

PALMETTO CASILE



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Charleston District



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On the cover: We enjoyed showing Rep. Garrett Graves, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, some of our projects. (Left to Right) Rep. Mark Sanford, Brian Williams, Rep. Graves and Lt. Col. Jeff Palazzini review a map outlining the Folly River navigation project and the Folly Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project.

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New From the Commander



Greetings!

What a privilege it is to become the Charleston District's 87th Commander and District Engineer. The opportunity to command this outstanding District is a responsibility I take very seriously and I will devote myself fully to this District and region. The Charleston team has an outstanding reputation across the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and I am honored to join this group of dedicated professionals who make a tremendous impact every day.

I have served in the Corps before as the deputy commander for the Sacramento District and while there I deployed to Iraq as the deputy commander for the Mosul Dam Task Force in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. I know these experiences, along with my other 15 years serving in the Army, have prepared me well to take on this challenging new assignment.

I have learned a lot since transitioning into command with Lt. Col. Matthew Luzzatto. The team saw a lot of success under his command and I am excited to help complete the hard work of closing out this fiscal year and preparing for the next. One of my initial goals is to immediately travel to all of the District's field offices and meet each member of Team Charleston. I look forward to hearing from our team on ways they think we can be more efficient and customer-focused. I am a true believer in leadership by "walking around," so the team will see a great deal of me over the next two years because I truly value their ideas and opinions.

It is clear to me that the District plays a critical role in this state and I will continue to place an emphasis on our relationships with all of our stakeholders. I look forward to meeting all of our customers and partners and hearing about the ways you think we can improve our service to you. Please take advantage of the fact that I am new and let me know any concerns or issues you may have. We are here to serve you and we want to get it right the first time.

I would like to mention there was a leadership change in the region as well. Brig. Gen. Diana Holland took command of the South Atlantic Division just three days after my change of command (see page 16) and I am excited to help her achieve her intent and vision. I am sure many of you will meet her over the coming months as well.

I hope you can tell how thrilled my family is to be here in the Lowcountry. Along with my wife, Cortney, and our children, we're excited to take advantage of everything the state has to offer. We love spending time outdoors, so while I'm out visiting everyone, please be sure to pass along some suggestions. I look forward to serving you for the next two years.

Jeffrey Palazzini, PMP
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Charleston District Signs Project Partnership

By: Sean McBride

On July 19th, two pens were put to an important piece of paper which began the process of changing the landscape of Charleston Harbor. On this day, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District signed a Project Partnership Agreement with the South Carolina Ports Authority, which finalized the responsibilities for both agencies on the upcoming Charleston Harbor Post 45 Deepening Project and officially started the construction phase.

A PPA is a legally binding agreement between the federal government and a non-federal sponsor for the construction of a water resources project. It describes the project and the responsibilities for both sides in terms of cost sharing and execution of work. For the Post 45 project, the estimated cost-share for the construction portion of the project will be \$330 million for the fed-

eral government and \$199 million for the SCPA, making the total project cost approximately \$529 million.

“We’re excited to begin the construction phase of the Post 45 project,” said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Palazzini, Charleston District commander, who signed the agreement with SCPA CEO Jim Newsome. “The signing of the PPA allows us to stay on track with our budget and timeline for eventually deepening the federal channel of Charleston Harbor to 52 feet.”

The PPA allows the Charleston District to receive funding from the SCPA and begin spending federal funds allocated by the fiscal year 2017 work plan. This includes allowing for the use of advanced funds from the SCPA for the federal share in addition to the non-federal share of



Agreement with SC Ports

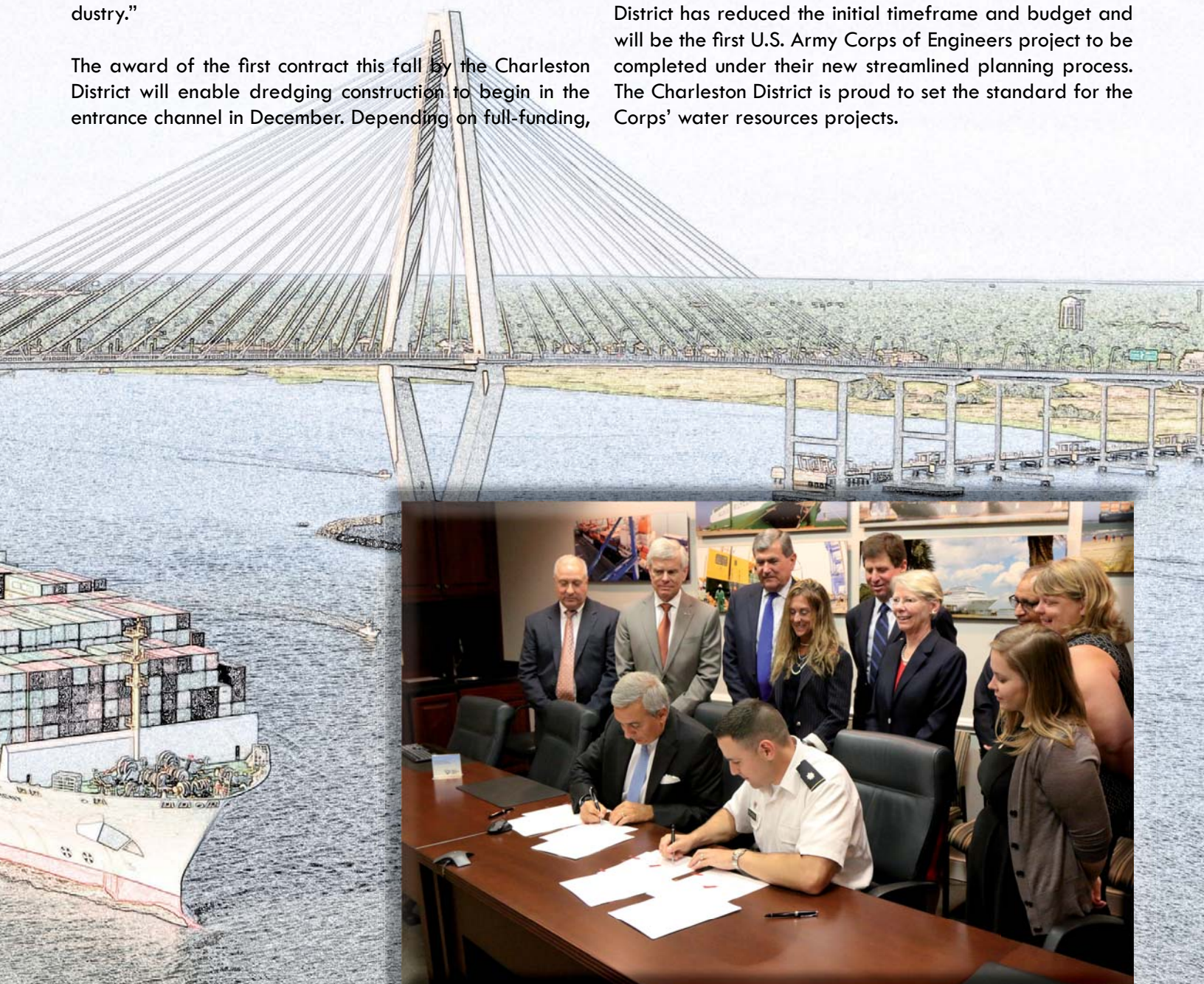
the construction costs. At the moment, the Charleston District has received \$17.5 million in federal funding from the FY 17 Work Plan. The PPA also allows the Charleston District to open bids and award contracts for the construction work.

“We’ve advertised the first and second contracts for the dredging of the entrance channel, which is where construction will begin,” said Holly Carpenter, project manager. “We are planning to award both contracts sometime this fall, depending on funding and acceptable bids from industry.”

The award of the first contract this fall by the Charleston District will enable dredging construction to begin in the entrance channel in December. Depending on full-funding,

dredge availability, weather and a variety of other factors, the construction of the entire project will take 40-76 months. A timeline for the dredging of the upper and lower harbors has not yet been finalized, but will take place concurrently during a portion of this timeframe.

The PPA is just the latest in agreements signed between the Charleston District and the SCPA. Before each phase of the project, beginning with the Feasibility Cost-Sharing Agreement signed in 2010, a similar agreement has been signed. Since the beginning of the project, the Charleston District has reduced the initial timeframe and budget and will be the first U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project to be completed under their new streamlined planning process. The Charleston District is proud to set the standard for the Corps’ water resources projects.



Jim Newsome, left, and Lt. Col. Jeffrey Palazzini, right, sign the PPA as Port and Corps staff eagerly watch.



Rep. Garrett Graves

By Sara Corbett

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District recently had the privilege of spending some time with Louisiana's 6th Congressional District Rep. Garrett Graves as he visited several District projects.

Graves is the Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, which oversees water resources development and regulatory programs administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He was invited to Charleston by the South Carolina Ports Authority so he could learn about the Post 45 Harbor Deepening project. Graves was joined by South Carolina's 1st Congressional District Rep. Mark Sanford and other subcommittee staff members for a day of first-hand learning about the civil works projects their legislation affects.



"The Water Resources Development Act authorizes Army Corps projects that will strengthen infrastructure, protect lives and property, restore ecosystems and maintain navigation routes," said Brian Williams, chief, programs & civil project management. "Charleston District has several projects that fall under WRDA, including the Charleston Harbor Post 45 Deepening Project and the Folly Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project."



After the subcommittee's visit to SCPA's headquarters for an update on the Post 45 Deepening Project, they were treated to a harbor tour of the port and a site visit to the Wando Welch terminal, which included a trip to the top of a container crane, a rare opportunity with a spectacular view of the harbor.

"The Post 45 project is one of the Corps' largest projects," said Williams. "It is authorized by WRDA, so it was important for Rep. Graves to understand how the Port of Charleston functions and





visits Charleston

the impact that Post 45 will have on their day-to-day operations.”

While in town, Graves also met with Mayor Tim Goodwin, City of Folly Beach, to see the Folly Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project that the Corps completed in 2014. Graves was given an overview of the effects that Hurricanes Joaquin and Matthew had on Folly Beach as well as the impact that the Charleston Harbor jetties have on the beach. The tour ended at the Folly Beach County Park where Corps employees talked with Graves and Sanford about the possible use of the Folly River borrow site to execute an emergency renourishment to repair damages from two hurricanes.

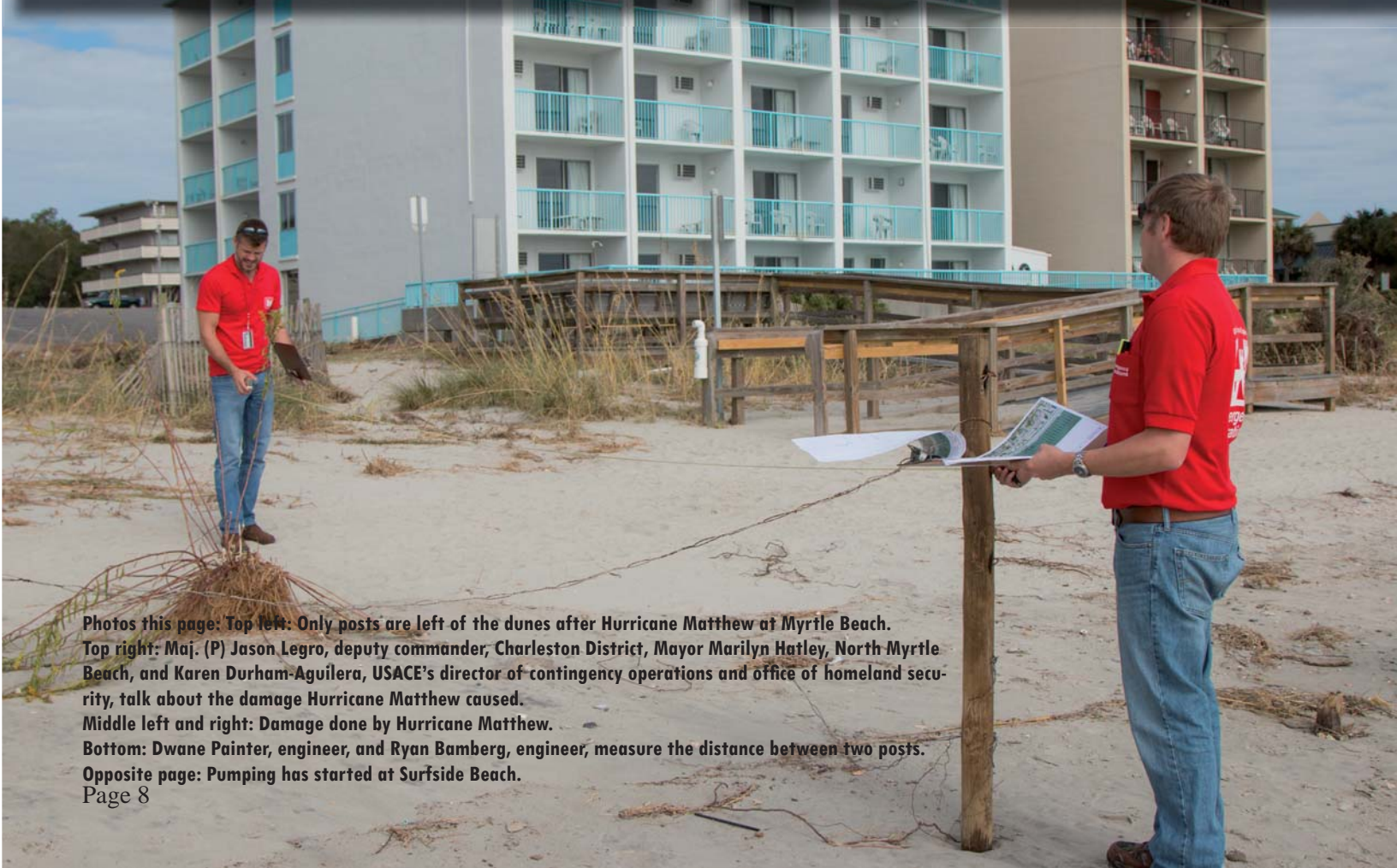
“It was encouraging to see that level of local cooperation between the City of Folly Beach and the Corps,” said Sanford. “Mayor Goodwin is relentless in his efforts to advocate for Folly and its beach, and I want to thank the Corps, the Mayor, and Rep. Graves for all of their hard work.”

The last stop was a tour of the Cooper River Rediversion Project at St. Stephen to learn more about the dam, fish lift and the hydropower it provides as well as the project’s original intent to reduce sedimentation and dredging costs in Charleston Harbor.

“The Charleston Harbor links all three projects together,” said Williams. “We wanted to show Rep. Graves all the projects that are connected to the Harbor, how they are related and the effect they have on each other.”

Meeting with Graves allowed the Charleston District to showcase their involvement in some of the most influential projects in South Carolina. Graves left with an understanding of the Corps’ involvement in helping to advance water resources development throughout the state.





Photos this page: Top left: Only posts are left of the dunes after Hurricane Matthew at Myrtle Beach. Top right: Maj. (P) Jason Legro, deputy commander, Charleston District, Mayor Marilyn Hatley, North Myrtle Beach, and Karen Durham-Aguilera, USACE's director of contingency operations and office of homeland security, talk about the damage Hurricane Matthew caused. Middle left and right: Damage done by Hurricane Matthew. Bottom: Dwane Painter, engineer, and Ryan Bamberg, engineer, measure the distance between two posts. Opposite page: Pumping has started at Surfside Beach.

Myrtle Beach Renourishment Project Begins



By Glenn Jeffries

Bulldozers and pipes are among the visitors to the Grand Strand this summer. But just as other visitors on the beach, their time in one spot won't last long. They will move quickly to different areas of Garden City and Surfside and North Myrtle Beaches. There is one big difference though, these visitors are not there to relax and enjoy the ocean, but rather to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week to protect the people and property behind the dunes from erosion. These visitors are part of the Corps of Engineers' storm damage reduction project.

"The project began at the end of July near the pier in Surfside Beach and is expected to place 800,000 cubic yards, the equivalent of 80,000 dump trucks, of sand on the shore," said Wes Wilson, project manager. "After this area is complete, North Myrtle Beach will receive 400,000 cubic yards, or 40,000 dump trucks, of sand."

Great Lakes Dock and Dredge was awarded the \$26.3 million contract to complete this work. The project is funded through federal emergency rehabilitation funds through Hurricane Matthew as well as cost-shared funding appropriated through Congress and cost-shared with the non-federal sponsors, Horry County and North Myrtle Beach.

"The District is aware that the project is happening during the busy summer season and it will cause some temporary inconveniences to people using these stretches of the beach for recreation," said Wilson. "However,

beginning construction now enables the major, long-term benefits of protecting the infrastructure behind the dunes from storm damage to be realized as soon as possible."

Some of the renourishment will be completed on stretches of the beach before the height of hurricane season. It is evident that beaches that have been nourished fare far better in a hurricane than areas that have not.

The construction moves quickly and will only be in front of any particular building or area for two or three days. The active area, usually about 1,000 feet, is fenced off but it is easy to go around. Pipelines running along the beach outside of the fenced area can be safely crossed by using the crossover sand ramps over the pipes.

Garden City and Surfside should be complete by mid-September and then the work will begin on North Myrtle Beach and be complete in the middle of November. Myrtle Beach will be receiving sand in 2018.

Don't miss the other welcome visitors that accompany this project-cool shells from three miles offshore that are pumped onto the beach along with the sand. Many people also enjoy watching the construction activity as this interesting process only occurs every 8-10 years.

The public can track the progress of the project in real time on the Charleston District's website at www.sac.usace.army.mil.

Interstate 73 Permit Issued

By: Sean McBride

After 26 years, two environmental impact statements, several re-evaluations, thousands of public comments and countless hours of analysis and deliberation, the South Carolina portion of Interstate 73 can now be constructed.

The project from the South Carolina Department of Transportation has gone through many phases of activity, but saw an uptick in the last year with a new proposed plan. After a year of work by the Charleston District, on June 19th, Lt. Col. Matthew Luzzatto, then-district commander, signed the Department of the Army permit saying that all environmental requirements set by the National Environmental Policy Act had been met.

There is often confusion about the Charleston District's role in a project. The 30 year permit allows construction to begin, but the Corps of Engineers will not be working on the actual project. That role belongs to SCDOT.

"The Corps issued the permit to authorize impacts to waters of the United States associated with the project's construction, but funding and the construction schedule are the responsibility of SCDOT," said Travis Hughes, chief of regulatory. "The Corps' role going forward will be to ensure compliance with the permit's terms and conditions, such as the successful completion the mitigation plan."

The Charleston District produced a Record of Decision to go along with the signed permit. The ROD documents all of the factors that were analyzed, including looking at any endangered species, historic properties, water quality impacts, general environmental effects and other public interest factors. It includes views on the probable effect of

the proposed work on the public interest including conformity with the guidelines for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

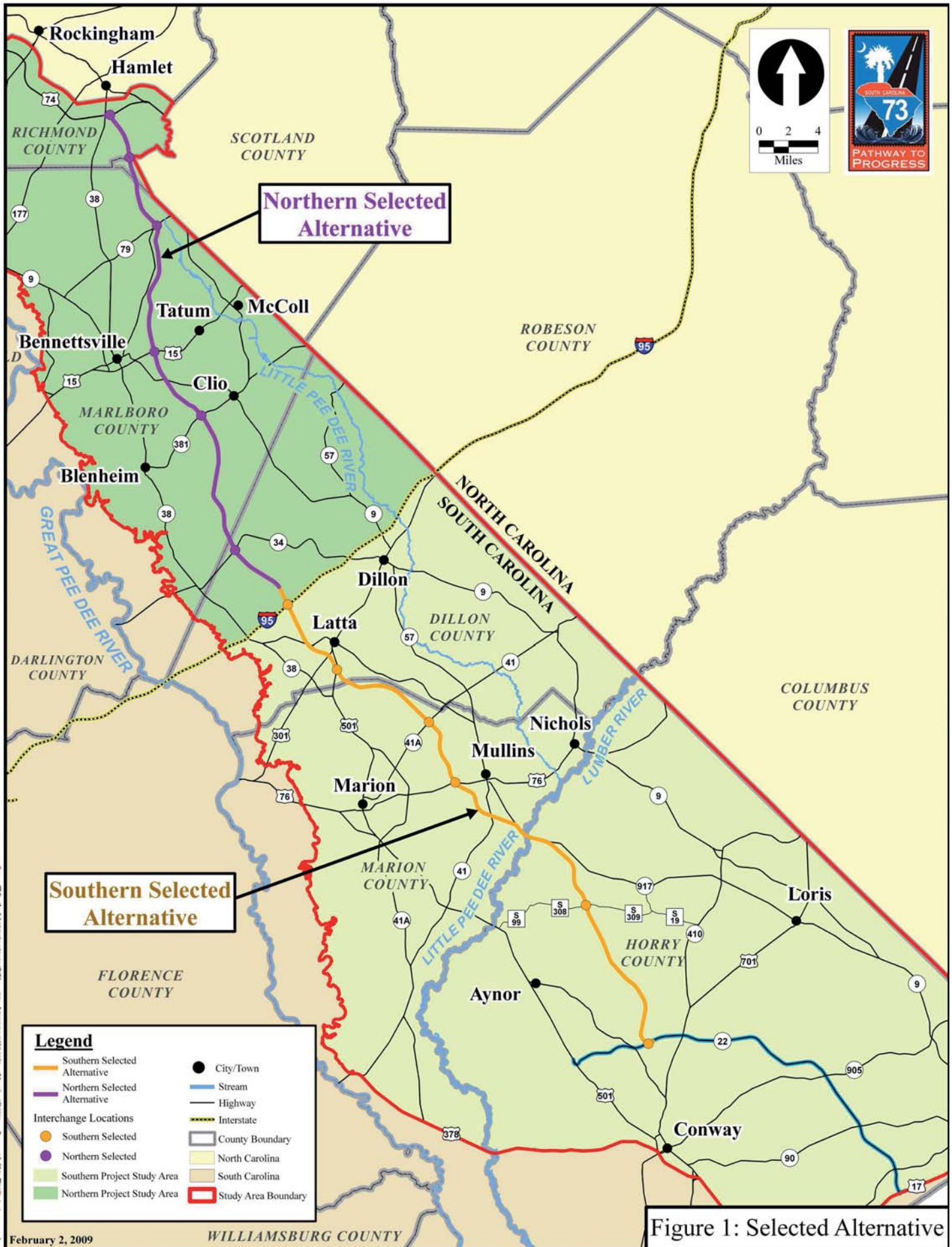
"We weigh the benefits which are reasonably expected to accrue from the proposal against its reasonably foreseeable detriments," said Hughes. "The decision whether to authorize a proposal are therefore determined by the outcome of this general balancing process. The decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources."

SCDOT plans to mitigate for the environmental impacts associated with the project by protecting and improving an area commonly referred to as Gunter's Island, a 6,258 acre tract of land. The plan protects 89,836 linear feet of stream including, 11 miles of river frontage along the Little Pee Dee River, and 4,618 acres of wetlands.

The proposed interstate (and thus the permitting process) has been of great interest to many of the area's elected officials, including Rep. Tom Rice. The District kept Congressman Rice and other members of the SC Congressional delegation updated several times throughout the process during regular visits to Capitol Hill.

The State is still seeking funding to get started on the project that will eventually connect with other portions of highways in multiple states to form Interstate 73 and link Detroit, Mich., to Myrtle Beach. SCDOT hopes that the project will enhance connectivity of South Carolina to the rest of the nation, boost economic development opportunities and alleviate congestion issues during hurricane evacuations.





Northern Selected Alternative

Southern Selected Alternative

Legend

Southern Selected Alternative	City/Town
Northern Selected Alternative	Stream
Interchange Locations	Highway
Southern Selected	Interstate
Northern Selected	County Boundary
Southern Project Study Area	North Carolina
Northern Project Study Area	South Carolina
	Study Area Boundary

Figure 1: Selected Alternative

Charleston District Change of Command

Interview by: Sean McBride
Photos by: Sara Corbett

On July 14th, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Palazzini assumed command of the Charleston District. Palazzini comes to the Charleston District after serving as the deputy commander of the Sacramento District. He attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the Wharton School of Business and even served as the course director for macroeconomics at West Point. He has served around the world, including in Germany, Kosovo and Iraq.

Palazzini brings with him a wealth of diverse experience so we sat down with him to get to know his personality and showcase his plans for leadership for the next two years. This article showcases some of those answers, as well as photos from the Change of Command.

What are you most excited about for your new position as district commander?

I'm really looking forward to meeting everyone in the district to better understand how we deliver such excellent results for our partners.

87th

District Engineer

You're our first commander that has previously served as a deputy commander in USACE. How do you think this experience will help you?

I hope it takes some of the burden off of everyone else. As you know, just learning USACE acronyms takes some time! There will be plenty to learn here, so hopefully I can move quickly to learn the business of Charleston.



What or who has prepared you most for this opportunity?

I have worked for several extremely professional officers who took the time to mentor me and teach me how to lead, manage, and motivate. I also get so much support and encouragement from my family. I owe so much to all of them!



What is your leadership philosophy?

My role as a leader is to set conditions for organizational success. I will have done my job as a leader if I encourage employee development, communicate our successes and challenges clearly with higher echelons, and guide the district towards future opportunities to ensure consistent workload in the future.



You've attended West Point and Wharton and taught at West Point. How have these experiences shaped you as a leader compared to your military leadership roles?

I was fortunate to have those experiences. They've helped me realize the value in a collaborative work environment where everyone's input leads to the optimal solution. I've done my best to blend those experiences with the skills I developed leading Soldiers in combat. Being a decisive leader and valuing input are not mutually exclusive, but actually very complementary.



What do you expect of the employees you'll command?

I simply ask you all give 100% effort every day and remember the incredible public service we provide to the nation. From what I've seen so far, this is second nature to the employees of Charleston District!



Do you have a tactic or initiative that you'd like to start at the Charleston District?

My only plans right now are to meet as many people as possible and learn about the district. Any initiatives I consider will come from employee recommendations.



What do you hope to leave behind after your time as the Charleston District commander?

A vibrant district of dedicated employees working to serve the nation. Which is exactly what I think Charleston District is now!

FORT JACKSON CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!

By: Sean McBride

On June 2, 1917, Congress approved the creation of Camp Jackson as a training center to be located in Columbia, SC. 100 years later, Fort Jackson has trained more than five million soldiers in Basic Training, now training nearly 50,000 each year. Throughout this time, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has helped support this important mission, including the last nine years from the Charleston District.

When construction began in Columbia in 1917, the Charleston District was there to work on one of the three training posts they were asked to help with that year, along with Camp Wadsworth in Spartanburg and Camp Sevier in Greenville. After construction was completed at the end of that year, the Corps didn't have much of a role for many years until the Savannah District picked up the military construction mission years later.

In 2008, there was a reorganization amongst the Corps and the Charleston District took over the military mission once again. Since then, the Charleston District has built basic training facilities, barracks, headquarters, physical training tracks, dining facilities and much more for Army recruits.

"We're responsible for design and construction of many projects at Fort Jackson," said Rhonda Bath, chief of military construction. "Our project delivery teams work to serve our soldiers by providing the best facilities possible during their time at Fort Jackson. We're proud to continue

our tradition with Fort Jackson and congratulate them on 100 years of service to our country."

Fort Jackson celebrated their centennial on June 2nd and 3rd with a number of different activities around the post. A lecture series, golf tournament, cake cutting, birthday party, parachute show and country music concert by Hunter Hayes and Kellie Pickler were the highlights. These events were the culmination of a full year of build up across various media platforms, where Fort Jackson has been sharing information about their storied history.

"We've always had a great relationship with Fort Jackson and are proud to say that we have a field office on base," said Bath. "We've been flexible with our support over the last few years, adapting to what the leadership needs from us. We have a lot of projects in the pipeline for the next few years and our military mission will continue to grow."

The Charleston District is currently overseeing the construction of the new Pierce Terrace Elementary School on base, as well as conducting renovations on various buildings and performing Facility Investment Services to buildings across the fort's 52,000 acres.

The Charleston District would like to wish a Happy 100th Birthday to Fort Jackson and is excited to continue to provide for our nation's soldiers.



This page: Soldiers shoot off a cannon to celebrate 100 years. Opposite page top: A Soldier parachutes into the celebration. Opposite page bottom: U.S. Army officials cut the cake.



The Sky is

By: Sean McBride

On July 18th, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Atlantic Division held its Change of Command ceremony in Atlanta, Ga. On this day, Brig. Gen. Diana Holland became the first female commander of the South Atlantic Division, taking charge of five USACE districts in the region. We asked her a few questions about her plans for how she plans to lead the nearly 5,500 employees in her charge.

What are you most excited about for your new position?

I am honored to have the opportunity to join the USACE team, but I'm particularly excited to join the South Atlantic Division. This division has an impressive history and reputation and I look forward to learning from the best.

What does it mean to you to serve as a female division commander in USACE?

Brig. Gen. (ret) Margaret Burcham was the first woman to command a USACE division, commanding the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division from 2011-2014. Like her, I'm very grateful for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. As for being one of the first women in such a position, it validates what I have long-believed about our Army. The Army welcomes people from diverse walks of life, backgrounds, experiences and demographics, and provides amazing opportunities. In our profession, no matter who you are, the sky is the limit.

What has prepared you most for this opportunity?

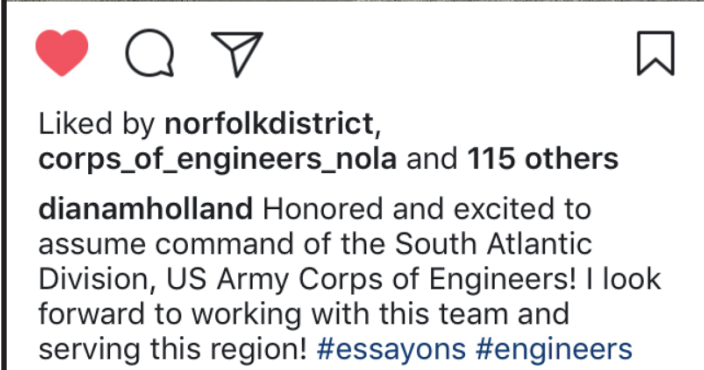
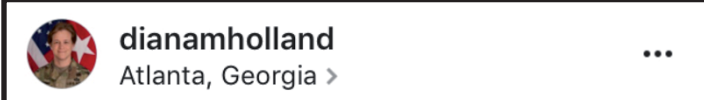
The Army does an amazing job of preparing people for the next challenge. Normally, it's not just one experience that prepares you, but a collection of assignments and people. That is certainly the case for me. I have proudly worn the engineer castle for 27 years and worked with tremendous teams during that time.

What is your leadership philosophy?

I will say that climate and people are very important to me. With the right climate, everything else falls into place.

What do you expect of the districts you'll command?

I have heard a lot of great things about the South Atlantic Division and the five districts in the region. I look forward to learning from them, engaging with their partners, and observing their continued professionalism and successes.



The Limit

You seem to be very active on social media networks. What has drawn someone at your level to be engaged on social media?

I have always enjoyed taking and sharing photos. When I commanded the 92nd Engineer Battalion, I was the most prolific picture-taker in the unit and used to email photos to Soldiers and their families. It turned out to be a great way to convey gratitude and to also bond with a geographically-dispersed unit.

My most recent assignment was as the Commandant of Cadets at West Point where there are 4,400 very active young people, which presents a lot of material for picture-taking. Until that assignment I was one of those officers who said, "I don't do social media." But once I became the Commandant, I realized that social media was a great way to brag about Cadets and tell the story of the United States Military Academy and did so via Instagram and Twitter.

After leaving West Point, I started my own Instagram and Twitter accounts so I can continue to tell the Army story through my experiences. Social media can do much more than just share information... it has the potential to create networks between people and organizations, highlight an unsung hero, share ideas about our profession, and visually convey what we do in support of our nation.

What is one unique thing you would like people to know about you?

It might be of interest for people to know that I have more ties to, and spent more time in, the southeastern United States than any other part of the country (other than where I was born and raised). I served at Fort Bragg, Fort Stewart (twice), and MacDill Air Force Base. I went to Airborne School at Fort Benning and, as a West Point Cadet, served at Fort McClellan for six weeks during summer training. I went to graduate school at Duke and I am a passionate Duke Basketball fan. My husband's family is from North Carolina and Jim and I intend to eventually retire in this region. In summary, I feel at home here.

What do you hope to leave behind after your time as the SAD Commander?

I have a lot to learn before I can talk about what I hope to leave behind. This team was here long before I arrived and will be here after I depart, so my goal at this point is to be value added to this high-performing organization.



READY TO RESPOND



Left: Mike Hind , chief, emergency management, has been with the Corps for 14 years.

Above: Hind in the EOC during Hurricane Matthew.

Right: Hurricane Matthew over the east coast.

By: Sean McBride

One of the biggest persuasion points for recruiting employees to a federal career is the promise of growth and promotion opportunity. There are all sorts of possibilities for a young federal employee to choose their path and make their own career. Michael Hind's career is the "poster child" for career progression in the federal government.

After spending several years working for the 414th Base Support Battalion in Germany, Hind had reached the limit for time he could work overseas. He was put into the Priority Placement Program, where he had first right of refusal on the next job that opened in the southeastern United States, the same area where he had left. When a GS-5 admin assistant position opened in the Emergency Management Division at the Charleston District, Hind had to take it or lose his spot in the federal government. He took it.

Hind was finishing up his bachelor's degree in Germany and asked his future boss if the transfer could be put on hold

so that he could complete his studies and his boss agreed. Turned out, this was the first of many examples that this boss showed Hind on how to be a leader who cares about his people.

"I swore that this was the kind of boss that I would become someday," said Hind. "He told me some things about the Corps and how this organization takes care of their people."

That was in 2003. Fourteen years later, Hind has progressed through the ranks to now be the chief of the Emergency Management Branch.

Hind's role has shifted numerous times, serving as both the security officer, natural disaster project manager and combinations of both before being chosen last year to lead the group.

"A mentor told me that you can train anyone to do a job, but



you can't teach them drive," said Hind. "The Corps has been good to me and I've had the drive and motivation."

Hind believes that the camaraderie is great in the EM office and wants to make sure that stays.

"EM has a good rapport with the other offices in the district and I wanted that to continue," said Hind. "We have the right staff to continually improve and enhance the program. It's my job to carry the mission forward and remove the roadblocks from my people and reward them for doing great work."

Hind has a lot of plans to continue to develop and prepare the district for future emergencies, including getting more training for the entire district staff in emergency response, as well as improvements for the District's education and outreach to the community for emergency preparedness. He plans to create manuals for each emergency operations role on the Crisis Response Team so that anyone can learn the role while

creating materials for the public to ensure their families are better prepared. Hind is also a big believer in the Emergency Management Accreditation Program, which identifies aspects of emergency response that a district isn't doing well and finds way they can improve.

"I want to make sure EM's strategic plan is driving us to best-support the district, division and USACE as a whole," said Hind. "We need input from other leaders early in our processes to create a much better plan and EMAP is helping us get there."

Hind has already dealt with a major disaster in Hurricane Matthew while serving in the chief role on a temporary basis in October 2016 before he was chosen for the full-time role. The emergency operations response went smoothly and can only get smoother as Hind's vision begins to take shape while preparing for anything that forms during the current hurricane season or any other emergencies that comes his way.

70 Years Young



Cooper River Rediversion Project

By: Sara Corbett

If you have been to the St. Stephen Powerhouse, you have met Leroy Pinckney.

“Leroy is very personable and the first to greet someone that visits the powerhouse,” said Joe Moran, Chief of Operations. “When I showed up to the powerhouse as a fish biologist from Washington, D.C., Leroy was one of the first to shake my hand and welcome me.”

While Pinckney is the unofficial greeter at the powerhouse, his “real” job is a mechanic, but he does much more than that. And to top it all off, Pinckney is 70 years old. Most people would have retired when they hit 55, but not Pinckney.

“I am 22 minutes from home,” said Pinckney. “I have a good job and I love it here.”

Pinckney started with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on April 11, 1988 at the St. Stephen Powerhouse as a mechanic. In 1994, the plant manager asked Pinckney if he wanted to join the four-year mechanical training program in the Savannah District and, at the ripe age of 46, he readily agreed.

“I did rotations through the different powerhouses and dams in the Savannah District before landing at the Strom Thurmond Dam and Lake where I stayed for 12 years,” said Pinckney. “I only wanted to be gone from St. Stephen for five years at the most, but it took 12 years to return home.”

Since his return to the powerhouse, Pinckney works to ensure that the plant is running smoothly and helps out where he can.

“Each day is different,” said Pinckney. “But in general, I check all the equipment for preventative maintenance, I work with the trainees, really I do whatever I can to keep the powerhouse running so that when Santee Cooper wants power

or needs it, everything is set and there aren’t any issues.”

“Leroy has an amazing work ethic,” said Moran. “You rarely see him sitting around, he’s always working on something, re-searching something, or helping one of the staff complete a task. I can’t imagine there is a job or repair that he has not seen before and he shares his experience with the staff.”

He does so much that the previous plant manager asked if he would be interested in being the senior mechanic. Pinckney passed because he enjoyed his current job so much, but suggested that Arthur Brown, who Pinckney worked with at Strom Thurmond, be interviewed and Brown got the job.

“My favorite thing about working here is that we are a close knit group,” said Pinckney. “We help each other, the electrical guys help the mechanics and the mechanics help the electricians. That’s not very common.”

As the saying goes, all good things must come to an end and Pinckney’s time at the Corps is coming to end.

“I plan to retire Dec. 31, 2018,” said Pinckney. “I have 14 grandkids, all are athletes, and I want to spend time with them, I want to go to their sports events. I feel like I am missing out and I feel guilty about that.”

Once retired, Pinckney intends on spending time with his bride of 47 years, Peggy, traveling and visiting family. He also plans to continue to umpire for NCAA girls’ softball tournaments, which he has done for the last 15 years.

“He will be missed greatly,” said Moran. “I cannot recall a time in the breakroom with the guys, that he was not telling a joke, or telling a story about one of the games he called last weekend. It definitely won’t be the same without him.”



Main photo: Leroy Pinckney, mechanic, loves working at the CRRP. Top, bottom left and bottom right: Pinckney conducts daily checks on the equipment at the St. Stephen Powerhouse to ensure everything works correctly. Top right: Brig. Gen. (ret) C .David Turner and Pinckney talk about projects at the Powerhouse.



Summer at S. Stephen



Although the Charleston District does not have an “official” USACE recreation site, the Cooper River Rediversion Project, or St. Stephen as the District calls it, fits the bill for a lot of the same types of activities. While the public can’t camp at St. Stephen like some Corps sites, there are miles of walking trails, wildlife spotting, fishing and flower gazing. Please enjoy these summer sights as we explore the District’s slice of heaven:

If you’re fishing around St. Stephen, look for these new monofilament recycling stations. We’ve installed them at six locations around the intake and tailrace canals for fishermen to throw away their old lines. Properly disposing of your line in these stations will minimize the number of cases of entanglement of birds, turtles, mammals that we all enjoy watching.



There are several sunflower fields at St. Stephen that are used to attract doves for the fall dove hunting season. The sunflowers bloom all summer and as they grow their seeds become heavy causing the sunflower to droop. Eventually, the sunflower seeds will drop and the doves will swoop in for a feast. After that has happened, the District hosts a Dove Hunt for wounded warriors, which is planned for Sept. 23rd.



St. Stephen has approximately 15 miles of trails along the canal that can be used for bird watching, hiking, biking and running. The trails are open to the public and nearby residents often use them to enjoy all that nature has to offer.

In an effort to increase the pollinator program at St. Stephen, two additional hives have joined the five established hives at St. Stephen bringing the total number of bees to approximately 350,000. Pollinators, which have been rapidly declining, are vital to keeping fruits, nuts and vegetables reproducing. Pollinators need lots of land, native forage, and a water supply to thrive, making St. Stephen the perfect location. To promote pollination among bees and other pollinators, a wildflower garden was planted at St. Stephen and began to bloom this summer.



About 50 students from Timberland High School's landscape architecture class spent a morning spreading wildflower seeds in an open field at St. Stephen. The CRRP staff had previously plowed the field to ready it for the planting. The students took turns digging troughs, mixing seeds with sand, and spreading the mixture. They threw the seeds across the one acre area and let nature take it from there. Three months later, the wildflowers had grown to be more than three feet tall and bloomed to show great color. The wildflowers weren't planted for aesthetic reasons, they were planted as a pollinator for the bees in nearby hives. The bees can travel up to two miles for pollinating before returning home. This is all part of the first federal pollinator program in South Carolina.



Total Solar Eclipse

As you have undoubtedly heard by now, there will be a rare solar eclipse crossing the entire country on Monday, August 21st. A solar eclipse is when the moon passes between the sun and Earth and blocks all or part of the sun for up to about three hours, from beginning to end, as viewed from a given location.

The last place in the United States to view the eclipse is Charleston. The eclipse will last for several hours on both sides of totality, but the total eclipse will occur beginning at 2:46 p.m. and

last for one minute and 33 seconds. Experts are predicting approximately two million people are coming to South Carolina the weekend of the eclipse to view this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Keep in mind - DO NOT look directly at the eclipse. This will cause extreme damage to your eyes. There are a number of places selling eclipse sunglasses, but beware of counterfeits. You can also look at the eclipse through specially guarded binoculars and telescopes, but do not look at it without the appropriate filters.

