

Waco District takes home top environmental award

By JIM DOBBINS

Environmental Affairs Division

Bell County Area Engineer Jim Cowan and the Waco District took home the 1998 Environmental Achievement Award, presented Oct. 12 at the TxDOT District Engineer/Division Director/Office Director meeting in College Station.

The Environmental Achievement Award recognizes the best examples of programs and projects that fulfill transportation objectives while protecting and enhancing the natural and human environment. The award recognizes those projects that go "beyond the call," not those that only fulfill requirements of law

or court orders.

The winning project preserved and renovated a rare lenticular pony truss bridge and provided a pedestrian walkway along Farm to Market Road 2268 (Main Street) in Salado.

Originally located on Coryell County Road 133, spanning Dodd's Creek just west of Gatesville, the 87-foot structure is believed to have been built in 1889. The bridge was earmarked for replacement in 1995 under the Federal Bridge Replacement Program.

In order to improve pedestrian safety in an area that attracts many tourists, Cowan proposed that a metal truss bridge be

acquired and placed at the Campbell Branch stream crossing along FM 2268 in Salado.

The bridge was removed from Coryell County Road 133 in April 1995 and moved to the Belton maintenance yard for renovation and storage. It was found that the decorative knobs at each end of the structure, called finials, were missing. District staff borrowed a finial from an identical bridge located in Luling and had four similar ones manufactured and replaced on the Dodd's Creek Bridge. The bridge was then completely renovated by

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Compensatory mitigation costs now tracked by new reporting system

A new system for tracking how much TxDOT spends on compensatory mitigation went into effect as of Sept. 1. A memo on the new system was sent to each district in early August.

The Compensatory Mitigation Cost Tracking System was developed by ENV in order to more easily respond to inquiries from legislators and others. In the past, questions about how much of TxDOT's project costs were related to compensatory mitigation meant dropping everything to spend hours searching through project files. The new system creates accounting categories for mitigation related costs so that they are tracked as a project proceeds. The system covers such costs as mitigation for construction, maintenance and

operational impacts on natural and cultural resources, as well as air quality, noise and hazardous materials issues.

David Dunlap, director of ENV's Natural Resources Management Section, coordinated development of the new system.

"In the process of developing this system, we realized that it also could be used to answer questions of consistency regarding how much it costs to plan, design, build and maintain those things we do to compensate for unavoidable environmental impacts," Dunlap said. "This system, once fully operational, should allow us to collect and retrieve that kind of information more completely and easier than ever before.

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Archeologist John Clark retires

Says 'After 18 and a half years with TxDOT, I'm ready for a new challenge'

By JIM DOBBINS

Environmental Affairs Division

ENV's John Clark has spent his career literally uncovering Texas history. Clark, who retired from TxDOT on Aug. 31, is a historical archeologist, a somewhat rare breed in Texas.

"In Texas, most archeologists are interested in what happened thousands of years ago, in prehistoric times," explained ENV archeologist Al McGraw. "John believes that archeology can make important contributions to our historic heritage."

Clark, a native of Austin, joined the Design Division's Archeology Section in March 1980. Prior to joining TxDOT, Clark worked for a private archeological consulting firm, spent six years with the Texas Historical Commission, and worked for the Texas Archeological Survey. In addition, Clark had worked on excavations in Louisiana, Missouri, and Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

Clark's first project with TxDOT was supervising excavation of four city blocks of a neighborhood in Laredo in advance of building the Juarez-Lincoln Bridge and its approach road.

"My first project ranks as one of my favorites," Clark said. "We had a great crew that got along well. The site had been a neighborhood of late 19th and early 20th century homes, businesses and a park with a bandstand. We discovered quite a bit about how this multi-ethnic community worked and the pervasiveness of Spanish culture."

Clark was responsible for much of the archeological work that was done as part of the North Mopac extension in north Austin, including the documentation of the one time resort community of Waters Park.

"The level of documentary and historic research on the Waters Park project was fascinating," Clark said. "The community was developed as a resort after 1888 when the railroad was built through the area that had been a Spanish Land Grant. One unusual aspect of the project was finding that I am related to several of the one time residents of Waters Park! That coincidence does not come along very often."

One of the most prominent projects that



ENV file photo

John Clark examines a field drawing. Field work is only part of the job because archeologists must also produce a report on findings.

Clark worked on was the Old San Antonio Road report, also known by its Spanish name, Los Caminos Reales.

"The Los Caminos Reales report started as a political project mandated by the Texas Legislature," McGraw said. "Because of the work that John put into that project, the report has been our most popular ever and the project continues to bear fruit now, seven years after its publication. The report was a major contribution to Texas history and has sparked sustained public interest." (See "ENV's Old San Antonio Road report leads to Hays County historical markers," spring 1998, "Information highway meets Caminos Reales," spring/summer 1997, and "TxDOT laid groundwork for find of San Marcos de Neve," summer 1996.)

Clark is a 1968 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology. He performed graduate work at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in the same discipline.

Two of Clark's pre-TxDOT excavations were particularly noteworthy.

"When I was working for the University of Missouri on an excavation of an Indian burial mound in southeastern Missouri, we found the upper half of a skeleton," Clark said. "We wondered what had happened to the rest of it, and eventually found the lower portion another foot deeper down. After much head scratching and speculation as to how this occurred, we decided that the soil must have shifted in the great New Madrid earthquake of 1811, one of the most powerful ever recorded in this country."

"While working for the Texas Historical Commission, we excavated beneath the floor of the San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio. Not only did we find the original floor of the Spanish colonial church, but we found a very rare 1811 Jose Antonio de la Garza coin minted in San Antonio. At that time, there

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Tracking: System began Sept. 1

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For example, if a district wants to know how much it spent during a given fiscal year on noise walls, on-site wetland creation or maintenance of storm water detention basins, this system will allow them to do that."

The compensatory cost mitigation tracking system includes three separate parts designed to complement each other. Three components are designed to track (1) costs associated with planning and design; (2) construction costs; and (3) the costs of maintaining mitigation sites.

Separate methods will be used to log the costs as they are incurred:

- For project phases up to the point of letting, such as planning and design, costs will be recorded in the Task/Work Order data field on time sheets and payment vouchers. A code will be entered in those data fields showing that the expense was for mitigation, the environmental discipline involved and the fiscal year. For example, the prefix "M" designates the code as being specific to mitigation, followed by the abbreviation for the discipline involved and finally, by the fiscal year.

The codes for fiscal 1999 are:

- Archeology, MARC99
- Historic Structures, MHST99
- Air Quality, MAQY99
- Noise, MNSE99

- Hazardous materials, MHAZ99
- Water resources, MWAT99
- Biological resources, MBGY99
- Socioeconomic issues and environmental justice, MSEC99
- Construction costs will be tracked by using pay item description codes for the contracted activities. This method makes use of TxDOT's existing construction-contract payment system, with new codes added to capture compensatory mitigation related costs. In this way, for example, the costs associated with excavation for creation of a wetland can be separated from excavation needed for the rest of the project.

The Design Division is assigning new description codes for the pay items identified so far. Districts may need to request new pay item codes for categories not in the system at the time they are needed.

- Maintenance costs will be tracked through use of the Highway Class data field on time sheets or daily activity reports.

Districts with mitigation areas, such as created wetlands, will assign a unique class number (ranging between 80 and 89) for each site on a given highway. When maintenance work is carried out at a site, the time spent is recorded and the unique site number is written in the Highway Class date field.

For example, if district maintenance staff is used to clean a sediment control structure, the time would be recorded as usual on a time sheet or Daily Activity Report and the unique site code would be filled in on the same line under the Highway Class heading.

A report on the costs associated with a project's compensatory mitigation can be run at any time showing a breakdown between pre-project letting, construction and maintenance:

- For pre-project letting costs, use the Financial Information Management System (FIMS) EXP 2001 report.

- For construction, execute a RJEJCL job.

- For maintenance, use the FIMS report specific to Task Numbers.

Districts should be using the new Compensatory Mitigation Cost Tracking System (CMCT) for the current fiscal year.

Besides staff input from all of ENV's technical disciplines, each of the following contributed greatly to the final development of the CMCT system: the Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, Pharr, and Tyler districts; as well as the Budget and Finance, Construction, Design, Information Systems, and Maintenance divisions. Their questions, comments and ideas were invaluable.

Clark: Pursuing other interests

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were only five of these coins known in existence, all owned by the Frost Bank," Clark said.

Ann Irwin, the section director of the Cultural Resource Management Section, has known Clark since he joined the department.

"John has an intense and abiding interest in Texas history and prehistory," Irwin said. "He has brought a unique perspective to historic sites that might not otherwise be viewed as important. Some of his discoveries, such as a tenant farm in Bastrop County and an African-American homestead in Austin might have been overlooked as less important by someone else, but John knew that they needed to be documented. He is missed."

Clark has a number of interests that he pursues in his free time, including genealogical work, gardening, historic research, reading science fiction, and painting (he originally was a studio art major in college). Clark and his wife, Gloria, reside in south

Austin, and have three daughters: Wendy, 19, a multi-media major at the Art Institute of Houston; Ellen, 16, an 11th grader at the Liberal Arts Academy at Johnston High School; and Ashley, 12, a 7th grader at Bedichek Middle School.

"I will miss my co-workers and the good folks that I worked with in the districts, including Mike Walker, Shirley Nichols and Alan Wynne in Austin, and Mary Perez, David Potter and Paula Sales in Corpus Christi," Clark said. "After 18 and a half years with TxDOT, I am ready for a new challenge. I enjoy learning, and I want to continue to learn."

Clark is now working part-time for a consulting firm in Austin.



So long John...



The rare lenticular pony truss bridge relocated from Dodd's Creek and renovated as a pedestrian walkway in Salado.

Award: Pharr District rest area wins runner-up

(Continued from Page 1)

the contractor, including the addition of a pedestrian guardrail and the replacement of the bridge's wood deck.

Placed in its new location in July 1997, the walkway has benches, antique-style lighting fixtures and a keystone retaining wall that blends the bridge and walkway with its surroundings.

Because of Cowan's interest and initiative to save this historic bridge, a piece of history is beginning a new life as a pedestrian bridge for a new generation.

ENV architectural historian Steve Sadowsky served on the review committee.

"The Dodd's Creek Bridge project was an extremely successful bridge relocation, which showed a lot of initiative and excellent planning," Sadowsky said. "The project faced initial opposition from the public due to some misinformation that appeared in the local newspaper. The Waco District did a great job of correcting the story that was circulating and getting local residents to support the project."

Also honored were:

Runner Up – Pharr District's Stephen Walker for the Brooks County Rest Area Reconstruction Project.

This rest area on U.S. 281 south of Falfurrias was modernized and upgraded because of recent increases in visitors, attributed to the effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Designed by Walker, the Pharr District landscape architect, improvements to the rest area include new restrooms, picnic shelters and perimeter walls that reflect the historic architectural styles of the region, while leaving all pre-existing trees and most native vegetation untouched. The use of Mexican brick, clay tile and large timbers reflect the building materials found in historic structures of the border region. Two birding trails have been added on the north and south ends of the rest area.

Galvanized steel mesh tabletops and benches were specially developed for this project through an interagency agreement with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. This material requires no painting, is easily cleaned and minimizes the effect

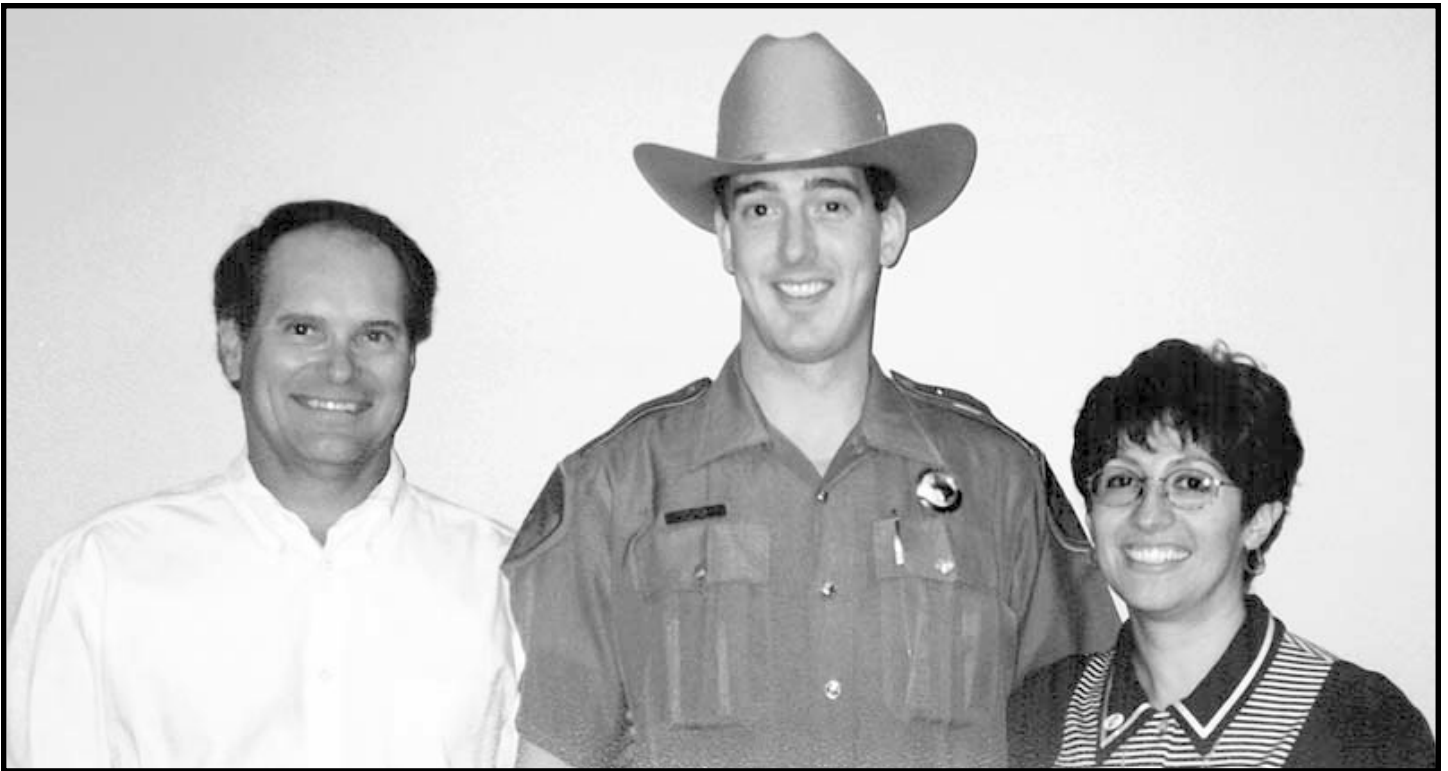
of graffiti.

The Pharr District has provided its visitors with a landmark rich in historic and natural beauty unique to the border region.

Honorable Mentions – Two projects were honored this year: Chano Falcon (now the assistant maintenance manager in the Pharr District) and the Rockport Maintenance Section, Corpus Christi District, for the Aransas Woods Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail Site; and Dan Dalager and the Odessa Area Office, Odessa District, for using recycled tires (crumb rubber) in underseal and surface courses in the rehabilitation of U.S. 385.

Aransas Woods is located just off Texas 35 on Live Oak Peninsula near Rockport. The 25-acre site was created as mitigation for wetland disturbances nearby. The birding trail site is a cooperative development of the TxDOT Rockport Maintenance Section, at the time led by Chano Falcon; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; U.S. Fish and

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Department of Public Safety (DPS) Trooper Todd Ashby (center) returned for a visit to the Environmental Affairs Division after graduating last spring from the DPS Trooper Academy. Standing beside him are Deputy Division Director Ken Bohuslav (left) and Division Director Dianna Noble.

Photo by Orlando Jamandre

From TxDOT to trooper

Former ENVer goes from planning Texas Highways to patrolling them

By **ORLANDO VILLA JAMANDRE Jr.**
Environmental Affairs Division

What a difference a year makes. Last fall Todd Ashby was working in ENV's Project Management Section coordinating environmental documents with districts, resource agencies and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in order for projects to receive environmental clearance. Todd left ENV at the end of September 1997 to enter the DPS Academy's fall class. After six months of training, Todd became an official state trooper in March of 1998 and now patrols the highways between Austin, San Marcos and Johnson City.

How did you begin working for TxDOT?

In the summer of 1988 I was hired as a summer intern in the vehicle maintenance department at Camp Hubbard. The next summer Frank Weir (the former head of TxDOT's archeology department) hired me as an intern in the Cultural Resources Management Section of ENV. I worked there in the archeology lab for four summers cataloguing artifacts for curation at TARL (Texas Archeological Research Laboratory). In 1992 I transferred over to the historic properties branch to work part-time on the Historic Bridge Inventory. One of my last projects there was to serve as ENV's liaison for the National Park Service's HAER (Historic American Engineering Record) team in the summer of

1996. The HAER team created measured drawings and did historical research for a handful of National Register Eligible historic bridges that were part of TxDOT's mitigation commitment with the Texas Historical Commission. I finally went full-time when I joined the Project Management Section at the end of 1996.

What were your duties as a project manager for the El Paso District?

Basically I served as a liaison between the district, ENV and FHWA. I worked closely with El Paso's environmental staff including Judy Ramsey and Mary Telles-Goins. Thanks to their hard work, my job was made easy. I would receive the environmental assessments and route them to the different technical sections for comments, natural and cultural resources and PPA (Pollution Prevention and Abatement). Copies of the environmental document would also be sent to Field Area III in the Design Division and to different resource agencies for their comments. If no changes were necessary and all the resource agency coordination was complete, then the document could be environmentally cleared; however, if the project were federally-funded it would be forwarded to FHWA for further processing.

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Honors: Pharr, Odessa district projects also recognized

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Wildlife Service; and the Aransas Bird and Nature Club. Aransas Woods is one of 93 sites on the Great Texas Birding Trail in the Yoakum and Corpus Christi districts. Eventually, the trail will stretch from the Sabine River to the Rio Grande.

Rockport Maintenance Section staff built the caliche access road, parking lot and sidewalk. Volunteers added a deck and a ramp overlooking the lakes and marshland. The site provides habitat for birds such as egrets, herons, ducks, ospreys, Sandhill cranes, cardinals, titmice and flycatchers.

Aransas Woods has developed into a showplace for education, agency and community involvement, and ecotourism.

TxDOT's Odessa Area Engineer Dan Dalager oversaw a rehabilitation project on a heavily-traveled section of U.S. 385, between Crane and Odessa. Nearly 211,000 used tires were shredded and then blended with asphalt and mixed with rock to create the hot mix that became the new highway surface. Tests indicate that pavement made with crumb rubber reduces road maintenance costs and is less likely to crack. Roadside signs advised the traveling public of the use of crumb rubber in the resurfacing job and helped to spread the word about TxDOT's recycling efforts.

The use of crumb rubber is not new in the Odessa District. Since 1994, more than 2,500 tons of recycled tires have been used as roadway material. Through the use of crumb rubber, the Odessa District demonstrates its commitment to TxDOT's recycling program.

A panel of ENV staffers reviewed and discussed the merits of each nominee. Ten projects were submitted for consideration from nine districts.

Tom Remaley, an environmental specialist in ENV's Water Quality Branch, also served on the review committee.

"As a newcomer to TxDOT, reviewing the nominees gave me a lot of insight into the department's proactive environmental nature," Remaley said. "The winners used public involvement, private financing, TxDOT volunteerism and inter-district cooperation to go beyond what was necessary to simply get the job done."

Look for the call for nominations for the 1999 Environmental Achievement Award in January.



Pharr District Photo

The Brooks County Rest Area Reconstruction Project (above) in the Pharr District was designed by Stephen Walker to reflect the historic architectural styles of the region and leave pre-existing trees and most native vegetation untouched. The Corpus Christi District's Rockport Maintenance Section helped build the Aransas Woods site on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail (below).



Corpus Christi District Photo



Laying asphalt containing crumb rubber on U.S. 385 in the Odessa District.

Odessa District Photo

Mandatory wetlands training headed to a district near you

By DENNIS NIELSEN

Environmental Affairs Division

In partial fulfillment of a settlement agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), resulting from violations of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, a new training class has been developed by the Environmental Affairs Division (ENV). The main focus of this new training will be on wetland regulations, especially Section 404 permits, and the importance of following the conditions of the permits.

The goal of the training is to inform TxDOT employees involved in project design, construction and maintenance of the importance of wetlands and the need to protect them. The target audience for this mandatory, in-district training class will be district project engineers, area engineers, assistant area engineers, construction engineers, construction inspectors, maintenance supervisors, and design engineers. The course will be taught in all 25 districts.

The first training class, conducted by

ENV staff from the Water Resources Management Branch of the Natural Resources Management Section, was held in Beaumont on Oct. 6, and was attended by USACE representatives who observed and assisted in the training. USACE plans to attend all of the training classes.

ENV will contact all district environmental coordinators to schedule the training for their respective districts. If you have any questions concerning this training class, please call ENV's Dennis Nielsen at (512) 416-2721.

Beth Staton, former ENV biologist, dies of cancer

Beth Staton, age 45, died Sept. 27 after a lengthy battle with cancer of the brain. Funeral services were held Oct. 1 in Gonzalez, Texas.

Staton was a biologist who worked in ENV's Natural Resources Management Section (NRM) until she resigned in late 1996 because of her battle with the disease. She had been on extended sick leave for more than a year before she resigned. Staton came to work for TxDOT in October 1992.



Beth Staton

Division Director

Dianna Noble said, "What I remember about her was that she was really conscientious. I could tell she was really excited about what she was doing for TxDOT."

NRM Section Director David Dunlap said Staton was valued for her strong background in water quality issues.

"She was especially good at project review because of her cross discipline training in both biology and water resource issues," Dunlap said.

He remembers that "She had a great sense of humor and yet was about as intense as anyone I've ever known."

Melissa Neeley, supervisor of the Pollution Prevention and Abatement Section's Air and Noise Branch, originally hired Staton in 1992.

"Beth combined a zeal for natural resources with a practical ability to find workable solutions," Neeley said.

Tom Bruechert, now in the Project Management Section, but who worked in NRM with Staton, said she

would want to be remembered for her work on the early stages of TxDOT's wetlands banking program.

"She made a notable contribution in writing the first drafts of the memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the Anderson Tract, TxDOT's first wetland bank. That MOA is still used as a model," Bruechert said.

Eddie Sutherland, who headed NRM until he left TxDOT late last year, said Staton fought two battles with brain

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Hazardous materials training

The following is a list of out-of-agency training related to hazardous materials for fiscal year 1999. Follow TxDOT's human resource procedures for approval to attend. Course information and registration can be obtained at the telephone numbers provided.

- **ASTM (610-832-9585)**

Environmental Site Assessment Practices For Commercial Real Estate, Transaction Screen & Phase I Site Assessment, \$595, 16 hours -Dallas, Dec. 2-3

- **TEEX (1-800-252-2420)**

ESA Phase I: Environmental Site Assessment for Property Transfer, \$695, 32 hours -Bryan, Nov. 10-13

ESA Phase II: Environmental Sampling Investigation and Analysis, \$695, 32 hours -San Antonio, Sept. 29-Oct.2 -Bryan, Nov. 17-20

ESA Phase III: Soil and Groundwater Remediation, \$695, 32 hours -Bryan, Dec. 1-4

Ashby: PR skills learned in ENV handy as trooper

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You left in September 1997 and immediately transferred to the DPS Academy for seven months. What was that experience like?

Well, it was the most rigorous and challenging experience of my life. It was more intense than I ever imagined. It was structured just like military boot camp. Recently there has been a shortage of state troopers, so my class was the largest in DPS history. Normally, our daily training consisted of running four to five miles a day, doing hundreds of push-ups and sit-ups, and the rest of the day we had law and criminal justice classes. Among many things, we were trained in firearms, first responder emergency procedures, driving skills, and we even had to undergo an intense hand-to-hand self-defense class. When troopers pull over a car, they have to be prepared for anything and everything. In the few months that I've been patrolling, I've already arrested drunk drivers, drivers with outstanding arrest warrants and drivers transporting drugs.

So which highways do you patrol nowadays?

I'm based in the South Austin region and that area covers Travis County south of the river, the northern part of Hays County and all of Blanco County.

Do you ever coordinate with the Austin District's Courtesy Patrol or Hazardous Material Response Teams?

I've not worked with the Austin District's Courtesy Patrol but they do a great job in helping stranded motorists and minimizing bottlenecks. We do help

stranded motorists by making sure they're safely stopped as far as possible from the travel lanes and we can call a tow truck or emergency vehicles for them if necessary. For a potential hazardous material spill, we were trained to approach from upwind and use binoculars to try to see the placards to identify the contents. DPS headquarters would then dispatch a DPS Emergency Management Response Team and, if necessary, we would shut the highway down until they declared it safe.

How has working for ENV and TxDOT help prepare you for patrolling highways?

When I worked on the Historic Bridge Inventory we would often go out to survey bridges across the state. When local residents would stop and ask what we were doing, it was my responsibility to answer their questions. The public relations skills that I used while working for TxDOT are an important part of what I'm doing now. Also, DPS and TxDOT essentially have the same mission, the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. So it's the troopers who are on the "front line" of that mission by making sure drivers are obeying state laws, slowing down in construction zones and operating their vehicles properly. For example, I stopped an 18-wheeler one night because it was driving on a blown tire and didn't have any mud flaps on the back wheels. My partner and I also found out that not only had the vehicle's commercial license and registration expired, but the driver had had his license suspended in another state. Because of these violations we were forced to put the truck out of service at the

closest weight station outside of San Marcos (DPS is the enforcing agency for tractor-trailer licensing and weight regulations in Texas).

I can imagine that one of the worst aspects of a trooper's job is having to deal with the aftermath of serious collisions. How has DPS prepared you for working under these life and death situations?

Oh, it's definitely an awful feeling when I receive those kinds of dispatches - and the tragedy is compounded when you realize that a vast majority of them are preventable or can be minimized by making sure everyone is buckled up. In terms of the way DPS prepares us, we all have to ride with experienced troopers for the first six months. My partner has been a trooper for over four years now and I've learned a lot from his experience and guidance.

Finally, do you have any other safety tips for highway travelers?

I think all drivers can benefit by learning to relax and slow down more. With all of the traffic and construction nowadays, you have to expect delays so it's important to cushion extra drive time wherever you're going. My last bit of advice would be to always be prepared for emergencies. For example, some of the safety items that we keep in our patrol cars include bottled water, flashlights, a first aid kit and emergency reflectors. These are all relatively inexpensive things that can come in really handy for any driver in the event of a roadside emergency. But most importantly, always wear your seat belt.

Dallas District part of UNT's Environmental Fair

By MICHELLE RELEFORD
Dallas District

The Environmental Education Science and Technology center at the University of North Texas is as unique in its concept as the new building that houses it.

The ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony on Aug. 28 drew more than 3,500 students, citizens and children to the new building to learn about the environment at the

Environmental Fair and celebration.

"This is a unique concept and a collaborative effort," said Kim Wendt, special events coordinator for the College of Arts and Sciences at UNT.

"This was the dream of Ken Dixon, of the Institute of Applied Sciences at the University, to bring together

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Dallas District Water Quality Specialist Jay McCurley (standing at left) staffed a booth stocked with TxDOT educational materials at UNT's Environmental Fair.

Hat giveaway caps off ozone awareness campaign

By JIM DOBBINS

Environmental Affairs Division

Fifteen fashionable white "Curb Ground-Level Ozone" caps were recently awarded through a random-drawing to conclude the Environmental Affairs Division's ozone action day awareness campaign. The campaign was launched to educate TxDOT employees about helpful actions each of us can take to diminish ozone pollution on ozone action days.

ENV's Communications Section served as the campaign coordinator for TxDOT's offices and smaller divisions (larger divisions and districts had their own coordinators). ENV received 177 pledges from employees of Aviation (AVN), Environmental Affairs (ENV), Human Resources (HRD), Motor Vehicle (MVD), Occupational Safety (OCC), Public Transportation (PTN), Right of Way (ROW) and Travel (TRV) divisions; Audit (AUD), Civil Rights (OCR), General Counsel (OGC), Legislative Affairs (LAO) and Public Information (PIO) offices and administration. Approximately 25 percent of eligible employees from these divisions and offices participated in the campaign.

The drawing was held on July 14, the first ozone action day in the Austin area since the conclusion of the campaign in early June.

Lucky pledgers were: Helen Moore and Leticia Castillo of MVD; Raul Cantu, Jim Randall, Margot Massey and Demi Farley of PTN; Polly Luther of ROW; Martha Thompson and Carl Rasur of OCC; Denice Bettencourt and Debbie Snyder of TRV; and Barbara Hickman, Douglas Mack, Bill Hood and Judy Hewson of ENV.

Samples of pledges include:

"I pledge to take my lunch to work and postpone refueling my car until after 6 p.m. on ozone action days." – Judy Hewson, ENV.

"I pledge to combine errands, avoid drive-through lanes,



Demi Farley of PTN models her "Curb Ground-Level Ozone" hat.

Photo by Henry Gregory Quinn

not to top off my vehicle's gas tank, and postpone using tools operated by small engines on ozone action days." – Debbie Snyder, TRV.

"I pledge to take my lunch and share a ride to work on ozone action days." – Raul Cantu, PTN.

Dallas District: Helps UNT celebrate opening of tech center

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scientists in different departments so they could all be housed under one roof," she said.

For example, different offices conduct water research and cotton research. The school of education housed experts in environmental teaching. Add to that biologists, physicists, astronomers and geologists and you begin to see how loaded this new building is.

It also houses a planetarium

open to the public called the Sky Theater and the Elm Fork Education Center which is a program to educate teachers in methods for teaching environmental science. The center will eventually have a geological wall of time, on-site mammoth dig that kids can participate in, and a full blown waterfall to visually explain what a watershed is all about.

The fair itself boasted 32 booths, many of which displayed environmentally

friendly products from organically grown food to compost. Jay McCurley, water quality specialist with the Dallas District was on hand with TxDOT educational materials to give to interested citizens.

"The turnout was great. It was wonderful to see so many people concerned with the environment. A lot of people were surprised at how many things TxDOT was doing to protect the environment,"

McCurley said.

One of the most interesting booths was the Eco Shopping Game hosted by TU Electric. Participants used real grocery scanners to select the five most earth friendly products from three shelves worth of choices.

"It was very successful. We are very happy with the connection we made with the citizens of Denton," Wendt said.

Another celebration is in the planning stages for April 22, 1999, Earth Day.

ENV welcomes six new staffers

Environmental Affairs welcomed six new employees during the summer, promoted one of its own to head the Natural Resources Management Section (NRM) and lost three experienced staffers, one to retirement and two to the private sector.

David Dunlap, a five-year veteran of ENV and head of the Biological Resources Branch for about two and one-half years, was promoted Aug. 13 to head NRM. Dunlap takes over the job left by Eddie Sutherland at the end of 1997. Dunlap received his master's degree in biological science from the University of Texas at Austin while working with the engineering and environmental consulting firm of Espey, Huston and Associates. After completing his degree he joined TxDOT in what was then the Landscape Section, during which time he wrote the current "Seeding for Erosion Control"

specifications. He returned to TxDOT in 1993 after five years as vegetation management coordinator for Lane County, Oregon, and conducting independent vegetation management consulting on the West Coast and in Germany.

Benny Carmona III is the new administrative assistant for the NRM and Communications Sections as of Aug. 3, replacing Sherry House, who left in early July to take a job with Dell Computer. Carmona began working in ENV in June as a temporary hire. Prior to TxDOT, Carmona was with the State Comptroller's Office for a year in its automation department. He has two sons, ages 8 years old and 9 months old, and is a recent veteran of the Marine Corps (1992-96), where he specialized in accounting, auditing and finance functions.

Carlos Swonke, who was head of NRM's Water Quality Resources Branch,

left in September 1997 to join the Austin consulting firm of Turner, Collie & Braden, Inc. Swonke was a 13 year veteran of TxDOT.

Lisa Hart became supervisor of the Historical Studies Branch of the Cultural Resources Management Section (CRM) as of Aug. 3, filling the position formerly held by Barbara Stocklin who left earlier this year to work for the City of Austin. Hart has a bachelor's degree in archeology and a master's degree in architecture from the University of Texas at Austin with a specialization in design theory and historic preservation. She came to ENV from the Texas Historical Commission where she worked for eight years. While at THC Hart reviewed numerous historic preservation transportation enhancement projects. Hart's job is to oversee contracts and provide guidance to historians coordinating district transportation and enhancement projects.

She says her hobbies include "being a taxi for my children and subjecting them to weekend visits to historic sites, open houses, gardens and museums."

Steve Ahr joined CRM's Archeological Studies Branch as of Sept. 8 and will handle the Bryan, Tyler, and Atlanta districts. Ahr came to ENV from upstate New York where he directed archeological field crews on a large contract to survey an army base. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in anthropology, and in 1998 with a master's degree in anthropology. During graduate school, he worked for the Center for Environmental Archeology at Texas A&M on archaeological projects throughout Texas and Montana. Ahr moved to upstate New York in June 1997 and worked as

See STAFF, Page 11



Environmental Word Rhymes

by Orlando Villa Jamandre Jr.

Find the pair of rhyming words that complete each of the six environmental questions below. Answers are on Page 12.

Environmental assessment pyramid scheme?

□□□□□■□□□□□

Secluded burnt rock site?

□□□□□■□□□□□□

Bad news from the head of the EPA?

□□□□□□□■□□□□□□

Improved outlook for endangered shorebird?

□□□□□□□■□□□□□□□□

Successful haz-mat remedy?

□□□□□□□□□■□□□□□□□□

Judicial review of environmental commitments?

□□□□□□□□□□■□□□□□□□□□□

Staff: New employees welcomed

(Continued from Page 10)

cultural resources survey coordinator of Fort Drum.

Patrick McLoughlin started in the Archeological Studies Branch Aug. 24 and will handle the Dallas, Fort Worth and Paris districts. McLoughlin is a native of New Orleans, and earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology in 1991 from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a master's degree in anthropology from Eastern New Mexico University in 1998. He moved to Austin in May 1997 to work for Hicks & Company, an Austin environmental and archeological consulting firm. He has field experience throughout the Southeastern U.S., the Southern High Plains and Texas. He celebrated his first wedding anniversary Oct. 4th.

Archeologist **John Clark** retired as of Aug. 31 (see story, Page 2).

Tom Eisenhour left CRM's Historical Studies Branch as of Sept. 11 to join the Austin consulting firm of Hardy Heck Moore & Myers, Inc., where he is now their historical architect helping with projects that require Section 106 coordination. Eisenhour had been with TxDOT since February 1987.

Patricia Hardy started July 6 in the Project Management Section handling projects in the Corpus Christi, Lufkin and Odessa Districts. Hardy is a May 1997 graduate of Texas A&M with a degree in natural resources management. After graduation, she worked a year in the Bryan District.

Mike Pierce is the new geographic information systems (GIS) specialist for ENV. Before coming to TxDOT, Pierce worked as a GIS analyst for Pacific Meridian Resources in Austin for two and one-half years handling production of digital nautical charts through process improvements and programming. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1995 from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Pierce grew up in Atlanta, Ga., and enjoys home brewing beer as a hobby.



BrainBender

by CRM's Steve Sadowsky



ENV's Administration

Find the names of these common Administration terms and staff members listed in the column at right in the puzzle below. Names may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, and in reverse order. Letters may be used more than once. (Answers on Page 12.)

N R A C N U D E O T U T R A V E L
 Y D U A R D N A E L M B E M I R I
 H C I L D N Y K H I U N R Y A U R
 N L I K E C A O O A I R R H T T M
 Y A S L T E U N U I E C K U I A N
 M A D N O I T A L S I G E L N N M
 E A I A L P H T E O L M E A O G Y
 P I E R A K O A I N C Y G R D I O
 T Y D K U E R E O M O E V N E S M
 H K E N S C I C S U M K A S S O P
 Y H G O H N Z E D E L O H E T E L
 T Y C I K T E I N B H O C L P D E
 K D I T N C R T F S J R S A E C A
 H O U A H E S A E O U E E U N Y D
 W T T R C E I N N O D I O A L T E
 L C Y T L I O L S L Y J D A M U R
 E A O S O T N E M T N I O P P A S
 S R U I V F R T N E U E Y N O N H
 U T T N E N F O E G W O R N T N I
 N N O I A K Y I D G Z L A N A A P
 O O C M R P R O C E D U R E A I I
 N C U D A H Y E N E K U A K N D N
 S H P A T E O E P S A E B S R T R

Dianna

Ken

Donnie

Leandra

Judy

Administration

Legislation

Policy

Procedure

Guidance

Management

Human Resources

Budget

Contract

Leadership

Director

Mail

Liaison

Committee

Authorize

Travel

Signature

Appointment

Office

Research



**Environmental Affairs Division
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Austin, Texas 78701-2483**

Address correction requested



Staton: Remembered

(Continued from Page 7)
cancer. Many years ago, he said, she had a tumor surgically removed. Staton overcame the severe side effects of that surgery, finished school and earned a master's degree in aquatic biology. After the cancer returned in the same spot, Sutherland said Staton told him she didn't want to go through brain surgery again because she feared it would debilitate her. Instead she fought the tumor with chemotherapy.

Dunlap said, "She fought this disease for almost five

years. It's absolutely astounding."

Deputy Division Director Ken Bohuslav remembers that "She never complained. She played the hand she was dealt. I would say she was a very courageous person. She was just dealt some low cards."

Noble remembers a calendar that hung in Staton's office that followed a theme of 19th century cowgirls.

"It defined for me a lot about her," Noble said. "She was a unique person. She defined things for herself."

Environmental Word Rhymes Answers

Answers:

FONSI PONZI;

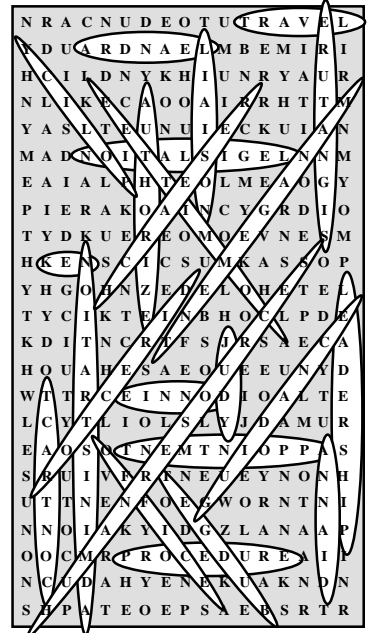
HIDDEN MIDDEN;

BROWNER DOWNER;

**PELICAN
WELLGAIN;**

**POLLUTION
SOLUTION;**

**MITIGATION
LITIGATION**



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We welcome ideas for stories and standing features. Submit those to the above address, attention Richard

Goldsmith, phone 512-416-2743 or via GroupWise to RGOLDSMI.

Is ENVision going to the right person in your organization? Please contact us to correct an address or to suggest additions to the mailing list.

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Dianna F. Noble, P.E.**

**Deputy Division Director
Ken Bohuslav, P.E.**

**Communications Director
Jean Beeman**

Editor Richard Goldsmith



RECYCLED PAPER
SOY-BASED INK

