists that have gone awry to works of exuberant, although crude, execution by artists barely in control of the brush. What they all have in common is a special quality that sets them apart in one way or another from the merely incompetent." That leading paragraph from this playful website leads the visitor to sections entitled Portraiture, Landscape and Unseen Forces. Read about MOBA's preservation efforts, browse selected issues of their newsletter, and learn the process of new acquisitions – such as the local Salvation Army or a neighborhood dumpster. A fun and entertaining site.

Reaching Out

Mike Wutkowski gave a presentation at Wilson's in Wilmington on the Hatteras breach closure to Professional Engineers of North Carolina (PENC) on May 18th.

Terry Brooks gave a presentation on the major rehab transformer replacement at the John H Kerr Powerhouse. Presentation was to the Southeastern Hydropower Conference in Opelika, AL. Audience included the SAD districts within USACE and private sector utilities such as Southern Company and Alabama Power.

Staff members of Philpott Lake represented the project at the Henry County Earth Day Celebration. Celebrating the animals at Philpott Lake, Earth Day participants were able to see and touch pelts, skull replicas, tracks and more. Fun animal fact cards were also on display. In an effort to educate the public about USACE Environmental Operating Principles, staff members included information about dredging and sea turtle populations.

Carmen Boyette and **Dana Lee** presented programs on wildlife at the NC State Envirothon for approximately 250 High School participants. The program focused on habitat components, exotic, invasive species, and ID characteristics of native wildlife species.

Corps Family News

Lisa Morris graduated from Cape Fear Community College on Friday, May 7 with an Associate In Applied Science Degree in Business Administration.

James Lewis, Logistics student aid, graduated from Cape Fear Community College with an Associate in Architectural Technology. In the fall, he'll pursue a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management at North Carolina A & T.

Holly Sullivan in Resource Management graduated from UNCW with a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accountancy on May 8. She was married on May 22nd to Mr. Tim Glasson.

Christopher H. Keir, son of **Dan and Ann Keir** graduated from Georgetown University School of Medicine on May 23 2004. He will complete his internship and residency in internal medicine at

Sponsored by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the North Carolina Envirothon is a competitive academic event that has multiple teams of five students from around the state compete for the state title. With this title comes recognition, a chance to participate at the national level, and scholarship money. The students study a provided packet of information for each of five natural resources subjects. Most teams have been studying these packets since January, putting in a few hours a week outside of normal school hours. Natural resources professionals present part of that information to the students and create a test based on the packet and presentation given. The highest scoring teams on those tests are the winners for the state, who then go to the national competition.

To get to the state level, these teams first compete at their respective Area Envirothon, outscoring teams from the surrounding 10 counties. In some cases, there are individual county level competitions as well. This is the 14th year, North Carolina has held a State Envirothon. In 2003, North Carolina's winning team placed third in the national competition.

Tufts New England Medical Center in Boston, Mass.

Jeff Whiting has been selected for promotion to Captain (pay grade O-6, equivalent to an Army Colonel) in the Naval Reserve. He expects to be promoted in October or November.

Cindy Corbett's two nieces graduated from Pender High School with top honors. Shadavika Bannerman and Tiffany Eakins are honor students and have received several scholarships from various organizations.

Congratulations to **DéAndrae Jackson** (former LM student aide) and Angela (daughter of **Gloria Price**). They are the proud parents of a baby boy, Traevon Jacob Jackson. He entered the world at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 13, 2004 measuring 20 inches long and weighing in at seven pounds, 12 ounces.

Retiree News

Number in attendance – 12

Attendees: Sylvia and Rex Phillips, Bettye and Bob Swart, Dan Grimsley, Max Grimes, Doris and Ken Old, Betty and Eric Matzke, Kaye and Buddy Johnson.

Activities: Eric and Betty Matzke took a trip into the Amish country of Pennsylvania in late April. They took advantage of all the good food, as well as, attending two of the plays presented there. Eric said that had to stop by the Hershey candy store before they came home. Of late, Betty has been having a few problems with her heart, and while waiting to be served she began to feel bad and had to leave before the meal was served.

Max Grimes had a septoplasty nose operation on 7 May. He had had one of these septoplast operations 27 years ago which must not have worked.

Rex and Sylvia Phillips attended a family reunion in Rose Hill. They saw lots of cousins. Rex arrived at the meeting late and was able to take advantage of the meals that Eric and Betty had ordered.

Bob Swart spent a few days in the hospital due to some unusual activity with his heart. After some thorough testing, it was determined that there are no serious problems. What problems there are can be handled with medication. It looks like Bob will back at the lawn mowing again.

Kay Johnson made the comment that she had "Ben no place, done nothing- eat sleep and talk!!!"

Projects continued from page 9

nity to see one of several different species of snakes located in the park. This trail is frequently used to demonstrate the connectedness of nature for our local elementary school students—a trip that is anticipated by the rangers as well as the students.

Conveniently located picnic shelters offer space for visitors to gather for their special events. Shelters are found at Keowee, Boomer, Berry Mountain, Dam Site, Fish Dam Creek, and Ft. Hamby. All shelters except for Keowee can be reserved through the respective park host or at the Visitor Assistance Shelter. Most shelters accommodate up to 50 people with one that will comfortably seat 100. All shelters are equipped with lighting and electricity. Kerr Scott Reservoir's ability to accommodate many different parties in pastoral setting makes its shelters popular for weddings, anniversaries, and family reunions.

After an exhausting day hiking, biking, boating, and fishing, campers can

choose from any of 175 prepared sites at two locations. Bandit's Roost and Warrior Creek Campground's offers tent sites and electric sites that accommodate a recreational vehicle up to 45 feet in length. Most electric sites are equipped with 30 amp breakers; however, off-season improvements at Bandit's Roost included upgrading some circuit breaks to 50 amps service. Friendly park attendants greet all campers as they register.

Once the temperature rises above 70 degrees, campgrounds are usually booked for the weekends well in advance. Bandit's Roost is usually the first to fill, as many sites are located near the water. If you are planning to visit during last weekend in April, keep in mind that MerleFest, now one of the largest outdoor blue grass festivals in the world, is taking place in Wilkesboro. Reservable sites are booked up well in advance during this event. For the MerleFest weekend, reservations should be made at least 240 days in advance, the maximum allowed by our reservation system.

W. Kerr Scott offers sunbathers many opportunities to swim. Beautiful sand beaches are open to the public from May 1 through August 30 at the Berry Mountain and Boomer Park Day Use areas, and from April 1 through September 30 at Ft. Hamby Day Use area. Campers have access to two private beaches. Because our beaches are unguarded, lifejackets are on loan to visitors at each gatehouse. We want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to swim safely.

Come visit W. Kerr Scott for all your recreation needs. It's one stop shopping for the entire family! For more information on planning your trip, please contact or come by the Visitor Assistance Center at 336.921.3390. For those of you who want to take a piece of the project home, a bookstore and exhibits are available at the Center. Remember, take only photographs and leave only footsteps. We hope to see you here.

Don't Forget! Corps Day, June 11 at Emzie Park!

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US Army Engineer District
Wilmington Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 1890
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS