



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
St. Paul District

# Crosscurrents

Vol. 27, No. 12

December 2004

District donates to "Operation Joy"



## Pfenning reviews 2004, looks at 2005

By Col. Mike Pfenning  
District Commander

My wife, Ginni, and I wish each of you and your families a happy



and prosperous new year in 2005. As we've looked back over the events of 2004, we look to the promise of

2005. I'd like to take that same opportunity with you.

Even though I wasn't part of the district for more than five months in 2004, I've seen the evidence of your accomplishments in so many different ways. Here are only a few of those many accomplishments:

Shannon Bauer of Public Affairs

received the Michael C. Robinson award for the Corps' Public Affairs Officer of the Year and the Public Affairs Office won the Locke L. Mouton Award for Media Relations. Virginia Regorrah received the Corps' Construction Management Excellence award. Mark Nelson was selected as the division's Real Estate Professional of the Year. Don Powell and his EMP team were selected as the USACE Chief of Engineers Environmental Award of Excellence award winners for the Pool 8 Islands Habitat Project. The Orwell Dam rehabilitation project was awarded a Seven Wonders of Engineering in Minnesota excellence award by the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers. The Sandy Lake Recreation area was selected by Reserve America as one of the Top 100 Family Campgrounds in America. Additionally, our two housing project recovery teams received and continue to receive accolades from the highest levels of Corps and FEMA for their selfless professional efforts in Florida and Puerto Rico.

Each of you has been a part of a very successful year of service to this region and the nation and should be proud of that.

As General Crear mentioned during his recent Town Hall presentation, regionalization in the Mississippi Valley – standing up the regional business center model – remains our division's top strategic priority. Many of you have already been in the forefront of regionalization efforts, forging ahead in areas such as maintaining key relationships with local customers and stakeholders,

conducting income-based work force planning and developing regional standards of service for not only our customers, but our regional work force. Your efforts are resonating across the region, as they are recognized for their value and forward thinking.


The remainder of fiscal year 2005 promises to bring more chances to excel. Flood season is just around the corner. The 1460-foot levee raise at Devils Lake is ongoing, as is work on the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks projects. We will conduct our first-ever continuity of operations plan exercise in February. We will move into the pre-construction engineering and design of navigation improvements and ecosystem restoration measures as part of the Upper Mississippi-Illinois Waterway Navigation Study, while continuing to execute the Environmental Management Program projects. We will complete the Roseau Feasibility

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Photo by Mark Davidson

Joel Face, Jan Lassen and Dan Ford, all from engineering and construction, were among the 16 from the St. Paul District office to distribute toys for the needy at Keystone Community Partners, St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 17.



**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
St. Paul District

### *Crosscurrents*

*Crosscurrents* is an unofficial publication, authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. It is published monthly by offset for the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Editorial views and opinions are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers, nor of the Department of the Army.

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# Trains roll, concrete to go

By Ryan J. Otto  
East Grand Forks Resident Office

The trains on a major railroad line kept to their schedules, thanks to advance planning, teamwork and an innovative quick-curing concrete at a Corps of Engineers' flood reduction project on the Red River of the North this past October.

On a typical day, as many as 10 trains cross the Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge, spanning the Red River between Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn.

On Oct. 11 at 8 a.m., one final train crossed the bridge before a rare, 24-hour track outage occurred on one of the busiest railroad crossings in the tri-state



Photo by Ryan Otto

**Virginia Regorrah (left), East Grand Forks resident engineer, and Francis Schanilec, construction representative, participated in the night pour of fast-curing concrete at the flood reduction project at Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn.**

region of Minnesota, North and South Dakota.

That's when the St. Paul District initiated a race against the clock to construct three railroad stop-log closures as part of the comprehensive Grand Forks/East Grand Forks project.

The closure structures are openings in the floodwall that allow trains to pass through during normal circumstances. In a flood, the track and ballast will be removed and steel panels inserted into slots in the closure structure to prevent floodwater from passing through the opening.

Even though work on the three structures occurred in a 24 hour period, nearly three years of design, planning, scheduling and preparation took place among the Corps, Industrial Contract Services of Grand Forks, the cities of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks, the states of North Dakota and Minnesota, Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway and several utility companies to make the event

happen without a hitch.

Making the feat more challenging, the contractor was only allotted 14 hours to complete the work on the three structures, with the remaining portion of the outage reserved for the railroad to remove and replace the tracks.

What made these structures unique was the fact that the material required for the work consisted, on average, of two tons of rebar and 110 yards of concrete per structure that needed to be placed and backfilled, prepared to carry a fully loaded freight train – all in 24 hours. Rebar is a common name for reinforcing steel to improve the tensile strength of concrete.

“Two tons may not seem like a lot,” said Virginia Regorrah, East Grand Forks resident engineer, “but considering the two tons of rebar were contained within a structure measuring 60 feet by 20 feet by 6 feet – that is a lot of rebar.”

*Concrete, continued on Page 4*



Photo by Ryan Otto

**Tricia Liggett, project engineer, and Dave Odden, an engineer with S.E.H., Inc., are barely visible at the break in the railroad tracks near the Red River of the North at Grand Forks, N.D.- East Grand Forks, Minn.**

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**Concrete**, continued from Page 3

The construction technique required some ingenuity among the partners.

A special concrete mix had to be formulated to meet the stringent strength and curing time requirements. Porta-Mix, Aggregate Industries and Brett Admixtures spent weeks perfecting a super-fast curing concrete. "The mix, with an accelerator additive, was developed so that it would quickly reach high strengths," said Kip Langei, project manager for the prime contractor, ICS, Inc.

"Our test cylinders all had strengths greater than 5,100 pounds per square inch after just 24 hours," added Langei. "That's impressive, considering the contract specifications for all other concrete on the project require a compressive strength of 4,000 pounds per square inch after 28 days."

While the mix was being designed, coordination continued among engineers working on the logistics of the structure placements.

Regorrah credits the success of the closures to two long-time Corps' employees, LeRoy Schroeder and Francis Schanilec. Schroeder, who retired from the Omaha District, works for the contractor and Schanilec is the Corps' construction representative. "Schroeder developed the plan for the construction sequencing of the

**Perry Tobin (center), construction representative, East Grand Forks resident office, oversaw the concrete pour for the state Highway 2 closure in East Grand Forks, Minn.**

Photo by Al Seydel

December 2004



Photo by Francis Schanilec

**From left are Virginia Regorrah, East Grand Forks, Minn., resident engineer, Jeff Johnson, an engineer with S.E.H., Inc., and Ryan Otto, an engineer at the East Grand Forks resident office, at the closure on Hill Street.**

closures, spearheaded the development of the mix design and coordinated with the railroad and the subcontractors and Schanilec was with him every step. The two of them made this job look easy," said Regorrah.

Schanilec added that this was a team success. "I was really pleased with everyone's approach to the construction and the safety. The contractor had one quality control inspector at each closure site, and their best foremen were in charge of the construction at each of the sites. The Corps also had one quality assurance representative at each site. It could

not have gone any better," said Schanilec.

The track outage began after the last train passed through at 8 a.m. on Oct. 11. After that, the race began to remove the tracks, excavate the site, place the rebar and the concrete, cure, backfill and replace the track and ballast.

Early the next morning, the closure structures had been completed and the railroad had replaced the track and ballast. The first train rolled through the newly constructed closures just 16 hours after the concrete had been placed.



## St. Paul District battles invasive plant species on Goose Island

By Kurt Brownell  
Natural Resources Office

A small army wielding chain saws mowed down the invaders at Goose Island on the Mississippi River, Sept. 14-18.

In celebration of National Public Lands Day, Sept. 18, personnel from the Natural Resources Project Office in La Crescent, Minn., staged an event on Corps-owned lands just south of La Crosse, Wis.

The mission was to clear out invasive species, black locust trees and garlic mustard, hindering the development of native wildlife plants.

Invasive plants have established themselves within the fish and wildlife refuge, especially on Goose Island. The island is a wildlife habitat and location for boat launches and campsites that straddles La Crosse and Vernon counties in Wisconsin.

Seven personnel from two Corps' offices along the Upper Mississippi River led the volunteer effort to eradicate the invasive plants.

Kurt Brownell, Jon Sobiech, Jerry Lee and Randy Urich from the St. Paul District's natural resources project office in La Crescent, Minn., joined forces with Larry McClellan, Matt Singleton and Dan Cottrell from Blackhawk Park; park workers from La Crosse County; and a large group of volunteers. Among them were

nine staff members and local volunteers from Living Lands and Waters, East Moline, Ill., a nonprofit environmental organization.

The project area is roughly 11.5 acres, at the south end of the island by Hunter's Point Landing, within the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Black locust creates dense stands of trees that crowd out native species. Garlic mustard creates dense stands on the forest floor and also crowds out native species, especially spring forest wildflowers. Eliminating them allows for a native forest to re-establish itself.

Volunteers, donating about 250 man-hours, covered nearly four of the 11.5 acres and cut more than 5,000 trees in five days. They used chain saws to cut locust, stacked logs for use as fence posts or firewood and chipped brush. (Black locust resists decay and has traditionally been used for fence posts.) La Crosse County Parks provided a dump truck and drivers to catch and haul chips to a stockpile on the island.

The natural resources project office is working to set up bids to sell locust logs. The objective is for sales of the logs to partially offset the cost of clearing the site and planting beneficial trees.

Chips will be used by the La Crosse County Parks system for trails, landscaping and other areas where wood chips are useful. Wood not suitable for use as fence posts will be used to provide free firewood to campers at a La Crosse County campground.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service endorsed this project and loaned equipment for the project.



St. Paul District photo

**Jon Sobiech, with the St. Paul District's natural resources project office at La Crescent, Minn., drags brush to the chipper.**

The Corps' management plan for the Mississippi River includes the goal of maintaining a diversity of productive habitat for wildlife on Corps'-owned lands. Corps' environmental plans specifically mention controlling the spread of locust trees in upland locations of Goose Island.

"The [clearing] project directly supports these goals and is the first in a series of proposed volunteer efforts to control invasive species on the island," said Urich, a forester at the natural resources project office.

Living Lands and Waters plans to return in March. Additional volunteers are being recruited to complete the work.

Following completion of the work, cut stumps will then be individually treated using a backpack sprayer and herbicide, since locust readily sprouts from stumps and roots after being cut. Garlic mustard will also be treated with an herbicide at that time.

# Corps teaches youth to nurture nature

By Jon Sobiech  
Natural Resources Office

Nearly 100 miles of Mississippi River is cleaner and seeded with native plants, thanks to eight kids, their supervisors and two federal agencies.

From Wabasha, Minn., south to Pool 9, near Blackhawk Park at De Soto, Wis., 1,400 pounds of trash has been cleaned up, \$2,400 worth of prairie seed collected and thousands of invasive trees cut down the past two summers.

These are just a few of the many accomplishments made possible by a cooperative agreement between the St. Paul District's La Crescent natural resource project office, La Crescent, Minn., and the Coulee Community Action Program, La Crosse, Wis.

The Coulee CAP is a private nonprofit agency that serves low-income residents of La Crosse, Vernon, Monroe and Crawford counties in western Wisconsin. Among its programs is a youth employment and training program, which provided the volunteers for the CAP crew.

The program is a comprehensive program that serves young people until they don't need state assistance. The program is a Workforce Investment Act Program, administered and fully funded by the Workforce Development Board



Photo by Ryan Siebold

**In front is Lucas Reshel; in the middle are Dan Steinke, Jeremy Melvin from the CAP crew, and Connie Haag, Americorps. In back is Jon Sobiech, forester with the St. Paul District's natural resources office in La Crescent, Minn. They are near Rosebud Island in Pool 7.**

of Western Wisconsin.

Jason Kirby, CAP, and Jonathan Sobiech, a forester from the district's natural resources office, recruited youth interested in the Mississippi River and natural resources.

"We envisioned a hard-working group of kids who have a passion for the outdoors and don't mind working outside in some adverse conditions," said Kirby.

Their recruiting succeeded. Kirby found a group of enthusiastic kids to form the natural resources group for the summers of 2003 and 2004.

Throughout the summer, the crew alternated days with the Corps and the Fish and Wildlife Service by working two days a week for each agency. They learned to work as a team on natural resource missions for both agencies.

Some of the highlights included:

picking up 1,400 pounds of trash near Stoddard, Wis., collecting more than \$2,400 worth of seed from approximately 10 different prairie plant species in Wabasha, Minn., for use at a dredge spoil placement site reclamation project; participating in the Big River cleanup in Pool 9, releasing a collection of flea beetles near Winona, Minn., to control an invasive plant species; and performing tree maintenance and care throughout pools 4-10.

Also included in the accomplishments were the many projects they worked on with the service, including wild celery counts, building of rock groins, area clean up, staining of wildlife viewing platforms and more.

The Coulee CAP crew provided 1,005 volunteer hours to the La Crescent office for these projects. At the Corps' established

*Youth, continued on Page 7*

*Youth, continued from Page 7*

equivalent volunteer rate of \$17.19 per hour, this adds up to more than \$17,000 worth of donated labor. “In return, the Corps offered an excellent opportunity for these kids to perform conservation work while learning about the environment,” said Kurt Brownell, natural resource specialist, La Crescent.

Corps’ employees conducted daily on-site safety meetings for the crew stressing the importance of safety not only on the work-sites, but on the roads and waters as well.

Sobiech, Brownell, and summer students Ryan Seibold, Jon Schultz and Xo Vang worked alongside the kids to teach many environmental lessons.

The partnership provided work for the CAP crews and allowed the Corps to extend its budget to complete a natural resources project.



Photos above and below by Jon Sobiech

**Above are Ryan Siebold, forestry technician, with the natural resources office in La Crescent, Minn.; Connie Haag, AmeriCorps; Community Action Program crew Lucas Reshel, Courtney Clien, Daniel Steinke and Jeremy Melvin. The crew was watering Swamp White Oak and Bur Oak trees planted near Stoddard, Wis.**

**Below are Lucas Reshel, CAP crew; Xo Vang, forestry technician with the Corps’ natural resources office; and Jeremy Melvin, CAP crew. They are fixing and adjusting tree tubes.**



## District donates holiday cheer

St. Paul District employees donated more than 125 toys to Keystone Community Partners, St. Paul, Minn., in support of the organization's "Operation Joy," for distribution to needy families, Dec. 17.

The nonprofit agency provides a range of human services for children, individuals and families, and seniors. Programs include four food-shelves, two family centers, preschool and after-school programming, Meals-on-Wheels and social work services for families and seniors. Many district employees generously donated toys, which the following individuals distributed, Dec. 17:

**Joel Face**, engineering and construction;

**Dan Ford**, EC;

**Janet Golubski**, EC;

**Vernon Hadley**, contracting;

**Mark Koenig**, safety;

**Jan Lassen**, EC;

**Corby Lewis**, EC;

**Molly McKegney**, office of counsel;

**Darrell Morey**, EC;

**Stephen Muyskens**, contracting;

**Lt. Col. Tom O'Hara**, deputy commander;

**Jean Schmidt**, information management;

**Joe Skupa**, operations;

**Kenton Spading**, project management; and

**Georgia Stanonik**, OC.

At right, Lt. Col. Tom O'Hara, deputy commander, was among 16 personnel from the district to distribute toys at Keystone Community Partners.



Photo by Peter Versteegen

**Julie Ritter**, real estate, and **Mark Davidson**, public affairs, pack toys to take to Keystone Community Partners.



Photo by Mark Davidson

**Vernon Hadley** (left), contracting, distributed toys at Keystone in St. Paul, Minn., as part of Operation Joy.







Photo by Mark Davidson

Above, from left: Molly McKegney, office of counsel; Jean Schmidt, information management; Corby Lewis, engineering and construction; and Joe Skupa, operations, organized toys for presentation and distribution at Keystone Community Partners in St. Paul. Georgia Stanonik (right), office of counsel, also distributed toys at Keystone Community Partners. At the annual holiday awards ceremony held in December, St. Paul District employees contributed more than 450 pounds of food and \$88 to the Keystone Community Services program, formerly the Neighbor-To-Neighbor program. Keystone is located next door to Washington Middle School, the district's adopt-a-school, in St. Paul, Minn.



Photo by Mark Davidson

Janet Golubski (left) engineering and construction, explains toy selection to one of the recipients.



Photo by Mark Davidson

# Fun, friends, family propel tri-athlete Alberico

By Mark Davidson

It's community, not competition, that motivates Teri Alberico, project management division, to run, swim and bike.

She's been getting together with family and friends and encouraging other people to participate in the Fitger's Triathlon in Duluth, Minn., for 15 years.

"I've participated in the Fitger's Triathlon on the first weekend in August since 1990, or 15 consecutive years," said Alberico. "It's become more a social event than an athletic one. I have a college roommate, Cindy Grindy, who lives in Duluth. It started with just her family and me and has grown to include other friends and family."

Alberico does the long course or short course or splits up the long course with some teammates. The short course consists of a one-third mile swim, a 12-mile bike ride and a five kilometer (3.1 mile) run. The long course is a one-mile swim, 24-mile bike ride and a

10 kilometer (6.2 mile) run.

The event is at Pike Lake, north of Duluth. Alberico has done the long course three or four times, the short course many times and was once the cycling leg for a team. "The three parts are sometimes referred to as legs – the swim leg, cycling leg and running leg," said Alberico.

"We call the weekend 'Camp Cindy,' and if you're not racing, you're cheering or setting up the all-important post-event lunch," she said. "This past year only Cindy and I participated, and we both did the short course."

The three families still met for the weekend and had a great time, said Grindy. "The group fluctuates in size from 10 to 15 each year and has grown as the families have grown."

The only training Alberico does for the triathlon is the "MS [Multiple Sclerosis] 150" mile bike ride, a two-day fund-raiser for the MS Society, from Duluth to Lake Elmo, Minn., in June. She also runs around Lake Como in St. Paul and some years she swims at the YMCA or at Lake Phalen in St. Paul. The event has become a fun event, said Alberico, so there is not a lot of training. "I'm not advocating this training style to others," said Alberico.

"I've now advanced to that age group," said Alberico, "where I have a much better chance to be in the hardware, that is, bring home a trophy. My friend, Cindy, and I took second place and third place respectively in our age group this year, but we were a ways behind the first-place finisher in our age group. I bet I could do the event in a respectable time next August if I got serious about training."

Alberico said that it's more important today to get together with friends and family, than the event itself.

"One year Cindy's sister did the short course with us," said Alberico. "I finished the short course and discovered that Cindy and her sister were just starting the running leg so I joined them for another 5K. It was the most exciting 5K I've ever done. We were running with a gal who was about to do something she never dreamt of doing. We encouraged her along the way, and she was really working hard, but you could see that she was determined to finish. It was awesome to cross the finish line with her. She was so excited and proud of her accomplishment."



Photo courtesy of Teri Alberico

**Triathlete Teri Alberico, project management division, left, and Cindy Grindy, a classmate from college, "await big hugs" from Ellen Hickman, daughter of another classmate and friend, at the finish of the August 2004 race at Pike Lake, Minn.**

## Special emphasis program is back on track for 2005

By Lupe Santos-Jensen and Richard Otto

### *First of a series*

Fiscal year 2004 was relatively inactive for the Special Emphasis Program Committee, since the overall St. Paul District budget was cut. But the program and its committees are back on track for 2005.

In an effort to inform the district about the program, the committee is highlighting its activities in upcoming issues of *Crosscurrents*. Throughout the year each of the subcommittees will submit articles explaining their purpose and scheduled activities for the year.

As an introduction, this article is intended to give a general overview of how the program operates, who makes things happen and what their purpose is.

The mission of the SEPC is to advocate actively for women, minorities and people with disabilities who are employees or potential employees of the district. The committee is charged with identifying barriers and biases that adversely affect special emphasis group members from being employed by the district or receiving equal opportunity within the district.

Activities focus on substantive, employment-related initiatives to foster a climate of equal opportunity for all district employees both in policy and in practice.

The overall SEPC is comprised

of a program manager, an executive committee and five subcommittees:

- diversity,
- disability,
- gender,
- race/ethnicity and
- the field committee.

The committee as a whole and each subcommittee have specific goals and objectives outlined in an overall operating plan.

The plan sets out three specific objectives:

- to learn to recognize that problems exist, to work with special emphasis groups in an effort to identify factors that hinder them and to identify biases that may adversely affect them.
- to advise, meaning to recommend reasonable and achievable actions to the program manager, the equal employment program officer and the commander;
- to act, which involves implementing actions that support human resource development, change or emphasize district policies, provide reasonable accommodations or carry out other actions that will achieve these objectives.

Most members of the program have said that participation in this program is a very rewarding and gratifying experience. It's not a big commitment of time, but it's time they found rewarding.

Individuals interested in giving back and learning how things get done in the district are encouraged to contact the EEO office or anyone on the committee.

## Diversity subcommittee identifies barriers

By Marsha Mose

### *Second of a series*

The diversity subcommittee of the Special Emphasis Program Committee has the mission of identifying barriers to equal opportunity and diversity and developing strategies or initiatives for eliminating those barriers.

The subcommittee takes over, more or less, where the other subcommittees leave off ... it does not deal specifically with race/ethnicity, gender or disability issues, which the district is required by law to address.

Current members of the subcommittee include: Janet Golubski, engineering and construction; Carol Johnson, resource management; Annette Vogel, contracting; LeeAnne Eshom, CT; ad hoc member, Jim Peak, EC; and chairperson, Marsha Mose, EC.

The subcommittee continues to work on past initiatives, such as the diversity awareness event, consideration of others requirements, a school supply drive for adopt-a-school and evaluation of the mentorship pilot program.

Recommended initiatives in fiscal year 2005 include identifying and addressing workability concerns for employees over age 50 and working with the field subcommittee to improve team cohesiveness between the field and the district office.

Call Marsha Mose, 651-290-5522, for further information.

# News and Notes

*2004-2005, continued from Page 2*

Study in June. Additionally, we expect more public involvement with the Headwaters Reservoir Operating Plan Evaluation, as we complete the draft feasibility study in August.

We will continue to provide personnel in support to the Global War on Terror and to FEMA's efforts in the Southeastern United States. We will also begin our division's transition by general schedule employees to the National Security Personnel System, while also transitioning the district's floating plant to the new Dredge Goetz. Additionally, we will begin executing the appropriate security upgrades to our facilities in April, based upon last year's force protection assessments. In June, we plan to execute a drawdown of Pool 5.

All of these opportunities will require our best effort and provide more evidence of our organization's ability to make life better for those around us. While I'm sure new challenges will surface in 2005. Our district team will meet these challenges, thanks to your experience and demonstrated talent. I hope you are as excited about the new year as I am, and I look forward to serving with each of you.

## Announcements

### Retirements

**Dave Raasch**, project management, effective Dec. 31, with 31 years federal service.

**Tom Raster**, project management, effective Jan. 3, with 30 years federal service.

### Births

Blackhawk Park ranger **Dan Cottrell** and wife, **Stacy**, are proud parents of **Kayleigh Nessa** born Dec. 9. Kayleigh is 20-inches long, and weighs 7 pounds, 7 ounces.

## October Employee of the Month

### Schneider hosts international visitors at Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam

Ivette Garrett, office of counsel, nominated Terry Schneider, a lock and dam operator at Upper St. Anthony Falls, Minneapolis, for October Employee of the Month.

When Garrett hosted visitors from Norway and England in September, they said, "We want to see the mighty Mississippi River and the falls."

Garrett suggested the "best view" of the river and the falls was at Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam.

"After viewing it from the public area, I asked Terry Schneider whether he was willing to give the director of homeland defense for northern Norway, his aunt, his sister and her husband from England a tour," said Garrett. "He graciously gave them a very informative tour of the lock and dam and explained the history and need for the lock and dam."

When Garrett's friends returned home, she received a note which said: "It was a great pleasure for us and our party from Norway ... to have such an expert guide over the Mississippi lock system. It was the highlight of our visit to Minneapolis, especially because it was so unexpected. ... Having crossed the prairie twice and seen that vast agricultural landscape, we can well imagine how important the mills of Minneapolis and the Mississippi River were to opening up the prairie for our emigrant relatives so long ago."

Said Garrett, "Schneider's willingness to show and to explain to guests in our area the district's contributions to exploration, shipping and other river traffic on the Mississippi River provided these guests the highlight of their stay in the Twin Cities."

## Webelos earn engineering badge by visiting Corps' project

By Virginia Regorrah  
East Grand Forks Resident Office

The first-year Webelos Den from Cub Scout Pack 37, East Grand Forks, Minn., visited the East Grand Forks phases one and three flood-reduction projects to learn more about engineering and to qualify for an engineering badge.

First-year Webelos are 9- to 10-years old and in fourth grade. Qualifying for the engineering badge requires the Webelos to visit a construction site, view project designs, talk to an engineer about the profession and learn how to measure property lines.

Six Webelos from Pack 37 visited phase three of the project to see the levees and pump station L8 under progress, then stopped at phase one to see a completed pump station.

One of the contractor's supervisors on the project, Al Seydel, gave them a tour of pump station K12, showing them the generator, pumps and monorail. Virginia Regorrah, East Grand Forks resident engineer, gave scouts copies of the pump station drawings from the designs and instructed them how to identify items on the plans and relate them to the actual site.

Outside the pump station, Marc DeMers, an engineering technician with RJ Zavoral and Sons, Inc., had set up a global positioning system rover equipment, which measures elevation, distance and angles. The scouts measured a known distance using a tape measure and a measuring wheel

before DeMers demonstrated the use and accuracy of the GPS rover.

The scouts also heard from Kathy Guidi and Bob Meyer, archeologists with Great Lakes Archeological Research Center, who were investigating two identified cultural sites at phase three.

Guidi and Meyer brought stone tools, pottery shards, projectile points, bison bones and teeth to the scout meeting to show them the finds the team had made along the Red Lake River. They also brought along their own tools and described how they excavate for the archeological evidence.

After visiting the project site, the

Webelos were given homework to complete before earning their engineer badge, Oct. 19. The Webelos had to complete three other projects to earn the badge, which included drawing a floor plan of their house, constructing an electrical circuit using a flashlight battery and constructing either a simple catapult or a bridge model. The marshmallow-launching catapults were a popular choice, with four of six boys building them.

The scouts expressed enthusiasm with comments ranging from "Cool!" to "Awesome!" They said the pump station tour, the GPS demonstration and the archeological presentation were all favorites.



St. Paul District photo

**Cub Scouts gathered around Marc DeMers of RJ Zavoral and Sons, Inc., as he explains the global positioning system. Virginia Regorrah, East Grand Forks resident engineer, is at right.**