

Falls City Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District

July/August 2019

Volume 11, Issue 4

www.lrl.usace.army.mil



Green River Lake celebrates
50th anniversary





Falls City Engineer

Vol. 11, Issue 4

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Falls City Engineer is an unofficial publication under AR 360-1, published bimonthly for Louisville District employees and members of the public by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CELRL-PA, P.O. Box 59, Louisville, Ky. 40201-0059 under supervision of the Public Affairs Office. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or the Corps of Engineers.



On the cover: Rough River Lake Park Ranger Adam Warren provides a helping hand at the Green River Lake 50th anniversary celebration in Campbellsville, Ky. (USACE photo by Jack Sweeney)

Please conserve:
Think before you print.

Commander's Comments

Team Louisville,

It is hard to believe summer is coming to an end and kids are already heading back to school. Where did the time go? Of course that also means the end of the fiscal year is quickly approaching. I know everyone is focused on end of year execution and working full speed to bring FY19 to a successful close. I want to ensure each of you know your efforts and dedication to program execution do not go unnoticed and I truly appreciate your commitment and hard work to deliver our program.

Lots of exciting things have happened throughout the summer that are worth celebrating. Green River Lake celebrated its 50th anniversary in June. What an amazing accomplishment! Our lake staff worked extremely hard to plan the celebration and was rewarded with an exceptionally successful event that was very well attended by the local community and surrounding areas.

Maj. Gen. Robert Whittle took command of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division in July. We are excited for him to visit the district in October to see all of the amazing work you do and understand why we are always Louisville Proud. A special thanks to Park Ranger Curtis Martin and the rest of the district's color guard that participated in the Change of Command Ceremony. This group of professionals performed brilliantly and added value to the success of the ceremony.

We also just recently held our Business Opportunities Open House, which followed Division's first Procurement Information You Need to Know (PINK) event. What a great turnout! We value our ability to communicate and partner with these entities and these events are great for building and enhancing those relationships.

Lt. Col. Lewis and I were both able to get out of the office some these last few months and visit a few of our project sites. It is always great to see our workforce in action and to demonstrate how much they are appreciated



Col. Antoinette Gant
*Commander and District Engineer
Louisville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

for what they do every day.

Please enjoy this issue of our Falls City Engineer as we highlight recruiting efforts, the Fort Knox Middle School addition project, pollinator habitats and more.

As we continue to make our way through fourth quarter, remember the district's focus is EXECUTION of awards prior to the end of the fiscal year. We can do it! You got this!

Remember to be safe over the upcoming Labor Day holiday and enjoy time with family and friends.

Thanks again for all that you do!

Building Strong! We are LOUISVILLE PROUD!

Col. G

Antoinette R. Gant

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Green River Lake celebrates 50th anniversary



Green River Lake Park Manager Lori Brewster presents Friends of Green River, a non-profit organization, with a certificate of appreciation during the 50th anniversary celebratory event.

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Green River Lake celebrated its 50th anniversary with an event held at the visitor center June 15, 2019, to commemorate the monumental occasion.

Approximately 800 people attended the free community event in Campbellsville, Kentucky, where there were more than 40 food and craft vendors, educational booths, music and entertainment, historical re-enactments and opportunities to interact with wildlife.

"This event would not have come together without the hard work of our staff, Friends of Green River Lake and some

dedicated community members," said Lori Brewster, Green River Lake park manager.

On the day of the celebration, staff from nearby Rough River Lake and Green River Lake volunteers provided a helping hand. The team took this time to educate the public about outdoor recreation, nature and water safety through hands-on learning activities. Brewster also presented the Friends of Green River Lake a certificate of appreciation for their partnership and hard work in planning the event.

"We all came together to remind the community of the benefits brought by the construction of the dam and subsequent lake," Brewster said. "These benefits are



Green River Park Rangers talk water safety to the event's attendees.

seen in reduced flooding downstream as well as economic benefits to the area from the recreation."

The Green River Lake project was authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1938. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers started construction in April 1964, and the lake was completed in June 1969. The Corps operates the lake primarily for flood control in the Upper Green River watershed, and it forms an integral unit in the comprehensive plan for flood control for the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

"I have been here for 30 years," said Sandra Mattingly, Green River Lake office administrator. "Someone once told me it is one of Kentucky's best kept secrets."

Green River Lake is the largest flood reduction project in the Louisville District, counting both the land and water acreage, with a total of 33,793 acres. The Corps, in cooperation with the commonwealth of Kentucky, manages the land and water for wildlife, fisheries and recreation. The wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities include campgrounds, boat ramps, picnic shelters, beaches and a visitor center.

The visitor center was built in 1972 as the Louisville District's first interpretive center and houses a variety of innovative exhibits. It was upgraded in 1978 to house the Corps office staff. Today, the visitor center is a big attraction to tourists, locals and school groups due to its educational



Green River Lake Park Ranger Andrea Davis interacts with children from the local community during the Green River Lake 50th celebration held June 15, 2019, in Campbellsville, Ky.

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Over 40 booths were set up at the Green River Lake 50th anniversary celebration held June 15, in Campbellsville, Ky.

displays and helpful staff.

"Maintaining the Green River Lake Visitor Center is probably my favorite part of my job," said Andrea Davis, Green River Lake park ranger. "I love coming up with new ideas, see them come to life, and then see the visiting public enjoy and learn."

Green River Lake is situated in Adair and Taylor counties, lying amidst rolling terrain, steep bluffs and flowing streams.

The dam, located on the Green River, is an 11 mile drive from the cities of Campbellsville and Columbia, and less than 100 miles from Louisville and Lexington.

"The scenery cannot be surpassed," Mattingly said. "I played on the dam as a little girl when they were doing construction and never dreamed it would be my life's work. The lake is a part of my heart always."



Attendees interacted with wildlife at Green River Lake's 50th anniversary celebration.

Staff at Green River Lake want to remind the public that there are many events being held at the lake throughout the year.

"Please join us at the lake this year as we continue to celebrate our 50th Anniversary," Brewster said. Future events include a Kid's Fishing Derby, Lakeshore Cleanup, and Fishing with Veterans.

Cannelton Locks, Dam personnel improves pollinator habitat

Keith Chasteen, operations division

Personnel at Cannelton Locks and Dam have been working toward improving habitat for Monarch butterflies, honey bees and other pollinators for the past several years. To enhance current efforts, the project staff planted 50 common milkweed plugs within an existing native wildflower area. These milkweed plugs were donated by Pollinator Project, a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the health of pollinators, critical to food and the ecosystem, through conservation, education and research.

Once established, the milkweed plants will improve the existing habitat for Monarch butterflies and other pollinator species. Monarch caterpillars can only survive and develop on milkweed leaves, so the addition of these plants will help to make the site more appealing for female Monarchs to lay eggs. In addition, many pollinator species feed on milkweed to obtain nectar from the flowers; this includes butterflies, bee species, moths, beetles and hummingbirds.

The staff at Cannelton Locks continue their efforts to improve habitats for all types

of pollinators. Current work includes the preparation of a nearly 3-acre area which will be seeded in fall 2019 and the warm season native plants will begin to sprout in the late spring. Establishing native meadow species is a slow process because the plants will often not fully mature and begin blooming until the third growing

season.

"Along with improving habitats for pollinators, habitats are also provided for songbirds and small mammals," said Cannelton Lockmaster Larry Dunning. "It also reduces our mowing footprint, so that saves fuel, equipment use and manpower."



(left to right) Kaleb Weaver, lock operator; Nick Pagragan, mechanic; Bryan Hively, mechanic; Neal Schwartz, work leader; and Kevin Dixon, senior mechanic stand amongst the native wildflowers at Cannelton.

Effective mentoring ensures bright future at Markland, Green River locks

Katie Newton, public affairs

Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant visited three navigation locks and dams July 24-25, 2019, recognizing team members and hearing about the successes and challenges faced at each site. Gant first stopped at Markland Locks and Dam on the Ohio River at Warsaw, Kentucky, and spent the next day touring the facilities at Locks and Dams 1 and 2 on the Green River in Kentucky.

"I want to make sure that we are supporting you and that you have all the resources you need to get your work done. We've got to be taking care of you all," said Gant to the team at Markland.

There she recognized Randy Stewart and Brennan Bishop, two seasonal laborers, who have worked countless hours in unfavorable conditions removing years of accumulated debris and mud from one of the dam's tainter gates.

The demanding pace at project sites—working 365 days a year, 24 hours a day to ensure that the river is open to navigation traffic—creates close-knit crews.

"It is very evident that you guys aren't just co-workers," said Gant. "You are all family. I felt it as soon as we sat down to eat lunch together today."



Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant steers the Motor Vessel Brookport through the lock chamber under the direction of Allen Craigmyle.



Danny Goodwin, equipment mechanic leader, shows Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant a newly poured concrete pad at Green River Lock and Dam No. 2 during a site visit July 25, 2019.

"You are right 100 percent," agreed Lock and Dam Repairman Bill Meeks, who will soon move away from the area. Meeks has served as a diver and dive supervisor at Markland for more than seven years and received a commander's coin from Gant for his service to the project. "It is family here and as [leaving] gets closer, it's very sad."

Running these vital projects requires an all-hands approach where mentorship and hands-on training for new employees becomes key. Junior employees praised the training and support they receive from their senior colleagues.

Oscar Cordero, who joined the Markland team two months ago, says the crew takes care of him. "They make me feel like I belong," he said. "They've been wonderful."

One such mentor is equipment mechanic leader, Allen Craigmyle, the self-proclaimed oldest employee at a navigation project in the Louisville District.

"I've trained them all," he said, recounting his 30 year career at Markland. "They have all just been great to work with. I'm blessed and thankful to have met so many people who helped me grow in different ways. This is where I started and where I have stayed."

Craigmyle says he wouldn't trade his job for anything. "How many people can come to a beautiful place like this to work?"

During Gant's visit he even took the time to coach her on how to guide the project's workboat, the Motor Vessel

Brookport, through the lock chambers.

"I definitely have a good instructor here," Col. Gant said as she cruised the workboat through the 1,200 foot chamber.

The commander reminded personnel at all three sites about the importance of onboarding and mentoring our new employees, key elements of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division's Workforce Readiness Program.

The teams at the Green River navigation projects are focused on building the bench – ensuring that there is no loss of institutional knowledge as long-time employees retire.

"We can pass on knowledge to these younger folks before the older guys go," said Jason Gentry, lock and dam operator at Green River Lock and Dam No. 2.

Mike Horsley, lockmaster over both Green River projects echoed that sentiment. "To have one person who can strip it down, clean it and then teach the new person to put it all back is so valuable," said Horsley, discussing the steps required to ensure projects are operational after high-water events.

Gant applauded their efforts. "One thing about it – you guys certainly have done it right with onboarding," she said at Green River Lock No. 1.

"I'm really proud of the people who work for me," said Horsley. "I want to train these new guys up so they are the envy of others who may want to steal them away to

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their project sites,” said Horsley.

Gant further encouraged new employees such as Jackson Brett, laborer, who joined the team at Green River No. 2 in May after serving in the Marines for four years. “It sounds as if you’re eager to learn so definitely keep that spirit,” Gant said. “Don’t sell yourself short and, if an opportunity comes along, take it.”

“Mentorship is happening here,” Gant said. “It’s very, very obvious.”

“I ask you to continue to be proactive with the training and mentoring of these employees to make sure we have the expertise onboard,” she said. “You all are one big happy family. You take care of each other out here and that is truly what having a ready and resilient workforce is all about.”



Katie Newton

Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant visits with the team at Markland Locks and Dam in Warsaw, Ky., July 25, 2019.



The crew at Green River Lock No. 2 stands with Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant and Shawn Kenney, operations manager for the locks and dams project office, during the site tour July 25, 2019.



Katie Newton

Shawn Riley, acting lockmaster, Markland Locks and Dam briefs Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant aboard the MV Brookport.



Katie Newton

At Green River Lock and Dam No. 1, Bill Vaughn, equipment mechanic leader, explains to Col. Gant how the miter gates are manually operated.



Katie Newton

Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant stands with the team at Green River Lock and Dam No. 1 near Henderson, Kentucky, July 25, after touring the site.

Engineers looking for the best, brightest that ROTC has to offer

Shatara Riis, public affairs

Army Engineers are sappers, mappers, divers, firefighters, geospatial technicians, vertical/horizontal construction specialists, among other subject-matter experts who ensure the Engineer Regiment is prepared to provide engineer support now and into the future.

These men and women voluntarily enlist or commission as an officer in the Army. Officers earn their commissions through the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Officer Candidate School, direct commission or the Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

Deputy Commanding General for Military and International Operations Maj. Gen. Anthony Funkhouser – a West Point graduate, and Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant – a ROTC graduate, represented the Engineer Regiment in speaking to ROTC cadets at the U.S. Army Cadet Command Branch Orientation at Fort Knox's Keyes Park, July 1.

The Engineer Regiment's Funkhouser and Gant tag-teamed to recruit future officers into the Army Engineer Family.

Gant walked the cadets through her 25-year Army career of leadership assignments at platoon, company, battalion and brigade levels, and while deployed, and she pressed them to make the most of opportunities to lead in tough situations.

"As a second lieutenant, do the best job you can as a platoon leader. I was a cadet, and I know what it's like to be in your shoes," Gant said. "I commanded a combat



Deputy Commanding General for Military and International Operations Maj. Gen. Anthony Funkhouser and Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant answer ROTC cadets' questions following their presentation on the Army Engineer Regiment.

support engineer company at NTC (where we supported units in 'the box.'")

According to army.mil, the National Training Center is known for its tough, realistic training, unforgiving terrain and uncluttered space to hone warrior skills. It prepares units for their "worst day ever" in combat, particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Though the engineers are trained for the rigors of clearing the way, Funkhouser said there are plenty of opportunities aplenty along the path.

"I've been in the Army for 35 years. The Engineer Regiment is truly a great regiment, and this is the branch of opportunity," Funkhouser said. "Sappers,

mappers, divers, firefighters, and geospatial technicians ... there are great broadening opportunities for us to bounce between blowing things up, construction, working with divers, geospatial (engineering). We send you to train with (civilian) industry, so you are prepared for your after Army life."

Funkhouser told how both the Army and engineer Soldiers benefit from internships with civilian engineering firms.

"The Army has paid (engineer officers) to go work at Caterpillar® and learn all the things they are doing in industry," Funkhouser said. "(When they come) back to us, we use those experiences to make a better Regiment."

Gant said the Engineer Corps stands apart from other branches because the breadth of experience that engineer Soldiers might build over their career.

"How many other branches (not only) allow you to function as a Soldier and to support the warfighters but also allows you to do things on the (civilian) side that are important to our nation," Gant said.

"Our branch is the lifecycle branch – beginning to end. We try to set (you) up for success beyond the Army," Funkhouser said. "We are invested in you. You are our legacy. We're picking the best and brightest because when we're gone you carry on our legacy."

"I'm not sure there are very many that can touch the Engineer Corps," Gant added.

ROTC Cadet Summer Training senior leader engagements are slated to continue until Aug. 15 at Fort Knox.



Col. Antoinette Gant, Louisville District commander, talks to Cadet Michaela Biske of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Ind. about the Corps of Engineers.

Louisville District completes Fort Knox Middle School addition

Shatara Riis, public affairs

The Louisville District completed the Fort Knox Middle School this year and turned the school over to the Department of Defense Education Activity, June 28.

The DoDEA project is a full extension of the existing Fort Knox High School.

As a part of this development, the Corps also repurposed the old middle school gym, transforming it into a fine arts center, dedicated in memory of Ralph V. Gilbert, Pierce Elementary School principal from 1959-1986.

The Fort Knox Middle School addition is a LEED-certified education facility that opened for school Aug. 5, 2019.

Ben Evans served as Louisville District project manager, and Cole Gehlhausen served as the project engineer.



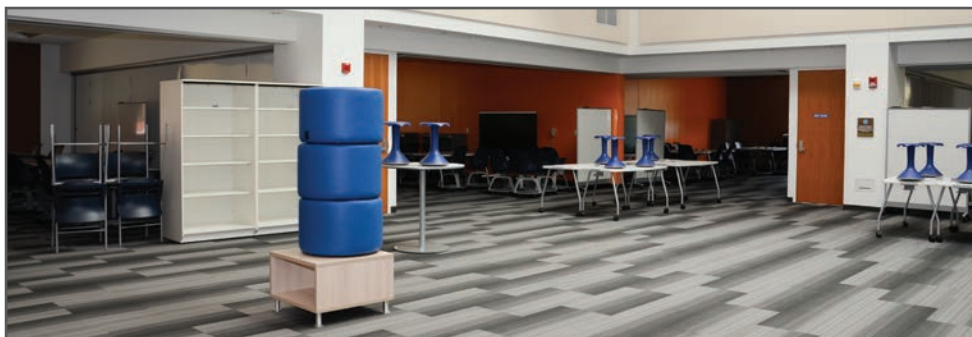
The new Fort Knox Middle School addition is an extension of the pre-existing Fort Knox High School.



Classes at the new Fort Knox Middle High School started Aug. 5.



Throughout the new Fort Knox Middle School addition signage is in place to help students learn how reducing, reusing and recycling can help people, communities and the environment by saving money, energy and natural resources.



The Fort Knox Middle School addition features a 21st-century learning model design, where neighborhoods and learning studios are incorporated.



The Louisville District repurposed the old middle school gymnasium into a new fine arts center at the Fort Knox Middle School.

Contract Award Date:

July 21, 2016

Cost to Build:

\$23 million

Construction Commence:

Fall 2016

Construction Completion:

Summer 2019

Project turn over to DoDEA:

June 28, 2019

School addition size:

Approximately 44,600 square feet

Caesar Creek staff tackles invasive species management

Matthew Palmer, operations division

The Caesar Creek Lake staff, in Ohio, takes a hands-on proactive approach to natural resource management and, more specifically, habitat restoration.

The early influencers at the project placed an emphasis on this type of work, which led to hiring ambitious go-getters who shared a passion for working outdoors and a willingness to get their hands dirty. Once the team was formed it was only natural that programs, such as prairie restoration, wetland restoration, nesting box construction and monitoring, bird banding and invasive species management started to fall into place.

A natural tendency of an ambitious staff is to sometimes dive headfirst into a new initiative, complete it and move onto the next challenge or opportunity. Fortunately, lake leadership focuses not only on creating new habitat, but also on maintaining what is already in place. It is this continued effort that has led to four decades worth of invasive species management. After all, part of being a professional land manager is to properly maintain the resources for future generations, and invasives displace the native plant species and harm natural heritage.

Before new hires are turned loose trying to restore wetlands, they are steered toward removing invasive plants from the restored short and tall grass prairies. Many mornings are spent getting soaked walking through dewy prairies looking for invasive thistle to cut and many nights spent itching chigger bites obtained in the prairies till we are at the frayed ends of sanity. These job hazards lead the staff to quickly disdain invasive species and invigorate them to proactively fight the spread of invasives.

Caesar Creek takes a multi-faceted approach to natural resource management multiplying the efforts of the lake's small staff. The project's volunteer program results in a benefit of about \$200,000, and these loyal volunteers are drawn to Caesar Creek because of their robust natural resource management program. After park visitors attend a bird banding demonstration, highlighting the beautiful song birds of Ohio, many want to help ensure the survival of species, such as the Eastern Bluebird. So the volunteers are enlisted to assist with the control of the invasive House sparrows. Visitors who attend the interpretive woodland nature hikes quickly fall in love with Ohio's state

wildflower, white trillium, and volunteer to remove invasive garlic mustard so that the natural understory of the forest can be restored to its full natural beauty.

Caesar Creek Lake partners with the Ohio Department of Natural Areas and Preserves to use their expertise in combatting the invasive Amur honeysuckle. This invasive bush is all too common in southwest Ohio. The Corps gorge area abuts DNAP's gorge area, and these pristine areas are the focal point of Caesar Creek's battle against invasives. The Corps and DNAP work together to control the spread of invasives.

The third facet of their approach to fighting invasives is using local private contractors, who specialize in invasive species control. In 2018, Caesar Creek Lake awarded a multi-year negotiated work IDIQ contract to control bush honeysuckle on a larger scale than they could achieve previously with local staff, partners and volunteers.

Invasive bush honeysuckle continues

growing late into the fall, after many of the native plants go dormant for the approaching winter. It is this extended growing season that enables honeysuckle to outcompete native plants. The contract uses this unfair advantage of honeysuckle against itself. When the other plants go dormant, the honeysuckle can be treated with a foliar herbicide spray in a cost effective manner. Since the native plants are dormant the herbicide only affects the targeted invasive.

Caesar Creek Lake is often referred to as the best park in Ohio, according to visitors. Part of this praise is attributed to the natural aesthetics of the park. Whether hiking through the forest, viewing salamanders in the restored wetlands, or listening to Savannah sparrows sing in the restored tall grass prairies, one can be rest assured that the natural resource management team at Caesar Creek Lake will continue to strive to be the most professional land management team in the Corps of Engineers.



Caesar Creek Lake Natural Resources Specialist Ranger Russell Curtis uses the E-Z-Ject Lance to inject herbicide into invasive honeysuckle. See associated video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBF2R-9dUZA>

Courtesy of Jessica Zimmer

Whittle takes command of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division



Maj. Gen. Robert F. Whittle, Jr. took command of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, July 12, 2019, during a ceremony presided over by the 54th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Whittle previously served as Commandant for the U.S. Army Engineer School located at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and was pinned with his second star moments prior to assuming command from Maj. Gen. Mark R. Toy. Toy took command of USACE, Mississippi Valley Division, located in Vicksburg, Mississippi, July 23.

In his new role, Whittle is responsible for directing federal water resource development in the Great Lakes and Ohio River basins with infrastructure valued at over \$80 billion through seven engineer districts totaling over 4,200 people

operating through a state area.

Maj. Gen. Whittle is a native of Mystic, Connecticut, and holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the United States Military Academy, a Master's of Science in Environmental Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, a Masters of Military Arts & Science from the School of Advanced Military Studies, and a Masters of Strategic Studies from the Marine War College. He is also a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Virginia.

"Many thanks to Maj. Gen. Mark Toy and the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division for the warm reception," said Whittle. "I look forward to visiting the LRD (Great Lakes and Ohio River Division) districts soon and meeting many of you. Thanks for your service to this nation."

PINK, BOOH provide insight to USACE contracting opportunities

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, Louisville District, in conjunction with the University of Louisville's Women's Center, hosted the PINK, also known as Procurement Information you Need to Know, initiative at the University's Swain Student Activities Center Aug. 7 in Louisville, Kentucky.

PINK is a targeted Woman-owned Business, Woman-owned Small Business and Economically Disadvantaged Woman-owned Small Business initiative to reinforce USACE's commitment in providing the maximum practical opportunity for technically competent and capable firms to compete for procurements that help USACE 'deliver the program.'

Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant provided the event's opening remarks.

"We are so excited to have you here in Louisville," Gant said. "We are truly committed to ensure everyone gets a chance at the table to be able to make a difference, and we are able to make a difference because of people like you—to ensure our nation is safe and ensure economic development is happening."

PINK's purpose is to heighten awareness about USACE and business lines among women-owned firms and their importance to the USACE mission and our nation's economy. It also provides an



Crystal Harbin, Louisville District Deputy for Small Business, and Bonita Carroll, Women-Owned Small Business Program Manager and Assistant Director, USACE Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, speaks with contractors about business opportunities within USACE.

opportunity to educate WOBs, WOSBs and EDWOSBs on regulations, tactics and strategies. This helps to optimize capabilities for better positioning in competing for USACE Fiscal Year 2020 and future procurement opportunities.

The event captured feedback to help effect solutions on challenges faced by women-owned firms doing business, or desiring to do business, with USACE.

"Take advantage of this opportunity,"

said Bonita Carroll, Women-Owned Small Business Program Manager and Assistant Director, USACE Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. "We want to empower you with the resources to compete so you can be successful."

Louisville District Deputy Chief of Construction, Karen Sweeney, and Louisville District Deputy for Small Business, Crystal Harbin, participated in

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Approximately 275 contractors attended Louisville District's Business Opportunities Open House at the University of Louisville Aug. 8, 2019.

a panel about how contractors can better position themselves from lessons learned, tactics and strategies.

"I advise people who are putting in for proposals to read what we are asking for," Sweeney said. "And show that you can do it."

Louisville District's Cristie Mitchell, Reserve Support Programs Branch chief, and Misty Bock, Contracting Division acting deputy chief, also participated in panels for the regional event.

Many of the PINK Initiative attendees were encouraged to attend Louisville District's Business Opportunities Open House, held the following day, as the Louisville District leads the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division in contract awards to women-owned businesses, women-

owned small businesses and economically disadvantaged women-owned small businesses.

Companies and other individuals met with district leadership, staff and contracting officials at the BOOH. Attendees talked with senior leaders in an open forum setting, which provided insight about the district's operations, missions and future projects.

"This is one of two open houses we host as a district each year," Harbin said. "This gives us a chance to not only discuss our mission and upcoming opportunities, but to connect and get feedback from the contractor community while learning more about their capabilities. We continually focus on building relationships and this is a great opportunity for not only government/



Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant speaks at the PINK initiative event Aug 7.

contractor relationship building but also encourages prime and subcontractors to connect."

The Louisville District had 18 tables set up with representatives from project management, architect/engineer management, veteran's affairs, civil works, environmental, master planning, value engineering, cost engineering, geotechnical, construction, operations, regulatory, contracting and small business. The district also had a recruitment table set up for any student interested in working for USACE.

"This year's BOOH was a success with over 275 attendees," Harbin said. "A lot of great conversations took place which will take us into FY20 on the right foot. I'm looking forward to future events such as this to make our program a success."

Louisville District employees recognized for National Awards



Two Louisville District employees were recently recognized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Headquarters for national awards.

Dr. David Brancato (left) received the Corps of Engineers FY19 Safety Special Recognition Award and Corey White (right) received the Value Engineering Rising Star Award.

The full list of award recipients can be found at <https://www.army.mil/article/225279>



What's all the buzz at Green River Lake?

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Green River Lake office is the home of approximately 20,000 honey bees in the interpretive live beehive tree exhibit at their visitor center in Campbellsville, Kentucky.

Green River Lake installed the exhibit in December 2017. There are six frames on each side of the exhibit with two hives total, each with their own queen. Two tubes run from the hives to the outside of the building so that the bees can come and go as they please, as the bees' main job is to protect their queen.

"20,000 is actually a low number compared to what normal bee hives are but we keep ours small on purpose because of the limited space we have," said Andrea Davis, Green River Lake park ranger and beekeeper who was instrumental in setting up the display.

Right now the hives are currently very active due to the spring and summer season. The bees in the exhibit produce honey in the hives, however; the honey is not extracted.

"That is the number one question we get from the public 'what do you do with the honey?', and we don't do anything with it," Davis said. "We leave it in there because the bees eat it, especially in the winter - that is how they stay alive."

Larry Lemmon, Green River Lake's lead park ranger, used to be in charge of the visitor center and when Davis took over

that responsibility, she took his vision of a live bee exhibit and turned it into a reality.

"We wanted to do something more natural so we did it in a tree versus a traditional observation hive," Davis said. "We have seen exhibits at other places and really wanted to do one here."

Davis created the contract from scratch and designed the exhibit herself. She attended beekeeper training in early 2018 but studied up on them long before the exhibit was built. Davis currently works closely with the local Green River Beekeeping Association group to keep the beehives functioning and healthy.

"I am the only one here that does anything with the bees," Davis said. "I take care of them; I keep them fed and watch over them. We have another hive in our maintenance shop that I can always pull from if we need a new queen or need a frame with honey for the exhibit."

According to The Honeybee Conservancy, if it weren't for bees, about one third of the food that humans eat would not be available. Bees can help make crops not only look and taste better, but also help increase the amount that can be grown at a given time.

"My favorite part of being the beekeeper is the process it took to learn about bees because they are fascinating creatures—so small, but so smart," Davis said. "Learning what they do, the services they provide and being able to share that information to



Photo courtesy of Andrea Davis

Green River Lake Park Ranger Andrea Davis poses by the interpretive live bee exhibit at the visitor center in Campbellsville, Ky.

teach others is really fun for me."

Other exhibits at Green River Lake visitor center include Native American artifacts from the area, a live turtle display, water safety display and a large 1,500 gallon fish aquarium.



Abby Korfhage

A close-up of the bees in the Green River Lake live bee exhibit in Campbellsville, Ky.



Abby Korfhage

Green River Area Operations Manager Chris Boggs provides insight about the bee exhibit as Louisville District Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Lewis leans in to listen to the bees.