

# The Voice

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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING  
COMPANIES OF TENNESSEE

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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## The Road Less Traveled

### *Wolf River Project includes Hiking & Biking Trail System*

by Ted Fox, Director of Public Works  
Shelby County, TN

As engineers, we are often consumed with the analytical aspects of design performance and constructability as our responsibility and charge dictate. However, we may be missing an indispensable opportunity to explore and exploit a road less traveled—a road that not only demonstrates sound engineering principles, but also results in a project that is integral to quality of life and leverages its own engineering elements to support a holistic ecosystem approach.

One such project that went beyond its original design purpose and provided a myriad of unique opportunities was the Wolf River Environmental Restoration Project. The primary intent of this \$12 million federally funded project was to rescue the Wolf River from an unstable condition referred to as “head cutting.” In the early 1960s, approximately 21 miles of the lower section of the River was channelized to reduce the magnitude of flooding. This straightening of the

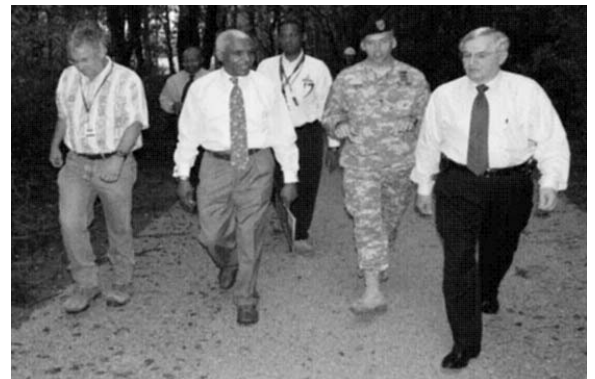
main channel increased both velocity and capacity, and, over time, set in place the “head cutting” phenomenon. This process began moving upstream at the rate of roughly 1,200 feet per year, widening and deepening the channel. Left unchecked, this action would have continued to result in trees and sediment falling in the river; loss of aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats; decreased water quality from heavy sediment loading; and endangerment of bridges and utilities crossing the river.

#### Solution Offers Unique Opportunity

Shelby County Government (the County) and the Chickasaw Basin Authority, along with other agencies, called on the U.S. Congress for assistance. The request was to fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to define and implement a solution to the problem. The Corps determined that the strategic placement of four (4) stabilization main channel weirs, bridge pier stabilization and five (5)

*(continued on page 3)*

Along the Wolf River: Ted Fox, Col., U.S. Army (ret.), Director of Public Works, Shelby County (far right) leads a group along a pathway developed as part of the Wolf River Project. Joining Fox are (in front, left to right) Norman “Chip” Newman, geotechnical engineer with the Memphis District Corps of Engineers; A.C. Wharton, Mayor of Shelby County; and Col. Thomas Smith, District Commander, Memphis District Corps of Engineers.



# Loved Memphis; See You in Murfreesboro

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by Lillard Teasley, President  
ACEC of Tennessee

In mid-April, I traveled west for the meeting of the Memphis chapter of ACEC of Tennessee. There was an excellent turnout. Jerry Collins, PE, president of Memphis Light Gas & Water (MLGW), was the keynote speaker and provided an informative update on MLGW. Everyone appreciated the presentation by Robbin Hill with SourceCorp, one of our Partner Program members, who discussed research and development tax credits, and how engineering firms find them. Who knew?!

The experience in Memphis was a prelude to the great networking and learning opportunities ahead at the Annual Meeting, June 18-19, in Murfreesboro. Paul Degges, TDOT chief engineer, and colleagues will provide insights into what's new at TDOT. Saya Qualls, TDEC's chief engineer of water pollution control, and colleagues will offer a TDEC regulatory update. You can also learn about forensic engineering & ethics. Don't miss the Crow Friedman professional liability seminar. Plus, everyone's favorite event—the PAC Auction—is always fun. A registration form and meeting schedule are available at [www.acectn.org](http://www.acectn.org). See you there!



Gathering in Memphis: Tim Verner, PE, president-elect of the Memphis Chapter, and Stan Moore, PE, both with Fisher & Arnold, visit with Kermit Clinton, PE, AFRAM.

## WELCOME, New Member

The LPA Group, Inc.  
2030 Falling Waters Rd., Ste. 150, Knoxville, TN 37922  
865-246-6680  
[www.lpagroup.com](http://www.lpagroup.com)

Nashville location:  
2 Brentwood Commons, Suite 150  
750 Old Hickory Blvd., Nashville, TN 37027  
615-371-6193

Key Contact:  
Elham Farzam, PE  
[efarzam@lpagroup.com](mailto:efarzam@lpagroup.com)

The LPA Group, currently ranked in the Top 50 transportation firms in the USA by *Engineering News-Record*, is an international multidisciplinary engineering/architectural consulting firm that provides transportation engineering, planning, environmental, architectural, design-build, program management, and construction engineering inspection services.



Meeting in Memphis: Lillard Teasley, PE, president of ACEC of Tennessee, Teasley Services Group; Ed Hargraves, PE, president-elect of ACEC of Tennessee, Askew Hargraves Harcourt & Associates; and Jerry Collins, PE, president of Memphis Light Gas & Water.



Stacey Morris, PE, president of the Memphis Chapter, ETI Corporation, greets Douglas Dietz, PE, Pickering.

## Election of Officers

The ACEC of Tennessee Nominating Committee, chaired by Bill Johnson, PE, ARCADIS, has submitted the 2009 - 2010 slate of officers presented below; election ballots were sent to ACEC of Tennessee member firm representatives in April. Ballots must be returned post-marked no later than May 15, 2009.

### President Elect

Steve Bostic, PE, Lamar Dunn & Associates,  
Knoxville

### First Vice President

Mike Pohlman, PE, Pickering Incorporated.,  
Memphis

### Second Vice President

Steven Field, PE, Stantec Consulting Services Inc.,  
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### Secretary

David Harrell, PE, Vaughn & Melton, Inc.,  
Knoxville

### Treasurer

Chuck Saunders, PE, Fisher & Arnold, Inc.,  
Nashville

### Director at Large

John Wimberly, PE, IC Thomasson Associates,  
Nashville

As President Elect, Ed Hargraves, PE, Askew, Hargraves, Harcourt & Associates, Memphis will automatically become President.

# The Road Less Traveled *(continued from page 1)*

tributary weirs would solve the river's dilemma. This work also included approximately five (5) miles of construction and maintenance access roads. The County's responsibility (in addition to the 35 percent cost share) was to acquire all necessary lands, easements, and rights-of-way. When the project is completed in its entirety, over 2,000 acres of land will have been acquired.

These features provided a unique opportunity to transform access roads into a multi-purpose hiking and biking trail system. These roads combined with the additional conversion of pre-existing farm roads have provided approximately eight (8) miles of multi-use trails. The project also took advantage of its scope to provide flood plain and groundwater protection, wetland restoration, and protection of wildlife habitat. These elements come to life, standing along the river on a September morning as the sun has just risen. If you stand quietly and close your eyes, you will hear the "rapids" (or so it seems) as the river rushes over the weir. Walking along the trail, you may spot a doe and

her fawn leisurely grazing. You can, for a few moments, escape the "real world."

## Diverse Groups Work Together

The Wolf River Project has become a critical component of the County's metro-wide sustainability initiative and provides a textbook example of what can be done when imagination and resolve come together for a common purpose. Most of all, it has been successful because of the contribution of a diverse group of stakeholders that included Shelby County Government, Chickasaw Basin



*An aerial view of the pathway created by the Wolf River Environmental Restoration Project.*

Authority, the Town of Collierville, The Wolf River Conservancy, the State of Tennessee, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who seized an opportunity to journey the road less traveled. This project has been a personal voyage for me in connecting the dots of my professional and personal life. I take great pleasure in the notion that my grandchildren will be the beneficiaries of this effort and will walk these trails for years to come.

## CALENDAR

**MAY  
27**

Cumberland Region  
Tomorrow Summit

*Nashville*

Information:  
[www.10power.org](http://www.10power.org)

**JUNE  
17**

Tennessee Engineering  
Foundation Golf  
Tournament

Vanderbilt Legends  
Club, *Franklin*

Information:  
[www.acectn.org/Events.htm](http://www.acectn.org/Events.htm)

**JUNE  
18-19**

ACEC of TN / TSPE  
Joint Annual Meeting

Embassy Suites,  
*Murfreesboro*



**Scholarship Presented to UT-Chattanooga Student -** ARCADIS engineer Bill Johnson, PE, a past president of ACEC of Tennessee, recently presented a \$1,000 scholarship from ACEC of Tennessee to Ipshita Thomas, a civil engineering student at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Thomas was selected to receive the state scholarship from among the engineering students at colleges and universities throughout Tennessee who submitted applications. As the Tennessee scholarship winner, she competed for national scholarships with students throughout the United States...and won! She will receive a \$10,000 national scholarship from ACEC. Congratulations, Ipshita.

## WELCOME, New Member

Lose & Associates, Inc.  
1314 5th Ave. No., Ste. 200  
Nashville TN 37208  
615-242-0040  
[www.loseassoc.com](http://www.loseassoc.com)

Key Contact:  
Mike Wrye, PE, Vice President  
[mwrye@loseassoc.com](mailto:mwrye@loseassoc.com)

Lose & Associates, Inc. offers a full range of engineering, architectural, professional recreation design, landscape architectural and land planning services. The firm's civil engineers are extremely experienced in the regulatory permitting process and understand how important this process can be in completing a project on time. The firm has hands-on experience with LEED® accredited and designed projects.

# ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
of Tennessee

Tennessee Engineering Center  
800 Fort Negley Boulevard  
Nashville, TN 37203

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MAY 2009

## INSIDE

- **The Road Less Traveled** – page 1
- **Loved Memphis; See You in Murfreesboro** – page 2
- **Scholarship Check Presented** – page 3

### Welcome, New Partner Program Member

Strategies Group, Inc.  
1100 Satellite Blvd.  
Suwanee, GA 30024  
404-816-8177  
www.strategiesgroup.com

Contact:  
Randy Collins  
rc@strategiesgroup.com

Strategies Group assists clients throughout the Southeast with technology product selection, training, implementation and support needs. It represents the most recognized and trusted software products available and offers complete solutions to customers so their businesses can continue to grow and thrive. Its *Discover, Design, Deploy and Deliver* methodology means clients receive the maximum benefits and return on investment from their technology solutions.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Annual Meeting June 17-19: Green, Green & Green

by Candy Toler  
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

The Joint Annual Meeting of ACEC of Tennessee and the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) is set for June 17–19 in Murfreesboro.



Candy Toler

The emerging theme for the event is . . . green!

First, there's fun on the golf greens on Wednesday, June 17, at the Tennessee Engineering Foundation Golf Tournament to be held at the Vanderbilt Legends Club in Franklin. Then early on Thursday, June 18, the annual meeting officially begins with professional development sessions.

While the theme for the annual meeting is *Engineering Going Green*, there will be seminars on a variety of topics on the schedule. Eleven (11) professional development hours will be available to help you meet your licensing requirements this year.

What would the Annual Meeting be without the PAC Auction? Even if you cannot attend the entire meeting, plan to attend the Auction on Thursday evening for the entertainment! Although 2009 is not an election year, we need to raise money—some

green!—for the Engineers' Political Action Committee. Your help is needed. What items will you provide for the Auction? Or would you rather write a personal check to the PAC as your contribution to the cause? Either way, *your* PAC needs *your* contribution. Everett Cowan, PAC Chair, looks forward to hearing from you!

The annual meeting is a “green light” opportunity to catch up with your colleagues from across the state, visit with exhibitors to learn what's new, and recharge your batteries. Your participation will also help the economy of Murfreesboro as the city recovers from a devastating F4 tornado that hit on April 10, destroying almost 100 homes and damaging an additional 800 homes and businesses.

#### Up in D.C.

More than ten members went to Washington in April to participate in ACEC's conference. We met with Tennessee's senators and representatives to discuss our concerns about the condition of our infrastructure, encourage more federal support for our water and wastewater needs, and urge SAFETEA LU reauthorization. I hope you will consider participating next year. It's a great opportunity to connect with federal lawmakers and talk about engineering issues.