US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Vicksburg District

THE Water's Edge

SUMMER 2014

The Water's Edge

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Photo by Bruce Reid

US Army Corps of Engineers®

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

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Commander's Corner

with Colonel John W. Cross

Hello Vicksburg District Team Members

As we move into summer, it is always important to discuss Safety to keep ourselves, family and friends Safe. The U.S. Army is implementing its Summer Safety Campaign "Know the Signs. Know What's Right, Do What's Right" to help Soldiers, Civilians and family members stay safe by recognizing risk.

- USACE is the leading federal provider of outdoor recreation hosting more than 370 million visits annually to its more than 420 lake and river projects in 43 states.
- The Vicksburg District has 147 recreational areas with 2,772 campsites and 1,529 picnic sites with over 8 million visitors annually!
- Wear your life jacket and encourage those you love to wear one too. USACE statistics identify that 89 percent of water-related fatalities involve those not wearing a life jacket. The most at risk group is males between the ages of 18-35 not wearing a life jacket and who swim in non-designated areas.

Within the District, we ramped up our efforts this year with a focus on safety across the board. Some highlights:

- Hiring of temporary rangers at our lake sites to increase communication with visitors.
- Wraps and signs
- The Safety Awards policy is out and in place!
- The hiring of two new safety professionals, with one being full time for the MSU operations.

The Mat Sinking Unit (MSU) has cast off. We planned a special send off at city front with many honored guests observing the departure. The crew has made some great strides working to improve Safety this past layup season and I am confident we will have a great year! This year the MSU began work in New Orleans on some of the most critical areas for revetment work. We will be joined by the Discovery Channel (Canada) who will be on board this summer to film one of the most unique operations in the world!

As always, let me know how you are doing! I have thoroughly enjoyed the many lunch opportunities to get to know everyone better. I always take to heart everyone's comments and ideas.

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We serve our Country; we are a Family that works as a Team; we provide Value to the Nation!

Thanks for all you do!

COL Cross looks out at the Mat Sinking Unit fleet during the Blessing of the Fleet ceremony.

Photo by Scott Kelly, Ft. Worth District

Engineering Ecosystem Restoration - A Partnership Approach

By Deanna Prestwood and Angeline Rodgers
Contributing to this article were Steve Coleman, David Mooney, and Charles Stokes, Jr.
Photos by Bruce Reid and Ray Emerson

In the mid-1980s the Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) began incorporating environmental features into various civil work projects; however, the highest priorities were navigation, flood damage reduction and watershed planning. Through the years the Corps recognized the importance of ecosystem restoration and in 2003, designated it as one of the Civil Works Program's top four mission priorities. Partnerships are key to this recognition and in carrying out the restoration mission.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Southeast Region, Mississippi River Trust, and Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee (LMRCC) have been working together to improve habitat for species in the Lower Mississippi River, without compromising the vitally important navigation and flood risk reduction systems. The LMRCC is a coalition of 12 state natural resource conservation and environmental quality agencies in Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. There are several federal cooperating agencies and the USFWS provides staff and support to the LMRCC. Formed in 1994, the LMRCC is dedicated to conserving the natural resources of the Lower Mississippi River floodplain.

In 2000, the LMRCC, USACE and other partners outlined strategies for restoring aquatic resources within the 2.5 million-acre active floodplain from Cairo, Illinois, to Head of Passes in the Gulf of Mexico; restoring aquatic habitat and biological resources was one of the goals. From 2001 to 2004, LMRCC hosted state-level planning meetings for watershed partners to identify projects that would improve aquatic habitat and enhance public access to river habitats. Through this process, a total of 239 projects were identified and rolled into "Restoring America's Greatest River" plan. Projects were selected to enhance habitat complexity in the main channel but also to restore floodplain hydrology and connectivity between the river and its floodplain. Restoration of secondary channels was selected as a high priority and the USACE Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) developed a ranking system for the proposed work by establishing an Index of Habitat Quality. Projects were ranked according to how they improve habitat quality and their cost-effectiveness; this information is useful for project selection.

Secondary channels, also called abandoned channels, side channels or chutes, are associated with areas of sand and gravel and are an important component of the Lower Mississippi River habitats as they support a diverse assemblage of aquatic species. Through authorization of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project in 1928, the Corps began constructing dikes along the river and in secondary channels. Dikes are important river training structures used by the Corps' Channel Improvement Program to direct water flows into the navigation channel during lower river stages. These stone structures are constructed perpendicular from the river bank to the main channel and increase current velocity, thereby increasing sediment transport to maintain a nine foot channel for safe navigation. A series of dikes, or dike field, are typically constructed and the slack water between the dikes results in sediment deposition, creating sandbars. An additional consequence of dike construction is the disconnection of side channels from the main channel and loss of aquatic habitat during low river stages. To counteract the loss of aquatic habitat, a

An existing dike.

dike notch can be constructed to provide more permanent flow to secondary channels. A notch, or low weir section, is constructed by removing a trapezoidal section of stone from the existing dike.

Site reconnaissance, aerial photography and hydrographic surveys are used to determine appropriate location of notches. The Corps provides engineering design and technical assistance during preconstruction and construction. Additionally, they provide construction oversight.

The LMRCC secures all necessary permits for regulatory compliance, coordinates all activities and procures the construction contract. Mississippi River Trust provides support for project implementation. Funding for the construction is provided by the USFWS through the Fish Passage Program.

Annually, the Vicksburg District Channel Improvement Team and LMRCC meet to evaluate priority reaches in the Vicksburg District Area of Response. The team reviews all available information to determine potential projects. In 2013, the District identified two reaches, Catfish Point at River Mile 570L and Below Prentiss at River Mile 580L, on which to focus restoration efforts that year.

The above photo show a dike notch being constructed and the below photo shows the constructed dike notch.

Catfish Point and Below Prentiss dike fields, both in Bolivar County, Mississippi, were originally built in the 1970s. Sediment accretion had disconnected the secondary channels in both areas from the main channel at lower river stages. Two dikes in each field were notched by removing stone from sections with an approximately 50 foot bottom width and 150 foot top width, with varying depth. The stone removed from each dike was placed immediately downstream to prevent a scour hole from developing and compromising the integrity of the dike. A 10 to 12 foot pilot channel was dug between the dikes at each location to create a natural flow of water into the secondary channel.

At Catfish Point, Dikes 1L and 2L were degraded to elevation +5 and 0 low water reference plane (LWRP), respectively, which should provide for flow through the notches at approximately 90% of the river's annual hydrological cycle. Due to higher ground conditions at Below Prentiss, Dikes 2DL and 3L were degraded to an elevation of +10 and +5 LWRP, respectively, which will allow flow through the notches approximately 80% of the year. The sections degraded at Below Prentiss were approximately six to ten feet below the foundation of the existing stone dike. Typically a minimum stone section is desired to remain in the dike to maintain its engineering function. Approximately 20,000 tons of stone were degraded from the dikes. A total of eight miles of secondary channel, four miles at each project, were restored through these efforts. Annual hydrographic surveys, aerial photographs and state-level monitoring will help the District and LMRCC observe changes in these reaches.

In October 2011, the Vicksburg District partnered with LMRCC to complete a restoration project at Island 70 (River Mile 610L) near Dennis Landing. Through this project, the notching restored flow to over three miles of secondary channel habitat. In March of 2009, fish sampling was performed in this area, at the time catfish were captured, but there was no evidence of sturgeon. However,

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. Army Dive Team Repairs Trash Rack Channel at Narrows Dam

By Shirley J. Smith
Photos by Kavanaugh Breazeale

The 569th Engineer Detachment Dive Team, 30th Engineer Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade of Fort Eustis, Virginia, recently assisted the Ouachita Project Management Office by doing underwater reconnaissance and repair work to the trash rack system at Narrows Dam, Lake Greeson. The dam impounds the waters of the Little Missouri River to form Lake Greeson, a 7000-acre lake in southwest Arkansas. The dam is vital to the economy of surrounding communities and businesses within Pike County and southwestern Arkansas.

On February 9, 2014, a trash rack broke loose and fell to the bottom of the dam, where water is about 160 feet deep. What is a trash rack? The dam has three generators supported by metal trash racks, each about 14 feet tall, that run across the upstream face of the dam in front of the intake tunnels. The trash racks are sturdy metal structures, similar to large screens, that prevent water-borne debris (such as logs, boats, animals, mats of aquatic vegetation, etc.) from entering the tunnels and interfering with operations.

Due to the missing trash rack, only one generator could operate. The dam could not meet full power generation requirements until temporary repairs were completed. The Narrows Power Plant staff initially sent a remotely operated underwater camera down the channel of the missing rack to investigate the cause of the failure. The camera discovered the cause to be deterioration of the metal guides that held the racks in place. A dive team would be the only solution to accomplish temporary repairs and restore generation capability.

The first dive team members arrived at Narrows Dam on March 23 and met with supervisory facility manager David Ross of the Lake Greeson Field Office. They reviewed the area and determined the optimal location for the dive station. An activity hazard analysis review and safety briefing were held for all members participating in offloading the diving equipment. The team reviewed blueprints of the trash racks and intake structure, and discussed lockout/tagout procedures with divers.

Narrows Dam.

According to Captain Daniel Arnold, Commander of the 569th Engineer Detachment, also known as "Sappers of the Deep" this was the first dive mission that the unit had performed for the Corps of Engineers during his command. He stated that the dive team consists of five detachments, each with 22 divers; 17 members of this detachment reported for this effort at Narrows Dam to complete the inspection and temporary repair work. Diver experience in the team ranges from 3 months to 18 years. Dives were conducted between 4 to 7

(Continued on page 7)

SSG Bryan Crowley, standing left, gives instructions to divers seated left to right, SGT Scott Wilson and PFC Christopher Miller, while other dive team members look on, left to right, SFC Blanchard Woodcox, PFC Jesse Moore, and PFC Jordan Ramirez.

(U.S. Army Dive Team, concluded from page 6)
hours per day, beginning around 9:45 a.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m. Work at the underwater depths involved required careful planning and execution for safety of the divers.

The dive team was at the site for two weeks, conducting 22 and a half hours of total dive time. They inspected the other trash racks to determine if channels were similarly deteriorated. As a temporary repair, they also welded angle iron along the interior of the trash rack channel to mitigate future failure. Recovery of the fallen trash rack was considered; however, safety considerations and the fact that it is not interfering with operations in its present location precluded that effort.

"Jobs like this are a great opportunity for our Soldiers to put some of their skills to use. It is also a great opportunity for some of the newer divers to gain experience using the tools they have been trained on," stated Cpt. Arnold. Utilizing the U. S. Army Dive Team produced an estimated $130,000K in savings to the project, not including savings to Southwest Power of Arkansas consumers by bringing the plant back online by mid April.

The dive team was highly professional, obviously experts in their missions. The "Sappers of The Deep" also expressed their willingness to return to Narrows for future work. Judging by their overwhelming success in this mission, we will be glad to provide more work for them in the future!

Narrows Dam was authorized as a flood control and hydroelectric power project by the Flood Control Act of 1941. At the peak of all generators, the dam can generate 27,000 kWh, and can support 21,825 homes. The dam is a feature of the comprehensive plan for the Ouachita River Basin. ◂

(Ecosystem Restoration, concluded from page 5)
in March of 2012 sampling was performed in the same area using the same methods; sholvenose sturgeon and pallid sturgeon were captured, and the species richness had increased. These sampling efforts show that the dike notching program has positive benefits to the aquatic ecosystem. The Vicksburg District has approximately 75 dike notches in their area of response, and is planning future work at Boundurant Towhead at River Mile 395R near St. Joseph, Louisiana, and Wilson Point at River Mile 500R near Lake Providence, Louisiana. Since 2006, the LMRCC, the Corps and USFWS have restored over 55 miles of secondary channel habitat in the Lower Mississippi River.

For the Catfish Point and Below Prentiss projects, Engineering and Construction Division's river stabilization branch team members were Steve Coleman, David Mooney, Deanna Prestwood, and Charles Stokes Jr. Ray Emerson, construction inspector for the District's Engineering and Construction Division, provided construction oversight throughout the project. LMRCC personnel involved were Angela Erves, Bob Geary and Angeline Rodgers. The District and LMRCC team members collaborated with the contractor, Mississippi Limestone, Inc. of Friars Point, to construct the projects in November 2013. ◂

Commanding General Visits Lake Ouachita

By Mike Wade, park ranger at Lake Ouachita Field Office
Photos by Alfred Dulaney

The Commanding General of Mississippi Valley Division, Brig. Gen. Duke DeLuca, recently toured Lake Ouachita. The Arkansas Corps lakes, their projects and staff have multiple missions and responsibilities. Based next to Blakely Mountain Dam at Lake Ouachita, the Ouachita Project Office oversees the operations of lakes Ouachita, DeGray and Greeson. There are five critical missions within these areas of responsibility: flood damage reduction, hydropower, environmental stewardship, water supply and recreation. These lakes and the missions they fulfill have a powerful impact on the people and economy of Arkansas.

Accompanied by District Commander Col. John W. Cross and other District team members, Gen. DeLuca received briefings about the mission of Lake Ouachita, and toured its sites. First on the agenda was a visit to the handicapped accessible wildlife portion of the Lake Ouachita Vista Trail, located near Hwy 270 and Shangri-La road. At this site, he was briefed by Jerry Shields and Mike Wade about the LOViT's history, design, construction and transition to an outdoor recreation destination. Shields, who leads the all volunteer trail building group known as the Traildogs, began his outline of the 12-year trail construction project by telling the group about the first concept proposal made to the Vicksburg District in August of 2002. That proposal required an information center on the south side of Lake Ouachita.

The concept was referred to as the "Denby Bay Development Plan", which was based on a proposal originated by Shields, then president of the Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce. The motivation was a common desire to improve the tourism revenue stream for local businesses in the two "shoulder seasons" of spring and fall and the off season of winter by enhancing and broadening the recreational opportunities around Lake Ouachita.

In order to do this, a plan was developed to link six resorts, six Corps campgrounds and two U.S. Forest Service campgrounds with a 44-mile-long hiking/biking trail along the southern shore of Lake Ouachita. Over the next year, a trail support coalition was formed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the Corps, the Arkansas Department of Highways and Transportation (AHTD), Arkansas State Game & Fish Commission (AGFC), Lake Ouachita Resort Owners Association, Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, the Montgomery County Judge, Montgomery County Health Education Advisory Board, and the Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism.

Actual trail construction began in January of 2004 with teams from the USFS, the Corps and trail volunteers from the LOViT Traildogs. In the beginning stages, trail construction was mostly done by hand, to include a steep section on the lake side face of Hickory Nut Mountain. That, Shields explained, "Was less like digging a trail and more like massaging the rocks." As Blakely Dam comes into

Gen. DeLuca talks with District team members outside of Blakely Mountain Dam and Power Plant.

Brenda Meeks briefs Gen. DeLuca in parking lot of Lake Ouachita Project Management Office and at the Vista Trail.

view, construction on the last section of trail nears completion. Shields stated that adding the experience and passion of Progressive Trail Design, a trail design and construction company based in Ft. Smith, accelerated the completion of the remaining trail.

Shields continued that the Trails Committee of the Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee (LOCFC), working with the Corps and the USFS, has developed trail maps and trail guides, as well as a website, utilized by area resorts and businesses to provide trail information to all visitors. Shields added that the Lake Ouachita Vista Trail is an excellent example of what partnerships can do in creating an ascending multiplier effect through coordination and the managed use of funds. The entire trail has been funded with grants, donations, and in-kind services. Shields concluded by thanking Gen. DeLuca and Col. Cross for the enthusiastic participation of the Corps.

Following Shields, Mike Wade, a park ranger from the Lake Ouachita Field Office, briefed the visitors on a search and rescue guide developed by the Corps. The purpose of the guide is to help ensure that state and local agencies are successful in locating and rescuing lost or injured visitors on the trail, as quickly as possible. Wade added that the remote and rugged nature of the 11-mile section between Crystal Springs and Brady Mountain, in Garland County, spurred development of the guide, which he hopes will minimize the possibility of a tragedy. Citing contributions from Lewis and Clark, both U.S. Army officers in the Corps, Wade said the guide draws on the Corps' considerable experience with developing geographic solutions to support state and local governments.

Wade continued that every search and rescue operation seeks to address two fundamental questions: where are they and how do we get them out? To that end, the first step was to geo-locate the mile markers and benches already on the trail. Wade explained that geo-locating the landmarks simply involved documenting their map coordinates with high accuracy GIS equipment, similar to that used by many surveyors. Next, points were identified, along the full 44-mile length of the trail, where visitors would be within the reach of ambulance crews, law enforcement and fire department personnel. These extraction points, as Wade called them, are pre-identified points where agencies would find it easier to reach a lost or injured visitor, by road, ATV, boat or even evacuation by air ambulance. Wade added that in the event of a larger scale incident or a requirement for specialized equipment, several staging areas have also been designated. Following the collection of the data, Wade decided that wall maps and a companion guide would be the best format, making it most useful for agency leadership, dispatchers and field personnel.

Wade informed the group that the Corps would be rolling out the whole search and rescue package to 14 federal, state and local agencies. A pre-event vetting of the plan to the USFS in Mt. Ida was very positive, with that agency expressing a desire to adopt the plan as a best practice and template for use throughout the southeastern United States. Wade concluded by stating that the operation of the LOViT would not be possible without the continued relationship and inter-agency cooperation among the Traildogs, the USFS and the Corps. He also thanked Jerry Shields and the Traildogs for their dedication and efforts to make the LOViT a reality.

The briefings by Shields and Wade were well received by Gen. DeLuca, Col. Cross and others. Though they visited several other areas on Lake Ouachita, rumor has it that General DeLuca and Col. Cross enjoyed a piece of pie, somewhere near the end of Shangri-La road. ◂

Rick Stokes, District retiree, greets Gen. DeLuca at the Ouachita Field Office.

Park ranger Mike Wade explains the Denby Bay Development Plan.

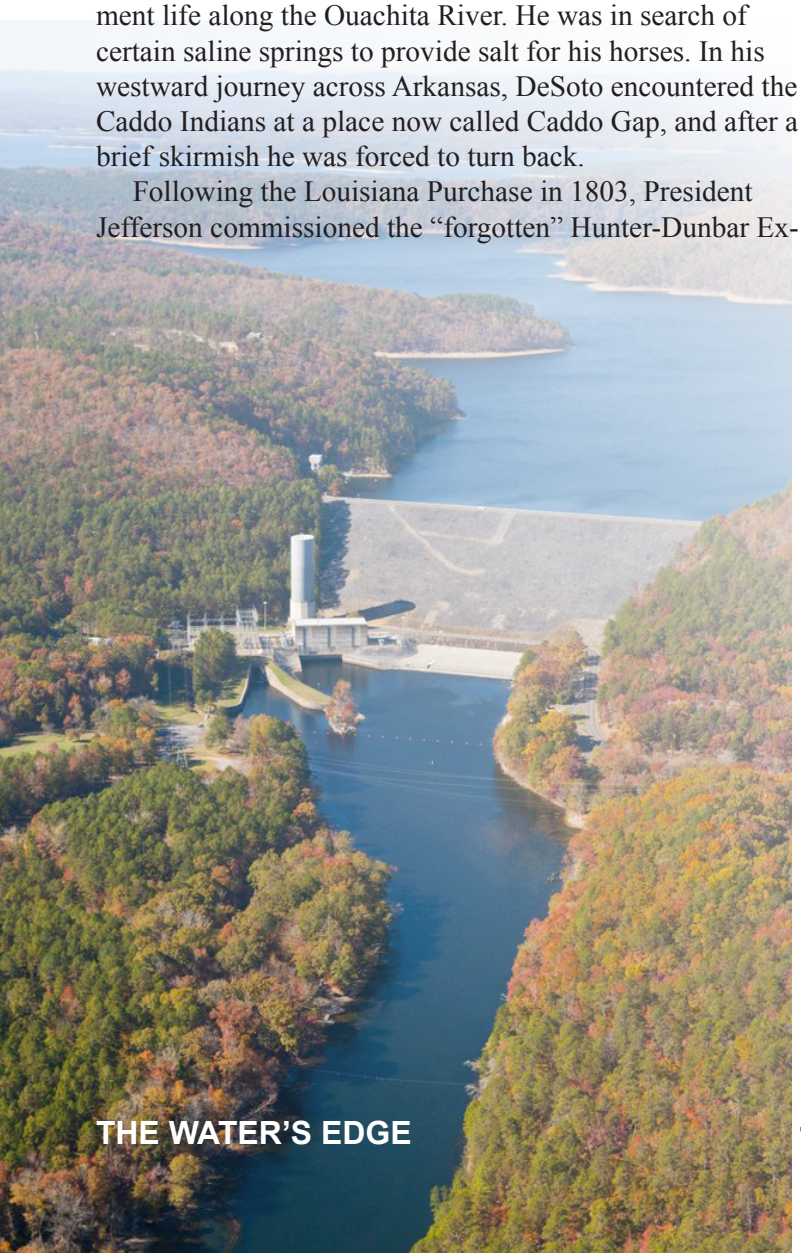
Where We've Been and Where We're Going!

By Stacy C. Sigman
Photo by Dan Valovich

Life in the Ouachita River Valley has flourished for eons. In fact, Ouachita comes from the Native American "Washita" which means good hunting grounds and sparkling silver water. This valley was inhabited by Caddo, Osage, Tensas, Chickasaw and Choctaw tribes. This small ecosystem, located in the Ouachita Mountains, provided food, water, shelter and a precious stone known as Arkansas novaculite. Arkansas novaculite was utilized by Native Americans to produce whetstones, arrow heads, spear points and tribal decorations. Due to its value, it was traded over much of North America.

Hernando Desoto was one of the first explorers to document life along the Ouachita River. He was in search of certain saline springs to provide salt for his horses. In his westward journey across Arkansas, DeSoto encountered the Caddo Indians at a place now called Caddo Gap, and after a brief skirmish he was forced to turn back.

Following the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, President Jefferson commissioned the "forgotten" Hunter-Dunbar Expedition to explore and chart the Ouachita River. Through the efforts of Hunter and Dunbar the Ouachita River became a highway for transportation and commerce.



With progress came challenges for farmers, steamboat travelers and the federal government. All were affected by regular flooding of the Ouachita River basin. Archeological assessments of past Indian encampments lead us to believe the Native Americans who lived along the valley were extremely aware of the river's power and unforgiving nature. It's obvious these early inhibitors of the valley knew "the river gave life and it could take it away."

By the late 1870's, the federal government started conducting surveys and recommended a series of dams to be constructed on the Ouachita River. This became part of an all-encompassing flood damage reduction plan following the Great 1927 Flood. Due to the significance and magnitude of the 1927 flood, it is used to measure all other floods. By the 1930's, the federal government was purchasing land along the valley for $30.00 an acre, which was more than a fair market price for the time. On Dec 22, 1944, the Flood Control Act was passed and funds were appropriated for the construction of Blakely Mountain Dam/Lake Ouachita. Lake Ouachita's missions are hydropower, recreation management, flood damage reduction, environmental stewardship, Support of Others and water supply.

Construction of the dam began in September 1947; it was placed in operation for flood control in the spring of 1953 and placed on-line in August 1955 at a paltry price of $30,800,000. Records indicate the dam was designed by the Lower Mississippi Valley Division while the power plant was designed by Harza Engineering Company, Chicago Illinois. The formal dedication of Blakely Dam/Lake Ouachita was held July 4th, 1956.

Blakely Dam is composed of 4 million cubic yards of rolled earth, 1,100 feet long, 1200 feet wide at the base and 205 feet in height. This material was placed on a shale and limestone base that was grouted prior to material placement. This construction technique prevents water from finding paths under the structure and possibly creating a phenomenon known as "piping" (removal of soil by water flow), a major cause of dam failure.

Since the impoundment of Lake Ouachita, its elevation has varied greatly. In 1961 the lake level dropped to

its lowest ever at 561.3 mean sea level. The highest level reached is 590.1 mean sea level, during the flood event of 1982. In fact, that flood event put water within 2 feet of the spillway, which was completed in September of 1948 and is the relief for the dam. If the spillway crest is topped, water will release over the spillway and into Owl Creek Basin. At maximum spillway capacity water would discharge at 45,000 cubic feet per second.

By design, Lake Ouachita's conservation pool (535 MSL) is 20,900 surface acres and at the top of flood pool (592MSL) it's 48,300 surface acres. This means that Blakely Dam is protecting downstream communities from 90 billion gallons of water. Specifically, it provides direct flood damage reduction to Hot Springs, Arkadelphia, and Camden, Arkansas. Annually, Lake Ouachita provides flood damage reduction to 1,105 square miles of drainage and is credited with preventing hundreds of millions in flood damages since its completion, averaging $15,340,000 in benefits annually. It's a pretty good return on that initial $30,000,000.00 dollar investment!

Recreational opportunities around Blakely Mountain Dam and Reservoir include camping, picnicking, fishing, hunting, boating, water skiing, swimming, hiking and biking. The land surrounding Lake Ouachita is part of the Ouachita National Forest, which encompasses 1.8 million acres in central Arkansas and southeastern Oklahoma. The Corps manages or provides oversight to 1,100 campsites, 690 miles of shoreline, nine concessionaires, one state park, three quasi-public areas and 19 boat ramps. In 2013, Lake Ouachita received approximately 4.6 million visitors, resulting in more than $11 million in direct sales to the area.

Lake Ouachita/Blakely Mountain Dam is an economic engine for the local and regional area. The lake produces over $17 million in direct economic benefits to the area while directly supporting more than 300 jobs in the region. Not only does it create jobs for the local communities, it also provides drinking water at an annual benefit of $400,000.00. Water allocation studies are currently ongoing and are expected to play a big role in local and regional communities within the next 50 years.

Hydroelectric power is important to our nation. Growing populations and modern technologies require vast amounts of electricity for creating, building, and expanding. In the 1920's, hydroelectric plants supplied as much as 40 percent of the electric energy produced. Although the amount of energy produced by this means has steadily increased, the amount produced by other types of power plants has increased at a faster rate. Hydroelectric power presently supplies about 11 percent of the electrical generating capacity of the United States. Hydropower is an essential contributor in the national power grid because of its ability to respond quickly to rapidly varying loads or system disturbances. Base load plants with steam systems powered by combustion or nuclear processes cannot accommodate such a rapid startup.

In fiscal year 2013, Blakely Mountain Power Plant generated 167,180 megawatt-hour of hydroelectric power. Since going on-line in August 1955 the power plant has produced gross revenues of over $140.6 million.

Many visitors driving past the power plant or boating upstream from the dam wonder……."How is electricity generated?" Well it's fairly simple; the dam creates a head or height from which water flows. A pipe (penstock) carries the water from the reservoir to the turbine. The fast-moving water pushes the turbine blades, something like a pinwheel in the wind. The water's force on the turbine blades turns the rotor, the moving part of the electric generator. When coils of wire on the rotor sweep past the generator's stationary coil (stator), electricity is produced. This concept was discovered by Michael Faraday in 1831 when he found that electricity could be generated by rotating magnets within copper coils.

Once the electricity is produced, it must be delivered to where it's needed -- our homes, schools, offices, and factories, etc. Dams are often in remote locations and power must be transmitted over some distance to its users. This is accomplished by vast networks of transmission lines used to bring electricity to us in a usable form. All electricity made at a power plant comes first through transformers which raise the voltage so it can travel long distances through power lines. (Voltage is the pressure that forces an electric current through a wire.) At local substations, transformers reduce the voltage so electricity can be divided up and directed throughout an area.

Transformers on poles (or buried underground, in some neighborhoods) further reduce the electric power to the right voltage for appliances and uses in the home. When electricity gets to our homes, we buy it by the kilowatt-hour, and a meter measures how much we use.

It's evident that the Corps and the Vicksburg District has brought great change to the Ouachita River Valley by controlling flood events, creating jobs, providing electricity and a stable water supply.

Novaculite (from Latin meaning "razor stone") once defined this area; therefore it is fitting that the Corps remains on the "cutting edge" of producing clean hydropower and water for the region and nation. ◂

Mold and Salamanders Add to Diversity of Life in Arkansas

By Rick Dwyer
Photos by Rick Dwyer and Michael A. Steffen

Biodiversity came alive in the Ouachita Mountains in April 2014! Two unusual species made their appearances known – dog vomit slime mold (yes, that is the actual name!) and the Ouachita streambed salamander. The mold has been around for years, just not seen very often since conditions have to be just right. The salamander is a newly discovered species, described in the April 2014 edition of Zootaxa, a mega-journal for zoological taxonomists.

When arriving to work one day in late April, many of us noticed a bright almost neon yellow color in the mulch landscaping in front of the project office building. It was as bright as some of the yellow plastic bags your carrier puts your newspaper in when rain is expected. There were four or five 5 blotches of it scattered around, each one about 12-14 inches in diameter. Upon getting a closer look, we realized it was a fungus growing on top of the mulch. I touched it with a stick like it was alien ooze or something (older folks like me remember what alien slime can do from the 1982 movie Creepshow with Stephen King!) The mold had the consistency of chocolate mousse. A little research revealed that it is known as dog vomit slime mold! The species makes its appearance in warm, humid weather, where it "creeps" across mulch areas. Later in its short life span, it turns a dark brown and dries up, similar to a puff ball mushroom, and releases its spores.

What good is dog vomit slime mold? It has a very important role in breaking down woody materials and returning nutrients to the soil. It can be a nuisance to gardeners; however, it is not harmful, and is not really worth the effort to treat it as it does not stay around long. The mold, also known as scrambled egg slime mold, has proven useful to scientists who study how genes work in cells. Some chemicals in it are also being looked at as being useful in treating cancer. So, despite its name, it really has some good potential!

A patch of yellowish slime mold in the mulch landscaping at the Lake Ouachita Project Management Office.

The Ouachita streambed salamander, with a less colorful name than dog vomit slime mold, was recently discovered at Lake Catherine State Park, which is on the shores of Lake Catherine, two lakes down the Ouachita River from Lake Ouachita. Mike Steffen, a biology Ph.D. candidate from the University of Tulsa first gathered a specimen in May 2011, believing it to be a larval stage of the many-ribbed salamander. After looking at it at the lab, he noticed there were developing eggs in a specimen, not expected in a larval salamander. He analyzed the DNA and discovered the gene sequence was different than the many-ribbed salamander. To confirm it as a new species, he needed additional specimens.

He returned to the park in 2012, and was not able to locate any, which he attributed to it being a very dry year. He returned again to the park in February 2013 with Kelly Irwin of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. On that visit, with a scientific collection permit from the state, he gathered an additional specimen. A month later, he found several more, including some males. Ultimately, he collected and tested 24 animals, confirming the discovery of the new species.

This species, Eurycea subfluvicola, is paedomorphic, meaning adult organisms keep their youthful (larval) appearance. Steffen published his findings in the April 2014 edition of Zootaxa. This newly described species of lungless salamander now has the smallest known range of any amphibian in this country, known only in two streambeds and is of immediate conservation concern. Fortunately, the two known sites are in a protected state park. Further surveys will certainly be done to determine distribution of this new species.

It was an exciting month for biodiversity in the Ouachitas. April showers bring May flowers, but they also shed light on the great diversity of life in Arkansas! ◂

A Ouachita streambed salamander on rocks around the grounds at Catherine State Park.

Vicksburg District Announces New FY14 Safety Awards

The Vicksburg District remains fully committed to accomplishing our work in a safe, accident free manner. This requires diligence by all employees, and a proactive attitude that never compromises on safety. There are new issues that arise daily, presenting new challenges to overcome. We must ALWAYS plan our activities to assure hazards are properly mitigated. We must ALWAYS assure our personnel are trained and our equipment is inspected and maintained. We should never turn our back on a safety issue, but ALWAYS stop and address it immediately. We must ALWAYS look out not only for ourselves, but also for our co-workers, contractors, and the public visitors at our lakes and facilities. Bottom line, Safety ALWAYS matters and must be considered in everything we do.

Many of you contribute greatly to our safety program. We want to recognize you! With this in mind, and considering the broad spectrum of different work activities and risks that we face, some new safety awards have been created for FY14. These awards are intended to recognize those exemplary employees who demonstrate excellent safety practices and attitudes, and make proactive contributions to accident prevention in their work environment. The awards listed below will be presented at the end of the 3rd quarter in late June, and again in September near the end of the fiscal year. Anyone can nominate a coworker, through their supervisory chain, using a very simple form. Special committees will review all nominations received and select a winner for each award. Each winner will receive a $300 cash award! Nomination forms and instructions will be distributed through the supervisory chain and posted on the iNet page in the near future. Nominations must be based on specific actions the employee has taken recently in support of accident prevention and excellence in Safety.

Every employee within the Vicksburg District is eligible for at least one of the following awards. The Vicksburg District awards and eligible employee pools are as follows:

1. **Safety Leader Award** – Anyone district- wide is eligible for this ad hoc /at large award and 2 winners are anticipated in this category at the end of each quarter.
2. **MS Ranger Safety Award** – Any ranger at the Mississippi lakes is eligible for this award.
3. **ARK Ranger Safety Award** – Any ranger at the Arkansas lakes is eligible for this award.
4. **LA Ranger Safety Award** – Any ranger at the Louisiana Field Office is eligible for this award.
5. **Safe Operator Award** – Any Power Plant and Lock and Dam operator in Arkansas and Louisiana is eligible for this award.
6. **Operations Field Safety Award** – Operations Division field personnel such as biologists, foresters, 1st Level field managers, etc…, are eligible for this award, excluding those covered by other specific awards.
7. **Construction Safety Award** – Construction Branch project engineers, technicians, and quality assurance representatives are eligible for this award.
8. **MS Lakes Safe Maintenance Award** – Any maintenance worker (non-GS) at Mississippi lakes is eligible for this award.
9. **ARK Lakes Safe Maintenance Award** – Any maintenance worker (non-GS) at Arkansas lakes is eligible for this award.
10. **Monroe Navigation Field Office Safe Maintenance Award** – Any maintenance worker (non-GS) at the Monroe Navigation Field Office and locks and dams is eligible for this award.
11. **Power Plant Safe Maintenance Award** – Any maintenance worker (non-GS) at the Arkansas Power Plants is eligible for this award.
12. **Equipment Operator Safety Award** – Any Operations hired labor crew member (non-GS) that is not covered by other specific awards is eligible for this award.
13. **Grounds Maintenance Safety Award** – Any Operations hired labor crew member (non-GS) that is not covered by other specific awards is eligible for this award.
14. **Mechanic/Tradesman Safety Award** – Any operations hired labor crew member (non-GS) that is not covered by other specific awards is eligible for this award, including dive team members.
15. **Maritime Safety Award** – Any crew member working on a dredge or other vessel, excluding the Mat Sinking Unit, is eligible for this award. The Mat Sinking Unit will have a separate safety award program.

(Continued on page 14)

Vicksburg Leadership Development Program Team Gets Tour and Briefing at Arkansas Corps Lakes and Red River Area Office

By Greg Jackson and Lane Vargas
Photos by Charles Stokes and Rick Dwyer

The Corps' Arkansas lakes and recreational areas are beautiful and the waters are crystal clear. Most District employees have never visited them to experience the beauty they offer. We, the 2013-2014 Vicksburg Leadership Development Program (VLDP) team members, were given the opportunity to travel to Arkansas to expand our knowledge of the Corps' lakes' functions, responsibilities and service to the communities. We participated in a community service project at Tompkins Bend Recreational Area; visited Blakely Mountain Dam and Power Plant, and numerous recreational areas along Lake Ouachita and DeGray Lake.

First Row Kneeling: Heather Sibley, Cori Shiers, Charles Stokes, Jr. ; Second Row: Lane Vargas, Alyssa Selmon, Katy Breaux, Cindy Tucker, Scott Brown; Third Row: Brandon Davis, Gregory L. Jackson, Lamar Rutland, Ivan Esquilin-Diaz, Rob Hoff.

Our first stop was at the Lake Ouachita Project Office. We were greeted by Rick Dwyer, a project manager, and Stacy Sigman, a natural resources manager, at the Lake Ouachita Project Management Office. Both experts shared their wealth of knowledge of the lakes and facilities by providing us a short briefing before we started our tour of the lakes and facilities.

Lake Ouachita is one of the cleanest lakes in the country and is the largest Arkansas Corps Lake. Approximately 4 million people visit Lake Ouachita each year. There were about 6 million visitors last year, which is a 9% increase from the previous year. Lake Ouachita promotes a lot of Outreach Programs (Water Safety, Corps Mission, Historical, and Environmental). Volunteer Programs at the District lakes play a significant part in keeping the lakes up and running. Brian Bean, project manager of the Blakely Mountain Dam and Power Plant, gave us a tour of the plant. Bean explained the operating costs and how the plant handles peak power demand. We learned about the power generation process, the massive pieces of equipment and their individual functions.

The Blakely Mountain Dam and Power Plant is located approximately ten miles northwest of Hot Springs. It impounds Lake Ouachita, the largest lake completely within the state of Arkansas at over 40,000 acres. It was created to provide hydroelectric power and to control

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(Safety Awards, concluded from page 13)

16. **Field Safety Award** – Any person working field activities (outside the office setting) not covered by another specific award is eligible for this award, including workers on drill crews, gauge repair crews, survey crews, inspection teams, etc…

Bottom line: Let's keep Safety on everybody's mind! ALWAYS consider SAFETY in everything we do. Do the right and safe thing! Look out for one another. Pay attention to your surroundings and look for ways we can make our activities safer. Finally, when you see someone who is making a difference or setting the example for others to follow, please consider nominating them for one of these awards, or recommend to their supervisor that they be nominated for an award.

SAFETY ALWAYS! ◂

(Leadership gets tour, continued from page 14)
flooding along the Ouachita River. Later, its other authorized purposes include recreation, water supply, fish and wildlife management. The dam is composed of approximately 4 million cubic yards of earth-fill material. It consists of two generators that are capable of producing 75,000 kilowatt-hours of power. During 2013, this project had a savings of 403,305 barrels of oil which has a dollar value of $42,544,644.

Ranger Joseph Bailey led us on a tour of the Crystal Springs Recreational Area built by the Corps, Friends of Lake Ouachita (FOLO), and several hard-working retired volunteers known as the "Trail Dogs". Responsibility of the recreational area was undertaken by the FOLO in 2012 due to lack of Corps funding, and was returned to the Corps earlier this year.

For our community service project, the VLDP team visited the Tompkins Bend Recreation Area. We assisted park ranger Derick Walker in building new benches for the recreational area's amphitheater. The goal of the park rangers is to use the amphitheater as a place to promote water safety and activities for the campers and visitors during the active camping season. The VLDP team assisted the park rangers in cleaning up the area and building and painting new benches, making the area conducive to visitors again. Ranger Derick Walker led us on a walk along the 42-mile Vista Nature Trail which was designed and constructed through a multi-agency/volunteer effort. The area we walked was the Tompkins Bend Nature Trail.

Scott Corbitt, a park ranger at DeGray Lake, led us on tours of the Lower Lake, Oak Bower area, Arlie Moore Recreation Area, Visitor Center, and the DeGray Dam. DeGray offers multiple campground sites for overnight stay as well as five day-use areas for public use.

During the tour, ranger Corbitt explained to us the importance of controlled burning of unwanted briars and shrubbery around DeGray Lake, which prevents the choking of the pine and hardwood trees. They burn 3,000-5,000 acres per year, and In Arkansas burning is allowed throughout the night.

Later, we toured the beautiful group camp facility, Oak Bower. Oak Bower consists of eight cabins, shower houses, and a gorgeous dining hall that is new and modern with a panoramic view of the lake. The area is located very close to the shoreline.

Before leaving DeGray Lake, we accompanied ranger Corbitt to the DeGray Lake Visitor Center. The visitor center is located in the beautiful foothills of the Ouachita Mountains. It has digital devices that enlighten visitors' knowledge about the history, nature and recreational opportunities that DeGray Lake offers.

Following the tour of the Arkansas lakes we visited the Red River Area Office where we met meet Richard Jones. This facility is shared by the Vicksburg District and the Fort Worth District. Jones shared with us his perspective on leadership, which this class is about, his points were very informative. He elaborated on some of Colin Powell's lessons about leadership.

The 2013-2014 VLDP Class experienced firsthand the benefits offered to the Arkansas community by the Vicksburg District. Also, they make our lives better and safer by offering hydro¬power sources and flood control measures. ◂

SVLDP team members build benches at Tompkins Bend Recreation Area.

District Team Members Participate with Earth Day Activities

By Shirley J. Smith
Photos by Alfred Dulaney

Arel Simpson, regulatory branch, teaches students at South Park Elementary about the Indian Plum plant.

Regulatory branch team members clean up at Steele Bayou Drainage Control Structure

Regulatory branch takes on several outreach/Earth Day projects each year. This year one of their Earth Day projects was cleaning up at the Steele Bayou Drainage Control Structure. These volunteer team members of regulatory branch collected recyclable materials and trash from the public use areas. A total of 19 bags were collected including 13 bags of trash, 4 bags of recyclable plastic, and 2 bags of aluminum cans. The Earth Day activity provided a great opportunity for regulatory volunteers to contribute to the community and celebrate our natural resources.

Regulatory team members pictured with bags of trash picked up at Steele Bayou.

Pictured left to right are Charlene Mosley, Mike Stewart, Arel Simpson, Jennifer Mallard, and ??

Earth Day project at elementary school is joint effort for Outreach and Adopt-A-School committees

On Earth Day, Jim Cole, an environmental specialist in the regulatory branch of Operations Division spoke to 3rd grade GATES students at Bowmar Elementary School about the different types of soil, recycling and the importance of composting. During this briefing with the students, Cole informed them that he and some of his co-workers were planning to construct two compost piles for their school. Of course, most asked, "What's that?" Jim explained that composting is another way of recycling. He told them of various ways to construct a compost pile and that the compost piles being built by Corps team members would consist of food scraps from their school's cafeteria.

The idea of building and constructing a compost pile for the school was a result of a conversation between the president of Bowmar's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and Cole. He was informed that Bowmar wanted a compost pile built, so, being that he was scheduled to speak to the students regarding recycling in recognition of Earth Day, he thought that constructing the compost pile would be a great Earth Day project for District team members.

He stated that he thought to himself, "That would be a great project for us – us meaning the District Outreach and Adopt-A-School committees.

Cole immediately shared the idea with the committees' members, and all agreed to accept the task.

A compost pile usually creates rich humus for lawns and gardens. Composting adds nutrients to plants and helps retain moisture in the soil. The compost pile built at Bowmar Elementary will take away some of the food waste or scraps from the cafeteria.

On Earth Day the committee members and others began building two compost piles, with David Randolph, Jared Everitt, and Jim Cole

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District Hosts First Blessing of the Fleet Ceremony for Mat Sinking Unit

By Shirley J. Smith
Photos by Oscar Reihsmann, ERDC
Featured on page 18

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District's Mat Sinking Unit (MSU) left the harbor for its annual revetment season on July 9, 2014 at 10:00 A.M. The District hosted a Blessing of the Fleet ceremony on July 9, 2014 at approximately 10:15 a.m. at the Vicksburg City Water Front as the MSU departed.

The ceremony was the first blessing of this fleet which was held during a rainy morning aboard the Corps' inspection barge. Rev. Sam Godfrey, rector of a local church, and Col. Mark Mitera, an Army chaplain, read the blessings. "We bless the crews and their families as they wait for their return," Rev. Godfrey stated. The blessing involved two different kinds of showers – the steady stream of water from a deck gun atop a waterfront bulkhead and, of course, the rain.

A tradition that dates back to medieval times, the Blessing of the Fleet originally started in early European fishing communities. A blessing bestowed by a local priest was meant to ask for an abundant and safe season.

Attendees at the ceremony included District Commander Col. John W. Cross, and former District Commander Col. John W. Eckstein, now Commander at the Engineer Research and Development Center, Vicksburg's Mayor George Flaggs, city aldermen, other local officials, District team members, and members of the public.

The MSU is scheduled to lay concrete mats along areas of the banks of the Mississippi River that were left uncovered late last year due to high water on the Lower Mississippi. The high water caused the revetment season to end about two months earlier than scheduled.

This year, this talented and unique crew is expected to place 200,000 concrete squares, or enough to pave about 80 miles of highway. Work began at Kemp Bend, near St. Joseph, Louisiana, and will move down river to New Orleans.

The MSU is the only one of its kind in the world and performs one of the most important jobs in the Corps' river stabilization program. This unique one-of-a-kind crew places articulated concrete mats along the river banks of the Mississippi River to control erosion.

Its fleet consists of towboats, quarter boats, and a dredge, including the motor vessels BENYAURD, WILLIAM JAMES, and HARRISON. The MSU is known as a floating city that houses and feeds its employees and has the capabilities to provide all of the electricity and potable water needed.

Inland waterway navigation is a crucial mission for the Corps. The MSU's responsibilities are to maintain more than 800 miles of navigable channels and harbors to ensure safe, cost-effective, dependable, and environmentally sustainable transportation of vessels within our country's inland waterways. ◂

Pictured on the left is Col. Cross discussing Blessing of Fleet with Rev. Sam Godfrey.

Pictured on the right is part of the MSU fleet.


WILLIAM JAMES
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
9004

Engineers Day

Photos by Alfred Dulaney



















Engineers Day

Photos by Alfred Dulaney

District Announces Annual Engineer's Day Awards

By Shirley J. Smith

The District recently hosted its annual Engineer's Day Awards ceremony at District Headquarters.

Prior to the awards ceremony, a Town Hall Meeting was held with District Commander Col. John W. Cross. During his remarks, Col Cross stated, "I am in constant awe of all that you do; you go above and beyond our regular missions."

This year the District presented Outstanding Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, (STEM) Recognition Awards to teachers and students who excelled at their schools in STEM fields. They demonstrated a pattern of high achievement, excellence, and leadership in the STEM fields during the 2013-2014 school year.
Teachers and students receiving awards were: Porter's Chapel Academy teacher Frances Warren and student Jordan Locke; Vicksburg High School teacher Cassandra Farrish and student Trevor Talbot; and Warren Central High School teacher Terry Wong and student Mattea Mobley.

The District's Honorary Awards recipients were:

Employee of the Year Award – **Brad Arcement**, analytical chief of the geotechnical branch of Engineering and Construction Division (E&C).

Commander's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Equal Employment Opportunity – **August Martin**, deputy chief of E&C.

Engineer Award – **Robert Corey Winders**, civil engineer in the Modeling, Mapping, and Consequence Production Center of E&C.

Park Ranger of the Year Award – **Robert Shea Staten**, a natural resource specialist at the Sardis Lake Field Office.

Student of the Year Award – **Eric Holcomb** of the Mississippi Project Office.

Vicksburg District Team Award – **The Plaquemines Parish, New Orleans to Venice/Non-Federal Levees Project Delivery Team**.

Wage Grade Team Award – **Jacksonville District Everglades Restoration Project Crew.**

Team Safety Award – **Vicksburg District Levee Repair Team**.

Public Service Award – **Arel Simpson**, regulatory branch of Operations Division.

Volunteer Leadership Award – **Amy Schultz**, Ouachita Project Management Office

Wage Grade Leadership Award – **William Wiley**, river operations branch of Operations Division.

Construction Management Excellence Award – **Larry Walker** of E&C.

Construction Representative/Inspector of the Year Award – **William David Townsend**, E&C.

Engineer Award – **Robert Cory Winders** of the Modeling, Mapping, and Consequence Production Center of E&C.

Scientist Award – **Daniel Sumerall** of New Orleans District's Regional Planning and Environmental Division South.

Professional Award – **Jack Smith** of the technical support branch of E&C.

Administrator Award – **Vickie Williams** of construction services branch of E&C.

Paddle Wheel Award – **Perry Huskey** of river operations branch of Operations Division.

Emergency Management Award – **Edward Lamar Jenkins**, Jr. of the Greenwood Area Office of E&C.

Safety Award – **Robert E. Shover**, Safety Office.

(Continued on page 24)

(Earth Day activities, concluded from page 16)

leading the way by cutting the wood and hammering in the nails. After looking on, others caught on quickly and began to follow the leaders building and constructing the compost piles. After the composts were constructed, lids and locks were hammered into place.

It was decided that the boxes would be painted red, which is one of the school's colors. However, rain interrupted the painting of the boxes, or composts, but Cole went to the school a couple of days later and painted them. "We thought it was a neat idea to paint the boxes in one of the school's colors and ask the teachers to have some students put their handprints on the boxes," Cole stated.

Composting, like recycling, is an easy way to ensure a sustainable future while giving plants and vegetables a boost.

Team members pose with one of the newly constructed compost piles at Bowmar. Pictured left to right are Shirley Smith, Demetric Erwin, Jared Everitt, Linda McDonald, David Randolph, Sissy Carter, and Jim Cole.

Jim Cole discusses recycling and the environment with 3rd graders at Bowmar Elementary School.

Outreach Committee member Demetric Erwin drills holes into boards while left to right are Jared Everitt, David Randolph and Shirley Smith observe.

Jim Cole, far right, explains the use of the Munsell Soil color book to determine soil characteristics to Adopt-A-School Committee members left to right, Ella Huey, Linda McDonald and Demetric Erwin.

Pictured left to right are Jared Everitt and David Randolph cutting a board to begin construction of compost pile.

Fun Walk

Some team members enjoyed nature instead of having lunch during a sunny afternoon in recognition of Earth Day. ◂

Col Cross discusses walking route with team members.

Col Cross leads the walk around headquarters building.

(Awards, concluded from page 22)
Achievement Medal for Civilian Service to the Vicksburg District and Certificate of Appreciation from Mississippi Valley Division – **Jack Hinton** and **John Barnett**.

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service – **Dustin Cannada**, **Robert E. Screws**, **Michael Seal**, **Thomas Shaw, Jr.**, **Lawrence Raborn**.

Commander's Award for Civilian Service – **Edward Lamar Jenkins**, **Barry Sullivan**.

Certificates of Appreciation – **Richard Matkins**, **Jonathan Pennington**, **Cory Winders**, **Devon Gijsbers**, **Jack Smith**, **Patricia Bull**, **Richard Dudley**, **Alfred Dulaney**, **William Emerson**, **Lee Grant**, **Carl Hester**, **Marcus Howard**, **Joyce Mayfield**, **Alainna O'Bannon**, **Michael Vance**, and the **Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity and West Bank & Vicinity Project Delivery Team**.

Immediately following the presentation of awards a cake cutting ceremony was held in honor of the Corps' birthday.

The longest and least tenured team members, Willie Davis and Patrick Donohue, assisted Col. Cross with cutting the cake. Davis, Enid Lake Field Office, has 53 years with the Corps, and Donohue, hydraulics branch of E&C, was hired May 19, 2014. ◂

District Selects New Director for Dam and Levee Safety Production Center

By Shirley J. Smith
Photo by Alfred Dulaney

Noah Vroman

The District recently selected Noah Vroman as the new director of the Dam and Levee Safety Production Center of the Engineering and Construction Division. The Dam and Levee Safety Production Center supports and manages complex dam and levee safety analysis, designs, and modifications in support of the Corps of Engineers Dam and Levee Safety Programs.

Vroman will be responsible for developing and directing the center in the execution of its mission. He began his career at the Vicksburg District as a civil engineer in the geotechnical branch in 2003. He has served as a research geotechnical engineer, dam safety program manager and as chief of the investigation and inspection section. He also served on the Interagency Performance Evaluation Taskforce (IPET) and the Southeast Louisiana Hurricane Protection Project following the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and received the Superior Civilian Award in 2007.

Vroman is a native of Tupelo and is a graduate of Tupelo High School. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in civil engineering from Mississippi State University, and is a Registered Professional Engineer in the state of Mississippi.

He is married to the former Ashley Wages from Pontotoc County and they have three children. ◂

District Presents 2014 Regulator of the Year Award

By Robert Miller
Photo by Alfred Dulaney

Col. Cross, right, presents Chad Phillips the 2014 Larry Harper Award. Lt. Col. John T. Tucker, III, is in background reading the Award Citation.

The regulatory branch of Operations Division has awarded Jeffrey (Chad) Phillips the 2014 Larry N. Harper Regulator of the Year Award. Phillips was recognized for his work to assure that the Nation's aquatic resources are protected, while allowing reasonable development through fair, flexible, and balanced permit decisions.

Phillips was nominated by his peers as this year's award recipient. His willingness to accept additional duties and perform assigned tasks without hesitance embodies the essence of the award's namesake, Larry N. Harper.

Phillips, a native of Vicksburg, earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in forestry from Mississippi State University. Phillips began his career in 2009 in the regulatory branch as an environmental specialist, and is also a registered forester.

The award honors the memory of Larry Harper who was a District team member who gained his "Professional Wetland Scientist Certification" while in the service of the Corps. Harper established an interagency team to provide technical wetland training for the Natural Resources Conservation Service and served as the primary instructor.

Harper began his regulatory career with the Corps in November 1978 where he worked in the surveillance and compliance section. He retired in June 2007 following 35 years of dedicated service to the Corps. He also served his country well by serving with the Army Reserve where he was promoted to the rank of Colonel.

Taylor Bradley began his career in the investigation and inspection section of the geotechnical branch. He is a graduate of St. Andrews Episcopal High School in Ridgeland and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in biology and a Bachelor of Science Degree in civil engineering from the University of Mississippi. He resides in Jackson.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the world's largest public engineering organization and it has a firm commitment to preserving and enhancing our natural environment. The Corps strives to manage and conserve natural resources and is an organization in which you can build a career to match your hopes and aspirations. Now more than ever, there is a need for people who can respond quickly and effectively to challenges. For more information visit our website at www.mvk.usace.army.mil. ◂

Alton J. Walters Retires after 39 Years of Service

By Alice Bufkin
Photo by
Alfred Dulaney

Col Cross presents Walters with the Commanders Award for Civilian Service.

Alton J. Walters, chief engineer on the Motor Vessel Benyaurd, has retired with over 39 years of service.

Walters first began working for the Corps in 1974 as a Tying Tool Mechanic on the Mat Sinking Unit where he also served as a diesel electric striker and a tying tool repairer leader. He held several other positions on the BENYAURD including striker, second assistant engineer, first assistant engineer, and chief engineer.

Colonel John W. Cross, Commander of the Vicksburg District, presented Walters the Commander's Award for Civilian Service for exceptionally meritorious service with the Vicksburg District throughout his 39-year career.

Walters received an Associate of Arts degree from Copiah Lincoln Jr. College in Heavy Equipment Mechanics.

He is a native of Crystal Springs where he resides with his wife, the former Erny Redfern of Star. They are the parents of four children and have one grandchild.

Walters stated, "It's been great working for the Corps on the Mat Sinking Unit and Motor Vessel Benyaurd. I am looking forward to having more time to actively serve in my church and community as well as spending time with my wife, children and grandchild."

The captain of the Benyaurd, Randy Young, stated, "Alton Walters has worked on the Benyaurd since it was new in 1979 for 35 years of his 39-year career. It is going to be hard to replace all of his expertise and knowledge." ◂

Jackie Smith Retires after 25 Years of Service

By Kavanaugh Breazeale
Photo by Artie Hoff

In attendance at the retirement ceremony for Jackie Smith were (left) Kevin May, Facilities Manager for Grenada Lake and Andy Strickland, Grenada Lake Resources Manager.

Jackie Smith, park contract representative at the Grenada Lake Field Office recently retired from the District after 25 years and 11 months of service.

Smith began her career with the Vicksburg District in 1988 as a computer clerk at Grenada Lake. As park contract representative, her duties included planning and coordinating the finance and accounting activities of operations and maintenance of the lake as well as coordinating daily activities and work projects with contractors. She was awarded the Vicksburg District Administrator of the Year Award in 2009 and 2013 and the Commander's Award for Civilian Service in 2014.

Smith is a native of Nashville, Tennessee, and a graduate of Cohn High School. She attended Holmes Community College in Grenada and has a private aircraft pilot's license. Her husband Wilbur also has a private aircraft pilot's license and they have two children and three grandchildren.

The Vicksburg District encompasses a 68,000-square-mile area across portions of Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana. The Mississippi lakes not only provide flood risk reduction, but also contribute approximately $99.5 million into the local economy with approximately 4.9 million visitors each year. Information on Corps lakes and recreational areas can be found on the Vicksburg District Operations Division's website http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation.aspx . ◂

William Carpenter Retires after 45 Years of Service

By Kavanaugh Breazeale
Photo by Tammy Baine

Samuel J. Horton (right) Area Engineer, Greenwood Area Office, presents William Carpenter (center) the Superior Civilian Service award for outstanding service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Also pictured, left, is Carpenter's wife, Kathy.

William Carpenter, civil engineering technician at the Greenwood Area Field Office recently retired from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District, after 45 years of service. Carpenter began his career with the Corps at Waterways Experiment Station in 1968. In 1969, he transferred to the Vicksburg District and became a construction inspector for the Greenwood Area Office. He became a facility manager in 1976 and was promoted to civil engineering technician in 1980.

He participated in the flood fighting efforts of 1973, 1991 and 2011. He has been an integral part of the construction of multiple projects to include levee construction, the Delta Headwaters project and recreational areas and visitor centers at the Mississippi lakes. He received the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service in 2011 and the Superior Civilian Service award in 2014.

A native of Greenwood and a graduate of Greenwood High School, he earned an electronics degree from Mississippi Delta Junior College. He and his wife, Kathy, reside in Money, Mississippi.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the world's largest public engineering organization and it has a firm commitment to preserving and enhancing our natural environment. Its strives to manage and conserve natural resources, consistent with the ecosystem management principles, while providing quality public outdoor recreation experiences to serve the needs of present and future generations. The Corps is an organization in which you can build a career to match your hopes and aspirations. ◂

Director of Modeling, Mapping and Consequences Production Center Retires

By Holly G. Porter
Photo by Alfred Dulaney

Ronald C. Goldman

Ronald C. Goldman, director of the District's Modeling, Mapping and Consequences (MMC) Production Center will retire on Friday, June 27, 2014. Goldman has had an extraordinary 37 year career. He has been a leader, mentor and friend to many throughout the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Vicksburg District.

Goldman began his career with the District in 1977 when he went to work as a civil engineer in the hydraulics branch. He received his Professional Engineering License in 1981. In 1987 he was promoted to chief, water control management section and served in this capacity for over nine years until he was reassigned as chief, hydrological engineering section. Due to Goldman's impeccable communication and knowledge management skills, his career took a detour in early 2000 to serve as the chief of the automation/communications branch. Two years later, in 2002, Goldman's career led him back to the engineering field, and he was selected as chief, hydraulics branch. Goldman has been a consummate professional throughout his involvement in the Dam Safety, Levee Safety and Water Management Communities of Practice. In 2005, Goldman and his team made a tremendous impact on Hurricane Katrina Response and Recovery Operations by providing daily inundation mapping for the City of New Orleans. This allowed first responders to plan daily missions and the Louisiana National Guard to plan expansion of commodities distribution for the citizens in need.

Due to his strong leadership skills and ability to teach and motivate others, in 2007 the Corps' special assistant for dam and levee safety asked Goldman to build a virtual team to perform modeling, mapping and consequences assessments for Corps dams and levees. In 2011, Goldman was selected as the permanent director of the MMC Production Center. In 2012, because of the level of expertise displayed and numerous accomplishments, the MMC Production Center was tasked to develop and devise a plan to begin production work for the national implementation of the Corps Water Management System (CWMS). The MMC Production Center was officially designated as a mandatory center of expertise in 2013. Goldman deserves credit for building the MMC Production Center into a premier organization that tackles challenges head on and leads technical experts in producing high-quality modeling, mapping and consequences products.

Goldman has consistently demonstrated dedication, ingenuity, and exceptional leadership in the areas of engineering, construction, and technology. He is a recognized leader in dam and levee safety throughout the Mississippi Valley Division as well as Corps-wide. Goldman has spearheaded efforts to coordinate hydraulic engineering and water management best practices with his counterparts nationally and is a recognized leader in helping staff to acquire and maintain professional credentials.

Goldman was selected as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Engineer of the Year in 2012. This award was based upon Goldman's engineering achievements relating to design, construction, environmental, research, contributions, innovations, successes and engineering leadership.

When asked about his career and his many accomplishments, Goldman stated, "I have had a successful career with the Corps of Engineers way beyond what I could ever imagine. My accomplishments in my professional career have not had much to do with my professional engineer credentials but mainly to do with my leadership skills and style. I learned the vast majority of my leadership skills and style from various mentors in my life and during my career. These mentors taught me the value of leadership, inspired me to learn more about leadership, and demonstrated leadership at the highest level. One of my favorite leadership quotes is "Leadership is influence, nothing more, nothing less" – John Maxwell.

When asked about retirement day, Goldman responded, "Retirement will be a bitter sweet time in my life. I will be able to go home and spend time with my beautiful wife and sweet grandchildren. I am sure I will play a lot of golf, hunt, fish, and yes, start working on that list of Honey Do's.

(Continued on page 31)

District Team Member Joins His Dad on Arkansas Honor Flight

By Shirley J. Smith
Photo by Dan Fogleman, Tyson Foods

James Harper, standing, accompanying his Dad, John Harper, seated, during his visit to the War Memorial as seen in background in Washington, D.C. A young John Harper, a 20-year old solider at the time, is pictured on his son's T-shirt.

When James Harper, a civil engineer in Operations Division, learned that his dad, John Harper, a District retiree, was interested in joining his veteran comrades on an honor flight to Washington, D.C., he knew that would be a great opportunity for him also.

John Harper, a veteran of World War II, was a member of the U.S. Army, serving in Iceland for 19 months. Harper spent three years in the Army and finished his military career at Fort Lee, Virginia, as a member of the military police and was making plans to be transferred to the Pacific Theater when the war ended. He then served an additional five years in the Army Reserves.

Now, at the age of 90, the elder Harper needs assistance when traveling, so that was no problem for James Harper. The trip afforded him the opportunity to see the memorials honoring his father and others who served. The trip cost the veterans nothing due to the generosity of Wal-Mart, Tyson Foods, and the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas who sponsored the trip. The estimated cost of the trip was $75,000.00; the charter jet cost $68,000.00.

The flight began at the Northwest Regional Airport in Bentonville, Arkansas, on Saturday, May 3, 2014. Eighty-six veterans, guardians, members of the media and other support personnel made the one day trip. Each veteran had his/her own guardian to assist as needed, from just being available to providing the manpower needed for those in wheel chairs.

The elder Harper, a native of Jones County, Mississippi, and now residing in Brinkley, Arkansas, retired in January 1986 from the District after more than 42 years of military and civilian service. He stated, "This was a once in a lifetime experience. It was like a hero's welcome. Seeing all of the service memorials and visiting Washington, D. C., was extremely gratifying. I was very impressed with the receptions given to us at the airports. When we arrived back at the airport in Arkansas, we were given packets of letters from students, family and friends. There were at least 300 in attendance welcoming us back and thanking us for our service. "

Another highlight of the trip was getting to meet Bob Dole, former Senator and presidential candidate, at the WWII Memorial. Dole, a WWII veteran, was very instrumental is getting the memorial built and has been very active in the Honor Flight program and makes an effort to greet every flight group touring the memorial.

For the elder Harper the trip afforded him an additional special visit with his daughter and another son and their families who met him at the Memorial.

Quoting from the Honorflight.org web site "Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely

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Sardis Lake - An Investment in the Future

By Jonathan Boone
Photo courtesy of Jonathan Boone

Sardis Lake is an attractive destination for local fisherman, traveling tourists, and even engineers who are called upon to conduct inspections of the area for various reasons. Uncompromising in beauty, the views from Sardis Lake Dam leave little doubt as to why it is considered a top recreational destination for visitors.

To many, Sardis Lake is a place to play although the project's primary role is flood control. Inspection and maintenance of the facilities keep Sardis Lake serviceable to the public for enjoyable and leisure activities, and reduce the risk of failure that can occur at a flood control project that does not receive the appropriate attention. Sardis Lake stores drainage from 1,545 square miles of land above the dam that is common with seasonal rains which typically occur during the spring. Managed flow releases through the primary spillway during the fall and winter months provide the capacity that is needed under normal design conditions. However, the dam's overflow spillway has been used during historical flood prone years and must be maintained for such purposes.

Following many years of service, the overflow spillway was inspected in 2011 by a team of Vicksburg District engineers. The inspection resulted in a decision that major maintenance was required to remediate a crack in the spillway's reinforced concrete wall. A thorough review of the original design drawings for the Sardis Dam structure gave the engineers the details of what would be encountered while the repairs were being made. Months of analyzing and drawing preparation by the design team resulted in a set of plans and specifications that was ready for bidding.

Award of the construction contract was scheduled so the work would be completed during a time of year when the lake pool is historically low to reduce risk of water passing through the overflow spillway during the construction process. In August 2012, construction workers mobilized heavy equipment and skilled labor necessary to make the repairs. The sounds of sheet piles being driven and diamond bladed concrete saws cutting massive sections of the concrete wall filled the air.

Concrete being removed at Sardis Lake Spillway.

More than six months passed as challenges were overcome - including the lake pool filling the overflow spillway for an extended period of time creating access problems and delaying the project's progress. New reinforcement steel was laid and fresh concrete was poured restoring the integrity of the spillway structure and completing a project on a valuable flood control resource. Many memories have been made at Sardis Lake in the past, and thanks to these repairs many more will be made in the future. ◂

Volunteers prepare to load the used Christmas trees into boats.

Arkabutla Lake's 12th Annual Fish Habitat Day a Success

By Kavanaugh Breazeale
Photos by Jamie Richmond

Arkabutla Lake recently hosted the 2014 Fish Habitat Day. Twenty-five volunteers gathered at the Arkabutla Lake Field Office to assist with the placement of fish structures in the lake bed.

The Corps and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) partnered to select areas around the lake that would benefit from habitat improvement. Volunteers constructed and placed fish shelters from more than 320 discarded cedar and Christmas trees. Due to this year's high water levels, boats were used to place the structures in the lake. The trees were donated by the cities of Hernando and Senatobia.

Sixth Graders Learn About Environment at Corps Site

By Shirley J. Smith
Photo by Tiffany Kriigel,
student intern

A group of about 250 sixth graders from Lakeside Middle School, Hot Springs, Arkansas, was afforded the opportunity to enjoy a day of fun and learning at one of the District's recreational sites. The students went on a field trip on April 11 to the Avery Recreation Area, with events beginning at 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Corps personnel briefed the students on water safety, species of snakes of Arkansas, and nature hike programs, and afterwards, a picnic lunch before returning to school.

Avery Recreation Area is a day use area adjacent to Blakely Mountain Dam at Lake Ouachita. The recreational area includes a pavilion, an interpretive trail, a hiking trail, an amphitheater, and a large open field conducive to outdoor sports.

As one of the community's leading technical organizations, the Vicksburg District traditionally supports local and surrounding educational institutions through the varied expertise of our diverse workforce. The District's involvement in local and surrounding schools is critical to the success of our educational systems and our success in building our future workforce. The Corps' involvement with students helps to build the necessary skills of our future leaders, and introduces many students and educators to the Corps for the first time.

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Amy Shultz, park ranger at Lake Ouachita, discusses water safety and different species of snakes to the students.

Corps natural resource specialist, Dave Funderburk and MDWFP wildlife biologist, Keith Meals, provided the volunteers with information about the locations and placement of the fish habitat to obtain maximum results.

These volunteers donated more than 170 hours of their time and were served breakfast and lunch, donated by Superlo Foods in Southaven and Kroger in Hernando. Gifts and gift cards were donated by Sportsman's Warehouse in Southaven and Walmart in Hernando.

As stewards of public lands, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is dedicated to providing a safe, quality recreational experience for all visitors. Although the primary mission of Vicksburg District's four Mississippi lakes is flood damage risk reduction, over 1.5 million individuals visit the recreational areas annually to enjoy the camping, playgrounds, swimming areas, several types of trails, fishing, boat ramps, marinas, and marina slips. For more information about volunteering, contact natural resource specialist, Dave Funderburk, at the Arkabutla Lake Field Office 662-562-6261 ext. 14589. ◂

Volunteers arrange used Christmas trees on the workboat to be taken to the designated location.

(Sixth graders, concluded from page 30)

The Vicksburg District encompasses a 68,000-square-mile area across portions of Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana. The Arkansas lakes not only provide flood risk reduction, but also contribute approximately $33.15 million into the local economy with approximately 31 million visitors each year. Information on Corps lakes and recreational areas can be found on the Vicksburg District Operations Division's website. http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation.aspx. ◂

(Director retires, concluded from page 27)

However, I will be walking away from my extended Corps family, the MMC team and the Vicksburg District, where I have made a lot of lasting friendships. I was honored and challenged when I was asked to establish and lead the MMC Production Center. As I have stated many times, the opportunity to lead the MMC Production Center has been the highlight of my thirty-seven year Corps career."

Ron Goldman is married to Rita Dickinson Goldman of Carthage. He has two daughters, Heather Goldman Hood of Southaven, and Holly Goldman Porter of Vicksburg, and four grandchildren, Aubrey and Emma Hood, and Jacob and Carson Porter.

"Ron Goldman, thank you for all you have done for the Vicksburg District and USACE over the past 37 years. Your distinguished career has been a model of professionalism and selfless service to your peers. You are a proven leader and an exceptional individual with the highest integrity. Your courage in accepting great challenges, competence in overcoming them, demonstration of candor and honesty in all your dealings and unparalleled commitment to the mission make you a quintessential U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's leader. You will be missed!" ◂

(Arkansas Honor Flight, concluded from page 28)

to honor American veterans for all their sacrifices. We transport our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans- World War II survivors along with other veterans who may be terminally ill. Of all the wars in recent memory, it was World War II that truly threatened our very existence as a nation-and as a culturally diverse, free society. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, an estimated 640 WWII veterans die each day. Our time to express our thanks to these brave men and women is running out."

Since 2006, about 1,000 veterans from Arkansas have been escorted to war memorials in and around the nation's capitol. Close to 100,000 have made the trip from other locations scattered around the country. This was Arkansas's last trip; they did not have any more WWII veterans on their waiting list.

The Memorial is reportedly visited by 15 to 20 million visitors a year and has become one of the most popular of all Washington Memorials. ◂

Let it Go!

Swimming after objects carried away by wind or currents can be deadly

By Brian Westfall

When you're out on or near the water, expect the unexpected. Each year many unsuspecting victims drown because they swim out to retrieve floating objects. Beach balls, floats, caps and vessels are often carried out into deep water by winds or currents. The first impulse is to swim out and retrieve the object. Frequently, swimmers greatly overestimate their swimming ability and underestimate distances on the water. This is a deadly combination resulting in far too many fatalities.

Why do swimmers consistently go out into deep or swift water to retrieve objects? Is it an impulsive action, a sense of ownership, embarrassment over losing the object or simply the cost of the lost object? Whatever the reason, this situation is a reoccurring tragedy. Gary C. Hardin, natural resources specialist, Okatibbee Lake, Mobile District, proclaimed, "Always think before placing yourself in harm's way. The bottom line is – no personal possession is worth the loss of your life."

The following true accounts exemplify the unexpected dangers if one engages in this dangerous scenario.

Several winters ago, Bobby Pharr, Entergy Arkansas Process superintendent II and past president of the National Water Safety Congress, waded out into the frigid waters of Lake Hamilton to retrieve his work vessel that had drifted away from its mooring. Bobby, wearing his life jacket, decided that he would wade in the cold water to get his boat before it was blown out into deep water. He thought to himself, "No big deal, I'll just ease out and get my boat." He even stated that he had a dry change of clothes in his vessel. But, the farther he went into the lake, at first only to his knees, then to his waist, the farther the boat was being blown from him. He then made the decision to swim for the boat; a move that he later realized almost claimed his life. Very quickly, Bobby realized that he could not reach the boat, he looked back and it dawned on him that he was farther from the shore than from the drifting boat. In less than ten minutes he could no longer raise his arms, move his legs and much less swim. Keep in mind that he had his life jacket on, but the 48 degree water quickly drained his body of heat and strength. He rolled on his back in a last ditch effort to survive and he began to pray.

Miraculously, a Lake Hamilton resident just happened to see Bobby's desperate situation and came to the rescue. The boater had to pull Bobby into his boat; he had succumbed to hypothermia in just ten minutes of cold water exposure. Bobby was transported to the hospital for treatment and later fully recovered. His body temperature was recorded at 91 degrees. At 88 degrees, his body's organs would have shut down and he would have surely perished.

Bobby's near death experience made me realize the importance of not only wearing a life jacket, but to resist the temptation of swimming out after objects that have been blown away. By waiting for rescue, his pride may have been tried, but instead the "chill that kills" almost took his life.

Likewise, many swimmers have perished while thrust into the unsuspected role of life guard because they witnessed a person in distress and in the process of drowning. Their first impulse is to provide aid and they unexpectedly end up being drowned by the victim. In many cases, the attempt to provide assistance ends up with additional drowning victims.

During the summer of 2010, six teenagers drowned in the Red River near Shreveport, Louisiana. The teens, all non-swimmers, tragically drowned while attempting to save one another as they all stepped off a shallow shoreline shelf into the deep river channel. The teens had gathered at a popular swimming area along with their families to escape the August heat. As the unbelievable scene developed, the teens' parents could only watch their children drown because neither could they swim. Miraculously, a seventh teen survived the ordeal.

In 2013, a senior from a high school near DeGray Lake went duck hunting with his friends. After shooting a duck, the young man swam out to retrieve it. He had just played a football game the night before and was reportedly sleep deprived and dehydrated. His tiredness overcame him during his retrieval attempt and caused him to drown. His friends could only watch the terrifying ordeal.

By using the slogan, "Reach, Throw, Row and Never Go", one can save a drowning victim while staying out of

(Continued on page 35)

First Wounded Warrior Deer Hunt at Grenada Lake

By Damon Blakely
Photos by Damon Blakely ???

Grenada Lake recently hosted it's very first Wounded Warrior Deer Hunt. The hunt was conducted January 29 – 31, 2014, below Grenada Dam. In the past this area has been closed to hunting, and the deer population has increased to the point that our biologist has concerns as to the health of the deer herd. Planning and preparation for the hunt began back in November when Damon Blakely, Natural Resources Specialist, began seeking someone to contact with the Wounded Warrior Project Network to see if there was any interest in conducting such a hunt at Grenada Lake. After sending an email to Wounded Warriors Headquarters, they forwarded Damon's contact information to Mr. Joe Caley, Regional Outreach Director for the Southeast. Joe and Damon spoke on the phone several times and as the area was described where the hunt would be conducted, Joe became eager to get a group of wounded warriors to participate in the hunt. He was able to get 3 wounded warriors from Mississippi and 3 from Georgia, including himself. The day before the hunt was to begin, an ice storm hit the southeast and travel from Georgia became very difficult, but the wounded warriors still had the determination to make it to Grenada Lake. The first two hunters that arrived were Billy Dobbs from Columbus, Mississippi and Reese Robbins from Brandon, Mississippi. A third Mississippi Hunter from Wiggins had a minor accident due to the ice and was unable to make the trip. Joe and the other two hunters from Georgia got stranded in Alabama on Interstate 20 when it was completely closed due to the ice storm. They seriously considered going back to Georgia, but by chance decided to change routes, and luckily found a way to make it to Grenada Lake the second day. Mr. Billy Dobbs harvested a nice 7 point on the first evening of the hunt, and Reese Robbins harvested a very nice 8 point on the second day. Later that day, Joe and the two other Georgia Hunters, Ed Patton and Frank Barroqueiro (both gold medal archery winners in the Warrior Games and are on the U.S. Para-Olympic team) made it in, and were able to hunt late that day. Both men decided to hunt with their bows even though the hunt allowed gun hunting. Joe was able to harvest a very nice 9 point and a doe on his first hunt. They both saw deer and had a great hunt. Reese harvested a doe that evening and took his bow the next day, and missed one when his arrow hit a tree limb. All together, the 5 Wounded Warriors harvested 3 very nice bucks and 2 does in just 4 hunts. The Wounded Warriors were very pleased with their hunt and hopefully we will be able to make this hunt an annual event at Grenada Lake. Before the Wounded Warriors left we discussed the possibility of a Wounded Warrior Turkey Hunt in March on Grenada Lake, and they are all making plans to return. It has been an honor to be a part of providing this opportunity for these wounded warriors that have proudly served our country, and gave so much in protecting our freedoms. We simply can't give enough back when compared to their sacrifices. The Wounded Warrior Hunt was very rewarding to work on, and couldn't have been made possible without our manager Andy Strickland and Supervisor Ranger, Chris Terry asking me to get it organized. I look forward to working on more events like this at Grenada Lake! ◂

Reese Robbins with his nice 8 point.

Biologist, Sam Marter, recording information from Reese's deer.

Sam and Reese weighing his buck.

Billy Dobbs (Left) and Reese Robbins with the first two bucks.

Dereck Redwine, Civil Engineer Tech, planning an afternoon hunt.

Hunters meeting with lake management staff, and also: Johnny Kiser, Project Resources Management Branch Chief, Carl Upchurch, Deputy Project Manager and Matt Pierce, Project Manager for Mississippi Lakes Project Management Office.

Hunters participating in Grenada Lake's first Wounded Warrior Hunt from left to right, Billy Dobbs, Reese Robbins, Frank Barroqueiro, Ed Patton and Joe Caley.

Joe Caley getting in his blind to hunt the first day.

A successful hunt for Joe Caley, getting a doe and nice 9 point!

(Let it Go!, concluded from page 32)
harm's way. A significant number of drownings happens in less than 10' feet of water and less than 10' from safety. In many cases the victim can be reached with a stick, boat paddle, or fishing rod. If the victim is too far to be reached, the rescuer can throw a life jacket, throw ring or rescue bag to the victim. The third response is to rescue the victim with a vessel, but remember, drowning is a quick and almost silent death. Thirty seconds to a minute's time is all it takes to drown. Never go into deep water to save a person that's in trouble, UNLESS YOU ARE TRAINED TO DO SO. With regards to beach toys or boats, simply let it go! A boat or object can be retrieved or replaced. Please remember these personal tragedies and spread the word that the next time something floats away from you, Let it go!

WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET!

A $1.39 beach ball is not worth your life. Don't be the next victim. ◂

District Field Offices & Services

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Lake Greeson	(870) 285-2151
DeGray Lake	(870) 246-5501
Sardis Lake	(662) 563-4531
Arkabutla Lake	(662) 562-6261
Enid Lake	(662) 563-4571
Grenada Lake	(662) 226-5911
Bayou Bodcau	(318) 949-1804
JBJ Waterway	(318) 322-6391
Ouachita-Black Rivers	(318) 322-6391
Corps Wetland Permits	(601) 631-7071
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Contracting & Bids	(601) 631-7684
Vendors, status of bids, specs	
Community Support	(601) 631-5223
Tours, speakers, volunteers	
Historical Questions & Research	(601) 634-7023
Mississippi River History Center	
Real Estate Issues	(601) 631-5979
Corps impacts to your property	
Employment Questions	(601) 631-5858
Vacancies, status, qualifications	
Historical Photographs	(601) 631-5021
Environmental	(601) 631-7156

Other Vicksburg Engineer/Federal Organizations

Mississippi Valley Division
(601) 634-5760

Engineer Research and Development Center
(601) 634-2504

412th Engineer Command
(601) 636-1686

168th Engineer Group
(601) 313-5290

Vicksburg National Military Park
(601) 634-5760

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

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

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