

View Point



I have now been in place as the Unit Head for Project Development and Environmental Analysis for approximately six months and every day brings a new learning experience. My time here has been very interesting and challenging. It seems like I learn a new acronym every day. I used to keep a cheat sheet when I attended the regional project update meetings as a Division employee, just so I could keep up. I at least feel like I can now make it without the sheet.

Meeting the Challenge

By: Richard W. Hancock, Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit Manager

After 21 years in field/Division operations my career has taken a different direction. I have definitely gained a new perspective on the many challenges that exist on the Preconstruction side of NCDOT. I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to thank all of those who have helped me with the adjustment during these first months. My supervisor Debbie Barbour has been very supportive, a great listener, and very patient. I can't say enough about the PDEA staff members, who have all been very supportive and so helpful to me. The variety of expertise that exists in the Unit is truly amazing. The Natural Environment Section has many of these experts, with a mix of biologists and engineers that come from diverse backgrounds and work experience. They all have been instrumental in helping me develop an understanding of the complexities and nuances of the many surveys, reports, permits, etc. that they are responsible for

generating. These are critical components to the ultimate successful delivery of the many important transportation projects across the State.

Staff members of the many Federal and State agencies that PDEA interacts with have also been tremendously helpful. I look forward to developing and nurturing meaningful, positive, productive relationships with these partners in the coming months and years. These relationships are a critical element of our ability to deliver transportation projects for the State of North Carolina in the most environmentally sensitive and sustainable manner possible.

2014 has, and will continue to, present many challenges. We have two animal species that are proposed for listing as federally endangered this year (the Northern Long-eared Bat and the Rufa Red Knot). Dialogue with our agency

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Earth Day 2014

*In the end, we will protect only what we love.
We will love only what we understand.*

We will understand only what we are taught. By: Elizabeth Lusk

Where were you a week or so ago on April 22nd? If things seemed a little greener on that Tuesday, it was because the earth was celebrating the 44th anniversary of EARTH DAY!! Earth Day each year marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.

Among other things, 1970 in the United States brought with it the Kent State shootings, the advent of fiber optics, "Bridge Over Troubled Water," Apollo 13, the Beatles' last album, the death of Jimi Hendrix, the birth of Mariah Carey, and the meltdown of fuel rods in the

Savannah River nuclear plant near Aiken, South Carolina -- an incident not



acknowledged for 18 years.

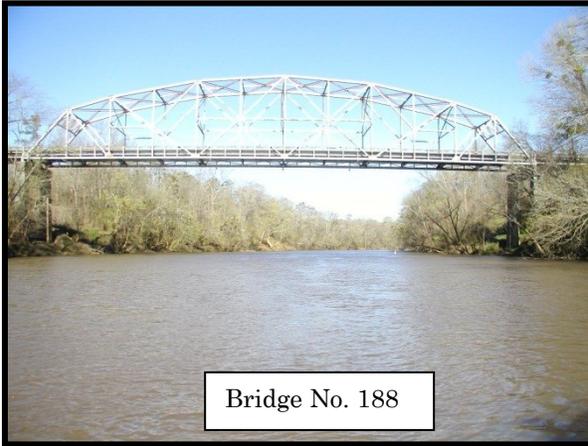
It was into such a world that the very first Earth Day was born. Earth Day is a day designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment. Earth Day was conceived by Senator Gaylord Nelson after a trip he took to Santa Barbara right after the [horrific oil spill](#) off the coast in 1969. Outraged by the devastation and Washington political inertia, Nelson proposed a national teach-in on the environment to be observed by every university campus in the U.S. on

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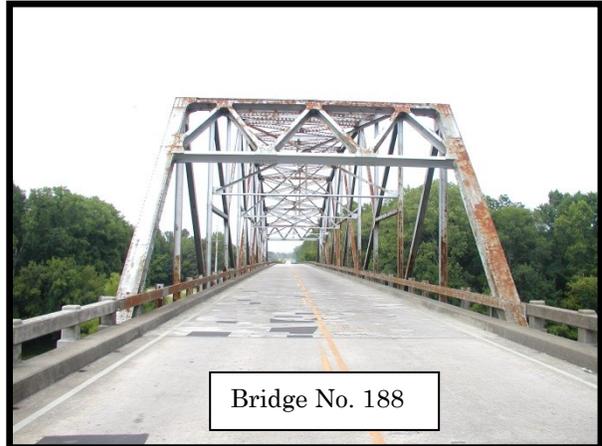
Project Spotlight

B-4712 - Tar Heel Ferry Road Bridge

By: Tracy Walter, PDEA Project Planning Engineer



Bridge No. 188



Bridge No. 188

Bridge No. 188 in Bladen County is referred to by local residents as either the Tar Heel Ferry Road Bridge or the Gus Hasty Bridge. Located approximately one mile northeast of Tar Heel the bridge crosses the Cape Fear River and overflow area with a total length of 1473-foot. Built in 1955, the Tar Heel Ferry Bridge replaced the local ferry across the river which was operated by the State since the early twentieth century. Spanning the Cape Fear River is a 300-foot steel Pennsylvania Thru Truss which is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; Criterion C. Bridge No. 188 over the Cape Fear River and Bridge No. 189 over the overflow area are being replaced as STIP B-4712.

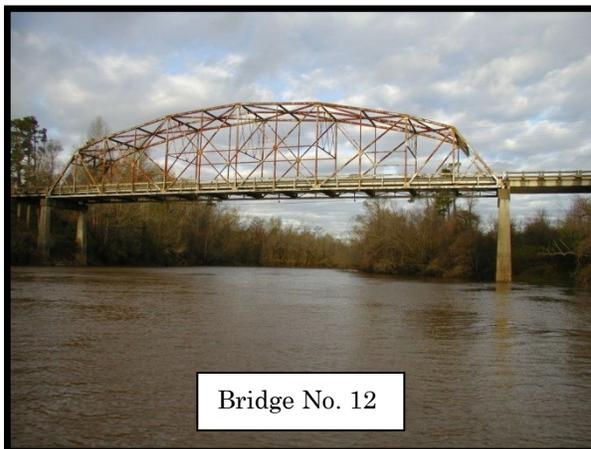
As part of the mitigation effort for this project, the truss was included with the NCDOT Bridge Reuse Program. Inter-

est in obtaining the structure was expressed by the Town of Franklinville for use on a greenway system crossing the Deep River. Unfortunately, removal of the truss and marking for re-assembly, shipment, lead paint abatement, and assembly costs exceeded \$1,500,000 making reuse of the truss of this size not to be a viable alternative. Since removal and disposal was the only alternative remaining for the truss, NCDOT committed to developing a historic bridge website to provide information on the many historic bridges in NC. The website is currently in its final review and should be published for public access soon.

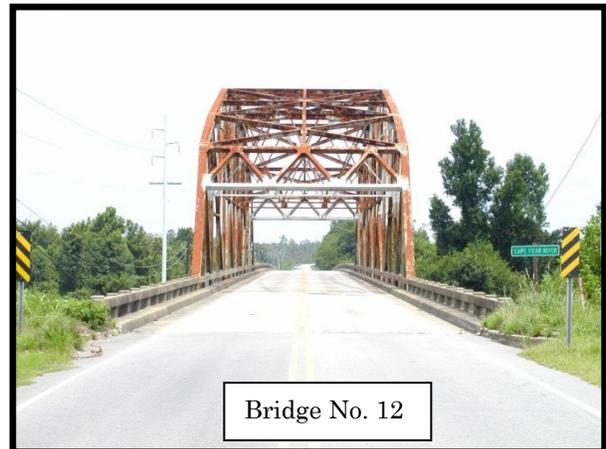
In the interest of possible future mitigation techniques, NCDOT has installed an interactive [camera](#) to document the construction of the new bridge as well as the removal of the old. Public view-

ers can zoom, pan, view previous days, and watch a “to date” time lapse movie. Once construction is complete, a time-lapse video will provide a quick view of the project.

Bridge No. 188 is one of the last two Pennsylvania Thru Trusses in North Carolina. The other is located approximately 50 miles downstream, just below Lock No. 1 and east of East Arcadia, on NC 11. Bridge No. 12 is currently being replaced along with Bridge No. 18 and 42, as STIP B-4028.



Bridge No. 12



Bridge No. 12

(Earth Day Continued from page 1)

April 22, 1970. On that day, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment. Twenty years later, the 1990 Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting the status of environmental issues on to the world stage. Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Earth Day is now observed on April 22 each year by more than 500 million people and several national governments in 175 countries.

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. These are just a few of the environmental efforts and regulations that affect the NCDOT today. One could say, that NCDOT's Natural Environment Section is in existence today, providing jobs for our biologists and engineers, because of that first Earth Day over 40 years ago! For that matter, the Roadside Environmental Unit, the Division Environmental Officer positions, and

many others at NCDOT, wouldn't exist either. Talk about a jobs stimulus package!!!

While growing pains are inevitable with such an all-encompassing, ever developing, good-for-ya initiative, even 40 years later, the returns are worth the investment. Those of us (and there are many, in fact I would venture to say all of us) charged with ensuring that the NCDOT plans, designs, and constructs an environmentally sound road project, appreciate the efforts and contributions of EVERYone.

References:

<http://www.earthday.net/node/77>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth_day
<http://www.epa.gov/earthday/>

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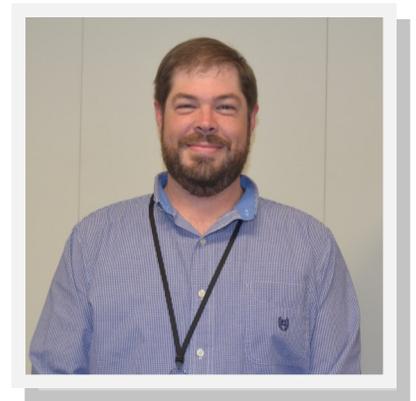
partners to determine how we move forward has already begun. The Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) legislation passed by our NC General Assembly last summer will likely present a number of challenges as we determine what the next draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) will look like later this year. NCDOT is currently working through the prioritization process that will determine what projects make up the next draft STIP. Some of our challenges may be how to shelve projects that may fall out of the STIP as a result of the current prioritization efforts, and how to provide timely delivery of those that may be new to the STIP. Staff anxiously awaits the results of the process and what lies ahead.

I am sure the next six months will prove to be just as challenging (and hopefully as rewarding) as my first six. I look forward to the challenges (and the flattening of the learning curve). There are many things to accomplish and only a team effort will bring success. It is my hope that my presence here will help, in some small way, serve a greater good for the Department of Transportation and the citizens of North Carolina. I am grateful for the opportunity and pledge my efforts to make the most of it.



In February 2014, Carla Dagnino with the NES Project Management Group graduated from Legacy Leadership Level 3 "Leading Managers" Program. In the same month, Phil Harris graduated from Legacy Leadership Level 4 "Leading at the Executive Level" Program.

The 2014 Monitoring Report Meetings were completed by the NES Engineering staff in March 2014. A big "thanks" to Jason Elliot and Pete Allen for taking the lead with this review, the other NES staff involved with the reports, other NCDOT Units and the environmental resource agencies for their participation.



In December 2013 David Johnson completed an 18 week course and graduated from the Highway Engineers Concepts (HEC) Program. This accomplishment allows David to compete for Highway Engineering I level positions within the NCDOT. Congratulations David!!

Employee Spotlight



Dennis Herman is an Environmental Program Consultant in the Natural Environment Section's Biological Survey Group. He was born in Burke County, and after the family moved around for several years, he eventually settled in Mitchell County. It was in the Blue Ridge Mountains that he was able to pursue his love for nature. Non-school time was spent searching for and collecting rocks, minerals, and small critters, especially amphibians and reptiles.

He received a BS in Biology from Western Carolina University and moved to Atlanta, GA in 1972 where he worked at the Atlanta Zoo for 24 years as a keeper and Assistant Curator of Herpetology. It was at the zoo where Dennis began working with the rare Bog Turtle, and became one of the leading authorities on the species in the Southeast. Even after 40 years, he continues to search for new Bog Turtle sites in his spare time, while collecting environmental and behavioral data on the turtles he finds.

Dennis began working for the state of North Carolina in 1996 as the Coordinator of Living Collections for the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences where he designed exhibits and holding areas for the museum's live animal collection that he oversaw. He began working for NCDOT in 2004.

In his current role as an Environmental Program Consultant, Dennis is responsible for, and assists

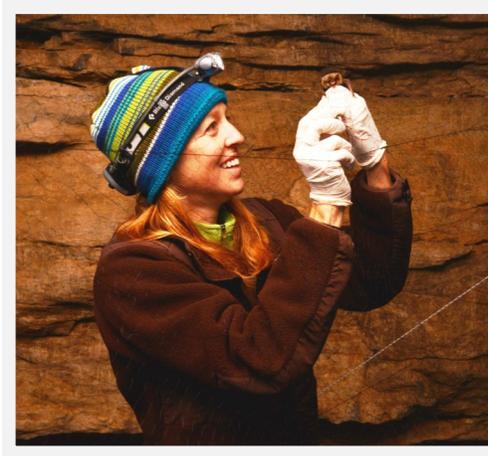
in, USFWS-ESA Section 7 T&E species surveys; writing BAs; Forest Service T&E, Sensitive, and Locally Rare or Forest Concern species surveys and developing BEs and resource reports; oversight of various conservation areas for rare plants and mountain bogs, involving monitoring, management, inventories, and developing conservation management plans; wildlife crossings development and design; and consultant oversight on projects. Dennis enjoys working with, and learning from co-workers in NES, as well as DOT employees in other units and divisions, consultants, and regulatory agencies.

Dennis lives with his wife, Amy, in Cary. He enjoys eating good BBQ, maintaining his collection of NC gems and minerals, hiking in the NC mountains, searching mountain fens for bog turtles and rare plants, crossword puzzles, and making people groan from his puns and corny sense of humor.



Mary Frazer

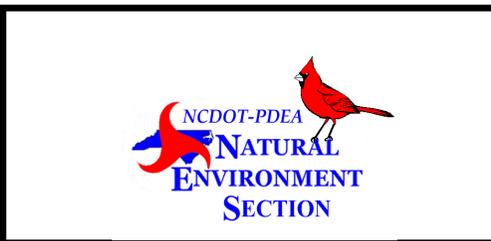
In early April, Mary Frazer and Heather Wallace went to a one week course held in Indiana to be trained to detect different bat dialects using SONA bat equipment. They took this acoustic training as another tool to supplement bat netting. Currently, North Carolina has two federally listed bats (Indiana and Virginia big-eared) and a possible listing of the Northern Long-eared bat later this year.



Heather Wallace

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