



## AHTD Team Travels to Tennessee For Regional Rodeo

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, was the destination for the AHTD's top Rodeo competitors as they traveled east to compete in the 6th Annual Southern Regional Equipment Operators Rodeo, held on October 2nd.

The AHTD team joined others in the Smoky Mountains for this annual day of competition held for states who are members of the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. The event featured teams from Arkansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. This year's event was hosted by the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

"Our team always looks forward to spending time at the Regional Rodeo with their peers from other states," stated AHTD Director Dan Flowers.

As in the individual statewide competitions, events were held in six categories: Single Axle Dump Truck, Tandem Axle Dump Truck, Lowboy, Motor Grader, Tractor/Mower and Backhoe.

After a full day of competition featuring each state's professional skills, the team from the

Tennessee Department of Transportation came out on top. The AHTD team finished in third place overall. This year's competition gave the AHTD a top-three finish in each of the six years the regional event has been held.

The AHTD team members were Darrell Barnes of District 8 and John Harvey of District 2 in the Tractor/Lowboy event; Keith Carpenter of District 9 and David Pruitt of District 8 in the Tandem Axle Dump Truck event; Todd Clifford of District 10 and Jack Stradtman of District 4 in the Single Axle Dump Truck event; Fred Ridenhour of District 4 and Keith Skelton of District 5 in the Tractor/Mower event; Kenny Riley of District 9 and Larry Otwell of District 3 in the Backhoe event; and Lance Baker of District 9 and Jerry Mitchell of District 1 in the Motor Patrol event.

"We commend everyone on our team for doing such a great job of representing our Department," stated Flowers. "Their hard work and expertise have once again produced impressive results."



2008 AHTD delegation attending the Regional Rodeo: (l. to r.) Fred Ridenhour, Lynn Caple, Odis Barker (back), Joe Davidson, John Harvey (hidden), Eddie Tanner, Jack Stradtman (back), Tony Sullivan, David Pruitt, Darrell Barnes, Todd Clifford, Howard Kitchens, Keith Skelton, Keith Carpenter, Lance Baker (hidden), Jerry Mitchell, Tara Robinson and Crystal Cole.

# AHP Officer Receives International Award

After being recognized as the Arkansas Highway Police (AHP) top inspector during the 2008 Arkansas Inspector Competition held in Springdale in June of this year, PFC James Canard represented the AHP in the 2008 North American Inspector Championship (NAIC) held recently in Houston, Texas.

The championship included inspectors from the United States, Canada and Mexico. At the NAIC, Canard was a member of a six-person team that came home with the *Top Team Award*, awarded to the team with the highest combined average scores in each of the following inspection categories - North American Standard Level I Inspection, Level V Passenger Vehicle Inspection and HAZMAT/Transportation of Dangerous Goods Inspection.

“We are very proud of PFC Canard’s accomplishment and the work that all of our officers do on a daily

basis,” stated AHP Chief Ron Burks. “They are highly trained professionals who save lives every day by keeping unsafe commercial vehicles and drivers off our nation’s roads. The work of a commercial vehicle inspector is not easy, but it is one of the most vital in public safety today.”



*(l. to r.) PFC James Canard and AHP Chief Ron Burks.*

The NAIC, sponsored by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, is held annually in conjunction with the American Trucking Association’s National Truck Driving Championship. It

is the only international event dedicated to recognizing and rewarding commercial vehicle inspector excellence.

In addition to PFC Canard, the “Top Team” included Brent Moore of Georgia, Elmer Hanson of Manitoba, William Keane of New York, Paul Sikorskyj of Rhode Island and John Thompson of Virginia.

## Service Recognition Bonuses

The Arkansas Highway Commission has authorized Service Recognition payments for 2008. AHTD employees with at least 10 years of qualifying state employment receive the annual service bonuses.

All eligible Department employees will receive a lump sum payment. The state’s accounting system (AASIS) requires that the payment of the service award be the same method of payment as the employee’s check. If an employee’s paycheck is direct deposited, the service payment will also be direct deposited. If the paycheck is mailed, then the service payment will also be mailed.

Social security, federal and state taxes and retirement are withheld from the service

bonuses. The payment is based on the total years of state service as of December 2008.

As established by the laws of Arkansas, the amount of an employee’s annual service bonus is as follows:

10 – 14 years .....	\$600
15 – 19 years.....	\$700
20 – 24 years .....	\$800
25 year and up.....	\$900

The service bonuses will be mailed from the State Capitol on November 19<sup>th</sup> and direct deposited no later than November 20<sup>th</sup>.

## The Staff Minute



**Employee:** Tony Comer

**Job Position:** Maintenance Aide II, Bald Knob Crew, District 5

**Length of Service:** I have been with the Department for 16 years.

**Job Duties:** I work with my crew to set up lane closures and assist the crew leader with hot mix jobs. It is my job to make sure the job site is safe. I assist the crew with our preventive maintenance and I also work with the mowing crew. I really enjoy the mowing because you can look back at the end of the day and see what you have done.

**Favorite part of the job:** I get to meet and work with some good people, not only on my crew but also people on the District and statewide crews. As for my crew, they are the ones that get the job done and it is my responsibility to make sure they have what it takes to complete their job assignments.

**Background:** I started work in July of 1992 as a laborer on the White County crew. After a few years, I was promoted to Backhoe/Front-end Loader Operator. A year later, I was promoted to Maintenance Aide II.

**Family:** I am married to Penny and we have four children...David, Maurice, Tonya and Samantha. We also have two grandsons, as well as two dogs and a cat.

**Hobbies:** I love to spend time with my brother and talk about the times we had when we were kids. I have been a volunteer fireman for the city of Bald Knob for six years.

## Back to Five Days a Week in November

AHTD employees currently working the four-day work schedule will return to the normal five-day, eight-hour work schedule beginning on Thursday, November 6th.

Those affected include: Area Maintenance Superintendents, District Equipment & Maintenance Supervisors, District Shop Crews, Equipment & Procurement Shop Personnel, Facilities Management Personnel, Field Maintenance Personnel, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Crews, Job Superintendents, Profiling, Radio Maintenance Specialists, Safety Inspection Officers, Shop Supervisors, Sign Shop Personnel, Storeroom Personnel, Striping & Signing Crews, Surveys Division Survey Parties, Technical Services Section and Field Personnel.

## Performance Raises

The Arkansas State Highway Commission has authorized a one and one-half percent performance raise for all Department employees performing at a satisfactory level or above, if they meet eligibility requirements. The raises took effect on September 25th, and the Salary Schedule will be adjusted so that eligible employees will not become off-step. The raise was first included on paychecks received on October 16.

## November Holidays

The following are state holidays for AHTD employees during the month of November. All work will be suspended except for cases of emergency.

### **Veterans Day**

Tuesday, November 11

### **Thanksgiving**

Thursday, November 27  
& Friday, November 28



# Fall Foliage Report

The months of October and November are the perfect time to pick a weekend, jump in the car and travel Arkansas' highways to enjoy the fall foliage.

The leaves are turning, the weather is cool and there is no better time to enjoy a driving tour, campout or hike through the changing leaves.

Here is a foliage forecast to help you plan a trip through the fall colors as the trees peak.

## **Ozark Mountains:**

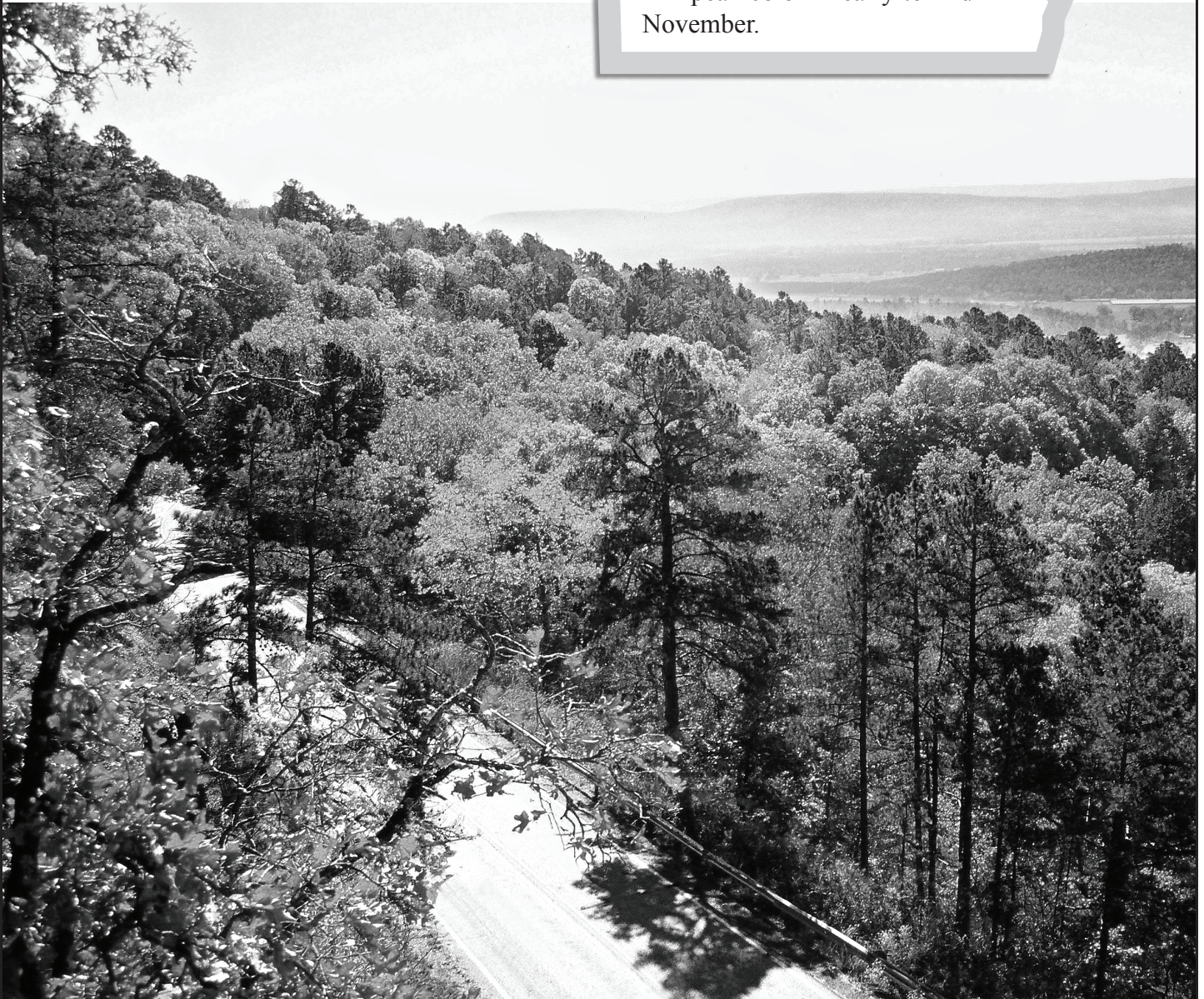
Leaves in the northwest area of the state have been changing all month and should be at their peak right now. Plan on going this weekend!

## **Ouachita**

**Mountains:** The Ouachitas and Arkansas River Valley took on color in mid-October. Early November will be the peak time for this area.

## **The Delta:**

Leaves in the southeast region usually reach their peak color in early to mid-November.





## CONSTRUCTION CORNER

Crews are at work in Texarkana to construct an interchange on new location for Interstate 30 and the Highway 71 relocation around Texarkana. The work represents the beginning of the new loop around the city and is also a part of future Interstate 49.

The job was awarded to Austin Bridge & Road, LP of Dallas, Texas, in January of 2007 for \$34,970,000. Work began in April of that year. In addition to a new interchange on Interstate 30, the project is also constructing the roadway embankment and bridge structures for the Highway 71 relocation extending north of the Interstate to Highway 296 and south of the Interstate to the existing Highway 245 interchange.

The work includes construction of five bridge structures, including a flyover structure that is approximately 65 feet tall and 1,828 feet long. Over two million cubic yards of embankment have been brought onto the construction site. Because the alignment of the project crosses the site of six clay pits, a real challenge on this job has been the draining, undercutting and backfilling of the pits, which cover approximately 11 acres (see top photo). In order to stabilize the clay pit floors, more backfill than was planned for originally had to be brought in.

Completion is expected on the job in late 2009.



## DISTRICT THREE

### State Fair: Thanks!

A special thank you to all of our AHTD staff members who volunteered at our booth at the State Fair this year. We had a great response and we received many positive comments on our historic bridges display. Congratulations to our volunteers on a job well done.



### Where Is This? See answer at bottom of last page.



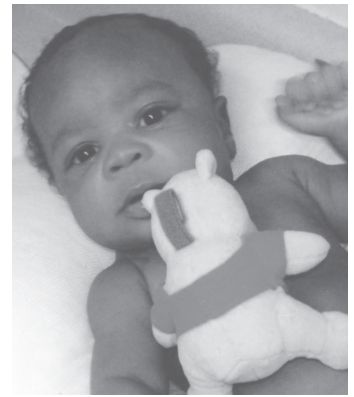




Construction/Asst. Chief Engineer's Office: Dalli Chivers, age 5, of Benton, won Mutton Bustin' Champion - her first buckle. She is the granddaughter of Ron Price, Section Head - Contract Estimates, and Linda Price, Administrative Assistant.



Human Resources: Barrett Andrew Nelson, son of Sam (Nutt) Nelson, Personnel Specialist, was born September 5th, 12:53 a.m., weighing 7 lbs., 14 oz.



Human Resources: Evan Michael Doss, son of Melissa Doss, Administrative Aide IV, was born August 3rd, weighing 5 lbs., 5 oz., and measuring 19 3/4" long.



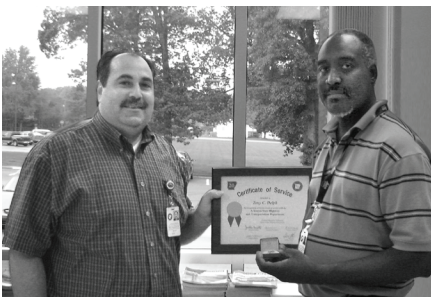
Maintenance: (l. to r.) John Knappenberger, Bridge Repairer I, receives his 5-year service award from Mike Hill, Staff Heavy Bridge Maintenance Engineer.



Right of Way: Randy Reed, Plans Designer II, killed this bear in Mountain Pine, September 16th.



Surveys: (l. to r.) Brian Freyaldenhoven, Surveys Technical Coordinator, presents Donnie Sanderson, Surveys Technician II, with his 20-year service award.



Surveys: (l. to r.) Brian Freyaldenhoven, Surveys Technical Coordinator, presents Tony Delph, Photogrammetry Technician II, with his 20-year service award.



Surveys: (l. to r.) Jim Tadel, Staff Land Surveyor, presents Mark Glenn, Surveys Aide III, with his 20-year service award.



District 1: (l. to r.) J.W. Bryant, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Alvert Brady, Area Headquarters Attendant, with his 15-year service award.



District 1: Receiving their 5-year service awards were (l. to r.) Deborah Harris, Single Axle Truck Driver; Jimmy Cansler, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Cedric Hall, Distributor/Roller Op; and Brook Hivley, Storeroom Assistant I.



District 1: Receiving their 10-year service awards were (l. to r.) Gregory Mosley, Maintenance Aide II; and Morrison Baker, Maintenance II.





District 3 (l. to r.) Kenny Bennett, District Maintenance Engineer, presents Henry Maxfield, Senior Mechanic, with his 15-year service award.



District 4: (l. to r.) Mark Williams, Bridge Job Superintendent, presents Tim Combs, Bridge Repairer I, with his 5-year service award.



District 7: Joel Todd, Maintenance Job Superintendent, presents Deborah Purifoy, Paver Operator, with her 15-year service award.



District 7: (l. to r.) Paul Glen Howell, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, presents Dave Stevens, Senior Mechanic, with his 15-year service award.



District 7: (l. to r.) Paul Glen Howell, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, presents Kenneth Butler, Electrical Plumbing & Mechanical Repairer, with his 20-year service award.



District 7: (l. to r.) Carl Bachelor, District Engineer, presents Clifford Childers, Area Maintenance Supervisor, with his 30-year service award.



District 7: Danielle Leighann Hunter granddaughter of Marion W. Hunter, Maintenance Aide II, was born on August 6th.



District 7: (l. to r.) Randy Gates, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Lonnie Teague, Motor Patrol Operator - Finish, with his 30-year service award.



District 9: (l. to r.) Dick Trammell, Shop Supervisor, retired after 23+ years of service and J.N. Mallett, Sign Crew Supervisor, retired after 36+ years of service.



District 9: (l. to r.) Steve Lawrence, District Maintenance Engineer, presents Lawrence Drewry, Station Attendant, with his 30-year service award.



District 9: (l. to r.) Mike Brasel, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Logan Brightwell, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, with his 5-year service award.



District 9: (l. to r.) Constance Marez, Field Clerk, and husband "Chief" Marez were wed on August 23rd, on the beach at Patrick Air Force Base in Florida.

## new employees

**MATERIALS** - David Allen, General Laborer

**DISTRICT 1** - Sheila Borden, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr. • Ronald Coleman, Sgl. Axle Truck Driver • Corey Crawford, Sgl. Axle Truck Driver • Terrance Hawkins, Sgl. Axle Truck Driver

**DISTRICT 2** - Vincent Sanders, Gen. Laborer

**DISTRICT 3** - Charles Branham, Sgl. Axle Truck Driver • Christopher Sundberg, Mechanic

**DISTRICT 4** - Douglas Edwards, Gen. Laborer • Tommy Towler, Single Axle Truck Driver

**DISTRICT 5** - Joshua Fick, Janitor

**DISTRICT 6** - Kevin Busick, Gen. Laborer • Demond Davis, Gen. Laborer • Joseph Rapier, Single Axle Truck Driver • Andy Wiggs, Single Axle Truck Driver

**DISTRICT 8** - Regina Colclough, District Receptionist • Lisa Gilbert, Office Administrative Assistant V

**DISTRICT 9** - Jeffery Conyers, Sgl. Axle Truck Driver • Alfredo Garcia, Gen. Laborer • Anthony Roughton, Sgl. Axle Truck Driver

**DISTRICT 10** - Brittany Monette, Gen. Laborer

## promotions

**ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE** - Mike Cash, Capt. • Jay Thompson, Captain

**COMPUTER SERVICES** - Michael Hall, Apps Analyst/Programmer III • Sean Hanley, Apps Analyst/Programmer II • Joe Pyle, Apps Analyst/Programmer III

**HUMAN RESOURCES** - Regina Durham, Carpenter • Ronald Easterling, Carpenter • Joanna Stewart, Office Administrative Assistant III

**RIGHT OF WAY** - Robert Arman, Plans Designer II • Chad Marsh, Realty Appraiser II

**DISTRICT 1** - Lenox Holliday, Motor Patrol Op., Cross Co. • Robert Johnson, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr. • Robert Karnes, Jr., Brg. Rep. II • Benny Melton, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr. • Dennis Murphy, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr. • Steve Pierce, Brg. Rep. II • William Waggle, Cr. Leader, Monroe Co.

**DISTRICT 2** - Christopher Penny, Sign Cr. Supv.

**DISTRICT 4** - Carl Dodd, Crew Leader, Washington Co. • Meagen Taylor, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Washington Co.

**DISTRICT 5** - Don Backus, Const. Aide I, RE 53 • Jimmy Beams, Mech. • Robert Bradley, Mech. • Billy Calkin, Distrib./Roll. Op., White Co. • Gary Franks, Const. Aide III, RE 55 • Patrick Smith, Const. Aide I, RE 53 • Hoyt Taylor, Area Maint. Supv., White Co.

**DISTRICT 6** - Jason Berry, Motor Patrol Op.-Fin., Prairie Co. • Al Langhorn, Cr. Leader, Pulaski Co. • Alton Pack, Bckh./FEL Op. • Joseph Rapier, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Pulaski Co. • Charles Spencer, Dozer Op. - Fin. • Charles Wilson, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr., Pulaski Co.

**DISTRICT 7** - Greg Bird, Maint. Aide II, Ouachita Co. • Tiffany Burke, Rest Area Att., Clark Co.

**DISTRICT 8** - Cedric Cursh, Single Axle Truck Driver • Justin Green, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr., Van Buren Co. • Richard Rackley, Dozer Op. - Fin. • Larry Wilson, Senior Construction Materials Inspector, RE 86

**DISTRICT 9** - Tracy Eddings, Backhoe/Front End Loader Op., Newton Co. • Mark Widner, Shop Supervisor

**DISTRICT 10** - Jimmy McKinney, Crew Leader, Mississippi Co. • Krista Mitchell, Single Axle Truck Driver, Mississippi Co.

## service

**ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE** - Andreas Pruitt, Patrol Officer First Class, 5 yrs.

**CONSTRUCTION** - Tina Adams, Est. Supv., 25 yrs. • Jerry Atchley, Const. Materials Insp., 20 yrs., RE 64 • Melody Blair, Const. Helper II, 5 yrs., RE 92 • Mary Callaway, Insp., 15 yrs., RE 62 • William Linton, Advanced Const. Field Engineer, 10 yrs., RE 86 • Ernest Schlaefli, Const. Aide II, 20 yrs., RE 42 • Jeffrey Stroud, Resident Engineer, 30 yrs., RE 43

**ENVIRONMENTAL** - Diana Wilks, Env. Analyst II, 5 yrs.

**EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT** - Teri McConnell, Purchasing Clerk, 15 yrs.

**FISCAL SERVICES** - Toni Barnes, Administrative Assistant III, 30 yrs.

**HUMAN RESOURCES** - Beverly Beck, Storeroom. Asst. II, 10 yrs. • Sam (Nutt) Nelson, Personnel. Spec., 15 yrs.

**MAINTENANCE** - Joe Peacock, Paint Transp. Tr. Dr., 5 yrs. • Kevin Purifoy, Sec. Hd. - Comm., 20 yrs. • John Wood, Traffic Svc. Aide, 5 yrs.

**PLANNING & RESEARCH** - Larry Newman, Cart. Supv., 35 yrs. • Mary Young, Office Administrative Asst. III, 5 yrs.

**PROGRAMS & CONTRACTS** - Mitzi Dunn, Office Administrative Asst. III, 25 yrs.

**RIGHT OF WAY** - Reda Webb, Office Administrative Assistant III, 25 yrs.

**ROADWAY DESIGN** - Brandon Turner, Advanced Design Engineer, 5 yrs.

**SURVEYS** - Lynn Christie, Office Technician, 5 yrs.

**DISTRICT 1** - James Barté, Jr., Dist. Bridge Inspector, 15 yrs. • Timothy Burks, Maintenance Aide II, 5 yrs. • Troy Tims, Maintenance Aide II, 20 yrs.

**DISTRICT 2** - Barron Johnson, Maint. Aide I, 10 yrs.

**DISTRICT 3** - Curtis Hill, Dozer Operator - Finish, 25 yrs. • Ronald Hughes, Maintenance Aide II, 10 yrs. • James Lamb, Bridge Repairer II, 15 yrs.

**DISTRICT 4** - Dan Stanley, Street Sweeper Op., 5 yrs.

**DISTRICT 5** - George Baird, Maint. Aide I, 5 yrs. • Edwin Chaney, Distributor/Roller Op., 30 yrs. • Jason Seaton, Hydraulic Excavator Operator-Fin., 10 yrs.

**DISTRICT 6** - Curtis Aud, Area Maint. Supv., 20 yrs. • Ronald Gragon, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, 15 yrs. • Lonnie Murry, Senior Mechanic, 20 yrs. • Jason Smith, Sign Erector, 5 yrs.

**DISTRICT 7** - Michael Nelson, Welder, 30 yrs. • Deborah Purifoy, Paver Op., 15 yrs.

**DISTRICT 8** - Regina Colclough, Dist. Recpt., 15 yrs. • Neil Ford, Area Maintenance Supv., 20 yrs. • Jimmy Jackson, Dist. Caretaker, 10 yrs. • Scott Mullis, Dist. Eng., 25 yrs. • Mark Powell, Maintenance Aide I, 10 yrs. • Lisa Vaughan, Area Headquarters Att., 15 yrs.

**DISTRICT 9** - Joe Arnold, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs. • Jerry Lyall, Maint. Aide I, 5 yrs. • James Morris, Distributor/Roller Operator, 5 yrs. • William Worsham, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 5 yrs.

**DISTRICT 10** - Kristie Mott, Backh./Front End Loader Op., 5 yrs. • Garry Toombs, Motor Patrol Operator-Fin., 35 yrs.

## retirement

**ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE** - Gary East, Capt., 34+ yrs.

**ENVIRONMENTAL** - Alfred Collins, Section Head - Beautification, 33+ yrs.

**MAINTENANCE** - Donald Parker, Cr. Ldr., 20+ yrs.

**SURVEYS** - Carl Lindstrom, Asst. Div. Head, 36+ yrs.

**DISTRICT 3** - Marvin Brown, Distributor/Roller Op., 16+ yrs. • Billy Delaney, Senior Mechanic, 8+ yrs.

**DISTRICT 8** - Theodus Robinson, Maint. Aide I, 6+ yrs.

**DISTRICT 9** - James Mallett, Sign Cr. Supv., 36+ yrs.

**DISTRICT 10** - Dennis Caldwell, Sta. Att. II, 18+ yrs.

**MATERIALS** - Jerry Westerman, Div. Hd., 35+ yrs.

## memorials

**CONSTRUCTION** - Billy Jane Bussa, 10/9/08, retired

**DISTRICT 1** - Edward Frierson, 8/17/08, retired • Johnny Harmon, 10/7/08, retired

**DISTRICT 3** - Kellie Pilgreen, 9/24/08, retired

**DISTRICT 9** - Louis C. Mathis, 10/9/08, retired

## active duty

As of 10/10/08, the AHTD had 19 employees serving active duty in the United States military. Dates denote the deployment date.

**ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE** - Shawn Foust, Sergeant, 8/4/07

**MATERIALS** - David Kraft, Geot. Drill Party Chf., 1/2/08

**DISTRICT 1** - James Barte, Senior Insp., 2/19/08

**DISTRICT 4** - Nathan Reed, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 10/3/05 • Kevin Tucker, Bridge Repairer I, 10/1/07

**DISTRICT 5** - Greg Hellmann, Inspector, 10/1/07 • David Smith, Inspector, 10/1/07

**DISTRICT 6** - Shirley Hammett, Area Hq. Att., 7/20/04

**DISTRICT 8** - Michael Bunton, Asphalt Tank Truck Driver, 10/1/07 • James Harris, Motor Patrol Operator, 10/1/07 • Cornell Newsome, Single Axle Truck Driver, 05/07/08

**DISTRICT 9** - Ashley Hale, Ferry Boat Pilot, 9/5/07 • Douglas Henry, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., 10/1/07 • Joseph Ragland, Maint. Aide I, 10/1/07 • Cameron Whitney, Sign Erector, 10/9/07 • Randall Williams, Ferry Boat Pilot, 9/10/07

**DISTRICT 10** - Donald Evance, Con. Aide I, 10/1/07 • Rufus Mitchell, Rest Area Att., 10/1/07 • Elvis Richmond, Sr. Construction Mat. Insp., 10/1/07

## Where Is This? (from page 5)

A view of Lake Maumelle from Highway 10 in Pulaski County.

