

ACE RESOURCES

A newsletter for the Association
of Conservation Engineers

JANUARY 2020

Enhancing our Natural Resources

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2020 President's Message

What a great honor it is to be selected to lead the Association of Conservation Engineers (ACE), an international professional organization that will soon be entering its 59th year of existence. ACE was founded on March 6, 1961, in Washington, D.C. to bring engineering and other related design staff together from the state conservation, fish, game, and natural resource agencies to allow collaboration; such as sharing project experiences, problems, innovations; recognizing accomplishments and achievements; providing networking and training opportunities; and promoting careers in these professions. As the association evolved, membership by similar Federal agencies and consultants that work in these professions was advocated and encouraged.

Our mission remains constant, but oh how technology has changed the methods for delivering on this mission. One of my focus areas as President during the upcoming year will be to continue to look for ways to improve and provide new services for our membership using technology. I also want to continue the outreach effort to encourage new participation. Many new faces were seen at the conference this past year, and they represented many agencies that were not actively involved with ACE in recent years. We each need to continue to encourage our friends, associates, and co-workers that work in conservation-related fields to consider the benefits of being a member of ACE. Please consider reaching out to other agencies and consultants in your state and surrounding states to introduce them to our outstanding association.

I look forward to working with the new 2019-2020 ACE Board as we focus on making advances for ACE in these areas. If you are interested in volunteering to serve on a committee, please contact me to let me know. Visit the ACE website at <https://conservationengineers.org> for a current list of committee chairs and members. I especially want to thank outgoing president Terry Boyd for all he did during this past year to lead our association, in organizing a great conference, and in his focus on expanding membership, great job Terry!

Did you know that the state motto of Wyoming is "Equal Rights," and Wyoming was the first state to grant women the right to vote in 1869 (more precisely, women were allowed the right to vote so there would be enough voting citizens to meet the population requirement for statehood) and the first where women served on a jury. Laramie, Wyoming is scheduled to host next year's conference from October 18-22, 2020, and I am already excited about attending and seeing all that Wyoming has to offer. It is never too early to start planning to attend, and conference details will be coming out soon. Laramie is on a high plain between two mountain ranges, the Snowy Range, about 30 miles to the west, and the Laramie Range, 7 miles to the east. The city's elevation above sea level is about 7,165 feet, and the Laramie River runs through Laramie toward its confluence with the North Platte River east of the Laramie Range.

Lastly, I want to thank Terry Boyd and his staff from Alabama for hosting this year's conference. They set the bar high by extending their southern hospitality to all those that were able to attend our 58th annual conference in Gulf Shores, Alabama. The meeting was well attended and immensely enjoyed by all. From the venue to the food, to the field trips, to the program, to the service and hospitality by Terry and his staff, every aspect of the conference was excellent. I am from the show-me state of Missouri, and it left me wanting to say, "Roll Tide" to honor Terry and his staff and then end with a quote from the famous Alabamian, Forest Gump; "That's all I have to say about that."

Howard Thomas
ACE President

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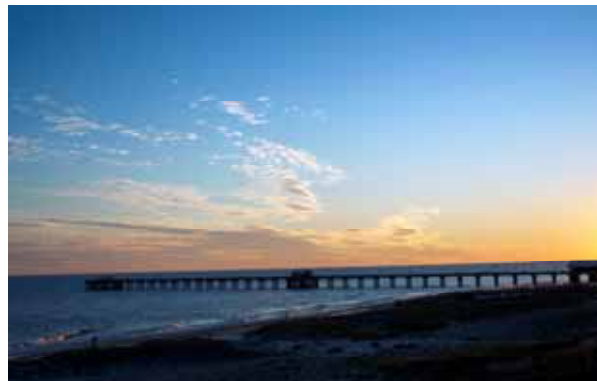


Laramie, Wyoming

ACE 2019-58th Annual Conference

58th Annual Association of Conservation Engineers Conference Report– Gulf Shores, Alabama

The Lodge at Gulf State Park (GSP), a Hilton Hotel, was the site for the 58th gathering of the Association of Conservation Engineers. The hotel was great, and the view was breathtaking (Gulf of Mexico) (picture). The conference kicked off with a reception at The Lodge with great food and drinks. We had 32 sponsors/exhibitors, with 12 exhibitors having booths at the meeting. Thanks again to all our sponsors/exhibitors, we could not have had this conference without them. The conference netted around \$5,800.00 after all the expenses and the



54 membership fees for the full attendees. We had 65 attendees on Monday, thanks to the US Forest Service engineering staff. The rest of the week, we had approximately 55 attendees. We had nine guests attend the full conference, and four more that participated in the banquet on Wednesday night. We had a day of stimulating and informative presentations on Monday. Monday night was dinner on your own. I heard from many who had great meals at local restaurants. On Tuesday, we had a couple of presentations, and then we boarded the bus for the GSP Interpretive Center down the beach from The Lodge. The interpretive center displayed a variety of environmentally friendly renewable resources and LEED materials. Everyone enjoyed a Subway sandwich under the GSP Pavilion while watching the waves break on the beach (picture). From there, we toured a Sun House designed by Debbie Coleman, thanks to (homeowner) for sharing her house with us. After an hour plus ride, we arrived at the Gulf Quest National Maritime Museum in Mobile on the Mobile River. (picture) The group spent 2 to 3 hours on a self-guided tour of the Museum and then we enjoyed gumbo and rice catered by the Organized Alabama Seafood Association and a few drinks from the bar, while we waited on the main course, a Low Country Boil

(shrimp, corn, potatoes, sausage, rolls). Thanks to the Seafood Association for a great seafood meal. We boarded the bus around 8 pm and headed back to The Lodge. About dozen or so chose to stay on the bus at the Lodge and travel to the FloraBama, a famous bar on the Alabama-Florida State Line. After a few drinks, thanks to owner John McInnis III, we boarded the bus back to the Lodge. (I believe a few tried the world-famous Bushwhacker) Wednesday, we were again treated to many excellent presentations, including Gary Wilken's update from last year "Looking Back – Looking Forward" with audience participation. The afternoon



included the business meeting and election of the new ACE officers for 2019-2020. The evening culminated with the conference banquet, and all enjoyed the 26th Annual Carl V. Anderson Conservation Project Engineering Award – in addition to a great steak or fish dinner at The Lodge. (thanks to Holly Bentz and Alice Anderson for the awards)

Thirty people attended Thursday's optional tour. We boarded the bus for a short trip (3 minutes) over to the GSP Pier, where Kelly Reetz, Park Naturalist, guided the group on an hour tour of the pier (the largest on the Gulf of Mexico). From there, we took another short trip (15 minutes) to the Claude Petet Mariculture Center. Max Westendorf, hatchery manager, guided the group through the 23,000 square foot facility, demonstrating the structure and showing the fish reared at the hatchery. The next stop was Wolf Bay Lodge in Foley for lunch, where



everyone enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the restaurant. Don't let someone tell you they can feed 30 people in one-hour ordering off the regular menu, but all was good. The next stop was the Weeks Bay Reserve Welcome Center. Mike Shelton gave us a short overview of the Weeks Bay Estuary. It is one of seven National Estuaries in the country. From there, we made the short ride down to the boat dock on the Fish River Weeks Bay convergence and boarded the large pontoon boat with caption Eric Brunden piloting and Mike Shelton narrating the tour. The tour lasted about two hours, cruising Weeks Bay and the Magnolia River. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful sensory of plants, wildlife, homes, and docks. The group returned to the Lodge around 5:00 pm.

I want to thank all the DCNR staff that assisted with Conference, the sponsor/exhibitors, the ACE Board – along with all those that attended, without all of you, this conference could not have been a success! **I want to extend a special thanks to all the first-time attendees this year. We hope you enjoyed yourselves and realized benefits from attending the ACE Conference.** Please start planning to participate in next year's conference in Laramie, Wyoming!!



Terry N. Boyd
2019 Conference Host

ACE 2019-58th Annual Conference (Photos cont.)



Maritime Museum



Weeks Bay



Duck Creek Conservation Area



Gulf State Park



Banquet at The Lodge



Gulf State Park Pier

Please remember to thank and support the sponsors of the 2019 ACE Conference.

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26th Annual Carl V. Anderson Conservation Engineering Project Award

2019 was the 26th year for the Carl V. Anderson Conservation Project Awards. The award is the namesake of ACE member Carl V. Anderson. Carl had been developing the idea of the award competition before his passing. Carl joined ACE in 1977 and was president in 1996-1997. Awarded annually, the Carl V. Anderson Conservation Project Awards recognize ACE members for outstanding projects in conservation engineering. The purpose of the award competition is to give recognition to those members, consultants, and their departments whose work, as judged by their peers and associates, best exhibits the goals and objectives of the Association of Conservation Engineers. Submitted projects are excellent examples of engineering, maintaining, and improving access and enjoyment of the natural world. Any governmental or non-governmental agency or owner, or its selected consultant, engaged in fields of recreation, wildlife preservation, tourism and conservation, and restoration of the natural and historic environment which is a member or has completed an application for ACE membership, is eligible for this awards program.



Terry N. Boyd presents the Carl V. Anderson Engineering Project Award to the Mattheuw Preneger of the MDOC

The Missouri Department of Conservation was given the 2019 Award of Excellence at the 58th Annual ACE Conference in Gulf Shores, Alabama. The Duck Creek Conservation Area Golden Anniversary Wetlands Initiative was the awarded project. Puxico, Missouri, is the location of the Duck Creek Conservation Area. For the past ten years, Duck Creek Conservation Area has been undergoing significant renovations to the aging infrastructure. This project is an example of the evolution of philosophy for managing the complex and altered landscape of a floodplain. Historical development has altered the hydrologic regime and the Golden Anniversary Wetlands Initiative project attempted to recreate the historic temporal and spatial patterns by mimicking the pre-settlement slough systems. In total, this project included: 10 miles of ditch cleaning and reshaping; 50 replaced or new water control structures; 1,400 acres of grading; over 15 miles of sculpted levees; 13.5 miles of new ditches; 8 footbridges; 2 ADA floating fishing docks; and two concrete boat ramps with courtesy skid docks. This project is an excellent example of the Missouri Department of Conservation's efforts of providing for wildlife and connecting people with nature.

(See photos next page)





2020 ACE Conference Update

1. 2020 CONFERENCE STILL IN LARAMIE, WY. OCTOBER 18-22, 2020. Currently working on details with the Hampton Inn to finalize room rates, but all talks are encouraging.
2. Offsite tours tentatively scheduled for the
 3. The University of Wyoming - High Bay Research Facility (<https://www.uwyo.edu/uw/news/2017/08/uw-cuts-ribbon-on-one-of-a-kind-high-bay-research-facility.html>) and (<https://coifpm.com/>)
 - b. University of Wyoming – College of Engineering and Applied Science building (<http://www.uwyo.edu/ceas/>)
 - c. Wyoming Game and Fish – Laramie Regional Office and Wildlife Forensic and Fish Health Laboratory (<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/About-Us/Offices-and-Facilities/Game-and-Fish-Lab>)
3. Some presentation topics will be Stream Restoration, Fish Passage, Wind Energy, Water Conservation in a Headwaters State.
4. Some of the goings-on for the Conservation Engineering Branch of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department;



Bridge replacement at the South Park Wildlife Habitat Management Area. The new bridge will accommodate pedestrian travel as well as equipment travel during farming operations and winter access for horse & sleigh on the adjacent elk feed ground.



The study of a fish entrainment issue at an irrigation siphon produced a Kodak moment.



West Pass Creek Fish Barrier – Yellowstone Cutthroat Rehabilitation Project-upstream barrier constructed in 2018.



West Pass Creek Fish Barrier – Yellowstone Cutthroat Rehabilitation Project-downstream barrier completed December 2019.

My Nissan LEAF, electric vehicle (EV), just turned 9,000 miles! I bought it in June 2018, and have been enjoying, learning, and feeling good about this emerging technology. One of the best things that I love about the (newer) LEAFs is the ePedal feature. The [e-Pedal](#) lets me start moving, accelerate/ decelerate and stop by using just the accelerator pedal. Think – accelerate by pushing down, decelerate by letting up. The benefit of the e-Pedal is it uses regenerative braking to charge the battery, all the way to a complete stop. Occasionally, I'll make it through an entire day without using the brake pedal!!!



Natalie Little
US Forrest Service

Association of Conservation Engineers

ACE Objectives

- 1) To encourage and broaden the educational, social and economic interests of engineering practices.*
- 2) To promote the recognition of the importance of sound engineering practices in fish, wildlife and recreation development.*
- 3) To enable each member to utilize the experiences of other members.*
- 4) To generally take all such proper action that may be necessary to further the cause of fish, wildlife and recreational developments.*

