



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
St. Paul District

# Crosscurrents

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October 2009



**District introduces water  
safety mascots at Summer  
Awards Ceremony and Picnic**



Photo by Kirby Bauer

**Children flocked to Bobber the Corps' Water Safety Dog during its introduction at the Summer Awards Ceremony and Picnic, June 25. Elliott Stefanik's son, Brody, gets a hug from Bobber, worn by Shannon Bauer, public affairs. Stefanik works in project management.**

**Command Corner  
By Col. Jon Christensen  
St. Paul District Commander**



Team,

I want to share some upcoming changes that will affect the way we do work in the planning, real estate and contracting functional areas.

In late 2008, the Mississippi Valley Division looked ahead to their responsibility for delivering the largest civil works program in the history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The division fiscal year 2009 program included the simultaneous delivery of the massive Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System, a huge but unknown American Recovery and Reinvestment Program and the "annual" regional program.

The scope of this effort is essentially three times the Corps' total annual civil works program. In order to deliver the unprecedented program faced over the next few years, the division has had to find a way to focus the entire resources of the region on efficient and effective program delivery.

Successful program execution would require a significant change from the historical "district centric" business processes and procedures to a more regional focus. This more regional focus will also prepare the division for the potential program reduction in 2012, when the hurricane storm damage risk reduction system and ARRA construction are completed.

This management organizational structure realignment is effective Oct. 31, with positions being realigned beginning Nov. 8. Specifically:

**Planning**

The purpose and intent of this realignment is to effectively utilize the regional resources and expertise through regional interdependence and alignment of resources to accomplish the mission and enhance regional planning capability. The division commander's intent is to effectively utilize regional resources and expertise through regional interdependence and alignment of resources to accomplish the mission.

The management organizational structure realignment will consist of a Regional Planning Division North with St. Paul District as the lead district for the St. Paul, Rock Island and St. Louis districts, and a Regional Planning Division South with New Orleans District as the lead for the New Orleans, Vicksburg and Memphis districts.

Planning positions will be aligned through the rating chain from each district's sections and/or branches through a designated regional planning division chief to the designated lead district commander. Both the plan formulators within project management and the environmental branch will realign under the new planning organization. No employees will be required to move.

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US Army Corps of Engineers  
St. Paul District

**Crosscurrents**

**BUILDING STRONG**

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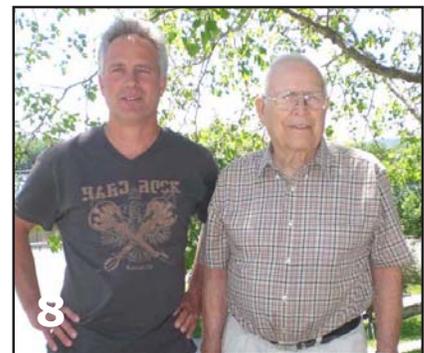
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## District introduces Bobber and Seamoor at awards picnic

By Peter Verstegen

The St. Paul District introduced Bobber the Water Safety Dog and Seamoor the Sea Serpent at the Summer Awards Ceremony and Picnic at Lake Elmo Park Reserve, Lake Elmo, Minn., June 25.

At right, Shannon Bauer inside Bobber the Corps' Water Safety Dog costume, pats Seamoor the Sea Serpent on the back. Below, Marie Kopka, operations division, worked with Seamoor on water safety tips for children. Both Bobber and Seamoor drew attention to the Corps' water safety message. Kopka was on the committee to organize the awards picnic.



Photo above by Jon Lyman; photo below by Peter Verstegen





Photo by Peter Verstegen

Wedged in a sandwich board, from left, are Morgan Peterson, Sierra Pittman and Samantha Peterson.

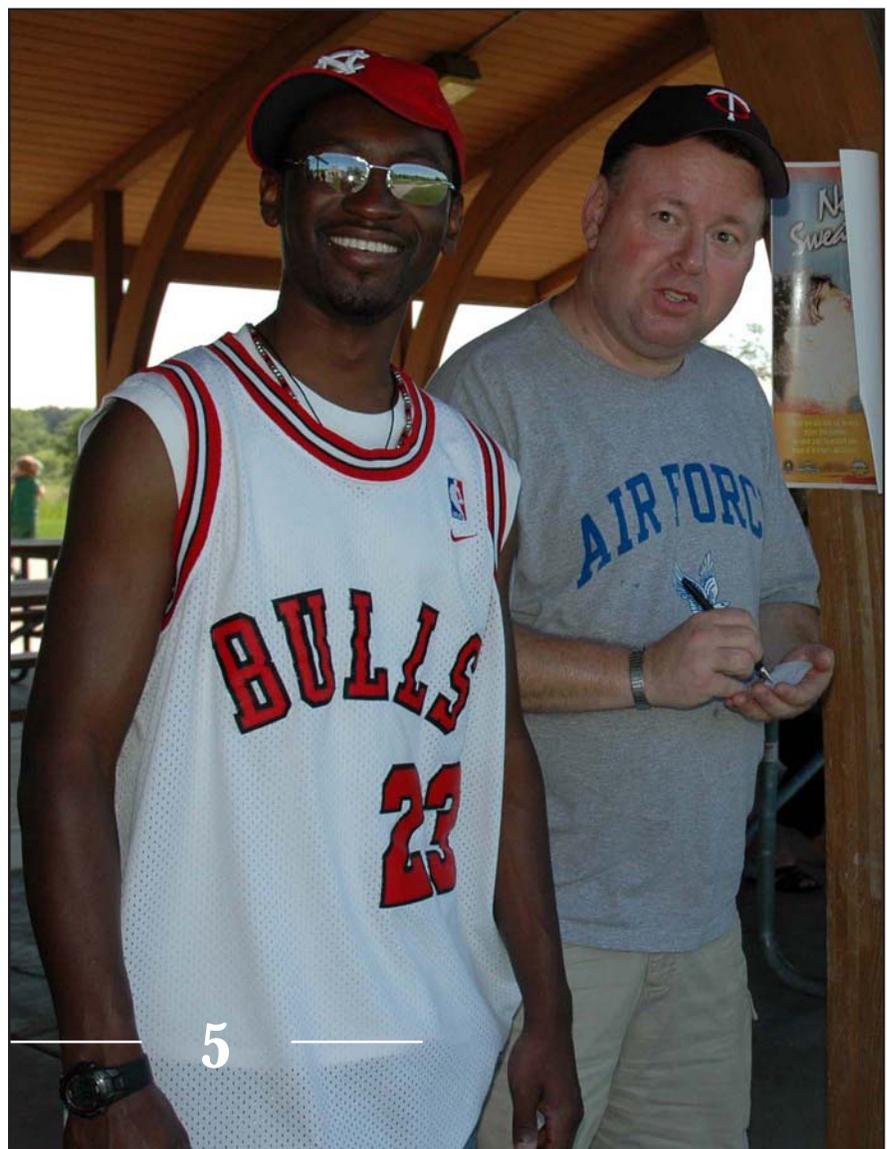
Photos above and below by Jon Lyman

Above, from left at the registration table are: Eric Norton, Jill Clancy, Dan Munson, and Marie Kopka. All work in operations division. Photo at right are Marcus Patterson (left), operations division, and Mark Davidson, public affairs.



Photo by Peter Verstegen

Rick Magee, operations, controlled Seamoor's voice and motion via remote control.



**Crosscurrents**



Photos above and right by Peter Verstegen

**Alicia Spinelli and Garrett Blomstrand, both engineering and construction division, teamed up for horseshoes.**



Photo by Peter Verstegen

**At volleyball, from left: Andrey Kravets, engineering; Sera Shane's brother, Liam Shane; Mike McGarvey, logistics; Nathan Campbell, operations division; Todd Vandegrift and Karl Berg, both engineering and construction. Sera Shane works in design branch.**



Photo by Chris Afdahl

**The awards picnic offered golf. One foursome who played, from left: Darrel Morey and Paul Madison, both engineering and construction; Joe Dvorak, retired lockmaster; and Ferris Chamberlin, engineering and construction.**

Photo at right:  
Col. Jon Christensen, district commander, presented Daniel Boone, operations division, Fountain City, Wis., the Meritorious Award for Civilian Service, recognizing his tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Photo below:  
Col. Jon Christensen, district commander, presented Teri Alberico, emergency management, a certificate of appreciation for the district's successful emergency response effort on the Red River of the North and Souris River floods in 2009.



Photo by Kirby Bauer



Photo by Kirby Bauer



Photo by Jon Lyman

Rick Hauck, engineering and construction, and Shua Xiong, project management, received 10-year Length of Service recognition.

## District honors logger for saving life at project

By Kurt Brownell,  
Natural Resource  
Specialist

Col. Jon  
Christensen, St.  
Paul District  
commander,

presented Keith Niemyjski, of rural Viroqua, Wis., with the Good Samaritan Award at the district's Natural Resources Office in LaCrescent, Minn., Sept. 2.

Niemyjski was performing contract logging operations at Goose Island, a Corps' project just south of La Crosse, Wis., on March 13, when a man interrupted his work to report that a woman had fallen through the ice at Wigwam Slough, on the west side of the island.

Niemyjski immediately stopped work and ran to where the woman was reported to be, a distance of several hundred yards.

Upon finding the woman, who had been immersed in icy water over her head for quite some time, Niemyjski entered the water to rescue her. At great personal risk, he waded into water that was neck deep and was able to grab her, pull her to solid ice and eventually to dry land.

Wigwam Slough is an area with very deep holes and a strong current, especially during spring snowmelt. Niemyjski's brave actions very likely saved this woman's life.

Kurt Brownell, natural resource specialist in the La Crescent Field Office, provided oversight for the logging operation. When Niemyjski briefed him of the incident, he nominated Niemyjski for an award.



Photo by Tom Sully

**Keith Niemyjski, of rural Viroqua, Wis., accepts the Good Samaritan Award from Col. Jon Christensen, district commander.**

## Lock and dam operator credits Corps' training with saving his father's life

By Sonya Goines, Jacksonville District

Bill Kriesel, head lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam 5A, Fountain City, Wis., has worked for the Corps of Engineers for 33 years. Since that time he has taken cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR training, several times over the years but never had to use it – until this May.

“We had just completed dinner at our annual bowling banquet when my 88-year-old father took ill,” said Kriesel, who is also a crane operator for the St. Paul District.

Kriesel said his father was talking with another bowler when he started to collapse and was helped to a sitting position on the floor.

Kriesel and his brother, John, who happened to stop in for a few minutes, were at his father's side in an instant.

“My CPR training just took over I guess,” said Kriesel. “I was asking him questions and feeling his forehead. He was very warm.”

An ambulance was called and Kriesel continued to talk to his father and assess his status. His father told him that his knees had given out.

Kriesel said he felt his father's forehead again; but this time, it was very cold and clammy. His father then just closed his eyes and his chin fell to his chest.

Kriesel said he and his brother laid their father on the floor.

“My brother could find a very faint pulse,” said Kriesel. “I instructed him to start CPR, and I would give chest compressions.”

After several minutes of CPR, Kriesel said his father started to vomit and opened his eyes.

A short time later he said his father was joking around and said, “Lets bowl,” which drew a laugh and a sigh of relief from the crowd.

Several days later, his father was fitted with a pacemaker – something he was told about 10 years ago that he may someday need. His father is doing fine today.

Said Kriesel, “You never anticipate doing CPR to anyone; but had it not been for my training provided by the Corps on Engineers, the outcome could have been much different.”

## McKegney receives national Corps of Engineers' award

By Shannon Bauer

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters in Washington, D.C., awarded St. Paul District employee Molly McKegney, office of counsel, its 2009 Joseph W. Kimble Award in July.



**McKegney**

The Kimble award recognizes a Corps of Engineers attorney who has demonstrated the highest potential for future legal achievement and is a rising star in the Corps legal field of practice. McKegney became an attorney with the St. Paul District shortly after her graduation from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 2003.

McKegney was recognized for this award for a number of accomplishments but primarily for her performance during the spring 2009 flood fight in the Red River of the North river basin.

“Molly [McKegney] proactively developed standardized emergency levee construction contract templates that could be drafted and reviewed in real time in order to send contractors to work on emergency construction but still provide essential protections to the Corps, contractor employees and suppliers,” said Joe Willging, McKegney’s supervisor. “Molly’s initiative and efficiency, especially in a crisis, is second to none.”

### Command Corner, continued from Page 2

#### Contracting

The Regional Command Council approved a concept of operations in contracting that will improve the acquisition planning process. This process will require the upper three districts, St. Paul, Rock Island and St. Louis, and the lower three districts, Memphis, Vicksburg, New Orleans, to develop consolidated sub-regional acquisition strategies.

This planning effort will be led by St. Louis for the upper three districts and by Memphis for the lower three districts. The contracting division chiefs at St. Louis and Memphis will lead the sub-regional acquisition planning process serving as the contracting center coordinator. The goal is to increase the number of sub-regional contracting tools.

There will be no change in current organization or structure and no change in the rating chain. Contracting is a national organization.

#### Real estate

Real estate division within the division is transforming from six district-centric organizations to two regional organizations. The lead districts are Vicksburg District for the regional Real Estate South Division and Rock Island District for the regional Real Estate North Division.

The purpose for this transformation is to:

- (1) Enhance delivery and quality of real estate products and services to customers,
- (2) Maintain and increase technical competency,
- (3) Achieve economies of scale, and
- (4) Drive interdependence among the districts.

No real estate staff will incur any loss of pay or be required to move as a result of the transformation.

There are still many unknowns out there as we launch into these major changes. I ask that you be patient as we work out the details. As we receive more clarity on the specific organizations, we will get that information out to you as expeditiously as possible.

Thanks for all you do.

### Save Dec. 17 for awards ceremony

Save Dec. 17 for the St. Paul District's annual Holiday Awards Ceremony, to be held at The Prom Center, 484 Inwood Ave., just north of I-94, Oakdale, Minn. This year's theme is "The Gift of Giving." Teri Alberico and Kristin Kosterman, both in operations, are co-chairs. Social hour starts at 11 a.m. The event ends at 3 p.m. Watch your e-mail inbox for more information.

# Employees of the Month 2008-2009

## **Tina Guillot** **September 2008**

*Thanks to Jeff Gulan, formerly operations, and Jim Roloff, formerly contracting, who nominated Tina Guillot, contracting division.*



**Col. Jon Christensen, district commander, and Tina Guillot, contracting.**

We are nominating Tina Guillot, contracting officer, supply and services division branch chief in contracting, for Employee of the Month for her exceptional support to the locks and dams project during the end of fiscal year 2008.

With fewer contracting staff due to reassignments, deployments, etc., the locks and dams project didn't hear, "We don't have the people resources to accomplish these tasks, especially at the end of the fiscal-year end." Instead she stepped up to the plate and was able to process numerous acquisitions for the locks and dams project and successfully award them.

This effort was especially noteworthy because the contract awards were accomplished during the September – bumping up against the end of the fiscal year – which is a hectic time with closing out contracts and getting others ready to be on-line when the new fiscal year begins. She continually kept on top of the acquisitions and worked tirelessly right up to the last minute of the last hour of the last day of the fiscal year and successfully overcame the challenges of the year-end close out and contractor and vendor questions – all the while maintaining a professional, positive and calm demeanor. Her "Can Do" attitude and dedication to the organization, especially during the busiest and most critical month of the fiscal year, is greatly appreciated by those who work in the locks and dams project. She exceeds expectations, making her more than deserving of this recognition.

With the end of the fiscal year and without the aid of the contracting division chief, a construction branch chief, two contract specialists and a purchasing technician due to a deployment and vacancies, she pulled together the remaining contracting team members to review the workload and prioritize and divide it. By the end of the fiscal year, expected obligations were met, including three construction contracts, and contracts for lock and dam parts,

among countless other requirements. Because of this effort, citizens of Dawson, Minn., and Montevideo, Minn., will soon have critical flood protection, the sensitive electrical equipment in the Central Control Station at Lock and Dam 1 will be protected with a new roof and the district's locks and dams now have a safe supply of spare parts for gates to keep the Mississippi River open for navigation. As acting division chief, she also provided reach back support to the Louisiana Recovery Field Office by inputting into the procurement system several of the Corps' advanced contract initiative contracts and vendors. This allowed the contracting cell in the Recovery Field Office to award task orders to repair the first roofs just six days after Hurricane Gustav made landfall. The outcome meant thousands of Louisiana residents had a safer, drier, healthier environment.

In addition, this rear support was key to the RFO expediting awards for generators to immediately bring power back to hospitals, nursing homes, lift stations, and sewage treatment plants. This prevented patients in several healthcare facilities from being evacuated and possibly threatening their medical conditions.

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# Employees of the Month 2008-2009

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## **Steve Engler** **October 2008**

*Thanks goes out to the dredge crews who nominated him. (See write-up below.)*



**Steve Engler and Greg Frankosky, both operations, Fountain City, Wis.**

Crews one and three of the Dredge Goetz would like to nominate Steve “Turkey” Engler for Employee of the Month.

At the beginning of our dredging season, Capt. Arley Martin retired. The assistant became our acting captain, and Steve Engler received a 120-day temporary promotion from mate to acting assistant captain.

Under his leadership, the two crews flourished. He is an excellent communicator – always keeping the crew informed of what we are to do for work, how it will be done and where. Since he has been at the helm, there has been little to no conflict among crew members. This is a testament to his ability to command the absolute best from his crew – and, we give it to him.

He may have a rough and gruff exterior, but he is fair in any decision. He listens to all sides before making a judgment. His natural ability to navigate the Mississippi River with the General Warren is almost second to none. He is the quintessential “River Captain” and would make a great captain.

Crews one and three of the Dredge Goetz just want to say “Thanks, Turkey, for a job well done.”

Dredge crews one and three:

- Jacob Bernhardt
- Connie S. Brantner
- Travis Brantner
- Tony Broxson
- Thomas Fetting
- Craig Firme
- Joseph Dale Gurin
- Rick Hager
- Phyllis Hedberg
- Dan Hentges
- Bill Heublein
- Brian Krause
- David P. Kriesel
- Robert Kupietz
- Jon Ledford
- Jeremy Loesel
- Bruce McFarlin
- Rick Mezera
- Jon Miller
- Joel Miller-Oates
- Ilona M. Moen
- Thomas Pawlak
- Scott Ressie
- Nick Stanton
- SherryAnn Tarte

## **George Braunreiter** **November 2008**

*Thanks to Jimmy Rand, locks and dams project, who nominated George Braunreiter.*



**Col. Jon Christensen, district commander, and George Braunreiter, operations, in Alma, Wis.**

I am nominating George Braunreiter, head operator, Lock and Dam 4, Alma, Wis., for Employee of the Month.

At a critical time, he stepped up to the plate and accepted the position of union president.

Responsibilities of this job require endless attention during non-duty hours and entails untold hours of research and communication. In conjunction with his “open door policy” and his on-going challenge of trying to find common ground on issues affecting bargaining unit members, his efforts have resulted in positive working relationships between employees and management.

As someone with minimal union officer experience, he has provided assistance to field

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# Employees of the Month 2008-2009

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employees beyond what is expected. Although his duty station is at a lock and dam, he needs to be aware of the job-specific concerns of employees within the maintenance and repair unit, as well as the dredge fleet. These issues vary greatly from those at a lock and dam.

This is an example of his sensitivity to the district's field employees and an awareness of their needs. His position as union president is in addition to his daily role as head operator at Lock and Dam 4. He is doing his part to answer the challenge of Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, chief of engineers, by taking the Corps from "Good to Great."

Anyone who steps up and takes on these kinds of challenges is in my eyes more than deserving of Employee of the Month.

## **Bryan Peterson December 2008**

*Thanks to Teri Alberico who nominated Bryan Peterson. Both work in operations.*



**Col. Jon Christensen, St. Paul District commander, and Bryan Peterson, maintenance and repair, Fountain City, Wis.**

I'd like to nominate Bryan Peterson, operations, for Employee of the Month for his work throughout the 2008 flood and hurricane seasons.

Starting in June, he coordinated the pump preparation and distribution during the June flash floods. He was available 24/7 for calls from the Emergency Operations Center to ensure pumps were ready for communities needing assistance. As that event moved downstream, he was finally able to turn his attention to the home repairs required from the flash flooding in August 2007. Then, his name came up for a position supporting the Critical Public Facilities mission in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Off he went to serve 30 days in Iowa throughout July.

As Hurricane Ike bore down on the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast, he was again contacted to see whether he could deploy as part of the temporary housing project response team, or PRT. This time he was unable to support that effort; he was already on an important mission. He was on leave, delivering personally-owned generators to friends in Texas affected by Ike.

The St. Paul District works as a team and there are many that have provided significant support during response and recovery missions. But to me, he embodies the spirit of the district by going that extra mile to help friends in need. He can always be counted on, by co-workers and friends alike.

## **Holly Zillmer January 2009**

*Thanks goes out to Keith LeClaire, geographic information systems, and Mark Davidson, public affairs, who nominated Holly Zillmer, geographic information systems, for January 2009 Employee of the Month.*



**Col. Jon Christensen, St. Paul District commander, and Holly Zillmer, geographic information systems.**

Both the public affairs office and project management-environmental branch nominate Holly Zillmer for the employee of the month.

During the ACE-IT transition, she was asked to continue to provide district web manager support because ACE-IT had yet to take over that role. The web manager duties increased and demanded more of her time than originally estimated. Holly has been very efficient and responsive in managing these competing interests for her time. She works closely with the public affairs office and the project managers

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# Employees of the Month 2008-2009

*EOM, continued from Page 12* with placement, writing and posting of content to the district’s public Website. She continually meets short deadlines and pleases customers with the quality and timeliness of her work. She keeps her chain of command informed of potential conflicts to help avoid delays.

Her professional approach and friendly style make her a great member of the MVP team. Holly Zillmer deserves to be the St. Paul District employee of the month.

## **Marilyn Caturia** **February 2009**

*Thanks goes out to Pat Foley and Cheryl Yeschenko who nominated Marilyn Caturia as the February 2009 Employee of the Month.*



**Col. Jon Christensen, St. Paul District commander, and Marilyn Caturia, engineering.**

We nominate Marilyn Caturia for Employee of the Month for her continued efforts supporting the Hydraulics and Hydrology Branch and for her work welcoming new administrative staff.

Throughout her long career she has always done her utmost to provide quality and caring administrative support to everyone in the H and H branch. She took on other branch’s administrative workload during a lull in the hiring processes. Unselfishly, Marilyn takes care of travel orders and vouchers, CEFMS and MIPRs, time sheets, mail, etc. She is always willing to take on extra duties to lighten someone else’s load and never asks for help to lighten hers. Marilyn is one of the first to arrive and the last to leave in H&H and never takes off a timekeeping day. During this month Marilyn helped one new Engineering and Construction administrative staff member and a PM administrative staff member make a smooth transition into their new duties and offices. She continually checked if they had any needs and made sure they felt welcome. She did a lot of research to make sure that she gave them the right answers to all their questions.

Having Marilyn here makes it a great joy for everyone to come to work. She maintains a great attitude even when her workload is punishing. Her selfless service is an inspiration to her co-workers, who want to strive to have her wonderful attitude.

## **Brandon Olson** **March 2009**

*Thanks to Al VanGuilder, Kevin Ressie and Chris Lennon, all from operations, who nominated Brandon Olson, operations, for March Employee of the Month.*



**Brandon Olson, operations, and Lt. Col. Kevin Brown, district deputy commander.**

From the period of March 2 to March 21, the survey crew from Fountain City, Wis., was tasked to complete a sedimentation survey at Trinidad and John Martin Reservoirs in Colorado for the Albuquerque District.

Brandon Olson started as a temporary employee in June 2008.

He has impressed each and every person who has had the pleasure of working with him. It was during this temporary assignment that he stepped up to the plate and went above and beyond the normal scope of work. Before working in our outfit, he had limited surveying experience, but his ingenuity and his “can do” attitude are traits that have contributed to his success.

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# Employees of the Month 2008-2009

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While on this assignment, we were working 12 hours a day, seven days a week and the work was rigorous, but he consistently kept a positive attitude, even in the light of less favorable conditions.

Normally it would be unheard of to let a temporary employee survey on his own, but he proved time and time again that he has the intelligence, integrity, responsibility and know-how to use the survey grade Global Positioning Systems for completing work. The survey ran into difficulties while at the John Martin Reservoir due to very thick brush in the river bottom. The brush was so thick that we needed to use an ARGO, an eight-wheel all-terrain amphibious vehicle, to travel through the brush, as walking with survey equipment would have been difficult.

After the hydrographic survey portion of the project was completed, we separated into two crews, with Olson leading the second crew. With having a second crew, we did not have a second ARGO.

Olson took it upon himself to walk through the brush and swamp to complete our project.

No matter the task, he always brings his “can do” attitude, a willingness to learn, offers alternative solutions and is not afraid to get his hands dirty.

We are honored and privileged to have such a fine young man as Brandon on our staff and in our organization.

## **Diana Tschida** **April 2009**

*Thanks goes out to Capt. Adam Rasmussen, formerly project management, who nominated Diana Tschida, project management, for April 2009 Employee of the Month.*



## **Col. Jon Christensen, district commander, and Diana Tschida, project management.**

Please consider Diana Tschida, project management, for Employee of the Month. I have worked closely with her for more than two years on all of my operations and maintenance projects and have benefitted greatly from her knowledge and proficiency in the Corps’ ominous project set-up and resourcing processes. Upon my receipt of a project, she is often the very first person I talk to. She sets up all the project labor codes and purchase requests and commitments. She knows what needs to be done, she’s got answers and she’s usually right.

Her institutional knowledge is irreplaceable, and her knowledge of program and project histories

helps ensure they are fiscally managed and resourced in the most streamlined way. She increases the efficiency of the project management branch.

She is detail oriented and very organized. I can count on her to keep me by the book in all of my tedious work requests. And one of the best things about her is she always responds to a request with a quick phone call, short e-mail or Post-it® note – a rare but most valued trait in a good organization. She keeps her co-workers “in the know” and doesn’t leave them wondering if something will or will not get done.

Diana is generous and was quick to lend a helping hand every time I come to her. I consider Diana an unsung hero in this district. She works tirelessly, but she never demands recognition even though she carries a significant portion of many project managers’ workloads. You won’t find her out on high-visibility taskings, throwing sandbags during a flood fight, or seeking photo-ops with mayors, but you will find her behind the scenes arduously working with programs that no one else can or will, and she is one of the “them” that seamlessly makes it all possible. She has been absolutely vital in the rapid reception and processing of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects the project management branch has taken on this spring. She empowers any team she works on. She is loyal, and fun to work with.

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# Employees of the Month 2008-2009

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**Joe Lind**

**May 2009**

*Thanks goes out to Rachael Tjepkes, regulatory, who nominated Joe Lind, information technology, as the May 2009 Employee of the Month.*



**Col. Jon Christensen, district commander, and Joe Lind, ACE-IT.**

I would like to express the Bemidji Field Office's great appreciation for Joe Lind, from ACE-IT, or Army Corps of Engineers-Information Technology.

He goes above and beyond by addressing our questions, concerns and help tickets in a timely manner. He follows up with us and is readily available to troubleshoot our issues. He knows what he is doing and is very sympathetic with us. He also expresses great patience regarding how to resolve issues or troubleshooting problems.

Every time that he has helped me, if a problem is not fixed, he will try to find a solution. I am thankful that he is in the district, and I believe he deserves recognition for his positive attitude, customer service and performance.

**Patricia Simon**

**June 2009**

*Thanks goes out to Jim Roloff, formerly contracting division, who nominated Patricia Simon, a contract specialist, for June 2009 Employee of the Month.*



**Col. Jon Christensen, district commander, and Patricia Simon, contracting.**

Patricia Simon is a contract specialist in the Army Civilian Training, Education, and Development System, or ACTEDS, the intern program. She came to the contracting division armed with no contracting experience, just an obvious intellect and skills that have helped prove her worth to the St. Paul District.

With just a few months experience buying smaller-dollar items and services, it was apparent that she could easily handle a large-dollar, negotiated procurement. By April, she awarded the \$3 million Breckenridge, Minn., stage 2B1/2B2 levee construction contract. A month later, she awarded the Pool 8 Islands stage 3A contract for \$2.5 million and exercised three options with Recovery Act funds,

bringing the Pool 8 Islands contract total to \$5.5 million. She followed up that award with the \$1.7 million Wahpeton, N.D., Stage 3A levee construction contract.

She received praise from a number of customers, project managers, and the office of counsel for her accurate and timely work. She challenges her supervisors and is often consulted by her peers. Her progress in the contracting division made her an easy choice for contract specialist assigned to one of the two design-build projects currently being solicited to fix navigation safety issues and Mississippi River embankments at Lock and Dam 3, near Red Wing, Minn. Projects such as these, worth approximately \$70 million in Recovery Act funding, have never been accomplished in the district using the design-build method. Nevertheless, a crucial milestone in the first phase of the two-phase process was accomplished on schedule. She has also taken the lead on the Devil's Lake flood risk management project, which could be worth approximately \$20 million.

Her extensive knowledge and inquisitive nature has proven invaluable to the contracting division and to the district in achieving heavily tracked milestones, not to mention the benefits to the communities of Wahpeton and Breckenridge receiving timely flood protection, and a reduction of risks to Mississippi River navigation.

## Corps, Wisconsin DNR curb invasive plants

By Peter Verstegen

One year complete, two to go. So far, so good, said agency officials.

The Army's Engineer Research and Development Center, Vicksburg, Miss., has an environmental lab, with an office at the St. Paul District's Eau Galle Lake and Recreation area, Spring Valley, Wis. ERDC joined the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on a three-year program to selectively control invasive plants at Half Moon Lake, Eau Claire, Wis.

"Our strategy allows for selective control of invasive plants and resurgence of the native plant community," said John Skogerbee, research scientist with the ERDC.

The treatment, which started April 22, applies herbicides designed to control targeted



Photo by Neil Trombly, Wisconsin DNR

**Before treatment on April 22, the reddish buds of Eurasian Water Milfoil green up at the surface. The plants are ready to fragment and colonize.**

invasive plants without harming native aquatic species.

The first target was the invasive Curly-leaf pondweed over the entire lake. The second was invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil, first discovered in the lake in the summer of 2008. The milfoil spread was apparently limited to the eastern half of the lake by spring of 2009, reported the DNR.

Half Moon Lake, 154 acres of water in the shape of a horseshoe, surrounds historic Carson Park



Photo by Neil Trombly, Wisconsin DNR

**After treatment, still intact fragments of cedar shingles from the old shingle factory can be clearly seen on May 6. The nearby Eurasian Water Milfoil appears stricken.**

within the city of Eau Claire.

It is one of the most popular natural resources in the area, offering residents a prime fishery and water recreation and relaxation.

The explosive growth of the invasive pondweed each spring and an expanding infestation of exotic milfoil resulted in poor water quality. The invasive plants threatened to choke off large sections of the lake and replace native plants important to the fish and wildlife habitat.

The city worked with the DNR and the Corps to restore and preserve the lake.

"ERDC has a cooperative research and development agreement with the DNR, and we are working together as part of a field demonstration to monitor herbicide residues and determine effectiveness of a combination treatment using environmental compatible herbicides in Half Moon Lake," said Skogerbee. The chemicals, endothal and 2-4-D, were applied at precise water temperatures and before native plants became vulnerable to low levels of herbicides used.



Wisconsin DNR photo

**John Skogerboe (left), Engineer Research and Development Center's Eau Galle Aquatic Ecology Laboratory, Spring Valley, Wis., and Neil Trombly, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Eau Claire, Wis., survey aquatic macrophytes in Half Moon Lake. The Eau Galle lab is a satellite office of ERDC Environmental Laboratory, Vicksburg, Miss.**

## Postcard from Iraq



I hope this will work for a "Postcard." I am working out of the Baghdad office. It is a change from working in the field, but I like it. Please say "Hi!" to all, for me. We are working 10 hour days for the most part. It is a busy time with so many changes taking place and more coming up. Talk with you later.

D.J. Moser, lockmaster, Lock and Dam 7  
LaCrescent, Minn.