



Representatives of the City of Greenwood, Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board and Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks gathered in April at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Greenwood Boat Ramp, located near Downtown Greenwood on the Yazoo River. The boat ramp is the result of grant monies from the City of Greenwood, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board.

Work to Begin on New Segment of Upper Yazoo Project

The Corps of Engineers will begin seeking bids on July 10 for work on Upper Yazoo Project item 6B, approximately 10 miles stretching from Highway 8 West of Philip to River Road in Tallahatchie County. The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee District's Upper Yazoo Project is a

federally funded Corps of Engineers project that began in 1976 near Yazoo City and focuses on cleaning out and restoring channel capacity to the Yazoo River and its tributaries at a rate of 10 to 11 miles per year. Over 140 miles have been completed with 55 miles remaining.



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LINKS & PARTNERS

Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee District
www.leveeboard.org

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — Vicksburg District
www.mvk.usace.army.mil

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — Memphis District
www.mvm.usace.army.mil

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — Five Day River Forecasts
www.mvm.usace.army.mil/hydraulics/docs/nws/msrv3.txt

Waterways Experiment Station
www.wes.army.mil

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
www.mdwfp.com

USGS National Mapping Information
www.nationalmap.gov

Mississippi Forestry Commission
www.mfc.state.ms.us



The River's Edge

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New FEMA Warnings Create Fear of Levees

Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board Plans Appeal in Map Modernization Program

The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board plans to file an appeal against the new warnings included on maps updated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Map Modernization Program. These warnings advise that the time- and water-tested levees could fail — with devastating consequences — and encourage property owners to purchase flood insurance.

“We are more concerned with the dire wording of the warnings on the maps than with the changes in the flood zones,” said Kelly Greenwood, Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board CEO. “The wording is so alarming that it will likely prompt mortgage lenders to begin requiring flood insurance for homes and businesses in communities protected by the levee. This could be economically disastrous for the Mississippi Delta.”

Greenwood says that the warning discounts the board's flood-control structures and efforts to protect the citizens of the Delta. The warning states that areas protected from the one-percent, annual chance (100-year) flood of the Mississippi



River may be at risk; when, in fact, the levees maintained by the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board offer greater than 500-year protection, which is only a .02 percent risk of main-line levee failure.

“Why effectively tax the citizens for 100-year flood insurance protection behind a levee that offers 500-year protection?” Greenwood said. “The mainline levee offers Project Flood Protection, which is substantially greater than 100-year protection.”

The Mississippi mainline levee system was developed and designed under the Flood Control Act of 1928 in response to the Great Flood of 1927 to pass, safely, the

“maximum probable” event involving river levels several feet higher than anything recorded.

For 49 consecutive years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has presented the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board with an award for Outstanding Maintenance of Flood Control Facilities. “Our levees cannot be compared to the levees in New Orleans or Missouri,” Greenwood said.

“During one of the greatest disasters in the Mississippi Delta – the Great Flood of 1927 – our levees did not break.”

To view maps, please visit <http://geology.deq.ms.gov/floodmaps/status.aspx>.

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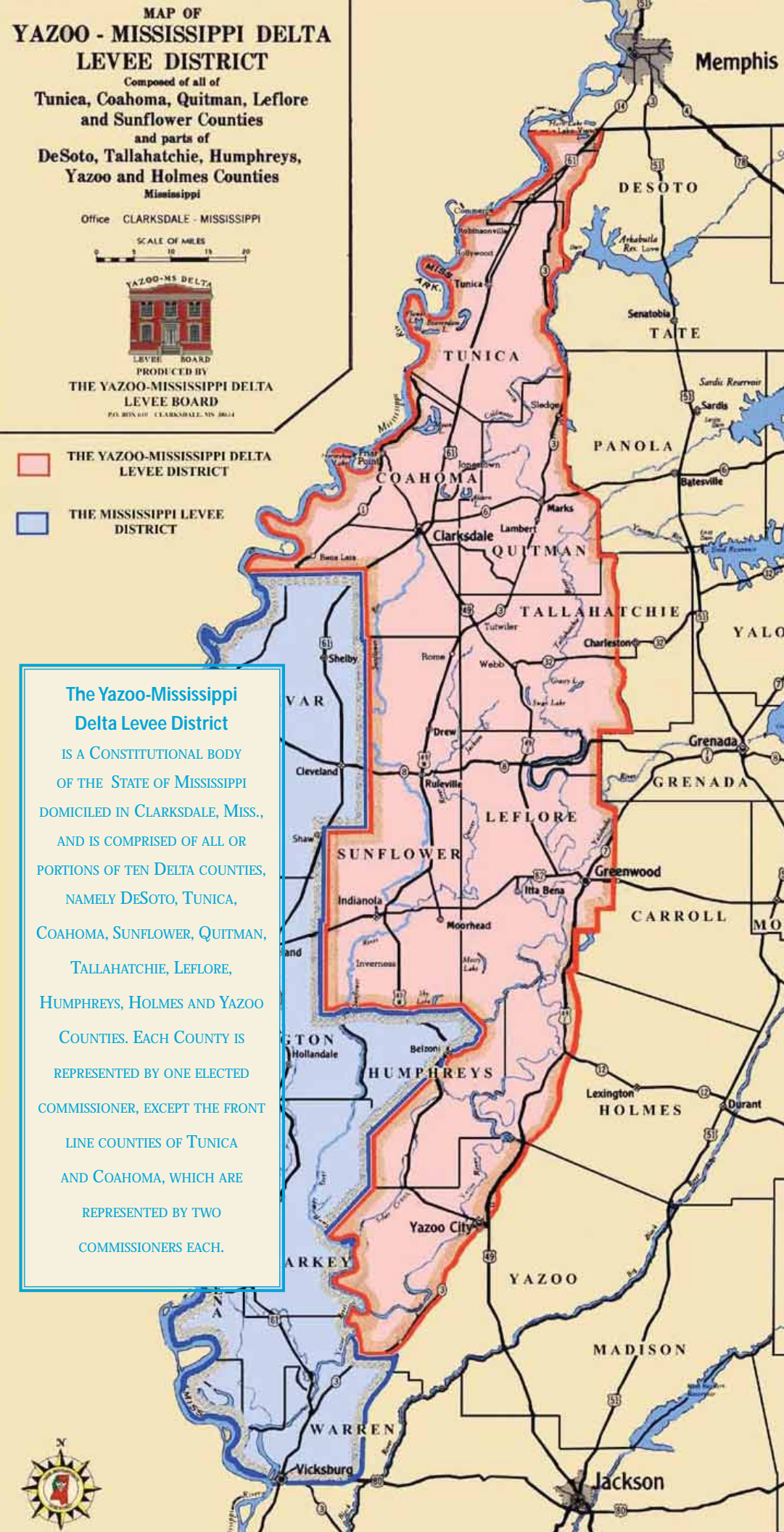
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Students Catch Fish, Fun and Fellowship at Fishing Rodeo

Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board & Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks Combine Resources

More than 150 fifth and sixth grade students from Coahoma County schools tested new waters in April at a fishing rodeo sponsored by the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board (YMDLB) and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP).

Students from Lyon Elementary, Sherard Elementary and Friars Point Elementary Schools were bused to Mile 78 Landside, one of 26 public fishing holes within Coahoma and Tunica Counties, to try their hands at catching prize-winning catfish.

“Many of these young men and women have never held a rod and reel, much less baited a hook,” said Sykes Sturdivant, YMDLB president. “Through this partnership, we hope to influence these children’s lives for the better by giving them the chance to try a new experience, one they might enjoy and pursue on their own.”

Sturdivant said that YMDLB hopes to partner with MDWFP to make three rodeos each year annual events, each held at YMDLB district fishing holes normally open to the public.

Volunteers from the Coahoma Community College baseball and soccer teams helped students catch fish from a netted-off area of the pond stocked with 500 catfish. Approximately 50 of the catfish were tagged, and students redeemed the tags for prizes.

YMDLB board members and staff and MDWFP employees also volunteered.

“We are changing lives,” said Sherry Hazelwood, MDWFP special projects officer. “No child should ever miss this moment.”



(Above): Jamie Roberson, YMDLB emergency management coordinator, volunteered at a fishing rodeo sponsored by the board. More than 150 fifth and sixth grade students from Coahoma County schools attended the event.



Tunica RiverPark Museum

To view a part of history, visit the Tunica RiverPark Museum. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week, the Tunica RiverPark Museum is a 24,000 square-foot museum centered on the life of the Mississippi River and its history. The artifacts and interpretative exhibits date back to the days of early Indian civilization, highlighting life on the river and historical events, such as **the Flood of 1927**, giving visitors a true understanding of how the Delta and its residents adapted to the power of the river. Be sure to take special note of artifacts on loan from the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board, including a rifle, blasting box and a collection of surveying equipment. Also on loan are two model boats, both just over 50 inches long – a motor vessel and steam vessel built by Paul McKinney, a former Corps of Engineers employee.

For more information, visit <http://www.tunicariverpark.com/museum.asp>.

Take the Reins – Horse Trail Officially Opens



On May 1, the Clarence Cariker Horse Trail was officially opened to the public. Located along 2.5 miles of Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board (YMDLB) property, the trail can be accessed from a parking area off River Park Drive and stretches south towards Sam's Town Casino. Clarence Cariker, the trail's namesake, has represented Tunica County on the YMDLB since 1994. "Clarence is a visionary and truly supports what we do," said Kelly Greenwood, YMDLB CEO. "He supports us 100 percent and wanted this horse trail as an investment in Tunica County and for the benefit of horse lovers like himself."

For more information on the Clarence Cariker Horse Trail, call 662-624-4397.

Remembering the Flood of 1927, 80 Years Later



Despite the work accomplished under the Flood Control Act of 1919, the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 ravaged nearly the entire valley except the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee District. During the most destructive river flood in United States history, the Mississippi River breached levees and flooded 27,000 square miles, killing 246 people in seven states and displacing 700,000 more. The loss of life and loss of property convinced the Congress of the United States that a comprehensive federal plan was the only answer to floods of the Mississippi Valley. The result was the Flood Control Act of 1928, which adopted a Corps of Engineers' plan for levees, channel improvements, reservoirs and floodways.

The flood began when heavy rains pounded the central basin of the Mississippi River in the summer of 1926. By September, the Mississippi's tributaries in Kansas and Iowa were swollen to capacity. On New Year's Day of 1927, the Cumberland River at Nashville topped levees at 56.2 feet.

The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee withstood the flood rather well, and the 1897 levee crevasse at Flower Lake in Tunica County remains the last time the

Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levees breached. However, during the 1927 flood, foundation problems of boils and underseepage were quite severe. Large numbers of laborers were required to carry the many sandbags through the soft and treacherous areas at the landside toe of the levee. Extensive work was required to ensure the safety of the levee, and careful documentation was made of all problem areas. Because of these lessons, the 1941 Amendment to the Flood Control Act included construction of an impervious blanket along the face of the levee and extensive anti-seepage berms along the landside of the levee.

Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board projects such as berm extensions and cleaning and maintaining drainage ditches, continue to help residents in the area by preventing flooding.

"The last levee breach in our district was in 1897, and maintenance and improvements on the levees will continue our excellent record," said Kelly Greenwood, Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board CEO. "We will continue to work to ensure the safety of the residents in each of the ten counties that we serve and represent."

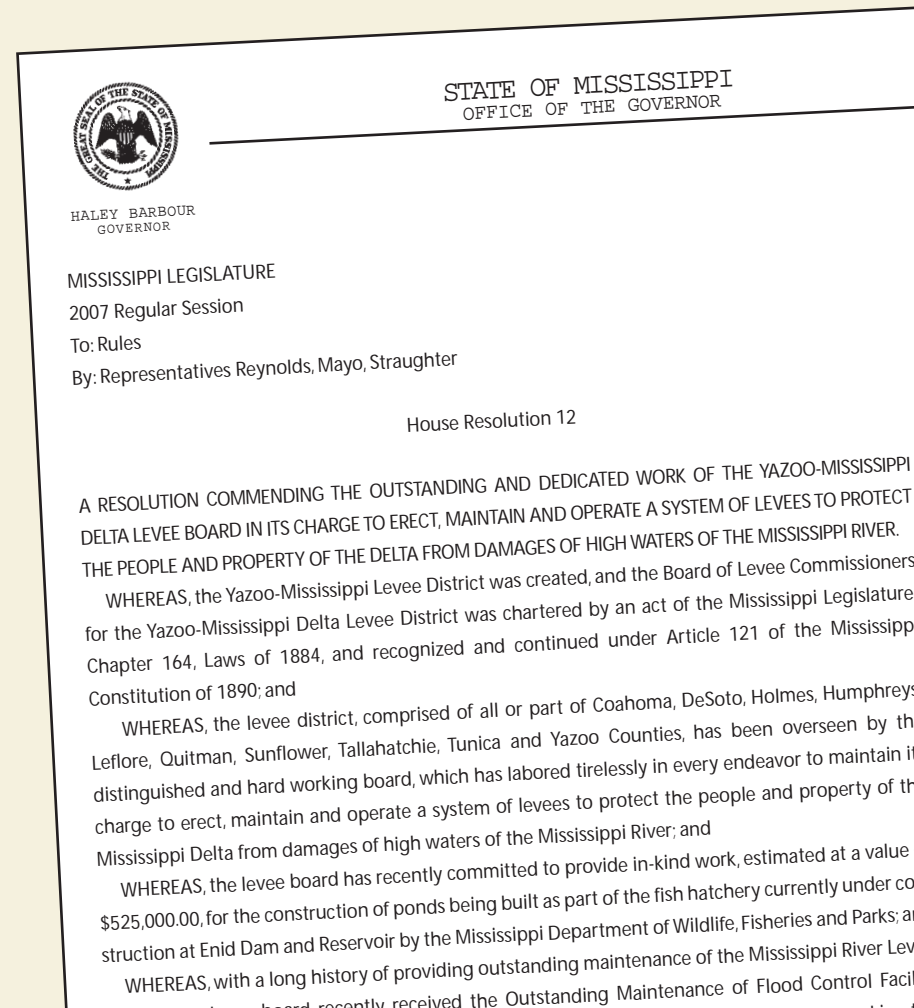
YMDLB Recognized by House of Representatives

In January, the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board (YMDLB) was recognized by the Mississippi Legislature with House Resolution 12, honoring the board for its "outstanding and dedicated work." Signed by Representatives John Morton Mayo (District 25-Coahoma, DeSoto and Tunica), Rufus E. Straughter (District 51-Humphreys, Issaquena, Sharkey, Washington and Yazoo) and Tommy Reynolds (District 33-Lafayette, Tallahatchie and Yalobusha), the resolution cites the ten counties "overseen by the distinguished and hardworking board, which has labored tirelessly in every endeavor to maintain its charge to erect, maintain and operate a system of levees to protect the people and property of the Mississippi Delta from damages of high waters of the Mississippi River."

David Williams, Jr. and Clarence Cariker, YMDLB Tunica County commissioners; Willie Simmons, District 13 Senator; Jerry Caffey, Quitman County YMDLB commissioner; Robert Sayle, DeSoto County YMDLB commissioner; and Philip Gunn, District 56 Representative.

"We appreciate the support shown by John Morton Mayo, Tommy Reynolds and Rufus E. Straughter, our legislative representatives," said Sykes Sturdivant, YMDLB president. "These men have once again shown their strong support of the

Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board's projects and the residents of the ten counties the board represents. Flood control and proper water management are basic keys to prosperity and quality of life in the Delta."



Kent Haney, Coahoma County YMDLB commissioner, and John Morton Mayo, District 25 Representative.



Rufus E. Straughter, District 51 Representative, and Sykes Sturdivant, YMDLB president.

Teachers Learn About the Levee

If rivers could talk, their words would fill the pages of several books.

From the evolution of the levee system to the break of 1927, the rivers are rich in history, and the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board (YMDLB) wants to make sure that history is known.

Through its Levee Education Workshop for Teachers, teachers in grades K-12 have met every summer since 2005 to gain experience on the functions of the YMDLB, its levee history and how levee maintenance is important to everyone in the region.

Dr. Luther Brown with the Delta Center for Cultural Learning at Delta State University oversees the program. Teachers are allowed to apply for scholarships to cover room and board during their stays. The workshops are comprised of presentations on the significance of the YMDLB, creating a curriculum for teachers' classrooms and viewing the historic site where the levee broke.

"The levee break of 1927 was a truly defining moment, not only in Delta history but in American history," Brown said.

Reggie Barnes, education consultant to the YMDLB, says that the gist of the YMDLB's education committee is to educate the public on why the board exists and what it means to the community.

"Most voters were not even aware that there were elections for the YMDLB commissioners," Barnes said. "So, a campaign was started involving school teachers to involve the students with the basics of the levee: the history of them, how they work and what part the river plays."

According to Barnes, approximately 18 teachers participated in the three-day workshop its first summer. In 2006, with funding from the *National Geographic Society*, the workshop was expanded to 20 days. This year, it will return to its original three-day status.

"The workshops are a good tool to provide teachers with information that is dis-



(Top & Lower Left) Reggie Barnes, education consultant to the YMDLB, helps coordinate Levee Education Workshop for teachers. (Below, Right) Dr. Luther Brown, with the Delta Center for Cultural Learning at Delta State University, oversees the program.



seminated to the students who in turn educate their parents," Barnes said. "This is how we are able to successfully flow information out into the community."

To reach the students effectively, the teachers are divided into groups to create potential lesson plans for use in their classrooms.

The final product of the workshop is the teachers' creations of lesson plans to be used in classrooms.

"Each module should be approximately one classroom session long and should engage students in learning about the river and the YMDLB, while being as interactive as possible," Brown said. "Teachers should identify specific learning outcomes and explain how successful

learning will be measured. They should also include complete lesson plans that can be followed successfully by all teachers." In addition to the Flood of 1927, responsibilities and history of the YMDLB and the evolution of the levee system, possible topics to incorporate in lesson plans include river poetry, river dynamics, the relationship between the river and the Civil War and the geology of the river.

At the end of the program, one lesson plan is chosen to be implemented.

"Feedback from the teachers about this program has been great, and we think that this is a program that will definitely grow as it progresses through the years," Barnes said.

For more information or to apply for the workshops, call 662-624-4397.

YMDLB Donates Time and Resources to North Mississippi Fish Hatchery



(Left) The North Mississippi Fish Hatchery is located in Yalobusha County on 58 acres of land. (Right) YMDLB commissioners, Tommy Reynolds (District 33 Representative), and Tom Holmon and Justin Wilkins with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, recently gathered after House Resolution 12 was read during legislative session recognizing YMDLB's in-kind work for the Fish Hatchery.

The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board (YMDLB) recently committed to provide in-kind work, estimated at a value of \$525,000, for the construction of ponds being built as part of the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery. This commitment was recognized by the Mississippi State House of Representatives during the most recent session.

The North Mississippi Fish Hatchery is located near four of the largest U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-operated flood control reservoirs in the state – Enid, Arkabutla, Sardis and Grenada Lakes. Located in Yalobusha County on 58 acres of land leased from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the site is easily visible from Interstate 55 and Enid Lake dam.

"The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board is pleased to provide our services to this phenomenal project overseen by Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks," said Sykes Sturdivant, YMDLB president. "Because these four lakes are well-known destinations in Mississippi, this new facility will soon become a favorite tour spot for residents, students and visitors."

The facility, completed in May 2006, includes 12 ponds, a 9,400 square-foot hatchery building and office, as well as a

5,500 square-foot visitor center and a 3,000 square-foot shop. The hatchery building is state-of-the-art and complements existing hatchery facilities in the southern and central parts of the state.

Production focuses on largemouth bass, the Magnolia crappie, white and black crappie and the southern strain of walleye. Other species that will eventually



The north Mississippi Fish Hatchery facility was completed in May 2006, which includes 12 ponds, office building, visitor's center and shop. Additions continue to be made to the campus.

be produced include bluegill, redear sunfish, coppersnout bluegill, catfish, grass carp, alligator gar and paddlefish.

The visitor center is an educational and informative facility, promoting natural resources in Mississippi and providing information concerning Mississippi

Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks management practices. It houses a 10,000 gallon native freshwater fish aquarium, an exhibit room, gift shop and multi-purpose room for meetings and presentations.

The fish hatchery grounds will eventually include a total of 23 one-acre and two half-acre production and rearing ponds, a water supply settling pond, a 3,000 square-foot pavilion, parking areas, drive-ways and a 2,500 foot-long water supply pipeline. Also included will be two 80-foot observational raceways and a visitor's fishing and viewing pond. The buildings are single story, lightly loaded structures.

The purpose of the project is:

- to produce several species of fish used to augment or enhance fish populations in public waters in Mississippi;
- to meet yearly fish stocking requirements in species, size and numbers, as requested by the fisheries division management biologists;
- to restore fish populations negatively impacted by man-influenced factors;
- to perform and support research in different areas of fish culture to provide a positive outreach to anglers and general public.