

INSIDE

Calendar 4

MWRA Scholarship Winner . . 2

News From Our Members . . 2

TRB Annual Meeting 2

The Water Conference 3

President's Letter



This year's annual meeting August 5-7 should be the biggest and best one ever, combining the Mississippi Water Resources Conference with MWRA's annual meeting. You will not want to miss The Water Conference, with interesting and informative speakers already lined up. We've also included networking events – a dinner cruise on the Tunica Queen, a golf tournament, and a chance to try sporting clays. And the Tunica River Park, with its museum, nature trail and overlook, is a “must see.”

The conference is structured to emphasize technical presentations on Wednesday and Thursday morning, with several plenary speakers appealing to a broad spectrum of water interests incorporated into the program. **The MWRA Board of Directors Meeting is set for 3 PM, Wednesday, August 5.** On Friday, the MWRA General Membership Breakfast Meeting includes a presentation on freight movement studies from Arno Hart of Wilbur Smith, Col. Mike Wehr, USACE Vicksburg District Engineer, and Capt. Michael Gardiner, USCG Captain of the Port, Sector Lower Mississippi River. Complete conference details are available at www.wrri.msstate.edu, click Conference Information.

All of us are hoping that by combining the two conferences we are expanding opportunities for participation and cross-knowledge among the various water interests. For budget and time reasons, it's often easier to attend one conference instead of two. If this works, we plan to move back to the Coast for 2010.

I look forward to seeing all of you there –

Dean Pennington
MWRA President

MWRA Mission Statement:

MWRA promotes the advancement of Mississippi rivers, ports and harbors, coastal and inland waterways, flood control, recreation, water development and management, water supply and all other beneficial uses of water resources.

MWRA SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

MWRA is always proud to present its annual scholarship award recipient at the Thursday luncheon. The scholarship is named in honor of Capt. Robert Engram, a long-time participant on the MWRA Board and much-missed member of the marine community, and is managed jointly by MWRA and the River Studies Program at Vicksburg High School.

Julianna Jones graduated this year from Vicksburg High School after serving as an active volunteer in numerous organizations, in addition to her studies. These have included the Relay for Life, a cancer research fundraiser, Safety Camp, Salvation Army, United Way Teen Help and Service over Self, building homes. In addition to studies and volunteer activities, Julianna was named Vicksburg High School Prom Queen and Varsity Cheer Leader Captain, and she was selected for Who's Who Among High School Students.



NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Mark McAndrews, Port Director at the Port of Pascagoula, reports cargo tonnage has increased 25% over the same period in 2008. A new LNG facility is scheduled for completion in 2011. (*The Sun Herald*, April 26, 2009)

Eugene Bishop, Yellow Creek Port, Iuka, was pleased to announce the location of G&G Steel, which is expected to provide as many as 140 jobs. G&G manufactures large component parts for locks, mining equipment and bridges.

MWRA welcomes new members **Craig Farmer** and **Jessica Keasler** of Aquaterra Engineering located in Ridge-land.

Mike Tagert and the crew at the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council are to be congratulated for the exceptional job they did in preparing an Economic Impact Study for the waterway. With billions of dollars being invested and thousands of jobs created annually, the waterway continues to be a major factor in site selection and transportation.

The new mooring facility in Columbus, on the left descending bank of Mile Marker 329, is now open for business. Congratulations to **John Hardy**, Columbus-Lowndes County Port Director, on facilitating this improvement to the waterway.

Neel-Schaffer Engineering, an active MWRA member, was recently awarded third place among Mississippi Employers by the *Mississippi Business Journal*. Neel-Schaffer is located in Jackson, MS, and has offices in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas.

Congratulations to **Jimmy Yeager**, Port of Rosedale-Bolivar County Port Commission, on his election to the Board of Directors for Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc.

TRB ANNUAL MEETING

The spotlight theme for the 2010 Transportation Research Board 89th Annual Meeting, January 10-14, 2010, in Washington, DC, is *Investing in Our Transportation Future – Bold Ideas to Meet Big Challenges*. The theme recognizes that a robust and efficient transportation system is necessary in order for the nation to successfully meet the economic, environmental, and security challenges that lie ahead. Spotlight sessions and workshops are expected to explore key issues and challenges such as revamping transportation finance for the 21st century; attaining zero fatalities in transportation; achieving climate change and energy security targets by 2050; enhancing and preserving the nation's transportation infrastructure; and eliminating congestion as we know it. In addition to general calls for papers being solicited through June produced by many of TRB's standing committees, authors are invited to submit papers related to the upcoming Annual Meeting's spotlight theme. (<http://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting/default.asp>)

THE WATER CONFERENCE

A workshop has been added to The Water Conference for Thursday afternoon August 6 at no extra charge.

Stormwater Management Workshop

The primary goal of the workshop is to create a dynamic learning experience that examines the role of stormwater management in the municipal and industrial environment. The workshop will focus on integrating ecologically sound water management approaches into site design.

For information contact: Jessie Schmidt at 662-325-3295 or jschmidt@cfr.msstate.edu

Full Conference Program Details: <http://www.wrri.msstate.edu/conference/program.asp>

Conference Registration Details:

Registration forms are posted at www.wrri.msstate.edu

The registration fee is \$235 (\$260 late registration after July 10) for regular attendees and \$145 (\$170 late registration after July 10) for full-time students. The registration fee covers breakfast, breaks, lunch, welcome reception, conference materials, and the Stormwater Management Workshop. Additional fees will apply for golf, skeet, RiverBoat Museum Tour, and the Tunica Queen River Boat dinner cruise. **There will be no refunds after July 20; written notification of substitutions will be permitted through July 30.**

Golf Tournament at The Links

The Links at Cottonwoods is a golf experience like no other. This 18-hole Hale Irwin-designed championship course has a Scottish links feel with gentle rolling fairways, three lakes and beautifully landscaped cart paths. Cottonwoods is a par 72, 7,000-yard challenge for seasoned players and offers a sense of adventure and fun for the novice. Come see for yourself why our exclusive Hale Irwin-designed championship course is so magnificent.

If additional information is needed, contact Joe Baran by email at jbaran@portandharbor.com or at 228-467-9231.

Awards and Achievements

- Voted Best Golf by the 2007 Casino Player Awards
- Voted One of the Top 40 Casino Golf Courses by *Golf Digest*
- *Casino Player Magazine* recently voted The Links at Cottonwoods the “Best Place to Play in Tunica”

Willows Sporting Clays and Hunting Center

The Willows offers on-target fun for everyone! Enjoy sporting clays, trap, skeet and a variety of exciting side games in this fabulous facility. The Willows has 14 automated stations, each with three shooting levels to accommodate everyone from beginners to seasoned professionals. For more information and pricing, call (662) 357-3154.

HOTEL DETAILS

Hotel accommodations for the 2009 Mississippi Water Resources Conference are at the Veranda Hotel at Harrah's Tunica. The group rate is valid through July 3, 2009. You can register one of two ways:

- Call 1-800-394-7263 and refer to Group Code: S08MWR9
- Go to www.harrah.com/CheckGroupAvailability to register on-line.

Calendar of Events

2009

- August 5-7 **The Water Conference**, Harrah's Tunica Resorts, co-sponsored by: MWRRI/MWRA/USGS/MS Dept. of Envir. Quality/NOAA. Information www.wrri.msstate.edu and click on the logo.
- August 25-28 **Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Opportunities Conference**, Point Clear, AL. Information azaiontz@tenntom.org
- September 6-8 **SmartRivers**: Vienna, Austria. Information www.smartrivers.org
- September 23-25 **National Waterways Conference**, Embassy Suites, Charleston, WV. Information www.waterways.org.
- December 3-5 **Mississippi Valley Flood Control Assn.**, New Orleans.
- December 4 **IRPT and USMMA New Orleans Alumni Breakfast** at Mother's Next Door, New Orleans. Information www.irpt.net

2010

- Jan. 10-14 **TRB 89th Annual Meeting, Washington, DC**. See article in this issue <http://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting/default.asp>



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First Class

52 Years of Dedicated Service!