

CORPS' PONDENT

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US Army Corps
of Engineers
Portland District

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PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. ARMY

Three captains from the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, mourn the loss of their comrade at a memorial service in Kuwait.

Memorial Day
May 29, 2006



Earlier this year, employees participated in an important feedback tool: the Organizational Climate Survey. This survey is important for all leaders, because it is based not on how we're doing business, but how well employees believe we're managing the workforce.

I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to complete this survey. It's important to me to know what employees are thinking. I get some information during my visits around the District, but often those comments are filtered by time and the public nature of those meetings. Providing your comments in the climate survey allows us to find trends that show where improvement is needed – or where we are doing things well.

Overall the Portland District has a pretty good organizational climate, and we can all be proud of that. We have some areas that need improvement, and we will take the comments about those areas and see where we can make changes. I intend to study this report and do the right thing to improve our organization and I call on all leaders to join in that work.

Most of you have seen the graphic depicting our organizational values as interlocking circles. I submit that one critical aspect of the climate survey is integrity. This survey asks for information on how a person feels – what his or her comfort level is while doing a job. Overall, employees consider our workplace to be a comfortable place to be, but I still believe it's important to review the fundamental points.

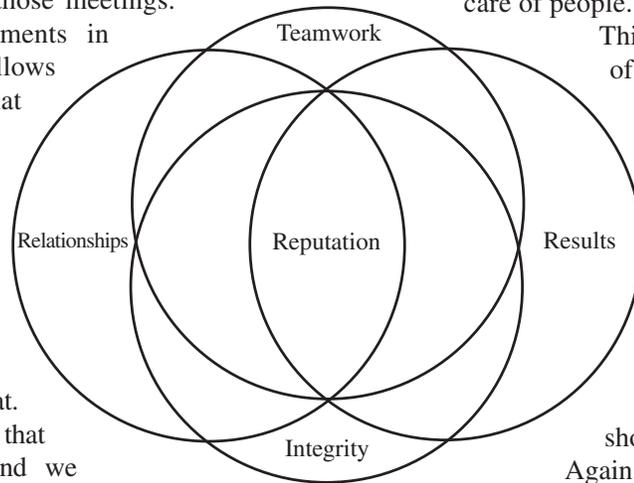
How you interact with your co-workers is a direct reflection of personal integrity and your work ethic. If someone feels harassed or intimidated by a colleague, the mission suffers. Your personal work ethic is directly related to personal integrity; if you apply the highest standards to your personal work



Col. Thomas O'Donovan

ethic, your dedication to your job is an aspect of your integrity.

From a supervisor's perspective, a critical aspect of integrity is ensuring all of your employees are performing to the best of their ability. Not only does that indicate that we, as an organization, value personal work ethic, it also encourages employees to strive for excellence. That means everyone is expected to do their best. This aspect may be one of the most difficult for supervisors, since it requires managing a variety of personalities and abilities, but I believe it is critical to taking care of people.



This touches on just a portion of what the Organizational Climate Survey provides in feedback, but I feel very strongly that if we can accomplish a high level of personal integrity, a high level of organizational integrity will be a direct result. We will review, think, and make changes where we can – and should – based on this survey.

Again, thank you for your comments and your commitment to your job. It is an honor to serve together with you.

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Top Ten

Things to do in the Columbia Gorge



FROM THE FIELD

Check out the **Bradford Island Visitors Center** at Bonneville Lock and Dam - see fish passage, possibly seals and sea lions that follow the salmon run 100+ miles up the river, learn how we generate electricity, cultural history of the area, and navigation on the Columbia.

Visit the **Bonneville Fish Hatchery** and see Herman the sturgeon, over 60 years old. Bring the kids and feed the rainbow trout. Learn how the hatchery enhances the number of salmon available for catch in the river, visit the gift shop, enjoy the beautiful landscaping and get a mocha from the coffee shop.

Take the one mile loop hike at exit 40 to **Wahclalla Falls**. (http://www.gorgeexplorer.com/hiking_waterfalls.htm#Wahclella%20Falls)

Take the **Historic Highway Trail** between Bonneville and Cascade Locks. This four-mile paved trail is perfect for a family bicycle trip. http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_155.php

Visit **Cascade Locks** for lunch and an ice cream cone, then make your way back along the shaded four-mile trail.

Interested in more? Cross the Bridge of the Gods and head over to the **Washington Visitor Complex** at the Bonneville Dam for more information about salmon, hydropower, and the Corps of Engineers.

Head across the street from the visitor center to the **Pacific Crest Trail head**, or . . .

Travel just west on highway 14 to the **Historic Fort Cascades Trail**. This rolling trail takes hikers through moss-covered boulders (remnants of flooding) and on a walk through time with trail markers identifying aspects of what was once there. https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/b/dir_ftc.asp

Just a mile or so west is the impressive **Beacon Rock State Park**, where you can hike more than 900 feet up this monolith and take in impressive views of the Columbia River gorge. <http://www.parks.wa.gov/parkpage.asp?selectedpark=Beacon%20Rock>

When you're done, visit **Stevenson, Wash.** for a great dinner and a stroll on the river in the cool spring breeze. 📍



PHOTO COURTESY OF BUD DRAGOO

The Columbia Queen

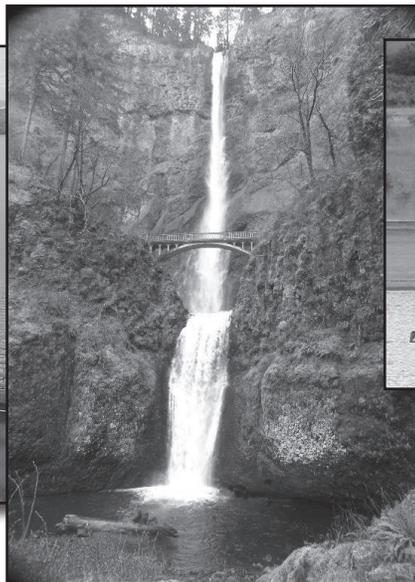


PHOTO BY AXTEL LAMBRIGHT



CORPS OF ENGINEERS PHOTO

Left: Multnomah Falls

Above: Sailing near The Dalles



May 1806:

A Difficult Journey



By Melissa Rinehart
Operations Division

Winter, Spring and Summer within a few miles ... rain in the river bottoms falls as snow on the higher plains, and the mountains to the east are still snow covered.

--Day by Day with the Lewis and Clark Expedition,
by Barbara Fifer

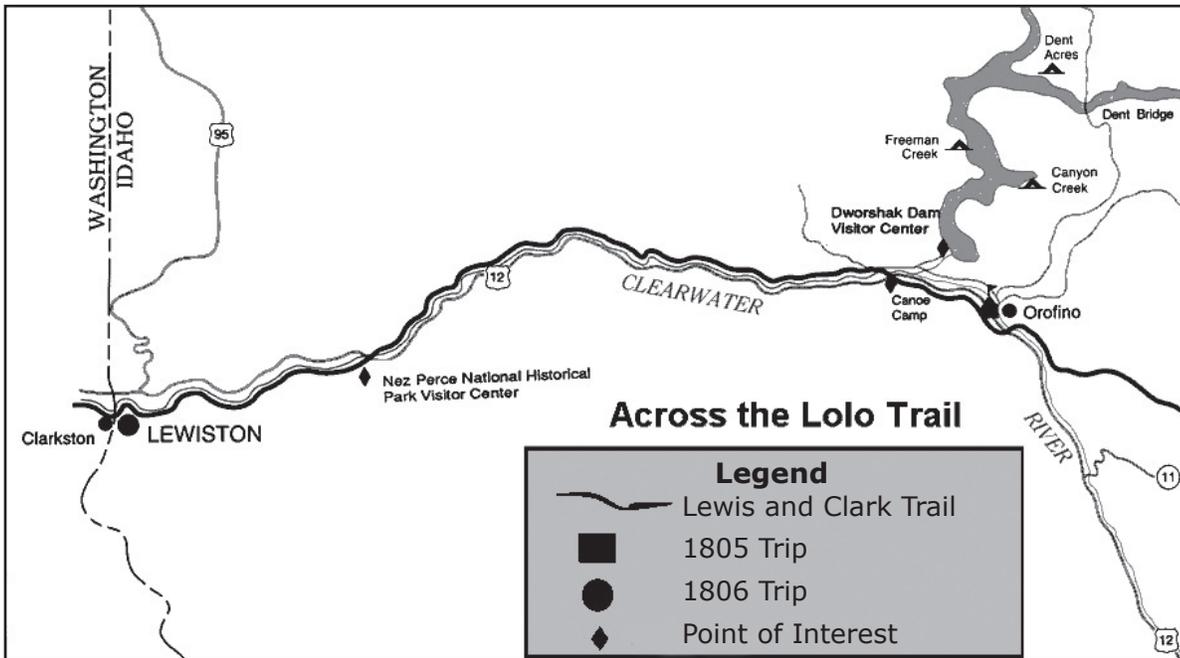
During May 1806, the Corps of Discovery could easily be called travelers in need. As they traveled up the Columbia, reached the Snake River and then crossed the Clearwater River, they were constantly in search of game. As many as 12 hunters were sent out at a time with little success. The Nez Perce Indians who traveled with them supplied meat, roots, root bread, and directions. By the end of the month, relief came in the form of plentiful game, and many of those treated for sickness were on the mend.

Lewis' medical skills were becoming famous and he treated many illnesses during the journey to the Clearwater. People traveled from as far as six miles away seeking attention for their ills; the most memorable being a prominent Nez Perce chief who had been unable to move his arms and legs for three years.

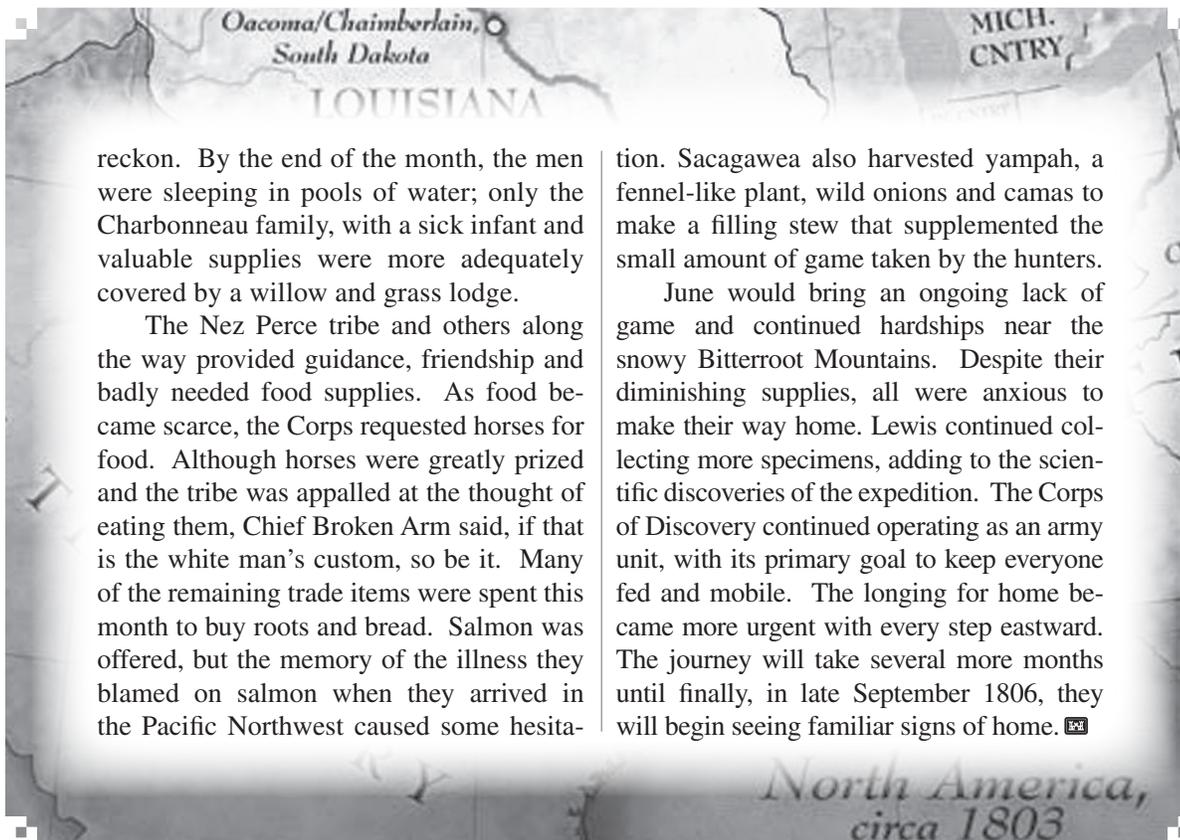
Lewis treated him with laudanum, a special soup, and several days of sweating. By the end of the month, the chief regained some use of both his arms and legs. Lewis' reputation as a healer was probably even greater by the time the Corps left the region.

On May 7, the Corps learned they would be delayed in traveling over the Bitterroot Mountains. Lewis documented in his journal that, "The spurs of the Rocky Mountains, which were in view from the high plain today were perfectly covered with snow. The Indians inform us that the snow is yet so deep on the mountains that we shall not be able to pass them until after the next full moon or about the first of June." When eight inches of snow fell on May 10, the warnings were reinforced and the travelers settled in. The weather was again a constant force with which to





Map of Lewis and Clark's travels



reckon. By the end of the month, the men were sleeping in pools of water; only the Charbonneau family, with a sick infant and valuable supplies were more adequately covered by a willow and grass lodge.

The Nez Perce tribe and others along the way provided guidance, friendship and badly needed food supplies. As food became scarce, the Corps requested horses for food. Although horses were greatly prized and the tribe was appalled at the thought of eating them, Chief Broken Arm said, if that is the white man's custom, so be it. Many of the remaining trade items were spent this month to buy roots and bread. Salmon was offered, but the memory of the illness they blamed on salmon when they arrived in the Pacific Northwest caused some hesita-

tion. Sacagawea also harvested yampah, a fennel-like plant, wild onions and camas to make a filling stew that supplemented the small amount of game taken by the hunters.

June would bring an ongoing lack of game and continued hardships near the snowy Bitterroot Mountains. Despite their diminishing supplies, all were anxious to make their way home. Lewis continued collecting more specimens, adding to the scientific discoveries of the expedition. The Corps of Discovery continued operating as an army unit, with its primary goal to keep everyone fed and mobile. The longing for home became more urgent with every step eastward. The journey will take several more months until finally, in late September 1806, they will begin seeing familiar signs of home. 



CORPS OF ENGINEERS PHOTO

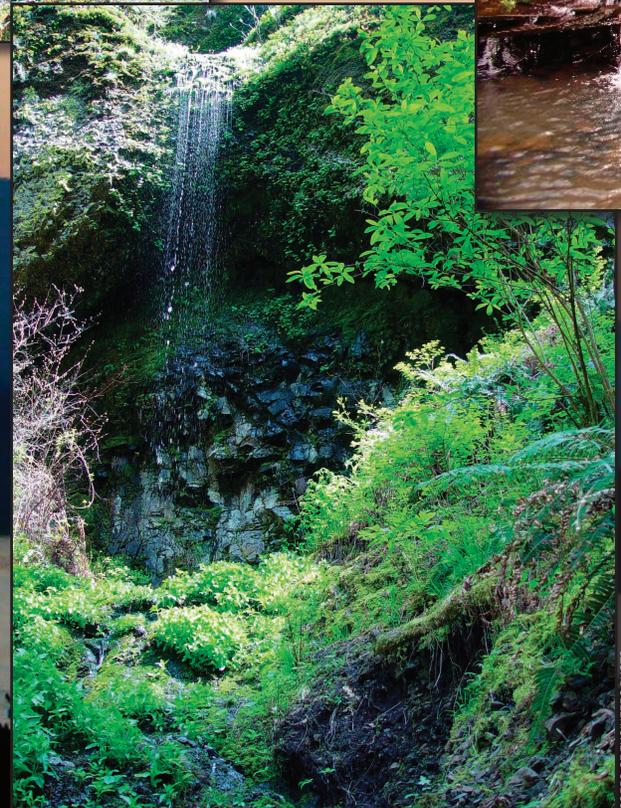
*Above: Tanner Creek
Below: Multnomah Falls*



PHOTO BY AXTEL LAMBRIGHT

QUIET M Column

*Right:
North
Bonneville
Hot Springs*



*Tiny seeps along the trail nurture
ferns and flowers.*

*Background:
Sunset from Robin's Island,
Bonneville Lock and Dam*



MOMENTS IN THE *Columbia Gorge*



PHOTO BY AXTEL LAMBRIGHT



CORPS OF ENGINEERS PHOTO

Above: The mist from Wahclella Falls sprays tiny flowers of Columbia Kitten



PHOTO BY AXTEL LAMBRIGHT

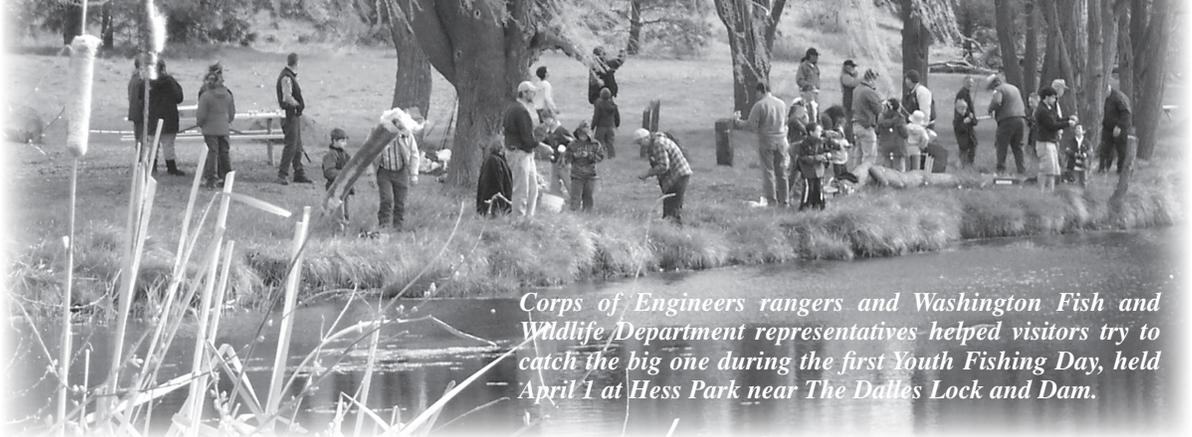
*Above: Latourell Falls
Right: Tanner Creek Canyon*



CORPS OF ENGINEERS PHOTO



Willamette Valley *Ranger Staff Outreach*



Corps of Engineers rangers and Washington Fish and Wildlife Department representatives helped visitors try to catch the big one during the first Youth Fishing Day, held April 1 at Hess Park near The Dalles Lock and Dam.

By Heidi Helwig, Public Affairs Office

FEATURE

Last year more than 10,000 people learned about the Corps of Engineers because Willamette Valley park rangers reached out to them. This year, Willamette Valley park rangers expect at least as many encounters.

More than 2,000 of these face-to-face encounters happened as part of the Willamette Valley Project's water safety outreach program, when rangers visited elementary and middle schools, said Christie Johnson, Corps outreach specialist in the Valley. Each spring, rangers educate students about personal flotation devices; during the winter months, students learn about the risks of hypothermia and the dangers of alcohol combined with water-based recreation.

From June to September park rangers offer campground programs at Cottage Grove and Dorena lakes. The programs promote safety and natural and cultural resource stewardship. Children's programs help young campers practice good park stewardship, from picking up litter to bicycle safety. On Independence Day weekend, rangers lead children on a bicycle parade that safely celebrates America's birthday.

Johnson is spearheading an exciting program at Cottage Grove: the Junior Ranger Program. "When I was a kid, I used to go to these junior ranger programs and I always wanted to grow up and be a ranger," Johnson said. "Now I am one, and it's great

to share my enthusiasm with another future ranger."

Johnson's memories of what she loved in the program helps her plan the weekly programs, which focus on topics such as mammals, plants, birds or turtles. "We take the kids around the park to explore the topic of the day and then finish with a craft so they have something to take home," she said.

"Our number one purpose is education, but we also try to make our programs entertaining," Johnson said. "The campfire program venue is one of the best ways to inform people about the Corps' missions, foster stewardship of natural and cultural resources, and educate visitors about how to stay safe in a fun, interactive way." Rangers and other special guests provide campfire programs in the Pine Meadows Campground amphitheater every Saturday night from mid-June to Labor Day.

The Willamette Valley rangers' outreach efforts, however, extend well beyond the campfire. "We realize we need to incorporate the Corps' civil works missions and accomplishments into our interpretive programming," Johnson said, which the ranger staff does in a number of ways. By providing guided tours of various dams and powerhouses throughout the Valley, rangers are able to communicate the amazing history of the dams and explain the challenges of operating multi-purpose dams right on the spot where the



challenge happened or is happening.

For the sixth year in a row, the Willamette ranger staff hosted a booth at the Eugene Boat and Sportsman Show in February. Rangers staffing the booth fielded a wide variety of questions relating to summer recreation activities, reservoir water levels and employment opportunities at the dams. Other events that the Valley rangers traditionally participate in include the Eugene Water Safety Day and Free Fishing Day, both in June; Bohemia Mining Days and Blackberry Jam festivals in July, and various career fairs. At these events, booths, hands-on demonstrations, or dam tours promote the Corps' mission, water safety and stewardship.

"The Corps has set national goals for the Interpretive Services and Outreach Program and we try to make sure that all our outreach efforts help achieve those goals," Johnson said. "The ISOP goals foster stewardship and enhance visitors' experiences and enjoyment, and are often best achieved with hands-on activities. This is a concept the Willamette Valley rangers understand and embrace," Johnson said.

Last May, Ranger Tami Schroeder worked with seven middle school students to build 30 songbird nest boxes for the Annual Day of Caring event in Cottage Grove. The wood used for the boxes was cut by Lowell High School wood shop students.

Johnson and Ranger Peg Marcus worked with 30 community volunteers to pick up garbage at the Orchard Point Park at Fern Ridge Lake as part of the SLOV activities. In another project, Ranger Jeff Grow worked with 150 Boy Scout volunteers to spread grass seed and clean up parks around Cottage Grove Lake. During one of the last projects of the 2005 season, Johnson and Ranger Travis Chewing worked with five volunteers to improve drainage on a section of the Eugene-Pacific Crest Trail for National Public Lands Day.

Although the trails project may have been one of the last projects in 2005, it by no means completes the list of other activities. The Willamette Valley ranger staff has proven that outreach is much more than a buzzword—it's an active concept they have taken to the next level.

"Our main goal, really, is to promote the Corps of Engineers and its missions," Johnson said. "I see rangers as a bridge between the public and the Corps. Through our outreach efforts, we have an opportunity to make positive connections with members of the community, and hopefully we are making a lasting difference." 



Ranger Christie Johnson, far left, joins Corps employees and their family members during the Blackberry Jam festival in Lowell, Ore.



Willamette Valley rangers plan a variety of events for young visitors, including a bike parade to promote bicycle safety on Independence Day.



Buddy Beaver, left, poses with Forest Service mascot Smokey Bear and an unidentified Forest Service employee during a free fishing event in Willamette Valley. Ranger Sandra Cannon brought Buddy to life that day.





Mandatory boater education key to safer recreation

A driver education course is required before operating an automobile to ensure that drivers are familiar with their vehicles and the rules of the road. **Why should operating a boat on the water be any different?**

By Jennifer Sowell
Public Affairs Office



WATER SAFETY

Boater education was completely voluntary until just a few years ago, but Oregon and Washington will soon make education courses mandatory for all boaters in both states.

The initiative has been underway in Oregon since 2003, when the first phase required boat operators 30 years old and younger take a boater education course before operating a boat. The program is set up to continue phasing in older age groups until 2009, when boat operators of all ages will be required to complete a boater education course before taking to the water.

This year, the mandatory education requirement includes boat operators 50 years old or younger. About 30 states currently have some type of mandatory boater education requirements. Boater education cards from Oregon or Washington are recognized in other states and Canada, and cards issued by other states are recognized in Oregon and Washington.

“You need to know something before you get behind the wheel of a boat,” said Marty Law, Oregon State Marine Board’s boating education program manager. “Making the change to mandatory boater education is important, because activity on the waterways – and the size and power of the boats on those waterways – continues to increase.”

Since the boater education program has started phasing in the mandatory requirement, more than 125,000 people have taken the course and received boater education cards, said Law.

As boater education becomes mandatory rather than voluntary, a one-time boater education course will allow boat operators to obtain a lifetime identification card.

The state of Washington recently passed a simi-

lar law that will be completely phased in by 2016. The Washington State Park Boating Program will issue boater education cards in the spring of 2006. Currently, Washington boaters 20 years of age and younger are required to obtain an education card by Jan. 1, 2008. The state’s plan also exempts boaters born before January 1, 1955 from the boater education card requirement.

Experienced boaters can choose to take an equivalency exam without going through an education course. These exams are offered free of charge through the local marine board and the marine patrol of county sheriff’s offices.

States phasing in mandatory boater education requirements more quickly see a decrease in the number of fatality accidents, said Law.

Just like with auto insurance, if you are a proven safe driver, you may be eligible to receive discounts on your boat insurance; completing a boater education course may reduce your insurance by 10 to 15 percent. A boater education card also can save you money by avoiding fines; if you operate a boat in Oregon without a card it may cost you a fine of \$94.

Additional information about classroom and internet course options and boater education information in general, visit the following websites: <http://www.boatoregon.com/>, <http://www.parks.wa.gov/boating.asp>, and <http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org/>.

Make this year a fun and safe recreation season for everyone by getting all the facts, and by getting your boater education card.



CORPS OF ENGINEERS PHOTO

1

WEAR YOUR LIFEJACKET OR PFD

An approved personal flotation device is required by law for each person on board. Since there is no room to store it, you must wear it. Remember, "IT WON'T WORK IF YOU DON'T WEAR IT."

2

BOATING AND BOOZE DON'T MIX

Alcohol impairs your ability to make good, quick decisions. This is critical when operating a fast and maneuverable personal watercraft.

3

KNOW YOUR CRAFT

Study the manufacturer's manual and practice handling of your craft under experienced supervision and in open water well away from other boaters.

4

TAKE A BOATING SAFETY COURSE

Learn the common boating rules, regulations and safe practices.

5

LOOK OUT

Ride defensively. Collisions with other boats or stationary objects like rafts or docks are the number one cause of personal watercraft injuries.

6

WATCH THE WEATHER

Check the weather forecast before starting out. Be alert for the wave, wind, and cloud changes that signal bad weather approaching.

7

BE PREPARED FOR COLD WATER

Cold water robs body heat 25 times faster than air of the same temperature. If you fall off your craft into cold water, immediately re-board.

8

KNOW THE AREA

Do not assume the water is clear of obstructions. Rocks, shoals, sand bars and submerged pilings can seriously damage you or your watercraft. Check marine charts and stay in marked channels.

9

CARRY SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Besides approved PFDs and a sound-signaling device (like a whistle), it is prudent to carry a tow rope and some small type-B flares in a watertight container when operating on a large body of water.

10

DON'T RIDE AT NIGHT

Most personal watercraft are not made with the lights required by law for night watercraft activities.



In Memoriam

Carol Hudson, 56, died March 19, 2006 in Portland. Hudson worked in the Portland District Emergency Management office until September 2004. She is survived by her three sons, Travis of Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., Tyler of Hayden, Idaho and Tracy of Estacada, Ore. Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845.



Ernest Wurm, 82, died March 25, 2006 in Springfield, Ore. He served in the Army Air Corps and the Eighth Air Force on B-24 bombers in the European, African and Middle East theaters. Wurm worked as an electrical engineer with the Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

Coming up in the next issue
of the *Corps' pondent*:

Jetty Safety