

# Newsletter

## Bridge Named in Honor of Late Senator Terry Brown



The Highway 82 bridge over the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway was formally named after the late Sen. Terry Brown at a ceremony on Friday, October 16, 2015.

The Mississippi Highway Patrol Law Enforcement Honor Guard presented the colors and Airbus' Rodney Ringo sang the national anthem, Mississippi Transportation Commissioner Mike Tagert and Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves spoke in remembrance of Brown. Nick Ardillo served as the master of ceremonies.

Brown served in the Mississippi House from 1988-2000, and in the Senate from 2004 until his death last year. He was also President Pro Tempore in the Senate.

## Tenn-Tom Leader Don Waldon Honored With Lock Renaming Ceremony



*Photo Credit: Waterways Journal*



Stakeholders of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway met in Aberdeen, Miss., October 15 at the Aberdeen Lock and Dam to honor Donald G. Waldon for his lasting impact on the 30-year-old waterway and to celebrate the future renaming of the lock to the Donald G. Waldon Lock and Dam.

## KENTUCKY LOCK AND DAM



On

Thursday, October 8, 2015, Kentucky Members of the Tennessee- Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority Board of Directors and local political and economic development leaders toured the Kentucky Lock and Dam construction project.

Mr. Don Getty, USACE- Nashville, Toni Rushing, Kentucky Lock Operations Manager, and Tony Ellis, Kentucky Lock Construction Manager, provided an informative update of construction and funding activity. 2016 Construction funding for this vital component of the Inland Navigation System remains unresolved.

### **WOTUS (*Waters of the US*) Rule Blocked Nationwide**

The Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati issued an order granting a request by 18 states to stay the Waters of the U.S. rule while the court considers its legality. Previously, a U.S. District Court in North Dakota had blocked the rule for 13 states. According to the Court's ruling, "We conclude that petitioners have demonstrated a substantial possibility of success on the merits of their claims." It is yet to be determined which court will ultimately hear the consolidated challenges.

## INDUSTRIAL/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### **Yokohama Tire Corporation Celebrates Grand Opening**



West Point - Gov. Phil Bryant, Hikomitsu Noji, president of Yokohama Rubber Company, Ltd., and officials from Yokohama Corporation of North America gathered on Monday, October 5th in West Point, MS, to celebrate the grand opening of the first phase of the company's new commercial truck tire manufacturing plant, Yokohama Tire Manufacturing Mississippi, LLC. The first phase of the project represents a \$300 million corporate investment and the creation of 500 jobs.

Yokohama is a transformative project for West Point and Clay County. We are excited about Phase 1 going on-line and are looking forward to future investments and a long relationship," said Golden Triangle Development LINK CEO Joe Max Higgins.

## Mississippi Silicon Opens \$200 Million Manufacturing Facility



Burnsville, Mississippi – Mississippi Silicon officials and State of Mississippi celebrated the grand opening of the first silicon metal manufacturing facility to be built in the United States in more than 40 years.

The \$200 million Mississippi Silicon plant began start-up operations in late September just 21 months after groundbreaking. The operation is expected to employ nearly 125 persons by the end of 2015 and will produce 36,000 metric tons of silicon annually.

## PORT NEWS

### Dexter to lead state-owned Yellow Creek Port

Robert Dexter of Tupelo has been named executive director of the state owned Yellow Creek Port near the confluence of the Tennessee River and Tombigbee Waterway in Iuka, MS. Dexter is the former operations start-up manager for Grammer Inc., a German-based manufacturer of seating components to the automotive industry. He has a master's degree in business administration from Mississippi State University and bachelor's degrees in accountancy and organizational management from the University of Mississippi and Concordia University, respectively.



### Paducah-McCracken Port Authority



On Wednesday, October 7, 2015, Kentucky members of the Tenn-Tom Waterway Development Authority met with Bill Miller, Executive Director of the Paducah-McCracken Riverport Authority and toured the port facilities.

The Port is ideally situated near the confluence of the Tennessee, Ohio and Cumberland Rivers, just 50 miles from the Mississippi River. Boasting a recently acquired 53 ton Linden Comansa flat top crane, covered and open storage capability on 48 acres along 2300 feet of riverfront and outstanding intermodal transportation access, the Port is well positioned to take full advantage of the emerging market opportunities created by the opening of the new Panama Canal Lock.

## Calvert City Port Ground Breaking



The project to create a Calvert City Port on 700 acres of land located on two miles of Tennessee riverfront is well underway. Heavy equipment is currently being used to create a 30 foot depth, 25 acre harbor that will function as an intermodal and aggregate operation. Approximately 75 acres will serve as the port with the balance of the acreage dedicated to an industrial park.

## Tennessee River Valley Association Annual Meeting



Photo courtesy of Tennessee River Valley Association

The Annual Meeting was held in Nashville, TN on October 12- 13, 2015. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together key personnel from related government agencies and industries in a cooperative, comfortable atmosphere to share information and address topics of concern to the Tennessee and Cumberland River Valleys. We participated in this very interesting meeting and were a guest speaker. The topic of my speech was "The Economic and Social Impacts of The Tenn-Tom Waterway."

## Alabama Teacher Training

The second of eight Alabama teacher training sessions designed to educate students on the value, history and potential of the Tenn-Tom Waterway and U.S. Inland Navigation as a whole was conducted in Hamilton, Alabama on Wednesday, October 21, 2015.

A total of sixteen Marion County teachers participated in the daylong session. The curriculum has been taught statewide in Mississippi for several years and the program is now moving into Alabama beginning with the four counties near the Waterway.



## Columbus, Mississippi will host regional Alabama-Mississippi Rural Tourism Conference

Columbus, Mississippi has been awarded the MS-AL Rural Tourism Conference for 2016. This annual conference is hosted alternately between Alabama and Mississippi. The Mississippi State University Extension Service, Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the, Tenn-Tom Tourism Association, are the coordinators of this annual event.

### NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

**Craig Stepan** was recently elected to The National Waterways Conference Board of Directors. His term will end in 2017.

On November 12, 2015 American Commercial Lines (ACL) announced it has completed the acquisition of AEP River Operations from American Electric Power (AEP).

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**February 29 – March 2, 2016 – National Waterways Conference 2016 Legislative Summit.** Loews Madison, Washington, D. C. Contact (703) 224-8007 [www.waterways.org](http://www.waterways.org)

**May 3 – 5, 2016 – Inland Rivers Ports & Terminals 2016 Annual Meeting,** Natchez, MS Convention Center. Contact: Aimee Andres, email [admin@irpt.net](mailto:admin@irpt.net); internet [www.irpt.net](http://www.irpt.net)

**August 22 - 26, 2016 - Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Opportunities Conference.** *Marriott Grand Hotel, Point Clear, AL. Contact: [ttw@tenntom.org](mailto:ttw@tenntom.org) or call (662) 328-3286 or toll free TTW (888) TENNTOM. Find it on line at [www.tenntom.org](http://www.tenntom.org).*

**September 21 – 23, 2016 – National Waterways Conference Annual Meeting,** Norfolk, VA. Contact: (703) 224-8007 [www.waterways.org](http://www.waterways.org)

**October 24 – 26, 2016 – Mississippi/Alabama Rural Tourism Conference.** Columbus, Mississippi. Rooms have been blocked at the Marriott Courtyard, Fairfield Inn and the Hampton Inn. Contact: Tenn-Tom Tourism Association (662) 328-8936/800-457-9739 or email [azaiontz@tenntom.org](mailto:azaiontz@tenntom.org).



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