

Crosscurrent

Serving the St. Paul District since 1977

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USACE celebrates Earth Day with tree planting at restoration project
-Page 4



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®

St. Paul District

Volume 50, Issue 2 | Spring 2024

(cover) Sara Rother, forester, teaches Corps and partner agency representatives how to plant a tree at the McGregor Lake Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project, near Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, April 22. USACE St. Paul District photo by Melanie Peterson



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Articles and photography submissions are welcome. Submissions may be mailed or emailed. Submissions should be in Microsoft Word format. Photos should be at least 5 in. x 7 in. at 300 dpi.

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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Comments from the Top: A message from Col. Eric Swenson

Teammates,

Aloha from Maui. As many of you know, I continue to serve as the Recovery Field Office commander for USACE's response mission to the Aug. 8, 2023, Maui wildfires that impacted the towns of Lahaina and Kula. Many of our teammates have deployed or are currently deployed to Maui supporting this mission. We recently marked 100 days of residential debris removal, and I am proud to say that this USACE recovery team is doing amazing work. We have cleared just over 800 properties in 100 days and are setting new records each week.

On March 18, our first tow of the season, the Motor Vessel Joseph Patrick Eckstein, passed through Lock and Dam 2, marking the unofficial start of the Upper Mississippi River navigation season. A huge thank you to everyone who worked around the clock to make sure our maintenance was completed in order to open the river again and to keep the flow of commerce moving. We had maintenance projects at locks

and dams 2, 3, 4 and 7, including a dewatering at Lock and Dam 2.

In this issue of Crosscurrents, we take a look at some of the hard-working women we highlighted during Women's History Month in March to include D.J. Moser, who was the first female lockmaster in the St. Paul District; Bobbie Jo Roundy, the first equipment repairwoman in the district; and Tina Shivel, our first occupational health nurse in the district. These are just some of the trailblazing women that have worked in our district.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, which is an important time to learn about resources that are available, increase awareness of mental health, show support for your coworkers and loved ones that struggle with their mental health and work to stop the stigma of talking about and asking for help. Here in the district, we have our [Critical Incident Stress Management team](#) that can help you if you are struggling, as well as our [Employee Assistance Program](#), which can help you with

resources that are available to you. Please take advantage of these programs or let your first-line supervisor know that you are struggling. We can only function as a team if we take care of each other. Ask someone how they are doing or say hello to a new team member. These little things can make a BIG difference.

With the start of spring, we will welcome back new and familiar faces with our seasonal hires at the locks and dams and at our recreation areas. As we gear up for summer, it's important that we also stand down for safety. June is National Safety Month and a good time to remind everyone about the importance of safety both on and off of duty – whether you are locking a boat or grilling up your favorite backyard BBQ meal.

I'm sure we are all looking forward to Memorial Day, maybe you are taking some time off, or getting out that new grill, but remember that we are honoring the sacrifice of men and women who fought and died for our country.



So, while you are celebrating SAFELY, please make sure you take time to reflect on those sacrifices that have made it possible. Finally, I hope you are all able to join your teammates for the summer awards ceremony June 27, as we recognize some of our team's amazing contributions to the mission.

Respectfully,
Eric R. Swenson

USACE celebrates Earth Day with tree planting at restoration project

Story by Melanie Peterson

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, and agency partners celebrated Earth Day, April 22, with a tree planting at McGregor Lake Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project, near Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Members of USACE, the Wisconsin and Iowa departments of natural resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, gathered on one of the islands that was built as part of the McGregor Lake restoration project to plant over 250 Swamp White Oak bareroot seedlings.

“This is the culmination of many years of work on the day we’re supposed to be celebrating the Earth; we’re seeing the fruits of our labor. Everyone here made this project happen,” said John Henderson, project manager.

McGregor Lake is a 200-acre backwater lake in Pool 10 of the Mississippi River. The lake lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish

Refuge. The project aims to improve lake habitat for backwater fish species, increase emergent and submergent vegetation growth, increase age and species diversity of self-sustaining floodplain forest and protect aquatic and terrestrial habitat by reducing erosion.

The project includes the beneficial use of river sand dredged from the navigation channel to create islands. The project has used more than 500,000 cubic yards of river sand that would otherwise have been moved to an upland placement site. The project will be completed in 2026.

This project is part of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration, or UMRR, program. The program ensures the coordinated development and enhancement of the Upper Mississippi River system with a primary emphasis on habitat restoration projects and resource monitoring. In the 36-year history of the program, more

than 55 habitat projects benefiting approximately 100,000 acres from Minneapolis to St. Louis, have been completed.

UMRR is a federally-funded and multi-agency partnership with both state and federal partners between a multitude of Upper Mississippi River agencies spanning from St. Paul, Minnesota, to the delta at the southern tip of Illinois. The program targets the Upper Mississippi River wildlife refuge and other areas across the region to rebuild, restore, study and implement better practices and rehabilitate some of the islands that have seen change based on climate change, flooding and invasive species.



Angela Deen, program manager, plants a tree at the McGregor Lake restoration project, near Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, April 22. USACE St. Paul District photo by Melanie Peterson

Multi-disciplinary team supports Sacramento District

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

A major project that started nearly five years ago, involves expertise from the St. Paul District and the Mississippi Valley Division that addresses one of the highest flood risk areas within the Corps of Engineers' portfolio.

The St. Paul District, along with other districts in the Mississippi Valley Division, are offering their expertise and technical assistance to the Sacramento District on projects in California's Central Valley to improve an aging levee

system that is protecting the area from the Sacramento, American, and San Joaquin rivers.

"It's a team effort. Our division provides technical leads, civil, hydraulic, geotechnical engineers and project managers and other disciplines who are working in parallel on program efforts with multiple design contracts at different phases and implementation," said Ben Nelson, project manager. "The team has put in hard work and long hours on these projects, across Corps districts, agencies and all levels of government."

Rivers at risk

The Sacramento metropolitan area has a high probability of flooding due to its location at the confluence and within the floodplain of two major rivers, the Sacramento and American rivers. Both rivers have large water-

sheds with high potential runoff. Historic flooding from spring storms and snowmelt resulted in the building of Folsom Dam, bypasses, and the creation of a federal levee system through the heart of the city. Recent improvements of the levee system and modifications to Folsom Dam have improved flood protection capabilities in the Sacramento area. The Natomas Basin, located along the Sacramento and American Rivers north of downtown Sacramento, is a 53,000-acre area protected by levees. Additionally, the lower reach of the San Joaquin River provides flood risks to the area of Stockton from riverine and tidal flows during high water events.

The overall levee infrastructure project is managed by Sacramento District with the support of many local, state, and sister federal agencies.

Story continued on Page 6



(right) Aaron Johnson, Sacramento District construction engineer, explains lessons learned to Travis Burrier and Trevor Kough, St. Paul District civil engineers, Sacramento, California, September 2022. USACE courtesy photo



Anthony Levine, geotechnical engineer, takes notes at a site visit seeing rock placement, Sacramento, California, September 2022. USACE courtesy photo

Story continued from Page 5 Overall Goal

In 2018, Congress set aside \$1.8 billion in upgrades to reduce the city of Sacramento's flood risk, affecting more than 500,000 people and 125,000 structures. St. Paul District is the design lead on four major levee improvements, erosion mitigation and bank stabilization projects along the Lower American River, in the Natomas Basin, and along the Lower San Joaquin River. The Lower American River program is executed under a supplemental project authority highlighting the significant need.

The project delivery teams developed and planned measures that are effective while minimizing the impact to the environment and can be built in the desired construction seasons, Nelson explained.

Dan Mielke, technical lead, said, "Improvements to the flood control system are crucial to mitigate risks and devastation to a vulnerable area.

The overall goal of the Sacramento levee upgrades is to help Sacramento and Stockton areas achieve a 200-year level, level of protection from multiple flood risk drivers throughout the surrounding area.

"Understanding the risks and leveraging expertise and resources across districts allows us to have a greater impact and success for a safer flood risk management system," Nelson said.

Corps of Engineers' leadership couldn't agree more.

"The St. Paul District team is doing an amazing job navigating the difficulties of designing a project in an environmentally sensitive area and building sponsor support," said St. Paul District Commander Col. Eric Swenson. "We are making tremendous strides helping Sacramento District win in the highest flood risk region in the country."

USACE assembles Tainter gate puzzle at Red River Structure

Story by Melanie Peterson

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, and its contractors continue to make strides in construction on the Red River structure, seven miles south of Fargo, North Dakota, and Moorhead, Minnesota, on the Red River of the North.

Twenty seven thousand pound skin plates, a part of the Tainter gate structure, arrived at the project site April 11 and 18. All the Tainter gate parts will arrive via nine semi-trucks and then assembled into a 50-foot by 50-foot gate. The gates are manufactured by G&G Steel plant, in Russellville and Cordova, Alabama.

“This is another milestone for the Red River structure,” said Sanjay Bimali, St. Paul District Western Area Office contracting officer representative. “The shipment of pieces began in April. In May, a contractor will join the nine pieces together to create one gate.” There will be a

total of three gates at the control structure. Water will be diverted through the structure in 2025.

The Red River structure is the third and largest gated structure needed for the completion of the Southern Embankment.

The congressionally authorized project is a 30-mile-long storm-water diversion channel in North Dakota with upstream staging. The plan includes a 21-mile-long southern embankment, several highway and railroad bridges, three gated control structures and two aqueduct structures.

The Corps is working in partnership on this project with the cities of Fargo and Moorhead and the Metro Flood Diversion Authority. This project provides flood risk reduction for nearly 260,000 people and 70 square miles of infrastructure in the communities of Fargo, Moorhead, West Fargo, Horace and Harwood.



A skin plate delivery at the Red River Structure, seven miles south of Fargo, North Dakota and Moorhead, Minnesota, April 18. USACE St. Paul District photo by Melanie Peterson

Mississippi Valley Division honors two St. Paul District hydraulic engineers

Story by Dave Elmstrom

Dr. Leigh Youngblood was named the 2023 Hydrologic Modeling and Statistics & Risk annual award winner from Hydrology, Hydraulics and Coastal Community of Practice within the Mississippi Valley Division, in April.

Youngblood is a hydraulic engineer in the hydrologic engineering section of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. Since joining USACE in 2020, Youngblood has worked on hydrology and feasibility studies throughout the Mississippi River and Red River of the North basins. She graduated from Clemson University with a bachelor's degree in civil and biosystems engineering in 2013 and a Ph.D. from the University of Washington in civil engineering in 2019. She is a licensed professional engineer in Minnesota.

The award is given annually to engineers, scientists, and technicians within the Mississippi Valley Division who perform hydrology, hydraulics, coastal, water management and water quality related work in the organization.

"Dr. Youngblood has embraced opportunities to apply her knowledge of statistical analysis and develop innovative solutions to advance several studies," said Youngblood's supervisor, Heather Henneman, the chief of the hydrologic engineering section. "Her work is a great asset to the hydraulics and hydrology branch, the district, the Mississippi Valley Division, and USACE."



Leigh Youngblood, hydraulic engineer. USACE St. Paul District courtesy photo

Mitch Weier was named the 2023 Hydrology, Hydraulics and Coastal Community of Practice Water Control Data Systems annual award winner from the Mississippi Valley Division, in April.

Weier is a hydraulic engineer in the water management section for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District.

The award is given annually to engineers, scientists, and technicians within the Mississippi Valley Division who perform hydrology, hydraulics, coastal, water management and water quality related work in the organization.

"Mitch has not only expertly performed his duties as the department's system administrator, which includes overseeing data processing and dissemination as well as managing the district's water management website, but he has also assumed additional responsibilities as a district expert for water management modeling and supports other districts with system administrator questions," said Elizabeth Nelsen, chief of the water management section, and Weier's supervisor.

Weier has been with the St. Paul District in the water management section since 2017, and previously worked at the state of North Dakota and in consulting. He received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a master's degree at the University of Colorado at Boulder. In his free time, he enjoys his family, biking and playing the guitar.



Mitch Weier, hydraulic engineer. USACE St. Paul District courtesy photo

Hrdlicka reaches 50 years with the St. Paul District

Story by Dave Elmstrom

In 1974, Marv Hrdlicka was a student at St. Paul Humboldt High School, and a counselor told him about an on-the-job-training opportunity in the print shop at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District.

The print shop doesn't exist any more, the district has moved to four separate buildings in that time, and the typewriters have been replaced by computers. But Hrdlicka's presence is still being felt, and he marked his 50th work anniversary at the St. Paul District in February.

Hrdlicka works as an engineering technician in the hydraulics and hydrology branch, where he takes field measurements, compiles data and supports various other functions within the branch.

But back in the 1970s, he was working on big, bulky offset printing machines. Engineers had some early Unix computers, but he remembers large typing pools with manual typewriters, and drafting departments before the advent of computer-aided design.

"I had never heard of (USACE) before," he said. "I came down here and interviewed, and they wanted me to start right away because they had some big reports for the Great River Environmental Action Team that had to get out for an important deadline."

He worked part time in those days, but would fill in full time during school breaks and summer. He went on to St. Paul College where he continued working part time through school, before eventually graduating with a degree in print communications.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Corps began outsourcing its printing operations, so Hrdlicka moved to a job in administrative services – today's logistics -- and then eventually found himself in hydraulics and hydrology.

He still remembers his first field work, in Pool 5, Weaver Bottoms, near Wabasha, Minnesota. He sometimes returns there, and is able to see the changes of erosion and other processes over the past decades. During his

career, he compiled data in the Grand Forks, North Dakota, area during the historic 1997 floods, and has conducted field testing throughout much of the district

Brian Alberto, Hrdlicka's supervisor, said, during his 50-year career, Marv's friendly demeanor, focus on technical excellence and safety, and genuine willingness to help others has helped him become a respected and invaluable resource for the hydraulics and hydrology branch and the district.

"Throughout his career, he's found ways to collect critical information under challenging conditions while maintaining an impeccable safety record," Alberto said. "Because of his technical expertise and willingness to help others, Marv is routinely called upon to support the district in times of emergency, including flood fight support. This demonstrates his dedication to supporting the broader mission of the Corps."

Hrdlicka's 50 years of institutional knowledge has been handy in the branch. When new employees start, Hrdlicka said they always

tell them, "Go to Marv, he knows about that."

And at 66, is he thinking about retiring? "Not in the near term – but always keeping my options open."



Marv Hrdlicka, civil engineer technician. USACE St. Paul District photo by Dave Elmstrom

Moser looks back at becoming first female lockmaster in the St. Paul District

Story by Dave Elmstrom

D.J. Moser remembers back in the 1980s, during an early welding training for a new group of women seeking to become lock and dam operators, her colleague leaned over and whispered, “wouldn’t it be something if one of us became lockmaster someday?”

“It was one of those things you didn’t even say – just the thought of it,” said Moser.

Moser did just that, becoming the St. Paul District’s first female lockmaster in 2002 in the traditionally male-dominated field. She retired in 2020, but returned to sit down recently to discuss her career and compare notes with current lockmasters Judy Denzer and Rojean Heyer.

“When I started back in 1986, the clerk was the woman’s job, and you didn’t even think about being an operator, let alone a lockmaster,” Moser recalls. “That was completely out of reach. That was something that men did.”

She credits her farm background. “If you grow up on a farm, you learn maintenance because you have to take care of the farm equipment,” Moser said. “And so learning the maintenance there is a natural step to doing maintenance on the locks and dams.”

“You didn’t do it to be a trailblazer – you didn’t think of it that way,” she said. “It was just one more thing to learn, one more thing to do, and you like the work, you just wanted to learn how to do more. You went to work to do a job but then it was, ‘Oh, I could do that, I could learn how to do that,’” Moser said.

Judy Denzer, lockmaster at Lock and Dam 5, says she similarly doesn’t think too much about gender on the lock crews. “I didn’t think of it as I’m a woman, they’re a man, I just did my job,” Denzer said. “I still try not to think of that. But I am very proud of my accomplishments just

Story continued on Page 10



D.J. Moser, the first female lockmaster in the St. Paul District, returned for an interview at Lock and Dam 5, near Minnesota City, Minnesota, February 1. USACE St. Paul District photo by Dave Elmstrom

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because I did make it to lockmaster, and that's what I wanted to do."

Lock and Dam 6 Lockmaster Rojean Heyer, like Moser, started in the 1980s before many women were on the lock and dam staffs. She started as a clerk-typist at Lock and Dam 7, becoming the first woman to work there.

"In the late 1980s they came up with the upward mobility program to give more women an opportunity to actually go out on the wall and lock the boats," Heyer said. "The Corps was tremendous in giving us the opportunity and the training that we needed to move forward."

Like Moser, she eventually rose to become lockmaster. "D.J. was definitely an inspiration, it's like if she can, I think we all can do it."

As recently as a couple of years ago, four of the St. Paul District locks and dams on the Mississippi River were led by women.

Moser said, "We've seen a lot of changes in 34 years, and I'd like to say they are positive changes. I'd encourage anybody that wants to work with USACE to do it. It's an opportunity for the person to grow into their career."



D.J. Moser (front left) and the crew at Lock and Dam 7, in La Crescent, Minnesota. USACE photo courtesy of the 2005 St. Paul District yearbook

District's first nurse prioritizes employee health and safety

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

For the first time in the St. Paul District's history, an occupational health nurse takes hold of employee health programs as she builds trust in her new role.

Whether on an active construction site or behind a desk, Christina Shivel intends to help employees mitigate workplace risks.

"The safety team decided there was a greater need to support employees in the district whether onsite or in the field," Shivel said, who took the new position in November 2023. "I'm pretty excited to see where we go with the program."

As a full-time employee, Shivel maintains the district's occupational health program to meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements for approximately 700 district employees working in hazardous (and nonhazardous) positions.

"My priority is monitoring the health of our employees through medical surveillance screenings to ensure they are healthy and physically able to perform their

jobs," Shivel said. "The other part of my job is inspecting workplaces, identifying hazards and making recommendations on how to reduce those hazards in order to provide our employees with safe workspaces."

Employees who work as electricians, mechanics, or hold jobs that involve tasks including grinding, sanding or exposure to toxic chemicals are required to participate in regular medical screenings for vision, hearing, respiratory, toxicology and radiation.

The Corps of Engineers-Safety and Occupational Health Management System provides a framework for the Corps to systematically manage their safety and occupational health programs, protect Soldiers, civilians, and property from workplace risks and hazards, and, ultimately, achieve the organization's goal of mission readiness.

"I'm a one-deep position, overseeing the care of all district employees and identifying and investigating possible changes in their health," she said. "It's my

job to educate employees, to ensure medical screenings are performed annually and they're properly using and maintaining personal protective equipment."

Shivel said, "The difference between occupational health and going to a doctor, is that we don't provide health care at all, rather we look for changes in employee's health and compare their tests each year to baselines. We

then determine if there are any significant changes that need to be investigated and work to identify and reduce any hazards found."

"As the district nurse, it's my job to keep our employees safe and provide them with the best health options and wellness programs, so they can focus on providing the best engineer solutions to the nation."



Christina Shivel, St. Paul District occupational health nurse, visits Lock and Dam 2, in Hastings, Minnesota, March 7. USACE St. Paul District photo by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

Female repairwoman leads the way at Lock and Dam 4

Story by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

It was an unexpected opportunity she couldn't pass up when the Corps visited her high school in 2000 recruiting women to work at a lock and dam.

Bobbie Jo Roundy is the equipment mechanic repairwoman at Lock and Dam 4 in Alma, Wisconsin. She has been working for the Corp of Engineers for more than 23 years.

"I'm pretty proud to say I'm the first equipment repairwoman in the St. Paul District," Roundy said. "At first it was intimidating, stepping into a male dominated field. However, I have built great working relationships with fellow coworkers and equipment repairmen at the other lock sites, and everybody's been a great support."

She says her job is important to the district because she, with the support of her coworkers, keeps the lock operational for navigation and the dam operational for pool control and gate movements.

"Bobbie's years of experience have proven invaluable and atten-

tion to detail when it comes to the tonnage moving up and down river and thus strengthening the country's economy," said Joseph Minnis, Lock and Dam 4 lockmaster

The focus of the repair person's job at the lock sites is to keep the equipment for the lock and the dam maintained and running properly, whether that be preventative maintenance or troubleshooting issues on the spot.

"It's not always easy," she said. "Especially when there's an electrical issue or equipment failure, and there is a towboat getting ready to lock through, I'll access the blueprints and determine where the problem exists in a timely manner."

Every day, this job is different, she said.

"Some days I'm doing some maintenance work on the computer ordering parts, some days I'm outside working on equipment and other days I'm indoors working in the control room."



Bobbie Jo Roundy, the equipment mechanic repairwoman at Lock and Dam 4, in Alma, Wisconsin, February 9. USACE St. Paul District photo by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

Roundy said she would really like to challenge the norms and see more women contributing their unique skills to the profession. With the proper training and schooling, anyone can do this job, she said.

"In addition to my position, we have female lockmasters and operators. While these jobs may come with its share of challenges, it's very inspiring knowing you are making a difference every day."

St. Paul District attends the DaVinci Fest, highlights island building and mussels

Story by Haley Djock, Caitlin Piotrowski and Bryn Langrehr



Haley Djock, Department of the Army fellow, teaches students about mussels at the DaVinci Fest, Jan. 27. USACE St. Paul District courtesy photo

The St. Paul District participated in Stillwater High School's DaVinci Fest, an annual celebration of art and science in January. It was an opportunity for students to showcase their talents and knowledge at Science Fair, Art Fair, Upcycling Fair, Film Fest and Science Challenge events. This was the fourth time the St. Paul District participated in the event with over 1,600 participants attending.

Children learned the basic process of island building by interacting with a sand table and followed the process by drawing an outline of their island, placing sand within the outline, then placing gravel around the outside. Finally, soil, trees, and animals were added to the islands, said Haley Djock, Department of the Army fellow.

Community members learned about island building on the Mississippi River from drone footage of McGregor Lake. The footage showed the stages of the McGregor Lake project as it

progressed from pre- to post-construction.

Mussel specimens were displayed for the community members to handle. Participants learned about the mussel life cycle and their importance for keeping the rivers clean. A brief history of how mussels became endangered and the Corps' work to re-establish the Higgin's Eye mussel populations was also discussed.

"I was surprised to see the level of engagement and interest in our work from visitors of all ages," Djock said.

At least 20 people inquired about careers, additional outreach events, and job fairs with USACE. "One thing that really stood out to me was that I had approximately 15 students and 5 adults ask me whether or not we hire students for the summer," said Jon Sobiech, deputy chief of regional planning and environment division north. "They were all very interested in working for the Corps."

Civil Servants of the Year announced



Barb Griffin
UNSUNG HERO

Position: Lead Secretary
Time with the St. Paul District: 9.5 years
Education: Bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Kent State University/Thomas Edison State University
Hobbies – Pyrography, quilting, diving, and sailing

"I was surprised to receive this recognition. I'm behind the scenes, my job is to make it easier for others to do their job. The difference Corps members make in people's lives makes me happy."



Jeff Steere
LEADERSHIP

Position title: Supervisory Park Ranger
Time with St. Paul District: 41 years
Education: Bachelor's degree in park and recreation resource management from Minnesota State University - Mankato
Hobbies: Hunting, fishing and traveling with family

"I surely wasn't expecting to receive this incredible honor. I feel blessed to have worked my entire career for the St. Paul District. The best part of my career has been all the people I've met and the friends I've made. After 41 years I still enjoy getting up in the morning and going to work."

RECOGNIZING OUR EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH THE MVPS OF MVP



DECEMBER
CURT LARSEN
OPERATIONS



JANUARY
MITCH WEIER
ENGINEERING AND
CONSTRUCTION



FEBRUARY
TINA SHIVEL
SAFETY AND
OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH



MARCH
AMY DESSNER
ENGINEERING AND
CONSTRUCTION



Col. Eric Swenson (back right), St. Paul District commander, stands with some of the St. Paul District employees deployed to Maui in support of the wildfires recovery, March 8. USACE photo by Stacey Reese

Around THE DISTRICT



USACE employees participate in the 25th Annual Small and Disadvantaged Business Opportunity Council Government Procurement Fair in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, April 11. USACE St. Paul District courtesy photo



Mississippi Valley Division Commanding General Brig. Gen. Kimberly Peeples visited the Lock and Dam 7 Outdraft Project Delivery Team during a ship simulation exercise at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Mississippi, April 9. USACE courtesy photo



St. Paul District hosted Mr. Jaime Pinkham (front left), Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, at the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, in Minneapolis, Feb. 23. USACE St. Paul District photo by Dave Elmstrom

News and Notes

New Employees

Lauren Allin, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Anthony Carrington, construction control representative, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

Emma Elefante, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Mickel Frisch, heavy mobile equipment mechanic, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Robert Hagberg, maintenance worker, operations, Fergus Falls, Minnesota

Matthew Hallo, program analyst, asset management, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Steven Heimark, construction control representative, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

Daniel Moe, maintenance worker, operations, Watson, Minnesota

Matthew Riegel, administrative officer, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Leigh Ruff, lock and dam equipment mechanic, operations, Guttenberg, Iowa

Natalie Siok, technical support assistant, engineering and construction, Winona, Minnesota

Noah Ward, construction control representative, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

Promotions

Robert Ashby, civil engineer, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

Kraig Berberich, diving program coordinator, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Angelique Binner, lock and dam operator, operations, Hastings, Minnesota

Aaron Brown, lock and dam operator, operations, Genoa, Wisconsin

Michelle Butler, program analyst, St. Paul, Minnesota

Daniel Dzwonkowski, lock and dam operator, operations, Alma, Wisconsin

April Erickson, civil engineer, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

Benjamin Everson, civil engineer (geotechnical), engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Samantha Fink, lock and dam operator supervisor, operations, Hastings, Minnesota

Gregory Hammons, civil engineer, engineering and construction, Winona, Minnesota

Brett Hoff, lock and dam operator, operations, Winona, Minnesota

Logan Hoffmann, heavy mobile and marine equipment mechanic, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Michael Hvidhyld, lock and dam operator, operations, Red Wing, Minnesota

Bryce Kingsley, lock and dam operator, operations, Genoa, Wisconsin

Samantha Kitchen, regulatory project manager, regulatory, Brookfield, Wisconsin

Jinah Lockwood, program analyst, project management, St. Paul, Minnesota

Ryan Markey, lock and dam operator, operations, Genoa, Wisconsin
Ferdinand Mussenden, civil engineer, engineering and construction, Hastings, Minnesota

Morgan Peterson, realty specialist, real estate, St. Paul, Minnesota

Matthew Rolbiecki, master tender, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Thomas Schmit, supervisory civil engineer, engineering and construction, Winona, Minnesota

Jonathan Sobiech, supervisory biologist, regional planning and environment division north, St. Paul, Minnesota

Morgan Wirth-Murray, biologist, operations, Brookfield, Wisconsin

Jonathan Nygaard, engineering technician, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Brandon Olson, engineering technician, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin

Leigh Youngblood, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota

Jacob Zanon, engineering technician, operations Fountain City, Wisconsin

Joel Zietz, construction control representative, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

Congratulations

John Henderson, project management, passed the Professional Engineering exam

Sam Mathiowetz, operations, retired from the Iowa Army National Guard at the rank of Captain after 26-plus years of uniformed service. That includes 9-years active duty with the U.S. Air Force and 17-plus years in the National Guard (both Minnesota and Iowa) with the last 11 years as a commissioned officer.



Colin Riddick, engineering and construction, and his wife Kelsey, welcomed Curtis Grant Riddick, Mardi Gras morning (Feb. 13), at 6 pounds, 15 ounces.

Taps



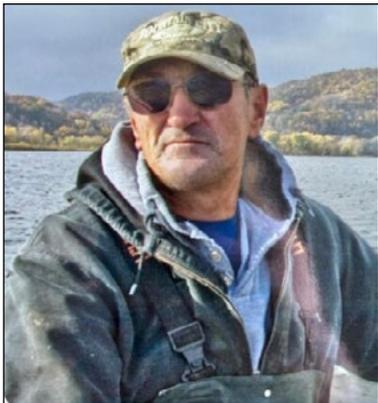
Robert Warren Gross passed away March 1. Gross worked on the Dredges Thompson, General Warren, and Goetz. He started as a Deckhand in 1985 and retired as Master of the Dredge Goetz in 2015.



Helmer "Bud" Johnson passed away March 12. Johnson retired as chief of hydraulics and hydrology in 1998 and continued with more projects as a rehired annuitant for more than 12 years.



Peter C. Lillie Jr., former Chief Financial Officer passed away February 8. He was with St. Paul District from April 2012 – November 2020 before transferring to another district.



George Richtman passed away March 27. Over the years, Richtman worked full circle, as a laborer at Lock and Dam 6, Dredge Thompson's deck hand, tender operator, survey boat operator and back to Lock 6 before retiring in 2001.



Eighty-nine years ago, in 1935, the St. Paul District completes the construction of Lock and Dam 7 in La Crescent, Minnesota. In 1989, the facility underwent a major rehabilitation. USACE St. Paul District historic photo