Wilmington District News

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On the Cover:
A contract diver prepares to submerge to the bottom of Lock #1 to check the amount of accumulated mud during replacement of a 90-year-old quoin.

Up Front...

District's glass is half full, Commander says

No doubt about it, there's nothing like a boom time to make you feel safe and confident. If we could look around our District and our world and say about everything we see

'our cup is running over,' that would be the best of all possible worlds. The truth is, we are not in boom times. We are in a time of war, and a time of strong challenges to some of our traditional projects and ways of doing business.

But although our cup isn't running over right now, it certainly is half full rather than half empty.

We are a valued resource: I just returned from my annual visit to our elected Representatives and Senators in Washington, D.C. I can tell you truly that every single one of the 15 Representatives and four Senators I visited is very supportive of the Corps in general and Wilmington District in particular. Both the North Carolina and Virginia delegations have fought hard for our programs and studies. I heard a great deal from them about their trust and confidence in what we are doing, and the value their constituents place on our services.

Our senior leaders trust us to be productive: Both in the current fiscal year, and for FY 2006, I see strong evidence that we are being entrusted with significant resources despite fiscal constraints.

After a major effort on the part of commercial fishermen and other mariners, Congressional interests took their concerns about North Carolina's shallow draft inlets to HQ USACE. The result is about $1 million in additional funds for dredging in FY 05. The prudent and careful work we have done to maintain the fleet will now pay off, some of our temporary workers will be called back to their jobs, and valued navigation

– Continued on page 11

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Louis Belden: Wilmington District's First African American Careerist?

According to a brief article in **Strength Through Struggle: The Chronological and Historical Record of the African-American Community in Wilmington, North Carolina, 1865-1950** compiled by William M. Reaves (New Hanover County Public Library, 1998) Wilmington District's first black team member may have retired from the District as early as 1935.

Louis Belden was born in Wilmington on December 10, 1868. With only an elementary education, he was able to qualify for a clerical position with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. One of his responsibilities was writing the monthly report, which was forwarded to the War Department in Washington, and resulted in many commendations for his excellent work. He retired from the Federal Government on June 30, 1935.

Drafting must have been a skill he either brought to the Wilmington District, or learned while working with the district. During his employment at the Corps of Engineers, he established his own business, drafting blueprints for local civil engineers and architects. His sons joined him in the family business before they established their own careers.

This home where Belden once lived is located near New Hanover High School.

Belden married Julia Sadgwar, also a Wilmington native, born January 2, 1879, the daughter of Frederick Cutlar and Caroline Huggins Sadgwar. The family residence was originally located at 24 South Sixteenth Street and was built by Mrs. Belden's father, a prominent black builder of the time. The house was moved to 117 South Fourteenth Street in 1959. The Beldens were members of Chestnut Street Presbyterian Church, where Belden was an officer.

The Beldens had several children. Zelda died at just 3 years of age. Louis Belden, Junior, a blueprinter with his father, died in 1925 at the age of 22. Louise Sadgwar Belden taught music at St. Stephen's A.M.E. Church. Harold Belden, served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. Another daughter, Rebecca, married a Mr. Coleman. Their son Rodney Coleman was a graduate of the Howard University School of Architecture and became director for the Central Foundry Division of General Motors in 1980.

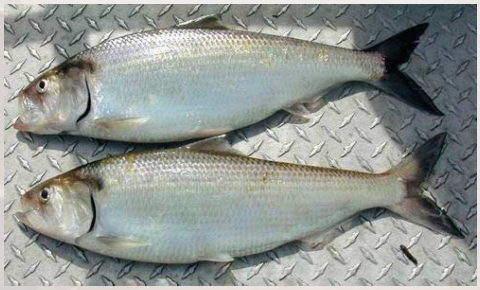
Louis Belden died on March 7, 1954 at the age of 86.

Does anyone have an interest in researching to find out more about the life and times of Mr. Louis Belden in the Wilmington District? The Wilmington District Public Affairs Office will be eager to help you write up and publish your findings as an article for our newspaper, and to get it on record with the Corps History Office.

Lock Repairs Will Help Fish Migrate Upstream

Lockmaster Robin Hall adjusts the flow of water in Lock # 1 to lower the Snell as it prepares for the next stage of maintenance.

During the second week of March anadromous fish (fish that migrate up rivers from the ocean to breed in fresh water) will pass through the newly repaired Lock and Dam 1 located about 45 minutes from Wilmington on the Cape Fear River. Just a few short weeks ago crewmembers from the debris vessel Snell finished replacing a 90-year-old oak wood quoin, a hinge-like device affixed to the lock's gates, that simply rotted away over time. The new nylon quoin is custom made and should last indefinitely, according to Lock Master Robin Hall.



American Shad (alosa sapidissima)

The timing of the repair to the lock was critical. There's a short window in which fish like the American Shad make their way back to their original spawning grounds. Similar repairs at Locks 2 and 3 will ensure safe passage. Now the fish will be able to stick to the timetable Mother Nature intended for them as part of their natural life cycle. Hall, who diligently keeps an eye on Lock and Dam #1, has been instrumental in making sure those fish make their journey up the Cape Fear all the way to Fayetteville . He grew up on the river, and he knows it so well that he's become somewhat of a self-taught fish behavioralist. 18 years ago a Sea Grant paid for a study to find out how fish pass through locks. For three years he and UNCW marine biologist Mary Mosher tried various methods to get the fish to meander their way into the lock chamber to get to open water on their journey upstream. "They used to open both of the gates downstream and open all of the valves slightly. The fish would come into the chamber, but just as quickly as they'd come in they'd turn around and go out."

Hall became very observant of what the fish were doing. He noticed that when he was standing on the outside wall watching the fisherman he could see fish running against the outside of the lock like bunches of sardines. "Well, when you're in a boat you can't see them," he said. "So, I began thinking about why the fish would run against the wall. I adjusted the valves to run a stream of water against the wall trying to imitate the river and it worked. We had electronic transmitters in the fish that we had captured and we found that method worked better than anything we had tried."

Through trial and error he modified the flow of the water in the locks to mimic the natural flow of the river, something

This newly installed nylon quoin replaced an oak wood quoin and should last indefinitely.

that the fish would respond to. "In order to get the fish to come into the lock chamber the upstream locks are closed and valves are opened to put a stream of water on the inside wall. We then open the lower downstream gates in the flood position. We also open the one gate on the downstream inside and we get a good flow of water against the lock wall. That water flow attracts the fish into the chamber."

Robin Hall, who was born and raised along the Cape Fear River, is dedicated to the preservation of life in and along his beloved river.

Hall said he expects this year to be good for the American shad. The plan is to leave upstream gates open for them and other fish for one hour in what they call "release mode" which starts at 7AM and closes at 7PM to get three complete passages. He said the return has been conservatively estimated at about 60 percent, although he believes it's more like 80 percent. "Cape Fear has been abundant with shad and striped bass. A lot of old timers fish commercially. I've had guys coming up to me saying that they had to fish all day just to get enough fish to sell. Coming here now, in an hour's time, they've got all the fish they need."

The Snell nears the bottom of the lock so crew members and divers can more effectively work on hard-to-reach areas.

Snell crewmember George Tootle tends hoses used for flushing away debris.

When Man-Made Structures and Nature Work Together...

In 2002, The Nature Conservancy joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in a collaborative national program called the Sustainable Rivers Project. It worked with the Corps to assess opportunities for modifying operations of 16 dams on 12 rivers to improve ecosystem health. For more than thirty years the Corps regulated lake levels, downstream flows, and water temperatures for recreation, irrigation, and flood control. However, The Nature Conservancy worked with the Army Corps of Engineers to alter the operation of the Corps' Green River Dam. By reducing the flow of water from the dam it soon mimicked the natural flow of the Green River. Fresh water mussels, which were used as indicator species that measured the health of the river, are thriving, along with various species of fish.

Maser Returns to SAW as Chief of Tech Services Division

A lot has changed since Hank Maser first came to the Wilmington District in 1975. He spent seven years here before heading on a two-year stint in Saudi Arabia, then wound up back in the U.S. with the Middle East District based in Winchester, Virginia, then the Baltimore District and later the Pittsburgh District. "I'm very honored and happy to be back in Wilmington with the opportunity to help shape the future of the District," he said.

At all of these locations he picked up bits and pieces of knowledge and experience which earned him the well-rounded background to become SAW's Chief of the Technical Services Division. "I have been around the Corps, I've seen what several different districts do and how they operate and what their working processes are," he said. "So, I've seen what works well, what doesn't work well and I think that gives me a good perspective to evaluate what could work better, particularly as we work more with our sister districts in the region now that we're regionalizing."

Maser says one of the biggest challenges to the Corps during regionalization is upsetting routines that most people in a District are familiar with. However, for the organization to meet present and future needs, change is not something to be afraid of, but must be embraced. "We realize that if you work with somebody who hasn't dealt with a lot of change previously in their career, now all of a sudden they're working for someone 300 miles away and have never met, it will take some getting used to."

Maser feels the Wilmington District's role in the current regionalization plan will be strong. "When the plan is initiated we'll have three planning centers in the region and three civil design centers with two primary military design centers. Wilmington will be one of the planning centers and one of the civil design centers. And it will bring on new challenges. Part of our team will be in Charleston on the Planning and Engineering side. On the Engineering side part of our team will be located in Savannah. It's all virtual work and that will create some challenges just in developing interpersonal relationships and implementing common methods on how to get the work done. It's just a different way of doing business and we will all need to get comfortable with it."

Looking into the future a few years Maser sees the Wilmington District as holding its own. "I think it looks good for us. The way we in SAD have decided to regionalize will be a good thing for Wilmington. I think we'll have a good, strong planning and engineering group. My greatest concern about workload right now is that we are developing a lot of studies that will result in good products for the state and the taxpayer, but will not produce a lot of construction. So, one challenge for the District is to maintain our construction capability."

Hank Maser chats with a contractor on the beach at Bald Head Island during a beneficial use of dredged material project.

Team Building on Agenda of New Chief of Programs Management Branch

Jim Medlock likes a challenge. So, he decided that he'd challenged himself enough at the division level in Dallas and packed his bags to come to the Wilmington District. "It's nice to come back to a district office where the real work is done, where you're not pushing paperwork all of the time. I'm now working with an outstanding group of District professionals and it's great working directly with our customers every day."

Medlock comes to Wilmington hitting the ground running as the new Chief of Programs Management Branch. One of his strong points that he brings to the Wilmington District is team building, an area in which he excelled even when his team was not in the immediate area. "When you're at a division office, the people you deal with every day aren't necessarily sitting right next to you. They're sitting three or four hundred miles away in another district office. So what you do is develop skills to be able to work with and motivate people that are not in your direct line of supervision."

Jim Medlock volunteered his time keeping score on math problems during a recent Math counts competition held at Myrtle Grove Middle School.

> *"When our customers do need something we can reach out to other districts and bring in that expertise. I see that as a great strength of the Corps of Engineers."*

Medlock says that because of his experience in long-distance team building he's well suited to jump into "regionionalization", a term that's becoming more familiar within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "There just is not a district today that can provide all of the services that our customer expects. So, that's why we have 'One Door to the Corps' and that's why we have the regionalization initiatives today. When our customers do need something we can reach out to other districts and bring in that expertise. I see that as a great strength of the Corps of Engineers."

Medlock emphasizes that regionalization will take some time getting used to. However, he says that the question everyone in the District must ask is how do we take care of our customers and meet their needs? "In today's world that may mean that people working on a project in a team may not be physically sitting in a Wilmington District office anymore. There's a convenience of managing people sitting right next to you in an office cubicle. But when they're 500 miles away that brings in just another set of complexities to managing the workforce."

One thing that Medlock believes in as part of a proven management strategy is the the proverbial "thinking out of the box." And one of his ways of incorporating this strategy is bringing together a diverse team to solve a problem and listening to every idea. "For example, in the programs office, you just can't stay in your corner of the world and try to do it on your own. You rely on everybody to help. And I learned a long time ago that to build team spirit and trust you have to be willing to listen to other people's opinions because that what a team's all about. Not one person has all the answers."

A "Lucky Buckeye" for John H. Kerr – Tim Rainey Named Operations Manager

By Sherrie Storm, Park Ranger, JHK

Kerr hit a lucky streak when former Ohio State student Tim Rainey recently was named to the position of Operations Manager at Wilmington District's largest reservoir.

His "no-nonsense" philosophy paired with his at-once likeable personality is the result of his years of training and experience in law enforcement. Previously the Chief Ranger at Lake Seminole in Mobile District, Tim was serving a temporary position in the Mobile District Office in 2003 when he was selected as the Assistant Operations Manager at Kerr. His journey to Kerr is an interesting story, and is testimony to the power of the Corps to attract excellent employees from other agencies.

Born in New Orleans, Tim spent his early years in Mississippi. He moved with his family to Ohio when he was five, and graduated high school in Lima. Fascinated with the law and all its aspects, Tim attended Ohio State University for two years, majoring in criminology.

"To this day I am a HUGE Buckeye fan, and proudly fly my Ohio State flag at my home, much to the consternation of my neighbors in Henderson, North Carolina," joked Tim about now residing in the heart of Carolina territory.

Tim left Ohio State after two years. "I was intrigued by the law, from the court system to Constitutional law, and even considered law school. I found out that Memphis State offered a degree in Criminal Justice so I transferred," said Rainey.

After earning his Bachelor's Degree in 1988, Tim considered police work until one day he was introduced to a recruiter from the National Park Service.

"I discovered I could work law enforcement as well as be outside in a park atmosphere. It sounded perfect," Rainey explained.

Tim attended NPS Seasonal Law Enforcement training and began work as a Park Ranger with the Fish and Wildlife Service at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge in Massachusetts.

"I had no idea that when the temperatures dropped to 60 below hunters would come out," laughed Rainey, "but there they were—hundreds of them. It was just too dang cold for me."

Tim then worked for the NPS at Gulf Island (FL) National Seashore and then the Chattahoochee River.

The NPS land abutted Corps land at Lake Sidney Lanier. One day while on patrol Tim ventured into the visitor center at Lanier to do some interagency communication, and his life changed instantly.

"I was immediately attracted to the Corps' philosophy for their Park Rangers – public service with regulation enforcement, while being able to actually manage programs. Here was a job where I didn't have to carry a gun and I could do more than drive around on patrol. The Corps' Park Rangers had program responsibility in all areas of natural resources management, real estate, administration, and enforcement. I was hooked."

Rainey explained that he began his career with the Corps at Sidney-Lanier as a GS 5/6 Park Ranger so he could make the agency switch.

He has had no regrets. His greatest accomplishment so far was being selected to serve a five-month developmental assignment in Headquarters in Washington, DC. While there he was able to take part in policy issues dealing with natural resources, Office of Council, Real Estate, and Public Affairs.

His proudest achievement to date was the Water Safety Program that he expanded at Sidney Lanier, a program in which he personally takes part wholeheartedly at Kerr.

Today Rainey sees great challenges and exciting opportunities. "This job is my most challenging because of the variety of issues as well as the complexity of managing this lake," said Rainey.

"We are upholding the Corps mission of managing multiple functions and stakeholders while striving to main-

"We are the front line, the first office in line for the public when it comes to problems and concerns. If we can tell the Corps story from here, then we have local support,"

tain a balance – the best use of the resources for the most people over the longest period of time," stated Rainey.

Tim went on to explain his working philosophy regarding daily life at Kerr. "We are the front line, the first office in line for the public when it comes to problems and concerns. If we can tell the Corps story from here, then we have local support," he said.

"We are part of the communities and we are reaching out to them. I want to be there to meet with them. I am their point of contact for whatever their concerns may be, and I will get their concerns addressed."

"My job also is to look after my staff," said Tim with a grin, "and to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and is afforded every opportunity to excel. We have a tremendous staff here, and I have already seen some excellent work. I plan to continue that excellence and direct their energies to where we need it most. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing one of my employees move up the career ladder."

Tim has accolades for his Wilmington District Office support TEAM as well. "No one does this job alone," said Rainey. "Not only do I have coordination with the public, but also with the many District elements as well. In managing this reservoir, we have Operations Support, Environmental, Planning, Cultural, Real Estate, Hydropower, Water Management, Safety, the list goes on," Tim explained.

"They do a great job, and these subject matter experts provide me with the vital links to information that I need to do my job."

Tim Rainey.

In looking toward the future, Tim sees Kerr's land use requests increasing exponentially, and the resources undergoing more stress as the years go by.

"The next few years will be a critical test of our responsible stewardship†as we work with communities that desire both development and preservation,." said Tim. "I have the unique opportunity to potentially directly influence the future of Kerr Reservoir."

Tim resides in Henderson with his wife, Marina and their eight-month old son, Timothy.

Becoming a Steward of the Future

By Miriam Fleming, Outreach Coordinator, W. Kerr Scott

When I was offered the position of Outreach Coordinator at W. Kerr Scott back in 2003, I was challenged to earn the North Carolina Environmental Education Certificate (NCEEC). Not realizing what that entailed, I eagerly enrolled. Little did I know the course included five core elements requiring a minimum of 200 hours of workshops, partnerships, teaching, facility visits and out-of-doors experiences.

North Carolina has always been concerned about the health of its environment. With its diverse natural and cultural resources, people compete for control of the land and water. This competition is seen most dramatically in the development of the fragile mountain and coastal environments affecting wetlands, property rights, water supplies, air quality and waste disposal.

Recognizing the value of natural and cultural resources, the North Carolina legislature passed legislation creating the Office of Environmental Education in 1990. However, it wasn't until 1993 that the General Assembly enacted the North Carolina Environmental Education Act. This legislation called for the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), along with other state and federal agencies, to plan and implement a statewide education program.

The North Carolina Environmental Education Plan (NCEEP) was unveiled in April 1995 focusing on promoting a conservation ethic and a sense of stewardship in the leaders of tomorrow. In order to teach future generations, the NCEEP focused on rewarding individuals who demonstrated a desire to teach the principles of stewardship – like me.

Areas in and around Grandfather Mountain (above), the mountains of Western NC (below left) and the coast need protection from overdevelopment.

Towards the end of my first recreation season, I received my notice of enrollment, still not fully aware of the commitment I had made. I received my program packet containing all the details of the program early in August 2003. Imagine my surprise when I found I was required to dedicate at least 250 hours to this program. Not only that, a minimum of 20 hours was devoted to an Action Partnership, i.e., I had to talk to some of our local volunteer groups and get them to devote many hours to completing a project.

As luck would have it, W. Kerr Scott was representing the Wilmington District as a project site for National Public Lands Day in September 2003. The Brushy Mountain Cycling Club (BMCC) had already developed almost seven miles of bike trails in the Dark Mountain Recreation Area and was more than willing to continue that development on the other side of the lake. In addition, Paul Carson, the superintendent for the National Park Services, Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVT), agreed to incorporate this new trail segment into the park services trail system.

As volunteer coordinator at W. Kerr Scott, I assigned volunteers from the Boy Scouts of America, Environmental Forestry, and the BMCC to work on the

trail project during and after National Public Lands Day. I wasn't sure whether this qualified for the Action Partnership requirement so I called Libby Wilcox, NCEEC Program Manager, in Raleigh. To my amazement, I had completed my Action Partnership and didn't even realize it. Not only that, I completed the 30 hours of required teaching during that first summer by present programs I developed such as

"Lessons of the Lorax: Sustaining your Environment," "Where did that Come From: A look at Marine Debris," and "The Forest Community: All Things are Connected."

Boy that was easy. Maybe the rest would be too. I started attending workshops and visiting other environmental centers. I've even signed a few contact sheets for other educators visiting W. Kerr Scott. This program offers some great programs. I've taken workshops on American Black Bears, participated in studies for the Red Wolf Recovery Program, and learned how to use GIS programs. I've met lots of other participants and have been able to network ideas and supplies for innovative programs.

The best part of this program is all the great **FREE** resources participants receive to take back and put to use in their own regions. What does this program do for Corps rangers? It not only teaches us, but it provides additional resources for us to enter the classroom or campground and provide structured relevant information for all age groups. With the focus of North Carolina schools on standardized testing results, many of the resources help tailor our programs to fit those curriculum requirements thereby making us a great tool for our local schoolteachers.

We at W. Kerr Scott have an additional project – the development of an environmental education center. While we are already listed in the *North Carolina Guide to Environmental Education Centers,* our hope is that in the near future, the Visitor Assistance Center basement will be transformed into a showcase of environmental learning.

I'm one of the lucky few. My schedule – and manager – has afforded me the opportunity to fast track my participation in the program. I am on schedule to graduate this winter completing the 4-year program in just over two years.

Miriam Fleming with a group of school kids near W. Kerr Scott.

– Continued from page 2

channels will get some much-needed maintenance. When our work is vital to our customers, it competes successfully for resources.

The FY 2006 Budget gives more proof that our history of executing projects on time and on or under budget has won us a significant share of the available Civil Works funding for the coming year. Indeed, we received $18 million more than in FY 05.

- Wilmington Harbor Project is slated to receive $19 million to move ahead.
- The John H. Kerr Rehab will have $14 million
- The Roanoke Flood Reduction project received $5 million – more than we expected.
- We also received funding for the important Kerr section 216 study and the Currituck Sound Study.

These are very healthy funding amounts in a time of scarcity, a strong sign that we are seen as a proven, productive force for change in our region.

We have not 'maxed out' our capabilities: Neither this District nor the Corps as a whole has peaked. We can get better—more effective, more efficient, better able to deliver on time, top quality, on budget work. Regionalization initiatives are still being worked out as we go to press, but we already know that we are heading in directions that will be good for business. All of these initiatives are about developing greater access to the skills available throughout the South Atlantic Region for planning, design, contracting, acquisition and other business processes. I am well aware that this is the kind of change that makes some people uneasy. I ask that you stay closely tuned as the details fall into place, and look for the opportunities that an enhanced ability to work across boundaries genuinely offers.

We are good at handling change: Our Objective Organization continues to keep us well within the zone of healthy reality. Because we have been able to be smart about our staffing levels in relation to our workload, we have no need for RIF, or VERA / VSIP implementations this year. Nor do I see the potential for those kinds of actions on our horizon.

Other changes hovering in the future include the National Security Personnel System or NSPS, and the ongoing A76 study of our Information Management function. Where the NSPS is concerned, remember that we are in the very early stages of this process. The public comment period recently closed, and we'll be getting some feedback from that. We are not in the first wave of implementation, so we will have some time to assess what the system means, and prepare to make the best use of changes both for our mission and for our work force.

I am proud that we have an active, deeply engaged role in the A76 process. I applaud and support the excellent and in-depth work our own team members are contributing. We all know that the quality of the homework being done today will have a big impact when the final test comes later. Both the Performance Work Statement and the Most Efficient Organization teams are putting tremendous effort into seeing that the outcome affords the best possible support to this essential part of our mission.

Perception is reality:
All these factors add up to great potential for our District and for each one of you as team members in our enterprise. Envisioning and seeking out the most positive opportunities in your visual field is one of the strongest tools you have to help make the future bright for the customers we serve. If collectively we all do this, you yourself, the District, Division and Corps of Engineers, will have the best opportunity to ensure that in the coming years, the glass is not just half full, but running over.

Work on Fort Hamby Park Forges Ahead

By Jory Shepherd, Park Ranger

Construction and repair work have finally begun on Fort Hamby Park thanks to special funding awarded to W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. A joint effort by Operations Support Section and Kerr Scott staff resulted in the reservoir being one of only six projects in the nation to receive $750,000 earmarked for renovation of recreation facilities. This park area was previously managed by county government and turned back to the Corps in 2003 due to budget shortfalls. After a considerable amount of work, the Corps was able to re-open the park in April 2004 for day use only. The former Wilkes County Park was christened Fort Hamby Park in keeping with the local history of the area.

Fort Hamby, really just a farmhouse, gets its name from Hamby sisters who occupied the house during the civil war. In the spring of 1865 about the time of the surrender of General Lee, a band of about eighty-five union deserters and desperadoes, made headquarters at the site. This band roamed the country on horseback in large numbers, living off the loot they pilfered and robbed from the people in Alexander, Caldwell, Wilkes, and Watauga counties. The local citizenry were enraged at the conduct of these robbers and determined to drive them out of the country or capture and destroy them. Men from Caldwell, Alexander, Iredell, and Wilkes joined forces and shortly before daybreak, surrounded the fort and began an attack. The house was set on fire and several of the defeated renegades were hung at the site. Jory Shepherd, Recreational Park Ranger said, "We are really looking forward to developing interpretive trails from the park entrance to the nearby historic site."

The location of Fort Hamby Park is ideal in the promotion of the recreational opportunities at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir as it is the only campground on the north side of the lake. In keeping with the historical theme, the new park attendant station will be altered to project a log cabin theme and group areas and roads have been named with the Fort Hamby story in mind. Within the multi purpose park there are reservable picnic shelters, playgrounds, a boat ramp, swim beach and individual picnic sites on the day use side. The planned campground renovation will offer a variety of opportunities for the visiting public, Scout groups and other organizations. Planned are 32 campsites with electricity and water hookups, two modern bathhouses are being designed, a playground, courtesy dock and fishing platform, group areas complete with amphitheater.

Another exciting initiative at Ft. Hamby Park involves a partnership with a local theater group called the Wilkes Playmakers. A partnership agreement reached just recently will bring to the park an outdoor play that depicts the life and times of local legend Tom Dooley, who in fact lived and traveled in and about the reservoir area. Operations Manager Terry Ramsey said,

"The return of the play will not only increase park attendance figures but increase user fee collections that will ultimately go toward improving recreational future facilities". In addition, in exchange for being able to utilize the park area the theater group will contributing funds, volunteer labor, and design work to improve park facilities.

"We are really looking forward to developing interpretive trails from the park entrance to the nearby historic site."

Cape Fear Post of S.A.M.E. Invites Folks to Become Members

Jane Penny, Regional Vice President for the Society of American Military Engineers, swears in newly-appointed officers of the Cape Fear Post of S.A.M.E. From left to right: Penny, Marilyn Knowlton, Bobby Willis, Virginia Rynk, Deputy District Engineer LTC Harvey "Bud" Jones, John Hazelton, Jimmy Hargrove and president Shane Lippard.

The Society of American Military Engineers' mission is direct: "To promote and facilitate engineering support for national security by developing and enhancing relationships and competencies among uniformed services, public and private sector engineers, and related professionals." It's vision is also direct: "To be a premier global engineering organization leading the professional and personal growth of all members in support of military readiness and development of solutions to national security challenges."

According to the organization's historians, S.A.M.E. is the only professional engineering association in the United States that connects architects, engineers and builders in government and industry, uniting them in efforts to improve individual and collective capabilities. Since its founding in 1920, SAME members have been dedicated to working through The Society to improve America's security by advancing and enhancing the country's engineering prowess.

Bobby Willis, Sergeant at Arms for the Cape Fear Post of S.A.M.E., explains some of the advantages of becoming a S.A.M.E. member. "What you get is, by this being a professional organization, is information related to engineering, of course, but it has a slant toward national events on the military side. The whole idea is to try to incorporate engineers, not only from the public sector, but also the private sector with the thought being that there's a working relationship for national defense."

For those engineers with a professional engineer license Willis says they can earn Professional Development Hours (PDH) which are required in North Carolina for maintaining the license. Willis stresses members don't necessarily have to be affiliated with a military organization like the Corps to join. "We get people not only from the District, but sometimes from around the city because of the subject matter. They can be from the private sector."

Jan Wutkowski

Website Highlights

Future Scientists & Engineers of America
http://www.fsea.org/

Future Scientists and Engineers of America (FSEA) is "a national non profit organization which provides the structure, project material, documentation and workshop training necessary to establish after school technology clubs in K-12 schools." The organization has selected programs that can be easily implemented into schools to give students an opportunity to work in teams and experience hands-on engineering projects in ways that mirror what engineers or scientists would do. A short description and the full plan for each project is available as a free download. The program involves the community, students, parents, schools, businesses, technical and civic organizations, and universities and colleges as well PTA/PTO organizations. Handbooks, guides and directories are also available to download.

AMS: Math in the Media
http://www.ams.org/mathmedia/

Math in the Media is a monthly publication of the American Mathematical Society. Writer Tony Phillips reviews and summarizes stories about math found in publications such as the New York Times, Time magazine, and the Boston Globe, where an article appeared about mathematicians studying the mechanics of NC's Venus flytrap. Another section includes reviews of books, plays, movies and television shows that are related to mathematics.

USDA Forest Service: Research & Development Treesearch
http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/

Treesearch offers online access to a large collection of publications by USDA Forest Service Research and Development scientists. The collection holds close to 10,000 publications, "making it the largest freely available collection of online forestry research in the world," and these can be viewed and printed online. Searches can be conducted by Keywords, Author, and Title.

Caribbean Conservation Corporation & Sea Turtle Survival League
http://cccturtle.org/ccctmp.htm

As the oldest sea turtle organization on the globe (founded in 1959), the Caribbean Conservation Corporation (CCC) "works to enact protective laws and establish refuges for the preservation of sea turtle habitats and coastal environments." The CCC created the Sea Turtle Survival League (STSL) in 1993 "as a public education and advocacy program to begin addressing the threats that face U.S. sea turtle populations." The CCC & STSL website contains information about a number of sea turtle programs and projects, tracking sea turtles, different sea turtle species, and ways to become a sea turtle conservationist. CCC also offers a public discussion board, a variety of downloadable publications (including activities for kids), and a collection of related links.

USGS: Toxic Substances Hydrology Program
http://toxics.usgs.gov/index.html

The USGS's Toxic Substances Hydrology Program supplies "scientific information to improve characterization and management of contaminated sites, to protect human and environmental health, and to reduce potential future contamination problems." The website provides examples of the program's three major research areas: subsurface point-source contamination; watershed and regional scale contamination; and methods development and fundamental research. A list of downloads to recent publications, a series of educational fact sheets, and a photo gallery are also available.

Our Earth as Art
http://earthasart.gsfc.nasa.gov/index.htm

The USGS and NASA have teamed up to bring the public beautifully amazing images of the Earth taken by the Landsat-7 satellite and the Terra Satellite's Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER). Visitors can browse the images by continent or alphabetically. The website allows users to download these stunning images as posters and wallpaper.

Science Cartoons Plus
http://www.sciencecartoonsplus.com/gallery.htm

This website features cartoons by S. Harris. His cartoons have been exhibited at museums in the U.S. and Canada since 1984 and have appeared in periodicals such as Discover, American Scientist, The New Yorker, and Natural History Magazine. The gallery includes cartoons organized by topics such as Astronomy, Computers, Environment, Government, Math, Physics, Sociology and more.

One For Fun!

Airline Meals
http://www.airlinemeals.net/index.html

Care for some delicious airline food? You may believe airline meals are the main reason that planes carry airline sickness bags, but as a banner on the homepage declares, this is "the world's first and leading site about nothing but airline food." The real focus of the site are the almost 11,000 images of various airline meals, taken from 439 airlines. Visitors will definitely want to take a look at the airline advertisements of from the past and the behind-the-scenes look at the world of airline catering. Hungry anyone?

Corps Family News

Carol and Ron McBride are the grandparents of Anna Lilly who was born at 9 pm on February 7th. Her mother, Stephanie Lilly, worked as a student aide in Construction-Operations Division several years ago.

Congratulations to Tanisha Emerson (pictured here with her display) and Lindsey Williams (shown at right with NHC Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Morris and Mayor Spence Broadhurst), daughters of **Dan Emerson** and **Greg Williams**, for winning the New Hanover County level PTA Reflections Art contest in their respective age groups. Both were awarded medals at a ceremony recognizing all the winners in various art mediums. Tanisha and Lindsey both won in the Visual Arts category (which meant Coastal, H&H nearly cornered the awards with 50% winning for Visual Arts!). Now that they have won at both their respective schools and county, it's off to state. Needless to say their Dads are extremely proud of them.

Rachael Dennis, daughter of **Robert Dennis**, Natural Resources Manager at Kerr Lake, has been named to the Dean's List at Virginia Tech. In order to make this list the student had to complete the fall semester with at least a 3.4 GPA. In addition, Rachael has been inducted into the Phi Upsilon Omicron National Honor Society. She majors in Early Childhood Education.

Also, Robert's wife, Donna, spent 10 days in the island nation of Grenada. She was a member of the Virginia Baptist Disaster Relief Team and helped restore roofs that were damaged from hurricane Ivan.

Reaching Out

Mitch Hall, **Chuck Wilson**, and **Tara Williams** attended the 2005 Oyster Summit in Raleigh. They discussed opportunities about aquatic ecosystem restoration and monitoring of various projects.

Sarah Tingley gave a slide presentation to approximately 100 UNC-W Adult Scholars on Thursday, 24 February. The title of the presentation was "The US Army Corps of Engineers' Role in Iraq and my experiences while there". It was a great opportunity to tell the good things the Corps is doing in Iraq and put a positive spin on the things that are happening there.

Retiree Report

Attendees - Kay and Buddy Johnson, Sylvia and Rex Phillips, Bettye and Bob Swart, Jean and Dan Grimsley, Max Grimes, Lloyd Tyndall, Doris and Ken Old, Ed Shuford, Augustus B, Moore, Jr., Betty and Eric Matzke, Virginia Uzzell and Lillie Robinson.

We were so pleased that Gus Moore has finally found his way to the new meeting place. He received a round of applause upon his late arrival. Joe Lewis was called to remind him of the luncheon, but he said that he could not be with us because he had some tax work that had to be done on that day. Max Grimes had cataract surgery and lens implant on his so-called good eye and was shocked when he saw his face in a mirror without glasses for a long, long time. He was rather proud of his much thinner glasses. Eric Matzke spent the 29th and 30th of January running trains at the Cape Fear Model RR Show in Wilmington. It was reported that he blew his whistle too much. Ed Shuford has taken a new job. He is working as a project manager for the construction of six apartment buildings for student housing on UNCW Campus. They will break ground in May and complete construction in July. Lloyd A. Tyndall is still on the job, stating that life is a beach. He has a job in Murphy, NC, 500 miles due west, with each trip a vacation. Paul Denison had some major problems recently, but he is home now doing okay.

Why I'm Joining Toastmasters

By Hank Heusinkveld

"...please, please, please don't pick me!"

As an extrovert who's quite comfortable talking with just about anyone I felt myself trembling with the thought of having to simply stand up and ad lib to generic questions during a Toastmasters sample meeting recently. I'm one of probably millions of people who is uncomfortable speaking before a group. I agree with something comedian Jerry Seinfeld once said:

"People would be more comfortable being in a casket rather than giving the eulogy!" However, I might be asked to give a speech someday as part of my regular duties in Public Affairs. I want to be fully prepared, and more importantly, relaxed. In various Army professional development schools I've had to give speeches to my peers and be critiqued for a grade, but those were one-time events and, for whatever reason, I put my fears on hold and passed. With Toastmasters International I want to up the ante. My goal is to be able to stand up comfortably and calmly in front of people from various backgrounds whom I don't know and who are eager to listen to the information I have to give them. That's what Toastmasters International is all about. It provides you the ability, through support from your group members and plenty of practice, to c*ommunicate confidently and calmly.* One Toastmaster volunteer who works for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said that she was a nervous wreck before giving a class to her colleagues. After she joined Toastmasters her confidence grew, and two years later she's set and achieved personal milestones within Toastmasters International, and more importantly, the confidence and courage to stand up in front of people deliver her message.

This is an excellent opportunity for professional development. However, the training you receive can be applied to just about anything like church or school activities, coaching or even to boost your self confidence.

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