

CROSS CURRENTS



US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District

BUILDING STRONG®

On the cover



photo by Rick Magee

Bobber, the Corps' Watery Safety Dog; a St. Paul, Minn., Vulcan; Tammy Wick, project management; another St. Paul, Minn., Vulcan; and Corrine Hodapp, natural resources, at the St. Paul Saints home opener May 13. The district passed out water safety materials at this event.

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In this issue

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photos

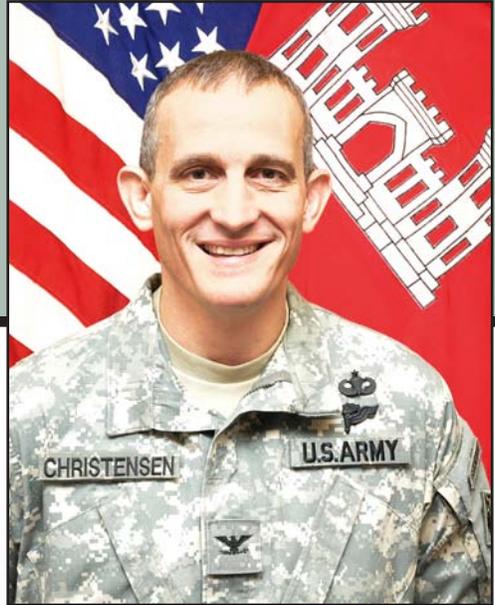
Pictured fourth from right, Col. Christensen stands in front of the Basra War Memorial in Iraq that honors those between 1914 and 1921.



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By Col. Jon L. Christensen
St. Paul District Commander



Team,

It is a bittersweet moment for me as I begin to type what will be my last newsletter article to you. I am sad because I will soon depart the district – and leave behind the many great friends I have made during the last few years; but I am also excited about the chance to contribute, once again, to our reconstruction efforts in Iraq, and I have every confidence in the incoming commander, Col. Michael Price.

Col. Price is a proven and experienced leader, and I know he will guide you superbly as you continue on your journey from good to great. I know you will give him the same high level of support that I have enjoyed during the last few years.

It has been an honor and a pleasure working with each and every one of you and a privilege to serve as your commander. As I look back, I am proud that we have achieved some great things together in a very short space of time. I feel very fortunate to have been involved in such a fast moving and dynamic program, which has delivered so much positive benefit to so many people.

It has been a true pleasure to experience the professionalism, work ethic and sense of community that exists in the Upper Midwest – in many ways, that sort of experience is a unique

and rare phenomenon in today's world. In my opinion, it is the driving force for the success of the district. Many things come down to relationships, teamwork and trust –and all of you are masters in establishing and fostering that type of climate.

Much has been accomplished, but there is much left to do. We have many challenges still ahead of us – completion of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System and St. Bernard Parish, Lock and Dam 3, Devils Lake embankment raise, the district move to 180 5th St. E., the Fargo/Moorhead study, the navigation and recreation season, the PolyMet draft environmental impact study – I could continue on for at least a couple of paragraphs with the meaningful work still on the plate.

I rest easy at night knowing that the district is filled with committed, competent and dedicated employees that will continue moving these tasks on towards completion on schedule. I can assure you I will monitor the progress of these events while in Iraq and celebrate your successes along the way.

Lastly and most importantly, make sure you stay safe. We cannot afford to become complacent, as we march on to

even greater workloads and challenges. Take care of those seated on your left and right and those members of your team. Together, you will accomplish much in the years ahead.

Again, thanks for all you do. I couldn't have asked for a better or more rewarding three years.

All the best

Col. C

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Christensen'.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photos

Pictured at top and right, Col. Jon Christensen on his recent trip to Iraq,

2009 Civil Servants of the Year

The St. Paul District presents the Civil Servant of the Year Award annually to the top three or four of its 650 employees for the year. The district and the Federal Executive Board of Minnesota honored Shannon Bauer, Tim Bertschi, Mike Leshner and Tom Novak and award recipients from other federal agencies throughout Minnesota at the 33rd Annual Minnesota Federal Civil Servant of the Year Awards in Bloomington, Minn., May 7.

Shannon Bauer



Position title: Deputy Chief, Public Affairs

Total years with St. Paul District/Corps of Engineers:
8

Total years with federal government: 11

Previous positions/employment: Managing Editor at Triangle Park Creative, Inc. (when it used to do newspapers)

Education: M.A. Candidate, Ancient History (Coursework completed, degree pending final exam), American Public University, W.V.

B.A., Communications, Metropolitan State University, Minn.

Hobbies: Reading, writing, photography, travel, watching the Minnesota Wild, exercising

Residence: Minneapolis

Comments: "Everyone at the St. Paul District is so good at what they do that it makes my job easy! Thanks!"

Tim Bertschi



Position title: Operations Project Manager

Total years with St. Paul District/Corps of Engineers:
33

Total years with federal government: 33

Education: BS, Natural Resource Management and Business Management; Mankato State University, Minn.

Hobbies: Golf, hunting, fishing, being a Granddaddy, beer tasting, travel.

Residence: Fargo, N.D., and part-time at Crystal Lake in Ottertail County, Minn.

Comments: "I've been fortunate my entire career to be surrounded by very high quality employees that I can also call good friends. The St. Paul District has been a great place to work and to receive this recognition in such a high performing organization is truly an honor."

Mike Leshner



Position title: Senior Hydraulic Engineer working primarily on flood mitigation projects

Total Years with St. Paul District/Corps of Engineers: 32

Total Years with federal government: 32

Previous Positions/Employment: During college, I worked civil engineering related summer jobs with the county highway department where I grew up. I also worked as a student intern for an engineering firm and for the St. Paul District. I was hired on the training program after I graduated and went through the 12-month rotation program. I've worked in the hydraulic section since then with short details in the hydrology section and project management.

Education: Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, University of Minnesota, Minn.

Hobbies: Spending time at our cabin, traveling, woodworking, watching Minnesota Twins baseball and Minnesota Gopher football.

Residence: Hudson, Wis.

Comments: "I was very surprised when Col. Jon Christensen told me I'd been selected. I'm truly honored by the recognition. I'm also encouraged by co-workers telling me it was a well-deserved honor."

Tom Novak



Position title: Park Manager, Blackhawk Park

Total Years with St. Paul District/Corps of Engineers: 32

Total Years with federal government: 32

"I started with the Corps as a co-op student in 1977 at Crosslake then Eau Galle in 1978. My first permanent seasonal position as a park ranger was at Lake Ashtabula from 1979-80, back to Eau Galle as a park manager from 1981-87, then to La Crescent, Wis., in 1987 and Blackhawk Park 1988 to the present."

Previous Positions/Employment: From 1967-74, order filler at Northwestern Drug Co. in Northeast Minneapolis

Education: 1979 Bachelor of Science, Natural Resource Management, Mankato State University, Minn.

Hobbies: Avid Iowa Hawkeye and Minnesota Twins fan, antique cars, drag racing and photography.

Residence: Lansing, Iowa

Comments: "It is not often, if ever, that a person gets a call at home from the colonel, and that is what Col. Jon Christensen did to make me aware of this award. What a wonderful surprise! I am grateful and truly humbled to be nominated and recognized for personal achievements, but it would not be possible except for my fellow Corps employees who I work along side of each day. Thanks to all of you." ■



Time floats by for the Dredge Thompson

by Kevin Bokay

A team from the St Paul District's history working group met in Fountain City, Wis., with a representative from the Seattle District and from the Minnesota Historical Society Feb. 23 to determine what is next in the disposition for the Dredge William A. Thompson. Up until 2008, the Thompson was chewing up the river bottom as it had done for the last 70 years, maintaining the nine-foot channel on the Upper Mississippi River.

The group included Brad Perkl, St. Paul District archeologist; Kevin Bokay, St. Paul District librarian; David Mathes, Minnesota Historical Society, archeologist; and Lauren McCloskey, Seattle District historic architecture.

The team talked with Jim Maybach, a civil engineer at the district's Service Base in Fountain City, Wis. "We just want to find some resolution for the

dredge. It's a wonderfully unusual piece of 30s-era engineering – it took three boats to replace it," said Maybach. "It would be great to have a museum or find someone or any qualified organization to take responsibility for its maintenance and make it a showpiece for people interested in the Upper Mississippi River's history."

Currently, the Thompson sits dead in the water on the bank of the Mississippi River opposite Lock and Dam 5 in Fountain City. The boat is slowly deteriorating after being decommissioned two years ago. Except for an occasional bird, raccoon or other wild animal, the Thompson has had few visitors in the last two years.

The dredge made up part of St Paul District's floating plant to support the nine-foot channel project and has performed work in several different districts keeping the channel open for commerce and recreation. After 70 years of service to the country, it looks like a well-worn relic of times



Photo by Kevin Bokay

Bob Gross, Dredge Goetz, explained dredging operations inside the Dredge Thompson.

gone by. The Quarters Boat Taggatz, the Dredge Geotz, and the Motor Vessel Warren replaced the Thompson.

The Thompson is a cutter-head dredge that was built in 1937 by the Dravo shipyards in Pittsburgh and put into service by the Corps that same year. In the 1930s, the Thompson and its twin sister, the Rock Island, were state-of-the-art dredges that were uniquely self-contained. (The Rock Island was decommissioned and used for parts in 1978 after 41 years of service.)

The two sister dredges were self-powered and designed to house up to 66 persons to staff the boat on 24-hour operations. The quarters were spartan – especially for the workmen who slept up to six per room. But there were amenities such as showers, a laundry room, two ward rooms and a galley with two dining rooms.

The ship's hull measures 230 feet long and 48 feet wide at the beam. The hull has a 6 six-foot draft, and the rest of the ship rises out of the water at 53 feet.

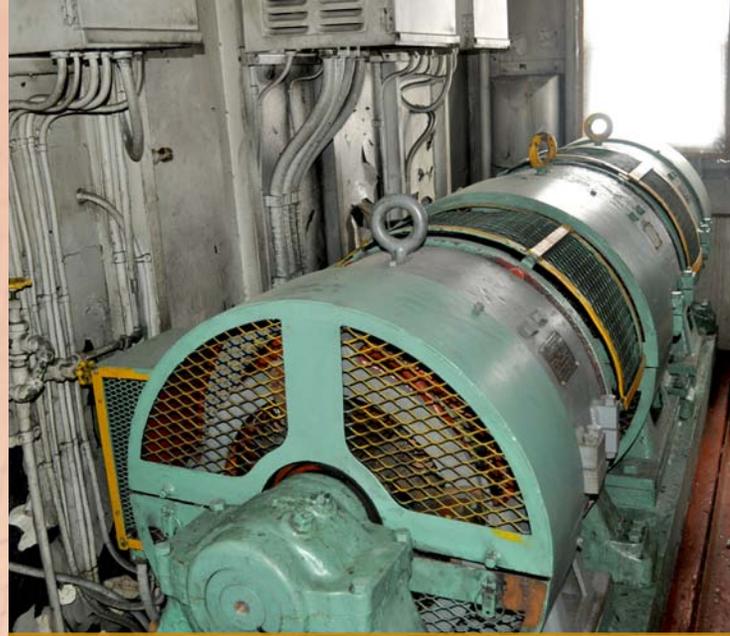
The boat has been sitting since 2008 when it was decommissioned, and it is beginning to deteriorate noticeably. Paint is peeling, there are oil spills in the engine room, some of the glass windows are broken, and the hull has been repaired once since it has been sitting. The dredge is in danger of sinking where it is moored if it is not maintained.

Although it has been re-modeled and updated extensively in the 1960s, the old ship still retains its general look from the 1930s. New showers, galley, berthing quarters and a pilot house have replaced the original plans, but even these improvements do not greatly change the outward appearance greatly and the general look and feel of the vessel.

So what will become of this old Mississippi workhorse? The team talked with Dennis Decker, ex-crewmember of the dredge and member of the Friends of the Thompson, or FOT.

Photos by Kevin Bokay

Photos at right were taken of machinery and equipment from inside the Dredge Thompson.





Photos by Kevin Bokay

Photos above were taken inside and outside the Dredge Thompson.

“We’d love to see it stay in Winona, [Minn.,] at the Maritime Art Museum,” said Decker. “The museum built a concrete pad and was preparing to permanently moor the Thompson right outside the doors, when the museum board decided that they did not have the resources to refit the vessel for tours and keep it maintained year after year.”

Refitting the dredge and maintaining it for five years has been estimated to reach as high as \$1.5 million.

There are many scenarios that could take place in the last chapter of the Thompson story. The ship could be sold for parts, leased or sold to a historic preservation organization or museum, or even bought and developed by a private firm, perhaps

made into a bed and breakfast or restaurant.

The team met with representatives from the Minnesota Historical Society and the National Park Service to discuss the next steps for the Thompson. The first step will include

“To have a treasure like the Thompson and enough wood patterns to make a replica or to replace any part is a rare find.”

-Lauren McCroskey

of the metal parts of the ship used to make castings to produce a mold. Most of the patterns have been kept for the dredge in a warehouse. The wood patterns were to make exact replacement parts for the boat as they were needed.

“To have a treasure like the Thompson and enough wood patterns to make a replica or to replace any

part is a rare find,” said McCloskey. “I do not know of any other vessel with such a complement of beautifully carved wooden pieces.”

Secondly, the team decided the vessel should be advertised and even promoted to prospective caretakers or buyers through the General Services Administration, the agency responsible for disposition of government property. GSA is listing the dredge to interested buyers. Finally, the team believed a public awareness program facilitated by Corps personnel should be initiated that includes public meetings with stakeholders and prospective buyers. The consensus of everyone the team spoke with is that whatever becomes of the Thompson, the vessel deserves a proper disposition in which it can continue to serve the U.S. through furthering the education of all on the Mississippi’s heritage, our heritage. ■



Photos by Kevin Bokay

Photos show warehouse of the Dredge Thompson's wood patterns which could be used to help make a replica of the vessel.

Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Flood Damage Reduction Project earns Minnesota Seven Wonders award

By Christi M. Stonecipher, FS Engineering

The Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers selected the Grand Forks, N.D./East Grand Forks, Minn., Flood Damage Reduction Project as one of the 2010 Seven Wonders of Engineering award winners this past winter.

Designed by the St. Paul District in close coordination with the Cities of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks, the \$412 million project was completed in 2008 and designed to protect to a 250-year flood event.

It includes 17,000 lineal feet of floodwall, 28 miles of levee construction, 22 railroad and road closures and 23 pumping stations. The Greenway (the vacated land along both sides of the river and between the levees), includes 2,200 acres of public land, 20 miles of paved multi-use trails, 13 trailheads, and 31 access points, all of which are handicap accessible. New diversion channels for coulees (or streams) flowing on both the Grand Forks and East Grand Forks sides of the Red River route flows around each city during flood conditions.

To date, the project is the largest flood damage reduction project ever

completed by the St. Paul District. “We are very pleased and proud that the cities’ and Corps’ hard work on this project has earned such praise from our peers in the engineering world,” said Bonnie Greenleaf, project manager. “However, the best result of

The project took 10 years to design and construct and involved innovative design and a tremendous commitment to partnering. Numerous community meetings and difficult decisions to remove entire neighborhoods from the floodplain helped establish a line of protection for the project soon after the 1997 flood event that devastated the two communities. A linear system of parks, natural areas and the Greenway was created next to the river where houses once stood. This open space gives the river room to expand during floods and allows floods to be contained with lower levees and floodwalls. The scale of this urban floodplain restoration effort was unprecedented in the region.

A report by American Rivers cited the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Project as a case study in how natural flood protection can work. The report explains, “These communities have reduced or eliminated flood disasters while preserving the environment for present and future generations. They are now safer, healthier, and more livable.”

The project also required innovative solutions from a number of disciplines, including civil engineering, geotechnical engineering, structures, hydraulics, mechanical engineering and landscape architects. Some of the numerous challenges faced by the project included unique clay soils, numerous historic properties,



our efforts was the ease with which Grand Forks and East Grand Forks fought the significant flood event last year. The system worked exactly as it was designed and protected those two communities with minimal effort during a very high water event.”

extremely short construction seasons and continuous accommodation of street and critical rail traffic. The weak clay soils in the Red River Valley created some formidable design challenges, including slope stability and settlement of the flood control levees and floodwalls. To combat this problem in one section of the project, the district constructed 95-foot deep, 6-foot diameter reinforced concrete drilled shafts. The closely spaced drilled shafts, called cylinder pile wall, allowed construction of a floodwall closer to the river and saved numerous historic properties.

A historic hospital and nurses residence on the Grand Forks side of the river, since converted to apartments (St. Anne's Guest Home), was saved from demolition with an innovative idea to construct the floodwall immediately adjacent to

the building. A concrete form liner with the stone pattern of the building and concrete staining allows the floodwall to blend in with the building. The creative solution for saving this historic property earned the St. Paul

In another example of innovation, the district worked closely with the East Grand Forks City Engineering Firm FS Engineering, SEH Engineering and Flood Control America to include a new floodwall concept along an 880 foot section of their downtown. Dubbed the "invisible floodwall," this section of the protection system is installed only during high water events and otherwise allows the downtown an open view of the river. At the time, it was the largest installation of the invisible floodwall concept in the United States. The invisible floodwall was previously awarded a 7 Wonders of Engineering in Minnesota Award, when that phase of the project was completed in 2000.

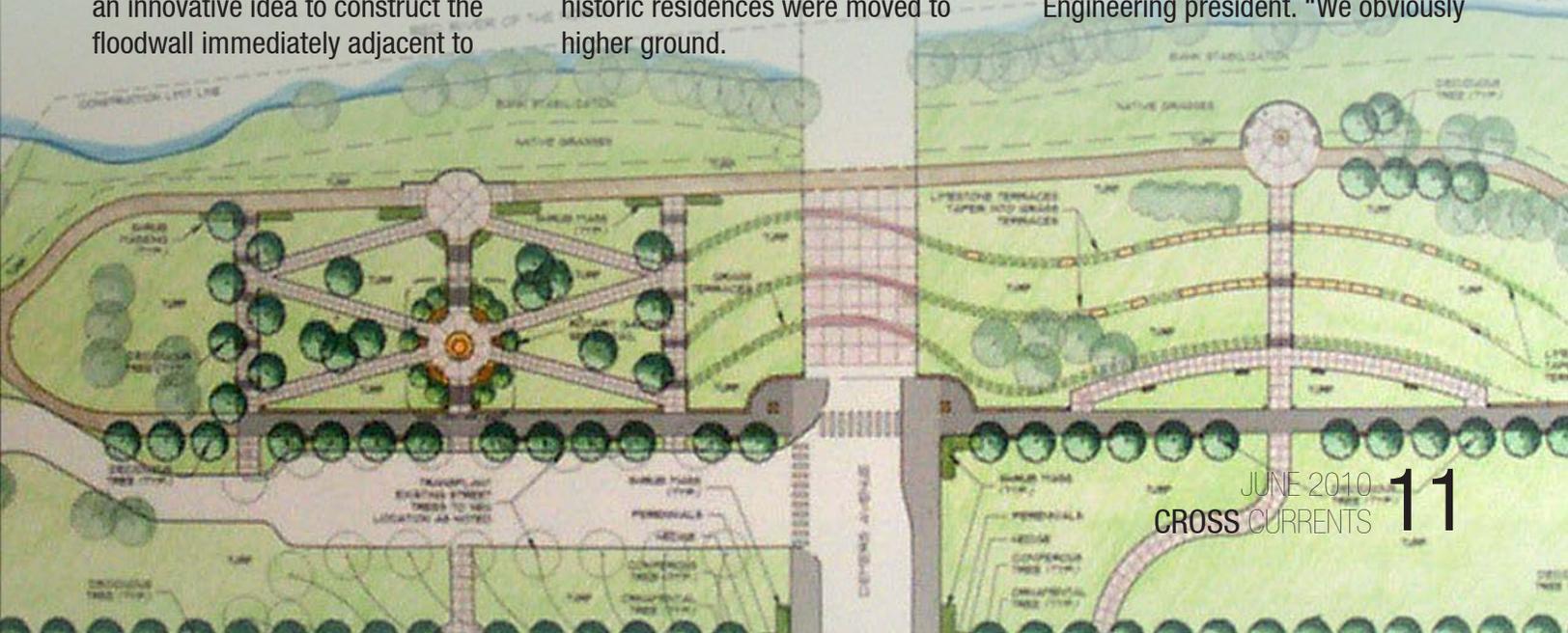
"Our relationship with the river is complex," noted Greg Boppre, FS Engineering president. "We obviously



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District photo

The Lincoln Park pump station in Grand Forks, N.D. Next to the pump station is the floodwall.

District a 7 Wonders of Engineering in Minnesota Award in 2008, as well as a National American Council of Engineering Excellence Award. Other historic residences were moved to higher ground.



need to be protected during flood events, but the rest of the year it is an important and beautiful attribute to our community. The invisible floodwall allows us to stay connected with the Greenway and the river, while providing the level of protection we need. The Corps respected our desires, while maintaining their high standards for protection.”

Aesthetic considerations were an important part of the project from the start. Public meetings were held where citizens chose designs and finishes for the project structures in their neighborhoods. Pump stations were designed to complement their settings. Floodwalls were patterned and stained with specific and unique facades – attended by strong horizontal elements to minimize the visual and psychological impact of their height. Implementing these simple tools gave the project its clean, attractive and uniform appearance despite eight entirely separate construction phases and multiple contractors.

Joggers make use of a pedestrian bridge along the new Greenway. The pedestrian bridges link the two cities both on the north and south ends.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District photo



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District photo

The floodwall along Demers Avenue in Grand Forks, N.D.

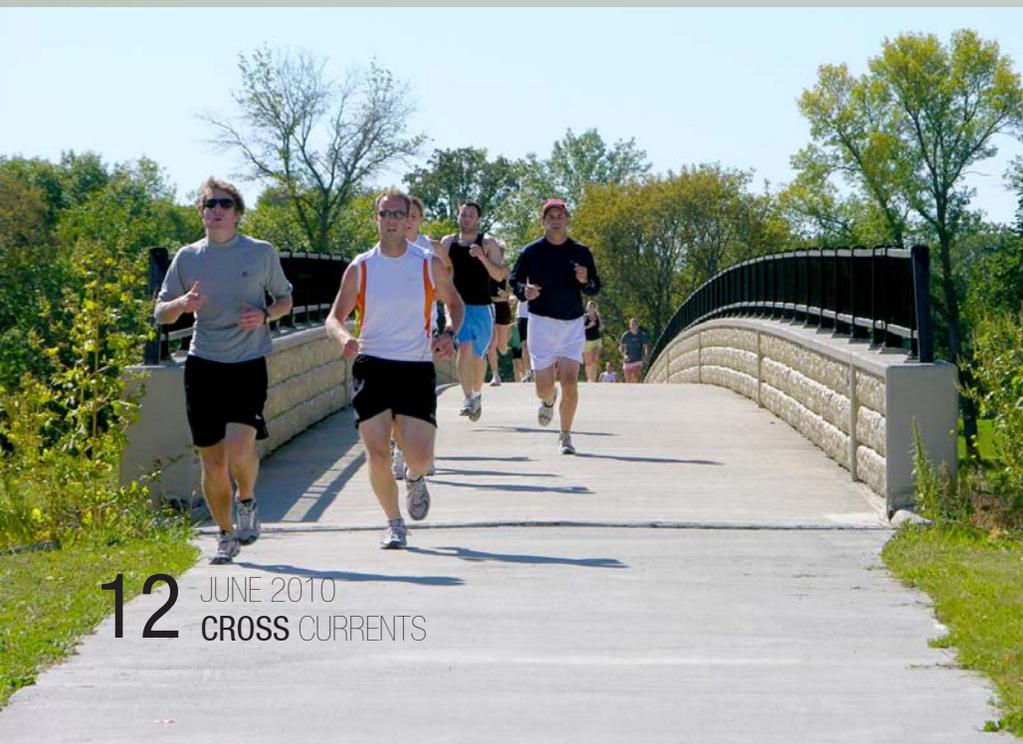
Perhaps the best testament to this enormous project is the flood events since its construction. In 2006, the region experienced the fifth largest flood on record. Although the project was only 85 percent complete and some emergency levees were constructed, it was estimated that more than \$150 million in damages were prevented.

In 2009, Grand Forks/East Grand Forks experienced the third largest flood on record. This time the project was complete so emergency preparation was limited to installing closures and monitoring pump stations. If the project had not been completed, an expensive flood fight would have been necessary.

“We are proud of the efforts put forth by those who believed in our city and our future,” said Grand Forks Mayor Michael Brown. “[We] can now boast of ... above all, a multi-million dollar flood-protection project that ensures our residents will be better protected in the future.”

The St. Paul District gives credit for the success of the project to the extensive partnering between all parties, including the Corps of Engineers, the Cities of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks, the State Historic Preservation Offices in both states, other federal agencies,

—continued on page 14



There's a new sheriff in town

By Jeff Pfannes

Barry Simmonds started last spring as the new safety and occupational health manager:

Simmonds began his safety life during his Air Force years. He spent nine years in the fire protection career field doing crash rescue and structural fire fighting duties, where he had many safety responsibilities. After being severely injured while making a rescue he spent four more years as the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the Wing safety office at K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base near Marquette, Mich. During that time, he was selected for a joint service assignment in Honduras with the U.S. Army, where he served on the command staff of Joint Task Force Bravo as the chief of safety for U.S. Forces. After leaving the Air Force, he spent a short time as a fire and safety manager for a state prison, where he also was a certified fire inspector.

After a short time, Simmonds transferred from the Michigan Department of Corrections to the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration program. He worked his way from an enforcement officer with three counties of responsibility to being a senior safety consultant in the Upper Peninsula region with responsibility for 17 counties. He retired from Michigan in 2010. He arrived at the St. Paul office from the 88th Regional Support Command at Fort McCoy, Wis., where he spent a short time doing inspections for the Army Reserve.

Simmonds has been married for 27 years to his wife Julie, and together

they have three daughters. They are now empty nesters and recently became grandparents. He has a bachelor's degree with a double major in safety and fire science technology and also has extensive emergency management training through FEMA. He was deployed to both New York after the 9-11 attack and to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina to assist in recovery operations and to provide consultative assistance. While working for the Michigan OHSA program, Simmonds assisted in the development of, and then co-chaired and was a team leader for, the Michigan OSHA Disaster Response Team. He is a passionate about bow-hunting and walleye fishing and, of course ,SAFETY.

Simmonds can be contacted by phone at 651-290-5501 or e-mail at Barry.W.Simmonds@usace.army.mil.

Please welcome Simmonds to his new position and add him to all appropriate distribution lists. ■

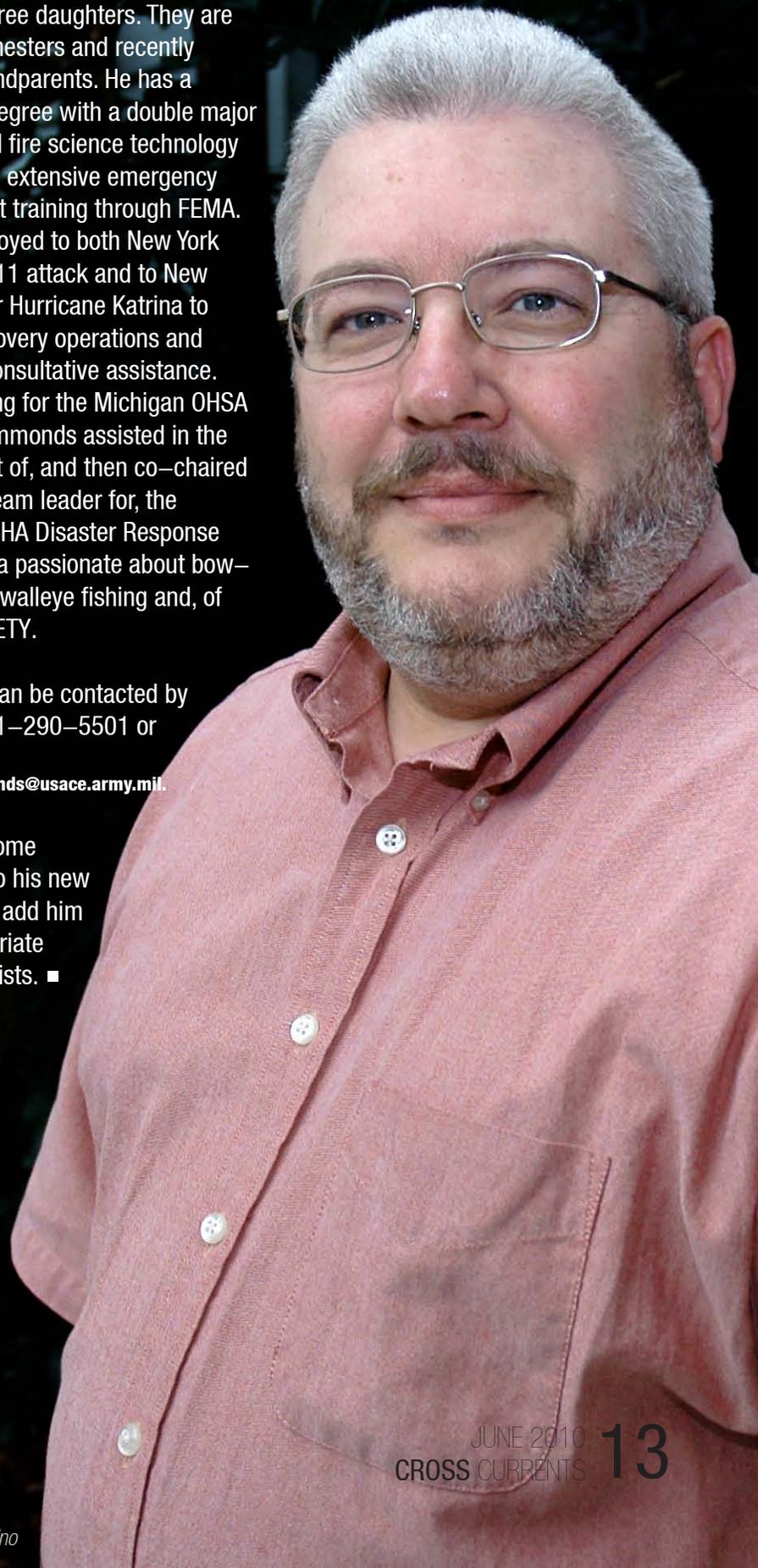
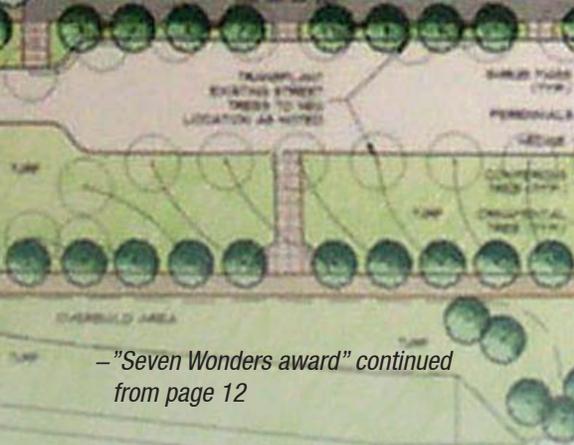


Photo by Stefania Padalino



– “Seven Wonders award” continued from page 12

design consultants and construction contractors. The Corps included city engineers in design meetings so they could provide input on the project that they maintain. Public meetings were held throughout the planning process so stakeholders had a chance to be involved with planning the project located in their community. Engineering design consultants, including HDR Engineering, Stanley Consultants, Short Elliott Hendrickson and Ayres Associates assisted the St. Paul District.

The award was officially presented at the organization’s Annual Engineers Week Awards and Recognition Banquet Feb. 19 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska, Minn.

The Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers, or MSPE, is a professional association of nearly 1,400 licensed professional engineers, practicing engineers, engineering graduates and engineering students in nine local chapters throughout Minnesota. MSPE is a state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers, which serves more than 45,000 members through 53 state and territorial societies and more than 500 chapters. For more information on MSPE, see: www.mnspe.org/. ■



Photo by Stefania Padalino

Kevin Bokay, district librarian, fills boxes in preparation for the building move.

Building move information

After 17 years at 190 Fifth St. E., in St. Paul, Minn., the district is moving one building to the west, 180 Fifth St. E., in the month of June. Along with the memories left behind, tons of paper products were recycled, thousands of old photos and negatives were collected to be preserved and lots of dust bunnies were vacuumed.



Note: Video video links to intranet site and can be viewed by employees only.

Earth Day 2010



Across the St. Paul district, Earth Day was celebrated by spring cleaning and tree planting events that were held with the public. Pictured here, college student volunteers planted trees just offshore from Goose Island, Wis., April 24. Around 3,500 trees were planted including cottonwood, red-osier dogwood and willow. The college students, from a sustainable economics class at University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Wis., were joined by an Eagle Scout, his family, the scoutmaster. "The college students were from the United States, Bahamas, Saudi Arabia and Russia," said Kurt Brownell, natural resources. "The planting was interrupted twice by electrical storms but the planting was completed by mid-afternoon," said Brownell.

Pictured from left to right, Donna Anderson, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse, Wis., professor, student volunteers and Kurt Brownell, natural resources, worked together to plant 3,500 trees on Earth Day, April 23.

Earth Day 2010

La Crescent, Minn., Project Office



Blackhawk Park, Wis.

Photo by Eric Hammer

Recreation and natural resources operations manager, Tim Bertschi made a site visit to Blackhawk Park, Desoto, Wis., along with Kevin Berg, natural resources, on April 22 to visit staff and answer questions during a barbecue lunch. After lunch in recognition of Earth Day, Bertschi, assisted maintenance worker Chad Rethwisch in planting a tree in the West Loop campground.

Earth Day 2010

Eau Galle, Wis., Recreation Area



Photos above and left by Jeff Grow

A sixth grade science class from Spring Valley, Wis., Middle School helped to plant 83 Balsam Trees at Eau Galle Recreation Area as a part of Earth Day. The trees were placed with a one-foot mulch perimeter around the base and inserted into tree baskets to protect them from wildlife.

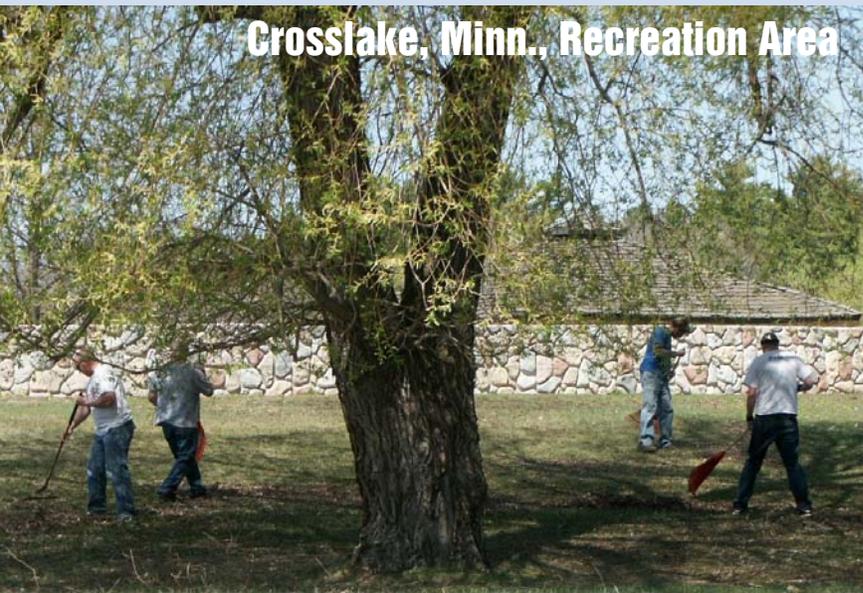
The idea behind this project was to have the class plant the trees, so when they are in high school, the trees will be about 3 ft. high, said Jeff Grow, park ranger at Eau Galle. "This gives the students ownership of the project, which is a key component in getting the younger generation involved. It also teaches them about environmental stewardship and the importance of conserving and sustaining our natural resources for future generations," he said.



On Earth Day, April 22, the Crosslake Recreation Area staff joined with 35 members of the Brainerd Chapter of Minnesota Teen Challenge to complete spring clean up of the campground and park areas. "The weather was absolutely beautiful and combined with the men's great work ethic, all of the park's public areas were raked. This is one of the few times that Crosslake campground has been raked and ready for the start of the camping season May 1," said Deb Griffith, park ranger at Crosslake.

Photos below and right by Deb Griffith

Crosslake, Minn., Recreation Area



Some Awsumb fencing

By Tammy Wick

Lance Awsumb, an economist in the district's planning division, will travel to Atlanta July 7 to participate in the 2010 U.S. Fencing Association's National Fencing Championships.

Awsumb began fencing 10 years ago at the age of 14. Over the years, he competed many times and has won the honor of going to Nationals three times. Of those three times, he took home medals twice. During his college years, he took time off from the sport to concentrate on getting a degree in economics. But he missed the sport and its disciplined work out, so he returned to fencing at the Minnesota Sword Club in Minneapolis. He also spends time as

a substitute instructor, filling in when needed.

When asked what he enjoyed about the sport, he said, "I get to fence great fencers from all over the world. Win or lose, I learn something from everyone I meet ... Competing has given me a chance to see parts of the country I have never seen before." He also said he likes that fencing is a psychological sport; it takes intelligence and patience.

Awsumb recently qualified for the National Championships in a tournament held in Chicago. There, he place seventh. His eliminator was a former Olympian. ■



Above and right, Lance Awsumb, planning division, has competed in fencing tournaments for 10 years.

Photos by Tammy Wick



Corps promotes water safety at Saints opener

By Shannon Bauer

The Corps water safety mascots Bobber and Seamoor made a guest appearance at the St. Paul Saints home opener against the Wichita Wingnuts at Midway Stadium in St. Paul, Minn., May 13.

Although it was a cold, wet day and attendance was relatively low for a Saints game, Rick Magee, operations, estimated Bobber, Seamoor and their district escorts made contact with around 1,000 people. At the entrance to the stadium, they distributed Bobber Fun Books, small water safety fliers featuring

Bobber and Seamoor and ‘wiz-rings’ with a water safety message on them.

“Our goal was to spread the message about water safety to help reduce the numbers of drowning victims,” said Magee. “Bobber and Seamoor are attractive to kids and their parents, so they are tools to urge people to wear their life jacket, learn to swim and learn other tips for safety when recreating in or on the water.”

Participating in the event besides Magee included Kevin Bokay, district

librarian; Corrine Hodapp, operations; Aaron McFarlane, environmental; Michael Setering, regulatory; Jon Sobiech, environmental; Tammy Wick, environmental; and Anthony Zacheretti, operations.

Magee said the event went well. Plus, the Saints beat the Wingnuts 5–1.

More photos from the event are available on the St. Paul District’s Flickr site at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usace-stpaul/> ■

Corrine Hodapp hands out water safety frisbees at the Saints opener.

Photo by Tammy Wick

Seamoor the Water Safety Serpant teaches children about safe water practices before the Saints home opener.

Photo by Tammy Wick



NEWS & NOTES

Upcoming events

JUNE 24

Summer awards ceremony and picnic

The Summer Awards Ceremony will be held June 24 at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park located in Hastings, Minn.

Schedule

9 a.m. – Start of festivities
 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. – Lunch
 2–3 p.m. – Awards ceremony

Menu

hamburgers, Boca burgers, bratwurst, potato salad, spinach pasta salad, watermelon, bananas, apples and chips

Snacks

cookies, snow cones, pop and water

Family fun!

softball and volleyball, fun fishing, golf and bingo

Ticket sales

Adult meal: \$7 (\$5 for Employee Benefit Fund members)
 Adult non-meal: \$4 (\$2 for EBF members)
 Child meal: \$5

JULY 1

Farewell dinner for Col. Christensen

A farewell dinner will be held in Col. Jon Christensen's honor July 1, 6 p.m., in the Grand Atrium of the Hilton Garden Inn St. Paul City Center in St. Paul, Minn.

Tickets for the event are \$40.

If planning on attending the farewell dinner and for further information, contact Angie Peterson at 651-290-5302 by June 18.

JULY 2

Change of command ceremony

The St. Paul District will hold a change of command ceremony as Col. Jon Christensen, the 62nd St. Paul district engineer, relinquishes command to Col. Michael Price.

The ceremony will take place July 2 at 10 a.m. in the Town Square Ballroom (2nd floor, skyway level) of the Hilton Garden Inn St. Paul City Center, 411 Minnesota St., St. Paul, Minn.

Bg. Gen. Robert Crear passed the St. Paul District command flag to Col. Jon Christensen June 8, 2007, making him the district's 62nd commander.

Photo by Shannon Bauer



BITS & PIECES



Newcomers

Justin Bernau, lock operator,
Lock and Dam 8

Robert Brockway, lock operator,
Lock and Dam 10

Jay Bushy (again), engineering and
construction, Grand Forks, N.D.

Wade Carr, lock operator,
Lock and Dam 1

Joseph DeRuiter, natural resources,
La Crescent, Wis.

Larry Fisher, lock operator,
Lock and Dam 1

Bruce Gerbig, regulatory

Eric Hanson, regulatory

Jennifer Hardy, student ranger,
Cross Lake Dam and Recreation Area

Chad Homelvig, engineering and
construction, Fargo, N.D.

Alisha Kerschbaum, regulatory

Ryan Malterud, regulatory student

Joshua Mitchell, regulatory

Jeff McCullick, lock operator,
Lock and Dam 9

James Murphy, hydraulics

Mark Odegard, lock operator,
Lock and Dam 1

Apryl Radel, park ranger,
Blackhawk Park

Keith Schindler, lock operator,
Lock and Dam 7

Sierra Schroeder, student ranger,
Eau Galle Dam and Recreation Area

Barry Simmonds, safety officer

Robert Slininger, engineering and
construction, Fargo, N.D.

Samuel Woboril, regulatory student,
Stevens Point, Wis.

Kriss Zeller, lock operator,
Lower St. Anthony Falls
Lock and Dam

Announcements

Craig Evans, project management,
was selected as the new chief of
the district's plan formulation and
economics branch.

Corrine Hodapp, natural resources,
and Lupe Santos–Jensen, equal
opportunity, were selected for the
2010 Mississippi Valley Division
Emerging Leader Program.

Retirements

David Ballman, real estate, after
more than 33 years federal service

Gary Krause, Lock and Dam 5, after
more than 38 years federal service

Doris Sullivan, design branch, after
more than 21 years federal service

Peter Verstegen, public affairs, after
more than 28 years federal service

Taps

Jeff Bailey, ACE–IT, passed away
May 27.

Edward O'Mara, retired St. Paul
District, passed away April 8.

Mark Scholl, channels and harbors,
passed away April 16.



Jeffery Bailey 1957 - 2010
ACE-IT, passed away May 27.

Note: Send your announcements
(births, weddings, graduations, etc.)
to: cemvp–pa@usace.army.mil.