



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
St. Paul District

# Crosscurrents

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**District clears trash from a treasure**

# Volunteers from district help rebuild Iraq and Afghanistan

By Mark Davidson

Seven St. Paul District civilian employees are deployed overseas at the printing of this edition.

Mark Koenig, construction branch, has been in the Kabul, Afghanistan, since April and has been supervising the construction of many new facilities there. He's scheduled to return to the district in August.

Six other civilian employees deployed to Iraq in June and are scheduled, at this time, to return in



U.S. Army photo

**Mark Koenig, left, briefs Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, chief of engineers, outside of Kabul, Afghanistan, in June. They discussed buildings being constructed under Corps supervision, outside of Kabul, that will be used to house Afghanistan National Army troops.**

October through December of this year.

Jim Peak, engineering division, is heading up a Corps team in Mosul, Iraq, about 250 miles north of Baghdad. His team will be tracking and monitoring the work of the civilian contracting company, Bechtel, in that area, and also working with the Kurdish people who live there.

Bruce Boldon, construction branch, is leader of a team in Baghdad, with Dave Raasch, project management, as his project manager, and Teri Alberico, PM-E, doing geographic information system work. They are also tracking and monitoring the work of the Bechtel contractor.

Dave Valen, design branch, is working on the power projects in Baghdad, while Darrell Morey, design branch, is monitoring work

being done by contractors at the Baghdad International Airport, which will open sometime in July.

More photos and some mailing addresses of the district employees deployed overseas are located on the district intranet site under "recent deployments." There are also photos and some mailing addresses of district employees who were activated for military duty as members of the Guard and Reserve forces.

Upcoming issues of *Crosscurrents* will feature district employees who have returned from overseas duty and present stories about district employees at work in Iraq.

## Cover photo



Photo by Kevin Baumgard

**From left are Chris Beaman, Nicole Brown and Kenton Spading. They and others bagged trash to clean up the Mississippi River. Last year, more than 1,200 volunteers cleared nearly 100 tons of trash on the river, including more than 1,600 tires. See "10 bag trash to restore riverside treasure," Page 6.**



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**Crosscurrents**

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## Federal, state, local teamwork promotes habitat, recreation

By Tricia Liggett  
East Grand Forks Resident Office

The St. Paul District and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources teamed up to promote environmental sustainability at the East Grand Forks, Minn., levee projects.

The development of a Red River recreational area illustrates local, state and federal agencies partnering to enhance recreation and restore the natural habitat historically found in the area.

Environmental considerations on the East Grand Forks phase-one project include site restoration, public access to lands and the development of year-round recreational activities, including playgrounds, parks, skating rinks and bike paths.

When the projects are done, the DNR will be responsible for features on the wet-side of the levee system. The wet-side, the recreation area, forms the Red River State Recreational Area, a 1,200-acre greenway between the river and the flood protection system in East Grand Forks. A "greenway" is a corridor of open-space, vegetation and recreational features.

"Once the trailheads have been turned over to the DNR, they will be a very nice amenity for the state recreational area and the community," said Greg Boppre, East Grand Forks city engineer.

The DNR plans a full-service flood-proofed campground, picnic shelters and interpretative kiosks at



Photo by Ryan Otto

**Virginia Regorrah (right) explains the integration of features in Sherlock Park as the result of integrated planning by the St. Paul District, the city of East Grand Forks, Minn., and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. DNR personnel present are Larry Peterson, development director, Helen Cozzetto, project manager, Ron Hains, operations director and John Winter, regional director.**

all the trailhead locations, a boat launching area and a variety of parks with an extensive trail system as the main features of the greenway.

Once the Minnesota legislature approves the funding, a visitor center adjacent to the campground is planned.

The DNR has been involved in all phases of the district's work from the very start, including the planning, design, and construction phases of the project. The DNR attended weekly progress meetings during

project construction.

The agency's participation has improved the quality of the project while staying consistent to DNR's vision of a natural environment along the river. This is evident in everything from improvements to fish habitats to the selection of native plant and tree species.

"The projects provide a wonderful opportunity for the DNR and the federal government to work together to help benefit the community," said Helen Cozzetto, project manager at the DNR.

### Partnership benefits outdoors enthusiasts

Ryan J. Otto, East Grand Forks Resident Office

"For an area that seems endlessly devoid of hills, the flood control project levees offer nature enthusiasts in Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn., a new venue to enjoy the outdoors. The levees provide topography for parks with expansive green space between the river and levees. Trails wind through trees and over crests of levees, allowing bicyclists, rollerbladers and joggers an escape from the bustle of the city and cars. The rolling hills shaped by the levees offer the high school track team challenges not readily available in the area."



Photo by Holly Zillmer

Left to right are Ralph Augustin, Mark Nelson and Jeanne Nelson. Augustin works in regulatory branch. Mark Nelson is chief of real estate division.

**Eau Galle: site crew**

Aaron Edlund  
 Dan Jopp  
 Phil Lapinski  
 Darwin Litzell  
 Lloyd Mathiesen  
 Dave Reynolds  
 Ross Ratcliff  
 Irene Stearns

**Ticket Sellers**

Lorraine Blake  
 Marilyn Caturia  
 Vicki Johnson  
 Julie Ritter  
 Sarah Super  
 Theresa Thury  
 Sari Xiong

**Team Captains**

Kevin Baumgard  
 Mark Davidson  
 Bryanna Linscheid  
 Tom Novak  
 Eric Wittine

## District celebrates accomplishments

Nearly 350 St. Paul District employees, their families, friends and pets gathered at Corps' Eau Galle Recreation Area in Spring Valley, Wis., June 19 for the annual family picnic and awards ceremony.

Picnic organizers arranged for softball, golf, volleyball, water balloon toss, a game with a piñata, bocce ball, lunch and a tour of Crystal Caves. Ray Nelson, Cross Lake Recreation Area park manager, conducted an educational presentation on the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Park rangers taught children safe boating practices for the "Kids-in-Boats" program at the reservoir.

Lt. Col. O'Hara, deputy district engineer, presented 35 employees with length-of-service awards. The 13-member Mississippi River restricted area marking team received a team award. Finally, the district donated 142 pounds of food contributed to the awards picnic food drive and \$55 in cash donations to Neighbor to Neighbor.

At right, Avery Fluekiger, 22-month-old son of Terry Fluekiger, Lock and Dam 4, sits with Chloé, Shannon Bauer's Beagle-Basset mix. (Photo by Shannon Bauer)







From left: Susan Bruner, Doug Bruner, Elizabeth Nelsen and Seth Nelsen team build at a tug-of-war.



Lt. Col. Tom O'Hara, Greg Bailen, John Bailen and Dave Himmerich pull together between innings of softball.

Photos by Jon Lyman

### Awards Picnic Volunteers

- Doug Bruner, co-chairman
- Rick Hauck, co-chairman
- Ferris Chamberlin
- Brent Cossette
- Mark Davidson
- Jodi Dutta
- Janet Golubski
- Kurt Heckendorf
- Larry Joachim
- Kari Layman
- Corby Lewis
- Jon Lyman
- Tammy Moore
- Marsha Mose
- Elizabeth Nelsen
- Ray Nelson
- Dave Reynolds
- Wayne Scheffel
- Michelle Shafer
- Brian Sipos
- Gary Wolf
- Teresa Brunner
- Clare Johnson
- Terry Jorgenson
- Grant Riddick
- Julie Woestman
- See Xiong

From left are Theresa Thury's children, Samantha and Connor. At right is Brent Cossette, student trainee-recreation. Cossette is based at the natural resources office in La Crescent, Minn. Thury works in project management.





Photo by Kevin Baumgard

**Kenton Spading, project management, hauls bags of debris from Pigs Eye Island, just upriver of mile-mark 834 in South St. Paul, Minn., June 17.**



Photo by Kurt Brownell

**Above, volunteers clean up debris from an island in Pool 4 near Red Wing, Minn.**

## 10 bag trash to restore riverside treasure

By Peter Verstegen

Ten district personnel endured humidity, mosquitoes and mud to support the 2003 second annual Mississippi River Relief-Big River Cleanup June 17. Volunteers removed debris along a 43-mile stretch of the river between Prescott, Wis., and St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis.

Living Lands and Waters Foundation, a river restoration organization based in East Moline, Ill., sponsored the cleanup.

The organization led this year's project in cooperation with local companies, government agencies and organizations. Public affairs and safety offices provided safety items, including glasses, gloves and life jackets.



Photo by Darla Orchard

**An up-bound barge filled with debris locks through Lock and Dam 2 at Hastings, Minn.**

### River cleanup volunteers

- Dennis Erickson, district office coordinator
- Kevin Baumgard
- Chris Beaman
- Nicole Brown
- Kurt Brownell
- Teresa Brunner
- Karen Cassidy
- Mark Davidson, coordination support
- Janet Golobski
- Kenton Spading
- Lori Taylor
- Marge Thompson



# Bits and Pieces

## Contingent contributes to civil works conference

*Daniel Yang, a student in the public affairs office, compiled the July Bits and Pieces*

A contingent from the St. Paul District moderated panels and gave presentations at the Corps-wide 2003 Infrastructure Systems Conference held in Las Vegas, May 5-8.

District employees attending from the St. Paul District included: Tom Sully, Dave Rydeen, Neil Schwanz, Matt Bray, Kevin Nelson, Paul Madison, Tony Fares, Phil Sauser, Josh Cress, Bob Dempsey, Mike Dahlquist and Steve Sanquist.

Sully, a project manager, moderated a session of three presentations focusing on civil works and steel structures. Schwanz, geotechnical engineering, made a presentation on dam safety, maintenance and major reconstruction for the Homme Dam, Valley City, N.D.

Rydeen, chief of geotechnical engineering, made a presentation on emergency repairs to Rapidan Dam and moderated a session of presentations.

Dempsey and Fares, both in structural engineering, made a presentation on lock guidewall post-tensioning.

Sauser, structural engineering, made a presentation on inspection, reporting and evaluation of a fracture critical member bridge and

a presentation on fracture evaluations of existing bulkheads for locks and dams.

### Births

**Matt Percy**, district historian, and his wife Agnes celebrated the birth of their second son, Adam Erno Percy, on Valentines Day. Adam arrived at nine pounds, three ounces and 21 inches long.

**Angie Phipps**, equal employment opportunity assistant in the EEO office, celebrated the birth of twins, Devon and Kayla, May 25. Devon arrived at eight pounds, eight ounces and 19 inches long. Kayla arrived at seven pounds, one ounce and 18 3/4 inches long. Devon and Kayla are home and doing fine. Phipps anticipates returning to work mid-September.

**Rebecca Soileau**, engineering design, and her husband Bobby celebrated the birth of their first daughter, Margaret Rose (Maggie), Jan. 26. Maggie arrived at eight pounds, one ounce and 19 3/4 inches long.

**Miray Welle**, engineering design, and her husband Julian celebrated the birth of a son, Isaac Keil, Feb. 1. Isaac arrived at nine pounds and 21 3/4 inches long.

### Welcome: since March 2003

**Linda Ales**, lock and dam operator;

**Cris Alford**, student trainee;

**Thomas Anderson**, lock and dam operator;

**Peter Becker**, lock and dam operator;

**Jason Bellerive**, lock and dam operator;

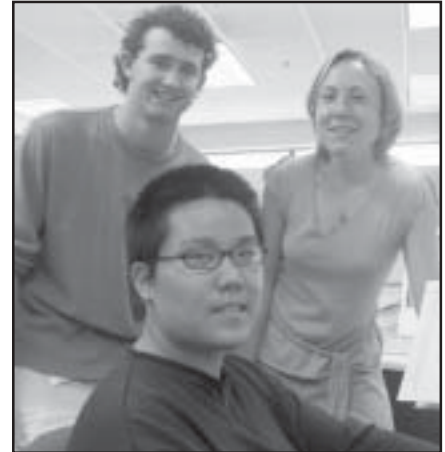


Photo by Dan Yang

**From left are: Aaron Snyder, Molly Wezel-Peterson and Andrea Hinrichs.**

**Kraig Berberich**, lock and dam operator;

**Noel Borgen**, student trainee;

**Pamela Branin**, equal employment opportunity assistant;

**Donald Brantner**, lock and dam operator;

**Teresa Brunner**, civil engineering;

**Jacob Busch**, deck hand;

**Adam Danzinger**, student trainee;

**John DeBauche**, laborer;

**Dwight Deloney**, lock and dam operator;

**Thomas Dirnberger**, staff accountant;

**Rebecca Dobie**, student trainee;

**Gary Fellow**, lock and dam operator;

**Nicholas Feuerhelm**, summer park ranger;

**Angelina Flottesmesch**, student trainee;

**Milan Gilman**, lock and dam operator;

**Gavin Hart**, student trainee;

**Lemoyne Hartness**, office assistant;

**Luther Helland**, lock and dam operator;

**Joseph Heffner**, student trainee;

*Welcome, continued Page 8*

## Employee of the Month honors to Williams

Russell Williams, project management, deftly guided the paperwork and the person through a maze of disability and retirement requirements to support a co-worker's disability retirement. He did so on his own time over a six-week period and applied project management skills in coordinating across jurisdictions – civilian personnel advisory center, the equal employment opportunity office and social security – to expedite the process. His intervention reduced stress levels and lessened anxiety for the individual and his family.



Photo by Jon Lyman

**Marianne Price and  
Russell Williams**

Williams met with the employee and the family members at the employee's home, delivered documents to the civilian personnel advisory personnel and accompanied the employee to the social security office to complete the application process. "This is a true example of an individual exhibiting care and concern for a fellow employee," said Marianne Price, equal employment opportunity officer, his nominator.

*Welcome, continued from Page 7*

**Andrea Hinrichs**, economics assistant;  
**Clare Johnson**, student trainee;  
**David Johnson**, deck hand;  
**Kimberly Johnson**, office assistant;  
**Christopher Kalahar**, student trainee;  
**Paul Kava**, laborer;  
**Thomas Krumholz**, lock and dam operator;  
**Linda Kurtz**, interdisciplinary;  
**Roy Lawson**, construction representative;  
**Sue Lenski**, realty specialist;  
**Robin Major**, lock and dam operator;  
**Abigail Marohl**, student trainee;

**Stacy Marshall**, student trainee;  
**Lisa Marynik**, student trainee;  
**Jeff Meyer**, deck hand;  
**Brenda Miller**, secretary;  
**Christopher Mitchell**, lock and dam operator;  
**Lowell Moline**, lock and dam operator;  
**Jeremy Nguyen**, student trainee;  
**Huy Nguyen**, student trainee;  
**Eric Podoll**, student trainee;  
**John Quellhorst**, lock and dam operator;  
**Jim Rand**, lock and dam operator;  
**Marlin Ranum**, construction representative;  
**Timothy Robiecki**, student trainee;

**Joshua Rye**, lock and dam operator;  
**Nancy Sager**, lock and dam clerk;  
**Dion Schmidt**, laborer;  
**Don Shroeder**, lock and dam operator;  
**Ryan Siebold**, student trainee;  
**Matthew Singleton**, student trainee;  
**Tim Smith**, environmental protection specialist;  
**Aaron Snyder**, student trainee;  
**Wray Sweat**, deck hand;  
**Daniel Swenson**, construction representative;  
**Christopher Tunheim**, construction representative;  
**Theresa Tweed**, project assistant;  
**Kelly Urbanek**, environmental protection specialist;  
**Kathy Vanatta**, chief, contracting;  
**Xo Vang**, student trainee;  
**Nathan VanLoon**, student trainee;  
**Molly Wezel-Peterson**, student trainee;  
**Patricia Wallace**, student trainee;  
**Vivian Wippler**, administrative assistant;  
**Julie Woestman**, engineering aid;  
**Amos Wolf**, student trainee.

## Farewell

**Lorraine Blake** with the information management office, retired from June 27 after 20 years of civil service;  
**Dennis Born**, a realty specialist with the real estate division, retired April 1 after 14 years of civil service;  
**Kenneth Denzer** with the construction-operations division, locks and dams branch, retired April 30 after 20 years of civil service;  
**Gilbert Munson** with the construction-operations division, locks and dams branch, retired May 2 after 37 years of civil service.