

# CORPS' PONDENT

Vol. 30, No. 7 July 2006



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Portland District



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**T**he U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Steadfast* prepares to dock in front of Robert Duncan Plaza at Tom McCall Waterfront Park during the Portland Rose Festival's Fleet Week. The cutter, based in Astoria, Ore., was one of several vessels that invited public visits during the event. The Corps' Rapid Response Vehicle 5 deployed to the waterfront during Fleet Week in support of security operations for the Canadian and U.S. navies and the U.S. Coast Guard.



# COMMANDER'S COLUMN



*Royal Rosarian Jeff Metzker, Duke of the Realm of the mythical land of Rosaria, presents District Commander Col. Thomas O'Donovan with a medallion at a knighting ceremony June 9 during the Portland Rose Festival. The Royal Rosarians are official greeters and ambassadors of goodwill for the City of Portland, also known as the Rose City. Dames and Knights of the Realm of Rosaria pledge to aid in the cultivation and growth of the rose each selected. O'Donovan, who chose to be knighted under the Veteran's Honor rose, is planting it in his home garden.*

You've been hearing about the updated operations plan, or OPLAN, on which the District is working. From where I sit, the OPLAN is a solid set of actions that will help move us toward doing business faster, better, cheaper, safer and greener. I am briefed regularly about our work and wanted to tell you a little about our progress. We – the Corporate Team, division and branch leaders – are very aware of this communication challenge: how do we keep you informed about ongoing actions and the progress we're making in such a way that it has meaning for you? Not every action will affect each employee, but everyone will be affected by at least one action.

The challenge is finding a level of communication that helps you see how these actions directly impact your job. It is sometimes hard to capture the immediacy of strategic or operations plans, but I believe it is critical for everyone in the District to know – and see – how these actions are helping us do our jobs better. How do we do that? We will keep looking for ways to bring the right amount of information to help everyone understand and actively support needed changes in our processes. You can help by giving your leaders feedback about how well the message is being received. Don't be surprised if I ask you what you know about the OPLAN – I want to be sure not only that the ideas are good, but the actions are, too.

One of the reasons for making changes in our operation is to respond to customer concerns. As you know, the center circle in my "focus for success" diagram that connects all the others is reputation. Integrity, teamwork, results and relationships all directly affect our reputation. I believe that idea represents not only the Corps to external stakeholders, but it also reflects the promise I make to you: to provide the best leadership I can to exemplify and foster integrity, teamwork, results and relationships. In turn, I expect each of you to provide the best in each area as well, because you are the face of the Corps to the public.

We must listen to what our customers are telling us is important and respond. You know if our processes or systems are no longer working well and where we might make them more flexible to meet customer needs. You are the District's most valuable assets for assessing how well we are executing the OPLAN actions. Since the OPLAN is in response to our customers' needs, exceeding their expectations will reinforce our reputation as a quality organization.

We will make mistakes along the way – we're all human beings. But how we respond and rectify any mistakes that are made is what sets us apart. That is where our reputation is made or broken. While it may be true that your reputation will never be sullied if you don't take risks or try to improve performance, it's equally likely that your reputation is more likely to slowly fade if you don't take risks to improve it.

You will be hearing more about the OPLAN in the coming months, from your supervisors, from PDTs you might be asked to join, and from me. Please take the time to learn how you can best help the District affect the changes that we must make. Together we can succeed. 

## CORPS'PONDENT



**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
Portland District

is an unofficial offset publication authorized under provisions of AR 360-1, published monthly by the Public Affairs Office of the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Circulation 2000. The Corps'pondent is circulated to District employees, retirees, and persons who request it in writing. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Army.

Contributions, on computer disc or as hard copy, are welcome. If you have news tips or suggestions for articles, call (503) 808-4510, or forward them address them to the following address:

**Editor, Corps'pondent**  
Portland District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 2946  
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946  
Email: CENWP-PA@usace.army.mil  
All manuscripts are subject to editing prior to publication.

**Commander**  
Col. Thomas O'Donovan  
**Chief, Public Affairs**  
Matt Rabe  
**Editor**  
Diana Fredlund

**Check out the Corps'pondent online at:**  
<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/pa/cp/home.asp>

Publication Services are provided by Schatz Publishing Group.

The Corps'pondent is printed on recycled paper. 



# Independence Day

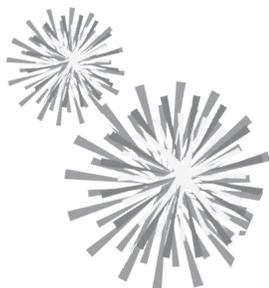


President George W. Bush speaks before a crowd of more than 1,000 U.S. service members and their families during his Independence Day visit to Fort Bragg, N.C., July 4, 2006.

The National Mall in Washington, D.C., is lit by fireworks during a celebration of America's independence July 4, 2006.



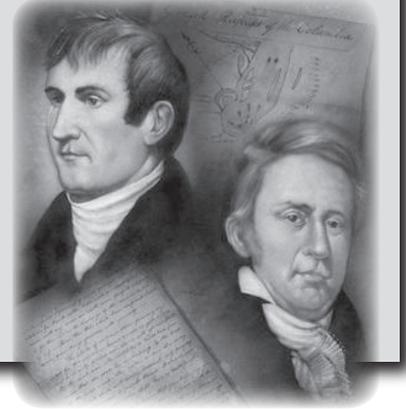
# July 4, 2006





July 1806:

## Exploring Both Sides of the Missouri River



By Melissa Rinehart  
Operations Division

CORPS OF DISCOVERY

In July, the Corps of Discovery separated into two parties to explore the areas north and south of the Missouri River, in present-day Montana. Each captain faced his own set of challenges. Lewis and nine men went north along the Missouri and explored the Maria's River. Clark and the rest of the party went to the Jefferson River and descended to the Three Forks River. From there Clark and a detachment party explored the Yellowstone River, while Sgt. Ordway, with nine men, descended the Missouri.

Upon their departure on July 3, Lewis wrote, "I took leave of my worthy friend and companion, Captain Clark and the party ... I hoped this separation was only momentary." The Nez Perce who had accompanied them over the mountains departed, not wanting to encounter the Blackfeet Tribe, who they said were very warlike. Lewis crossed the Continental Divide on July 7, and by July 8 the party was very happy to be back in the plains near the Missouri River. It was there they saw the first bison of the return trip. The horses proved troublesome as they wandered off and became alarmed by the constant roaring of the bison during mating season.

On July 13, Lewis found that the cache

the explorers had hidden at White Bear Island the previous year had been mostly ruined by spring floods. All the plant specimens collected between Fort Mandan and the Great Falls were destroyed, as well as much of the medicines.

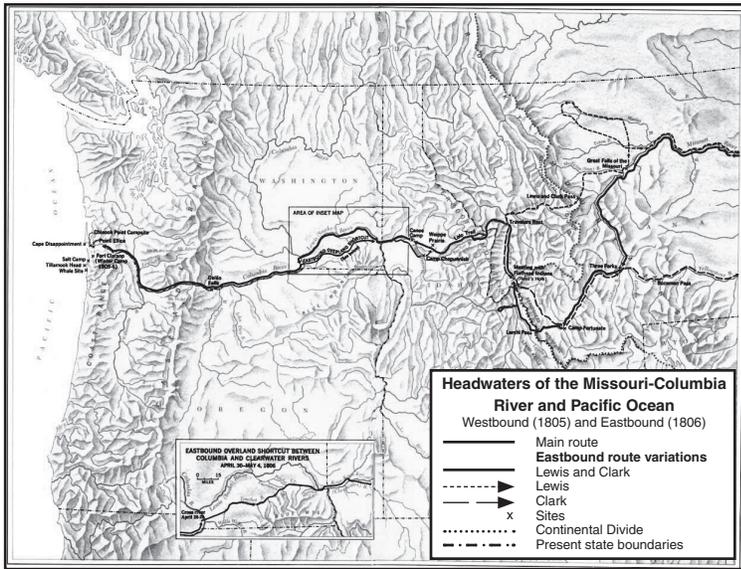
It is hard to imagine the number of bison seen during this time. Lewis described the plain being so thick with bison that for 12 miles it seemed as if one herd spread from horizon to horizon. By mid-month the number of bison had diminished, but there were plenty of elk, pronghorns, mule deer and wolves.

Still on the lookout for Blackfeet, they finally encountered them on July 26 when Lewis saw eight Indians watching Drouillard hunting. They stayed in camp that night, but still had a fatal encounter by morning. Upon awakening, the explorers found that the Blackfeet were attempting to grab three guns. Reubin stabbed one of them and regained the guns; Lewis pulled his pistol on one stealing his rifle, while the other tribe members tried to drive off the expedition's horses. Another Indian was shot as he attempted to shoot Lewis; the rest escaped. The expedition broke camp and rode until

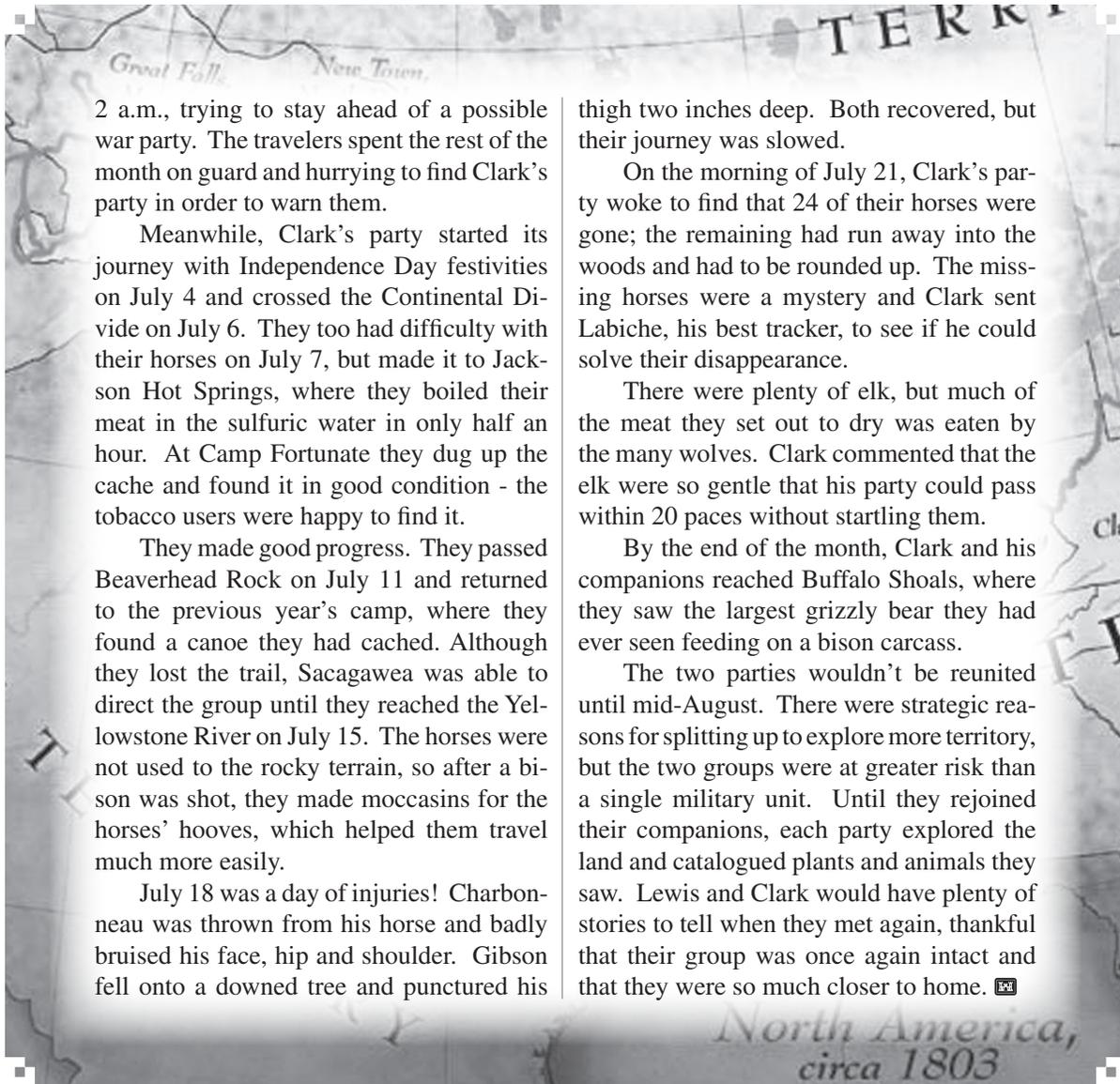




# CORPS OF DISCOVERY



*Headwaters of the Missouri—Columbia River and Pacific Ocean, Westbound and Eastbound*



2 a.m., trying to stay ahead of a possible war party. The travelers spent the rest of the month on guard and hurrying to find Clark's party in order to warn them.

Meanwhile, Clark's party started its journey with Independence Day festivities on July 4 and crossed the Continental Divide on July 6. They too had difficulty with their horses on July 7, but made it to Jackson Hot Springs, where they boiled their meat in the sulfuric water in only half an hour. At Camp Fortunate they dug up the cache and found it in good condition - the tobacco users were happy to find it.

They made good progress. They passed Beaverhead Rock on July 11 and returned to the previous year's camp, where they found a canoe they had cached. Although they lost the trail, Sacagawea was able to direct the group until they reached the Yellowstone River on July 15. The horses were not used to the rocky terrain, so after a bison was shot, they made moccasins for the horses' hooves, which helped them travel much more easily.

July 18 was a day of injuries! Charbonneau was thrown from his horse and badly bruised his face, hip and shoulder. Gibson fell onto a downed tree and punctured his

thigh two inches deep. Both recovered, but their journey was slowed.

On the morning of July 21, Clark's party woke to find that 24 of their horses were gone; the remaining had run away into the woods and had to be rounded up. The missing horses were a mystery and Clark sent Labiche, his best tracker, to see if he could solve their disappearance.

There were plenty of elk, but much of the meat they set out to dry was eaten by the many wolves. Clark commented that the elk were so gentle that his party could pass within 20 paces without startling them.

By the end of the month, Clark and his companions reached Buffalo Shoals, where they saw the largest grizzly bear they had ever seen feeding on a bison carcass.

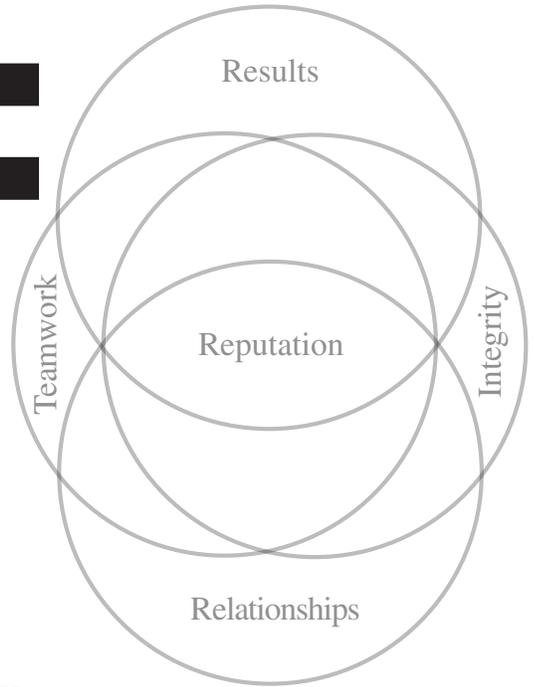
The two parties wouldn't be reunited until mid-August. There were strategic reasons for splitting up to explore more territory, but the two groups were at greater risk than a single military unit. Until they rejoined their companions, each party explored the land and catalogued plants and animals they saw. Lewis and Clark would have plenty of stories to tell when they met again, thankful that their group was once again intact and that they were so much closer to home. 



# OPLAN:

## *A successful plan shouldn't be a secret*

By Diana Fredlund, Public Affairs Office



“What OPLAN?”

That was the common response when several employees around the District were asked what they knew about the Portland District’s updated operations plan.

In a series of articles, the Corps’ pondent not only will attempt to provide information about the OPLAN, but to explain why the OPLAN is important to all employees, regardless of where they work or what duties they perform. This first article probes the background of operations planning and points out how past actions are affecting current operations; the next two articles will review the five objectives that make up the OPLAN, discussing who is responsible for each objective’s success, how it will be accomplished and offer specific examples of how it will affect the day-to-day operations in the District.

All organizations need two things, a philosophy and a roadmap, to be successful. The roadmap helps identify the best route to take to become successful and the philosophy helps identify what is important to the organization as it takes that route. Small organizations can more easily explain or encourage employee participation in operations planning; large organizations – especially a federal agency like the Corps – can find it

**Teamwork**

difficult to inform and motivate employees enough to gain their active participation and understanding in the importance of implementing change.

The OPLAN’s objectives and actions are the District’s roadmap; by accomplishing these actions the Corps will become an organization prepared to meet the challenges of changing customer expectations, increased regulation, decreasing budgets and greater environmental accountability. The District’s philosophy is shown by the linked circles that represent integrity, teamwork, relationships, results and reputation.

Many employees do not see how the OPLAN affects their working environment or their tasks. After all, they think, stuff like this is created by the senior leadership so they can show headquarters what is going on, but it doesn’t affect me.

In fact, the OPLAN can have great impact on employees’ workload and how business gets done. For example, one of the objectives, improve infrastructure reliability, is being incorporated into the day-to-day business of the District. Much of the Corps’ infrastructure was constructed 40, 50 or 60 years ago, with some structures more than 100 years old. In order to maintain functionality and structural integrity, these structures need regular maintenance. The critical infrastructure list provides a matrix for each

**Relationships**



facility that measures the potential for critical failure and the economic and social cost of that failure. Those facilities which are critically important and which have a high cost of repair find their way to the top of the list. It allows the District to identify, prioritize and communicate major structural issues to headquarters, Congress and everyone in Portland District.



Why is this list important to everyone in the District? To the public, every employee represents the Corps of Engineers – who among us hasn't been asked about Fern Ridge or sea lions?

Being able to communicate about issues facing the District with members of the public directly impacts how they view the Corps – which comes back to the District's philosophy of integrity, teamwork, relationships, results and reputation. Being known for accuracy and integrity when discussing issues that affect the District improves our reputation; a good reputation in turn improves employee morale.

How well any individual does his or her job is directly dependent on how each person believes he or she fits within the overall effort. By informing everyone in the District about its priorities for funding and construction, the senior leaders are providing part of the road map to success. Everyone knows that decreasing budgets mean we must more carefully manage the District's resources. By sharing the District's priorities regarding maintaining facilities, the leadership is offering employees a view of how decisions are being made. Most of us do not have direct input to those decisions (we all have indirect input through our chain of command), but knowing those priorities helps us trace how those decisions come to affect our day-to-day work environment.

The actions in the OPLAN will affect offices or projects in varying degrees, but everyone involved with the OPLAN agrees there is one action that everybody will appreciate: eliminating redundant reports. In order to communicate results to higher headquarters, large organizations often develop a dizzying array of reports. Creating these reports can consume significant portions of an employee's time; often those pro-



viding input believe the report is not effective, either because the information is also collected in another report, or the report has not changed with the times. This action will review all reports to ensure each is still a useful tool in the information process. Although implementing it will take time, this action has already identified one report that has subsequently been shelved. After the monthly Project Review Board, a significant action report was required that summarized the findings of the PRB. It became clear that this document was not being used by Northwestern Division or headquarters personnel to manage operations, so the report was eliminated. The time spent by support staff preparing this monthly report has been reallocated to daily business.

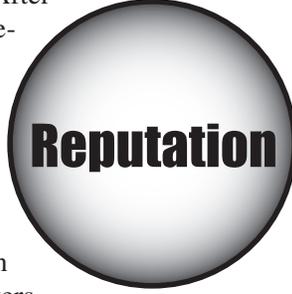
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## How well any individual does his or her job is directly dependent on how each person believes he or she fits within the overall effort.

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The OPLAN is a systematic process by which the senior leaders have identified areas needing review in order to make the Portland District better able to provide excellent service to its customers and the nation. The plan will not directly affect all employees, but parts of it will affect everyone, and it is important for all of us to understand our environment. Knowing where we are going and how we plan to get there is an important factor in doing our jobs well.

Will Rogers, a well-known humorist, once said, "If you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there." The OPLAN will give everyone in the District a map and a route to follow, guidelines on why this road is best, as well as a set of expectations. These tools not only will help us get where we want to go, but will get us there with integrity, teamwork, relationships, and results – and a reputation for excellence, accuracy and responsiveness in our service to the nation. 





# Congratulations

## High School Graduates

**Mark Lewis**, grandson of Sandy Nolte, Willamette Valley Projects, graduated from Dayton High School. He plans to attend Lane Community College in Eugene, in the fall.

**Kathleen Van Hee**, daughter of Tracy Van Hee, Rogue River Basin Project, graduated from Eagle Point High School. She plans to attend Rogue Valley Community College with help from an United Power Trades Organization scholarship, and eventually study nursing.

**Nicholas Trojano**, son of Karen Trojano, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, graduated from Joseph L. Meek Professional Technical High School. He plans to attend the University of Alaska in Anchorage.

**Mychal Ostler**, son of Kim Ostler, Bonneville Lock and Dam, graduated from Stevenson High School. He will attend Central Washington University, studying liberal arts and music.

**David LaDouceur**, son of Gene LaDouceur, The Dalles/John Day/Willow Creek Project, graduated from The Dalles High School. He plans to attend the University of Oregon to study environmental sciences.

**Brittney Etzel**, daughter of John Etzel, Hydroelectric Design Center, graduated from Tigard High School. She plans to attend Oregon State University to study food science.

**Chelsea Kelly**, daughter of Karla Fransen, The Dalles/John Day/Willow Creek Project, graduated from The Dalles Wahtonka High School. She plans to attend Linn Benton Community College in the fall.

**Rachael Stewart**, daughter of Allen Stewart Jr.,

Hydrographic Surveys Unit, graduated from Lapine High School. She's undecided about whether to continue her education at OSU, join the Air Force, or attend OSU and join the military reserves at the same time. Her latest interest is to study to become a veterinarian.

**Kelly Mettler**, daughter of Rick Mettler, Mechanical Design Section, graduated from Columbia River High School. She is planning to attend Washington State University to study engineering.

**Nicholas Hlebechuk**, son of David Hlebechuk, Office of Counsel, graduated from Westview High School.

**Amanda Wisby**, daughter of Rodney Wisby, Hydrographic Surveys Unit, graduated from Myrtle Point High School. She plans to attend Umpqua Community College and major in education.

**Shawn Bell**, son of Tracy Bell, Emergency Management Branch, graduated from Tigard High School. He has enlisted in the Marine Corps.

**Kelsey McGilvrey**, daughter of Chris Budai, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, graduated from Southridge High School. She is pursuing a career in graphic design and illustration at Portland State University.

**Rebecca Gunn**, niece of Kathleen Gunn, Dredge Operations Section, graduated from Emmett High School. She will be training to be a dental assistant.

**Nicole Mayer**, graduated from Clackamas High School. She will attend Oregon State University, where her field of interest is chemistry and biology and her goal is to become a pharmacist. **Daysha Mooney** graduated from North Eugene High School and her future plans are undecided at this time. Nicole and Daysha are the nieces of Linda Jones, The Dalles/John Day/Willow Creek Project.





# 2006 Graduates!

**Ashley Rengler**, daughter of Phil Rengler, U.S. Moorings, graduated from Hood River Valley High School. She plans to attend Mount Hood Community College, where she will complete the cosmetology program.

**Leonard Veltkamp**, son of SeAnne Veltkamp, Bonneville Lock and Dam, graduated from Stevenson High School. His plans are to continue his DJ business.

**Danielle Reynolds**, daughter of Robert Reynolds, Hydrographic Design Center, graduated from St. Mary's Academy. She will attend Portland State University, majoring in computer graphics.

**David Petersdorf**, son of DeForest Petersdorf, Willamette Valley Projects, graduated from North Salem High School. His plans are to play Junior-A ice hockey this fall.

**Tyler Nelsen**, son of Franni Nelsen, The Dalles/John Day/Willow Creek projects, graduated from Dufur High School. His plans are to work for the Oregon Department of Transportation and attend Columbia Gorge Community College on a scholarship to study electrical engineering. After a year there, he will join the Air Force.

**Ken Stone**, S.T.E.P. park ranger at Willamette Valley Projects, graduated from Sheldon High School. He plans to attend Lane Community College to pursue an associate degree in graphic design.

## Undergraduate Degrees

**Karen Gross** graduated from Trinity University in May 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering. She has accepted a position with Samsung Semiconductor in Austin, Texas. **Mark Gross** graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Ser-

vices Technology from Boise State University. Michael Gross, Civil and Environmental Design Section, is the father of both Karen and Mark.

**Nick Willis**, son of Robert Willis, Environmental Resources Branch, graduated from the University of Oregon with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

**Garrett Gandia**, son of Gaye Gandia, Logistics Management Office, graduated from Central Washington University with a Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies and a minor in military science. As a CWU ROTC cadet, Garrett was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He also received the Distinguished Military Graduate award during the commissioning ceremony.

**Scott Jones**, son of Patrick Jones, Cost Engineering and Construction Branch, graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Sport Science. He hopes to work at a hospital in the area of cardiac rehabilitation.

**Steven El-Khal** graduated from Albert Einstein School of Dentistry as a Doctor of Medical Dentistry with a specialty in endodontics. **Gary El-Khal** graduated from Portland State University with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science. Steven and Gary are the sons of Joseph T. El-Khal, Structural and Architectural Design Section.

**Rebecca McKillip**, daughter of Doris McKillip, Waterways Maintenance Section, graduated from the University of Oregon with a Bachelor of Science in Journalism.

**Justin Stringfellow**, son of Ronald Stringfellow, Hydroelectric Design Center, graduated from Auburn University with a degree in forestry. He began his career with Plum Creek Timber Company in Monticello, Ark.



**Stephanie Troglin**, daughter of Daniel Troglin, Natural Resources Management Section, graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

**Jody Steward**, daughter of Kelly Steward, The Dalles/John Day/Willow Creek Project, graduated from City College of New York Technology as a registered dental hygienist.

**Aaron Christensen**, son of Jerry Christensen, Civil Environmental Design Section, graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering Management with a minor in business. He started work with Kewitt Construction.

**Toby Lindsay-Daniels**, nephew of Stefanie Baird, Hydroelectric Design Center, graduated summa cum laude from Mesa State College, Colo., School of Business Administration/ Management and Marketing. He has been accepted into the college's MBA program.

**Michael Kranda**, son of John Kranda, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, graduated from Portland State University with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

**Travis Shafer**, son of John Shafer, The Dalles/John Day/Willow Creek projects, graduated magna cum laude from George Fox University with a double major in political science and history.

**Chris Costello**, Bonneville Lock and Dam, graduated from Portland State University with a Bachelor of Science in Social Science. Future plans include finding a job as a park ranger or in a related field and completing studies with a capstone class in developing interpretive materials for Tyron Creek State Park.

**Dan Lundy**, Hydroelectric Design Center, graduated from Oregon Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology. He was selected as the Portland District Outstanding Student of the

year in 2005. Dan's appointment was converted to the EIT program.

**Scott English**, Corvallis Construction Field Office, graduated from Oregon State University as an undergraduate civil engineer. He has been accepted to graduate school in September 2006, and has already completed 30 percent of his graduate degree.

**William Cuddy**, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, graduated from Eastern Oregon University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration/Marketing.

**Jonathan Russo**, Bonneville Lock and Dam, graduated from Portland State University with a master's degree in education. He works as a park ranger and plans to possibly teach an evening high school English course.

**Jen Schmunk**, daughter of Jaki Schmunk, Resource Management Office, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training from Oregon State University. In August she will begin working as an athletic trainer for the men's and women's track and cross-country teams at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla., while working on her master's degree.

## Graduate Degrees

**Carla McBane**, daughter of Linda McBane, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, graduated with a 4.0 GPA from the George Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University, with a master's degree in international affairs. She will work as an analyst with the federal government in our nation's capital.

**Erica Castro**, daughter of Donna Castro, Budget and Manpower Branch, graduated summa cum laude from Portland State University with a master's degree in special education. She will be developing the special education program at Sunset Middle School in Coos Bay. 



# 2006-2007 LDP members announced

*Fifteen District employees prepare for a year of learning about leadership and themselves*

By Diana Fredlund, Public Affairs Office



EMPLOYEE FOCUS

The newest members of the Portland District Leadership Development Program were selected by the Corporate Team in May.

"We had an outstanding group of candidates apply for LDP this year," Executive Assistant Bill Nielsen said. "The Corporate Team had a difficult time selecting only 15 members from the 24 who applied."

Diversity is key to creating a group of individuals who will give as much as they receive during the year-long program, Nielsen said. "It's diversity in its broadest form," he said. "The Corporate Team strives to find not only those who are outstanding in their jobs,

but they also work to create a mix of backgrounds, job types and personality traits." The first factor is easy, since applicants have to gain the endorsement of their supervisors, he added.

"Last year's LDP group had already been selected when I took command, so I met them after the application process," District Commander Col. Thomas O'Donovan said. "This was my first experience with what the candidates have to go through, and everyone who applied was an outstanding individual."

The Corporate Team selected the following individuals to become members of the 2006-2007 Leadership Development Program:



**Travis Adams** is a structural engineer with the Structural and Architectural Design Section. He is responsible for the District's hydraulic steel structures program, which inspects all steel gates used to dewater areas of the dams. Adams would like to sit and talk with John D. MacDonald, the author of many novels

and short stories, "about his thoughts on life and his belief in the good that is present in every person." His favorite novels are those about Travis McGee, a self-proclaimed Florida beach bum who "embodies total freedom, working hard to earn enough money to live for a year or two and then taking his retirement between jobs when he feels he can enjoy all life has to offer."



**Sean Askelson** has been with the Portland District since 1999, when he started as a student in the Hydraulic Design Section. After graduating from Portland State University, Askelson entered the Engineer-in-Training program and returned to the

Hydraulic Design Section, where he continues to work. When asked which animal he would choose to be, Askelson said he would like to be an antelope. "They are the fastest animals in North America," he said. "I am far from that, so I can respect that." He enjoys the outdoors, golfing and teasing his nieces and nephews.



# EMPLOYEE FOCUS



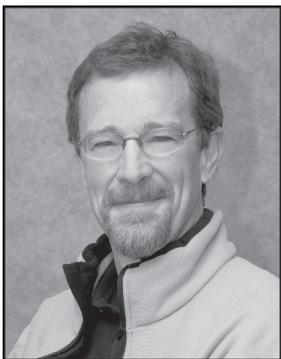
**Edmund Berger** joined the Corps as an attorney for the District's Real Estate Division in 1992, where, in addition to specializing in real estate matters, he became the District's expert on cooperative agreements for cost-shared civil works projects. Berger credits the invention of the

printing press with causing the biggest change for humankind. "It accelerated the general movement toward being able to express [oneself] without external constraint ... and fostered later scientific and technological revolutions, whose benefits are now enjoyed today by the whole world."



**Brett Call** is a park ranger at The Dalles/John Day/Willow Creek Project who enjoys camping and being outdoors with his family. "They are my primary reason for living and giving," Call said. He began working as a Corps park ranger in 1998 at Little Rock District and has worked

in Alabama, Iowa and Oregon. He considers the highlight of his career so far to be serving as a project engineer at Pol-e-Charkhi military garrison in Afghanistan. "I relished the daily challenges, the opportunity to experience a new culture and to serve people truly in need."



**David Clugston** joined the Corps as a fisheries biologist in 2001, where he deals with complex issues dealing with day-to-day fishery management. Before working for the Corps, he spent his time on population and habitat assessments

for fish, horses, birds and tigers. "I was lucky enough to spend months at a time in the [most remote] parts of our country, and handled and tagged a wide variety of species," Clugston said. He might enjoy a gentler habitat as well: the Hundred Acre Wood, where he could talk with Winnie the Pooh, "to discover simplicity."



**Bronwyn Cummings** began with the military at a very young age – her father served in the U.S. Navy, so the family traveled frequently. After joining the Portland District in 1986 and working at District headquarters, Cummings wanted to gain an understanding of how Corps projects operated and asked to transfer to Bonneville Lock and Dam in 1995. Cummings considers the discovery of electricity to have caused the biggest change for humankind. "By discovering electricity, the door was opened to all the electronics and the capabilities we have today," she said. It seems a fitting choice, since Cummings works at the first federal hydroelectric dam constructed on the Columbia River.



**Kenneth Duncan** began his Corps career shortly after graduating from Willamette University with bachelor's degrees in environmental science and political science in 1999. He was named the District's environmental compliance coordinator in 2005, where he coordinates environmental

compliance issues with Native American tribes and federal, state and local agencies. Duncan would choose to talk with explorer John Wesley Powell if he could. "Powell was not only the first explorer of the Colorado River system," Duncan said. "He had the first good plan for comprehensive water use in the West."



# EMPLOYEE FOCUS

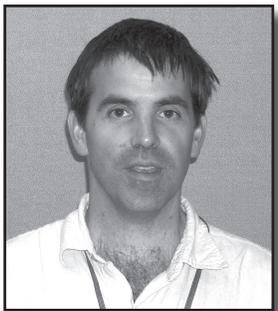


**Kathryn Harris**, an environmental engineer with the Regulatory Branch since 2000, is well prepared for checking compliance with the Clean Water Act: her bachelor's degree is in chemistry and her two master's degrees are in civil and environmental engineering and in water

resource management. Harris considers the industrial revolution a turning point between "the need to produce objects for survival versus producing objects for the sake of production." The changes wrought by the revolution aren't always good. "Instead of making life easier, it resulted in people spending more time working in order to keep up with the Joneses."



**Kitia Howard** became a Corps environmental engineer in Engineering and Construction in 2002 after graduating from Oregon State University. As a native Oregonian, Howard recalls spending summers with her grandparents in Coos Bay, Ore., which fueled her passion for the environment and prompted her choice of study. If she could, Howard would like to talk with John Muir. "His direct activism helped to save the Yosemite Valley and other wilderness areas," Howard said. "I would love to know ... what was his vision for the future? If he were alive today, would he approve of the current state of the environment?"



**Joseph Lapeyre** joined the Hydroelectric Design Center in 2003, but before that he was a senior engineer at McNary Lock and Dam. After receiving his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, Lapeyre served four

years as an officer with the U.S. Army, serving in the United States and Germany. Given the choice, he would enjoy being a lemur, "because you get to live in Madagascar – out in the middle of nowhere, in a unique ecosystem."



**Michael Magee** is a man possessed. Although he poses as a mechanical engineer for Portland District, in fact Magee is a man possessed by golf. He began as an engineer-in-training in 1999. After playing at the many golf courses around the Portland area, Magee decided this was a fine

place to be a mechanical engineer and golfer. Because he is currently pursuing a master's degree in engineering management, golf is a beloved but less actively pursued hobby until graduation. When asked, Magee defined golf as social, good exercise and a sounding board for life. "One day you are on top of the world, playing your best; the next you are in a valley of despair, gardening the fairway with tools ill-suited for the task," he said. "But not to worry – you are only one round away from being on top of the world again."



**Patricia Mason** and her twin sister Pamela grew up in Boston, Mass. Mason left the cold Northeast for the beautiful Northwest after her husband was transferred to the West Coast. She has worked in the Portland District since 1996, in HDC, Contracting and in Fallujah, Iraq, during

a four-month deployment. Mason believes making that very first cup of tea changed the world, remarking, "Tea is very civilizing." (Indeed, especially when one remembers to point one's pinky finger.) Mason enjoys other very civilized pursuits in her free time, placing her enjoyment of knitting only slightly above her love of archery.



# EMPLOYEE FOCUS



**Michael McAleer** has worked for the Department of Defense for more than 16 years, with the last five years here at Portland District in the Public Affairs Office. McAleer has deployed three times since he started with the Corps: once to aid Florida's hurricane recovery in 2004, and twice to the Gulf Region Division in Iraq. As a self-professed relaxation connoisseur, McAleer felt that fire caused the biggest change for humankind. "After all, without fire, there would be no barbeque," McAleer said.



**Robert Stansell** has headed the District's Fisheries Field Unit at Bonneville Lock and Dam since 1991. While much of his attention is focused on the impact of fish passage facilities on adult and juvenile salmon passage, many Portlanders would recognize Stansell as the

Corps spokesperson for sea lions and their impact on the spring salmon migration – a subject in which he has become an expert. As someone who loves being out in nature, Stansell enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking and kayaking, but most of all, he loves taking his dog for long walks in the woods.



**Camille Wilson** joined HDC as a budget analyst in 2005, but her Corps career began full-time in 2003. Wilson believes the biggest change for humankind occurred "when IBM introduced its new revolution in a box, the personal computer." As a native Portlander, Wilson

enjoys spending quality time with friends and family, reading lots of books and singing in her church choir.

Each year two senior leaders volunteer to be facilitators to the LDP group. Their role in part is to provide a leadership perspective during class discussions and facilitate meetings with visiting Corps leaders.



**Davis Moriuchi** is the deputy district commander for Project Management and the chief of the Planning, Programs and Project Management Division for the Portland District. Since joining the Corps in 1974, Moriuchi has served in many positions, and accepted his current position in 1988, becoming

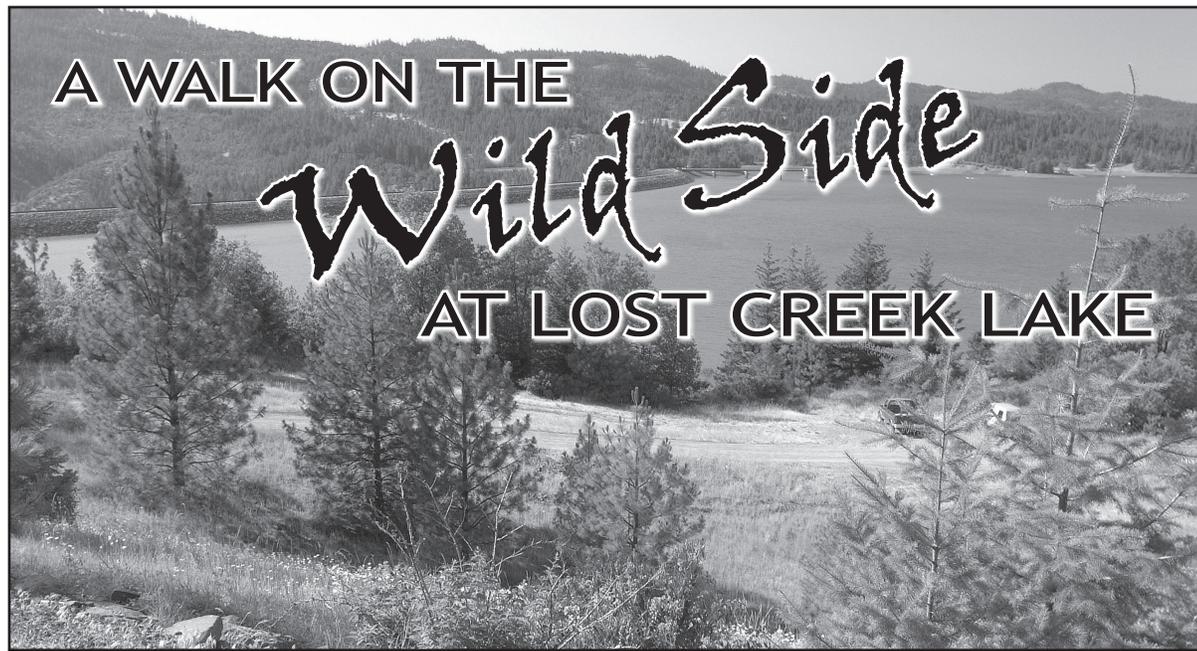
the senior civilian leader in the District. Moriuchi was born in Tokyo, Japan, and graduated from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Ore., with a bachelor's degree in history in 1973. He received his master's degree in public administration from Lewis & Clark in 1983.



**Col. Thomas O'Donovan** became the District Commander in July 2005. He is no stranger to the Pacific Northwest, since he received his master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Washington. He has proudly served his country since receiving his officer's commission in 1982, which included

teaching civil and mechanical engineering at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. When asked what animal he would choose to be, O'Donovan said he would be a beaver. "Not only would I be nature's engineer, I'd get a free fur coat." O'Donovan will command the Portland District until 2008.

The group's first meeting was held June 8 at Portland State University, where they began the process of meeting and becoming a team. Beginning in July the LDP members will practice their speaking techniques during a multi-week Speechcrafters module, learn more about themselves and each other during a three-day retreat near Mount Adams, and see the political world up close during a week-long visit to Washington, D.C. We wish them the best on their journey of self-discovery. 



FROM THE FIELD

CORPS OF ENGINEERS PHOTO

By Edward Amerson,  
The Rogue River Basin Project

For team members working in the Portland District Office who dream of being outdoors and have never visited Lost Creek Lake, this article is for you. I invite you to come along with me on a hike around the lake. So ... tighten your boot straps and let's begin.

It's morning. A low fog lingers over the Rogue River. Across the swift evergreen current, a fly fisherman casts his line. Sunlight splinters through a mixture of pine and fir trees. We hear the call of the woodlands, beckoning us to come closer.

A belted Kingfisher, a blue-gray fish-eating bird, flits over our heads and calls to any who will listen; spiders cast their glistening webs across ancient leafless plants called horsetails.

The path wanders through thick stands of horsetails. We follow the path and soon find ourselves dwarfed by stately Douglas fir and cottonwood trees. Smaller trees, like red alder and big leaf maple, are also present, providing protection and shelter for residents like the brush rabbit, robin and mink.

We see gnawed off alder trees, evidence of beavers in the area. There, across the riffles at the bend in the river, is an impressive beaver lodge. A

*Lost Creek Lake, located on the Rogue River in southern Oregon, offers cool water, great hiking and relaxing natural settings for visitors. Its rural setting offers natural beauty and wildlife that the Corps is dedicated to preserving through conservation efforts.*

great blue heron stands atop this massive mound of interlaced sticks and twigs. Behind the lodge the water forms a pool, where waterfowl like the bufflehead and green-winged teal hang out.

We notice a river otter hitching a ride on the downstream current; it runs up the muddy bank and vanishes into the horsetails.

The trail continues, leading us out of the woodlands and into a meadow. We notice the vegetation has changed.

It's too hot and dry for woodland plants to survive, but black oak and buck brush prosper in the arid soil. Hoof and paw prints on the trail reveal that many animals have also traveled this way: black-tailed deer, foxes and the wily coyote. Cougars also roam the area but are not often seen.

We cross a footbridge. The trail leads us north. Moments later, we find ourselves surrounded by massive volcanic rock that once flowed as a gooey

*"Each moment of the year has its own beauty"*

Ralph Waldo Emerson



mass across the southern Oregon landscape. Now, hard as iron, the volcanic rock provides a foothold for thick, green, spongy moss and fan-like ferns.

We continue our hike, crossing a field of tall golden grass laid flat in areas where Roosevelt elk slept the previous night.

Finally, we find ourselves in a grotto. A waterfall cascades from a rock wall, bordered by a plethora of wildflowers. We hear the cry of a hawk. We look skyward and see the hawk drawing circles in the deep blue sky. Farther down the trail, a deer crosses our path—and life is good.

Lost Creek Lake is located in southern Oregon in the beautiful Cascade Mountains, 33 miles northeast of Medford. Since the creation of the Lost Creek Lake Project, many conservation measures have been implemented to preserve the sensitive natural areas, which make this a destination everyone can enjoy.

See you on the trail!

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*Anglers enjoy the clear waters of Lost Creek Lake and the Rogue River, where world-class salmon and steel-head fishing are always on the menu.*



CORPS OF ENGINEERS PHOTO

## *In Memoriam*

**Margaret “Maggie” Kirchen**, 53, died May 22, 2006 from an apparent heart attack. Kirchen had worked at the Portland District for 25 years, retiring in December 2005 due to ill health. She is survived by her mother, brothers and sisters, nieces, nephews and cousins in the U.S. and Ireland, and her beloved cat, Clancy.



*Margaret “Maggie” Kirchen*

**Kenneth Westmoreland**, 81, died May 6, 2006. Westmoreland lived in Corbett, Ore., and worked for the Corps for many years. He played fast-pitch softball and is included in the Softball Hall of Fame at Irv Lind Stadium in Portland. He is survived by his wife, Fern, sons, daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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