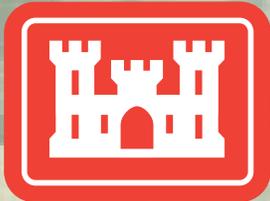


# Crosscurrents

October 2010 Vol.36, No 4

*Serving the St. Paul District since 1977*



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
St. Paul District

**BUILDING STRONG®**

## On the Cover



Corps employee Elizabeth Killian explains how a lock and dam works during the Farm Technology Days 2010 in River Falls, Wis., June 20-22. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, staffed two informational booths at the event, which draws an average of 100,000 people each year.

*Photo by Stefania Padalino.*

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Views and opinions expressed in *Crosscurrents* are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Articles and photography submissions are welcome and must arrive by the 15th day of the publishing month for consideration. Submissions can be mailed or e-mailed.

Submissions should be in Microsoft Word format for all written copy and photos should be no smaller than a 5 x 7 at 300 dpi. All photographs appearing herein are by the St. Paul District Public Affairs Office unless otherwise accredited.

The mission of *Crosscurrents* is to support the commander's internal information program for the St. Paul District and its stakeholders.

*Crosscurrents* also serves as the commander's primary communication tool for accurately transmitting policies and command philosophy to the St. Paul District community and its customers.

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- District supports veterans



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## Social Media



# Comments from the top

Team MVP,  
This month I will discuss a couple of topics, as I have become more acquainted with the job.

First, as summer comes to a close, I am greatly impressed with the professionalism and dedication of the district's employees. I visited many of you during my district office visits and while visiting our recreation sites and our locks. I traveled with many of our program managers and some of our regulators, as well, and the team has continually shown me why the St. Paul District has such a great reputation for expertise and quality. I continue to be humbled by the people I cross paths with.

We are approaching the fiscal closeout of another great year. We all have to do our part to support the resource managers as this annual closeout places additional demands on our time. Pay close attention to the milestones the district has established and refer to the resource management link on our website for any questions.

Fiscal year 2011 may prove to be a challenging one. As you know, November marks another congressional election. The current Congress has not yet passed a fiscal year 2011 budget. What that could mean is the Department of Defense and the district will

be operating under a continuing resolution. Some have even predicted that we will be operating that way for the entire fiscal year. If this isn't the only challenge, the Corps was asked to look at what a 5 percent cut across the board would mean. We will watch this closely, and I will provide updates as I learn more; but as we

move forward, know the rules and ensure you are executing within the bounds.

Another challenge in the coming months is the completion of the feasibility study for the Fargo, N.D.-Moorhead, Minn. Metropolitan Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study. We hit a few setbacks, but the project team is pressing forward to deliver a bullet proof, implementable product for the Red River Basin. I have complete confidence in the entire team and their abilities. Two years ago they began the feasibility study, and they are now on the verge of completing it.



Col. Michael J. Price  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
St. Paul District Commander

This will be a landmark study for the district and for the Corps of Engineers.

During the next couple of months, I will close with one of the Army Values and discuss how it applies to the district. This month I will talk about loyalty. As the division pushes toward regionalization, we have to broaden our loyalty. Some say loyalty in the Corps stops at the

district level. I have spoken to some of you and you have proven them wrong. Just as I am a Soldier first and an engineer second, many of you see yourselves as a Corps employee first and a St. Paul employee second. Loyalty is what causes teams to form and excel. St. Paul has a great team and a great reputation, which demonstrates tremendous loyalty. Remember to always be loyal to yourself and to your teammates and you will help the district go from "Good to Great" as regionalization takes us forward.

**BUILDING STRONG!**

## Moving forward: District embraces new home

Story and photos by Patrick Moes

Moving from one location to another can be stressful and complex. Moving an entire office and its more than 250 employees is a challenge that defies logic.

That was the mission given to the St. Paul District this past summer.

One of the biggest hurdles the district encountered during the move was disposing of all the trash and recycling material that had accumulated in the old building. The district recycled 3,120 pounds of material and disposed of 8,640 pounds of trash, said John Stebbings,

logistics.

"I couldn't believe the trash that we accumulated, especially the week before we moved," he said. "The trash company had to show up every day to empty the three large dumpsters in the basement. And even then, they could barely keep up."

In addition to moving into the new location with less material, the district had the opportunity to make some improvements, too.

One of the first improvements was creating better storage facilities for all of

the district's files. Eight new Lektrievers and a revolving file cabinet were purchased to help with organizing the many files within the district. Bookcases and shelving units were reused for the new location as well. "We purchased over 100 second-hand shelving units for use in the basement vault area to help store the intermediate term (less than six year) records," said Jim Mosner, project manager for the move.

Three additional conferences rooms were added into the design of the district's new home too, he said. There are now four conference rooms that have built-in audio and visual capability. This feature is new to the district since none of the conference rooms had this technology before. Along with the new conference rooms, the district now has nearly 12,000 additional square feet of workspace.

While the new location has improved the space and technology available to the district, the entire process of moving was time-consuming. The district began calling 180 E. Fifth Street its new home around the middle of June. Nearly six years earlier, on Nov. 30, 2004, the first meeting was held to begin the planning process.

Georgia Stanonik, a legal technician with the Corps, remembers that timeframe well. She said she recalled putting something away in her Lektriever, when she lost one of her pear-shaped earrings. Upset but undeterred, Stanonik remained hopeful that one day she would find her missing earring and set aside the mate just in case.

Six years later, the movers were in Stanonik's office to move the Lektriever



that had taken her earring years before. She said she told them her story and asked them to look for it before they did any cleaning. The movers didn't find it but Stanonik's persistence paid off. She found it resting next to the Lekriever's bottom ledge. "It was safe and sound, dirty, but all intact," she said.

While earrings were found safe, the main reasons for the move revolved around lease expirations and security concerns. Lt. Col Kevin Brown, former St. Paul District deputy commander, said the long-term lease was expiring and the district could no longer keep the lease without rebidding it.

Security concerns stemming from 9/11 also played a role in the move. Brown said the district was mandated to come into compliance and the previous site did not meet those requirements.

The new building now addresses those security requirements but much work remains.



## **Mosner said jobs yet to be completed include:**

- restroom modifications on the 7th floor;**
- shelving in closets;**
- whiteboard ledges and tack strips;**
- data ports and outlets are being added as needed;**
- complete systems furniture punch list items; and**
- complete audio and visual systems installation in conference rooms.**

## Boat tour offers rare glimpse at island construction

Story and photos by Patrick Moes

Nearly 200 people had a rare opportunity to participate in a free public boat tour and see the Pool 8 Islands being built by the Corps Aug. 30.

The 3rd annual tour, hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, is an inter-agency partnership that includes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, and the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of

design of the project in each boat to explain the project and answer questions from the public," said Don Powell, retired project manager and now a rehired annuitant. "The array of agency representatives impresses on the public that a team effort was required to successfully accomplish the restoration of habitat in the pool 8 area."

Jeff DeZellar, project management, said

Natural Resources.

"The [initial] idea was to have people knowledgeable of the construction or

"it's a good demonstration of what we are doing and people are happy to see where their tax dollars are going.

"A lot of people are very knowledgeable about the river and agency representatives were there to answer questions and point out features," he added.

Some of the islands features include many species of wildlife that now frequent the area.

"[There were] 400 to 500 white pelicans on the tour," said DeZellar. "We also saw a fairly unusual thing. We saw three deer crossing the Mississippi River heading for



Three deer swim in the Upper Mississippi River Aug. 30



A construction team contracted by the St. Paul District begins building the initial stage of a new island. The islands being constructed in the Upper Mississippi River's Pool 8 provide suitable vegetation for fish and waterfowl.

one of the islands.”

Powell said the success of habitat restoration is visually demonstrated by the resulting vegetation improvements.

In addition to the wildlife, one of the best features is agency partners are involved at every stage of project planning, design and construction.

The planning aspect also considered the location of the islands. A lot of the islands are being built on the same footprint as the islands that were lost in the 1940s and '50s.

They were lost due to natural erosion forces such as wind, waves and ice. As the islands eroded and flushed down stream, the habitat was lost for fish and wildlife and other creatures.

DeZellar concluded that the project is very satisfying to work on it because “we are fixing something that was broken.”



Left. Boat tour participants sit on the Mississippi Explorer charter boat as the tour heads out toward the islands. The free tour was hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. Above. Chris Erickson, project management, talks to 7-year-old Goyal about the district's participation with the Environmental Management Program.

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## Corps plants seeds at Farm Tech Days

Story by Shannon Bauer

Photos by Stefania Padalino

The St. Paul District staffed two informational booths at the Wisconsin Farm Technology Days in River Falls, Wis., July 20-22.

This three-day, annual event, which draws an average of 100,000 people each year, is the Midwest's biggest agricultural fair. The event is held in a different Wisconsin county, hosted at a different farm each year. Its purpose is to showcase to regional farmers the latest improvements in production agriculture.

This year was the first time the district signed up as an exhibitor. Kevin Bluhm, planning, coordinated the district's participation. He estimated that Corps staff working at the fair made direct contact with 2,500 people. Further, he added, at least one out of every 10 people were definitely interested in learning more about the Corps of Engineers.

One Corps booth was located in the fair's Youth Tent, where district staff distributed water safety materials to visiting children. At the second Corps booth, located in the Family Living Tent, district staff passed out information on navigation and the Mississippi River. A lock and dam model was located in each location, with the more sophisticated of the two models being located in the Family Living Tent. Additionally, Bobber, the Corps water safety dog, made special appearances in each booth throughout the fair.

"The main reason for us being at this event was to make contact with the agricultural community and to explain to them how what the Corps does on the Mississippi River system affects them," said Bluhm. "The lock model we had [in the Family Living Tent] was an interesting tool for many of the people that came by. It made them understand how we lock commodities through the system.

"I think the event helped open a lot of avenues for us to provide additional

education by talking to many different levels of the agricultural community," he continued. "We had a lot of people say, 'I'd never thought about that before,' and planting seeds [in people's heads] is always gratifying."

Unfortunately, said Bluhm, heavy rains shut down the event early on the last day, as the fair turned into a very large mud puddle. A number of district staff working at the event had their vehicles stuck in the parking area, and it was too dirty for Bobber to make any appearances.

Despite this setback, Bluhm said he felt the event was a great success overall. He said he received a number of compliments on the Corps participation and the amount of effort put into the booths by the district. Bobber, he said, was definitely a big hit.

In addition to Bluhm, staff that participated included Jasmine Austin, engineering; Lance Awsumb, planning; Shannon Bauer, public affairs; Dan Cottrell, channels and harbors; Eric Dore, equal employment opportunity; Corrine Hodapp, natural resources; Elliott Jensen, natural resources; Elizabeth Killian, engineering; Jake Kresel, natural resources; Brad Labadie, natural resources; Greta Schmalte, engineering; Thomas Schmit, engineering; Jon Sobiech, environmental; and Andrea Sterling, planning.



Kevin Bluhm, planning, center, explains the Corps lock and dam system to visitors at the event.



Bobber, the Corps water safety dog, meets with visitors, old and new, during the Wisconsin Farm Technology Days.



(Above) Boy Scouts wear Fatal Vision goggles as a part of the water safety classes the Corps taught. (Right) Corps ranger Deb Griffith shows a Boy Scout how to properly wear a life jacket, or personal floating device.

## Corps teaches Scouts water safety, sandbagging

Story by Patrick Moes  
Photos by Jeff Grow

St. Paul District employees passed on important skills to local kids during a recent Boy Scout event in Minnesota's Stearns County.

The Boy Scouts of America's Centennial Celebration Super Event was held to celebrate 100 years of scouting. Approximately 12,000 scouts and 20 federal, state, local and private agencies, including the Corps, participated. The main focus for the Corps during the event was outdoor recreation, and the district was asked to provide classes on water safety and sandbag levee construction.

"It was a great event to showcase both the Corps of Engineers' water safety message and the flood control mission," said Jeff Grow, a former park ranger who now works with the district's real estate department and who organized the event. "Being able to [have] contact through hands-on teaching and [providing] education to over 3,000 young adults was a great accomplishment."

Scouts had educational classes on a variety of topics that included various types of lifejackets, boating safety and sandbagging.

Grow said the water safety classes taught the Scouts on correctly

fitting a lifejacket, rescuing procedures on the water, practicing proper boating etiquette and recognizing different stages of hypothermia and its effects on a person, as well as how alcohol impairs a person's judgment and decision-making ability.

"I think this was a great opportunity to not only get our water safety message out but also to tell the Scouts and their families about the Corps," said Scott Tichy, Lake Ashtabula park ranger. "The Scouts are always a great organization to work with, and it was an honor to [work with them]."

Jon Sobiech, project management, was responsible for teaching the Scouts about sandbagging. He focused on the different techniques to correctly fill a sandbag and how to build a sandbag levee while working as a team.

"I was super excited to see the enthusiasm the Scouts had for the sandbagging exercise," said Sobiech. "We saw over 3,000 kids who wanted to sandbag so they could help a flooding city sometime in the future. [Their attitudes] were very refreshing to see."

The Corps has approximately 360 million visits a year to its lakes, beaches and other areas. Giving back to the community is just one of the reasons for participating in this event. Grow said he personally wanted to thank all of the district employees from five projects that worked at the event because they displayed the Corps

in a very positive and professional manner.



# District seeks solutions to improve Sunrise watershed

Story and photos by Shannon Bauer

The St. Paul District; the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, or MPCA; and Minnesota's Chisago County are currently working together on a comprehensive, environmental watershed study that will assist city and county planners in making decisions to better improve the health of the Sunrise River Watershed.

Elliot Stefanik, Corps' biologist and project manager for the study, said, for the Corps, looking at watersheds as a whole is relatively new – as is studying a watershed solely for environmental purposes with no specific Corps' project in mind. Corps Headquarters has recognized a need for such studies, he said, and the Sunrise Watershed Study is one of the first.

This particular watershed encompasses 360 square miles and portions of four east, central Minnesota counties – Isanti, Anoka, Washington and Chisago. Its river, the Sunrise, empties into the St. Croix River, one of the first eight river systems in the county to be designated as a national treasure and given protection under the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Ultimately, after flowing into the St. Croix, this water ends up in the Mighty Mississippi, undoubtedly also one of the nation's treasures.

Christopher Klucas, MPCA project manager working on this study, said the Sunrise River Watershed is unique because it has multiple

tributaries, lakes and wetlands which make up its flowage. More than a hundred lakes drain into the river. It also has a unique land use characteristic. He said there is urban sprawl from the south and southeast, agriculture in the north, wetlands in the east and state and national forest to the west. And finally, he said, the Sunrise River is home to multiple species of fish, wildlife, mussels and macroinvertebrates – all of which make for a diverse watershed.

Unfortunately, a study on the St. Croix basin completed in 1999 by the U.S. Geological Survey with assistance from the Corps concluded that although all sub basins of the St. Croix were contributing to the St. Croix's degradation, the Sunrise River Watershed contributed both the highest phosphorus and sediment yields.

Jerry Spetzman, Chisago County water resource manager, said, in 2006, the Sunrise River contributed more than 18,000 pounds of phosphorus to the St. Croix River –

enough phosphorus to create more than 9 million pounds of algae. There have also been problems with streambank erosion, loss of aquatic and wetland habitat and reduced ground water quality.

“The major issue affecting the basin ... is the human growth [rate] now and into the future,” said Klucas. “A large amount of the land in the watershed is being converted from forest and agriculture to urban areas. This change is going to have major effects on the watershed and the St. Croix basin.”

Spetzman agreed. The watershed, he said, has suffered major ecological changes since the beginning of European settlements, and, more recently, has been negatively affected by nutrient and sediment pollution. “Clearly the river's water quality will further degrade if we continue on our current path,” he said.

One of the goals of this multi-agency watershed study, which began in 2008, includes finding a way to reduce the phosphorus load from the Sunrise to the



St. Croix. This, in turn, will assist the St. Croix Basin Water Resources Planning Team, of which Chisago County is a member, in meeting a larger goal of a 20 percent reduction in phosphorus loading in the St. Croix basin as a whole.

The report will also assist the MPCA in developing a Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, for the Sunrise River and its tributaries, as well as be the driver for the agency to develop a Restoration and Protection Plan for all of the water bodies that make up this basin.

“My goals for the outcome of this study follow along with the goals of the MPCA,” said Klucas. “They are to improve and protect the waters and make them fishable and swimmable for all Minnesotans.”

By bringing the different talents and expertise of the partners, which also includes the Minnesota Science Museum’s St. Croix Watershed Research Station, together, the group has been researching all of the many different pieces that make up the Sunrise watershed – everything from its overall hydrology to the conditions causing the high levels of phosphorus. “These different pieces are important in and of themselves, but they can influence each other and work together,” said Stefanik. “Too often we, [the scientific community], look at individual pieces without looking at the entire basin.”

Much of the field work for the study has been completed, and the team has recently begun its analysis. “I’ve seen bits and pieces of the results, which are very interesting,” said Spetzman. “The results are starting to point us toward areas within the watershed that need work and some conclusions I hadn’t anticipated.”

The partners built a model that simulates the base conditions of the Sunrise watershed relatively well, and they have been going into the model and changing conditions to see what happens. “We hope to learn to what extent people can influence water quality in this river – and what, if any, changes can be made that will provide the best results,” said Stefanik.

During the next six months to a year, the study partners will continue to refine their models and anticipate completing a final report within 12 months. Stefanik said they will be focusing on the tributaries of the Sunrise, as well as looking closely at its erosion problems.

“The study, in and of itself, will not achieve the water quality goals,” said Spetzman. “However, I’m hopeful that recommendations coming from it will provide a roadmap, showing us how to achieve our goals.”



Elliot Stefanik, district biologist and project manager for the Sunrise Watershed Study, takes water samples during a recent trip to the watershed.

## District library opens doors, embraces new location

Story by Kevin Bokay

Photo by Shannon Bauer

The district library celebrated its new space with more than 70 district employees by offering free coffee, tea and cookies Aug. 30. The participants came to see the new atmosphere, shelving and many other aspects of the library's new location.

The library shared an area with the map files room in the previous building. In this new location, the library enjoys more space, more shelving, lots of sunlight, reading tables, a great layout, and, finally, a space to come and relax away from one's office or cubicle.

The new shelving nearly doubles the shelf space of the previous location. This means that all of the nearly 10,000 items in the library's collection can be displayed at once. The shelves rotate so that what one sees is only half of the material with the other portion available on the reverse side at the press of a pedal and turn of the shelf. There are also several regular bookshelves and four Lektrievers holding materials such as technical reports and back issues of journals.

The library's holdings include professional non-fiction reading materials in history (local, national and Corps of Engineers), geography, geology, economics, management, safety, engineering, hydrology, wildlife and other Corps mission-related subjects. The collection also includes a nearly complete set of Annual Reports of the Chief of Engineers dating back to 1866.

Back issues of professional journals are usually held for three years after they are routed through different sections. The district subscribes to more than 40 journals, such as the *Engineering News-Record*, *Landscape Architecture*, *The Waterways Journal*, and many others – including the daily *Pioneer Press*.

The library is located next to the break room on the 6th floor of the building's west side. For more information or suggestions, contact Kevin Bokay, (651) 290-5680 or [kevin.p.bokay@usace.army.mil](mailto:kevin.p.bokay@usace.army.mil).



Marsha Mose, left, engineering, receives a demonstration from Kevin Bokay, the district librarian.

# Doing the right thing could save a life

## District safety officer gives sound guidance

Story by Barry Simmonds

Ah, my first safety article for the district... The excitement, the anticipation, the chance to make an impact! Hmmm. The cold reality is that a good many folks in the district will not read this simply because it's a "safety article."

Safety just isn't very high on most folks dance cards unless they've personally been involved in a serious workplace incident. So what can I possibly say which will grab somebody's attention and help them actually think about the hazards involved in what they are doing? The fact is, there is absolutely nothing I can say which can force you to be safe. I can only provide the guidance and hope it's followed.

I wasn't always in the safety field, but, I've been in the safety 'business' for a long time. I started out as an Air Force firefighter doing crash-rescue and structural firefighting. You can bet we practiced safety on a daily basis! We had all sorts of special gear and tools which would allow us to cut apart, rip apart and otherwise get into just about anything—all while surviving the extreme environments of burning buildings and military aircraft. So, why is it that 'safety' is so obvious for a job like that, and so 'routine' for many other jobs?

And, what about our jobs here? Are we



Barry Simmonds,  
St. Paul District  
safety officer

immune to hazards while working for the Army Corps of Engineers? Are we guaranteed to never be exposed to things which can injure or kill us? The answer is, No, but, you already knew that. Chances are you already know that gas powered tools means that flammable liquids can burn or explode. You already understand that working around water means that without wearing a Personal Floatation Device, the odds of drowning are much higher if you fall into the water. And, I'm quite sure everyone understands that the most dangerous place in America is on our nation's roads. That's why we safety folks constantly remind everyone to wear seatbelts and not to drink and drive.

So again, what magic saying can I come up with to drive the message home? I've come to the conclusion that I can say nothing that will cause anyone to change their attitude about safety. Attitudes and actions are conscious decisions made by each individual. What we need to do is be willing to make safety a way of life instead of just a part of life. It must be woven into everything we do in order to make it effective. It must be 'second nature.'

I thought this poem was appropriate for my first submission. Please think about safety and why all these rules exist before starting your next job. And, if you can think of something magic which I can say which will cause folks to make safety a more exciting part of their life. Please let me know!

## "I Could Have Saved a Life That Day"

It wasn't that I didn't care  
I had the time, and I was there  
But I didn't want to seem a fool  
Or argue over a safety rule.

I knew he'd done the job before.  
If I called it wrong, he might get sore.  
The chances didn't seem that bad.  
I'd done the same and he knew I had.

So I shook my head and walked on by.  
He knew the risk as well as I.  
He took the chance, I closed an eye  
and with that act, I let him die.

I could have saved a life that day.  
But I chose to look the other way.  
Now every time I see his wife.  
I know I could have saved his life.

The guilt is something I must bear  
But it isn't something you need share.  
If you see a risk that others take,  
That puts their health or life at stake.

The question asked, or thing you say,  
Could help them live another day.  
If you see risk and walk away,  
Then hope you never have to say.

"I could have saved a life that day,  
But I chose to look the other way."

- Don Merrill

# YMCA offers exercise, more

Story and photos by Tammy Wick

Summer is winding down and that means the time is approaching where outdoor activities are going to be at a minimum and you might be looking for indoor activities to help you burn some energy. If you haven't tried the YMCA, or another gym near you, it may be worthwhile to do so.

The YMCA is located one block away from the Saint Paul District office in the skyway. Many district employees already take advantage of this and more may once the cold weather creeps in.

"I am very grateful to have the [YMCA] so accessible from work, especially the lunchtime yoga class, because it provides such a positive break in the day, and I feel so energized for the rest of the afternoon," said Barbara Walthers, regulatory.

Melissa Jenny, regulatory, added that Monday's yoga class was a good way to

start the week. In addition to yoga, some of the more popular activities are weight training and cardiovascular exercises.

Jeff McGrath, planning, said he uses weight training to stay fit and flexible.

"As I've aged, my body's been wearing down so exercise classes to improve flexibility and muscle tone have been a great way to reverse this trend," he said.

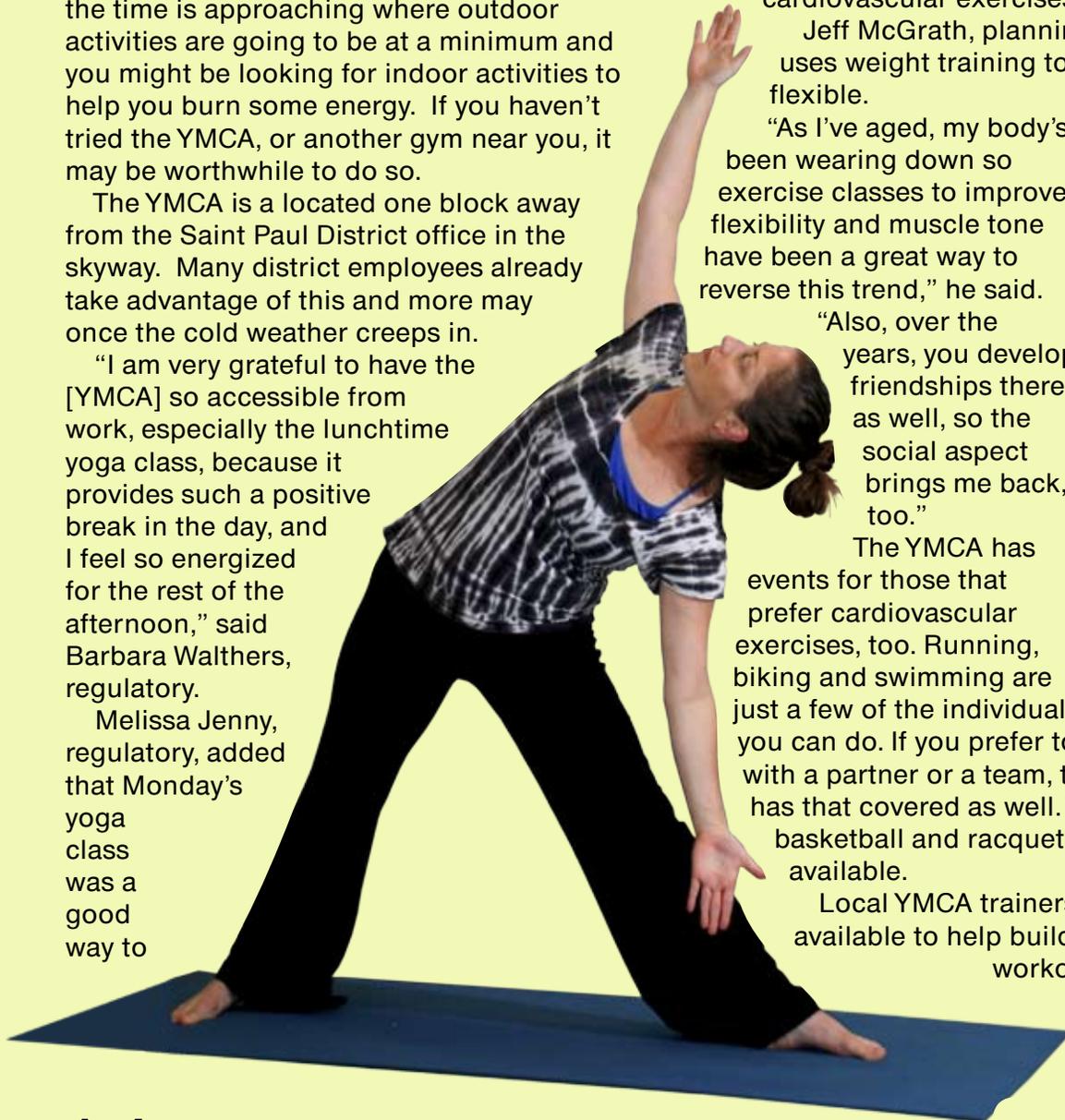
"Also, over the years, you develop friendships there as well, so the social aspect brings me back, too."

The YMCA has events for those that prefer cardiovascular exercises, too. Running, biking and swimming are just a few of the individual exercises you can do. If you prefer to workout with a partner or a team, the YMCA has that covered as well. Volleyball, basketball and racquetball are all available.

Local YMCA trainers are available to help build personal workout plans and provide

inspiration and motivation.

Anyone interested in a YMCA membership can visit them at their website. District employees can visit the Intranet for information on getting the Corps' fitness center subsidy benefit.



(Left) Melissa Jenny, regulatory, performs a triangle pose at a YMCA yoga class. (Above) Jeff McGrath, planning, Barbara Walther and Jenny conduct stretches during a yoga class. (Below) Alex Nelson, engineering, performs bicep curls.



## Stepping outside his comfort zone, District employee helps rebuild Iraq

Story by Patrick Moes

St. Paul District employee Mike Seibel, engineering, is currently in Iraq, has a unique perspective on the country. He is deployed on his third tour to the region as a construction representative with the Corps.

"I'm honored and very proud to have had the opportunity to be a part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' role in the reconstruction of Iraq," said Seibel about his deployments.



Seibel was there in the beginning and said he witnessed the frantic pace of construction. He said that his second tour provided him the ability to see the construction process slowing down to "just chaotic."

Now on his third tour, Seibel has seen eye-opening experiences and improved living conditions. He has his own trailer, private bathroom and a 24-hour/7-day-a-week dining facility that is 'top notch.'

While the amenities help, the very real threats of being in a combat zone are never far from his mind. "With this comfort we also have to endure the frightening sounds of incoming rounds of mortar and rockets, which makes us all head for the bunkers," he said. "We do thank goodness to have only been shaken by these rounds."

Seibel's third tour has him working on the close-out process of several projects. He is directly responsible for the quality assurance of eight to 10 projects near Camp Echo. "This has been one of the most gratifying experiences of my life," he said.



*courtesy photo*

Mike Seibel, engineering, discusses a construction project with local contractors in Iraq.

One of his projects is to complete the construction of the Electrical Engineering College building at Kufa University, located in An-Najaf, Iraq. This construction initially started in the late 1990s and stopped in early 2000. After the war, the Corps was tasked with completing the project. He said they are "currently about 95 percent complete and on schedule, which is a rarity in [Iraq]."

Seibel has learned more about people and culture while serving in Iraq too. "I've had the honor of working with many of the locals, engineers, contractors and laborers," he said. "They are all eager to learn the American way of doing construction. It's a tough job to teach them because of the language barrier, but we can usually get it across to them."

The language barriers are not the only difficult situation Seibel has encountered with his three tours. He said he has been frequently asked questions about whether he is just an adrenaline junkie or money hungry. He said he doesn't answer them because many people won't understand what it's like to see a village get fresh water for the first time. "With my teammates, we've built infrastructures, relationships and brighter futures, he said."

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## 2010 Hall of Fame recipients:

**Dan Krumholz**

1970-2008

- Channels and Harbors Project operations manager
- De
- fo
- Re



**Marianne Price**

1984-2008

- Equal Employment Opportunity officer
- Formed the district's Special Emphasis Program Committee
- Recognized by Department of the Army for her leadership in EEO world



BUILDING STRONG<sup>®</sup>

## District takes time to reflect on past, honor hall of fame inductees

Story by Patrick N. Moes

St. Paul District employees, past and present, and family and friends, gathered Sept. 9 to celebrate the 35th Annual Retirees' Reunion.

Along with the reunion, Col. Michael J. Price, district commander, recognized recent retirees Dan Krumholz, channels and harbors project office, and Marianne Price, equal employment opportunity, as the 2010 Hall of Fame Co-Recipients.

Addressing the crowd, Col. Price mentioned some similarities among the inductees and himself and suggested new screening criteria for the hall of fame. "It helps to have Price as the last name," said the district commander, looking at Marianne Price. "It's all about points," teased the colonel.

Along with the laughter from the audience, Col. Price said he was looking into membership jackets for the hall of fame recipients, as well. While jackets would be a thoughtful gesture, it doesn't compare to the dedication displayed by this year's hall of fame recipients. Marianne Price and Krumholz hold a collective 62 years of service dedicated to the Corps.

Marianne Price said she essentially had to build the EEO program from the ground up. "It was not without battles, not without tears...but we did it," she said during her acceptance speech. "We have a truly diverse district."

Krumholz said during his speech that "it was really a team effort. I want to thank everyone for helping."

More than 50 retirees from the district team attended the light-hearted event coordinated by Jim Kursu, formerly of project management. The retirees, friends and family received a state of the district briefing from the commander as well.



Photo by Patrick Moes

Dan Krumholz, left, receives his hall of fame plaque from Col. Michael Price Sept. 9. Krumholz began working for the Corps in 1970.

Betty Kreuger, formerly of contracting, left, and Mary Jane Trcka, formerly of resource management, look at photo albums from previous reunions during the 35th Annual Retirees' Reunion.



Photo by Shannon Bauer



Photo by Stefania Padalino

The 2010 Hall of Fame Inductees, Dan Krumholz and Marianne Price, front, pose with past inductees after the reunion. The past inductees are from left, Dave Loss, 2006 inductee; Dave Haumersen, 1999 inductee; Bill Spychalla, 2000 inductee; Jim Kursu, 1995 inductee; and John Bailen, 2007 inductee.



Photo by Patrick Moes

Marianne Price, right, receives her hall of fame plaque from Col. Michael Price Sept. 9. Price began working for the Corps in 1984.

# Pool 6 Drawdown renews aquatic life

Story by Patrick Moes

Photos courtesy of the Minn. Department of Natural Resources

The St. Paul District faced a challenging task earlier this summer. The agency wanted to increase the amount of aquatic vegetation in Pool 6 near , just south of Lock and Dam 6 near Trempealeau, Wis., but needed to expose soil within the river to do it.

The reason for the project was simple, said Jeff DeZellar, project manager. "It's because of effects from the lock and dam system for commercial navigation," he said. "When the locks and dams were put in, it created a series of pools on the upper Mississippi River, and we didn't have the low water in the summer. [This] was important for aquatic vegetation re-growth."

The district initiated the drawdown June 18 by using the lock and dam to lower the water levels. "We lower the water level by about a foot," he explained. "As we do that, mudflats are exposed on the river and in the pool."

The vegetation that emerges from these newly created mudflats is important for several reasons, he said. They have native vegetation seeds, and fish and wildlife benefit from the plants by having a habitat and a food source.

The drawdown concluded Sept. 3 and, by current estimates, approximately 200 acres of mudflats were exposed in the pool during the drawdown.



July 2010



August 2010



July 2007



September 2010

# News & Notes

**Editor's Note:** Send your announcements (births, weddings, graduations, etc.) to: [cemvp-pa@usace.army.mil](mailto:cemvp-pa@usace.army.mil).

## Weddings

**Rick Hauck** and **Kari Layman**, both engineering and construction, were married in Glendive, Mont., Aug. 7

## Announcements

**Chris Atkins**, Memphis District, was selected as the new physical support branch chief.

## Retirements

**Russell Bolton**, 23 years federal service, lock and dam equipment mechanic, Genoa/Vernon, Wis.

**Marilyn Caturia**, 25 years federal service, secretary, district office

**James Crosby**, 18 years federal service, lock and dam operator, Lower St. Anthony Falls, Minneapolis

## Newcomers

**Kevin Anderson**, environmental engineer, district office

**Lucas Anderson**, deckhand, Fountain City/Buffalo, Wis.

**Donna Beck**, administrative project assistant, district office

**Seans Berens**, park ranger, Crosslake, Minn.

**Diyona Breitung-Schmillen**, cook, Fountain City/Buffalo, Wis.

**Mitchell Goss**, deckhand, Fountain City/Buffalo, Wis.

**Melissa Gulan**, civil engineer, Eveleth, Minn. (retired annuitant)

**Branden Johnson**, deckhand, Fountain City/Buffalo, Wis.

**Chad Klein**, deckhand, Fountain City/Buffalo, Wis.

**David Kriesel**, leverman, Fountain City/Buffalo, Wis.

**Dustin Luedtke**, deckhand, Fountain City/Buffalo, Wis.

**John Mazurowski**, deckhand, Fountain City/Buffalo, Wis.

**Patrick Moes**, public affairs, district office

**Stacey Person**, attorney, district office

**Scott Rolbiecki**, deckhand, Fountain City/Buffalo, Wis.

**Keith Staley**, cook, Fountain City/Buffalo, Wis.

**Nicholas Stanton**, deckhand, Fountain City/Buffalo, Wis.

**Revonna Stuart**, construction assistant, Devils Lake, N.D.



Photo by Patrick Moes

Lt. Col. Kevin Brown, St. Paul District deputy commander, received an Army Meritorious Service Medal from Col. Michael Price, district commander, Sept. 10 during a farewell ceremony. Brown left the district to assume a battalion commander position with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.