



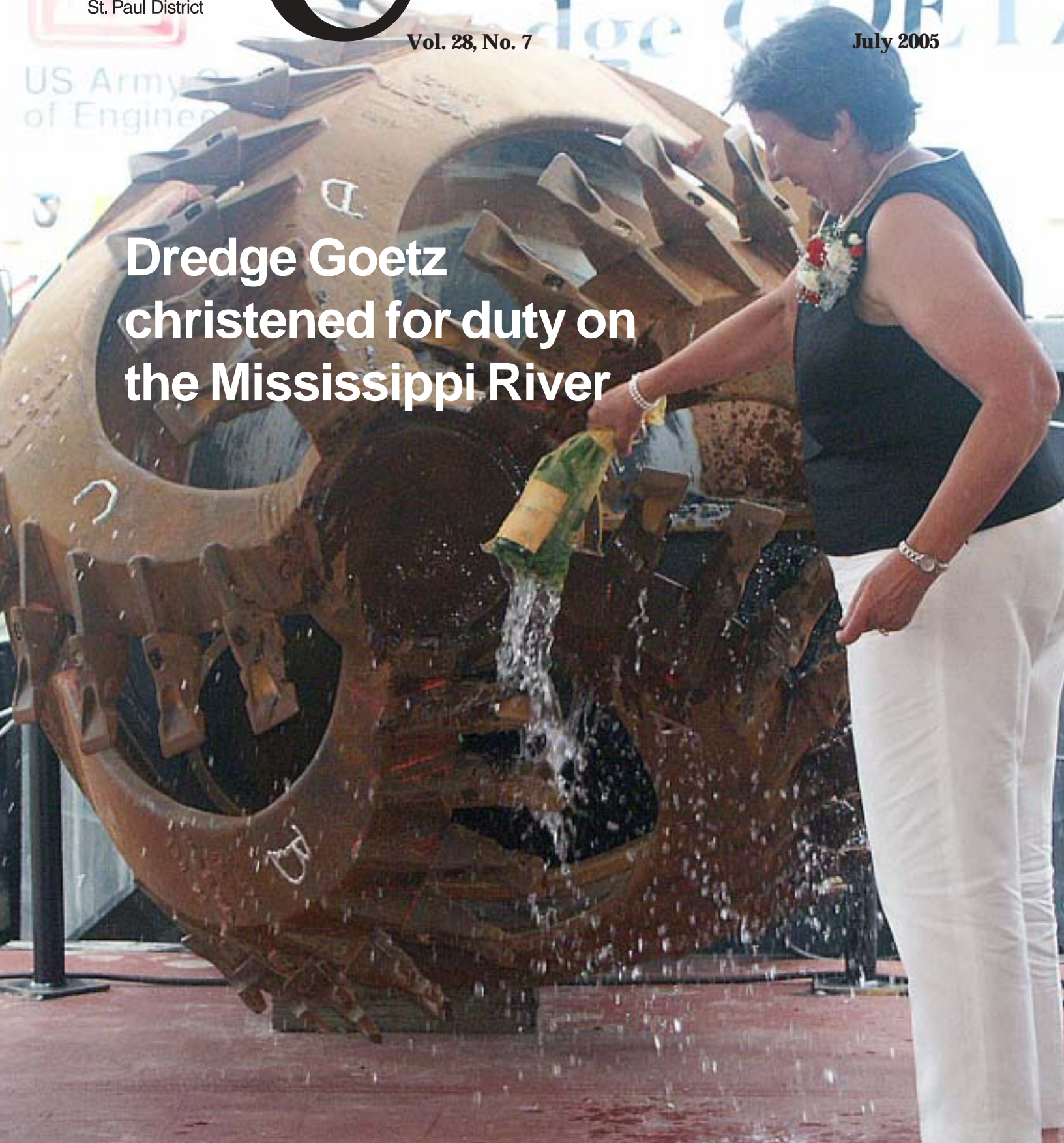
US Army Corps
of Engineers®
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

Vol. 28, No. 7

July 2005

**Dredge Goetz
christened for duty on
the Mississippi River**



2006 budget targets 10 percent cut in overhead

By Col. Mike Pfenning
St. Paul District Commander

The good news – the district’s operating budget execution for this year is going according to plan and no major adjustments were made as a result of our mid-year review. However, while in the midst of executing our current year operating budget, district personnel are simultaneously engaged in the development of our fiscal year 2006 operating budget.

Some background – fiscal year 2005 is the first year the district, along with our sister Mississippi Valley Division districts, has operated within the context of regional rates. This means that we have one rate for the entire

division for the three overhead rates now in use – G and A (general and administrative), CDO (consolidated departmental overhead) and CRRO (consolidated regulatory, readiness and operations). These rates were established by the division regional business center at the beginning of the fiscal year and approved by the regional command council.

The division commander chairs the regional command council and the council members include the six district commanders. Budgets and rates are monitored at the regional and district level by the regional program budget advisory committee, or RPBAC, and district PBAC.

Now I want to talk about the new regional budget process and some important budget issues facing the region for fiscal year 2006. Operating budgets will continue to be built at the district level, and I will still have the responsibility to execute the budget. However, each organization is required to coordinate with the appropriate regional functional group. For example, all of the division resource management offices coordinate their input and consideration prior to submission to the district PBAC.

The district PBAC will consider the regional functional group’s recommendations in their budget review and then present the operating budget to the district commander for approval, prior to submitting the budget to the regional PBAC. Then, all of the district operating budgets will go to the working regional PBAC, which will formulate the


consolidated regional budget, along with cost of doing business factors and the related regional rates.

Based on this work, the RPBAC will present a consolidated regional budget through the regional PRB for final approval by the regional command council. The upshot is that the development and execution of the regional operating budget has more people involved and greater oversight than ever before. This is truly new ground for the district, division (read region) and the Corps.

The most important budget issue for next year is the 10 percent overhead reduction. You probably heard about this because the concept has been bandied about for some time now since first introduced by Lt. Gen. Carl Strock in March 2005. The general’s intent is straightforward – the Corps needs to get a handle on overhead expenses and try to reduce them.

The 10 percent reduction is a target, not a rigid, goal. Moreover, there is flexibility in the pursuit of this goal. It is not intended that each district or district function simply cut overhead, using fiscal year 2004 as a base, by 10 percent across the board in a “salami slice” manner. Rather, the intent is to reduce costs where they are higher than regional best business practices require and standard levels of service can support. To ensure equity across the region in implementing overhead reductions, I requested and division approved, that the district use FY03 as a base rather than FY04. We made that request to Brig. Gen. Robert Crear because of the costs savings initiative undertaken by the entire

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Crosscurrents

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Corps christens Dredge Goetz

By Peter Versteegen

“Our family is honored and proud to have a vessel named after Bill [Goetz],” wrote Alice Goetz, his widow, in a thank you note to Marc Krumholz, navigation program specialist in operations division.

Krumholz and his brother, Dan, channels and harbors project manager, were members of the Goetz project team and worked for Goetz from the mid-70s until his retirement, when he served as chief of the St. Paul District’s construction-operations division.

The Dredge Goetz is the Corps’ newest dredge and only major cutterhead-style dredge in the Corps of Engineers. Nearly 3,000 people attended the christening of the Dredge Goetz and open house at Levee Park in Winona, Minn., June 24-25.

To Col. Mike Pfenning, district commander, she wrote, “Thank you so much for all you did in making June 24th run so smoothly. It was a great honor for our family to have the Dredge Goetz named in memory of Bill.”

The christening was “a celebration of a great man and a new innovative dredge that will allow the good stewardship of the river resources to continue into the future,” said Gretchen Benjamin, Mississippi River water basin leader with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

“It was a great event,” said Jim



Photo by Anna Wetterling

Nearly 3,000 people attended a two-day open house to view the Corps of Engineers’ newest dredge, the Goetz (above), and the Dredge Thompson (Page 7), June 24-25. The Corps uses the dredges to maintain 850 miles of the nine-foot navigation channel on the Mississippi River, 355 miles on the Illinois River and 24 miles on the St. Croix River. The Goetz is replacing the Thompson, which is slated to become a major exhibit at the Maritime Heritage Society Museum in Winona, Minn.

Nissen, district manager, Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Nissen and others at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service work closely with the Corps on river-related projects. “Bill Thrune [refuge operations specialist] and I enjoyed visiting with a number of retired Corps employees that we worked with over the years. I enjoyed the remarks made by Mr. Goetz’s daughter and son. As usual, Don Powell [St. Paul District project manager] and crew did an excellent job organizing this event.”

Don Powell, project management, led the project team. He and others at the district received similar praise from the Goetz family.

Goetz (1930-2002) began work for the district in 1957. He served as chief of the old construction-

Goetz, continued on Page 4

Dredge Goetz christened



Photo by Jon Lyman

Alice Goetz, widow of the late Bill Goetz, breaks a bottle of champagne on the cutterhead of the Dredge Goetz to christen it in a ceremony in Winona, Minn., June 24.

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Goetz, continued from Page 3 operations division from 1970 until his retirement in 1990. He guided dredging operations and regulatory activities during a period of intense change on the Upper Mississippi River and directed the construction of major flood damage reduction projects throughout the district. He championed a reliable and efficient nine-foot channel system.

The Goetz will be instrumental in fulfilling the mission of the channel maintenance program on the river. It will be used primarily in the St. Paul and Rock Island districts, where dredging requirements average nearly 2 million cubic yards annually.

Technology on the Goetz improves dredging operations by 30 percent, drastically reducing fuel consumption. Improved radar and satellite communications will improve safety.

The \$9.8 million Dredge Goetz is a diesel, electric-powered pipeline dredge manufactured in 2005 for the Corps of Engineers by Oilfield-Electric-Marine, a subsidiary of Rowan Electric. The dredge was built in Vicksburg, Miss., and then delivered to the Corps' Fountain City, Wis., service base May 15.

Arley (Butch) Martin is the first master of the Dredge Goetz; the chief engineer is Jim Krumm.

The Goetz is part of a new \$20.5 dredging fleet that will eventually consist of four separate pieces: the Dredge Goetz, the Towboat General Warren and the Quarters Barge Taggatz and Crewboat Peck.

The Upper Mississippi River is part of the nation's federal waterway transportation system and is used to ship 80 million tons of cargo annually. The river's

nine-foot navigation channel is an 857-mile reach that stretches from Cairo, Ill., to Minneapolis.

Congress authorized the channel in 1930. The Corps subsequently constructed 29 locks and dams upstream of St. Louis. Dredging ensures the channel is deep enough for towboats that push 15 barges, moving 22,000 tons of bulk commodities, including grain, coal, petroleum, cement, fertilizer and chemicals.

The dredged material is predominately clean sand suitable for a variety of beneficial uses. These uses include environmental restoration projects; recreational beaches; landfill for residential, commercial and industrial development; highway maintenance and ice control; construction fill; and aggregate in concrete and asphalt.

Brother Craig Franz, president of St. Mary's University of Minnesota, Winona, toured the Goetz and Thompson for more than three hours during the open house. "The tour of the Goetz provided Winona area residents an opportunity to touch their future," he said. "For a people whose economic, political and social lifeblood draws from the river, the Goetz – and its hard-working crew – provides welcomed aspirations for vital uninterrupted river transport."

The Goetz will replace the 69-year-old Dredge William A. Thompson, which will be retired due to safety issues, high operating costs and difficulty in obtaining parts.

When the new fleet is ready, the Thompson will be fully retired as an exhibit at the Maritime Heritage Society Museum in Winona, Minn.



Photo courtesy of Mark Johnson

St. Paul District Commander Col. Mike Pfenning presented a commemorative plaque to Alice Goetz, widow of Bill Goetz. The presentation took place as part of the ceremony to christen the Dredge Goetz on the Mississippi River in Winona, Minn., June 24.



Photo courtesy of David Brommerich

Bob Gross is assistant master of the Dredge Thompson, behind him.



Photo by Peter Verstegen

From left are: Orville Taylor, second mate; Chris Neises, master tender; and Bart Spriggle, tender operator. They were on the Dredge Goetz to answer questions from the public.

At right, Dan Hentges, second mate (left), and Brian Krause, tender operator, welcomed visitors to the Dredge Thompson.



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Arley (Butch) Martin is first master of the Dredge Goetz.



Photo by Peter Verstegen



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Dredge tender operators Bill Loomis, left, and Brian Krause welcomed the public to the Dredge Goetz.



Photo by Peter Verstegen

Above, St. Paul District retirees Lou Kowalski (left), and Wayne Knott, traveled from the Twin Cities to Winona, Minn., for the Goetz christening. Kowalski was former district deputy engineer for programs and project management. Knott was former assistant chief of the planning division. Below, grain elevators located next to the river demonstrate the historic links to commercial navigation on the Mississippi River. Levee Park originated as a Corps of Engineers' flood-reduction project. (Photo by Michael Cox, Rock Island District)



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Dredges: old and new



Photo by Dan Wilcox

The Dredge Thompson lever-room contains controls for navigation and dredging the river. The controls are brass and worked manually.

The old dredge and the new dredge moored head to head on the Mississippi River in Winona, Minn., June 24. The cutterhead on the old Dredge Thompson, above right, maintains the nine-foot deep channel on the river by scouring and loosening the river bottom, creating a slurry that flows through a system of pipes to a shore-side storage site.

Photo by Dan Wilcox



Photo by Dan Wilcox

Computers automate controls in the lever-room on the Dredge Goetz. The Goetz is 225 feet long, 40 feet wide, weighs 600 tons, has a hull depth of eight feet and a five-foot draft. It can dredge 1,000 cubic yards per hour as deep as 28 feet.

The new cutterhead for the Dredge Goetz was on display at the christening. The Goetz can dredge to a maximum depth of 28 feet and has a variable speed dredge pump to reduce fuel consumption. Automated controls determine the density of the slurry to avoid plugging the pipeline.

Photo by Shannon Bauer

District holds awards ceremony and summer picnic in Winona

“We sold a combined 335 tickets” for the summer awards ceremony and picnic in Winona, Minn., June 24,” said Jodi Kormanik, picnic cochair with Kari Layman. Both work in engineering and construction. The district recognized 58 personnel with Length of Service Awards.

“For activities, we had a variety of kids games, a pickup softball game, a bocce ball tournament – the winners were Ron Corey and Mike Grossell; Jon and Polly Lyman came in second – and a fishing demonstration. (*Activity photos, Page 9.*)



Photo by Jon Lyman

Receiving their 10-year length of service awards (from left) are: Dave Reynolds, Eau Galle Dam and Recreation area, Spring Valley, Wis.; Dean Otterson, Lock and Dam 5, Minnesota City, Minn.; Bill Meier, channels and harbors, Fountain City, Wis.; Lynn Paiter, regulatory field office, Green Bay, Wis.; and Dave Studenski, regulatory field office, La Crescent, Minn. (*For a complete presentation of the award recipients and activities, Corps’ personnel may access the district’s intranet web site.*)



Photo by Jon Lyman

From left, Rick Carlson, project management, and Murele Ware, operations, received their 15-year length-of-service awards. Mike Knoff and Rick Femrite, both in engineering and construction, Dave Himmerich, information management; Steve Muller, logistic management; and Shelly Shafer, operations, received 20-year awards.



Photo by Jon Lyman

Brig. Gen. Robert Crear (right) Mississippi Valley Division commander, presented David Kitzman the Superior Civilian Service Award to recognize his contributions in Iraq. Kitzman, who works at Lock and Dam 5, Minnesota City, Minn., served from December 2003 to June 2005.



Photo by Jon Lyman

Henrik Strandskov received a Retirement Certificate of Appreciation at the awards ceremony June 24. He retired from the Corps of Engineers the same day.



Photo by Anna Wetterling

Jon Sobiech from the Natural Resources office in LaCrescent, Minn., conducted fishing education demonstrations. “The presentations included fish identification, the second was casting and tackle and the third was actual fishing on the fishing pier,” said Corrine Hodapp, a ranger at Eau Galle Dam and Recreation Area in Spring Valley, Wis. Said Sobiech, “Every kid but two caught a fish.” Sobiech is holding buzz bait used to catch bass.

Activities engage picnic participants



Photo by Anna Wetterling

Kevin Bluhm (left), an economist in project management, tosses a water balloon with his son, Cameron, during the games portion of the summer awards picnic in Winona, Minn., June 24.



Photo by Jon Lyman

Retiree Dennis Erickson (left), formerly of construction-operations division, visited with Doug McMichael, Mississippi Valley Division, Vicksburg, Miss.



Photo by Anna Wetterling

Jon Schultz, a student trainee working out of the Natural Resource Project Office, La Crescent, Minn., demonstrates the proper tying of a fishing lure.

*Simple e-mail guidelines***Are you sending the electronic message you want to communicate?**

By Melanie Reeder
Seattle District Public Affairs

Electronic mail, universally referred to as e-mail, has become an integral part of our lives, both in the workplace and at home. It enables us to pass information quickly, provides access to vast amounts of information and allows a written dialogue between many participants simultaneously. E-mail, because of its speed, ease of use and broadcasting ability is very different from paper-based communication and requires users to take these differences into consideration when preparing and responding to e-mail correspondence.

It is not uncommon for people to experience communication problems and misunderstandings because they did not adjust their communication styles to this new cyber medium. E-mail also does not convey emotions nearly as well as face-to-face or even telephone conversations. It lacks vocal inflection, gestures and a shared environment.

Your correspondent may have difficulty telling if you are serious or kidding, happy or sad, frustrated or euphoric. Sarcasm can be *particularly* dangerous to use in e-mail. When preparing e-mail, you can't assume *anything* about a sender's frame of mind, location,



time, attitude about the subject, interests and, in some cases, you may not even know their profession. This means, among other things, that you need to be very, very careful to give your potential receivers some context. An effective strategy is to make sure your subject line pertains clearly to the e-mail body because this will help people mentally shift to the proper context before they read your message.

Writing effective e-mails is an acquired skill that most of us take for granted, and we should not. Most communication is far too important to take the chance of miscommunication when, with a bit more thought, and the application of a few guidelines, we can successfully make our messages hit their target clearly and accurately.

Below is a list of strategies to assist in the most effective e-mail communication:

- **Think before you write.**

Just because you can send information faster than ever before, it doesn't mean you should send it. Analyze your intended recipients to make certain you are

sending a clear and useful message.

- **Be concise and to the point.**

Do not make an e-mail longer than it needs to be. Remember that reading an e-mail is harder than reading printed communications and a long e-mail can be very discouraging to read.

- **Use a meaningful subject line.**

Try to use a subject that is meaningful to the recipient as well as yourself.

- **Use proper spelling, grammar and punctuation.**

This is important because improper spelling, grammar and punctuation can be a distraction and make a bad impression.

- **Answer swiftly.**

People send an e-mail because they normally expect a quick response. A good rule of thumb is to reply within at least 24 hours. If the e-mail is complicated, just send an e-mail back saying you received it and you will get back to them.

- **Do not attach unnecessary files.**

By sending large attachments you can annoy recipients and even bog down their e-mail system. Whenever possible try to compress attachments and send attachments only when they are productive

- **Do not write in CAPITALS.**

When you write in capitals it seems as though YOU ARE SHOUTING. This can be highly annoying and might trigger an unwanted response in the form of a flame mail.

E-mail, continued Page 11

E-mail, continued from Page 10

- **Never reply when angry.**

Whether in person or electronically, dealing with anger and frustration is a challenge to effective communication. If you are angry about the e-mail you are replying to, give yourself time to cool off before answering. Also, consider whether it may be best to approach the individual in person rather than by e-mail. If you do choose e-mail, read through the draft several times and follow the rules outlined above for composing effective e-mails.

- **Proofread the e-mail before you send it.**

A lot of people don't bother to read an e-mail before they send it out and miss simple spelling and grammatical errors. Also, reading your e-mail through the eyes of the recipient will help you send a more effective message and avoid misunderstandings and inappropriate comments.

- **Do not overuse Reply to All.**

Only use Reply to All if you really need your message to be seen by each person who received the original message.

- **Set and activate your out-of-office when you're on temporary duty or on leave.**

Leave a message describing how long you'll be gone and whether or not you can be contacted by cell phone or e-mail. Provide an alternate point of contact for time-sensitive tasks.

- **Update your voice-mail.**

Make sure your internal and external voice-mail messages are consistent with the out-of-office message on your computer.



- **Do not copy a message or attachment without permission.**

Do not copy a message or attachment belonging to another user without permission of the originator.

Even though e-mail is convenient, fast and productive, there are instances when you should **not** write an e-mail. When you communicate electronically, all you see is a computer screen. You don't have the opportunity to use facial expressions, gestures and tone of voice to communicate your meaning. Words are all you have. That goes for your correspondent as well. This can lead to serious issues and breakdowns in communication. The following are times when e-mail is inappropriate or when it may be best to use a means other than electronic to convey your intended message:

- **Detailed instructions are sometimes better communicated in person.**

When you are going to give a detailed set of instructions, they are often more easily understood through a demonstration or aid such as a map or through participation.

- **Do not use e-mail to discuss confidential information.**

Sending an e-mail is like sending a postcard. If you don't want your e-mail to be displayed on a bulletin board, don't send it. Any message you send could be saved or forwarded by its recipient. You have no control over where it goes.

- **Don't send or forward e-mails containing libelous, defamatory, offensive, racist or obscene remarks.**

Never make any libelous, sexist or racially discriminating comments in e-mails, even if they are meant to be a joke.

- **Don't attempt to discipline your readers.**

It's unprofessional to lose control in person – to do so in writing usually just makes the situation worse.

Don't send destructive e-mails that disrupt the work or home environment, they only make matters worse. Don't be sarcastic, abrupt or rude in e-mails – it can be very harmful and hurtful.

When used appropriately, with careful thought and skill, electronic mail is an incredibly valuable tool. But when used inappropriately or carelessly, it can undermine effective communication. Next time you sit down at the key board, think before you write, compose your message carefully and proofread before sending.

River Education Days engages 1,500 students and teachers with life on the Mississippi River

By Jonathan Sobiech and Kurt Brownell
Natural Resources Office

St. Paul District personnel participated in the Upper Mississippi River Education Days, held on May 10-11 at the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge in Trempealeau, Wis., and Pike's Peak State Park near McGregor, Iowa. The event this year reached about 1,500 students and teachers.

Activities included such things as building a wigwam, making tools out of stone, bird banding and navigating in the forest using a compass. Students from Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin middle schools attended. Special focus was given this year at Pike's Peak to the 200th anniversary of the 1805 Zebulon Pike expedition to find the headwaters of the Mississippi River.

The Upper Mississippi River Education Days brings children together for hands-on learning experiences dealing with the



Photo by Kurt Brownell

Dan Cottrell, a ranger at Blackhawk Park, explains to students in River Education Days how to use a sextant.

Mississippi River and its many resources. Professionals from many different agencies, states, nonprofit organizations and volunteers talk about the river's resources and often introduce students to equipment used on the job by teaching them how to use the tools. Children get a

River education, continued Page 13



Photo by Jon Sobiech

Grant Riddick, a geologist with the St. Paul District, instructed students participating in River Education Days about the geology of the Upper Mississippi River.

River education, continued from Page 12
 chance to get dirty and have some fun.

Each child has the opportunity to participate in talks at four different stations, and each station has four or more presenters. Since children didn't get to see every program, it provides them the opportunity to share what they learned with their classmates.

St. Paul District personnel offered programs this year on forestry (Randy Urich, natural resources office, LaCrescent, Minn.), geology (Grant Riddick, St. Paul District office); archeology (Brad Perkl, St. Paul District office), surveying (Dan Cottrell, Blackhawk Park), the Zebulon Pike expedition as related by John Boley (Ray Nelson, Crosslake Recreation Area, Crosslake, Minn.) and plant identification (Kurt Brownell, natural resources, LaCrescent, Minn.).

Programs offered by other participants included bird banding, fish shocking, ducks

on a stick, a holistic nature hike, how to build a refuge and invasive plant species control. Students were treated to seeing and learning about native mussels, trumpeter swans, live raptors and the "Creepy Crawly Zoo Guys," with their collection of bugs, slugs and other assorted critters.

Ho-Chunk Nation members instructed Trempealeau participants on how to construct a wigwam, while Pike's Peak participants were treated to a living history of characters portraying Zebulon Pike, and John Boley, a member of the Pike expedition and an early fur trader.

Teachers were asked for feedback on the event. They responded with high praise with comments on their evaluations such as: "Our students said this was the best field trip they have ever gone on!" and "All the sessions my class went to were fabulous. The kids learned a lot. The parents who came along were so darned impressed too!"



Photo by Jon Sobiech

Brad Perkl (second from right), archaeologist, taught a seminar about archeology on the Upper Mississippi River.

Rangers at Lake Ashtabula teach fishing skills to area youth

Jeff Kapaun
Ranger, Lake Ashtabula

The 17th Annual Take A Kid Fishing Day was held June 4 at the Mel Rieman Recreation Area on Lake Ashtabula, Valley City, N.D., in conjunction with National Fishing Week.

Forty-one kids, ages six to 10, from the Barnes County area participated in a variety of educational programs and hands on fishing experience.

Sixteen volunteers from three different agencies helped run the event: the Corps of Engineers, Barnes County Wildlife Federation and the Valley City Women of Today.

The kids were divided into groups, with half the youngsters fishing and the rest going through the various interpretive programs. An hour-and-a-half later, the groups switched so everyone got to fish and participate in the programs.

Activities included a casting game which helped teach the kids proper casting techniques. Prizes were given to the most accurate casters in all five age groups. Kids tied a fishing spinner made from scratch, which they kept to show

their parents. Mike Stanley, a coop program ranger at the Lake Ashtabula Project, helped the kids make throw jugs and showed them how they are used. Each kid got to take the jug they personally made home.

The children caught smallmouth bass and bullheads. The catch and release concept was explained to the kids earlier in the day so they proudly released all fish back into the lake for another person to enjoy catching it someday. For many of the youngsters, it was their first time to cast a line into the water or bait a hook. With the help of the volunteers they were getting pretty good at it by days end.

Participants received hot dogs, chips, pop, and ice cream – thanks to cash donations from the Fingal Wildlife Club and the Ladies' Auxiliary Veterans of Foreign Wars Chapter 2764. Donations provided for the purchase of additional rod and reel combinations to give away.

Not only did some lucky winners receive the fishing combos, everyone received a bag containing different fish coloring books provided by the Corps and North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Each child also had the opportunity take home their own tackle box with various tackle included.

Barnes County Wildlife Federation sponsored the event and provided the volunteers and funding to make this event an annual success.



St. Paul District photo

Mike Stanley (standing), a coop program ranger at the Lake Ashtabula Project in Valley City, N.D., instructed on the use of personal flotation devices for water safety as part of Take A Kid Fishing Day, June 4.

News and Notes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ray Marinan, Sandy Lake, has moved to the natural resources office in La Crescent, Minn.

The Special Emphasis Program Committee Gender Subcommittee held a ladies' professional clothing drive in the district office in early May. Donations exceeded 125 items.

NEWCOMERS:

Justin Coldwater, Dredge Goetz, started May 23.

Gary De Schane, Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, started May 31.

Scott Graham, student worker in cultural resources, started May 16. Graham attends the University of South Dakota – Vermillion, majoring in political science.

Tyler V. Helgeson, student intern at Eau Galle, started May 23. Helgeson attends the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, majoring in biology with a minor in environmental science.

Toby Henderson, Dredge Goetz, started May 9.

Kute Knutson, physical support branch, started June 13.

Jamie Lowe, student intern at

Blackhawk Park, starting May 16. Lowe attends the Minnesota State University – Mankato, majoring in resources management and geography.

Anthony Mader, student intern at Eau Galle, started May 2. Mader attends the University of Wisconsin – River Falls, majoring in conservation.

Corie Maynard, physical support branch, started May 16.

Joel Miller-Oates, Dredge Goetz, started May 2.

Richard Rice, student intern at Baldhill Dam, started May 23. Rice attends the University of Minnesota – Crookston, majoring in natural resources management.

Michael Stanley, student intern at Baldhill Dam, started May 9. Stanley attends the University of Minnesota – Crookston, majoring in natural resource management.

Linda True, student intern at Leech Lake, started May 3. True attends the Itasca Community College, majoring in natural resources and law enforcement.

RETIREMENTS:

Curt Hall, real estate, retired May 14, with 10 years federal service.

Jerry Lee, natural resources, retired June 30, with 30 years federal service.

Ed McNally, project management, retired June 30, with 33 years federal service.

Henrik Strandskov, construction operations, retired June 24, with more than 31 years federal service.

BIRTHS:

Matt Percy, cultural resources, and his wife, Agnes, are the proud parents of Mark Matthew, born May 10 at 9.26 pounds and 21 inches.

TAPS:

C. Constance McGinley, retired employee in civilian personnel, passed away mid-May.

Harry Novak, retired employee in hydrology and hydraulics, passed away July 14.

Budget, continued from Page 2
district in FY04.

We didn't want to see the district penalized, in a sense, for all of the efforts that went into cost reductions in FY04.

We are committed to working more collaboratively across the region and within functional groups, thereby becoming more regionally interdependent and capitalizing on new ways of doing business regionally. This is our charter and challenge for reducing overhead cost.

Wanted: Your news!

PAO seeks information about special events in your life (e.g., births, deaths, marriages, engagements). If you would like to share these items, please contact Public Affairs at 651-290-5202, -5108 or 5201 or send an e-mail to: cemvp-pa@mvp02.usace.army.mil.

McNally retires as May Employee of the Month

Six individuals collectively nominated Ed McNally, project management as May Employee of the Month. He retired June 30.

Wrote Aaron Snyder, project management:

“There has not been one month, but many, where he has stood out to be a premier leader in the St. Paul District. He is consistently willing to help anyone who has questions on a variety of projects and project studies. He can answer just about anything. Each day many people stop by his desk to ask questions, and he is never one to turn them away. He always finds the time and helps them, passing on some of the institutional knowledge he has gained.



Photos by Jon Lyman

Ed McNally receives recognition from Mark Nelson, deputy district engineer.

“In the past two years he has mentored me on the planning process, including schedules, budgeting, working with teams, leading meetings and interacting with sponsors. Having him as a mentor has made coming to work an enjoyable and educational experience.”

Wrote Shannon Bauer, public affairs:

“McNally is consistently a strong proponent of public involvement and community relations and goes out of his way to ensure that citizens feel a part of the Corps’ process.”

Said Barb Reckinger, project management, with the concurrence of Terry Zien, project management: “He is a consummate professional, a diplomat [in relations with local sponsors and management] and is always willing to take time to listen and to answer any and all questions.”

Wrote Rick Carlson, project management:

“During my 15-plus years at the district, it has been my pleasure to be a study team member under McNally’s leadership on the following projects: Maple River Dam, Crookston, Minn., Grand Forks, N.D.-East Grand Forks, Minn., Breckenridge, Minn., Wahpeton, N.D. and Roseau, Minn. He has a special knack for keeping his studies on target even under the most difficult of circumstances. The Grand Forks/East Grand Forks

Bischoff honored as April Employee of the Month

Matt Percy, St. Paul District historian, nominated Nan Bischoff, project management, for April Employee of the Month.

Wrote Percy:

“In addition to her many responsibilities at work and home, she has been unflinching in taking on additional work on behalf of the St. Paul District. Although she has already put in many years on the disability subcommittee



Nan Bischoff accepts congratulations from Matt Percy, district historian.

(Special Emphasis Program Committee) – and served as a prior chair – she volunteered to serve again this year and, as always, is proving herself invaluable. She helps to guide the meetings, takes extensive notes, and distributes them to each committee member.

“Bischoff has also taken a leading role in planning the upcoming Meet and Greet [to introduce new employees to the district], and the committee is relying heavily on an extensive checklist that she perfected for such occasions.

“Last year, while completing a developmental assignment in the equal employment opportunity office, she drafted the district’s first written accommodation policy, and it has been well received throughout the district and division. Additionally, she has become a voting member of the district’s training committee.”

project especially comes to mind after the community suffered record flooding in the spring of 1997. Studies under his stewardship resulted in more than \$450 million worth of construction projects in the Red River Valley....”

Wrote Dick Beatty, project management:

“McNally has always been the one to help solve problems and be that bright light of optimism on those days when everything seemed to go wrong.”