

# Wilmington

## District News

Volume 27 • Number 2

March/April 2006



*District  
Helps  
Protect  
Historic  
Sites*

See pages 4, 5



*Wilmington District  
News Going Online*

See page 15

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**Address mail to:**

U.S. Army Engineer District,  
Wilmington

ATTN: CESAW-PA  
P.O. Box 1890  
Wilmington, N.C. 28402-1890

Telephone: (910) 251-4626

**Email:**

Penny.Schmitt@usace.army.mil

**District Commander:**

COL John E. Pulliam, Jr.

**Chief, Public Affairs:**

Penelope Schmitt

**Managing Editor:**

Hank Heusinkveld

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**On the Cover:**

*The Cape Lookout Lighthouse got added protection from the Wilmington District, as did the Queen Anne's Revenge, the sunken vessel near Morehead City that's thought to be Blackbeard the Pirate's. Details on pages four and five.*

## Up Front Critical Period

Team,

There are some who might question why we and our mission are important, though the answer is staring us all in face each day we come to work: our fellow American citizens in Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia depend on us to protect their lives, improve their quality of life, invigorate and enable our economy, and protect our precious environment. Everything any of us does goes to that mission set. We call our project managers our "quarterbacks," and in many ways they are. They guide our several teams (PDTs) "on the field" and make key "audible" decisions at appropriate times to keep us moving steadily toward victories like those mentioned below. But a team is much more than just a quarterback. Every time someone in IM gets a computer running so that a PDT member can communicate better with his or her teammates, that's a key contribution. When LM takes steps to keep our vehicle fleet running, they are giving PDT members the ability to get out to the projects and key meetings. And so on across the entire team. What you do is helping us accomplish the mission. And so you have my continuing thanks for being such a professional.



COL John Pulliam, Jr.

Continuing that point: we've had a number of great victories over the past two months, all thanks to your hard work and never-throw-in-the-towel devotion to our mission and to the great folks of the Atlantic states who depend on us. Those victories include Bulkhead Channel and the Queen Anne's Revenge project, the AIWW Inlet Crossing project (the one many said couldn't be done this year!), the Cape Hatteras Beach project for the National Park Service, Wrightsville Beach, Roanoke Island Festival Park (recently-announced winner of a prestigious Corps Environmental Honor Award), and the list goes on. Well done, and thanks for your superb efforts.

The entire South Atlantic Division's leadership met earlier this month at our

*(continued on page 8)*

## Seeing Nature's Wrath Up-Close is Life Altering Experience

**Gloria Price** writes: "I deployed to the Vicksburg District to fill an Administrative/Clerk Tasker on 9 JAN which was originally supposed to be for 30 days. After the 14th day, I felt comfortable in my position, learned the names of my co-workers and realized I really liked what I was doing. I soon became the Chief Administrative Assistant to the Resident Engineer.

The first time I rode down to the Coast and saw this boat that had washed ashore and was on the other side of the street and the clothes and frames of storm windows in the trees, I felt like crying. There is still a LOT of work to be done. I made friends with co-workers from Hawaii, Montana, California, and all over. The people of Mississippi are so grateful for what people are doing regardless of what you see on the news. Several of my co-workers and I would be stopped in restaurants or wherever and people would see us in our Corps shirts and say, "I just want to thank you all for what you are doing". That made all of the sacrifices that you were making worthwhile. I saw clothes, draperies, and toys in trees, bathtubs and commodes under trees, trees still in

the ocean near the beach which is being cleaned consistently because of the debris continuously washing ashore. There was a sign "Beach Closed", but people were still walking on the beach or playing volleyball on Sunday afternoons. I saw people sweeping or cleaning the foundation of what once was their home. There were areas where you saw only the name of the subdivision with nothing but steps to what used to be a home or a sign that showed where Olive Garden or the Waffle House once was located. There were miles of complete devastation with plastic and other debris hanging in the trees. There was a Wal-Mart and all that was left was the words Wal-mart and the roof and beams that held up the structure. I heard that there is an area called "Tent City" with people still living in tents."

**Melissa Blackburn-Walton** writes: "I had the pleasure of serving my first mission assignment in Florida in Temporary Housing Quality Assurance. What a blessing it was. I met some wonderful folks who had been through terrible experiences I hope I never have to experience. A family of seven lived

in two travel trailers while their home was repaired. A family with small children and an expecting young mother lived in a mold and mildew infested home patiently waiting for a travel trailer to be installed, so they could begin their repairs. An elderly gentleman who was an immigrant from Hungary and who spoke broken English did not understand the ways of the selfish American neighbors who had not suffered any damage from Wilma, but were constantly complaining about the installation process.

All of these experiences helped to see just how truly blessed I am. I came back with a greater appreciation for simply living. Not focusing on so many material things, rather focusing on relationships. My nine year old daughter was a bit angry with me for "leaving her" for what seems to be an eternity for a child. I spent time on the phone with her almost every day, sharing with her the people I had met that day, their particular situations and the hope I was able to share with them. She realized there were others who were in more need of my help for a short time when I told her of the little 10 year old Hispanic girl I met at one of the mobile home parks. She was out every day, watching as work progressed. Her name was Rose and she had a beautiful smile and she told me how she liked to draw. That evening, I put together a young artist's package to including a book about her favorite things in nature. I wish I had taken a picture of her smiling face when my partner and I delivered the gift the next day.

I look forward to serving again, not hoping for anyone's pain and suffering, but knowing it is inevitable. And thank you for the opportunity to share my story. I hope others will volunteer their time in the future."



*Gloria Price gives a briefing in Vicksburg, Mississippi.*

*(continued on page 8)*

# Two Projects Expected to Add Longevity to NC Relics

## Pinpoint Dumping of Dredged Material Expected to Protect Sunken Ship

It's believed to be the remains of the legendary Blackbeard the Pirate's vessel.

Queen Anne's Revenge has lain on the ocean floor in about 26 feet of water at the entrance of Beaufort Harbor since June of 1718. An indirect effort by the Wilmington District to help preserve the ship happened in early March. The special purpose dredge Currituck removed material from Bulkhead Channel that had drifted in during Hurricane Ophelia. At the state's request, the Currituck took the dredged material to a near-shore disposal site close to the sunken vessel. The hope is that by "reburying" the QAR, naturally shifting currents will form an underwater berm to help preserve it from hurricanes or other severe weather.



Weldon Davis (left), Bud Gaskins (center) and Captain Mitch Tillyard navigate through Bulkhead Channel.

"It has actually not been tried before, so it will give us good information," said Wilmington District archaeologist Richard Kimmel. "The whole point of the near-shore disposal area is to replace sand into the ebb tide delta to counter any deflation that might be occurring. Big impacts from storms can push underwater debris around."

Found in 1996 by a private group licensed by North Carolina, Kimmel said there has been immense public interest in the ship and pirate folklore after artifacts like a bell, cannons and other artifacts were retrieved, some of which are displayed at the North Carolina

Maritime Museum in Beaufort. Kimmel explained that the ship itself can't be simply taken from its resting spot for public display.

"It's extremely expensive and time consuming. A cannon can stay in treatment for years and the same with the hull. You have to be prepared to treat it and preservation treatment takes a long time. Some of that material would need to be in water or some type of solution for years. It's a major undertaking."

For more information about Blackbeard and the Queen Anne's Revenge got to [www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/maritime/Blackbeard/default.htm](http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/maritime/Blackbeard/default.htm)

### Beach Quality Material Will Slow Erosion

Owned since June 2003 by the National Park Service, the Cape Lookout Lighthouse, keeper's quarters and summer kitchen have been threatened by erosion from storms and high tides. A wood shed near the lighthouse was



A diver inspects part of the sunken vessel that sits on the ocean floor near Morehead City.

destroyed in 2003 by Hurricane Isabel which prompted the National Park Service to seek protection of the lighthouse and remaining structures. The NPS asked for and is receiving assistance from the Wilmington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"It's a state icon, maybe to a lesser degree than the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, but still it's a major draw," said Project Manager Mitch Hall. "The draw is that it's a beacon of the night for mariners. And in older days, it was one of the main structures people saw out there living out in Shackelford Banks and Harkers Island. Everybody in that area associates their homes with that



The Currituck dumps a load of dredged material near the sunken vessel.

(COURTESY OF NC DEPT. OF CULTURAL RESOURCES)



The newly-formed beach will give the lighthouse plenty of room of protection from waves. (Heusinkveld Photos)



Project Manager Mitch Hall (left), and Rolando Serrano (center), chat with contractor Darrell Stewart and two officials from the National park Service.



The keeper's quarters came dangerously close to being damaged or destroyed by erosion. The new beach was designed with slopes to slow wave action to protect all of the buildings.

lighthouse. It's a major cultural resource and icon."

According to Hall, the Corps placed approximately 60,000 cubic yards of beach quality material along 2,600 linear feet of the estuarine shoreline of South Core Banks, Cape Lookout National Seashore. This will act as a buffer that will slow erosion. The project was completed at the end of March before the arrival of nesting seabirds. The National Park Service is funding the project.

The Cape Lookout Lighthouse and existing structures are listed in the

National Register of Historic Places under the name "Cape Lookout Light Station." Built by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1859 with help from cadets of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, it replaced an earlier lighthouse built in 1812. The lighthouse ascends to a height of 169 feet above sea level.

## Cape Lookout Lighthouse Project Delivery Team:

### Stacy Smith

Native Beach Sampling and Vibracoring of borrow sources on Snell

### Larry Benjamin

Vibracoring on Snell

### Ben Lackey

Sand Compatibility Analysis

### Trudy Wilder

EA author, 404 permit application

### Jeff Richter

Finished EA after Trudy's retirement, FONSI

### Chuck Wilson

EFH chapter in EA

### Phil Payonk

EA Proofreader, Comments

### Brenda Willett

Final EA Edits and Mailing for Public Review, Mailing of FONSI

### John McCormick

Survey Scope of Work, Beachfill Templates, Geospatial Analysis

### David Rochelle

Design, Plans and Specs

### Oweita Freeman

Plans and Specs Prep for BCOE Review

### Jimmy Hargrove

ITR comments, Plans and Specs

### John Caldwell

Cost Engineering, Budget and Government Estimates

### Mark Reavis

Surveying oversight

### Adam Faircloth

Cartographer, EA Figures, Geospatial Analysis, Sub-cable maps

### Elaine Hayes

Cartographer

### Barry Guthrie

Captain of the Beaufort

### Rob Potter

Lead technician

### Scott Bertrand

Survey technician

### Reggie Adams

Survey technician

### Abb Stallings

Contracting

### Sherrell Bunn

Contracting Officer

### Dennis Lynch

Construction Contract Oversight

### Rolando Serrano

Construction Oversight, Inspection

### Kenneth Penland

Inspection

# Regionalization in SAD and USACE

By Justine Arnette

Regionalization is new to the Corps of Engineers as a whole, but SAD has been integrating systems and personnel in its regionalization effort for a year now. Regionalization is intended to help level work loads and personnel. Every District goes through busy times and lean times. In fact, every division or branch within the Districts has peaks and valleys in workload, and these do not necessarily coincide with the workload variations in sister Districts. For example, not every Planning Section goes through a lean time at the same time, and this goes for all the departments.

Through regionalization, SAD has taken steps to take full advantage of our regional workforce and level workload, by combining various functions across District lines. Charleston and Wilmington's Planning Divisions are now part of the Wilmington Planning Center, so that if planning workload is on a down trend, in say Charleston District, those employees can work on



*SAD Commander BG Mike Walsh briefs attendees of the Senior Leader Conference. (Savannah District Photos by Jonas Jordan)*

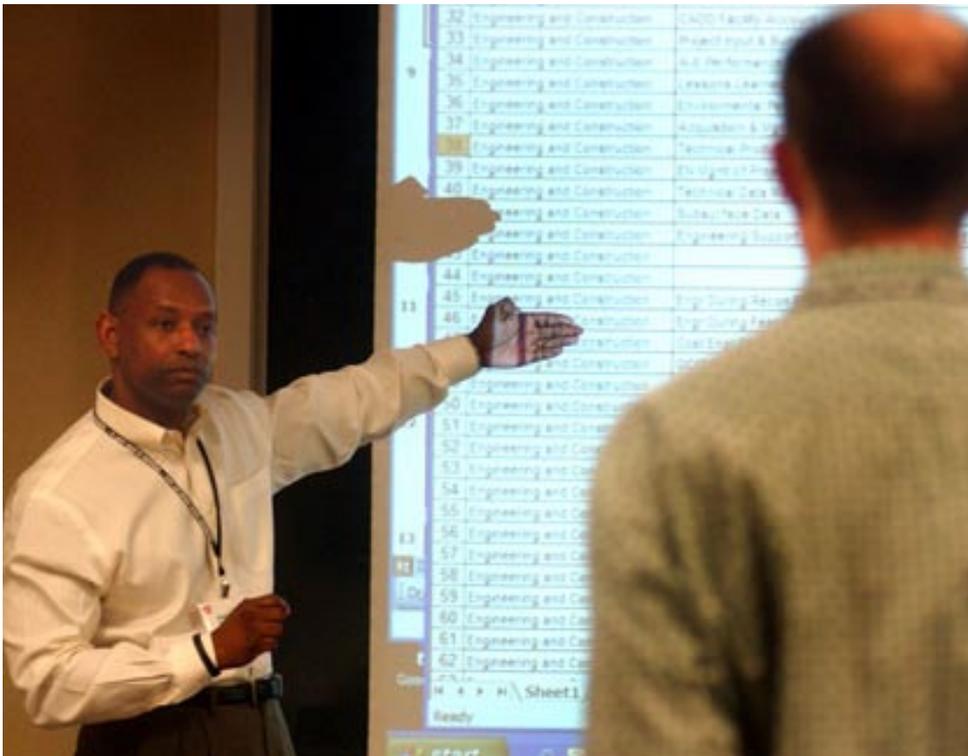
what would traditionally be Wilmington District projects, and vice versa, so that one District is not overwhelmed with work while another is looking for work. Similar realignments have been made within Technical Ser-

vices Division and Contracting.

This is not an easy process. A major challenge is changing the mindset of the people who work for the Corps. In the past we have been trained and accustomed to think, plan and execute at a District level, and to do our own work. Team members can be reluctant to share work and ideas within an office, let alone with another District. Through lots of hard work and perseverance, however, the logistical and personal barriers to regionalization are being broken down. South Atlantic Division - One TEAM - Relevant, Ready, Responsive, and Reliable is coming into focus more and more with each passing day.

For more information on the SLC please visit:

[www.sas.usace.army.mil/indexslc.html](http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/indexslc.html)



*SAD's James Dalton points out details during an SLC meeting.*

## ***Processes, Processes, Processes!***

***By Rhonda Wiggins***

Everything we do revolves around processes. In most instances, processes are a necessity and can be very beneficial. On the other hand, processes can also delay actions and impede the system. All processes should be routinely evaluated to determine whether they are appropriate, need improvement, or add no value and can be eliminated. Expectations of a successful process, is one that fulfills a purpose, provides accuracy, monitors and controls costs, and improves timeliness. The first step in evaluating a process is to determine your customers, both internal and external, and what they value. I believe internal customers (Managers, Co-Workers, etc.) would rate responsiveness, accuracy, and timeliness among their top requirements. I believe external customers (other Districts, Organizations, the Public, and Sea Turtles) are focused on the end product/service and the associated cost. Once you determine who your customers are and what they value, you can then begin evaluating the processes used to meet their needs - do they result in excellent products/services, improved responsiveness and accuracy, reduced time, and do all this for the best cost?

I agree, there are so many processes required within the Government that you feel you have little control. So, start small! What are the District processes that directly affect you, the performance of your duties, and your ability to satisfy your customers. I challenge you to identify processes that could either be eliminated or improved upon and then work towards that goal. I am also certain that there is a process for changing processes!!! However, I am confident that if we do our homework, coordinate with those impacted, and



*Deputy District Commander LTC Bud Jones (left), former SAD Deputy District Commander Thatch Shepard (center), and Bob Sattin (right) discuss ideas with a fellow SLC attendee.*

develop a sound recommendation to present to the Command, they will listen. This responsibility falls on all of us, not just management. It is a differ-

ent world now, in which we find ourselves competing with the private sector - we must monitor ourselves to determine our future.



*Hank Maser (left), shares ideas with a group of attendees that includes fellow SAW colleague Ken Jolly (center right).*

(continued from page 3)

**Jeff Richter** adds: "I was in Hattiesburg for six weeks on the Hurricane Katrina debris team. I deployed as a QA, but one of the QA supervisors found out I had some regulatory and environmental experience the day after I got there. Since one person in the two-person Environmental Section was getting ready to leave and the work load was getting ready to increase tenfold, I was drafted to assist a recently arrived Environmental Engineer. I oversaw the day-to-day mulch (chipped vegetative debris) removal from temporary debris reduction sites, including efforts to find beneficial uses for mulch. There are lots of blueberry farmers in southern MS who love this free mulch. We had over a million CY of mulch in the Hattiesburg area and we tried hard to provide residents a little something for all the hardships they'd been through. I also was involved in opening up final debris sites, which constitute a savings of big \$ for the government. The government pays for opening up, maintaining, hauling debris to, chipping at, and hauling out debris from temporary sites, but pays only a hauling fee and a tipping fee to final sites. I



*Melissa Blackburn*

got some experience with burning debris and ash disposal issues, hazardous and toxic waste disposal, and landfill regulations.

My deployment experience was outstanding. I met lots of great people from a variety of Federal agencies, many who excel in jobs and responsi-



*Jeff Richter*

bilities far different from what they normally do. I saw how a massive operation actually gets accomplished. I witnessed the unbelievable destruction of Katrina, which photos and video can't begin to show, and I saw the resilience of communities that have been all but wiped out determined to rebuild their lives."

## **Up Front**

(continued from page 2)

annual Senior Leader's Conference. The purpose of the conference was to unveil the Division's 2007 Strategic Plan, to talk through implementation of the plan and its components, and to build teamwork across the Region. The four key elements of the Division's plan for 2007 include: enhancing leadership, continuing toward greater regionalization, improving support to our customers, and improving our many business processes. Wilmington District teammates **Rhonda Wiggins** and **Justin Arnette** attended the Conference as members of SAD's 2006 Leadership Development Program, and have prepared articles on aspects of the Conference and our 2007 objectives. Look for their articles in this newsletter.

As a final note, I would like to let you know that the District is well down the road toward preparing ourselves for implementation of the upcoming A-76 competition in IM and the High Performing Organization restructure of LM. We are taking care of our own in a way that strengthens the entire team and greatly reduces or eliminates the need for any RIF later this year or next. In fact, we are very close to being able to say that we've eliminated the need for any RIF type activities whatsoever. Thanks to all members of the team, both in IM/LM and outside, for coming together so well on this effort.

Thanks again for all that you are doing to put more victories in our "win" column. My count has us at something like 12 and 1 thus far in the '06 season...something we can all be very proud of!

– JP



# The WOO Team Clan Report

## Meet the WOO...

By Lora Reid

You may ask, "Who is the Woo?" The Woo is a group of eight Wilmington District employees selected out of 25 candidates from all District locations to participate in the first Leadership Development program of the South Atlantic Division's Wilmington District. The team will work together in the Leadership program throughout the year on a special project selected by Colonel John Pulliam. Several sessions have been planned for the team that will teach each of them important Leadership skills which they can use in their jobs now and take with them as they further develop in the Wilmington District.

The Wilmington Leadership Development Program is the product of an Operations Plan Objective for FY 2006. With Chief of Staff George Burch as 'champion' a project delivery team including Susan Dixon, Greg Williams, Justin McCorcle, Virginia Rynk, Mitch Hall, and Michael Hosey developed a 150-hour curriculum that includes both Corps-centered business processes and personal development elements. Each team member has developed a session that will enhance the program at different stages during the year.

Team Woo's first session was held April 11-13, 2006 in Wilmington. Justin McCorcle led the April session, assisted by Nancy Adelis of Adelis Development Systems located in Freehold, New Jersey. She brought with her many years of experience from working for the government in the Human Resources department and continuing to work with government agencies after branching out into her own business. With Nancy's help, the team focused on learning each other's strengths and how to use the strengths of the team to accomplish the goals set for them this year. Team Woo was taken through several exercises that reinforced the top strengths that each of the members have and how their greatest potential can be gained by pairing the most productive combination of strengths together.

A major part of Team Woo's first session included reading the book, *Now, Discover Your Strengths* by Marcus Buckingham and Donald O. Clifton, Ph.D. We also took the "Gallup's Strengthsfinder.com Profile" to discover what each of the team's top five individual strengths were

out of a possible thirty-four. As explained by Ms. Adelis, a strength is something we were born with, we do it near perfectly, and when we do it, it gives us a high. If we build on the strengths we are born with, we can grow exponentially in that strength and use that strength to be more successful at what we do at work and in all areas of our lives.

Some of the strengths that the Team Woo possesses are Futuristic, Achiever, Harmony, Empathy, Command, Analytical and Communication. A strength that one team member in the group, Sherrie Storm, also has is the strength of "Woo". Woo stands for Winning Others Over. A person with 'WOO' strength enjoys the challenge of meeting new people, is rarely intimidated by meeting strangers, and is rarely at a loss for words. In their world, there are no strangers, only friends they haven't met yet.

When asked by Nancy Adelis, the team's facilitator, what we would like to name the first Development team in the program of the Wilmington District, the group enthusiastically voted on the name "Team Woo". If asked why they chose that name, most of them would probably say, we just like the way it sounds and we wanted to make a mark as the District's first team in the Leadership Development Program. We wanted a name that would not be easily forgotten.

Other topics that were discussed in the three-day session included the "Seven S's" of the Corps' learning organization, the doctrine of the Corps, the roles of a leader, team building, and team communication. The session concluded with a lesson on Military Etiquette and Protocol presented by Penny Chesnut, formerly the Protocol Advisor to a three star General in Washington, DC. Penny says that most rules of protocol are just common sense.

This year, each member of Team Woo is expected to attend one public meeting, attend two meetings outside their work arena, select a mentor, shadow the Commander or Deputy Commander for one day and write an article for the District's Newsletter.

Virginia Rynk has planned the next session for Team Woo in May which will again take place in Wilmington. It includes such activities as learning Army Values by Colonel John Pulliam, how to conduct a meeting in two hours, local off-site visits to the state ports, the Engineer Yard, and a water tour of the Wilmington Harbor Projects.

Team Woo will continue to keep the District updated on its various adventures and assignments as they unfold. Stayed tuned for Team Woo.



From left; Lora Reid, Scott Jones, Chuck Wilson, Amanda Jones, Marti Sedgewick, Brian Williams, Carmen Boyette, Sherrie Storm.

# Little Girl's Balloon Flies from Arkansas to Kerr Dam in 3 Days

By Roger Anderson, Park Ranger, John H. Kerr Reservoir



Mario and Carole Scappino (inset) found this message attached to the balloon.

On Monday, January 30, 2006 about 1530 hours, two visitors stopped by the Kerr Visitor Assistance Center to report that they had found a red balloon with a message tied to it.

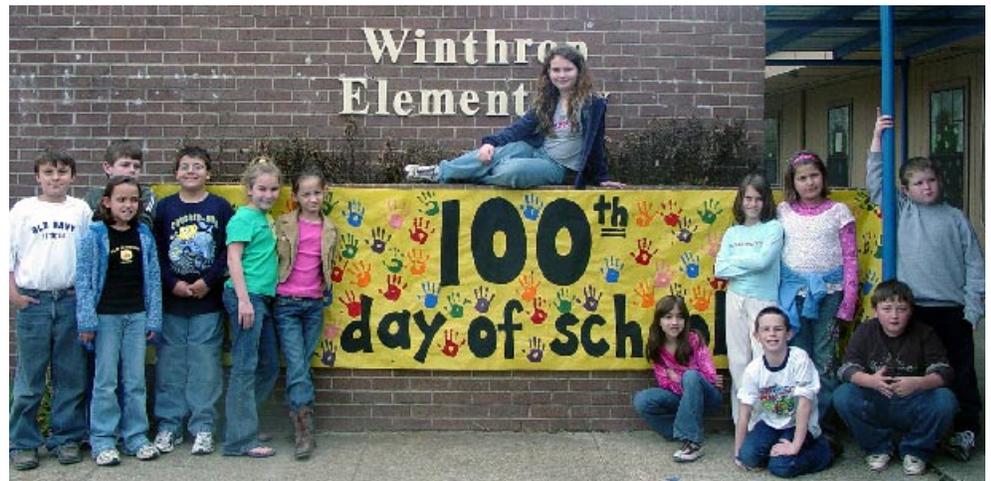
Mario and Carole Scappino, of Clarksville, Virginia said they found the balloon, still with some helium inside, still lodged in a small tree adjacent to the dam. A yellow card was attached to the balloon with a silver ribbon. On the card was a note that read:

"If found, please call or return to Winthrop Elementary School, PO Box 360, Winthrop, AR 71866, (870) 381-7373." The card noted a "100th Day Celebration" and was signed by Chelsea Stephens.

Corps staff assisted Mr. and Mrs. Scappino by placing a phone call to the school. Winthrop Elementary School personnel said that the balloon was

released on Friday, January 27th, 2006 as part of the "100th Day Celebration".

According to Winthrop School officials, the "100th Day Celebration" is a fun day for the elementary school children commemorating the hundredth day of the school year. The children each bring in 100 items for a "snack mix" (for instance, 100 "M&M's", 100 peanuts, 100 pretzels, etc.). Then they go into the gym and form the outline of the number "1-0-0", perform 100 jumping jacks and then hop on one foot one hundred times.



Chelseas Stephens (center) poses with her classmates in Winthrop, Arkansas.

"The celebration started 3 years ago, and at that time we had 100 students. Now we have 110 students," said Missy Whitlow, school secretary.

"At 11:45 AM on Friday we released 110 balloons," Missy said. "So far, Chelsea's has drifted the farthest away. One was found in Arkansas, another in Missouri."

And how did little Chelsea, a 9-year old third grader, feel about her balloon going almost all the way to the Atlantic Ocean?

"She just grinned from ear to ear", said Missy.

Apparently the balloon got caught up in a windy front that moved through the area on Sunday, January 29th, enabling it to get to Southside Virginia very fast.

Was the delivery of the balloon faster than the US Postal Service delivery of mail from Arkansas to Kerr Lake would have been? The little balloon traveled a distance of 1,112 miles in less than 72 hours proving once again..."it's a small world after all."

# Tales of the Super Scooper



*The Super Scooper is a modified seaplane. It's capable of scooping up 1,440 gallons of water in 12 seconds.*

The first call came into the W. Kerr Scott Lake Visitor Assistance Center on March 2 at 7:45am. "This is the Forest Service Operations Center. The plane will be diving on the lake today." That's all they said. We assumed it was a training run. Little did we know, this was the beginning of what appears to be an active fire season in Western North Carolina.

The "plane" referred to was the North Carolina Division of Forest Service's CL-215 "Super Scooper" Aircraft—a large yellow modified seaplane. A prescribed burn in the Devotion Community located in Surry County quickly got out of control in the low humidity. Using the Super Scooper, Forest Service employees were able to keep the burn down to 500-acres with no losses to property or life.

Many people love to watch planes take off and land. Make it a seaplane scooping up water and the excitement is

doubled. Folks in Wilkes County could see it flying low over their homes and knew what it meant. The roadway across the dam quickly filled with on-lookers, as did the empty parking lots at the boat ramps. Everybody was jockeying for the best view—including the rangers.

The experienced pilot flies in low, a mere 500 feet above the dam. He scans the area for potential water hazards, mainly boaters, and must quickly determine whether it is safe to complete the run or whether they must make a pass to clear the area of boaters. March was a lucky month for the pilot as most boaters kept to the shoreline.

As the pilot drops toward the water, a small hatch drops down from the bottom of the plane. When the plane enters the lake, he continues to move forward as water enters the holding tanks. The CL-215 holds up to 1,200 gallons of water, which can be injected

with fire retardant foam for added effectiveness. When the tank is full, the pilot closes the hatch and quickly climbs into the air.

There have been several more fires in the western region since March 2. At least three of those required the assistance of the Super Scooper. On March 14, there were three fires in Wilkes County alone—one on River Road required the help of the plane. With dire predictions for the summer fire season, it seems the residents of Wilkes County will be treated to several more of these spectacular displays.

*Story and photo by  
Miram Fleming*

# *Congratulations to our Retirees!*



*Nancy Raynor*



*Jim Stirling with his father, David Stirling.*



*Penny Chesnut*



*Frank Snipes*



Jan Wutkowski

# Website Highlights

National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment Site

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>

At any given time, the National Park Service is working on dozens of long-term plans for the development and conservation of various properties under their oversight, including national monuments and national historic sites. This website provides access to current plans, environmental impact analyses, and related documents that are under review. Visitors to the site can search for plans by geographic region, by state, or by a drop-down menu of all of the various properties.

Books For Understanding

[www.booksforunderstanding.org](http://www.booksforunderstanding.org)

Books for Understanding is an online current events bibliography service from the Association of American University Presses. Four to six times a year, on average, they look at topics or events that are in the news, consult their member presses (directory available) to see what books they may be publishing relevant to those topics or events, and then create a list of books relevant and useful for understanding that topic.

NASA: Satellite Tracking

<http://science.nasa.gov/realtime/>

NASA has offered a number of great sites about their research for the general public over the years, and this site may be one of their best. Visitors can use several of the online tracking applications offered here to locate hundreds of satellites and other such large objects in space. Search to find the current location of the Space Station as well as the location of weather satellites using this application. The Live 3D Java Tracking Display here allows visitors to monitor close to 700 satellites that are in motion around the earth. Finally, visitors can also use an application offered here that allows them to determine which satellites might be seen from their location in the night sky.

U.S. Congress Votes Database

<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/>

This database, created by the Washington Post, allows constituents to find out rather quickly how their elected officials vote. Utilizing a variety of authoritative data sources (such as the web site of the Senate and the Library of Congress's THOMAS site), the database contains the results of every vote cast in the Congress since 1991. Visitors can look at vote results in a variety of different ways, such as particular Congress or a particular individual. Recently, they also added a selection of "Votes by Type", such as those cast on impeachments, treaties, and vice-presidential tiebreakers.

Katrina Index: Tracking Variables of Post-Katrina Reconstruction

[http://www.brookings.edu/metro/pubs/200512\\_katrinaindex.htm](http://www.brookings.edu/metro/pubs/200512_katrinaindex.htm)

The Brookings Institution has released a number of reports on the efforts to rebuild the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina including this 47-page report that gives a detailed data-oriented summary of the recent progress that has occurred. This is a very well-researched paper that should prove valuable to anyone with an interest in the future reconstruction and sustainability of this area.

## One For Fun!

Museum of Yo-Yo History

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

Visitors with a love for the yo-yo will appreciate the wide range of materials that can be found on the site, particularly the online exhibit of highly valuable yo-yos, such as the 1984 Olympics No Jive model. For those who want to continue their exploration of the yo-yo, there is the "Profiles & History" area, which contains player and company profiles, along with historical photographs of yo-yos in action.

## **Wilmington District News Shifts to Electronic Publication**



The 'paper' is about to become 'the screen.' As South Atlantic Division moves to a more regional way of working, our Command Information Program will be changing as well. Soon, we will begin publishing a quarterly newspaper, SPECTRUM, covering programs and projects being undertaken by all five SAD districts. By the second issue of SPECTRUM, we will be mailing that publication to all of you who wish to receive it. The next issue of Wilmington District News will be our final print issue.

We will continue to publish the Wilmington District News, but in electronic format only. If you are a current member of our District work force, you will be notified by email or on the District "Town Crier" screen when the new publication is ready. If you are a retiree or on our external mailing list, please contact us with your email address so that we can send you a link to the newsletter each time it is published. Send us a letter by 'snail mail' if you do not have email or internet access, and we will try to find another way to keep you informed.

For several years, we have been posting electronic versions of our newsletter, in full color, on our web page. You can read or print past newsletters by going to [www.saw.usace.army.mil](http://www.saw.usace.army.mil) and clicking on our 'Newsroom' link. Our new electronic newsletter will have a slightly re-designed look, and will also be available to print in full color. Contact us by emailing [Penny.Schmitt@usace.army.mil](mailto:Penny.Schmitt@usace.army.mil)

### *Please let us know:*

1. Do you want to receive SPECTRUM in the mail? Please give us your current mailing address.
2. Do you want to receive an email with a link to each new publication of Wilmington District News? Please let us know by email and give us the email address you prefer us to use.

## **Earth Day 2006**



Wilmington District members took part in Earth Day celebrations held at Hugh MacRae Park in April.

*From left to right:  
Ronnie Smith, Paula Carper,  
Chuck Wilson, Jenny Owens,  
Tom Farrel and Lillette Granade.*



## **Scholarship Established in Memory of Former Chief's Wife, Geraldine King Morris**

Geraldine King Morris, wife of LTG (Ret.) John W. Morris, 44th Chief of Engineers, died on March 28th, 2006 after several years of disability following a major stroke.

Mrs. Morris was herself a veteran of World War II, a registered nurse who served in the Army Nurse Corps from 1944 until just prior to her marriage to then-Captain Morris in 1947. Mrs. Morris retained a lifelong proficiency and interest in nursing, even as she supported her husband and their family, and mentored many military wives and soldiers during more than 33 years of LTG Morris's military service.

A nursing scholarship has been established in Mrs. Morris's memory. Contributions may be sent to the Army Engineer Memorial Awards (AEMA) with a designation for the Geraldine K. Morris Award on the memo line of the check. The address is: Army Engineer Memorial Awards (AEMA), c/o AEOWC, P.O. Box 6332, Alexandria, VA 22306-6332.

Editor's note- Geraldine Morris' military service has been registered for future generations of the Morris family and the public in the Women in Military Service to America Memorial (WIMSA). Women veterans can register at the following site; [www.womensmemorial.org/Membership/reg.html](http://www.womensmemorial.org/Membership/reg.html)

## ***Water Contract Signed in Henderson, N.C.***

Officials from Henderson, Oxford and Warren County joined Henderson Mayor Donald “Clem” Seifert and Col. John E. Pulliam Jr. of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Kerr Lake Regional Water System plant recently to sign a new water-storage contract. The new agreement replaces an old water-withdrawal contract. It gives Henderson and its regional water system partners, Warren County and Oxford, ownership of about one percent of the water in the John H. Kerr Reservoir.

Under the former water withdrawal contract, dating from the mid-1970s, partners in the regional water system were allowed to draw a maximum of 20 million gallons of water per day from Kerr as long as water was available. Under the new water-storage agreement, the regional partners will share a set amount of the lake and will be able to draw as much as they’d like per day. Regional partners are also now “entitled” to Kerr Lake water.

Col. Pulliam said the contract does guarantee the community a reliable source of water for the foreseeable future. The regional partners will amortize the \$2,375,336 contract at a 4.6 percent interest rate over a period of 30 years, paying a total of about \$4,243,079. For the communities, the storage contract is an excellent long-term bargain, because once the contract is paid, access to lake water will remain free of further annual charges. Henderson holds 60 percent of the ownership and cost burden in paying the contract. Oxford and Warren County each represent 20 percent of the partnership.

City officials noted around 2000 that the withdrawal contract would expire in 2004 and began to work with the



Corps to seek a new contract. With the help of their local Congressman, G. K. Butterfield, the communities arrived at an agreement with the Corps and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, John Paul Woodley, which facilitated the agreement and specified terms helpful to the communities.

“Our town has challenges ahead, but this one we don’t have anymore,” Seifert said at Friday’s signing. Col. Pulliam spoke at the program, emphasizing the importance of the new water storage contract. “Some people say the precious resources of the 19th century were gold and silver, in the 20th century that resource became oil. In the 21st century, clean water is likely to become the most precious resource.”

**Department of the Army  
US Army Engineer District  
Wilmington Corps of Engineers**

Post Office Box 1890  
Wilmington, NC 28402-1890

OFFICIAL BUSINESS