

January Board Meeting

The Board of Mississippi Levee Commissioners held their regular board meeting on January 12, 2004; host of dignitaries on hand.



Col. Clapp presents 2003 Outstanding Performance Award to Fred Ballard

CORPS ANNUAL VISIT

Personnel from the Vicksburg District Corps of Engineers attended the January Board Meeting for their annual visit to the Board. Col. Rick Clapp presented the Board with the **2003 Outstanding Performance Award for Operation and Maintenance of Flood Control Projects.** The Board has been awarded this distinction for 45 consecutive years. Col. Clapp commended the Board, staff and crew on the outstanding job they do on maintaining existing flood control projects and features. - **MSLB**



Levee Board Crew

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS ON HAND

The MS Levee Board extended invitations to all the newly elected county Supervisors within the Levee District and the new Greenville Mayor and Councilmen. The public officials were on hand to meet the Commissioners and staff of the Levee Board. Chief Engineer, Jim Wanamaker, presented the officials with a power point presentation outlining Levee Board projects and issues. Kent Parrish, Corps Project Manager, briefed the newly elected officials with a power point presentation of the Continuing Authority Program (CAP) which is available for municipalities and counties. Mr. Parrish also updated the Board on the Corps of Engineers current mitigation efforts. - **MSLB**



Greenville Councilman Carl McGee, Mayor Heather Hudson and Col. Rick Clapp listen to presentation.

BOARD MEETING RECAP

The Levee Board took the following action during its January meeting: authorized advertisement of bids for Business Auto/Public Officials & Employees/ Liability/ Contractors Equipment Insurance, chemicals, vehicles and equipment; concurred with permit issued to Entergy for a utility pole within Levee Board right-of-way; reviewed bids and awarded Workman's Compensation Insurance to Bill Andrews Insurance Agency; rejected bids on the sale of a used bulldozer; approved interlocal agreement with Greenville Port Commission to manage the former Corps Mat Casting field for industrial development; approved the lease of a portion of the former Corps Grading Unit site; authorized a delegation to the MVFCA Congressional Meetings March 22 - 24 in Washington, D.C. to discuss FY 2005 Appropriations for the Corps projects in Mississippi; authorized the search for a new Assistant Engineer resulting from the upcoming retirement of Chief Engineer Jim Wanamaker in June; and received status reports on all the ongoing projects in the Mississippi Levee District. - **MSLB**

Corps Corner



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Dennis Norris named District Chief, Operations Division

Dennis O. Norris has been promoted to Chief of the Operations Division at the Vicksburg District, Corps of Engineers. He previously served as Assistant Chief, Operations Division and, prior to that, as Chief of River Operations Branch.



In his new position, he is responsible for the overall leadership, direction, and management of the largest operations workforce within the Corps with an annual program in excess of \$120 million.

The Vicksburg District's operations division also operates the "one of a kind" mat sinking unit, which draws international visitors.

Norris began his career as an engineer with the Vicksburg District in 1980. His latest career accomplishments include the 2000 Federal Engineer of the Year, Mississippi Valley

Division 2002 Civilian of the Year, Vice-Presidential Hammer Award and various other awards and commendations.

While in river operations, he developed a video to showcase the revetment operations in the Vicksburg District that won Best in Class at the National Waterways Conference.

Norris is a member of Army Engineer Association, Gideon's International, Toastmasters International, Japan Society of Civil Engineers, and is a Registered Professional Engineer in Mississippi and Louisiana.

A native of New Orleans, Norris graduated from Bastrop High School and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston.

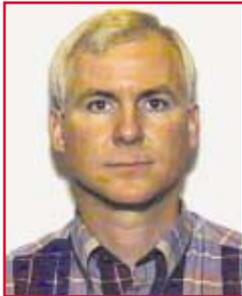
Norris is married to the former Leah Kieffer of Lake Charles, La., and they have three children. He is an active member of Bowmar Baptist Church.

The Vicksburg District encompasses a 68,000-square mile area of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. - **MSLB**

Robert Fitzgerald named District Engineering Chief

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, recently named Robert H. Fitzgerald as the new Chief of Engineering Division.

In his new position, he has the responsibility of managing and leading a 160- person workforce conducting engineering analysis, design and data collection activities for the Corps' Vicksburg District.



Fitzgerald previously served as Chief of Design and River Stabilization Branches of the Engineering Division. His primary technical experience is in the area of hydrology and hydraulic analysis and design of flood control and navigation facilities.

Fitzgerald, a native of New Albany, graduated from East Union Attendance Center. After earning a Bachelor of Science from Mississippi State University in civil engineering, he began his career with the Vicksburg District in 1978 as an engineer intern in planning division.

He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Mississippi and a member of the Society of American Military Engineers, Vicksburg Kiwanis Club, and Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honor Society.

He is married to Susan Myers Fitzgerald of Aberdeen and they are the parents of two children. - **MSLB**

Jones Bayou Drainage District

The Jones Bayou Drainage District located in Bolivar County is one of the smallest districts in the Mississippi Delta, though no less important. Starting halfway between Merigold and Cleveland, the District runs down to Linn, MS, which is approximately 10 miles. This makes up the actual taxing portion of the district where the channel is maintained.

"It is a crucial district because it affects Cleveland, Merigold, Renova, Boyle and Delta State University," says Bolivar County Engineer, Bob Eley, who works closely with the District. "They do an outstanding job of protecting these towns."

With a budget of \$10,000 a year, the Jones Bayou Drainage District is comprised of the following board members: Chairman Leland Speakes and Commissioners Joe Reed, Jr. and Owen Kittle.

As for the District's ties to the Mississippi Levee Board, Eley notes, "We depend on the Mississippi Levee Board and the YMD Levee Board to properly maintain the Sunflower River. Without their outstanding work, all the activity of the Jones Bayou Drainage District would be for naught." - **MSLB**



Jones Bayou - Cleveland, MS

Wood Duck Box Management

By **Trey Cooke**
Executive Director, Delta Wildlife, Inc.



Delta Wildlife has provided nesting structures for wood ducks throughout the past decade. Delta Wildlife and its membership have maintained many of these structures. To date, more than 5,000 such structures have been installed. These 5,000 boxes provide needed nesting areas to our native wood ducks and can potentially raise 65,000

wood ducks annually. And as Delta Wildlife and its membership continue to install wood duck boxes, it is important to understand the biology of a wood duck, its nesting habitats, and the importance of maintaining and cleaning wood duck boxes annually.

Wood ducks are beautiful birds with easily recognizable colors. The males' plumage is maroon, with a white throat and chinstrap, and bright green blue, purple, and black feathers. The female is grayish brown and less colorful. Both have well defined head crests and long, dark, square tails. These tails can be a mark of identification during flight. Wood ducks also have large eyes. Their average body weight is about 1.5 lbs. and their length is usually 17 to 20 inches. The wood duck's wings are broad and short, spanning 30 inches. Their flight speeds can reach 55 miles per hour.

Nesting starts in February and continues until late June. The females typically use leaves and decayed wood to build nests in tree cavities. When tree cavities are in short supply, females will seek out alternative nesting sites, including Delta Wildlife's wood duck boxes. These structures simulate tree cavities and the wood shavings simulate leaves and decaying wood for nesting material. The female will lay one egg per day, usually in the morning. When she leaves, she will cover the eggs with nesting material. Late in the nesting season she will pluck down from her breast each day and add it to the nest until she has finished laying.

Females will lay an average of 12 eggs per season. The eggs are small, rounded and off-white. They will usually hatch within 27 to 30 days. After hatching the female will lead her brood to water usually within 24 hours. The ducklings will remain with their mother until they can fly (at approximately 8 weeks).

While the wood duck uses tree cavities or boxes for nesting, they require other habitats for rearing. This habitat "formula"

Wood Duck continued on page 7



THE LEVEE PROTECTS YOU...TAKE CARE OF IT!

Why?

Driving on the slope of the levee damages the grass and can start severe erosion. This damage is compounded when heavy rains occur or flood water is against the levee.



Levee Board crew and equipment make repairs to the levee slope due to erosions caused by ruts.



For more information on flood control and what is being done, contact the Mississippi Levee Board at 662-334-4813 or visit www.msleveeboard.com

LEEVE ENLARGEMENT and BERMS PROJECT

Work on Item 502L (7.6 mile conventional levee enlargement project) is 100% complete. The Levee Board has completed fencing and has advertised for maintenance contracts. Item 496L (10.5 mile levee enlargement and dredged berm project) is 94% complete. Chancellor & Sons and their sub-contractor G.B. "Boots" Smith Construction Corp. are utilizing haul trucks to move conventional borrow to top out the levee. Item 488L (8.8 mile levee enlargement and dredged berm project) is 3% complete. Weeks Marine and their sub-contractor Chancellor & Sons have begun removing the berm material and using it to build dikes and the base on the levee enlargement. Item 477L (5.1 mile levee enlargement project) is 66% complete. ASA Enterprises is utilizing tractors and scrappers to haul conventional borrow. Item 474L (3.4 mile levee enlargement project) is in the final stages of design. This item will be advertised this spring with work to begin this summer.

The Levee Board is obtaining rights of entry for surveying and borings on the entire length of Hwy 465 where it runs on top of the Mainline Mississippi River Levee. This 12.6 mile stretch of levee will be enlarged utilizing four (4) separate construction items, but with the limited areas for borrow and the need to maintain access to riverside landowners, all of these items are being designed at the same time. The discontinuance of maintenance by the Mississippi Department of Transportation will eliminate the requirement for the Levee Board and the Corps of Engineers to provide a detour for public traffic. -MSLB



Hwy 465 Survey Crews



Item 474L - Removing Abandoned Natural Gas Pipeline



Item 477L - Removing Material from Borrow Pit



Item 477L - Topping Out Levee



Item 488L - Building Retaining Dikes



Item 488L - Removing Berm Material



Item 496L - Enlarging Base



Item 496L - Final Grading



Item 496L - Removing Material from Borrow Pit



Item 502L - Levee Board Crew building Cross Fences

LEEVE & BERMS PROJECTS

Item 502L - 7.6 miles	100%
Item 496L - 10.5 miles	94%
Item 488L - 8.8 miles	3%
Item 477L - 5.1 miles	66%

Board Member Profile:

Laurance Carter: Sharkey County



As a native of Rolling Fork, MS, Laurance Carter has been an elected Commissioner with the Mississippi Levee Board since 1998, although his support of the Board's crucial work goes back much further.

"I was the only candidate who qualified in 1998, and so was elected without opposition the first time I ran," Carter says. "I was re-elected in 2002 for my second term. Of course, all of my life I had been aware of the important work of the Mississippi Levee Board having experienced the '37 flood and the '73 flood. I have always been interested in levees and internal drainage because of how both affected my crops and livelihood."

As a farmer by profession, Carter produces cotton, corn, rice, soybeans, some wheat and has a fish farm he operates, as well. Carter says he has been a full-time farmer since 1956 and is still active in the family business although he "semi-retired" a few years ago.

An Army veteran, Carter has spent his adult life farming in Sharkey and Issaquena Counties and is proud of the work that he does to insure that the Levee Board's mission is carried out.

"We could not survive without the drainage and flood control provided by the Levee Board, the Corps of Engineers, and the various drainage districts," Carter summarizes. "Delta residents simply could not live on this land. Currently, the levee enlargement work, the Sunflower Maintenance Project, and the Yazoo Backwater Projects are the three most vital components of the Levee Board's mission."

A Mississippi State University graduate, Carter is married to the former Joyce Gibson of Attala County. The two are active members of the First Baptist Church in Rolling Fork. The couple have two children, son Gibson ("Gip") and daughter, Sue, whose daughter is the Carter's only grandchild.

-MSLB

MS Levee Board Officers & Staff

COMMISSIONERS:

Fred A. Ballard, Jr., President,
Washington County

Kenneth Rodgers, Vice-President,
Humphreys County

Johnny Robinson,
Washington County

James W. House, Jr.,
Bolivar County

Nott Wheeler, Jr., Bolivar County

Roy Nichols, Issaquena County

Laurance Carter, Sharkey County

STAFF:

James E. Wanamaker,
Chief Engineer

Peter Nimrod, Assistant Engineer

Charles S. Tindall, III, Attorney

Judy B. Ross, Treasurer

Ginger Morlino, Secretary

Patrick Bolls,

Maintenance Superintendent

Rick Boyd, Engineering Technician

In Memoriam: Alfred Stewart 1949-2004



Alfred Stewart, 54, Levee Board Crew Member since April, 1997, passed away on February 2, 2004.

Mr. Stewart was born November 4, 1949. He is survived by his wife Bonnie and five children.

2003 ANNUAL LEVEE INSPECTION



On November 6, 2003, the MS Levee Board hosted its Annual Levee Inspection. This year's trip started at the Bolivar/Coahoma county line and proceeded downstream to Greenville. Lunch was served at the Great River Road State Park in Rosedale.

2003 MVFCA Annual Meeting

The Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association (MVFCA) held its, 68th Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA on December 4-6, 2003. The Mississippi Levee Board, along with a host of other levee board associations and Corps of Engineers officials from throughout the Mississippi Valley, attended the meeting.

CORPS OFFICIALS SPEAK

The Honorable John Paul Woodley, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, was welcomed by the members of the Association to his first annual meeting. Secretary Woodley's presentation reviewed his visit to the South Delta area with Congressman Roger Wicker. He told the group that his position is that the Corps should not be an advocate of any project, but should be an advocate of the process. He outlined three issues that he intended to promote: (1) Establishment of national goals for the Corps' mission, (2) Insure that the Corps has the best analytical capability possible, and (3) Increase and improve responsiveness to the wetland regulatory program.



Lt. Gen. Flowers



Gen. Crear



Gen. Riley

Secretary Woodley was followed by Lt. General Robert B. Flowers, Chief of Engineers, who presented a moving speech outlining the Corps of Engineers role in the re-building of Iraq. This was his last appearance before the Association as the Corps' Chief. General Robert Crear, Commander of the Southwest Division and former District Commander in Vicksburg, presented an insightful review on the "Restore Iraqi Oil" mission of the Corps. This is a mission that General Crear had the responsibility to complete. Major General Carl A. Strock, Director of Civil Works, outlined a new method of prioritizing projects based on performance based budgeting. The Corps is faced with severe limitations in funding not only operation and maintenance but authorized construction. Brigadier General Don T. Riley, President of Mississippi River Commission, presented a State of the Division Report. - **MSLB**

CONGRESSMAN ROGER WICKER NAMED MVFCA VICE PRESIDENT

The Saturday morning session saw presentations from Congressman Bennie Thompson, Congressman Marion Berry, Congressman Leonard Boswell, Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson, Honorable John Myers, and Honorable Lindy Boggs. Following the Congressional presentations, the Association held the election of officers with Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana being named President and with Mississippi Congressman Roger Wicker and Iowa Congressman Leonard Boswell being elected as Vice Presidents. Fred Ballard with the Mississippi Levee Board was again renamed as a member of the Associations' Executive Committee with M. V. Williams of Tennessee being renamed Chairman of the Committee and George Grugett renamed Executive Vice President. - **MSLB**



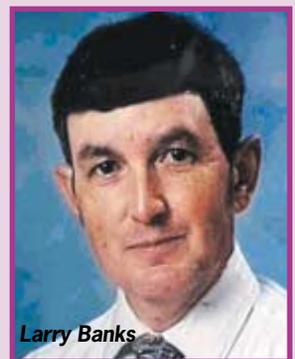
Cong. Thompson



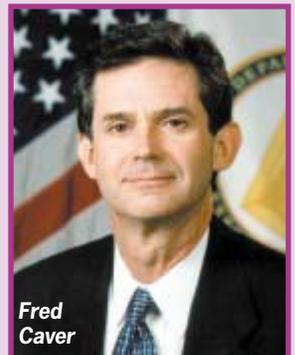
George Grugett

ENGINEERING COMMITTEE RE-CAP

MS Levee Board Assistant Engineer, Peter Nimrod, served as Chairman of the MVFCA Engineering Committee. A host of knowledgeable speakers updated the Committee. Larry Banks, Technical Directorate of the MS Valley Division, briefed the Committee on the 2003 Flood Operations and the TVA Reservoir Operations Study. Lynn Bock, Attorney for the St. John's Levee District, gave the Committee an update on the St. John's/New Madrid Floodway Project. This project has been targeted by environmental groups along with our Big Sunflower River Maintenance Project and the Yazoo Backwater Project for national opposition. Larry Dowdy, Executive Vice-President for the Little River Drainage District, provided an update on the Missouri River Master Manual. Fred Caver, Deputy Director of Civil Works, Corps Headquarters, discussed the USACE 2012 Initiative. - **MSLB**



Larry Banks



Fred Caver

Yazoo River Basin - TMDL Development

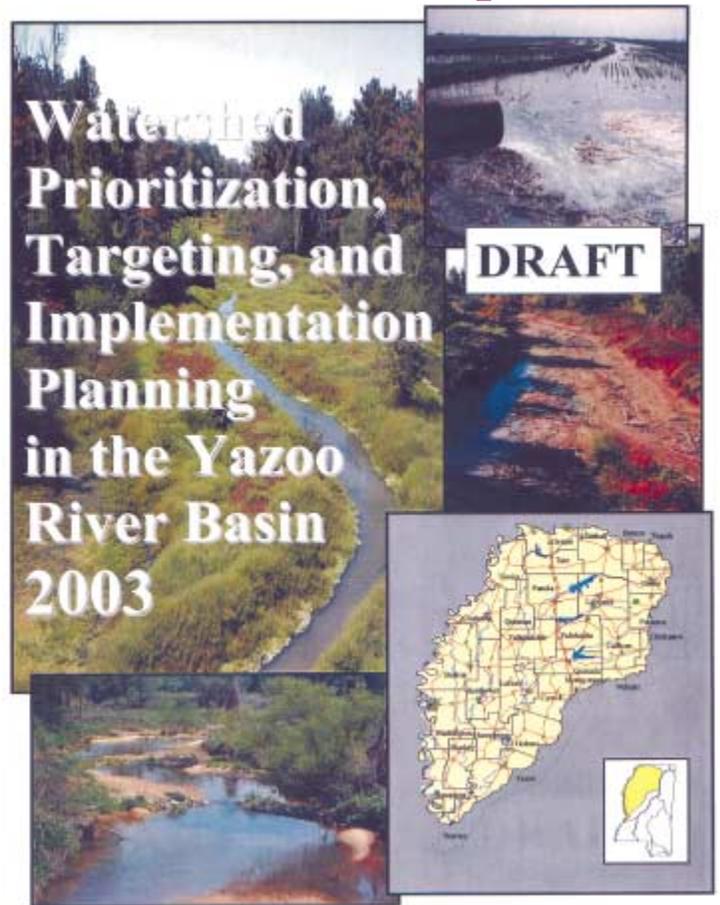
During 1998, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) began to manage its water programs on a basinwide scale by establishing a collaborative process that coordinates the water assessment and management activities of numerous state and federal agencies. This process, Mississippi's Basinwide Approach to Water Quality Management, will focus on the development of Basin Management Plans for each of Mississippi's major river basins, as well as local watershed management plans for priority watersheds. The development of each of the basin management plans is being carried out in 5 successive phases, referred to as the Basin Management Cycle - Planning, Data Gathering, Data Evaluation, Management Plan Development, and Implementation.

A planning/management team has been formed for each basin group, and is commonly referred to as a Basin Team. Each team is composed of federal, state, and local agencies with water quality-related programs, and is led by a Basin Coordinator employed by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. It is the Basin Coordinators' responsibility to lead each Basin Team through the Basin Management Cycle.

Basin Group II is comprised of the Yazoo River Basin, the Mississippi River Basin north of Vicksburg, and the North Independent Streams Basin. Richard Ingram is the Yazoo River Basin Team leader. During phases 1-3 of the management cycle (planning through data assessment/TMDL development), the Yazoo River Basin Team identified major water quality issues and their causes and sources in the Yazoo and Mississippi River Basins. Where TMDLs were developed by MDEQ, allowable pollutant loads have been established for point and nonpoint sources. As part of the assessment process, the Basin Team will prioritize the previously identified basin issues and TMDLs in an effort to target and develop effective management strategies. The resulting strategies will guide the implementation phase for the Yazoo River Basin. The Mississippi Levee Board has been actively participating as a member of the Yazoo River Basin Team. - **MSLB**



On December 8, 2003, Hodding Carter IV, a writer for Harper's Magazine was given a Yazoo Backwater Project briefing by Jim Wanamaker, Chief Engineer and Kent Parrish, Corps of Engineers YBW Project Manager.



Wood Duck continued from page 3

consists of dense vegetation, low hanging branches, and water. Not only does this habitat provide cover for the ducklings, but it produces an abundance of insects and vegetation that is high in protein.

Even though insects and vegetation make up the young ducks' diet, adult wood ducks are basically vegetarians. Acorns, wild rice, pondweed, bitter pecans, water lily buttonbush, lotus, and coon tail provide most of the food for adults.

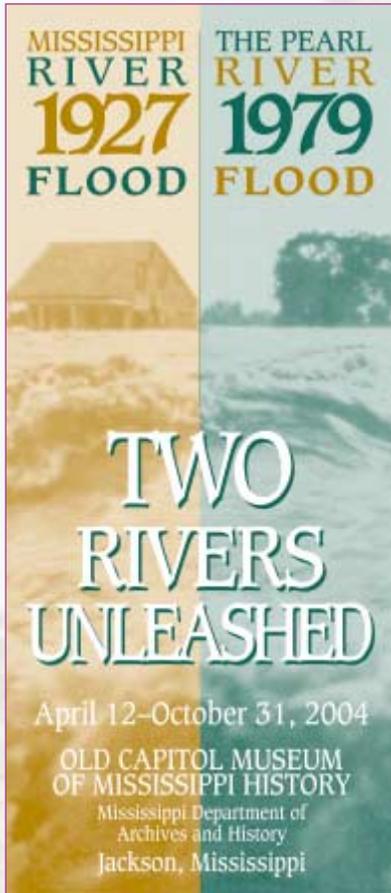
Before the eggs hatch, the male leaves the nest and joins other males in secluded areas. Males lose their flight feather due to molting and are unable to fly. During this time of molting, males are quiet and inactive so they will not attract predators.

The raccoons may be the wood duck's worst enemy. Raccoons will often trap and kill the female. This in turn lies the importance of predator guards placed on nesting structures. Other predators include snakes, mink, turtles, and large bass, which prey on young chicks. If a nest is undisturbed by predators, the female will return to the same nest annually.

Wood ducks boxes are easy to care for but do require some management. In January or early February, boxes should be checked to determine if other birds, such as starlings, are nesting in them. If other nests exist, they should be removed. Additionally, all other debris should be removed and new shavings placed in the box. This will greatly enhance the box's "appeal" to mother wood ducks searching for a house to raise their young. -

MSLB

OLD CAPITOL MUSEUM - 1927 FLOOD EXHIBIT



The Mississippi Levee Board has loaned several artifacts to the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson, MS to be used in their "Two Rivers Unleashed" exhibit. This exhibit will portray the 1927 Mississippi River flood and the 1979 Pearl River "Easter" flood. The Levee Board loaned receipts, shovels, lanterns, stoves, carbide lamps, burlap sand bags and trunks that were used during the flood fight in 1927.

The exhibit will run from April 12 until October 31, 2004. The exhibit will be at the Old Capitol Museum located at the intersection State Street and E. Capitol Street and is free to the public. - **MSLB**

The Old Capitol Museum
of Mississippi History
State Street at Capitol • Jackson, Mississippi

DIRECTIONS: In Jackson, take Interstate-55 to the Pearl Street Exit (#96A). Proceed on Pearl Street, turn right onto State Street, then turn right onto Amite Street and turn right into the Old Capitol Complex parking area. Enter the Old Capitol building through the front entrance on State Street.

ADMISSION IS FREE.

HOURS: Monday - Friday 8:00 am — 5:00 pm
Saturday 9:30 am — 4:30 pm
Sunday 12:30 pm — 4:30 pm
Closed on major holidays

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You may also visit us online at www.msleveeboard.com



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