

# Flagship

SEATTLE DISTRICT

Things  
are  
buzzing  
at the  
Locks

Volume XXXII  
No. 3

# Flagship

SEATTLE DISTRICT

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Better Know a Section



Cover: Lock wall attendant and beekeeper Scott Diehl checks on his grist, or hive, at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks. Diehl, with support from Operations Project Manager Nate McGowan set up the hive in support of President Barak Obama's memorandum to enhance pollinator habitat on federal lands. Working with the Natural Resource staff, they found a great spot and now the Carl S. English Jr. Botanical Garden at the Locks and bees are both benefiting.

### Flagship

**Col. John G. Buck,**  
Commander  
**Patricia Graesser,** Chief,  
Public Affairs  
**Dallas Edwards,** Editor  
**Elizabeth Townsell,** Editorial  
Assistant  
Contributors  
**Bill Dowell**  
**Scott Lawrence**

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## Susan James: This Flagship is for you

We dedicate the Flagship to Susan James, Park Ranger at Libby Dam Project. As Lead Interpretive Ranger, Susan is the "face" of Libby Dam as she brings education and awareness of the Corps mission to the local community and a wide array of national and international visitors. Thank you, Susan! This Flagship if for you!



# Seattle District: Ending with the beginning in mind

We've stared down the deadline of another fiscal year-end, and as we move forward let's continue looking forward to our long-term objectives for Seattle District.

I and the other district leaders remain resolute in asking you to help shape our destiny rather than sit back and wait for it to shape us. Every new day is a new beginning - an opportunity to look at what we are doing, why we are doing it and how we can move toward our vision of excelling in a dynamic environment - mission first, people always.

In a recent town hall meeting, I discussed the change in faces in leadership positions and employee turnover in all units and offices. Personnel changes aren't a reason to slow or back down from pushing forward with our desire to move into the future firing on all cylinders.

Personnel changes are yet another element in the Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) environment in which we are working.

While I recognize that filling positions takes time and can be frustrating, I will always encourage you to continue your career progression and/or enhance your quality of life, and this District is committed to offering opportunities for details and developmental assignments at all levels.

"People Always" aren't just words. People are the centerpiece of our District. We can only succeed at our vitally important mission with skilled, trained, professional and committed people.

When the Corporate Board thought about what kind of people would help us achieve a positive future, we came up with the following terms that we put into an acronym (because US-ACE loves acronyms) FA<sup>2</sup>R:

**Flexible** - willing to change or to try different things

**Adaptable** - able to change or be changed in order to fit or work better in some situation or for some purpose

**Accountable** - personally responsible for the district mission and each other

**Agile** - able to move quickly and easily; having a quick mind

**Responsive** - reacting in a desired or positive way: quick to react or respond; showing interest

As you discuss your vision and strategy in your work units, I ask that you assess how your processes and procedures help your team to be flexible, adaptable, accountable, agile and responsive in achieving its mission. In addition, how does

what you do enable the rest of the district and/or external customers and partners to achieve their mission?

When we started talking about a vision of our future with focus groups of employees around the district we asked them to describe their preferred end state for the District. They described a community in which:

- Individuals take responsibility to self-manage.
- Conflict is viewed as an opportunity to solve problems and doesn't become personal.
- Professionals can identify issues with the goal to work through them toward project success.
  - Issues are elevated in a timely manner so that leadership has the opportunity to apply additional resources to solve the problem.
  - Each person in the District really understands why we are all here and behaves consistently with that mission focus.
  - Collaboration and coaching (not criticism) are the culture.
- Each employee is a professional with the skill, good judgement and polite behavior expected from a person who is trained to do a job well.

I hope each of you likewise strives to foster the community described here. To do so I ask that you continue to work toward mission execution in this last quarter of the fiscal year, and do it with the mindset that each day is a new beginning.

Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him." Let's continue to shape our vision of a positive future together.

—*Essayons!*



**Seattle District Commander  
Col. John G. Buck**

***“Every new day is a new beginning - an opportunity to look at what we are doing, why we are doing it and how we can move toward our vision of excelling in a dynamic environment – mission first, people always.”***

# Towering Above

By Dallas Edwards  
Public Affairs Office

## Gray Airfield Tower receives its cab



Joint Base Lewis-McChord's Gray Army Airfield is receiving a new air traffic control tower, which will enable the Army to meet the demands of modern mission requirements and meet FAA airfield compliance standards. This is part of an ongoing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project providing support facilities to the airfield.

"The main part of this project is to construct a new, 10-story air traffic control tower with base building to replace the existing Gray Army Airfield air traffic control tower," said Kyle Crass, USACE Administrative Contracting Officer. "This project helps the base by updating their aging infrastructure and allows them to better execute their airfield mission."

Placing the tower cab with a large crane was a significant milestone in the ongoing project.

"It was a cool part of the project," said Seattle District Project Manager, Joanne McWilson. "Crews used a crane to lift the 35-ton structure more than 150 feet into the air and set it in place on the newly constructed facility."

The Airfield Operation Complex is an \$11.4 million upgrade to the Army base, which mostly supports helicopter units assigned there. The completed tower will be a state-of-the-art 13,700-square-foot facility, which will replace the older 3,300-square-foot building. The old facility will be taken down because it is within the airfield's "clear-zone" and considered an obstacle to aviation."

"Before the project, the tower and other airfield infrastructure was outdated," said McWilson. "It was time for an upgrade, not only to support current operations, but also to bring the facility into compliance with current standards. With the new tower, controllers can now see the entire airfield which was not possible in the old facility."

Design and construction of an air traffic control tower is not a common

Corps project and, for some of the designers, it is a once-in-a-career project, which brought unique challenges. Renn Breshears, a USACE Architectural Designer, explained how the team accomplished this unique tasking.

"Of the many difficult challenges we faced, the hardest was that we don't usually work with facilities that are nearly as tall or as technically complicated," explained Breshears. "We had many design requirements to meet and it was great to see our USACE team come together and find the solutions necessary to complete this important project."

Crass said the structure's foundation was unique.

"One of the interesting things about this project was the type of foundation necessary in order to facilitate a really tall concrete building in an extremely small

footprint," said Crass. "From the grade, there is approximately 60 feet of concrete extending below the surface. This foundation makes it stable and able to resist potential seismic events without losing any operating capability."

Other upgrades to the airfield include a two-company fire station, regional flight center and a remote

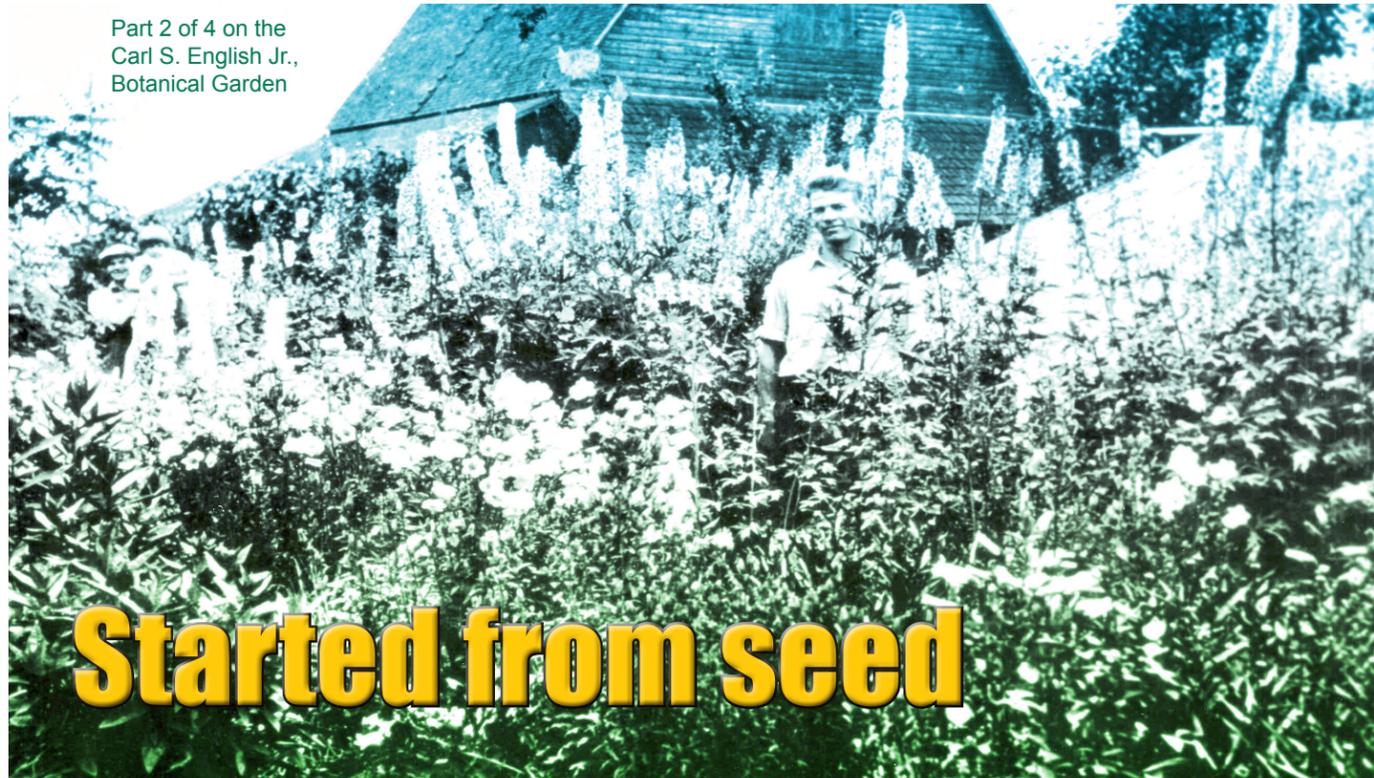
switching unit. The overall project helps the Army by updating their aging infrastructure and allows them to better execute their airfield mission.

The tower is designed with the goal of having it last 50 years supporting modern air operations and the entire project is scheduled to be completed in spring 2017.



(Left) The tower cab is placed upon the newly constructed facility by The Walsh Group crewmembers. (Bottom-Right) Crewmembers make preparations prior to lifting the 70,000 cab. (Below) The new ATC tower is shown with Mt. Rainer in view. (Courtesy photo by Ryan Duckworth, The Walsh Group)





# Started from seed

## The career and life of Carl S. English Jr.

By **Stephen Munro**  
Gardener

As visitors stream into the “Ballard Locks” one of the most visited public places in Seattle, they will pass the entrance sign that reads Hiram M. Chittenden Locks and Carl S. English Jr. Botanical Garden.

They may even find an embossed bronze plaque adjacent to the Visitor Center. There will be a likeness of an elderly man with glasses described as the namesake of the gardens in this place and that he dedicated 43 years of service working in them.

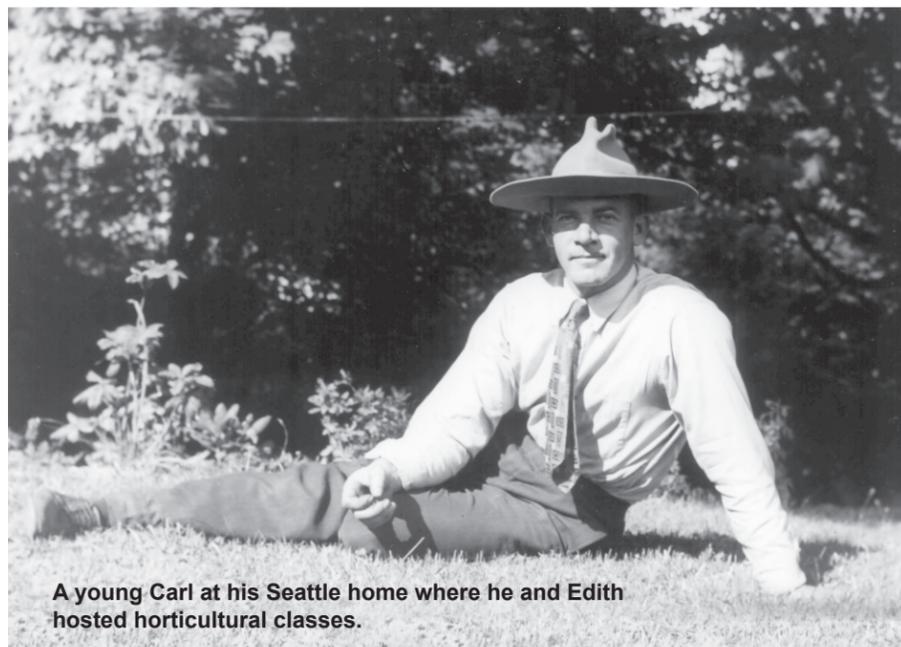
These honorary dedications and plaques have limitations. Pictures of these historic individuals are usually in black and white. Representations of them tend to be of them in their venerable years invariably appearing dour and stoic, colored in gray, and senescent. Carl S. English Jr. lived his life and spent his career from young to old at the Locks and in vibrant color.

After leaving the family farm in Camas, Washington he attended the then State College of Washington and obtained his degree in botany and also met his wife and partner Edith Hardin during his education there. In 1931,

(Above) A young Carl S. English Jr., on the farm where he grew up in Camas, Washington.

Carl was hired at the then “Government Locks” as a gardener’s assistant to help maintain the grounds.

Carl’s career contribution at the Government Locks was extraordinary in its breadth of introduced plants to



A young Carl at his Seattle home where he and Edith hosted horticultural classes.



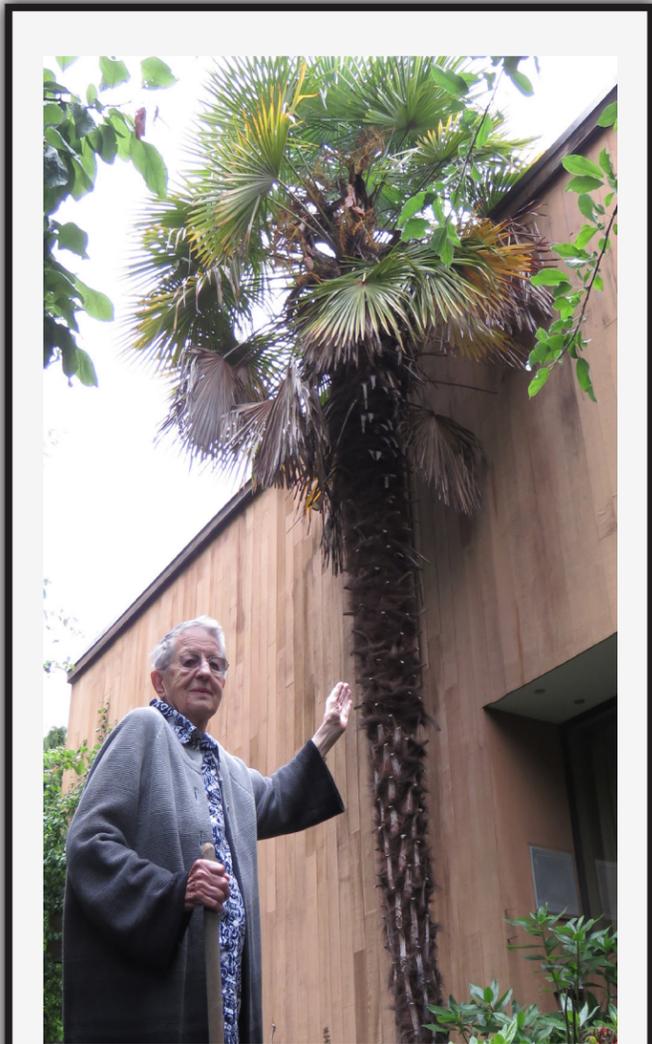
During the dedication as the Carl S. English Jr., Botanical Garden

cultivation. These plants were, with few exceptions, grown from seed. Carl received no budget for purchasing of plants so this was both the practical and the exclusive way to introduce new plants to the grounds. The seeds traced their origin from his and Edith’s personal collecting trips across North America and Australia and New Zealand or from exchanged seed with provenances from around the globe. Any plant amenable to growing in the Pacific Northwest was grown. Many were experimentally grown that could not survive.

Meanwhile Edith and Carl English also became integral figures of an extraordinary community of horticulturalists, botanists and professors at the University of Washington in Seattle. Brian Mulligan of the Washington Park Arboretum, Professor C. Leo Hitchcock, Professor Arthur and Mareen Kruckeberg, Elisabeth Carey Miller of the Seattle Garden Club among many others were all friends and peers that constituted this convivial and highly influential milieu in which the English’s were active.

The English’s hosted horticultural classes and nature camps and numerous local garden club meetings, guided plant tours in the wilds of Washington, wrote articles for national and local plant publications, and importantly shared knowledge, seeds and plants with anyone who showed interest. They were a treasured and much sought after source of education and advice regarding plants and natural history in the community.

Carl S. English Jr. indeed dedicated 43 years of his life to service at the Government Locks and the grounds there are now named after him. What is even more notable is that Carl led a vigorous and remarkable life with his wife Edith. A life that he dedicated to service to others and gladdening his corner of the world with vibrant color and beauty. His admirable legacy still grows and blooms around us.



## A Lasting Gift

Barbara Montano points at a Chinese Windmill Palm Carl S. English Jr. gave to her as a present for the completion of the home on Commodore Way her late husband and she built in 1969. Ms. Montano was born in 1931 very near her present home and traversed the Locks at very young age with her Mother, a pedestrian commuter. Her birth coincided with Carl’s year of hire and she knew him virtually his whole career. To her he was always “Mr. English” and the two chatted often over 43 years. Carl gifted many plants he grew at the Locks to acquaintances and friends. After his retirement caches of potted plants Carl intended as gifts were found in the garden for years afterword.

# Plan Bee

By Bill Dowell  
Public Affairs Office



A barely surviving beehive found in a bird house at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Hiram M. Chittenden Locks in Ballard now has the place buzzing.

When rangers found the colony they asked Scott Diehl for help. Diehl has worked at the locks for 36 years, mostly as a lock wall attendant, but he's also a beekeeper and has three beehives he tends at home. Diehl removed the hive from the bird house and took it to his home.

He set it up in one of the custom hives he builds using old pallets and began trying to nurse it into a productive colony.

"It was in really bad shape when I got it and unfortunately didn't survive," said Diehl.

So he moved on to Plan B, creating a new colony with new bees.

Diehl reads a lot about bees, it was how he got started as a beekeeper, reading books and magazine articles about beekeeping – what to do and what not to do. He is fascinated by the bees and says they are amazing and it really sparked his interest.

Through his reading he learned pollinator losses have been severe across the nation and in June 2015 President Barack Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum to create a federal strategy, promoting the health of honey bees and other pollinators.

Part of the President's strategy includes trying to enhance pollinator habitat on Federal lands. With that in mind, when this frail hive was found, Diehl approached Operations Project Manager Nate McGowan about setting up a hive at the Locks in the Carl S.

Diehl puts on his hat and veil before opening the hive. The bees are docile, but opening the have can stir them up. He said being stung on the hand isn't so bad, but the face is really painful.

English Jr. Botanical Garden.

"I knew about President Obama's memo and thought setting up the hive was a great idea," said McGowan

Diehl worked with the natural resource staff and gardeners to find a good, out-of-the-way location to set up the new hive. The Locks grounds, which includes the botanical garden, is about 5 acres and located in a metropolitan setting with more than 1.3 million visitors annually ascending on the tiny oasis.

"This particular variety of bees is very docile," said Diehl. "Still, we didn't want it in an area where a lot of visitors have access."

They found a great spot and now the gardens and bees are both benefiting from each other and according to Diehl the hive is in good shape for a normal winter.

"They have about 55 to 60 pounds of honey for the winter," he said.

He'll winterize the beehive in October, wrapping it with tar paper, and plans to keep the hive where it's at since it's less stressful to the colony than possibly moving it. He said the garden is now in what beekeepers call a dearth period when there's not a lot of nectar for the bees to feed on.

So, he's feeding the 50,000 to 70,000 bees a supplemental sugar syrup with vitamins to keep them from feeding on their winter honey supply and prepare them to carry on in the spring when the garden again begins to bloom.



While adding another brood, or section, to the hive, Diehl shows how docile this variety of bees is by moving them with his hand.



(Above) Diehl removes a frame from the brood. This frame shouldn't have comb on it, but shows the hive is doing well and expanding. He'll add another brood on top of this one for additional space. (Below) he places the excess comb next to the beehive for bees to reuse in the hive or use it for daily consumption.





# Activated Carbon

A promising new concept for containing contaminants

By Scott Lawrence  
*Public Affairs*

**W**hile activated carbon has a long history of household use, local scientists are hoping to greatly expand its application to environmental cleanup efforts in the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site.

The Environmental Protection Agency asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District to provide technical expertise and oversight for a pilot test to determine if activated carbon is a viable option to treat contaminated sediment in the polluted waterway.

“It’s a common product that some people use in water and air purifying filters in their homes,” said Kristen Kerns, a Corps’ physical scientist providing technical support for the test. “It looks like

black sand or powder and it’s highly porous. Under a microscope it looks like a piece of popcorn with all these cracks and crevices that increase the surface area.”

And its surface area is vast. Just one teaspoon of activated carbon has more surface area than a football field.

It’s also hydrophobic, meaning it tends to not mix or dissolve in water and, when used as a filtering agent, it bonds with hydrophobic contaminants.

“Like attracts like, so something that’s hydrophobic is attracted to something else that’s hydrophobic, like activated carbon,” Kerns said.

How it works is hydrophobic organic contaminants adhere very tightly to activated carbon particles

into all their nooks and crevices. The carbon particles bind and sequester the organic contaminant, reducing its bioavailability, which is key according to Kerns.

“When aquatic species live amongst contaminated sediments, activated carbon can prevent the contaminant from entering the organism,” she said. “The contaminants are bound to the carbon particle rather than being in a freely dissolved form that can enter into the organism. They’re no longer bioavailable.”

The most widespread contaminants of concern in the Lower Duwamish are polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs. Used in many industrial products and unregulated until the late 1970s, PCBs don’t

Divers install passive samplers at test plots in July to measure pore water concentrations and monitor baseline conditions.

degrade over time, so what was used decades ago is still prominent at the same levels today. They also happen to be hydrophobic.

While activated carbon has been used as a cap or isolation barrier in the Lower Duwamish, the upcoming test focuses on bioavailability. The December test will introduce activated carbon into three one-acre test plots at various locations in the Lower Duwamish. Half of each test plot will include an activated carbon and sand mixture, while the other half is just sand.

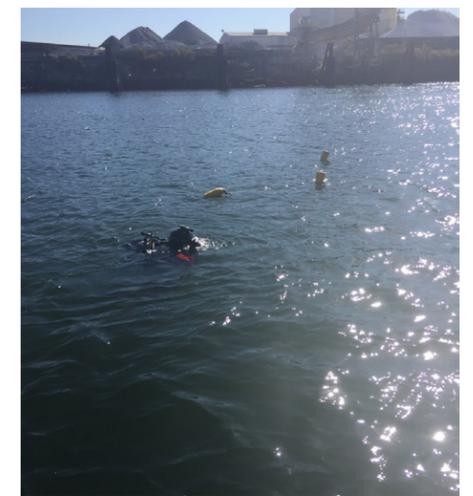
Since the particles are very small and light, there’s concern that the activated carbon might be washed away in an active industrial waterway like the Duwamish.

“Smaller particle sizes have been shown to be more effective in sequestering PCBs, but it is difficult to keep them in place and not swept away with the river currents,” said Allison Hiltner, a Remedial Project Manager in the EPA’s Office of Environmental Cleanup. “We are trying a range of particle sizes and will be evaluating

how well they remain in place at our study locations.”

The downside, according to Kerns, is that while larger grain size may help the activated carbon stay in place better, it has less surface area for binding which means scientists may not get the results they are hoping for.

One reason hopes are high for the test is the bioavailability concept is much less detrimental and intrusive to the environment than traditional methods of sediment remediation.



“When you dredge, you are scooping out some of the sediment, but not all of it, and it’s disruptive to the environment. The same when you are capping, adding two to three feet of clean sand over native sediment wipes out the habitat that was there,” Kerns said. “With this method, we can treat moderately contaminated sediment without seeing those detrimental impacts.”

Seattle District scientists will monitor tests of sediment concentrations and pore water, or the water contained in pores in soil and rock, for the next three years.

If the pilot study is successful, Hiltner said the EPA hopes to implement the concept in other areas of the Duwamish where there are moderate levels of PCB contamination. Areas with higher levels of PCBs will still need to be capped or dredged in accordance with the EPA’s Record of Decision.

“This can be a better way of doing remediation, reducing contaminants with less impact to the environment, but still seeing positive impacts to the food chain by decreasing concentrations that aquatic species can absorb or ingest” Kerns said. “I’m looking forward to seeing the results.”



A scientist examines a passive sampler for measuring pore water concentrations. Samplers were added to test plots in July to monitor baseline conditions ahead of the December 2016 pilot test.

# Welcome



## TO THE DISTRICT



Daniel Abraham  
Mechanical Engineer  
Design Branch



Edie Adkins  
Budget Analyst  
Project Support Branch



Michelle Bahnick  
Student Trainee Biology  
H & H Branch



Andrea Barry  
Student Trainee Biology  
Regulatory Branch



Teresa Boggs  
Mechanical Engineer  
Technical Services Branch



Ryan Boyle  
Student Trainee Biology  
Regulatory Branch



Ellen Brown  
Environmental Engineer  
Military, Enviro & IIS Br.



James Carsner  
Biologist  
Regulatory Branch



Terry Carroll  
Laborer  
Libby Dam



Jinsoo Chung  
Project Manager  
Lewis & Clark Project Ofc.



Brandon Clinton  
Biologist  
Regulatory Branch



Alea Cox  
Procurement Analyst  
Business Oversight Branch



Christin Deakins  
Student Trainee Biology  
Regulatory Branch



Dallas Edwards  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Public Affairs Office



John Feider  
Geotechnical Engineer  
Design Branch



Ashleigh Fortier-Crane  
Project Analyst  
Project Support Branch



Norma Franco  
Administrative Assistant  
Technical Services Branch



Isaac Freel  
Civil Engineer  
Design Branch



Adrian Gilmore  
Realty Specialist  
Realty Services Branch



Megan Hayes  
Office Support Assistant  
Project Support Branch



John Hicks  
Program Manager  
Civil Works Branch



Rose Hublitz  
Office Automation Assit.  
Operations Support Br.



Roger Jennings  
Spvr. Realty Specialist  
Realty Services Branch



Kevin Keiscome  
Power Plant Operator  
Libby Dam



Kyo Koo  
Student Trainee Biology  
Regulatory Branch



Victor Kotwicki  
Spvr. Realty Specialist  
Real Estate Division



Evan Kreklow-Carnes  
Biologist  
Regulatory Branch



Trisha Lett  
Administrative Assistant  
Environ. & Cult. Res. Br.



Sean Macduff  
Fisheries Bio. Stud.  
Environ. & Cult. Res. Br.



Kamana Majagira  
Electrical Engineer  
Technical Services Br.



Alex Marcinkiewicz  
Student Trainee  
Contracting Division



Alexander Meincke  
Student Biology Trainee  
Technical Services Branch



Hans Miller  
Construction Control  
Operations Support Branch



David Moore  
Soil Scientist  
Regulatory Branch



David Muellerleile  
Supervisory Civil Engineer  
Northwest Area Office



Susan Murphy  
Executive Assistant  
Executive Office



Eric Nelson  
Security Officer  
Security & Law Enforcement



Minjae Park  
Civil Engineer  
Design Branch



Jon Roberts  
Power Plant Mechanic  
Libby Dam



Sherry Rone  
Environmental Engineer  
Military, Enviro & IIS Br.



Scott Ross  
Operatins Project Manager  
Chief Joseph Dam



Kyle Ryan  
Student Struct. Eng.  
Design Branch



John Solomon  
Small Business Specialist  
Small Business Office



Elizabeth Stanley  
EEO Specialist  
Equil Opportunity Office



Everet Sterling  
Emergency Mmgt. Spec.  
Emergency Mmgt. Br.



Michael Swenson  
Civil Engineer  
Design Branch



Stephen Terada  
Real Estate Chief  
Real Estate Division



Emily Zumbrunnen  
General Engineer  
Civil Works Branch

# Halloween Safety Tips



Halloween is an exciting long time tradition full of costumes, make believe and trick or treating, but the anticipation of the night may cause parents and children forget about safety. The major dangers are from trips, slips and falls as well as pedestrian/car crashes. Both children and adults need to think about safety if planning for an evening of Halloween festivities.

## Costume Designs:

- Purchase or make costumes that are light and bright enough to be clearly visible to motorists. Bags or sacks should also be light colored or decorated with reflective tape. To easily see and be seen, children should also carry flashlights.
- Costumes should be short enough to prevent children from tripping and falling. Children should wear well-fitting, sturdy shoes.
- Hats and scarfs should be tied securely to prevent them from slipping over children's eyes. Apply a natural mask of cosmetics rather than have a child wear a loose-fitting mask that might restrict breathing or obscure vision. If a mask is used, however, make sure it fits securely and has eyeholes large enough to allow full vision. Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be of soft and flexible material.

## Homes:

- People expecting trick-or-treaters should remove anything that could be an obstacle from lawns, steps and porches. Candle lit jack-o'-lanterns should be kept away from landings and doorsteps where costumes could brush against the flame
- Pedestrian Safety:
- Young children should always be accompanied by an adult or an older, responsible child.
- All children should WALK, not run from house to house and use the sidewalk if available, rather than walk in the where ornaments, furniture, or clotheslines present dangers.

## Safe Houses:

- Children should go only to homes where the residents are known and have outside lights on as a sign of welcome.
- Children should not enter homes or apartments unless they are accompanied by an adult.

# New Faces in the Executive Office



## Damon Lilly

Mr. Lilly is coming to us from USACE Japan District where he served as Chief of the Navy/Marine Branch, Programs and Project Management Division. Lilly is originally from Ashaway, Rhode Island.



## Lt. Col. Andrew Olson

Lt. Col. Olson has joined us after serving an assignment as a Training with Industry Fellow at Parsons in Aiken, South Carolina. Lt. Col. Olson is originally from Preston, Idaho.



## Out and About:

The district hosted Cleveland High School students June 20-24, as part of a Special Emphasis Program. Cleveland is home to the STEM School of Engineering & Design, which focuses on the physical sciences and technology.

Emergency Management Branch's **Franchesca Gilbert** spoke to parents and children at the Learning Way School and Daycare in West Seattle, about emergency preparedness at home, school, work and on the road.

The M/V Puget and its crew, **Captain Skip Green, Steve Wright, Robert Dunning, Phillip Pokorski** and **Marco Marolla** represented the district during the Anacortes Waterfront Festival.

Promoting dam safety awareness at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, 2015-2016 Leadership Development Program Project Team **Susan Newby, Jo Gardiner, Peggy Marcus** and **Ellen Engberg** hosted a Dam Safety Day event May 22.

Regulatory's **Juliana Houghton, Kaitlyn White, Brian Hooper** and **Tina Tong** represented the district at the Shoreline Community College STEM Festival.

Senior Water Manager **Ken Brettmann** provided a presentation entitled "Water Management Lessons Learned by a UW Graduate" to a graduate-level University

of Washington water management class in May. It focused on an overview of reservoir operations during floods and a presentation of case studies and lessons learned.

Biologist **Peter Gibson** reached-out to 400 kindergarten students at Green Gables Elementary School's STEM Career Fair in Federal Way, Washington.

## Congratulations:

**Bonnie Ecker** was selected as the 2016 Natural Resource Management Employee of the Year.

Seattle District Project Manager **Robert (Bob) Paulson** retired from the Army National Guard as a lieutenant colonel with 24 years of service.

The Western Washington Reservoir Regulation Team, **Sara Marxen, Catherine Petroff, Kristian Mickelson, Logan Osgood-Jacobs, Eric Anderson, David Doll, Joel Fenolio, Travis Ball, David Michaelsen, Larry Schick, Zachary Corum, Ken Brettmann, Kevin Shaffer, Pat Wheeler, Chris Evans** and **Adam Price** received an Excellence in Public Service award from the Seattle Federal Executive Board. The award recognized the team for their exemplary work during the floods of 2015.

Regulatory's **Pam Sanguinetti** received an Excellence in Public Service award from the Seattle Federal Executive Board for

her exemplary service in aquatic resource protection to "our treasured Puget Sound waters."

Natural Resource Management's **Brian Wilson** completed the 2016 Emerging Leaders Program. The program is a unique opportunity to further examine and develop leadership potential and to learn about the Corps' senior leadership.

Meteorologist **Larry Schick's** presentation, "The Great West Coast Flooding of 1861-1862", was awarded best presentation by the organizing committee of the 2016 Western Snow Conference in Seattle. About 120 snow surveyors, academics in snow hydrology and western United States water managers attended.

## Deployed:

**Avril Jones**

## New Positions:

**Mark Slominski**, Construction Division Chief  
**Schelly John** and **Linda Garza**, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center

## Professional

## Development:

Project Manager **Matt Kitterman** completed certification for Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act, or DAWIA, Facilities

Engineering Level II

Hydraulic Engineer **David Doll** and Supervisory Civil Engineer **John Dudgeon** completed their Washington State Professional Engineering exam

## Retirements:

**Conway Bondurant**  
**Capt. Rex Broderick**  
**Bridgette Bruno**  
**David Burch**  
**Eleacie Carter-Webb**  
**Tim Erkel**  
**Richard Garrison**  
**Robbin Goldsby**  
**Emmet McCabe**  
**Susan Powell**  
**Richard Wilson**

## Moving On:

**Leila Bantique**  
**Beth Coffey**  
**Sara Edwards**  
**Justin Fairley**  
**Randall Farley**  
**Jason (Jay) Fiorentini**  
**Kathryn Key**  
**Kaitane Kircher**  
**Quinn Ma**  
**Craig Morton**  
**Tyler Quick**  
**Jose L. Medina-Ramirez**  
**Shelly West**  
Retirements:  
**David A. Carpenter**  
**John Derby**  
**Bonnie Ecker**  
**Jeff Laufle**  
**Andrew (Andy) Maser**  
**William Tyrrell**  
**Nancy Wellons-Stewart**

## Condolences:

**Dwain "Bud" Hogan**

# Seattle District participates in Regional Golf Crown

**By Mike Roll**  
*Portland District Retiree*

The Castle Cup, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the event, was held on July 23 at the Veterans Memorial Golf Course in Walla Walla, Washington.

The Castle Cup was initiated in 2007 following discussions at a Corps conference in Cleveland between Chuck Palmer of Walla Walla and now-retired Michael Roll of Portland.

“Chuck and I had talked on and off over the years at various conferences about having such a get-together,” said Roll. “Typically we’d get all excited about it, go back to our respective districts, get back to work, then talk about it again the next year.” In Cleveland they decided they’d talked enough. So they set a date and Roll agreed that Portland would take the lead for the inaugural event.

That inaugural event, held in Hood River, was so successful that they decided to try it again the following year, lead by Walla Walla. After 10 years it’s become a regional gathering involving all districts in Northwestern Division. Seattle District joined the event in 2010. Lead responsibility rotates from district to district over a 3-year period. Each district selects a venue within its boundaries and coordinates its players. The other two districts work to get teams together to travel to the selected location. “We all try to make it a relatively easy location for the players to attend,” stated Roll. Following



**The Castle Cup, embellished with District coins, has made its rounds of the Columbia River Basin districts. Photo by Sean Askelson**

Roll’s retirement in 2010, Askelson and Magee took over leading the Portland contingent. Palmer plans to retire in the next couple of years and it’s expected he’ll look for a successor to lead Walla Walla’s team.

Held at courses in the Portland, Hood River, Skamania, Tri-Cities, Walla Walla, Pendleton, Pullman and Tacoma areas, the event d-raws 45-75 players, depending on location and format. The only requirement is that participants have a connection to the Corps including current, former or retired employees, employee family members and regional agencies. Recently Seattle and Walla Walla have had the largest number of participants. In the past there was significant interest from Portland golfers, but over the years retirements and departures have somewhat depleted the internal ranks. At previous events golfers from NWD and the Bonneville Power Administration have participated.

There is some conversation that the Castle Cup could expand to include federal agencies, Native American tribes, environmental agencies and maybe even contractors all associated in some way with the Corps’ work on the Columbia River. Roll thinks it would be a terrific way for those involved with the Columbia River, regardless of their interest or association level, to come together, enjoy each other’s company, have some friendly competition, and build a little camaraderie on an informal basis.



**Colleagues and family gathered in Walla Walla, Washington to play the 2016 Castle Cup X, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the inter-district event. Courtesy photo by Chuck Palmer**

# Better Know a Section

# Safety and Occupational Health



**The Safety and Occupational Health Office's** mission is to continually develop and maintain a safe and healthy culture for all Seattle District employees, contractors and visitors. This is done through implementing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' safety and occupational health programs, supporting

and assisting with risk management techniques, and ensuring compliance of US-ACE Engineering Manual 385-1-1.

**The Safety and Occupational Health Office is:**

Tim Grube and Carla MacLafferty