

MAY 2008

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**DREDGING AT LOCKWOODS FOLLY  
INLET TO EASE BOATER ANXIETY****Bobber the  
Safety Dog  
Comes to Life at  
Philpott** 3**Lockmaster In-  
vites Public to  
Boat the Cape  
Fear River** 5**Roanoke River  
Meeting: an In-  
side Look at  
Public Com-  
ments** 6**Learn About  
Public Involve-  
ment and Team-  
ing in Planning** 7**Wilmington Dis-  
trict Hosts Spe-  
cial Emphasis  
Program Man-  
agers Course** 9**Meet the Dis-  
trict's New Em-  
ployees, Co-ops  
and Volunteers** 10**Ready, Set,  
FISH! at John H.  
Kerr** 13

With fuel prices rising, North Carolina's fishing fleets and recreational boaters are feeling the pinch every time they head for open ocean from various ports and harbors. For the past year boaters have had a difficult time getting through Lockwoods Folly Inlet near Holden Beach because shifting currents created shoaling. In several cases, chartered vessels had to head up the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway to reach open water by going down the Cape Fear River. But a combination of state and federal funding made it possible to bring in the Wilmington District's sidescast dredge MERRITT to clear the way for safe navigation.

"The inlet was constricted for several months without having project depth of eight feet," said Wilmington District Chief of Navigation Roger Bullock. "We had two previous attempts to dredge the chan-



Tommy Bourbeau guides the MERRITT through the new channel. (Heusinkveld photo)

nel, but it closed up quickly."

Bullock said that currents had shifted dramatically and filled in what was once the main navigation channel. Dredging was held up because it was difficult to determine where the inlet would stabilize.

"What we wanted to do was dig an alternate channel. We saw deep water in an aerial photo that went off to the southeast instead of through the marked channel that had been there for the last several years."

Con't on page 4



# Wear It, Wear It Right Life Jackets Save Lives!

## 1 CHECK THE LABEL

The label will tell you:

- Whether the life jacket is Coast Guard approved
- The size of the jacket
- How the jacket can be used

Sizes run from infant to extra extra large. Adult life jackets will not work for children until they weigh about 90 pounds. Children's life jackets should have a loop on the collar and a strap between the legs.



## 2 CHECK FOR DAMAGE

Check that there are no broken parts and no mold or rips in the fabric.



## 3 FASTEN UP

Fasten up all buckles, zippers and straps. Adjust straps so that the jacket fits snugly.



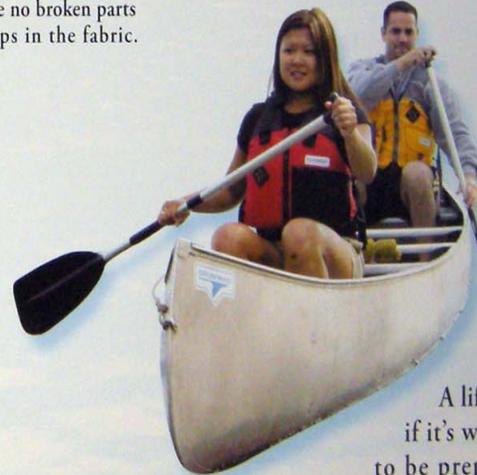
## 4 CHECK FOR PROPER FIT

- Lift the shoulders of the life jacket
- Make sure it does not slip above the chin or ears
- It should feel snug, yet comfortable. A properly fitted life jacket keeps your head and shoulders above water. You will be able to swim with it, too.



## 5 WEAR IT!

A life jacket only works if it's worn. Take the time to be prepared. Make sure you have and wear the right life jacket before you go out in the water.



WS-101

<http://watersafety.usace.army.mil>

**Wilmington District News Online** is an unofficial publication authorized under provisions of AR 360-1 published each month by the Wilmington District Public Affairs Office to keep District employees informed of current District news, activities and achievements. Send your submissions for the Wilmington District News Online to [henry.g.heusinkveld@saw02.usace.army.mil](mailto:henry.g.heusinkveld@saw02.usace.army.mil) or [penny.schmitt@saw02.usace.army.mil](mailto:penny.schmitt@saw02.usace.army.mil)

District Commander: COL John E. Pulliam, Jr.  
 Chief, Public Affairs: Penelope Schmitt  
 Managing Editor: Hank Heusinkveld

*This is an online publication and open to public.*

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

# BOBBER THE WATER SAFETY DOG COMES TO LIFE AT PHILPOTT LAKE

by Park Rangers Danny  
and Susan Martin

Bobber the Water Safety Dog, a very successful cartoon character, came to life at Philpott Lake on May 24th. The story began in late March when off duty Park Rangers Danny and Susan Martin were driving on a rural road and observed a small brown puppy living in a pile of old, discarded tires. The puppy had apparently been dropped off and abandoned to survive on its own. After about thirty minutes of coaxing, chasing, and persuasion, the Martins captured the puppy and adopted it for their own. Following a trip to the vet and several days with the Martins, the puppy still didn't have a name. One night, while playing with the puppy, a comment was made, "You know, he looks like Bobber." Thus, the puppy was dubbed "Bobber." Then a plan began to unfold. "Why don't we train him to wear a life jacket and take him to the Parks to promote the wearing of PFDs. Kids will really love him. We can carry a stack of Bobber coloring books to give to the kids. Yeah, and we can make some Bobber pin-on buttons and get Bobber trading cards with a water safety message." So began Bobber's education. After obtaining appropriate approvals and developing policies to ensure safe operating procedures, Bobber was fitted with a PFD.

Bobber began a training program to become familiar with all of the sights and sounds typically found at a Corps' campground. Children running, bicycles whizzing by, barking dogs, and honking geese soon all became

commonplace to Bobber. While Bobber was training, volunteers back at the Visitor Assistance Center were busy making Bobber buttons to give to the kids.

Finally Bobber was ready for his debut. At Goose Point Park, Bobber proudly displayed his new uniform and quickly attracted everyone's attention as he was led through the campground. As the kids ran to take a look, they were given Bobber coloring books, Bobber buttons, and a short water safety lesson which included a discussion about the importance of wearing a life jacket. Parents and kids were told about Bobber's web site which contains several very high quality animated cartoons and some really neat games. Since Little Rock District's Toby Isbell created Bobber (the cartoon), thousands



Bobber poses with Ranger Danny Martin and curious onlookers.

of children have learned the importance of practicing good water safety techniques and of wearing a PFD.

Bobber plans to work really hard and will make appearances at all of the Philpott campgrounds throughout the summer. Bobber, like the other staff members at Philpott, loves to meet people, and also like all of the other staff members, fully accepts his responsibility to promote water safety and make sure that everyone wears their PFD.

Please take a child you love to see Bobber's cartoons, to play games, and learn much more from Bobber and his friends about important water safety information. ■

You can visit Bobber at:

[www.bobber.info](http://www.bobber.info)

## MERRITT CON'T

Bullock said waiting to watch what Mother Nature’s intentions were caused a lot of anxiety for local boaters and fishermen. The Wilmington District hosted a coastal community meeting and met with local government officials to explain the situation. The message? “Please be patient.”

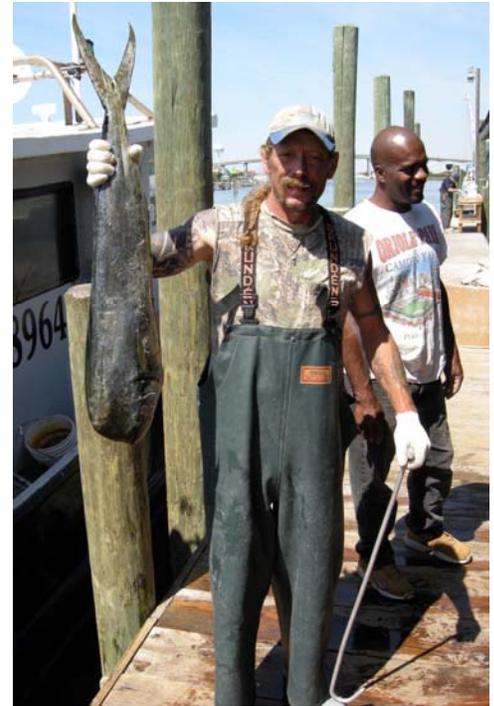
“We needed to do it right this time to figure out where the water was going, why Lockwoods Folly Inlet had such a drastic change within the past year and what the unique characteristics of the inlet complex were. There was a lot more shoaling and we had to take time to understand why we couldn’t maintain it like we used to. You

have to monitor inlets on a regular basis and watch the migration of the channel because it’s not going to stay in one place.”

To complicate the matter two Civil War-era blockade runners and other boats lie submerged on the ocean floor.

“We had to do hydrographic surveys, magnetometer surveys, and sidescan surveys to make sure there was no wreckage that was hazardous to boaters or to our dredges.”

The historic vessels are technically owned by the U.S. Navy. According to Wilmington District underwater archaeologist Richard Kimmel, the Confederate ships are

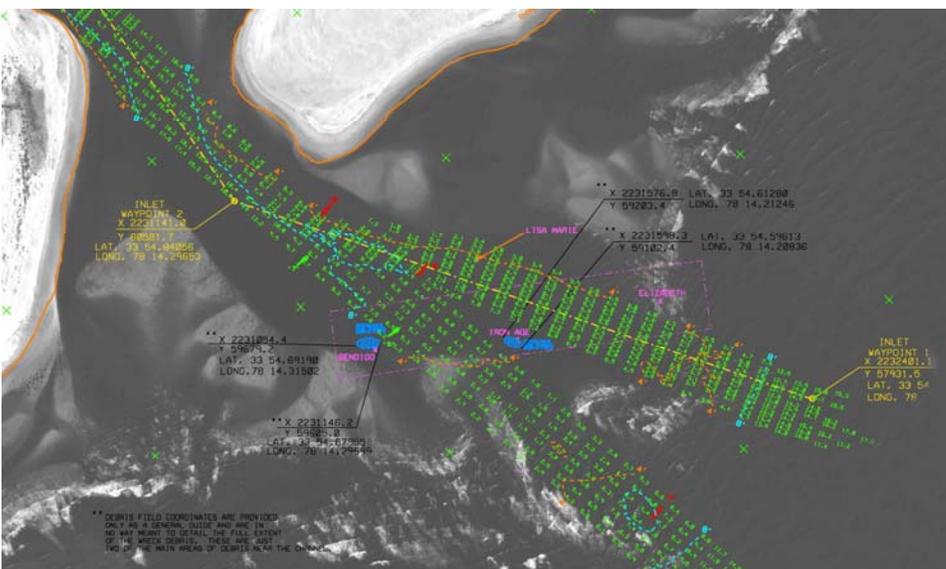


Fishermen and other boaters in North Carolina will be able to navigate easier to open ocean after dredging is completed at Lockwoods Folly Inlet. (Heusinkveld Photo)

named the *Iron Age* and *Bendigo*. Both got caught in sandbars after one tried pulling the other to safety.

Bullock said the dredging at Lockwoods Folly Inlet should be completed by mid-June. The Wilmington District is working closely with the U.S. Coast Guard to mark the newly aligned channel with buoys.

“So far the captain on the *MERRITT* said the channel is looking really good. Our job is to ensure that there’s a safe route for vessels to travel.” ■



The new channel veers off to the left going east at Lockwoods Folly Inlet. Note the locations (blue highlights) of the protected Civil War-era blockade runners *Bendigo* and *Iron Age*. Both lie on each side of the old channel, and the *Iron Age* lies to the right of the new channel. (Map by Justin Arnette)

## LOCKMASTER INVITES THE PUBLIC TO ENJOY A LEISURELY TRIP DOWN THE CAPE FEAR RIVER

Story and photo by Hank Heusinkveld

Wilmington District Lockmaster Robin Hall has spent all of his life on the Cape Fear River in North Carolina. He was born and raised in Cumberland County, five miles from one of three Corps-owned locks and dams that belong to the Wilmington District. For the past 20 years he's worked at Lock and Dam One.

"I've been on the river all of my life," he said. "I was fortunate enough to get a job on the river."

Hall loves the Cape Fear River so much that he encourages the public to take advantage of North Carolina's natural beauty along the windy river. Although manpower at the three Wilmington District locks and dams has been cut by a third, Hall has made arrangements so that boaters can navigate all the way from Fayetteville to Wilmington through Lock and Dam One.

"If people want to put in at Fayetteville they can get a brochure at Riverside Sports. It has the mileage from there all the way down to Southport, and highlights of what to see along the way and what to expect."

Hall said if you like to see wildlife your chances are pretty good.

"There are lots of deer. The people who came today saw the biggest water moccasin they've ever seen. I've had people tell me they've seen bears. Alligators are becoming a common thing. These people were disappointed when they got to Lock One because they hadn't seen an alligator yet, but they stand a good chance of seeing some when they get to Wilmington. When I was a kid it was unheard of!"

In addition to seeing critters, Hall said there are other sites and things to see that are equally amusing.



Robin Hall prepares to let a family pass through to the lock chamber at Lock and Dam One.

"There are different areas along the river that are good to look for fossils. There are very few good camping areas, but there is one good one called Sugarloaf. It's a white sandbar where you can get out. Across from it is a high cliff with underground springs coming out of it. It's a beautiful place. The foliage, the different types of wildflowers...it's very beautiful. And once you get a way from the locks you don't see many people out there. It's a good place to go to get away from everything.

Hall stresses safety when on the river. He urges boaters to wear lifejackets at all times, and he points out potential hazards if you're not keeping a close eye at certain locations.

"Eight miles above Lock One is the Elwell Ferry cable which is low enough to the water that you could get hurt, especially if you're going fast. It's hard to see the cable."

Hall is available to open the locks at Lock and Dam One. All he needs is 48 hours notice to talk about the navigation plan. Boaters must follow USACE rules; lifejackets need be worn in the lock chamber, and they must not climb the chamber ladders. He said what makes an easy trip miserable is not having a good plan.

"I've lost count of the amount of people I've taken to get fuel. I always ask them if they have enough fuel to make it to Wilmington. I'd rather take them to the store here than let them run out. You'd be stuck for a long time before you'd get any help. Just be safe and enjoy your trip. This is North Carolina. You have to enjoy it!" ■

***To make an appointment to pass through the three Cape Fear River locks call Robin Hall at 910-874-0881 and Phil Edge at 910-483-7746.***

## WILMINGTON DISTRICT MEETS WITH THE PUBLIC TO DISCUSS ROANOKE RIVER FLOWS

by Penny Schmitt

The Corps of Engineers works in the real world of rock and earth, complex ecosystems, and moving water. Everything we do or consider doing has almost endlessly ramifying consequences for the environment, for wildlife, and for people and their economic well being and safety. That's why any change or initiative we consider can only become concrete action after we consult human stakeholders and respectfully examine the consequences to mute nature.

In a series of meetings this month, the Wilmington District sought comment from people who could be affected by a change in operations of the John H. Kerr Dam. The change being considered, a regime which would more quickly move flood waters down stream, is contemplated as a way of helping more hardwood trees in the Lower Roanoke bottomlands survive to maturity.

The 75,000 acres of bottomland hardwoods in the Lower Roanoke basin represent the largest ecosystem of this kind east of the Mississippi River. The Nature Conservancy requested the Corps look at a different flow regime after the very wet summer of 2003 kept the bottomlands under water for a total of 160 days.

"We can take an adaptive management approach when it makes sense," said Col. John E. Pulliam, District Commander. "In this case it appeared worthwhile to pull this issue out of the longer term John H. Kerr 216 study and see if it would be possible to test it out, keeping in mind that we must first have a reasonable expectation that the action



Cotton farmer John Griffin shows the Corps team where flooding occurs on his lands. (Penny Schmitt photos)

won't have significant impacts."

As with any major Corps initiative, we go to the potentially affected public to ask them what impacts they could foresee, or whether they would report to us that the proposed change in flow regime would not affect them in any significant way.

In the early stages of the proposal, major stakeholders attended several meetings on the proposal. The Corps obtained input from North Carolina and Virginia State Parks, its own recreation specialists, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Carolina and Virginia Wildlife Resources agencies. The District also held discussions with the Southeastern Power Administration and Dominion Power, who are involved in producing hydroelectric power on the Roanoke River. In this process, an original array of five possible operating al-

ternatives and the current operating regime received scrutiny from all these major stakeholders.

Having ruled out four alternatives as having obvious negative impacts to recreation, lake levels, and hydropower operations, the Corps selected 'alternative 5' for further discussion with the public.

The District undertook an intensive effort to reach Kerr Lake property owners, businesses, and municipalities, and also to ensure downstream landowners and affected interests would be informed. When the operation under consideration was first published for scoping and public comment at the beginning of May, the Corps mailed out hundreds of letters, and notified farmers through their County Agents. Many lo-

Con't on page 7

## ROANOKE RIVER CON'T

cal news media assisted by publishing stories explaining the proposal.

In Mid-May, the Wilmington District project delivery team held four public listening sessions in downstream and lake-area communities. Many interested residents, businessmen, farmers, and local government officials attended the meetings and began sharing the details of their concerns with the district team.

Through their verbal and written comments, messages sent to the Corps during the remainder of the comment period, and the opportunities to see and visit some of the potentially affected bottomland hardwood areas and farm lands, the project delivery team will be able to build up a more complete picture of potential impacts from the proposed action.

What next? After all the comments are in and have been evaluated, the District will decide what consequences this action would be likely to have. If there are 'no significant impacts' the District will issue and Environmental Assess-

ment and a finding of no significant impact. A test of the new flow regime could then begin next January.

If the various comments and information we have received from all our publics indicates significant impacts, then a more complex process must be followed. The Corps would have to undertake to complete an Environmental Impact Statement, detailing both impacts and proposed mitigations. Or, if the impacts appear on their face to be sufficiently significant, the District could decide to continue with the current operation, at least until the ongoing section 216 study is completed, including evaluation of this option along with others being worked out in the study process.



Jean Richter of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, explains the habitat values of the bottomland hardwood forest.

Complicated? Yes. It takes time for the Corps to make decisions and move forward with actions. Our mandate to consider how our actions would affect the whole spectrum of human and natural systems is a major reason why we don't always move like lightning. Every voice with a stake in our actions *is* heard and weighed carefully. ■

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND TEAMING

### IN PLANNING

By Virginia Rynk

In May 2008 I had an opportunity to attend the Public Involvement and Teaming in Planning PROSECT course out in Portland, OR. The class was about the importance of public involvement in our projects and developing a communications plan that is integrated with the corps Six Step Planning Process.

The six steps are:

- 1) *identify problems and opportunities*
- 2) *inventory and forecast resources*
- 3) *formulate alternative plans*
- 4) *evaluate alternative plans*
- 5) *compare alternative plans*
- 6) *select recommended plan.*

So often we have projects that have been on-going for years, and we forget to communicate with the general public.

A good exercise for anyone on a PDT is, can you identify your stakeholders? Do you realize that a stakeholder is defined as anyone who sees themselves as having rights and interests in the decision?

Con't on page 8

## READY

Now that you know who your stakeholders are, do you know what your key messages should be? Most people have an idea of what their project is about, but over time, which can be years in a study, that message gets fuzzy and forgotten.

We must make sure that everyone knows the key messages – what is the purpose of this project, what is the problem, or what is the Corps' position – and refers back to it often.

A good communications plan can help define issues that may impact our stakeholders, develop key messages, identify information strategy and budget and identify the media strategy. There are many different ways to communicate with our stakeholders, and timing is important for their involvement. Public meetings, an updated website, and public workshops are all different methods used to communicate with the public to get their input and hear their concerns.

So now we all know that we need to communicate with the public better, what are some tips to help us be effective?

Most of us don't enjoy public speaking. What's the answer? Practice, practice, practice! During the week in my class, we were divided up into groups and given a case study to work on. Each time our group met, we had to assign a

facilitator, a recorder, and a presenter and we rotated so each person became familiar with the different roles—and the presenter got that public speaking practice. By the end of the week, we had developed a communications plan for our case study.

We first held mock public meetings and then we had mock TV interviews, and both were filmed. It is very educational to see yourself on TV! A good exercise is to come up with a list of questions that you would expect to get, and to come up with a list of questions you don't want (Why does this cost so much? Why should I care about the bottomland hardwood trees?) and think of answers to them prior to your meeting. Remember your key message and bring it back into your answers when you are being interviewed.

Engineers especially need to learn how to show empathy or concern when talking about difficult subjects, such as flood risk. Engineers (me included) and scientists tend to discuss facts and

numbers, but what the public wants to hear is that you are listening to their concerns. Remember to relate to your audience, speak plainly and conversationally, and never assume that others understand you. You might prepare by talking to a non-engineer and figuring out how to explain your points effectively in 'plain English.'

And lastly, remember what your mamma told you—stand up straight and don't fidget!

At the end of the day, 60 percent of the people attending will remember how you looked, 30 percent how you stated your message, 10 percent what you said, and **100 percent will remember how you made them feel.** Knowing this, we can go out there and make an impact. ■



You never know when you'll be asked for an interview. Wick Westmoreland was interviewed on board the survey vessel GILLETTE for a program about the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway that aired on Modern Marvels.

# WILMINGTON DISTRICT HOSTS SPECIAL EMPHASIS PROGRAM MANAGERS COURSE

By **Renita McNeill**

On May 19-23, the Wilmington District hosted the Special Emphasis Program Managers Course (SEPMC). This week long course was taught by Mr. James Lambright and Mr. Samuel Cruz of Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI). DEOMI is the federal government agency for instructing EEO personnel.

In compliance with statutory guidance, Wilmington District's Chief of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), Ms. Renita McNeill, envisioned a Model Agency where equal opportunity is provided to all employees, to include women, minorities and individuals with disabilities in their hiring, training, advancement, and treatment.

AR 690-12 states that organizations have Special Emphasis Programs in support of the EEO initiative. Special programs are designed to achieve a workforce in which women, minorities, and people with disabilities are fully represented throughout the organization, to address diversity awareness differences and to provide effective support to the EEO office in analyzing workforce data and trends. The Special Emphasis Programs include the American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Black Employment, Federal Women's Program, Hispanic Employment, and Individuals With Disabilities Programs.

Specific goals for the programs are to assist EEO in an effort to:

- eliminate discriminatory practices

- ensure targeted groups are appropriately represented throughout the workforce
- sponsor special activities designed to enhance diversity awareness

A few of the basic responsibilities that the attendees will perform are to assist the EEO Office with identification of employment and advancement barriers, recommendation solutions to SEP issues, aid in communicating good writing/briefing skills, and refer employees to proper contacts for non-SEP issues.

In discussion with course attendees, it was stated that the course was most informative, enlightening, inspiring, and should be attended by everyone in the District. Excitement is in the air as the SEP Committee pursue stated objectives. Ms. McNeill wanted a team that

was knowledgeable and ready for the task.

The Wilmington District attendees were Anita Bissette, Melissa Blackburn-Walton, Don Carmen, John Clement, Sharon Day, John Edge, Dan Emerson, Renita McNeill, Gloria Price, Lora Reid, Debora Rowell, Marti Sedgwick, and Joyce Taylor. In addition, there were participants from other USACE Districts: Rock Island, Charleston, Los Angeles, New York, Jacksonville; as well as other federal agencies: USDA, Ft. McNair, Defense Intelligence Agency.

Ms. McNeill extends special thanks to Colonel Pulliam, Lou Smith, Bob Sartin, Hank Maser, George Burch and course participants and immediate supervisors for your support of the EEO Program. ■



Samuel Cruz (standing) speaks to program managers during the course.

## WILMINGTON DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW AND FORMER EMPLOYEES, STUDENT CO-OPS AND VOLUNTEERS

### Valencia Merkenson

comes to the Wilmington District as our new Mailroom Technician. Previously she worked with the First Armored Division based in Wiesbaden, Germany. She and her husband of 33 years, Robert, lived in Germany for 17 years. Her hobby is gospel singing. She once performed for former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. She is grandmother to 10 children from her children, Sherri, Timothy and DeNorris.



**Ashley Hatchell** returns to the Wilmington District as a hydraulic engineer with Coastal, H&H. She and her husband, Bert, are raising a cute baby, daughter Sadie who's 20 months old. They have three dogs; Jake, Jenny and Lisa. Her interests include running, surfing ("have to learn again now that I'm back home"), swimming and "playing with my beautiful family and just 'wallering' in my happiness."



**Aaron Game** is an economist student trainee/co-op in the Technical Services Division - Plan Formulation and Economics. He is a senior at University of North Carolina at Wilmington with concentrations in economics and finance. He is president of the UNCW chapter of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity, and he's also president of Omicron Delta Epsilon Economics Honor Society, UNCW Chapter. He enjoys playing soccer and fishing on his boat.



**Ben Foster** is a student at the University of Virginia. He just completed his second year majoring in Civil Engineering and with a minor in Engineering Business. He is in the Student Career Experience Program in the Coastal/H&H department. He enjoys surfing, playing guitar and mandolin, biking, and all outdoor sporting activities.



**Tom Charles** is a Park Ranger at John H. Kerr. His previous employment was as a Natural Resources Specialist in the Recreation and natural Resources Department at Fort Peck Lake, Montana. He has a degree in Environmental Studies from Drury College in Springfield, MO. He enjoys spending time with family and friends fishing, boating, hunting and enjoyment of all things outdoors. He is married to Carol who is "looking forward to being closer to civilization and family." Daughter Kasey will be 10 in July. His stepdaughter Janel is 21 and lives in Texas. Stepson Ben is 24 and lives in Illinois.



**James Bruce** is a retired Coast Guard Boatsman Mates Chief (E7) and is now a Dredge Vessel FRY deckhand. He's married with three kids and lives in Morehead City. His hobby? "Boating!"



**Robert Tony McGhee, Jr.** is a junior at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He's 22 years old and "eager to learn." His major is architectural engineering. He loves watching sports, especially football.



**Wesley Brown** is a civil engineer local intern in Coastal, Hydrology and Hydraulics. He graduated from NC State in December '07 with a BS in Civil Engineering. He loves to exercise, especially running. He's an avid guitar enthusiast (bluegrass all the way) and likes listening to music in general. He's also interested in art, photography and woodworking.



MERRITT deckhand **Jeffrey Schultheis** comes to the Wilmington District from Gateway Terminals in New Haven, Connecticut. He and his wife enjoy fishing and baseball.



**Shauni Emerson** works in CPAC as a student office aid. She worked at the YMCA as a lifeguard and swim teacher for more than a year. She'll enroll at UNCW for pre-med classes next year. She is the daughter of Dan Emerson of Coastal, H&H.



**Jessica Mallindine** joins the Environmental Section as a co-op. Originally from Asheville, she received degrees in marine biology and environmental science from UNCW. Her hobbies and interests include scuba diving (just shy of master diver), kayaking and other outdoor sports.



**EMPLOYEES CON'T**

Long Island, New York native **Steven Persico** is a contract computer support technician who comes to Wilmington after employment with Five Towns College in Dix Hills, New York.



**Adam Kerr** is a junior at UNCW studying history and geography and is volunteering for the summer with the regulatory Division. Originally from Burlington, NC, he enjoys watching all televised seasonal sports.



**Erik Peterson** is a volunteer in the Regulatory Division. He has a BS in Geography ( GIS ) from Appalachian State University. When in the mountains or on the beach he has fun surfing, snowboarding and backpacking.



**Taylor Bell** also volunteers for Regulatory. The Washington, NC native is a senior at UNCW studying Parks and Recreation. He enjoys snowboarding, wakeboarding and fishing.



The Wilmington District welcomes these well-educated and highly-motivated employees, co-ops and volunteers!

# Last Call for Corps Day Tickets!!

*Pick up your tickets from Stephan Vithalani or Hank Heusinkveld*

**Adults \$6**  
**Kids 10 & under \$4**  
**Retirees \$8**

**Friday, June 13th at Empie Park**

Wilmington District  
 Corps Day  
 2008



Celebrating  
 Family & Tradition

*See See Farm*

## IN MEMORIAM

## W. KERR SCOTT MOURNS THE LOSS OF TWO LONGTIME PARK RANGERS

The family at W. Kerr Scott Lake wishes to express our deep sorrow following the recent loss of longtime Park Rangers Larry L. Harris, Sr. and John S. Barber. Their sudden passing represents a loss of more than 60 years of combined experience.

Park Ranger **Larry Harris** passed away Tuesday, May 13, 2008, after an extended illness. Larry served the U.S. Government for more than thirty years beginning with a 4-year tour during the Vietnam War with the United States Marines. He continued that pattern of selfless service with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a maintenance worker at W. Kerr Scott Lake and later converting to park ranger in March of 2000.

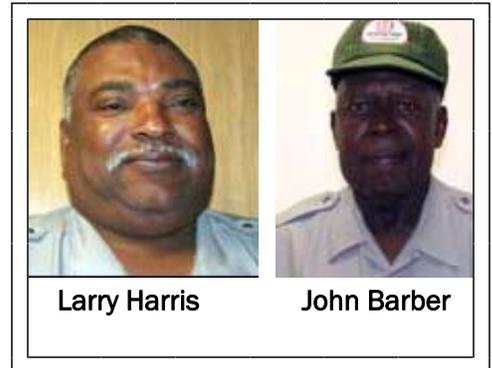
Larry's knowledge of the projects infrastructure was invaluable and he devoted countless hours to ensure the comfort and safety of park visitors. His service as a dedicated employee

was recognized by the Corps of Engineers in many certificates of appreciation and recognition.

Larry served the community as a basketball coach at the Wilkes Family YMCA for eleven years and as a baseball coach with a county league for more than seven years. He was a devoted husband and a proud father and was well recognized throughout the county as a man of generous spirit.

Park Ranger **John S. Barber** passed away suddenly Wednesday, May 21, 2008. John also proudly served his country as a paratrooper with the U.S. Army Airborne Infantry. He began his service to the public as a Health and Physical Education teacher for Wilkes County Public School's in 1962.

In 1967, John began a career as a seasonal park ranger with the Corps of Engineers that spanned more than 40 years.



Larry Harris

John Barber

John was well known by visitors to project parks, many of which he taught in school. His positive attitude and determination to treat every visitor equally inspired all who came in contact with him. Larry and John will be sorely missed by their co-workers, visitors, and members of the community alike.

The staff at W. Kerr Scott wishes to thank the community for their outpouring of love and support for the families and friends of Larry and John. We also wish to thank the management at John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir for sending Ranger Iverson Ryland to assist us through this transition. ■

# READY..... SET..... FISH!

By **Bob Burick,**  
**John H Kerr Park Ranger**

The fishing season at John H Kerr Lake is underway, with anglers lining up at the boat ramps every weekend. Fishermen of all types are anxious to get out on the water and catch the one that got away last year. Families, campers, and diehard fishermen crowd the most popular boat ramps during the early morning hours to try their luck on the vast Kerr Lake.

Recreational fishermen are not the only ones on the lake, however, now that the tournament season has started. Local, regional,

and state wide tournaments of all types have commenced throughout the lake. Most tournaments focus on large mouth bass, but there are also a number of catfish and crappie events on the schedule. These tournaments vary from the local ten boat club tournament, to statewide events involving well over one hundred boats!

One recent tournament, run by the

Virginia Bass Federation, took place in the special events area at North Bend Park on the weekend of May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. This regional tournament featured teams of six men, and involved over 160 participants. As time expires, fishermen race their boats back to the dock to get there fish to the weigh-in station. At the station, the fish are weighed, recorded,



and then released back into the lake. Anglers were catching their limits, with the biggest fish weighing over 4 1/2 pounds. Local volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 7454 were on hand to help release the fish.

As always, boaters are encouraged to wear their lifejackets and be cautious in these times of high water. The increased rainfall has brought about some relief to

the local drought situation, but it also brings with it certain hazards. Rushing waters from upstream can carry down logs and other floating debris that can be difficult to see when boating at high speeds. Fishermen also pursue the bass up into the now flooded tree line; but there can be many submerged hidden dangers. There are often stumps and

large rocks close to the tree line that are now under the water and can puncture the hull of your boat. Also, if you are fishing close to any recreation area there may be picnic tables and other obstacles in the water. So re-

member these tips: be extra cautious in times of high and low water conditions, water and alcohol don't mix, and always wear your life jacket.

With the weather staying nice, and the fish starting to bite, this year promises to be a great recreation season for all anglers. So if you're in the neighborhood and itching to fish, stop by Kerr Lake and cast a line. ■

## CORPS FAMILY NEWS & REACHING OUT

**Wayne and Anita Bissette's** daughters graduated this spring, Caitlin from John T. Hoggard High School on June 7<sup>th</sup> and Betsy with a Masters Degree in School Psychology on May 11<sup>th</sup> from Appalachian State University (ASU). Caitlin plans to attend East Carolina University (ECU) in the fall. Betsy works for Cumberland County Schools in Fayetteville as a school psychologist.

**Steve DeLange's** daughter, Rachel, (left), a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Myrtle Grove Middle School, was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Hannah DeLange came in second in her age group (8-9) and 11<sup>th</sup> out of 65 girls 14 and under at the Wilmington Orthopedic Azalea 5K run May 24.



**Dr. Greg Williams'**

daughter Bailey (left) was also inducted into the National Junior Honor Society at Myrtle Grove. Her sister Lindsey's (right) PTA Reflections photograph placed first in a state competition in her age group.



**Ted Hauser's** daughter Christina Goodwin graduated with a 3.97 GPA from Leslie University in Cambridge MA with a Master of Education. Christina is a first grade school teacher at Black Street Elementary in Walterboro, SC. This is her fourth year of teaching, having graduated from the College of Charleston in 2004.

**Nancy Wallace's** son Josiah (Jojo) Wallace graduated from West Henderson High School in Asheville. He belonged to Army Junior ROTC from 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. He plans to attend a local community college, and then get a BS in Video Game Design.



**Steve Lund's** oldest son, Matt, was sworn-in as a City of Hendersonville Police Officer on April 30, 2008. His daughter, Ilsa, a rising junior and English major at Appalachian State University, has been named to the dean's list for the second time. His youngest son, Caleb, will graduate from Asheville High School on June 4. He was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout on May 26. He plans to attend Asheville-Buncombe Technical College.

**Robert Dennis** is the proud parent of a recent graduate. His daughter Rachael just received her Masters of Arts and Education with a 3.92 GPA from Virginia Tech. She has accepted a job as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Lakeshore Elementary in Mooresville, NC.

Ashley Jones, daughter of **Sherrie Jones** of Emergency Management and former Wilmington District Deputy Commander **COL Bud Jones**, spent the last semester as a Cadet at the Air Force ROTC Detachment 595,



home of the Wolfpack Warriors at NCSU. Ashley received a 2.5-year scholarship, and also received a Field Training slot to Maxwell Air Force Base, TX in June-July this summer for the extended academics Field Training Unit. Her graduation date and commissioning are planned for May 2010. She hopes to become a Public Affairs Officer.

### Reaching Out

**Don Carmen** gave a presentation titled "Civil Engineering and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District" to four classes at Rland Grise Middle School Career Day 28 May. Don defined "engineering" and then spoke about civil engineering versus the mix of all disciplines. He also showed students slides demonstrating innovations in various types of engineering, the Falkirk Wheel, suspension bridges, office building with all curves architecture, prism glass buildings and hybrid cars. Said Don: "About a third of the students had careers in mind already; future veterinarians, architects, lawyers, doctors, nurses, archaeologist, oncology, nuclear scientist, astronomers, professional soccer and lacrosse, movie director, and robotics. No engineers...yet."

Pastor Bill

# Building a Legacy

I often watch the squirrels in my neighborhood and in my yard. They always seem so busy, chasing after each other, raiding the bird feeders, running across the rooftop, and jumping from tree to tree for no apparent reason. Thankfully, I do not know what motivates squirrels to do most of the things they do. One of their behaviors, however, gives me pause to reflect.



I frequently see squirrels taking acorns and burying them in all kinds of odd places to retrieve and eat later; but they bury so many that they will never locate them all again. This stashing behavior addresses their insecurities about food for tomorrow but it also has another benefit - it plants new oak trees. In trying to store food for the coming months, the squirrel provides for future generations. It accidentally creates a legacy.

How like the squirrels we tend to be, seldom thinking about the legacy we're going to leave. We store our wealth as a means of addressing our insecurities; the larger our bank balance the more secure we feel. If we had enough money, we could lose our jobs and still feel secure. But Jesus tells us real security is found only in our relationship with Him – it is more important than anything else. This is the lesson the rich young man could not bear (Matthew 19:16-30).

Sadly, like the rich young man, our desire for financial security can create barriers to receiving the spiritual security we really need. We invest too much of ourselves in the wrong places. True security cannot be purchased; it comes only through giving ourselves away in prayer, worship, study, and service to others. It is our gifts to build His Kingdom that will create a legacy that lasts.

We know our spiritual and financial wealth can both be used to

build a legacy if we invest them wisely. When did you last do a comprehensive investment strategy? If you're like me, you can name every bank you use and you know all of your investments. You might even have a financial advisor. But how are you doing with your spiritual wealth? How are you using and investing your spiritual gifts? I find that naming my investment strategy for them is not quite as easy.

The legacies of squirrels are left strictly by chance, but we are held to a higher standard. We can't be haphazard with the gifts we have received. Be as deliberate with your spiritual wealth as you are with your financial wealth - you will find they complement each other quite nicely. Inventory your spiritual gifts and develop a long-term growth plan. It will be the most important investment you ever make! ■

Blessings to all,

Bill Adams