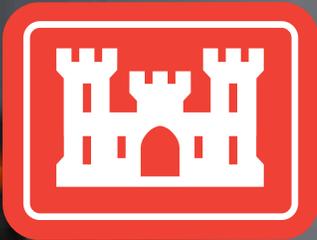


Crosscurrents

Serving the St. Paul District since 1977
September 2013 | Vol. 39, No. 6

Finish Line in sight for Devils Lake, N.D., project Page 4



®

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



Tom Schmidt, engineering and construction, discusses the Devils Lake, N.D., flood risk reduction project at a pump station in Devils Lake July 31. The district is nearing the finish line to complete the construction in the region.

Photo by Shannon Bauer



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 emailed.

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 prodigious project managers like Brett Coleman, project management.

Photo by Patrick Moes



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Comments from the top

Hello to everyone from me and from my wife, Marianne. Although the plan for the first few weeks on the job was meant to be one of getting to know my Mississippi Valley Division, or MVD, staff team and for them to educate me on the scope and depth of activities and challenges in the region – well, it got filled with other interesting events, thanks to the chaos in the national capital region. Pretty sure the government shutdown had no relationship to my division assignment, to have such an influence on events would be a great gift that I would leverage everyday if I could!

Obviously, we are excited to be here. This is one assignment my wife and I definitely wanted to take on, and we are ready to go now that we are officially reopened for government business (and all the boxes are out of the house and the pictures hung – typically the

last step when a military family lands somewhere).

A man named Viktor Frankl, an Austrian neurologist and psychologist, survived the death camps of World War II and went on to write a short but hugely influential book called *Man's Search for Meaning*. It demonstrates that all people, including Corps of Engineers public servants, need a purpose in life to feel contentment and worth. My number one purpose as commander is to help the Mississippi River Commission and MVD succeed, to help each of the regional teams succeed, to help our partners succeed, that also means to help you succeed, now and in the long-term future. We can begin our road to success together by talking about our vision for the future and what we want the future to look like. You have some strong views on this I am sure, I need to know them. It

will be necessary to be sure that I am seeing the same thing you are and vice versa or at least that we understand each other's vision even if they emphasize slightly different features. It is ok if we discuss and debate alternative futures, so long as we all understand each other and don't think we have consensus if we really don't. Warning, I enjoy debate - so please call everything like you see it, and we will forge a common approach based on enhanced understanding through dialogue. We can succeed in working toward that shared vision with a comprehensive planning approach to watershed projects. We will also succeed by communicating clearly with everyone, by fulfilling our commitments to our customers and stakeholders, and by delivering our projects on time and within budget. These are "must do" things to lay the foundation for success;



Brig. Gen. Peter 'Duke' DeLuca
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division commander

but even if we do them, we might not achieve all that needs to be achieved in the region. This is the other role that I must work on as commander – educating citizens, stakeholders, leaders on the status and risks in the region and the ways we can and should address them, including the resources needed.

Thank you for the service you provide the nation as a member of Corps of Engineers and thanks in advance for the welcome!

Building Strong!

Brig. Gen. Peter 'Duke' DeLuca

Mississippi River Commission visits the district, gains a basin understanding

Story by Shannon Bauer

The Motor Vessel MISSISSIPPI made an appearance in the St. Paul District Aug. 9 to 12 as part of the Mississippi River Commission's 2013 Low Water Inspection Trip.

The MV MISSISSIPPI is the biggest diesel towboat in the United States. It is 241 feet long and 58 feet wide with 6,300 horse power. Most of the time, the vessel is a working towboat operated by the Mississippi Valley Division's Memphis District. Approximately 10 percent of the time, it serves as an inspection boat for the Mississippi River Commission.

The presidentially-appointed, seven-member commission recommends civil works policy and programs to the administration. Each year, it takes a high- and low-water inspection trip onboard the MV MISSISSIPPI. During these trips, the commission usually hosts several public hearings along the way.

The district hosted a Federal Executive Board meeting, a legislative workshop, a Leadership Development Program class graduation and employee open house onboard the MV MISSISSIPPI while it was docked near the district headquarters in St. Paul, Minn., Aug. 9. When the commissioners arrived in St. Paul on Sunday to begin their inspection

trip down river, district employees took them to Lock and Dam 1 and Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, both in Minneapolis, to discuss the Asian carp threat within the region.

Monday morning, the vessel's crew docked the towboat in La Crosse, Wis., and the commissioners were taken on a tour of the Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center, a center run by the U.S. Geological Survey that is dedicated to protect, enhance and restore the ecosystems of the Upper Mississippi River basin. Following the tour, the MRC hosted a public hearing for citizens to express concerns about the Corps of Engineers and the Mississippi River. That night, the district hosted a meeting with stakeholders on board the vessel in order to tour the recently built Pool 8 islands, which were built as a part of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program.

This year's graduating Leadership Development Program class coordinated all of the MV MISSISSIPPI activities. "I believe the MV Mississippi trip was a success," said class graduate Jacob Fall, engineering and construction. "This success was accomplished through hard work, dedication and a large amount of team work and communication."



The Mississippi River Commission listens to testimony during a public hearing in La Crosse, Wis., Aug. 12. The commission was conducting its Mississippi River Low Water Inspection.

Photo by Shannon Bauer



The Motor Vessel MISSISSIPPI crew approaches Lock and Dam 6, near Trempealeau, Wis., Aug. 12. The crew and the Mississippi River Commission were in the region as a part of the Mississippi River Low Water Inspection.

Courtesy photo

District attorney earns national award

Story by George Stringham

St. Paul District lawyer Damon Roberts, counsel, was recently selected as the 2013 Joseph W. Kimbel Award recipient.

The award recognizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers attorney who demonstrates the highest professional potential for future legal achievement. Roberts received the award at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Worldwide Legal Services Conference.

Since joining the district's legal team in 2008, Roberts has built a diverse

portfolio. He's served as the district's real estate attorney, where he's worked closely and negotiated directly with both private companies and government organizations, often working sensitive issues. He's also worked as the district's claims attorney. In this capacity, Roberts developed two legal defenses instrumental in successfully refuting a multi-million dollar tort claim against the government.

Joe Willging, the district's chief counsel, added that Roberts has

become an expert in business law, particularly as it applies to enforcing wetland mitigation on companies that destroy wetlands as part of a permitted project but fail to perform required mitigation.

Working with internal audiences, Roberts successfully worked to seek a solution when the district renegotiated its collective bargaining agreement this year. He also runs the district ethics program, conducting training for district employees, tailoring his training to the

specific audience.

"Damon is a first-rate attorney with unlimited potential and is well-deserving of the award," Willging said. "As a matter of fact, his potential is widely recognized... to the point that [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters] has [requested] him to work for the chief counsel."

Roberts recently accepted the position and will be leaving the district to support the entire Corps of Engineers organization.



Bonnie Greenleaf, left, project management, and Damon Roberts, counsel, look over maps of the Devils Lake, N.D., area that identify constructed embankments from recent Corps of Engineers work in the region as well as adjacent landowners.

Photo by George Stringham



Damon Roberts, counsel, is the 2012 Joseph W. Kimbel Award recipient. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers award recognized an attorney that demonstrates the highest professional potential for future legal achievement.

Photo by George Stringham



1st Lt. Chris Stonesifer, engineering and construction, looks at a water level sign on 4th Street Northwest in Devils Lake, N.D. The sign indicates where the water level would be without the emergency work performed by the Corps of Engineers and other federal, state and local officials.

Courtesy photo

Team nears finish line on Devils Lake, N.D., emergency work

Story by Shannon Bauer

The St. Paul District will substantially complete its emergency flood risk management project in Devils Lake, N.D., this fall, marking the end of an almost three decade long flood fight.

Devils Lake at its current elevation has no natural outlet. In 1993, according to the North Dakota State Water Commission, the lake was at its lowest recorded levels at 1,422.62 feet. At its peak, in June 2011, the lake hit an elevation of 1,454.3 feet, rising approximately 32 feet and covering an additional 261 square miles of land.

If it were to reach 1,458 feet, the lake will naturally flow into the Sheyenne River. The Tolna Coulee control structure, another district project, completed in the summer of 2012, was built to control the lake from causing catastrophic damages downstream, if the lake were to reach this elevation.

This most recent project at Devils Lake included increasing already in place embankments from 8 to 12 miles and raising them from elevation 1,460 to 1,466 feet. The project included installing five additional pump stations: the Highway 20 pump, which has a capacity for 5,000 gallons per minute, or gpm; the Lakewood pump with a capacity for 20,000 gpm; the Creel Bay pump with a capacity for 100,000 gpm;

and the East Ditch pump with a capacity of 320,000 gpm.

Civil engineer and project manager Bonnie Greenleaf began working on the Devils Lake project in 1996. She said the project was originally built to 1,445 feet in the 1980s. When Greenleaf started working on the project, it was to be the first of many raises – at that time to 1,450 feet. After the 1997 flood, the district put a hold on all contracts and redesigned the project to 1,457 feet. She said the team working on the project then designed the embankments wide enough so they could be topped off with an additional three feet, if needed, in the future. In 2005, she continued, it was decided to take the embankments to 1,460 feet, but the lake continued to rise. In 2007, the district received \$5 million to look at the rising lake further. “We had planned to do a report and plans and then put it on the shelf,” said Greenleaf. “But in 2008, we got a bad forecast, and we decided we had to go to construction.”

This latest plan included building the project in four phases, with the first phase beginning construction in the spring of 2010 and the second phase being split into two phases because of its complexity. The federal government’s 75 percent was funded by Flood Control



Construction workers build the east ditch pumping station near Devils Lake, N.D., July 31. The district hopes to complete most of the work in the region this fall.

Photo by Shannon Bauer



Mathew Andersen, left, engineering and construction, and Bonnie Greenleaf, project management, discuss the Devils Lake, N.D., project July 31.

Photo by Shannon Bauer

and Coastal Emergency monies. Ultimately, it took around six years and approximately \$168 million to build, making it one of the quickest built, larger projects in the district's history. "The team was awesome," said Greenleaf. "They were under a lot of pressure, with multiple phases going on at the same time, for a long time."

Overall, though, raising the project

off and on during the last two decades made the local people a little bit crazy, said Greenleaf. "We were using emergency funds," she explained. "We kind of had to do it this way." At the same time, even though it was considered an emergency project, she said, the team still had to complete a full Environmental Assessment, just like they would for a non-emergency project.

Plus, they were one of the first teams in the country to be required to complete an Independent External Peer Review. "We still had to cross all of the (T)s and dot all the (I)s," she explained. "So although the whole project took years, it was still a race against rising waters."

Project engineer and contracting officer's representative Tom Schmitt said the biggest challenge of the project

was the scale and the complexity. "It is one of the biggest projects the district has ever done," he said. "Staffing was a major issue, and we needed to have regional support from other districts to complete the job." Weather was also a challenge. He said frigid winters, late springs and wet weather contributed to extending the project an additional year than first planned.

Battle of Gettysburg 150 years later

District's first commander was battle hero

Story by Kevin Bokay

In 1866 following the Civil War, Gouverneur Kimble Warren was assigned to St. Paul, Minn., as the district's first commander. Upon arrival, he began surveying the Mississippi, Chippewa, St. Croix, and Wisconsin rivers.

But three years prior to his district command, Warren was a hero in the Battle of Gettysburg. During this period of the Civil War, Warren was the Army of the Potomac's chief engineer.

On the afternoon of July 2, 1863 – the second day of the battle – Maj. Gen. Warren came upon Little Round Top. From this point, Warren could see Confederate General John B. Hood's division moving against the Union Army. He also saw the entire battle line to the north. Realizing Confederate artillery could attack his lines if they took a position on the hill, Warren convinced the V Corps commander to send troops to secure the hill. A brigade of rebels from Alabama was already assaulting the hill, and a defense was quickly organized by Warren.

The Union soldiers held off the rebels for nearly two hours until Col. Joshua Chamberlain's 20th Maine ran out of ammunition and made a final charge down the hill. Little Round Top

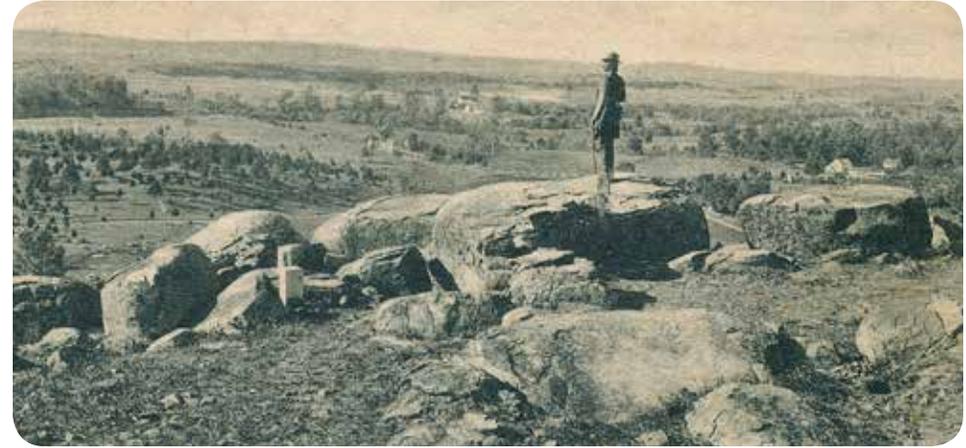
remained in Union hands, denying the Confederates the advantage of an elevated artillery position that could have helped the South. The Union Army would ultimately win the battle.

Warren went on to fight in several other campaigns including the Battle of Bristoe Station, the Overland Campaign, the Battle of the Wilderness, the Siege of Petersburg, the Appomattox Campaign and the Battle of Five Forks.

It was during the latter battle that Warren was relieved of command by Gen. Philip Sheridan. This dismissal was later deemed unjustified by a military court of inquiry, but the findings came too late to exonerate a living Warren. Although he spent years after the war trying to clear his good name, the results of the court were not published until after his death in 1882.

Six years later, an 8-foot bronze likeness of Warren was placed on Little Round Top by members of the Fifth New York Volunteers, the unit he commanded.

In the St. Paul District, Warren is remembered for establishing the district and working on navigation, surveying and other regional issues.



An 8-foot bronze statue of Maj. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren, the district's first commander, stands atop Little Round Top at the Battle of Gettysburg. Members of Warren's Fifth New York Volunteers placed the statue at the site in 1888.

Courtesy photo



Generals from the Army of the Potomac sit near a command tent in Culpeper, Va., in 1863. From left, Maj. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren, Maj. Gen. William H. French, Maj. Gen. George G. Meade, Maj. Gen. Henry J. Hunt, Brig. Gen. Andrew A. Humphreys and Maj. Gen. George Sykes.

Courtesy photo

Corps, partners build Mississippi River islands to protect aquatic habitat

Story by Patrick Moes

A series of recently restored islands nestled along the Mississippi River near Lansing, Iowa, were merely a design a few years ago.

The construction is a part of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program, also known as the Environmental Management Program. The program, according to Tom Novak, project management, is a multi-agency, multi-district program that is restoring aquatic habitat along the river.

"Habitat is being lost," said Novak. "It's a huge river, it's a huge amount of habitat and a lot of it has been lost over the past 80 years and it will continue to

be lost unless we do something."

Jeff Janvrin, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources biologist, said the Capoli Slough project was just an idea that started in the 1980s. The project, according to Janvrin, is restoring islands that were in the river prior to the creation of the locks and dams in the 1930s. The navigation construction created wind and waves that deteriorated the islands to a point where they were no longer viable habitat for wildlife.

As the partners continue restoring these projects, they are already seeing new wildlife and recreation aspects. Novak said, the project's value can

be found in the outdoor opportunities for fishing and hunting, as well as the economic benefits local communities receive from the increased visitors. "We have an international flyway of wildlife, turtles and all kinds of fish available for people to see," said Novak. "To have nature there and be protected is a good thing."

The wildlife protection being built today is accomplished because the federal, state and local partners agreed to work together toward a common goal to protect the resources in the region. "Partnerships are great," said Novak. "Everyone brings a little bit to the table,

and it really makes for a better project."

Those partners include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' St. Paul, Rock Island and St. Louis districts; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the U.S. Geological Survey; the natural resource departments from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Missouri; and the public. Janvrin said, the restoration would not have occurred without the support of the public. "This is a public program," he said. "As such, you have to meet the expectations; you have to basically involve the public in the design, the building and enjoyment of these projects."



Tom Novak, project management, talks with federal and state partners on a recently built island within the Mississippi River near Lansing, Iowa, Aug. 23.

Photo by Patrick Moes



A contractor builds islands in the Mississippi River near Lansing, Iowa, Aug. 23. The Corps, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Iowa and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources are working to enhance the habitat within Pool 9.

[Click on the video button to watch the video.](#)

Photo by Patrick Moes

District celebrates Military Appreciation Day at the state fair

Story by George Stringham

St. Paul District employees tackled the August heat and humidity during Military Appreciation Day at the Minnesota State Fair to talk about the district's missions Aug. 27.

More than 94,000 people passed through the turnstiles on what would be the warmest day recorded in the fair's history.

Manning a booth on West Dan Patch Avenue, dubbed Education Alley, district employees Mike McGarvey, Angie Phipps, Sam Mathiowetz, Capt. Andrew Maxa and Patrick Moes used a model of a lock and dam to show visitors how towboats transit up and down the

river through the lock and dam system. They answered questions visitors had about Corps' missions and provided other information about the Corps of Engineers' value to the nation.

While visitors saw how a lock and dam worked and learned more about the missions, Brad LaBadie, park ranger from Eau Galle Recreation Area in Spring Valley, Wis., took Seamoor, the district's jet ski riding water safety serpent out to meet fairgoers and talk about the importance of wearing your life jacket, learning to swim and other tips to be safe while enjoying water activities.



Brad LaBadie, operations, and Seamoor, the Corps' water safety sea serpent, talk about water safety during Military Appreciation Day at the Minnesota State Fair Aug. 27.

Photo by Patrick Moes



Randy Brunet, front left, and Lowell Hanson, front right, were honored as the 2013 St. Paul District Hall of Fame Recipients. With them are Col. Dan Koprowski, district commander, and past hall of fame recipients.

Photo by Patrick Moes

Brunet, Hanson join ranks as district hall of fame recipients

Story by Patrick Moes

More than 60 past and present employees gathered Sept. 12 to honor the newest members of the district's hall of fame.

Randy Brunet, the former resource management chief, and Lowell Hanson, a construction representative in North Dakota, were this year's recipients of the prestigious award.

Brunet was selected in part because of his leadership abilities that he demonstrated during his 32 years with the Corps of Engineers.

Specifically, he led his department to an unqualified audit opinion on the district's financial statements, a first-ever for any large Department of Defense organization.

Hanson served the Corps of Engineers for 36 years as a construction control inspector. According to his award citation, Hanson's dedicated service and passion for problem solving while providing a quality constructed product greatly influenced the Devils Lake, N.D., levee construction, as well as many other civil works projects.



Brig. Gen. Pete "Duke" DeLuca, Mississippi Valley Division commander, addresses the audience during the change of command ceremony in Vicksburg, Miss., Sept. 24.

Photo by Alfred Dulaney



Col. John Dvoracek, left, Mississippi Valley Division deputy commander, speaks as Maj. Gen. John Peabody, former MVD commander; Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, Corps of Engineers commanding general; Brig. Gen. Pete "Duke" DeLuca, MVD commander, and Edward Belk, MVD director of programs, listen during the change of command ceremony in Vicksburg, Miss., Sept. 24.

Photo by Alfred Dulaney

DeLuca assumes Mississippi Valley Division command

Story by Bob Anderson

The Mississippi Valley Division hosted a change of command ceremony at the convention center in Vicksburg, Miss., Sept. 24.

Brig. Gen. Pete "Duke" DeLuca assumed command from Maj. Gen. John Peabody during the ceremony. Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, Corps of Engineers commanding general, officiated the ceremonial event.

"Both Maj. Gen. Peabody and Brig. Gen. DeLuca are true soldiers, scholars and statesmen," said Bostick. He added that being a Corps commander is an

amazing responsibility. Citing Gen. Robert E. Lee, Bostick said, "The glory of duty done, and the honor of the integrity of principle."

Peabody said, "I have been thrilled to be the commander of the Mississippi Valley Division because it gave me the opportunity to live my dream of being a soldier, a leader and to make a positive difference for our nation. I must give most of the credit to the thousands of talented civilians in the [division] workforce for their continuity and unfailing ability to get the job done."

DeLuca said, "I am very excited to be here, and [Mississippi Valley Division] is an assignment that I truly wanted. I am committed to doing a good job as your new commander because the Mississippi River watershed is extremely important to our society and to our nation's economic well-being."

Acknowledging Peabody's tenure as the division commander and Mississippi River Commission president, Bostick said, he recently shared recommendations made by the MRC's "Call to Action" document, which was

crafted by Peabody and the MRC commissioners, with the White House. Bostick said, he feels the document will eventually prove valuable to the American people.

Referencing the document, Bostick said, "Our nation's infrastructure – its ports and navigation locks, levees and dams, highways and bridges, railroads and tunnels – all suffer from prolonged under-investment, deferred maintenance and a failure to upgrade and modernize capacity to keep pace with global trends."

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.

Save the date

The St. Paul District holiday awards event is scheduled for Dec. 6 in St. Paul, Minn.

Congratulations

- Congratulations **Sierra Keenan (Schroeder)**, planning, and her husband, **Andy Keenan**, on their marriage Sept. 28 in Minneapolis. She just graduated from the Corps' planning associates class of 2013, too.
- Congratulations **Marlene Blevins**, executive office, and her husband, **Jim**, on the birth of their grandson, **Luke William Lambert**. Proud parents **Alex and Beth (Blevins) Lambert** welcomed Aug. 31. He was 7 lbs., 4 oz., and 21 inches.
- Congratulations **Donna Beck**, planning, on her 3rd place medal at the 10-kilometer Get Ready to Rock in White Bear Lake, Minn. It was her first race.
- Congratulations **Katie Opsahl**, planning, on her acceptance to the Corps' planning associates class of 2014.

Logistics team recognized for fuel usage

For the second year in a row, the St. Paul District leads the Corps in E85 fuel usage. In fiscal year 2013, the district's 59 E85-compatible vehicles used 7,491 gallons of the alternative fuel. This was almost 25 percent increase from 2012, when district vehicles consumed 6,012 gallons. The next district behind St. Paul for E85 consumption was Omaha District with 5,600 gallons.

Mike McGarvey, logistics management chief, warned about comparisons, though. "This isn't quite like going apples to apples," he used as a comparison. "Our access to alternative fuel is that much greater than other districts."

Still, the logistics office worked hard to lessen the inconvenience to district employees. Inside the car's log book is a listing of E85 stations in alphabetical order by city and state. There are also smartphone apps available.

E85 fuel is 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline.

Seasonal/New Hires

- Travis Brantner**, deckhand, operations, Fountain City, Wis.
- Channing Helgeson**, deckhand, operations, Fountain City, Wis.
- Dale Rud**, deckhand, operations, Fountain City, Wis.

Golf league wraps up another season



The St. Paul District golf league wrapped up another season this month with a final round at White Eagle Golf Course in Hudson, Wis.

Gull Lake staff support fishing organization

Gull Lake staff, along with Bobber the water safety dog, recently provided 125 anglers with disabilities, 60 care attendants, 69 volunteer fishing guides and a whole bunch of volunteers water safety items and a "good luck" send off before they hit the lake for a great day of fishing. The staff worked with Fishing Has No Boundaries®, Inc., a nonprofit organization whose goal is to open up the great outdoors for people with disabilities through the world of fishing, to support the event. The organization enables thousands of individuals with disabilities the ability to participate in the sport of fishing. It also opens up dreams for persons with disabilities that might not otherwise experience what you or I might just take for granted, said Mary Kay Larson, Gull Lake Recreation Area site manager.