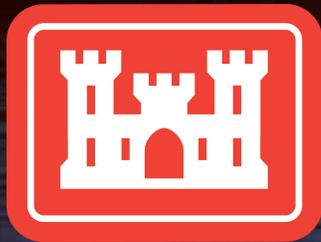


Crosscurrents

Serving the St. Paul District since 1977

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®

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

First tow arrives in St. Paul, Minn.

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The Motor Vessel Roberta Tabor is locked through Lock and Dam 2 in Hastings, Minn., April 8. The tow was the first to arrive in St. Paul, Minn., which traditionally marks the unofficial start to the district's navigation season.



Photo by Patrick Moes

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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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Crosscurrents is read by amazing administrative assistants like Roberta Just, operations.

Photo by Shannon Bauer



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Comments from the top

Team,

Spring has finally arrived! We know this, because the delayed flood season finally ended. I couldn't be prouder of everyone for professionally executing another successful flood fight. This includes the people who worked diligently in the field, those who analyzed data around the clock, all the administrative support functions and the managers who made this a clockwork event. Finally, I would like to thank the rest of the district team for stepping in and picking up the duties of the people who were actively working the flood event. It was truly an entire district operating as one team and, for that, the region is thankful.

The Red River of the North threatened the valley with another record crest. The National Weather Service initially compared the basin snowpack and frost conditions to those of the flood

of 2009. And with the extended winter temperatures, the recipe for a catastrophic flood was present. The last probabilistic forecast predicted a 50 percent chance for a flood of record, and the North Dakota governor requested our assistance. We coordinated our support for the city of Fargo, N.D., and its surrounding communities and prepared for the melt to begin.

Fortunately for those who live in the basin, the perfect melt occurred, and a record breaking crest did not materialize. Regardless of how the flood fight progressed, however, the district had everything in place and our personnel performed admirably. This was truly evident when Maj. Gen. John Peabody, Mississippi Valley Division commander, and his staff visited Fargo. Without a doubt, the communities along

the Red River of North are the most proficient at protecting their citizens against flood waters, and we are a big part of that. Well done!

As temperatures begin to warm, remember to be safe as we begin to recreate more. You will see more pedestrians, bicycles and motorcycles out on the street. Remember to share the road. Also, you may know that Minnesota has the highest number of boats per capita, and the fishing opener is already behind us. If you use one of the more than 11,000 lakes in Minnesota, remember water safety and always wear your personal floatation device.

My time is quickly coming to an end, and I have truly enjoyed every day in the district. The main reason for this is because of each and every one of you. You are the most professional workforce



Col. Michael J. Price

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

with which I have been associated; and, although I may be in command, it is you that makes this district successful.

Continue to take care of one another, continue to provide "Value to the Nation," continue to develop and deliver solutions, and thanks for all that you do day in and day out!

BUILDING STRONG!
COL Price



The Motor Vessel Roberta Tabor is locked through Lock and Dam 2 in Hastings, Minn., April 8. The tow was the first to arrive in St. Paul, Minn., which traditionally marks the unofficial start to the district's navigation season.

Photo by Patrick Moes



The Lock and Dam 2 lock staff in Hastings, Minn., prepare to welcome the first tow of the season through the lock April 8. The Motor Vessel Roberta Tabor tow was the first to arrive in St. Paul, Minn.

Photo by Patrick Moes

First tow finally breaks through Lake Pepin ice, arrives in St. Paul, Minn., April 8

Story by Patrick Moes

The Motor Vessel Prairie Dawn, the first up-bound tow of the 2013 navigation season to break through Lake Pepin, near Red Wing, Minn., crushed through more than 12 to 16 inches of Mississippi River ice early in the morning April 8.

Shortly after 8 p.m., on the same evening, the crew aboard the Motor Vessel Roberta Tabor, a tow owned by

American River Transportation Company in St. Louis, called lock staff at Lock and Dam 2 in Hastings, Minn., on the radio, announcing their arrival en route to St. Paul, Minn. With the arrival of the MV Roberta Tabor, all of the district's locks were open to commercial and recreational vessels for the 2013 navigation season.

The season started later than normal

this year due to thick ice on Lake Pepin. The lake is the last part of the river to break up because the river is wider, and, subsequently, the current is slower there than it is at other reaches of the river.

The average opening date of the navigation season for the last 30 years has been March 20. Last year, the Motor Vessel Deana Ann was the first up-bound tow to pass through Lake

Pepin. She arrived March 17.

The earliest date for an up-bound tow to reach Lock and Dam 2 was March 4, in 1983, 1984 and 2000. The latest arrival date unrelated to flooding was April 4, 2008. Historic flooding in 2001 delayed the arrival of the first tow until May 11.



The district is reducing the level of service at Lock and Dam 1, located near the former Ford plant in Minneapolis. The new operating hours will be from 3 a.m. to 10 p.m., daily.

Photo by Laura Bremer



Upper St. Anthony Falls and Lower St. Anthony Falls lock and dams, both located in downtown Minneapolis, will operate under new hours during the 2013 navigation season

Photo by Patrick Moes

District alters its operating hours at its three Minneapolis locks

Story by Patrick Moes

The district's 2013 navigation season is starting with some changes to the level of service at some of its locks.

The district is changing the operating hours at its three Minneapolis locks – Upper St. Anthony Falls, Lower St. Anthony Falls and Lock and Dam 1. The purpose in changing the level of service and operating hours is due to

the nationwide-effort to reduce the operating and maintenance costs at locks with less traffic. The Corps will continue to lock both commercial and recreational vessels daily from 8 a.m. to 3 a.m., at Upper and Lower St. Anthony Falls, and 3 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Lock and Dam 1.

“The Corps hopes to save money by standardizing lock service levels at locks

throughout the country,” said Kevin Baumgard, deputy operations chief. “The decision to change the operating hours is based solely on the lock usage at each location.”

Additional changes may be made in the future. Baumgard said, the district will review the lock usage annually and make additional adjustments to the operating hours based on those

reviews.

With the new service levels, Baumgard said, the district will save approximately \$770,000 annually. The cost savings, he said, are derived from three areas: reducing the operating hours for the three locks, changing the manpower requirements needed to operate the locks and adjusting winter staffing requirements.



Roy Lawson, engineering and construction, loads a foil boat with marbles during an Introduce a Girl to Engineering seminar at South Point Elementary School in East Grand Forks, Minn., with Emily Gottberg keeping track.

Photo by Virginia Regorrah



Virginia Regorrah, engineering and construction, center, back, celebrates with all of the hard hat winners.

Courtesy photo

Grand Forks, N.D., team volunteers at area school, celebrates Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day

Story by Virginia Regorrah

The district's Grand Forks, N.D., office presented a hands-on program in March for Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day in celebration of National Engineering Week.

Continuing its nine-year tradition, the Grand Forks team took annual leave this year to visit the 5th grade classes at South Point Elementary School in East Grand Forks, Minn., to introduce girls to engineering. Since 2005, the office has introduced more than 570 girls to the multiple fields of engineering.

The program, which is highly anticipated by both teachers and girls, hasn't changed much during the past nine years. First, the presenters gave a short explanation of engineering and the diverse fields of engineering. Second, the female engineers explained why they chose engineering as a field, and then the girls were divided into three groups to rotate through stations where they could be marine engineers, civil engineers or aeronautical engineers. The marine engineers built foil boats, the civil engineers built marshmallow and spaghetti bridges and the aeronautical engineers built and flew paper airplanes. The objectives were to see whose boat holds the most marbles, whose bridge

can support the most pennies and whose airplane flew the farthest. Winners in each group received a hard hat. The office team chipped in to purchase all the supplies for the event.

This year, the Grand Forks office was augmented by Debbie Jacklitch-Kuiken, a mechanical engineer with TüvSüd America; Emily Gottberg, a senior at East Grand Forks Senior High, and Melissa Cassanelli, an electrical engineer at Grand Forks Air Force Base.

Nine years ago, Melissa worked for the Grand Forks office as a University of North Dakota student and asked if she could participate again. Emily Gottberg was a 5th grader in 2006. She and her partner, Aubrie Carlstrom, won hard hats for their spaghetti and marshmallow bridge. According to Gottberg, the Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day event convinced her she wanted to be an engineer to make a difference in the world. "I've used this program in my college essays when they ask 'Why do you want to be an engineer?,'" she said. "I tell them about Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day!" She said she was excited to be part of the event, and even more excited when she got a new hot pink hardhat.



Jim Mosner, engineering and construction, recently received the Minnesota Federation of Engineering, Science and Technology Societies Charles W. Britzius Distinguished Engineer Award.

Photo by Patrick Moes



Jim Mosner, left, and Rick Femrite, both in engineering and construction, celebrate Mosner's selection as the Minnesota Federation of Engineering, Science and Technology Societies Charles W. Britzius Distinguished Engineer Award recipient.

Photo by Kathy Mosner

Mosner wins prestigious state engineering award

Story by Allison Fairbanks

Jim Mosner, a district civil engineer, recently received the Minnesota Federation of Engineering, Science and Technology Societies Charles W. Britzius Distinguished Engineer Award.

Mosner, a Maplewood, Minn., resident, received the award during the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers, or MnSPE, Engineers Week Awards and Recognition Banquet

Feb. 22. He was nominated by the Society of American Military Engineers, or SAME.

According to the citation, this award recognizes outstanding lifetime achievements in the practice of engineering, contributions to the engineering profession and actions enhancing the image of engineering. "I have known Jim for over 23 years.

During that time I have had the pleasure to work for him and with him in various capacities," said Richard Femrite, engineering and construction. "Jim leads by example, taking on additional assignments, such as district quality manager in the St. Paul District Corps of Engineers."

Femrite added that Mosner has volunteered to lead emergency

temporary housing missions on numerous occasions, which required him to work long hours under sometimes very stressful conditions in locations impacted by natural disasters, as well as numerous other special assignments which he carries out with passion and commitment.

Mosner has worked for the St. Paul District for almost 35 years.

Headwaters reservoirs: An affordable recreation opportunity close to home

Story by Patrick Moes (Part III of III)

If you ask someone from the Upper Midwest what they do during the summer, chances are likely you will hear something about going to the lake to fish or just enjoy the outdoors. With more than 10,000 lakes in Minnesota and 15,000 in Wisconsin, recreational opportunities are abundant throughout the region.

Corps' recreation sites are no different. Outdoor enthusiast can find campsites

at nine Corps sites throughout the district in North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin. All six Mississippi River Headwaters sites have camping, too. From Leech Lake, near Federal Dam, Minn., to Gull Lake Recreation Area, near Brainerd, Minn., every site offers clean, safe camping experiences. "We're a Class A campground," Jeff Steere, northern Headwaters section supervisor, said. "People expect us to

provide real clean parks. That's what's been expected; and we try to provide it. "We have some of the nicest facilities, I think; and we hear it every day from the visitors that come," added Steere. "A lot of our campers prefer to stay at Corps of Engineers sites because they are so nice."

Some of the recreational opportunities at the Headwaters sites include camping, swimming and fishing. Timm

Rennecke, Leech Lake site manager, said, "The biggest draw for us is definitely the fishing. Leech Lake is one of the largest lakes in Minnesota, and it is definitely known for its fishing – especially walleye."

Steere said, "Wherever the dams are, there has always been good fishing." He added that the Corps put campgrounds near the Headwaters dams in the early '70s and since then, they've continued to



Jason Hauser, Leech Lake park ranger, talks about a new fish cleaning house at the recreation site, Aug. 1, 2012.

Photo by Patrick Moes



Pokegama Dam, near Grand Rapids, Minn., is one of six Mississippi River Headwaters dams operated by the Corps of Engineers.

Photo by Patrick Moes



Gull Lake Park Ranger Brian Turner and his son, Tyson, relax during a celebration at the park, near Brainerd, Minn., Aug. 4, 2012.

Photo by Patrick Moes

maintain and update the sites according to the current public standards – such as 50-amp electric service for recreation vehicles.

Modern amenities aside, each of the Headwaters parks offers something different. “We’ve always considered the southern parks as more family oriented and Leech and Winni more for the outdoors enthusiasts,” he said. “I guess we’ve got something for everyone.”

Rennecke said, park visitors are passionate about what parks they want to visit. “Once they fall in love with the park, they almost adopt it.” All of the parks accept reservations through recreation.gov up to six months in advance. The website is searchable by a variety of characteristics to include location, amenities and camping opportunities.

While recreation and leisure are often the primary purposes for visiting the Headwaters projects, the sites produce more than memories. They are a source of economic vitality for the region, too. According to the Corps’ Operations and Maintenance Business Information Link, or OMBIL, more than 2.5 million people visited one of the six Headwaters projects during fiscal year 2012. Steere said, those visitors are doing more than just stopping by one of the sites. “Even though the economy is tough, we still get a lot of people,” he said. “They’re buying food and gas, so it’s a definitely a big boost to this area.”

That boost translates to millions of

dollars for the local economy. Visitors to the Headwaters projects spent more than \$63 million during fiscal year 2012 at locations within 30 miles of the Corps’ recreation sites. According to the OMBIL, nearly \$40 million was captured within the region. This money directly supports more than 600 local jobs, which also supports the local economies within the region. “Our recreation sites offer a lot of value to the region and the nation,” said Steere.

One area that has recently grown in value is the Corps’ volunteer program, said Rennecke. The Corps’ recreation division was forced to make difficult decisions several years ago when the budgets were cut, and the Corps has leaned heavily toward volunteers in the last few years to compensate for the reduced manpower.

He said camp volunteers are a great example of making the best out of a difficult situation. The volunteers usually work anywhere from 20 to 30 hours per week and get a free campsite in return. “Besides the obvious thing of all the work they do, they are staying in the campground so their presence actually provides security for all of the campers,” said Rennecke. “I think we are seeing an uptick in visitation because of the volunteers. Safety, security and cleanliness always rate the highest in our visitor surveys.”

He added that when it comes to the parks and budget issues, “we’ve always found new ways to survive.”



Kids fish off one of the piers at the Crosslake Recreation Area, in Crosslake, Minn., Aug. 3, 2012.

Photo by Patrick Moes



Camping is one of the opportunities available for outdoor enthusiasts at the Corps’ Mississippi River Headwaters recreation sites.

Photo by Patrick Moes



Jeff Steere, northern Headwaters section supervisor.

Photo by Patrick Moes

District staff and Winona, Minn., Fire Department team up

Story by Al VanGuilder and Dan Cottrell

The survey crew from Fountain City, Wis., teamed up for a joint training exercise with the Winona, Minn., Fire Department to get prepared for the unexpected March 21.

The morning was spent with Nate Speltz, Winona Fire's cold water rescue trainer, providing techniques on how to self-rescue and rescue others if you fall in the water through the ice. The training – held in Fountain City Bay – allowed all of the surveyors the opportunity to get in the icy water with a protective suit

and test out their new skills.

"This is valuable training that you just can't learn without doing," said Al VanGuilder, operations and acting survey section leader. Each surveyor and fire fighter had the opportunity to learn proper rescue techniques and become familiar with different equipment in a real world simulation."

This is the second year the Corps partnered with Winona Fire for joint training. The two agencies signed a memorandum of understanding last

year, allowing the Corps to respond to requests for assistance as it relates to preserving human life. The agreement also provides for joint training; so when an emergency happens, everybody knows their roles.

Last year, familiarization training began with the equipment, but no river ice was available to demonstrate the versatility of the airboat and what it means to transfer from water, to ice, to land. This year, the team spent the afternoon with airboat operators Brandon Olson, operations,

and VanGuilder taking several firefighters in the airboat at the same time to gain a better understanding of the ability and limitations of the airboat when it is used to assist in an emergency.

Winona Fire Department Captain Duane Chadbourn said, this is great training for their folks, and he is looking forward to it occurring on a regular basis in the future. The two agencies working together during training exercises makes us all better prepared for any emergencies in the future," he said.



Derek Ritter, Winona, Minn., firefighter, left, and Corps of Engineers employees Al VanGuilder and Brandon Olson, both in operations, use an airboat during cold water training on the Mississippi River near Winona, March 21.

Courtesy photo



Capt. Duane Chadbourn, Winona, Minn., firefighter, left, and Bill Meier, operations, discuss cold water training near on the Mississippi River near Winona, March 21.

Courtesy photo

Stillwater, Minn., project nears completion

The district awarded a \$722,000 contract to The Povolny Group of St. Paul, Minn., April 12, to begin construction on stage 3a of its Stillwater, Minn., flood damage reduction project.

This project consists of constructing interior drainage features near Lowell Park, paralleling the railroad right-of-way. It will enhance the city's ability to flood fight in this location. Construction is anticipated to begin late May, weather permitting, and is expected to last approximately four months.

Snowstorm damages campground area

The district closed its Highland Ridge Campground at the Eau Galle Dam and Recreation Site, located in Spring Valley, Wis., May 6 due to excessive storm damage from the early May snowstorm.

The park received more than 14 inches of heavy snowfall that resulted in excessive tree damage. The park staff is in the process of evaluating the number of damaged trees and will be working to restore the site's safety. They anticipate reopening this portion of the park to campers later in the month.



Snow-covered trees were severely damaged during a snowstorm at the Eau Galle Recreation Area, near Spring Valley, Wis., May 2.

Courtesy photo

Blackhawk Park closes due to flooding

The district temporarily closed Blackhawk Park, located near De Soto, Wis., starting May 7, due to flooding on the entrance road into the park. Park staff plan to reopen the park as soon as the road is open. For more information, please contact them at (608) 648-3314.

Corps reopens Minneapolis locks to recreation traffic after high flows are reduced

The district reopened its three Minneapolis locks to recreation traffic May 8 after an eight-day closure due to high river flows.

The Upper St. Anthony Falls and Lower St. Anthony Falls locks and dams in downtown Minneapolis and Lock and Dam 1 next to Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis were closed to recreation traffic May 1, when flows on the Mississippi River exceeded 30,000 cubic feet per second.

According to the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division lock and dam regulation manual, the district is required to close the locks because the high flows are unsafe for recreational boats at 30,000 cfs.



Water flows over St. Anthony Falls next to Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock May 6. The flows exceeded 30,000 cubic feet per second and forced the district to close the locks to navigation traffic.

Courtesy photo



Taps

Harold French, a former lockmaster, passed away March 22. Services were held at Roseville Covenant Church in Roseville, Minn., March 28.

Retirements

Dale Brintnall, management and program analyst, operations, district office.
Jack Carr, economic brach chief, planning, Rock Island District.
William Heublein, engineering equipment operator, operations, Fountain City, Wis.
Danny Kircher, lock and dam operator, operations, Lock and Dam 4, Alma, Wis.
Thomas J. Novak, natural resources specialist, operations, De Soto, Wis.
Mark Upward, engineering technician, operations, Fountain City, Wis.

New Hires

Michael Andrle, lock and dam operator, operations, Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, Minneapolis
Keith Hayter, lock and dam operator, operations, Lock and Dam 6, Trempealeau, Wis.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Rick and Kari Hauck**, engineering and construction, on the birth of their son, **Eli Hauck**. He was born April 4, and he was was 8 lbs., 11 ozs., and 21 inches long.



Congratulations to **Bill Doerfler**, Army Corps of Engineers Information Technology, and his wife, **Maryanne**, on the birth of their son, **Mason William Doerfler**, April 25. He was 8 lbs., 13 ozs., and 22 inches long.



Enjoying retirement



Robert Sikkila, retired from Lock and Dam 5A, near Minnesota City, Minn., in 2008. He now lives in International Falls, Minn., where he is enjoying ice fishing on the Rainy River. During a March 29 fishing trip, Sikkila caught a 39-inch and 43-inch Northern Pike.

Submitted photo

Change of command changes by a day

Maj. Gen. John Peabody, Mississippi Valley Division commander, and the St. Paul District will host a change of command ceremony at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 19, in the Great Hall of the district's headquarters building in St. Paul, Minn. **Col. Daniel Koprowski** will take command from **Col. Michael Price**. There will be a farewell reception for Price the night before, June 18, Tickets for the event are \$20. If you plan to attend the event, please contact Angie Peterson at angeline.peterson@usace.army.mil or (651) 290-5302 by June 3. Price will assume command of the Corps' Transatlantic Afghanistan District shortly after the district's change of command ceremony.