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St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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St. Paul District participates in water quality project

By Kennon Gardner
chief, Public Affairs

After a wet and cloudy spring, the sun made an appearance on May 12 to brighten the day for more than 300 students around the St. Paul District who were involved in a water quality project along the Mississippi River.

The students were part of more than 1,000 students along the length of the river who participated in an interagency event called the Mississippi River Project. Designed to focus public attention on water quality issues on the Mississippi, the event was a coordinated water quality awareness education program that stretched from the

headwaters of the Mississippi River at Lake Itasca, Minn., to the Gulf of Mexico.

The project included educational programs and water testing at 25 sites in the 10 states bordering the river. About 25 local schools participated. Sponsors included the Corps, the USDA - Soil

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On May 12, the Corps joined with a variety of agencies to work on The Mississippi River Project to increase public awareness about water quality and the relationship between the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico. As part of the project, Dick Beatty, a biologist in Environmental Resources Branch, demonstrated water sampling techniques to students at Monticello, Minnesota. Monticello was one of six testing sites in the St. Paul District. Mote Marine Lab, USDA-Soil Conservation Service, the Corps, EPA, and the Clorox Foundation sponsored the project.

Photo by Georgia Stanonik

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Conservation Service (SCS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Mote Marine Research Laboratory in Sarasota, Fla., and Clorox Company. With six of the 25 testing sites located in the St. Paul District, the district was involved in almost one-quarter of the total project.

The project included classroom presentations by SCS agents on the Mississippi River and water quality issues earlier in the week. Then, on May 12, the participating students went to the river where SCS agents, assisted by Corps employees, led the students in taking water samples and conducting simple tests for nitrates and phosphates. In addition, the SCS took an "official" water sample at each site, which was expressed to the Mote Marine Lab in Florida, for detailed analysis. Once the analysis is completed, the lab will prepare a report summarizing the results of the sampling. This "report card" on the water quality along the length of the Mississippi River should be distributed in July.

One highlight of the day's activities was a television conference between Vice President Al Gore and the students at several testing sites including Lake Itasca.

Arrangements for the satellite downlink station used at Itasca were made by Peter Versteegen, public affairs specialist, after extensive coordination with the project coordinator in Sarasota, Florida, the Chief of Engineers Office and the SCS's Minnesota office. While a technical problem prevented students at Itasca from talking with the vice president, the more than 100 fourth graders from Bagley School near Lake Itasca were able to see and hear Mr. Gore as he participated in the water testing project at Memphis and talked to students at several other testing sites.



Photo by Peter Versteegen

Jim Sentz, a hydraulic engineer working in water quality in the Hydrology Section, demonstrated water sampling techniques to a class of elementary school students from Cottage Grove, Minn., at Harriet Island in St. Paul.

Jim Ruyak, Headwaters Project area manager, and Park Rangers Timm Rennecke and Dean Skalback

participated in the program at Lake Itasca State Park.



St. Paul District photo

Ranger Timm Rennecke conducts a water quality test at Itasca State Park with fourth graders from Bagley, Minn. The headwaters was the northern most testing site.

The 25 testing sites were selected to provide water samples above and below major tributaries and in metropolitan areas. This way, the analysis would show the impact of the tributaries and urban areas on water quality of the Mississippi.

In addition to the source of the Mississippi at Lake Itasca, testing sites in the district included a site above the Twin Cities (Monticello, Minn.); between the Minnesota River confluence and the Pig's Eye wastewater treatment plant (Harriet Island in St. Paul); between St. Paul and the confluence with the Chippewa River (Lock and Dam No. 3); in the vicinity of La Crosse, Wis.



Photo by Ken Gardner

Corrine Hodapp, a park ranger at Blackhawk Park in De Soto, Wis., spoke to 25 students from Longfellow Middle School in La Crosse, Wis., as part of the district's participation in the Mississippi River Project. Hodapp talked to

the students about commercial navigation, personal flotation devices and water safety before the students and their teachers went on the water for the sampling activity.

(Lock and Dam No. 7); and above the confluence with the Wisconsin River (Lock and Dam No. 9).

At the Monticello site, Dick Beatty, a biologist in Environmental Resources Branch, assisted with the water testing and demonstrated other water sampling equipment. The students were from nearby Big Lake School.

In the Twin Cities, Jim Sentz, a hydraulic engineer working in water quality in the Hydrology Section, demonstrated water quality sampling and testing equipment to students from Hillside Elementary School in Cottage Grove, Minn. The project was held at Harriet Island in St. Paul.

Students from Ellsworth, Wis., Junior High traveled to Lock and Dam No. 3, north of Red Wing, Minn., for their

testing activities. Lockmaster Dave Hawkenson escorted the group and provided a tour of the lock. Biologist Pete Fasbender from Environmental Resources Branch assisted with the water sampling. Biologists from the Northern States Power Prairie Island Nuclear Plant also participated.

For the La Crosse area testing site, 25 students from Longfellow Middle School in La Crosse visited Lock and Dam No. 7 and were taken out to the middle of the river on a Corps workbarge to take their water samples. Dick Otto, Mississippi River Project area manager from La Crescent, and Corrine Hodapp, park ranger at Blackhawk Park, talked to the students about commercial navigation, personal flotation devices and water safety before the students and their teachers

went on the water for the sampling activity. The Tender Fluekiger, operated by Dave Kriesel, and Leonard Leptner, Sr., both from the Dredge William A. Thompson, provided the push power for the engineless workbarge.

At Lock and Dam No. 9, Lockmaster Charlie Hiam escorted students who were members of the Prairie du Chien, Wis., High School biology club during their visit to the lock. The students were also given a tour of the lock and dam during their visit.

By the end of the day, more than 300 future stewards of the Mississippi River had a better understanding of the river and its problems and promises. Through the Mississippi River Project, they had come face-to-face with "Old Man River."

Eau Galle makes osprey nest



St. Paul District photo

A local contractor donated the 55-foot pole that supports an osprey nesting platform at Eau Galle Lake.

By Shelly Shafer, park ranger

Over the past several years, the visitors and staff at Eau Galle Lake in Spring Valley, Wis., have had the opportunity to watch two of the most exciting birds of prey in action. They are the bald eagle and osprey. In an attempt to encourage the osprey to nest at Eau Galle, a nesting platform was installed at the north end of the lake.

Two osprey return to Eau Galle each spring and head back south each fall. A pair of eagles nests on project lands and lives in the area year round.

The platform installation began with a visit from a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist and authority on osprey, who recommended the location and height for the platform. A local contractor donated a 55-foot pole and the platform was built at Eau Galle. Due to the inaccessibility of the location, installation had to be delayed until winter when the lake ice could support heavy machinery. The platform was erected March 3 with the help of two volunteers and a digging rig. The pole was placed in a ten-foot hole and three guy wires were anchored for additional stability.

Osprey are the only raptors that plunge feet first into the water to catch their favorite meal of fish. They often seem to submerge themselves completely, then miraculously rise out of the water with their catch held firmly in their talons.

It could take several years before the platform is occupied.

Bald eagle numbers increase

By M.B. Braun, Public Affairs clerk

Super Bowl Weekend '93 resulted in not only a win for the Dallas Cowboys but for the bald eagles of the Upper Mississippi who came in with a record count of 2,695 in 1993. Bald eagle fans travelled by car, boat and plane to compile this thirty-third annual count held January 30. Observers sighted a record number of bald eagles — more than double last year's count.

Terrence Ingram, of Apple River, Illinois, and compiler for this year's count, specifically thanked U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel "for the exemplary work that they continue to do. I would estimate close to 50 percent of the count records I received from each dam include one hourly count all day long (Saturday). Some even counted the eagles on each hour on both days, Saturday and Sunday."

Locks and dams in the St. Paul District reported sighting 624 bald eagles, or 23 percent of the total sightings for the day from central Minnesota to the south.

Ingram said, "The biggest increases came from along the Mississippi River, which was experiencing a tremendous migration on the day of the count. This migration accounted for a record number of eagles being seen near Lock & Dam Nos. 2, 3, 7 and 8." Three dams in the Rock Island District also reported large numbers of eagles on the morning of count day.

Observers counted 661 immature eagles—25 percent—down from 30 percent last year in the total count area. A report below 30 percent for immature eagles is cause for continued concern for the future of the bald eagle, according to Ingram.

The national bird of the U.S., the adult has a white head and tail while the immature still sports the "dusky" head and tail common for the first two or three years of life.

A break down by lock and dam can be seen here.

Lock & Dam 2-3	119	(108 adult + 11 immature*)
Lock & Dam 4-5	15	(12 adult + 3 immature)
Lock & Dam 5A-6	8	(8 adult + 0 immature)
Lock & Dam 7-8	249	(222 adult + 27 immature)
Lock & Dam 9-10	233	(167 adult + 66 immature)

*Immature bald eagles are those not yet sporting white heads.

*Engineer's Day
message from the Chief
of Engineers*

**Corps responds
effectively to
nation's needs**

From the very beginning at Bunker Hill, the Corps of Engineers has responded effectively to the needs of our nation. This year has continued that tradition of quick-response service and has polished our reputation as an agency-of-choice to help our allies overseas.

To say this has been a stormy year is literal truth and the Corps' consistent, caring emergency responsiveness made a difference in people's lives. When Hurricane Andrew devastated part of Florida and Louisiana, we were among the first called to help in the aftermath. We were called to Hawaii after Hurricane Iniki, while Typhoon Omar took us to Guam and Typhoon Gay took us to the Marshall Islands.

Some of the storms tested the Corps in very personal ways. When Typhoon Omar struck Guam, our people there rode out the storm, then pitched in to help. During the storm that became the Blizzard of 1993, three Corps men from the Field Research Facility in North Carolina took their amphibious truck into the storm to assist the rescue efforts.

Others know they can count on the Corps in non-emergency, day-to-day matters as well. Our people are at work in the Baltics refurbishing embassies, and in Somalia, Corps people suffered the same dangers and hardships as the soldiers they supported. The Corps' professionalism has even impressed our former enemies. The Russians sent representatives to Headquarters this year to learn about the Corps' project management strategies.

We have also continued our service here at home. Completing the Gallipolis Lock and Dam in West Virginia will serve America's infrastructure well in coming decades.

We can also be especially proud of our growing environmental mission. The Corps contributed to the Army Environmental Strategy signed last November. When World War I munitions were found in a residential section of Washington, DC, the Corps helped find and dispose of them. And a month ago, Vice President Gore applauded the Mississippi River Project, a Corps partnership with other agencies and more than 1,000 students to test water quality and improve environmental education.

For 218 years, the Corps of Engineers has maintained a reputation as the ones to call when the chips are down or when a job needs to be done. One reason is our ability to adapt. It has been a stressful year, filled with funding cutbacks and reorganization anxiety. It's not easy to worry about the future and still produce consistently excellent results, yet that's what you've done.

That ability to adapt and do the job well no matter what the obstacles will carry us through the challenge and promise of tomorrow. No matter what the future brings, the men and women of the Corps will be there to serve the nation. Essayons!

/s/Arthur E. Williams
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

Corps engineers receive professional recognition



Photos courtesy of Michael Barich

Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers honored St. Paul District Engineer Col. Richard Craig with an Appreciation Award at the society's Awards Banquet.



Society of American Military Engineers recognized Mark Meyers, ED-GH, as the Young Engineer of the Year.



The Engineers Society of St. Paul elected Jim Muegge, ED-GH, as president this May.

Commander, deputy listen to employee concerns



Photo by Peter Verstegen

In April and May, District Commander Col. Richard Craig and District Deputy Maj. Chuck Rogers held five informal sessions with St. Paul employees. The meetings ad-



Photo by Ken Gardner

ressed reorganization, relocation of the district office and cuts in full-time equivalents (FTEs). More than 150 district employees in St. Paul attended the sessions.

Bits and Pieces

Eau Galle site offers much for Engineer Awards Day

This year's Engineer Awards Day and Picnic reflects back to 1988 not only in location but also to prices. The location is Eau Galle Recreation Site. The ticket price is \$3.50 for adults and \$1 for children, 12 and under. The price includes food and pop.

Those who want to attend, but not eat the meal, pay only \$1, and children not eating the prepared meal are free.

The event is planned for June 18 all day. Scheduled activities include volleyball, golf, and bingo, and the site has playground facilities for children. Other attractions at Eau Galle are fishing, swimming, hiking, horseback riding and camping.

Eau Galle is located at Spring Valley, Wisconsin, 50 miles east of St. Paul. This year free bus rides are unavailable. Car pooling is a good option, and ample free parking is available.

Purchase tickets before June 11 from the ticket seller on your floor. (Locations are posted.) Retirees may contact Rosemarie Braatz at (612) 220-0316 to arrange for tickets.

Volunteers from Construction-Operations Division will grill hamburgers, bratwurst, hotdogs and all the trimmings, plus pop, popcorn and snowcones.

Optional one-hour tours of nearby Crystal Cave are available, along with other interpretative programs. Information about the tours and programs will be offered at the picnic.

Cross Lake staff monitors water quality of Pine River watershed

Tests of the water done monthly at 12 lakes on the Whitefish Chain and two locations on Ossinwinnamakee confirm that while these lakes are among the best, nutrient loading from the watershed is a concern.

The goal of a specially-trained team was to monitor the transparency, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and acidity at one-meter depth intervals.

During the past year, the Natural Resource management staff at Cross Lake and the six Whitefish Area Lake Associations organized water quality monitoring teams. Forty-three members from various organizations met at the Cross Lake office to learn how to use hydrolab equipment owned by the Corps.

The Whitefish Area Lake Association began working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to secure an inventory of nutrient loading occurring from the Pine River Watershed. Specifically, they looked at phosphorous removal capabilities at the Pine River Sanitary District's facility and the runoff on several farm feedlots that are actual or potential pollution sources.

Officials from Crow Wing County and Cass County, the Cross Lake staff, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency are planning a follow-up meeting to discuss steps to correct or eliminate non-point pollution and nutrient sources on area lakeshores and in the groundwater. Recommendations from this meeting may be ready to enact by spring of 1994.

Price reduced on history of St. Paul District

Creativity, Conflict and Controversy: A History of the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is for sale at a reduced price.

Originally \$15, this 461-page hard-bound edition by Raymond H. Meritt sells for a bargain price of \$5. Only 175 copies remain. They are available at the district's technical library, room 1120. Phone 220-0680.

Hello

Construction-Operations Division

John M. Bock, laborer
James D. Klatt, lock and dam operator
Richard W. Mattson, lock and dam operator
Susan T. McGarity, clerk typist
Steven L. Moore, lock and dam operator
Curtis W. Palmer, lock and dam operator

Good-bye

Construction-Operations Division

Steve J. Halvorson, student trainee

Engineering Division

Alvin J. Ellingson, civil engineer
Steven P. Larson, structural engineer
David E. Nyberg, hydraulic engineer
David J. Taylor, civil engineering technician

Office of Counsel

Ivette D. Garrett, general attorney

Resource Management

Kimberly A. Sambdman, management analyst

Savings bond drive yields three winners



Photo by Georgia Stanonik

Attendance at savings bond kick-off meetings in May proved lucky for three Corps employees. Winners of door prizes are, at left, Ken Harrell, an environmental protection specialist from Regulatory Branch; at right, Nan Bischoff, a civil engineer with Engineering Management Branch; and back right, Ted Anderson, voucher examiner in Accounts Payable Branch. Theresa Thury and Danette Sammon, secretaries in Programs and Project Management Division, served as co-chairs of the event. Door prizes are from private contributions.

St. Paul District retains NCD EEO trophy for sixth consecutive year

The St. Paul District retained the North Central Division (NCD) Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) award for the sixth consecutive year, noted District Commander Col. Richard Craig during an EEO awards ceremony on April 28.

Individual district EEO awards were presented to Dick Otto, manager of the Mississippi River Project Office; Bob Post, chief of Engineering Division; Al Geisen, chief of Cost Engineering Branch; Dave Haumersen, deputy district engineer for Programs and Project Management; and Bob Whiting, chief of Environmental Resources Branch.

Both Construction-Operations and Engineering Division shared the EEO St. Paul District Trophy award. The district award recognizes EEO achievements within the district's division or office. NCD awards the division trophy to one of five districts based on achievement in EEO.

Feasibility study newsletter published

The Rock Island District released the first issue this April of the *Upper Mississippi River-Illinois Waterway Navigation System Study* newsletter.

The St. Paul District's Kevin Bluhm in Planning Division is the public involvement coordinator for the feasibility study. To receive the newsletter and obtain updates on meeting announcements, call 800-USA-8822.

The newsletters will be mailed three times a year, August, December and April.



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