



Behind the scenes –
Larry and Nancy Patella



Dredger of the Year Bob
Randall receives his award
from John Adams



Welcome to San Diego
– Tony Heinrichs



Patricia Herbich receiving the
Lifetime Achievement Award
on behalf of her father



Joe Gailani
wins Best Paper

Welcome Back!

WEDA executive director Larry Patella was based in San Diego for many years while a US Navy commander and the port city proved an excellent venue for WEDA XXVI and Texas A&M's 38th Annual Congress, writes TONY SLINN

It was a poignant Congress too, dedicated to the late **George Watts**, WEDA executive director from 1978 to 1993, who died in March.

"A 30-year veteran of the US Army Corps of Engineers, George was one of the founding fathers of WEDA," said president **John Adams** at the opening ceremony, calling for a minute of silence in George's honour.

San Diego port director **Tony Heinrichs** got the Congress underway with an opening address that highlighted not only the port's commercial value – 600 employees and \$117M revenues in 2005 – but

its overall role "as an environmental steward. We oversee the protection and development of public tidelands surrounding San Diego Bay, including 16 parks," he said.

The port also spends over \$1M a year on its community-based public art programme, 'created to promote a healthy, vibrant atmosphere that contributes to the quality and identity of the region, encouraging artistic expression and inspiring a sense of civic pride.'

Col. **Alex Dornstauder**, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Los Angeles district commander, then gave

delegates an overview of his region that "covers 420 miles of shore line with 14 harbours, including San Diego, and has environmental extremes from Mount Whitney to Death Valley, 335 endangered species and 30M+ people!"

He explained how the total regional budget of \$643.9M was split and highlighted developments in all areas, including the \$11.3M to be spent on dredging and breakwaters at the 14 ports in 2007. His concern, however, is that California's growing rapidly while the USACE budget is not.

"One in ten Americans live here and 500,000 more join them every year," he

Quotes

The lighter side of the Congress...

◆ "With all his degrees and awards, I don't know where he found time to marry and have two children!" **John Adams** introducing Col. Alex Dornstauder.

◆ "You're going to see a lot of 'nines' on my slides..." **Alex Mansfield**, whose bullet points were transformed into multiple figure nines.

◆ "If you're on holiday in the Caribbean and you feel you really must know what your dredge is doing, you can log on and take a look!" **Marc Wakeman** describing real-time internet monitoring of dredging projects.

◆ "I've found the dredging industry is doing an excellent job – the problem is having the data to prove it..." **Gary Howell** on why the 'Silent Inspector' scheme is being introduced.

◆ "Some people think that dredging is not a good thing, so we tell them that this reduces dredging frequency!" **Marcel Hermans** talking about the Port of Portland's underwater grading vessel.

◆ "I don't need to get around the Jones Act; I'm just stating what's possible..." **Hans Otten's** theoretical paper on preventing hurricane damage by building barrier islands relied on a jumbo TSHD (about 20,000+m3) to be cost-effective. But the biggest TSHD in the US fleet is around half that size...

◆ "It was one of the most fun field jobs I've ever had..." **Joe Germano's** study of the effects wood waste had on Thorne Bay, Alaska.

◆ "Just because Lisa and Maheyar were known as Mama Bear and Papa Bear, that does not make me Baby Bear!" **Scott Thompson**, part of a 25-strong team led by Lisa Baron and Maheyar Bilimoria that monitored dredging in the heavily contaminated Lower Passaic River.

◆ "If this were a dredge, we could fix it!" **Mike Palermo** when the AV system broke down during his presentation.

◆ "The problem is that the pie is not getting any bigger..." **Tom Verna** commenting on USACE's budget compared with the vast amount of dredging that needs to be done.

◆ "You'd never get away with doing it today!" **Peggy Myre** describing the 55,000m3 mound of PCB-contaminated dredged material dumped in Long Island Sound in 1983 and now a unique 'natural laboratory.'

◆ "Advance warning: this presentation contains some chemistry – but I'll try and keep it as harmless as possible!" **Dewey Hunter** explaining how polymers can be used to treat sediment.

◆ "I'm looking forward to WODCON – I'll have Mickey Mouse by my side..." **Bob Randall** reflecting that WODCON 2007's venue is on Disney property.



Tom Verna



John Adams



Hans Otten



Gary Howell



Marc Wakeman



Peggy Myre



Marcel Hermans



Scott Thompson



Mike Palermo



Bob Randall



Alex Mansfield



Joe Germano

Ever Wanted To See Alaska?

Now's your chance, writes Pacific Chapter chairman John Lally

The chapter's next meeting will be held October 17-19 at the *Anchorage Marriott Downtown* and if you book prior to September 18, you'll get the special WEDA Pacific group rate of \$95 per night – call (800) 228 9290 from within the USA or +1 (907) 792 2108 from elsewhere.

On the agenda Tuesday afternoon is the US Army Corps of Engineers' *West Coast 2007 Federal Dredging Programme*, followed by a hosted *Ice Breaker* that evening. Wednesday's devoted to technical papers and a keynote luncheon speaker, followed by a bus tour of the Port of Anchorage and

surrounding area. And Thursday morning continues with technical presentations, concluding with chapter business about noon. [More info from John Lally at +1 \(206\) 524 4132 or email \[jlally@cfbean.com\]\(mailto:jlally@cfbean.com\)](#)



John Lally

said. "We don't have a plan that looks 20 years ahead and how that's going to come together..."

GETTING BIGGER

Over the years I've been attending the Congress, not only has the exhibition about doubled in size, but so have the number of papers presented. The only thing that hasn't grown is the number of hours – which results in simultaneous sessions. Yet another was announced at the opening ceremony for Monday's Texas A&M programme.

That makes it impossible for delegates to hear every presenter in person, which, in my view, is a pity – I'd personally like to see the Congress extended by a day.

Those papers I listened to were very good, but I always had the nagging feeling I should have been in the other session... And while the comprehensive CD of proceedings (available from the secretariat) is a valuable document, you don't get the atmosphere – or the authors' asides and personal comments. DPC will, of course, be running edited versions of papers in future issues.

Sermon over. But if you agree, let WEDA know.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Congress is also host to WEDA's annual general membership meeting, at which **John Adams** reported that the association now has 3,800 members in total, having attracted 566 new people.

"Our chapters are growing fast and are already holding regular meetings," he commented, citing the **Panama Chapter** meeting held earlier this year (*see panel*), the forthcoming **Pacific Chapter** meeting in October (*see panel*) and the new **Brazilian Chapter's** first meeting – "the folks in Brazil say we're looking at 2007, probably in the fall," he said.

It's also WEDA's turn to host **WODCON** in 2007 (*see panel*) and John urged delegates to attend,

concluding by thanking **Larry** and **Nancy Patella** and the sponsors "for all their hard work behind the scenes."

Thanks also went to retiring board members **John Pauling** and **Miguel Yanez**. **Dr. Ram Mohan**, **Greg Hartman** and **Prof. Bob Randall** were re-elected (through to 2009) and new members include **Richard Weber** (*Natural Resource Technology*), **Dan Hussin** (*Manson Construction*), **Capt. Peter Marotta** (*Panama Canal Authority*) and **Don Hayes** (*University of Utah*).

Highlight of WEDA's AGMs, however, is finding out who's won its two most prestigious awards:

- ◆ **Lifetime Achievement** – which went to **Dr. John Herbich**, and
- ◆ **Dredger of the Year** – **Dr. Bob Randall**.

The **W. H. Bauer Professor Emeritus** in the Coastal and Ocean Division at Texas A&M University, **John Herbich's** gained degrees and awards from universities the world over, including Edinburgh, Scotland; Minnesota; Pennsylvania and TU Delft, Holland.

He joined Texas A&M in 1967 and initiated and developed both the *Centre for Dredging Studies* in 1968 and *Ocean Engineering* in 1973.

He's very much 'hands-on', serving as project manager of the United Nations Development Programme in Poona, India (1972-1973) and visiting professor at the USACE Waterways Experiment Station (1987-1988). In 1993 he received the American Society of Civil Engineers' *International Coastal Engineering Award* and in 1995 he was WEDA's *Dredger of Year*.

In summation, 'a learned scholar, internationally recognized consultant, researcher and educator. And his awareness that advances in dredge technology were among the best kept secrets in the marine construction industry led to his authoring and publishing over 12 handbooks and nine technical papers at successive WODCONs, giving the industry a vast

reservoir of technical information.'

Professor of Ocean and Civil Engineering at Texas A&M University, **Bob Randall's** 'a treasured WEDA member who has by his enthusiasm, high degree of professionalism and outstanding initiative made significant and far-reaching contributions.

'The author or co-author of 23 technical papers published in referred journals and seven papers presented at various World Dredging Congresses, he's also written a book on dredging, contributed chapters to six others and, through 52 written contributions to dredge conference proceedings and professional magazines, made significant contributions to an industry that's often reluctant to share new discoveries, information or technical advances. He's also produced 90 significant reports on dredging and organized, conducted or participated in over 100 dredging conferences, symposiums and seminars – not least organising and moderating the Texas A&M annual event.'

A WEDA board member since 1994, **Bob's** also a charter member of the *Environmental Commission*, associate editor of the *Journal of Dredging Engineering* and has received over 30 honours, awards, listings and patents. He serves on both the WEDA and WODA technical papers committees and 'is recognized throughout the dredging industry and the academic world as an outstanding educator and expert in the field of dredging, coastal and ocean engineering.'

The AGM concluded with a talk by USACE's **Angie Premo** who gave an overview of the Corps' work, especially dredging.

"Projects are urgently needed to cope with both increasing trade and larger ships," she said. "The 8,000 teu container vessel is here now."

Resources, however, are likely to be stretched, especially clearing up after Katrina, she commented. "But we've restored 220 miles of levees and floodwalls in the New Orleans area and by 2010, using best engineering and lessons learned, we want to reduce flood and storm damage risks to 100-year levels."

STATE OF THE NATION

Angie's views were born out in the traditional USACE *National Dredging Programme Overview* given by **Ginny Pankow** and **Tom Verna**.

"The Corps has reorganized on business lines," said **Ginny**, "and our eight divisions are now also known as 'regional business centres'." That's also seen an update of the 1990-initiated *Dredging Information System* website, which includes new projects, contracts awarded and more.

"We've a lot of information, sliced and diced in various ways that, I promise, will be of interest to you –

have a look, it's at www.iwr.usace.army.mil/NDC/."

Tom made the point that nearly 78% of the US dredging requirement is in the Gulf and Atlantic – "We dredged 255.1M cubic yards in 2005," he said, "and we spent \$109.9M on beach nourishment."

But what of the future?

"The system's at capacity, but trade's expected to double by 2020," he continued. "Can we meet the requirement? Can our ports and harbours meet the new depth requirement of 8,000 teu ships today? The answer is no."

USACE and US ports would have to work together to cope not only with trade increases, but environmental concerns, safety and security issues, dredging windows, watershed management and more – "They're all competing for the project dollar and rightly so," he said.

He was concerned, however, about mounting costs.

"I was amazed that the dredging pilot on the [heavily contaminated] Lower Passaic River – just 5,000 cubic yards – cost \$1M with the monitoring also costing \$1M. That just blows me away. We've got to manage better than that."

And he chided delegates: "There are words creeping back into the dredging business I want to get rid of: 'disposal', 'spoil' and 'waste'. We've got to take the negatives out of this business and emphasize the positives – it's 'dredged material' and 'placement'!" he concluded.

FINALLY...

Winding up the Congress, John Adams thanked the 285 attendees, 47 exhibitors and 25 spouses who booked (there were also 31 people who paid just to visit the exhibition).

"These events don't just happen," he said, "a tremendous amount of work goes into them and we thank everyone who played a part."

Which just left the traditional three prizes for best papers, presented by 2005's Dredger of the Year **Dr. Ram Mohan**:

First – Joe Gailani and S. Smith for *Numerical Modelling Studies Supporting Nearshore Placement of Dredged Material from the Savannah River Entrance Channel*

Second – Mark Otten for *Environmental Dredging v. Shoreline Stability*

Third – Steve Weinberg and John Tavolaro for *An Evaluation of Overdepth Dredging and its Engineering and Environmental Implications: Case Studies from the Northeast*.

In all, an excellent Congress with only one disappointment: I failed, again, to win the major 'door prize' – the \$500 went to Don Pommer!

[More info at www.westernredging.org](http://www.westernredging.org)

Panama Reporting

So what has WEDA Panama been doing? We've been laying foundations, writes Chapter President CAPT. PETER MAROTTA

And we hope those foundations will ensure an effective, productive organization of professional people that will make a positive contribution to the Panama Canal, the country of Panama and to the development of the art and science of dredging.

This is no small undertaking for us. It includes the legalities of establishment, logistics of administrative assets, a drive to increase and maintain membership and, of course, financial assets.

I'm doing a lot of legwork to put it all together and that's one reason it's taking so much time. We've a varied, international board and trying to get everyone together for a meeting is a bit challenging. That said, we should have our charter legally established very soon and once that's complete, we'll begin a more aggressive membership drive and start planning for our annual conference.

Since our first meeting here in Panama, we've also restructured the board slightly and apart from myself, directors are:

Chairman – Manuel Alvarado, Panama Canal Authority (ACP)

Programme Director – Mike Bolton, Van Oord

Secretary – Bernard Bezemer, Boskalis

Treasurer – Wouter Borghis, Dredging International

Members – Jose Guillermo Lewis, Damen Shipyards; Hans Risseeuw, Nederlander Overseas Corp; Luis Santanach, ACP, and Carlos Rodgers, ACP.

I'm also happy to report that we're receiving support from the ACP – officials have allowed us one of their offices to use as a meeting hall.

When we hold our own first annual conference, we hope the Canal expansion will have become a reality and you'll see the dirt flying – until then, see you at WODCON!

More info via email:

pmarotta@pancanal.com



President Marotta

Booked For WODCON?

The 18th World Dredging Congress is only a few months away, May 27 to June 1, 2007, at the Wyndham Palace Resort in Orlando, Florida...

Themed *Dredging and its Impact on the Global Economy and Environment*, topics will cover the following: economic benefits of dredging; dredging and navigation; beneficial uses of dredged material; wetland creation and restoration; dredging systems and techniques; new dredging equipment; surveying and equipment; cost estimating; environmental concerns; rivers and inland dredging; geotechnical aspects; dredging and beach nourishment; dredging automation numerical modelling; contaminated sediments and project case studies.

And you still have a little time if you'd like to give a paper – submit a one-page abstract to one of the following WEDA *Technical Papers Committee* members before October 15:

◆ **Ram Mohan** – tel: +1-610-337-7601, fax: +1-610-337-7609, email: rkm@bbl-inc.com

◆ **Bob Randall** – tel: +1-979-845-4568, fax: +1-979-862-8162, email: r-randall@tamu.edu

◆ **Stephen Garbaciak** – tel: +1-312-332-4937, fax: +1-312-332-4434, email: sdg@bbl-inc.com

EADA region authors should send abstracts to EADA chairman John Dobson at dobsoncj@hotmail.com, or Capt. David Padman at the EADA secretariat: david@pka.gov.my.

CEDA region authors should send abstracts to general manager Anna Csiti at ceda@dredging.org.

More info at www.westernredging.org/woda_xviii.php