

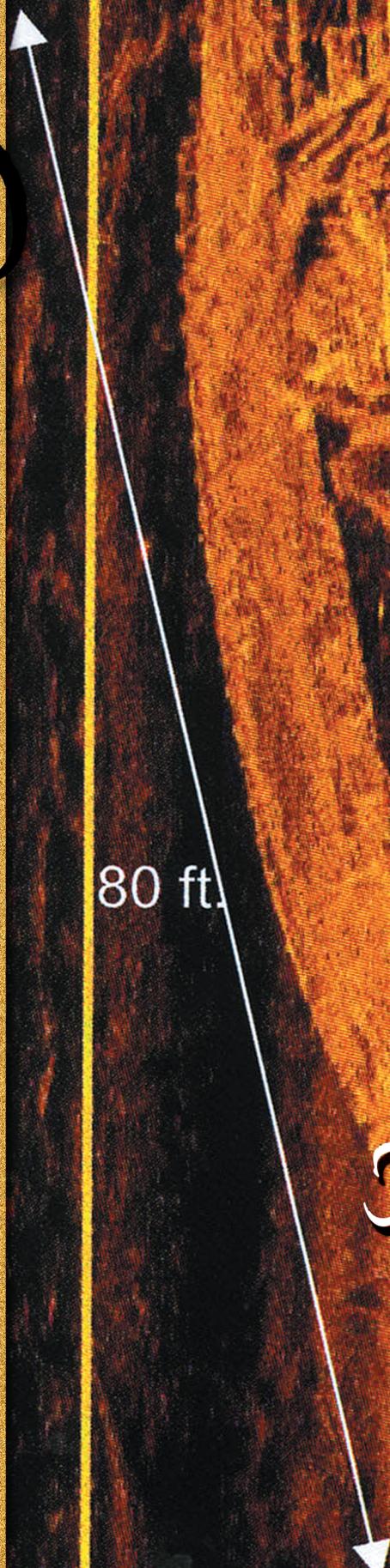
Wilmington

District News

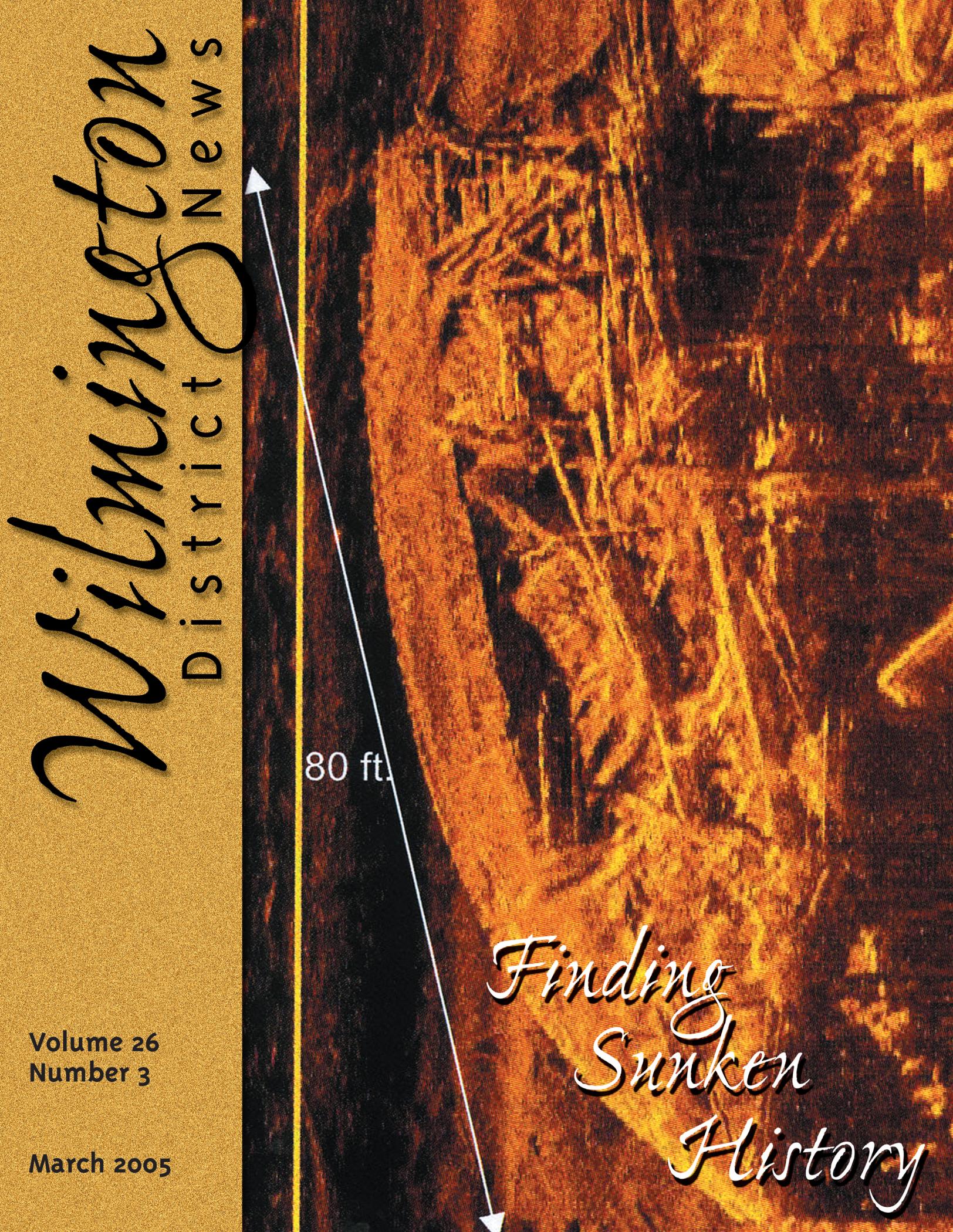
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80 ft.



*Finding
Sunken
History*



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80 ft.

On the Cover:

The remains of what is believed to be a tug boat rests on the bottom of the Cape Fear River. Picture taken by sonar.

Up Front...

District Team is Rich in Opportunity

By Col. Ray Alexander, District Engineer

As we went through an Objective Organization meeting and a PBAC meeting in the past two weeks, I sensed that many of you in the District remain concerned about scarcity. As tight as we have been squeezing every nickel over this past fiscal year, I can certainly understand why. Yes, training has been mostly off the table. Yes, we are keeping our eyes on every minute and not just every hour. *And you know what? The penny-pinching tactics are working.*

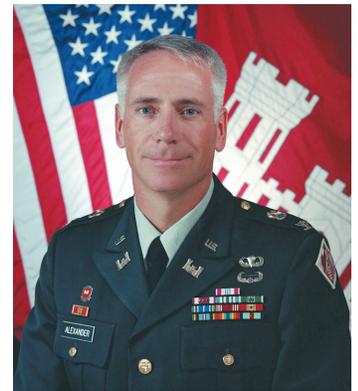
We are NOT looking at a RIF or other cutback. We are not like Delta Airlines, which had to ask flight attendants to take 25% pay cuts to keep the corporation alive. We are fortunate that with a modest effort and some sacrifices, we are able to continue with our current staffing level, and continue our projects and programs.

I've heard many of you say that this District is like family. What do families do when times are tight, and they can't ignore money, time and other resources as a factor in decision making? They get creative. They make the most of what they have, and learn in the process that they are rich.

Here are some 'family tactics' available to us all. I invite you to think of other tactics we could use to invest in ourselves in the months ahead. Don't hesitate to share your good ideas.

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Wilmington District News



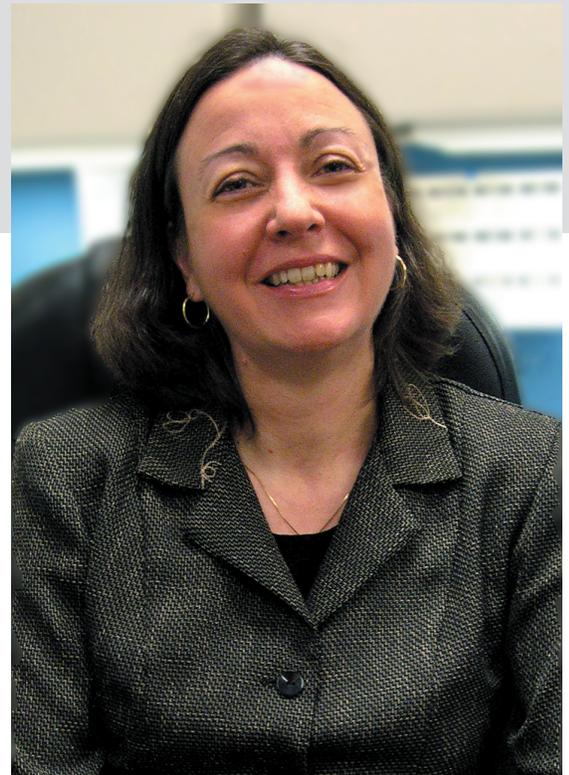
Developing Partnerships is Priority for New EEO Program Manager

When Betty Brown first arrived to the Wilmington District a few months ago as the new Equal Employment Opportunity Program Manager she looked at it from the outside in. So far she likes what she sees. "What I like about the Wilmington District is that I get to partner with so many different people," the Culpeper, Virginia native said. "I partner with supervisors, and I partner with managers to make sure we have a proactive program. One of my goals is to get a feel of what we look like here in the Wilmington District and sit down with employees and managers to find out how they feel about our EEO program; what are we doing that we could do better, what are their needs, what I can do so that I can partner with them."

Brown said that another thing she likes about this District is that Counsel, EEO and Civilian Personnel work together. "So when there's an issue or a problem or project the three of us work together. If you stop to think about it I as the EEO manager need to

know everything there is to know about employment. Because when folks come to me with concerns or questions like 'how do we get awards here?', 'how do awards work?' I need to know the policies that go hand in hand."

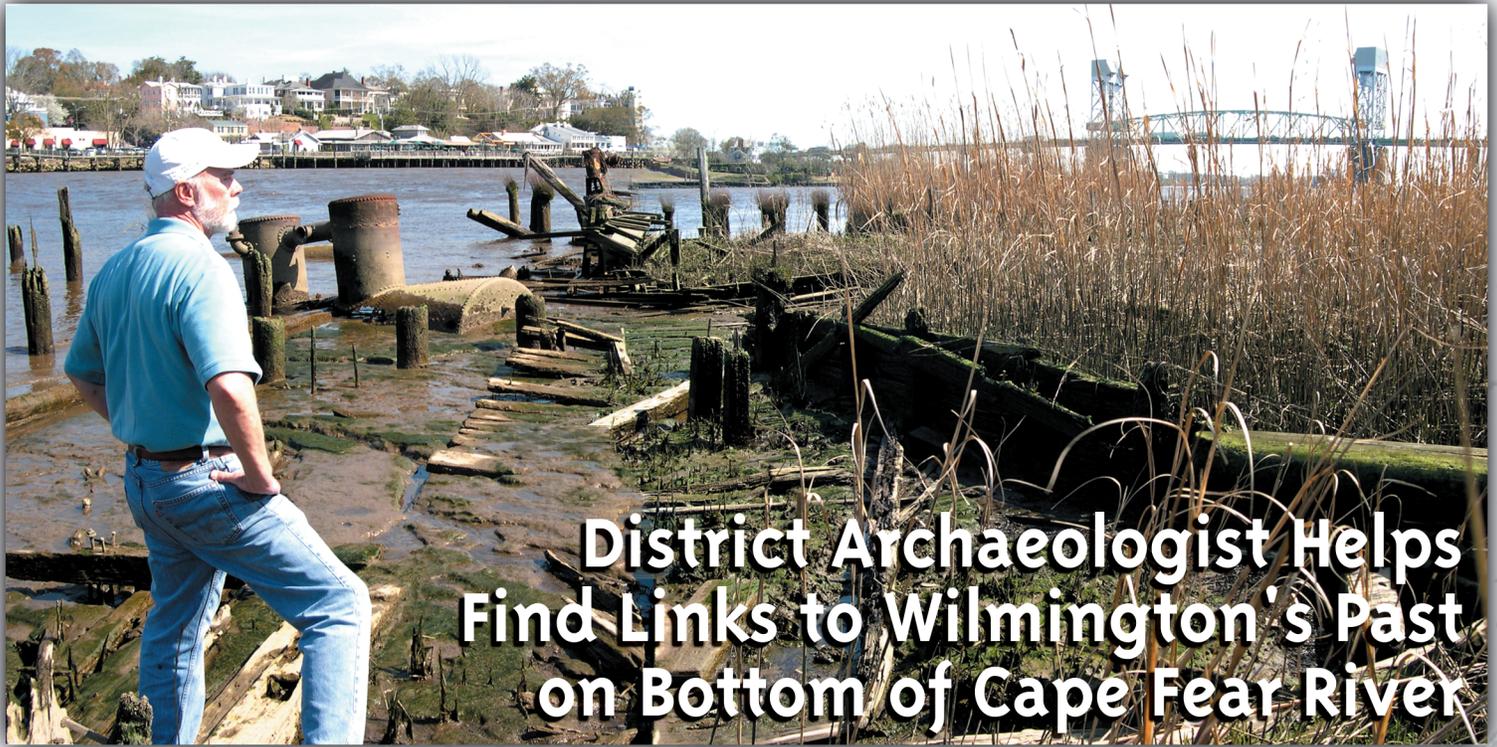
One thing that Brown is working on is how people interpret the EEO program. "One misconception is that we're the complaints section only. I like to think of the EEO program as being very proactive. Certainly we deal with and process complaints, but on the front end of that if a program is proactive and we communicate we're not just the complaints department. We do much more than that. For instance, we have an affirmative employment program where we look at where minorities are located. Let's look at different job categories, for example; are we doing a good job recruiting and maintaining minority engineers? It's much more than just the complaints department."



Perception in most cases is reality and Brown reminds people that this is not her program. "This is our program, not Betty Brown's EEO Manager's Program and I want everyone to have a sense of ownership because it only strengthens our District for everybody to have input."

As for strictly enforcing EEO rules and regulations Brown takes a more holistic approach. "I'm not the police. I don't have a two-by-four approach. If rules or policies are not adhered to then I will address that, but my approach is a little different in that I want every player in the process to work together to resolve the situation. I'm not going to hit somebody over the head with a hammer and say do it. Folks need to have a reason why we're doing it. And I think they need to have accurate information of why we're doing it. If we're not adhering to a policy let's find out why and let's look at the fallout that occurs when you don't do that. We're all on the same team."

"One misconception is that we're the complaints section only. I like to think of the EEO program as being very proactive."



HEUSINKVELD PHOTO

District Archaeologist Helps Find Links to Wilmington's Past on Bottom of Cape Fear River

At low tide District Archaeologist Richard Kimmel is able to identify the remains of a barge and the remnants of a wharf.

By Hank Heusinkveld

On the opposite side of the Cape Fear River from Wilmington's waterfront are piles of debris that have remained for decades. Wooden posts protrude from the riverbank at low tide, and rusting hunks of metal from a boat or barge are scattered about. It might look like ordinary junk, but to maritime historians these relics are windows into old Wilmington. However, there are more pieces to the

historic maritime puzzle that you can't see. Up and down the Cape Fear on the river bottom are remnants that tell even more about the history and economic development of the Port City. District archaeologist Richard Kimmel oversees a unique mission that's a part of the District's Wilmington Harbor Deepening Project. Throughout the areas under study for navigation improvements

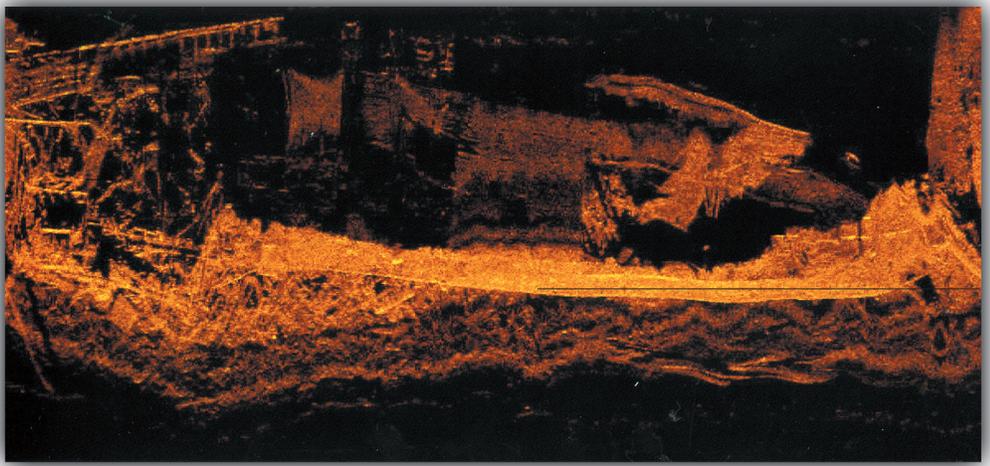
such as channel widening and deepening, Kimmel and his contract underwater archaeology team look for items that might have historical value to North Carolina. By using sophisticated sonar equipment they can "see" through the Cape Fear's brackish water. Though they rely heavily on technology, Kimmel said they also must rely on public records...and even gut instinct. "Larger vessels were insured, so if it went down it usually was reported in the newspapers," he said. "So, that's the first place we start. Then we do a magnetometer survey that helps us find anything with iron. Anything that's sticking above the bottom we'll find with sonar. The sonar, set to proper frequencies, will find most items. We then can determine visually whether it's a workboat or debris that's broken away from a dock."



This display of downtown Wilmington in the mid-1800s at the Cape Fear Museum has a good representation of various waterborne vessels used to transport goods. (Photo courtesy CFM)

Kimmel said that over the past 25 years or so they have taken various surveys of the main features associated with the deepening of the Wilmington Harbor. His biggest area of concern is in the historic waterfront of Wilmington, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. "Through our program of sonar and magnetometer surveying we have discovered and rediscovered 21 sites that we think might be affected by the deepening project or the construction of other features like turning basins."

According to the North Carolina Division of Archives, there are 37 historic shipwrecks listed on the 1985 National Register of Historic Places Registration addendum for the Wilmington Historic District. In addition, over 130 shipwrecks are known from the lower Cape Fear - Northeast Cape Fear River vicinity, and nearby upland historic sites. Kimmel says it's hard to determine what might be historically interesting, but he says there's enough interest by the state to try to investigate as much as possible.



Without sonar this ship would probably remain hidden by the Cape Fear River's murky waters.

"Some of these locally built vessels have a lot of significance in terms of understanding what happened to local industries, for instance, oystering. Did they require special boats adapted for that purpose? These were important industries that kept people alive. African Americans, then enslaved on upriver plantations, brought boats called bateaus loaded with plantation produce down some of the smaller rivers. When we find boats like that it indicates the type of economic activity that was going on. Also, Wilmington and other port towns were avenues for the escape routes offered on the Underground Railroad, and African Americans who

brought cargo down the river and went back to the plantation learned things while they were in Wilmington."

Kimmel said the importance of studies is that they show how local economic activity is tied to the "big picture" of regional and even national growth. "So, almost all of this activity with small boats was very important in terms of the local economy. And that's really why we're interested; it fleshes out the big picture, if you will, the central role of the port, then as now, is very dependent on getting products distributed through local networks."



HEUSINKVELD PHOTO

Iron nails like these help identify sunken vessels when taken by a magnetometer.

The Wilmington District maintains expertise in Underwater Archaeology within the Environmental Resources Branch. That expertise is applied through two contracts with internationally recognized consulting firms. The District's underwater archaeology expert and Contracting Officer's Representative is a Registered Professional Archaeologist with 30 years of experience. Work for others has included numerous remote sensing and diver investigations conducted for the Norfolk, Charleston, and Baltimore Districts.



Women's History Month Speaker Looks Forward

Story by Penny Schmitt • Photos by Scott Maners

In her third visit to Wilmington District, Dr. Myra M. Shird invited us to celebrate the future, by 'Embracing Change.' She addressed a group of about 25 District team members on communications issues and strategies that can make or break the process of communicating change within an organization.

Drawing on recent experiences in her own organization, as well as on a wealth of expertise, Dr. Shird talked frankly about what works, and potential obstacles to successful communication.

"You know what happens to organizations that can't change?" she asked. "They die, right?" In her view, change is organic to every vital organization, and the ability to change is necessary to continued growth and dynamic corporate life. Resistance to change, she said, is also completely natural. How do we overcome that resistance, and guarantee growth and continuing vitality?



- Make sure both upward and downward lines of communication in the organization function well.
- Minimize the damage that comes from inappropriate horizontal communication across the organization.
- Be aware that there is always a 'grapevine' of informal communication, and that 75 to 90 percent of the information that circulates on the grapevine is accurate.

Upwards or downwards, make sure you play in the communication process. That's critical, she indicated, for all of us. When changes are in the wind, it's up to every member of the organization to stay awake and to communicate effectively.

Paying attention to the 'downward communication' that comes from leadership or higher headquarters is important. Go to the Town Hall meetings, attend any smaller meetings and information sessions, read the email on critical subjects.

Most important is to be a good and effective listener. Those who are bad listeners – unaware, distracted, inattentive, too emotionally reactive, or picking at minor facts rather than looking attentively at the big picture – will miss essential information that makes a big difference in their lives and the organization's life. They will also miss opportunities to communicate their views and needs.

Downward communication will only work if good, fully developed "Why" and "How" information is delivered along with "What," Dr. Shird explained.

The workshop participants broke up into work groups and did a brief exercise that required them to present an organization change that would require big sacrifice from the work force. It became immediately clear that answering the "why?" question successfully was a requirement before workers could even begin to hear what would be asked of them.

Dr. Shird told us that she was impressed with how 'tight' we seemed to be as an organization, consistently taking a good approach to methods for approaching corporate communication on important issues.

In turn, upward communication from the worker bee level of the corporation is critical for leadership. It is

important to ask for feedback so that leadership knows if the work force clearly understands its messages. It's important to cultivate those listening skills at the management level, so that the rank and file can be not only heard, but understood.

Have you encountered the old Army story in which a description of a bucket of manure gets passed up the ranks from the private to the general, at each step turning into something cleaner and prettier because lower ranks don't feel safe telling their superiors in the chain of command a smelly truth? As leaders, we owe it to the whole organization to signal openness to the truth. As team members, we owe the truth to our organization even when it is tough to tell.

Leaders should also transmit information effectively all along the chain. A manager who deletes emails on important subjects without passing them on down to his staff, effectively halts communication in the organization. All that's left to the work force is the grapevine, and while 75 percent accuracy sounds pretty good, that leaves a critical 25 percent of the information in the gossip mill that could well be wrong.

As for 'horizontal' communication, that is part of the common coin of our every day working world. Why should we be 'situationally aware' about our horizontal communication habits? Dr. Shird invited us to consider several things. Number one, perhaps, is "only complain to the person who can DO something to change the situation." If we are complaining to an audience that can't give results, all we are doing is passing the discomfort along. Another consideration is, do you really know what effect your cross talk is having on your own reputation? Shird

says "when I am new to an organization, I definitely wait for a few months before I start to voice opinions." Better to listen and learn, she suggests, than quickly earn a label. If horizontal communication is the only way people have to learn anything in an organization, that's a strong indicator that communication and morale are ailing.

Throughout her talk, Dr. Shird reminded us powerfully that communication goes on all day long, both on screen and off, in the ladies and mens rooms as well as the board room and the office. As always, Dr. Shird left us with lots to think about!





Regulatory Project Manager Preserves Rare Craft

Story and photos by Hank Heusinkveld

Mechanical inclination is inherent in Richard Spencer's immediate family. His Dad and his uncle were engineers, and since it seemed to run in the family Spencer was a likely candidate to continue the tradition. He had a knack for putting things together and was very curious about guns. One day a friend who was a gunsmith gave him a part time job cleaning gun parts and doing various odd jobs in his shop. That friend later noticed Spencer's mechanically inclined nature and gave him bits and pieces of guns to fiddle with. Soon Spencer found he had the ability to put a gun together. In fact he assembled his own gun, a Mauser rifle that's in mint condition and sits proudly on his workbench in his Hampstead gun re-



All of these parts to a disassembled rifle are cleaned and re-cleaned before being re-assembled.

pair shop 20 years later. With his newfound hobby, he decided to continue the family tradition of becoming an engineer in college. But he found out that engineering really didn't interest him, so he shifted his major to biology. What never escaped him, though, was tinkering with guns.

Spencer is passionate about gunsmithing. When he goes to his repair shop behind his house in Hampstead the world suddenly stops. "I get lost in this. I can sit out here and look up at the clock and it will be midnight." Spencer works in his gun repair shop on weekends and he manages to squeeze in some time for a few

hours after work. More often than not it's usually an hour or so due to his demanding schedule as a Regulatory Project Manager, a job that requires up to 12 hours a day and lots of travel.

According to Spencer, gunsmithing is becoming increasingly rare. In this part of southeastern North Carolina



Spencer displays a typical rifle in need of repair. The owner had put black tape around the stock.



Spencer feels that as a bona fide gunsmith, he's it. "There's not many of us around," he said. "It's almost a lost art it seems. I believe there may be a gunsmith in Fayetteville and there might be one in Jacksonville. I think one of the reasons is because the regulations got so rigid that it became very hard for people to stay in the gun business."

Spencer says he and other gunsmiths must follow strict rules and regulations to stay in business. Although time consuming, he has to keep numerous records of guns that he's repaired and he logs all of his activities in various books. He has a virtual monopoly in the gun

Spencer has a collection of heavy machinery that he uses for more time-consuming repairs.



A homemade range just outside his shop lets Spencer test the accuracy of newly-repaired rifles.



A typical supply of damaged rifles keeps Spencer busy.



repair business locally and he says it's quite lucrative. However, he has a sympathetic side for fellow gun owners and he tries to keep costs down. "I know people can't afford to spend a lot of money. One gun costs \$150 to get it repaired. If I have to make parts that takes a lot longer."

Spencer plans to be a full time gunsmith when he retires. He's got all the hardware he needs to fix just about any gun, and an outdoor range to test repaired guns. But more importantly, he has the drive and the passion, mixed in with his meticulous nature, to keep his hobby going for a very long time.

With so Much to Offer at W. Kerr Scott... Why Wait Until Summer?!?!

By Miriam Fleming, Park Ranger • Photos by Shiloh Wiles

Winter at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir passed quietly this year. But as spring approaches, activity at this 5,775-acre project nestled in the foothills of Western North Carolina increases as weather brings myriad opportunities for education, recreation, and relaxation. The reservoir is located within an hour west of Winston-Salem and a short 45 minutes to the highest peak of the Blue Ridge, Grandfather Mountain. W. Kerr Scott Lake boasts two campgrounds and 10 days use areas. Within the lake's parks are found scenic overlooks, playgrounds, fishing piers, swimming areas, boat ramps, hiking, biking and nature trails, and picnic shelters.

While the lake is home to largemouth, smallmouth, striped, and hybrid bass, crappie is the most popular draw. Locals also come for the large catfish, often caught along the banks at night. Feel free to ask what's currently running; however, don't ask where-local

fishermen are quick to show their spoils but hold fast to the location of the best holes. For visitors who want ideas of where fish may gather, maps of fish attractor locations are available at the Visitor Assistance Center. There are many spots from which to fish from shore around the lake including four fishing piers. Fishing enthusiasts particularly like the spacious and free fishing piers found at Blood Creek Wayside and Tailwater Access Area. The Tailwater Access Area is, by far, the most popular area for pier fishing as the water exiting the dam's conduit churns the water and attracts fish with its abundant nutrients. Keowee Park has a pier specifically designed for persons with disabilities.

Boaters and fishermen have seven ramps around the 1,075-acre lake from which to put-in. Year round ramps are conveniently located at Boomer Park, Keowee Park, Dam Site Park, and

Smithey's Creek. Seasonal ramps are located within the Bandit's Roost Campground and Ft. Hamby Park. Kayak and canoe users may launch at all ramps, as well as, the beautiful Yadkin River Canoe Trail put-in located adjacent to the Tailwater Access Area. A long, leisurely float along the Yadkin is one of your best opportunities to commune with the local waterfowl as well as our playful river otters. A new canoe access is in the planning stages for the old Marley's Ford launch ramp. Volunteers from Wilderness Lodge are designing the access site and will begin construction during the October 8, 2005 National Public Lands Day activities.

The 2,284 acres of forestland that surrounds the lake offer many opportunities for hunting, wildlife viewing, hiking and biking. The staff at W. Kerr Scott are always trying to improve the wildlife management areas (WMA) at Fort Hamby, Marley's Ford, and Boomer. In fact, a new waterfowl impoundment is planned for the Marley's Ford area. This summer, the North Carolina Wildlife Commission is going to classify the WMAs as gamelands which publicize the areas in the Commission's hunting pamphlet and allows wildlife officers to patrol our public lands providing us with additional enforcement and regulatory presence in those areas. While operating in partnership with the North Carolina Wildlife Commission, these areas will remain open for archery and black powder hunting only. Seasons follow the dates prescribed by the North Carolina Wildlife Commission.

Marley's Ford WMA was the site of the 2004 Youth Hunt sponsored by the North Carolina Wildlife Commission. This year, several young ladies participated. In fact, a 13-year-old girl bagged the first deer taken in the hunt. This





year's hunt also featured a 6-point buck. In all, 18 participants took 14 deer. Due to the new gamelands classification, the 2005 Youth Hunt will take place in the Fort Hamby Day Use Area and the Warrior Creek Campground.

In addition to hunting, wildlife viewing is a popular pastime. Two viewing platforms are located in the Dark Mountain Recreation Area. While deer are seen frequently, lucky visitors caught a glance of beaver in action at the Warrior Creek swim beach and evidence of his activities are seen all along the banks of the cove. If you're lucky, the winter season may bring an opportunity to see our local river otters. Released 10 years ago, the otters are mostly seen swimming from the dam to the Dam Site cove.

A new access road was completed during the off-season in Warrior Creek Campground. While driving is not recommended on this road, it is an easy walk out through rolling hills to a graceful oak tree. This hundreds year old oak provides shelter to a resident fox den in addition to the raptors and deer. Evidence has shown that a great horned owl has taken up residence one on of the campsites on the point at Bandit's Roost Campground. Rangers will use the owl pellets left at this site to show campers how to identify what our nocturnal resident has been dining on. Remember, the animals here are wild. While they may be used to seeing you, they remain wild. Never feed or approach wildlife – you may be in for a painful experience.

The Dark Mountain Recreation area is quickly becoming one of the most

popular areas on the project. In addition to an exercise walking track and fantastic lake views, this area boasts seven miles of International Mountain Biking Association approved trails – the only such trails in Western North Carolina. Six miles of these trails are single track and offer a wide variety for differing skill levels. This was accomplished through a partnership between Kerr Scott and the local Brushy Mountain Cycling Club (BMCC) and Boy Scouts. An additional six miles of multi-purpose trails is underway, running from the Visitor Assistance Center to the corps-managed Bandit's Roost Park. The National Park Service designated this section as part of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. Visitors on this trail will have the opportunity to visit Berry Mountain Day Use area for a quick dip at a nominal fee of \$1. Don't worry, you don't need to pay a fee if you're a through hiker/biker.

Volunteers will construct a connector bridge over Fish Dam Creek adjacent to the Tail Race Park area during National Public Lands Day events. This is just the beginning of a cooperative effort with the Yadkin River Greenway. No longer will you need a boat to enjoy the river views or see the river otters play long the shore. Once completed, visitors will have the opportunity to traverse a continuous 30-mile scenic trail along the Yadkin River to the town of Elkin, NC.

For the educational minded, a short 0.4-mile trail is co-located to the Visitor Assistance Center. The Lakeside Nature Trail offers a glimpse of life in the surrounding forest. Visitors may see deer on the trail or skinks at the trail entrance in the spring and summer, but

their evidence is there year-round. Some visitors may even have an opportunity to see one of several different species of snakes located in the park. This trail is frequently used to demonstrate the connectedness of nature for our local elementary school students-a trip that is anticipated by the rangers as well as the students.

Conveniently located picnic shelters offer space for visitors to gather for their special events. Shelters are found at Keowee, Boomer, Berry Mountain, Dam Site, Fish Dam Creek, and Ft. Hamby. All shelters except for Keowee can be reserved through the respective park host or at the Visitor Assistance Shelter. Most shelters accommodate up to 50 people with one that will comfortably seat 100. All shelters are equipped with lighting and electricity. Kerr Scott Reservoir's ability to accommodate many different parties in pastoral setting makes its shelters popular for weddings, anniversaries, and family reunions.

- Continued on page 16



“Some Like it Hot...”

Story and photos by Hank Heusinkveld



Lisa Hetherman tests a tasty sample at the Annual Chili Cookoff.

But for the most part, people who took part as taste testers in the Annual Chili Cook Off like their chili mild. Dianne Boswell did it again by taking top honors with her pizza sauce-based chili recipe, one that has kept her as “Queen of All Chilis” for the past few years. However, she shares the title this year with Dede Fauser whose mystery recipe wowed the palates of a number of taste testers.

There were some very fine chilis to choose from this year, 13 all together. One in particular that created an olfactory frenzy (at least to this writer) was a free form recipe created by the wife of Sam Colella. I noticed that it had a nice little bite to it. Having cooked with wine and other types of alcohol before I had to ask “Does this have a little bit of Jack in it?”. “Nope, half a can of beer!” was the reply from Sam. Now that’s creative cooking! A fine example of “thinking out of the recipe box.”

All in all, \$282 was raised for the Recreation Committee, 67 people were served, there were five cornbread bakers (ask Oweita Freeman about her killer cornbread recipe), and two co-champions. A great time, great food, and nice collection of tried and tested chilis that will be eagerly awaited next year.



Making their rounds past piles of delicious cornbread to crockpot alley are Linda Andrews, Keith Harris, David Franklin and Marilyn Knowlton.



Linda, along with Lisa James, Marilyn and David take their time tasting the fine array of homemade chilis.

District Forester Helps Manage Multiple Use Areas

By William D. Harlon III, Forester

One of the Corps of Engineers primary objectives is to provide for the sound, scientific stewardship of its natural resources. Another primary objective of the Corps is to protect all of its cultural and historical resources. The Corps is also dedicated to the protection of all threatened and endangered species.

The Corps of Engineers achieves these objectives by managing its property for multiple uses. These multiple uses include: watershed protection, providing quality recreational areas, the enhancement of wildlife habitat, and to insure continued forest health and productivity.

The Southern Pine Beetles (SPB) are the most aggressive types of pine bark beetles that attack our Southern forests. If they are not contained, these beetles have the potential to destroy very large numbers of acres. SPB are typically attracted to pine trees that have been stressed due to old age, poor growth, overcrowding, declining health, drought, and any other condition that may stress a tree.

The NC Division of Forest Resources conducted an aerial survey of Vance County in February 2004. The results of this survey proved that the US Army Corps of Engineers held a series of SPB infestations on their property in and around Spring Valley Lake Road. The Corps were then faced with two management options to remedy the situation. One option would be to manually fell the infected trees by a chainsaw and then continue to fell a 100' buffer around the each infestation spot. The area would then be monitored periodically to determine if the infestation has been stopped or is still present.

The second management option would be to mechanically harvest the pine stands through a salvage operation and then reforest the stand with healthier pines. Due to the old age and very poor growth of the trees, the Corps opted to use this second option. By doing so, each of the infestation areas no longer hold the potential to attract future beetle infestations.

This particular timber sale was advertised and conducted through the Corps Real Estate Section out of Fort Bragg, NC. This sale was advertised from 6 January - 8 February 2005. The Corps of Engineers also contacted numerous adjacent landowners to notify them of the Corps recommended actions and to educate them on the dangers of the SPB. This particular timber sale also consists of approximately 60 acres of patch-cuts that are distributed among eight stands in and around Spring Valley Lake Road.

Up Front

- Continued from page 2

- **Do it yourself:** No programmed money for training? Leadership training is still available if you are willing to invest a little of your own money and time. If you want training that gives you recognized certification, try participating in a professional organization associated with your career or in a club like Toastmasters, both of which offer certifications that are widely recognized as powerful resume builders
- **Don't scorn hand-me-downs:** This District is full of people who have many years of valuable experience. If you have a work-related puzzle to solve, bet someone in the District, somewhere, has experienced that very problem. Lessons learned are the best kind of hand-me-down.
- **Hunt for bargains:** Are you taking advantage of everything offered through your Federal Employment? FERS employees who are not contributing a minimum of 5 percent to the Thrift Savings Program (TSP) are leaving federal dollars toward retirement on the table. Could you improve your overall finances by contributing more to TSP? Also, we continue to subsidize your participation in an active physical fitness program at the Y, the Spa/ Capital Fitness Center, Gold's Gym, and the Wilmington Athletic Club. Improve your well being and put a positive spin on your mood. And finally, in your project related work, can you cost-engineer a job to make it more efficient and cost-effective?
- **Use downtime to build up:** Seasonal employees often use the idle weeks or months in their year to carry out repairs and remodeling at home, learn a new skill, or try out another career. Similarly, some downtime for our dredges became an opportunity for a needed major overhaul. Is there another area where this could benefit us?
- **Share with the neighbors:** Look for opportunities to stretch resources by sharing, whether that's information, workload across organizational boundaries, or just good ideas. Willingness to give something away as an investment is a sure sign of optimism and rich opportunity for the future.
- **Sing on the porch:** While we can't avoid keeping an eye on the clock, there are still quite a few social times we can enjoy. Sing a song out in the gazebo. Take a walk. Share a ride or a laugh. Count blessings over with a co-worker. We might even find that we are, as our former DP used to say 'walkin' in tall cotton' and having another great day in the Army!



Jan Wutkowski

Website Highlights

Veteran's History Project

<http://www.loc.gov/vets/>

This Library of Congress site allows visitors to "see, hear, experience" veterans' wartime stories through narrative, correspondence, and visual materials. The first-hand accounts cover WWI through the Afganistan and Iraq wars and include men and women, military and civilian, and many ranks, jobs, and branches of service. Read these stories as they "teach us, amuse us, and inspire us... also sometimes sadden us."

Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

<http://research.myfwc.com/>

The Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) was formed in 2004, under the direction of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). FWRI focuses in spatial analysis, biostatistics and modeling, wildlife forensics, and socioeconomic research and contains information about activities concerning Freshwater and Saltwater Fisheries, Marine Biology, and Red Tide. The site maintains an extensive list of publications, including Technical Reports from the past decade, some of which are downloadable while other may be ordered at no cost.

North American Native Fishes Association

<http://www.nanfa.org/>

The North American Native Fishes Association (NANFA) works "to increase and disseminate knowledge about North America's native fishes and their habitats among aquarium hobbyists, biologists, fish and wildlife officials, anglers, educators, students, and others, through publications, electronic media, regional and national meetings, and other means." The NANFA website features a Checklist of Freshwater Fishes Native to North America and a Fish in Focus section with beautiful images and brief descriptions. NANFA offers a solid collection of related links, and an electronic mailing list as well. Future sections to be included: relating to natural history, captive care, conservation, and collecting.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

<http://www.house.gov/va/>

Created by the enactment of Public Law 601 (officially titled "Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946"), the House Committee on Veterans Affairs is responsible for recommending legislation that can expand, curtail, or fine-tune existing laws relating to veterans' benefits. The site's homepage contains important, up-to-date information on the activities of the Committee, along with basic material on the

Committee's hearing schedule; the documents area contains the committee's budget reports for the past several fiscal years along with the activities report it submits each year to Congress. The site is rounded out by a tribute to the 60th anniversary of the GI Bill that includes a brief history and legacy of the legislation.

North American Benthological Society [pdf]

<http://www.benthos.org/index.cfm>

Founded in 1953, the "North American Benthological Society (NABS) is an international scientific organization whose purpose is to promote better understanding of the biotic communities of lake and stream bottoms and their role in aquatic ecosystems, by providing media and disseminating new investigation results, new interpretations, and other benthological information to aquatic biologists and to the scientific community at large." NABS hosts a Classified Ads and Announcements section (conferences and meetings), publications, and the Freshwater Algae and Macroinvertebrate Slide Library.

MayoClinic.com: Diseases & Conditions

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/findinformation/diseasesandconditions/index.cfm>

This helpful website offers information about a wide range of diseases and other medical conditions from scientists and physicians at the noted Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. The overviews contain concise sections addressing Signs and Symptoms, Causes, Prevention, Treatment, When to Seek Medical Advice, and more. Site visitors can find additional information by linking to one of 16 Disease & Condition Centers. These Centers address such conditions as High Blood Pressure, Cancer, Arthritis, Pain Management, Cholesterol, Allergy, and Diabetes.

One For Fun!

MaleTips: Digital Cameras Help and Tips

http://malektips.com/digital_cameras_help_and_tips.html

Getting started in digital photography or are you an old pro? Either way you will find something new at this site that divides its collection of over 400 digital photography tips into numerous categories. While some of these categories are expected, such as Buying A Digital Camera and Digital Camera Battery, others are a bit more surprising yet helpful: Digital Portrait Photography and Digital Sunrise and Sunset being two. Everyone can learn a new trick to improve their digital shots at this site.

Corps Family News

Bobby Willis is a grandfather again! The new arrival is Merritt Ashleigh Pound, Bobby's younger daughter Melanie's first child. Merritt was born March 19th, weighing in at seven pounds, five ounces and 20 inches long.

Over spring break, the UNC Pembroke women's tennis team made its annual trip to Hilton Head, SC where the Lady Braves competed in four non-conference matches. Freshman Jessica Figgins, daughter of **Shiela Figgins**, was instrumental in Pembroke's success as UNCP picked up three victories over the course of the week.

On Sunday March 13th, **Rosemary (Cohen) Burke** (see photo) married Englishman love Daniel Burke. The two were wed in rural Chatham County, North Carolina and were joined in their celebration by many friends and family members. The couple will remain in Wilmington.



Retiree Report

Attendees: Buddy Johnson, Sylvia and Rex Phillips, Bettye and Bob Swart, Dan Grimsley, Max Grimes, Lloyd Tyndall, Doris and Ken Old, Virginia Uzzell and Lillie Robinson, Joe Lewis, Edith Vitalani.

- Joe Lewis was able to find some time in his busy schedule to be with us this month. It was good to see his smiling face.
- Max Grimes seems to be getting along fine with his new glasses. Someone had brought a comic strip from the newspaper depicting Dagwood going to an all-you-can-eat restaurant with all the customers trying to get ahead of him. They appeared to know how Dagwood would behave himself. The hint on the paper was pointed toward Max.
- Ed Shuford missed our gathering this month, indicating that new job is keeping him busy.
- Lloyd A. Tyndall continues to work, putting a 70 site motor home park on Nottely River near Murphy, NC. He is still doing some work in Pender County, and he says he will be going fishing when it warms up. Ken Old was fussing about Lloyd getting him out on the golf course one rainy day last week. One would wonder about all that hard work he has been doing.

We are now meeting at the McDaniel's Creamery on the 1st Thursday of each month. Come see us sometime.

Letter to the District From Former Chief of Engineers

Editor's note – This portion of a letter sent to COL Alexander was written by LTG (Ret.) John W. Morris, U.S. Army, Former USACE Chief of Engineers, who lives in Wilmington.

The January 2005 publication includes an article on the "Pension Building" in Washington, D.C. A fine article on a magnificent building. In a remote way the Corps of Engineers was quite likely the first agency to christen the remodeled structure. Here is the rest of the story of the Corps' involvement in the "National Building Museum."

In 1977 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers became a Major Command of the U.S. Army which made many military protocols applicable to the Corps activities. Among them was the Change of Command ceremony when the serving chief (commander) passed the command to his successor. On 1 July 1976, General Gribble pinned on my blouse the recently received "MacArthur's Castles" as the symbol of my becoming the new Chief (Commander). The MacArthur Castle exchange became a new tradition and was done in his office with only four or five persons present.

On 30 September 1980 when General J. Bratton became Chief such informality was not appropriate for the changing the leadership of the Army's most recent Major Command, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. COL Ted Gay was then Chief of Staff (formerly Executive Officer) and in charge of the "Change of Command" activity. He proposed we hold the ceremony in the newly finished portion of the "Pension Building". The first of a kind event was executed in splendor and with appropriate dignity before several hundred Corps of Engineers employees and friends. General Vessey, Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army passed the Corps flag to General Bratton to signify the traditional passing of command. The Assistant Secretary of the Army made remarks from the podium which was surrounded by the flags of the 11 divisions and U.S. Colors.

That first ceremony was an appropriate event to recognize the rebirth and renewal of one of the truly fine buildings in our Capitol which have been the product of the excellent talents of the Corp of Engineers. It seems entirely appropriate to have been so. ESSAYONS!

AFGE 406 Installs New Officers

On March 2, 2005, AFGE 406 had its officer installation ceremony. Diane Lastinger presented gifts to the outgoing officers for their faithful service. Our outgoing President, Diane Boswell, administered the oath of office to the incoming officers. The results of our election are as follows: **Elaine Hayes, President**; Oweita Freeman, First Vice President; Wick Westmoreland, Vice President Field Office; Lora Reid, Chief Steward; Jeannie Gaskins, Secretary; Betsy Rogers, Treasurer; Thelma Hemmingway, Sergeant-at-Arms.

In the spirit of partnership, Elaine Hayes states that she and her officers are looking forward to working with management.

W. Kerr Scott – *Continued from page 11*

The popular Laura Shelter at Fort Hamby has undergone much-needed renovations during the off-season. New paint and new tin roof will enhance any groups' festivities. Adjacent to "Laura," the bathhouse has undergone major renovations that include an exterior face-lift. But wait until you go inside, the entire bathhouse has been fitted with new tile shower enclosures and all new restroom facilities. The improvements don't stop there. Last year, a local Eagle Scout constructed a new playground pad. Playground equipment arrives in late March and will be in place prior to the April 15 opening day.

In former days, Fort Hamby was the original site of the Wilkes Playmakers production of "Tom Dooley: A Wilkes County Legend." In cooperation with the thespians, a new amphitheater was designed and will begin construction on the original amphitheater site. Upon completion, the Playmakers will once again tell the sad tale of Tom Dooley under the stars.

After an exhausting day hiking, biking, boating, and fishing, campers can choose from any of 175 prepared sites at two locations. Bandit's Roost and Warrior Creek Campground's offers tent sites and electric sites that accommodate a recreational vehicle up to 45 feet in length. Most electric sites are equipped with 30 amp breakers; however, off-season improvements at Bandit's Roost included upgrading some circuit breaks to 50 amps service. Friendly park attendants greet all campers as they register.

Once the temperature rises above 70 degrees, campgrounds are usually booked for the weekends well in advance. Bandit's Roost is usually the first to fill, as many sites are located near the water. If you are planning to visit during last weekend in April, keep in mind that MerleFest, now one of the largest outdoor blue grass festivals in the world and in its 16th year, is taking place in Wilkesboro. Reservable sites are booked up well in advance during this event. For the MerleFest weekend, reservations should be made at least 240 days in advance, the maximum allowed by our reservation system.

W. Kerr Scott offers sunbathers many opportunities to swim. Beautiful sand beaches are open to the public from May 1 through August 30 at the Berry Mountain and Boomer Park Day Use areas, and from April 15 through October 15 at Ft. Hamby Day Use area. Campers have access to two private beaches. Because our beaches are unguarded, lifejackets are on loan to visitors at each gatehouse. This program is so popular; gate attendants often hear "I want a life jacket!" from eager young swimmers. We want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to swim safely.

Come visit W. Kerr Scott for all your recreation needs. It's one stop shopping for the entire family! For more information on planning your trip, please contact or come by the Visitor Assistance Center at 336.921.3390. For those of you who want to take a piece of the project home, a bookstore and exhibits are available at the Center. Remember, take only photographs and leave only footsteps. We hope to see you here.

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