



US Army Corps
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St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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Minneapolis Pool drawdown at 10 below zero

Brad Perkl and Jon Sobiech, both in project management, presented interpretative briefings to the public Feb. 20 during the drawdown of the navigation pool between Upper Saint Anthony Falls and Lower Saint Anthony Falls locks and dams. (Photo by Shannon Bauer)

Drawdown, Page 5

**Command Corner
by Col. Jon Christensen**

**Talented,
dedicated and
passionate folks
throughout MVP**

St. Paul District Teammates,
With the passing of the holidays, my travel schedule has once again hit overdrive. Some travel is better than others – let me say that I particularly enjoy the trips within the St. Paul District. This past month, I finished my initial tour of our 41 field sites. Let me state up front



Christensen

that I appreciate the warm welcome I was given at each of these sites, and that I enjoyed meeting all of the talented folks working throughout the district. I truly value your feedback when I visit, along with the feedback from the employees at the District Headquarters. Although I cannot always return the solution you ask for, I do try to find ways to improve district processes based upon your suggestions.

The common thread I found throughout the district: we have a team of talented, dedicated and passionate folks at both the field offices and the District Headquarters. I certainly appreciate all of the good work you do and the difference you are making.

I also enjoy the travel when it serves as forum to recognize the achievements of members of the MVP team, and there have been many occasions for that these past two months.

At the Associated General Contractors meeting in Florida, we were able to recognize Jim Maybach as the St. Paul 2007 Safe Employee of the Year for his analysis and follow-up on the lattice boom crane failure at Lock and Dam 2, Hastings, Minn.

Thanks to the work Jim [Maybach] did, the Corps' workforce is safer.

That same evening, we also recognized J.F. Brennan Company with the Contractor Superior Safety Performance Award for their safe work in installing stop log slots at Lock and Dam 4 in Alma, Wis., and Lock and Dam 9 in Lynxville, Wis.

The week was capped off with honoring Industrial Builders, Inc., and the East Grand Forks project team with the Mississippi Valley Division's Dan W. Renfro Partnering Award for their work on Existing Floodwall Modifications project in East Grand Forks, Minn.

This month's travel was capped off with a visit to the 29th Annual Federal Engineer of the Year Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. At the ceremony, our own Neil Schwanz was recognized for being a Top Ten Finalist for the 2008 Engineer of the Year. He received this award for his work as a geotechnical regional technical specialist for the division – particularly in regards to his great work in his numerical modeling of New Orleans I-walls, design work for the Hurricane Protection Office, field load tests on the London Avenue canal wall, reevaluation of overall costs for hurricane protection work and serving on the source selection team for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal contract. As you can see, Neil [Schwanz] has been quite busy on a number of unique missions that are enabling success in Gulf Coast recovery.

I appreciate all the hard work of our honorees and of the teams "behind the scenes" that enable their success. No one can do it alone – and I know our awardees would be the first to acknowledge the professional support of their MVP teammates.

Thanks for all you do, and keep making a difference!



US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is made up of the St. Croix and Nemadji rivers and the riparian setting through which they flow. Overall administration lies with the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The lower St. Croix River below Stillman Island is administered by the Minnesota and Wisconsin departments of natural resources as are the state parks, state state parks, and state wildlife refuges within the Federal area. Douglas, Barron, and Washburn counties also administer lands along the lower St. Croix and Nemadji rivers. Near Namakan Landing, the river flows through the Chequamegon National Forest, and near the mouth of the Yellow River the St. Croix flows by a portion of the reservation owned by the St. Croix Band of Ojibwa.

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

Riparian

State park

State wildlife refuge

State forest

State land

State water

State wetland

State wetland

State wetland

State wetland

State wetland

State wetland

There are hundreds of private wildlife refuges on the St. Croix and Nemadji rivers. Only counties of landings are indicated on this map. Refer to the Wisconsin state of refuges map that can be found at www.dnr.wisconsin.gov for a complete list of all operating refuges.

St. Croix watershed study to define conditions for key water resources

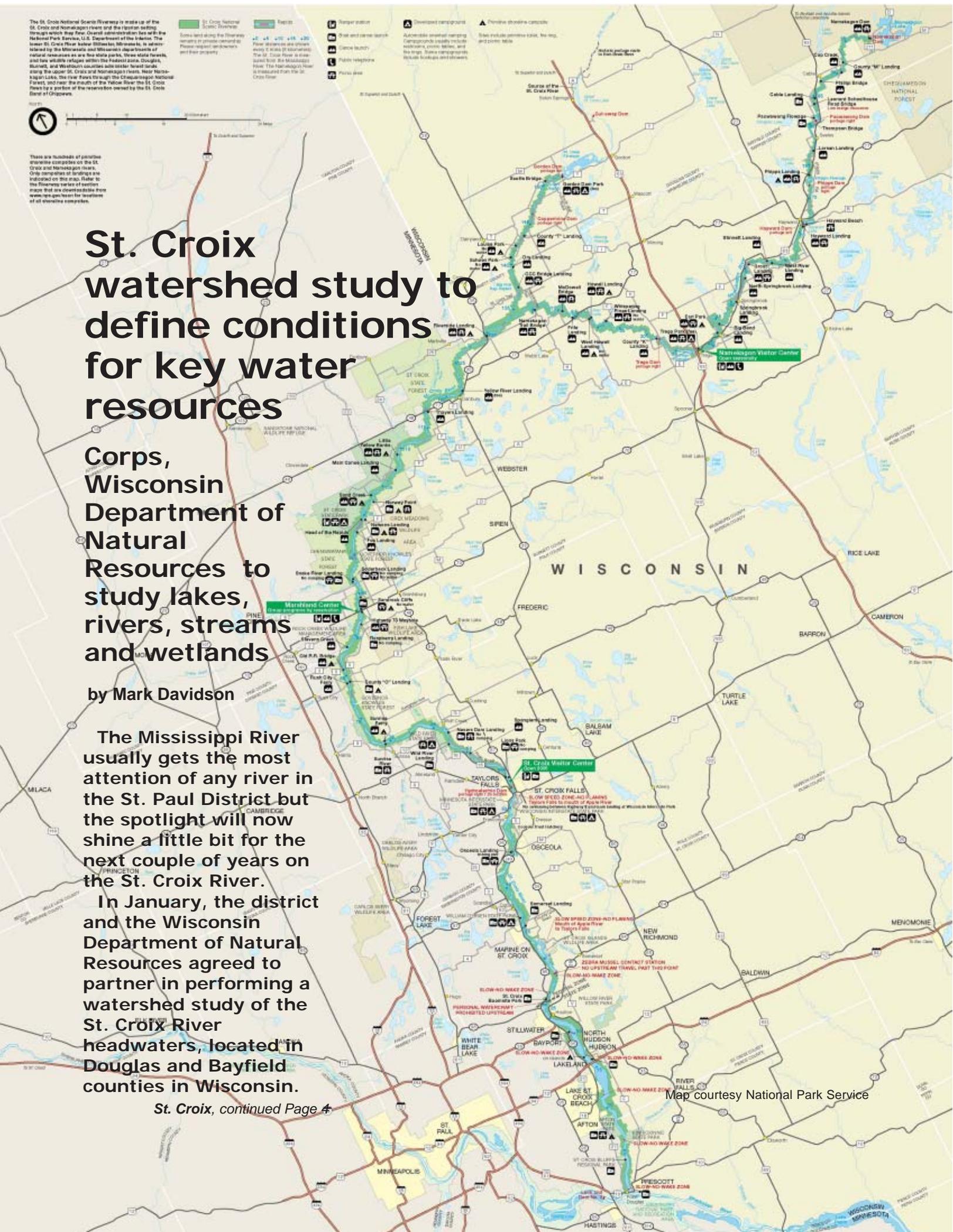
Corps, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to study lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands

by Mark Davidson

The Mississippi River usually gets the most attention of any river in the St. Paul District but the spotlight will now shine a little bit for the next couple of years on the St. Croix River.

In January, the district and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources agreed to partner in performing a watershed study of the St. Croix River headwaters, located in Douglas and Bayfield counties in Wisconsin.

St. Croix, continued Page 4



Map courtesy National Park Service

St. Croix, continued from Page 3

The purpose of the study is to better define existing conditions for key water resources in the watershed. “We want to identify desired future conditions for these resources and provide recommendations for how to meet these desired conditions,” said Elliott Stefanik, the project manager for the Corps.

Key water resources under consideration will include water quality, lake and river habitat, exotic species, wetland protection, land-use recommendations and long-term lake and flowage management.

“The community, led by an alliance of lake and river groups, is eager to learn more about the resources in the St. Croix Headwaters and what they can do to protect or improve lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands,” said Pamela Toshner, Wisconsin DNR lake and river management coordinator. “This is a great opportunity to partner with the Army Corps to understand the watershed and help put management tools in the hands of local citizens and leaders.”

The St. Croix River originates at Upper St. Croix Lake near Solon Springs, Wis., in Douglas County, and flows south approximately 160 miles to join the Mississippi River at Prescott, Wis.

The upper 25 miles of the river lie solely within Wisconsin. The remaining reach is the boundary between Wisconsin and Minnesota. The 22 Wisconsin watersheds of the St. Croix River drain 4,828 square miles. The upper St. Croix River is generally shallow with a rock, rubble and

sand bottom.

The St. Croix River headwaters study will occur during a two-to-three year period with the Corps and the Wisconsin DNR equally splitting the study costs.

Additional participation will potentially be sought from local, county and state agencies, as well as universities and lake and river associations.

The area of study includes the St. Croix River watershed at and above Gordon Dam, just southwest of Solon Springs, Wis. This includes the St. Croix River, Upper St. Croix Lake and the Eau Claire River and lake system, as well as other lakes, streams and wetlands in the watershed.



St. Paul District photo

A graphic of the St. Croix River basin is embedded in a photo of St. Croix Creek at the Headwaters of the river.

Lower Saint Anthony pool drawdown reveals history

by Peter Verstegen



Photos by Shannon Bauer

Above, Brad Perkl, archaeologist with the St. Paul District, briefed Carrie Jennings, a geologist with the Minnesota Geological Survey, Feb. 20. In the 19th century, the Corps saved the waterfall from destruction. In the 20th century, the Corps designed and constructed the Upper Harbor project. Below, the Stone Arch Bridge frames Upper Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam at the northern end of the pool drawdown.

“It was revealing to see what the Mississippi River may have looked like below Saint Anthony Falls before it was altered,” said Brad Perkl, an archaeologist with the St. Paul District. Perkl was referring to the history of the Minneapolis commercial milling district at that location.

The district dropped the navigation pool on the Mississippi River between Upper St. Anthony Falls and Lower St. Anthony Falls locks and dams for an inspection of the Bassett Creek Tunnel Feb. 20.

The Corps and the National Park Service both conducted interpretative briefings for the public, with more than 500 attending in sunny, 10 degree below zero weather.

“I was pumped to see how hardy Minnesotans are, it was cold as hell and still folks turned out in droves,” said Jon Sobiech, project management.



At right is the discharge point for Basset Creek tunnel. The Corps dropped the water level of the Lower Saint Anthony pool 13 feet to allow engineers to inspect the inside of the tunnel. The drawdown began Feb. 17 at 8 a.m. The Corps restored the project pool level Feb. 24 at 4 p.m.

Below is Mill Ruins Park, parts of which are submerged at project pool level of 750. The park's web site said the ruins illustrate the rich history of the riverfront and encompass lumber and flour mills, canals, tailraces and other historic resources. The park is located on the west bank of the Mississippi River in downtown Minneapolis and is adjacent to St. Anthony Falls and the Stone Arch Bridge.



Photos above and below by Shannon Bauer

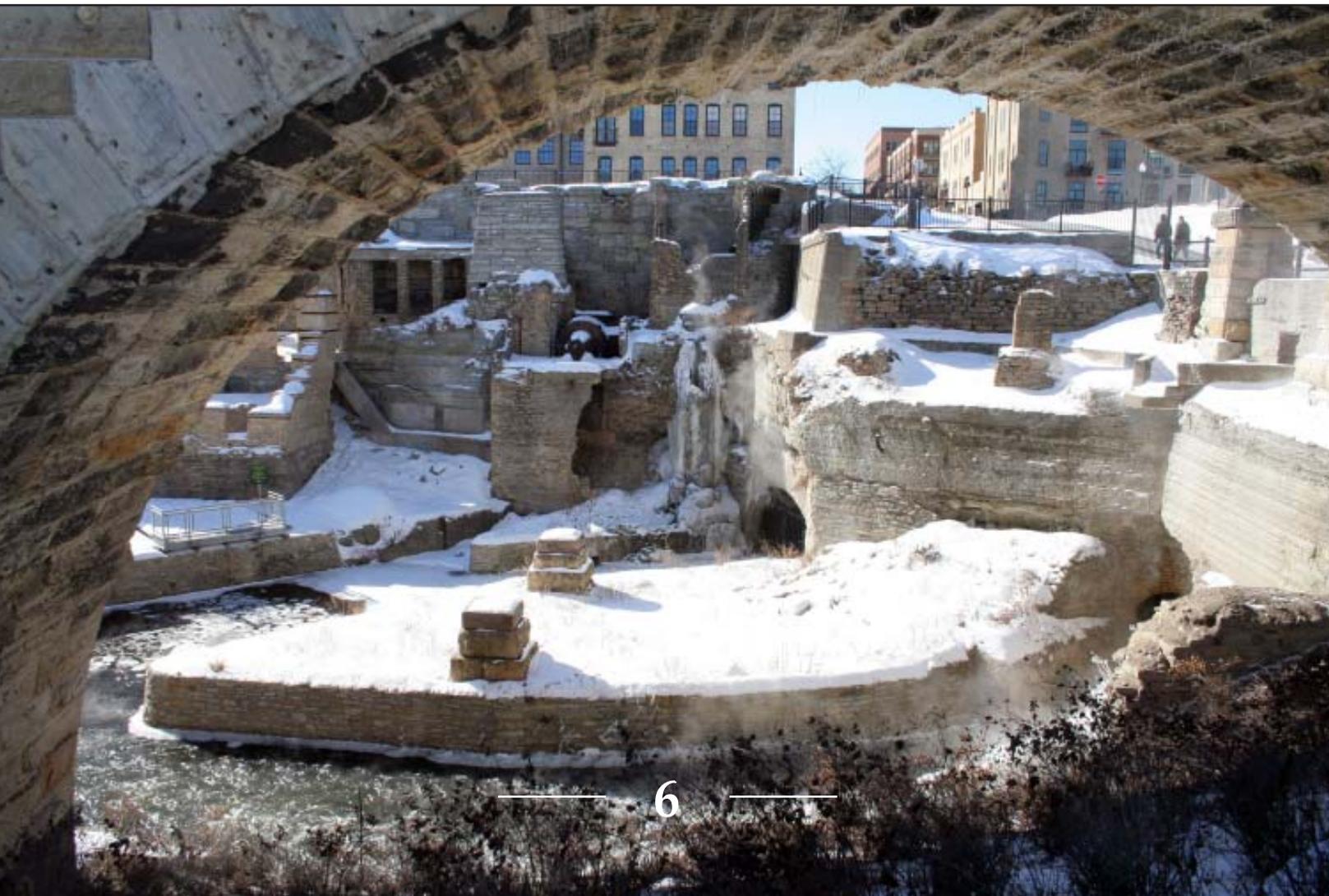




Photo above by Brad Perkl and photo below by Tim Meers

The drawdown of the Lower Saint Anthony Pool (above), an intermediate pool downstream of Upper Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, exposed portions of old bridge piers, an abandoned snowmobile, a grocery cart, scattered tires and other debris. The remnants of an 1879 dam are just below a normally submerged footing for the 10th Ave. wagon bridge (pillar to the left). The pool, the shortest in the St. Paul District, is one-third of a mile long. The photo looks down-river to LSAF lock and dam from the Stone Arch Bridge in Minneapolis. The photo below, taken from LSAF, shows the pool drawdown looking up-river toward USAF lock and dam. The low water shows portions of the bridge normally submerged at normal pool levels. The snow-covered abutment aids navigation between the locks.



Meet and Greet introduces new co-workers

by Tammy Wick

Have you ever wondered who those new people are that you see in the hall? Well, one way to find out is to attend a Meet and Greet! The Special Emphasis Program Committee held one of its quarterly Meet and Greets in the district office to honor our newest employees, Jan. 23.

As custom would have it, the SEPC met with the new personnel (we found out what good sports they are) for a little ice breaker and a light lunch before opening the doors for the rest of the Corps of Engineers' team to meet them. Approximately 45 employees stopped by for quick treat and a chance to say, "Hi."

If you did not get a chance to visit at the Meet and Greet and enjoy the delicious soup, ice cream and snacks, don't worry, you can still welcome these newest Corps employees when you see them around the office or in the halls. Hope to see you at the next Meet and Greet.

Welcome:

Jill Clancy, operations division-regulatory branch;

Tom Mings, regulatory;

Ryan Price, engineering and construction-hydrology;

John Stebbings, logistics management;

Mai Vue, design branch;

Greg Wachman, design and hydrology branches; and

Pa Rosemary Xiong, regulatory.



Photos by Tammy Wick

Greg Wachman (left), is rotating through engineering and construction division, geotech section. **Ryan Price**, student, is in a rotation in engineering and construction-hydrology and hydraulics section. They are engaged in a creativity exercise highlighting winter.



Pa Rosemary Xiong, a student, works in regulatory branch, operations division.



Jill Clancy, a student, works in regulatory branch, operations division.

Engineers from district judge Future City competition

by Peter Verstegen

Three St. Paul District employees volunteered time, talent and knowledge in the Minnesota finals of the Future City Competition sponsored by the Minneapolis-St. Paul Post, Society of American Military Engineers, Jan. 26. The judging was held on the St. Thomas University campus in St. Paul. Helping with the judging for the SAME special award were St. Paul District employees Jim Mosner, Jane Delorme and Aaron Mikonowicz. All work in design branch. “The pace for judging was hectic since 35 teams had to be interviewed in three hours – about five minutes per team,” said Mosner.



Photo by Cory Grabinger

Jim Mosner, Jane Delorme and Aaron Mikonowicz, design branch, judged the Future City competition.

Apply with a strong resume, interview with confidence

by Peter Verstegen

“Your resume gets you in the door, but the interview determines who gets the job,” said Judy DesHarnais, district deputy for planning, programs and project management. She presented an hour-long program on resumes and interviews during a brown-bag lunch sponsored by the Mentoring Program and the Special Emphasis Program Committee, Jan. 9. She condensed her lessons learned from participation in interview panels and reviewing resumes for upper-level management positions.



Photo by Peter Verstegen

Judy DesHarnais

Here are her enhanced talking points. The basics are posted on the district intranet under “Recent Updates.”

Resume:

- This is what gets you in the door. Tailor it for the position.
- Be honest.
- Blow your own horn. Tell how you made a difference.
- Don’t just quote your job description.
- Give specifics.

- Spell out words that won’t be understood by the reviewer or the electronic word search program.
- Check your resume for spelling and grammar!
- Explain gaps in employment.
- Explain backward progress.

Interviews:

- Show enthusiasm and confidence.
- Know something about the job. Research it on the Internet and query others with similar jobs.

- Know and be able to articulate why you want the job.
- Be there in person for the interview.
- Dress professionally.
- Think before you answer the question; put your thoughts into an organized answer.
- Be concise but not short.
- Some questions have multiple parts. If you lose your place in replying, don’t be afraid to ask for the question to be repeated.
- Do not rely on the interview panel knowing you and your qualifications.
- Don’t point out why you might not be the best person for the job.
- Use examples to support your points. Don’t use the same one over and over again.
- If resume will confuse folks, explain.
- Enlist a mentor to do a mock interview.
- The last question has always allowed the candidate to share something about themselves. Prepare for this. Know what you are going to say.



Photo by Jon Lyman

From left: Tonya Baker, project assistant; Col. Jon Christensen and Linda Haberkorn, project assistant.

September Employees of the Month Baker, Haberkorn excel as team

Jeff DeZellar, project management branch, nominated Linda Haberkorn and Tonya Baker as co-Employee of the Month. Here's his nomination.

Linda Haberkorn and Tonya Baker serve as the project assistants in project management.

They also fill in as the project assistant for a third assistant's position, vacant since July 2007. "In effect, Haberkorn and Baker worked one-and-a-half jobs each and have been for months," wrote DeZellar. "In addition, these two outstanding employees also backfilled for a colleague during her deployment to Iraq, from June 2006 to December 2006.

"Even though the project assistant position in project management A-branch has been vacant for about nine months in the past one-and-one-half years, administrative support work has been accomplished efficiently, accurately and cheerfully. Travel orders and vouchers are done quickly and correctly. Time keeping is efficient and other tasks are accomplished at a very high level of competence. In doing far more than their share, they are both very approachable and pleasant. When emergencies or short-deadline projects happen, they find a way to offer solutions. In conversations with other project management employees, it became clear that they sustained high-level performance serving multiple branches."



Photo by Jon Lyman

Ken Mertes, electrical repairer, accepts his Employee of the Month plaque from Col. Jon Christensen, district commander.

October Employee of the Month Mertes succeeds with double duties

Jane Groth, head lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam 6 in Trempealeau, Wis., nominated Ken Mertes, electrical repairer, Lock and Dam 5A in Fountain City, Wis. At the time of the nomination, she was also secretary-treasurer of American Federation of Government Employees Local 1441.

Ken Mertes, electrical repairer, displays all of the criteria this award entails.

Earlier this year, he was thrust into the position of president of Local 1441 without much notice or training. Many people may not understand that the union functions through the person who is the president, and this position demands countless personal hours.

He has thoroughly gone beyond what is expected of a union president and has always kept a level head. He has demonstrated that his concern is for the employees; but at the same time, has worked hard to develop a good relationship with management.

His position as union president is in addition to being an electrical repair person at his lock and dam, where he strives to run a tight ship. His easy going personality, coupled with his high moral fiber to do what is right, constitutes the proper combination of what is needed to succeed in both of these positions.



Photo by Jon Lyman

Lt. Col. John Kunkle, deputy district commander, presents Tim Smith, enforcement and compliance coordinator, Employee of the Month honors.

November Employees of the Month Aleshire and Smith create synergy

Cynthia Calhoun, regulatory program assistant, nominated Brenda Aleshire and Timothy Smith as co-Employee of the Month to recognize their team effort on the annual regulatory branch conference held in Deerwood, Minn., Oct. 15-19. Aleshire, environmental protection assistant has since accepted a position with a different agency. Smith is an enforcement and compliance coordinator. Calhoun's nomination follows:

I nominate Brenda Aleshire and Timothy Smith, both in regulatory branch, for employee of the month for planning, organizing and facilitating our annual regulatory conference.

Aleshire and Smith make a great team. Both of them merit credit for putting this conference together and for making sure it was a success. Their abilities to work on certain aspects independently and then put that effort into a collaborative product is to be commended.

The regulatory branch has a conference every year where all the members in regulatory come together to go over new processes and offer additional training so that we may go back to our offices and continue to provide excellent customer service to the public.

Smith focused the main theme of the conference on educating his colleagues how to implement the

Rapanos guidance, a Supreme Court decision which has totally altered how the Army Corps of Engineers determines whether the agency has jurisdiction over proposed regulatory projects.

The new guidance requires project managers to prove jurisdiction beyond a reasonable doubt, and tripled the workload for all of the regulatory project managers and section chiefs.

Because of the complexity of this guidance, which now includes getting approval at Corps' Headquarters, projects that used to take a week or so to process can now take several months.

Smith has been instrumental in organizing a team in the St. Paul District office, to include some field staff members, to review all jurisdictional determinations before they go to headquarters.

Smith's understanding in how complex this process can be has been instrumental in ensuring the district is processing these determinations with uniformity. Smith invited Russell Kaiser, senior program manager, regulatory community of practice, to the conference to help clarify some of the areas from a headquarter's perspective.

Smith must have put many hours outside the duty day to make sure this material was as meticulous as possible. The district is one of the lead districts to work through this new guidance, and it is vital to how we perform our duties throughout the district. Smith did the best he could to make sure the content of the courses given during this conference would be beneficial to all the project managers in regulatory.

Not only did he organize the courses, but he also taught many of them, easing the teaching load on other project managers.

Brenda Aleshire was responsible for all of the administrative support for this conference. Without her efforts and interaction with the resort, the conference would not have run as smoothly as it did. Her coordination efforts made sure conference participants were given appropriate accommodations and that the conference rooms had the necessary, appropriate technical equipment.

Very often when a conference is put together like this one, the amount of administrative support is taken for granted; and in this case, it was instrumental in the success of the conference.

News and Notes

Gifts distributed globally, locally

In November, district personnel provided gifts for district personnel deployed overseas in the Global War on Terror and to Keystone Community Services in St. Paul, Minn.

Food, small toys for children, shoes, school and soccer supplies were part of the annual holiday care package collected to send to seven district personnel deployed. Six served in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. "The care packages are a small but meaningful way of

saying thank you to the deployees and to let them know we are thinking of them," said Angie Peterson, executive secretary, who coordinated the holiday gift giving to deployed personnel.

"We delivered to Keystone Community Services a total of 78 toys," said Peterson. "The toys will be used to donate to 40 families in the St. Paul community that without our help may not have had any gifts to open this Holiday season."

District employees also sponsored a food drive in December and donated 335

pounds of food and \$260 to the food shelf program at Keystone Community Services, Dec. 14.

Lockmaster Development Program opens for applications

The Locks and Dams Project, Fountain City, Wis., is again seeking candidates for the Lockmaster Development Program. Each year, two candidates are selected to serve in a developmental assignment that provides experience and insight for potential future lockmaster positions.

"Darrel Oldenburg, lower area lockmaster, Lock and Dam 9, Lynxville, Wis., is coordinating this year's process," said Ashley Schnable, civilian personnel advisory center. He can be contacted at 608-874-4801 if you have any questions.

A district-wide e-mail was the only announcement for these positions, unlike previous years, when it has been advertised through the online application process. Supervisors that have employees in a furlough status should notify these employees of this opportunity.

The suspense date for applications is March 7, 2008. Applications postmarked after this date will not be accepted unless an extension has been arranged with Oldenburg prior to the deadline.



Photo by Tammy Wick

Brian Turner (above left), a ranger at Gull Lake Recreation Area, and Tammy Wick, administrative assistant at the Mississippi River Headwaters Office, Grand Rapids, Minn., recruited at a job fair at the Leech Lake Reservation Career and Job Fair, Feb 8. "Many Native American High School students attended," said Wick

*News and Notes, continued***Promotions**

Ferris Chamberlin, chief of the water control and hydrology section.

Kristin Kosterman assumed the duties and responsibilities of executive assistant for the St. Paul District, Jan. 22. Jon Petersen, serving a detail as district executive assistant, returned to his position in hydraulics.

Retiree news

Dave Loss, project management retiree, works for HNTB, Inc., at an office in Metairie, La. "I'm the task order manager of an effort to upgrade and bring 32 miles of non-federal levees in Plaquemines Parish into the federal system and also assisting with a sector gate project on the West Bank," said Loss. He has been working in New Orleans since Nov. 5.

Dean Peterson, retired locks and dams project manager, now assistant professor on the engineering faculty at Montana State University, Bozeman, Mont., writes, "We have experienced a mild winter so far, but with more than adequate snow for skiing – kind of the best of both worlds. The problem is finding enough time to ski!"

Sally Lunsford, office of counsel, is planning a trip to South Africa in mid-June as part of a church mission. She now lives in New Carlisle, Ind.

Bill Spychalla, project management, returned from a volunteer mission trip to Jamaica on behalf of the Rosemount United Methodist Church. He helped with construction of a school Jan.15-29.

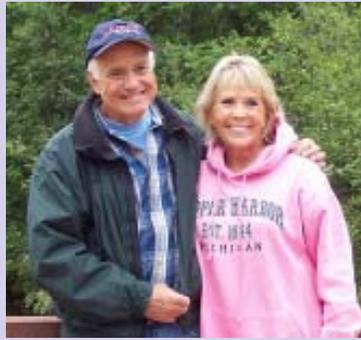


Photo courtesy Terry Engel

Terry Engel (left), project management retiree, moved to Englewood, Fla. He married former Minnesota resident Sandra Olsen (right), Feb 16.

Taps

Richard Mattson, 71, passed away Dec. 30. He worked for the St. Paul District from 1990-2005 at Upper St. Anthony Falls, Lower St. Anthony Falls and Lock and Dam 1, all in Minneapolis.

**Mattson**

Duane Rothering, 79, Alma, Wis., passed away Dec. 17. He worked at Lock and Dam No. 4, Alma, Wis.

Mike Osterby, 62, retiree from engineering and construction division, died suddenly at his home in Crystal Falls, Mich., on Feb.14.

John Francis Fay, 95, of Fergus Falls, Minn., died Jan. 9 at Lake Region Hospital, Fergus Falls. He worked for the Corps from 1937-1974.

Walsh takes command

Mississippi Valley Division, Vicksburg, Miss., held a change of command and retirement ceremony, on Feb. 20, when Brig. Gen. Robert Crear transferred command to Brig. Gen. Michael J. Walsh. Walsh formerly served as commander of Gulf Region Division in Iraq.

The Corps' Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, officiated.

Cold facts of ice

In an effort to educate and keep area residents safe, Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek reminds anyone who may be on one of Minnesota's 10,000 frozen lakes or rivers of the following ice facts:

- Ice is never 100 percent safe.
- New ice is stronger than old ice. Four inches of clear, newly-formed ice is usually stronger than a foot or more of old partially thawed ice.
- Ice seldom freezes uniformly. Ice can be a foot thick in one area and only one-inch thick a few yards away.
- It takes approximately three weeks of 20 degree weather with little or no wind and no snow cover (snow slows down the freezing process) to produce 12 to 15 inches of clear ice.
- The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, recommends:
 - to walk: four inches;
 - to snowmobile: five inches;
 - to drive a car: eight-12 inches;
 - to drive a truck: 12-15 inches.

District introduces girls to engineering

Twelve high school women from Harding and Arlington high schools participated in Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day at the district office, Feb. 7.

“They spent the better part of the day listening to presentations on science and engineering jobs with the Corps,” said Liz Nelsen, coordinator for the gender subcommittee of the Special Emphasis Program Committee. “One of the goals was to show them that females can be successful in science.”

Committee members held the event to coincide with decisions about college and careers.

Top right: Jon Ahlness, regulatory branch engineer, discusses Corps’ missions. Middle: Rojean LaSeure, lock operator, discussed lock and dam operations. Below left: Chris Afdahl, engineer, and Lt. Col. John Kunkle, deputy commander; right, Lupe Santos-Jensen, equal opportunity specialist; Liz Nelsen, engineer; and Rojean LaSeure, lock operator.



Photo by Shannon Bauer



Photo by Shannon Bauer



Photo by Shannon Bauer