



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Southeast Region

## **SOUTHEASTERN CURRENTS**

AUGUST 2007 NEWSLETTER

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### **One Service for the resource**

As E-Grits and Southeastern Currents go to press, the Southeast Region is in the midst of a Project Leaders' meeting at Auburn University in Alabama during the week of July 30 for the first time in nearly five years. The theme "One Service for the Resource" is a time to celebrate our accomplishments and plan for the future.



"The theme through this meeting is about leadership, innovation, creativity, and imagination," says Sam D. Hamilton, Southeast Regional Director. "We are in many ways setting the tone for the rest of the Service."

Topics include climate change, the recent Listening Sessions across the Southeast, Strategic Habitat Conservation, setting regional priorities, and reviewing the current state of the Southeast Region. The meeting also includes 17 concurrent sessions on issues such as crisis communications, connecting children with nature, strategies for doing less with less, current trends in managing bottomland hardwoods and law enforcement among others. Numerous Service programs will be represented in the Resource Village as sources of information for participants.

"Our people continue to win recognition nationally for their achievements," says Hamilton. "I believe the work we are doing at the Project Leaders meeting sets the stage for an even brighter future for conservation in the Southeast because our future and that of the resource we care so much about depend on it. That's why "One Service for the Resource" is so important."

*Submitted by Elsie Davis, External Affairs, Atlanta, GA*

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### **Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge biologists inspect fire-damage to red-cockaded woodpecker colony**

The Big Turnaround Complex of wildfires affected approximately 400,000 acres of land, most of which was inside the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. On July 11, Refuge Biologists Sara Aicher and Dean Easton, Assistant Refuge Manager Maury Bedford, and SCEP student Drew Wirwa traveled to Blackjack Island, one of the upland islands affected by the fire, to inspect potential damage to groups of cavity trees or clusters of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers. A survey conducted by Aicher and Easton in 2006 identified three active clusters, containing nine trees total, which showed either nesting or roosting activity. On May 7, fire completely swept over the entire island. Infrared photos taken of the island during the fire revealed that most of it burned intensely.



Dean Easton removes burned bark from a red-cockaded woodpecker nest tree. Photo by Drew Wirwa.

Unfortunately, the fire also coincided with the the red-cockaded woodpecker's breeding season. The team discovered that most of the trees had sustained fire damage, but only one was lost. Despite the fact that fire burned up to and in some cases over the tops of the nest/roost cavities, no evidence of woodpecker mortality was discovered. There was ample evidence of post-fire woodpecker activity.

"You could see where the woodpeckers were picking at the trees, trying to generate new resin wells." The team remarked and retagged the trees in the cluster before leaving the island. "These are hardy woodpeckers," said Easton.. "This gives us hope for their survival throughout the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge." More photos in [Photo Album](#).

*Submitted by Shawn Gillette, Okefenokee NWR, Folkston, GA*

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## ***Behind the Scenes--***



Greg Boling is presented the Navy Achievement Medal, 4th Award by NOSC Commanding Officer, Commander M. J. Jackson. US Navy Photo.

### **Greg Boling honored for military service**

Greg Boling, biological technician from Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge, has been recognized for his military service. A Hospital Corpsman First Class, Boling of Operational Health Support Unit, Detachment Alpha, of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, was selected the 2006 Sailor of the Year for the Navy Operational Support Center. This is the second consecutive Sailor of the Year selection for Greg. Greg has 15 years military service, five of which were active duty. Activated during Operation Iraqi Freedom/Noble Eagle in 2003, Greg was stationed at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

*Contributed by Laura Housh, Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge, McBee, South Carolina*

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## Pet therapy a hit with local children, parents

Regional Engineering Chief Terry McKittrick and her dog, Zeke, are making a difference in the lives of some special children in Atlanta. Terry and Zeke volunteer at Egleston Children's Hospital, Laurel Heights special education school, and Midtown Atlanta Center for the Visually Impaired. Zeke is a Lowchen, an ancient breed particularly known for its good temperament around people.



Children at the Midtown Atlanta Center for the Visually Impaired have a doggone good time with Zeke and Chief of Engineering Terry McKittrick.

"It's great to see the effect Zeke has on the children and their parents," Terry says. "You can tell by the looks on their faces that they've forgotten about their problems for a moment and are just enjoying themselves."

It's a learning experience for the children, too. For example, they learn such things as the best way to approach a dog (by asking the owner's permission and then allowing the dog to sniff a hand); and the difference between a pet, like Zeke, and a working service dog. Children at the Center for the Visually Impaired "see" Zeke by examining his fur and patting his head to estimate his height.

Terry credits the Region for implementing flexible scheduling and alternative work arrangements, which have helped to make her volunteer activities possible.

*Submitted by Vicki McCoy, Special Assistant for Planning and Communications, Atlanta, GA*

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## ***Bragging Rights --***



Travis Davis of the Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council is pictured on the bridge for golf cart access. Restored Mill Creek goes through the fairway. Photo by Christopher Metcalf.

### **Golf course stream restoration project benefits endangered Okaloosa darter**

Heavy equipment rolled across the landscape in the spring of 2007 to create stream habitat for the endangered Okaloosa darter on Eglin Air Force Base's Falcon Golf Course located in Niceville, Florida. The Panama City Fisheries Resource Office – Fish Passage and Partners for Fish and Wildlife Programs and Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council designed and constructed over 2,300 feet of new stream within the golf course on Mill Creek. A series of culverts and in-basin retention on the golf course created backwater areas and filled floodplains which no longer functioned naturally. Major activities to restore Mill Creek included: removing six fish passage barriers, creating over a half mile of natural stream habitat, installation of a skylighted bottomless culvert and construction of three wooden bridges for fairway access across the new stream channel. Six weeks following restoration efforts, several Okaloosa darters were sampled within the restored section of Mill Creek.

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### Entergy gives BEaR \$15,000 grant

Entergy Corporation recently presented a \$15,000 Environmental Stewardship Grant to the Bear Education and Restoration (BEaR) Group of Mississippi. One of only 31 non-profit organizations receiving an Entergy grant, BEaR will use it to help fund black bear monitoring, habitat suitability evaluations and to raise public awareness about bears in Mississippi. The mission of BEaR is to support the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) in restoration and management of ecologically viable and socially acceptable black bear populations in Mississippi. BEaR is currently assisting the MDWFP with an ongoing study of radio-collared black bears. Funds from the Environmental Stewardship Grant will be used to purchase trapping and monitoring equipment and assist MDWFP with the high cost of plane services for aerial telemetry. In addition, BEaR will use grant funds to increase their black bear education program.



Listed as endangered in the state, black bear numbers declined during the last century as a result of habitat loss and unregulated hunting. However, bear activity and sightings in Mississippi have increased in recent years due to environmental restoration, reforestation of marginal lands in the delta, refined regulations, and expanding bear populations in adjacent states. In March 2005, the first birth of black bear cubs in Mississippi in nearly three decades was documented in Wilkinson County. And, in March 2007, the first birth of cubs in 30 years in the delta occurred in Issaquena County on reforested land. Entergy, BEaR, and their partners, through education and research, are creating a healthy environment for the restoration and recovery of this state endangered and federally protected species. Visit [www.msbear.org](http://www.msbear.org) to learn more about for more information about the BEaR Group of Mississippi. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a partner in BEaR, along with state and local government agencies, conservation groups, private landowners, neighbors, and friends.

Submitted by Connie Dickard, Jackson, Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office



We figured the cameras wouldn't be able to resist this "olutoh"... or is it a 'brood?'" Photo by Bonnie Strawser.

### Alligator River staff, volunteers star on national TV

Last month, Mike Bryant, refuge manager of Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, forwarded an e-mail asking, "Do you want to rally some refuge and red wolf supporters to go?" So, we printed posters, laminated them (because it ALWAYS rains!), made a trip to the hardware store for "handles," made a few calls to recruit some trusty volunteers, rounded up extra critter costumes, and set the time at 5:45 a.m. to meet the next morning..

The call was for people to "act crazy" to get on national TV! It read (in part): "The Early Show's Weather Anchor Dave Price will be showing what makes the Outer Banks of North Carolina a CBS News pick for "A Great American Vacation" in front of a national audience of millions. Just wanted to send out a rally call to all our fellow Outer Bankers. This is reminder that CBS News' The Early Show will be live from Roanoke Island Festival Park tomorrow,



Everyone knows from "Principles of Wildlife Management" that wildlife can do some pretty crazy things when under a lot of stress. Well, we produced hybrids right in Manteo in less than three hours! Photo by Bonnie Strawser.

Thursday, July 12, from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. We really need your support to show the world what a fantastic place this is to live, work and visit .... This is an amazing opportunity to get your kids, your friends, your face on national television. Bring colorful signs, crazy T-shirts, or whatever you can think of to show your local Outer Banks spirit."

It was a long, hot, and tiring three hours. But, we made it on national TV with the blue goose emblem!

*Submitted by Bonnie Strawser, Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, Manteo, North Carolina*

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The new quilt block. Photo by Amanda Patrick.

### **Fishy art makes a splash at Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery**

Some might not think that raising fish and art have any connection, but that is not the case at Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery. As a partnering endeavor with the Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association (SEKTDA), grant money was made available for the production of what are known as "quilt blocks" by local artists around the southeastern part of Kentucky. The idea stems from a project that began in Adams County, Ohio and has spread to other states such as Kentucky and Tennessee. In Russell County, Kentucky, funding was granted for six blocks, and although there was much demand, Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery was offered the chance to have a block painted specifically for the hatchery. After an enthusiastic "yes," what resulted was a beautiful, 8'X8' work of art featuring a fish jumping out of the water. The piece was painted using vivid colors by local artist Janet Lockwood, and already the piece has become a jewel for the hatchery.

Numerous other quilt blocks with differing patterns have been produced across the southeastern region of Kentucky, and because of the tourism interest, locations of each block will be collected and generated into a brochure so that enthusiasts can follow the quilt block trail.

*Submitted by Amanda Patrick, Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery, Jamestown, Kentucky*

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### **Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery hosts "WOW!" training for Kentucky**

In a partnering endeavor with the nonprofit organization Environmental Concern, Inc. (<http://www.wetland.org>), Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery hosted a two- day "WOW! - Wonders of Wetlands" environmental education workshop on July 10-11. Along with providing two days of fun and engaging training (centering on conserving wetland resources), the event also served as the debut program for Environmental Concern in the state. Among the first Kentucky facilitator graduates was Wolf Creek Environmental Education/Outreach Specialist, Amanda Patrick. Thirteen individuals from across the state attended the course, and feedback on the event was extremely positive. One more photo in [Photo Album](#).



Participants in the recent WOW! training complete an activity related to soil sampling and water permeability. Photos by Amanda Patrick.

*Submitted by Amanda Patrick, Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery, Jamestown, Kentucky*

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FireWise Mobile Exhibit Trailer.  
Photo by Beeky Baekstreet, South Carolina Forestry Commission.

### FireWise Mobile Exhibit Trailer

Four agencies in South Carolina contributed funds toward the first Interagency Firewise Mobile Exhibit Trailer to be utilized statewide. The agencies involved in making this happen are the South Carolina Forestry Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service. This mobile exhibit literally takes the Firewise message to the people. As development forces forested and developed areas closer and closer together each year, the threat of wildfire to homes, businesses and people grows. This exhibit emphasizes wildfire science, prevention, and firefighting tactics. Features include two computer systems, one with "Living on the Edge" interactive software, the other with a live weather station; a flat screen TV with educational videos provided by all agencies, a sound system, and microphone; a lighted "Are You Firewise" panel with diagram of Firewise home and yard; an interactive "Find Your Defensible Space" panel; and a wildfire risk map of the Southeast, highlighting South Carolina.

*Submitted by Amy Ochoa, Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex, Savannah, Georgia*

### Kids enjoy Junior Refuge Ranger Summer Camp

On June 14 -15, fifteen children, aged 7 to 12, had a great time at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge's Junior Refuge Ranger Summer Camp. Due to the Big Turnaround Wildfire, this year's camp was relocated to nearby Traders Hill County Park, located on the scenic St. Marys River. During the camp, the children learned about the natural and cultural history of the area. Activities included a boat ride on the St. Marys River, fishing, wildlife photography, nature walks, traditional "Swamper" games, arts and crafts, and forestry and fire demonstrations. Each camper took home a camera, a Junior Ranger t-shirt, a certificate, and a goody bag. A special "Wildfire" component was added to this year's camp to increase the participants' awareness of the importance of fire in the Okefenokee ecosystem.



Junior Ranger Summer Camp group photo. FWS Photo.

*Submitted by Blaine Eckberg, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Folkston, Georgia*



Russ Webb with Keith Lee who is banding a dove. Eliton Brown observes. Photo by Ray Porter.

### Youth Conservation Corps establishes banding program at Savannah National Wildlife Refuge

Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) enrollees at Savannah National Wildlife Refuge established a banding program in conjunction with the National Mourning Dove Band Study. At the beginning of the summer, most of the students didn't know a dove from a dowitcher. Now they're aging, sexing, and banding mourning doves like pros. However, it was not a simple task. First, there was an eight-hour training course on mourning dove physiology, trap building, and banding; then, it was back to the shop to build 25 wire traps. After selecting adequate sites and pre-baiting for a few weeks, the traps were set on July 1. Refuge biologist Russ Webb was skeptical that the students could meet the 50 dove quota by the end of the summer. He offered to buy lunch for the group upon meeting this quota. Seventy-five doves later, Webb is looking at a second lunch in only three weeks of banding! The banding program is just a small part of what the YCC crew

has accomplished so far this year. The group, under the direction of crew leader Ray Porter (retired Service enforcement officer), also marked fifteen miles of boundary, poured ten yards of concrete, and installed a ceiling in a house.

*Submitted by Amy Ochoa, Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex, Savannah, Georgia*

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### **Fifth annual Youth Fishing Derby held at Cache River National Wildlife Refuge**

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge in Augusta, Arkansas played host on June 9, to more than 150 anglers at the fifth annual Youth Fishing Derby. Participants ranged in age from 2 to 12 and lived in counties surrounding the refuge. In addition to the derby on Saturday morning, Miller Pond was designated for “Youth Fishing Only” for the entire weekend giving more youth the opportunity to experience the joy of fishing. One more photo in [Photo Album](#).

*Submitted by Karen Graves, Central Arkansas Refuges, Augusta, Arkansas*



Brandon McNew and Andrew Hilsdon take a break to smile for the camera. Photo by Karen Graves.



AmeriCorps team leader Tori Kuehn, Brittany Perry, Kayla Washington, and Willie Williams assist Refuge Manager Matt Connolly in loading the stranded loggerhead sea turtle for transport. Photo by Ray Paterra.

### **AmeriCorps teens team up for Bulls Island conservation projects**

“I think anyone who throws trash on the beach should be fined. That trash harms the animals on the beach.” Elliott Cohen, along with other members of the AmeriCorps Blue 1 team, had spent hours on Cape Romain’s Bulls Island beach collecting trash – everything from plastic and glass bottles, foam, oil drums and crab pots, to a computer monitor and a television. It was Tuesday, July 10, and although the 12- member team worked under the summer’s sizzling sun, at day’s end the teenagers talked about how they enjoyed walking by the ocean and feeling the sea breeze, beachcombing and, of course, riding in the four-wheeler tow trailers. Tuesday was the first of three days in which the team would assist Refuge Rangers Tricia Lynch and Ray Paterra and Volunteers Neil White and David Shuckstes with projects on the island.



Volunteer Neil White heads down the beach with Team leader Ashley Shank, Brittany Perry, Tatiana Thomas, and Kayla Washington. Photo by Patricia Lynch.

Over the next two days, the Blue 1 team worked in groups to complete various tasks. Donning long pants and long sleeve shirts to help combat the notorious island mosquitoes and other insects, the teens cleared out undergrowth from live oaks, cleared the overgrowth, removed old interpretive signs on one of the hiking trails, and gave the island’s public use facilities a thorough cleaning. When Tevin Brown commented about Briana

Brown's great ability to use a shovel, Briana responded "I was determined to get those posts out of the ground to get the job done and get off the trail!"

There were memorable wildlife highlights throughout the AmeriCorps team's three-day work detail. The teens saw deer - a doe and fawn as well as a six-point buck, alligators, numerous egrets and herons, and endangered wood storks. Driving back from the hiking trail, the team actually "followed" a great horned owl which was flying close to the van. A thrilling experience came with the rescue of a threatened loggerhead sea turtle stranded on the beach. Team leader Tori Kuehn, Brittany Perry, Kayla Washington and Willie Williams assisted Refuge Manager Matt Connolly in loading the turtle onto the ATV for transport. Most of the teens had never seen a sea turtle, let alone touch one! The turtle, a young adult male, was taken to the South Carolina Aquarium for rehabilitation. (Follow the recovery of "Bull" by logging onto [www. scaquarium.org](http://www.scaquarium.org).)

The Blue 1 team members are youth ages 14-16 living in the Charleston Tri-County area who participated in the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) Summer of Service Program held July 8-28, 2007. The program introduces teenagers to national service and is designed to foster values such as teamwork, responsibility and a community service ethic. More photos in [Photo Album](#).

*Submitted by Patricia Lynch, Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, Awendaw, South Carolina*



L to R: Wes Kungel, Laverne Saulny, Mithin Kamath of Sen. Mary Landrieu's New Orleans office. Photo by Bryon Fortier.

### **Southeast Louisiana Refuges Complex conducts tour for U.S. Senator Landrieu staffers**

A Southeast Louisiana Refuges Complex tour was conducted for staffers from U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu's (D-La) New Orleans office on July 18. They began at the Bayou Sauvage Ridge Trail with Byron Fortier, supervisory park ranger, viewing the newly rebuilt boardwalk trail and other public use sites and hurricane restoration areas on the refuge. At Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, they were met by Refuge Manager Daniel Breaux for a tour of the rebuilt boardwalk at Boy Scout Road and of other sites managed for Red-cockaded woodpeckers. During lunch at Southeast Louisiana Refuges, Project Leader Ken Litzenberger recapped Hurricane Katrina's effects and repair and restoration projects, as well as an overview of public use activities complex-wide. The visit ended with an airboat tour on Big Branch Marsh by James Harris, supervisory biologist, who showed them the hurricane's effects on the marshes and the site of a planned Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) project for shoreline stabilization and marsh restoration.

*Submitted by Byron Fortier, Southeast Louisiana Refuges Complex, Lacombe, Louisiana*



U.S. Sen. Landrieu staffers depart with James Harris for an airboat tour on Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Photo by Bryon Fortier.



Birding boot camp participants practice completing point counts. Photo by Kendall Smith.

### **Lace up those boots and grab your optics**

It may not have been your typical boot camp, but drill sergeant or not, it was still an effective workshop. A Service birding boot camp recently held at Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge in Wadesboro, North Carolina, was the first offering of what may become an annual workshop. Hosted by Migratory Bird Biologist John Stanton, the boot camp offered participants the opportunity to learn and review their bird calls and practice sight identification. Mark Johns, Partners in Flight coordinator with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission was the lead instructor for the nine Service staff and volunteers that attended. For more information regarding future offerings of this workshop, please contact John Stanton at the Columbia Migratory Bird Office (252)796-3004, ext. 228, or e-mail [John\\_Stanton@fws.gov](mailto:John_Stanton@fws.gov)

*Submitted by Kendall Smith, Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge, Windsor, North Carolina*

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### **Amputee Summer Youth Camp held in Warm Springs, Georgia**

The Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation's Camp Dream was the site where more than 60 young people, ages 10 to 16, gathered for an Amputee Summer Youth Camp. Young people from all over the United States traveled to Warm Springs for a weekend of fun in the sun in mid-July. The Amputee Coalition of America sponsors the event in which individuals, suffering from varying degrees of limb loss, gather to network, compete in a variety of sports and social activities, and form special bonds. One of the group activities, fishing, was assisted by the Friends of Warm Springs Hatchery along with Fish and Wildlife Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center employees. Friends members provided the supplies for the fishing event and worked alongside Service staff to work one on one with each camper. To learn more about the camp as well as the amputee coalition's mission, please visit their web site: [www.amputee-coalition.org](http://www.amputee-coalition.org)



Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center employees and Friends of Warm Springs Hatchery volunteers who assisted with the youth camp. Photo by Brian Hickson.

*Submitted by Rosla Plant, Warm Springs Regional FisheriesCenter, Warm Springs, Georgia*

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## Hats Off --



Potential contractors receive a tour at Mammoth Spring National Fish Hatchery. Photo by Linda Hobbs.

### National Fish Hatchery site of Southeast's first design-build competition

It wasn't a typical couple of days at Mammoth Spring National Fish Hatchery. One might usually find Richard Shelton, the hatchery's manager, with his small crew up to their boot tops in a holding pond or up to their elbows in fish slime.

However, July 11–12 offered a dramatic change of pace. A swarm of architects and engineers from around the nation descended on the rural hatchery for the kick-off to an all out design-build competition. The hatchery receives around 100,000 visitors each year and will soon be the site of a new Visitor and Environmental Education Center. The center will be only the second such facility in the entire Southeast.

"We're excited," says Shelton, who has been promoting the idea of an environmental education center at Mammoth Spring National Fish Hatchery for more than 15 years. "I'm thrilled that we are this close to making it a reality."

The idea for the design-build competition arose out of necessity. Under the leadership of Terry McKittrick of Engineering and Jo Muratti of Contracting, Contracting realized the need to implement a contract for an overwhelming number of construction projects related to rebuilding after hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The hurricanes devastated areas of the Gulf Coast where national wildlife refuges have a large and critical presence. Supervisory Contract specialist Victor Bowman is facilitating the design-build competition, working alongside Section Chief Emergency Recovery Team Engineering Brian Ellington and Architect Joey Eldridge who helped develop the parameters of the competition. The design-build concept, which awards contracts to firms that design a project that they will also build, can save both time and money. It also eliminates the problem of design bids that can't actually be built within budget.

"The project here at Mammoth Spring National Fish Hatchery is an ideal one to use for this competition," says Ellington. "We expect to see a lot of creative designs, and the firms have a huge incentive to give us the most for taxpayer money."

The competition will result in the selection of up to five firms. Those winners will be chosen based upon the strength of their designs for the center at Mammoth Spring National Fish Hatchery and also on their previous work and capabilities. One of the five firms will build the center they design, while the others will be guaranteed to receive additional design-build contracts at Service sites over the next five years.

"We'll have something here that the community will be very proud of," says Shelton, "and we're really striving to make it a place where people—especially children—can connect with nature."

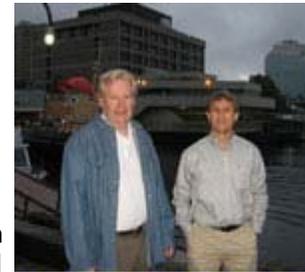
The winners of the design-build competition will be chosen in September. The Service will break ground for the center at Mammoth Spring early next year, and expects to open doors in 2009.

*Submitted by Judy Toppins, Fisheries, Atlanta, Georgia*

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## Service biologists present at international fisheries symposium

Amanda Hill, Fisheries Biologist in the Charleston Field Office, was selected to present at the second international symposium on diadromous fish: Challenges for Diadromous Fishes in a Dynamic Global Environment, held in Halifax, Nova Scotia in June. Amanda was one of 42 selected worldwide to provide an oral presentation at the symposium. Her presentation titled, "The Santee Cooperative Accord: Restoring Diadromous Fish through Prioritization of Sub-basins" focused on developing collaborative approach among federal and state resource agencies and utility companies to restore diadromous fish in the Santee Basin. Amanda represents the Service's goals of protecting and conserving interjurisdictional fishes as the Service's hydropower coordinator in South Carolina. She actively participates in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's relicensing processes for hydroelectric projects.



Malcolm Mohead, National Marine Fisheries, Silver Spring, MD with Mark Cantrell, Biologist, Asheville Field Office. A Theodore Tugboat in the background!. Photo by Amanda Hill.

Mark A. Cantrell, Biologist in the Asheville Field Office, also attended the symposium and was selected to contribute in one of two poster sessions. His poster titled "How Dammed is Your Watershed: First Approximation of an Index to Relative Dammedness of United States Watersheds" provides an index of dams on multiple scales with focus on the Atlantic Coast. The Dammed Index can be used to evaluate diadromous fish restoration efforts among watersheds.

The symposium was sponsored by the American Fisheries Society Northeast Division and was attended by over 200 international scientists. This was only the second international symposium on Diadromous Fishes. The first symposium was held in 1986. The 2007 symposium focused on new aspects of biology, migration, energetics, effects of climate change, and population dynamics of diadromous fishes. Presenters and attendees came from over 20 countries to listen to 42 presentations on a diverse range of topics in six sessions, with a special emphasis on anthropogenic impacts and management in a changing global climatic environment.

An especially interesting and memorable presentation was provided by Professor Abdul-Razak M. Mohamed of Basrah University, Iraq. He spoke on the status of diadromous fish species in the restored East Hammar marsh in southern Iraq which had been systematically ditched, diked, and drained by the Iraqi government during 1991-2003. These marshlands now represent the largest wetland ecosystem in the Middle East and provide important habitat to aquatic species including the Hilsa shad, and over 80 species of birds.

Proceedings from the meeting, including Amanda's full manuscript and Mark's poster abstract will be published in the AFS Symposium series. Details of the meeting, including abstracts of both presentations and posters, can be found at the symposium website: [www.anacat.ca](http://www.anacat.ca). More photos in [Photo Album](#).

*Submitted by Mark Cantrell, Asheville, NC ESFO and Amanda Hill, Charleston, SC, ESFO*

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## ***Photo Album --***

**Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery hosts “WOW!” training for Kentucky -- photo**



Participants in the recent WOW!  
training complete an activity  
related to soil sampling and water  
permeability. Photos by Amanda  
Patrik.

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**Fifth annual Youth Fishing Derby held at Cache River National Wildlife Refuge -- photo**



Austin Pearrow shows off his catch!  
Photo by Karen Graves.

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**Service biologists present at international fisheries symposium -- more photos**



Amanda Hill, Fisheries Biologist, Charleston Field Office, sampling local crustacean population. Photo by Mark Cantrell.



Sunset over Halifax harbor. Photo by Amanda Hill.



Mark Cantrell, Biologist, Asheville Field Office, hard at work in the streets of Halifax. Photo by Amanda Hill.



Boyd Kynard and Amanda Hill, Fisheries Biologist, Charleston Field Office, at the symposium. Boyd Kynard works with sturgeon at USGS's Conte lab in Turner Falls, MA. Photo by Mark Cantrell.

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### AmeriCorps teens team up for Bulls Island conservation projects -- more photos



Brittany Perry and Adora Smith proudly display Brittany's catch of the day. Photo by Patricia Lynch.



After work hours, the team is outside for physical training. Photo by Patricia Lynch.



After three days on Bulls Island, the AmeriCorps team heads back to the mainland. Photo by Patricia Lynch.

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**Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge biologists inspect fire-damage to red-cockaded woodpecker colony -- more photos**



Patches of light brown wood indicate where red-cockaded woodpeckers have been removing burned bark from around their nest cavity. Photo by Drew Wirwa.



The fire leap-frogged from island to island during the height of its run. Photo by Drew Wirwa.

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**Youth Conservation Corps establishes banding program at Savannah National Wildlife Refuge: all photos by Ray Porter -- more photos**



Anthony Norton, Eliton Brown, Josh Paul, and Keith Lee who is holding a dove.



Anthony Norton, Josh Paul, Brandon Heath, Russ Webb, Eliton Brown, and Joseph Fry.



Russ Webb, Josh Paul who is aging a dove, Keith Lee, and Joseph Fry.



Joseph Fry, Anthony Norton, Josh Paul, and Keith Lee.

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## Visitor Services --

### Tenth annual Kids' Fishing Rodeo a tremendous success



This year's event drew a large crowd. Photo by Andrew Currie.

On Saturday morning, June 9, a total of 2,000 nine-inch rainbow trout and nine large display fish were released in the creek below the Dale Hollow National Fish Hatchery for the tenth annual Kids' Fishing Rodeo. Rainbow trout were also stocked into the adjacent Obey River, giving those people not taking part in the rodeo the opportunity to share this important resource on Tennessee's Free Fishing Day. Held in celebration of National Fishing and Boating Week, the Rodeo is open to kids aged 15 and under. This event is co-sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the citizens of Clay County,

Tennessee. Volunteers staffing a face painting station were kept quite busy all morning, and 150 complimentary photos of children with their prizes and fish were distributed. Local businesses and individuals donated prizes, tackle, bait, drinks, advertising, and effort to this year's event, helping to make it a

tremendous success. This year's event drew a large crowd. Overall attendance was 280 kids and approximately 325 adults. People from as far away as Indiana and Florida made the trip to Celina to get the chance to catch a rainbow trout.



The Kid's Fishing Rodeo presents a unique opportunity for families to spend quality time together. Photo by Andrew Currie.



Two thousand rainbow trout were stocked in support of the event. Photo by Andrew Currie.

The event presents a unique opportunity to introduce kids to the sport of fishing and for families to spend quality time together. It is publicized in local newspapers and on Tennessee Sportsman, an outdoor television show which airs on WCTE-TV, PBS, Channel 22.

*Submitted by Andrew Currie, Dale Hollow National Fish Hatchery, Celina, Tennessee*

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## Wage Grade Profile --

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## Keith Wilson, maintenance worker



Keith Wilson feeds the fish. Photo by John Marshall.

Keith, the newest employee at the Erwin National Fish Hatchery, began working about a year and a half ago as an enrollee in the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) and with the Tennessee Technology Center.

"I really enjoy working at the hatchery because I work outside a lot with my maintenance and fish culture duties," says Keith.

The hatchery's new shop building gave Keith, now a certified electrician, the opportunity to do all the electrical wiring in the facility, which saved a lot of money.



Keith Wilson, the electrician. Photo by John Marshall.

Keith enjoys camping, hunting, fishing, spending time with his wife Debbie and watching his children (Shanda, Christian, Kyler, and Raven) playing sports.

*Submitted by John Marshall, Erwin National Fish Hatchery, Erwin, Tennessee*