

PARK RANGERS GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT TO CARRY PEPPER SPRAY

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**By Bob Burick
John H. Kerr Park Ranger**

Throughout their daily routines Rangers can find themselves in potentially dangerous situations. They frequently patrol isolated portions of Corps property alone and often at night. Corps Rangers are unarmed, yet may encounter a variety of dangerous and possibly life threatening circumstances.

At this year's annual Visitors Assistance Refresher Training, Rangers throughout the Wilmington District were provided another line of self defense. This training will give our Park Rangers an added security against any number of unknown threats which may lurk throughout the Corps property. The extensive all day training course covered



Ranger William Harlon, left, yells "Spray!" to let Ranger Hank Immel know to cover his face as Harlon makes a direct hit with simulated pepper spray to the face of attacker, Cheryl Hoffman. Rangers are now able to carry pepper spray while on duty to ward off potential attackers. (Photo by Susan Martin.)

the what, where, why, when, and how of using *pepper spray* as a last resort in dealing with a hostile aggressor.

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) sounds like a scientific name for some various flower or mushroom, but is in fact the official name for what is commonly called Pepper Spray. Oleoresin is a mixture of a sticky resin and an essential oil that naturally occurs in

PRESIDENT BUSH PROCLAIMS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

During Women's History Month, we celebrate the courage, foresight, and resolve of women who have strengthened our democracy.

America has been transformed by strong women whose contributions shaped the history of our country. Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic, and she inspired generations of women to follow their dreams. Physicist Chien-Shiung Wu helped advance our knowledge and understanding of the world through her achievements in atomic research. Harriet Tubman fought racial injustice and opened doors for more Americans to par-

ticipate fully in our society.

Today, women are continuing this legacy of leadership as entrepreneurs, doctors, teachers, scientists, lawyers, artists, and public officials. They are also providing guidance and care to their loved ones and strengthening America's families and communities. We also remember the women of the United States Armed Forces who are serving our country with honor and distinction across the world.

This month, we honor the extraordinary women of our Nation's past and recognize the countless women who are demonstrating leadership in every aspect of American life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I,

GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2008 as Women's History Month. I call upon all our citizens to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that honor the history, accomplishments, and contributions of American women.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Wilmington District



DEBORA ROWELL DOESN'T "SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF" AFTER AED DEPLOYMENT

"Ever since this started I can't explain it. My family thought I was crazy! When the opportunity came available I took advantage of it. I figured I would never have the chance again."

When Debora Rowell took the plunge into the world of deployment as an administrative assistant she had an overwhelming curiosity that she couldn't figure out. But when she got to the Afghanistan Engineering District in June of 2007 she quickly adapted to her new surroundings to play her part in the reconstruction of the country.

"I was shocked at how different it was compared to what I am used to. But at the same time I was impressed at how nice the Corps had made it for us. It wasn't home, but it was comfortable."

Home for the next eight months was a remote field site in Mazar-e-Sharif. The Corps office was on the Afghanistan National Army compound, and the Corps

living quarters were on a U.S. Army compound.

"When I first arrived at the office I was introduced to everyone. I noticed a few of the Afghani men didn't seem comfortable shaking my hand. I thought they probably were not used to working with women. After that initial meeting, I stopped extending my hand to shake theirs and just smiled and acknowledged them and they did the same. It was funny watching them warm up to me because they seemed nervous or somewhat hesitant to say something to me. Every morning they'd come in and say 'good morning, Debora' and smile and ask 'how are you today?' and then they'd move on and greet one another according to their custom. Every evening before leaving they'd say 'see you tomorrow, Debora.'" They were very polite and very respectful."

Rowell said one of the biggest things that she had to get used to was being around her uniformed countrymen and women. It was her first exposure to life among the troops.

"Usually, to me, they all seemed very rigid and serious. They're serious about their jobs, but at the same time they were the ones that made you feel how important it was to enjoy what you were doing. Not so much the

work, but the camaraderie. I had a tendency to go back to my room after work, but I was invited to watch movies, play cards and other things. They even had someone who planned activities.

Another part of living on the Army base was that fact that Soldiers died.

"When you start hearing about loss of life you start feeling down, but they look at it as 'this is what we signed up to do.' No matter what, life goes on. At first I had a problem with that...I didn't want to know. I'd have to credit my baby brother, Johnny Rowell who has 13 years in the military. He taught me to look beyond the loss and see the good that was being done there."

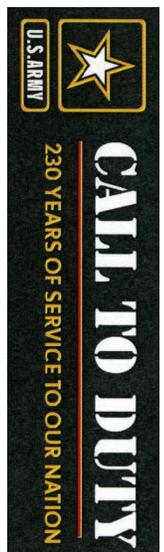
Each person who deploys is changed in one way or another. Rowell stayed an additional two months during her six-month deployment and she now says that she looks at life differently. Certain situations that may have been amplified before are now insignificant. ■



Deborah Rowell



Rowell, center, with friends at a bazaar in Mazar-e-Sharif.



HINTON-LEE MOTIVATES AUDIENCE WITH THREE KEY LIFE LESSONS

Chris Hinton-Lee, Regional Business Manager for South Atlantic Division and a long-time high achiever in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, shared “herstory” with Wilmington District members at a Women’s History Luncheon Celebration sponsored by the EEO Federal Women’s Program. Her oration focused on the national theme of “Women’s Art: Women’s Vision”.

- **Facts don’t matter!**
- **Choose your response!**
- **It’s never too late!**

To illustrate her first point, she reached back to her Mississippi childhood as the youngest child in a large family. “Did you know that according to the facts, a bumblebee can’t fly?” Her mother told her. Its fuzzy round body is just too big for those stubby little wings. “But the bumblebee doesn’t know that, does he? He flies anyway!”



Wilmington District Commander COL John Pulliam introduces South Atlantic Division

Regional Business Manager Chris Hinton-Lee at the Women’s History Luncheon.

Facts don’t matter—so never mind the discouraging words of others.

Ms. Hinton-Lee absorbed that lesson and called on it many times in her quest to become the first female, black architect ever to graduate from the University of Arkansas. She used that lesson to override discouraging counselors in high school and college, who

told her that her aspirations were flat inappropriate.

Choose your response—you will always be in control of yourself and your spirit, no matter what. Ms. Hinton-Lee’s early years as a Corps of Engineers intern called on her to learn the power that could come from deciding how to respond to difficult circumstances,

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HINTON-LEE CON'T

and to the offer of opportunity. As a new, female intern in the Baltimore District, she found herself relegated to reviewing regulations and covering the phones at lunch hour. "I could have walked down the hall and made an EEO complaint," she said. "I would maybe have won the battle, but would I have won the war?" I thought it through, and instead of doing that I just kept help offering the career architects my assistance with their projects, until they gave me a chance to do small jobs and gradually gave me more and more responsibility and my own projects."

On a second occasion, she heard the voice of opportunity, and chose a response that has led her to her current SES position. "Mentors are powerful," she said. "General Griffin used to say, 'if you see a turtle sittin' up on a wall, you gotta know he didn't get there all by himself.'" Hinton-Lee remembers a key moment in her career. She was working as a GS 7 architect

on the Walter Reed Army Medical Center when she got this piece of advice from an older colleague: "This is the U.S. Army Corps of *Engineer, not the Corps of Architects!*. If you want to get ahead, I suggest you move around and build up your qualifications beyond just your career field." Thus, Hinton-Lee moved beyond the GS 13 career cap in her chosen field, and moved out into areas like Construction Quality Management and Programs and Project Management. She also became willing to move to further her career, which led to her current position, and to stops along the way like managing a theater-wide building program in Baghdad.

It's never too late! This final lesson is a 'new' one that her parents, in their 70s, were still able to pass on to her. Having raised and launched their family, and completed their hard-working years earning a living, the Hintons decided to attend college. Hinton-

Lee and her brothers and sisters cheered them on. "We helped with homework! We sent money! We called and talked about how they were doing." It was a proud day for the entire family when both Hinton-Lee's Mom and Dad graduated. Clara Hinton was 75 when she earned her degree in Math Education, and Scott Hinton was 79 when he earned his degree in Industrial Arts. Truly, Ms. Hinton-Lee's parents proved it is never too late!

The Wilmington District greatly appreciates Ms. Hinton-Lee's willingness to be our Mentor-for-a-Day.

Also, during the luncheon, we greatly enjoyed a Wilmington "Women's Art: Women's Vision" presentation. If you were unable to attend the luncheon, go ahead and enjoy the presentation, available at <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/women/women.pps>. Thanks to the EEO Federal Women's Program for such an inspiring celebration. ■

ROYLANCE BRINGS DOD-LEVEL SATELLITE IMAGERY KNOW-HOW TO THE DISTRICT



Spencer Roylance: “My role is really to raise that awareness of the satellite capabilities and how customers can submit their requirements to NGA and have the raw imagery delivered to their production environment where they can make their images maps, customize and tailor their requirements.”

When it comes finding satellite imagery for GIS work Spencer Roylance has opened a few new doors.

Roylance comes to the Wilmington District after years of experience in remote sensing with National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency or NGA. Formerly named the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, NGA supports the Department of Defense and intelligence agencies. With his extensive knowledge of where space imagery is located and how to get it to use in

various projects he’s saving taxpayers thousands of dollars.

“I’m working with the Savannah District doing GIS assistance for getting overhead im-

agery,” he said. “It cost them \$300,000 the last

time to fly to Savannah and Brunswick Harbors. I submitted the requirement to NGA and I now have space imagery for Savannah Harbor. It didn’t cost the Savannah District a penny for imagery acquisition.”

According to Roylance, a lot of what he does and has done for the Corps and Department of Defense is leveraging the knowledge of getting the information about where to get imagery.

“My role is really to raise that

awareness of the satellite capabilities, and how customers can submit their requirements to NGA, then have the raw imagery delivered to their production environment where they can make their images maps, customize and tailor their final products. What I provide to the District is tapping my NGA contacts to get imagery of project areas. For example, I’m helping John Hazelton with an Afghanistan Water Resources Study where I’ve processed imagery data. I was able to download imagery directly to my desktop, process the raw data and output a map-accurate image.”

In the past, the Navigation Branch used to contract out for aerial photos of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, inlets or other navigable waterways. Now with a click of a button he can access the very images needed for Navigation analysts to do their work.

“They had requirement to map

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PEPPER SPRAY CON'T

plants. Capsicum refers to any of several varieties of pepper, in this case the cayenne pepper. OC mainly affects the eyes, respiratory system, and the skin. When a person is sprayed with OC the effects are immediate. The subject experiences pain in the eyes which causes them to instantly shut tight, they may also incur a loss of breath that can cause coughing and gagging. This leads to an overall sense of confusion and disorientation, allowing the Ranger an opportunity to remove him or herself from the hostile situation. OC is non-lethal and the effects do wear off after a short period of time.

During their training, Rangers learned that OC is only to be used as a last resort in trying to neutralize a potentially dangerous situation. There are a number of other steps that must be taken before the use of OC is justified. Most situations can be defused through the visual presence of a Ranger in uniform, and the use of verbal persuasion in explaining the rules and regulations and what is expected as proper conduct on Corps property. If the situation continues to esca-

late, Rangers should try to remove themselves from the area and inform the proper authorities. When a Ranger is put into a position of imminent danger and a person becomes aggressive or attacks, Rangers must decide whether unarmed self defensive measures would be effective. A number of factors are considered when deciding to use OC in self defense including; relative size, age, strength, skill level, and number of the assailants in relation to the Ranger. The use of pepper spray is solely to facilitate escape from danger. Often the threat of OC use is enough to deter the assailant from continuing with their attack.

Following a morning of slide shows and classroom instruction, concluding with a written test, the training moved outside. The Rangers now learned proper stance and deployment techniques, and were placed in a number of situations in order to practice appropriate use of OC. Rangers learned how to correctly defend themselves in a variety of circumstances ranging from frontal attacks, to ground assaults, to attacks from multiple assailants.

At the conclusion of the training all participants received certificates and cards authorizing them to carry the pepper spray. All the Rangers would like to extend a special thanks to Greg Barr and Danny Martin for taking the time to instruct the class, and to all those who pushed to provide the Rangers with another tool in their arsenal of personal protection equipment. ■



**Does pepper spray really do the job?
See for yourself on page 15.**

RETIRED NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER RECALLS TIME WITH “THE OLD GUARD”

The 3rd US Infantry Regiment BCT (Brigade Combat Team) conducts ceremonies in order to maintain the traditions of the US Army, showcase the Army to our Nation’s citizens and the world, and to defend the dignity and honor of our fallen comrades. On order, 3d Infantry Regiment BCT protects federal property and / or assists civilian authorities in the National Capitol Region in order to limit the effects of attacks or disasters.

Old Guard Mission Statement

Visitors to Washington, D.C. often make a point to visit Arlington National Cemetery and the Nation’s most sacred burial site, the Tomb of the Unknowns. On the hour, smartly-dressed Soldiers march ceremoniously to pay respect. What keeps attention fixated on the Soldiers is a very identifiable “CLICK”



Wilmington District Fleet Manager Jimmy Price today, and as a spit-and-polished Staff Sergeant assigned to the Third U.S. Infantry, “The Old Guard.”

when the heels meet on specially-designed shoes. These are Soldiers of the Specialty Platoon of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, commonly known as the Old Guard. Their comrades throughout the Old Guard carry out other such ceremonial activities such as The U.S. Army Drill Team, Continental Color Guard, and the U.S. Army Caisson Platoon which

unit. A Transportation Operations Sergeant, he was responsible for maintaining a fleet of vehicles used for burials, escorting dignitaries, chauffeuring congressmen and high-ranking military officers. Like all Soldiers who apply for an assignment to the Old Guard, he had to meet the minimum requirements; six feet, one inch tall with a 26-inch waistline.



The Old Guard’s Caisson Platoon during a funeral procession at Arlington National Cemetery. (U.S. Army Photo)

conducts funerals at Arlington National Cemetery.

From 1993 to 1996, Jimmy Price was assigned to this prestigious Army

“It’s all about presence. You have dignitaries from all over the world and members of the public who see the Old Guard at presidential or military functions and funerals at Arlington Cemetery,” he said. “The image

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JIMMY PRICE CON'T



Members of the Old Guard take their job seriously. Uniforms are immaculate, and each and every move they make is choreographed to perfection. (U.S. Army Photo)

that's portrayed is tall and uniformity. If there were people of different sizes the formations wouldn't look as good."

When he arrived at the Old Guard's home base of Fort Myer in Arlington, Virginia he went through a rigorous regimental indoctrination program. There he learned how to march in a full dress blue uniform.

"It's not regular marching. They also teach you how to stand, teach you how to hold weapons and so forth," he explained. "They'll have you stand at the position of attention for about 30 minutes and present arms (salute) for 30 minutes... without moving. It's a way of measuring stress to see how well you can handle it. You might have a general

giving his farewell speech and you have to stand at parade rest for an hour without moving."

The Old Guard is a high-profile organization that requires a Soldier to heighten attention to detail, and to live up to the unit's polished reputation. It's also known as "Escort to the President." Price

participated in Bill Clinton's inauguration by lining the streets of the Nation's capitol with his fellow Soldiers as the President walked by. And when President Richard Nixon died, he was in charge of transporting the Soldiers who escorted the deceased President from Andrews Air Force Base for the flight to California.

Price said each and every Soldier takes the job seriously. Uniforms are pressed and tended to every day, sometimes hours on end, and drilling is a full time job, even when they're not on a funeral detail or in a ceremony.

"There are presses in the barracks for uniforms. The dress blue uniform is made from wool, while a regular Army uniform is made from polyes-

ter and is very thin. Wool holds creases better. So you feel it when you're out there in 90 or 100 degree weather. But you want your creases to hold to look sharp."

Like any group of guys, Price said Old Guard members are fun-loving and horse around when they have the chance. But when it's "show time" there's an abrupt about face.

"I had the opportunity to go out on one of the burial ceremonies. So all of the infantry guys are in the bus just racked out! They're kicked back, laughing and it was like they were young teenage boys...young teenage boys on a bus just having fun. But as soon as we got about 10 minutes out from the location they transformed their whole mindset because they knew they were going to go do something very important. When they put that uniform on they went from talking about what they did the night before to stone-faced 'we gotta' do a job to do'. It's very serious."

Price looks back at his time with the Old Guard as one of the pinnacles in his 20-year Army career.

"You're the eyes of the Nation. People look at you as the 'cream of the crop.' It's an honor to be in that unit." ■

WILMINGTON DISTRICT WELCOMES NEWEST GROUP OF EMPLOYEES

Gloria Dyson works as a Human Resource Specialist in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.



She has more than 22 years of personnel experience with the Department of the Army. Gloria attended Howard University and is also a native of Raleigh, NC. She was previously employed with the Baltimore District CPAC, working with the Northeast CPOC. Gloria is married with one adult daughter, Aisha, who attends college in Philadelphia, PA.

Elizabeth Adams is an accountant in Resource Management. She was previously employed as an Office Manager at Mark



Johnson Custom Homes, Inc. She graduated in December 2007 with a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration with an accounting concentration from UNC-Wilmington. She's engaged to Kiel Kurkowski who she met at UNCW, and they're getting married this October in Wilmington.

Pam Alonzo is a Management Support Specialist with the Technical Services Division.



Pam comes to the Wilmington District from Fort Bragg NC with the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. She enjoys her family and loves to work out during her spare time. "So far I love all Wilmington has to offer (beaches, parks and restaurants).

Robert S Burick joins John H. Kerr Reservoir as a Park Ranger. He comes to SAW after working as a Research



Support Specialist for the New York State Research Foundation. Robert has an Associates Degree in Forest Technology from the NY State Ranger School, a Bachelors Degree in Forest Resource Management from the State University of New York School of Environmental Science and Forestry, and a Masters Degree in Recreation Re-

source Management from the State University of New York School of Environmental Science and Forestry. His hobbies include hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, and wood working. He's married to Roseana Burick.

Leroy Gee is a Workforce Management Support Specialist for Civilian Personnel PAC. He comes to the Wil-



ilmington District from Robins Air Force Base in Georgia as a Human resources Specialist. Gee is a retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant with 30 years of military service. He has a masters degree from the University of Oklahoma in Human Relations and a Bachelor's degree in Human Resources from Bellevue University in Bellevue, Nebraska. He enjoys running and reading. He's married to Glenda Gee and they have two kids, Sha-neika and Jamanicus.

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NEW EMPLOYEES CON'T

Adam Warren is a Park Ranger working in the Shoreline Management area at John H Kerr Res. He came to Kerr from a Co-Op position at Wappapello Lake in Missouri (St. Louis District). He has a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Biology from Southeast Missouri State University. His hobbies and interests are his church, hunting and fishing and sports. He and his wife, Lil, have a lifetime goal of visiting all the parks in the National Parks System. Their son, David, was born December 18th.



Lisa Abernathy is a Program Analyst for the Technical Services Division. Previously, she was the Lead Program



Analyst for the P2 Help Desk at the Jacksonville District. She has a Program Controls Section Certificate from Northeastern University and is a Computer Systems Specialist. She is married with three kids and her hobbies are gardening and antiques.

Michael Aughinbaugh is a Network Systems Administrator with the Information Management group. He was self-employed before coming to the Wilmington District. He has a bachelors degree in Business Administration from Shippensburg University, and holds a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer certificate. His interests and hobbies are computers and his cocker spaniels (three- one black, one brown, and red one). In addition, he works with Cocker Spaniel Rescue. He has been married to wife Audra for three years.



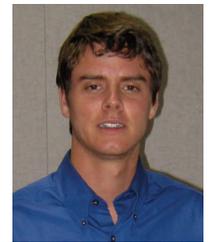
Josh Deal works at John H. Kerr Reservoir as a Shoreline Ranger in the Natural Resources Section. Deal comes to the Wilmington District from the US Forest Service in Eatonton, GA where he worked as a forester on the Oconee National Forest. He has a BS Forestry from Virginia Tech. His wife's name is Nicole, and they're expecting the birth of their first child. His hobbies include boating, fishing, hunting, gardening, Virginia Tech football, and stock car racing.



Lynn Pagano is an accounting student trainee in Resource Management. At age 52 she has returned to college to pursue an Associates Degree in Accounting. She and her husband, Tom, have four children. Her hobbies are playing piano and singing at her church, as well as directing the church choir.



Joshua Williams is a student Coop in Finance and Accounting. A junior at UNCW, he's originally from Siler City, NC. His hobbies and interests include the UNCW Economics Club, golf, working out at the gym, and playing tennis.



Amy Wadlow works in Office Automation for Operations. She's currently attending Miller-Motte College studying for a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Her hobbies include fishing, swimming, singing and dancing. ■



John H. Kerr Reservoir Members Honor Mecklenburg County Sherriff's Office

John H. Kerr Reservoir members have awarded Sheriff Danny Fox and seven Deputies with the PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD, a national honor offered in recognition of volunteer service.

The award was presented to Sgt. Tony Preston and the Mecklenburg County Dive Team for their volunteer services to the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Dive Team, comprised of Danny Arnold, Christopher Baird, Sgt. Paul Cox, Dustyne Lett, Andrew Moseley, Mary Strickler, and Sgt.

Tony Preston performed underwater safety inspections of all 13 Corps beaches at Kerr Lake prior to the recreation season. The team identified and removed hazards that could injure the unsuspecting swimming public.

"The Sheriff's Department has done these inspections over several years without any recognition", said Shannon Maness, Chief Ranger of Natural Resources of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, John H. Kerr Reservoir. "When we were made aware of President Bush's new initiative to recognize

volunteers we jumped on it!"

Sheriff Fox and the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office provide law enforcement services, under contract, to the Corps every recreation season since 1985. "The Dive Team services went above and beyond the duties the deputies normally perform", said Sherrie Storm, Chief Park Ranger. "As far as our relationship with the Sheriff's Department, Maness and I feel we could not operate safely without them, and owe Sheriff Fox and the County our gratitude and appreciation." ■



From Left to Right: Shannon Maness, USACE; Sgt. Tony Preston, Mary Strickler, Christopher Baird, Sgt. Paul Cox, Andrew Moseley, Dustyne Lett, and Sheriff Danny Fox.

OBSERVING, DOCUMENTING & INTERPRETING AT PHILPOTT

By **Danny Martin,**
Park Ranger

Ecology students from the Patrick County (Virginia) High School learned there is more to a dead-fall tree than just a rotten log. They learned that the tree was struck by lightning about 25 years ago and that it died a year later. The students learned that a massive static electricity charge developed in the clouds during a thunderstorm and suddenly discharged to the unfortunate poplar tree in the form of a tremendous bolt of lightning. The whole process was compared to a person walking across a carpeted floor and then receiving a shock when they touch the door knob or some other metal object. But the story doesn't stop there. After the tree died, it became infested with insects, providing food for woodpeckers and other birds. As the heartwood began to rot, causing the tree to become hollow, the woodpecker's quest for food created holes which became the home for owls, squirrels, raccoons, and other "critters." Eventually, the tree was blown over by strong winds and now lies rotting on the ground. After a new type of insect made the downed log their home, the log was shredded by a black bear enjoying a larvae treat. The nutrients contained in the tree are be-

ing returned to the soil and, **GUESS WHAT!** Another poplar tree has sprouted from the old stump, reaping the benefits of the enriched soil.

Prior to visiting the poplar tree on a two hour hike on a nearby trail, each student was given a small notebook and asked to write down everything they saw. It was explained to the students, that everything, like our lightning struck tree, has a story and that all things in Nature has an impact on each other. During the hike, Park Rangers Danny and Susan Martin answered interpretive questions about some of the students' observations. While hiking, the students were encouraged to slow down and look for the little things they were missing. The hikers were surprised to find coyote scat which contained the bones and hair of a rodent that had fallen prey. They were even more surprised to see that the scat had been visited by other rodents which had picked out undigested items and seeds



Brenda Martin, right, an ecology teacher at Patrick County High School in Virginia, observes flora for documentation.

to consume as food.. They began to realize there was a whole new world of activity under their feet and all around them.

Most of the students listed at least 50 items. Their lists included colorful, falling leaves, nuts, insects, shelf fungi, mushrooms, a buck rub, a bear skull, many species of trees, spider webs, fallen trees, a yellow jacket nest destroyed by a fox, and much, much more. When the students return to the classroom, teacher Brenda Martin plans to use the students' observations to prepare interpretive lessons over the coming weeks. Students will learn that everything they saw does actually have a place in Nature and that, yes, everything has a story. ■

SPENCER ROYLANCE CON'T

the AIWW and several inlets for dredging. I've been getting current satellite images so that they can see the shoaling on the inlets and the encroachment on the waterways with people building new piers. Our Navigation folks have to keep an eye on things like that because they're responsible for the channels.

Roylance is passionate about his work. In his cubicle are various favorite maps that he's made or collected of well known landmarks around the world. A cartographer by trade he learned the art of map making the old-fashioned way without the aid of computers.

"Map making is a lost trade/craft. Today with technology you don't really have to know all of the traditional cartographic, pen-and-ink skills. When I was in school, we did learn that way....really old school, how to make a map. It was hard to do, but you learned how to do it and they don't really teach how to do it that way anymore. With computers today there's no

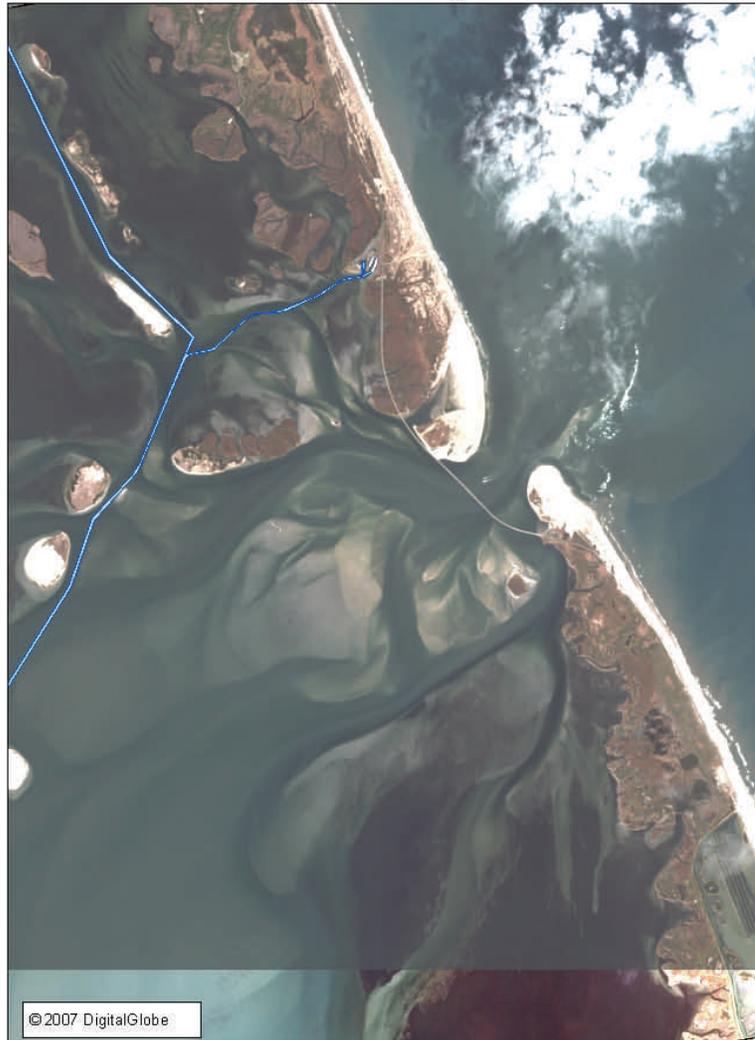
need to do it that way. So, as technology changes you have to adapt.

Roylance says the availability of space imagery is out there. You just have to know where to look.

"The benefit from using satellite

imagery is that somebody else is collecting it and I download it and process it with special software. In the first three months the District saved \$187,000 from the mapping of our lakes." ■

Pan-Sharpended QuickBird-2 Satellite Image of Oregon Inlet - Manteo (Shallowbag) Bay With USACE Wilmington District Navigation Channel Data



PEPPER SPRAY CON'T

“Hotter than a boat patrol on the Fourth of July!”

That description from Sherrie Storm after volunteering to demonstrate the effects of having the real thing sprayed at her face. Wilmington District Chief of Security Greg Barr, top, squirts Storm with the spray. Temporarily blinded, she heads to a water station to rinse the spray out of her eyes and off of her skin. Below she gives the thumbs up as W. Kerr Scott Reservoir’s Terry Ramsey and Sheila Stanley casually observe.



PASTOR BILL

THE RAINS OF EASTER

Sometime back I was taking a leisurely walk when I happened to notice large masses of resurrection fern growing on the horizontal limbs of an old moss-draped live oak tree. Now I am a great lover of trees, especially longleaf pines and live oaks, and I enjoy seeing the subtle transformations that take place in them as they age. Getting a good growth of resurrection fern is a sure sign of maturity for a live oak. Until the bark on its limbs gets well furrowed with age, like wrinkles on our skin, there is not a suitable base for the fern to establish and grow.

**Bill Adams**

Resurrection fern is quite a wonderful little plant. It does not hurt the tree it lives on, it just uses its host to stay lifted above the ground where it can thrive out of reach of browsing deer, passing flames, or competing weeds. But being perched above the dangers of life on the ground comes at a cost – it has no roots to tap into the life giving moisture of the ground. It must

gather its nutrients solely from the rain and dew that drips from the leaves of its host.

When resurrection fern is stressed by dry conditions, it shrivels up and looks quite dead. But from this illusion comes its name. When the rains come, it soon unfurls its fronds and becomes a lush green thriving plant again – it is resurrected to a renewed and fruitful life. Soon it is producing



Resurrection Fern growing on an old oak along Country Club Road near Mimosa Place (Photo by Bill Adams).

spores by the millions, casting them to the mercy of the winds. Most of these land on the ground and are wasted but, of those millions, a few will land on another old oak and the cycle of life will continue.

I love to see such patterns when I

look at nature. To me they are like seeing the brush strokes of God, left on the canvas when He painted the world at creation. And when I find such a pattern, I usually find that that brush stroke covered me too. Like the resurrection fern, I, too, need to be lifted above things that would injure me in order to thrive. I, too, pass through periods of drought and need living waters to bring me back into the fullness of life. I, too, need to cast

the loving promise of God's tomorrow to the winds and let some land where it will be received and grow.

We live in a dry and weary land, but the spirit of God is ever near. During this Easter season, let God refresh your soul and you can be raised anew! ■

P.S. If you'd like to see some Resurrection Fern near the Wilmington District office building, there is a tree with a spectacular display located on the corner of Princess Place Drive and 18th Street. Another great spot is in the horizontal branches of the old oaks along Country Club Road between Wrightsville Avenue and Mimosa Place.