



# **2004-2005 Drawdown of Lake Claiborne**

**Thank-You To Those  
Who Assisted With  
Drawdown Projects**



# Watershed District, DOTD, Wildlife & Fisheries, State Park

## Officials On Spillway Observe Gate Opening



# DOTD's Harvey Christian & Assistant Open Gates

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# Gate Opens, Water Pours into Internal Spillway

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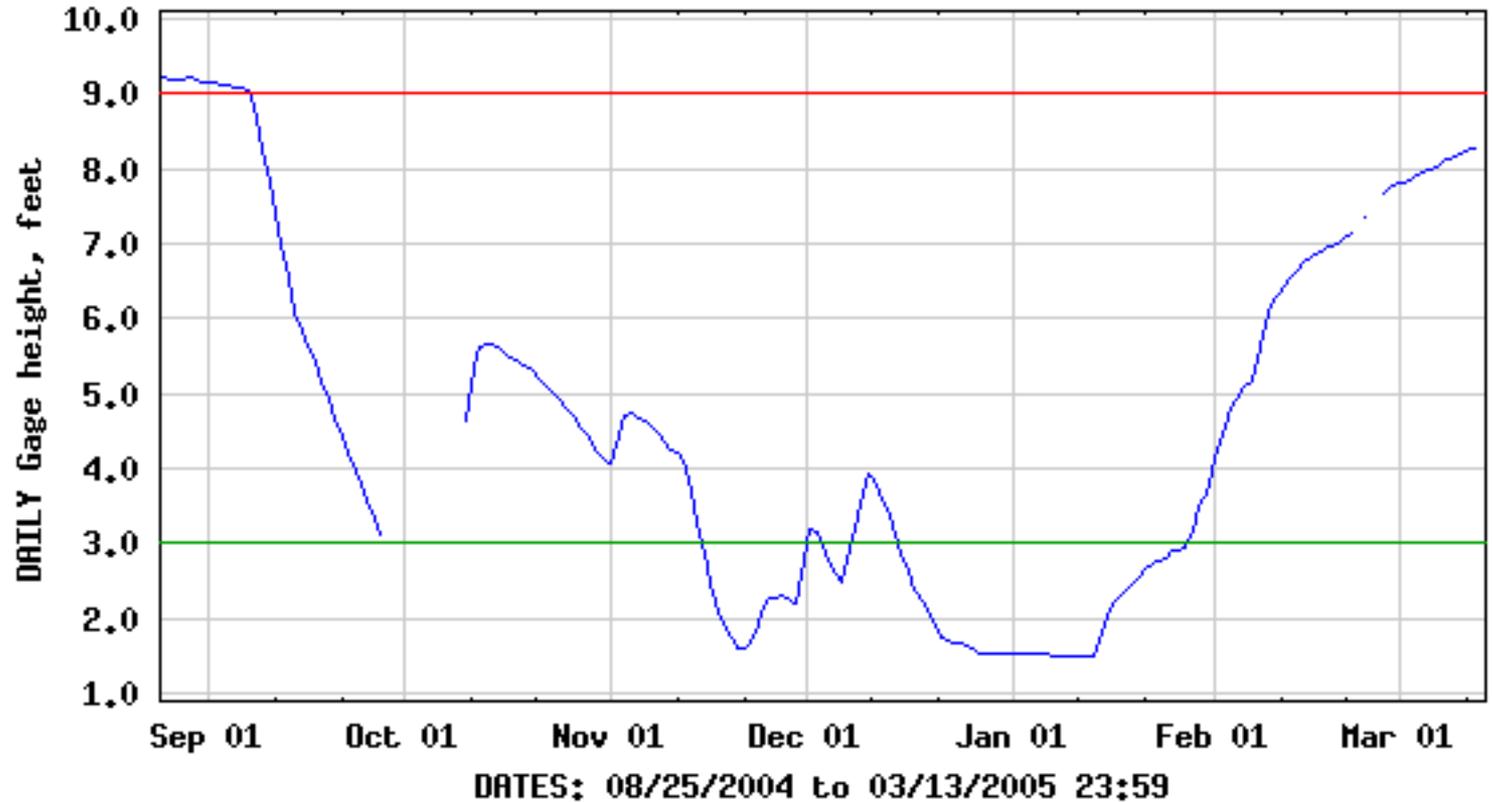
# Stream Side of Dam: Water Spills from Conduits

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# A Bumpy Ride

USGS 07364840 Lake Claiborne near Aycock, LA



## EXPLANATION

— DAILY MEAN GAGE HEIGHT — Spillway Crest — Lowest Recordable Stage

# Required DOTD's Diligent Attention



# Buoy Repair

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# Commissioner Pemberton Inspects Buoys Needing Repair

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# Commissioners View Buoy Anchors.

[Rebar for rope loops  
was cut & bent in Wade  
shop; Wade crews filled  
buckets with cement.]



# Buoy Materials in Watershed District's Storage Room at State Park



# Volunteers Set Out Buoys

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**Wade Correctional Center Crews Helped  
Load Materials onto Volunteer's Barge**



# Lisbon Landing Repair & Maintenance, A Model of Cooperation

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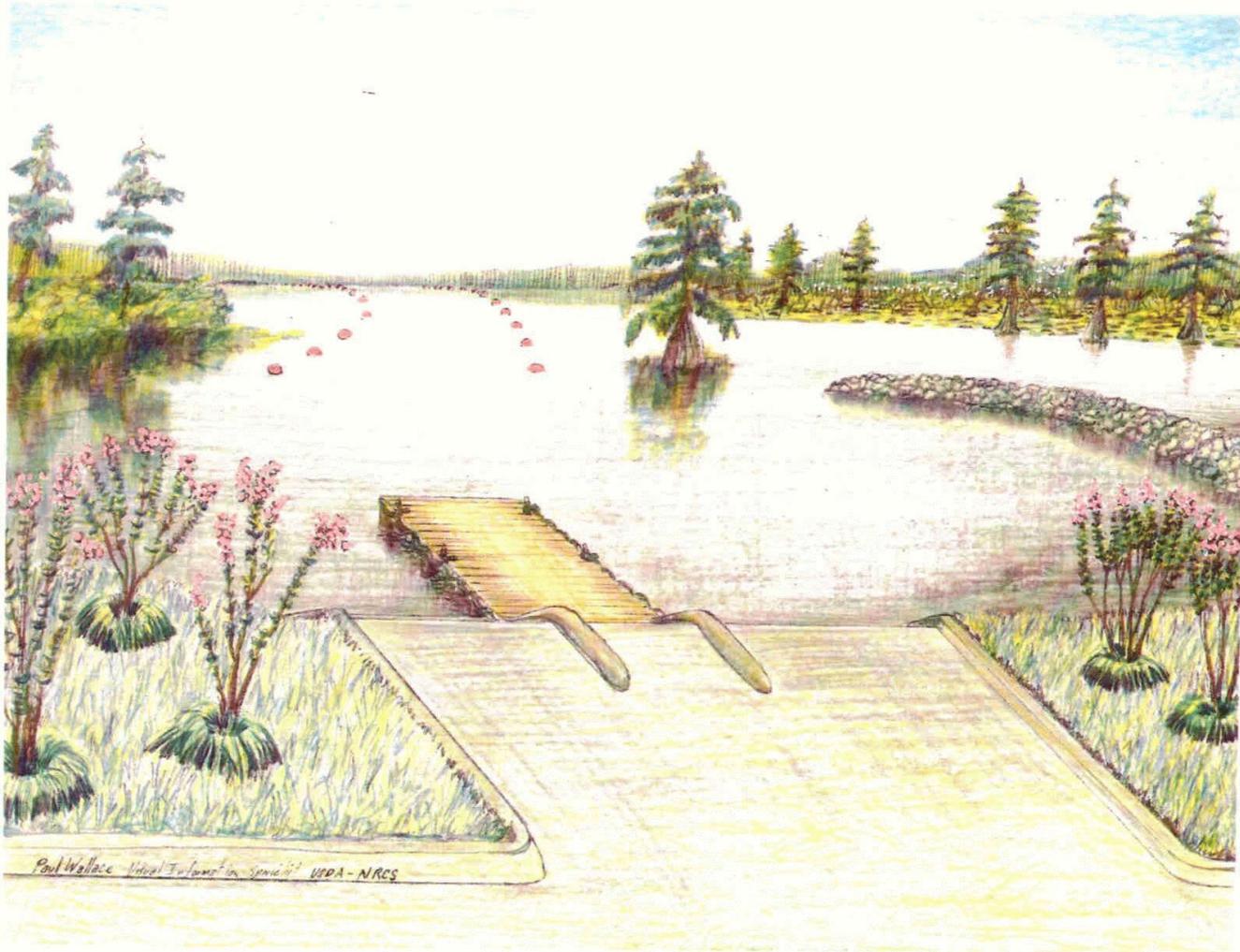
**Directed by Dennis Butcher as  
a first-time cooperative project**

- **Police Jury (equipment, repairs)**
- **Watershed District (materials)**
- **Industrial Development Board (materials)**
- **Wade Correctional Center (maintenance)**
- **Sheriff (patrol)**



# The Design

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# Midway through Project

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**New Boat Ramp**



**Berms to Rechannel Flow**



# Lake Claiborne Dam: Tree Removal

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**Wade Correctional Center  
6-Man Crew for Two Weeks  
Cut & Pulled Trees up to the  
top of the Dam;  
Police Jury Crew  
Shredded Trees**



# Drawdown Problems

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- The 2004-2005 drawdown was needed for these special large projects of the district;
- It was handy for shoreline owners who wanted to repair their property;
- But problems and alternatives raise question of the need for drawdowns on a routine basis solely for shoreline repair.



# Complaints of Flooding Downstream

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**(Photo representing flooding is not taken at downstream site.)**

**5"/day initial drawdown & heavy October rains prompted downstream landowners to request slower drawdown rate.**



# Contractors, Saying Rate Was Too Slow for Projects Requiring Full Drawdown, Requested Drawdown Extension

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# Lakeside Business Owners, Whose Fortunes Rise and Fall with the Water Level, Protested an Extended Drawdown

*Port au Prince Restaurant overlooking Beautiful Lake Claiborne*



**Lakeside restaurants are less beautiful when the lake is down...;  
Piers left high and dry cut into earnings of boat launch and camp  
businesses, also into lake residents' recreation...**



# More Complaints & Questions

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## Cows Stuck in the Mud

### Pipelines Exposed

(an inactive pipeline is shown; the only active pipeline under the lake is regularly inspected)



## Fear for Birds



that feed on snails,  
mussels, and  
aquatic insects...



# Should There Be Drawdowns Solely for Shoreline Repair?

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**(Wildlife and Fisheries biologist James Seales reports that there is no data to date to indicate that drawdowns improve Lake Claiborne's fish population.)**



# Shoreline Repair Can Be Accomplished Without a Drawdown

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# Beautiful Lake Claiborne

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**Thanks to All Who Help Maintain the Lake for the Recreational and Economic Benefit of the Parish and State**

