

WILMINGTON DISTRICT NEWS  
**ONLINE**

APRIL 2007

**LONG HOURS, TEAMWORK HELPS  
PUT THE CURRITUCK BACK IN  
BUSINESS ON THE EAST COAST**

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Susan Brokenshire was always good at math and science in school. The daughter of a career U.S. State Department diplomat she grew up in several different countries, but worked her way back to the states and got a degree in mechanical engineering from Duke University. Before coming to the Wilmington District in North Carolina, she was a facilities engineer on a U.S. installation in Germany, but she switched gears when she became a mechanical engineer for Wilmington District Navigation. With her experience as a budget number cruncher and her natural knack for fixing things, she was the perfect candidate to help oversee an emergency pit stop last winter for the Currituck, the Wilmington District's special purpose



A specialized rail car pulled the Currituck onto a state dry dock near Manteo. George Tootle, inset, paints the sides of the Currituck's hull. (Brokenshire photos.)

shallow draft dredge vessel. "The Currituck sprang a leak in its hull," she said. "We didn't have a choice but to bring her in for an emergency repair at the state port in Mann's Harbor near Manteo because of its dry dock facilities."

The Currituck is usually out of sight and out of mind. It averages 340 days of

work each year, and its places of duty stretch from New England to Florida. Brokenshire said the wear and tear on the vessel means on average a major shipyard contract every three years.

"When she stops we need to do a superb job of fixing her. We use the down time to buy her life again."

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**UP FRONT****SUMMER'S ALMOST HERE, SO BE SAFE!**

*The birds are singing, the bees are buzzing, and the azaleas are blooming. These are sure signs that summer is just around the corner. Although the unofficial beginning of summer is not until Memorial Day weekend, many of you are now planning your summer activities. Don't forget to include safety in your plans.*



**Bill Harris, SAW  
Safety Officer**

**Drive safely!**

Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend is traditionally known as "The 101 Days of Summer". Driving is the greatest hazard associated with the 101 Days of Summer. Motor vehicle accidents are the number one cause of accidental injury and death, both on the job and off. When planning a trip, take the following steps to improve your

chances are arriving safely:

- o Get your car serviced or if you have the expertise service it yourself. Check all fluids, including battery and ensure they are at the proper level; check belts for wear and proper fit; check tires for proper inflation and tread wear; check your spare tire for proper inflation; check windshield wiper blades for wear; check all lights and horn; and check any safety equipment that you may have.
- o The night before departure, get an adequate amount of sleep. Try to maintain your same schedule, as you do not want to disrupt your circadian rhythm.
- o Remember to drive defensively. Watch for the other driver, obey all traffic laws, make allowances for weather and other environmental conditions, and eliminate distractions.
- o Do not drink or talk on your cell phone and drive!

**Practice good Water Safety!**

Summer can be a sun and fun-filled time of year. Many of us spend time at the pool, lake or beach, swimming, sunbathing, boating, and fishing. Unfortunately, sad endings can spoil happy days. A two-year old left unattended at the water's edge falls into the water and drowns. A fisherman has too many beers, falls out of a boat and drowns. An intoxicated boater crashes into another boat killing or seriously injuring all involved. During the past 11 years, I have read about 70 such sad stories.

Nationwide, we record about 4,000 drowning deaths a year. This includes drowning on and off the job. About 1,000 of those drownings involve children between the age of 1 and 14.

**The bottom line; learn to swim, and make sure that your kids learn to swim and wear a life jacket. And have fun! ■**

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**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

**Wilmington District**





System administrator Davis Crouch checks new equipment in a room that has shrunk to a third of what it once held because of changing technology.

You can pretty much paint your own scenario. You get up from your desk to run to the copy machine. A few minutes later you return and your computer is locked. Or you leave your cubicle for a minute to get a cup of coffee. You return to your cubicle and “ARGHH!” the inevitable has happened again for the umpteenth time. You then ask yourself, “Why?!” because at this point you’re simply annoyed, although deep down you know that it’s a sign of the times.

“We get several security updates that come from the Department of the Army every week that we have to deal with,” said Chief of Support Service Branch Jack Walworth. “That’s something that people are really noticing because it obviously affects them every day. We have to do the updates and we’re not yet used to having such active security changes. So, yes we know it’s an inconvenience, but the reality is it’s going to continue to change.”

Walworth said there have been numerous changes made over the

last year to upgrade SAW’s computer system and there are more to follow. But Walworth said the IM team has jumped over the biggest hurdle so far.

“We’re getting to the point now where we’re moving from having to react individually to every single computer to the next level which is the ‘repeatable processes’ where we can maintain large groups of computers at a time. Our goal is to have every computer running smoothly after one fix instead of two or three fixes. This will reduce risk and waste and improve productivity and quality.”

One big reason for the numerous changes stems from infiltration attempts from hackers. Walworth said the Wilmington District has isolated two attempts that originated from overseas.

“We have to give credit to the Corps of Engineers Enterprise Information System (CEEIS) that protects the network. At our level we’re responsible for getting our equipment modified and updated

## CURRITUCK CON'T

By a contract with the North Carolina Department of Transportation Ferry Division, state workers pulled the Currituck onto their dry dock and made the emergency repair to the hull. After that, the vessel remained at the ferry yard to take advantage of the dry dock. By bringing in Wilmington District crew members who have years of experience working on all SAW vessels what could have been at least a four to five month stay in Manteo turned out to be an incredible two-month overhaul.

“Our guys put in 12-hour days, seven days a week to get the Currituck in the water again,” said Brokenshire. “We had a long list of repairs like replacing pumps, putting on a new mast and smaller things that only crew members would know how to fix.”

SAW Engineer Yard Supervisor Ken Bailey likened crew members to “industrial Special Forces” who were able to do several different jobs rather than just one or two. Many of them are military veterans who need little or no supervision.

“Things wear out or become out of date,” Bailey said. “Our guys are so familiar with all of the vessels that they can tell when something’s not right and needs repairing,” he said. “And since they knew how important it was to get the Currituck back in the water as

quickly as possible, they worked on the weekends to stay out of the Ferry Yard workers way.”

In addition to inspecting the work on the Currituck, Brokenshire also had to make sure that work stayed within budget. Allotted only \$100,000 for the repair job, her meticulous nature for saving a buck saved hundreds of thousands of dollars.

“With everyone pulling together to make the repair as fast as possible we estimated that it would have probably taken between \$400,000 and \$500,000 if we had contracted it out.”

The Currituck is a high profile vessel able to put sand in the surf zone on beaches in water less than 10 feet deep. Studies have shown that material placed in this area move predominantly onshore, which mimics the natural process of putting sand on a beach. The dredge is constantly in demand and Bailey said the race to get it repaired in such a short amount of time meant that the Wilmington District was able to keep pace with the demands up and down the east coast.

“Everybody was waiting on us,” he exclaimed. “She went straight to work as soon as we were finished.”

Brokenshire said Wilmington



**Mechanical engineer Susan Brokenshire and Ken Bailey said a 12-hour, seven-day-a-week schedule helped get the Currituck back into the water faster than normal.**

District Navigation has developed over the years into a “one stop shop” able to do shallow draft dredging with its custom designed vessels.

“Not only are we experts at shallow draft dredging up and down the east coast, but we have hydrographic survey capabilities with five survey boats that can respond immediately if necessary. And our vessel crews have the knowledge that’s needed to keep our boats maintained, working double shifts and seven days a week if that’s what it takes.” ■

## SAD'S MEDIA TRAINING CLASS OFFERS WAYS TO LOOK, FEEL CONFIDENT AND DELIVER KEY MESSAGES DURING TELEVISION INTERVIEWS

Last year, three SAW team members appeared on the nationally-aired program "Modern Marvels" featuring the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. Recently retired Chief of Navigation Howard Varnam was one of those featured. If you happened to watch the program he appeared relaxed, the same Howard we all know knew as a colleague, friend and, most important, a *credible subject matter expert*. There's a reason for that. He'd been in front of a TV camera numerous times in his career. He grew more confident each time he talked with reporters, and he knew that he had a responsibility to inform the public about the organization.

How would you fare if you were asked to go on camera for an interview?

"We have a responsibility to tell the public what we're doing," said Connie Gillette, Charleston District Chief of Public Affairs. "The media provide us the absolute best shot at reaching the greatest number of people when we have information to share."

Gillette leads the South Atlantic Division's Media Training Program

as part of a regional public affairs initiative. Her background in media relations is extensive. Previous to Charleston she worked at USACE Public Affairs in Washington, and in Japan with the Far East District. She has also worked for Army Public Affairs on the Strategic Communication team in The Pentagon, grooming high level Army officials and leaders before delivering their messages through national and international media. One particularly powerful moment she likes to discuss came shortly after the ground war had begun in Afghanistan.

"The Commander of Special Forces came in for training -- it had been on the calendar for a long time," Gillette said. "He was not enthusiastic about doing the training, I think, because he believed that much of what his people were doing couldn't be talked about."

In the end, Gillette said, he realized that the things he could talk about were more important to the

people who would watch an interview -- the morale of troops, their high level of skill as they went into combat.

"It was really a good feeling to see him do a follow-on interview where he talked very passionately about his Soldiers, about their expertise and their determination," Gillette said. "I knew he got it."

Gillette's program is nearly the



**Connie Gillette explains the ground rules when talking with television reporters.**

## COMPUTERS CON'T

which we're doing. We've had a couple of machines in the past few months that have been attacked. When this happens we get an alert and we immediately disconnect a particular computer. We'll run tests on it and clean it up."

Walworth notes that one big

change that should bring a lot of smiles, especially for those who send and receive large amounts data, is doubling the speed of the internet with the implementation of MPLS.

Currently CEEIS is scheduled to install Multi Protocol Label

Switching (MPLS) in July, 2007 for Wilmington District. This will vastly improve our internet connections for the Wilmington District headquarters and for those who are connecting to our servers from remote locations. MPLS will be implemented to most SAW field offices in FY08. ■

## DO YOU HAVE WIRELESS INTERNET AT HOME? IS IT SECURE? AND JUST WHAT IS "WAR DRIVING"?

Wireless internet service is convenient. It's also very vulnerable. And if you're doing online banking, taking your work home or organizing family images you might want to take some protective measures.

"If your wireless network is open hackers can not only get in they can install spyware to get even more information about you," explained Jessica Hartel, an SAW IM contractor. "Some devices can record every key stroke you make once they get in. Identity theft is huge right now, so why leave your door

open?"

Hartel, who's also an Air National Guard Computer Communications Specialist, said there are easy ways to tap into unsecured networks. "War driving" is one preferred way. Computer hackers have gadgets in their cars that can find wireless signals.



Gadgets like these help war drivers pick up wireless signals from anywhere.

"Lots of teenagers do it just to get free internet. And don't

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## WAR DRIVING CON'T

think that just because you live off a main road that the range of a hacker's tools won't work. There are ways to amplify a signal out of soda pop cans, coffee cans...they can grab a signal a mile or two away. If there's a will there's a way."

Hartel said most hackers aren't malicious. To them, it's a challenge.

"Most hackers are doing it just to say 'I did it'. There aren't very many of them getting actual data. It's basically people who instead of maybe playing baseball or some other sport they're hacking into computers. It's a challenge to them to see how cool they are."

let's warchalk..!	
KEY	SYMBOL
OPEN NODE	ssid X bandwidth
CLOSED NODE	ssid O
WEP NODE	ssid access contact W bandwidth

blackbeltjones.com/warchalking

Graffiti know as "war chalking" lets hackers know where there are open ports.

Hartel said computer security measures are critical, not only at home, but at work. With an extensive background in network security and cyber warfare she learned in the Air Force she said that users can never be too safe.

"I can walk to somebody's desk and I can probably get every single password, even a pin number because they're just laying around. It's okay to write your password down, but you really need to secure it. And even though an organization has security at the front desk the biggest threat is from inside because potential hackers don't have to go through so much trouble to get data. I remember reading something about an insider within DOD



IM Contractor Jessica Hartel: "If your wireless network is open hackers can not only get in, but they can install spyware to get even more information about you."

who was getting classified data at random for money. That's why we have password protect on every computer so you can cover every possible security breach." ■

**For more information about war driving and how to safeguard wireless internet go to Website Highlights on page 14.**

**IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

**THIS QUILT IS MADE FROM THE HEART**

A clipping of a story from the Washington Post includes a powerful picture of a Soldier sitting in a wheelchair beaming at the camera. It's obvious that he cherishes and approves of a hand-made quilt that somebody donated to him. He's recovering at Walter Reed Army medical Center from wounds he suffered in Iraq. The clipping is tacked to a bulletin board in Penny Schmitt's sewing room. She put it there to inspire her to do the same thing; make a quilt for a wounded Soldier to let him know that someone cares. In this case, that Soldier



Sherry Gaylor, left, on leave in Wilmington from her deployment to the Gulf Region Division, will take this quilt made by Penny Schmitt, right, to her injured son. (Heusinkveld photos)



Nimble fingers help guide each square of fabric through Schmitt's sewing machine.

is actually a member of the Air Force; Joseph Baselli, son of Wilmington District colleague Sherry Gaylor. He was wounded in Iraq last year and is now continuing his recovery, and fortunately also his military service, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

"To be honest, I really wanted to feel a personal connection to the service member I was sewing for," she said. "I know how proud Sherry is

of both her sons' service, and we are all so proud of her for what she has done in Iraq and Afghanistan, it just seemed right."



Schmitt chose this fabric for its patriotic flavor.

Schmitt has been seriously quilting for about eight years. When she retires she plans to pursue her "tailor made" hobby full time. At home she loves to immerse herself, free from everyday distractions, in each stage

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## QUILT CON'T



To get exact measurements, the rotary cutter is Schmitt's favorite hand tool.

of the quilt-making process.

There's making the design; finding the right fabrics, colors and patterns; measuring; cutting, ironing, sewing; sewing; and more sewing.

"I confess I am addicted to fabric!" she said. "My stash is like any five-year old's box of 64 bright crayons, only with many more 'colors'



Each section must be wrinkle free before it becomes a part of the quilt.

and I frankly lie awake designing things in my head sometimes."

Quilting is a time-honored, traditional American pastime that Schmitt learned to excel at with the help of modern day aids like a good sewing machine and a rotary cutting blade.

She brings in her work for colleagues to critique or admire, and she's been known to make quilts for those who are not only family but also colleagues and friends. "I probably haven't

made my last 'Quilt of Valor'" she said. "Those patriotic prints are a real inspiration." Currently she is working on a more complex project in Civil-War-era patri-



This article tacked to a bulletin board in Schmitt's sewing room inspired her to make the quilt.

otic colors and prints for a close friend. ■

**Don't know a wounded service member or his or her family? If you're a quilter and want to donate, Schmitt recommends visiting "Quilts of Valor at [www.qov.org](http://www.qov.org) organization that facilitates such donations.**

## COMMANDER HAILS UNIQUE MISSION OF WILMINGTON DISTRICT FLEET CREW

*Adapted from Col. Pulliam's remarks at the retirements of Survey Captain Alan Fryar and Mate Ken Tatum*

On our most cynical and sarcastic days, we talk about how a big part of our job in the District is to “dig ditches in the water.”

Well, as amusing as that sometimes seems, and as accurate as it may be in a very narrow sense, that's not what Alan Fryar, Ken Tatum and their crewmates really do.

What you all do is preserve a way of life for the people of the United States.

Many of you have read this next curious fact in our District history: North Carolina is the only one of the original thirteen colonies with a coastline that was settled largely over land: *the only one*. Virginia, Georgia, South Carolina, New Jersey, Massachusetts and New York—all were settled, all colonized from the sea. Meanwhile, most new North Carolinians were coming in by land from ports around Norfolk and Charleston. So what is it about North Carolina, with more than 300 miles of coastline, that makes it different?

**Treachery:** the treachery of

Mother Nature, with her son and daughter, the mean-spirited Labrador Current and his kinder and warmer sister, the Gulf Stream, who annually do battle for supremacy over North Carolina's Outer Banks, and who conspire to create mind-boggling shoals that reach farther out into the ocean off our capes than they have any right to. The beautiful treachery of a unique estuary system that sprouts inlets like a sea anemone sprouts tentacles. The devastating treachery of hurricanes, nor'easters and other storms that can clog up and close off those inlets as fast as the sounds can create them. In short, North Carolina is both blessed and cursed by her unique coastline.

And into this incredibly dynamic and treacherous system of shoals and currents and sounds and channels...into all this sail the heroes of our story. These men—and women, potentially, but today all



Ken Tate receives a traditional Corps vessel flag from District Commander COL John Pulliam.

men—who tame those forces of nature and keep them in check so that fishermen and sailors, coast guardsmen and merchant mariners, recreation boaters and tug captains can safely find their way through one of Nature's own minefields.

For the irony is that North Carolina, that sole colony settled overland despite its long coastline, has deep, bidding ties to the sea—the very same sea that made it so difficult for the land to be settled. Salt water runs in the veins of the people of the Outer Banks and barrier islands, from Currituck to Brunswick. Whole communities flourish or fail based on the sea and their access to it. And no one can maintain North

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## FLEET CREW CON'T

Carolinians' access to open water better than you, our Wilmington District crew. That—not digging ditches in the water—is what we do in our Navigation mission.

And today we lose two of our best. Mate Ken Tatum, who has also served when needed as master and assistant master on our vessels, and Survey Captain Alan Fryar.

I'd like to take just a minute or two to put the roles Ken and Alan have played with such excellence into a different context, an Army context.

Every military unit has scouts, those invaluable quick and sharp-eyed soldiers who go out beyond the protective range of the larger unit to provide their brothers-in-arms information on the enemy and the terrain. Alan Fryar is perhaps the best scout we have. He's quick! He and his crew on the Gillette can turn surveys like nobody's business. And he's sharp-eyed, with the ability to look down through the water in amazing detail and accuracy. Just as no military unit survives long without its scouts keeping it informed, the Wilmington District would not survive long without Alan, his crew,

and his fellows up and down the coast.

Every unit, since the Middle Ages, also has four other types of troops inside the formation: heavily-armored knights, or cavalry, or tankers ... agile but light infantry, who fill gaps where the heavy guys can't go ... specialist troops like engineers, sappers, and artillery/



**"Alan Fryar is perhaps the best scout we have had. He's quick!"**

archers, who by their special skills multiply the value of those regular troops ... and the logisticians who keep the troops out front fed and rested, armed and fueled.

Now in our terms, when we're talking about our navigation mission, the logisticians are the great folks back at the District HQ, both inside Ops and in the support branches. Our heavy forces, we

contract for...these are the large dredges that industry provides us. The Snell is our special troop unit, whether snagging or taking core samples or pumping. And the Merritt, Currituck, and Fry are our light infantry, able to go into those places that are so strongly characteristic of North Carolina's coast, the shallow waterways. That's one of the things that make Wilmington a unique district—the fact that we have our own "light infantry", our own 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne or 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, and our own special troops. And the reason we have these unique capabilities goes right back to what I started out talking about—North Carolina's unique coastline and challenges.

So today we bid fair winds and following seas to a Captain of our Scouts and a key Lieutenant among our Light Infantry, two leaders who have helped seal and preserve the sterling reputation of the Wilmington District. Alan and Ken, we'll miss you both. I personally will miss you both, and I know that your crewmates and brothers in arms will. You will always and forever be members of the Wilmington Family, and can call on us at any time. ■

# “OUR LIFE GIVING TREES”



Two students plant Loblolly pine seedlings. The seedlings were donated by the Virginia Department of Forestry.

**By Philpott Park Ranger**

**Danny Martin**

Did you know that the climate change trend is significantly increased by carbon dioxide emissions into our atmosphere? Did you know that only a small increase in the global temperature could upset a very delicate balance that may lead to rising sea levels, droughts, intensified hurricanes and tornados, the shut-down of ocean currents, and even the extinction of many species of flora and fauna? Local ecology students who visited Philpott Lake on April 4<sup>th</sup> not only learned these things but also what they could do about the prob-

lem. In the presentation, “Our Life Giving Trees”, students learned that, aside from the traditional uses of wood, trees promote clean water, protect our soil, improve animal habitat, and remove pollutants, such as carbon dioxide, from our atmosphere. Just 100 trees can remove five tons of carbon dioxide from the air each year through the photosynthesis process occurring in green leaves.

“Our Life Giving Trees” took students on a historical tour that explored the early exploitation of our forests by the shipbuilding industry, homebuilders, firewood cutters, and farmers who cleared vast amounts of land for agricultural use. Students learned how this uncontrolled devastation of our forests caused widespread depletion and disappearance of many of our natural resources. The mistakes of our past were compared to the present-day forest management practices of some of the developing third-world countries.

Valuable conservation principles, such as recycling, the wise use of energy, and, of course, planting trees were discussed. Fol-

lowing the presentation and a written test to be used as extra credit by the teacher, the students traveled a short distance to a parcel of cleared land where they planted more than 50 Loblolly pine seedlings. The class was divided into groups of three with each group being given baggies of fertilizer, containers of water, a planting bar, and Loblolly seedlings which were donated by the Virginia Department of Forestry. To recognize their accomplishment, the students signed a scrapbook, titled “Environmental Contamination Offensive” (ECO) which was complete with photographs of the event and which will be on display at the Philpott Lake Visitor Assistance Center. A paragraph above the students signature reads, “The following people have gone on the offensive to reduce environmental contamination. They have taken the initiative to learn about problems facing our environment and contributed to the solution of these problems by planting trees at Philpott Lake on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007.” ■



Students pose with Philpott Park Rangers after a full day of learning the value of trees.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**”DIRTY DOZEN” IS ARMED & DANGEROUS!****By Rosemary Burke**

What a great kick off to the LDP! The first session the Dirty Dozen learned so much about ourselves, each other, and what the LDP was all about. It was all a little overwhelming initially, but after having our second session, things are starting to come together a bit more. We have already read two leadership books and reported on one of them (outside of work time, of course), so we are well on our way to becoming great leaders!

Each member of the Dirty Dozen was required to select a mentor and a leader to shadow for the day...were you one of the lucky ones? For the shadowing exercise, we chose someone whose leadership style we like and may try to emulate. I have already done my shadowing of Ken Jolly. Thanks Ken! I quizzed him on many leadership issues on the way to and back from Raleigh where we attended an Interagency Leadership Team meeting that was very interesting! For the mentoring portion, we chose people who could help us in our areas of expertise or interest, someone who could help guide us professionally. I chose Trish Glover because some of our duties overlap; we are set to go out to lunch to discuss the terms

of our ‘Mentoring Agreement’ and where our relationship is headed. Since Coleman Long gave the Dirty Dozen a ‘how to session’ on mentoring, we are ready to make these relationships beneficial for both parties!

During the second session, which was held in Wilmington, we became even more of a tight knit group and had some fun. We were trained in issues like the budgeting process, mentor/mentee relationships, stakeholder relations, how to hold a good meeting, and leadership values. A trip to the Port in Wilmington showed us just how good Christine Brayman is at maintaining good stakeholder relationships. We were impressed with the grandiosity of the Port, its machinery, and especially with Lora Reid’s ability to drive through the obstacle course. Our team building activities were very fun and educational. Try lining up 12 people, blindfolding three of them, tying all 12 together, some hands to hands, some

feet to feet, facing opposite directions; then ask them to walk to a specific location. Sound awkward? Well, it was. All tied up, we worked our way through Empie Park to trees that had tasks tied to them, which we were required to accomplish while still connected as one group. A few of the tasks were; jump three times, take two steps back, and name the seven Army values. The ½ of the Woo team that helped us through this exercise and several others did a good job and it was obvious that they had worked together before. They asked us questions at the end of the day about each exercise and how we saw the leadership roles play out. These team building exercises are essential for getting a group of people, some strangers, to feel comfortable with one another and learn to work as a team.

Watch out, because the Dirty Dozen is armed and dangerous and will be ready for our next adventure in May.



As a team-building exercise the group managed to meander in Empie Park., albeit awkwardly.

# WEBSITE HIGHLIGHTS

WITH BARBARA EKELUND

Want to avoid the yadda, yadda, yadda of typical environmental journalism?



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

is a non-profit website offering “gloom and doom with a sense of humor.” Grist is a news site for green issues and sustainable living, promising coverage in a manner that won’t bore you to tears.

The Boys of Summer are back! How `bout them Red Sox? An entertaining site is the [www.baseball-almanac.com](http://www.baseball-almanac.com), where you can check your history, your stats or see the current schedule of games and buy tickets. The Almanac’s message board, Baseball Fever, is one of the most popular online communities in the world and receives more than 14.7 million hits per month.

Are you a bird watcher? Launched in 2002, [www.ebird.org/content/](http://www.ebird.org/content/) is a site rich in birding information. From Cornell University’s Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, ebird offers an easy way to track yours

and others’ observations. It is “one of the largest and fastest growing biodiversity data resources in existence.”

As tax season passes, I found this site and the links offered to be an eye-opener.

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

is a non-profit, non-partisan group that “offers citizen and community groups tools and resources to shape federal budget and policy priorities which promote social and economic justice. You can see the typical federal tax breakout, i.e. where your tax dollars go, by locality. For example, the median income family in Burgaw, NC paid \$1,159 in federal income taxes in 2006. Here is how that amount was spent:

Military \$315

Interest on the Debt (Military) \$105

Interest on the Debt (Non-Military) \$119

Health \$242

Income Security \$70

Education \$53

Veterans' Benefits \$39

Nutrition \$30

Housing \$22

Natural Resources \$18

Job Training \$3

Other \$144

Did you know *war driving* is the term used to describe driving around the streets seeking wireless internet or LAN connections? It’s locating and making unauthorized use of wireless access points while in motion. Now, how to protect your wireless network from war drivers? [Here](#) are some “best practice” steps to consider. Some are simple, some are advanced. Anyway, *don’t* wait until complete strangers are abusing your network.

In 1989, the SysAdmin, Audit, Network, Security Institute (SANS) was created as a cooperative research and education organization. [SANS](#) provides intensive, immersion training designed to help you and your employees to learn the necessary steps to defend systems and networks from the most dangerous security threats. A key aspect of the SANS site is the Information Security Reading Room. Here’s an article from PCstats on wireless security; [www.pcstats.com/articleview.cfm?articleID=1489](http://www.pcstats.com/articleview.cfm?articleID=1489)

and from Practically Networked, Securing Your Wireless Network; [www.practicallynetworked.com/support/wireless\\_secure.htm](http://www.practicallynetworked.com/support/wireless_secure.htm)

COMMENTARY

A WALK TO HUMILITY

*Environmental Section Chief, Bill Adams retired this month. Bill plans to devote more time to combining his love of nature and vocation for ministry in retirement. As with any personal commentary published in our pages, thoughts and opinions expressed herein do not reflect official policy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*



Bill Adams

I have found as I take long walks and observe the world around me, I inwardly shrink in significance and size. The more I see, the more I become aware of earth's majesty. A walk at the shore yields the surging power of the sea, wind rippling across expanses of salt marsh cordgrass, and seagulls gliding overhead. Each reminds me of the vastness of creation. Even in my lawn, tiny insects and perfectly symmetrical shells of land snails, tucked away in the layered tangle of grass, remind me of the infinite mysteries awaiting those who seek. It's too much to take in and still feel self-important. The universe is more rich, varied, and complex than I could ever observe or understand - and this is just during the daylight!

On a starry night, a walk produces in me its most profound effects. I love looking up at the stars with their promise of something distant, real, and unapproachable in an inky nothing. To see light that began its trip earthward before I even existed stretches my imagination. To sense a constancy of stars in a universe that I know is ever expanding confounds my mind. To realize I've not even been born yet in many places brings comfort at a



Photograph of Antares taken from Arizona's Kitt Peak Observatory by Jay Ballauer and Phil Jones on June 1-2, 2005.

level deeper and more primitive than I can understand.

When I was a boy I believed one day I would be an astronomer. I enjoyed lingering outside on summer evenings, lying on the front lawn and looking into the night

sky. The yard had a slight hill, and I lay facing south. Each time I looked up, I saw the constellation Scorpio with its brightest star, the red supergiant Antares, burning through the warm summer haze. Night after night I watched it with wonder in my heart. Repeatedly staring at Antares never changed me physically, but those evenings were critical to my spiritual formation. More than forty years later, they are still fresh in my memory.

Today, the gently sloping front lawn of my Wilmington home again faces south. Is there a subconscious yearning still at work? Perhaps. When I step out my front door on a summer evening, there burns Antares, faithful though the years. It made me feel small years ago and still makes me feel small today.

Today I know Antares is hundreds of light years away and thousands of times

brighter than our sun. It is surrounded by a nebula that glows brightly in its yellow-orange light. I know Egyptian societies once oriented temples to face it, and ancient Persians considered it a royal star. So I am part of a very old brother-

## MEDIA TRAINING CON'T

same as what she used at The Pentagon. She has the expertise to answer the following questions; are you afraid you won't have answers when a reporter calls or be caught off-guard with surprise questions? Are you uncomfortable or nervous when a camera is present? Do you worry that you'll be misquoted or quoted out of context or that your information is just too complicated for a brief news story?

"Many of the people who come to media training have a pretty good understanding of communication -- they just don't know how to go from good to great," Gillette said.

The program ranges from those

who've never been interviewed to seasoned veterans who can use an occasional brush up. The half-day course provides a basic understanding of the media and how it covers the news, and prepares participants to handle routine print and broadcast interviews. The one-day course gives an in-depth understanding of media interview techniques and prepares the participant to take control in any interview session. It includes on-camera interviews and critiques.

"We do TV reporter interviews even for people who don't anticipate being on TV. The TV camera is a powerful tool that permits participants to see themselves as others

actually see them. And it often surprises people about how their perceived and advances the learning process in dramatic ways."

Gillette notes that critiques are always positive because building on a participant's strengths does more for long-term success than criticizing weaknesses.

Also on the media training team is Hank Heusinkveld of Wilmington District Public Affairs. He has 15 years experience as a reporter, anchor, and video photojournalist, and has he has done media training with Gillette at The Pentagon and at the Charleston District headquarters. ■

# Corps Day 2007

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## BILL ADAMS CON'T

hood that has been held under its spell. Bathed in its ancient light, my spirit becomes silent, and I slip into a complete humility that can only result from the formative touch of overwhelming reality.

Such are walks when we take the time to see. Everything, by day or night, tells the story of a creation that transcends us in every dimension. When we truly see where we are, we gain perspective.

While we are made of star dust and are part of creation, we are not its center. We err when we place ourselves there. We lose perspective. Then we have ecological disasters like the disappearance of the Aral Sea, the havoc caused by introduced species, and the looming threats of global warming; and we have social disasters like wars, high crime rates, and racism. As a people we lose our way.

At a personal level we also err when we try to be the center of our world. If I get into a pattern of trying to control things, trying to accomplish what I want, doing it my way, I have embarrassments like selfish behavior, angry outbursts, or trying to keep up with the Joneses. I struggle because I am out of place, and I soon become weary and worn. Eventually exhausted, I cast my eyes upward to the source

of all strength (Psalm 121).

I am not the center of the universe. I do not belong in the center of my life or anyone else's. It is through humility that I find the

courage to step aside and let the Creator have the center - for it is rightfully His. Only when I see myself where I really am, do I allow God to be my all in all. ■



*So long, Bill. Ya' did good!*