



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
St. Paul District

# Crosscurrents

Vol. 30, No. 4

April 2007

**M.V. General Warren  
reports for duty**



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Marine Design Center photo

## Corps celebrates Earth Day

by Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock  
Commanding



As we observe Earth Day once again on April 22, we need to give some thought to further embedding and applying our

Environmental Operating Principles and the sustainability ethic in everything we do, across the full spectrum of our operations, from warfighting to water resources.

And as we have throughout our history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stands ready, willing and able to provide both leadership and partnership in this important arena.

We join the Army in embracing its Earth Day theme of “Sustaining the Environment for a Secure Future.” Sustainability equals security. Sustainability enhances readiness. The Army must stay engaged and continue to move toward increased sustainability — focusing on our mission, the environment and our communities.

The Hon. Pete Geren, acting Secretary of the Army, notes that “On this Earth Day, we remind ourselves that, while we remain Army Strong to ensure the defense of this great nation, we must also remain good stewards of our environment to preserve it for future generations.

“Ours is a strong, sustainable Army with the vision to address uncertainties at home and on the battlefield, to coexist with local communities, and to enhance the environment that sustains their well-being. On this Earth Day, we as an Army reaffirm our commitment to sustainability.”

One of the ways the Corps is doing even more is through Action Six of our 12 Actions for Change, Focus on Sustainability, which dovetails with the first of the Corps’ Environmental Operating Principles — “Strive to achieve Environmental Sustainability. An environment maintained in a healthy, diverse and sustainable condition is necessary to support life.”

Are we doing that? Sometimes. Seattle District issued its “Sustainability in Agency Projects and Business Practices” policy memo last summer. It sets out the district’s long-term goals, performance objectives and measures for behaving consistently


with the Environmental Operating Principles and complements the *Focus on Sustainability* action. The policy lays out nine goals, including specific targets such as supporting the sustainability goals of the district’s customers, creating zero waste and providing regenerative design and construction products.

Some of the actions Seattle District employees are taking may seem like common sense: using rechargeable batteries, taking advantage of teleconference facilities and capabilities instead of driving to a meeting or going on temporary duty, or using the Environmental Attribute Code when shopping for supplies. Others require a little more work, such as looking for ways to recycle old buildings to divert the materials from landfills or working to accelerate hazardous waste disposal in base camps used by warfighters.

I hope all of you are aware of my standing charge to do everything “Better, Faster, Cheaper, Greener, Safer.” Please take time on Earth Day to especially think about and celebrate the “Greener” part of that charge. We continue to seek ways to make the principles and the sustainability ethic tangible and real for all Corps employees in their daily work. We are becoming a “greener” Corps because it will make us a stronger Corps and keep us “Army Strong.”

I want to thank you very much for your commitment to the Corps and to the environment. Keep up the great work!

*Essayons!*



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

### Crosscurrents

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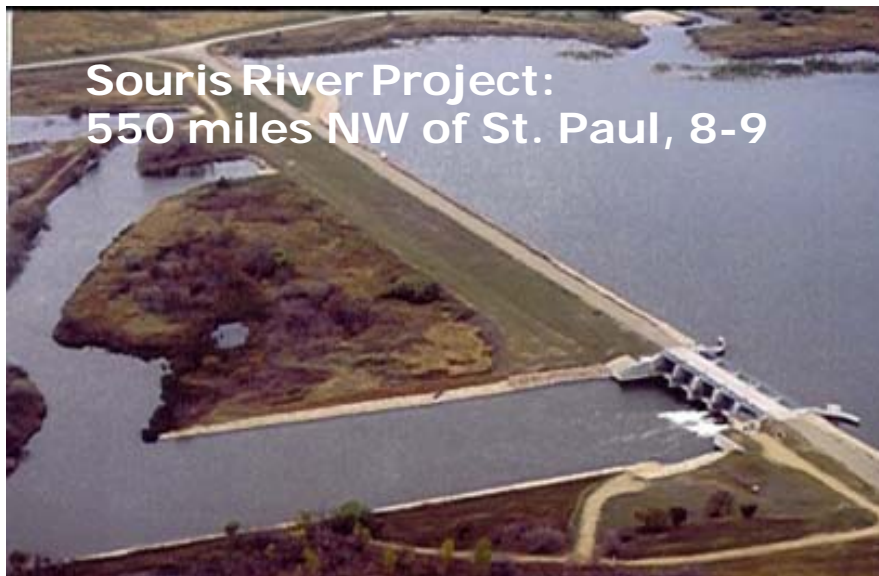


# iinside

## M.V. General Warren reports for duty



The U.S. Army's newest motor vessel, the General Warren, arrived at its home base in Fountain City, Wis., April 4.



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## **M.V. General Warren transits through St. Louis**

**On its maiden voyage to Fountain City, Wis., the M.V. General Warren stopped at the St. Louis District Service Base for a pilot change March 31. In the photo, the vessel glides by the arch between river miles 179 and 180. The tow was built by Orange Shipbuilding, Orange, Tex.**

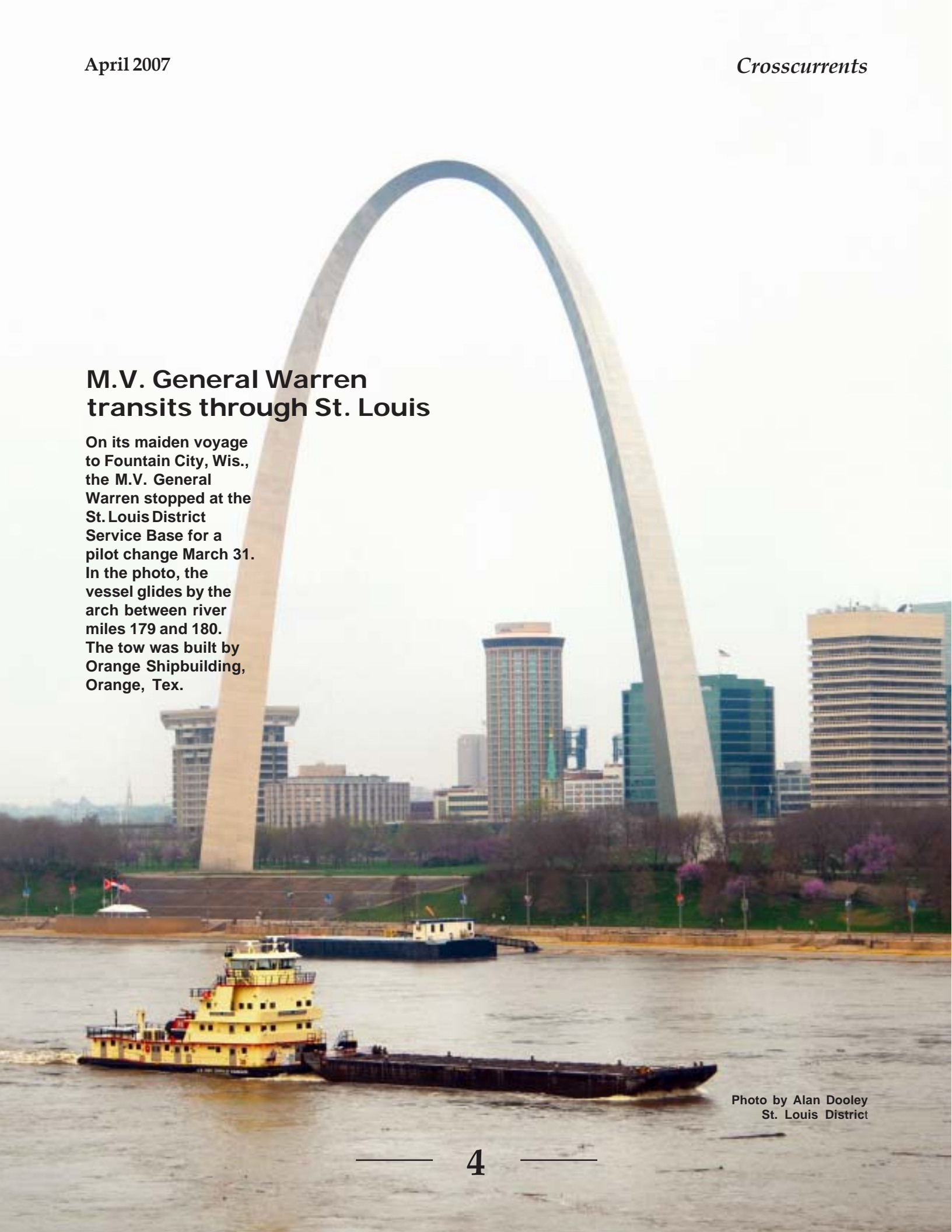


Photo by Alan Dooley  
St. Louis District



## M.V. General Warren crew heads up-river

Based on a report by Alan Dooley  
St. Louis District

The U.S. Army's newest motor vessel, the General Warren, headed northbound through St. Louis on March 31 on the way to Fountain City, Wis., its new home in the St. Paul District. The General Warren docked at Guttenberg, Iowa, to receive Lt. Col. John Kunkle, deputy district commander, April 3. The towboat and crew arrived at Fountain City Service Base April 4.

Orange Shipbuilding in Orange, Tex., completed the towboat in February. Unusually heavy ice buildup that extended to locks just north of St. Louis in February delayed the motor vessel's northbound journey on the Mississippi River.

The 124-foot long, 33-foot 10-inch-wide vessel is powered by two 1,500-horsepower diesel engines and displaces 452 long tons. A long ton is 2,240 pounds. Fuel capacity is 32,000 gallons and the vessel has accommodations for 11 people.

M.V. General Warren is named for the first district engineer in the St. Paul District, Gouverneur Kemble Warren, who as a major, commanded the district from 1866 to 1870.

Warren rose to the rank of major general during the Civil War and distinguished himself during the battle of Gettysburg. He was retained in the Army at the rank of major and then lieutenant colonel in 1879.



Photo by Marc Krumholz

**Jake Bernhardt, chief engineer, in the engine room of the MV General Warren.**



Photo by Marc Krumholz

**Right, Capt. Arley "Butch" Martin shakes hands with Randy Jowers, pilot on the Dredge Hurley, Memphis District.**



Photo by Marc Krumholz

**Nancy Peck, head steward, in the new galley of the M.V. General Warren.**

### The numbers for M.V. General Warren

- Length: 124 feet
- Beam width: 33 feet 10 inches
- Draft: 8 feet
- Depth at midship: 10 feet 3 inches
- Propulsion power: 1,500 horsepower (x 2)
- Fuel tank capacity: 32,000 gallons
- Potable water capacity: 11,400 gallons
- On board electrical power generation: 157 kilowatt generator (x 2)
- Construction manager: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Marine Design Center, Philadelphia
- Steering system: electrohydraulic;
- Main deck level: galley and mess area
- 11 berths.



Photo by Marc Krumholz

**Chuck Shultz, leverman on the Dredge Thompson, Fountain City, Wis., in the pilot's chair of the M.V. General Warren.**



Photo by Marc Krumholz

**Bob Gross, assistant master of the Dredge Thompson, takes his turn at the controls of the M.V. General Warren.**



Photo by Chuck Shultz

**From left are: Jake Bernhardt, Dave Kriesel and Marc Krumholz, in the pilot house of the M.V. General Warren on its maiden voyage up-river to Fountain City, Wis. All work in the St. Paul District.**



## Dredges keep it 9-foot deep

by Marc Krumholz

The M.V. General Warren is part of a three-vessel fleet that will replace the 71-year-old Dredge William A. Thompson in the job of channel maintenance and dredging on the Upper Mississippi River from approximately St. Paul, Minn., to St. Louis.

The Corps' involvement with Upper Mississippi River navigation began in the 1800s with the removal of snags from the main channel for steamboat passage in the settlement of the Midwest. In the late 1800s, channel structures, such as wing dams in the river, provided a more reliable channel. The Thompson was built in 1936 to manage more significant dredging requirements resulting from the congressionally authorized nine foot channel project and completion of 27 locks and dams.



St. Paul District photo

**Marc Krumholz, operations division, sits in the pilot's chair as the M.V. General Warren enters Lock and Dam 10, Guttenberg, Iowa. The towboat docked at Guttenberg to receive Lt. Col. John Kunkle, deputy district commander, April 3.**

**Below is the mat-sinking barge tied onto the vessel at the Vicksburg District for the upbound trip on the Mississippi River. Concrete mats are used to stabilize the river banks on the lower river. The vessel and barge locked through Lock and Dam 10 upbound on April 3. (Photo below by Marc Krumholz)**



***A decade later:  
completed project  
works as designed***

## **Souris River project protects north central North Dakota**

by Mark Davidson

It's been almost nine years since the St. Paul District dedicated the Souris River basin flood reduction project. This project, about 550 miles west of the district's headquarters, is very far away but still on the minds of a few district employees.

The Souris River, (also known as the Mouse River since Souris is the French word for mouse) is 435 miles long, originates in Saskatchewan, Canada, and flows south into North Dakota through the Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge and on to Minot, N.D. It continues to Velva, N.D., where it turns north and flows through the J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife refuge returning to Canada in Manitoba.

The Souris River Basin encompasses 24,000 square miles in southeastern Saskatchewan, southwestern Manitoba and northwestern North Dakota. The other three river basins in the St. Paul District are the Rainy, Red and the Mississippi.

There were large floods that occurred from 1969 to 1979, with the largest flood occurring in 1976. Other significant floods occurred in 1969, 1974, 1975 and 1979, according to Ferris Chamberlin, acting chief of engineering and



St. Paul District file photo

**Above is the Lake Darling Dam in North Dakota. It is part of the Souris River Project intended developed for flood reduction in the United States and water supply in Canada.**

construction's water control section.

The Corps of Engineers does not become involved in regulation of the Lake Darling Project until a one in 10 event is forecast for the Sherwood Crossing. This occurred in 1999 and 2001. "While there was agricultural flooding and problems due to interior flood control, the project performed well in that Minot did not reach flood stage in either instance," said Chamberlin.

While the project's primary purpose is water supply, it also provides 100-year level of protection for the city of Minot, said Steve Odegaard, resource manager, Western Flood Control office in Fargo, N.D.

"Because of the severity of flooding and drought cycles, the Souris River was developed for flood control protection benefits and water supply reservoirs," said Odegaard.

An international agreement between the governments of Canada and the United States for water resource development purposes in the Souris River basin was reached in 1989. This agreement intended that the Souris River Basin be developed for flood control benefits in the United States and water supply benefits in Canada.

Bonnie Greenleaf, project management, was involved in the Souris River basin flood control project. "The meetings about dam safety standards with the Canadians were really interesting," said Greenleaf. "People in the district like Greg Eggers, Tom Sully and Dave Rydeen discussed dam safety on an international level, and they really held their own."

The Souris River Basin flood control project became a reality with the final project dedication ceremony held on May 27, 1998,

*Souris*, continued Page 9



*Souris, continued from Page 8*

and consisted of these major features:

- The Rafferty and Alameda Dams were constructed in Saskatchewan, Canada, and provide 378,000 acres feet of flood water storage.

- Rural flood protection improvements were made such as house acquisition and relocations, road raises, ring levees and house raises.

- Renville County Park, N.D., levee and diversion channel

- Lake Darling Dam, N.D. reconstruction for flood control benefits and dam safety improvements

- More than 12 miles of levee and channel improvements to six subdivisions from Burlington, N.D. to the community of Sawyer, N.D.

- Dam structure improvements to seven National Wildlife Refuge dams for flood control and mitigation purposes

- Flood warning system for Minot, N.D. There are 37,000 people in Minot, the fourth largest city in North Dakota. Minot Air Force Base is 12 miles north of the city.

The project was completed in 2003, costing nearly \$110 million.

Dave Raasch, now retired and living in Honolulu, was the last of many project managers that worked on the Souris project. “I was fortunate to inherit this complex project from previous project managers like John Bailen, Bonnie Greenleaf and Bruce Heide. They did the ‘arm wrestling’ with Fish and Wildlife Service folks like Ron Shupe, Dean Knaur and Bob Howard. We had a productive and rewarding

relationship with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Souris River Joint Water Resource Board,” said Raasch.

The project is unique, said Odegaard, not only for its geographical extent and international cooperation but for the broad spectrum in involvement ranging from countries to individual home owners.

These include the governments of Canada and the United States, the state of North Dakota, the province of Saskatchewan, the North Dakota State Water Commission, Saskatchewan Power, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the local sponsor, the Souris River Joint Water Resources Board. This Souris Board made up of four county water resource boards, down to individual ring levees for rural residents.

In 1996, the Corps’ Western Flood Control Project Office in Fargo, N.D., assumed operation,



St. Paul District file photo

**The above photo shows Dam 96, one of seven refuge dam structures on the Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge. It is a few miles up-river of Minot, N.D.**

maintenance, repair, replacement and rehabilitation responsibilities for the flood control and mitigation features of the Souris River Flood Control Project located in the Upper Souris and J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuges. These features include the Lake Darling Dam, seven refuge dam structures, four pump stations, maintenance building and roads and trails.

“The Upper Souris refuge and the Salyer refuge each have a resident staff of eight to 12 Fish and Wildlife agency employees,” said Odegaard.

This unique partnership between the Corps and the Fish and Wildlife Service was directed by a memorandum of understanding signed by the Assistant Secretary of the Army and the Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on June 2, 1989.

Operations and maintenance work typically involves – at a minimum – semiannual coordination meetings with the Fish and Wildlife Service, inspection trips, formal periodic dam safety inspections, water control regulating for flood events with a severity of one in 10 year occurrence or greater, water quality monitoring, dam instrumentation program, utility contracts and accomplishing frequent maintenance tasks either through in-house labor or by contract.

Other St. Paul District employees occasionally travel to the Souris River Project for meetings, periodic dam safety inspections and miscellaneous engineering and dam instrumentation tasks.

## Brunet receives Department of the Army auditing award

By Shannon Bauer

The Department of the Army recently awarded its fiscal year 2006 Individual Award for Auditing to Burnsville, Minn., resident and Corps of Engineers' St. Paul District resource manager Randal Brunet.

This award is given out annually to recognize excellence in auditing throughout the Department of the Army. Brunet will receive his award from the American Society of Military Comptrollers National

Professional Development Institute, in Kansas City, Mo., May 30.

Brunet is the chief of the St.



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Randal Brunet

Paul District's resource management office. He received this award for volunteering to deploy to the Gulf Coast early in 2006 to assist in auditing work associated with Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts, as well as consistently performing his home duties in an exemplary manner.

Brunet has been a federal employee for more than 34 years, 27 with the St. Paul District.

"Brunet is one of the most respected resource managers in the Corps of Engineers," said Col. Michael Pfenning, commander of the St. Paul District. "He performs his duties with the highest degree of selfless service and personal sacrifice, and he epitomizes the principles of sound public administration and prudent stewardship of the public trust."

## 2,200 square miles yield to Flood of '97 on the Red River

by Shannon Bauer

**T**his month marks the tenth anniversary of the devastating floods in the Red River Valley, as well as the near completion of the district's Grand Forks, N.D./East Grand Forks, Minn., flood damage reduction project.

The cities of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks commemorated both occasions by hosting project dedication ceremonies April 21 and 22.

The public affairs office will commemorate both occasions by publishing a special issue of *Crosscurrents* later this summer.

The 1997 flood affected more than 2,200 square miles of Minnesota and North Dakota and forced around 70,000 to evacuate their homes. Overall, the event caused more than \$4 billion in damage. Grand Forks and East Grand Forks received around \$3.6 billion of that damage, as both cities were inundated.

Since then, the district has been working in partnership with city officials to build a \$400 million project that will protect the communities to a flood of magnitude equal to that of the 1997 flood. The project consisted of building 30 miles of levees and three miles of floodwall, as well as two diversion channels, 23 pump stations, 24 miles of recreational trails and seven trailheads.

The project was substantially complete this year, and the majority of the work was certified to the 100-year level of protection by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in January.

The remaining work includes stabilization work in the Point area of East Grand Forks. The expected completion is September.



# Civil Servants of the Year 2007

Pat Foley



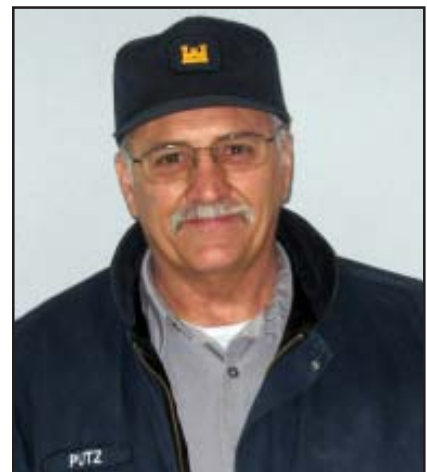
**Position title:** Supervisory hydraulic engineer  
**Duties:** Chief of the hydraulics section, Engineering and Construction Division  
**Total years with the St. Paul District:** 34  
**Years federal service:** 34  
**Education:** Bachelors of civil engineering, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; Master of Science, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Col.  
**Hobbies:** Reading, riding motorcycles and bicycles, spending time with my sons  
**Residence:** Shoreview, Minn.  
**Family:** Two sons in college  
**Comments:** "I truly appreciate this honor. There's a great bunch of folks in the section that keep me out of trouble."

Judith Harris



**Position title:** Lock and dam clerk, Lock and Dam 5A near Fountain City, Wis.  
**Duties:** A wide variety of administrative duties and Special Emphasis Program participation  
**Total years at St. Paul District:** about nine years  
**Years federal service:** 13  
**Previous experience:** U.S. Army  
**Education:** High school graduate, seven months Army training on radio repair  
**Hobbies:** My three kids and their sports  
**Residence:** Winona, Minn.  
**Family:** Three children  
**Comments:** "It is quite an honor to receive this award, especially when without the help of all the people I work with, I would not be where I am today and enjoying every day. Thank you."

Duane Putz



**Position title:** Equipment repair person at Lock and Dam 2 in Hastings, Minn., acting lockmaster Upper St. Anthony Falls  
**Duties:** Maintenance and repair of all lock equipment and facilities  
**Total years at St. Paul District:** 18 years  
**Years federal service:** 22  
**Previous experience:** U.S. Army, intelligence and civil affairs  
**Education:** Technical and business colleges  
**Hobbies:** Woodworking, fishing, hunting  
**Residence:** Hastings, Minn.  
**Family:** Widowed with six children, remarried with two stepchildren  
**Comments:** "I thank my Corps' family for nominating me as a Civil Servant of the Year."

## Ray Marinan is January Employee of the Month

*Randy Ulrich, forester, nominated Ray Marinan, a park ranger, for Employee of the Month. Both work at the natural resources office, LaCrescent, Minn..*

Ray Marinan, park ranger, served as the Operations Division recreation and natural resources point of contact for a managed deer hunt that was successfully implemented on Dec 9-10 on Corps' owned-land at Goose Island Park, south of La Crosse, Wis.

The main purpose of the hunt was to reduce the size of the deer herd, improve the overall health of the remaining deer population, reduce natural resource damage caused by excessive numbers of deer and minimize the risk of deer and vehicle accidents.

The event required many months of planning and coordination with other federal, state and local agencies, the public and local media. Although the issue of deer management can be a sensitive one, the plan Marinan helped develop along with the interagency team was truly a synergistic approach that resulted in minimal controversy and many public benefits.

A managed hunt for physically disabled people was used to reduce deer population and provide recreational opportunities for 28 people who are normally unable to participate without special assistance.

Throughout Marinan's involvement, he displayed a high level of sensitivity and awareness of the needs of all those with an interest in the Goose Island deer. This included both elderly and disabled hunters, non-hunting visitors who enjoy viewing deer, agency partners and those interested in safety aspects of the hunt. The Corps received much credit in the several newspaper articles and local TV news spots.



**Lt. Col. John Kunkle, district deputy commander, and Ray Marinan, park ranger.**

## Tom Stiel is February Employee of the Month

*Grant Riddick, a geologist in design branch, nominated Tom Stiel, a construction representative, for Employee of the Month. Chris Behling and Terry Jorgenson were co-nominators.*

The flood reduction project on the Red River of the North in Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn., is a multistage, \$400-million design and construction effort. The successful completion of any such project requires the cooperative efforts of many individuals.

One such individual who exemplifies professionalism and a go-the-extra-mile attitude is Tom Stiel, a construction representative at the Western Area Office in Grand Forks. His daily tasks revolve primarily around assuring adequate quality control, or QC, during construction.

A landslide on a levee during one of the final construction reaches of East Grand Forks-phase three required quick action on the part of both the design team and the construction team. The team had to keep the project on schedule and design a stable slope.

Stiel provided the unified focus for these teams' success. First, he helped to oversee the removal of the top 10-feet of the levee that was impacted by the landslide. He also oversaw the installation of geotechnical instrumentation to monitor slope stability prior to the 2006 spring floods. Stiel maintained the instruments and retrieved the data needed for a redesign of the levee. Many of his extra duties, from installation to data monitoring, were accomplished outside in the below-freezing winter weather.

He was always available to discuss site conditions or to conduct extra tests on the instruments as needed.

This fall, under demanding deadlines, the remainder of the levee was redesigned, removed and reconstructed – ahead of schedule, thanks to Stiel.



**Tom Stiel, construction representative, and Col. Mike Pfenning, district commander.**



# News and Notes

## Announcements

The St. Paul District will host a change of command ceremony June 8 at 10 a.m. in the Downtown University Club Grand Ballroom, located at 340 Cedar St., St. Paul. **Col. Jon Christensen** will accept command from **Col. Michael F. Pfenning**. A farewell dinner for Pfenning will be held June 7 at 6 p.m. in the Downtown University Club's fourteenth floor penthouse. Please RSVP for the dinner by May 18 to Angie Peterson, executive secretary, at 651-290-5302. A farewell coffee for Pfenning will be held May 31, 1:30-3:30 p.m., in the executive conference room.

Dan Krumholz, Locks and Dams chief, announced the selection of this year's lockmaster developmental candidates March 23. They include **Tim Tabery**, Lock and Dam 1, and **Otis Jacobson**, Lock and Dam 6.

**Darrell Oldenberg**, lower area lockmaster, participated on panel for Career Day at Seneca High School, Seneca, Wis., April 5. "Eight panels consisted of five to six people with different occupations who spent about 30 minutes with six different groups of 20 students, sixth grade through seniors from the Seneca School District," said Oldenberg. The school sponsored the career day.

## Newcomers

**Connie Gholson**, secretary, engineering and construction.

**Aaron Mikonowicz**, landscape architect, engineering and design.

**Carolyn Nolan**, construction support clerk in Grand Forks, N.D.

**Erwin Palm**, laborer, at Orwell Lake and Dam.

**Chad Rethwisch**, laborer, at Blackhawk Park.

**Rachael Marie Tjepkes**, regulatory assistant, Bemidji, Minn.

## Retirements

**Richard Baures**, lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam 5, after more than 35 years federal service.

**Robert Espenson**, park manager at Gull Lake Dam and Recreation Area, after more than 30 years federal service.

**Edmund Rolbiecki**, lock and dam operator at Lock and Dam 6, after more than 35 years federal service.

## Taps

**Doris E. Bishop**, retired Lock and Dam 8, passed away, April 18.

**Robert Douglas**, retired head lock and dam operator, Locks and Dams 10 and 5A, passed away March 21.

**Bob Fletcher Sr.**, retired chief of design branch from 1970 to 1988 and Hall of Fame member, passed away March 31.

**William (Bill) Robert Gray**, retired chief of the sandblasting and painting crew, passed away Feb. 2.

**Thomas R. Johnson**, retired from the design branch general engineering section, now called the cost engineering section, passed away April 9.

**Otis (Junior) Wilson Klinger**, retired maintenance and repair person, Lock and Dam 9, passed away April 13.

## Natural resource staff gives a hoot about trees



Photo courtesy of Mary Stefanski, USFWS

**Jon Sobiech**, natural resource section, LaCrescent, Minn., teamed up with his wife, **Christa**, wearing the Woodsy the Owl costume, to deliver a interpretive program to children in Houston, Minn., on how to properly plant a tree. Students were sent home with a free seedling, courtesy of Cascade Nursery, Cascade, Iowa. This was one of many programs offered during a weekend festival in March.



## Postcard from Iraq

I've been in the Gulf Region for about a year-and-a-half. The work in the south is very fast-paced. We're always working a mix of 10- and 12-hour days. Our district currently has about 280 active construction projects and about \$1 billion in work. Projects include clinics, schools, power and water infrastructure, etc.

*Sincerely, Tom Eidson,  
chief of Engineering and  
Construction, Tallil, Iraq*



Gulf Region Division  
2007  
Baghdad, Iraq

## Postcard from Iraq

The weather in Iraq this time of year is very pleasant – highs in the mid-70s. There's not much opportunity to enjoy it, as most folks are working 80-hour weeks. I'm glad to have the opportunity to support the global war on terror, but am eager to return to my family and a slower pace.

*Sincerely,  
Paul Kosterman,  
project management*



Gulf Region Division  
2007  
Baghdad, Iraq