

Commission Staff



Dennis Herbert

Dennis Herbert, the commission's support services technician who carried out a wide variety of "behind-the-scenes" tasks that kept the office running smoothly, passed away suddenly at his home on January 22, 2005, at the age of 58. He joined the DRBC staff in November 2000 following his retirement from the federal government after 25 years of service.

Dennis was a quiet man with a wonderful sense of humor. It was obvious to the many friends he made at the DRBC that he was a devoted, loving father and grandfather, always happy to talk about his wife of 36 years, Margie, and their nine children and eight grandchildren.

Welcome Aboard!

- **William Muszynski**, Coordinator of Special Projects and Programs, Directorate, 2004. (He is on a temporary, two-year assignment to the DRBC from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)
- **Bridget Ferry**, Secretary, Project Review Branch, 2004.
- **Kim Wobick**, Librarian, Directorate, 2004.
- **Danielle Kreeger**, Estuary Science Coordinator, Directorate, 2005.
- **Jerrell Spotwood**, Support Services Technician, Administrative, 2005.
- **Chad Pindar**, Water Resources Engineer, Project Review Branch, 2005.
- **Katharine O'Hara**, Communications Assistant, Directorate, 2005.
- **Laura Tessieri**, Water Resources Engineer, Operations Branch, 2005.

Retirements

- **Christopher Roberts** – Chris retired in June 2004 after serving more than 18 years as the DRBC's public information officer. An excellent writer who produced a variety of printed publications ranging from annual reports to the award-winning bookmarks and 40th anniversary calendar, Chris also was the commission's spokesman appearing in hundreds of newspaper articles over his DRBC career. His sense of humor is greatly missed.
- **Judith Strong** – Judith retired from her position as librarian in March 2004 after nearly 12 years with the commission.

Promotion

- **Clarke Rupert**, Communications Manager, Directorate, 2005. (He

previously served as assistant public information officer and most recently as acting public information officer upon the retirement of Chris Roberts.)

Staff Goodbyes

- **Todd Kratzer**, Water Resources Engineer, Planning and Implementation Branch, 2004. (He accepted a position with N.J. DEP after 16+ years of service at the DRBC.)
- **Lisa Hipp**, Secretary, Project Review Branch, 2004.
- **Patricia McSparran**, Water Resources Engineer, Planning and Implementation Branch, 2004. (She accepted a position with Pa. DEP after nearly five years of service at the DRBC.)
- **Robert Klosowski**, Water Resources Engineer, Operations Branch, 2004.
- **Peter Evans**, Delaware Estuary Program Director, Directorate, 2004. (He became executive director of the Interstate Council on Water Policy in 2005.)
- **Martha Maxwell-Doyle**, Estuary Program Assistant, Directorate, 2004. (As a result of the reorganization of the Delaware Estuary Program, she left the DRBC staff and joined the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary as its deputy director.)
- **Geoffrey Smith**, Field Technician, Monitoring and Modeling Branch, 2005. (He left the DRBC after four years of service to continue his academic work towards an advanced degree.)



(seated from left to right) N.J. Gov. Robert Meyner, Del. Gov. Elbert Carvel, Pa. Gov. David Lawrence, and President John Kennedy at a White House ceremonial signing of the Delaware River Basin Compact on Nov. 2, 1961.

Other Noteworthy People News

The DRBC was saddened by the loss of a number of friends and former colleagues during 2004 and 2005.

- **Delaware Governor Elbert**

“Bert” Carvel, who served as chief executive of the “First State” from 1949 to 1953 and 1961 to 1965, died in February 2005 three days before his 95th birthday. He signed the compact creating the DRBC in 1961 and became Delaware’s first commission member.

- **Former DRBC Commissioner N.G. Kaul**, who served as New York Governor George Pataki’s alternate from 1995 to 2002, died in February 2004 at the age of 57.

- **Former DRBC Commissioner Harold Budka**, who served as New York Governor Mario Cuomo’s second alternate from 1992 to 1995, died in January 2005 at the age of 69.

- **Jeanne Marie Vinicombe**, mother of DRBC Watershed Planner Pamela V’Combe, passed away suddenly in May 2005 at the age of 74. Jeanne worked at the DRBC on two occasions, filling in as a secretary in the operations branch and administration office, and did

an outstanding job during both staff transition periods.

- **Seymour “Sy” Selzer**, former head of the DRBC planning branch who retired in 1985, died in December 2005 at the age of 82.

- **Paul Webber**, who retired as supervising engineer in 2000 after serving two stints with the DRBC totaling nearly 24 years, died suddenly in April 2004 at the age of 71.

- The DRBC and the Delaware River lost a dear friend when **Fred Lewis** died in April 2004 at the age of 88. The sight of the Lewis Crew hauling shad with nets from the Delaware River has been a springtime tradition in Lambertville, N.J. since 1888 when the fishery was established by Fred’s father, William. Operated from an island now bearing the family’s name just upstream from the free bridge connecting Lambertville and New Hope, Pa., it is the only remaining commercial shad fishery on the non-tidal river. A lifetime of shad fishing experience on the Delaware prompted an April 2003 *Philadelphia Inquirer* article to describe Fred as “the repository of generations of lore, making him

one of the fish’s keenest students and most ardent champions.” Fittingly, he was laid to rest on the opening day of the 23rd Annual Lambertville Shad Festival, an event he helped start to celebrate the return of good water quality – and shad – to the non-tidal Delaware.

- **Bill Palmer**, former executive director of the Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin, passed away in November 2004. Bill had a strong interest in Delaware Basin water issues and was actively involved with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary.
- **Vern Svatos**, who provided valuable assistance to DRBC staff in efforts to start the Geographic Information System (GIS) program at the commission during the late 1990s, died in July 2004 at the age of 63.

While remembering those who died, we also greeted several new additions to the families of the following DRBC staff members:

- **Siona Hernandez** was born to Librarian Kim Wobick and her husband John Hernandez in November 2004.
- **Rafael Quinodoz** was born to Senior Engineer/Hydrologist Hernan Quinodoz and his wife Maria in May 2005.
- **Joan Bonasera** was born to Geologist/Hydrologist Anthony Bonasera and his wife Sandy in July 2005.
- **Maya Rose Brazell** was born to Water Resources Specialist Gail Blum and her husband James Brazell in July 2005.

The current list of DRBC staff members, including their phone number extensions and e-mail addresses, can be viewed at <http://www.nj.gov/drbc/staff.htm>.