



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New Orleans District

# Riverside

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January - February 2003

**Larose, Manchac:  
ecosystem fixes**

**Baumy and Breerwood promoted**

**Partnering conference**

***Community volunteers***

**Corporate Cup Run**

One challenge we face nearly every day in Public Affairs is keeping the public positively informed about the district. We do this through a sometimes negatively biased outside media. Additionally, some folks already imagine the Corps as just another big government entity that does little more than disrupt the natural order of waterways and make a lot of homeowners upset on a regular basis.

I, for one, fell into this second category before I started working here as a student intern over a year ago. But since then, my impression has changed. I've interviewed people here for stories in *Riverside*. For me, there is a face on the

## Facing the public

Corps. I see that the employees of this district are extremely environmentally conscious and care far more about the long-term well-being of the state and its people than a lot of outside folks think.

I'm glad these days to be able to explain to my friends, and callers to PAO, the Corps' side of things. Often, they don't know what the Corps does. Giving them an idea of how much this district alone accomplishes, and why, is enough to change their perception, so that the Corps goes from being a heedless branch

of the military bent on environmental pillaging to a group of dedicated, caring individuals working towards a common, beneficial, and environmentally supportive goal for the state.

But like our community volunteers in this issue might say, keeping the public informed about the good things the employees of this district do – whether it's working on hurricane protection projects or coaching for the local playground – requires more than one person.

Enjoy this month's issue.

**Eric Lincoln**  
Public Affairs

## Confronting terrorism involves everyone

As part of a combined effort among local, state and federal agencies, MVN has joined forces with the Anti-Terrorism Task Force (ATTF). The ATTF is coordinated through the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana and the local office of the FBI. Its purpose is to create and foster information sharing in order to identify and prevent future terrorist acts here at home. The ATTF is principled upon a process of awareness and involvement amongst agencies and individuals.

In the months ahead, this column will serve as the district's tool to make you aware and get you involved. It will provide you with the latest ATTF developments. You will learn what the participating agencies are doing to confront potential threats, be alerted to future ATTF training events and stay informed on the lessons learned from ATTF meetings. Most importantly, you'll be asked to contribute to the ATTF effort with any questions, observations or concerns.

The district has played an active role in the fledgling ATTF. It

came in on the ground floor of the new agency and is now one of 114 agencies sharing and learning from the best-organized ATTF in the country.

In addition to attendance at monthly status meetings, your district representative has received training on identification of terrorist behavior patterns and been briefed on federalization of airport security under the Transportation Safety Administration. Currently, he is incorporating the district's security assessments into an integrated regional security plan that will enable more rapid detection and response to potential threats.

As we move our way through the New Year, remember that our shared protection grows out of a process, and that process begins with you.

I can be reached at x1568 if you have questions or comments.

**Jameson Eisenmenger**  
District Representative  
Office of Counsel

### Riverside

January - February 2003

Vol. 14 No. 1

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**Authorization:** The New Orleans District *Riverside* is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army. Comics reprinted by permission of United Features.

**Submissions:** Articles and story ideas are welcome; publication depends on the general interest as judged by the editor. Direct queries to the editor by calling (504) 862-2201 or email [Eric.S.Lincoln@mvn02.usace.army.mil](mailto:Eric.S.Lincoln@mvn02.usace.army.mil).

**Circulation:** 2,150 copies per issue.



Lane Lefort

**Julie Oliphant (ED) runs with over a hundred other employees in the annual YMCA Corporate Cup Run on Dec. 8.**



Lane Lefort

# Satterlee: Corps must rise to challenges

By John Hall

Levees may look much the same as a century ago, and they still require clay to hold back the water. But like so many things, they too have a modern-day aspect.

Geotextiles are a big but little noticed change. The plastic fabric can be used to strengthen levees and helps the Corps of Engineers to meet new challenges, such as saving money and wetlands.

That sequence illustrates the way Gerard S. Satterlee understands his 34-year career, which was spent entirely in the New Orleans District.

Gerry Satterlee was chief of the Engineering Division from 1999 until his retirement on Jan. 3. Before that, he held two jobs, chief of Cost Engineering Branch and assistant chief of Engineering. He came to the district in 1969 as an engineer trainee, fresh out of LSUNO, as the University of New Orleans was once known.

Satterlee said there are still plenty of challenges left to be tackled by today's rising stars.

Though Satterlee still says "we" and "our" when talking about the Corps and district he served for so long, he's now a free and relaxed man. An interview call found him cleaning paint brushes just after having returned from a deer hunting expedition to Mississippi.

He prefers sitting in a tree these days to sitting behind a desk. On the trip he was hanging loose enough to pass up more than one eight-point buck. Satterlee said he's been there, done that – and has nothing to prove as a hunter. The same could be said of his career.

Take the New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection Project in the 1980s. "It was stalemated because we couldn't raise the levee by conventional methods. Raising would have made the levee fail into a drainage canal. We'd have been forced to ruin a whole lot of wetlands."

Geotextiles were already around, but not the high-strength version the Corps needed for hurricane levees. "We worked with Exxon, Nicolon" and others "and developed that fabric. Now, there is a big market for it." Today, geotextiles are used routinely in levees. It reduces the footprint, the area covered by the levee.

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**"We need for our new engineers to get their teeth into things."**

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For this achievement, Satterlee won a national honor in 1991, the SAME (Society of American Military Engineers) Technology Advancement Medal. The geotextiles saved \$60 million on the New Orleans to Venice project and 3,700 acres of wetlands. "Conventional construction would've moved the drainage canal out further and required a ponding area."

Another source of Satterlee's satisfaction was Quality Circles, which gathered various people together to solve problems. Quality Circles was one of a parade of management-improvement collaborations that, Satterlee said, have proved valuable. "Today's version is APIC (Army Performance Improvement Criteria)."

"We had a district regulation on how it

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**Satterlee and his wife, Patti (left), accept a fond farewell from Beth Cottone (PMD) at Satterlee's retirement party on Jan. 3.**

works" as well as a handbook, and more than 100 Quality Circles. "We saved the district more than \$1 million a year, that was documented," he said.

There was personal reward "just getting to understand different offices and how they worked" and "to work with a lot of people that I wouldn't have normally met," Satterlee said. He also sharpened his people skills. "I was trained as a facilitator. At one time I was facilitating 13 groups of people." And not least, "It got me visibility with management." As did years of chairing the steering committee, composed of division and office chiefs.

For the future, he said, the Corps' success will be heavily influenced by how well it can "maintain quality and technical competence" in engineering and design.

Satterlee expressed concern that the Corps is going too far toward hiring others to design and engineer projects. He'd scale down the current 40 percent goal to 30 percent. The district has done as much as 40 percent a year with private firms of architects and engineers. "Some of the work from AE's is not quality. We have to redo it, or have them redo it. We have to review all of that work (in order) to comply with rules and regulations." Result: higher costs.

He said a similar problem is "work in kind" counting toward the local sponsor's dollar share of a project, typically 75 percent federal and 25 percent local. Instead of coming up with cash, the locals hire an AE firm. This has drawbacks, he said. "When you don't do the work, you lose your technical excellence. We need for our new engineers to get their teeth into things." And sponsors use different standards to select work-in-kind firms compared with the Corps' competitive process.

And the potential for mass retirement is a big threat to quality, the 55-year-old Satterlee said, with 50 percent of top Corps engineers becoming eligible in the next five years. "The challenges are

**See SATTERLEE, page 7**

# Projects in Larose and Bayou Manchac highlight ecosystem restoration

By Eric Lincoln

## Amite River & Tributaries, Bayou Manchac

In five days during June of 1991, Tropical Storm Allison dumped over 22 inches of water into the Bayou Manchac Basin. The only exit for the water was through Bayou Manchac, which empties into the Amite River. It took nearly 45 days for the water levels to return to normal in some areas, and hundreds of homes were flooded in East Baton Rouge, Iberville and Ascension parishes.

The district studied the basin afterwards to see what could be done, but, "There weren't enough benefits to pursue a single purpose flood damage reduction project," said Amite River Project Manager Barton Rogers.

Allison was probably a 200 to 300-year-plus event, he said, and "you usually can't design for much more than a 100-year event. We estimated how many houses would have flooded on a 100-year event that we could possibly help with our authorities and the number dropped drastically, from 273, with Allison, to about 50. We found that it would cost less to raise the houses even than just to study the

area. Most of the houses were scattered throughout the watershed, making it difficult to develop a cost-effective, flood damage reduction solution."

Some of the houses that flooded during Allison have already been raised or bought out in the basin.

However, said Rogers, "We found that there was a lot of environmental restoration we could do in the area, such as potential freshwater input from the Mississippi River and water level management to improve fish and wildlife habitat ... so ecosystem restoration became the main project purpose."

There were 15 project alternatives considered, one

of which involved Entergy, an electric power company and a stakeholder. They own the Willow Glen Power Plant on the east side of the Mississippi River in Iberville Parish, where they bring water in from the river to the plant for cooling and pump it back out when they're done.

Rogers said that Willow Glen might provide the project with a convenient and cost-effective way to benefit the basin.

"We've got an idea to tap into their return line to feed a holding pond," he said. "Instead of them having to pump back over the levee, they could keep the pond full, which could then be used as freshwater introduction to improve water quality." There are some negatives though, Rogers added, such as "a 10-degree Fahrenheit thermal pollution and the potential of introducing Zebra mussels into the watershed."

The positives, he said, are that "Entergy would cover the electric bill for the freshwater introduction and also save energy by not having to pump all of the water back over the levee."

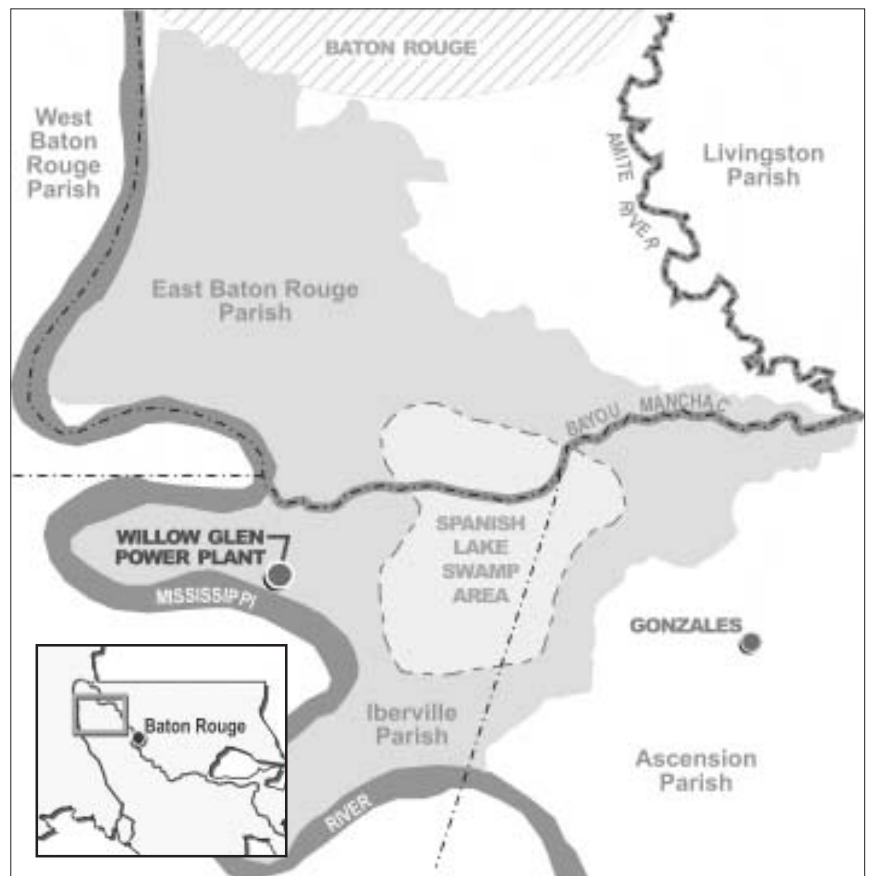
The plant pumps about 100 million gallons a day and the project would only use about a fraction of that, said Rogers. "This isn't a major diversion like Davis Pond; it would provide a



**Tapping into Entergy's Willow Glen Power Plant could provide a cost-effective way to benefit the basin, said Barton Rogers, Amite River project manager.**

**Pumping water in from Entergy's Willow Glen Power Plant could provide a cost-effective way to improve freshwater quality in the Spanish Lake swamp area.**

See AMITE, page 7





Construction of a 57-mile levee, stretching from Larose to the west Davis Pond guide levee, is the focus of the Donaldsonville to the Gulf project. The levee would prevent hurricane and tidal surges from entering, and protect Highway 90 and LA308, two major hurricane evacuation routes.

prevent tidal surges. A pump station will also be investigated in association with the structure.

A reconnaissance study revealed that it is not economically justified to raise the ring levees that surround the small communities in the interior of the basin, so the focus in those areas will be on interior drainage. There are more than 70 small pump stations in the basin and most work against one another. In many instances, water is pumped from a community to the neighboring community. Then they have to deal with the rainfall event plus the water from their neighbors.

A comprehensive hydrologic model will help us to find ways to make all the pumps work in harmony and will also determine if additional capacity is required.

Improvements to major drainage canals and bayous will likely be required as well. The culverts under Highway 90 and the canals that receive water from them haven't been maintained by local entities. Some are completely blocked and water from Lake Boeuf and north of the highway floods into Bayou Des Allemands instead of naturally flowing south.

Improving the drainage beneath



**Frank Duarte, project manager, says that this project will test the limits of the district's hydraulic models and challenge the design engineers.**

## Donaldsonville to the Gulf

The Donaldsonville to the Gulf of Mexico Feasibility Study will investigate methods that will provide flood relief to the residents of the Lac Des Allemands drainage basin. The project area is bounded on the west by Bayou Lafourche and on the north and east by the west bank Mississippi River levee.

The \$7 million study cost is being shared 50/50 with the two local sponsors, the LADOTD and the Lafourche Basin Levee District.

This is an ideal project in a scenic and serene area. It requires most of the solutions that the Corps is famous for: hurricane protection, interior drainage improvements, clearing and snagging, flood control and drainage structures, channel enlargements and environmental restoration. We're excited! The existing 70-plus pump stations and numerous canals will test the limits of our hydraulic models and challenge the design engineers.

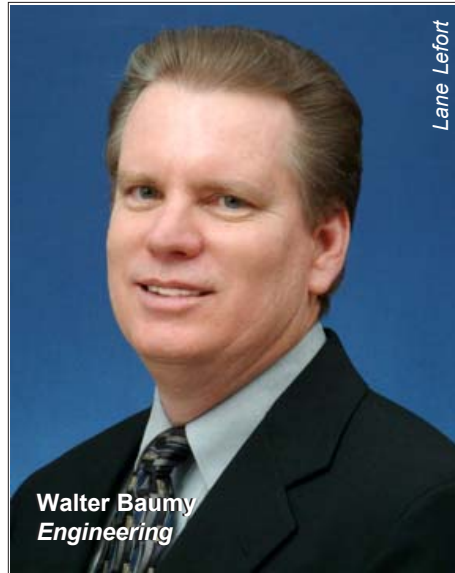
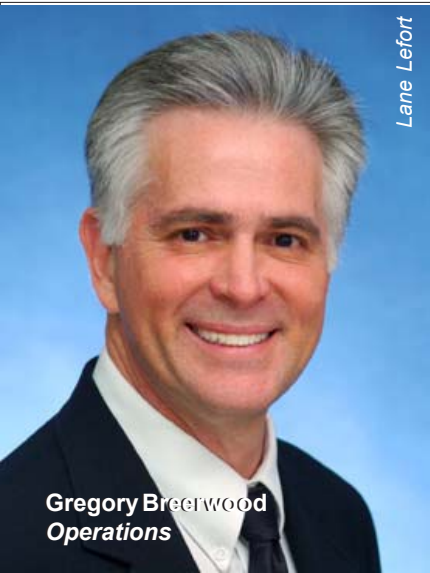
The area has been declared a disaster four times since 1985 and has received federal assistance during other minor events.

Hurricanes and major storms cause tidal surges from the Gulf of Mexico to enter the southern portion of the study area through Bayou Des Allemands and other low areas. Heavy rainfall events frequently produce flooding conditions due to restrictions from Highway 90, blocked canals and ineffective pumping systems. In particular, Highway 90 prevents the historical sheet flow from north to south and forces most of the drainage to flow through Bayou Des Allemands, creating a bottleneck. Flooding is much worse when heavy rainfall and tidal surges occur simultaneously.

A major focus of the study is a 57-mile-long hurricane levee from Larose to the west Davis Pond guide levee, in the vicinity of Luling. The levee will prevent hurricane and tidal surges from entering, and protect Highway 90 and LA308, two major hurricane evacuation routes. A flood control structure is required in Bayou Des Allemands to connect the levees on each side of the bayou. This structure will remain open, except to

See LEVEE, page 7

# Breerwood, Baummy aim high as new chiefs of Operations, Engineering



diverse type of work. He also liked how integrally connected the Corps is to the nation. Born and raised in New Orleans, Breerwood got a bachelors degree in civil engineering from Louisiana Tech and a masters in general engineering from Tulane. "We have a lot of challenges in front of us," he said, "and I'm anxious to get started."

**Walter Baummy** became the new chief of Engineering Division on Jan. 3. The 48-year-old resident of St. Tammany Parish began working for the Corps in the Soil Testing Lab while he was in college. He worked briefly outside the Corps but quickly returned. "At that point I wanted to do design work and wanted to pursue getting an advanced degree. The Corps offered me both of those options, so I made a choice to come back to the Corps."

Baummy is concerned with ensuring the technical quality of the work done by Engineering Division. He also wants to make sure projects are completed on time

and correctly. He added, "I also have corporate responsibilities, interfacing with the division, my counterpart at division and the rest of their management team. That can go up to headquarters, too." Baummy will deal with other organizations in a way he has not done before. He must interface more with the customer, listening to their complaints and suggestions.

Baummy is dedicated to addressing the changes brought about by the Project Management Business Process and sponsor participation while maintaining efficiency and continuing to

provide good engineering services. "I represent management, per se, chief of Engineering Division, but at the same time I feel I also represent the people who are working for Engineering Division. We're doing the things that

we can that are best for them and their careers, and we give them proper guidance to maybe enhance their capabilities, continue their education and overall just improve themselves to go as far as they want to go in the organization," he said.

Baummy has worked as a designer, supervisor, first-line supervisor, section chief and branch chief. "Every step of the way, to me, you pick up more responsibility, you pick up a broader spectrum of duties, so more or less get away from the nuts and bolts and gradually move up to managing the organization, letting the people do the work that needs to be done," said Baummy.

Baummy worked in three different branches of Engineering, developing close relationships with many of the people in those branches. "I've been exposed to a lot of the design folks and appreciate a lot of their strengths," he said.

Baummy has many challenges ahead. As he strives to transfer the experience and knowledge of those about to retire to the new generation of workers, he wants everyone in Engineering Division to know that their work is appreciated. "My goal is to

By Amanda McLain

The new chief of Operations Division is **Gregory Breerwood**. He is responsible for the operation and maintenance of all Corps projects in the New Orleans District. "My job is to make sure that the folks who actually do the operation and maintenance of the projects have the resources they need to provide that service to the public," he said.

This new position is similar to Breerwood's previous job for four years as deputy chief of Operations. "The deputy chief is an extension of the chief, but the bottom line is, when it comes down to final policy decisions, the chief is responsible for that."

Breerwood brings a lot of experience to the job. He has also been chief of Readiness and Navigation branches, and head of various smaller teams, including the dredging and lock sections. He had a year of developmental assignment in Construction Division.

Breerwood brings with him close relationships with other division and office chiefs. "We are all public servants and our job is to make sure that we provide to the taxpayer what they deserve. I've come to understand that we are both partners and customers with each other and that we have to help each other, make sure that we, collectively, provide that service to the customer."

Breerwood has a vision for Operations Division. "I plan to make sure we utilize the goals of the chief of engineers, that is People, Process and Communications; also that our people are trained and have the resources they need to do the work, and that the processes we use are in tune with the PMBP, we communicate with our customers as well as among ourselves, and that we do the job most effectively," he said.

Breerwood joined the Corps 32 years ago because of its wide,

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"We need to get out and meet with the partners and talk to them ... to get us on the same path," said Baummy.

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adjust to the new processes and the ever changing roles for the sponsors and partners, as we call them now. We need to get out and meet with the partners and talk to them. We don't have different agendas. It's just trying to get us on the same path."

### **AMITE, from page 4**

trickle flow during the summer months to improve water quality."

The project also would help restore Spanish Lake, which became infested with the Hydrilla plant in the late 80s. The vegetation choked the water system and consumed the water column, creating water quality problems that made a deadly environment for most game fish.

"We will never be to get rid of all the Hydrilla, but we can figure out ways to mitigate some of its negative impacts, and maybe couple that with water level management for ecosystem benefits, which could potentially lower water stages, increasing storage, and actually have some flood stage reduction benefits as well."

"Ironically," said Rogers, "reducing flood stages may be an ancillary benefit to ecosystem restoration. The key to the

success of this project is to develop an overall water management plan to promote the health of the ecosystem. Since the project would be justified on ecosystem restoration, this management plan would address ecosystem restoration primarily. However, we believe that plans for short-term flood fights could be developed as part of the plan that would have no detrimental ecosystem impacts."

The original 15 alternatives have been screened down to seven. Other project alternatives that are being carried forth include adding a small diversion from Spanish Lake to New River, restoration of bottomland hardwoods, replacement of existing structures at Alligator Bayou and Frog Bayou for restoration benefits, and restorative work along Elbow Bayou in East Baton Rouge Parish.

The project management plan (PMP) is being revised for more detailed work. "We're getting the PMP and schedule together as we speak ... Assuming everything goes well, we could move to construction in about four years."

### **SATTERLEE, from page 3**

developing the people we have," retaining them while"recruiting more." The Corps will have to offer more than reviewing other people's work," he said. "Most engineers don't want to do that."

Other challenges include the need to have more "technical (GS-)13's" to "maintain the institutional knowledge and to train the new engineers, and to

coach and mentor the (PMBP) project delivery team members. Another challenge is the pressure on training budgets because of demands to cut overhead costs.

Today's engineering challenges may seem formidable, but challenges are nothing new, one present member of Engineering Division said. An example was Satterlee's 1980s fight, inside the district, for putting geotextiles to work. "They fought him tooth and nail," the employee said.

Satterlee is optimistic: "Overall, the Corps has always risen to its challenges, and I have every confidence that today's, too, will be successfully met."

**Satterlee and Leroy Brown, who also retired in January as chief of Information Management, share the great moment that retirement brings.**



**The flag flies at half-mast in memory of the seven astronauts who died in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster on Feb. 1.**

### **LEVEE, from page 5**

Highway 90 will benefit environmental restoration as well as provide drainage improvements. It will introduce water to marsh west of the study area, rather than force all of the water to the east.

We're also looking at deepening Lake Boeuf under environmental restoration and providing an outlet to the south. The lake has become choked with sediment because of the inability of water to flow south. At times, during the summer months, decaying vegetation and other biological conditions cause a bad smell in the lake.

The project's multi purposes – hurricane protection levee, internal drainage improvements and environmental restoration – make it the perfect Corps assignment.

The study completion date is Sept. 2005.





# Partnering conference opens window on communications



## Represented sponsors:

### Cities and Towns

- Alexandria
- Covington
- Donaldsonville
- Grand Isle
- Gretna
- Harahan
- Kenner
- Morgan City
- New Iberia
- New Orleans
- Port Allen
- Waveland
- Westwego

### Water & Levee Districts

- Atchafalaya Basin Levee District
- Bayou Vermillion Levee District
- East Jefferson Levee District
- Grand Isle Levee District
- Lafourche Levee District
- Lake Borgne Levee District
- Pontchartrain Levee District
- South LaFourche Levee District
- Teche-Vermillion Fresh Water District
- Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District

New Orleans District held its first annual Partnering Conference Jan. 7 – 9 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in New Orleans. More than 230 people attended: 116 sponsors and 115 Corps members. They came to discuss a multitude of issues and seek resolutions to common problems, and establish a new approach to improving our working relationships.

Outside organizations represented included: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Coast Guard;

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, LA Office of Emergency Preparedness, LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, LA Department of Transportation and Development;

Various cities, towns, parishes, levee and water districts, ports, universities, tribes and environmental groups.

Special guests included Brig. Gen. Don Riley, MVD commander, and Thomas Caver, Clifford Fitzsimmons, John Lucyshyn and Bruce Heide of Corps HQ, congressional staff members, mayors and parish presidents.

The conference agenda began the first full day with presentations by various federal, state and parish sponsors, followed by lunch with Brig. Gen. Don Riley speaking. Participants broke out into six “partner issue” sessions in the afternoon. The day concluded with reports from each breakout group. Day two was a half-day consisting of more breakouts and then a panel discussion with district division and office chiefs fielding questions from







the sponsors.

A survey of all attendees was conducted and the results will help guide any adjustments to improve the partnering summit next year.

*Left, then clockwise:*

- Ed Dickson, PMD, facilitates one of six breakout sessions, which targeted issues related to flood control, environment, special studies and navigation.
- Beth Cottone, PMD; Herb Miller, Jefferson Parish director of Public Works, Pam Clark, MVD public affairs; and Brig. Gen. Don Riley, MVD commander, take front-row seats.
- Acting Chief of Counsel Denise Frederick answers a question during the district panel discussion.
- Ed Preau Jr., assistant secretary of Public Works, state Dept. of Transportation and Development, gives Col. Peter Rowan, district commander, a friendly pat to amend for some hard-hitting remarks.
- Angel Mislán, H&H; Bobby Duplantier, PMD; and Mary Kinsey, OC, help facilitate a breakout session.
- Brig. Gen. Don Riley, MVD commander, sets the tone for a positive conference in his luncheon remarks.
- Ed Dickson, PMD; Jerome Zeringue, Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District; Windell Curole, South LaFourche Levee District; and Walter Baumy, chief of Engineering, share a casual moment.



Photos by Lane Lefort

#### Universities

Louisiana State University  
Southern University  
University of New Orleans

#### State Agencies

Department of Natural Resources  
State Office of Emergency Management  
Department of Transportation and Development

#### Ports

Krotz Springs Port Commission  
Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal  
Millennium Port Authority  
New Orleans Port  
Plaquemines Parish Port

#### Federal Agencies

Environmental Protection Agency  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
US Fisheries & Wildlife Service  
US Geological Survey

# TAC Team Achievements



**Lake Killarney Ecosystem Restoration Team**

**Challenge Day Team**

This team increased awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by persons with disabilities. The entire district pitched in and made this a first of its kind "Awareness Day."

*Joseph Chow, Carli Fried, Bryan Gassen, Jeff Heap, Darren Huete, Amanda Jones, Mike Maples, Anne Marino, Elena Napolitano, Robert Northey, Paul Palmeri, Kim Steptoe and James Sturcke*

**IHNC Real Estate Team**

Notified that funds were available but that they had to be expended within 24-hours, this team organized a \$3.8 million one-day transaction in September and a \$7 million one-day transaction in November for land purchases from the Port of New Orleans for construction



**LCA Engineering Team**

**LCA Engineering Team**

This team designed and cost-estimated 175 projects for Phase Two of the Louisiana Coastal Restoration Study. It should have been a six-to-eight month job, but they completed it in two months, partnering with government and state agencies. *Jim Austin, Clyde Barre, Jason Binet, Pam DeLoach, Gerry Giroir, Jay Joseph, Mike Knipple, Chris Monnerjahn, Vann Stutts and Craig Waugaman.*



of the IHNC Lock Replacement. *Stephen Bland, Debra Blood, Betty Brogna, Marie Burge, Ethen Crawford, Hobert Creasy, Janet Cruppi, Marcia Demma, Gerald Dicharry, Judy Gutierrez, Mary Hebert, Maurya Kilroy, Dawn Lambert, Jackie Purrington, Gloria Reeves, Edward Usner and Brenda Weber.*



**IHNC Real Estate Team**

**Hwy 70-Lake Palourde Team**

The team worked to prevent shoreline erosion and provide a hurricane evacuation route for Morgan City. They reduced project costs by \$2.45 million, coordinating extensively with Real Estate, Construction, Operations and Project Management. They also adjusted construction methods for maximum efficiency. *Jeremy Aitken, Chester Ashley, Kinney Benoit, Jason Binet, Michael Bourgeois, Robert Campos, Karl Clark, Edward Creef, Nathan Dayan,*

The remaining seven of the 14 teams awarded on

# ement Awards

*Frank Duarte, Richard Entwisle, Howard Gonzales, Amy Goodlett, Falcolm Hull, Doyle Hunt, Heather Jennings, William Marsalis, Michael Maunoir, John Mistrot, John Morton, Beth Nord, Keith O’Cain, John Petitbon, George Popovich, William Reeves, Alisa Russo, Benjamin Salamone, Robert Thomson, Julie Vignes and Harley Winer.*



**Morganza to the Gulf Technical Support Team**

*Siegrist, Robert W. Smith, Charles Studdard, Tiong Tan, Ray Thorne, Rick Tillman, Dave Vossen and Danny Wiegand.*

**East Baton Rouge Post Authorization Change Team**

This team developed a report in just five months for East Baton Rouge Parish that met deadlines for the Water Resources Development Act of 2002. They coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, revised the real estate plan throughout 12 years of construction and worked extra hours to get the job done. *Carl Anderson, Carolyn Earl,*



**East Baton Rouge Post Authorization Change Team**

*Eileen Farley, Judith Gutierrez, Robert Lacy, Brian Maestri, Jason McCrossen, Barton Rogers, Inez Siegrist, Jim Smith and William Wilson.*



**Challenge Day Team**

*Photos by Lane Lefort*

**Lake Killarney Ecosystem Restoration Team**

This team found a solution to sedimentation in Lake Killarney by redirecting water through a sediment trap. They created a cost-effective plan and developed new techniques, such as natural stream design, reduced construction costs and assured long-term maintenance and project success. They coordinated with state agencies to achieve their goals. *Tommy Bacon, Robert Blackhorse, Alan Blake, Louis Britsch, Reynold Broussard, Douglas Dillon, Mike Dupuy, Carolyn Earl, Gains Florence, Jay Gamble, Amy Goodlett, David Griffin, Stacy Gauthier, Julian Hardouin, Isiah Hill, Paul Hughbanks, Donald Juneau, Joan Lanier, Ronald Lawrence, John Lecoq, Vernon Leufroy, Rodney Mach, Huey Marcheaux, James McCrory, Jason McCrossen, Walter Moreau, Eric Moreau, Kieth O’Cain, Gib Owen, Cleveland Richards, Barton Rogers, Casey Rowe, Mike Sanchez, Earl Sanders, Hope Sartorio, Rene Scholl, Inez*

**Morganza to the Gulf Technical Support Team**

This team planned a \$680 million hurricane protection levee system for Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes. They minimized costs, resolved comments and assisted in coordinating the report with state and federal regulatory agencies. *Barrett Breaux, Erica Buschel, Rudy Champagne, Scott Clement, Thomas Dorcey, Mike Escarra, Gary Herndon, Billy Hicks, Bill Howard, Lenny Hunter, George Laborde, William Landry, Rodney Mach, Philip Marchese, Eric Moreau, Walter Moreau, Paul Palmeri, Mark*



**Hwy 70-Lake Palourde Team**

# Co-worker remembers Duhon

By Harvey Morgan

**D**ennis Duhon, a former resident engineer on Davis Pond, took his own life on December 31. Dennis began working with the district in 1985 in the Junior Engineer Program and was assigned to the Area Office in 1987. He was promoted to supervisory civil engineer four years later. In May of 1996 he was selected as resident engineer for construction of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Project. The article that follows is from Harvey Morgan, a friend and former co-worker.

## Farewell from a friend

For me the new year began much like the old one ended – quiet and uneventful. However, the following morning all expectations that 2003 would be a “happy new year” were shattered.

Around 8 a.m. I received the news that Dennis Duhon was dead. My initial reaction was one of shock and disbelief. It just could not be true – he was too young, too healthy, too happy, too alive and too important to too many people to be gone. As the morning wore on and the circumstances surrounding his death began to unfold, feelings of sorrow and grief were replaced with helpless despair and devastation. Those feelings continue to haunt me as I try to make sense out of a senseless tragedy.

I first met Dennis in March 1987 when he transferred from Operations Division to the New Orleans Area Office. Later, we would laugh about his first day. He’d recall how he reported at 7 a.m. sharp, anxious to make a good impression. He was told that he and I would be working together and that he should wait for me in

my office. He said, “You showed up around 9 a.m., drinking coffee and singing some crazy country song. I wondered what I had gotten myself into.” Later on, he



**Dennis was resident engineer at the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Structure.**

would admit transferring to our office was the best decision he ever made.

While Dennis had initial concerns, I was impressed with him from the start. He was bright, aggressive and energetic, had a great personality and a natural feel for construction. He was a good addition to the area office.

For the next few years, Dennis and I worked together on floodwall and levee projects along the Mississippi River. We were a good team and became constant companions. We socialized together after work, played softball on Thursdays, and developed what I considered to be the foundation for a life-long

friendship. When his second child was born, he and Suzette, his wife, named her Morgan. I’d like to think Dennis named her with me in mind but he never would admit it.

Eventually, we went our separate ways. I crossed the lake to work on a superfund project; Dennis crossed the river to work on Davis Pond. We didn’t see each other often after that but one day early last year, he and I took a ride downriver for “old times sake.” As we drove along, we talked about old projects, old friends, and all the fun we had working together for the past 15 years. It was a great day. I recall he talked a lot about his relationship with Suzette and his children, Derek, Morgan and Taylor. Their lives had gone in different directions, but he remained hopeful that he would get his family back together.

There were many redeeming qualities and good things that could be said about Dennis. But praise is not really necessary for those of us who knew and loved him. He had so much to live for ... I don’t think I’ll ever understand why he had to leave us.

We normally met for lunch and a beer over the holiday season but it didn’t happen this year. I wish it had. I always knew that Dennis would have done anything for me. I only wish that I could have been there for him.

At the visitation I had an emotional conversation with his dad. He told me how much Dennis meant to him, how proud he was to have had Dennis for a son, and how hard it was to say goodbye. As I walked away, I glanced back one last time and realized I knew exactly how his dad felt.



## Community volunteers put a face on the Corps of Engineers

By Amanda McLain

**M**any Corps employees spend time volunteering and helping their community. Their activities involve everything from coaching sports teams and helping Girl Scout troops to protecting homeless animals, working as a wish-granter for the Make-A-Wish foundation, and providing Meals on Wheels. There is even a volunteer firefighter working here. One SPCA volunteer wants to inform readers that the SPCA has adoption days every couple of months or so.

*Clockwise from bottom left:*

**Steve Keen** coaches and administrates the Dixie Youth Program at Jefferson Playground. He has also coached other teams over the years.

**Julie LeBlanc** has volunteered for Girl Scouts for the past 12 years. She has served as troop leader and camp director for "Camp Fun," a Girl Scout day camp. "This year will be the day camp's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the longest running day camp in the Southeast Louisiana Girl Scout Council," she said.

**Jackie Callandar** is a track coach. He coaches the USA Track & Field, New Orleans Comets Track Club. "I've been able to place young athletes in college and assist them to elevate themselves from sometimes dismal environments," Callender said.

**Heath and Amanda Jones** both work with soccer teams. Heath has been coaching teams for eight years. "When we first started there were only about 75 kids playing. Now I have over 800 participants and 60 teams in the leagues," said Heath.

**Bob Grubb** volunteers with the Carrollton Soccer Association, coached travel and recreational softball and soccer

and manages travel soccer teams. He is also a bagpiper and is co-chairman of the 2003-2004 Ben Franklin High School Athletic Association.

**Charles Rome** volunteers at the National D-Day Museum (he helped build the landing craft on display) and for Friends of the New Orleans Public Library.

**Chris Accardo** has been coaching baseball for the past 10 years at Girard Playground.

**James Darby Jr.** has coached at King's Grant playground for nine years, both Crusaders football and baseball. "It's not about winning," he tells his players. "It's about having fun and learning to accept loss and grow on that loss. You can't let it get you down."

**Janice Williams** volunteers as a wishgranter for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Louisiana. "It is very rewarding to be a part of making wishes come true for these children, even if it is just for a day," she said.

**Nancy Mayberry** has worked for the Girl Scouts for the past 18 years. She said, "I fervently believe that Girl Scouting is a great way to expand horizons, learn self-worth and get out and do things like camping and service projects." Nancy participates in the district Partners In Education Program.

**Scott Riecke** has volunteered a week for the last 18 years at La Lions Camp - Camp Pelican. It is a camp for children who have pulmonary disorders.

**Edward Morehouse** volunteers with his wife for Meals on Wheels. They also volunteer for Girl Scouts. Morehouse has dressed as Santa for Girl Scout Christmas events the past two years.



Photos by Lane Lefort

See VOLUNTEERS, page 15

# Around the District



Former Chief of Information Management Leroy Brown, with his wife, Janice, shows off a gift he received from co-workers at his retirement party on Jan. 2 after 38 years of service. Brown also worked in Engineering and Project Management divisions, starting in 1966.

## Congratulations

to Tracy Falk and Beth Nord, new Operations managers.  
to Peggy O'Hara (ED), whose daughter, Emily O'Hara Tchiblakian, gave birth to her third child, Madeline.  
to Steven Schinetsky (OD), whose son, Philip, was a national champion at the World Cheerleading Association National Competition in Nashville. Philip was also a member of the Rummel High School cheerleading team.  
to Miriam Crespo (OC) and LaToya Davis (OC), who were named to the UNO dean's list for their accomplishments during the fall semester.

Runners and walkers gather on Dec. 8 for the annual 3.1-mile-long YMCA Corporate Cup Race. About 110 employees participated. At right, Keith O'Cain (ED) and Joey Wagner (OD) strive for the finish line.

to Chris Wagner (CD) and his wife, Kelly, on the birth of their first child, Conner James, on Dec. 9.

to Greg Arnold (CT), who received his master's of business administration from Nicholls State University on Dec. 14.

to Patricia Broussard (LM), whose daughter, Bria Monique,

age seven, made straight A's in all subjects and behavior for the first quarter. She was also student of the month.

to Susan Scanio (PM), whose son, Sal Anthony, graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University in December with a bachelor's in management and an honor cord from Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society.

to John Agan (PM) and his wife, Jennifer, on the birth of their daughter, Jessica Virginia, on Nov. 25.

to Dave Daniels (CD), whose son, Shaun, was named student of the month in mathematics at Picayune Junior High School.

to Linda Barnvinchak (formerly Ernest Barton's secretary in ED), on her promotion to supervi-



Lane Lefort

Lane Lefort



**Brig. Gen. Don Riley, Mississippi Valley Division commander, enjoys a moment with (from left) Mike Park (OD), Ed Theriot (ERDC), Howie Gonzales (PM) and Jackie Purrington (OD), following his first town hall meeting at MVN on Jan. 29.**

sory contract specialist in Arlington, Va. to **Carol Burdine** and **Stan Green**, on their promotions to GS-13 senior project manager positions.

## Kudos

**Emile Jacobs** (OD) presented the district overview to the Inter-Wheel Rotary Club on Jan. 9. There were 27 people in attendance.

## Farewell

to **Gwenn Nachman** (OC), who retired in January after 31 years of service.

## Condolences

to **Ann Donnelly** (ED), whose sister, Leonie Russo Tucker, passed away on Dec. 5.

to **Ronald Honore Sr.** (ED), whose mother, Lucille, passed away on Jan. 13.

to **Perry Lartigue** (OD), whose wife's grandfather, Rylan Bordelon, passed away on Jan. 26.

to **Russell and Molly Block** (Molly retired from Contracting in 1995), whose son, Morris, passed away on Oct. 14.

to **Thomas Smiley** (CD), whose mother, Mildred, passed away on Jan. 13.

to friends and family of **Paulette Reynolds**, retired Corps employee, who passed away on Jan. 8.

to **Roosevelt Howard** (Old River Control), whose mother, Ida, passed away on Jan. 2.

to **Elliott Bordelon** (Old River Control), whose father, Paul, passed away on Jan. 4.

to friends and family of **Dennis Duhon** (CD), who passed away on Jan. 1.

to **Marlene Martin** (CD), whose father, Albert (A.J.), passed away on Dec. 31.

to **Christel McDonald**, whose mother, Henrietta Francis Boddien, passed away on Dec. 21.

to **Jason Binet** (ED), whose father, Joseph, passed away on Dec. 4.

to **Al Alfrich** (retired), whose wife, Doris, passed away on Nov. 16.

to **Ernest Pitts Jr.** (LM), whose father-in-law, George Williams III, passed away on Jan. 8.

to the family of **Elmo C. Waltzer**, who passed away on Jan. 22. Waltzer was a retired chief of Contracting Division, past president of the Credit Union and member of the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees.

to **Herbert Petit Jr.** (OD), whose father passed away on Jan. 29.



**Amanda Jones and Paulette Salassi, Reprographics, help gather holiday donations for battered women's shelters in Jefferson and Orleans parishes.**

## VOLUNTEERS, from page 13

### Volunteers not pictured:

**John Bivona** is a youth basketball and baseball coach in St. Charles Parish. He also volunteers his engineering services to various civic associations. "A volunteer engineer in the civic arena provides an independent voice in the community, particularly in a community where elected officials fail to recognize engineering impacts on capital projects," said Bivona.

**Doug Blakemore** coaches at Girard Playground.

**Brian Bonanno** volunteers as a Cub

Scout and Boy Scout leader for Pack 172 and Troop 172.

**Maurice Ducarpe** officiates high school football.

**Rob Heffner** volunteers for the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation. This organization works to attract sports events to New Orleans.

**Dawn Lambert** is a volunteer coach at Cleary Playground. She coaches young girls' volleyball and basketball.

**Miranda Martin** works with the young people at her church. She organizes field trips and directs many programs.

**Judith McGovern** is a long-time rescuer of greyhounds and coordinator

for adoptions.

**Richard Oubre** has been a volunteer fireman for 30 years. For the last 27 years, he has also played Santa Clause in our Christmas Parade.

**Mel Ray** officiates high school football.

**Cathy Slumber** volunteers for the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation. Said Slumber, "The events are a lot of fun and you get to meet many nice people - both locals and those in town for the events."

**Steve Slumber** coaches at Little Farms Playground.

# Talkback

Last month, a reader suggested that the Barrier Plan should be re-visited as a solution to hurricane protection. This month, a retired Engineering Branch chief agrees that the Barrier Plan, and other options, should be evaluated once more.

## Re-thinking the "Barrier Plan"

Having been chief, Design Services Branch, Engineering Division, at the time of the change from the Barrier Plan it is still unclear to me why the change was made.

The Barrier Plan was always the superior plan. Perhaps the introduction of geofab proposed and tested by Gerry Satterlee with Mr. F.M. Chatry's support and approval was a factor. The geofab brought the cost down and lessened the rights-of-way required.

And the Barrier Plan was perceived as being environmentally damaging which it was not. Many of the MR-GO problems

would have been lessened by the Seabrook Structure, and environmental engineers could have worked to regulate the salt water within Lake Pontchartrain.

The current cost of raising the High Level Plan because of rights-of-way would be high. And the High Level Plan does nothing and may even accentuate lake heights on the north and west shores.

Certainly a complete review of all options, including the Barrier Plan, is now timely.

Sincerely yours,  
Thomas E. Harrington Jr., retired  
Belle Chasse



Mike O'Dowd, lockmaster for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC), points out the location of the proposed new lock to an engineering student during a tour of the 80-year-old facility on Jan. 8. About 40 Hispanic engineering students, in town for a conference, were given tours of the IHNC Lock Replacement Project, the SELA project and the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Structure by project managers Jackie Purrington, Stan Green and Jack Fredine.

Scott Riecke

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CONFERENCE

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