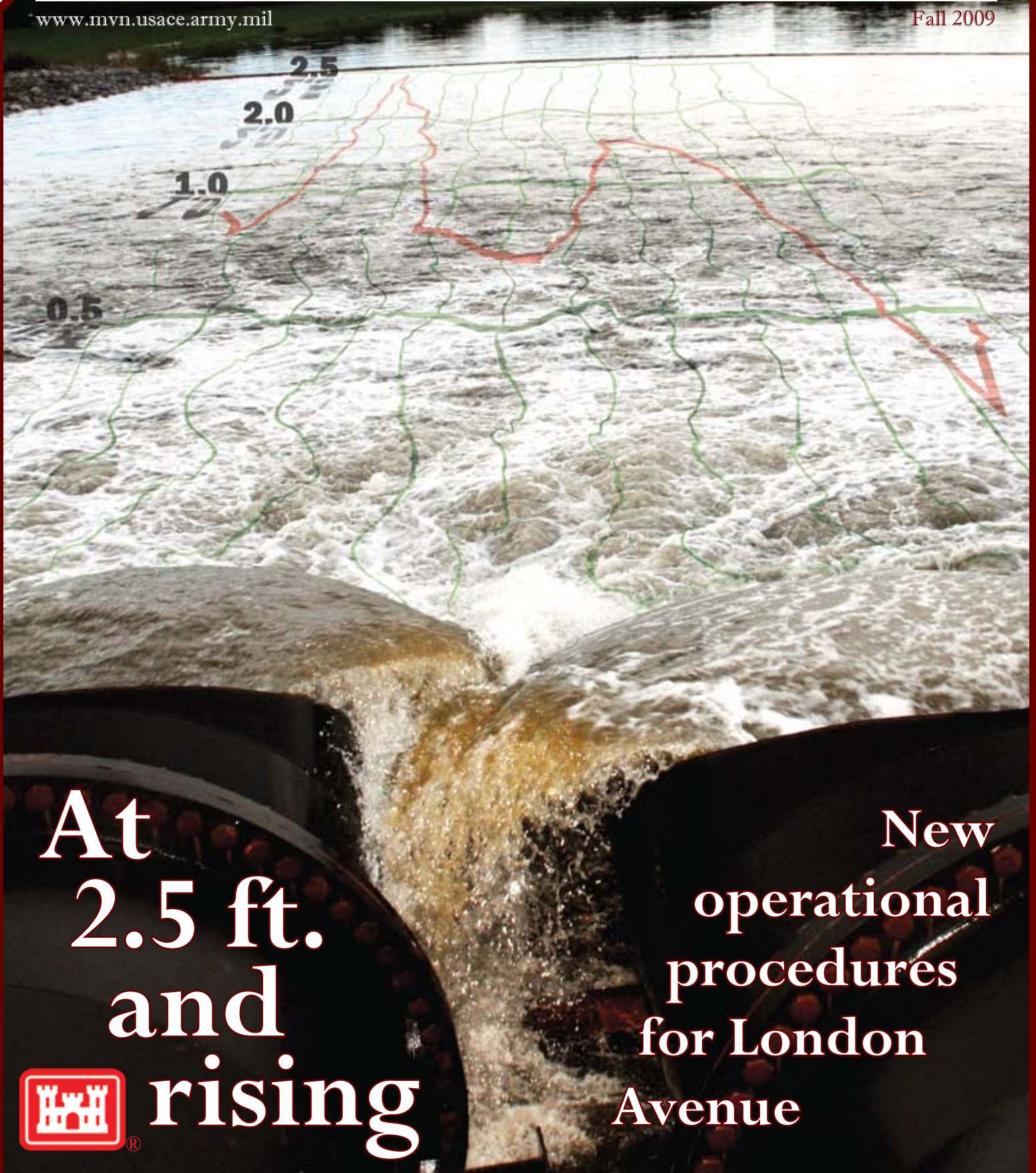


2009 Engineers' Day Picnic

# RIVERSIDE

www.mvn.usace.army.mil

Fall 2009



At  
2.5 ft.  
and  
rising



New  
operational  
procedures  
for London  
Avenue



**2 Forward momentum**  
*On October 30, 2009, the Corps and its partners kicked off the construction of the GIWW West Closure Complex.*

**3 New procedure, same results**  
*Only one week after implementation, the modified operational procedures for the London Avenue Outfall Canal Interim Control Structure passed their first test since Ike.*

**5 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act at work in South Louisiana**  
*The stimulus package-funded project at Avoca Island provides work for a Louisiana business and contributes to the area's coastal habitat restoration efforts.*



**6 Papa Nutria's journey**  
*The magnitude of the work here in South Louisiana requires the efforts of the entire Mississippi Valley Division. New Orleans own Papa Nutria is taking a trip up the Mississippi to find out what other projects MVD districts are undertaking.*

**7 Improving navigation and flood risk reduction**  
*The Bayou Sorrel Lock, the smallest lock on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway is on schedule for a larger replacement.*

**Celebrating our public lands** **8**  
*In honor of the 16th annual National Public Lands Day, Corps volunteers helped improve two popular recreational areas.*

**Safety gram** **9**  
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*Members of the New Orleans District's Toastmasters take steps to improve their oral communication and leadership skills.*

**Healthy is happy** **10**  
*Recently, the district held its first Health Check Day, when team members were able learn ways to ensure they have a long and happy life.*



**Engineers' Day Picnic and competition results** **11**  
*This year's Engineer's Day Picnic had a great turnout. Can you find yourself in our collage? Did you or your team win?*

**Educate and empower** **14**  
*The Federal Women's Program Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day marks its 17th year.*

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*During a recent visit to New Orleans, Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp was presented with the new American Legion "Thank You" Challenge Coin.*

**Our newest residents** **15**  
*Kirk Dietrich captures some of the first glimpses of the latest to call New Orleans home.*



# Forward momentum

## Partnerships mean progress on the West Bank

**O**n Friday, October 30, 2009, the Corps of Engineers, with our partners, kicked off the start of construction on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway West Closure Complex.

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, only about 40 percent of the risk reduction features for the West Bank and Vicinity Project were complete. The planned and ongoing projects could hardly be called a system.

Even though, for the most part, the West Bank was spared the worst of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it is safe to say that hurricane season 2005 was a wake up call. The Corps took a hard look at what needed to be done to reduce risk for all of the West Bank.

Did you know that the GIWW WCC was not part of the originally authorized West Bank and Vicinity Project? For years there had been talk of a project idea some of you might remember. It was

named "Sector Gate South."

That was the beginning of the GIWW WCC. The project team took this idea all the way to Washington D.C. – several times – and succeeded in gaining approval to move forward this new alignment in the environmental compliance document.

This project was initially opposed by many when it was first proposed. By working closely with the Environmental Protection Agency, the navigation industry, nongovernmental organizations and other resource agencies, officials from Orleans, Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes and the state of Louisiana, the team was able to collaborate and develop a project that would reduce risk from storm surge and generate the fewest impacts to the Bayou aux Carpes Clean Water Act 404c area.

The GIWW WCC Project will significantly reduce the risk from storm surge to over 250,000 people that live and work on the West Bank by removing over 25 miles of levees, floodwalls, gates, and pumping stations along the Harvey and Algiers canals from the direct impacts of storm surge.

The first ever 404c modification approval took months of negotiations with the EPA and thorough planning to minimize the impacts to this wetland area of national significance. This was the first time the EPA approved a modification to a designated 404c area. Members from the entire Corps' vertical team were fully engaged at all levels to support the negotia-

tions with the EPA and obtain the final approval.

And we continue to work closely with our environmental partners because of the location of the project in relationship to the 404(c) area, a wetland area of national significance. We are reminded daily of the balance that must be maintained between risk reduction and the protection and maintenance of our natural resources.

We have also worked closely with the navigation industry to understand their needs and find ways to minimize the impact to daily commercial traffic.

And as we move forward, the partnerships will continue. Partnerships like the one we have with Gulf Intracoastal Contractors. For the first time ever, the New Orleans District used a contracting method called Early Contractor Involvement. By using ECI for this key project, our design teams and GIC are able to proceed in construction of some features, while actively participating in and providing pre-construction design services of other features.

When this project is complete, it will be because of the ongoing cooperation and commitment of all our partners. And the completion of the West Closure Complex is a keystone for the West Bank's portion of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System and to enhancing public safety here in the New Orleans area.

**Building strong!  
Essays!**

Col. Alvin Lee



BUILDING STRONG®

Attending the GIWW WCC ceremony (from left) were CPRA Chairman Garret Graves, PRO Division Chief Tom Podany, New Orleans Councilwoman Jackie Clarkson, Kiewit Vice President Scott Cassels, Congressman Steve Scalise, Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard, New Orleans District Commander Col. Alvin Lee, Congressman Joseph Cao, Jefferson Parish Councilman Thomas Capella, G3 for Task Force Hope Col. Gregory Gunter, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations Maj. Gen. Merdith "Bo" Temple, Rock Island District Commander Col. Shawn McGinley, Task Force Hope Director Karen Durham Aguilera and SLFPA-West President Susan Maclay.



# New procedure, same results

## *London Outfall Canal structure and team successful in first call to action since Ike*

*by Amanda Jones with photography by Heath Jones*

**O**n Sept. 8, 2009, Team New Orleans modified the operating procedures for the London Avenue Canal Interim Control Structure to close the gates when the Lake Pontchartrain level reaches 2.5 feet and rising for both tropical and nontropical events.

During heavy rainfall in March 2009, water levels in the canal approached the maximum safe water elevation at the Harrison Avenue gage as a result of New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board pumping and an above normal lake level. Engineering analysis of this real-time data led the Corps to refine the hydraulic modeling of the canal. This modeling provided the data necessary for redefining the best operating procedures to reduce risk to the public.

Previous procedures called for closing the gates when the lake-side gage reached 4 feet and rising during tropical events only. Lowering that elevation and operating during nontropical events reduces the risk of exceeding the canal's 5-foot safe water elevation. It also maximizes the pumping capacity of the S&WB pump station during heavy rainfall.

"This change will lessen the chance of localized flooding," said Chris Accardo, chief of the Operations Division at

the New Orleans District. "We're doing this because this is the right thing to do to reduce risk."

Just four days later, that rare nontropical event hit the New Orleans area, bringing with it easterly winds and heavy rainfall that caused Lake Pontchartrain's water level to reach the 2.5 foot operational trigger.

At 5:45 p.m. Sept. 12, New Orleans District Commander Col. Alvin B. Lee ordered the London Avenue Canal gates closed. They remained closed for nearly 40 hours.

The four-person team located at the structure throughout the closure operated each of the structure's eight direct drives and 12 hydraulic pumps to prevent water from approaching the canal's safe water elevation. The water levels were also monitored remotely at the New Orleans District using the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system.

The direct drive pumps, which have a combined pumping capacity of 2,720 cubic feet per second, ran for up to 5 hours. The hydraulic pumps have a combined pumping capacity of 2,400 cubic feet per second and ran for 3 – 5 hours. In an effort to reduce noise to the residents, the team attempted to use the pumps along the University of New Orleans side of the

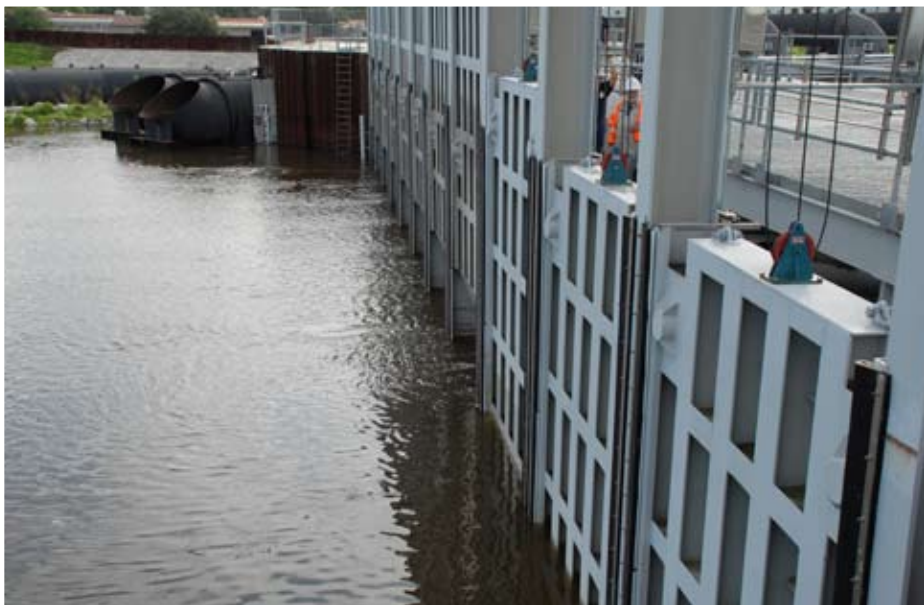
canal whenever possible.

"Even though we had just implemented the new operating procedures, I am happy to report that the operation went very smoothly," said Accardo. "From the performance of the pumps and the response of the team, to our cooperation with the Sewerage and Water Board, everything went well."

Further analysis determined that the operating procedures for the 17th Street and Orleans Avenue canals are not affected by the combination of high lake stages and intense rainfall. No operational changes are required for these structures.

***Above:** In close cooperation with the Sewerage and Water Board, the Corps ran each of the structure's 20 pumps to prevent water inside the canal from reaching the safe water elevation. In an effort to reduce the noise impact to surrounding residents, the team attempted to use the pumps along the UNO side of the canal whenever possible.*

***Following page:** When the lakeside gage reached 2.5 feet, District Commander Col. Alvin Lee ordered the gates to close (top). Upon receiving these orders, it takes the four-person team (center) less than an hour to close all eleven of the structure's floodgates. Once the event has concluded and the lake levels have subsided to below 2.5 feet, the decision is made to re-open the gates (below). During this event, the structure's gates remained closed for nearly 40 hours.*



## RIVERSIDE

Fall 2009

Vol. 22 No. 9

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### **Authorization**

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### **Submissions**

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### **Circulation**

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### **On the Cover**

On Sept. 12, 2009, the London Ave. Outfall Canal ICS closed and began pumping to keep the water in the canal from reaching safe water elevations. This action was prompted by the new decision to close the gates when lake levels reach 2.5 ft. and rising. Photograph by Heath Jones.

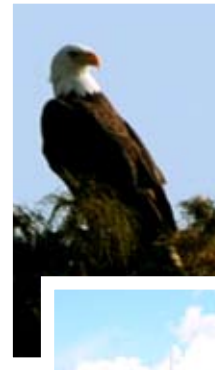


# The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act at work in South Louisiana

*Stimulus package funding helps provide work for a Louisiana business while helping with habitat restoration efforts photography by Scott Riecke*



*Left: In this aerial view facing southwest, Avoca Island surrounds Avoca Lake in the center of the photograph. Bayou Boeuf is seen in the foreground with Bayou Shaffer in the background. A bald eagle (right) watches the dredging from a perch above Bayou Chene.*



*Below: Mike Hooks, Inc. Dredge 32 performs maintenance dredging along Bayou Chene by digging the built up sediment with a large cutter apparatus (below left) at the end of a suction pipe. The dredged material is then pumped through a lengthy pipeline (middle right) to the beneficial use area.*

**A**voca Island is a marsh island located in St. Mary Parish. This valuable wetland is surrounded by Avoca Lake and Bayous Boeuf and Shaffer. Unfortunately, because natural overbank flooding into the area has been eliminated by channelization and construction of flood risk reduction levees, the input of freshwater, sediment and nutrients to the island has been prevented. As a result, the island lost nearly 5,000 acres of marsh between 1932 and 1990. With funding available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Corps is able to pursue a project that will both create work for our private citizens and help rebuild this disappearing land.

Mike Hooks, Inc. of Westlake, La. was awarded a contract to perform maintenance dredging in Bayou Chene, a component of the Atchafalaya River, Bayous Boeuf, Black and Chene project. When they are dredging the certain areas of the bayou, the dredge will place the collected material on Avoca Island. It is anticipated that the beneficial use of this dredged material will develop approximately 72 acres of marsh habitat, with some mud flats forming from the overflow of dredged material.

This is the fifth coastal habitat restoration effort at Avoca Island using sediments obtained from the routine maintenance dredging of Bayou Chene. Upon the completion of this dredging operation, the Corps will have created approximately 364 acres of marsh through the beneficial use of dredged material.



*Directly above: Via the pipeline, the dredged material is pumped to the beneficial use site, creating mud flats and the foundation for vegetative growth. Previous similar habitat restoration efforts (right) in the area have experienced very positive results.*



# Papa Nutria's journey

by Amanda Jones with artwork by Ricky Boyett

Once upon a time there was a family of nutria living in Southeast Louisiana, where the swampland grasses are plentiful. As the family sat in their den in a river embankment, the children discussed what they wanted to do when they grow up.

"I want to be a part of the Florida invasion," said Nate Nutria. "I hear the Everglades taste wonderful!"

"I want to build condos all along the Louisiana Gulf coast to create affordable living for all nutria," said Natalie Nutria.

All of the children went on to discuss their grand ideas of creating homes and going off to discover new grass, reeds and other plants along the coast. But Momma Nutria noticed that one of her children was very quiet.

"Nola Nutria, what do you want to do when you grow up?" she said.

"Nola looked down and shyly said, 'I want to be an engineer.'"

All was quiet for a moment as the family blankly stared at Nola when suddenly they broke into a roar of laughter.

"You have quite an imagination," said Momma Nutria. "And what exactly does an 'engineer' do," she asked.

Nola explained that she wants to help maintain the mighty Mississippi River, which travels for thousands of miles across the country. But as Nola continued to talk, the family continued to giggle, all except Papa Nutria that is.

Papa Nutria was a proud man and he would not tolerate his child chasing after some crazy fantasy.

"You will not talk about such things again," he said. "If you cannot choose a suitable profession, then I will choose

one for you!" he said as he stormed off to go for a swim and calm down.

He swam and swam and thought about where he went wrong in raising Nola. He decided to rest on a sandbar and think about what he could do to fix this situation.



Papa Nutria was so engrossed with his anger that he did not hear the jet ski coming toward him when *-WHAM!-* he was flattened.

Papa Nutria drifted in and out of consciousness as he floated through the twists and turns of the river.

When he finally came to, he was in a warm, dry place, staring into the face of a human, who undoubtedly was the brave

man who rescued him.

He was a gentle person who called himself Colonel Alvin Lee – a noble name.

"What happened to you?" Col. Lee asked.

As Papa Nutria went on to explain from the beginning, he could see Col. Lee's expression change, but he was courteous enough to not interrupt. When Papa Nutria was done, Col. Lee was quiet for a minute, very much in thought.

Then he looked at Papa Nutria and said, "Fate brought you to me. You see, I am an engineer. I am the commander of hundreds of engineers. We are civil servants and our work is distinguished. In fact, our work goes beyond maintaining the Mississippi River. Right now

my team is building the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System, the biggest civil works project in the history of the Corps of Engineers. But we can't do it alone. We've enlisted the help of many engineers from all of the districts in the Mississippi Valley Division.

"I want to show you how great being an engineer really is. I will send you to all of districts in the valley and ask that they show you some of the great things their districts are doing," Col. Lee said.

Papa Nutria agreed. They both smiled with excitement as he was placed in an envelope to be shipped off. Col. Lee knew that by sending Papa Nutria away, that would be one less nutria eating away at the coast for a while. Papa Nutria knew that he was going on an adventure of a lifetime, all on the government's dime.

Stay tuned to Riverside for photos and stories of Papa Nutria's adventures throughout the division.



# Improving navigation and flood risk reduction

*The Bayou Sorrel Lock, the smallest on the GIWW, will be replaced with a much larger structure*

*by Dominique Rouzan*

**C**onstructed under the Flood Control Act of 1928 as part of the Morgan City to Port Allen alternative route, the Bayou Sorrel Lock has been authorized to be replaced by a wider and longer lock, and taller floodside gate.

The current lock, located at the intersection of the East Atchafalaya Basin levee and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) Alternate Route, is approximately seven feet lower than its adjacent earthen levees and is

*Left: A towboat pushes barges through the tight-fitting Bayou Sorrel Lock. The current lock is the smallest lock on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Once complete, the new lock will be 19 feet wider and 400 feet longer, allowing more efficient travel along the third busiest inland waterway system in the nation.*



the lowest point in the east Atchafalaya Basin levee system with its floodgate measuring 24 feet in height. The chamber is 56 feet wide and 800 feet long. Because it is the smallest lock in the GIWW system, it causes delays to the flow of navigation. The recommended U-shaped new lock will measure 75 feet wide, 1,200 feet long, and will be approximately three to five feet higher than the adjacent earthen levees.

“It is imperative that these improvements be made to improve navigation along the GIWW west of the Mississippi River, as well as the ability to pass the project flood in the Atchafalaya Basin,” stated Marti Lucore, senior project manager for the New Orleans District.

The new lock was authorized for construction in WRDA 2007 and will be built parallel to the old lock, which will continue to operate until the new lock is completed. This will minimize interruption to navigation. The completion of the new lock will reduce the bottleneck on the GIWW Alternate Route and address the flood risk reduction deficiency on the East Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee.

The design is currently 35 percent complete but the estimated cost of the project has been determined to potentially exceed the amount of the authorized proj-

ect cost.

“According to the WRDA of 1986 section 902 limit, the project cost cannot exceed more than 20 percent of the authorized cost,” said Lucore. “That is why the Vicksburg District is working on a Post Authorization Change report, which confirms the economic justification of the project and requests reauthorization at a higher project cost, for submission to Congress.”

The transfer of responsibilities to Vicksburg, known as the “blue bubble” approach, is considered a part of the regionalized efforts and leveling of the Corps workload that ultimately allows for better and more responsive service to our partners.

“Both districts share a collaborative effort on this project. Vicksburg will have the responsibility of the PAC report actions while the New Orleans District will lead and manage the overall project,” said Lucore.

Because of the projected increase in cost, the design of the lock will be re-evaluated by the design team assembled by MVK. The chosen lock features will be confirmed and their impacts to cost of construction will be assessed. This will be done during the early stages of the PAC to

confirm if the 902 limit has been exceeded and to have an accurate cost for evaluating the economic justification.

“Once correspondence between the MVK and MVN staff began and transfer of responsibilities was agreed upon, the New Orleans District sought formal guidance and approval from Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh on July 26, 2009,” said Mark Wingate, Projects Branch chief for the New Orleans District.

The flood risk reduction portion of the project will be 100 percent federally funded by the Atchafalaya Basin Project. The navigational component of the lock will be cost shared 50/50 with the Inland Waterway Trust Fund.

Diligence and teamwork from both the New Orleans and Vicksburg districts is critical in assuring this project comes to successful fruition. Without the dedication and understanding that both districts are equally a part of one Corps, this project would not be possible. As this is this case, MVN and MVK are in consensus and plan to work together to reach the common goals of safety and security for the people of the Mississippi Valley region.

## Celebrating our public lands

*The New Orleans District celebrates National Public Lands Day at Bonnet Carré and Indian Bayou story and photography by Amanda Jones*



**T**he 16th annual National Public Lands Day, America’s largest one-day outdoor volunteer event, was a success at the Bonnet Carré Spillway and Indian Bayou area Sept. 26, 2009.

At the spillway, volunteers helped build part of a nature trail boardwalk and a guardrail for a scenic viewing deck at the Upper Borrow Canal.

At the Atchafalaya Basin’s Indian Bayou area, volunteers installed canoe trail buoys, removed trash and cleared minor vegetation along the paddle trail.

National Public Lands Day was launched in 1994 and has continued strong throughout the years to provide America with the care needed to improve and sustain its shared public lands. Eight

federal agencies, as well as state and local lands, participate in these efforts. Approximately 150,000 volunteers across the country participated in this nationwide event this year.

Left and below: At the Bonnet Carré Spillway, New Orleans District volunteers built a portion of a nature trail boardwalk that affords visitors a beautiful view of the Upper Borrow Canal.



## Stopping the Spread of Germs at Work

Illnesses like the flu (influenza) and colds are caused by viruses. Flu and cold viruses spread from person to person by way of coughing, sneezing or simply talking. Droplets from an infected person get into the air and are inhaled by people nearby. Anyone within three feet can easily be infected. Flu and cold viruses can also spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches their eyes, nose or mouth. Flu and cold viruses can live for hours on surfaces like doorknobs, desks and tables.

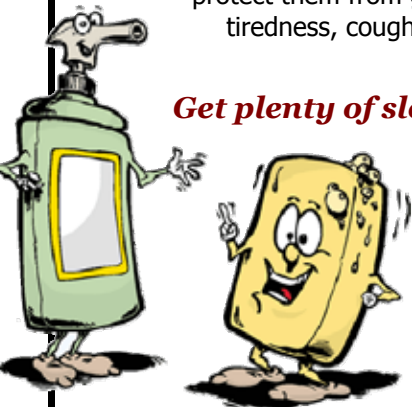
Start by learning healthy habits that can help prevent you from getting infected or spreading flu and cold viruses at home, school, or work. Take these precautions even if you don't feel sick. You could be infected and able to spread germs 24 hours before your symptoms begin.



### How to Help Stop the Spread of Germs

- ◆ **Make sure you are in good health.** Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food. The healthier you are, the better your immune system will be at defending your body against a virus.
- ◆ **Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough.** Cough or sneeze into a tissue and then throw it away. Cover your cough or sneeze if you do not have a tissue. Then, clean your hands, and do so every time you cough or sneeze.
- ◆ **Clean your hands often** When available, wash your hands -- with soap and warm water -- then rub your hands vigorously together and scrub all surfaces. Wash for 15 to 20 seconds. It is the soap combined with the scrubbing action that helps dislodge and remove germs. When soap and water are not available, alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used. You can find them in most supermarkets and drugstores. If using a gel, rub the gel in your hands until they are dry. The gel doesn't need water to work; the alcohol in the gel kills germs that cause colds and the flu.\*
- ◆ **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.** Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs can live for a long time (some can live for 2 hours or more) on surfaces like doorknobs, desks, and tables
- ◆ **Don't share utensils or drinks.** In cafeteria settings, it's not uncommon for people to casually share utensils or take a sip from someone else's drink. This should be completely avoided if there is any risk of a flu pandemic.
- ◆ **Stay home when you are sick and check with a health care provider when needed.** When you are sick or have flu symptoms, stay home, get plenty of rest, and check with a health care provider as needed. Your employer may need a doctor's note for an excused absence. Remember: Keeping your distance from others may protect them from getting sick. Common symptoms of the flu include: fever (usually high), headache, extreme tiredness, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches, and, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

**Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food. Practicing healthy habits will help you stay healthy during flu outbreaks and all year long.**



**ARMY SAFE  
IS ARMY STRONG**

# A communications mission

*The New Orleans District's Toastmasters chapter strives to promote communication and leadership skills* by Felix Cretini

The mission of the Castle Toastmaster Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every individual member has the opportunity to develop oral communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

In August, five officers of the Castle Toastmasters Club traveled to Zachary, Louisiana for officer training, where they put into practice this mission for the New Orleans District club. Crorey Lawton, Yojna Calix, Jo Barrios, John Templeton, and Jaime Wright joined other Toastmaster chapter, district and division officers in developing plans for the upcoming year. Through training sessions, mock competi-



*Toastmaster member Jaime Wright joined other Toastmaster officers in Zachary, La. to learn techniques for building an effective club and attracting new members*

tions, and one-on-one conversations with officers from other clubs, the Castle officers learned strategies for building an effective club and attracting new members.

Wright, Barrios and Lawton participated in the Division C Council meeting, discussing the way to develop excellence at the club and district level, while Templeton and Calix participated in the workshop on "The Subtle Leader".

The New Orleans District Toastmasters club meets on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. For additional information on Toastmasters, please contact Felix Cretini, Vice President of Public Relations at x2916, Jaime Wright, Vice President of Membership x2415 or Crorey Lawton, President at x1281.

*Visit Toastmasters Web site at [www.Toastmasters.org](http://www.Toastmasters.org). Toastmasters is an international, worldwide, non-profit educational organization.*

# Healthy is happy

*District's first Health Check Day is a success*

*by Peggy Plaisance with photography by Scott Riecke*

Certified Occupational Health Nurse and Wellness Program Coordinator Peggy Plaisance set up tables in the cafeteria with a poster, balloons and information and pamphlets on H1N1, hypertension, diabetes, exercise, nutrition, kidney problems, ergonomics and how to quit smoking, to name a few. These efforts were made because August 26th was our

first Health Check Day.

Plaisance took blood pressure readings while Clinic Manager James Surcke, BSN, RN, took blood glucose readings. Certified Industrial Hygienist Ed Bernard was there to answer ergonomic questions.

"We wanted to reach people that we don't always see in the clinic and may not get their blood pressure or blood glucose checked. People don't realize that high blood pressure does not always present symptoms; that's why they call it 'the silent killer.' Everyone should have their blood pressure and glucose checked at least once a year," stated Plaisance.

Employees can join the Wellness Program to get a FREE & CONFIDENTIAL yearly blood test that includes a Comprehensive metabolic profile (CMP), a lipid profile, a complete blood count (CBC) and for men, a prostate specific antigen test (PSA). 75 employees took part in the Health Check Day. Of the seventy-five, five people found out they have high blood pressure and two people found out their blood glucose was higher than normal. Much of the time hypertension and diabetes can be prevented just by changing your diet and starting an exercise program. To join the Wellness Program, pick up a personal wellness profile in room 143b and make an appointment with Peggy or James for your blood test.



*Left: New Orleans District Clinic Manager James Surcke performs a blood glucose reading as part of the district's first Health Check Day. This event gave many team members the opportunity to start on the road toward a healthier life.*



ARMY

# Engage



BUILDING STRONG

20

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# Senior Day

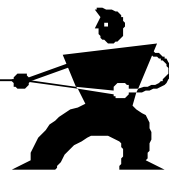
ocean beach

Fall 2009 12

# The New Orleans District 2009 Engineer's Day Picnic



*And the winners are*



## Tug-o-war

- 1st Stephen Montjoy  
Miquel A. Ramos  
Juan Sanchez-Bulted  
Kevin Forest  
Charles Wheeler  
Amy Tracy
- 2nd Col. Alvin Lee  
Karen Durham-Aguilera  
Capt. Kimberly Giles  
Capt. Brian Becker  
Capt. Obediah Brians  
Heath Jones  
Patrick Erwin

## 16th Annual Wellness Fun

### Run/Walk

#### Run

- Male:  
1st-Chad Netto  
2nd- Jeremy Daigle  
3rd-Steve Synovitz

#### Female:

- 1st- Leslie Campbell  
2nd- Michelle Rachel  
3rd- Michelle Lapen

### Walk

- Male:  
1st- Denis Beer  
2nd-Joey Wagner  
3rd-Bijan Khaleghi

#### Female:

- 1st-Sara Beer  
2nd-Candida Wagner  
3rd-Rachel Beer

### Random Draw Winners:

- Michelle Rachel, Betty Walters, Jeremy Daigle

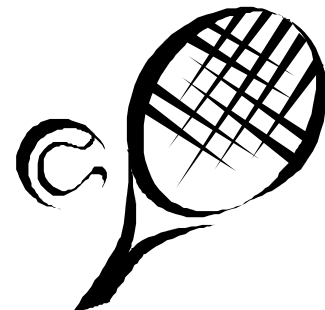


## Tennis

- Singles - Advanced**  
1st- George Brown  
2nd- Frederick Wallace
- Singles - Intermediate**  
1st- Joe Chow  
2nd- Johnny Walker  
3rd- Mark Woodward

- Singles - Beginner**  
1st- Sheila Broussard  
2nd- Raymond Jolissaint  
3rd- Robert Wallace

- Doubles**  
1st- Paul Oakland \ Don Alette  
2nd- Leslie Arriaga \ Jehu Johnson

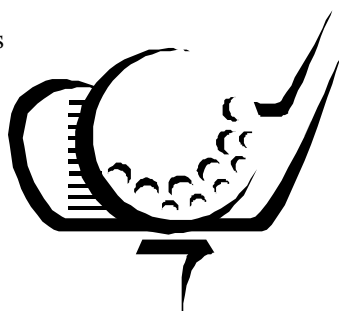


## Golf

- 1st - Colby Payne, Steve Cali, Shawn Muenow, Spencer Muenow (48)  
2nd- Paul Landry, Vic Landry, Albert Terry, Steve Dalferes (50)\*  
3rd- Jerry Colletti, Tony Colletti, Richard Baldini, Chris Powell (50)  
Last Place -Mark Gonski, Allen Wilson, Jeremy Laster, Ollie Jackson (65)  
\* Scorecard Playoff

- Longest drives**  
Hole # 9 - Steve Dalferes  
Hole # 18 - Rich Varuso

- Closest to the hole**  
Hole # 4 - Colby Payne  
Hole # 8 - Nick Narcisse  
Hole #11 - Ray Newman



## 50-yard dash

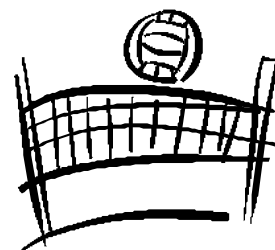
- Boys**
- Age**
- <3 1st- Landon Bettisworth  
2nd- Jacob Carey  
3rd -Skyler Haab
- 3-4 1st- Brady Goodlatt  
2nd- Timothy Lacoste  
3rd - Collin Dufrene
- 5-6 1st- Daryl Carey  
2nd- Logan Bettisworth  
3rd- Zachary Waits
- 7-8 1st -Ahman Morris  
2nd- Kolbe Haab  
3rd- Ajaden Smothers
- 9-10 1st- Kenneth Haab  
2nd- Daniel Estaye  
3rd - Darrel Donaldson
- 11-12 1st- Jeremiah Mills

- Girls**
- Age**
- <3 1st- Grace Labiche  
2nd- Lydia Falati  
3rd- Michaela Bridges
- 3-4 1st- Victoria Pike  
2nd- Mia Kehoe  
3rd- Julia Ayres
- 5-6 1st- Carissa Wagner  
2nd- Georgia Jones  
3rd- Veronica Trice
- 7-8 1st- Jaela Nixon  
2nd- Gabrielle Dufrene  
3rd- Erica Estave

- 9-10 1st- Jaela Nixon  
2nd- Tiffany Quach
- 11-12 1st- Missy Potter

## Volleyball

- 1st Bow-chick-a-bow-wow**  
Tracy Falk  
April Villa  
Bridgett Falcon  
Chad Rachel  
Alissa Miller  
Heath Jones
- 2nd Structural Superiority**  
Rachael Maltzahn  
Brian Bell  
James Darby  
Denis Hoerner  
Linda Lee  
Stefan Miller  
Henry Phillips  
Jeff Richie



# Educate and empower

*Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day marks its 17th year*

*by Terry Chopin with photography by Scott Riecke*

The 17th Annual Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day held April 23, 2009 was the best celebrated in years by the Federal Women's Program Committee. FWP Manager Annette Vanderson and her volunteers presented a day for our children that was bigger and better than any in the past. This year included a wider scope of school grades, ran the entire day and presented a much broader range of activities than past TOD&STWDs.

"New Orleans District Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Mark Jernigan is also to thank for these positive additions to things we have done in the past," said Vanderson.

This year's theme was "Building Partnerships to Educate and Empower."

While the FWP Committee sponsored the event, they were assisted by numerous district volunteers. The purpose of this event has always been to expose our children to just what it is that their parents do all day, and why it is important. While doing so, we pointed out the value of education, and help them discover the possibilities associated with work life. The committee and parents also share how the children can envision a future career with the Corps of Engineers.



*Above: The life jacket relay was a fun and easy way to educate the students on the importance of water safety. Bottom right: Between the tours and scavenger hunt, the students found the time to create artwork inspired by this year's theme.*



The activities included:

- A bus tour of the London Avenue bridge and canal, where they were provided the history of the canal and allowed to observe the testing of the pumps.
- Another tour took them to the IHNC Lock, where they observed a barge going through the lock, and the process it takes to safely navigate vessels in and out of the lock chamber.
- Later that afternoon, the kids participated in the Life Jacket Relay

Race that educated them on the safety of securing a life jacket.

- And the huffing and puffing parents will not soon forget the scavenger hunt, which had them and their children tearing through out the building, finding offices to collect stickers for the completion of their cards.

James Barnes, one of the teenagers in the group, expressed an interest in eventually working for the Corps. Virtually all of the 29 participants, aged 8-17, expressed a desire to come back next year, which the TOD has again promised to be even better.

## An offer of thanks

*American Legion presents LTG Van Antwerp with the new Legion "Thank You" Challenge Coin*



Mike Smith, Post #389, Beverly, Ohio, and 2nd Vice-Commander, 11th District of Ohio, presented Lieutenant General Robert Van Antwerp, commanding general, US Army Corps of Engineers, with a new Legion "Thank You" Challenge Coin on behalf of the American Legion and the Department of Ohio at the USACE, Mississippi Valley

Division's Task Force Hope Offices in New Orleans, La."

Smith retired from the Corps of Engineers in 2002. However following Hurricane Katrina and Rita, he was asked to return to assist in the response and recovery efforts. Since September 2005, he has assisted Task Force Hope Operations seven times for a total of two years.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
PO BOX 60267  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70160-0267  
ATTN: PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PRESORTED STANDARD  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT  
PERMIT NO. 80



## District's newest residents

*Photographs by Kirk Dietrich*

In an effort to promote wildlife habitat, the New Orleans District placed several wood duck boxes along the district's riverfront. Wood Ducks naturally nest in trees near or over rivers, creeks, and swamps. However, the natural cavities are becoming increasingly rare and these boxes provide the needed nesting ground.

This spring, a pair found the boxes and produced a brood here on the district. As a general rule, wood duck hens tend to return to the sight they were fledged or where they were successful the year before. Combined with the fact that wood ducks are the only North American ducks to produce two broods per year; with proper care, the Corps will be sharing the riverfront for many years in future.

