



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Vicksburg District

THE Water's Spring 2011 Edge



Preparing for
The Big One



US Army Corps of Engineers®

News magazine of the Vicksburg District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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• Authorization: The Water's Edge is an authorized magazine of the Vicksburg District. The Water's Edge is published quarterly in accordance with provisions of Army Regulation 360-1, is designed on a desktop publisher and is printed by offset.

• Circulation: 2000 copies per issue.

• Submission: News, features, photographs, and art are welcome.

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On the Cover

Employees of Fordice Construction are rolling high density polyethylene down the land side of the Yazoo Backwater Levee. This was done as an advance measure to ensure that the levee was protected from eroding in case of overtopping.

Commander's Corner

with Colonel Jeffrey R. Eckstein



Greetings to all,

What a high water season! We had the test event in early March and then the historic flood of 2011. We had the highest recorded gauge readings at Vicksburg and Natchez as well as record flow in the river. We were at the point of overtopping the Yazoo backwater levee as designed. This event has touched everyone in the District. You may have been flooded at your home or your property. Your route to work may have changed due to a road closure. You most likely were part of the flood fight. I am amazed at the energy and endurance you all have demonstrated in this event, not to mention the vast knowledge concerning levees, sand boils, water flow, emergency contracting, public affairs, and contacts with local officials. You all are the reason the Corps of Engineers is a respected public agency that delivers. Be Proud!

Unfortunately, we still have a decreased budget for the coming year and a change to our current budget. The flooding has caused us to delete some work for this year, delay some work, and left some things up in the air. We will work through this time of uncertainty as a team. I anticipate people will be asked to take on different work assignments and support various regional projects. We must communicate with our customers, stakeholders and partners as we develop a new work plan for the coming year. We must find the balance between operating the same as we did with a larger budget and simply eliminating a task, function, or mission because of the reduced budget. The best answer is somewhere in between the extremes. Terminating a contract that supports a mission does not mean the mission ends; it simply means we need a different way to accomplish the mission. An example is the Visitor's Center in Shreveport will not be operated through a contract. It will not close but will have reduced hours of operation and may even be operated in conjunction with the City of Shreveport. It will be a change for us but that is what we need to do when the budget is decreased by 50%.

I want to welcome Ms. Traci Clever to the District and the City of Vicksburg. She is our new Deputy Commander for Project Management and Chief, Programs and Project Management Division. Traci comes to us from the same position in the Buffalo District. She has experience with planning, service in overseas contingency operations as well as time in the Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Traci possesses the knowledge, skills, and determination to lead us through this changing budget situation.

Stay focused on supporting the mission and communicating with everybody. I greatly appreciate your support to the historic flood event. Remain safe while on the job and on your personal time as we enjoy more time for recreation, particularly on the water. We need everyone healthy and fresh as we reset the Mississippi River and Tributary System as we strive for the 200-year vision published by the Mississippi River Commission.

2011 Flood Fight - Operation Watershed

District enters Phase II of flood fight

By Shirley J. Smith

Photo by Alfred Dulaney

As Mark Twain wrote, “The Mississippi River will always have its own way; no engineering skill can persuade it to do otherwise.” That myth probably holds true today as we see her prowess at work...yet again.

She has record floods, the worst occurring in 1927. Now, the forecast for the river level here is 57.5, 1.3 feet more than the historic 1927 flood when it reached 56.2 ft., and this is a big concern for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Protecting lives is always the Corps’ top priority, and this is what a flood fight is about. ...people’s lives. Without the proper operation of the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) system, more lives and property will be at risk.

The Corps communicates effectively and works closely with its partners during the flood fight effort. As the crest moves through the system, records are forecast to be broken at many points. Every flood control tool at the Corps’ disposal will be utilized to ensure people are protected and the system performs according to its design. This includes using the floodways and allowing backwater levees to overtop, as designed, to hold excess water in the system.

The 2011 flood fight is a total systems approach to control the Project Design Flood – or the greatest flood that could result from the largest amount of rainfall and runoff based on historic records of rainfall events: More than 600% of average rainfall in a two-week period.

As a part of the total systems approach within the watershed, the Corps is also fully using the reservoir system on the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri rivers to help manage the flow of water into the lower Mississippi River.

The Corps is fully committed to reducing the risk of damages and loss of life from this record breaking flood by using all of the available resources at the nation’s disposal to protect the mainline levee system of the MR&T project.

Historic water levels are not expected to go away anytime soon, and the Corps will continue to work to ensure the integrity of the flood risk reduction system in the region, and to help reduce the risk to life and property in the communities experiencing this historic flooding event.

The Corps and its partners are fully committed to keeping the public informed. Both the Corps and its partners are closely monitoring weather and river conditions. Following operation of each Floodway to relieve the high water conditions, the system is operating as designed.

The decision about operating the system is not about one isolated decision – it is about hundreds, if not thousands, of decisions to be made in each community affected by this historic flood event.

The Corps is committed to maintaining the integrity of the flood risk management system by coordinating with the local levee authorities to ensure that operations adjacent to the river levees do not compromise its structural integrity.

During the Great Flood of 1927,



Buildings and the downtown area at city front are inundated with flood water.

more than 26,000-square-miles of land--16 million acres--in seven states (Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana) were inundated. At the high point of the flood, the river stretched from Vicksburg, Mississippi, to Monroe, Louisiana--a swath 80 miles wide.

Throughout that devastating flood, up to 500 people lost their lives, with another 600,000 seeking shelter in Red Cross refugee camps; more than 41,000 buildings were destroyed. Rail lines were severed, east-west communications, postal service, and commerce was in shambles.

During the current flood of 2011 -- the nation has more than four million people protected by the comprehensive MR&T project and it is performing as designed.

During this current flood, the comprehensive MR&T project is performing as designed. To date, we have 550 team members fighting the flood, and have issued \$37 million in support of the flood fight. A floodfight is like a battle, the river is always looking for the weakest points in order to defeat you.

The Mississippi River is the second longest river, after the Missouri, in the United States. Its triangular drainage area covers about 40% of the country and includes all or part of 31 states. The Mississippi rises in Minnesota and then flows south, following the boundaries between the states of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana on the west, and Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi on the east. The river, whose name means "father of waters" in the Algonquian language, has long been an important transportation artery of North America. ◀

FAREWELL

District bids farewell to Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management

By Shirley J. Smith
Photo by Alfred Dulaney

Culminating more than thirty-three years of federal service, a retirement ceremony was held recently for the Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management.

Douglas Kamien, who was also chief of the Programs and Project Management Division, had held numerous other Corps assignments.

Kamien was chief of Engineering Division, Mississippi Valley Division and the Mississippi River Commis-

sion. He held Corps assignments in Washington, D.C., to include: Deputy Chief of Engineering Division, Directorate of Civil Works and as Senior Area Engineer, Programs Division. During 1987-1988, he served as leader of a 19-member Corps team, which provided assistance to the State Department's Office of Foreign Buildings in the execution of the Diplomatic Security Construction Program.

His career with the Vicksburg District began in 1999 as Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management.

Kamien received a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Polytechnic University, Brooklyn, New York, and a Master of Science in engineering from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. He is a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute and the Senior Executive Fellows Program, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, respectively.

His numerous awards include the Decoration for Meritorious Civilian Service, the Superior Civilian Service Award, and the Commander's Award for Civilian Service. In 2000, Kamien was awarded the Secretary of the Army Award for Significant Contributions to the Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Program.

A U.S. Army veteran, he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for his service. He is a member of the Vicksburg Army-Navy Club, the Society of American Military Engineers, the Association of the U.S. Army, and the Army Engineer Association. He is also a registered professional engineer in the State of Virginia. Kamien also serves on the board of directors for the Haven House Family Shelter.

He and his wife, the former Joan Wade of Brooklyn, New York, have two children and two grandchildren. ◀



Col Jeffrey Eckstein presents the Bronze de Fleury Medal to Kamien at retirement ceremony.

Corps presents the Dan Renfro Partnering Award

By Sam Horton
Photo by Freddie Rush, AGC

The Greenwood Area Office and its contractor, Chancellor and Son, Inc., of Cordova, Tennessee, recently received the Partnering Award for work performed on the Tallahatchie River Flood Control Project.

This Mississippi Valley Region Award is presented yearly by the Corps of Engineers at Associated General Contractors/Mississippi Valley Branch's (AGC) annual meeting in Orange Beach, Florida.

The award, titled the Dan Renfro Partnering Award, is named in honor of a senior leader who worked both for the Corps and AGC's regional branch. It is presented in recognition of exhibiting "partnering" or cooperative efforts toward accomplishing common goals such as completing quality projects safely, on time, and within budget.

The project honored for this year's award is a channel improve-

ment item (Item 6B) constructed as part of the Upper Yazoo Project (UYP). This item consisted of increasing the flow-carrying capability of a five-mile segment of the Tallahatchie River in the vicinity of Phillip. The project included bank stabilization and construction of various drainage and erosion control structures.

The project presented challenges in mixing marine construction with land based construction methods. This effort required scheduling activities to match river conditions; marine activities are impacted by the river's low or high stages. Land based operations require dry conditions and low river stages.

An important feature of the UYP project is the return of land used for disposal of excavated river material to productive agricultural land upon completion of the project. ◀



Pictured, left to right, at the presentation made during AGC's yearly business meeting at Orange Beach, Florida, are Lamar Jenkins and Sam Horton, Greenwood Area Office, Jon Nieman, President, Mississippi Valley Branch of AGC, Tom Hurley, with Chancellor and Son, Inc., and Mark Mazzanti, regional business director at MVD.

District Archeologists find historic boat remains

By Jennifer Ryan

In October 2010, the Vicksburg District Planning Branch was contacted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding what appeared to be a historic boat wreck located in Sibley Chute near Rosedale. Several photographs of the wreck were examined by District archaeologists, Sarah Koeppel and Jennifer Ryan, as well as several peers specializing in the study of historic boats. The consensus was that the Sibley Chute wreck appeared to contain the remains of a mid-1800's era sternwheeler steamboat.

Due to the advanced state of deterioration, it was important to quickly determine the exact location of the wreck in order to identify to whom the boat belonged. Initial consultation with the original reporters of the wreckage seemed to place the boat in the Arkansas bank of the Mississippi River Channel. If this was the case, it would be the duty of the District to determine if federal actions along the Mississippi River were creating further impacts to the wreck and what, if any, jurisdiction the District might have over the wreckage.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, impacts to significant cultural resources which result from federal undertakings require mitigation and coordination with State Historic Preservation Officers and any affiliated Tribal Nations which may have an interest in the area. After further investigation, it was discovered that the boat was actually embedded in a cut-bank in the channel of the Old White

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District challenge leads to Division's Gridley Award

"I shall fight for justice and my country"; "I love my God, my country, and my neighbor as myself." These inscriptions are inscribed on polished tablets of Quincy Granite and the dado of Randolph Granite on the monument dedicated to Col Richard Gridley, at Canton Corner.

One may ask – "Who is this man of valor?" The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) considers Col. Richard Gridley as "America's first Chief of Engineers." He was born January 3, 1710 in Boston, Massachusetts. He was an outstanding American military engineer during the French and Indian wars - from the Seize of Louisburg in 1745 to the fall of Quebec. When the break with the mother country occurred, he stood with the colonies and was made chief engineer in the New England Provincial Army. He laid out the defenses on Breed's Hill and was wounded at the Battle of Bunker Hill. He was appointed chief engineer of the continental Army after Washington took command in July 1775. He directed the construction of the fortifications which forced the British to evacuate Boston in March 1776. When Washington moved his Army south, Gridley remained as chief engineer of the New England Department. He retired in 1781 at age 70. He died June 21, 1796, in Stoughton, Massachusetts.

At the 2010 USACE Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon, Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, the 52nd Chief of Engineers of USACE, recognized Corps Division and District Commanders for their significant contributions to the USACE Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Program (SDVOSB). Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp challenged all Corps Commanders to meet the statutory 3% goal for SDVOSBs.

From that challenge, Maj. Gen. Michael J. Walsh, Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division (MVD), announced that he already had a place on his shelf targeted for the prestigious award and challenged each commander within MVD to take charge, map out the defense, and secure the honor for MVD.

Col. Jeffrey R. Eckstein, Commander of the Vicksburg District, seized the opportunity, and was one of the four District Commanders to be recognized, along with Maj. Gen. Walsh, during the SB Awards luncheon for accomplishing over \$9.9 million or 6.2% in total obligations to SDVOSB in fiscal year 10. Col. Eckstein contributes this success to a well managed "Small Business Program" within the Vicksburg District where all of the small socio-economic program goals were met and exceeded during FY 10.

- Significant actions taken to improve involvement of SDVOSB firms as prime contractors
- Significant actions taken to support SDVOSB Program such as knowledge sharing within USACE Community of Practice
- Significant training and outreach
- Number of SDVOSB contract awards increased
- Increase in dollar value of a single contract award to SDVOSB over prior year
- Number of SDVOSB receiving a contract award
- Percentage of total award dollars to SDVOSB firms
- Actions taken to improve SDVOSB involvement

You ask, "Who is Col. Richard Gridley?" It is widely understood that Gridley is one of the most distinguished military characters of New England, renowned for personal bravery, a skilled artilleryman, scientific engineer, and a contemporary of Prescott and Putnam and Know, of Warren and Washington.

CONTRACTOR	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	CONTRACT \$
HXS, LLC	Administrative and technical services	2,174,267
RCG Enterprises, Inc.	BPA - equipment rental	402,210
Demonition and Construction Management Services, Inc.	Furnish and deliver stone	324,087
APRO Technology, LLC	BPA - equipment rental	261,091
Strategic Services International		28,300
ADDX Corp.	Contract acquisition related services	1,019,572
BCI	Furnish and deliver stone	1,928,916
New England Industrial Engr. Inc.	Misc. AE & design	375,332
Babcock Construction	Arkabutla Emergency Spillway	3,302,280
Integrity International Security	Investigative services	1,200,000
Trailboss Enterprises, Inc.	Cleaning and mowing contractor	300,655
Global Total Office Solutions, Inc.	Office furniture	15,839

Lower Mississippi River Museum to offer much to all

By Mike Renacker
Photos by Alfred Dulaney

With each new day, we're a step closer to finishing. For this project in particular, truer words were never spoken. I'm talking, of course, about the Lower MS River Museum and Riverfront Interpretive Site, the \$26 million dollar river discovery center located in downtown Vicksburg. This project, it seems, has been going on forever. With the original authorization passing in the early 1990s, I guess you can say that it has.

A lot of coordination and discussion have gone into this project, with input coming from the District as well as the City and County. Over the years, we've seen the actual museum site move around town. We've seen the MV Mississippi relocate from the water to its dry-docked cradle. We've all followed the news stories about the slope failure and the potential waterline loss. We've even seen my hair starting to turn gray, and Mr. Kamien's hair getting thinner. So, yes, it has taken a while, but after a few detours, we are back on track.



Col. Eckstein and members of senior management look over the museum site.

If you go to the site during the day, you'll see the contractor working incredibly hard to get the project back on schedule. Just a month ago, we were only seeing a mud pit alongside the boat. Now, you see much more activity as the museum walls are taking shape and the parking lot is getting closer to grade. The contractor and our construction guys are closely coordinating all efforts to insure the rest of the project goes well. I'm excited about what is scheduled for the next year and I hope you are as well.

As you may know, we're planning for much more than just a typical museum that houses static displays. We've increased the site size, the activities, and hopefully, the fun as well. Just recently, the team negotiated a contract modification to upgrade the museum building exhibits that we felt were needed. I anticipate a variety of displays that all ages will find interesting and interactive. Inside the building, we'll feature an orientation theater, a classroom, and a number of exhibits designed for teaching people about life around our portion of the Mississippi River.

We are also expanding the interpretation on board the Motor Vessel Mississippi IV. Before, the vessel was to have no signage and unable to tell the story of her past. Now, with the help of experienced contractors, we'll be able to detail the boat's history, display her lost pictures and artifacts, and help tell the story of her role with the Mississippi River Commission. Visitors will get a better feel for daily life onboard the vessels, and who knows, maybe even have the opportunity to pilot her down the river.

There's been a lot of discussion about the Fairground St. Bridge, currently located about a mile south of the project area. The team has been asking, 'How do you move the bridge?' and 'Will it hold up during the move?' These are

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With the future Lower Mississippi River Museum and Interpretive Center in background, Col. Eckstein discusses the museum project with left to right, Mickey Gallup, construction representative, and LeeAnn Riggs. Expected completion date for the museum is February 2012.

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(Concluded from page 8, Lower Mississippi River Museum to offer much to all)

legitimate concerns. The bridge, originally built in the 1870s, was put in place in 1895. It was meant to move horse and buggy (yea, horse and buggy) across the railroad from the city to the riverfront. Again with the help of an experienced and innovative contractor, we will bring the bridge back to life. Its new role will be to serve as a central meeting point for visitors and take foot traffic from Washington Street over to Levee Street.

Finally, if all goes well, we are hoping to bring back a piece of the Corps history to the riverfront. The Engineer Research Development Center's original Mississippi River Valley flood model is within our sights, and would be the final touch needed for our museum. Built in the 1930s and 1940s, the model helped our research engineers figure out flooding issues and encouraged them to develop workable solutions. The model also has World War II ties. Portions of the model were constructed by members of General Rommel's Afrika Corps. These men were held at the POW camp in Clinton and were used to build many of the model portions we see today. Currently, the model sits in disrepair just south of Clinton. Logistically, only a small portion of the model can be brought over, but it can be repaired. It will carry water and will be the perfect place for your five-year-old to walk through.

In closing, let me say that this museum should make us all very proud. It will be built as a lasting testimony for the people of Vicksburg – that lived here thousands of years ago, that fought floods here hundreds of years ago – that live here now- and that will live here in the future. I'm very excited by our progress and I do hope you share in the excitement.

(The Public Affairs Office has set up our Facebook page



A contractor works on the wall of the museum.



Shown is the port side of the MV Mississippi IV which will house self-guided tours and exhibits.

and is currently completing the website, so look us up and keep checking in. I may be a lot grayer when we actually finish, but I promise, I'll have a smile on my face). ◀

(Continued from page 6, District Archeologists find historical boat remains)

River which runs through Montgomery Towhead at the northern limits of the Vicksburg District. Further consultation with Dr. Ann Early of the Arkansas Archeological Survey helped greatly. Her input pointed Vicksburg District archaeologists toward the Arkansas Land Commission that would be able to make a better determination of ownership or jurisdiction. In order to make a final

determination, a site visit was necessary.

Koeppel and Ryan visited the site with the help of river operations personnel Mike Jensen and Andy Hall. Jerry Bradshaw and Nikki Heck of the Arkansas Land Commission also joined us for the trip. Measurements taken by Koeppel showed that the visible portion of the boat measured 47 feet in length. Two smaller as-

semblages of wood and coal were identified near the main wreckage and were believed to be associated. However, no other artifacts besides these and a large amount of dispersed coal were identified at the site. These were indications that the boat was relatively empty at the time it went down. The boat was constructed using mortice-and-tenon joinery, large

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Archeological findings provide links to past

By Ben Robinson

Photo by Kavanaugh Breazeale

“Commonalities can be found between the current day missions of the Corps of Engineers and the ancient inhabitants of this place.”



During the past few months, if you have found yourself driving north along Hwy 61 in Sharkey County you may have noticed a lot of activity near the usually quiet town of Rolling Fork. The Corps is in the midst of an archeological investigation on a portion of a 33-acre tract acquired last year. The property has been known by the locals for decades as the “Red -Barn” site and contains a rich historical significance to the community. In the past, the property has been home to Native American Indian tribes, historic Civil War battles, and catastrophic flood events. While all of these events are certainly important in a regional sense, they have also had further reaching impacts on the nation.

In the past the land itself has been the stage on which these stories have unfolded; but now decades and generations later, this same land has become the shining star with even more tales to tell. Recent discoveries during the archeological dig give us clues as to the inhabitants and uses of this land long before the written historical record. Information gathered at this site is valuable because archeologists are able to determine not only what the people that once lived here ate, hunted, fished, and grew, but it also may shed

clues as to who the inhabitants of this place were.

Chris Koeppel, archeologist and environmental team supervisor for the Corps’ Regional Planning and Environment Division South, explains, “Archaeological evidence at the Rolling Fork Mounds site has shown at least two, probably three, separate occupations (villages) separated by flooding events. Charcoal and shell samples have been collected that will undergo radiocarbon-14 testing to provide scientific dates. But, based on the style of the decorated pottery and tools, both of the village occupations date to the Mississippian period, around AD 1200-1400. During the Mississippian period Native Americans formed large villages, farmed corn, squash, and beans, and formed complex political and economic social structures that were led by chiefs. Chiefs and their families were treated as elite citizens, and lived on top of the high ceremonial earthen mounds. The mounds were surrounded by a bare plaza, which was the location of religious and public ceremonies. The mounds and plaza were the center of a large village of hundreds of family houses and special activity areas, such as locations to process deer or make stone tools. At the Rolling Fork site archaeologists have found evidence for all of these structures and activities.”

“The different village occupations are separated by thick deposits of alluvial silt, showing us that the flood events very quickly devastated these villages. Nonetheless, people eventually returned to build again because this location in Rolling Fork had many

advantages: good fertile soil, great hunting grounds, and easy access to Deer Creek and its floodplains filled with plenty of food and resources. “

Archeological evidence even suggests that this later civilization underwent massive civil works projects including elevating their homes and communal areas in an effort to keep flood waters at bay. “The villagers filled in natural swales and depressions, up to eight feet deep, with soil to provide elevated living surfaces. These locations were filled the same way the mounds were built: by basket loads of soil carried by individuals under the direction of prehistoric “project managers”. This represents an enormous amount of effort and management,” explains Koeppel.

Other findings unearthed during the archeological investigation reveal another chapter of the unique historical nature of this place. Evidence of a battle that took place nearly 150 years ago was recently discovered by the archeology team. A 4” diameter, 9 pound civil war era cannonball was recovered on the site. Historical accounts document that in the spring of 1863 during the Steele Bayou Campaign, Rear Admiral David D. Porter commanded a union flotilla of five gunboats through a treacherous and winding waterway of creeks and bayous. Porter’s mission to reach a backdoor route to Vicksburg was stalled and almost repelled when Brigadier General Winfield Scott Featherston of the Confederate Army created a blockade of felled trees in front of and behind the union ships. Realizing his

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(Concluded from page 10, Archeological findings provide links to past)

ships were sitting ducks, Porter ordered some of his sailors to disembark with cannons and place them on top of the nearby Indian mounds. This effort allowed Porter to hold off the confederates until reinforcements could arrive. A division led by William Sherman came to the rescue of Porter's trapped fleet and successfully held off the confederates and freed the vessels so that the gunboats could retreat.

Commonalities can be found between the current day missions of the Corps and the ancient inhabitants of this place. Porter's strategic use of the

land and the Native American's efforts to transform their landscape can both be appreciated and admired by today's modern Corps employee.

A 4" diameter, 9 pound civil war era cannonball was recovered on the site and as a precautionary measure, Sgt. Todd Peterson, Commander of the Clinton Police Department Bomb Squad, shared his expertise. Since 2004 Sgt. Peterson has helped safely remove civil war era ordnances throughout the state.

"The cannonball discovered on site was solid and did not contain

any explosive powder," explains Sgt. Peterson. He emphasizes that caution should always be used when an item like this is discovered. This artifact didn't pose a threat to anyone, but because of the age and unstable nature of the explosive charge inside many cannonballs just like this one, caution and common sense should be used, "even static electricity could set it off," he says.

Typically the first thing he would do if the object does contain explosive powder would be to either gingerly remove the object to a safe location or disarm it on the spot. The procedure he uses includes using an explosive charge to cut open or pierce a hole in the outer casing. This allows for the venting of the gunpowder. Instead of exploding, the material inside will then have an opportunity to burn itself out safely. "The whole process takes only a millisecond," he says.

I myself have had the opportunity to stand on-site and have been in awe of the sheer amount of sediment that has been deposited across the delta. The spot where those Native American foundations lie were once, not too long ago, the ground plane and over time the rivers and tributaries rose and fell until layers upon layers of sediment had been deposited. In some places it is not uncommon to find five to six feet of earth that has built up over time. Seeing firsthand the archeological evidence of civilizations past and the impact the uninhibited floodwaters had on the inhabitants of this land gives me a greater understanding of the massive responsibility we have as the Corps to build and maintain levee systems that protect today's population. ◀



Sgt. Todd Peterson, commander of the Clinton Police Department Bomb Squad, shows the recovered artifact to Philip Hollis, senior project manager.



***Evidence of the battle that took place
nearly 150 years ago was recently
discovered by the archeologists***

PHOTOS OF 2011 FLOOD

Photos by Kavanaugh Breazeale
and Alfred Dulaney



PHOTOS OF 2011 FLOOD

Photos by Alfred Dulaney



Small Business is Big Business at Vicksburg District

By Shirley J. Smith

"Small Business is "Big Business" at the Vicksburg District", is how Shirley Reed, Deputy for Small Business refers to the District's accomplishments for its Small Business goals and accomplishments for the fiscal year 2010 program.

In carrying out the intent of the law, Department of Defense (DOD) Small Business Programs Office negotiates the Small Business Goals with the Small Business Administration and then submits the goals to Army for execution. Army submits the negotiated goals to Headquarters which in turns submits the goals to each District Commander for implementation and execution into their perspective Small Business Programs.

In order to meet and exceed the goals submitted by Headquarters, the Commander is responsible for effectively implementing the small business programs within his command

The Corps is the world's largest buyer of goods and services, with a statutory goal of 23 percent of government contracting dollars going to small businesses. The Corps assists small businesses and other contractors in doing business with the federal government and the use of Small Business Administration's (SBA) socioeconomic programs. Such programs include the Small Disadvantaged Business Section 8(a) Program, and the Woman Owned Small Business Program.

On October 24, 1978, President Carter signed Public Law 95-507 amending the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, making federal procurement contracting more readily accessible to all small businesses. PL 95-507 stipulates that it is the policy of the Government to provide maximum practicable opportunities in its acquisitions to small businesses, small disadvantaged businesses, hubzone small business, service disabled veteran owned small business and women-owned businesses. This stipulation also extends to having the maximum practicable opportunity to participate as subcontractors in contracts awarded by any executive agency.

On September 16, 1994, President Clinton signed Executive Order 12928 promoting procurement with small businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Institutions (MI). Federal agencies are to assist these entities to develop viable, self-sustaining businesses capable of competing

on an equal basis in the mainstream of the economy. The executive order establishes a contracting goal of 5% for these entities but mainly reaffirms existing laws, executive orders, and regulations relevant to minority participation while chastising some federal agencies for not aggressively supporting them.

The Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUB-Zone) Program was created under the HUBZone Act of 1997, Title VI of Public Law 105135. This program provides federal contracting opportunities for qualified small business concerns located in economically distressed communities. The goal of the HUBZone Program is to provide federal contracting assistance for qualified small business concerns located in HUBZone areas in order to increase employment opportunities, stimulate capital investments in those areas, and empower communities through economic leveraging.

Public Law 106.50, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999, amended the Small Business Act by adding Small Businesses owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans to the categories of small businesses for which the federal agencies develop prime contract goals. Federal agencies also establish goals and collect data regarding subcontracts awarded by prime contractors to veteran-owned small businesses. Small businesses owned by service-disabled veterans are small businesses that are at least 51 percent owned and controlled by one or more service-disabled veterans. It can also be a veteran with permanent or severe disability, the spouse or permanent caregiver of such veterans. P.L. 106.50 established a 3% goal for government contracting with businesses owned by service-disabled veterans. No specific goal is identified for sub contracting with businesses owned by veterans.

The Deputy for Small Business serves as a special assistant to the District Engineer on all Small Business Program matters with responsibilities to develop and administer the Small Business Program to meet and exceed the goals submitted by Headquarters. In this capacity the Deputy for Small Business serves as a liaison providing contract support to two regional Small Business Administration (SBA) offices located in Atlanta and Texas. Under the Atlanta Region the Jackson District Office services the District. Under the Texas Region, the New Orleans and Little Rock District

(Continued on page 15)

(Concluded from page 14, Small Business is Big Business at Vicksburg District)

offices located in New Orleans and Little Rock service the Vicksburg District for contract support. The SBA Small Business Program is used to the maximum to meet and exceed the goals submitted by Headquarters.

The chart below reflects the goals submitted and accomplishments attained in FY 2010 reflecting that the Vicksburg District met and exceeded all of the Small Business goals. The Vicksburg District accomplishments for 2010 confirms that “Small Business is Big Business” in the Vicksburg District. ◀

Small Business Category	Prime	FY 10 ACCOMP.
Small Business	33.0%	\$135,023,533 74.4%
Small Disadvantage Business	18.0%	\$75,982,387 18.0%
Women-Owned Small Business	5.8%	\$26,983,704 14.9%
HUBZone Small Business	10.0%	\$102,416,282 56.4%
Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned SB	3.0%	\$ 11,285,940 6.22%
HBCU/MI	13.0%	\$6,441.00 34.64%

(Concluded from page 9, District Archeologists find historical boat remains)

wrought iron square nails and bolts, and wooden pegs or “trunnels”. This boat did indeed appear to date back to the mid 19th century.

Additional photographs taken during the initial site visit were shared with boat expert Dr. Skip Stewart-Abernathy of the Arkansas Archeological Survey. Dr. Stewart-Abernathy was able to identify hog chains and hull and side framing timbers, as well as a portion of the coal storage bin, but stopped short of positively identifying the wreck as a steamboat.

After all the data-gathering, the site visit confirmed that, (no matter how interesting this wreck was), the Vicksburg District had no jurisdiction over the boat. For District archaeologists, investigating a historic boat wreck was truly an exciting experience. Having the opportunity to investigate the find will help the District prepare for situations in the future where we may be able to play a larger role. ◀

Letters of Commendation

“On behalf of the Mississippi River Class of Vicksburg High School (VHS), I want to take the time to thank you for your continuing support of the course. The field trip on the MV WILLIAM JAMES on February 17, 2011, was the final exclamation point to a most successful Mississippi River Studies Course for this school year.

“The course, developed more than thirty years ago (1975), as a co-operative effort between the Vicksburg District and Vicksburg High School (VHS), has been a positive relationship for both institutions. VHS has benefitted tremendously throughout the years, receiving national, state, and local media coverage.

“The class is nothing without the Vicksburg District; its team members provide us with the invaluable resource personnel that are the core of our Mississippi River Studies curriculum. As presenters on a variety of Mississippi River and Corps related topics, the speakers become ‘talking textbooks’.

The District officially adopted Vicksburg High School during the 1998-1999 school year.”

~ Ed Wong, Instructor, VHS, Mississippi River Class

“My husband and I would like to commend you and all your staff and volunteers for the wonderful camping experiences we have enjoyed over the years. We are Minnesotans who travel ‘south’ each winter and stop for a brief stay both coming and going at Enid Lake, Wallace Creek campground. We really love the scenery there and the hard work so many people have put into creating such a lovely site is evident!

“The sites are meticulously kept - not even a cigarette butt around, well groomed, large for bigger units like ours with plenty of maneuverability space. The trees are kept pruned high and grounds are lush and kept as nice as many golf courses. The roads are smooth.

“The building services are great; the temperature and water pressure in the showers were just right. We also experienced the pleasantries associated with your welcoming committee or on-site volunteers; they were friendly and offered help with local directions.

“Keep doing what you have been doing and I hope the park will not be closed due to budget shortages. We need more places like this to enjoy!

“We’ll be back!”

Sincerely,
~ Terry and Ken Burt

District co-hosts 14th annual Consulting with Tribal Nations training

By Sarah Koeppel

Photos by Kavanaugh Breazeale and Sarah Keoppel

Considering the environmental impacts of our proposed actions, as well as alternatives to those actions, is an everyday occurrence for the Vicksburg District. Mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Corps works with other federal and state agencies and the public on potential issues to threatened and endangered species, water and air quality, wetlands, and cultural resources (just to name a few). Complying with the law, being good stewards, and providing vital public engineering services is the foundation of this great agency.

In order to do that, we must often openly coordinate and consult with stakeholders to identify public concerns and issues, increase efficiency and safety, and appropriately use public funds. Recently, the District co-hosted the 14th Consulting with Tribal Nations training with Headquarters' (HQ) Leader of the Tribal Nations Community of Practice in an effort to learn more effective strategies when consulting with federally recognized tribes in response to proposed Corps actions.

District tribal liaison and environmental team supervisor, Christopher Koeppel, and regulatory and operations archaeologist Sarah Koeppel, welcomed 65 participants to learn about consultation strategies, partnering with tribes, Department of Defense and Corps policies, and the history of Indian law. In particular, the training provided best practices for consultation to make the process more efficient, transparent, and meaningful in order to ensure project milestones are met.

Attendees included staff from the Federal Highway Administration, the Bureau of Land Management, the Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action, the National Park Service, the National Soil Conservation Service, the US Forest Service, Louisiana and Mississippi State Departments of Transportation, the Mississippi Historic Preservation Office, and various consultants.

The three-day training was led by tribal consultation veterans: Dr. Georgeie Reynolds, HQ Tribal Liaison; Ms. Roberta Hayworth, St. Louis District Tribal Liaison; and Dr. Ron Kneebone, Albuquerque District Tribal Liaison. Repre-



Regulatory branch chief, Mike McNair, tours the bird mound at Poverty Point during the Tribal Consultation field trip.

sentatives from the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Alabama-Coushatta, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Chickasaw Nation, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and Quapaw

Tribe of Indians further enhanced the training by providing insight into the history of tribal consultation with the District and other federal agencies, as well as suggestions for improving current consultation strategies.

On the second day of the training, participants travelled a rather bumpy road to visit the 3,000-year-old national historic landmark, Poverty Point, near Epps, Louisiana. A presentation by Dr. Diana Greenlee about the park's recent World Heritage Site nomination, a tram ride through

the 500-acre site, a tour of the museum and the viewing of an informational video allowed training attendees a chance to bond while learning about a unique prehistoric culture. Although participants were nearly detained for several hours after a barge struck the I-20 Bridge, the field trip was a success.

With some regional input by the Koeppel's, the more than 60 years of experience consulting with tribes provided by the lead trainers, and the invaluable conversations during the tribal panel, training participants left the training with a better understanding of why and how the Corps consults with federally recognized tribes and tools to improve tribal consultation within the context of project delivery. ◀



Pictured with training participants are Sarah and Chris Koeppel, third and fourth from left.

Equal Employment Opportunity Officer receives Secretary of Army Award

By Shirley J. Smith

The District's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Officer, Gwendolyn J. Taylor, recently received a Secretary of the Army Award for Diversity and Leadership in the EEO Program. Due to her leadership and the collaborative support from the District's senior leaders, the District exemplifies a model EEO Program.

Her vision and dedication have fostered a fair and level playing field where all employees have the opportunity to achieve their full potential based on merit principles.

Taylor, a Sunflower native, is a graduate of Ruleville Central High School, Ruleville, and earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in business administration from Jackson State University.

Her career with the District began in 1984, working as editorial clerk in the public affairs office. She began working in the EEO Office in 1986.

Taylor is a member of Jackson State University's National Alumni Association, Federally Employed Women, and Blacks in Government. She has two children and one grandchild.



Gwendolyn Taylor, Chief, EEO

Two engineers receive Modern Day Technology Leadership Award

By Alice Bufkin



Patricia Hemphill

Two District engineers, Patricia R. Hemphill and Phillip C. Rogers, were recent recipients of the Modern Day Technology Leadership Award. This award is presented annually in Washington, D. C., as part of the Black Engineer of the Year Award program to persons who have made significant contributions in technology and/or leadership.

Hemphill is assistant chief of Planning Programs and Project Management Division.

A Vicksburg native, she earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in civil engineering from Mississippi State University. She completed the Army Management Staff College Program of Sustaining Base Leadership Management, and Harvard University's Executive Education Program. She is a registered professional engineer in the State of Mississippi.

Rogers, a native of Oxford, began his career with the District in July 2009. He is a civil engineer in the design branch of the Engineering and Construction Division. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in civil engineering from the University of Mississippi.



Phillip Rogers and LTG Van Antwerp

Corps selects Hill as Chief of Design Branch

By Alice Bufkin

Glenda J. Hill has been selected as the Chief of Design Branch in the Engineering and Construction Division at the Vicksburg District.

Hill will manage civil works engineering design activities for the District. The civil works engineering program consists of major construction of navigation locks and dams, flood control dams and reservoirs, channel improvements, levees, floodwalls, pumping stations, and road relocations over parts of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, and the nation by special assignment.

Her career with the District began in 1980, and her previous position was assistant chief of the design branch. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Mississippi State University. She is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Mississippi, and a member of the Society of Military Engineers (SAME).

A native of Mantachie, she is married to Wayland D. Hill, Jr., and they are the parents of two children. Her parents are Edward (deceased) and Nadine Justice of Mantachie.

Former Surgeon General speaks at District in recognition of Women's History Month

By Shirley J. Smith
Photos by Alfred Dulaney



Dr. Elders speaks at District.

This year marked the 31st anniversary of a Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980 as National Women's History week. In 1987 Congress expanded the week into a month long celebration.

March has been set aside as Women's History Month due to the extraordinary strides and contributions that have been made to society by women. Earlier, women's history was omitted or overlooked due to the disparity between female and male counterparts. Now, due to certain laws that empowered women, and due to their tenacity, courage, and achievements, women are recognized at all levels; their history will not be unnoticed. Included among statistics for women, they comprise 57% of college students, 53% of college graduates, and 28% of Military personnel.

To commemorate the celebration, the District hosted a program with a national theme of "Our History is Our Strength". Guest speaker for the program was Dr. Joycelyn Elders, a former Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service, under the administration of former President William Jefferson Clinton.

During Dr. Elders' remarks she stated, "The Corps of Engineers has worked really hard to ensure that women are involved; women are being recognized for the won-

derful things that they're doing. At one time there were laws that didn't allow women to hold certain jobs; today we are lawyers, doctors, astronauts, politicians, educators, and much more. It was once thought that women did not have the necessary toughness to make decisions, but we worked our way through that."

Dr. Elders also stated that certain laws were changed that elevated the status of women in the United States. The 1848 Women's Suffrage Movement began trying to get women the right to vote. It was not until 1920 that women gained that right, less than 100 years ago.

Dr. Elders concluded by stating that women are making a difference, and that women must motivate other women who have not caught on, use the power of knowledge, and empower more women to make a difference.

Col. Jeffrey R. Eckstein, Commander of the District, stated in a Memo to the District workforce, "As we celebrate Women's History Month, now, more than ever, the work of this movement needs to continue and expand. Each new generation needs to draw information and inspiration from the last." ◀



Col. Eckstein presents a plaque to Dr. Elders.

High school students see disciplines put into action

By Shirley J. Smith

Photos by Kavanaugh Breazeale and Shirley J. Smith

Retaining knowledge for future use is a common purpose for studying, or taking classes as one does while attending high school. For some, acquiring knowledge is pertinent towards a future career. Also, occasionally opportunities are presented where one can actually see in action what he/she has been studying; recently the District afforded that opportunity for some students from Warren Central and Vicksburg high schools.

Approximately twenty-five students from computer aided design (CAD) classes from Vicksburg High School visited the Vicksburg District headquarters building to see how CAD software is used at the Corps.

When the students arrived at MVK, they were greeted by Brian Crawford, who gave them an overview of the Corps of Engineers. Jason Fairchild

then gave a brief overview of how CAD software is used in the Engineering and Construction Division. The students were divided into two groups and taken to three different sections within the E&C Division. Their first stop was the survey and mapping section, where mapping specialist Mike Vandiver gave an overview of the processes involved in producing a map from field surveys.

Their next stop was the CAD/GIS section, where cartographer Brian Everitt and GIS manager Jack Smith gave presentations on the operation of their section and the usefulness of GIS technology in conjunction with the Corps' CAD software. Their final stop was the levee and drainage section, where civil engineers Colby Bankston and Dustin Herr explained how surveys from the survey and mapping section and data from the CAD/GIS section are brought together to produce the final plans and specifications for levee projects and channel dredging projects. Before they departed, the students met for a question and answer session with Jason Fairchild, Rome Rushing, and Brian Crawford.

The District's strategic planner, Brian Crawford, stated, "With all of the exciting and profitable opportunities available in the field of science, engineering, mathematics, and technology (STEM), it is imperative that we expose our community's students to as many sides of these unique disciplines as possible. Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Geospatial Information Systems are true anchors in the world of STEM." Having the opportunity to see some of the applications of these disciplines at work, these

students are definitely moving in the right direction concerning their future and the futures of the many organizations they will work for in the years to come."

Another group of students from Warren Central High School also had the opportunity to see first-hand what they study. Cedric Tillman, photojournalism instructor at Warren Central High School had wondered where to take his students on a field trip. During a conversation with a District team member he asked the question, "Where can I take my students on a field trip where they can see some interesting photography and/or photojournalism?" The District employee stated, "Bring them to the District, we have some interesting photos - historical and current, and lots of them." From that point the field trip was



Brian Crawford makes presentation to the students on the Corps' mission.



Dulaney explains the photojournalism aspect of his job.

(Continued on page 21)

Gold Medalist Winner makes a splash at International Boating & Water Safety Summit

By Brian Westfall

Photo by Cecilia Duer, executive director,
National Water Safety Congress

Olympian Cullen Jones receives National Water Safety Award by promoting “Learn to Swim Well” programs

Cullen Jones, an Olympic gold medalist swimmer, was the recipient of the National Water Safety Congress (NWSC) 2011 National Water Safety Award. The award ceremony was held during the 15th Annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit banquet at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront. Jones was selected due to his involvement with water safety programs such as the “Make a Splash” Program in Shreveport. Jones survived a near-drowning experience as a youth and has vowed to make a difference in partnership with the USA Swimming Foundation via the Make a Splash program.

Jones was compelled to visit Shreveport after six African American teenagers drowned in the Red River last summer. Sadly, they drowned because they, nor their families, could swim. The teens tragically drowned while attempting to save one another as they stepped off a shallow shoreline shelf into deep water. The teens had gathered at a popular swimming area along with their families to escape the August heat and spend time on the river. As the unbelievable scene developed, the teens’ parents could only watch their children drown because they also could not swim. Miraculously, a seventh teen survived the ordeal.

“Alarming statistics reveal that many of America’s children and adults are poor swimmers or non-swimmers. Realistically, many swimmers grossly overestimate their swimming ability and have difficulty swimming the mere length of an average-sized swimming pool,” stated Brian Westfall, NWSC Awards Chairman. In open-water settings, Aquatics International reports that two-thirds of adults can’t swim. The National Drowning Prevention Alliance advocates combining learn to swim programs with water safety education programming. Furthermore, statistics support the notion that families cannot swim. Safe Kids USA statistics report that children from non-swimming households are eight times more likely to be at-risk of drowning. Minority children have especially low rates of swimming ability and high rates of drowning. For example, African American

children are up to seven times more likely to drown; Jones has vowed to reduce this problem.

“To reduce and maintain low drowning rates, all organizations that are in the business of saving lives on the water should adopt and incorporate a “Learn to Swim Well” campaign in their water safety program. Jones and Make a Splash may well represent the essential catalyst in making our waterways safer by teaching children, and hopefully their parents, to learn to swim well,” Westfall stated.

“Make a Splash” is a national child-focused water safety initiative created by the USA Swimming Foundation. “The USA Swimming Foundation works by aligning the nation’s top learn-to-swim resources in an effort to save lives. Make a Splash educates parents through a national awareness campaign by joining forces with grassroots learn-to-swim programs and reaches thousands of children through wide-reaching in-school materials,” stated Joe Haller, natural resources specialist at Lake Ouachita.

To reduce drowning rates that have reached plateau levels in the past few years, the National Water Safety Congress recognizes the importance of adding learning to swim education. The congress has fully endorsed a national “Learn to Swim Well” campaign that will complement existing life jacket advocacy.

Learn to swim advocates include the National Drowning Prevention Alliance, the Lifesaving Society of Canada, and the USA Swimming Foundation. All have agreed to partner with the Corps to advocate learning to swim to accompany life jacket advocacy. Jones, with his dedication to saving lives by teaching children how to swim, is a tremendous endorsement that will make a splash to save lives. ◀



NWSC President, Gary Owens (left), makes presentation to Jones.

National Water Safety Congress presents Award of Merit to Miss Arkansas

**Story and photos by
Amy Shultz**

Team members of lakes Ouachita and DeGray congratulate Miss Arkansas 2009, Sarah Slocum, on being presented an Award of Merit from the National Water Safety Congress for her enthusiastic support in promoting water safety at area lakes and rivers. The National Water Safety Congress, which held its annual Summit recently, is a non-government, nationally recognized organization dedicated to serving the public by promoting recreational water and boating safety in the United States.

Each year the National Water Safety Congress presents awards at the Annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit to selected



individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions for water safety education. Twenty-nine Awards of Merit are given nationally to deserving advocates of water safety. Miss Slocum received the award for her work in recording water safety public service announcements (PSA).

Miss Slocum, of Sheridan, Arkansas, is studying law at the University of Central Arkansas. Having been an avid boater and fisherman most of her life, she was very supportive of the Corps' water safety program. In April 2010, Miss Slocum recorded six water and boating safety public service announcements (PSA) at Noalmark Broadcasting radio station in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Some of the PSA themes were: "You Drink-You Sink" which discussed the consequences of drinking and boating, and "Learn the Rules of the Road on the Water" which highlighted boater safety education. The majority of these public service announcements directly targeted the 18-to 35-year-old hard to reach "bullet-proof" audience. One PSA

When Miss Arkansas is not busy with engagements she is busy at the radio station making public service announcements.

even began, "Hey guys, do you really want to impress that beautiful girl? Think fast boats and reckless driving will do it? Think again."

The six water safety PSA's were converted to MP-3 format and mixed for statewide use. Corps personnel distributed them to more than 20 radio stations throughout Arkansas, including several college radio stations. The water safety PSAs were aired during the months of May-July 2010, and were heard by thousands of people. Miss Slocum also graciously posed for pictures while modeling a Type 2 auto-inflatable lifejacket. The pictures were utilized in newspaper water safety articles which ran in the Hot Springs Sentinel Record and the Montgomery County News. ◀



Miss Arkansas at beautiful Lake Ouachita.

(Concluded from page 19, High school students see disciplines put into action)

scheduled.

The students were greeted by personnel in the public affairs office who explained to them which offices they would visit and what they would see. The first stop was the information technology office where they were briefed by photographer Alfred Dulaney, layout and design person Betty Watson, and graphic designer Colleen Cummins.

Some students took advantage of having "big" cameras available and took some photos during the visit.

"Having the opportunity to see some of the applications of these disciplines at work, these students are definitely moving in the right direction concerning their future and the futures of the many organizations they will work for in the years to come." ◀

A WCHS student tests her skill with a camera.



Summer water safety tips

Story and photo by Chris Gurner

Summer is almost here and many students are finishing exams in anticipation of a well deserved break. During summer break many students will spend time outdoors, often on or near water. The Corps is the largest federal provider of outdoor recreation with more than 400 lakes in 43 states, four of which are located in north Mississippi-Arkabutla, Enid, Grenada, and Sardis. The number of annual visitors exceeds 370 million per year at Corps recreational areas nationwide. Considering that much water and those many visitors, water safety is one of the Corps' top priorities.

Whether you boat, fish, ski, or swim, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wants you to be safe. Drowning is one of the leading causes of accidental death, particularly of college-aged students and young adults, however this statistic can be prevented. If you are going to be on the water this summer, in a pool, at a lake, or at the ocean, please keep the following tips in mind.

- Lifejackets save lives, but in order for them to work, you must wear them. Make sure they are in good condition and fit properly.
- Water and alcohol don't mix. Alcohol use is a factor in many boating accidents and drownings.



The Fighting Okra, Delta State University's mascot, the Corps' water safety mascot, Bobber the Water Safety Dog, and the Delta Statesman, publicize the significance of water safety by sporting lifejackets.

- Know your limits - many swimmers drown by trying to do things beyond their swimming ability.
- Learn to swim well- There is a difference in just knowing how to swim and knowing how to swim well. It's never too late to learn.
- Make sure your boat is equipped with the proper safety equipment before taking it on the water.
- Never swim alone, always take a buddy.

Following these tips will help you remain safe and enjoy your summer around the water. For more information you can visit the Corps of Engineers National Water Safety Program website at <http://watersafety.usace.army.mil/> ◀

Enid Lake celebrates 19th annual Habitat Day

By Chris Hannaford
Photo by Deborah Freeman

Recently approximately 120 volunteers partnered with thirty-six Corps and contract team members for Enid Lake's 19th Annual Habitat Day. The day started with a hearty breakfast to give everyone the energy needed for the hard work ahead; instructions were presented from Enid Lake's resource manager Billy Samuels. An overview of the potential safety hazards were provided by supervisory ranger Michael Robinson and park ranger Vance Austin.

Volunteers utilized ATV's to drag cedar trees to strategic locations throughout the lake bottom where they were anchored with concrete weights.

They placed wooden stake beds along creek channels and grassy knolls. More than 1,500 cedar trees and 2,500 wooden stakes were placed on the featureless mudflats of Enid Lake. Approximately 550 cedar tree shelters and 50 stake beds were constructed.

According to studies performed by a biologist with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, these shelters are showing enormous benefits to both habitat and fishing in the lake. Shelters such as these attract small baitfish, which in turn attract larger fish such as crappie and largemouth bass.

After a morning of work the volunteers enjoyed a beautiful day filled with food, fun, and fellowship. They joined as one team and through hard

work helped restore the much needed fish habitat. Through natural resource management projects such as this, we not only restore fish habitat for today, but help sustain a healthy fish population for many years to come. ◀



Volunteers utilize ATV's to place cedar trees on the barren mudflats of Enid Lake.

Lake Greeson hosts annual Earth Day festivities

By Marty Reynolds

Photos by Randy Sorrells

Lake Greeson park rangers took full advantage of promoting environmental stewardship and water safety at the annual Earth Day festivities for Pike County, Arkansas. The Corps teamed up with the U.S.F.S., U.S.G.S, Arkansas State parks, Arkansas State Forestry Commission, Arkansas Game

and Fish Commission, Pike County Extension Service, and the Pike County Rural Water Association, and presented a variety of environmental programs to all fifth graders from Pike County Public Schools.

According to Rick Dwyer of the Ouachita Project Management Office, April 22 each year marks the anniversary of the birth of the 1970 Modern Environmental Movement. Many other events occurred in 1970: the Kent State shootings, the advent of fiber optics, “Bridge Over-Troubled Water”, Apollo 13, and the death of Jimi Hendrix.

Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, proposed the first nationwide environmental protest to force the issue onto the national agenda. Earth Day 1970 enlisted support from Democrats and Republicans, rich and poor, rural and urban residents, etc. It led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and eventually the Clean Air Act, and the Endangered Species Act.



Ranger Sorrells, left, and Funderburk, right, discuss fish habitat conservation with one of the several groups of Pike County fifth graders.

A lot of what is done now is a result of that historic day in 1970. In keeping with our responsibility to the environment, Lake Greeson park rangers, Kenneth Forga, Dan Funderburk, and Randy Sorrells, presented interpretive programs on fish habitat conservation. Water Safety, which is a top priority, was included as well. More than 150 students participated in the annual event. ◀



Ranger Kenneth Forga answers students' questions about water safety.

Co-Op students create arboretum at Sardis Lake

By Cody Scruggs

Photos by Chris Gurner

While it's often stated that some people can't see the forest for the trees, some Co-Op students at Sardis Lake are attempting to help people not only see trees in the forest, but also to identify them. Biological Science Co-Op students Cody Scruggs, Houston Hartley, and Kyle Donlevy recently created the Sardis Lake Arboretum, a self guided “tree trail” that introduces visitors to 30 different tree species around Sardis' lower lake. Visitors can stop by the Sardis Lake Field Office and pick up a guide that contains pictures of the various tree species, descriptions, and maps with tree locations around the lower lake.

The trio, drawing upon their forestry backgrounds, searched the lower lake area for specimen trees and installed permanent markers at the base, each tree listing both its common and scientific names. Many of the trees included are native species that naturally occur in the area, but a few are imported species that aren't as common, such as the Ginkgo and Golden Rain Tree.

This arboretum was created for visitors' usage and enjoyment, and will likely be used by students or scouting groups

completing leaf collections, or outdoor enthusiasts, or anyone else interested in learning more about trees and Sardis Lake. The Co-Op students are presently working to have the arboretum included in the Mississippi Arboretum Certification Program through the Mississippi Urban Forestry Council. ◀



A tree with its identification along the tree trail at Sardis Lake arboretum.



Park Rangers, left to right, Cody Scruggs and Houston Hartley, prepare a place for a tree to be among one of the stops at the arboretum.

District Field Offices & Services

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Vicksburg District
4155 E. Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183
www.mvk.usace.army.mil
email: cemvk-pa@army.us.mil**

Lake Ouachita	(501) 767-2101	Golden Age Passports	(601) 631-5287
Lake Greeson	(870) 285-2151	Aerial Photography	(601) 631-5709
DeGray Lake	(870) 246-5501	Corps Wetland Permits	(601) 631-5289
Sardis Lake	(662) 563-4531	<i>Apply, ask questions, or report violations</i>	
Arkabutla Lake	(662) 562-6261	Contracting & Bids	(601) 631-7706
Enid Lake	(662) 563-4571	<i>Vendors, status of bids, specs</i>	
Grenada Lake	(662) 226-6391	Community Support	(601) 631-5223
Bayou Bodcau	(318) 322-6391	<i>Tours, speakers, volunteers</i>	
JBJ Waterway	(318) 322-6391	Historical Questions & Research	(601) 634-7023
Ouachita-Black Rivers	(318) 322-6391	<i>Mississippi River History Center</i>	
		Real Estate Issues	(601) 631-5220
		<i>Corps impacts to your property</i>	
		Employment Questions	(601) 631-5859
		<i>Vacancies, status, qualifications</i>	
		Historical Photographs	(601) 631-5021
		Environmental	(601) 631-5410

Other Vicksburg Engineer/Federal Organizations

Mississippi Valley Division
(601) 634-5760

Vicksburg National Military Park
(601) 634-5760

Engineer Research and Development Center
(601) 634-2504

U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Kickapoo
(601) 636-8304

412th Engineer Command
(601) 636-1686

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
(601) 629-6607

168th Engineer Group
(601) 313-5290

U.S. Army Recruiter
(601) 618-1203

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