

# Crosscurrents

**December 2011 Vol. 37, No. 10**

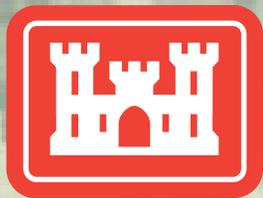
*Serving the St. Paul District since 1977*

**Housing team crosses  
the finish line**

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**Overseas deployees  
continue working  
during holidays**

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

**BUILDING STRONG®**

## On the Cover



JL Summerlin, a construction representative for the district, is currently serving in Afghanistan and he said enjoys managing construction projects that will, and do, impact so many Afghanistan citizens.

*Courtesy photo*

*Crosscurrents* is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. It is published monthly for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District.

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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## Next month's *Crosscurrents* issue includes:

- Diversion project moves forward
- An in-depth look at the Marsh Lake project



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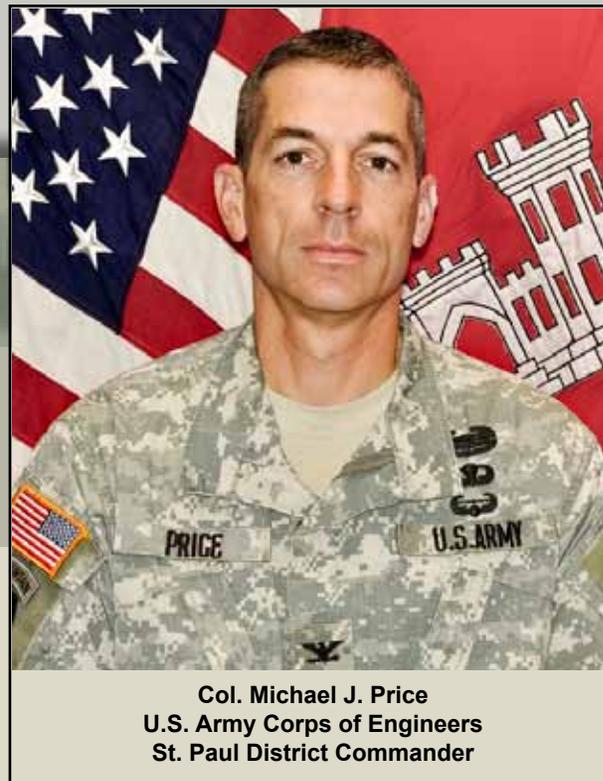
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## Comments from the top



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

Team,

As I reflect at the half way point in my command tour, I want to thank each of you for the tremendous professionalism and dedicated civil service you provide to our nation. I continue to believe that I do have the best job in the Army, mainly because of the people that make up the district. Together, we have had many accomplishments this past year and most of them set the mark of excellence for the entire Corps. Thanks again for another great year!

As the cold weather and snow move in, the holidays quickly follow. So, Teresa and I want to wish each of you a safe and happy holiday season. Take this opportunity to spend time with your families and friends; and take the time to reflect on the past year. The district has met many challenges these past 12 months, including the historic flooding in the Souris River Basin, the number four flood of record in Fargo, N.D., the new threat of Asian Carp in the district and the continuing budgetary constraints. In each of these and the many

other challenges, you answered the call and completed the mission. We have a world-class team, and we have a lot to be thankful for. I am still deeply humbled to be part of this team, and I cannot say this enough.

We have some challenges to address in the near term. We have a new division commander that will continue to lead the Mississippi Valley Division to greatness. We have new threats, and we have to prepare a new budget paradigm where watersheds, systems and risk-based approaches will form our thinking. We will have to address an environment that lacks national priorities for infrastructure or for intermodal transportation. The way we contract will change this year. We may be asked to divest some of our infrastructure. And, finally, our regulators will have to interpret and put into action as many as 39 regulation changes and 117 policy changes. All of these challenges will

be met with the utmost professionalism that we have always applied. Remember to always execute your duties with the good of the nation in mind.

As we move forward, we are reminded that some of our teammates, which include our families, are recovering from major surgery or ailments. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they recuperate. We also have a number of deployed employees and I ask that you keep them in your thoughts as well. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a great mission and even greater people executing that mission. Thank you to each of you for what you do everyday.

Again, be safe this holiday season and enjoy the time off in the coming month, you all deserve it!

**BUILDING STRONG**

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# Housing team crosses finish line in North Dakota

Story by Vanessa Hamer

The first snow fall marks the completion of a mission tasked to the Corps by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, in the days following the Souris River crest June 26.

The district's housing project recovery team received the mission to provide temporary housing for the citizens of Ward County, North Dakota, June 2. In total, the Corps built the necessary infrastructure for nearly 800 lots in Minot, N.D., and 50 lots in Burlington, N.D. The project was completed Dec. 1.

The Corps' original goal was to complete these sites by the end of September but due to unforeseen site conditions, labor availability and weather impacts, the group housing sites took longer than anticipated.

This effort was "one of the largest temporary group housing sites the Corps has had since [Hurricane] Katrina," said Lisa Lund, operations and housing mission specialist. Lund was one of the many individuals involved in the housing effort and one of the main things she has taken away from the mission is "the knowledge that people got into their homes before winter, before it got cold, and before Christmas time."

For this mission, the Corps provided sites to FEMA installed with

infrastructure and roads necessary for a group housing site and then FEMA brought in homes, connected the utilities and moved in the evacuees. "It was exciting when they started bringing out the first homes ... and you saw people living in them," said Lund.

The completion of the temporary group housing sites marked the end of housing mission for the district. Lt. Col. Kendall Bergmann, deputy commander and flood fight and recovery commander for the basin, said, the housing mission provided many Corps employees with the knowledge and skills for future emergency operations. "There were growing and learning curves for a lot of people," he said. "This is going to help [the district] with any future disasters."

He added that he was fortunate to work with a lot of great people, and the district was very supportive of the housing mission. The completion of the temporary housing means "that flood victims have a temporary home and can return to some sense of normalcy," said Bergmann. "We did what we were asked to do and this reflects on the quality of people in the St. Paul District and the Corps of Engineers."



# Corps finishes major levee repairs along Souris River

Story by Patrick Moes

The district completed major levee repairs to damaged areas along the Souris River in North Dakota Nov. 22. These areas were damaged during catastrophic flooding this summer, when the river swelled beyond its banks and eroded

the levees.

With the repairs complete, the system is again offering flood protection to the communities of Burlington, N.D., and Minot, N.D.

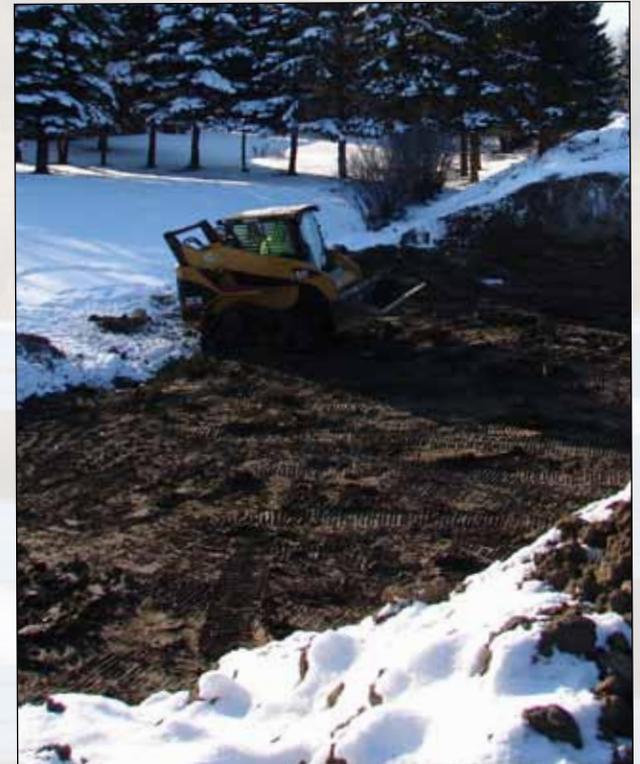
The areas included in the repairs include three

locations near Country Club Acres/Robinwood Estates, an area near Perkett Elementary School and Talbott's Nursery in Minot, N.D. The Corps also removed debris, repaired a roadway embankment and cleaned a large box culvert



Photo by Patrick Moes

Joe Schroetter, left, and Nate Wallerstedt, both in project management, discuss the levee construction process in Ward County, North Dakota, Oct. 8. The Corps recently completed levee repairs in five areas. These repairs were critical to restore flood protection to Burlington, N.D., and Minot, N.D.



Courtesy photo

A construction worker uses a skid steer to make levee repairs along the Souris River recently. The district repaired levees that were damaged this summer after catastrophic flooding.

near Mouse River Park in Renville County, North Dakota. Roadway embankment repairs will continue next spring.

Joe Schroetter, project management, said it was important to get these repairs completed as soon as possible. "We wanted to ensure some level of protection was there for the cities before the spring thaw," he explained.

The levees repairs included removing the debris left over from the flood and the soft soil from the damaged areas. The Corps then placed new impervious fill material and topsoil on the levees.

Minor work on the levees remain, to include adding topsoil, riprap and placing grass seed, but this work does not affect the levees' integrity, said Schroetter.

The district awarded a contract to Ceres Environmental Services, Inc., of Brooklyn Park, Minn., Nov. 4, to repair the levees.

Nate Wallerstedt, project management, said the project was challenging to get everything done before winter "Due to the time of year that we received funding for the repairs. We only had a very short period of time to prepare construction documents, get a construction contractor on board and complete the repair work prior to winter freeze up."

**(Above right) Alan Walters, left, Minot, N.D., public works director, talks with Joe Schroetter, project management, about the levee repairs needed along the Souris River. The Corps completed major repairs to the damaged levees Nov. 22.**

**(Right) A damaged levee near Perckett School in Minot, N.D., This was one of five areas the Corps repaired following catastrophic flooding this summer. The levee repairs protect the communities to the 5,000 cubic feet per second level.**



*Photo by Patrick Moes*



*Photo by Patrick Moes*

# Souris River flood meeting held, report due soon

Story by Patrick Moes

Col. Michael Price, St. Paul District commander, and district engineering officials involved with the Souris River Basin met with representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, the North Dakota Water Commission, the North Dakota congressional staff and North Dakota Governor Jack Dalrymple's office Dec. 8.

The meeting was held to discuss the 2011 summer flood and the 2012 Souris River operations within North Dakota and Saskatchewan, Canada, next summer. As a result of the meeting, an international task force was created with federal, provincial and state officials to participate in the development of a plan for the 2012 basin reservoir management. Ferris Chamberlin, water control chief, said, the task force also agreed to identify measures that could reduce the flood risk and may make recommendations for reservoir operations outside the 1989 International Agreement to the International Souris River Board, or ISRB.

Operations were also discussed to ensure the design level of protection during a spring flood is still provided, which is 5,000 cubic feet per second at the Minot 4NW gage, said Chamberlin.

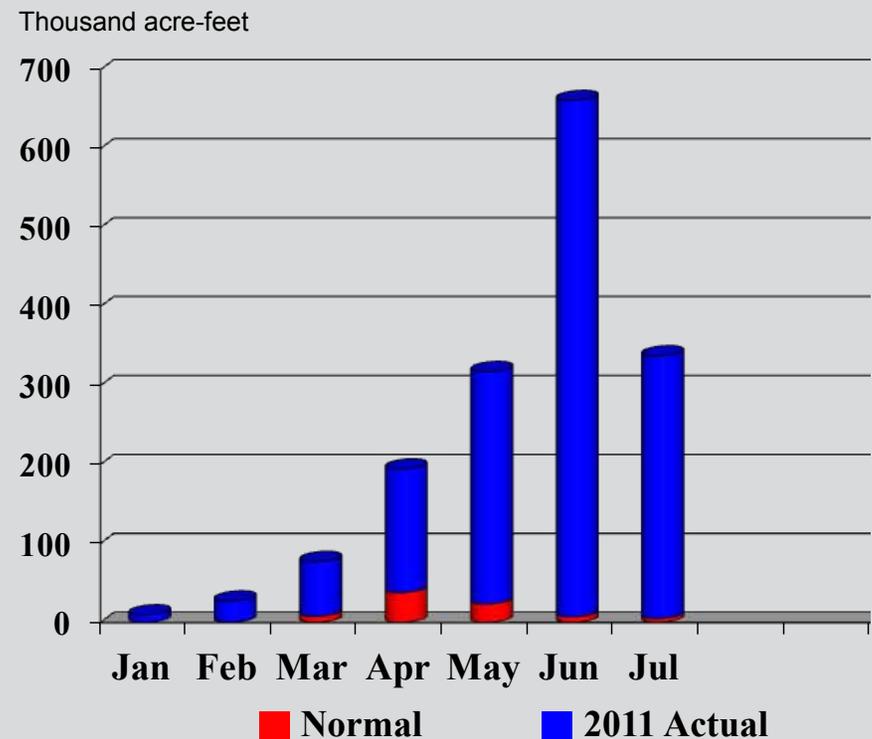
During the 2011 flood, the Watershed Authority identified safety issues at the Alameda and Rafferty dams in Canada. These safety issues did not impact the operational decisions made during the 2011 flood event, however, while further investigations are conducted, the maximum pool elevation at Alameda Dam will be reduced to lower the dam safety risk. Ed Eaton, engineering, said, these changes stay within the operating plan contained in Annex A of the International Agreement.

In addition to the meeting, the district is currently preparing a post-flood report that will be presented to the ISRB at their winter meeting in Bismarck, N.D., early next year.

Eaton said the Corps is required to provide a report to the ISRB any year there is a flood. The report will then be forwarded to the International Joint Commission, or IJC. The IJC was created by the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty to assist governments in Canada and the United States in finding solutions to waters that fall along or across the border.



**Souris River runoff at the Sherwood Gage  
2011 actual volumes versus normal monthly volumes**



# District's regulatory branch receives award for environmental collaboration

Story by Barbara Walther

The district's regulatory branch; the City of Lino Lakes, Minn.; the Rice Creek Watershed District; and Emmons and Olivier Resources, Inc., recently received an Honor Award at the American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota 2011 Annual Banquet for collaborative work on the Lino Lakes Special Area Management Plan.

The Lino Lakes Special Area Management Plan addresses future water quality, quantity, flow rates and wetland functions and conditions in light of forecasted development and potential changes to surface and groundwater characteristics.

Jason Naber, from Emmons and Olivier Resources, Inc., said the development of the Lino Lakes Special Area Management Plan and

programmatic general permit "was a unique project, and I was very fortunate to be involved. The collaboration between the city, Rice Creek Watershed District and the Corps provided a unique opportunity to bring together the varied regulatory requirements to create a practical, efficient permitting process that will achieve the local resource management objectives."

A Corps regulatory guidance letter was issued in December 2005, providing guidance for the use of special area management plans. The Corps' headquarters encouraged districts to participate in the planning and development of special area management plans in areas of special sensitivity, but only if it is likely to result in a definitive regulatory product. The specific guidance can be found [here](#).

The district determined that the City of Lino Lakes was an excellent candidate for development of a special area management plan due to the environmental sensitivity of its resources, strong development pressure, involvement of the local citizens and the willingness of both the city and watershed district to act as local sponsors. The sponsors also discouraged unnecessary impacts to wetland resources through increased mitigation requirements.

The management plan is watershed-based and provides for both natural resource protection and economic growth. Its purpose is to provide a watershed-based and conservation-based framework for aquatic resource management, particularly as development and redevelopment occurs within a community.

Prior to the development of the Lino Lakes plan, the Corps collaborated with Rice Creek Watershed District on other resource management plans for sub-watersheds within the watershed district to ensure consistency between the Clean Water Act Section 404 Regulatory Program and the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act and other local programs.

The success of these plans led to a district decision to go beyond a resource management plan and develop a special area management plan. Projects consistent with the special area management plan may be eligible for an expedited Department of the Army programmatic general permit, which will be implemented in January 2012.

For more information regarding the SAMP or the PGP-004-LL contact Barbara Walther at 651-290-5469 or [barbara.l.walther@usace.army.mil](mailto:barbara.l.walther@usace.army.mil).



Courtesy photo

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota presented an Honor Award to the Lino Lakes Special Area Management Plan development team for its cost-effective, feasible approaches to environmental infrastructure and development issues. From left, Jason Naber, Emmons and Olivier Resources, Inc.; Nick Tomczik, Rice Creek Watershed District; Barbara Walther, regulatory; and Michael Grochala, Lino Lakes Community Development Director.

# District recognizes conservation group for hard work

Story by Shannon Bauer

The district's natural resources staff recognized the Brice Prairie Conservation Association with an appreciation plaque Nov. 16 in recognition of the group's long history of volunteering on the Mississippi River. The Brice Prairie Conservation Association

is a nonprofit organization formed in 1958 to support conservation projects in the lower Black River area of southwestern Wisconsin. Much of their work is focused in Pool 7 and Lake Onalaska on the Mississippi River. Randy Urich, environmental section supervisor, said his office presented this award to Brice Prairie specifically in recognition of the thousands of volunteer hours the group has given to the Corps and other federal agencies and to show their membership some gratitude for their efforts.

Urich said the group's biggest project with the Corps included planting thousands of swamp white oaks on Corps land. This project began 20 years ago as a means to prevent the spread of invasive Reed canary grass. "The idea was that the swamp white oak would grow taller than the grass and get rid of it," explained Urich. "They built a tree nursery, collected swamp white oak acorns and have been planting seedlings on federal land.

"A lot of these trees are good sized now, and they're helping to regenerate swamp white oak on their own," he added.

This project then broadened into another, where the group is now growing disease tolerant American elm seedlings. Again, they are growing seedlings at a tree nursery and then transplanting them to federal lands.

Other Brice Prairie initiatives with the



Courtesy photo

**Randy Urich, environmental section supervisor, right, presents the recognition plaque to the Brice Prairie Conservation Association Vice President Mike Lanquist at their monthly meeting Nov. 16.**

Corps include replacing invasive black locust with higher quality hard woods, building fish cribs and participating in river cleanups. The group also hosts an annual fishing tournament and is a big supporter of the Boy and Girl Scouts.

Urich said the members of Brice Prairie were really appreciative of the recognition. He said one member told him, "Thanks, you made us really stand tall!"

"Volunteer support is the key to Corps' success in the areas of environmental stewardship and recreation," Urich said. "We're very grateful to have such dedicated and supportive partners as the Brice Prairie Conservation Association."



**US ARMY Corps  
of Engineers**

The St. Paul District US Army Corps of Engineers  
Wishes to Thank

## **The Brice Prairie Conservation Association**

For their natural resource conservation efforts on lands and waters in Pool 7 of the Upper Mississippi River. For over 20 years, the Association has been an active partner with the Corps and other agencies on projects that include: restoration of floodplain forest, shoreline and river clean ups, invasive species control, fish habitat and recreational fishing access improvements. This work has resulted in significant benefits for those who use and enjoy the natural resources of the Upper Mississippi River.

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# Away for the holidays, overseas deployees continue work

Story by Patrick Moes

This year marked the 10th anniversary for servicemembers and civilians deploying overseas to areas such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

Since Sept. 11, the district has had more than 100 employees volunteer to serve overseas. This year is no exception. The district currently has four employees serving overseas in Afghanistan – Tony Delgado, executive office; JL Summerlin, engineering; Jason Stuart, engineering; and Rodney Peterson, real estate; and Jeff Olson, regulatory, will be deploying soon.

“Regardless of the location, every employee has volunteered to serve, and we owe them our gratitude,” said Kristen Fairbanks, emergency operations and deployment coordinator.

While each employee may have a different reason for volunteering, Summerlin said his reason was simple, “I volunteered to serve the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Afghanistan so that I could fulfill a desire to serve my country, [the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers] and my family.”

He is currently working for the Transatlantic South District’s Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul in southern Afghanistan. “Aside from the dangers [of] living in a war zone and the longing for family, living here has been a wonderful experience so far,” said Summerlin. “At a little more than halfway through my 12-month deployment, I look forward to managing many more construction projects that will, and already do, impact the lives of so many Afghans.”

The dangers of a combat zone are real, and they can be found anywhere. Jason Stuart, a contracting officer in Kandahar, Afghanistan, said, “I served a 13-month tour in Iraq and I was good for several months before I was actually shot at. I had arrived in Kandahar for all of three hours, and we were hittin’ the deck from a rocket attack. I thought right there ‘is this how it’s going to be the entire tour?’”

Stuart, a Devils Lake, N.D., construction representative, is currently constructing two tactical training bases for the Afghan national army – both projects total more than \$100 million. Working 10-hour days, seven days a week, he said he misses his wife and children, but he wanted serve side-by-side with the troops and serve the nation.

Summerlin said, “Service to others is the greatest privilege, in my humble opinion, and an opportunity for excellence. Deploying to Afghanistan is an experience like no other, and I would



Courtesy photo

JL Summerlin, right, engineering, and Staff Sgt. Edward Winkowski, U.S. Army Security Forces squad leader, congratulate each other after another successful mission outside the wire to observe progress on construction projects. Summerlin normally works as a construction representative in Devils Lake, N.D.



Courtesy photo

**Rod Peterson, right, and Hugh Coleman, both realty specialists, are deployed to Afghanistan to provide real estate support for the mission. Peterson normally works as a realty specialist at the district's headquarters in St. Paul, Minn.**

volunteer again should the call for volunteers be made again. “

North of Zabul and Kandahar Provinces in Kabul, Rod Peterson, real estate, is working as a realty specialist with the U.S. Forces - Afghanistan. He said his job is interesting but it has a “very limited correlation to processes stateside.”

Despite the challenges and distance from his family, Peterson said, “The people are great, and we all suffer equally; and, as they say, ‘misery loves company’ so the deployment is not so bad.” The company he misses the most is his family. “I miss not having my daily interaction with my wife and children.” Peterson added that while he is deployed, he misses the small things every now and then. “I miss not having a good cup of java each day.”



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

**(Above) Jason Stuart, center, engineering, is currently working as a construction representative in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Stuart normally works in Devils Lake, N.D., as a construction representative. (Left) Tony Delgado, executive office, is currently deployed to Afghanistan as an administrative support specialist.**

# District learns about Mississippi River history through Bosse Day

Story by Patrick Moes

The history of the Upper Mississippi River was on display Nov. 22, as Kevin Bokay, district librarian, hosted Henry Bosse Day at the district headquarters in St. Paul, Minn.

Working as a draftsman for the Corps of Engineers in the late 1800s, Bosse began taking cyanotype photographs of landscapes and urban development along the river. From Minneapolis to Rock Island, Ill., Bosse photographed several projects and landscapes before the river was changed for navigation.

"The images show the river before the lock and dam system," said Brad Perkl, planning. "They show an intense development along the river in terms of the economic growth of this country."

Beyond the scope of historic significance, the Bosse photos have become highly sought after for their artistic composition and clarity. John Anfinson, former district historian and National Parks Service employee, said, "His photos represent a very modern and sophisticated interpretation of the river." He added that the photos represent a portrait of the river as it transformed from a frontier community to the commercial river of today.

Chris Faust, a photographer from St. Paul, was commissioned by the district to reproduce the Bosse album for public display. He said, Bosse's images are significant because they represent the passage of time. "His photos show the way culture has adapted to the river."

Bosse's work has been highlighted by some of the best art industry experts in recent years. Anfinson said, Sotheby's distinguished

him as the  
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Photo by Patrick Moes

District employees look at Henry Bosse's images Nov. 22. The district's album is one of five known to exist. The images depict life and urban development along the Upper Mississippi River before the locks and dams.

1990 photographer of recognition and the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History called Bosse's photographs "truly extraordinary."

The district's Bosse album is one of only five

albums known to exist. The remaining albums are located at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.; National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa; Rock Island District; and a private collection that was



Photo by Patrick Moes

**John Anfinson, former district historian and National Parks Service employee, talks about Henry Bosse during a presentation at the district office in St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 22.**

purchased from Southeby's in 1990.

The district's album was presented to the Dredge William A. Thompson around its christening in 1937 by Thompson's widow. Anfinson said, the photo album stayed on the dredge for more than 50 years and was used by dredge operators to identify where wing dams were built. Since then, the album has been kept at a secure location. Sotheby's appraised the 136-plate album this spring and determined the value to exceed \$4.5 million.



**(Above) Plate number 96 from Henry Bosse's photos shows a boat near La Crosse, Wis., in 1891. (Left) A self-portrait cartoon of Henry Bosse that was published in a Mississippi River map book that Bosse completed. The book depicts the river from the Falls of Saint Anthony in Minneapolis to the Junction of the Illinois River, near Cairo, Ill.**

# News & Notes

## Editor's Note

Do you have news you want to share with the district? Send your announcements of births, weddings, graduations, etc., to *Crosscurrents*. [cemvp-pa@usace.army.mil](mailto:cemvp-pa@usace.army.mil).

## Newcomers

**Christopher Chan**, security technician, security and law enforcement, district office

**Robert Stewart**, engineering, Devils Lake, N.D.

## Retirees

**Mark Davidson**, public affairs chief, public affairs, district office

## Gull Lake Recreation Area decorates for the holidays

The Gull Lake Recreation Area park rangers had a water safety theme for this year's holiday season. The park rangers used personal flotation devices to decorate their tree.



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

## Holiday donations

The district donated the following items to Keystone Community Services of St. Paul, Minn.:

hats, 10	stuffed animals, 4
gloves, 20	girls robe, 1
socks, 10	food, 52 pounds
books, 4	cash, \$55
toys / games for kids up to 12-years-old, 46	
toys / games for teens. 11	

## Congratulations

**Dwight DeLoney**, Upper Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, Minneapolis, was selected as the new head operator.

**Rojean LeSeure**, was selected as the lockmaster for Lock and Dam 6, Trempealeau, Wis.

## Taps

**Joyce Morris**, passed away Dec. 10.

She was an administrative assistant for the La Crescent Natural Resources Section in La Crescent, Minn.

**Arley (Butch) Martin III**, passed away Nov. 30.

Martin was the last Master of the Dredge Thompson and the first Master of the new Dredge Goetz.



Courtesy photo

**Butch Martin** helped dedicate the Dredge Goetz in 2005.