Corps'pondent

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US Army Corps of Engineers®
Portland District

Learn about Portland District recreation in this issue

During Bike to Blooms, bikers enjoyed a variety of wildflowers blooming near Oregon's Row River Trail at Dorena Reservoir.

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Cover photo: Christie Johnson, Willamette Valley Project

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Commander: Col. Jose L. Aguilar
Chief, Public Affairs: Matt Rabe
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Commander's Column

A year in command

Col. Jose L. Aguilar

Portland District,

You often hear the stories of people who love their job and "GET TO" do some awesome things. I am that person. Here are some of my first year observations of the depth and breadth of our tremendous team:

During a recent visit to the Rogue River Basin Project, I spent some time with Jim Buck's small, but motivated team. It felt like having lunch with family. What a great team! I "GOT TO" hear about golf passions and traveling the world to watch birds. I learned that nearly the entire team has made some personal changes which have enhanced their physical health. I also observed hatchery operations with our state partners.

In the Willamette Valley, on a beautiful weekend, I enjoyed the best burger I've ever had with the operators at one of our projects. On another visit, I ran on Hayward Field with an Olympic runner AND with Erik Petersen and several highly motivated runners who woke up early and took him up on one of his many challenges to the workforce. We also ran all the way up Prefontaine's Hill and made a quick stop at "the rock."

At Bonneville Lock and Dam, where Jerry Carroll has hosted me many times, each visit is a learning experience for me. Most recently, my good War College classmate visited and saw a part of the U.S. Army, which most Infantrymen seldom see. He was impressed with our organization, and he learned how he can better support our civilian workforce with the Army programs of the future.

At The Dalles Lock and Dam, after a group lunch, we walked the powerhouse and talked through some of the future investments. Ron Twiner's team, after a bit of encouragement, asked some superb questions about the future of our District.

At John Day Lock and Dam, Kevin Moynahan continues to coach (no really, he does remind me of a coach). I also was fortunate enough to make their Christmas gathering – what a hoot, and what a family atmosphere. Dwane Watsek did outbid me, however, for the prized chocolate cake (which he also donated back to the group … thanks Dwane).

On the dredges, I witnessed an amazing operations environment – these dedicated professionals are at work all day and all night. If you ever "GET TO" spend time on either the Essayons or the Yaquina, do. They will take great care of you.

And, speaking of navigation, I have stood on every jetty structure from the mouth of the Columbia to Brookings.

Here at Block 300, the Engineering and Construction Division team led by Lance Helwig has proven they are the engineer technical experts of the District … and apparently, of other government agencies and Corps of Engineers districts all the way to Afghanistan.

John Day Lock & Dam

Head out for some bank fishing on the Columbia while viewing the rolling velvet hills of the Columbia River Gorge. Bring along some camp chairs, music and snacks and see what tugs on your line.

Kevin Brice and his Planning, Programs and Project Management Division team continues to push out our planning horizon to ensure the requirements of the region are resourced and that the long term health of the District is secure.

Steve Miles and the rest of the Hydroelectric Design Center team are always working to provide the best support to our hydropower mission and to 15 other districts across the Corps, while also engaging with the most senior level of our government partners to ensure we have the upper hand in cyber space.

As for the Operations Division, Dwane Watsek and his small contingent of professionals work hard to ensure the teams out in the field are properly supported.

Finally, the Support Division led by our deputy Lt. Col. Shawn Patrick – nothing gets done without the support of his great team.

As for me, I "GET TO" represent you in our relationships with others. Starting with our Northwestern Division and national headquarters in DC, we have a superb working environment based on trust and mutual respect. I met with Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick on May 5. After providing him an update on the status of the Portland District, he said he was tremendously thankful for your service and that we are operating within his intent. He often uses some of your accomplishments as examples when talking with the Army's senior leadership.

I also had the opportunity to meet with our 11 Congressional delegates, who have interest in all that we do in Oregon and southwest Washington. They thanked us for what we are doing in support of the people of the Northwest. Industry is also very happy with your performance and is a superb advocate. We also often meet with our Tribal partners to discuss topics of mutual interest. Though we don't always agree, we have a collaborative relationship based on trust. These engagements are always personally and professionally rewarding for me.

This is a superb District with tremendous breadth and depth. Not one of us has the ability to see all that our teammates do in support of the American people. I have the opportunity to see more (yet probably understand less of the specifics) of the District. I share this with you to convey that you are part of something special.

So ... (I've learned that is how you always start a conversation here in Oregon), I "GET TO" do some very cool things, but best of all, I am proud to be your commander and that I "GET TO" interact with all of you; civilians, military, family members and retirees of this awesome institution dedicated to serving the American people.

Competence follows Character.

Col. Jose Aguilar

61st Colonel of the District

Lost Creek Lake, McGregor Park Visitor Center and Interpretive Trail

Head to the visitor center for some fun hands-on exploration, then out to the boardwalk by the river for a cool walk in the summer heat. You can see great blue herons, beavers and other wildlife while there.

District celebrates 144 years of service with a Birthday Ball

Photos by Billie Johnson, ACE-IT

The Portland District celebrated its 144 years of service to the Pacific Northwest and the nation on April 17, 2015. Portland District Commander Col. Jose Aguilar hosted a birthday ball for employees, partner agencies, friends and family.

Nearly 180 guests attended the fancy-dress celebration, which included a color guard provided by the park ranger staff from Bonneville Lock and Dam, who posted and retired the colors during the official ceremony. In addition to Corps employees, guests included members of the 555th Engineer Brigade, Bonneville Power Administration, and the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion.

"To my knowledge, this was the first birthday ball the District has hosted," Aguilar said. "My intent in holding this celebration was three-fold: to commemorate our District's history, to recognize the outstanding people who work in Portland District and to foster esprit de corps among employees, Corps partners and colleagues."

Three District managers received the Bronze de Fleury award for service to the Engineer Regiment: David Stanton, Safety and Occupational Health Office chief; Lance Helwig, District dam safety officer and chief of Engineering and Construction Division; and F. John Etzel, deputy director of the Hydroelectric Design Center.

The de Fleury medals were named for Francois Louis Tesseidre de Fleury, an engineer during the Revolutionary War. De Fleury's courage during the battle of Stony Point, New York, earned him Congressional approval. The Bronze Medal may be presented to an individual who has rendered significant service or support to an element of the Engineer Regiment.

One of the highlights of the evening was the Grog Ceremony, a tradition whereby the division chiefs celebrate the history of the District with a concoction honoring the contributions of each of their division.

Each division provided displays that were shown during the cocktail hour, showcasing the history of the District. After dinner, guests enjoyed an evening of music, photo taking and dancing.

Gene LaDouceur honored at Annual Retiree Luncheon

More than 80 past and current employees gathered for Portland District's Retiree Luncheon May 29 to see Gene LaDouceur, former operating project manager of The Dalles Lock and Dam and John Day/ Willow Creek Project, honored as the District's newest distinguished civilian employee.

LaDouceur worked for the Portland District for more than 37 years, starting his career as a power plant electrician and working his way up through the organization to operations project manager. He was widely respected by the District, Northwestern Division and other Corps of Engineers organizations for his leadership and his vast knowledge and understanding of the Corps' electrical, mechanical, operations, fish passage and hydropower generation systems. Because of these and many other reasons, he was a natural and exceptional choice for the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees. LaDouceur's closest family members – his wife, mom and kids – were present as he was honored with this award.

During the event, District Commander Col. Jose Aguilar also updated guests about District activities and announced three new initiatives – a new alumni counsel, a new volunteer program that encourages retirees and others to remain engaged and active in Corps of Engineers activities and a featured column in the District's Corps'pondent for retiree articles.

Gene LaDouceur will lead the new alumni counsel, whose initial charge will be to establish a charter and operational structure for the association. More details on the counsel and the new volunteer program will be announced in the coming months.

Retirees also are invited to submit their Corps'pondent articles to cenwp-pa@usace.army.mil, where upon receipt, they will be contacted by a member of Public Affairs staff who will work with them on their submission.

As the occasion ended, attendees lingered – in deep conversation or laughing and joking with one another – evidence of the success of another annual retiree tradition and the District's commitment to remaining engaged with the legacy of its past accomplishments and success.

Photos by Billie Johnson, ACE-IT

Portland District People

Robin Norris

Natural Resource Specialist, Bonneville Lock and Dam

Describe your job.

On any given day I am the "Face of the Corps" to visitors at the dam; I share the Corps story; I provide guidance and leadership to other staff and volunteers to promote excellent customer service to over 600,000 visitors a year; I oversee service contracts that support visitor experiences and also, occasionally, I serve an emergency responder when someone needs help. I am committed to expanding the public's understanding and knowledge of our missions both here in the Pacific Northwest and around the nation.

What do you find most rewarding about your job?

Seeing "light bulbs" go off with visitors when they relate to or understand something I'm sharing with them. I take great satisfaction in seeing happy customers leave the visitor center.

What challenges do you encounter in your job?

I need to balance serving visitors and getting my other job responsibilities done. There never seems to be enough time in the day!

How does your job fit into our District mission? Tell me an example of this.

As a natural resource specialist (or park ranger in every day terms), I explain our missions to the public, helping them gain a clearer picture of the Corps, our role in the region and the benefits they see from our missions.

What are your career aspirations and how are you preparing to accomplish them?

At this point in my career I'm looking at how I can mentor and support younger generations entering the natural resources/interpretation field. It's time for me to give back.

First job:

My first job was as a motel maid at 14 years old! I lived in a small town in southeast Idaho, so there weren't many options for employment! And, yes, I still fold sheets and tuck corners on beds the way I was taught.

Favorite book:

The Bible. This is the only book I repeatedly go to for wisdom, comfort and grace.

What are your hobbies?

Fitness. I love the endorphins from exercise, plus as I age, it keeps me stable mentally, emotionally and physically. Proud and active Boy Scout Mom; my youngest is close to reaching his Eagle rank!

Stewardship and volunteer service is a family affair

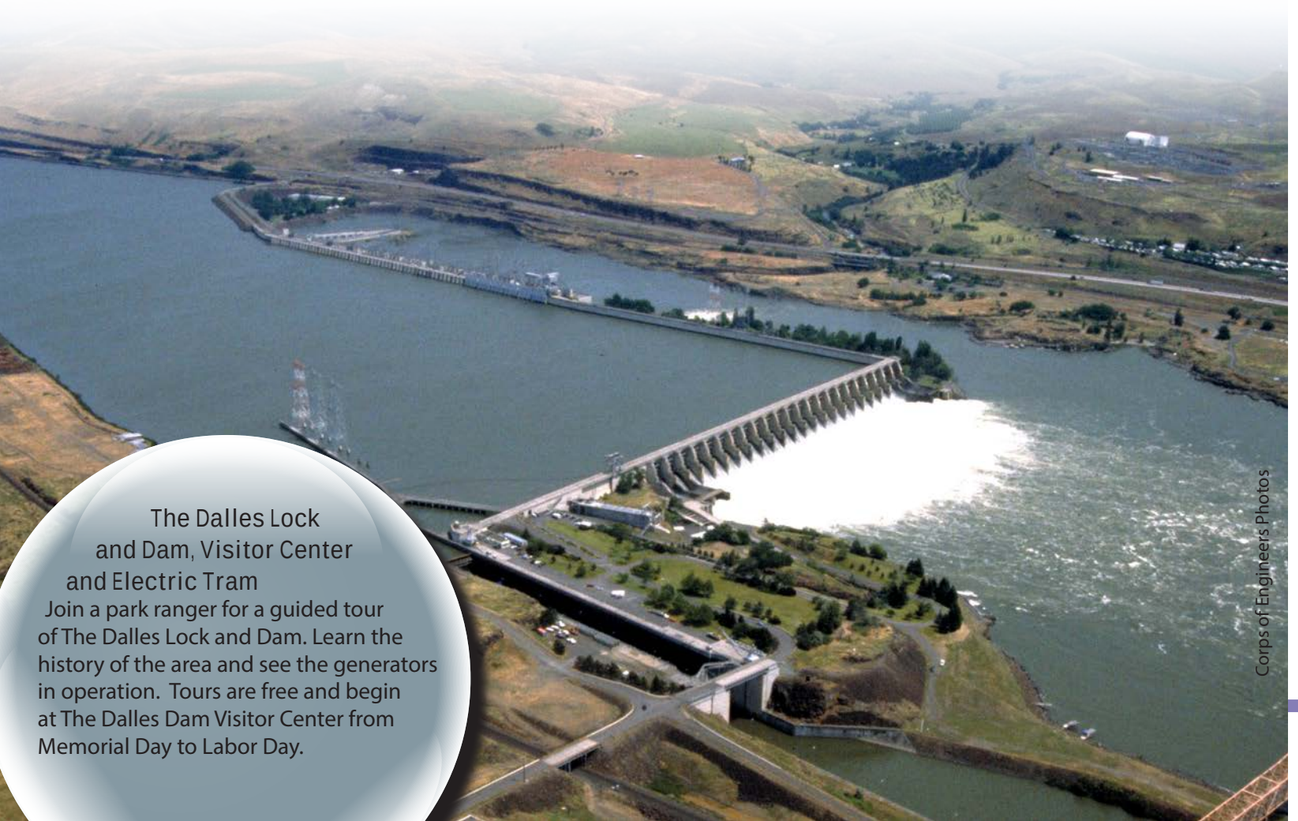
In 2014, nearly 400 volunteers brought their experience and skills to the Corps; enhancing our recreation and natural resource management programs through stewardship. Fourteen-year-old Brandon Roth was one of them.

Roth and his family are residents of The Dalles, Oregon. His mom, Cindy, worked for the Corps of Engineers as a teenager; she encouraged him to volunteer at The Dalles Dam as a way to explore various careers, which are a part of his high school graduation requirements.

For the past two summers, Roth has assisted park rangers with various duties at The Dalles Dam Visitor Center and in several of the parks near the dam. So far, he has earned 64 volunteer hours toward the 100 service hours needed for his high school graduation.

"Brandon has helped us keep the grounds clean and landscaped around the visitor center by picking up litter, watering native plant species and by pulling invasive weeds," said Amber Tilton, one of the park rangers at The Dalles Lock and Dam. "Inside the visitor center, he welcomes guests, provides information and operates the cash register in the Discover Your Northwest bookstore … all with a smile."

Roth keeps the inside of the visitor center as tidy as the outside by cleaning and organizing and by helping to care for the native species of fish in the center's 450 gallon fish tank. He also has participated in special events for the public, like the Eagle Watch, an annual opportunity for the public to view bald eagles every January.



Corps of Engineers Photos

The Dalles Lock and Dam, Visitor Center and Electric Tram

Join a park ranger for a guided tour of The Dalles Lock and Dam. Learn the history of the area and see the generators in operation. Tours are free and begin at The Dalles Dam Visitor Center from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Roth says the things he likes most about working at the dam is being able to talk with people from different places and helping them learn new things about the Dam. "At first it was hard to talk to people, but once I got used to it, talking with visitors is a lot of fun."

Brandon's volunteer efforts have exceeded $1,400 in value of service to the Corps," said Tilton. "He's earned valuable, on-the-job work experience while providing a public service to his community. He's also built a network of relationships and made new friends and memories – and that's what really lasts."

This year, Roth turned 16 and plans to find a summer job while also volunteering in his free time. Meanwhile, his little sister has shown interest in stewardship and wants to volunteer her services to help park rangers at The Dalles Dam.

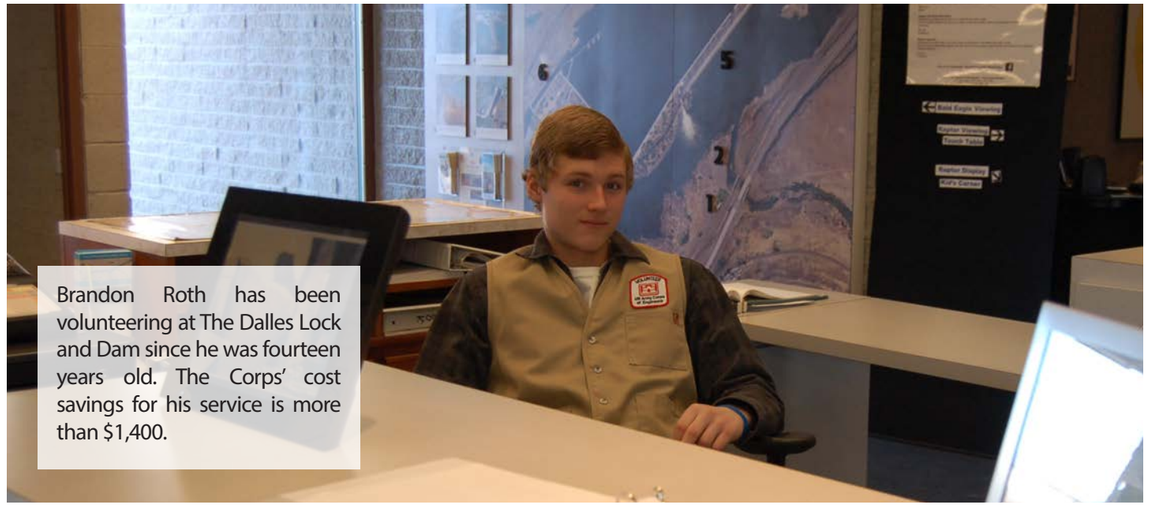
"It's turning into a family affair and quite the educational experience," said proud mom Cindy Thrush.

During national volunteer week celebrations, it's people like Brandon Roth and his little sister, that Portland District wants to promote … for their commitment to stewardship and volunteer service, their can-do spirit and their stellar work ethic!

Bonneville Lock and Dam

Hamilton Island Wildlife Area is a great place to hike and see wildlife and waterfowl. This trail is part of the Audubon Society's southwest loop of the Great Washington State Birding Trail.

Portland District's 387 volunteers served 17,861 hours in 2014 resulting in a $402,765 cost savings to the Corps.



Brandon Roth has been volunteering at The Dalles Lock and Dam since he was fourteen years old. The Corps' cost savings for his service is more than $1,400.

Photo by Amber Tilton, The Dalles Lock and Dam

District promotes toxic algae awareness

Updated policy supports risk communication, eliminates lag time around troubled water

By Amy Echols, Public Affairs Office; Michele Hanson, Operations Division

Bad news is usually unwelcome. When no news about the health risks of scummy, foamy or slimy toxic blue-green algae turned out to be just as bad, a Portland District team began to rethink its approach to public communication around the Corps' Oregon reservoirs.

Corps park rangers have watched boaters and swimmers take to the water with a false sense of security, believing that the absence of a public health advisory about potentially toxic blue-green algae blooms was an indicator of water safety. With this, a Natural Resources Management team, including park rangers from operating project field offices, reevaluated the District's seven-year practice of monitoring, sampling and testing these blooms at several Corps-managed recreation areas of the reservoirs.

"We determined that testing, typically initiated after the observation of what could already be a toxic bloom, has not notably contributed to protecting the public from exposure to possible algae toxins," explains Patti Williams, Portland District, chief, Natural Resources Management Section.

"Often thick like pea soup, with white-brown foam or with swirling coloration, these blooms can occur in areas of a lake that are not monitored routinely. The public may be exposed to a toxic algae bloom long before we have detected and tested it," adds Williams. She explains that the algae are transient and changing wind and wave currents move blooms to different locations and water depths. Regularly monitoring and testing all areas of a reservoir is not a sustainable or a practical use of taxpayer dollars.

The toxins associated with blue-green algae blooms, if swallowed or inhaled, can cause intestinal distress, nausea, cramps, fainting, numbness, dizziness, tingling and paralysis. Skin contact can cause rashes or irritation and health risks are magnified with increased or prolonged exposure or ingestion. Dogs exposed to these toxic blooms have a higher health risk even with toxins at lower concentrations.

Park ranger Ron Colletti posts a blue-green algae flyer at a Corps-managed recreation area in the Willamette Valley.

"We know now that the right time to communicate the potential health effects of exposure to a toxic algae bloom is before people get in the water," states Williams. "Our good rapport with and understanding of the recreation community – and how they respond to our advisories – spurred us to take a more proactive approach."

The swirled colors of algae on the water's surface can indicate the potential presence of a toxic blue-green algae bloom. This area at the Sunnyside Park campground and day-use area on the Corps' Foster Reservoir in 2013 tested positive for toxins.

Thick-as-pea-soup toxic blue-green algae coated logs and other debris near Dexter Reservoir in June 2013.

Corps of Engineers Photos

To get the message out ahead of potential public exposure, park staff this spring posted educational posters and permanent awareness signs at many Corps-managed reservoir access points in the Willamette River Basin, at Lost Creek Reservoir in the Rogue River Basin and Willow Creek Reservoir in eastern Oregon. This information will better equip the recreating public with information helpful in identifying blue-green algae on their own and therefore reducing exposure to active, toxic blooms.

The warning signs and posters that include a collection of algae photos are visible year-round, enabling visitors to exercise personal judgment about how much risk they are willing to take when their favorite park or waterway exhibits signs of a bloom. The public can also refer to Portland District's blue-green algae web page. The page includes a link to Oregon Health Authority's web site; OHA

The Corps' permanent signs and posters educate recreation visitors about the risk of water use during visible algae blooms. These notices are intended to reduce public exposure to potential toxins during the waiting time from sampling water to posting test results at Corps reservoirs .

Thick-as-pea-soup toxic blue-green algae coated logs and other debris at near Dexter Reservoir in June 2013.

tracks reported algae blooms in Oregon and posts current and past public health advisories on their site.

"The signs guide the public through the necessary steps to help protect themselves and their pets, without waiting for sampling results," elaborates Michele Hanson, natural resources manager. "The signs and posters also list additional precautions to reduce effects from exposure to algae-produced toxins should visitors make contact with a bloom."

Portland District will no longer routinely test for blue-green algae blooms but District water quality specialists will continue to collect hazardous algae bloom data as part of ongoing water quality studies. Other federal, state and local agencies will continue to monitor and test water quality in Lookout Point, Hills Creek, Detroit, Cougar and Blue River reservoirs in the Willamette River basin.

Hanson adds that Corps reservoirs remain open for recreation during blue-green algae blooms and the District has had no confirmed, bloom-related human illnesses at its recreation areas. And that is good news.

BLUF*: When in doubt, stay out!

The basics on harmful algae blooms

- Some algae are potentially harmful and may pose a direct health risk.
- When blue-green algae are present, people and pets should not swallow or have skin contact with water, nor use the water for drinking or cooking. Children, pets and those with compromised immune systems are at greatest risk.
- With proper precautions to avoid water contact, people can still enjoy activities at our recreation areas such as camping, hiking, picnicking and bird watching.

Precautions include:

- Staying out of affected water
- Keeping children and pets away
- Not drinking or cooking with the affected water
- Washing thoroughly with an uncontaminated water source if in contact with affected water.

For a Questions and Answers discussion on blue-green algae, visit
http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environment/bluegreenalgae.aspx.

Willamette Valley Project, Cottage Grove Lake, Lakeside Park.

If you are looking for a great place to picnic for the day, go fishing or just enjoy being by the water, Lakeside Park is the ticket. Much of the park is accessible including the new restroom facilities installed this year.

Corps life jacket loaner station program buoyed by donor support

Portland District commander Col. Jose Aguilar and a group of partners gathered near Hood River, Oregon on a windy day in April. They were there to celebrate donations by the International Order of the Blue Gavel, District 5, SafeKids Columbia Gorge and The Next Door, Inc. and to recognize their support in providing water safety resources to local communities.

The organizations' annual donations allow the Corps to replenish life jackets for all 22 life jacket loaner stations throughout the District. With assistance from The Next Door, Inc., an organization that manages donations for SafeKids, they provided $3,800 to purchase 300 lifejackets. SafeKids, in partnership with the Corps, has established a dynamic water safety campaign that fosters safe practices on the water.

Col. Aguilar hosted the April 14 gathering. "Thanks to tremendous support like the donations from the International Order of the Blue Gavel and SafeKids Columbia Gorge, the Corps is able to provide free lifejackets for families to borrow. We always hear about those tragic losses when someone loses their life – most often because they were not wearing a lifejacket. There's no statistic showing how many lives have been saved by wearing a lifejacket, but we know that thanks to organizations like these, our visitors are safer while having fun on or near the water."

This isn't a one-time action from the Blue Gavel and SafeKids; they have been partners with the Portland District for many years. "We appreciate their ongoing commitment to helping us keep families safe while recreating on the water," said Amber Tilton, The Dalles Lock and Dam park ranger who oversees the life jacket loaner program. "Together we will continue to advocate a water safety ethic in our community for years to come."

Photo by Bill Hanson, ACE-IT

Dorena Lake, Schwarz Park

Schwarz Park is a quiet campground with 65 sites right along the river. It's a great place to find some shade on a hot day, take a hike on a nature trail, bike with your kids or visit with a Park Ranger.

District's legacy of excellent leadership remains unchanged through transition

Portland District's first commander Maj. Henry M. Robert took command of the District in 1871 with the help of one clerk. He was the District's first senior leader whose initial mission was to ensure safe navigation on Oregon's rivers.

Today, Portland District's senior leaders continue the success of their early predecessors while acting as the yardstick of excellence for those who will follow them, ensuring continuity and successful service to the Pacific Northwest and the nation.

The Portland District said goodbye to Douglas C. Craner, District Counsel and Ralph Banse-Fay upon their retirement this spring.

Life jacket loaner stations

Corps recreation areas are the place where people and water meet! If you are planning on boating or recreating in or around the water, be safe – always wear a life jacket! Look for life jacket loaner stations where you can borrow a life jacket for you or your family.

New leadership welcomed

Johnathan Easton, Chief
Technical Operational Branch
Operations Division

Liza Wells, Chief
Hydraulics and Hydrology Branch
Engineering and Construction Division

Tracy Wickham, Chief
Contracting Division

Corps of Engineers Photos

Bern Klatte, Deputy Chief
Operations Division

Jen Richman, District Counsel
Office of Counsel

Amanda Dethman, Chief
Real Estate Division

Portland District Missions

- Improving and maintaining navigation for economic development and safety
- Preventing and reducing flood damage
- Restoring, enhancing and maintaining ecosystems
- Generating reliable and efficient hydropower
- Regulating activities in wetlands and waterways
- Supporting combat, stability and disaster operations through forward-deployed and reach-back capabilities
- Providing Corps-wide expertise in hydroelectric planning and engineering
- Providing safe and healthful recreational opportunities for the public

Lost Creek Lake Trail

Hike or bike all the way around Lost Creek Lake! There are 17 to 20 miles worth of trail depending on how you travel. Wildflowers, wildlife and beautiful views abound. Get out of the city and enjoy immersion in nature for a day.

Building climate change resilience in the Pacific Northwest

By Michelle Helms, Public Affairs Office

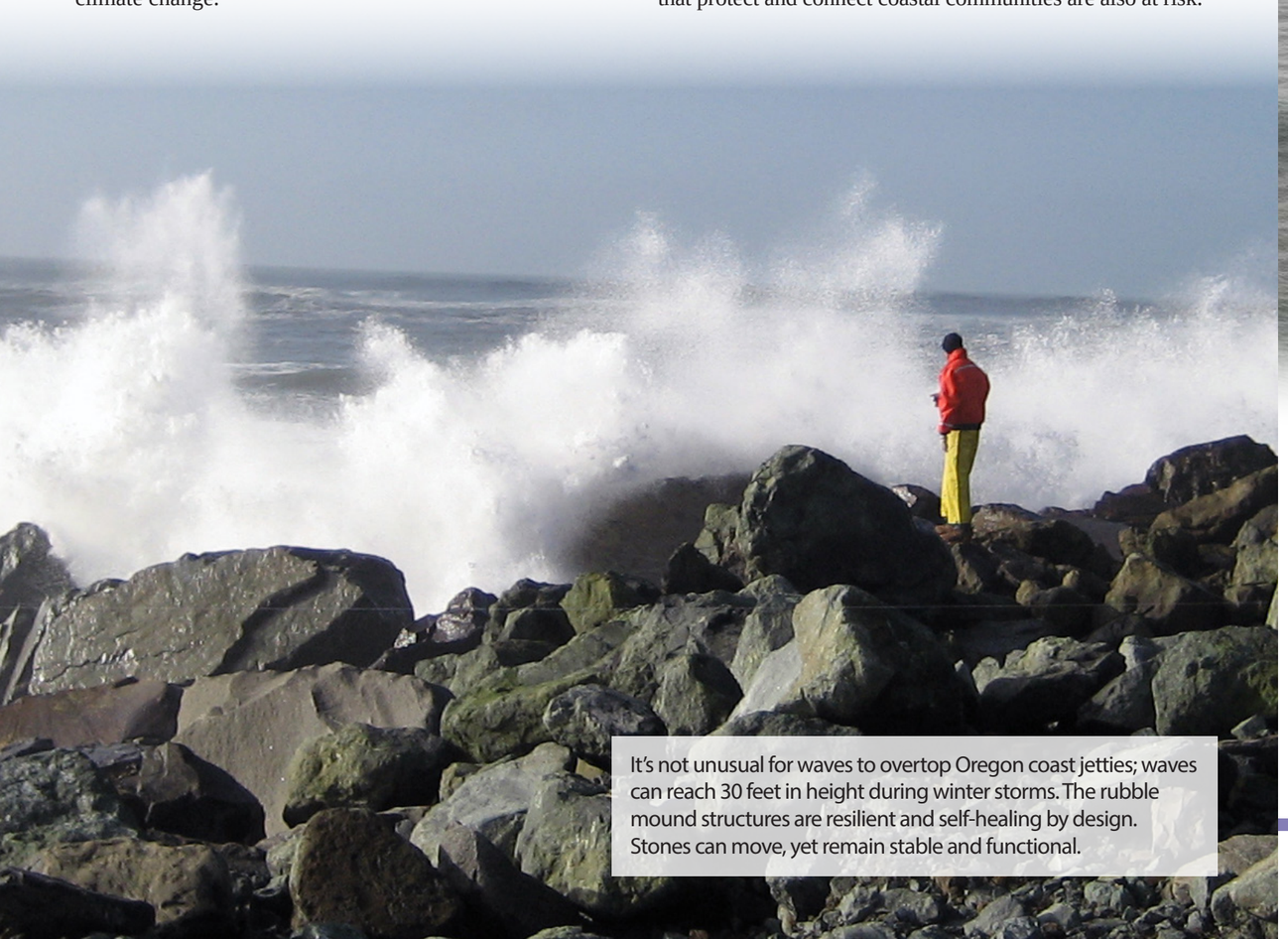
From navigation to ecosystem restoration, the Pacific Northwest is one of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' most demanding coastal design environments. The winter storms that regularly pound the Oregon and southern Washington coast are much like the hurricanes experienced on the East Coast. While challenging, these conditions give the Portland District an advantage when planning for climate change.

"The Pacific Northwest projects already have to deal with a fairly large range and climate variability," said Heidi Moritz, Portland District coastal engineer. We have to design our structures to be resilient to that, even without climate change."

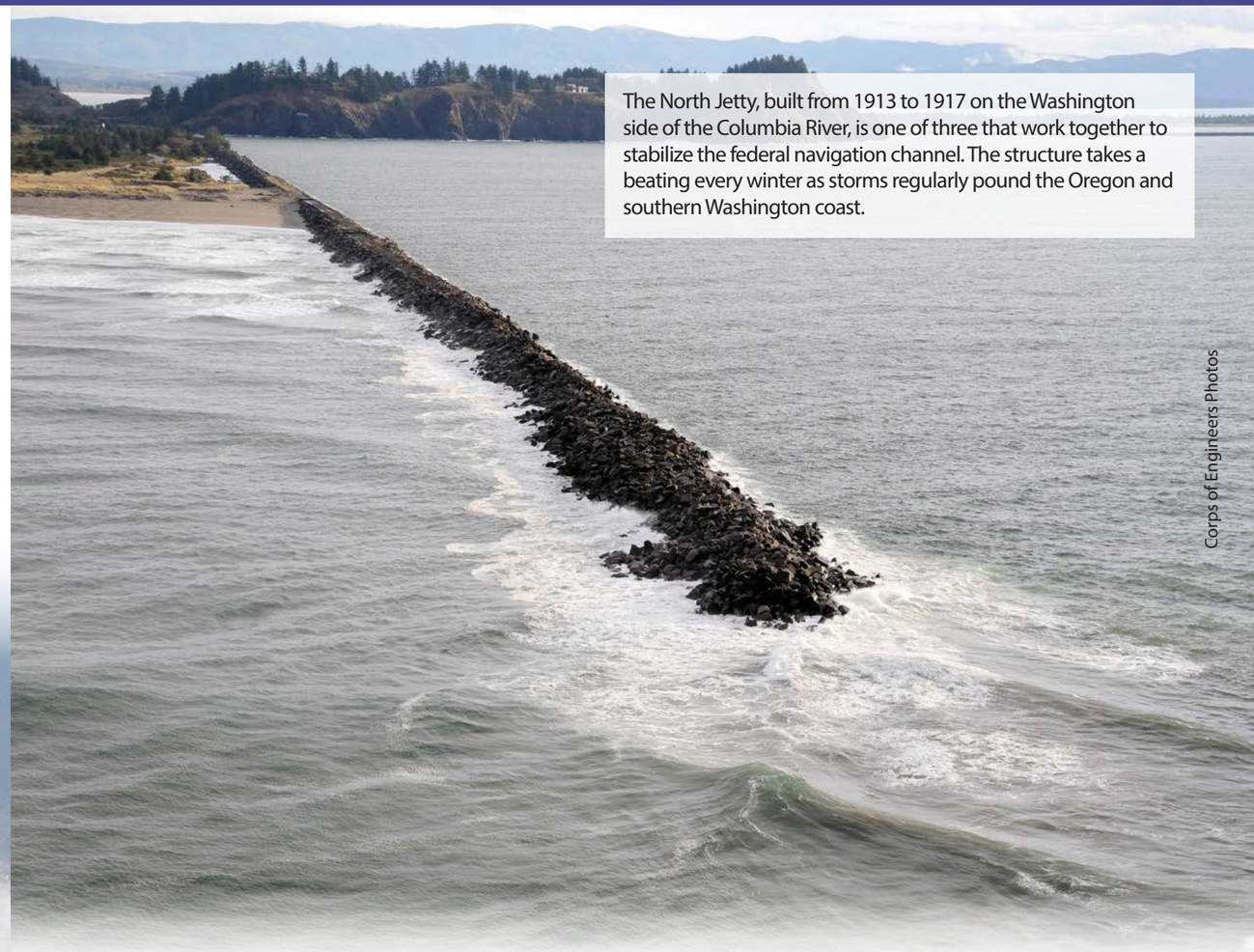
Wave heights average four meters during winter storms; 10 to 12 meters high is unusual. Add in the fact that these strong storms often come in one after another, after another – the Corps' coastal structures were built to last.

The jetties on Oregon's coast are rubble mound structures that stretch from the shore out into the Pacific Ocean. The oldest structure was built in the late 1800s, the youngest in 1979. They are what stand between ships and unpredictable ocean elements.

These structures are not the only ones vulnerable to the unpredictable coastal conditions. Levees, bridges and roads that protect and connect coastal communities are also at risk.



It's not unusual for waves to overtop Oregon coast jetties; waves can reach 30 feet in height during winter storms. The rubble mound structures are resilient and self-healing by design. Stones can move, yet remain stable and functional.



The North Jetty, built from 1913 to 1917 on the Washington side of the Columbia River, is one of three that work together to stabilize the federal navigation channel. The structure takes a beating every winter as storms regularly pound the Oregon and southern Washington coast.

Corps of Engineers Photos

"If we're able to look at our projects in a scenario-based approach and think ahead for a range of conditions," said Moritz. "Then those people will be better served and better protected."

The Corps is working with other federal, state and local agencies to consider how climate change will affect coastal communities, as well as those further inland.

"You can't work in isolation," said Keith Duffy, Portland District hydraulic engineer. "They bring in a lot of different aspects of what to look for and what's important. How we operate in response to climate change will impact everyone, so it's very integrated."

Addressing climate change is a balancing act – meet today's needs, but be ready to adapt to tomorrow's environment.

"The trick is to be as aware of what those changes may be and to reduce the uncertainty," said Duffy.

Anticipating, preparing, responding and adapting to change…it all adds up to resilience. An element already built into the Corps' service to the Pacific Northwest.

Critical repairs beginning at MCR North Jetty

By Michelle Helms, Public Affairs Office

Jetty stone is arriving and crews are preparing for some heavy lifting at the North Jetty in Cape Disappointment State Park, Washington.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is staging equipment and material to repair the 100-year-old navigation structure. The construction is required to maintain the jetty system, which provides safe transit to ships travelling between the Columbia River and Pacific Ocean.

"We're ahead of schedule," said Eric Bluhm, Corps project manager. "Our original schedule had us working in the park through 2016, but it looks like we'll be able to finish this phase of repairs by October."

The accelerated schedule means construction traffic will be unusually heavy in the area adjacent to the park, including Ilwaco, Washington. Trucks are hauling equipment and materials Monday through Friday; jetty stone will also be delivered Saturday mornings through the end of June.

Signs posted along State Road 100 leading to Cape Disappointment warn drivers and bicyclists they are sharing the road with construction vehicles, including flat-bed trucks hauling jetty stones – each weighing up to 30 tons - from a quarry in northern Washington. Additionally, the Washington Department of Transportation has lowered the speed limit to 25 miles per hour.

Park visitors should expect road closures and some traffic delays. The western most stretch of Jetty Road is closed and the west side of the east parking is closed to accommodate construction staging. Access to Benson Beach from Jetty Road may be temporarily restricted during this time, but can be accessed by foot from the east parking lot or the northern gravel parking lot.

Construction schedule
(subject to change)

North Jetty critical repairs .....April – October 2015
Jetty A rehabilitation .....2015 - 2017
North Jetty rehabilitation .....2017 - 2020
South Jetty rehabilitation .....2017 - 2021

Corps of Engineers Photos

The fenced area near and on the North Jetty is an active construction site and should be avoided.

The MCR and other Oregon coast jetties were never intended to be used for recreational purposes. Learn more about the dangers associated with walking on or fishing from the jetties at *http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Portals/24/docs/pubs/coastal_jetties.pdf.*

Details about the jetty rehabilitation project are available at *http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Current/ColumbiaRiverjetties.aspx.*

The Mouth of the Columbia River's jetty system was built from 1885 to 1939. The jetties have undergone repairs and rehabilitation several times since original construction.

The MCR jetty system was designed to minimize navigation channel maintenance and provide safe transit between the Pacific Ocean and the Columbia River. The jetties annually support $20 billion in international trade, transportation of 55 million tons of cargo and more than 40,000 maritime-related jobs.

Jetty stones - each weighing up to 30 tons – are arriving at the North Jetty site from a quarry in northern Washington. When the project is complete crews will have placed about 50,000 tons of armor stone.

Bike to Blooms

About 75 people gathered May 9 as part of Bike to Blooms, an annual event near Cottage Grove, Oregon that invites bicyclists and others to learn about native prairie plants in bloom along the Row River Trail and Dorena Reservoir. Through a number of educational booths and wildflower tours led by local experts, participants learned how native plants and grasses benefit our environment.

Matt Hall from Kennedy High School near Cottage Grove, Oregon, demonstrates how bees pollinate a lupine flower at Row Point.

The Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, Native Plant Society of Oregon and the Corps hosted educational booths as part of Bikes to Blooms, an annual wildflower event at Bake Stewart Park.

Photos by Christie Johnson, Willamette Valley Project

Corps botanist Wes Messinger (kneeling) talks about the value of native grasses at Bake Stewart Park.

The Dalles Lock and Dam, Spearfish Lake

Visit this tranquil lake for a walk on the trail or to go fishing. Every year the Corps of Engineers offers a free fishing day for families - what a great opportunity to introduce kids to the sport of fishing.

The Bikes to Blooms partnership includes the Corps, Bureau of Land Management, City of Cottage Grove, Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, Kennedy High School and the Native Plant Society of Oregon.

You are the face of the Corps. Share these messages with your family, friends and community.

Boating and Water Safety

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the leading provider of outdoor recreation with over 400 lake and river projects in 43 states enjoyed by 370 million visitors every year. We want all our visitors to enjoy their stay, play it safe and return home alive to the ones they love.

Knowing some of the facts about drowning may help save your life or the life of someone you love. According to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers statistics, the majority of people (88%) who drown are male, 39% are 18-35 years old, 24% are 36-53 years old and 89% of the people who die in water-related accidents were not wearing a life jacket. Over 90% of the people who die in boating-related accidents had not taken a boating safety course.

Photo by Kyra Fulkerson, Willamette Vally Project

Water enthusiasts enjoy tubing on Fall Creek Reservoir.

TIP: Are You Next? Expect the Unexpected and Wear Your Life Jacket! The question is "Are You Next?" You could be the next person to drown if you don't play it safe. Your best defense against the unexpected is a life jacket. Wear your life jacket and encourage those you love to wear one too.

TIP: Learn to swim well and swim with a buddy. It only takes an average of 20 seconds for a child to drown and 60 seconds for an adult. Never let your children swim by themselves. Adult supervision is a must to ensure you don't lose the ones you love. Swimming ability decreases with age so even if you are a strong swimmer wear your life jacket especially in open water conditions.

TIP: Many people who drown never intended to enter the water and they drown within 10-30 feet of safety. Sixty percent of the time people who drown were either witnessed by someone or there were people in the area that could have helped save them.

TIP: Learn to identify the four signs of a person who is drowning. The drowning signs are head back, mouth open, no sound and arms slapping the water in an up and down motion.

TIP: The proper ways to rescue someone in the water that is in distress is to reach, throw, row, don't go. Reach something out to the person without endangering yourself, throw them something that floats, row your boat close to the person with the motor off. Never attempt an in-water rescue unless you are trained to do so. Instead, go for help or send someone else for help. Oftentimes a double-drowning occurs when someone enters the water to attempt a rescue because a person fighting for their life is extremely strong and in order to stay afloat they will hold the person who is trying to help them underwater.

TIP: Take a boater safety course and boat with a buddy. According to the U.S. Coast Guard 88% of the people that died in a boating accident were on vessels where the operator had not taken a NASBLA-approved boater safety course. There are on-line courses available at *www.boat-ed.com*. US Coast Guard Auxiliary *http://cgaux.org/boatinged* and US Power Squadrons *www.usps.org* offer courses in most states. As a bonus, many insurance companies offer reduced rates for taking a boating safety course.