

# ONGOING PROJECTS with funding assistance from Red River Waterway Commission

## Rapides Parish

Ft. Randolph - Civil War park development

## Natchitoches Parish

Port of Natchitoches - Dock / Fill project

Natchitoches - Grand Ecore, Phase II

Port of Natchitoches - Operations Center

## Red River Parish

Red River Parish Port - Initial phase

Red River Parish Port - ISG

## Caddo/Bossier Parish

Port of Shreveport-Bossier - Omni Industries project

Port of Shreveport-Bossier - Slack water slip/shipbuilding facility

City of Bossier City - Riverwalk

Port of Shreveport-Bossier - Steelscape project

Port of Shreveport-Bossier - Material Handling Equipment

[www.redriverwaterway.com](http://www.redriverwaterway.com)

*These projects represent over \$18 million in funding assistance from the RRWC.*

Johnny B. Bradberry, Chairman; Ed Preau, Acting Chairman; Marc Dupuy, Jr., Vice Chairman;

James F. Maxey, Secretary/Treasurer; Kenneth P. Guidry, Executive Director.

Commissioners: Harmon Belgard, Rapides Parish; Charles E. Britton, At-Large; Wayne Davis, Bossier Parish; Marc Dupuy, Jr., Avoyelles Parish; Paul Fleming, Natchitoches Parish; Randell Fletcher, Grant Parish; James F. Maxey, At-Large; W. Alvin Owens, At-Large; Rogers "Mickey" Prestridge, Caddo Parish; Michael Simpson, Red River Parish.

For more information, call the Red River Waterway Commission at 1-800-874-9431.

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# River Living



[www.redriverwaterway.com](http://www.redriverwaterway.com)

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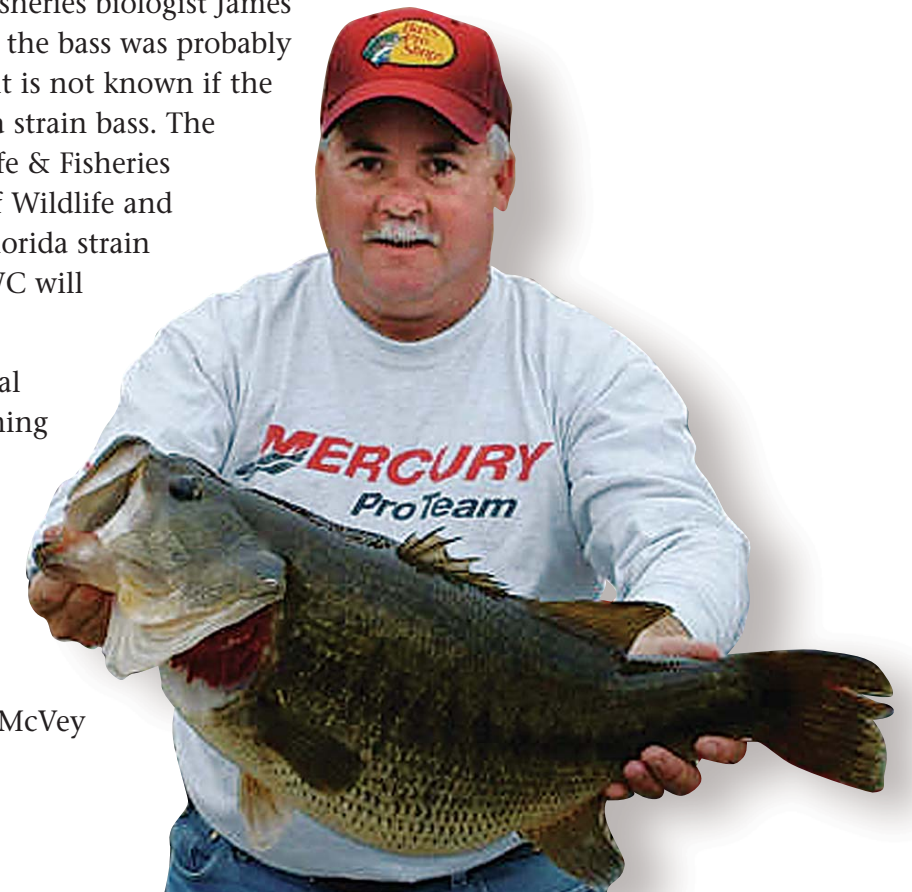
## Big Fish!

Everyone knew someday, somewhere, someone would land a truly big bass on Red River. The question wasn't if someone would catch it. The question was when. On Wednesday, February 22, 2006, at 10 a.m., lightning struck Bass Pro Shops pro Russ McVey when he landed a 13.63 pound largemouth bass near Clark's Landing. The 25.5 inch long bass (with a 23.75-inch girth) is thought to be the largest bass ever recorded on Red River.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries biologist James Seales told the The Times (Shreveport) the bass was probably at least eight years old. At press time, it is not known if the fish is a native species bass or a Florida strain bass. The RRWC, in conjunction with LA Wildlife & Fisheries Foundation and the LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries have released over 260,000 Florida strain large-mouth bass since 2002. The RRWC will release another 58,000 fish this fall.

McVey had been on the river for several hours that morning guiding for Wyoming businessman Chris Nerud when he caught the nearly 14 pound monster at the southern end of Ninock, an oxbow also known as Homer's Cut, located near Lock & Dam #5.

"A fish this size is a once-in-a-lifetime catch that people only dream about," McVey said. "It's been a long time coming."



## JOHNSTON VISITOR CENTER

A crowd of nearly 200 people celebrated the opening of the new J. Bennett Johnston Regional Visitor Center in downtown Shreveport, LA, Thursday, February 23, 2006. The center represents the four states: Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma.



recreation and environmental concerns. The 8,300 square foot center includes a reception area, theater and exhibition hall with audio-visual, static and interactive exhibits.

The keynote speaker, former Senator J. Bennett Johnston, spoke on his childhood memories growing up near the Red and the hard work it took to make the Red River Waterway Project become reality.

The dedication ceremony was hosted by the Red River Valley Association, the Red River Waterway Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The new Visitor Center, which is open free to the public, is part of the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway Project and features all aspects of the Red River, from navigation to

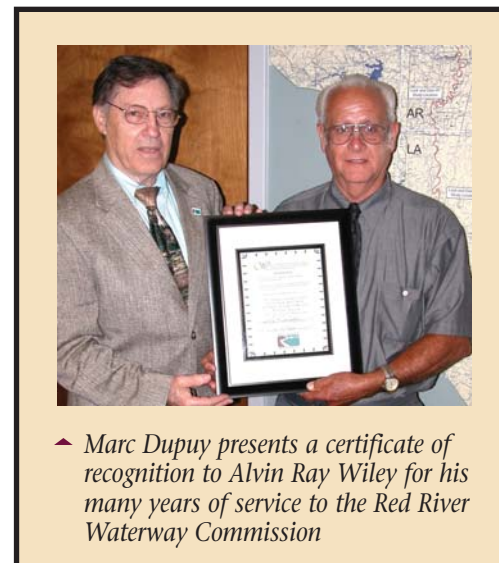


## GOVERNOR APPOINTS NEW COMMISSIONERS



Mr. Rogers "Mickey" Prestridge brings close to 20 years experience serving on the Caddo-Bossier Port Commission to the RRWC. "I have a great deal invested in the River," said Mr. Prestridge, "and I look forward to continuing my efforts to help make the river better." Mr. Prestridge serves Caddo Parish.

Mr. Charles E. Britton, a lifelong educator from Avoyelles Parish, added that he feels fortunate to be given the opportunity to serve. Said Britton, "I just hope I can have a positive impact on the river and in turn, the state of Louisiana." Mr. Britton serves as an at-large commissioner.



▲ Marc Dupuy presents a certificate of recognition to Alvin Ray Wiley for his many years of service to the Red River Waterway Commission

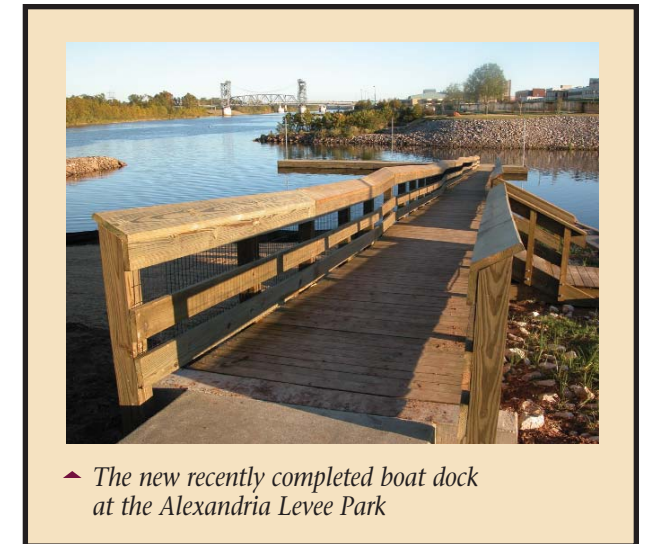
## Happy Campers in Colfax



The Colfax Recreation Area was the site for the formal opening of the new Activity Center on March 15. The facility offers a meeting area for up to 70 people, as well

as a kitchen and restrooms. Among the crowd gathered for the open house was a group known as the Cajun Travelers, campers comprised of 24 couples from around the state of Louisiana. They were so impressed with the facilities here on an earlier get-

together that they have returned for a second visit. As one of the campers stated, they like the fact that there are concrete pads for their trailers, a locked security gate at night, and patrolling sheriff deputies. For reservation requests, go to [www.redriverwaterway.com](http://www.redriverwaterway.com).



▲ The new recently completed boat dock at the Alexandria Levee Park

## 2005 RECAP

*"It is the effort of many that create the ripples that can move mountains."*

– Unknown

Good things happen to those who wait. And even better things happen to those who work hard for something year after year. 2005 was another banner year for the Red River Waterway.

The Red River Waterway's recreation areas had the best year ever with over 2.34 million visitors enjoying our recreation facilities. The Commission completed the boat dock addition at the Alexandria Levee Park and a 2,400 square foot Activity Center at Colfax Recreation Area.

The Red River Waterway Commission, along with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation and the Louisiana Department of Wild life and Fisheries released another 58,000 Florida largemouth bass into the Red River, bringing the total number of released fish into the River at 260,000 since the program began in 2002.

Bass tournaments in 2006 will be at an all-time high and with the news rapidly spreading about the record

bass caught near Clark's Marina, you can bet that number will skyrocket in the coming years.

All four ports continue to meet or exceed proposed predictions. The Alexandria Regional Port continues to be a national model for National Guard equipment deployment. Ground was broken at the Port of Shreveport-Bossier for two major additions. Steelscape, Inc. completed phase one of its facility, and is producing cold-rolled, metallic-coated and painted steel coils. It is estimated that this facility will cost approximately \$200 million and will produce 240 permanent jobs.

Lastly, Cleco Power announced the planned construction of a new power generating unit incorporating state-of-the-art Clean-Coal technology at its Rodemacher Power Station near Boyce. The new power unit will reportedly cost \$1 billion to construct and will create 80 permanent jobs.