



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Vicksburg District

THE

# Water's Edge

SPRING 2015





### US Army Corps of Engineers®

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

**Commander and District Engineer**  
COL John W. Cross

**Public Affairs Team**

Greg C. Raimondo  
Chief

Shirley J. Smith  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Managing Editor

Bucky Wall  
Public Affairs Specialist

**Magazine Layout by**  
Colleen Cummins

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**Contact:**

[Gregory.C.Raimondo@usace.army.mil](mailto:Gregory.C.Raimondo@usace.army.mil)  
or Phone (601) 631-5053

[Shirley.J.Smith@usace.army.mil](mailto:Shirley.J.Smith@usace.army.mil)  
or Phone (601) 631-5223

Fax (601) 631-5551

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### On the Cover

Bobber the Water Safety mascot (Katie Raimondo) walks alongside the Vicksburg District float in the city of Vicksburg's Mardi Gras parade.  
Photo by Greg Raimondo

# Commander's Corner

with Colonel John W. Cross



## Hello Vicksburg District Team Members

It is great to see you all as I travel across the District! I admire the complex work that each of you do every day. I also really enjoy the fellowship - whether it is at a crawfish boil at the Vidalia Area Office, lunch with various offices' team members, or just seeing you in the hallway or out on a project site! Please talk to me every chance you get and continue to invite me out to District events!

Our outreach programs continue to lead the Nation and I am especially proud of all of the work that our rangers do each and every day. I had the opportunity to participate in several wounded warrior and disabled hunts this past winter. The impact that we have on our veterans is not easy to state in words. They are so appreciative of the opportunity to join us and enjoy the great outdoors as well as be a part of a shared fellowship. If you get a chance, volunteer to participate with one of these veteran activities. I guarantee it will deeply impact you in a very positive way!

We will be co-hosting the Society of American Military Engineers Camp again this summer – the only one of its kind in the Army! The camp, now in its second decade, brings together more than 40 high school students from across the country. These students' main focus is in the fields of engineering and science, and this camp exposes them to what we do here at the District and introduces them to various technological career fields. Without the solid commitment and support from the District, this camp would not have achieved its traditional success rate and recognition across the Nation. Thanks to all of the volunteers and efforts from our District employees in making this such a great event!

Thanks to our stakeholders and customers for participating in the USACE Civil Works Survey! This year marked the first time the District received a 100% participation rate, which is a phenomenal success! I personally read each and every survey and do my best to respond directly or through our staff to address your concerns. Thank you so much for participating. I promise to continue to work hard to deliver on commitments, foster an environment of open two-way communication, and serve our Region and our Nation.

Thanks to all of our employees who participated in this year's command climate survey. Like the Civil Works Survey, I read every comment and take those comments to heart. This year, we have started a PDT to address common areas of concern within the District. Team members from around the District have participated and acquired solutions that will lessen those areas of concern within the

District. For example, we have partnered with Hind Community College and will start both a senior supervisor and a mid-grade supervisor training course this summer. Our goal is to provide supervisors training in various areas such as communication, conflict resolution and other essential supervisory skills. This initiative was a direct result of your comments on the command climate survey. More will follow but I am very excited to have the PDT help us find ways to make USACE the best place to work in government!

If you have not already, please consider participating in our Vicksburg Leadership Development Program (VLDP). This is a great program that we continue to grow and make better every year. With VLDP you will learn what the District does and how it does business while developing leadership and team skills. It is an excellent opportunity for you to take part in a personally and professionally rewarding learning experience. Many of our very successful senior leaders here in the District are graduates of the program including Pat Hemphill, our DPM, and James Ross, chief of operations!

Thank you for your Service to our Region and our Nation. I am so proud of our employees and our District! Our reputation is known across the Nation for the tough missions we accomplish and expert and caring employees!

### ESSAYONS



*Col Cross, left, is greeted by left to right, Andy Hall and Michael Dale at the West Pearl Navigation Canal.*

# Vicksburg District Hosts 3rd Annual Math Competition

By Bucky Wall  
Photos by Alfred Dulaney

The District and the Vicksburg Chapter of the Society of American Military Engineers sponsored a math competition for 59 students from Porter’s Chapel Academy, Scholastic Academy, St. Aloysius Catholic School, Warren Central Junior High, and Vicksburg Junior High.

In the individual competition, Victoria Gong from St. Aloysius was awarded first place. There was a tie for second place between R.G. Willis and Tuan Dang, both from Scholastic Academy. Third place went to Sean Slade from Scholastic Academy. The Team winner was St. Aloysius.

The competition is based on the national MATH-COUNTS format emphasizing problem-solving skills. It is designed to prepare students for the upcoming MATH-COUNTS regional competition. It recognizes students

with mathematical minds and promotes the importance, challenges, and excitement found in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

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 helpful to the success of our educational systems and our success in Building Our Future Workforce. Successful educational programs such as the Adopt A School Program help to build the necessary skills of our future leaders and introduce many students and educators to the Corps for the first time. ◀



*Victoria Gong, center, is pictured with, left, LTC Rhudy, Deputy Commander, and Henry Dulaney, right, chief of Engineering and Construction Division.*



*Pictured with LTC Rhudy, far left, and Henry Dulaney, far right, are first place team winners from St. Aloysius Catholic School, left to right, Victoria Gong, Adam Eckstein, Greyson Parman and Mattie Carlisle Derivaux.*

# Insight into Procedures for District's Contracting Office

## Construction, Architect and Engineer (A&E) Branch, Services and Supplies Branch

By Lynniese-Cosey Mayfield, Chief, Contracting Division

Photo by Alfred Dulaney

The District's Contracting Office is a professional and highly qualified acquisition workforce within the Vicksburg District (MVK) and Mississippi Valley Division (MVD). It utilizes the most effective and efficient acquisition procedures for all MVK/MVD contracting requirements.

While supporting the OPLAN and direct mission of the command, the Contracting Office provides responsive and effective contracting support of vital supplies, services and construction to MVK and MVD. The Contracting Office is one of approximately 49 contracting offices within

the Corps' National Contracting Organization.

### Business Oversight Branch (BOB)

The BOB reports directly to the Chief, Vicksburg District Contracting Office and is staffed with a procurement analyst, systems administrator, government purchase card (GPC) coordinator, and an administrative assistant. The BOB provides various services including:

- Processing of numerous data calls
- Annual Contracting Officer Representative (COR) file reviews

- COR monthly reports
- Regional and Principal Acquisition Responsible for Contracting (PARC) Level peer reviews
- Contract close-outs
- Contractor Performance Assessment Review System (CPAR) ratings
- Paperless Contract File (PCF)
- Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) certifications
- Continuous Learning points (CLPs)

*(Continued on page 11)*



*Pictured left to right are, front row, Scott Brown, Cynthia Sims, Connie May, Christopher Barnett, Shirley Brown, Christy Love, Kelly Turcotte, Allison Hudson, Janalyn Dement, Lynniese Mayfield, chief of Contracting Division. Left to right back row, Mike Ballard, Robin Green, Adrienne Underwood, Dustin Cannada, Michelle Kelley, Jason Carlock, Leah Cobb, and Ellis Screws.*

# How to Build an Award Winning Mardi Gras Float

Story and photos by Greg Raimondo

It all started at a weekly calendar meeting in the Colonel's office in mid-December. As we went over the upcoming weeks, Mardi Gras got mentioned by someone at the table. The Colonel asked if Vicksburg had a Mardi Gras parade. "Yes", Pat Hemphill replied. "We should enter a float!" exclaimed the Colonel. And it was on...

At the far end of the table, I kept my head down, hoping not to get the rose pinned on me. No such luck. I don't even remember how it happened, but the Public Affairs Office (PAO) was put in charge of the float building project for a parade just over a month away. Additionally, we had the Christmas and New Year's holidays and use or lose time coming up. This was going to be a challenge.

With no budget, plan, or relevance to Mardi Gras, it was decided the only way to make this work was to make it a water safety themed float. We loosely put together a Project Delivery Team (PDT) consisting of PAO, River Operations, Support Ops, and the Employee Recreation Organization (ERO). The PAO would provide the vision and coordination. River Ops would build the float on one of its trailers. Support Ops would provide water safety support. The ERO would provide funding and assist with the decorating.

I quickly put to use all of my creativity, drafting and design skills. The result was a "preliminary" design as seen in Figure #1. If only I'd have done it on a cocktail napkin, the PDT wouldn't have given me such a hard time about lack of detail. So they want detail, eh? It was time to put my PowerPoint skills to use and Figure #2 emerged.

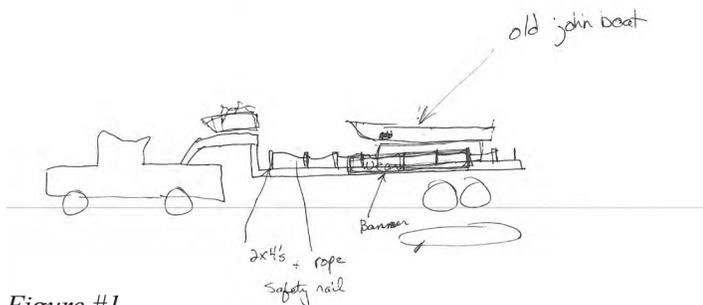


Figure #1.

The guys in River Ops were way head of me. They had coordinated with the Louisiana Field Office (LFO) for a castle that the LFO had used in a parade in Monroe years ago. I saw pictures of the castle and reworked the design



Figure #2.



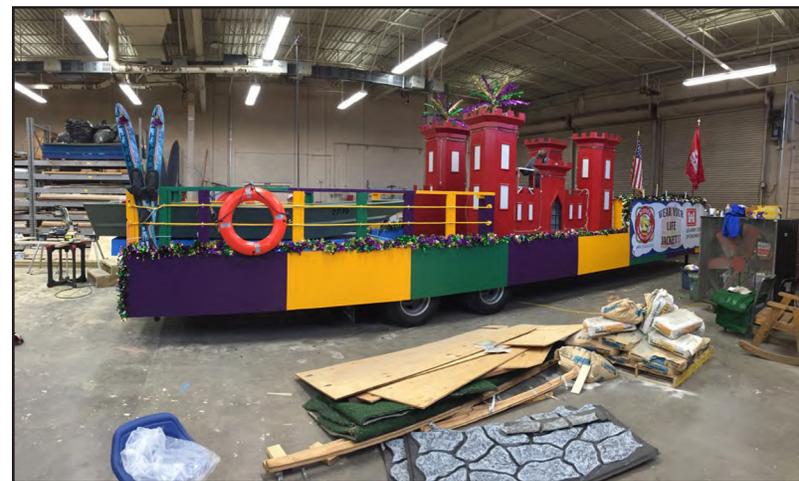
Figure #3.

as shown in Figure #3. We had come a long way from the "preliminary" design.

One thing I knew for sure, the guys in the carpentry shop didn't need details from me. They were going to out-build anything I could draw. They were building the float with pride, craftsmanship, and attention to detail. There was no need to give them any more of my "help". It was time to stand back and watch "awesome" happen.

As for the decorating, Abe Kidder led the charge and worked with the guys in the carpentry shop. They constantly bounced ideas around. It had to be "Corps", "Mardi Gras", and "Water Safety" all rolled into one. Again, it was the detail and the pride in work that made this float great. The results speak for themselves in Picture #1. On parade day, they would make it even better.

*(Continued on page 9)*



Picture #1.

# Award Winning Information Technology Laboratory Provides Premier Spaces

By Abe Kidder  
Photos by Shannon Sheridan

The ERDC Information Technology Laboratory, commonly referred to as ITL, is one of seven unique laboratories of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC). The ITL produces enabling technologies for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense and their customers. As many are aware, the ITL is currently home to one of the most technologically advanced supercomputers in the world.

In roughly 2008, the Vicksburg District was given the opportunity to manage the design and construction of a multi-million dollar facility for the ITL at ERDC in Vicksburg. Years of diligent efforts came to fruition in 2014 with the successful completion and dedication of the new facility. The partnership of A/E designers from Stantec, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and prime contractor Johnson Construction of Jackson, worked diligently with the Vicksburg District and our ITL customer to overcome numerous challenges on this project. These efforts have now enabled the ITL to have a workplace that is as cutting edge as the supercomputers housed inside.

If you ever wondered what it would be like at Google Headquarters in California, this facility would give you that feeling. The new, state-of-the art, \$16.8 million facility amasses 66,000 square feet, including 10,000 square feet

of raised floor computing space. More computing space is crucial in allowing ITL to expand and further develop its already impressive supercomputers. Additionally, the facility includes an 8,270 square-foot conference center capable of seating 300 people, 102 separate private offices with five administrative areas and over 4,900 square feet of electronic laboratory space. Other unique features such as the high tech audio visual system and the 2,150 square-foot collaboration lounge provide for a unique and impressive facility.

Long hours, hard work and great partnership from ERDC, Vicksburg District, Johnson Construction and Stantec were worthwhile as the building was completed in August 2014, with a Building Dedication Ceremony held in October of 2014.

Last year, the building won the Associated General Contractors of Mississippi 2014 BUILD Mississippi Award for a commercial building. This speaks volumes to the great minds and workmanship that were put into this project from start to finish.

With the private offices, over 5,000 square feet of high tech meeting rooms, additional raised floor computing space and a first class conference center, the ITL provides its employees premiere working spaces. ◀



*Front of building.*



*Conference center.*

# Greenwood Area Office Receives Superior Safety Performance Award

By Tim Shows  
 Photo by Freddie Rush, MVD

Districts within the Mississippi Valley Division received safety awards at the 2015 Mississippi Valley Construction Roundtable Meeting held February 26, 2105 in Jackson. The awards recognized project winners in each district. The Greenwood Area Office was recognized as the Vicksburg District winner for Superior Safety Performance for the Steel Bayou Outlet Structure Channel Repair contract.

This contract presented numerous challenges. In addition to the many hazards associated with floating plant work, the project was located in a narrow channel, limiting the mobility of equipment and materials. Furthermore, the work was being performed in the immediate vicinity of a bridge on State Highway 465, as well as near overhead and underground utilities.

This work was performed under contract with Luhr Bros., Inc., of Columbia, Illinois. Approximately 237,000 tons (approx. 150 barges) of stone were placed under this contract, both in the channel and along the banks for stabilization of the outlet channel. This \$9.7 Million contract was performed from August through November 2014.

A significant challenge for this project was working in the narrow channel. Rock barges had to be staged in the main river channel and moved into the narrow channel as needed, often navigating near the bridge pilings. The integrity of the bridge was a major concern with the work that was required upstream, downstream and under the bridge.

The contractor was required to submit operation plans and safety plans to address when working near the bridge. This plan was effectively coordinated with all interested parties, including the Mississippi Department of Transportation and the Mississippi Levee Board.

In lieu of closing the bridge to traffic as allowed by the contract, the contractor successfully utilized a flagman on each end of the bridge to stop traffic on short durations when working around the bridge pilings, and also worked out an emergency signal to permanently stop traffic immediately if the integrity of the bridge was threatened. The contractor effectively positioned his equipment to support and guide the barges when working around the bridge, avoiding any contact with the bridge pilings.

As a result, the bridge was never closed to traffic, successfully avoiding a 10-mile detour of traffic. The daily coordination with the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Mississippi Levee Board, Luhr Bros, and USACE resulted in a quality project with no lost time accidents, effective communication with all stakeholders, safe public passage with minimal disruption, and no damage to the state highway bridge.

Greenwood Area Office team members Lamar Jenkins, assistant area engineer, and Ed Saffold construction control representative, both worked closely with the contractor to assure success on this project. ◀



*Work in progress in the Steele Bayou Outlet Channel adjacent to State Highway 465 bridge.*



*Col Cross presents the Vicksburg District 2014 Superior Safety Performance Award to Sam Horton, area engineer for the Greenwood Area office.*

# Regulatory Branch Works at Tensas National Wildlife Refuge *Earth Day Activity*

By Jana Jacobson

Photo by Nathan Renick of NWR

In honor of Earth Day, team members of the Regulatory Branch traveled to the Tensas National Wildlife Refuge. Although Earth Day is officially April 22, this team got an early start and completed some tasks at the refuge on Monday, April 6.

The team members assisted in cleaning up approximately 1.5 miles of the Rainey Lake Trail. The work included under brushing, limb removal, and clearing boardwalks and piers along the trail. This Earth Day activity provided a great opportunity for Regulatory volunteers to team with another federal agency, contribute to the community, and celebrate our natural resources. ◀



*Regulatory team members pictured are, bottom row left to right, Jim Cole, Jana Jacobson, Jennifer Smith, Tina Branam, Aaron Posner.*

*Middle row left to right are Linda Mordecai and Arel Simpson. Standing left to right are Jared Everitt, Bryan Williamson, Tony Lobred, Mike Stewart, Kevin Philley, and Kristi Hall.*

*(Mardi Gras continued from page 6)*

Next, we had to work the water safety theme. Colleen Cummins from the ACE-IT Visual Information shop did a great job designing the banners with very little guidance. The rangers at the Mississippi lakes gathered up hundreds of water safety giveaways such as Frisbees and floating key chains to use as “throws”. They would provide the Bobber costume and some rangers would bring Seamore the Serpent, a remote controlled robot. All we needed now was some more throws. Because we couldn’t purchase beads, we asked the members of the District to donate beads that they might have. The donation boxes at the front and west doors began to fill up as parade day approached. Many thanks to all those who donated beads!

Saturday, February 7th, was parade day. It was an unusually warm and beautiful day. The team from River Ops carefully towed the float from the harbor to the staging area on Belmont Street. Final decorations were put in place. We mounted a PA system to blast zydeco music. The beads and other throws were stashed and hung all over the float. The rangers uncrated Seamore and tested him. The crue began to gather on the float. Where was Bobber? The rangers told me that the Bobber costume was in the truck and asked if we had a volunteer to wear it.

My daughter, Katie, a Junior at Ole Miss, was visiting me for the weekend. She asked me if she could be Bob-

ber. We suited her up in the costume and covered her with icepacks to keep her cool. Katie went on to be one of the best Bobbers I have ever seen. She was energetic, skipped down the street, high fived the crowd, and was great with the kids. There was only one mishap: When she bent down to talk to a child, her “head” fell off. She probably scared the heck out of the kid. Overall, I couldn’t have been more proud of her.

As we headed down the parade route, the float looked tremendous. The crowd was enthusiastic. I was a little leery of throwing Frisbees. A Mardi Gras crowd usually wants beads. I thought they might even start throwing the Frisbees back at us, but, they loved them! The rangers looked great in their uniforms. Seamore was a stunning hit with kids and adults. The music was awesome. The crue had a blast throwing beads and water safety trinkets and more than a few Moon Pies. In the end, the District won first place for a non-profit entry.

Many thanks to all those who made this happen. Leaders like chief of Operations Division, James Ross, who fully supported the whole affair. Chief of river operations, Tommy Hengst, whose team went above and beyond. Chief of support operations, Johnny Kiser, whose rangers brought their water safety message to Vicksburg/Warren

*(Continued on page 16)*

## Regulatory Branch Gets New Chief



*Jennifer Mallard*

**By Alice Bufkin**  
**Photo by Alfred Dulaney**

The District has selected Jennifer Mallard as chief of the regulatory branch of Operations Division.

Mallard will serve as chief of the regulatory branch and be responsible for planning, coordination, and execution of the Corps' regulatory program authority within the geographic boundaries of the Vicksburg District. She will assist in making final decisions on federal authorizations for non-Corps projects impacting all waters of the United States throughout the District. She will also oversee project evaluations that are controversial and/or politically sensitive in nature.

Mallard joined the Corps in 2001 as a park ranger at Lake Greeson in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. After deploying to Mississippi for Hurricane Katrina's emergency operations in 2005, she accepted a position in the regulatory branch as an environmental specialist. She has served as a senior environmental specialist for the past 10 years and

most recently served as chief of regulatory's permit section.

A native of Caddo Gap, Arkansas, she is a graduate of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in environmental soil and water science. She also earned a Bachelor's Degree in park and recreation management at Henderson State University and a Master's Degree in Sports Management. Mallard is a member of the Association of Wetland Managers, Professional Soil Scientists of Arkansas, and Society of Women Engineers.

She is the daughter of the late James R. Fryar and Gracie G. Fryar of Caddo Gap. Her husband, Matthew Mallard, a plan formulator in the planning division, is a native of Enterprise and they are the parents of two sons. They are members of First Baptist Church, Vicksburg.

The District's regulatory team continues to work daily to assure that the Nation's aquatic resources are protected, while allowing reasonable development through fair, flexible, and balanced permit decisions. Every year, the regulatory team reviews thousands of requests for jurisdictional determinations and subsequent permit applications under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. ◀

## District Announces Chief of Permit Section of Regulatory Branch

**By Shirley J. Smith**  
**Photo by Alfred Dulaney**



*Cori Carraway*

The District recently announced the selection of Cori Carraway as chief of the permit section of the regulatory branch of Operations Division.

Carraway will be responsible for the supervision of an interdisciplinary team tasked with the oversight, development, and issuance of nationwide permits, regional general permits, and compliance.

Prior to this selection, Carraway served as a senior environmental specialist in the permit section. In this position, she was

responsible for the review and verification of permit applications and for the development and modification of MVK general permits. She was also responsible for, as required by workload, to conduct inspections of activities or work covered by approved permits to ensure compliance with the provisions of the permits.

A native of Vicksburg, Carraway is a graduate of Warren Central High School and earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in environmental science from Mississippi State University.

She is a member of the Association of State Wetland Managers, Vicksburg Young Professionals, and the Junior Auxiliary of Vicksburg.

She is married to Bert Carraway, III, of Vicksburg. ◀

# District Presents 2015 Regulator of the Year Award

By Jennifer Mallard  
Photo by Mike Miller



Jim Cole

The Regulatory Branch of Operations Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Vicksburg District, has awarded James (Jim) Cole the prestigious “Larry N. Harper Regulator of the Year Award”. The annual award is presented on Earth Day in recognition of the Regulatory team’s efforts in protecting the Nation’s aquatic resources, while allowing reasonable development through

fair, flexible, and balanced permit decisions.

Cole was nominated by his peers as this year’s award recipient. He has accepted additional duties during the year without hesitation. His contributions include the mentoring of new employees on the procedures required for delineating wetlands and streams within the Vicksburg District. He was selected for the current VLDP class and has taken on the responsibility of leading the group. He continues to serve on the Regulatory Earth Day Outreach and the Vicksburg District Outreach committees. He delivers great

customer service on a daily basis by demonstrating professionalism, fairness, impartiality, and respectfulness to all customers. His willingness to accept additional duties and perform assigned tasks without hesitance embodies the essence of the award’s namesake, Larry N. Harper.

Cole, a native of Vicksburg, earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in forestry from Mississippi State University. Cole began his career in 2010 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. ◀

*(Insight into Procedures, concluded from page 5)*

- Creation and maintenance of approximately 100 credit card accounts
- Budget preparation and creation and tracking of all incoming labor codes

## Construction, Architect and Engineer (A&E) Branch

The Construction and A&E Branch, staffed with a warranted contracting officer, senior level contract specialists and a procurement clerk, provides acquisition services to MVK, MVD, and the New Orleans District. This branch provides acquisition support for various major projects including dredging, Mississippi River Levees (MRL), channel improvement, dikes, revetments, mat casting, surveying, mapping, Modeling, Mapping and Consequences, miscellaneous design and value engineer studies.

This branch is responsible for procuring all major construction projects for Plaquemines Parish and coordinating the seamless transition to the New Orleans District for post

award administration. It also coordinates the administration of contracts for four administrative contracting officers located at the Greenwood Area Engineer Office, Vidalia Area Engineer Office and the Red River Resident Office.

## Services and Supply Branch

This branch is staffed with warranted contracting officers, senior contract specialists and acquisition interns who service MVK, MVD and the New Orleans District. Through the awarding and administration of Operation and Maintenance contracts, this branch supports the Mississippi and Arkansas Corps lakes, the Mississippi Delta, MVD, MVK’s Harbor offices, Louisiana Field Offices, and the five Louisiana locks and dams. This branch is responsible for procuring supplies, equipment, all non-construction services, and all supplies and services for Plaquemines Parish. ◀

## District Announces Chief of Evaluation Section of Regulatory Branch

By Shirley J. Smith  
Photo by Alfred Dulaney



*Randy Holder*

The Vicksburg District recently announced the selection of Randy Holder as chief of its evaluation section of the regulatory branch of Operations Division.

In this position, Holder will be responsible for the supervision of an interdisciplinary team tasked with the oversight, development, and issuance of standard permits, letters of permission, mitigation banks, and cultural resource reviews.

Prior to this selection, Holder served as a senior environmental specialist in the evaluation section. In this position, he was responsible for the

issuance of standard permits, letters of permission, and he served as the Chair for the Internal Review Team for the Mississippi Wetland and Stream Mitigation Banks.

A native of Vicksburg, Holder is a graduate of Warren Central High School, and he earned his Bachelor's Degree in biology from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Holder is currently a member of the Association of State Wetland Managers. In 2013, he completed the Vicksburg District's Leadership Development Program and was selected in 2014 for the Mississippi Valley Division's Emerging Leaders Program.

He is engaged to Ms. Dallas Thomason of Rayville, Louisiana. ◀

## District Announces New Chief of Natural Resources and Environmental Compliance Section

By Shirley J. Smith  
Photo by Alfred Dulaney

District recently announced the selection of Jonathan Harrell as chief of its natural resources and environmental compliance section of Operations Division.

Harrell's duties will include the oversight of the natural resource and environmental compliance programs throughout the Vicksburg District. This includes providing technical support to the eight field offices, oversight of mitigation land management, as well as providing in-house technical expertise in the fields of natural resource management and environmental compliance.

Prior to this selection, Harrell has served as the district forester. In this position, Harrell was responsible for the oversight of the forestry program within the Vicksburg District as well as the oversight of about 55,000 acres of mitigation lands.

A native of Aberdeen, currently residing in Raymond, Harrell earned his Bachelor's Degree in forestry with a wildlife management option from Mississippi State University. He is a registered forester in the state of Mississippi. Harrell is an active leader in Raymond Boy Scout Troop 92 and a member of Hinds Independent Methodist Church of Raymond.

He is married to the former Staci Slayton of Enterprise, and they have a son and a daughter. ◀



*Jonathan Harrell*

## Manager for Corps' Arkansas Lakes Retires After 42 Years



*Brenda Meeks*

By Shirley J. Smith  
Photo by Alfred Dulaney

The manager of the Vicksburg District's Arkansas lakes recently retired. For 42 years, Brenda Meeks served the Corps with distinction and honor and was an outstanding ambassador for Lake Ouachita, DeGray Lake and Lake Greeson. She was a tremendous advocate for recreational facilities, resulting in numerous

partnerships with local communities and organizations surrounding the three lakes.

Meeks career with the Corps began in 1972 in the project resources management branch of Operations Division. Upon her retirement, Meeks was responsible for managing not only the three Arkansas Corps lakes but also each of their hydropower plants, and 114,183 acres of public lands with 49 recreational areas. She also managed a combined staff of 188 Corps and contract employees with an average budget of approximately \$19 million.

Nationally recognized projects within her oversight included the Geo-Float Trail, the first water-based nature trail in the country, which was a finalist in the Chief of Engineers awards program in 1984, and the recently completed 45-mile Lake Ouachita Vista Trail that will benefit the local economy by providing recreational opportunities for thousands of visitors. Lake Ouachita also received a National Take Pride in America award in 1991.

Meeks awards and recognitions included the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for her efforts with the Arkadelphia, Arkansas tornado cleanup in 1997; the Vicksburg District's nomination for the Women in Science and Engineering Award for Scientific Achievement; and the Commander's Award for Civilian Service in 2006 for her work with the Hurricane Katrina cleanup.

A native of Hot Springs, Arkansas, she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in park administration from Arkansas Tech University. ◀

## District Names New Manager for Corps' Arkansas Lakes

By Shirley J. Smith  
Photo by Shana Thomason



*Rick Dwyer*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District recently named Rick Dwyer as its manager for three Arkansas Corps lakes including DeGray, Greeson and Lake Ouachita.

Dwyer will be responsible for managing the three Arkansas Corps lakes with each of their hydropower plants, and 114,183 acres of public lands with 49 recreational areas. He will also manage a combined staff of

188 Corps and contract employees with an average budget of approximately \$19 million.

Nationally recognized projects within his oversight include the Geo-Float Trail, the first water-based nature trail in the country, which was a finalist in the Chief of Engineers awards program in 1984, and the recently completed 45-mile Lake Ouachita Vista Trail that will benefit the local economy by providing recreational opportunities for thousands of visitors. Lake Ouachita also received a National Take Pride in America award in 1991.

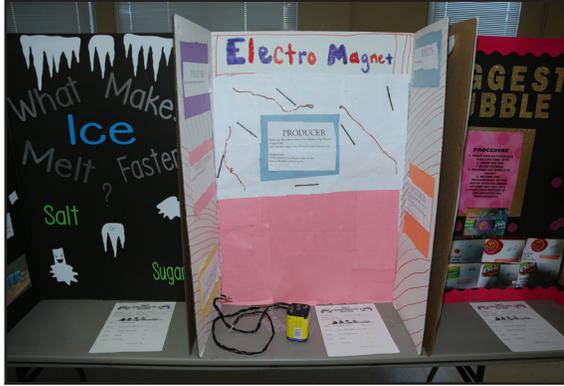
Dwyer began his career with the Corps in 1980 as a temporary park technician at Lake Ouachita. Previous assignments include park technician in the Louisiana Field Office, Monroe, Louisiana; supervisory park ranger at Lake Ouachita Field Office; park manager at DeGray Lake Field Office and Lake Ouachita Field Office; and deputy project manager, Ouachita Project Management Office.

He is a member of Council 6419, Knights of Columbus in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He also serves on the Parks and Trails Advisory Committee, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, he is a graduate of DeSmet Jesuit High School, and earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in biology from Arkansas Tech University in 1982.

He is married to the former Pam May of White Hall, Arkansas, and they are the parents of three children. ◀

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Photos by Alfred Dulaney and Greg Raimondo





Photos by Alfred Dulaney and Greg Raimondo



# Construction Branch Retirements Total 64 Years of Experience

By Darrell Sorrels  
Photos by Alfred Dulaney

The combined years of experience for Allen Lantz, Jr. and Samuel (Ray) Emerson totaled 64-years of construction experience with the Corps.

**Allen Lantz, Jr.**

Lantz’s career with the District began in 1980 in Construction Division. Some of the highlights of his career include his service as chief of quality assurance on Lock and Dam #5 on the Red River; chief of the field engineering for construction of the Winfield Lock and Additional Gate Bay in the Huntington District; chief of the quality management section of Construction Division; special assistant to the chief of construction branch, Vicksburg District. Baghdad Area Engineer during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004; chief of construction in the Hurricane Protection Office, New Orleans, after Hurricane Katrina; he also served as a PROSPECT Course instructor. Lantz retired in January 2015 with 35 years of service.

**Samuel (Ray) Emerson**

Emerson began his career as a survey technician in Construction Division in 1984. He was recognized as the subject matter expert in Mississippi River construction operations. In 1987, he transferred to the river stabilization branch where he performed surveys and developed plans and specifications for more than 12 years. He spent the last 16 years of his career as a construction control representative with the Vidalia Area Office. He was responsible for assuring the proper placement of stone for the construction and repair of the many revetments and stone dikes along the Mississippi River. In this position, he not only assured quality stone dike and revetment construction, he also participated in all Mississippi River stone designs within the Vicksburg District. Emerson retired in March 2015 with more than 29 years of service. ◀



*LTC Rhudy, Deputy Commander, presents Allen Lantz, Jr. with retirement certificate.*



*Col Cross, Commander, presents Samuel (Ray) Emerson with retirement certificate.*

*(Mardi Gras, concluded from page 9)*

County. Jonathan Pennington who coordinated the Ops efforts.

Thanks to the folks who got it done. Ronnie Mackey, Carl Smith, Huey Mace, Joe Adams, Willie Jackson, and Shandrick Lewis all helped build the float. Rangers Artie Hoff and Jimmy Miller from Grenada Lake brought Seamore. Rangers David Oliver and Ben Nyegaard came over from the LFO. The rangers who gathered up all the water

safety throws. Abe Kidder for taking the lead on decorations and organizing the float on parade day. Collen Cummins for an awesome banner design.

And finally, a big thank you to the good idea fairy, our commander, Colonel Cross.

Let’s do it again next year! Does anyone else want to be in charge? ◀

# Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Held for DeGray Lake Sunset Trail

Story and photos by Jimmie Ward

On April 2, 2015, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the trailhead of the new “Sunset Trail.” The beautiful one-mile, Americans with Disabilities accessible trail begins at the Lower Lake Recreation Area along DeGray Lake, makes a loop, and ends at the same trailhead. The trail will

Contractors Incorporated, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Natural Gas Revenue, Corps team members, Iron Mountain Marina, and Keeping DeGray Lake Beautiful, all played a major role in construction of the trail.

Russ Johnson, president of Keeping DeGray Lake Beautiful, served as the master of ceremonies. Jody Dvorak, resource manager of DeGray Lake, Kirsten Bartlow, Watchable Wildlife coordinator for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and Steve Cook Commissioner for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, also spoke during the ceremony.

Miss Carol, a celebrity ribbon cutter attended the ceremony. She was very excited and pleased to have had the opportunity to participate in the ceremony. After the ceremony was completed everyone took a walk down the trail. Miss Carol rode the trail in DeGray Lake’s Polaris Ranger. A special thanks to everyone who assisted with building the trail and to those who attended the ceremony. ◀



*The beautiful one-mile Sunset Trail.*

serve as a watchable wildlife refuge and will be used by the ranger staff for interpretive programs, local schools, and organizations for nature hikes, and anyone who likes to stroll in the outdoors, and it offers a safe paved pathway.

The six-foot-wide asphalt path is very easy to navigate. The trail is full of wildlife to be seen. A person might see deer, squirrels, and/or ducks, and if you hang around long enough, chance is, you might see a bald eagle.

The trail could not have been made possible without the help of several people and organizations. Clark County, Asphalt



*Miss Carol cuts the ribbon for the Sunset Trail.*

## DeGray Lake Hosts Hunt for Persons with Disabilities

By Jeffrey Lockwood  
Photo by Jimmie Ward

A special hunting event was held at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District's DeGray Lake for persons with permanent mobility impairment. The hunt provided access, facilities and other needed resources for these individuals to enjoy a safe and quality recreational experience.

The hunt is a cooperative effort between the Corps and the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission. Appropriate measures were taken to ensure sound wildlife conservation practices and safety rules were enforced. All hunting activities were held within DeGray Lake's Water Management Area.

Participants were selected by random drawing and permits were issued upon their arrival to the hunt. ◀



*Pictured after the hunt left to right are Virgil Irvin, Billy Fryar, Roy McKim, and John Paris.*

# Lake Greeson Hosts Squirrel Hunt for Combat Veterans

By Tammy Fant

Photos by Shannon Herrin and Robin Lammers

A squirrel hunt for combat veterans was held January 16-17, 2015, at Lake Greeson.

Park rangers with Lake Greeson along with personnel of the Wounded Warriors, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and Kirby Landing Motel and Marina of Kirby, Arkansas, combined efforts to host this hunt dubbed “Squirrel-A-Palooza”.

Warriors arrived at Kirby Landing on Friday, January 16, 2015. The Kirby Landing Motel provided free rooms for



*Hunters geared up for the squirrel hunt.*



the hunters and their families. The hunt began on Saturday, January 17, 2015 at 6:30 A.M. Local sportsmen and personnel with the Corps, Arkansas Game and Fish, and the U.S. Forest Service, served as guides for the hunters on a public land squirrel hunt in areas around the lake while the veterans’ families enjoyed ATV trail rides. ◀

*Hunters en route to hunting area.*

*Larry Lawson, an Army veteran and part of the Warriors Hunt, participates in the special ceremony to retire an American flag at Lake Greeson.*



## **Lake Greeson's Warrior Hunts Include *'More Than Just a Piece of Cloth'* – A Flag Ceremony**

Courtesy of John Balch of the Nashville Leader Newspaper

With every head bowed in silence around a crackling campfire, Old Glory was retired by fire during a special ceremony held at the conclusion of this weekend's Warrior Hunt on Lake Greeson. Many of those in attendance, still dressed in their camouflage hunting clothes, dabbed tears from their eyes and stared long and intently into the flames as the last bits of fabric disappeared.

"I tried to hold it together," John Nolan told the crowd gathered Saturday night after leading the emotional cere-

mony to properly retire the American flag. Nolan, a Louisiana native and retired soldier with the U.S. Air Force, is the director of Warrior Hunts and has been involved in many flag retirements but has only led the ceremony twice. "But, it gets me every time," Nolan later said.

This year was the second time Lake Greeson has hosted the Warrior Hunts, which Nolan helps coordinate with the Patriots Alumni and Louisiana Sportsman (PALS) and the  
*(Continued on page 21)*

*(Piece of Cloth, continued from page 20)*

Northeast Louisiana Veterans Association as well as the Wounded Warrior Project.

The hunts are designed to be therapeutic outings for soldiers of all ages, and from all branches of the military, who have participated or been physically or mentally injured in wars around the world. Approximately 27 soldiers and family members returned to Lake Greeson this year, some participating in a special squirrel hunt where 46 squirrels were bagged while others enjoyed a lengthy ATV ride around Albert Pike. "This is a great place with great people," Nolan said. "We're already talking about coming back next year and maybe doing some fishing."

Lake Greeson Field Office partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to host the event. The owner of the Kirby Motel and Landing, Clay Crump, donated the rooms for the event.

Following a meal provided and prepared by Lake Greeson personnel and the Lake Greeson Sportsmen's Alliance, the soldiers and their families moved down the hill from the motel to a large campfire for the retiring of the flag. They privately separated the flag's colors into strips.

Opening the ceremony, Nolan stated, "I am your flag. I was born on June 14, 1777. I am more than just a piece of cloth. I am the emblem of the greatest sovereign nation on earth. I have led your sons to battle from Valley Forge to the blistering desert of the Arabian peninsula."

Each soldier and their family members held ragged strips of the flag and were asked to retire them by colors. First the white, which represents the "burning tears shed by Americans who lost their sons in battle." Next the red, which "symbolizes the blood spilled in defense of this glorious nation." Each strip was carefully placed on the fire.

Nolan had reserved a special red piece of the flag that he and an older soldier held together and committed to the fire. "This is for the fallen and their families," Nolan said, his voice cracking with emotion. The elder man then saluted the flames. Nolan then turned to another fellow soldier and said, "Please, retire the Union." The blue field of stars, representing "God's Heaven under which I fly, and my stars, clustered together, unify the 50 states as one for God and country," was laid in the fire, followed by a lengthy moment of silence.

The flag that was retired flew over Lake Greeson Field Office above Narrows Dam and had never seen any war-time or bloodshed. But, as Nolan said again, the flag repre-

*(Continued on page 22)*

## Arkabutla Lake Hosts 15th Annual Eagle Watch

Story and photo by Kandy Alldread

Arkabutla Lake was the host site for its 15th annual eagle watch survey held Saturday, January 10, 2015. Five volunteers assisted five Arkabutla Lake park rangers with counting eagles for the Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey.

The purpose of the Midwinter Bald Eagle survey is to monitor the status of Bald Eagle wintering populations in the contiguous United States by estimating national and regional count trends overall and by age class. Each January, several hundred individuals across the nation count eagles along standard, non-overlapping, survey routes.

Arkabutla Lake's volunteers used the fixed point survey method at Dub Patton Campground, Dub Patton Day Use Area, Bayou Point, Kelley's Crossing, and Coldwater Point. Eight mature and four immature eagles were located: two mature and one immature at the Dub Patton area, two mature and one immature at Cold Water Point area, one immature at Bayou Point boat ramp, two mature at Senatobia Wetlands, and two mature and one immature at Kelly's Crossing boat ramp.

*(Continued on page 22)*



*Valery Smith, left, and Kate Friedman give presentation on Birds-of-Prey.*

# Arkabutla Lake Hosts 24th Annual Physically Challenged Hunt

By Ernie Lentz  
Photo by Coleman Pullen

On December 12-15, 2014, Arkabutla Lake held the 24th Annual Arkabutla Lake Physically Challenged Deer Hunt within the Natural Area below Arkabutla Dam. Fifty eight 58 hunters were selected for the hunt but only 44 hunters arrived to participate.

The hunt began in 1991 as a way to manage the deer herd in the Natural Area where hunting by the public is prohibited due to the numerous nature trails. Without this hunt, the deer herd would spiral out of control, which could cause diseases and starvation.

Another benefit of this hunt is that the hunt provides a unique hunting opportunity to a very special group of citizens. This hunt has become therapeutic in nature by allowing the participants to commune with nature

and to enjoy the great outdoors.

This year's hunt was very successful due to the near perfect weather. Mild temperatures and sunny days provided the hunters an excellent environment for hunting whitetail deer. The participants harvested 18 deer this year, 8 bucks and 10 does, with the largest buck weighing 175 pounds. Besides the benefits to the hunters, this hunt helps to maintain a healthy deer population and sustains the resources used by the deer and other wildlife.

Another benefit of the Physically Challenged Hunt is the opportunity to volunteer one's time and talent. Volunteers assist with getting the hunters in and out of the woods; dress harvested deer; and cook meals for the hunters. It takes an army of volunteers to ensure a successful hunt, and this year we had 19 volunteers who worked 458 hours at a cost savings of \$10,328.00 to the Corps.

The Arkabutla Lake Physically Challenged Hunt continues to sustain a healthy and diverse environment through partnerships with volunteers, natural resources and the unique recreational opportunities. ◀



Park ranger Rob Hoff, left, accompanies hunter Rob Farris, right, with his harvest.

*(Piece of Cloth, concluded from page 21)*

sents “more than just a piece of cloth” and should be respected at all times. Nolan also informed those around the fire that it is absolutely o.k. to approach someone about the condition of their flag and request that it be properly retired.

“When you see Old Glory in tattered shape, it's kind of our responsibility to step up and say something about it,” Nolan said. With the retiring of the old flag, a new flag was presented, this one to motel owner Crump for his donation to the event. The flag had flown over the Louisiana Capitol, the state where most of the visiting soldiers reside. ◀

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*(Arkabutla Lake Eagle Watch, concluded from page 21)*

At the conclusion of the watch, everyone returned to the Arkabutla Lake Field Office for a live Birds-of-Prey Program presented by Valery Smith of Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation. The program was entertaining by providing volunteers the opportunity to learn about local owls and hawks and to see some beautiful educational birds and other animals up close.

Arkabutla Lake personnel extend thanks to all volunteers and Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation personnel for ensuring this successful event.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the world's largest public engineering organization and has a firm commitment to preserving and enhancing our natural environment. The Corps is the largest federal provider of outdoor and water-based recreation in the nation. The primary mission of the Mississippi lakes is to provide flood risk reduction. With approximately 4.9 million visitors each year, these lakes also contribute approximately \$99.5 million into the local economy. For more information visit our website at [www.mvk.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil). ◀

# Enid Lake Hosts Annual Habitat and Clean Up Day Activities

By Chris Hannaford

Photos by Chris Hannaford and Deborah Freeman

## Habitat Day

Prior to 1993, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Enid Lake contracted the placement of fish shelters in the lake. Due to budget/manpower constraints, it became necessary for the Corps to seek other means of accomplishing this endeavor.

In 1993, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers joined with concerned sportsmen, fishing clubs, and members of the local communities to form the Enid Lake Habitat Volunteer Association. Through this partnership an annual event titled "Habitat Day" was organized. Enid Lake's annual Habitat Day was held February 7, 2015.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks selected areas around the lake that needed habitat improvements. This year's event focused on areas adjacent to Billy's and Mooney Creeks. Different areas are targeted each year where improvements in the habitat can be made throughout the entire lake. Cedar and discarded Christmas trees are used to construct fish shelters in the targeted areas. The trees that are used are cut and transported to the specific areas through in-house labor.

The actual placement of fish shelters is accomplished

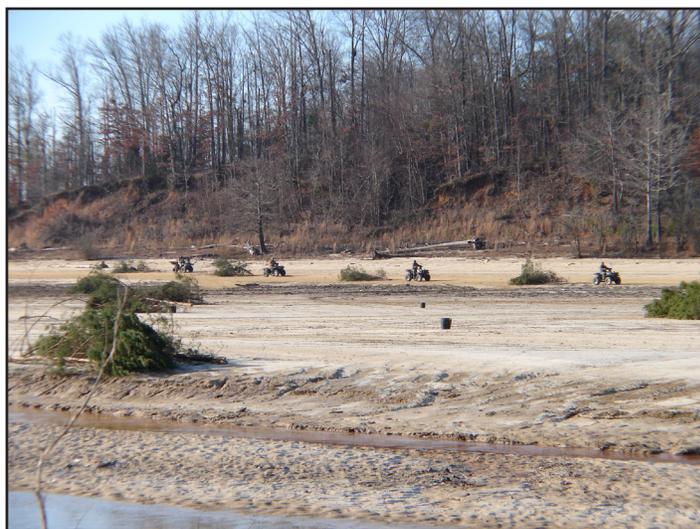


*Volunteers cut trees for fish habitat.*

by volunteers who donate their time and equipment. They trees, dragged with ATVs, are then anchored with concrete blocks and other weights along creek beds and other designated areas.

Restoration to the fish habitat is very important to the future fisheries at Enid Lake. Years of inundation have claimed much of Enid's fish habitat. Fish use these shelters for various reasons such as cover, areas to feed, and a place to spawn. Also restoring the habitat increases the health and populations of fish.

According to studies performed by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks the restoration program has shown enormous benefits to the fish and habitat in Enid Lake.



*Trees are being dragged to various locations along river bed for fish habitat.*

## Clean Up Day

In July 2003, a group of locals contacted the Corps of Engineers' Enid Lake Field Office regarding the amount of litter and rubbish that accumulates on the shoreline and roadways around Enid Lake. A meeting was held with the concerned residents and Corps team members. As a result, a partnership was formed between the two- the Corps and

*(Continued on page 25)*

# Grenada Lake Hosts Wounded Warrior Deer/Hog/Turkey Hunts

Story and Photos by Jonathan Johnsey

Grenada Lake Field Office recently hosted its second Special Deer and Wild Hog Hunts in coordination with the National Wounded Warrior Project. This year's hunts included seven wounded veterans from various parts of the southeast from Arkansas, Georgia, Florida and Mississippi.

The hunts were held in the Grenada Dam Area and the Grenada Waterfowl Refuge, January 12th through January 14th. During these three days the hunters lodged at the Grenada Waterfowl Refuge, and slept on cots loaned by the Grenada National Guard Armory. The hunters commented that they enjoyed being all together at the same place because it allowed them to get to know other wounded veterans.

The local Christian Motorcycle Club Chapter provided the hunters with supper on the evening of their arrival and also provided a short devotional. Sweet potato farmers from Vardaman donated several loads of sweet potatoes for the wild hog hunts. The Calhoun County Avengers (Sons of Confederate Veterans Chapter) donated snacks and other supplies for the hunters during their stay. Biologists with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service also assisted with the hunts, and retrieved deer and hogs harvested by the hunters.

The hunt was a tremendous success with a total of 14 deer and six wild hogs harvested during the three-day event. Each hunter was able to harvest at least one deer with some hunters harvesting multiple deer. The hunters said "they enjoyed their experience at Grenada Lake, and looked forward to future events". Our field office staff is honored to host this event, and to give a little something back to our wounded veterans who risked their lives for the freedoms we enjoy. The staff at Grenada Lake thanks all who made donations, and those who donated their time to make this event such a tremendous success. ◀



From left to right, Butch Tinnon, Jackson, Joe Caley, Augusta, Georgia, Mike Peterson, Biloxi, Kevin Coleman, Grenada Lake park ranger, Mark Moody, Long Beach, Jeff Arnold, Little Rock, Arkansas, and Stephen Fleming, Pensacola, Florida. Not shown is Tim Bell, Blue Springs, MS.

Dear Col Cross,

Sir, I have been asked to speak to you on behalf of all of the participants of the Wounded Warrior hunt at Grenada Lake.

I met you last year at lunch after the turkey hunt. I believe you should know the facts of the recent hunt. Your rangers did an outstanding job of setting up a first class event. They treated the wounded warriors with dignity and respect, and went out of their way to accommodate the guys. We were treated as adults capable of doing for ourselves. But if we needed any help at all the rangers were there.

The abundance of game was beautiful. But that alone did not make the hunt. It was the enthusiasm of the rangers that set the tone. It was clear they weren't just checking the box but were in fact putting their hearts into it. The preparation and selection of areas for stands was evident. A big plus was the fact that they had maps available and reviewed them with the warriors to plan the next day's hunts. For the more experienced it was a must and for the newer hunters it really gave them ownership of their hunt. It was much more than just walking out to a blind.

There was concern that the accommodations at the reserve were not that great. As it turns out, it couldn't have been better. It allowed all of us to be together and gave us the opportunity to bond. There was some good therapy there. It was also close enough to make hog eradication operations easy and fun for all. We strongly request you not change a thing about housing for the future hunts. It was a home run.

As always, Damon Blakely was enthusiastically involved. Chris Terry was very helpful and a real leader. Jonathan Johnson was always looking to do things better. Kevin Coleman helped with cleaning deer and was great help also. Derek Redwine and other guys came in to help with guiding and insisted on helping with skinning and cleaning the harvest.

I speak for all the guys when I say we feel like your rangers are family to us. We all look forward to participating with more hunts, making it something special for us all to look forward to all year.

The rangers were sincerely interested in our opinions as to how they could improve the hunt. We all agreed that there was very little that would have made it better. They showed great interest in our ideas for future hunts; they didn't just listen but sought our input. I know many of the warriors commented that it was the best warrior hunting trip ever; I agree with that. It was more than a hunt! It was a fellowship and a reunion for many.

Sir, your rangers deserve high praise, and we hope to see these guys again as we have begun bonding with them.

Again Sir, thank you and please know that your rangers went above the call for all of us. They deserve the recognition for doing more than just their jobs.

Thank You  
Mark Moody CPT (RET)  
INFANTRY!

# Grenada Lake Field Office Hosts Wounded Warrior Turkey/Wild Hog Hunts

By Damon Blakely

Grenada Lake recently hosted its second Wounded Warrior Turkey and Wild Hog hunt. Six wounded warriors participated in this year's hunt. Four of the hunters were from Mississippi, one from Georgia, and one from Florida. Grenada Lake GIS program manager, Damon Blakely, coordinated the hunt again this year.

On Sunday, March 29, 2015, the hunters met at the Grenada Waterfowl Refuge near Sabougla. Cots were set up at the Wildlife Refuge for the hunters' three-day. The Christian Motorcycle Association, provided a fabulous barbeque dinner for the hunters Sunday Evening, and gave the wounded warriors a warm welcome. This dinner and welcome set the tone for a great time of hunting and fellowship. Grenada Lake resource manager, Andy Strickland, and Grenada Lake project champion, Dolly Marascalco, also attended the welcome dinner.

The turkey hunt began early Monday morning, and all the hunters had a great time in pursuit of the elusive turkeys. Three Grenada Lake park rangers, Brian Bowman, Kevin Coleman, and Damon Blakely, along with Grenada Lake's civil engineering technician, Dereck Redwine, served as guides. With the guides being familiar with the areas, each assisted the wounded warriors during the turkey hunting. Two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists, James Austin and Jeffrey Lee, along with Senator Thad Cochran's Legislative Aide, Daniel Ulmer, also served as guides for the wounded warriors.

On Monday evening, Colonel Cross, District Commander, along with U. S. Congressman Bennie Thompson, and supervisory civil engineer, Matt Pierce, attended the hunt and met with the wounded warriors. One of the warriors, Captain Mark Moody, of Long Beach, killed a 300 + pound wild hog. On the final day of the turkey hunt Joe Caley of Augusta, Georgia, missed a big gobbler. Later, Caley was more successful on his second attempt – he bagged a gobbler.

All six of the hunters came close to bagging turkeys, and had a great time pursuing these elusive birds. The Grenada Lake Staff strives to provide opportunities for our veterans and wounded warriors that have sacrificed so much for our country and the freedoms that we enjoy. Plans are already

in progress for future wounded warrior events at Grenada Lake.

This event would not have been such a great success without the help from our sponsors. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize our great sponsors: Mike Campbell of Grenada Bad Boy Buggies, Bobby Whitt of C&W Farms, Mississippi Army National Guard, Grenada Unit, (loaned the cots), Calhoun County Avengers Sons of Confederate Veterans Chapter, and the Grenada Chapter of the Christian Motorcycle Association. ◀

*(Enid Lake Activities, concluded from page 23)*

Enid Lake Volunteers for Waste Management, whose primary target is to clean Enid Lake's shoreline and roadways. The partnership planned an event that would set aside one day committed to picking up trash and rubbish to restore and maintain the beauty of Enid Lake.

Since that time in 2004, Enid Lake Volunteers for Waste Management have held Clean Up days for eleven consecutive years. The Volunteers for Waste Management's Clean Up Day has been directly responsible for picking up more than 813 compacted cubic yards of trash and debris, and the removal of 703 tires from the shoreline and roadways of Enid Lake. The event has also been directly responsible for volunteer services valued at over \$254,300.00. ◀



*Bags of trash collected during Clean Up Day.*

# Grenada Lake Gets New Floating Dock

By Shirley J. Smith  
 Photos by Elizabeth Garlington

A floating dock was recently installed at Grenada Landing's boat ramp at Grenada Lake. Grenada Landing was the chosen site for the floating ramp due to the popularity of this ramp.

The dock, installed by EZ Dock Contractors of Baton Rouge, meets all American Disabilities Act guidelines, accommodates four to five boats, and is equipped with handrails, benches, bumpers, and cleats.

The floating dock runs parallel with the boat ramp and is approximately 190 ft. long. Benefits of the floating dock

include a safer and easier setting for Grenada Lake visitors to board their boats, load and unload supplies, and decrease traffic congestion.

Grenada Lake's water level fluctuates nearly 25 ft. throughout the year. The lake ranges from around 215 ft. national vertical geodetic datum (NGVD) during summer months and down to 193 ft. NGVD during winter months. Despite fluctuating lake levels, Grenada Landing's boat ramp is usable throughout the year. ◀



*Floating dock at Grenada Lake.*



*Boat ramp at floating dock.*



*Grenada Lake.*

# Grenada Lake Hosts Youth Waterfowl Hunt

Story and Photos by Patrick Coleman

A youth waterfowl hunt was held at Grenada Lake on Saturday, January 31, 2015.

All persons under the age of sixteen were eligible for the hunt and were required to be accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older. All participants were responsible for meeting age appropriate state and federal waterfowl hunting regulations. Participants were responsible for all necessary materials associated with waterfowl hunting such as decoys, chest-waders, duck calls, steel shot, and shotgun.

The hunt was held at two of Grenada Lake's Wildlife Refuge Areas: Benwood Wildlife Management Area located on Highway 330 between Coffeeville and Bruce, and the Haserway Wetland Management Area located below the dam. Both areas were open for one day.

ATV's were used for the hunt. Hunters were required to obey Grenada Lake's Helmet Policy and hunt in accordance to state and federal laws. ◀



*Youth hunter Ben Bond of Saltillo is pictured with his dog Stella and his waterfowl harvest in tree in background.*



*Youth hunters Gabe Edwards of Water Valley, left, and Chase Jackson of Batesville, right, proudly show their harvest.*



*Youth hunter Tate Jackson of Batesville wading water during hunt.*



*Bryce Terry with his harvest from the hunt.*

## District Field Offices & Services

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Vicksburg District  
4155 E. Clay Street  
Vicksburg, MS 39183  
www.mvk.usace.army.mil  
email: cemvk-pa@army.us.mil  
601-631-5000**

Lake Ouachita (501) 767-2101  
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  
*Apply, ask questions, or report violations*  
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

Vicksburg National Military Park  
(601) 634-5760

Engineer Research and Development Center  
(601) 634-2504

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

412th Engineer Command  
(601) 636-1686

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

168th Engineer Group  
(601) 313-5290

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

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