



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New Orleans District

Riverside

www.mvn.usace.army.mil

April 2002



Corps, state dedicate Davis Pond

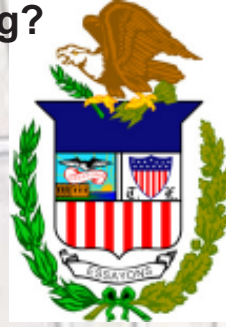
Col. Julich's Carrollton Gage column will return next month.



Recognize anything?

Probably so. A new computer security regulation lead to these Corps emblems popping up unless you show

some sort of activity on your computer every 30 minutes. You need to enter a password to log back on.



Emblem screen saver insures computer security

By Terri Jackson

Whether it was when you stopped to make a call or to get a bite to eat, on March 18 all district employees saw a change on their computer screen when their PC went unused for five minutes.

A regulation (AR380-19 Information Systems Security) requires all Army network accessible systems to implement a password protected screen saver. To comply with this new regulation, the district deployed a uniform Corps-symbol screen saver. The district later changed the five-minute to a 30-minute activation period. Although the new screen saver is new, the symbols you see are not.

Probably the most widely recognized Corps symbol displayed is the traditional Corps Castle. The Army officially adopted the castle in 1840 to appear on the Corps of Engineers' uniform epaulettes and belt plates. Shortly afterwards, the cadets at West Point, all of whom were part of the Corps of Engineers, adorned their uniform caps with the Corps Castle. The Corps Castle was patterned after the city gates

of Verdun, France. The castle is used only for special occasions to portray a sense of the history.

The Seal of the Corps of Engineers is another symbol on the screen saver with which you may be familiar. It is often referred to as the Coat of Arms. The Seal of the Corps of Engineers was adopted after the Civil War to commemorate the consolidation of the Corps of Topographic Engineers and the Corps of Engineers. In 1831, the Topographical Corps was removed from the original Corps, which had been in existence since 1802. In 1866, the "Topogs," as they were called, rejoined the Corps of Engineers and General A.A. Humphries adopted the present seal. The Coat of Arms is used on awards, plaques and presentations related to the military functions of the Corps.

The third symbol that appears is the unofficial Engineers Regimental Crest. The colors of the crest are scarlet and white, the official colors of the Corps. Scarlet

See EMBLEMS, page 4

Riverside

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Lane Lefort

Davis Pond will divert up to 10,650 cubic feet of freshwater per second into the Barataria estuary.

Environmental Operating Principles will guide the Corps, says Flowers

On March 26, during the dedication of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Project, Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers announced the seven Environmental Operating Principles that will guide the Corps in all of its work.

They are:

1. Strive to achieve environmental sustainability. An environment maintained in a healthy, diverse and sustainable condition is necessary to support life.

2. Recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment. Proactively consider environmental consequences of Corps programs and act accordingly in all appropriate circumstances.

3. Seek balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems by designing economic and environmental solutions that support and reinforce one another.

4. 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.

5. Seek 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.

6. Build and share an integrated scientific, economic and social knowledge base that supports a greater understanding of the environment and impacts of our work.

7. 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.

From : www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/envprinciples.htm

The Corps has reaffirmed its commitment to the environment by formalizing a set of "Environmental Operating Principles" applicable to all its decision-making 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.

Environmental sustainability can only be achieved by the combined efforts of federal agencies, tribal, state and local governments, and the private sector, each doing their part, backed by the citizens of the world. These principles help the Corps define its role in that endeavor.

The principles provide the Corps direction on how to better achieve its stewardship of air, water and land resources, while demonstrating the connection between water resources, protection of environmental health and the nation's security.

By implementing these principles, the Corps will continue its efforts to develop the scientific, economic and sociological measures to judge the effects of its projects on the environment and to seek better ways of achieving environmentally sustainable solutions.

The principles are consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Army's Environmental Strategy with its four pillars of prevention, compliance, restoration and conservation, and other environmental statutes and Water Resources Development Acts that govern Corps activities. They will be integrated into all project management processes.



Lt. Gen. Flowers presents his Environmental Operating Principles at the Davis Pond dedication ceremony on March 26. "Each of us, as individuals and organizations, have a responsibility as stewards of our nation's natural resources," Flowers said.

Volunteers enjoy Audubon Zoo Earthfest



Volunteers staffed Corps tables at the Audubon Zoo's Earthfest again this year. The annual event allows organizations involved in environmental issues and conservation to engage in dialogue with zoo visitors. Greg Breerwood (OD) said that the event provides a good opportunity to inform the public of Corps environmental awareness.



Volunteers were: Beth Nord (right), Bernie Zagorski, Greg Breerwood (right), Susie Hennington, Debbie Schroader, Shielda Ross, Joyce Hamilton, Heloise Alphonse, Trudy Vinger, Tanja Doucet, Bill Hicks, Lourdes Gonzalez, Mireya Laigast, Steve Brehm, Sandra Brehm, Michael Steagall and Suzanne Hawes.



All photos, Lane Lefort

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represents the shared heritage with the artillery and the white symbolizes the original color of the infantry. The Engineers Regimental Crest is worn on military uniforms and used on awards, plaques and visual presentations.

The fourth symbol is the Official Essayons Unit Crest, worn by military personnel. It was adopted after the Corps became a Major Army Command in 1979, and includes the historic motto, "Essayons" or "Let Us Try."

An eagle stands behind a scarlet and white tower, which represents the Corps of Engineers. The sun and globe symbols represent the Corps service to the nation and the world-wide scope of the Corps mission. The olive branch suggests the peaceful nature of the Corps mission. The oak symbolizes fortitude and the branch symbolizes the agency's concern for the environment. This crest is used in military functions of the Corps.

For more information, visit: www.wood.army.mil/museum.

Old dirt mine becomes bird habitat, recreational fishery
**Blackwater Conservation Area
dedicated to Sept. 11 victims**



Scott Riecke

By John Hall

The Blackwater Conservation Area on the Comite River was dedicated on March 26 to the innocent people who were killed on September 11, 2001.

Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, Col. Julich, state and parish officials attended the morning ceremony, shortly before the opening of Davis Pond.

The conservation area is eight miles northeast of Baton Rouge, on Hooper Road between Blackwater Road and the river.

It's ready for bird watching, jogging or walking, and nature interpretation. The fish need a little time to grow. In several months to nearly a year, the recreational fishery should be developed. The Blackwater area will also be used as an educational resource on nature and the environment. And the public will have access to a sandbar on the river, the area's western boundary.

Construction began July 9 on the ecosystem restoration. A partnership of the Corps, City/Parish, and BREC turned the abandoned pit into a forested wetland complex with more than 15 acres of water features.

Advice and assistance was provided by four other agencies: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Department of Environmental Quality.

Lakes of six and 2.5 acres were created and will be stocked with bluegill, largemouth bass and catfish. Restrooms and nearly 1.5 miles of walkways have been constructed for public use. Forested stands of bald cypress, river birch, sycamore, and water oaks cover half of the site. In the restoration areas, nearly 7,000 trees will be planted. Trees to be planted include bald cypress, tupelo gum, river birch, sycamore, sweet gum, common

persimmon, pines and oaks. The conservation area will provide improved habitat for fish, waterfowl, wading birds, songbirds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. The habitat will continue to improve as the lakes and trees mature.

Water-quality improvement is expected, as the area is now a functioning wetland complex. This will improve water on the site and in the Comite River downstream. The area will also provide storage for Comite floodwaters, but will flood less frequently once the Corps completes the Comite River Diversion Canal, estimated in 2010.

The Blackwater Conservation Area will be operated and maintained by BREC (www.brec.org).

For more information, go to the Web site: www.mvn.usace.army.mil/prj/cap/blackwater.



Lane Lefort

Corps, state and local officials, along with relatives of Sept. 11th victims, cut the ribbon to dedicate the Blackwater Conservation Area. Left to right: Mayor-President Bobby Simpson (City of Baton Rouge, Parish of East Baton Rouge); Mr. Lamana, whose son was killed in the Pentagon on Sept. 11th; Mary Toce, twin sister of Lt. Col. Robert Hymel (ret) who died in the Pentagon on 9-11; Elsie Hymel, Lt. Col. Hymel's mother; Lt. Gen. Flowers, Col. Julich and Superintendent Eugene Young (BREC).

Ceremony hails opening of Davis Pond

*World's largest freshwater
diversion project will benefit
770,000 acres of marsh*

By Eric Lincoln

The Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Project opened briefly for the first time March 26 when high-ranking state and Corps officials pulled a ceremonial lever to raise the gates.

Following the posting of the colors by the Hahnville High School ROTC, Col. Thomas Julich, district commander, started the much-anticipated dedication, attended by an estimated 500 people, thanking everyone who had helped bring Davis Pond on line. He gave special recognition to Jack Fredine, project manager, and Al Naomi, senior project manager.

Gov. Mike Foster then spoke, calling Davis Pond “the answer” to restoring the wetlands. “We’re going to have to do what Mother Nature did,” he said. The governor promised his total commitment to restoring the coastal wetlands.

That sentiment was echoed in a statement that was read from Louisiana Sen. John Breaux, which assured



his “strong personal commitment” to the success of Davis Pond and future coastal projects. Breaux was the keynote speaker at the groundbreaking ceremony in 1997, but was unable to attend this month’s opening.

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Secretary Jack Caldwell next eloquently expressed his confidence in coastal projects like Davis Pond. “Will this project work?” he asked. “You bet it will ... Davis Pond is a beacon of inspiration as we face the daunting challenge of our disappearing coast.”

Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, chief of engineers, who along with Julich had just come from an early morning

dedication at the Blackwater Conservation Area, called the Davis Pond project “a testimony to America’s commitment to preserving its coastal resources.”

“I believe fresh water will be more important in this century than oil was in the 20th Century,” he concluded.

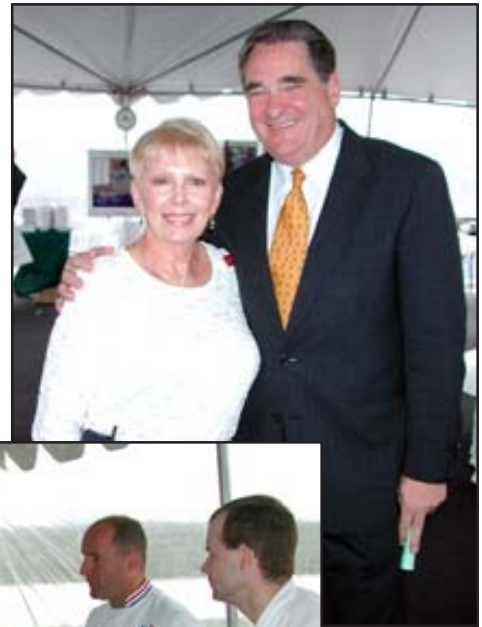
Flowers also took a moment to recognize Sue Hawes, project manager for the environment, for her role as a strong proponent of interagency efforts to restore the coast. He called attention to her recent recognition in winning the Louisiana Wildlife Federation award.

After noting that “we owe [Julich] a great debt” for his work as district engineer, Louisiana Rep. Billy Tauzin told the large crowd, “This project is just the beginning of what we’re going to do for Louisiana’s wetlands ... like the war on terrorism, this is one we’re going to win.”

“Today we’re cutting not just another ribbon, we’re



Col. Julich praised the opening of Davis Pond, and asked those involved in its success to “recommit yourselves today.”



celebrating the rebirth of one of America's most treasured resources," Tauzin said.

The speakers then gathered to pull the ceremonial lever that signified the opening of the Davis Pond structure.

After the ceremony, attendees were treated to appetizers and "environmentally correct" hot nutria gumbo from Chef Philippe Parola. Nutria has been considered as a healthier and less expensive alternative to beef; fitting for the occasion, it reminded everyone that the more nutria people eat, the less nutria there are to eat the coastal marsh.



Clockwise from top left: A crowd of more than 500 fill the tents to capacity at the Davis Pond dedication ceremony near Luling on March 26; Kitty Miller (DD) and Rep. Billy Tauzin; Chef Philippe Parola serves nutria gumbo; Dr. Bill Good, Coastal Restoration, DNR, talks to district staff members; Corps, state and parish officials flip the lever to signify the opening of the Davis Pond gates.

Photos by Mike Maples and Lane Lefort

Davis Pond will restore Barataria estuary

By John Hall

The \$119.6 million Davis Pond project will reintroduce fresh water, nutrients and sediment to the salt-threatened Barataria estuary, which stretches south to the Gulf of Mexico (right).

The key feature is a reinforced-concrete diversion

"This project should build marsh where we need it most," said Foster.

structure, built into the mainline Mississippi River levee, with four 14- by 14-foot gates. It will divert up to 10,650 cubic feet of water per second into the project area.



The project is expected to preserve 33,000 acres of marsh and benefit 777,000 acres of marshes and bays, and provide average annual benefits of \$15 million a year for fish and wildlife, including \$300,000 for recreation.

Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers introduced the Corps of Engineers' seven Environmental Operating Principles at the Davis Pond opening ceremony. Davis Pond is a good

See POND, page 9

Tinto donates bone marrow

By Amanda McLain



On February 28, Lynn Tinto, project engineer in the maintenance section of Operations Division, donated bone marrow to an anonymous recipient.

A 21-year Corps employee, Lynn was prompted by an e-mail a couple of years ago to give a

blood sample at a bone marrow registration drive. She found out that she was a match just a few months ago.

After passing a physical, Lynn flew to Washington, D.C., for the procedure, which took only a couple of

days. Lynn said, "When you wake up, you're a little bit sore" but "it's not too bad really."

In the typical procedure, about one quart of marrow is extracted by inserting hollow needles into the pelvic bones. It can cause soreness or stiffness in the lower back for a few days where the marrow was collected.

Lynn was later informed that the transplant went well.

Everything was kept anonymous, Lynn said. "If after a year both parties want to get in touch with each other, they can." Other than that, Lynn will receive notices every 30 days telling her how the patient is doing.

Lynn said that she was a little apprehensive about the procedure at first, but she just tried to keep a positive attitude. Her two daughters, both in high school, were also positive, telling her how proud they were. Lynn said, "What made the biggest impression on me was how my kids took it, and how positive they were in this ... to me that just meant a lot."

The district Health Office will be having a bone marrow donation drive in October during the health fair.



Old Christmas

Trees protect shoreline, build fish habitat

By Eric Lincoln

Volunteers from MVN—including, pictured at right, Scott Blanchard (CD), Nancy Mayberry (IM) and Stephen Finnegan (PM), along with Stephanie Hall from Vicksburg District—joined with local sportsmen’s clubs, employees of state agencies and others on March 16 to help rebuild marsh in Bayou des Oies and Cypress Bayou using discarded Christmas trees. In the project, wooden “cribs” are built

and filled with the trees, which then capture sediment and protect the shoreline from wavewash erosion. Each crib is 72 feet long by 4 feet wide. Over 10,000 trees are stacked onto a barge, then transported by skiffs to the cribs (left). Since the project began in 1989, 40,000 linear feet of cribs have been built, protecting over 250 acres of marsh. The idea originated from a similar erosion-control technique created in the Netherlands.



Courtesy photos

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example, Flowers said, of how the new principles make clear the Corps’ commitment to balancing human need, economic growth and the environment.

“These principles ... make clear the connection between water resources, protection of environmental health and the security of our country,” Flowers said.

As an additional benefit, the restoration of the Barataria wetlands will protect homes from the destructive force of hurricanes. (It takes one to three miles of wetlands to reduce a hurricane surge by one foot.)

Gov. Mike Foster said Davis Pond is “one of the most important projects in the fight against the loss of our coast. It is located in the middle of the area that’s experiencing some of the highest rates of land loss in our state.

“The Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Project shows that these projects do a lot more than reduce salinity – they actually build new marsh. This project should build marsh where we need it most, and is an example of the

type of projects we want to focus on as a priority in our nation’s conservation agenda,” Foster said.

Jack Fredine, project manager, noted, “While Davis Pond’s capacity is almost as large as the average annual flow of the Potomac River (11,900 cubic feet per second), the project’s diversions will have minimal effects on water levels in the Mississippi River and the Barataria estuary.”

The Barataria estuary is important in making Louisiana’s wetlands one of America’s most prolific producers of oysters, shrimp, crab and fish, as well as major habitat for migratory waterfowl, fur-bearing animals and alligators.

Oystermen had raised arguments against the Davis Pond project since oyster beds would be pushed closer to the gulf and most of the existing leased oyster beds in the affected area would be wiped out. The state spent \$7.5 million for oyster relocation and legal settlements; three lease areas remain to be relocated.

New *Teche* survey vessel joins the district fleet



A ceremony was held on March 15 to welcome the *Teche* as it docked for the first time outside the MVN building. The new 65-foot hydrographic survey vessel from SeaArk Marine Inc. takes the place of the motor vessel *Grendada*, in use since 1972 and replaced because of hull deterioration. The vessel will survey federally maintained navigation channels in the Atchafalaya River and pinpoint areas that require dredging to maintain authorized depths. The *Teche* gets its name from the famous bayou from Port Barre to Morgan City.

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and the mounds of spoiled food and wet, mildewed clothes everywhere you looked.

I can remember wearing clothes with hanger rust stains in them for years after the storm. Believe me when I say that I know firsthand the tremendous importance of our projects, especially to the residents of South Louisiana.

Glenn Felger

Engineering Control Branch

Glenn is the winner of our free parking space.

Biking through the flood

Many of us have flood stories, but this one from the May 3, 1978, rainfall event is truly unique. It is not about saving lives or one's belongings, but an accidental discovery on how to navigate through flooded streets.

Growing up and working near the river, I knew that we had some very bad rains that day, but could not believe it when my friend living in Mid City called and said that he had about three feet of water on his street and that it was up to his porch. So I hopped onto my ten-speed bike to head on over to his house. From Napoleon and Prytania streets, the water got deeper with each block that I rode away from the river, until reaching 3-4

foot depths near Claiborne Ave. I had never seen anything like this in my life, and nothing was about to stop me from experiencing this event. The bike had already been submerged, so I kept telling myself that the price to pay was taking it completely apart the next day to regrease it. So I kept trudging along.

Much to my surprise, the downstroke of my pedal movements on the bike acted like a paddlewheel, with the added ability to turn the bike on a dime, even with water up to the gooseneck. Many stranded motorists looked in their rear view mirrors to see what the slosh-slosh noise was that was approaching from behind. Many told me that the bike was a great way to get around, as even canoes and pirogues were stuck between the jumbled mess of stranded cars. The resistance of the water on the bike was so great, that the bike's rear derailleur kept trying to shift down to a lower gear, which was already in first gear. Despite all of this, I was able to move along at about 5-7 mph.

I persisted and finally made it to my friend's house near Canal Street and Jeff Davis Parkway. We were all in shocked disbelief, but that neighborhood was just as surprised to hear that I was able to navigate easily through about 3-4 miles of flooded streets. And yes, the bike did survive!

Paul Bellocq

Coastal Engineering

Around the District



Workers brave the heat to remove beds of ivy from the front of the center MVN building. To enhance the appearance and add color to the front of all three buildings, the Asian jasmine is being replaced by rows of red azaleas and Aztec grass, plus rounded river rock between the grass and the sidewalk.

Congratulations

to **Dave Vigh** (PM) on his promotion to environmental team leader in Mississippi Valley Division, Vicksburg.

to Philip Schinetsky, son of **Steven A. Schinetsky** (OD), who finished second All-Around at the 2002 Mens State Gymnastics competition in Baton Rouge. Individually, Philip placed first on pommel horse and rings, 3rd on floor, high bar, and parallel bars, and 4th on vault. Philip was also admitted to the Archbishop Rummel High School Cheerleading Team after team tryouts in March.

to Sebastian Holley, son of **Soheila Holley** (PM), whose 11-year-old All Stars Biddy Basketball Team from New Orleans won the 2002 State Championship.

to **Tim Roth** (CD) and wife, Peggy, on the birth of their first grandchild, Blaise Jackson McDaniel, on March 25. Blaise weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz.

to Army Reserve **Col. Charles J. Everhardt III** (CD), who was recently promoted to his present rank

with the 350th Civil Affairs Command in Pensacola, FL.

to Katie Schulz, daughter of **Alan Schulz** (OC), who beat out 100 contestants in Baton Rouge to win the National Geographic Bee at the state level. She is now headed to Washington, D.C., May 21-22, to compete at the national level. Katie is an 8th grade student at St. Mark's in Chalmette.

Condolences

to **Rachel Beer** (PM), whose grandfather, Paul Raymond Trapani Sr., passed away on March 26.

to **Veneta Mays** (ED), whose husband, Bruce Mays, died on March 26.

to **Pam Clark** (MVD), whose son, Jarod, was killed in a vehicle accident in Vicksburg, March 30.

DILBERT® by Scott Adams



Talk Back

Last month we solicited your comments on "Flood Memories." Respondents remember navigating flooded streets by bicycle, being rescued by neighbors in fishing boats, and snakes lying on windowsills to escape high waters.

Remembering Hurricane Betsy

September 9th, 1965, is a date that I will never forget. That was the day Hurricane Betsy pounded the New Orleans area and devastated our home in St. Bernard Parish. I was 10 years old living in St. Bernard with my parents and two brothers. The massive flooding from the storm actually occurred as the fierce winds were starting to subside.

We all had begun to relax somewhat after experiencing the howling winds and torrential rains. My mom thought she heard water leaking in through the windows again and told my dad to get up and put some more towels on the sills. When my Dad stepped out of the bed he was ankle deep in water. He told her, "I don't think the towels are gonna help this time." The water outside our house was already four feet deep and rising fast.

When we eventually opened the door to get out, the water rushed in like a tidal wave, flipping our TV and all the furniture. Our car on the carport was actually still floating and they pushed it aside to get us out. The water level would ultimately approach the ceiling of our house.

We were rescued by neighbors in the area who utilized their fishing boats to bring people to the two-story houses. From there we were taken by Army ducks (amphibious vehicles) to higher ground along the Mississippi River and spent the night in the Domino Sugar Refinery, sleeping in between the sugar bags. The next day my uncles from the Ninth Ward paddled down St. Claude Ave. in pirogues to rescue us and take us back to my grandparents' home where we stayed along with my aunts, uncles and cousins. We stayed there for about a year while my parents and relatives cleaned and repaired the house.

It was definitely an experience I will never forget. Some of the sights that I remember to this day were people standing on rooftops waiting patiently to be rescued, people trying to get food and water for their families anywhere they could, dogs balancing on all four legs on fence tops to escape rising waters, all of the car roofs that were crushed by the Army ducks as they rescued the people, snakes on all the window sills and in the trees,

See TALK BACK, page 10

TO HAVE YOUR
IDEAS PRINTED
IN THE NEXT ISSUE

AND

WIN A RESERVED
PARKING SPOT
FOR AN ENTIRE
MONTH

RESPOND BY
MAY 13

LET US KNOW WHAT
YOU THINK ABOUT
THIS MONTH'S
TALK BACK TOPIC:

SAVING THE
COAST

>WHAT DO YOU THINK
NEEDS TO BE DONE TO
SAVE COASTAL WET-
LANDS?

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