

Green Matters

DPW, Environmental Natural Resources Division Newsletter

~Fort Gordon, Ga.



Upcoming Events/ Training

- ◆ Sept.9- Hazardous Waste Refresher, 0830;0945, Bldg 11307
- ◆ Sept. 16- SPCC Training, 0900-1300, Bldg 11307
- ◆ Sept. 17- Stormwater Industrial Training, 0900 -1300. Bldg 11307
- ◆ Oct. 1- Hazardous Waste Refresher, 0830;0945, Bldg 11307
- ◆ Oct. 7-8- Hazardous Waste Management Course, 0800-1600, Bldg 11307
- ◆ Oct. 19-23- Env Officer Course, 0800-1600, Bldg 11307

Inside this Issue

The Signal School 2
Campus is Historic?

Hummingbirds- Little 3
Air Samplers

Hunting Seasons on 4
Fort Gordon and
Hunter Safety Tips



Fort
Gordon
Green
Matters

ON SINKING GROUND

What is a "Sinkhole"? "Any naturally occurring depression in the surface of the ground from which rainfall is drained internally." In other words, it is underground erosion. When enough water drains to the ground, it can pool and circulate creating a whirlpool effect that displaces the soil thus creating a sinkhole.

Our stormwater infrastructure exists to help divert waters off roadways and lands to prevent ponding and external erosion, but when stormwater, water, and sewer lines are defective and/or neglected big problems can occur that can lead to sinkholes. Poorly designed foundations of homes and businesses can contribute to sinkholes. Sinkholes can also form naturally from rotting stumps of trees.

They normally form very slowly and wouldn't be noticed until they collapse. Their size varies- a few feet to hundreds of acres and less than 1 or more are 100 feet deep.

Sinkhole Safety! If your path crosses a newly formed hole stay back at a safe distance. If you get too close to the edges you could cause further collapsing of the hole. Seek a professional and call the Stormwater hotline @ 706-791-1432.

Possible Prevention. If a sinkhole is suspected, measures can be taken to test pipes in the stormwater infrastructure system. Methods such as:

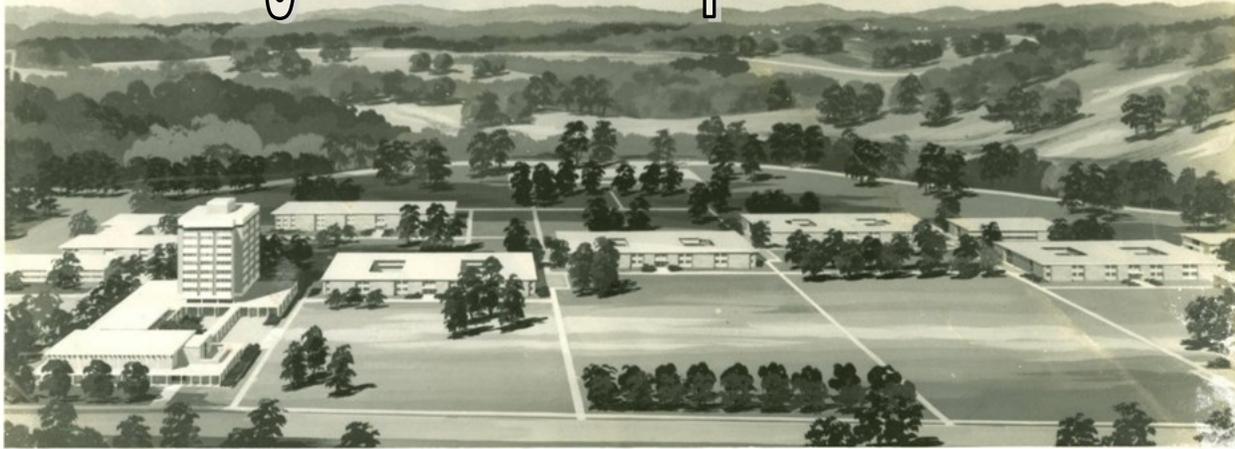
- Smoke testing underground pipes
- Cameras to view inside of pipes
- Dye testing lines



Sink holes pictured above are all located on Fort Gordon.

Sept. 2015

The Signal School Campus is Historic?



Southeastern Signal School Conceptual Drawing

When most people hear that the Fort Gordon Signal School campus is a collection of historically important buildings, their first response is that they cannot be historic because they are ugly buildings. While their architecture is more of an emphasis of function over form, they are nevertheless representative of an important time in Fort Gordon history.

During the early 1960s Fort Gordon underwent a major reorganization. Among the various new training missions, Fort Gordon now contained the U.S. Army Southeastern Signal School. The World War II temporary wood buildings covering most of Fort Gordon were in considerable disrepair by the early 1960s. Thus in order to support the Signal School mission, a significant amount of permanent construction was needed. Construction began in October 1964 on six- two story classroom buildings which would consolidate Signal School activities spread across 400 of the WWII wood buildings. The first six classrooms opened in Jun 1966 and by the end of 1970 the Signal School had ten new buildings. The rest of the installation was getting new barracks, chapels, mess halls, administration buildings, and support buildings which were constructed through 1974. By 1975, the U.S. Army Signal Center and School relocated to Fort Gordon and merged with the Southeastern Signal School, making Fort Gordon Home of the Signal School.

The mission of the Signal School caused drastic changes to the building landscape of Fort Gordon, which was spearheaded with the construction of the Signal classrooms. And though the Signal School buildings are not very attractive, their architecture is representative of when the installation went through a major change of mission, which is still a large part of Fort Gordon today.



Southeastern Signal School During Construction (March 1966)



Signal Towers, Building 29808 (2005)

Sept. 2015

Hummingbirds - Little Air Samplers



Hummingbirds have always intrigued me. To be so small, they have some very interesting features about them. They are indeed super fast and can navigate in all directions, even stopping in mid-flight. Don't mistake their small size as a weakness. They zip around, flapping their wings at an amazing 80 beats per second. I normally hear them before I see them. I can usually tell they are near by their signature "hum" as their wings slice through the air.

So what's with all the speedy flying around? Well, of course it is for their food effort. Hummingbirds are the nectar authorities. Being able to hover when there is no perch available enables them to take advantage of as many flowering food sources as possible with little time between meals. They need more than 1.5 times their weight in food to supply their energy needs.

Not only are these tiny, fast creatures very beautiful and interesting to watch, they also are great air samplers. Their functionality relates to the amounts (presence) of air pollution in an area, particularly ozone. Dr. Timothy Lewis, the head ecologist at the EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment, has a team of researchers who are studying how air pollution, with a specific interest in exposure to high ozone levels, effects hummingbirds and other wildlife.

"Hummingbirds are excellent subjects for studying ozone exposure because, in proportion (to) their body size, they have very large lungs. This makes them efficient little air samplers," says Allen Ledbetter, the team leader who is an engineer at the EPA's National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory in North Carolina. Any changes in a hummingbird's feeding activity can serve as a red flag to environmental researchers that something may be off with ozone exposure.



Feeding monitoring stations were set up in North Carolina and Wisconsin. Infrared sensors are used to monitor them. These two different locations were chosen to differentiate if hot weather or high ozone levels are the cause of possible changes in feeding patterns. Since hummingbirds are territorial and normally adhere to the same general location, there is less measurement error versus similar experiments with people and air pollution.

The findings that researchers observe will help EPA's whole endeavors to analyze and examine air quality. Whatever conclusions are drawn in the future could definitely impact human health.



Hunting Seasons on Fort Gordon

- ⇒ **DOVE SEASON**-Sept. 5-20 / Oct 10-Nov 1/Nov. 26--Jan 15 in TA 23 & 28
- ⇒ **DEER**- Archery **ONLY**-Sept. 12-Jan 10
- ⇒ **DEER**- Muzzle loader-Oct 10-Jan 10
- ⇒ **DEER**- All weapons- Oct 17-Jan 10

You must have a Georgia State hunting license and a Fort Gordon hunting license to hunt on Fort Gordon.

Fort Gordon licenses are available at the Tactical Advantage Sportsman Range (Range 14) on North Carter Road.

Information is also available at the sign in board on 111th street.

For more details on management zones, bag limits, and other restrictions please contact, Natural Resources Division, Steve Camp 706-791-6135 or Mike Juhan 706-791-2397.



Hunter Safety Tips

Firearm Safety

- ⇒ ALWAYS treat a firearm as if it is loaded. Keep it pointed down and away from others.
- ⇒ KNOW your target. Be sure of what it is that you're aiming at and aware of your surroundings beyond it.
- ⇒ Keep your finger outside of the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.
- ⇒ DO NOT use alcohol or drugs while using a firearm.
- ⇒ Always wear a safety vest for visibility by other hunters.



Sources

http://www.epa.gov/research/gems/scinews_hummingbirds.htm

<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/sinkholes.html>

<http://georgiawildlife.com/node/3150>

The Resource- A publication of the City of North Augusta Stormwater Management Department, August 2010



DPW
15th Street
Building 14600

Phone: 706-791-2526

Email: usarmy.gordon.imcom.mbx.dpw-enrmo@mail.mil