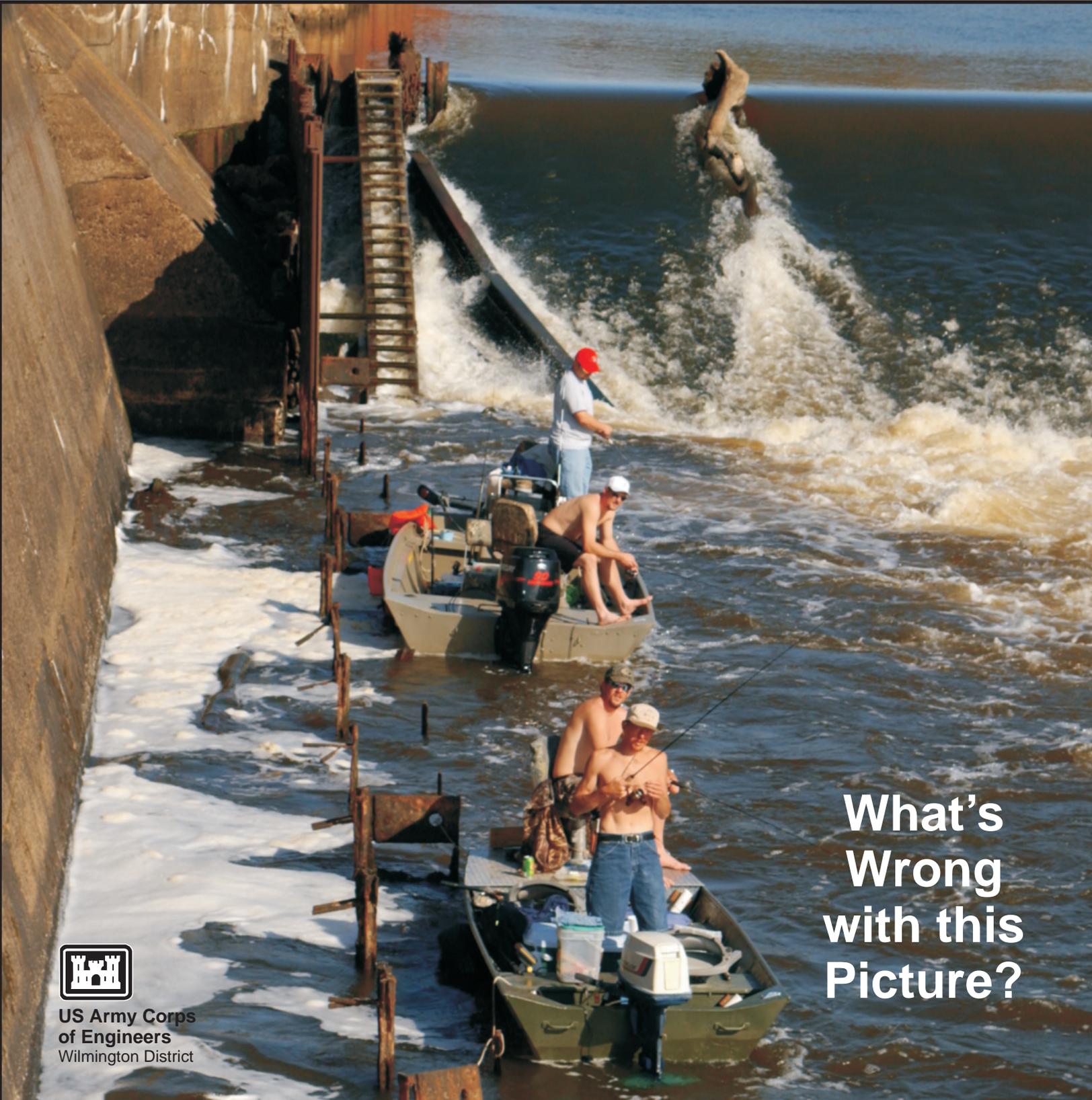


# Wilmington DISTRICT NEWS

Volume 22, Number 2

March - April 2002



What's  
Wrong  
with this  
Picture?



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Wilmington District

# Wilmington DISTRICT NEWS

Volume 22, Number 2  
March - April 2002

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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

**Commander and District Engineer:**

COL. James W. DeLony

**Chief, Public Affairs:**

Penelope Schmitt

**Managing Editor:**

Christine Bruske

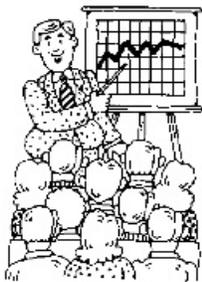
**Layout and Design:**

Susan Benton  
The Graphic Triangle  
Rocky Point, North Carolina

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## Speaking Out



**Daniel Small** (PM) participated in the Pender High School Career Day. He promoted a career with the Corps to more than 75 students.

**Bobby Willis** (TS-PS) demonstrated the Corps Flood Plain Model at the NC Natural Hazards Conference. There were about 350 people registered for the conference, which was held at the Sea Trail Conference Center in Sunset Beach, NC.

Park Rangers **Mary Gardner** and **Sherrie Storm** of Kerr Lake gave a Water Safety presentation to 58 elementary students at First Baptist Church.

Regulatory Division Chief **Ken Jolly** spoke to the North Carolina Society of Surveyors in Raleigh on the Corps Regulatory program. His discussion included segments on the Corps regulatory process, Department of the Army permits, wetland delineation, enforcement, and mitigation.

**David Franklin** (RD) gave two presentations to the NCDOT Construction Engineers Conference in High Point NC. He discussed the Corps of Engineers regulatory program and the ongoing initiatives for permitting and mitigation.

Project Manager **Sharon Haggett** and Biologist **Chuck Wilson**, spoke to the Chemical Advisory Panel at UNCW. Sharon gave the group an overview of the Wilmington Harbor Deepening Project. Chuck spoke about Wetlands Restoration.

Park Ranger **Sherrie Storm** of Kerr Lake gave a presentation on Water Safety at Park View High School to 350 students.

Park Rangers **Tyree Robertson**, **Iverson Ryland** and **Sherrie Storm** of Kerr Lake spoke to visitors about water safety and drought issues at the First Annual Virginia/North Carolina Bass and Boat Show at the South Hill Chamber of Commerce.

Civil Engineer **Ben Lackey** presented the mechanics of conducting sand compatibility studies to all new employees involved in beach re-nourishment.

**Kelley Kaltenbach** (TS-EG) spoke to two fourth grade classes at Winter Park Elementary on the subject of "Fossils and Ancient Environments."

Park Ranger **Mike Large** gave two interactive water safety presentations to more than 780 students at Harnett Primary School.

The First Annual Corps meeting with North Carolina and Virginia State Park Rangers was held at John H. Kerr Reservoir. This gathering brought out new ideas for handling various situations in the Parks Department.

*On the Cover: NO LIFE JACKETS! Dozens of avid fishermen turn out for the opening of shad season at Wilmington District Lock & Dam No. 1. Photo by Scott Maners*

# National Engineer Week 2002

By Julius James



Chief of the Geotechnical Branch Bob Snipes introduces students to equipment used to determine ground density and explains applications for the data. Photo by Julius James

Over 100 students filled the halls of the Wilmington District to commemorate National Engineer Week. The weeklong event is conducted every year to heighten awareness of the engineering profession among High School and College students.

District TEAM members arranged an array of displays, exhibits and presentations. The area students came from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, New Hanover, Ashley, Hoggard, and Pender High Schools, and also from Trask Middle School. The theme for this year's celebration was "Turning Ideas Into Reality."

The Flood Plains exhibit focused on teaching students about the importance of flood zones in relation to the location of homes. This model shows different scenarios of flooding and what occurs to homes with little to no protection. "The model is made to show structural and non-structural damage to homes. Its purpose is to save lives and property," said Corps Civil Engineer Bobby Willis. This exhibit was a main attraction. Corps hydrologist Al Piner assisted with demonstrating the flood plains model.

Students were also taught about ecological impacts of beach nourishment and how the Corps continually looks for ways to maintain ecosystems. Corps Biologist Doug Piatowski explained, "The sex of turtles is determined by temperatures in the sand and the density of the sand regulates the temperature." Alterations in the sand can affect compaction, hardness, moisture content, slope and mineral

content. Doug went on to say, "The Corps is persistent in trying to find ways to preserve nature." Corps Biologist Chuck Wilson gave students a slide show of a wetland mitigation project, which focused on the restoration of marshlands.

Coastal Engineer John McCormick gave a demonstration of digital navigation charts, including digital representation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Nautical charts. The computer program has a predictive model of tides, a 3-dimensional depiction of bottom profiles and a hot link to aerial photographs, which give users a birds-eye-view of the more important features of the waterways.

Environmental Engineer Scott Williams demonstrated the geographic search capabilities of Geographic Information System (GIS) Software by searching for specific street addresses given to him by the students. Once the address was located, an aerial photograph of the area was shown and the students were asked to point out their houses. This was a very popular demonstration, especially for the middle school age students who were asked to find their school.

Planning Services Manager Richard Lewis demonstrated a computer program that graphically depicts the effect of long-term erosion on structures and on North Carolina Highway 12 in Kitty Hawk. By applying the long-term erosion rates calculated by the State of North Carolina, it is possible to graphically model the

erosion rate for the next 50 years and predict the structures that will be affected by erosion. A particularly dramatic slide in the presentation showed the effects of a winter storm that destroyed 6 houses.

Chief of Environmental and Planning Division Tom Corder did a great job in organizing District TEAM members. Students were surprised by the number of subject matter experts available to answer their questions on Archeology, Biology, Hydrology, Geographical Information Systems and Marine Biology. TEAM members shared their professional experiences and told students what it is like to work for the Corps.

Major George Shepard closed the show with an overview of the Wilmington District's mission. Pictorial displays of the Corps many projects, goals and objectives were very important tools for encouraging students about the possibilities of becoming an Engineer.▲



Michelle Haggett with mom, Sharon Haggett (PM). Michelle attended National Engineer Week events with ROTC students from Ashley High School. Photo by Julius James



*While in service with the U.S. Navy as a freighter, the SCHWEIZER earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. Archive Photo taken in 1965.*

# SCHWEIZER

*By Penny Schmitt*

The Wilmington District sidecaster dredge SCHWEIZER ended her career with the Corps this year, but not as a mothballed vessel or a scuttled hulk. She'll soon be entering her third useful lifespan.

The SCHWEIZER was sold to M&S Equipment, Inc., of Slidell, Louisiana for \$215,440, where she will be refitted and probably resold overseas to continue dredging work.

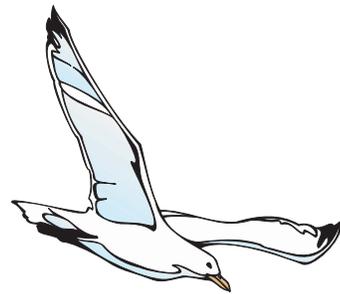
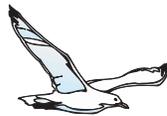
The SCHWEIZER came to the Corps in the mid 1960s, after serving a full career as a Navy freighter. Fred Lehman, Assistant Master of the Wilmington District Dredge FRY, describes SCHWEIZER as "a really pretty ship-the old-time World War II style freighter."

New Orleans District was the vessel's original Corps home. She operated in the lower Mississippi River in the mid-sixties and then served a tour of duty in Vietnam in 1968-1969. While in Vietnam, SCHWEIZER earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

When she returned from Southeast Asia, the SCHWEIZER moved to Wilmington District, dredging Oregon and Ocracoke Inlets. Her service proved her worth, and rather than let her be mothballed by New Orleans District, Wilmington acquired her as a permanent part of our dredge fleet in 1971. With some modifications to increase the ship's

effectiveness for coastal work and a new crew, the SCHWEIZER went to work on the East Coast, and served here until her retirement from the District Fleet.

Escorting SCHWEIZER on her last Corps voyage were Wilmington District TEAM member Ron McBride and retired Chief Engineer Louie Daniels, now a four-career man himself! Chief Daniels served in the U.S. Merchant Marine in World War II, for 22 years in the U.S. Coast Guard, and as a Chief Engineer with the Wilmington District from 1972 to 2001. He is now enjoying a landlubber career in his native Norfolk. Daniels served as Chief Engineer of the SCHWEIZER for 25 years.



*In 1965, the New Orleans District Corps of Engineers converted SCHWEIZER to a sidecaster dredge. Archive Photo*



*Louie Daniels was Chief Engineer of the SCHWEIZER for 25 years. Photo by Scott Maners*



# Sails to third career

“We saw the SCHWEIZER through a successful Coast Guard inspection, and set sail for one last time,” McBride said. “We worked six hours off and six on, sailing her to Key West, where we refueled, and then went on to the Port of Slidell, Louisiana, where she'll be moored for the time being.”



*SCHWEIZER departs the Wilmington District Corps of Engineers. She was sold to M&S Equipment of Louisiana. Photo by Scott Maners*



Specialist Joshua West prepares to dive while Specialist Robert Weider watches from the bank and Sergeant Tommy Christensen records some survey data from atop an Island Creek Dam structure.  
Photo by Terry Brooks

## Army Dive Team practices at John H. Kerr Dam

By Sherrie Storm, Park Ranger

The 86th Army Engineer Dive Team from Ft. Eustis, Virginia spent the week of March 11-15 at John H. Kerr Reservoir and Dam. Their mission was to conduct a variety of underwater survey exercises.

One of the tasks the dive team completed was to map out the entire underwater area of the lakeside of Kerr Dam. "Using sonar we were able to establish positions and depths along the dam. The finished product is a map of the locations of the dam structures and the various depths of the lake bottom," explained Sergeant First Class Tim Pagel, who is a Master Diver. "There were no major obstructions found in front of the dam. The lake is very clean."

"We also conducted Hydrographic surveys and completed a waterfront facility inspection at Island Creek Dam," said Pagel. "The mission went very well."

The work at Island Creek Dam involved inspection of a tunnel and an underwater gate. "We went down to determine why the gate was not fully closing, and found a lot of sediment that will need to be removed," said Pagel.

"This is just a small part of what we do," said Lieutenant George Mitroka, Diving Officer and Platoon Leader.

"Work at projects like Kerr is used as a drill for wartime missions". The skills and equipment worked on at Kerr Dam are used for locating beach landings, building bridges, and other operations vital to successful military missions.

The 86th Army Engineers work all over the world for a variety of Federal agencies. "We have a job coming up off the coast of Elizabeth City, removing some old pilings for the U.S. Coast Guard," said Mitroka.

The dive team also performs waterfront facility inspections and heavy salvage work, incorporating side-scanning sonar. "We do underwater cutting, welding, and pouring concrete," explained Mitroka.

Rick Carroll, the Corps Powerhouse Superintendent, was pleased with the work accomplished. "They do great work, and there is no charge for their services. Since we are part of the Army, all we pay for is the cost of their meals," said Carroll. The soldiers were housed in the volunteer quarters--two small houses left over from the construction days at the Dam.

"This area is just beautiful and everyone has very helpful," said Pagel. The 86th Army Engineer Team may have the opportunity to return in May or June of this year, to continue work at Island Creek Pumping Station.

# Powerhouse Rehab Gets Underway

By Richard Carroll, Power Project Manager

After nearly 50 years of service to the Corps Of Engineers the John H. Kerr Powerhouse has begun major rehabilitation of its hydroelectric generators, electrical and mechanical equipment. In 1995, a comprehensive study showing the need for upgrading electrical and mechanical systems in the powerhouse was submitted to Congress with a funding request. Funding was approved in the 1997 civil works budget and the planning stage of the powerhouse rehabilitation began. The U.S. Army Corps of engineers Hydroelectric Design Center (HDC) in Portland, Oregon did most of the design work for the new powerhouse machinery and equipment.

Ederer Services, a contractor for the Corps, completed the first leg of the project--an upgrade of the 225-ton Shawbox overhead bridge crane. The rebuilt crane was fitted with new drive motors, brakes, electronic controls, variable speed drive, modernized operator's cab with remote control, and new wire rope cables. The rebuilt crane will be used for disassembly and reassembly of the massive hydroelectric units. Powerhouse personnel were given a weeklong training session on the new crane systems and controls.

Supply contracts have been awarded to ABB Company of Pennsylvania and 28 new high voltage switchyard circuit breakers have already been delivered (see photo). The old circuit breakers use more than 50,000 gallons of oil for insulation, but the new breakers use sulfur hexafluoride gas rather than oil. This is a significant environmental improvement as it eliminates the chance for oil spills. The breakers activate a big high-voltage light switch, which controls the flow of power generated at John H. Kerr Dam to Virginia Power and Carolina Power and Light. Overstreet Electric Company of Florida has been awarded the contract for installing the circuit breakers.

A second supply contract was awarded to Elco Industries of Israel for the construction of 7 new 55,000 KVA transformers designed by HDC. Along with the new transformers, HDC designed a new oil/water separator system that will handle the full volume of transformer oil in the event of a catastrophic failure of a main transformer. This enhanced design will replace the current 50-year-old drainage system that would have emptied directly into the Roanoke River if the transformer had failed.

Negotiations are ongoing now for the supply contract for the state-of-the-art

electronic static excitation system. These new exciters will replace the old direct current generators and reduce overall maintenance. The 7 new exciters for the hydro generators will be equipped with power system stabilizers. All power system providers are requiring this feature in the future under the new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requirements.

The largest contract for the powerhouse makeover has not been awarded yet. Work under the final contract will include a complete redesign and rewind of the powerhouse generators to a higher megawatt output, replacement of the

Francis waterwheel turbines, and an upgrade of the Woodward governors. The contract will also involve installation of the new exciters, the Elco transformers and raw water piping modifications. Consideration is being given in this contract for a newer turbine design that will enhance dissolved oxygen uptake.

The complete rehabilitation project is expected to take an additional 7-8 years to complete. Because of safety considerations related to the contract work the powerhouse is suspending summer tours of the dam.



New high voltage circuit breakers are stockpiled in the parking lot at John H. Kerr Dam.

# THE SHAD

By Penny Schmitt with Robin Hall, Photos by Scott Maners

Thanks to long-term efforts by Lockmaster Robin Hall, marine life experts, and changing fisheries law, shad are back in greater numbers than the Cape Fear River has seen in many years.

Hall, who has spent most of his life on the Cape Fear, believes the Locks and Dams--often seen as an obstacle to fish--are now part of a management pattern that makes for healthy conditions. The original locks and dams were built on the river starting in 1915 to deepen the channel for navigation, and they have also helped improve steady flows and water quality in the river. However, like other dams, they eventually did become an obstacle to shad, anadromous fish that live in the ocean and return to fresh water to spawn, Hall said.

“During the 1960s the original dam was raised another 3 feet, electric motors and gear boxes were installed to open and close the lock gates. Lockmasters at all three lock and dam projects started to do locking to allow American White Shad along with other members of the shad family, Herring, Striped Bass, Alewife, Sturgeon, and other species access to the upper pools.”

In the late 1990s, Hall assisted with a UNCW Sea Grant study that tagged and tracked shad upriver as far as 10 miles above Fayetteville, and monitored the movement of shad through the locks. As the study progressed, Hall, along with lockmasters Buddy Ray, Phil Edge, and George Graham, a local fisherman and long-time friend of the Cape Fear River, worked with marine biologists Mary Moser and Anne Marie Darazdi to monitor fish and improve lockage methods, greatly increasing the number of fish going upstream.

“We could attract fish into the lock chambers by opening the lower gates and opening valves in the closed upstream gates. But within minutes the fish went back out of the lock. We needed a way to attract the fish into the chambers and keep them there. After a lot of trial and error I got the



Above:  
Lockmaster  
Robin Hall.

Right:  
Lock gates are  
opened to  
assist shad  
and other fish  
in migrating  
upstream.



idea to open only the inside, downstream gate, leaving the outside gate closed. That made the attraction flow of water go against the inside wall of the lock chamber with little reversed flow on the outside wall. Instead of leaving the chamber with the reverse flow, the fish circled inside the

chamber and gave us a chance to release them upstream. I called Mary and Ann Marie to see if what I was doing was actually working. It was! Our tracking equipment helped us to "tweak" this improved lockage and we measured proof of 60 percent improvement.”

# ARE BACK!



*Above:  
Local fishermen  
prepare their nets  
for catching shad.*



*Left:  
The 2002 shad  
catch is good!*

*Right:  
More than 1000  
people attended the  
annual "Blue  
Monday" shad fry.*

"We can't take all the credit," Hall said." The State Fish and Wildlife Service has made the American Shad a game fish, with a creel limit on the number of fish kept. Marine Fisheries have now made it illegal to net Shad after 14 April. These two new laws have helped greatly as well. State

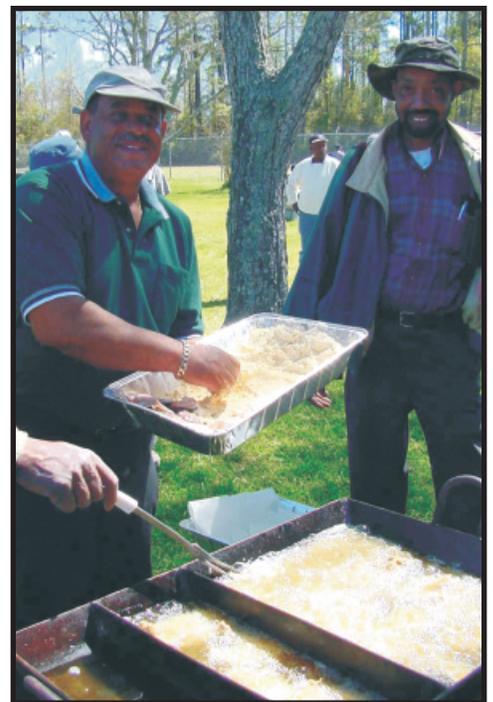
Fisheries Biologist Keith Ashley recently did a study at each of the three locks and dams. He told me that he had never seen this many shad in the river this early in the season," Hall said.

It's just what Hall would have expected. "Shad fry (newly hatched

fish) begin to return to salt water around the end of August," he explained. "I normally see them coming down stream until October, but this year I watched them into the middle of December. Huge numbers came to the surface every day before dark above the dams, all the way across the river and as far upstream as the eye could see. It seemed so unbelievable that I recorded it on video!"

"Words cannot express what it feels like to know that I had something to do with the future of the Cape Fear Rivers fishery," Hall said. "It has been the most important accomplishment of my life. I hope someday that my grandchildren's children will fish the Cape Fear River and say, hey, my great grandpa helped to make this possible."

But Hall doesn't have to wait that long to enjoy the results of his work. This year's "Blue Monday" festival featured a local family reunion and fish fry that has marked the Monday after Easter for close to fifty years. More than 1000 people attended this year's event, which was plentifully supplied with shad and shad roe. Some people came from as far off as New Jersey and local fishermen were proud to share their catch with friends and relatives.



# Operations Plan Update



## Consideration for Others (CO2) Training

Sergeant Robin Bell visited Wilmington District in March to get us up to speed on the Corps' Consideration for Others Training program. Are you asking yourself: "Didn't we all learn that in kindergarten?" Not exactly. CO2 training allows us to discuss what Sgt. Bell calls the 'sticky' situations that bring out the worst in us, or confront us with issues too complex to handle with kindergarten rules. CO2 was once a training program required for military, and encouraged for civilians. When LTG Flowers took command as Chief of Engineers, he expanded the requirement to all Corps civilians.

On a quarterly basis, we'll be getting together in small groups of up to 25 folks, to discuss CO2 topics that could affect our working lives, like--

*Alcohol and substance abuse*

*Racism and Sexism*

*Appropriate religious expression*

*Flexiplace*

*EEO complaint process*

"These are things you need to know and talk about, and they also include consideration for others issues," Bell said. "At Headquarters, for example, we make use of a video based on the book *Who Moved My Cheese?* It's an entertaining lesson that teaches us we are ultimately responsible for our own happiness in the workplace and in life."

Sgt. Bell spent a day in Wilmington District for a 'train the trainer' session on the program and on facilitation. "Your discussions should have a facilitator, and probably that should be a person who isn't a manager or a supervisor," she advised. "Informal, open discussion is the goal, and people sometimes don't want to open up if the boss is taking the lead."



(L to R) Renita McNeil, District EEO office and SGT. Robin Bell.

"This is probably the only time you will see me," said Sgt. Bell. "I don't make repeat visits to Districts unless they have a problem, and you don't seem like people who have a lot of problems." On the other hand, Bell emphasized, the way for any organization to stay problem-free is to promote open discussion and to address troublesome issues as soon as they arise. "If you don't take care of the subtle stuff, it gets to be monster stuff after a while," she advised.

Consideration for Others Training contributes to Objective 1.1 of the 2002 Operations Plan: Building a Success Program that facilitates the assimilation of new employees into the District culture.

Sgt. Bell will leave the District with a package of information on the program, which provides instruction on how to facilitate discussions. Our EEO office will help to keep good discussion topics in the forefront of our minds.

Renita McNeil has been detailed into the District's EEO position. Please feel free to contact Renita with your questions about CO2 Training. Be on the lookout for more information in coming weeks.

## Career Development and Professional Registration

By Jeff Whiting

Personal career development is an important consideration for all TEAM members. Some career fields have specific developmental paths covered by the Army Civilian Training, Education, and Development System (ACTEDS), which can be accessed at <http://www.cpol.army.mil/train/acteds/index.html>. However, local emphasis on career development can aid employees in receiving education, training, and development even when a career field is not included in ACTEDS. In both cases, the TEAM member must first develop a clear sense of vision regarding his or her long-term career goals.

After career goals are determined, the primary responsibility for career counseling rests with the supervisor or manager of the TEAM member. Together they can work to turn the plan into reality through the use of all available resources.

Most career programs emphasize a combination of basic skills, automation skill, technical subject matter skills, and even team-building or consulting skills. Each TEAM member should determine the difference between the skills needed to achieve his or her goal with the skills already possessed. The gap between the two is the career development need.

Career development needs may be met through on-the-job training (OJT), performing special projects or details, COE PROSPECT training, other governmental training, available commercial training/education, or even through volunteer work. Also, training opportunities that are transmitted to the CPAC are posted in the "Training Opportunities" folder of the District's Public Folders in Microsoft Outlook. All of these training options should be reviewed and considered when writing a formal individual development plan (IDP).

Profession registration can be a significant career development goal. The Wilmington District has a program to recognize TEAM members who achieve this significant career milestone. When a TEAM member obtains professional registration in their field, he or she should notify their supervisor. The supervisor is responsible for initiating the \$500 Special Act or Service Award for Profession Registration. This policy is covered by the Personnel Information Bulletin 90-4 of 05 January 1990.

# HR Corner

# Environmental Operating Principles



LTG Flowers

# Successes and Initiatives

The Chief of Engineers, LTG Flowers, set the occasion of dedicating a major environmental project on the Mississippi River to reaffirm the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' commitment to the environment by unveiling Seven Environmental Operating Principles that apply to all USACE decision making processes and programs.

These principles foster unity of purpose on environmental issues, reflect a new tone and direction for dialogue on environmental matters, and ensure that employees consider conservation, environmental preservation and restoration in all Corps activities," he said.

All Corps team members should become familiar with them as soon as possible. "I think you'll recognize these principles as the way we operate already," said Wilmington District Commander, Col. James DeLony. "This is a new opportunity to renew our emphasis and commitment to consider the environment as a critical element in all we do."

- Strive to achieve environmental sustainability. An environment maintained in a healthy, diverse and sustainable condition is necessary to support life.
- Recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment. Proactively consider environmental consequences of Corps programs and act accordingly in all appropriate circumstances.
- Seek balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems by designing economic and environmental solutions that support and reinforce one another.
- Continue to accept corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities and decisions under our control that impact human health and welfare and the continued viability of natural systems.
- Seeks ways and means to assess and mitigate cumulative impacts to the environment; bring systems approaches to the full life cycle of our processes and work.
- Build and share an integrated scientific, economic, and social knowledge base that supports a greater understanding of the environment and impacts of our work.
- Respect the views of individuals and groups interested in Corps activities, listen to them actively, and learn from their perspective in the search to find innovative win-win solutions to the nation's problems that also protect and enhance the environment.

In his recent Quarterly video message to the Corps, LTG Bob Flowers praised members of the Corps team for their superb response to the September 11 attacks, their support for the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, and their swift implementation of new facilities security measures under the RAMD program.

He also addressed the following initiatives under way in the Corps and the nation.

## Lewis and Clark Bicentennial

Wilmington District lies far to the south of the trail Lewis and Clark followed in search of the Northwest Passage. Next year many of our sister districts to the north will be part of a celebration of that 8,000-mile long trail, ninety percent of it on American waterways. "It's a Corps trail and an Army story," the Chief said. "Lewis and Clark were uniformed officers, and Army discipline and planning were the greatest factors in their success." To learn more about the celebration, and maybe include the trail in your vacation plans for next year, visit [www.lewisandclark200.org](http://www.lewisandclark200.org)

## Why PMBP ?

The Chief thanked those who submitted 5,000 comments on the Corps Project Management Business Process Manual, and announced that the first CDs containing the training module "Why PMBP?" will arrive in our district soon. "This training isn't just for leadership. It's for everyone, because everything we do is a project and everyone is part of the Corps team!"

The Chief also announced the new Environmental Operating principles (see story, this page). "These seven principles illuminate the way all our missions are conducted," he said. "We need to consider them early in all of our project processes." District commanders will receive training on these principles very soon.

The principles were unveiled as part of the opening celebration for the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Project, the world's largest freshwater diversion. The project, located on the Mississippi River 23 miles north of New Orleans, will reintroduce fresh water, nutrients, and sediment to the salt-threatened Barataria estuary.

# Fishing Pier for Handicapped

By Christine Bruske

The Wilmington District Corps of Engineers was among those recognized by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new wheelchair-accessible fishing pier at Jordan Lake. The \$65,000 project, which involved renovation of a public fishing area known as Bells Church, was championed by a local Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans and Mr. Bob Knight, an avid fisherman who is dependent upon an electric wheelchair for mobility.



Above: District Deputy Commander Major George Shepard (back left) joins members of the Sanford Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans and Mr. Bob Knight (front left) for the ribbon cutting ceremony of the handicapped-accessible fishing pier at Jordan Lake.



Right: Bob Knight fishes from the new pier.  
Photos by Ralph Duckson

## **Federal Women's Program Celebrates National Women's History Month By Recognizing Women Who Volunteer in Our Community and Highlighting Volunteer Opportunities for TEAM Members**

As Wilmington District TEAM members gathered together in recognition of National Women's History Month, they learned about volunteer opportunities within the community. Several service organization leaders spoke at the lunchtime event while attendees enjoyed their own brown-bag lunches or items from Chick-Fil-A, which were sold to raise funds for the Recreation Committee.

Speakers for the event were Barbara Shell of Health Access for Teens/Adult and Teen Mentoring, Anne Brau of Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, Amber Milliken of the YMCA, Helen Morotto of the Guardian Ad Litem Program, and Susan Roberts, Chairman of the Guardian Ad Litem Recruitment Program and Recruiter for VISTA: Volunteers In Service To America. Deputy Commander Major George Shepard presented each speaker with a certificate of appreciation and a commander's coin.

Federal Women's Program Manager, Lisa Hetherman (PM), coordinated the event with the help of several other TEAM members including: B. J Suggs (IR), Annie Scott (CT), Tony Carter (PM), Deputy Commander Major George Shepard, Diane Boswell (LM), Patty Hargrove (IM), Sheila Jack (IM), DeAndrae Jackson (LM), James Lewis (LM), and Marti Sedgwick (LM).

"The speakers were enthusiastic about their community organizations and about speaking to our TEAM," said Hetherman. "After hearing the speakers' presentations, several of our TEAM members have mentioned they are interested in helping these organizations."

Improvements included the construction of new 140-foot, T-shaped handicapped-accessible fishing pier that provides for both deep-water and bank fishing. The pier is fitted with additional support columns to reduce a tendency for the pier to slope during low-water conditions, and an extra 25 feet of chain to anchor the pier and reduce motion. The pier also features eight built in benches, and sections of low side-railings so that people who need to stay seated while fishing will not have their view obstructed. Shelving is also part of pier design to accommodate bait and lure boxes.

In addition to construction of the pier, the project involved installing a handicapped-accessible parking pad with a concrete ramp and security lighting, and the stabilization of a 300-foot section of the shoreline around the pier.

The Corps provided \$20,000 for the purchase of lumber and floats for the pier. Other funding, supplies and labor were provided by North Carolina State Parks, the Sanford Chapter of Disabled American Veterans, Pac-Fab Inc., Spence Building Supply, the Sanford Family Chiropractic Center and private citizens.

More information on the Bells Church handicapped-accessible fishing pier is available on the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission web page at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org).



Assisted by American Red Cross Nurse, Barbara Weyhrauch, **John Edge** of the Navigation Division (on left) and **Tony Carter** of the Project Management Division (on right) donate 2 of the 26 units of blood collected during the District's March 2002 blood drive.

Congratulations to **John Edge** on his recent promotion to GS-9 Civil Engineering Technician.

**John Edge** is also celebrating the birth of his grandson, William Taylor McKeithan, who was born of April 3, 2002. William weighed 6lbs., 8oz. John's daughter, Shawna, and her husband are doing fine.

**Buddy Ray**, Lockmaster at Lock and Dam #2, was called to active duty. Buddy is a Staff Sergeant in the Army Reserves. His unit is assigned to Ft. Bragg and will serve as part of Operation Noble Eagle. We wish Buddy a safe and successful tour of duty.

Civil engineer **Bobby Willis** was proud to see his beautiful 20-month old granddaughter, Peyton Wallace, pictured in the March 23, 2002 edition of the Wilmington Star News as part of a story on the tradition of wearing Easter bonnets.

**Sharon Sutton** served up lots of chili at the District's first annual chili cook-off, which raised \$165.00 for Corps Day and earned bragging rights for three TEAM members. **Sarah Tingley** (RM) won first prize for cooking up the best chili. **Jeff Whiting** (CP) took the honor for hottest chili and **Penny Schmitt** (PA) got the nod for making chili with the most unusual ingredient; coffee.



Congratulations to **Jim Jacaruso** on his promotion to Civil Engineering Technician GS-11. Jim will be working in the General Engineering Section of the Technical Services Division.

Evan Brown, son of **Paula Brown** (EM), earned the Cub Scout's highest award: The Arrow of Light. Evan is a member of pack 247 sponsored by the Burgaw Presbyterian Church. Way to go Evan!

Stephanie Cox, daughter of **Nancy Cox** (LM), recently graduated from UNC-W with a B.S. in Business, Marketing and Production Decision Science.



Good luck to **Nancy Kell** (DA) as she moves into her new job as Secretary to the Director of the Navy Public Works Center in Norfolk, VA. We hate to see Nancy go, but wish her great happiness.

Student aide **Genia Boswell** has taken a new position in Internal Review. She was formerly a student aide in Resource Management.

Congratulations to **Daniel Small**, who was selected for a GS-13 position at SAD. Daniel actively sought out opportunities to develop his professional skills through the Senior Leaders program

Resident Engineer **Jim Mullins** was proud to see his brother, New York Fire Department Chief Mike Mullins, featured in The Fresno Bee newspaper. Mike was a featured speaker at a California ceremony to dedicate a mural entitled "American Spirit," which memorializes the selfless work done in response to the tragedy of September 11th.



# Corps Family News

# New Members to the District



**Erik Mattingly**, Co-op, Geotechnical Division. Erik is an Engineering student with the 2+2 program at UNCW. He is a Marine Corps veteran. Erik is originally from Kentucky.



**Stacey Smith**, Civil Engineer, Geotechnical Division. Stacey joins the District after 1 year with the NC Department of Transportation. He earned a Master's degree and a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from NC A&T University. Stacey is married to Brenda Smith.



**Justin Ray Arnette**, Co-op, Navigation Division. Justin is a senior at UNCW double majoring in Environmental Science and Geography. Justin worked for eight months as a student aid with the Wilmington District. Justin has a cat named Simba.



**Susan Vary Traxel**, Park Ranger, Philpott. Susan holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Radford University. She is certified in crime prevention and personal safety. Susan also has more than 25 years of leadership experience working with government agencies on outdoor skills training, environmental education and program development.



**Dianne Batson**, Operations Manager, John H. Kerr. Dianne comes to the Wilmington District from the Little Rock District where she was Operations Manager of Beaver Lake. Diane has over 19 years of federal service in outdoor recreation. Diane earned a B.S. in Public Administration from the University of Central Arkansas in 1985.



**Susanne Hicks**, Park Ranger, Philpott. Susanne is a 1999 graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale where she earned a B.S. in Zoology. Susanne has experience with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Maine Conservation Corps. She has also worked as a substitute teacher.



**Malcolm Charles**, Civil Engineer, Engineering Division. Malcolm joined the Wilmington District TEAM after earning a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from NC A&T University in Greensboro. Malcolm also has a Bachelor's degree in Communications from Appalachian State University. He has experience as a sports announcer and radio talk show host. Malcolm and his wife, Jenna, have a two-year-old daughter Emma, and infant twins, Ethan and Isabella.



**Mary Gardner**, Ranger Co-op, John H. Kerr. Mary is a Natural Resource Recreation student at Virginia Tech University. She spent the summer of 2000 as a volunteer with USDA Nature Conservancy Earth Team in Goochland, VA. During the same period she was a volunteer childcare worker at Messiah Lutheran Day Care in Mechanicsville. Mary has a twin sister, and 2 older sisters.



**Tara Williams**, Federal Career Intern, Planning Division. Tara graduated with a B.A. in Environmental Studies from UNCW. She is from the Appalachian Mountain town Jefferson, NC. Some of her experience includes working as an Operations Manager for UNCW Housing & Residence, interning with the NC Coastal Federation, and completing a water quality assessment study with Dr. Michael Mallin of UNCW. Tara is engaged to Brian Sellers, a New Hanover Co. Sheriff's Deputy.



**Earl Wright**, Park Ranger, Philpott. Earl recently joined the Wilmington District TEAM as a full-time Ranger after 24 years as a summer Ranger. For more than 31 years, Earl was employed with the Henry County Public School System as an administrator and school principle. Earl holds a B.A. in Health and Physical Education from Virginia State University and an M.A. in Educational Supervision and Administration from Roosevelt University.



# Retiree News

By Bob Swart

Since the Wilmington District News is now published every-other-month, this column will highlight news from two retiree lunch gatherings.

Gus Moore admitted to our group he recently celebrated his 68th birthday. He spent his big day planting 50 blueberry plants and 100 Muscatine grape vines. Remembering last year's success with soybeans, we were wondering if Gus is simply trying out some new deer baiting techniques. Gus also spent five days in Savannah, GA with 450 other honey beekeepers from the American Federation of Beekeepers.

Buddy Johnson told the group he attended the semi-monthly luncheon of the ROMEO (Real Old Men's Eating Out) Club in February and said 125 WWII veterans were there. Buddy and Kay also attended the monthly meeting of the Carteret County Historical Society.

Lloyd Tyndall was looking very well at the meeting, despite his recent health problems. He indicated he had been working on the railroad, planning pine trees, and playing golf. He said his retired life was unbearable, as he had traded a 5-day workweek for a 7-day one. We noticed this remark did seem to be a little "tongue in cheek."

It was good to have Ruth and Bob Edwards with us. Bob has been very busy of late. You see, he is trying to get his golf game up to par, which demands he spend 3-4 days each week on the golf course.

Dorothy Everett chimed in that she stays so busy she wonders how she ever found time to work at the Corps. Said added that her job with the Corps didn't work her half as hard as retirement does. Others in the group seemed to share Dorothy's opinion.

Our condolences and prayers go out to Sara and the girls on the loss of Allen Grimstead on January 22nd. Allen retired from the District Survey Branch. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Elwood Lanier and his family on the loss of his father, Marion Richard Lanier, who passed away on January 29. We are also thinking of Judith and Larry Saunders. Judith's mother, Helen Davis, died on March 5th.

Sure hope all you Corps retirees will make plans to join us for our monthly lunch meeting. We'd all love to see you and hear about your activities. We meet the first Thursday of every month at the Pier 20 Restaurant on College Road in Wilmington.

A special happy birthday wish goes out to Corps retiree, Bill Fowler, who celebrated his 95th birthday on April 8th. Bill retired in 1969 after 40 years in the Wilmington District Survey Branch of the Engineering Division. Bill is in good health and loves reminiscing with friends who drop by to see him at the Liberty Commons Assisted Living Center on 41st in Wilmington.

## Albert C. Costanzo Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)

**Job with Wilmington District Corps:** District Engineer, 1971-74

**Typical day in retirement:** I work on our Christmas tree farm, which has 2,000 trees at various stages of growth and 48 acres of timber resources. We're located in Culpepper County, Virginia some 60 miles southwest of Washington, DC. I volunteer as a GED tutor for inmates at the county jail and I help my wife, Rose, with her quilting projects. She pieces the quilts together and I do the hand stitching. During my "free time," I fish in our pond for blue gills and largemouth bass.

**Interesting places visited since retirement:** Areas of the United States where I had not been assigned during my military career.

**Family:** Married for 47 years with five sons and one daughter. Seven, soon to be eight, grandchildren.

**Most exciting/memorable thing since retirement:** Not going into another career, but instead doing what I want to do--enjoying my family and my "free" time.

**Hobbies:** Documenting the World War II experiences of my relatives.

**Favorite Author:** Stephen Ambrose

**Last book I read:** "Comrades" by Steven Ambrose

**My favorite possession:** Memories of my 36 years of military service as an enlisted man, a West Point cadet, and an Army officer.



## Retiree in the Spotlight



*Wilmington firefighters march with flags in the Azalea Festival to honor their colleagues who died in the September 11th recovery effort. Photo by R.G. Absher*

TEAM Members & Retirees  
make plans to attend!  
Corps Day 2002  
June 7th  
Empie Park  
Wilmington, N.C.

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT,  
WILMINGTON  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 1890  
WILMINGTON, N.C. 28402-1890



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