

The Connector

INSIDE

Director's Notes 2
 Adopt-A-Highway 6
 Equipment Rodeo 8-9
 Clemson Conference 12-13
 District News 16-22
 Assets Management 24

VOLUME XX NO. II

SC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SPRING 2007

McTeer Bridge damaged

Emergency response leads to team repair effort

By Bob Kudelka

Robert Clark did not look forward to the phone call, but it was one he knew he had to make.

SC Department of Transportation bridge inspectors had just given him a report on extensive damage to the J.E. McTeer Bridge, which had been struck by a barge carrying a crane. The bridge is one of only two ways for more than 40,000 Lowcountry motorists to get to the cities of Beaufort and Port Royal each day from Lady's Island, Saint Helena and other islands.

"To lose one lane on the bridge would have a big impact because of the amount of traffic it was handling," said Clark, SCDOT District Engineering Administrator for District 6. "If the bridge had to be closed, that was going to be a major disaster. We were going to have to handle a lot of traffic with very little capacity."

In his car heading to Beaufort from his office in North Charleston, Clark got on his cell phone and punched in the number of the Beaufort County Administrator.

"We need to get everybody together," Clark told him. "We're going to have to close the bridge."

While it's never pleasant delivering bad news, Clark said he realized from the beginning that the response had to be a cooperative effort on many levels.

"My natural inclination was we need to let the local folks know immediately (about the bridge) because we're going to need their help and they've got to be able to let their people know what's going on," he said.

In the coming hours and days, Clark and SCDOT officials from District 6 and Headquarters were challenged by the major disruption in Beaufort area traffic patterns due to the damaged

McTeer bridge.

But SCDOT's partnerships in Beaufort County, forged during the widening projects at SC 170 and US 278, paid off as a major effort made the best of a bad situation.

It brought together SCDOT with area governments, elected officials and law enforcement, combining innovative planning, manpower and equipment to manage traffic as best as possible.

"We established a lot of relationships for the flow of information and support because anything that happens to our system down here impacts people who live here," Clark said. "That partnership really became the key to making things happen."

Executive Director H.B. "Buck" Limehouse Jr. traveled to Beaufort and met with local leaders, residents and staff in the wake of the bridge accident.

"The risk for safety to the citizens of Beaufort County is too great to make these repairs in the traditional manner," Limehouse said. "Let's employ emergency measures!"

"This is a Big Deal"

Curtis Brice, SCDOT's RME over bridges in District 6, was home at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 26, when he got a call from the Coast Guard. A barge carrying a crane had struck the McTeer bridge.

Brice contacted his bridge inspection team, led by Eric Jones, and sent them to the bridge that evening.

"My first reaction was to get people out here to look at it," Brice said. "Usually we don't have damage this bad, but we don't take chances."

Jones and his team used a DOT boat to get



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

United Contractors foreman Carroll Powell talks with his crew about the damaged girder they are about to remove on the McTeer Bridge over the Beaufort River.

See McTEER on page 3

Leadership changes



Young, Taylor join SCDOT Commission; Commission chooses Buck Limehouse as Executive Director

By Pete Poore

The spring of 2007 has seen three changes in leadership roles at SCDOT. On May 1, the SCDOT Commission appointed H.B. "Buck" Limehouse Jr. as Executive Director.

Limehouse was on the job the next morning.

He actually began working at SCDOT during his college years, when he spent his summers mowing grass and tending drawbridges. Later on, he served on the SCDOT Commission, appointed Commission Chairman by Governor Carroll Campbell in 1994. He was reappointed by Governor David Beasley in

1995, and served until 1999.

Limehouse, a Charleston businessman, has been involved in many efforts to improve the quality of transportation in South Carolina.

During his tenure as Commission Chairman, and as a member of the State Infrastructure Bank, he initiated several major transportation projects that totaled billions of dollars in value. Those projects included the Cross Island Parkway, the Southern Connector, the Conway Bypass and the Carolina Bays Parkway.

Following his tenure on the SCDOT Com-

See LEADERSHIP on page 2



Executive Director H.B. 'Buck' Limehouse Jr.



Commissioner Joe Young



Commissioner Henry Taylor

PRSRST STD
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 COLUMBIA, SC
 PERMIT NO 108

DIRECTIONS

By H.B. "Buck" Limehouse Jr.
Executive Director

Many things have been said and written about SCDOT during the past year that have kept us in the news almost on a daily basis. The Legislature and the media have had SCDOT on their front-burners for months. A lot of what has been reported about SCDOT has not been favorable.

However, let me point out that the focus of all this attention has been the structure of the leadership at SCDOT, and not, I repeat, not the work done by SCDOT employees. During the course of the debate over how to restructure SCDOT, and the reasons for the changes, two interesting aspects have occurred.

First, some of those who criticize the structure of SCDOT, also speak highly of this agency's employees. Many comments have been made about the dedication, the quality of work, the willingness to do what-

ever it takes to get the job done well. No one in this public debate is critical of the jobs you do day in, and day out.

The unfortunate and second aspect is that those words are never reported. The media tends to focus on the negative, and the praise that's given to all of you, even by our harshest critics, is never heard by you or the public.

I am no stranger to SCDOT. In high school, I drove a school bus for two years, where I transported 60 grammar school and high school kids to school and got them back home safely each day. So I have first hand experience with the responsibility that our employees undertake to give South Carolina a safe and dependable highway system.

During my summers in college, I worked for this agency. I mowed grass and I tended drawbridges. I've had the privilege of serving as the Commission Chairman in the 1990s, and I've always maintained a keen interest in transportation issues in our state.

I've also long known that the highway infrastructure of this state is the backbone of economic development.

I know from firsthand experience what it takes to do your jobs, and I know that the men and women of SCDOT are talented, smart and dedicated to their work. You may not get the attention and recognition from the public and the media that you deserve, but that lack of recognition does not lessen the importance of your jobs, and the role you play in keeping South Carolina moving forward.

Let me assure you that I know how hard you work, and the effort you put into making sure that our roads are the safest and the best they can be. Despite what has been said about SCDOT in recent months, your dedication has not wavered.

I hope that we can soon concentrate all of our energy into moving this agency forward, thereby moving South Carolina forward. Thank you all for the jobs that you do, and I am proud to be working with you.



H.B. 'Buck' Limehouse Jr.
SCDOT Executive Director

LEADERSHIP from page 1

mission, Limehouse served as a consultant to the Georgia DOT in 2002. His focus was the Northern Arc project, a 60-mile high-speed, limited access freeway north of Atlanta.

Limehouse is a native of Charleston and a 1960 graduate of The Citadel.

Among his numerous honors, he was named "Transportation Advocate of the Year" in 1995 by the SC Transportation Policy Council, and he received the Order of the Palmetto from Governor Campbell in 1995 and a second Order of the Palmetto from Governor Beasley in 1999. He is listed in "Who's Who in America" and "Who's Who in the World."

Tony L. Chapman, who served as Acting Executive Director since December 2006, returned to his previous duties as State Highway Engineer.

Two new Commissioners took their seats on the SCDOT Commission this spring. Joe Young from Georgetown was selected on March 15 to represent the 1st Congressional District. Young is the owner of Low Country Forest Products, Inc. in Georgetown.

He has spent the past 45 years in the timber industry.

Young's previous experience

in public service includes serving in the South Carolina Legislature, holding a seat on the Santee Cooper Board of Directors, and as a member of the Georgetown County Planning Commission. He has held numerous posts on the boards of associations related to the timber industry.

Young takes the seat previously held by Bob Harrell Sr. of Charleston.

West Columbia attorney Henry Taylor now represents the 2nd Congressional District. He was selected by the legislative delegation for that district on April 19.

Taylor has had a lengthy career practicing, but he started out in another profession.

Before receiving his law degree from the University of South Carolina, Mr. Taylor earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from USC.

As an engineer, Taylor spent two years in the Design Division of the Charleston Naval Shipyard. His work was related to testing mechanical systems on Polaris submarines.

After being admitted to the South Carolina Bar, Taylor was a partner in Lexington County law firms before going into corporate law. He formed his own law firm in 2001. Taylor replaces John N. Hardee of Columbia on the SCDOT Commission.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Former Commissioner John N. Hardee was recognized by the SC House of Representatives, the State Senate and the SCDOT Transportation Commission during the February Commission meeting. Shown from left are: Sheila Hardee, John N. Hardee, Commissioner Bobby T. Jones and Senator Hugh Leatherman.



The South Carolina House of Representatives and the SCDOT Transportation Commission honored former Commissioner Robert W. Harrell Sr. during the March 15 Transportation Commission meeting in Columbia. Shown from left are: Speaker of the House Bobby Harrell, Robert W. Harrell Sr., Representative Robert Brown, Charlotte Harrell and John Harrell.

The Connector

Winner of awards from S.C. Division, Public Relations Society of America; Carolinas Association of Business Communicators; S.C. Press Association and AASHTO.

Editor: Stan Shealy

Photography / Layout Editor: Rob Thompson

Editorial Board: Pete Poore, Bob Kudelka, Jane Mayberry, Bonnie Cramer, Tasha Crumpton, Peter Tarpley, Zoe Cook, Nancy Brown, and Cody Crouch.

The Connector, an employee newspaper of the South Carolina Department of Transportation, is published quarterly. All news items may be reproduced with credit to The Connector or the source. News, photos and information to appear in The Connector should be submitted to Stan Shealy, Office of Communications, S.C. Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 191, Columbia, SC 29202, no less than three weeks prior to date of publication. Copy should include the name and phone number of the source or person submitting the article. For inquiries regarding news copy, telephone 737-1270. All materials submitted become the property of SCDOT unless their return is stipulated. The Connector is distributed free by mail to employees and to others upon request.

Tony Chapman is Acting Executive Director of the S.C. Department of Transportation.

Printed with soy ink on recycled paper.



South Carolina
Press Association
Associate Member



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

District 6 Engineering Administrator Robert Clark, left, discusses the repair plans with Resident Maintenance Engineer Curtis Brice, center, and Eric Jones of the Specialized Bridge Office as United Contractors employees prepare to take out the first damaged girder on the McTeer Bridge.

McTEER from page 1

underneath the bridge and shine lights at the damage. It was close to midnight and windy, making the water choppy. The conditions made it too difficult to see clearly how much was damaged.

At daybreak, Jones' team returned to the bridge, this time using a snooper truck, which lowers inspectors from the deck to underneath the bridge. They saw for the first time that the girders had been damaged.

Jones called Brice, who conferred with State Bridge Maintenance Engineer Ron Hutson in Columbia, before calling Clark with the news.

"This is a big deal and we probably need to shut it down," Brice told him.

As Clark headed to Beaufort, he set up the initial meeting at SCDOT Beaufort Maintenance with several authorities including Port Royal Police, Beaufort City Police, Beaufort County Sheriff's Office and the county's Emergency Preparedness Division.

SCDOT had no choice but to close the bridge Friday evening. Beaufort County Maintenance RME Wendell Mulligan, on-call foreman Keith Frazier and their crew worked into the night setting up traffic control to secure the bridge.

On Saturday, Clark and others from SCDOT met again with county and city officials and police at the county's Emergency Operations Center.

"We started putting traffic management plans together and notified all elected officials so we could answer their questions," Clark said.

Among the officials leading the effort were Chairman Weston Newton of Beaufort County Council; Sheriff P. J. Tanner; Director William Winn of Beaufort County EMD; Beaufort Mayor Bill Rauch; Port Royal Mayor Samuel Murray; and SC State Representative Catherine Ceips.

Hutson said the bridge could

be partially opened by running a single lane of traffic on the north side of the bridge, the opposite side of the point of impact.

At a press conference, officials unveiled an initial plan to open a single lane on the bridge 2 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the afternoon.

On Sunday, after the first 2 hours of use by light traffic, bridge inspectors had more bad news: Another girder was starting to crack.

Clark had to contact local officials and close all traffic off the bridge by Sunday afternoon. Realizing it was important to give local leaders an accurate description of just how big a problem they were facing, Clark set up a tour of the bridge and let them see the damage firsthand from the snooper truck.

As the work week began Monday, the bridge remained closed, leaving the Woods Memorial Bridge as the only access.

"Traffic was horrendous," Clark said. "A lot of people were turning around and going back home. People had trouble getting their children to school, and as far as discretionary trips, people didn't make them."

Governor Mark Sanford toured the bridge on Monday, calling it "fairly cataclysmic." He had already sent 30 additional state Troopers to assist with traffic control.

Headquarters in Action

At Headquarters there was heightened activity on many levels, including State Highway Engineer Tony L. Chapman signing an emergency order to begin repairs and contract negotiations.

"We realized it was an important structure for the people in Beaufort County and when we learned the extent of the damage that occurred, we moved quickly with an emergency contract to get it repaired as quickly as possible," Chapman said.

Director of Maintenance Jim Feda and Director of Construction Danny Shealy were in close contact with Deputy State Highway Engineer Clem Watson in coordinating efforts to assist Clark.

There were employees such as Mike Koon, structural materials inspection and testing manager at the Research and Materials Lab, who traveled to Beaufort that Saturday, missing his grandson's first birthday, to perform tests on the integrity of the bridge.

"We're fortunate that we do have good cooperation between the Districts and Headquarters," Watson said. "Whether it's a hurricane or snowstorm, the districts are out getting the work done and the Headquarters is supporting them and helping them where they need it."

Traffic Engineering from the District office and Headquarters sent personnel to work on reconfiguring signals. They also brought equipment such as portable traffic cameras and message boards.

The traffic plan was to make US 21 in Beaufort "almost like a freeway" by closing off side streets and reconfiguring traffic signals.

"All of us working together came up with plans for downtown to eliminate left turns to try to keep 21 moving," Clark said. "We didn't want turns to lock everything up."

All downtown traffic signals in Beaufort were reconfigured. Law enforcement help came from additional SC Highway Patrol and local police, who had already been working long hours from a Blue Angels jet crash days earlier.

"This was a pretty big effort," Clark said. "The idea was to make US 21 the through route. We were going to try to get rid of all the side street friction as much as we could because that was going to be the main thoroughfare."

SCDOT's Beaufort Incident Response team led by Chris Green and John Wood began moving variable message boards into and around the Beaufort area. These became key parts of the communication system to let drivers know what routes were open and how to travel along the least congested corridors.

On Tuesday morning, United Contractors began working on the cracked girder carrying the single lane as the bridge remained shut down. Traffic was even worse than Monday, with backups that lasted hours.

That afternoon, Clark's team met again with the local officials with better news. The repairs to the girder would again allow a single lane, on the north side of the McTeer bridge, to reopen Wednesday.

With police directing traffic and a reversal operation on the swing span Woods Bridge, things "went perfectly" on Wednesday, Clark said.

In the meantime, United Contractors needed to find steel to start making the five replacement girders for the repair job. The company found steel in other states, brought it to Augusta and started fabricating Wednesday.

Police and troopers played a key role, handling traffic atop the bridge as well as on US 21.

They faced unexpected obstacles as well.

The first night of the closure, someone drove around the DOT barricade and threw all the cones into the river as a prank. After that night, DOT chained the bridge and police kept watch.

Many local residents became alarmed that heavy trucks would be using the Woods Bridge despite a truck restriction in place

for several years.

Clark and local officials held another press conference to let people know that the Woods Bridge was safe and the restrictions were in place to prevent over-height vehicles from hitting the truss.

Mike Phillips and his crew from the district bridge maintenance unit began fabricating an over-height detection system and installed it the next night on each end of the Woods Bridge. It has been hit three times but no damage to the bridge was caused.

Clark also was in close contact with the Coast Guard, which was busy investigating the crash.

During the first weekend, the Coast Guard agreed with Clark to extend the openings of the Woods Bridge to provide some relief to motorists. By Monday, Clark and local officials met with Coast Guard officials in Beaufort and asked for even more restrictions to keep it from opening during most of the daylight hours.

"They immediately put in pretty severe restrictions and matched the most restrictive of any place on the East Coast," Clark said. "The Coast Guard continually worked with us and has been an important partner."

Limehouse and Clark scheduled a meeting with Capt. John Cameron and Lt. Cmdr. John Mauger of the Coast Guard to thank them for their cooperation and to ensure close coordination on this and other potential problems.

After a few days of reversing the Woods Bridge, local officials found that drivers were not arriving in time to use it. Back-ups and delays began to build again.

At that point, they asked Clark if the portable traffic signals that had been discussed for the McTeer bridge could be obtained. Dan Campbell with Traffic Engineering in Headquarters obtained the signals from a company in Pennsylvania and had them delivered within 24 hours. They were operational the next morning.

First New Girder Arrives

On a sunny, breezy morning in late May, Clark stood atop the

McTeer bridge as a new, 85-foot-long girder arrived with a police escort that reminded Clark of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade.

He couldn't hold back a smile as he looked at the 16,466-pound girder. It was the first of five to be replaced, and the first major step in getting the bridge back to normal.

"This is a tremendous milestone," Clark said.

With United Contractors expected to work until mid-summer, the schedule allowed for one lane on the bridge to be open for traffic from 6 a.m. until 10 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The Coast Guard issued complaints against three of the mariners involved in the striking of the McTeer Bridge in Beaufort, charging them with negligence and misconduct. During the course of the investigation, the Coast Guard said it may bring additional charges against other mariners and may pursue civil penalties against individuals or companies that contributed.

Asked to assess the response by DOT, Clark said it was a joint effort that "really turned out well."

He pointed to some specifics: keeping open the access for EMS vehicles, which was a comfort to the community; the help from law enforcement, county and state leaders; strong support from Headquarters; and the open communication with residents.

"Up front we had to establish with the community what our plans were and show them we were moving and we weren't going to just sit back and say, 'We've got a bridge out and we'll get to it when we can.' We needed to show them we were doing something right off the bat.

"Some people have complained about things changing, but the dynamics of the situation required some changes in plans. But we were able to get information out so they were kept informed," Clark said. "We've not heard anything about people not knowing what was going on."



Clark watches as District 6 employees examine the first replacement girder to arrive from Augusta where it was manufactured. The 16,466-pound, 85-foot girder was delivered to the site with a police escort and cheering Beaufort motorists.



United Contractors employees are lowered by crane to cut existing framework from the damaged girders. Traffic on the bridge was limited to one lane during morning and afternoon rush hours.

Rights of Way

Annual meeting is chance to honor employees, discuss technology, changes



Ken Feaster moderated the annual meeting April 26.



Central District Employees - Columbia



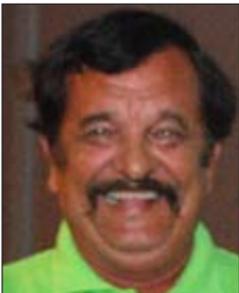
Eastern District Employees - Florence



Director of Rights of Way Oscar Rucker congratulated Statewide Rights of Way Employee of the Year Marie Hall who works in the Headquarters Rights of Way Office.



Southern District - St. George



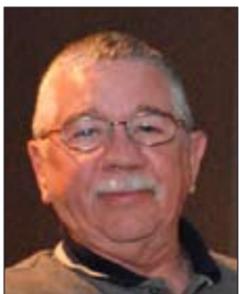
Gerald Powell
Western District
Employee of the
Year



Dawn Weeks
Southern District
Employee of the
Year



Western District - Greenville



Gary Williams
Central District
Employee of the
Year



Barrie Frierson
Eastern District
Employee of the
Year



Headquarters Rights of Way Office

Counting traffic changes with new technology

By Bob Kudelka

The days of the solitary highway engineer counting traffic with a pencil and pad are long gone.

Traffic counts are now done with solar power, wireless technology, video and the internet.

These high-tech traffic counting tools, including a new portable device, are SCDOT's latest ways of providing critical highway traffic data during hurricane evacuations and all year round.

And just in time for 2007 hurricane season, which began June 1, SCDOT got a new device: a portable trailer complete with a camera, solar-power radar detector that counts traffic and checks speed.

"We've tried to make sure we have it available if any of our sites go down, we can get this trailer there and help with evacuations," said Bill Beck, chief of Road Data Services.

Traffic counts are available on SCDOT's web site. Users can launch the Traffic Polling System and see a wealth of data from sites across the state: traffic volume, historic volume and average speed. There are also graphs that compare the traffic to historical numbers.

At some sites, data is gathered each night and posted on the web. Other sites are even more current, with traffic counts posted every hour. Video is available on a few sites, although it is still in the development phase.

Stacy Eargle, Traffic Analysis Manager in Traffic Engineering,

said in addition to aiding hurricane evacuations, traffic counts have many uses:

- Aids in the planning/designing of roadways (structural design of pavements, bridges, traffic signal systems, determines the needs and priorities of highway construction and improvements).

- To monitor traffic growth trends, examines historical patterns of traffic volume changes.

- Aids in projecting future traffic

- Provides information for the public and private sectors (other state agencies (Parks, Recreation and Tourism, Public Safety), local planning authorities, trucking, oil and real estate companies, consultants, and the general public).

- Aids in the updating of traffic flow maps, road inventory database, vehicle miles traveled files

- Provide speed data and holiday traffic volumes to the SC Highway Patrol.

"It's a federal requirement that we report traffic information, but the fact that everybody else can use it is icing on the cake," Eargle said.

So how does Traffic Engineering get the data in the first place?

The traffic counts originate from 149 automatic traffic recorders (ATR) sites across the state. These are loop and piezo sensors placed cut into the highway pavement. When the vehicle rides over the sensors, it can classify it is a motorcycle, car or tractor-trailer.

The sensors are wired to a nearby roadside cabinet, which includes a

battery, telephone modem and solar panel to charge the battery.

The loop sensor is wired to a nearby roadside cabinet, which includes a battery, telephone modem and solar panel to charge the battery.

About 20 ATRs now have wireless modems so the data is sent without any dialing. Wireless technology is cheaper for taxpayers and more reliable if storms knock out lines or telephone poles, Beck said.

Each night, seven modem lines at a main server at Headquarters dial all 149 sites to retrieve the data. Some ATRs provide data each hour.

Information is listed on the web site for the public.

During hurricane evacuations, the information is valuable for DOT engineers working closely with the Governor's Office and Emergency Preparedness, Beck said.

Other times of the year, users of the web site can include savvy travelers who check the site before taking a trip.

"We get a lot of hits on the web site, how the traffic is doing, whether it's in the Beaufort or Myrtle Beach area," Beck said. "The general public has found the web site and they're interested in it."

In the future, look for more video, expanded coverage and more hourly counts as traffic counting gets even more sophisticated.

Beck hopes to see more weigh and motion sites. These count vehicles and weigh trucks to see how much wear and tear heavy vehicles are causing on the roads.



PHOTO BY ANGELA HANCE/TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

Van Forrest, Field and Equipment Supervisor in the Traffic Count office, part of Road Data Services in Traffic Engineering, checks out SCDOT's new portable traffic count trailer. The trailer has a camera and solar-power radar detector to count traffic and check speed during hurricane evacuations and other emergencies.

Moving Up

James W. Byers, of Rock Hill, from Maintenance Helper (Spec) to Trades Specialist II at York Maintenance.

James B. Powers, of Lancaster, from Trades Specialist II to Trades Specialist III at Lancaster Maintenance.

Johnnie L. Ritter, of Allendale, from Building and Grounds Specialist I to Trades Specialist II at Richland Maintenance.

Ralph M. Mobley Jr., of Chester, from Trades Specialist IV to Trades Specialist V at York Maintenance.

Jackie E. Graham, of Kingstree, from Engineer/Associate Engineer II to Engineer/Associate Engineer III at Williamsburg Maintenance.

Anna D. Riddle, of Columbia, from Administrative Specialist II to Administrative Assistant at the office of DBE and Special Programs.

Paul S. Register, of Summerville, from Communications Specialist III to Trades Specialist IV at District 6 Office.

Sherri L. Miller, of Columbia, from Engineer/Associate Engineer II to Engineer/Associate Engineer III at Pre-Construction.

Herbert H. Page Jr., of Mullins, from Trades Specialist II to Trades Specialist III at Marion Maintenance.

Cecil A. Matthews Jr., of Ridgeway, from Mechanic III to Trades Specialist V at Fairfield Maintenance.

Robert G. Junkins, of Sumter, from Engineer/Associate Engineer II to Engineer/Associate Engineer III at Dillon Maintenance.

Clarence W. Evans, of Lake City, from Trades Specialist II to Trades Specialist III at Florence Maintenance.

James M. Sullivan, of Lexington, from Engineer/Associate Engineer III to Engineer/Associate Engineer IV at the Office of Planning.

William N. Schwartz, of N Charleston, from Trades Specialist III to Trades Specialist IV at the Lower Sign Shop.

Tony D. McGee, of Cades, from Trades Specialist II to Trades Specialist IV at Williamsburg Maintenance.

William R. Aikens, of Easley, from

Engr./Geodetic Technician III to Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II at D3-Bridge Inspection.

James W. Kendall, of Rembert, from Engineer/Associate Engineer III to Engineer/Associate Engineer IV of Pre-Construction Support.

Ricky O. Labrew, of Ridge Springs, from Trades Specialist III to Engr./Geodetic Technician III at Lexington Maintenance.

Christopher H. Burgess, of Batesburg, from Trades Specialist III to Trades Specialist IV at Lexington Maintenance.

Anthony T. Fobbs, of N. Charleston, from Trades Specialist II to Trades Specialist III at Charleston Maintenance.

Susan V. Stone, of Columbia, from Auditor IV to Audits Manager I at Agency Audits.

Curtis Ferguson, of Yemassee, from Trades Specialist III to Trades Specialist IV at Beaufort Maintenance.

Juanita H. Abercrombie, of Chester, from Administrative Specialist II to Administrative Assistant at the District 4 Office.

Herman L. Linen, of Georgetown, from Trades Specialist III to Trades Specialist IV at Georgetown Maintenance.

Joel F. Smith, of Varnville, from Trades Specialist III to Trades Specialist IV at Hampton Maintenance.

Joseph M. Turner, of Newberry, from Trades Specialist III to Trades Specialist IV at Newberry Maintenance.

James M. Williams, of Orangeburg, from Trades Specialist III to Trades Specialist IV at Orangeburg Maintenance.

Mary A. Moore, of Hemingway, from Trades Specialist III to Trades Specialist IV at Williamsburg Maintenance.

Antoine L. Davis, of Rock Hill, from Trades Specialist III to Trades Specialist IV at York Maintenance.

Iris F. Neal, of Greenwood, from Engineer/Associate Engineer I to Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II at Pre-Construction.

Bobby L. Hicks, of Inman, from Trades Specialist II to Trades Specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance.

James W. Taylor Jr., of Bennettsville, from Mechanic I to Mechanic III at Marlboro Maintenance.

Albert Houston, of Clarks Hill, from Trades Specialist II to Trades Specialist III at McCormick Maintenance.

Melissa P. Herndon, of Bowman, from Administrative Specialist II to Administrative Assistant at Dorchester Maintenance.

Jonathan R. Chasteen, of Greer, from Engineer/Associate Engineer I to Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II at the Greenville District Office.

Willie D. Scott Jr., of Kingtree, from Trades Specialist II to Trades Specialist III at Berkeley Maintenance.

Christopher J. Bernique, of Summerville, from Engr./Geodetic Technician III to Communications Manager at D6-Traffic Signals.

Carl R. McCrea, of Kingstree, from Engr./Geodetic Technician II to Engr./Geodetic Technician III at Georgetown Construction.

John M. Watson Jr., of Hickory Grove, from Trades Specialist II to Trades Specialist III at York Maintenance.

Robert Bridges, of Belton, from Mechanic I to Mechanic III at Anderson Maintenance.

Eric W. Webster, of Hamer, from Trades Specialist II to Trades Specialist III at Dillon Maintenance.

Michael A. Anders, of Easley, from Engr./Geodetic Technician III to Engineer/Associate Engineer I at Anderson Construction.

Dana G. Boozer, of Prosperity, from Accountant/Fiscal Analyst I to Auditor III at C Project Development.

William C. Harrison, of Woodruff, from Engineering Assistant (Spec) to Engineer/Associate Engineer I at Laurens Construction.

Travis M. Patrick, of Galivants Ferry, from Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II to Engineer/Associate Engineer III at Horry Construction.

Temple K. Short, of Columbia, from Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II to Engineer/Associate Engineer III at Research and Materials.

Matthew L. Boozer, of Prosperity, from Communications Specialist III to Program

Coordinator I at the Director of Traffic Engineering Office.

Francis J. Fox, of West Columbia, from Trades Specialist II to Mechanic III at the Equipment Service Depot.

James H. Price, of Piedmont, from Engr./Geodetic Technician II to Engr./Geodetic Technician III at Anderson Construction.

Meredith D. Duke, of Chapin, from Accountant/Fiscal Analyst II to Accountant/Fiscal Analyst III in Accounting.

Timothy Pinckney, of N Charleston, from Trades Specialist III to Trades Specialist IV at D6-Bridge Inspection.

Charles D. Chapman, of Chesnee, from Trades Specialist II to Trades Specialist III at Cherokee Maintenance.

David D. Dodd, of Inman, from Trades Specialist II to Trades Specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance.

James E. Cohen II, of Union, from Trades Specialist II to Trades Specialist III at Union Maintenance.

Ezekiel Powell, of Florence, from Engr./Geodetic Technician II to Engr./Geodetic Technician III at the Surveys Office of Florence.

Charles W. Lucas, of Ladson, from Communications Specialist III to Trades Specialist IV at the District 6 Office..

John C. Geiger, of Swansea, from Engineer/Associate Engineer I to Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II at RPG-2 - Pee Dee.

Gloria J. Paul, of Florence, from Engineering Assistant (Spec) to Engr./Geodetic Technician III at Florence Construction.

Peggy M. Paxton, of Pelzer, from Clerical Assistant (Spec) to Engr./Geodetic Technician II at Research and Materials.

Harold T. Fender, of Walterboro, from Trades Specialist II to Trades Specialist III at Charleston Maintenance.

Kevin E. Summers, of Green Pond, from Trades Specialist II to Incident Responder I at the District 6 Office.

Stephanie M. Aull, of Cayce, from Clerical Assistant (Spec) to Fiscal Technician I in Accounting.

Mickey A. Deal, of Rock Hill, from Maintenance Helper (Spec) to Trades Specialist II at York Maintenance.

SCDOT recognizes volunteers who battle highway litter

By Bob Kudelka

SCDOT in April announced the 2006 winners in the Adopt-A-Highway program at the 19th annual ceremony, giving thanks to the many people who work hard to improve the appearance of our highways.

State Highway Engineer Tony Chapman congratulated the participants, saying he hoped one day the battle against litter would be won.

"DOT is indebted to you and your tireless efforts to make South Carolina a cleaner place," He said. "You have truly made a difference in the appearance of our state highways."

More than 30,000 volunteers in 2,128 groups picked up 1.2 million pounds of litter in 2006.

"We had a great year in 2006," said Viola Sharperson, Adopt-A-Highway coordinator.

Since the program began in 1987, 30.5 million pounds of litter have been collected, Sharperson said.

"I applaud each of you here and thank you for your commitment and dedication to keeping our state clean and beautiful," said Michael Covington, Director of Administration and emcee of the event.

For the Berkeley Run Homeowners Association near Goose Creek, the Adopt-A-Highway program fits in perfectly with their efforts to get to know their neighbors.

"We do this three times a year – pick up in the morning for 2 hours - then everybody goes back home and comes back at noon for a picnic," said Francine Reed, group leader. "We make it a social day for us and we enjoy it."

Reed said she was pleasantly surprised when Covington announced her group had won "Outstanding State Group of the Year."



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The Berkeley Run Homeowners Association Adopt-A-Highway group from Berkeley County were recognized at the 2007 Adopt-A-Highway Awards Ceremony for their outstanding job in removing litter from the roadway they adopted. The award was presented by District Maintenance Engineer Cal Murray, Federal Highway Administration Division Administrator for South Carolina Bob Lee and SCDOT State Highway Engineer Tony Chapman. Shown from left are: Murray, Lee, Chapman, Francine Reed, Ola Jackson.

"It's always fun to get out and see your neighbors and see what's going on," she said. "And once you pick up on your road, you feel like you own it."

DOT employees honored at the ceremony included:

Five year service awards were presented to Adopt-A-Highway Coordinators:

- Holly Guy-Chester County
- Richard Pope-Georgetown County
- Sandy Arrington-Spartanburg County

Ten-year service awards were presented

to Adopt-A-Highway Coordinators:

- Cathy Monroe-Abbeville County
 - Steve Childers-Chesterfield County
- AAH Outstanding Coordinator of the Year, Third place award was presented to Denise Brown, Anderson County.

Outstanding AAH Engineer of the Year, Third place award was presented to Wayne Keelys, Lee County.

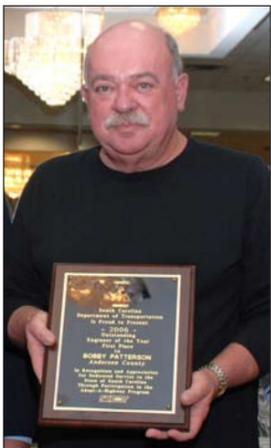
Outstanding AAH Engineer of the Year, Second place was presented to J. D. Wilcox, Sumter County, currently working in

District Six Administration Office.

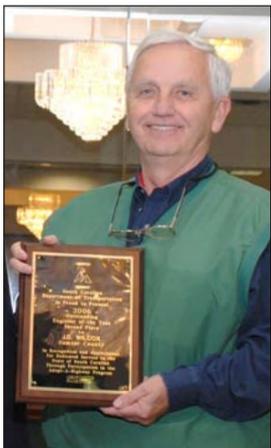
Outstanding AAH Engineer of the Year, First place was presented to Bobby Patterson, Anderson County.

AAH Coordinators who increased their programs by adding 10 or more groups received an achievement award were:

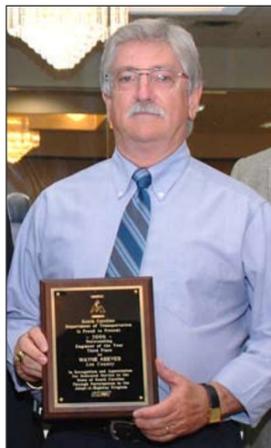
- Denise Brown -Anderson County,
- Sandra Arrington – Spartanburg, County,
- Lou Ella Sorrells-Howard – Sumter County



Bobby Patterson
1st Place
AAH Engineer
of the Year
(Award accepted by
Glen Brown)



J.D. Wilcox
2nd Place
AAH Engineer
of the Year



Wayne Keelys
3rd Place
AAH Engineer
of the Year



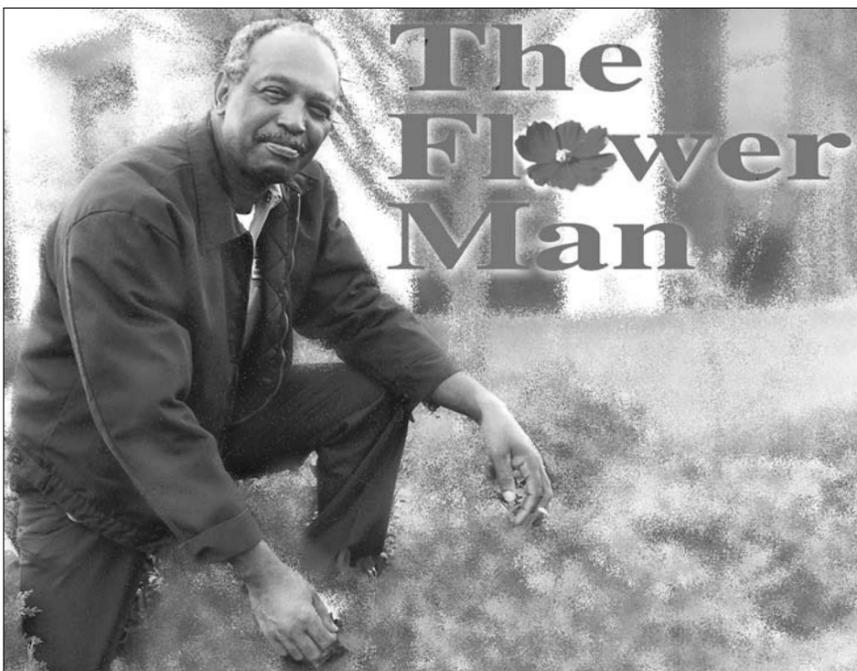
Susan Overcash
1st Place
AAH Coordinator
of the Year



Carlton Bridges
2nd Place
AAH Coordinator
of the Year



Denise Brown
3rd Place
AAH Coordinator
of the Year



There's mulch to do in summer, winter

By Ernest Jones
Building Maintenance

Very few home gardeners ever think of mulching the soil around flowers. They think of mulch only as a decorative covering of stone and wood chips around shrubs, evergreens and trees. Even then, they don't really know why they use a mulch, other than that it looks good.

The proper use of good mulch can mean the difference between super, healthy-looking plants, with prolonged bloom time, or struggling, puny, unhealthy-looking foliage and flowers.

There are two basic kinds of mulch; organic and inorganic. Organic mulches include formerly living material such as wood chips, shredded bark, chopped

leaves, straw, grass clippings, compost, sawdust, pine needles, buckwheat shells, rotted manure, corn cob particles, cocoa bean shells and even shredded newspaper. Inorganic mulches include gravel, stones, plastic shredding, plastic fabric and shingles.

Organic mulches are widely used for some different functions depending on the time of year. In summer, mulches slow the evaporation of water from the soil, keep soil temperatures cooler, and discourage weed growth by cutting off the light that encourages weed seeds in the soil to germinate.

In winter, organic mulches insulate the soil and help keep it frozen during spells of mild weather, so that plant roots are less likely to be damaged during alternate periods of freezing and thawing.

Construction Career Days give students hands-on experience

By Bob Kudelka

Thanos Harley is afraid of heights, but that didn't keep him from climbing on board a bucket truck that lifted him 85 feet above the State Fairgrounds.

"I'd do it again in a minute," said Harley, an 11th-grader at Heyward Career Center in Columbia, excited and glad to be back on the ground. "I was scared of heights, but it was very enjoyable."

Giving students a chance to experience heavy equipment found in highway construction was the idea behind the "2007 Construction Days" in Columbia on Feb. 20-22.

Approximately 900 high school students from the Midlands and surrounding areas attended the event designed to give them the opportunity to learn about careers in the construction industry.

With a shortage of skilled workers, it's important to expose students early to possible career paths in construction, said Program Coordinator Barbara Beagles.

One out of every 10 workers in the United States directly or indirectly makes his or her living in the construction industry.

The event was sponsored by the SCDOT; the Federal Highway Administration; the SC Department of Education; the Upstate Workforce Investment Board; and the Midlands Workforce Development Board. It was also in partnership with agencies, businesses and schools.

"Construction Career Days" also allowed students to talk with commercial contractors and SCDOT personnel about employment opportunities in the con-

struction industry.

There were hands-on exercises and demonstrations of heavy equipment in action. Inside, vendors had booths set up to provide information to the students.

"We're trying to look at traditional and non-traditional careers in the transportation industry," Beagles said. "We hope to get more people interested at an early age in careers in construction."

Many different types of equipment were on display including: a backhoe, street sweeper, front-end loader, dump truck, hard wheel roller, rubber tire roller, motor grader, bulldozer, remote-controlled Rammax compactors, asphalt paving machine, track hoe, Jet Vac, boom truck and an Incident Response truck.

Teachers who brought their students to the event said it was a great opportunity to get out of the classroom.

"Our kids are from a rural county and they don't get exposed to stuff like this," said Stepfon Boyd, carpentry instructor at Fairfield Career Center.

"It really helps them to see the different areas of construction," Boyd said. "I teach carpentry and residential framing. Now they can see that's there's more to it than just framing. This is a good program."

Don Ashworth, carpentry instructor at Lower Richland High School, brought 14 students to the Career Days.

"You can only show so many videos, but when they actually get their hands on (equipment), that's what gets them excited," Ashworth said. "This is outstanding."

Lisa King, a senior at Lower Richland High School, drove a tractor and dropped a ball into



Lisa King, a senior at Lower Richland High School, gets some instruction on the slope mower from Donald McElveen of Kershaw Maintenance.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR



Billy Pearson of the West Columbia Maintenance Shed shows the Jet Vac to a group of students from Fairfield Central High School.



David Law, right, of the Federal Highway Administration shows 17-year-old Quintin Green of the Alternative Youth Adventures School in Columbia how cement, aggregate, sand and water are mixed to make concrete.



Mike James of Traffic Engineering demonstrates masonry work.

a bucket, as well as performing tasks with other machinery.

"It is really exciting to be out here and do this," King said. "I like how you get to see if you really want to go into this field or that field. We are all having a good time experiencing this and getting the hands-on experience."

Justin McMahan, a senior at

Clover High School, said he enjoyed learning about the basic controls on a motor grader, which he once used to create a dam for a pond at his house.

"For the most part, it's like a video game - interactive and hands-on," McMahan said. "It's a lot of fun."

It was the second year for the

Construction Days event. Last year's took place in Spartanburg.



Students from Clover High School pose for the backup camera on a dump truck while a friend watches them on a monitor inside the truck (inset above).

Equipment Operators sharpen skills with friendly competition

By Bob Kudelka

As contestants waited their turn at the 2007 Equipment Operators' Rodeo, there was an element you don't normally see among experienced operators: anxiety.

Not only did some have their families watching, but everyone knew there was a lot at stake. It's district versus district in the team competition and employee against employee for the individual segment.

Pride is on the line, and top winners get to compete against other DOT's in North Carolina in the fall.

So as each contestant prepared for his turn, there was little chatter and a lot of serious looks.

"You can definitely see they're nervous this morning," said Sam Riddle, committee chairman.

Matthew Sanford, a contestant from Charleston County, said the earlier rounds held at the county and district levels are relaxed affairs, but the statewide competition is another ball game.

"When you come to the state, you really need to step up your game and the butterflies take a toll," Sanford said. "I just try to focus on the course. You've got to take your time, try to be consistent and accurate. This year's course is a little tighter than before. I enjoy it and have a good time."

Sanford was one of 55 employees competing in the state finals, held at the Supply and Equipment facility on Shop Road. Each employee was already a winner, having succeeded in county and District competitions.

During the state finals, competitors maneuvered their heavy equipment through a series of courses as judges kept a close watch.

It's the fourth year of the Rodeo. Contestants from the seven districts and headquarters compete in six categories including Single Axle Dump Truck competition, Tandem Axle Dump Truck competition, Tractor Truck with Lowboy Trailer competition, Tractor Mower competition, Motorgrader competition, and Backhoe competition.

"The Equipment Rodeo helps to support and enhance the skills of equipment operators operating heavy equipment," Riddle said. "It also promotes safety, teamwork and increases morale. It increases the awareness of safety factors in work zones."

"Employees participating in the Rodeo benefit from the exposure to additional training and the challenge of sharpening their skills in a competitive but friendly atmosphere," Riddle said.

After the event, an awards ceremony was held at The Zone at Williams-Brice Stadium.

Kenny Eargle, Assistant Deputy State Highway Engineer, spoke on behalf of the State Highway Engineer's Office. District Engineering Administrators attending included Phillip Brooks of District 2, Stan Bland of District 4, and JoAnn Woodrum of District 7.

The Equipment Operators' Rodeo



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT District Champions participate in the 2007 Equipment Operators' Rodeo at the Equipment Depot in Columbia May 17. Challenges like backing a tractor mower through a series of traffic cones gives equipment operators a chance to compete with their peers and to show off their unique skills.

Committee members are Bryan Jones (District 1); Steve Coleman (District 2); Todd Cook (District 3); Jason Allison (District 4); Treasure Scarborough (District 5); Michael Black (District 6); Efrem Dantzer (District 7); Philip Brooks (Safety); and Sam Riddle (Supply & Equipment).

Each committee member is responsible for coordinating Rodeo events for their respective district.

"While the committee works extra hard to make the Rodeo a successful event, there a number of non-committee mem-

bers and non-contestants across the state who provide support to the event," Riddle said. "These individuals assist with course set ups, transporting equipment, judging, scorekeeping, registrations, etc. The Rodeo committee appreciates the support provided by SCDOT employees and management in making this event successful."

The winners of the state finals will advance to the Regional Rodeo to be held in Asheville, NC, Oct. 17-18. Contestants from Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina,

and Tennessee will compete in the six categories of events to determine individual Regional Champions and team Regional Champions.

WINNERS

SINGLE AXLE

1st Place - Scott Burgess
2nd Place - Kale Mears
3rd Place - Timothy Johnson

TANDEM AXLE

1st Place - Allen Moore
2nd Place - Kenny Eaddy
3rd Place - Randy Corley

TRACTOR LOWBOY

1st Place - Richard Stroble
2nd Place - Timothy Johnson
3rd Place - Jerome Cunningham

TRACTOR MOWER

1st Place - Jeremy Shrewsberry
2nd Place - Richard Stroble
3rd Place - Melvin Brown

MOTORGRADER

1st Place - Johnny Williamson
2nd Place - James Catoe
3rd Place - Leigh Redden

District Overall

1st Place - District 4
2nd Place - District 5
3rd Place - District 1



SCDOT Employees participating in the 2007 Equipment Rodeo



Barry Biggers



Jake Bolden



Lindsay Bolton



Melvin Brown



Scott Burgess



James Catoe



Charles Cleveland



Randy Corley



Mark Crosby



Jerome Cunningham



Kenny Eaddy



Daniel Flake



Francis Fox



Tony Garland



Jeff Gasque



Mike Gray



Mark Gymer



Joseph Harvin



Larry Hayes



Greg Highley



Randy Hodge



Kenny Jennings



Timothy Johnson



Jimmie Jones



Johnny Koon



Larry Lawton



George Lewis

Congratulations to all the SCDOT equipment operators who use their skills every day to maintain the roads and bridges in South Carolina.



Isaac Mathis



Bobby McGee



Charles McGirt



Kale Mears



Bobby Meekins



Carl Meetze



Allen Moore



Sonny Moore



William Owens



Buddy Patton



Robert Perkins



Leigh Redden



Charles Reynolds



Frank Rhett



Matthew Sanford



Rodney Shaw



Jeremy Shrewsberry



George Simpson



Terry Singletary



Calvin Spann



Johnny Stevens



Darryl Stoudemire



Richard Stroble



George Williams



James Williams



Johnny Williamson



Levi Wilson

Employee Appreciation Week

Headquarters employees enjoy a week of activities



BLUEGRASS ATTIRE

Employees dressed down for the Chick-Fil-A bag lunch on Wednesday, May 9. Above, Donna Price, Stan Shealy and Ken Nichols show off their best duds.



BLUEGRASS MUSIC

During the luncheon, 'The Ditch Diggers' performed some bluegrass music. The band members are, from left: Michael Covington, Joe Derby, Wayne Feaster, Rick Callaham, Steve Gantt and Bill Jordan.



ON THE DOT

FAR LEFT: Artemus Hill, seated, shows Wanda Prince and Marcy Strother some of the new On-The-Dot gifts that are available for employees who go the extra mile.



ON THE DONUTS

LEFT: Employees were treated with free donuts Monday, May 7.

2006 SC Chamber of Commerce Safety Awards Luncheon

SCDOT units received numerous awards at the March 21 Safety Awards Luncheon sponsored by the SC Chamber of Commerce.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

LEE MAINTENANCE

From left, Garnet McKalsen, Wayne Keeyes, Mike Gilchrist and Thad Brunson accept the award for Lee Maintenance's outstanding safety record.

ADDITIONAL WINNERS:

HEADQUARTERS

- CHEROKEE MAINTENANCE (photo on page 19)
- DORCHESTER MAINTENANCE (photo on page 21)
- JASPER MAINTENANCE (photo on page 21)
- BAMBERG MAINTENANCE (photo on page 22)
- HOLLY HILL MAINTENANCE (photo on page 22)



MCCORMICK MAINTENANCE

From left, Karen Long, Tommie Parker, Sarah McKinney and Darrell Porterfield accept the award for McCormick Maintenance's outstanding safety record.



GREENWOOD MAINTENANCE

From left, Karen Long, Billy Lybrand, Sarah McKinney and Darrell Porterfield accept the award for Greenwood Maintenance's outstanding safety record.



On Friday, May 11, the winners of the "Name That Child" contest (Contest shown below) were revealed. Employees were also treated to candy during the 10:30 break time.

Dr. Arlene Prince and Polly McCutcheon were two of the guest servers during the Chick-Fli-A luncheon.



NAME THAT CHILD



GRAPHIC LAYOUT BY DERRELL RICE/PLANNING

Can you identify the SCDOT employees shown above? During SCDOT Employee Appreciation Week, headquarters employees were challenged to identify old photos of employees. Give up? The answers are on page 14.

Clemson Conference

Engineers examine latest technology during annual meeting

By Bob Kudelka

The 36th Annual Highway Conference in Clemson featured the latest research and technology, a briefing on ethics and remarks from State Highway Engineer Tony L. Chapman.

Approximately 300 people, including 150 SCDOT employees, attended the conference at Clemson University's Madren Center March 28-30.

Danny Shealy, Director of Construction and conference co-chairman, said the conference was a good opportunity for employees to keep up with the latest research as well as interact with others.

"They get to network with consultants, contractors, vendors and keep on top of new products," Shealy said. "They also get to talk about what's going on in each of their counties."

Deputy State Highway Engineer Clem Watson said the conference highlighted many key issues "ongoing in the construction side of engineering."

"It brought us up to speed on issues such as environmental, our permitting process with DHEC and I thought it provided great insight on monitoring construction work for potential fraud," Watson said. "It

was a good opportunity for our engineers to share information and to learn about what was upcoming in the future, particularly on the CPM (Critical Path Method) scheduling and the opportunities that will give us for becoming more efficient."

Mark Lester, Program Development Engineer, said the conference has many benefits.

"It's always a good idea to stay up to date on the latest information," Lester said. "It's a good opportunity to see people you don't see every day, a good networking opportunity."

Shealy said the conference featured an emphasis on ethics; information on the new requirements concerning storm water permits; research on new types of concrete by the University of South Carolina and Clemson University; and several other technical sessions.

There were presentations on the demolition of the old Cooper River Bridges, the SC 6/60 widening project and SCE&G's Lake Murray Dam upgrade.

Opening remarks were given by Shealy, Chapman and FHWA Division Administrator Bob Lee.

Chapman gave an update on the structural changes being considered by the General Assembly in mid-March.

"I've been here 31 years and we've been changing and doing things differently. Sometimes we do things worse and correct things and go back and do it better," Chapman said. "This is probably going to be a change, and in the end, we're going to be better. There's no doubt about that in my mind whatsoever."

"A year from now when we look back on this, we'll say, 'We all survived and here we are doing things a different way.' We'll adjust; we always have."

Chapman said he testified on behalf of SCDOT three days a week, sometimes two and three hours at a time, from the end of November through January.

"There was never a complaint about DOT workers or employees - never," Chapman said of legislators. "They never questioned the employees of DOT. Every one of them believed the employees of DOT did a great job. It never got in the paper, but they spoke well of DOT employees. Keep doing your jobs well because that demonstrates who you are and who we are. Always believe actions speak louder than words."

"To the employees that continue to support and work for this agency that I'm very proud of, I want to thank you."



During the Clemson conference, State Highway Engineer Tony L. Chapman recited "Lessons From Geese," which he had received from Robert Pratt and believed it was fitting for SCDOT employees to hear. The original author is unknown, although an internet search showed many organizations have used "Lessons From Geese" over the years.

Lessons from geese

As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the bird following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71 percent more flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community can go further and get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly gets back in formation to take advantage of the "lifting power" of the bird immediately in front.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go.

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into formation and another goose flies at the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership - with people, as with geese, interdependent with each other.

The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging - not something less than helpful.

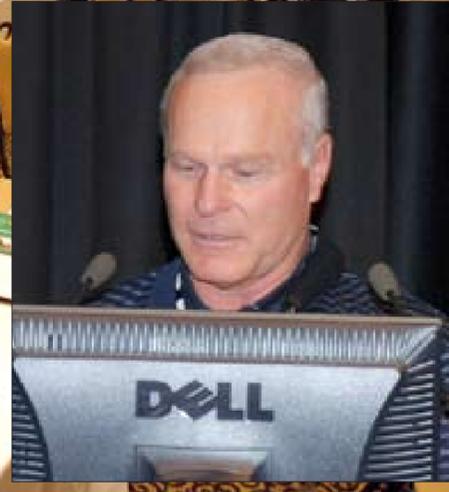
When a goose gets sick or wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect him. They stay with the goose until it is either able to fly again, or dies. Then they launch out on their own with another formation or catch up to the flock.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Approximately 300 engineers attended the 36th Annual Highway Conference in Clemson March 28-30. This year, the conference focused on construction issues. Danny Shealy, shown in the inset photograph, was a conference co-chairman.



RIGHT: Will McConnell, left, and Jeremiah Bradley use a break between sessions to view new products and make phone calls back to the office.



FAR RIGHT: Tim McConnell, left, and Bill DuBose, center, talk with former District 3 Engineering Administrator Cyril Busbee about concrete.



BELOW: From left, Matthew Shealy, Keith Riddle, Nick Waites and Mellissa Edmonds enjoy a soda and discuss what they've learned during the conference.



Conference Chairman Dr. James L. Burati Jr. prepares the opening presentation with SCDOT Director of Construction Danny Shealy and State Highway Engineer Tony Chapman.

The 2008 Clemson Conference will focus on Maintenance issues. If you'd like more information on next year's conference, contact Co-Chairman Jim Feda or the Director of Maintenance Office at (803) 737-1290.



Joe Bolen, left, of Ennis Paints, shows Martin Mullis a sample of a patented material that is placed on top of pavement to prevent skidding.



LEFT: SC Division Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration Bob Lee, right, presents SCDOT engineers with an award for the successful Cooper River Bridge replacement project.



Habitat for Humanity builds more than just houses

STTAR, STEP-21 volunteers help make dream come true for local family



PHOTOGRAPHS BY STTAR AND STEP-21 VOLUNTEERS

Home ownership is a dream that came true for a local SCDOT employee helped by Habitat for Humanity. STTAR and STEP-21 members and alumni volunteered their time on Saturdays for more than a month to complete the construction of the home.

If you would like to volunteer for next year's effort, contact Susan Jones at JonesSE@SCDOT.org.



Name That Child Contest Answers (from page 10) and Winners

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Peter Tarpley | 31. Ron Patton |
| 2. Margaret Liu | 32. Rob Bedenbaugh |
| 3. Mary Gail Monts Chamblee | 33. Donna Price |
| 4. Tom Dodds | 34. Arlene Prince |
| 5. Jimmy Sease | 35. Michael Covington |
| 6. Margie Carter | 36. Tesa Griffin |
| 7. Polly McCutcheon | 37. Mike Sawyer |
| 8. Renee Gardner | 38. Karen Scott |
| 9. Rob Thompson | 39. Susan Johnson |
| 10. D'Mont Zeigler | 40. Jane Mayberry |
| 11. Chris Zeigler | 41. Marie Braconovich |
| 12. Nancy Redmond | 42. Kristen Lominack |
| 13. Delores Gilmore | 43. Doug Harper |
| 14. Geri Darr | 44. Teddy Gillette |
| 15. Faye Shehan | 45. Artemus Hill |
| 16. Betty Richardson | 46. James Lee |
| 17. Gloria Thomas | 47. Anne Futch |
| 18. Jim Frierson | 48. Stoney Stoneburner |

WINNERS:

1st Place
Dale Thomas

2nd Place
Michelle Walker

3rd Place
Sheila Bryant
Janice Dunbar
Kimberly Murdaugh
Marcy Strother

Cooper River Bridge Run Results

SCDOT employees from across the state participated in the 2007 Cooper River Bridge Run on April 1. Kevin Sheppard was the fastest SCDOT employee to finish the 10K race with a finish time of just over 46 minutes.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Kevin Sheppard | 46:02 |
| Mark Lester | 50:47 |
| Carl Chase | 1:00:44 |
| Jennifer Hasting | 1:05:15 |
| Julie Barker | 1:06:47 |
| Mark Pleasant | 1:06:56 |
| Stanley Hodge | 1:10:27 |
| Nathalia Rodriguez | 1:13:25 |
| Patricia Smalls | 1:29:00 |
| Janet Hendrix | 1:43:36 |
| Connie Lee | 1:43:55 |
| Rob Thompson* | 1:43:59 |
- * Proud of his last-place finish.

A letter we liked

To SCDOT Executive Director:

Over the past few years I have had some dealings with Richard Pope, who works in our area here At Pawleys Island.

It is nice to meet someone who works for a government agency that is so cooperative and accommodating as Richard. Just wanted you to know.

Thanks

Mr. Barry A Cox

Poster Contest, Open Houses part of Transportation Week



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

A group of proud fifth graders from across the state pose with their medals after being recognized for their award-winning posters in the 2007 'One Nation On the Move' Poster Contest.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) celebrated National Transportation Week May 13-19.

Governor Mark Sanford also proclaimed May 13-19 as Transportation Week in South Carolina.

National Transportation Week provides an opportunity to promote greater awareness of the importance of transportation. National Transportation Week also focuses on making youth aware of transportation-related careers.

In conjunction with the national observance, SCDOT conducted two major events:

POSTER CONTEST

More than 900 fifth graders across the state participated in SCDOT's annual Transportation Week poster contest. Students drew their interpretation of the national theme, "One Nation On the Move: Technology and Innovations." A total of 929 posters were received for this year's contest. Eighty students were recognized as winners at the annual awards ceremony in Columbia on May 17 at The Zone.

OPEN HOUSES

SCDOT also scheduled open houses in each of its 46 counties on Saturday, May 19.

Approximately 8,862 people attended the open house celebrations, which included 8,301 visitors and 561 SCDOT employees.

The open houses provided an opportunity for the public to meet their local SCDOT employees and learn what it takes to maintain one of the nation's largest state-maintained highway systems.

Events included live demonstrations, historical photos, and displays of equipment.

Transportation partners from around the state were invited to showcase their equipment and materials.

This year's theme was "Connecting Communities."



Lily Carter, center, is congratulated for her winning poster entry in the 2007 'One Nation on the Move' Poster Contest. Carter is a fifth grader at Latta Elementary School in Dillon County. Carter received a trophy for having the best poster in the state. Congratulating Carter are, from left, Director of Administration Michael Covington, Director of Finance Mo Denny, Transportation Policy and Research Council Executive Director Debbie Bass and Patrick Tyndall of the Federal Highway Administration.



Lily Carter's winning poster is shown above.

Students learn about variety of job opportunities in transportation

By Bob Kudelka

About 50 students attended the 2007 Job Shadowing Program held at Headquarters in February.

Students were from the Felton Laboratory School of Orangeburg and the Hyatt Park Elementary School in Columbia, as well as relatives of employees at SCDOT and FHWA.

Speakers included Dr. Arlene Prince; Bob Thomas and Pamela Foster of the Federal Highway Administration; and representatives of "Drive Safe," a company that produces signs that urge drivers to be patient with beginning and senior drivers.

Prince encouraged the students to consider careers in transportation.

"Transportation is an exciting area," she said.

Thomas said traffic accidents are the leading killer of teen-agers in the United States. He urged students to use seatbelts and to help convince others in the car to do the same.

More than 60 percent of South Carolinians do not wear seat belts, he said.

"You can be part of the solution," Thomas said.

Thomas said driver distractions, from talking on cell phones to playing hand-held games, are a problem for young drivers.

"Driving is a full-time job," he said. "We want to do it safely."

Guest speakers included Tifanie Williams, 12, who teamed with her aunt and sisters Victoria and Twana to create Drive Safe, which sells driver notification signs.

"If you work hard and do your best...you can accomplish anything," Twana Williams, 11, said. "You're never too young to start making a difference."

Prince said she hoped the Williams sisters could be an inspiration for the visiting students.

After the morning's remarks, the students divided into groups for presentations titled, "Engineering Process," "Traffic Management Center" and "Transportation Trivia-Leadership and Safety."



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

Bob Thomas, Assistant Division Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration, talks to a group of students about transportation-related careers they could pursue.

"The Annual Job Shadowing Program continues to introduce young people to careers in transportation," Barbara Beagles, program coordinator, said of the annual event.

Instructors included Randall Young and Henderson Jefferies, both of SCDOT; and Chetna Dixon, FHWA.

Chaperones included Norman Jackson, Thelma Bush, James Cassidy, Janice Redd, Michelle Walker, Sid Bacchus, Marie Brancovich and Phil Washington.

District 1 News



Teresa Harley

Aiken, Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Richland and Sumter counties

District Engineer: Thad Brunson (803) 737-6660
FAX (803) 737-6401

Got news?

Contact Teresa Harley at:
803-737-6715 or email
her at HarleyTL@scdot.org

District 1 constructs SC-692 bridge in 11 days

The SC-692 bridge over Third Creek, south-east of Swansea, was only 45' long with very narrow shoulders. This bridge was both structurally and operationally deficient, and in need of reconstruction.

The construction of a new bridge was given to District 1's Bridge Construction Crew with support from Lexington Maintenance. The bridge would be 60 feet long with two 12 foot lanes and 10 foot shoulders. It would completely span the water-course, which prevents debris from hanging against the piling. Debris causes many bridge failures each year.

Constructing a new bridge on the primary system would require the approval of the Director of Maintenance, Jim Feda. Jim Feda gave his approval with the condition that the local governing body was contacted and agreed to the plan. SCDOT met with the Mayor of Swansea and Chief of Police, who agreed to the construction. Through the cooperation of the Communications Office, a press release was sent to the local newspapers announcing the road closure and the detour route to be followed.

The replacement of the bridge structure was completed within eleven days. However, due to cold weather actual opening the bridge was delayed. Richland Maintenance completed the paving.

Many thanks to all involved for a job well done.



Employee shares valuable lessons learned from former DEA Dean Campbell

By Bryan Jones
District Maintenance Engineer

In my four years as Resident Maintenance Engineer under District 7 Engineering Administrator Dean Campbell, I learned some lessons that are applicable to many jobs.

Here are just a couple:



Lesson in the Chain of Command

One day Mr. Campbell called and advised that he was on his way through Barnwell and asked if I could call a

citizen to arrange a meeting about a sign.

I called but the line was busy and I went back to the project that I had been working on for Eddie Parker, the district maintenance engineer.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Campbell arrived and asked if I got in touch with the gentleman. When I told him the line was busy but I had not called back yet, he said that he had intended to meet today and to try again.

As he left the room I tried again, got the citizen, and arranged the meeting. Mr. Campbell walked back in after I got off the phone and the conversation went like this:

"Bryan (as he took the cigar out of his mouth) what's my radio number?"

Confused, I asked "Sir?"

He asked again, "What's my radio call number?"

I replied "M701."

He then asked "What's Mr. Parker's number?"

I replied "M702."

"My number is lower than Mr. Parker's; you do what I ask you to do first!"

Lesson in Universal Truth

Later that same day, we met with the citizen about the sign.

The citizen was a former Commissioner and active

Baptist Preacher. He wanted to place a non-official historical marker on the right of way.

Preacher Belcher, who was good friends with Mr. Campbell, asked "Dean, can't we fudge just a little bit?"

Mr. Campbell, again pulling the cigar from his mouth replied "Preacher, can you sin just a little bit?"

Preacher Belcher laughed and the meeting was over.



Dean Campbell served as District Engineering Administrator in District 7 from 1974 through 2005. Throughout his 46 years at SCDOT he gave wisdom to lots of employees. He's currently enjoying his retirement with his wife, Rozanne, and family in Orangeburg and Surfside Beach.

Meet Jeannette Kyzer

Name: Jeannette Kyzer
Title: Trade Specialist IV
Unit: Central Sign Shop

Jeannette Kyzer has been employed with SCDOT for seven years. She is a Trades Specialist IV and Foreman of the Central Sign Shop.

She began her career with DOT

as a Trade Specialist II on the sign crew at Richland Maintenance in 1999. In 2000, she became a Trade Specialist III on the same crew.

In November 2006 she accepted her current position with the Central Sign Shop.

Before starting her career with SCDOT, she graduated from Brookland-Cayce High School and took a position with Shakespeare

Fishing Tackle Division. She gained valuable warehouse experience and later went to work at Home Quarters Home Improvement Center.

Jeannette and her husband, Jerry, have been married for 10 years and she has two wonderful stepsons.

She and her family enjoy fishing, hunting and drag racing.

Her hero is her mother.



**Have funny stories or tall tales related to your job at SCDOT?
Send them to us for The Connector!**

District 2 News

Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties

District Engineer: Phillip M. Brooks (864) 227-6971
FAX (864) 227-6567

Got news?

Contact Dwayne Scott at 864-227-6222 or email him at ScottDE@scdot.org.



Dwayne Scott

District 2 opens doors to public during Transportation Celebration



Driver Improvement Class

District 2 Safety Representative Karen Long conducted the quarterly 8-hour AAA Driver Improvement Class. During the class, several employees participated by wearing the Fatal Vision glasses. These glasses help people understand how alcohol can affect their judgment.

LEFT: Tina Price from Saluda Maintenance tries to walk a straight line while wearing the glasses that simulate how alcohol impairs your judgement.

Guess 'WHO' is living atop a Newberry bridge

District 2 Bridge Inspect Crew members John Burnette, Darrin Clem and Daniel Shaw discovered a Screech Owl nest on top of a bridge cap in Newberry County.



Meet Brooke Andrews

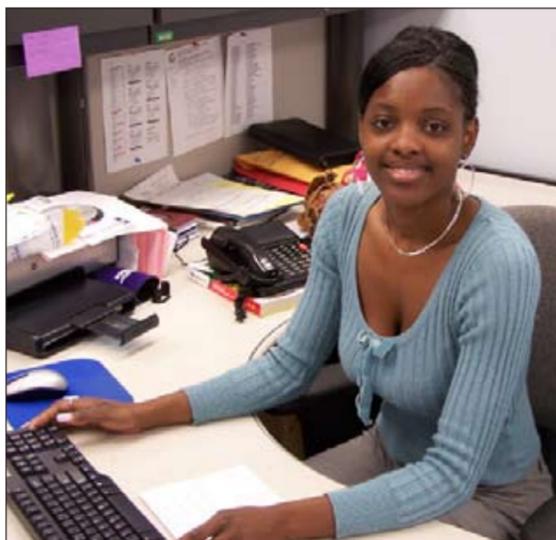
Name: Brooke Andrews

Title: Administrative Specialist I

Location: District 2 Office

Years of Service: 3 1/2

Hobbies: She enjoys reading, shopping, decorating, cooking and spending time with her 4-year-old son.



Above, several baby owls nestle together on a bridge cap. Below, one of the birds is still in the area about a month later.

District 3 News

Anderson, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties

District Engineer: Steve Gwinn (864) 241-1010
FAX (864) 241-1115

Moore is champ on Tandem Axle Dump Truck



On May 17, Allen Moore of Oconee Maintenance was awarded 'THE STATE CHAMPION OF THE TANDEM AXLE DUMP TRUCK' during the Backhoe Rodeo Contest. Pictured above are Donnie Baker of Anderson Maintenance, the State Champion Allen Moore of Oconee Maintenance, District Maintenance Engineer Jason Allison and Gary Hart of Anderson Maintenance.

Employee Appreciation Luncheons



Anderson Maintenance employees enjoy a catered lunch honoring 'Employee Appreciation Week.'



Spartanburg County employees enjoy the lunch provided to each person in recognition of 'Employee Appreciation Week.'



Got news?

Please contact Joyce Gardner at 864-241-1010 or by emailing her at GardnerJR@scdot.org



Joyce Gardner

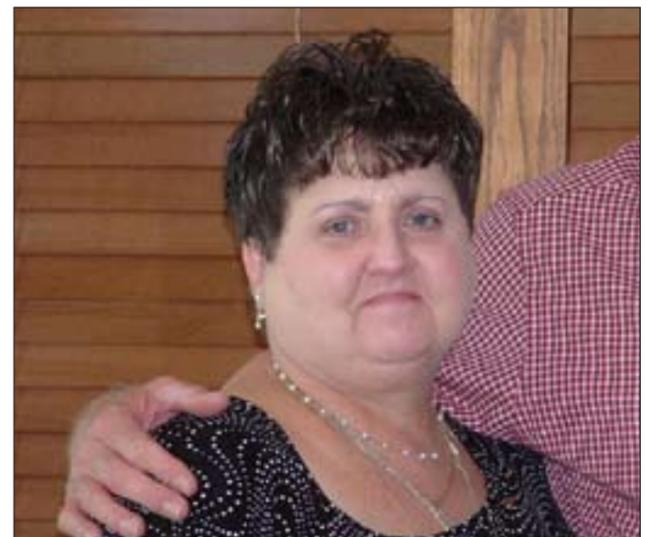
SCDOT sets up educational display on pedestrian safety



On April 19-21, SCDOT partnered with the Upstate Safe Kids Coalition at Haywood Mall. A group of employees maintained the 'Pedestrian Crosswalk' for thousands of children and adults. The children were able to learn about how to properly cross at intersections and even be 'up close' to a real traffic signal.



Ramona Gravely retires after 39 years



Ramona Gravely

Ramona Gravely of Pickens Construction retired April 1, after 39 years of service.

She spent her entire career with this office. As soon as Ramona graduated in 1968 from high school, she began at the department. Ramona stated, "I have spent every day for 39 years at work rearing an office full of kids so I never had the need for children at

home!" Gravely met her husband, Sam Gravely, Asst. RME in the Pickens Maintenance Office during 1974 when he began his career. They enjoy a mountain home in upper Pickens County.

Her extensive knowledge and experience will certainly be hard to replace.

District 4 News

Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union and York counties

*District Engineer: Stan Bland
(803) 377-4155
FAX (803) 581-2088*

Got news?

Contact Edward Moore with your ideas at 803-377-4155 or by emailing him at MooreEO@scdot.org



Edward Moore

Cherokee County recognized for safety



CHEROKEE SHOP AWARD
Employees of SCDOT's Cherokee Maintenance Shop accept the Outstanding State Maintenance Facility Award for 2006. Cherokee Maintenance Shop also won award in 2000. Shown, from left, are: Roger Owens, Leslie Brown, State Fleet Manager Jeff McCormack, Gary Ramsey, Jay Davis and Nick Hampton.



2006 SC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SAFETY AWARD
From left, Edward Moore, Robert Middleton, Rusty Snider and Brett Montgomery picked up the award for Cherokee County's safety record.

District 4 Equipment Rodeo Winners

- | | |
|--|--|
| SINGLE AXLE
Winner - Melvin Brown - York
2nd Place - Sonny Moore - Cherokee | LOWBOY
Winner - George Simpson - Chester
2nd Place - Barry Biggers - York |
| TANDEM AXLE
Winner - Melvin Brown - York
2nd Place - Ken Jennings - Union | MOTORGRADER
Winner - Barry Biggers - York
2nd Place - Melvin Brown - York |
| TRACTOR MOWER
Winner - Jeremy Shrewsbury - York
2nd Place - Melvin Brown - York | |

Meet Mike Mahaffee



Name: Mike Mahaffee
Job Title: EGT III
Work Unit: District 4 Asphalt Team
Years of Service: 25
Family: Daughter Carla 30, Son Alton 28, Fiancé Ann, Mother Gladys
Church: Attends Eastside Baptist Church
Certifications: Level I Asphalt, Earthwork, Nuclear Gauge, Concrete and American Concrete Institute.

District 4 goes to the dogs ... horses and alpacas

Employees show off their animal friends in District 4



Barbara McKay shows off Wolfy, a year and a half old AKC 15" male beagle who has a doghouse full of trophies and ribbons from his showings in southeastern dog shows.

When Barbara McKay isn't at work, she's busy training and caring for her four-legged friends. McKay, her husband, John 'Dink' McKay, and his son, Johnny, own Big Oaks Kennels where they field train Wolfy and several other dogs for American Kennel Club/United Beagle Gundog Federation sanctioned trials. At the trials, their dogs are judged on their hunting abilities in the field and their looks and proportions according to AKC regulations. McKay and her husband at-

tend field trials almost weekly in the fall and winter across South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. "We usually take at least two dogs, and I have handled Wolfy in several field trials and shows where he has won or placed in each trial," McKay said. "Handling a dog consists of taking the dog out in the field and following behind the dogs and judges at a distance, and 'handling' the dog when the judge calls 'Field Trial' at the end. Aside from their love of dogs, the McKays, also have a love for

SCDOT. Barbara McKay is the administrative assistant in the District 4 Office for the Traffic and Construction Engineers. She has 23 years service. Her husband John 'Dink' McKay retired in 2001 from SCDOT with 28 years service. Johnny McKay is RME for Lancaster County in District 4 and currently has 18 years service. Barbara McKay's father, the late James "Mac" McKeown, retired from the Department with 35 years service.



Susan Littrell poses with some of her prize winning alpacas. Alpacas are domesticated South American mammals, related to the llama and have fine, long wool.



Gail Johnston is the Building and Grounds Manager for the District 4 Office She is the owner and trainer of her two horses Dixie, a 16 year old American Saddlebred, and Baby, a 6 year old Arabian.

District 5 News

Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro and Williamsburg counties

*District Engineer: Dennis Townsend (843) 661-4710
FAX (843) 661-4704*



Kay Williams

Got news?

Contact Kay Williams at 843-661-4710 or by email-ing her at WilliamsKH@scdot.org

Counties compete in District 5 Equipment Roadeo

District 5 conducted its annual Equipment Operators' Roadeo in April at the Williamsburg Maintenance facility.

The events included: Single Axle Trucks, Tandem Axle Trucks, Lowboy Tractor and Trailer, Motor Grader and Tractor with Mower.

All eight counties in District 5 participated and each county was also represented with a person on

the judges committee.

This year's competition was a huge success. It brought out the spirit of friendly competition in the employees that participated. The enthusiasm for this annual event continues to grow each year.

The Marlboro Maintenance facility hosted an awards luncheon on May 3.

District 5 Overall Winners



Front row, left to right: Jeff Gasque, Horry County; Tony Garland, Georgetown County. Back row, left to right: Kenny Eaddy, Florence County; Larry Hayes, Marion County. Not Pictured: Levi Wilson III, Williamsburg County; Charles McGirt, Georgetown County.

Motor Grader Winners



From left: Robert Perkins, Marlboro County; Bobby Meekins, Dillon County; Larry Hayes, Marion County; Sheldon Robinson, Florence County; William Owens, Williamsburg County; Ken Cogley, Darlington County; Michael Harrelson, Horry County. Not Pictured: Charles McGirt, Georgetown County.

Single Axle Winners



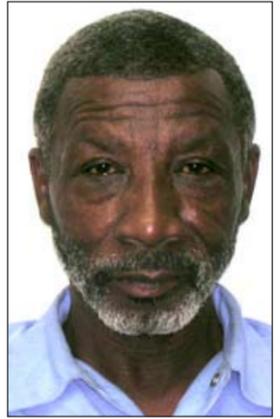
(L To R) Robert Perkins, Marlboro County; Jeff Gasque, Horry County; Terry Singletary, Florence County; Matt Reed, Georgetown County. Back row: Bobby Meekins, Dillon County, Sidney Butler, Darlington County. Not pictured: Levi Wilson III, Williamsburg County.

Low Boy Winners



Michael Harrelson, Horry County; Bobby Meekins, Dillon County; Kenny Eaddy, Florence County; Lindsey Purvis, Marlboro County; Larry Hayes, Marion County; William Owens, Williamsburg County.

Meet Jessie and Timothy



Jessie Cochran has been employed with SCDOT in the Georgetown Maintenance unit for 28 years and seven months. Jessie is a Trades Specialist II and lives in the Carvers Bay Section of Hemingway. He is a very dedicated and dependable employee. Jessie has worked in almost all the crews in Georgetown, from digging ditches, installing driveways, laying pipes, hauling materials, to mowing grass in the right-of-way. He gets along well with every one and can work in any crew. He is married and the father of 10 children. Georgetown Maintenance salutes Jessie Cochran for he is truly a team player.



Timothy Britt has been with SCDOT for nine years in the Georgetown Construction office as an Engineering Geodetic Technician III. He and his wife, Holly have two sons, Drew and Grainger and one daughter, Abbey. As a family they attend St. Delights Pentecostal Holiness Church. Timothy enjoys fishing and playing golf.

Tandem Axle Winners



From left: Robert Perkins; Marlboro County; Bobby Meekins, Dillon County; Betty Hemingway, Marion County; Kenny Eaddy, Florence County; Ken Cogley, Darlington County; Tony Garland, Georgetown County. Not Pictured: Michael Harrelson, Horry County; William Owens, Williamsburg County.

Tractor Mower Winners



From left: Terry Singletary, Florence County; Bobby Meekins, Dillon County; Jeff Gasque, Horry County; Larry Hayes, Marion County; Luther Watson, Marlboro County; William Owens, Williamsburg County; Warren Taylor, Darlington County; Tony Garland, Georgetown County.

District 6 News

Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester and Jasper counties

District Engineer: Robert Clark (843) 740-1665
 FAX (843) 740-1663



Janet Hendrix

Got news?

Contact Janet Hendrix at :
 843-740-1667 ext. 128 or
 by emailing her at
 HendrixJL@scdot.org

Employee Appreciation Luncheons

RIGHT: Calvin Bryan and Chris Smith prepare lunch for the Jasper and Beaufort Construction unit appreciation luncheon.



LEFT: Clockwise from left: Rhett Christensen, Rob McFee, Sophia Bradford, Calvin Bryan, Keith Smith, Ralph Cooke, Chris Smith and Charlie Berry.

2007 SC Chamber of Commerce Safety Award Luncheon
 Dorchester and Jasper Maintenance were recognized for their excellent safety records. Congratulations!



From left: Mike Utsey, District Mechanical Engineer; Richard McLaren, Environmental Manager II; Roberta Peet, Environmental Manager I; Malzone Russell, RME; and J.D. Wilcox, ADME



LEFT: Kathy Wagers, Karen Hiott, Melissa Behie and Sandy Kizer of Dorchester Maintenance enjoy the celebration recognizing all the employee's hard work. BELOW: Employees enjoy the lunch at Dorchester Maintenance.



From left: Mike Utsey, District Mechanical Engineer; Richard McLaren, Environmental Manager II; David Pilch, RME; Andy Green, Environmental Manager I; and J.D. Wilcox, ADME



Michelle Benton, Lynda McLaine and Paulla Collier of Colleton Maintenance enjoy lunch.



Larry Montjoy, Wayne Eaves, Kathy Drawdy, Joey Gaskins and Lanier Ulmer unwind after a satisfying meal around the grill.

A letter we liked

SCDOT:

On behalf of the S.C. Army National Guard, we extend our arms of gratitude. We truly appreciate the SCDOT Trash and Litter Pick-up on 10 April 2007 on Cottageville Highway in front of our armory.

It really looked great for our

troops returning home. Thanks SCDOT for what you do for Colleton County and the State of South Carolina.

Neal D. Truslow
 2LT, QM, Commanding

Reginald D. Hickman
 SFC, 88M RNCO

Meet Timmy Colson

Timmy Colson has been employed with SCDOT for 30 years. He is enrolled in the Teri Program and has 3 years remaining. He is a Senior Geodetic Technician for the Beaufort/Jasper Construction office.

Colson and his wife, Brenda, have one daughter, Brandy, who is a registered nurse at Orangeburg Memorial Hospital.

Colson enjoys restoring old vehicles and is a member of The Cut-Outs Car Club of Walterboro.



Rob McFee presents Timmy Colson, left, with his 30 year certificate.



Congratulations to the District 6 Construction units for being named the Best Construction District in the State for 2006. The award titled "Quality Construction Excellence Award" was given by Danny Shealy, Tony Chapman and Elizabeth Mabry. Shown from left are: Tommy Freeman, Behling Guess, Rob McFee, John Paulus, Tim Henderson, Yvette Oliver, David Glenn. Front: Jeff Rajabi, Tony Ragos, Ricky Green and Vickie Lindsey.

District 7 News

Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Clarendon, Hampton and Orangeburg counties

District Engineer: Jo Ann Woodrum (803) 531-6850
 FAX (803) 531-6854

SC Chamber of Commerce Safety Award Bamberg, Holly Hill units recognized in District 7



From left, District 7 Engineering Administrator Jo Ann Woodrum, Holly Hill Resident Maintenance Engineer William Locklair, Bamberg Resident Maintenance Foreman Gene Taylor and District Safety Representative Debbie Berry accepted the safety award for the employees in District 7.

The SC Chamber of Commerce honored “those companies that have made workplace safety a priority” during the 2006 Safety Awards luncheon held March 27. Bamberg Maintenance and Holly Hill Maintenance received safety awards for 2006. Bamberg Maintenance also received this award for 2005.



Bamberg Resident Maintenance Engineer Bobby Crider, left, stands by his safety-award-winning team in Bamberg. The group has won awards for safety in 2005 and 2006.



Deborah Berry

Got news?

Contact Deborah Berry at: 803-531-6850 or by emailing her at BerryDS@scdot.org

In Memory of Vivian S. Jackson

December 10, 1947 – March 4, 2007

District Seven mourns the death of Vivian S. Jackson, Administrative Assistant of Orangeburg Maintenance. Employed with SCDOT for 22 years, Jackson started working with Orangeburg Maintenance in 1984, transferred to Bamberg Construction in 1990 then returned to Orangeburg Maintenance in 1994.

She leaves to mourn her passing, husband, Harold Jackson of 40 years, daughter, Shannon Jackson and son, Harold Jackson II.



Keller, Taylor retire from SCDOT



Adam Keller retires after 41 years of service. Keller started working with SCDOT in 1965 as a surveyor. In 1980 he transferred to Holly Hill Maintenance as an operator on the mowing crew. He lives in Manning and loves to fish. Keller retired February 28, 2007.



Resident Maintenance Foreman Gene Taylor has been the acting resident of Bamberg Maintenance for a year and a half. Taylor is greatly appreciated for his outstanding service to the employees and the Bamberg County area. Taylor retired at the end of May. He will be greatly missed.

Meet Lorenzo Heatley

Name: Lorenzo Heatley
Title: Trades Specialist II
Location: Calhoun Maintenance

Lorenzo Heatley has been employed with Calhoun Maintenance for five years. He is responsible for picking up debris along I-26 between mile markers 120 and 140 in Calhoun and Lexington counties.

Heatley enjoys woodworking, carpentry and collecting aluminum. He is a member of Second Mt. Beulah Church where he serves as a Deacon. He is a Wishful Master of the Center Hill Masonic Lodge #190.



Congratulations, Lyle!



Lyle Davis of Orangeburg Maintenance was surprised with a special cake congratulating him for completing the Engineering Development Program.

Briefs and tips

Don't jam that laser printer with labels

When printing sheets of "cut labels" in laser printers, please refrain from using the same label sheet a second time.

Multi-pass use of "cut labels" in laser printers has a strong potential of damaging the printer.

Laser printers utilize a heated fuser. Exposure to the extreme temperature of the fuser has an adverse effect on the label adhesive. On the second pass, the adhesive may fail causing labels to peel off the sheet onto the drum, fuser, transfer roller and other internal parts of the printer.

A sheet of "die-cut labels" (such as address labels) is intended to pass through a laser printer only once. Please note also that only labels approved for use in laser printers are intended for use.

Carolina Spring Clean bags 200 tons of litter

Carolina Spring Clean Week was scheduled for April 16 - 20.

During this week, almost

2,000 South Carolina Department of Transportation maintenance employees removed 401,795 pounds of litter from 3,308 miles of highway.

The annual clean-up has been a part of the SCDOT litter abatement efforts for 31 years. It is a major component of the Agency's enhancement efforts as it provides an opportunity for the state's roadways to be cleaned and increases litter awareness among South Carolina's citizens.

The Carolina Spring Clean results for individual counties are included for a reference guide.

Reserve date for annual STEP-21 alumni meeting

The STEP-21 alumni chapter meeting will be held Friday, Sept. 21 at Brookland Baptist Church.

Former STEP-21 class members are urged to reserve this date on your calendar today to ensure your attendance.

We look forward to seeing you there!

STEP-21 and STTARS help make wishes come true

This year the STTAR and



The STEP-21 Alumni Chapter hosted another successful Heart Walk Fundraiser this year. The group raised more than \$1800, which is an increase over last year's total. Shown above are, front row, from left: Karen Scott, Shirley Jeffcoat and Michelle Walker. Back row, from left: Curtis Singleton, Kimberly Murdaugh and James Cassidy. Everyone's participation and donations were greatly appreciated for this worthy cause.

STEP21 Alumni joined forces with the Columbia SC Habitat for Humanity to fulfill one of SCDOT's Lexington Maintenance employee's dreams of becoming a new home owner.

The project started in late

March and is moving along quite well. Project volunteers are currently installing windows, vinyl siding, doors and applying the roof. The project lasted eight weeks with volunteers working each Saturday.

If you would like to be a part of next year's effort, contact Michelle Walker at WalkerML@scdot.org or call 803-737-1290.

See photos of this year's workers back on page 14 of this issue.

Retirements

Donald K. Dawson, of Spartanburg, Engineer/Associate Engineer, Spartanburg Construction, retired Feb. 1, after 6 years of service.

John T. Swearingen, of Blair, Trades Specialist III, Chester Maintenance, retired Feb. 5, after 9 years of service.

Danny R. Coe, of Walterboro, Trades Specialist II, Colleton Maintenance, retired Feb. 9, after 24 years of service.

Duncan B. Lett, of Patrick, Trades Specialist II, Chesterfield Maintenance, retired Feb. 22, after 15 years of service.

Christopher L. Price, of Carlisle, Mechanic III, Chester Maintenance, retired Feb. 23, after 9 years of service.

Leroy Palmer, of Orangeburg, Trades Specialist III, Orangeburg Maintenance, retired Feb. 26, after 28 years of service.

Hubert J. Parker, of Walterboro, Trades Specialist III, Charleston Maintenance, retired Feb. 26, after 8 years of service.

Jerry Rose, of Columbia, Engineer/Geodetic Technician, the department of the Director of Traffic Engineering, retired Feb. 28, after 35 years of service.

George A. Keller, of Manning, Trades Specialist II, Holly Hill Maintenance, retired Feb. 28, after 41 years of service.

Ivey L. Carter, of Liberty, Mechanic III, Pickens Maintenance, retired Feb. 28, after 29 years of service.

John K. Murphy Sr., of Edgefield, Supply Specialist III, Edgefield Maintenance, retired Feb. 28, after 8 years of service with SCDOT and 9 years of service with the State of South Carolina.

Donna J. Steininger, of Walterboro, Trades Specialist II, Colleton Maintenance, retired March 1, after 6 years of ser-

vice with SCDOT and 8 years of service with the State of South Carolina.

Harvey V. Levels, of Leesville, Trades Specialist II, Lexington Maintenance, retired March 1, after 18 years of service.

Jack M. Walraven, of Summerville, Equipment Operator II, D6-Bridge Inspection, retired March 2, after 11 years of service.

James L. Fraser, of Georgetown, Trades Specialist II, Georgetown Maintenance, retired March 7, after 14 years of service.

Charles E. Culp, of Chester, Trades Specialist III, Chester Maintenance, retired March 13, after 30 years of service.

Shirley S. Thomas, of Chester, Trades Specialist II, Chester Maintenance, retired March 19, after 17 years of service.

Phillip Wilson, of Columbia, Supply Specialist III, Supply Depot, retired March 22, after 34 years of service.

Henry C. Holmes Jr., of Enoree, Mechanic III, Laurens Maintenance, retired March 22, after 12 years of service.

Louis J. Roberts, of Rock Hill, Trades Specialist IV, York Maintenance, retired March 23, after 14 years of service.

Frank E. Sisk Jr., of Marietta, Trades Specialist II, Greenville Maintenance, retired March 20, after 16 years of service with SCDOT and 17 years of service with the State of South Carolina.

Joseph W. Leopard, of Edgefield, Trades Specialist IV, Laurens Maintenance, retired March 30, after 32 years of service with SCDOT and 33 years of service with the State of South Carolina.

Dwight P. Garner, of Chester, Trades specialist II, Union Maintenance, retired March 30, after 30 years of service.

John W. Binnicker, of St.

Matthews, Trades Specialist III, Orangeburg Maintenance, retired March 31, after 18 years of service.

Kinneth D. Williamson, of Leesville, Applications Analyst II, Information Technology Services, retired March 31, after 7 years of service.

Dennis W. Smith, of Lugoff, Right of Way Agent II, Rights of Way-Central, retired April 1, after 20 years of service with SCDOT and 28 years of service with the State of South Carolina.

Richard A. Keel, of Columbia, Administrative coordinator, Equipment Service Depot, retired April 1, after 30 years of service.

James E. Murry, of Columbia, Trades Specialist V, Equipment Services Depot, retired April 1, after 25 years of service.

Kenneth O. McCracken, of Timmonsville, Engineer/Associate Engineer, Darlington Construction, retired April 1, after 22

years of service.

William C. Likes Jr., of Moncks Corner, Trades Specialist V, D6-Traffic Signals, retired April 1, after 23 years of service.

Eugenia B. Crowder, of Modoc, Administrative Assistant, Edgefield Maintenance, retired April 1, after 29 years of service.

Ramona T. Gravely, of Sunset, Engineer/Geodetic Technician, Pickens Construction, retired April 1, after 39 years of service.

Elizabeth C. Cutright, of North Augusta, Right of Way Agent II, Rights of Way - Orangeburg, retired April 2, after 18 years of service.

Dennis F. McManus, of Lancaster, Trades Specialist III, Lancaster Maintenance, retired April 9, after 29 years of service with SCDOT and 31 years of service with the State of South Carolina.

Curtis G. McAlister, of

Westminster, Mechanic I, Oconee Maintenance, retired April 20, after 5 years of service with SCDOT and 6 years of service with the State of South Carolina.

Donaldson Richardson, of Florence, Mechanic III, Florence Maintenance, retired April 23, after 16 years of service.

Carroll D. Brown, of Greenwood, Trades Specialist IV, D2-Traffic Signals, retired April 27, after 15 years of service.

Linda Snead, of Elgin, Administrative Assistant, Human Resources, retired May 1, after 8 years of service with SCDOT and 24 years of service with the State of South Carolina.

Huley G. Shumpert, of Pelion, Engineer/Associate Engineer, of the Director of Maintenance, retired April 1, after 21 years of service.

Emma, M. Broadwater, of Cayce, Administrative Specialist, Accounting, retired May 1, after

Deaths



Michael R. Drawdy, of Hopkins, Trades Specialist IV, Building Maintenance, deceased, April 13.



Douglas L. Gerald, of Myrtle Beach, Trades Specialist III, Horry 1 maintenance, deceased, April 13.



Vivian S. Jackson, of Bowman, Administrative Assistant, Orangeburg Maintenance, deceased, March 4.

Assets Management



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

One of the greatest assets of any organization is its employees. Julia Slater of Building Maintenance is a prime example of the dedication of SCDOT's employees. 'Miss Julia' was recognized by Acting Deputy Director Mo Denny, left, at a ceremony in her honor June 5 at SCDOT Headquarters. Recognizing her loyalty, hard work and dedication during her 30 years of service, employees, friends and SCDOT Executive Director H.B. 'Buck' Limehouse Jr. all stopped by to thank her for her commitment to SCDOT. Thank you, Miss Julia!

Headquarters to implement increased security measures

By Morgan F. Denny
Acting Deputy Director of Finance and Administration

Over the next few months actions will be taken to increase the security of the Headquarters Building. New development around the Headquarters Building, close proximity to the University of South Carolina's research and major event facilities, and the current open access to the building have led to a reevaluation of internal security measures.

While the security risk to the building is considered low and there is no known immediate threat, there is a need to increase security awareness due to the fact that several hundred employees and visitors use the building daily.

Within the next month each headquarters employee (full-time and part-time) will receive a picture identification (ID) badge to be displayed during all hours spent in the building. All others working in the building will receive a numbered identification badge.

All visitors will report to the first

floor reception area to sign in and receive a visitors pass. The ID badge will be produced and delivered internally using pictures on file and software available within the Information Technology Department.

Employees at headquarters who have not had their photograph taken for the photo organization chart (commissioned by Human Resources and taken by Rob Thompson and Cody Crouch) will be contacted by Communications to have their photographs taken.

Once a badge is delivered it should be worn immediately in accordance with a forthcoming department directive.

Other proactive security improvements will take place over the succeeding months.

Security of the workplace is a responsibility of each employee. The use of identification cards and limited building access is a first step to increased security awareness.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the security improvements planned for the Headquarters Building.

HQ fire drill goes off without a hitch

By Rob Thompson

SCDOT Headquarters employees evacuated the building June 5 by completing the fire drill in a little over six minutes.

Although this isn't the fastest time

employees have evacuated the building, it was still a respectable time for a building with approximately 900 employees.

With different meeting locations outside the building due to construction in the area, employees met at newly assigned locations to be counted after the evacuation.



ABOVE: The last of the employees exit the building to cross Lincoln Street to meet on the sidewalk in front of the Colonial Center during the June 5 fire drill.



LEFT: Employees met their accountability monitors from their individual offices at locations designated with signs for their office.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Where Have All The Leaders Gone? by Lee Iacocca

Book review
By Carl Chase Jr., CPM

For car buffs a giant from the American Automobile Industry has remerged on the scene.

He flunked retirement and appears in the form of a critical assessment of the state of leadership in America.

Lee Iacocca of Mustang and the Minivan fame espouses the Nine C's of Leadership that include Curiosity, Creative, Communicate, Character, Courage, Conviction, Charisma, Competent, and Common Sense.

He takes no prisoners as he addresses

the current occupants of the White House and the direction of where the country is headed. He stated that he is a failure at retirement because he had no follow on plan.

The warnings and observations Lee Iacocca makes can be linked directly to the allegory "Who Moved My Cheese?" The American Automobile Industry has gotten their brains beat out because Toyota and others recognized the development of a hybrid automobile while the industry was still building and selling gas guzzling Sports Utility Vehicles.

The example of the American Automobile Industry is replicated in the Defense

Industry demanding costly weapons systems that are linked to a Cold War mentality and a political demand by Congressmen to reap the benefits of Defense Plants in their district.

In other words they failed to find new cheese.

He does give some advice for retirement. Among them count your blessings, don't disengage from life. Figure out what will make you happy, Hang around with young people and live the hell out of your life now.

This is a great book by a guy who has produced and is entitled to his opinion based on experience.

