

Wilmington

District News

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*Seasons
Greetings!*

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On the Cover: Peyton Wallace, four, granddaughter of Bobby and Cathy Willis, gives Santa Claus the scoop about her Christmas wishes. Peyton is the daughter of Bobby and Cathy’s oldest daughter Melissa Wallace.

Christmas Angels 2004

By Diane Boswell

For the past few years the AFGE LOCAL 0406, has sponsored an Angel Tree to help support the needy in our community. This year, members decided to help the Salvation Army’s Angel Tree. They received six names of children between the ages of 10 months to 11 years old. They opened it up to the whole District to help with this project, and as usual, everyone here proved again how generous they are. We had five of them adopted by different offices. The one that did not get adopted, we had money donated as well as clothes and



toys. These kids are going to have a great Christmas, because the Wilmington District made it so. We want to thank everyone for their help and support for this year’s Christmas Angel. Pictured from left to right are a few District volunteers: Mitch Hall, Diane Boswell, Jan Brodmerkel, Ben Lane, Bob Keistler, Naomi Hazlett and Ginny Mincey.

District Scores a Winning Year with Ops Plan Successes

It's official. . . the Wilmington District scored 91 points in this year's Operations Plan, and District Team members will be celebrating with a team award this year. The year's accomplishments included important relationship-building efforts, continuing increases in our support for others, creation of an exciting web-based environmental education tool, and support to overseas military efforts.

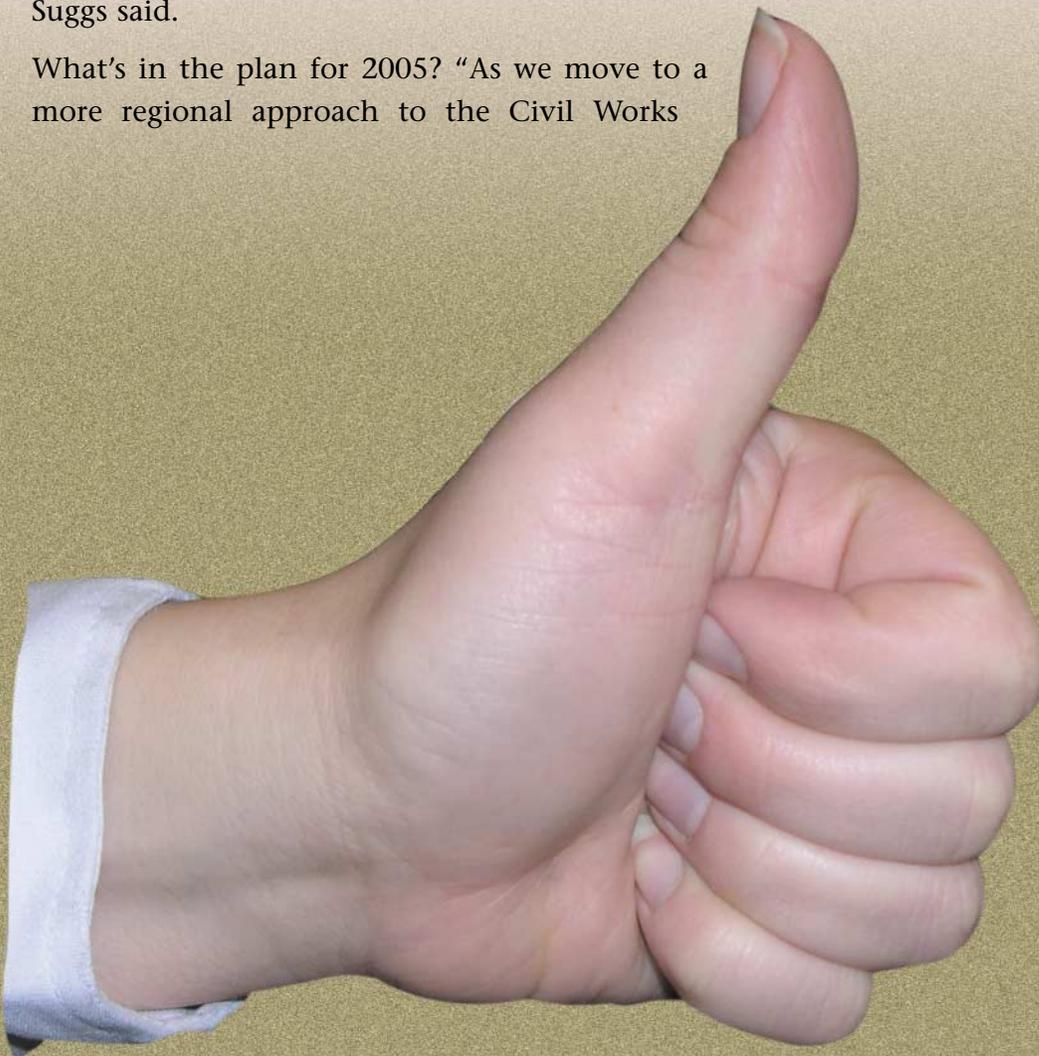
"We had a well-rounded plan this year, and we kept every objective constantly before the Quality Steering Group," said B.J. Suggs. "Keeping our eye right on the ball was a big factor in a winning year."

The District's collective reputation for excellence helped as well. "Awards and recognition at the state and national level contributed to our success," Suggs said.

What's in the plan for 2005? "As we move to a more regional approach to the Civil Works

Program, a strictly District-oriented plan is no longer the most effective tool," Suggs said. "In the past two years, new programs, strategies, and plans that have a wider reach have demanded more and more effort from us. We have accomplished good results in all areas, but the demands on our own team are heavy. We must make sure that we don't overload ourselves, and that we are able to contribute to the overall vision for South Atlantic Division."

Thus, our future operations planning will be tied more closely to the South Atlantic Division Campaign Plan for the coming year. Twenty-two Wilmington District Team Members are involved in creating the South Atlantic Division Campaign Plan, which should be announced early in the New Year.



*We
Did
It!*

“Been There, Done That”

Add Another Notch to Sherry Gaylor’s Well-Traveled Belt

Desert Shield and Desert Storm; Somalia; Bosnia; Sarajevo; Hungary; Macedonia; Kosovo; Kuwait; Iraq; Afghanistan. These are events and places familiar as global hotspots where Americans have gone to make changes for the better. Sherry Gaylor has been to each one. She returned recently from a four-month stint as Chief of the Contracting Office for the Afghanistan Engineer District in Kabul. Racking up this many countries makes you wonder what drives her. “When I first started it was a sense of adventure,” she explains.



A young man peers back at Gaylor’s camera in Kabul.

“It gives me great satisfaction knowing that when the accomplishments that can be made *are* made. The military has to be there. I do it because I volunteered to do it. So, I think for me it’s now just job satisfaction to be able to help and to serve.”

Gaylor feels the Afghan people appreciate the work that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has done so far. She adds

that although there was a slight communication barrier between her and the people she met, the feedback she received was smiling faces and a sense of trust. And she believes that U.S. efforts are improving lives. “Yes, definitely. By us being there they’re able to have more jobs which always means more money. Just giving them back their day-to-day freedoms. You have to figure they’ve been through a lot just to be able practice their religion and move around now without fear. And the decision to vote...that was astronomical for them! And for women to be able to do this! I made a trip to the women’s hospital. They always wanted to touch me to say thank you for get-



Sherry Gaylor poses on an isolated stretch of highway during a trip to a project.



This run down school building is typical in most of Afghanistan. USACE members volunteered to help fix it on their own time.



A boy braves a cold creek near a gathering of goat shepherds, just outside Kabul.

ting that place updated. It felt good. That's what it's all about."

Additionally, Gaylor said the level of trust between Afghans and Americans is also measured by the fact that they're a solid security force on U.S. compounds. "They're very loyal people. In my compound we were guarded by Afghans. You had to feel comfortable about that to have it guarded by them."

As for security Gaylor said that although the bad guys are still around she didn't have time to dwell on whether or not she'd be a target. "I spent four or five times in bunkers, but I never allowed myself to think about that until I got home! It just doesn't behoove you to think about any of that because if you thought about it all of the time you couldn't do your mission. It was hard to put a finger on when they'd attack. Sometimes it was Monday, sometimes it was Sunday. Luckily, they didn't have very good aim!"

Gaylor has had her share of close calls in her travels. She says that this gives her a better understanding of what Sol-

diers experience. And with two sons in the service, she says this helps satisfy her curiosity about how they live the military life. "It keeps me in touch with what my sons are going through. I get to live the same way they do, eat the same way they do, function the same way they do. My oldest son joked that in 15 and a half years I've been in more combat zones than he has!"

Volunteering for deployment is something Gaylor understands isn't for everybody. But she does offer some candid advice. "You have to look inside yourself. You have to weigh it and it has to do be something that you want to do. I feel very strongly about that. When they talk about making deployments possibly mandatory for civilians I won't say that's a fair thing to do, but I think it's something for each individual to decide. It's a sacrifice for family and for those we leave behind to do our work for us. If you have any outlined vision that you'd like to do something you should give it a shot. It's an eye-opening and rewarding experience."

*– By Hank Heusinkveld
– Photos by Sherry Gaylor*



With the other two members of the "mail run" crew.

This abandoned airplane is major debris that needs removing at a USACE airstrip construction site.



District Says Farewell to Distinguished Employee

By Penny Schmitt



Steve Aiken, Chief of Programs Management, retires this December after 36 years of federal service. At a December 14th luncheon, Steve was honored by dozens of co-workers and members of the local, state and federal communities he served so well.

North Carolina Division of Water Resources Chief John Morris described Steve's gifts well—he has consistently been available when people needed to speak with him, and he either knows immediately or can soon find out what needs to be known. Others attending the lunch spoke of Steve's deep foundations in faith, his unfailing common sense, his long dedication as a Boy Scout leader and avid hiker, and yes—his impish sense of humor and fun.

Steve was honored with The Medal for Superior Civilian Service, The Engineer

Regiment's Bronze Order of the DeFleury Medal, and inducted into the North Carolina Order of the Long Leaf Pine. An appreciation for his achievements was read into the Congressional Record by Representative Mike McIntyre, and he received accolades from Congressman Walter B. Jones, and Senators Dole and Edwards.

Wilmington District's entire team is well aware what all the honors represent—many years of dedication to detail and duty, managing federal funds so that Wilmington District has been able to do the most for its customers and stakeholders. Steve has shepherded projects and programs through the proposal and appropriations process, sitting at the elbow of Division Commanders as they testified before Congress. He has found funds to accomplish important work. He has come up with creative solutions that helped us to keep doing our jobs. He has given us superb technical counsel, and always told the story straight.

All of Wilmington District wishes Steve and his wife Brenda many happy years in retirement. (Photos provided by Information Management)



Dredging Pioneer Retires

By Fred Lehman



Jimmy Guthrie

James B. Guthrie, long time Master of the Dredge Fry, retires in January with some impressive bullets for an outstanding career.

“Captain Jimmy”, as he is known throughout the District, has left his mark on the dredging industry. His innovative and daring technique of sidecast dredging has furthered dredge production throughout the Wilmington, Charleston, and Philadelphia Districts, and he has even lived into somewhat of a legend! Captain Guthrie’s name usually comes up at least a dozen times daily on all of our vessels.

Jimmy was born and raised in Beaufort, N.C., coming up during the hardscrabble days of the Great Depression and the Second World War. As a young Tar he often found work on the waterfront doing whatever tasks were available to young folk back then. In 1952, he married at age 17 his local sweetheart, the former Miss Hazel Moore, and then enlisted in the U.S. Army. While serving in the 40th Infantry Division, Private Jimmy served in Korea during the Korean War and earned the national Defense and Korean Service Medals, the United Nations Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

Sergeant Guthrie was honorably discharged in 1955, and after returning home to Beaufort he began a career in the maritime industry as a commercial fisherman. He was a mate and a pilot on Menhaden Vessels along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts from 1956 until 1966, earning his Masters license in 1957.

– continued on next page

Guthrie, second from right, stands in front of the Snell with Assistant Chief Engineer Manuel Baeza, Dragtender Norm Conklin, 2nd Mate Weldon Davis, Assistant Engineer Clay Tatum, Able Seaman Edgar King, and Assistant Manager George Loveless.



Dredging Pioneer Retires

– continued

After leaving the fishing fleet in 1966, he started a new career in the federal service as an aircraft engineering mechanic at the Marine Corps Air Station at Cherry Point, N.C. After 11 years in that position, he went back to the water as Master with the N.C. State Ferry System in 1977.

In 1981 Captain Guthrie began his long and fruitful career with the Wilmington District when he was hired as Assistant Master on the sidecast dredge Merritt. In 1982 he was promoted to Master of the snag boat Snell, and in 1985 to Master of the sidecast dredge Schweizer. From 1986 until 1992 he was Master of the Merritt and it was during this tenure that he authored the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers publication “Guidelines for Sidecast Dredging” which highlights some of his perfected dredging techniques that are in practice today. From 1992 until now, Captain Jimmy skippered the dredge Fry and over the years has mentored many crewmembers who have succeeded in becoming Masters and Mates themselves.

Captain Jimmy expresses deep gratitude towards all his shipmates who have supported him over the years. He feels that he could not have operated so successfully if it were not for the good crews that he sailed with. He plans his well-earned retirement at home in Beaufort where he lives with Hazel, his wife of 52 years.

*“Captain Jimmy”
has left his mark
on the dredging
industry.*

To sum it up, Captain Jimmy Guthrie was a strong, driving force in the Districts’ dredging missions, and his legacy will carry on for years to come. Captain Jimmy: You done good! We all wish you the very best in your retirement.



The Merritt uses dredging techniques perfected by Guthrie.

Saint Nick Visits the Corps Kids!



Saint Nick, Mrs. Claus and an elf are surrounded by Corps kids. From left to right Jordan and Jackson Collins, Anna and Sarah Brodmerkel, Ramon and Maria Serrano, Dominic Jacaruso, Timmy Piner and elf pal Israel.

He's always faithful, always jolly and very, very generous. Santa, reportedly a very good friend of Chuck Wilson, made his annual appearance for a lucky group of kids who made their Christmas wishes, received an early present, and sang songs to get into the Holiday spirit. On hand to help were Mrs. Claus, who graciously accepted an invitation from Penny Schmitt to visit Wilmington, and a very friendly elf (who looks uncannily like Tara Williams) who was given permissive TDY by North Pole officials to make the pre-Christmas trek to Wilmington.

According to sources who would not reveal themselves, it appears that St. Nick was so impressed by the well-mannered kids that he plans to make his first stop in Wilmington! So kids...make sure there are plenty of cookies on hand, a little eggnog, and don't forget those reindeer. Our District biologists, including our marine biologists, say that since there are no lichens

in our area (a favorite food of reindeer) you could possibly put some carrots or apples on your doorstep. A little water wouldn't hurt, either.



Christian Lee, grandson of Oweita Freeman, gets the nod of approval from Ole Saint Nick. (Apparently Santa has the ability to read the minds of toddlers to find out what they'd like for Christmas!)



Rosemary Chohen, Jordan Collins, and Doug Wall lead carolers in "Jingle Bells."

And this just in....ask your Mom or Dad to look up this internet site to track Santa's whereabouts; <http://www.noradsanta.org/> You'll be able to find out exactly where he is anywhere in the world! However, you only have until 9pm to do this then it's off to bed. Have fun, and Happy Holidays!

Veterans Day 2004 in the Nation's Capitol

Story and Photos by Hank Heusinkveld



A WWII veteran (with cane) slowly makes his way into the main entrance of the World War Two memorial.

It never seems to fail that on November 11th of any given year a cold front, occasionally accompanied with high winds and rain, hits the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. Yet thousands of people still turn out on the Washington Mall and Arlington National Cemetery to pay warm respects to veterans.

This Veterans Day the newly dedicated World War Two Memorial was high on the visitation list. Scattered throughout the crowd were just a handful of WWII vets who made the pilgrimage to this better-late-than-never memorial. Two vets, one from North Carolina and the other from Chicago, shared war stories that are still fresh in their memories. The Tarheel was a veteran of



the Normandy invasion, a survivor of Omaha Beach. The Illinois vet was a flight surgeon who served with the 5th, 8th and 15th Army Air Forces. On this day he was excited to be getting together in nearby Alexandria, Virginia with a fellow airman he'd not seen since the war. They have a lot to catch up on.

Near the Korean War Memorial a group of Korean tourists solemnly gazes at a large group of concrete soldiers walking in a V formation. For the Koreans this is their chance to pay respects to the more than 54 thousand U.S. service members killed helping to defend their country and who still help keep the peace.

Across the Memorial Bridge, built by the Army Corps of Engineers to symbolize the reunion between the North and the South after the Civil War, stands the Women in Military Service to America Memorial. Inside the memorial, computer data bases are set up for visitors to find women who've been in the service. One name that stands out is **Gloria Fox Harris** who served in the U.S. Army

from January of 1968 to March of 1970. She spent nearly 18 additional years in the Army Reserves. She served at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point during Vietnam.

At the Vietnam Memorial the routine is the same; look up a name in a weather proof, glass covered case that protects a book with the names of 57 thousand



This pillar of North Carolina is one of 50 that represents each state of the union.

dead, proceed down a small path with a chain link fence on the opposite side of the Wall, find the name you're looking for, touch it or etch it with a piece of paper and pencil provided by the National Park Service, stand back and try to fathom the enormity of all of the names that are in front of you and to the side of you. In some cases you must negotiate around wreaths and other mementos that are left at the base of the Wall.

A Tarheel veteran of the Normandy Invasion, left, and his fellow vet who flew missions with the 5th, 8th and 15th Army Air Forces stand before the memorial's southern end.

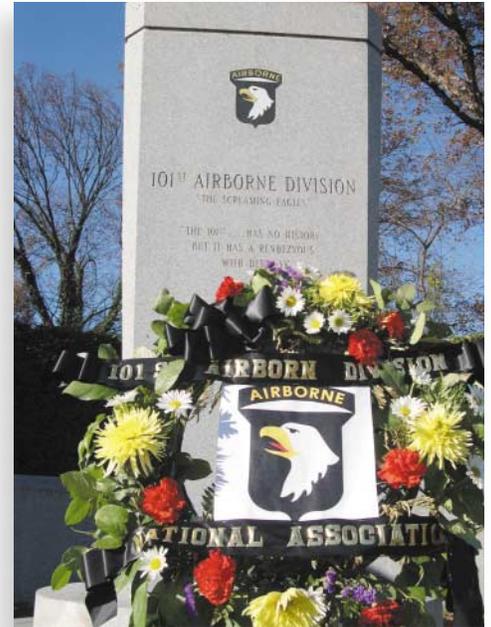


Arlington National Cemetery on a peaceful November afternoon.

At the Vietnam Women's Memorial, founder Diane Evans talks with Army, Navy, and Marine Corps vets who continue to come to grips with the Vietnam War. She encourages them to continue to seek help for internal scars that she hopes will someday heal, however long it takes.

By four in the afternoon the sun breaks free from the clouds and warms the entire Washington Mall area. Along side the Reflecting Pool just a 100 yards to the right of the Lincoln Memorial

visitors are carrying American flags and making the short trek down to the World War Two Memorial or veering off to visit the Korean War or Vietnam Womens Memorials. Surprisingly, the mood seems upbeat. Despite the names and references to thousands of dead Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines in this concentrated area, the people who have come to visit know that their loved ones or buddies are being remembered on this sacred day. And they know that they'll be back next year to do it all over again, rain or shine.



This memorial the the 101st Airborne is visited by hundreds of people throughout the day.



Mementos at "The Wall".



The Women in Military Service to America Memorial is located near the main entrance of Arlington National Cemetery.

District Planner Takes Advantage of Hurricane Recovery

Classroom theory is one thing, but applying what you've learned is another. At least that's what younger employees find out once they've been in the workforce for a while.

Liz Vallery found this out during her deployment to Alabama working in the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan. A community planner for the District, she was assigned as a municipal coordinator for the clean up area near Mobile. With a Masters Degree in Public Administration earned from UNCW just a short while ago she took her "book smarts" to task and began building relationships with local officials. "With practice and theory there really is a disconnect," she said. "The main thing was having a good relationship with the public affairs officer in the city and the county, always asking the mayor, city council members and county commissioners, 'What can I do for you?' and then trying to deliver."

Vallery also found out that she became energized by her commitment to public service. "I just really enjoyed being there to help the folks in south Alabama. And I met so many amazing and interesting people from all over the Corps. And doing stuff that you don't do in your normal scope of work, having an opportunity to have greater responsibility just expands your capabilities for layering your career."

Vallery said one invaluable lesson she learned during her deployment was something that she could never learn from any college textbook; how to work well with others. "I really learned a level of tolerance for other people that I didn't have before. When you work 12-hour days dealing with very different personalities you learn to pick the battles and you learn how to act



Liz C. Vallery inputs data into the computer concerning the Corps response to the needs of the communities during the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan.



even more professionally. It improved my people skills."

Vallery said she took advantage of even the most mundane chores she was tasked to do. But when the workload started getting heavy she preferred hitting it head on. "It was very challenging, but that's what I like. If I

got bored I'd ask for something else to do. It's a matter of figuring out how to do something, and once you've figured out how to do it, you just do it."

Although another deployment is the farthest thing from her mind right now she wouldn't rule out an overseas deployment. She's used to the military, growing up around Fort Bragg.

"If it were necessary for this organization to go overseas absolutely I would. I'd happily serve my country."

"...having an opportunity to have greater responsibility just expands your capabilities for layering your career."

Damage By Pet Bird Pays Off for District Member

Contributed by Penny Chesnut

Ten years ago Penny Chesnut was "blessed" with a wonderful umbrella cockatoo named Snowy. The bird had been abused and Chesnut knew it would be a challenge to get her to trust again. Eventually, by bribing her with peanuts, Snowy ventured out of her cage and is now a cherished part of the family.

However...Snowy does love to chew wood and cardboard. One morning Chesnut forgot to lock Snowy's cage when she left for work. When she got home that night she found two piles of wood chips next to the bathroom door. Snowy had spent the better part of the day chewing the doorframe through the drywall. The end result was a three-foot by two-foot hole. The carpenter knew it was an animal, but wasn't familiar with the damage a bird could cause. He laughed all the way to the bank with her check for \$450.

But the story doesn't end just yet. Chesnut saw a contest listed in a pet bird magazine titled "IsYour Pet a Homewrecker?" If a pet had done some damage in the home, readers were encouraged to write a 150-word article and send pictures. The grand prize was awarded to five entries and it was one



year of house cleaning or the equivalent of \$2500, a \$100 gift certificate and a gift basket.

Penny originally won 2nd place, which was a \$25 gift cert from a nationwide pet store. Then a week later one of the 1st place winners got disqualified and she was bumped up. So, she then got an additional prize of a gift basket.

Later on, she got a call from a maids home service, and one of the grand prize winners was disqualified. She then received an additional gift certificate from the pet chain for \$75 and \$2500 in cash. The maid service doesn't have an office in Wilmington so she gets the cash equivalent!

Hatmakers Volunteer Time for Cancer Victims



As a side business Jan Wutkowski makes upscale women's hats. She brought in plain hats for volunteers who decorated and worked in teams under her supervision. Lisa Hetherman then gave the hats to the Chapel Hill Cancer Treatment Center. The hats will be given to cancer patients who have lost their hair. The hope is that the hats will warm their hearts as well as their heads. From left to right are volunteers Penny Schmit, Melissa Blackburn-Walton, Jan Wutkowski, Marti Sedgewick, Sharon Day (holding hat) Barbara Victa and Gloria Harris.



Jan Wutkowski

The Best Places to Work in the Federal Government

<http://spa.american.edu/bestplacestowork/>

This site, developed by the Partnership for Public Service and the Institute for the Study of Public Policy Implementation, answers the question, "What are the best places to work in the federal government?" in detail. The study uses

data from the Office of Personal Management's 2002 Federal Human Capital Survey, in which a "Best Places to Work" index was created to measure overall employee satisfaction. Visitors can search rankings for 28 cabinet-level departments, independent agencies, and sub-agency level rankings as well as finding out which places are best to work at for persons under 40, or by looking at places ranked by gender or minority status.

National Security Council

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/>

Established by the National Security Act of 1947, the National Security Council (NSC) is the President's principal forum for considering national security and foreign policy matters with his senior national security advisors and cabinet officials. Visitors can read recent and archived speeches from the National Security Advisor, learn about the Council's history, and the history section is helpful, as it offers some insights into how each President has placed his stamp on the operations of the Council. Brief synopses of the Councils' works during each Presidential term are also included.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Ecosystems Research Division [pdf]

<http://www.epa.gov/athens/>

The ERD website contains information about a wide variety of research including: Nitrogen and Redox Speciation in Environmental Systems; Lock Lake Tidal Marsh Study; Exposure Analysis Modeling System; Oil Spills; Brownfields, and more. The site offers a collection of downloadable publications and fact sheets and lists complete publications from 1995 onward as well.

PBS-Nova Online: Cancer Warrior

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/cancer/>

From the PBS-Nova archives, this Nova program companion website features "surgeon-turned-researcher Dr. Judah Folkman, who, together with colleagues at Children's Hospital in Boston, has spent over 30 years searching for ways to curb cancer by cutting off blood flow to tumors." The website allows visitors to view the entire Cancer Warrior program (originally aired on February 27, 2001) in eight chapter segments including.

OneLook Reverse Dictionary

<http://www.onelook.com/reverse-dictionary.shtml>

Ever find yourself in a position where you cannot seem to remember a certain phrase or word? Rather vexing isn't it? Now the OneLook Reverse Dictionary website can help. Users type in a concept and receive a list of words and phrases related to that concept. There are several other uses to the site, including the ability to explore related concepts or to answer basic identification questions. Or just use it to help solve the New York Times crossword puzzle clues.

The Native Fish Conservancy: Photo Gallery

<http://www.nativefish.org/Gallery/index.html>

From the Native Fish Conservancy, this ever-growing online Photo Gallery currently contains more than 550 images. At present, photos are organized alphabetically by scientific name, but future updates will include common names as well. Gallery visitors will discover images of fish like the Western Sand Darter (*Ammocrypta clara*), Blue Sucker (*Cycleptus elongatus*), Hornyhead Chub (*Nocomis biguttatus*), and Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*), to name just a few. Visitors can also link to other parts of the NFC site including information about Adopt-A-Tank, Exotics Removal, Breeders Program, and electronic mailing lists.

USAPhotoMaps 2.49

<http://www.jdmcox.com/>

Designed for those who have a need for maps from the United States Geological Survey. Visitors can download aerial photographs and topographic maps from Microsoft's Terraserver website, scroll through the maps, mark waypoints, and center the map on any particular waypoint.

University of Minnesota: Sedimentology Group [pdf]

<http://www.geo.umn.edu/orgs/seds/>

The sedimentology group at the University of Minnesota presents its research in earthscape processes at this website. Visitors can find out about the goals, results, and publications of three main research areas: experimental stratigraphy and landscape evolution, theoretical sedimentology and stratigraphy, and river dynamics. The site offers downloads for many of the group's publications.

One For Fun!

Sauerkraut Recipes

<http://www.sauerkrautrecipes.com/>

This site will be a certain hit with those who have discovered the joys of fermented cabbage in its many incarnations and variations. One interesting little-known fact about sauerkraut is that it is an excellent source of lactobacilli (even more so than yogurt) and vitamin C. Find helpful recipes here, such as ones for classic kraut balls, reuben dip, country ribs and kraut, and kraut quiche. Think sauerkraut can only be used in entrees? See the dessert recipes that feature sauerkraut, including one for sauerkraut custard pie-yum? There's even a sauerkraut chat discussion room!

Another Successful Youth Hunt at W. Kerr Scott

The 2004 North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission-Warrior Creek Youth hunt took place on November 6 at Marley's Ford Wildlife Management Area. "This year," said Bryant Curry, "we had 20 participants including two young ladies. In fact, the first kill was by one of those young ladies." Participants were drawn from a pool of applicants received by the Wildlife Resources Commission in Raleigh.

Each youth attended a required daylong orientation on October 30. This course allowed Corps personnel and North Carolina Wildlife Officers to present information to the group concerning a wide variety of information. Topics included using tree-stands and firearm safety to whitetail deer biology and hunting ethics. Each hunter then drew hunting zones, covering Marley's Ford Wildlife Management Area and all of Warrior Creek Campground. Participants spent the rest of the afternoon scouting good locations and placing hunting stands.

Corps rangers Bryant Curry and Larry Harris and 33 degree temperatures greeted participants as they arrived around sunrise on November 6. The day got off to a slow start with only one deer taken before noon. Things picked up after lunch with eight more deer taken. The two bucks and seven does ranged between 30 and 110 pounds. The 110 pound, 6-point buck was the largest taken during both the 2003 and 2004 hunts. The oldest doe was approximately 6 1/2 years old and the youngest was approximately six months.

Wildlife Commission Officers were on-hand to record harvest data on all deer taken during the youth hunt. Accurate records obtained from jawbones, antlers and other parts of the deer help determine the age and general health of the deer population in a given area. Harvest Data is collected to help determine population trends and numbers. This data allows wildlife managers to better manage herd, plan for future seasons, and establish appropriate regulations.

This was the second year for the Youth Hunt at Marley's Ford; however, the program has been in existence for 20 years. "Our goal," said B.B. Gillen, Outdoor Skills Coordinator, North Carolina Division of Conservation Education, "is to provide a quality first experience for beginning hunters. These kids get a real advantage by taking their first deer in a controlled and managed area."

W. Kerr Scott has six wildlife management areas: Boomer, Dark Mountain, Fort Hamby, Marley's Ford, and Smithey's Creek East and West Units. All areas are accessible by vehicle except Dark Mountain, which requires that hunters hike in. Be sure to contact the Visitor Assistance Center before you hunt as certain rules and restrictions apply to hunting on Federally owned property.

Corps Family News

Colonel Ray Alexander accepted "The Mary 'Rusty' Alexander" Army Family Team Building Instructor of the Year award in honor of his late wife at the AFTB 10th Anniversary Luncheon Celebration December 10th in Greenville, SC.

Bobby Willis and his wife Cathy have a new granddaughter born to their older daughter, Melissa. Baby Brooks Allison Wallace was born October 28th and weighed in at six pounds, five ounces and measured 18.5 inches long.

Jeff Manning and his wife Alison are the proud parents of a little girl, Molly Isabel Manning. Molly was born November 21st. She weighed seven pounds, 10 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Congratulations to Jeff and Alison on the arrival of their first child!

Tom Freeman's son Jacob Thomas Freeman (Jake) received his graduate degree in mechanical engineering from the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, North Carolina State University on 15 December 2004. His thesis was Energy Conservation in Mobile Classrooms.

Dana Lee was married November 13th in Virginia to Mr. Rob Matics.

Shane Jones and his wife Mona, participated in the Festival of Trees November 27th at the Hilton ballroom. The festival is sponsored by the Lower Cape Fear Hospice.

On November 6, Jonathan Wells, son of **Mary Wells**, was married to the former Kelly Howerton in Mecklenburg Baptist Temple, in Boydton, VA. The bride's seven year old son, Austin, gave her away. Her husband, Reverend A. C. Wells, Jr. officiated the service.

Reaching Out

Greg Williams gave a presentation to an "Introduction to Coastal Management" class at UNCW. The title of the presentation was "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Role in Coastal Engineering and Shore Protection." It was a great opportunity to tell the Corps story about the Federal budget process, planning and shore protection projects.

Justin McCorcle gave a presentation to environmental attorneys on Wetlands Law at a continuing legal education course in Cary in October.

Bill Adams spoke to the Cape Fear Chapter of the Sierra Club on 8 November about the Natural History of the Cape Fear River and the impacts of past navigation improvements.

John Roberts, II gave a slide presentation on the Gulf Region Division to the Society of American Military Engineers at Heironymous Restaurant in October.

The Staff at W. Kerr Scott hosted more than 300 students in October to learn about flood control, Leave-No-Trace principles, and water safety where they viewed the newly released "Young and the Reckless" video.



Sweet Greetings...

USACE employees and GIs deployed to Iraq received more than a hundred pounds of candy from the Wilmington District and Dr. Warren Phillips, a Wilmington orthodontist. Dr. Phillips paid his clients by the pound for Halloween candy, and then brought it over to the District to pack up and send to Iraq. Money for shipping costs was donated by SAW employees.

Retiree Report

Attendees: Sylvia and Rex Phillips, Bettye and Bob Swart, Max Grimes, Lawrence Crawley, Joe Lewis, Julia and Joe Spahr, Ron Fascher, Cheryl and Ed Shuford, Dan Grimsley, Doris and Ken Old, Betty and Eric Matzke, Lloyd A. Tyndall.

Activities: Once again we met at McDaniel's Creamery on the 1st Thursday of November. We will continue to meet on the 1st Thursday at the Creamery until further notice. We had a very nice gathering again this month. It was great to have Julia and Joe Spahr with us and we hope they will make a regular thing.

The traveling continues with this group. Sylvia and Rex Phillips visited the Airborne Museum at Fayetteville, NC. They also toured the potteries and pottery center. Eric Matzke went to Pennsylvania for a train show in October. Bettye and Bob Swart spent three interesting and fruitful days at the Wee Kirk Conference in Montreat, NC

Cheryl and Ed are still enjoying the "country life" in Brunswick County. They almost have a clear view of the marsh. The grandkids visit often. They traveled to the State Fair with their 4 year old grandson, Austin, and a grand time was had by all.

We have been having good attendance from Joe Lewis these last couple of months. I hope he can keep it up. I noticed a little comment from Max Grimes with regards to there not being a buffet at the restaurant, but he seemed to make out pretty well from the menu. It was good that Lloyd Tyndall could take off a little time from his buy schedule to be with us. We have been a little concern about Gus Moore, because we have not seem him since the change in the meeting place. He may still be going to the other place, just kidding, Gus. We wish you all a happy holiday season and if you get a chance come see us next month.

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