

Crosscurrents

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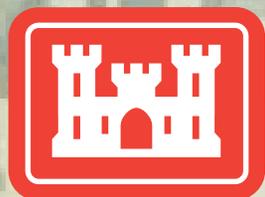
Serving the St. Paul District since 1977

**Corps promotes
outdoors, teaches
water safety**

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**Technology
helps scientists
learn about fish
behavior**

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

BUILDING STRONG®

On the Cover



Elliot Stefanik, fish biologist, explains how the Hydro-acoustic camera will help researchers better understand fish behavior within the Mississippi River.

Photo by Laura Bremer

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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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Snappy dressers like Joseph Mueller, engineering and construction, read *Crosscurrents*.

Photo by Shannon Bauer



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Comments from the top



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

Team,

We were reminded recently that Mother Nature decides many things. We recorded the second highest amount of rainfall in one month in Minnesota during May and additional rain in June challenged many parts of northern Minnesota. Duluth, Minn., is just now in the early stages of recovery from their worst flood on record. The district continues to offer and provide support to the state and to the Detroit District as the Arrowhead of Minnesota begins to recover.

Within the St. Paul District geographical boundary, our Mississippi Headwater sites continue to recover from the high water and the effects of the recent rain events. We closely monitored our locks and dams along the Upper Mississippi River for impacts to navigation, and we have had to close the Minneapolis locks twice for extended periods of time due to high flows.

In addition to the weather-related issues this summer, we also saw another historical

event that you will read about in this month's issue.

The Dredge William A.

Thompson made its final journey down the Mississippi River. For more than 70 years, the dredge and the crew that ran it shaped the Mississippi River like never before. The dredge is going to a good home in Prairie du Chien, Wis., where it will be turned into a museum and an interpretive center. I intend to dedicate a space in the district's headquarters to permanently display some of the dredge artifacts so we can permanently remember a significant part of our history.

After attending the most recent senior leader training conference, I learned the Mississippi Valley Division is preparing to undertake a number of initiatives. One of the initiatives that will affect us all is a journey to achieve ISO 9001 certification during the next two years. The first step to that end is to developing a continuous process improvement, or CPI, program. Each of us follows some process in our daily activities. I am sure, as we use these

processes, each of us may find areas for improvement.

A CPI program formalizes the improvement process. During the next several months, the division will make a concerted effort to develop and implement this program. The bottom line is that CPI and ISO 9001 are all about making the Corps better.

Mississippi Valley Division Commanding General Maj. Gen. John Peabody's vision is for our stakeholders and partners to say, "Why not the Corps?" We are the only federal agency that truly has national interests as our guiding principle.

Finally, I embark on my final year of command this month. I have been truly blessed to be part of this great organization and associated with so many great people. I am deeply humbled to serve alongside each of you. Remember summer is here, so enjoy it. Spend some time with your families when you can. I am mindful that you all work extremely hard, but you have to make time for yourselves.

BUILDING STRONG!

Rangers use National Get Outdoors Day to teach water safety

Story by Patrick Moes

District park rangers were in full force around the Minneapolis area June 9 to help celebrate National Get Outdoors day and talk about the Corps' missions.

The 5th annual event encourages healthy outdoor activities across the nation. This year, park rangers were at Powderhorn Park and Upper Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam for two separate events.

The Powderhorn Park event was sponsored by several agencies to include the Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and others. Kids of all ages had the opportunity to see live fish and learn how catch them from the shore, paddle a voyageur canoe, learn about trees and birds, and learn about boat and water safety from the Corps' park rangers.

The park rangers had two water safety mini boats on hand for kids to learn how to operate, while also learning the importance of water safety and wearing your life jacket, or personal floatation device.

"I think it's a great opportunity," said Brian Turner, Gull Lake Recreation Area park ranger. "One of the Corps' objectives for the recreation strategic plan is to promote public awareness and capitalize on the



Photo By Patrick Moes

Brian Turner, Gull Lake park ranger, teaches kids how to safely drive a boat during a National Get Outdoors Event in Minneapolis June 9.

unique position of the Corps' water recreation opportunities. Another objective is to promote the safe and healthy outdoor opportunities on the Corps' projects to the public." He added that the event provided an opportunity for urban kids to experience outdoor activities. "Events like this give urban kids an opportunity to experience recreation opportunities they might not normally get to do," he said.

Turner said outdoor events such as the Powderhorn Park event are a multi-tiered benefit, because you are creating new partners while promoting environmental stewardship. He said Powderhorn Lake is filled with Eurasian milfoil and being there with the kids provides a great opportunity to teach them about the dangers and environmental impacts of invasive species.

How important is water safety

Kelli Phillips, Eau Galle Recreation Area park manager, said events like the one at Powderhorn Park provide a lot of value to the public and the Corps. "It enables us to reach a new type of visitor that we might



Photo By Patrick Moes

Kelli Phillips, Eau Galle Recreation Area park manager, teaches the proper way to wear a life jacket during the National Get Outdoors event in Minneapolis June 9.

not reach at the project level,” said Phillips. “People at the projects are more accustomed to the outdoors, and it’s important to let everyone know what we do.” She added that it was a great opportunity to partner with so many agencies at one time while teaching people about the outdoors.



Photo By Patrick Moes

Water flows over the St. Anthony Falls at Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam in Minneapolis June 9. The Minneapolis-based Northern Spark Festival was held around Upper Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam June 9.

Lighting up the night

The Minneapolis skyline became a canvas during the June 9 evening as the city celebrated Northern Spark, an active celebration of art after sunset. As light shows painted images across buildings in the historic mill area, many people watched from the stone arch bridge while others took the opportunity to tour the Upper Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam. More than 100 visitors toured the facility, learning about the history of the Corps, navigation on the Mississippi River and how locks and dams operate.

Phillips said, the tours were a great opportunity to teach people about the Corps and is looking at ways to improve the event by including more information next year.

District uses technology to learn about fish behavior around locks and dams



Story by Patrick Moes

As Asian carp continue to dominate news headlines across the Upper Mississippi River, the district's scientists recently received some new technology to assist them in researching fish on the river.

Elliot Stefanik, biologist, said the Rock Island District lent a hydro-acoustic camera to the district in March to study fish within the river. The camera uses underwater sound waves and a computer then translates those waves into images in real time. "It's almost like an ultrasound or side-scan sonar technology used by fishermen," said Stefanik.

While the technology is providing the Corps biologists' valuable research, Stefanik said the equipment is limited in terms of what they

see. He said they can't see colors or defined shapes and that limits the researchers in determining what fish are present, but he said they can still observe fish behavior. "We observe how fish are acting, how they orient, and we can gain a lot of information," said Stefanik.

Many of the Corps' partners are currently exploring options to prevent the spread of Asian carp into Minnesota waters. Currently, the state of Minnesota has expressed interest in building a barrier in front of a lock and dam to discourage fish from entering the lock chamber. Stefanik said he hopes the information the Corps collects can be used by the partners in designing a fish deterrent system.

"We hope to get a better understanding of how fish are behaving around our locks and then provide that [information] to our partners, so they know how many fish are using the lock chamber and how they behave in the chamber," said Stefanik. "It's all about being a good partner and helping other agencies better understand and better characterize how fish respond to a lock and dam structure."



Photo by Laura Bremer

Aaron McFarlane, environmental, departs on a boat ride along the Mississippi River to research how fish behave around Lock and Dam 1 in Minneapolis June 7.

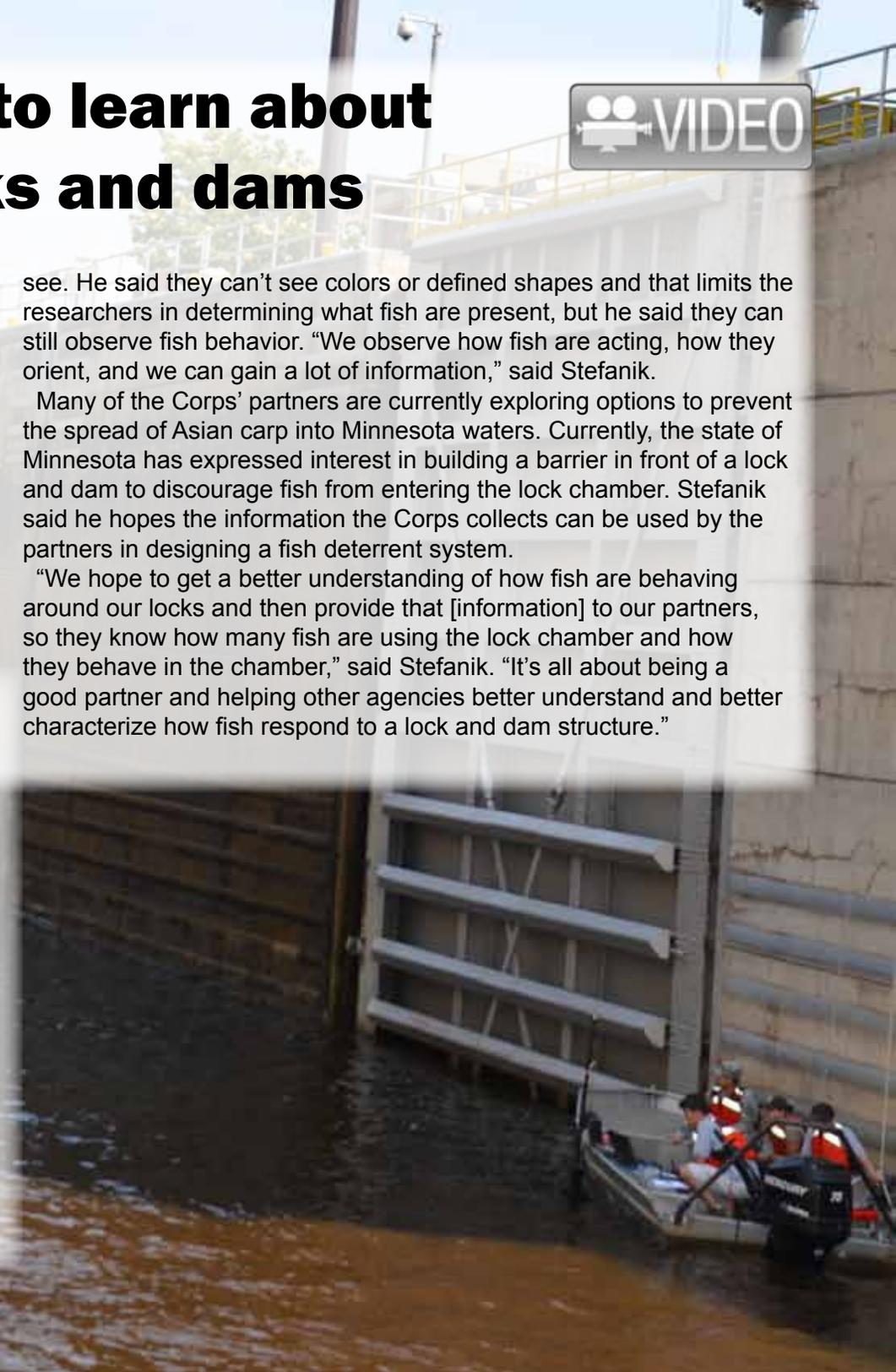




Photo by Laura Bremer

Aaron McFarlane, environmental, connects cables for the hydro-acoustic camera before departing on a boat ride along the Mississippi River to research how fish behave around a lock and dam June 7. [Click on the photo to watch the video.](#)



Photo by Laura Bremer

Jenna Merry, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service student, left; Aaron McFarlane, environmental; and Elliot Stefanik, environmental, monitor a hydro-acoustic camera while surveying fish behavior near Lock and Dam 1 in Minneapolis, June 7.

During the June 7 research at Lock and Dam 1 in Minneapolis, Stefanik said there was a large amount of common carp near the lock and dam. “We see a lot of common carp around this time of year, especially when the water temperatures get around 70 degrees,” he said. “While common carp may behave slightly different from Asian carp; they may be the best proxy the Corps has to determine how Asian carp might behave around a lock and dam.” He said the Corps is also studying common carp within the Chicago Area Waterway System to determine how they behave around the electrical barrier.

Moving forward, Stefanik said the next step in the research process will be taking the information they collected and looking at it collectively with the different agencies to see if there is anything that they can gather from it in terms of general fish tendencies.

Dredge Thompson receives honorable discharge

Story by Shannon Bauer

District employees and retirees, river residents, and those affectionately known as river rats lined the banks of the Upper Mississippi River to see the Dredge William A. Thompson make its final voyage June 12 to 13.

The Thompson left the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers service base in Fountain City, Wis., June 12 and arrived at its final destination in Prairie du Chien, Wis., the next day. There, a nonprofit group, Community Development Alternatives, Inc., accepted the dredge from the Corps and will make it a permanent static display.

The district used the Thompson to maintain 850 miles of the Upper Mississippi River, 335 miles of the Illinois River and other inland rivers from May 1937 until May 2005, well after its projected life of 50 years. While in use, it was the largest of its type and meticulously maintained throughout its working life.

“There’s a lot of Fountain City history going down the river right now,” said John Sagan, Fountain City resident and Fountain City Historical

Society member, as he watched the MV General Warren tow the Thompson away from the Corps’ dock. “It was a big piece of this town. A lot of people here worked on this boat. It helped keep this community going.”

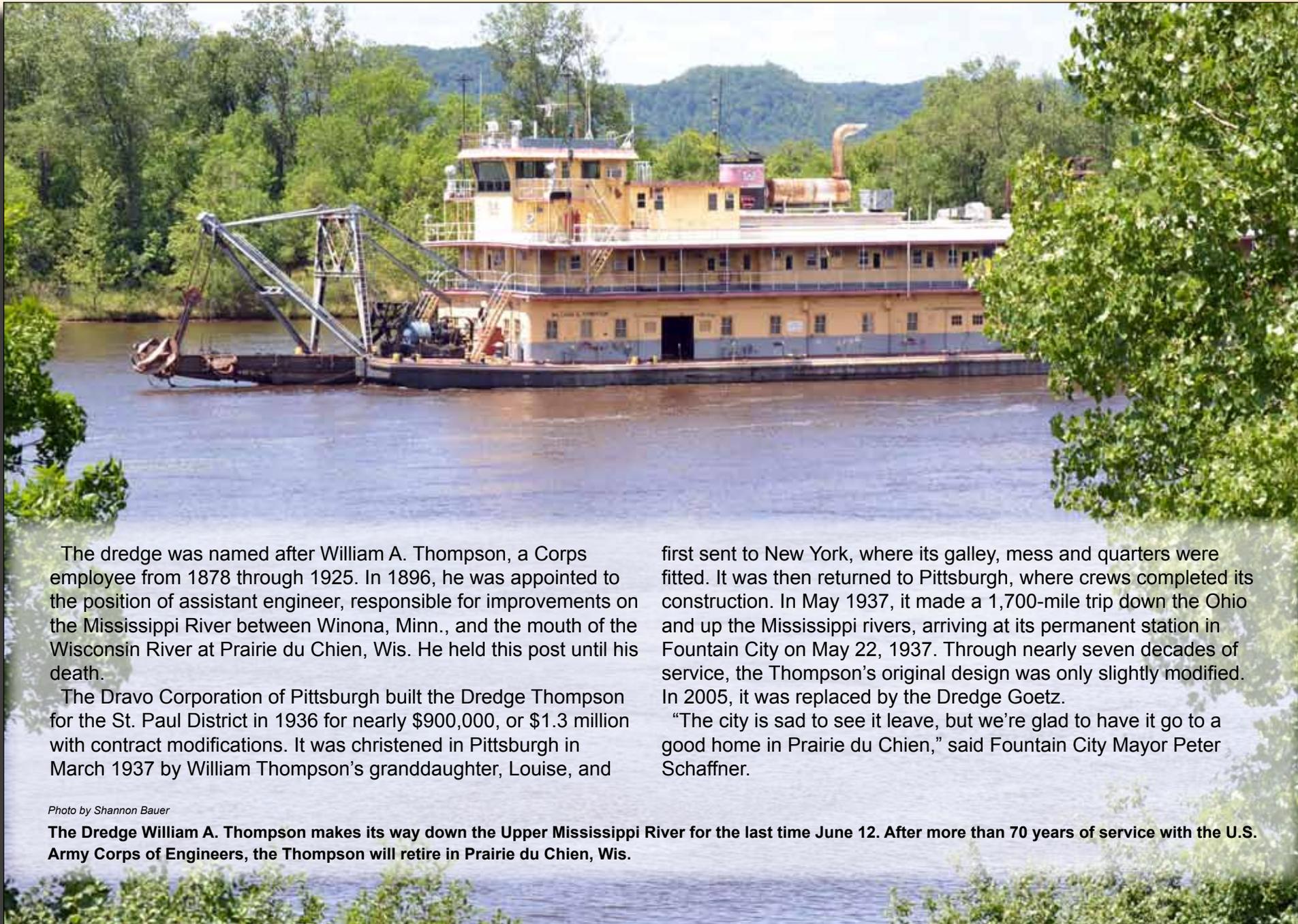
Mark Krumholz, Corps navigation program specialist, worked for several years to find the Thompson a new home, not wanting to see the vessel scrapped. “The Dredge Thompson is an icon on the river. It’s known to all as the big banana boat,” he said. “It saw the transitioning of the Upper Mississippi River from steamboats, Mark Twain and lead lines to state-of-art diesel-electric power and a new era of channel maintenance by the Corps of Engineers.

“I started my career with the Corps on the Dredge Thompson as a deckhand on the midnight shift in August of 1974, so to see it sold to someone who is going to take care of it is extremely rewarding,” he added.



Photo by Shannon Bauer

The Dredge William A. Thompson leaves the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers service base in Fountain City, Wis., for the last time June 12. The Thompson’s new home will be with the Community Development Alternatives, Inc., in Prairie du Chien, Wis.



The dredge was named after William A. Thompson, a Corps employee from 1878 through 1925. In 1896, he was appointed to the position of assistant engineer, responsible for improvements on the Mississippi River between Winona, Minn., and the mouth of the Wisconsin River at Prairie du Chien, Wis. He held this post until his death.

The Dravo Corporation of Pittsburgh built the Dredge Thompson for the St. Paul District in 1936 for nearly \$900,000, or \$1.3 million with contract modifications. It was christened in Pittsburgh in March 1937 by William Thompson's granddaughter, Louise, and

first sent to New York, where its galley, mess and quarters were fitted. It was then returned to Pittsburgh, where crews completed its construction. In May 1937, it made a 1,700-mile trip down the Ohio and up the Mississippi rivers, arriving at its permanent station in Fountain City on May 22, 1937. Through nearly seven decades of service, the Thompson's original design was only slightly modified. In 2005, it was replaced by the Dredge Goetz.

"The city is sad to see it leave, but we're glad to have it go to a good home in Prairie du Chien," said Fountain City Mayor Peter Schaffner.

Photo by Shannon Bauer

The Dredge William A. Thompson makes its way down the Upper Mississippi River for the last time June 12. After more than 70 years of service with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Thompson will retire in Prairie du Chien, Wis.

Fargo team hosts construction industry day

Story by Patrick Moes

Around 80 contractors gathered in Fargo, N.D., June 27, to learn more about the proposed Fargo, N.D./Moorhead, Minn., Metro Flood Risk Management Project and discuss the construction processes that might be involved in completing the project.

Kevin Henricks, contracting chief, said this is the first time the St. Paul District has hosted an event like this. He said the reason was simple, “We are looking for input from construction firms that will benefit our project in the long run.”



Photo by Patrick Moes

Kevin Henricks, contracting chief, answers questions during “construction industry day” in Fargo, N.D., June 27. Henricks said he hopes the input from the contractors will provide for a better project.



Photo by Patrick Moes

Contractors listen to presentations from the district and Fargo Flood Diversion Authority members during “construction industry day” in Fargo, N.D., June 27. The information included construction specs for the proposed project.



Photo by Patrick Moes

Mike Evenson, engineering and construction, reviews information on the construction specs for the proposed diversion project during “construction industry day” in Fargo, N.D., June 27.

While this is the first time the St. Paul District has held an industry day event, it is not the first for the Mississippi Valley Division. The New Orleans District held an industry day, when they began the process of building the Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System, said Beth Killian, St. Paul District structural engineer and co-event organizer. “Their event was the biggest in the division at the time, and we modeled our day off of that.”

During the event, Henricks said he was looking forward to working with the construction community, and he hoped the dialogue between the contractors and the Corps would help find areas where the Corps could reduce the overall project costs while making the project more efficient. This is a chance for the district to provide a “first-hand opportunity to let the construction community know what the project is all about,” he said. “We also want to gain insight into what contractors are interested in and whether they are interested in being a prime or sub contractor.”

The purpose of the project is to provide flood risk management to the Fargo, Moorhead area from the Red River of the North. The project would divert water during a flood event to a 36-mile long diversion channel west of Fargo. The Record of Decision was signed in April. Terry Williams, senior project manager, said, “It’s up to Congress to authorize and fund the project now.”

In preparation of that decision, the district has invested \$14.3 million in the pre-construction, engineering, and design of the proposed project.

Some of the interesting facts of the proposed project include:

- 20,000 cubic feet per second diversion;**
- 50,000 acre-feet of water storage;**
- 150,000 acre-feet of water staging area;**
- 12 miles of tie back embankments; and**
- 55 million cubic yards of earthen material will be moved during the construction of the project.**

Corps of Engineers, others, sign memorandum of understanding for Red River projects

Story by Bianca Jones

After nearly a year in the making, a memorandum of understanding, or MOU, was finalized between the Corps and two other environmental agencies this past May.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' St. Paul and Omaha districts, along with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, or NRCS, of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, and the Red River Retention Authority signed the MOU for flood retention projects within the Red River of the North Basin.

The MOU establishes the framework for the early coordination and participation among the agencies while facilitating a timely review of proposed structures and projects within the basin, according to the document. The agreement ensures that each agency meets its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and other related statutes within the authorizations required for federal action, and

it incorporates the regulatory process into the planning process for flood risk reduction in the Red River Basin, said Tamara Cameron, regulatory.

The MOU idea came from NRCS and Corps leadership in April 2011. The idea became a reality due to the work of Keith Weston, NRCS; Kelly Urbanek, regulatory; and Dan Cimarosti, Omaha District; said Cameron. They thought more could be done to work together within the basin, particularly with the Red River Retention Authority's involvement.

"The agreement is a symbol of our agencies' commitment to working together as a partnership," said Cameron.

The Red River of the North Basin includes parts of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Manitoba, Canada. The Red River has flooded historically since the early '90s. The river flows to the north, bringing water to Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba. Flooding and loss of native habitat are significant issues within the basin.



Courtesy photo

The Corps of Engineers, along with several other agencies, signed a memorandum of understanding to work together on regulatory issues along the Red River of the North. From left, Jerome Deal, board member of the Red River Retention Authority and the Red River Watershed Management Board; Tamara Cameron, St. Paul District Regulatory Branch chief; Keith Weston, Red River Basin coordinator and Natural Resources Conservation Service member; Don Baloun, Minnesota Natural Resources Conservation Service state conservationist; Jim Lyons, co-chair Red River Retention Authority / Red River Watershed Management Board; Martha Chieply, Omaha District Regulatory Branch chief; and Paul Flynn, Acting South Dakota Natural Resources Conservation Service state conservationist.



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Summer picnic offers recognition, fun and food



Photo by Stefania Padalino

The district held its annual summer picnic and awards ceremony June 12 at the Hidden Falls Park in St. Paul, Minn.

The Hawaiian-themed event included lunch, door prizes, tug-of-war competition and awards presentations.

Col. Michael Price, district commander, took the opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication before the awards ceremony. He also mentioned the executive office “with a little help from the support offices” won the tug-of-war event this year.

(Left) Girard Schuster, left, engineering and construction, celebrates winning the Hawaiian-shirt competition during the summer picnic as Tammy Wick, project management, applauds. (Right) Tom Sully, executive office, waits for the Hawaiian-shirt competition during the district picnic at Hidden Falls Park in St. Paul, Minn., June 12.



Photo by Patrick Moes



10 years



30 years



35 years



45 years



15 years

25 years



20 years

Committed to serve

10 years

From left, Audrey Rich, operations; Jon Sobiech, planning; Brad Perkl, planning; Dan Munson, regulatory; Gary DeSchane, operations; and Corby Lewis, engineering and construction.

15 years

From left, Barry Simmonds, safety; Kristen Kosterman, operations.

20 years

From left, Tim Grundhoffer, engineering and construction; Ann Banitt, engineering and construction; Chris Erickson, project management; and Cheryl Paulson, resource management.

25 years

From left, Craig Evans, planning; Mike DeRusha, operations; and Tim Paulus, engineering and construction.

30 years

Teri Alberico, emergency operations.

35 years

Kevin Ressie, operations.

45 years

Tom Koopmeiners, contracting.



Rachel Snyder,
regulatory



Achievement Medal
for Civilian Service



Michelle Larson,
engineering and
construction



Shannon Bauer,
public affairs



Commander's Award for
Civilian Service



Patrick Moes,
public affairs



Julie Ritter,
resource management



Rick Magee,
operations



Bryanna Sauer,
resource management



Kristin Kosterman,
operations



Congratulations

Shannon Bauer, public affairs, was selected as the 2012 recipient of the Corps' Locke L. Mouton Award for Excellence (Media Relations & Public Information) with assistance from **Patrick Moes**, public affairs, and **Jeff DeZellar**, project management.

Garrett Blomstrand, student intern employee, completed his Bachelor of Science degree from North Dakota State University and is now a permanent employee in engineering and construction.

Michelle Larson, and her husband, **John**, got married May 26 at Interstate State Park in Taylors Falls, Minn.

Loren Nishek, engineering and construction, was selected as the Corps' 2011 construction Hard Hat of the Year Award recipient.

Stacey Person, Office of Council, her husband, **Ben**, and their son, **Beckett**, welcomed **Casper Willemsen** (19 inches, 6 lb 13 oz) and **Flynn Willemsen** (19.5 inches, 6 lb 9oz) Jan. 31.

Greta Schmalte, student intern employee, completed her Master of Science degree at Iowa State and is now a permanent employee in geotech.

Retirees

Chuck Spitzack, civil engineer, planning, district office.

David Pehler, cook, operations, Fountain City, Wis.

Maria Valencia, ecologist, regulatory, district office.

Patrick Duffney, park ranger, operations, Grand Rapids, Minn.

Saying thanks

"I want to thank all those that contributed to the gift box I received. The snacks are always good and the other products (chap stick, toothpaste, etc) have come in handy. I look forward to seeing everyone again and getting re-aquainted with my old job." - **Jeff Olson**, regulatory

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.

Newcomers

Jason Brownrigg, cabin attendant, operations, Fountain City, Wis.

Douglas Bruner, geologist, operations, district office.

Charles Budd, biological science aid, operations, district office.

Joni Chacich, human resources assistant, personnel, district office.

Allison Crump, engineering aid, engineering and construction, district office.

Joseph Czaplewski, student trainee, operations, McGregor, Minn.

Gwendolyn Davis, contract specialist, contracting, district office.

Troy Frank, student trainee, operations, Fountain City, Wis.

Zachary Gappa, student trainee, operations, Fountain City, Wis.

Devin Gathman, engineering technician, engineering and construction, district office.

Timothy Guyah, archeologist, planning, district office.

Jamie Kampa, deckhand, operations, Fountain City, Wis.

Michael Leshner, (rehired annuitant), engineering and construction, district office.

Joseph Mueller, engineering technician, engineering and construction, district office.

Warren O'bar, human resources specialist, personnel, district office.

Jessica Vargas, biologist, operations, district office.

Andrew Walton, engineering aid, engineering and construction, district office.

Kory Warrington, lock and dam operator, operations, Lock and Dam 10, Guttenberg, Iowa

Jacob Wotczak, geology, engineering and construction, district office.