

## Sykes named Natural Resources Management Stewardship Employee of the Year

Caring for the environment comes naturally for James “Jamie” Sykes. Sykes, a fisheries biologist at the Richard B. Russell Dam and Lake Project, received the Corps of Engineers’ Natural Resources Management Stewardship Employee of the Year award.

Sykes oversaw several successful projects in 2009. One notable accomplishment included managing the technical portion of the selection of a contractor for the above ground and in-water portion of the Thurmond Lake oxygenation system (See page 7).

In addition, Sykes was instrumental in coordinating enhancements to the fishing environment at Hartwell Dam and Lake. As a result of his work with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and other natural resource trustees, a new fishing pier was constructed in the dam’s tailrace. This allowed tailrace fishing to resume at the lake for the first time since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

He also led efforts to determine the cause of bass deaths in the summer of 2009 by communicating with state natural resources agencies, fishing groups, and the media. His communication skills helped explain this complex issue to the public and stakeholders. In addition, he worked with experts from Georgia and South Carolina to collect the dead fish to augment a South Carolina study of striped bass age and growth. In this way, he created a positive outcome from a difficult situation.



District Fisheries Biologist Jamie Sykes, plants native aquatic vegetation at Hartwell Lake to establish shoreline fishery habitat. The project was done in partnership with Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, Georgia and South Carolina Departments of Natural Resources, and the Lake Hartwell Association.

“I can’t think of anything I’d rather do or any place I’d rather be than what I do on the Savannah River lakes,” he said. “It’s just the right place for me.” 

## Powering Up!

Rick Kellett, a powerplant mechanic at the Hartwell Dam, won first place in the 181-pound weight class for the 50-54 year old division at the USA Masters National Power Lifting Championship on May 1 in Killen, Texas. Kellett had a 920-pound total in the squat, bench press, and dead lift at a 170-pound body weight. An accomplished power lifter, Kellett holds two South Carolina records for bench press and dead lift in his age and weight class. Kellett also competes three times a year at local, state and national levels.

