

Fall Quarterly Issue 2001

*Detroit District*  
**Soundings**  
*US Army Corps of Engineers*



*Corps works in World Trade Center  
and Pentagon recovery efforts,  
see pages 3, 4 and insert.*

# Soundings

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# Taconite Harbor: a Jewel on the Vast Lake Superior Shoreline

Corps members recently participated in Minnesota safe harbor dedication at Taconite Harbor with state and local officials.

Ten years ago, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the North Shore Management Board selected a string of nine Harbors of Refuge and completed a recreational boating harbors plan. Taconite Harbor, actually taking the place of two originally identified sites, was dedicated as part of that system.

Minnesota state agencies initiated and funded the studies and plans for this harbor with Corps involvement merging in during the design phase. During this project the Corps reviewed and approved the design, prepared an environmental assessment, and

worked with the state on real estate activities.

This project provided another excellent opportunity for the Corps to be a true partner with Minnesota local and state groups. We are gratified to be a partner in such a diverse and highly professional team, said Lt. Col. Richard Polo, Detroit district engineer.

Before the harbor was completed, boaters perceived there were inadequate harbor facilities to provide safety on the Northern Minnesota shoreline.

I am proud to call this project a success because the team accomplished what it set out to do -- to construct a safe harbor for small watercraft on Lake Superior, said Polo, adding, this project was a continuance of an earlier, successful partnering with Minnesota on Silver Bay. **W&A**



From left to right: Steve Schug City of Schroeder MC, Mr. John Green Friend of the Andersons Emily Anderson (daughter of ex-governor Elmer Anderson) Local cabin owner, Allen Gerber Commissioner of Minnesota DNR, Representative James Oberstar, and Mr. Steve Mueller Minnesota DNR Water Recreation program coordinator.

On the cover: New York shoreline days after terrorist attack.

# Commander's Column

by Lt. Col. Richard J. Polo, Jr.,  
District Engineer

**W**e are at war! It seems odd and strange to write the preceding sentence. But our president has made it clear in no uncertain terms that our country is at war with the terrorist forces that attacked us on September 11, 2001.

I don't know about you but I will go to my grave remembering exactly where I was the day that the strikes were made on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon. I remember being with other engineers in the conference room glued to the TV as the towers' burned. I also remember our subdued conversation as we wondered if the towers could continue standing as the fires raged out of control. In dumbstruck horror, we watched as the two 110-story

our country will never be the same. While this may be partially true, some things haven't changed.

The first is that the United States was a beacon of hope and freedom before the attack, and remains so, after the attack. As I write these words, our country is engaging in military operations against the terrorist group Al Qaeda in Afghanistan. Our cause is not only just, but it is supported by more than 100 nations that have pledged support of various types. There is no question that we will triumph.

The second thing that has not changed is the role of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps has a long and proud tradition of supporting the nation in its times of peace, war, and disaster. With-



towers crumbled to the ground in only a matter of moments.

There is probably no need to recount these unbelievable events for they're so familiar to us all. We hear the continual refrain that the world and

in days, we saw our former Division Commander, Brigadier General (P) Griffin, on television discussing the massive clean-up job that lies ahead of us, as well as explaining the Corps' role in support of FEMA.

The following Sunday, 60 Minutes aired a TV special where our Chief of Engineers was interviewed and featured prominently. Just as importantly, many Corps employees were also interviewed or featured in cameo shots as they "went about business." In short, we can all be proud of being in the Corps. The show was very favorable, to say the least, and General Flowers was careful to strike the right tone. The message and tone: we are members of a much larger team, hard at work in the recovery efforts in New York City and Washington D.C.

The Detroit District sent Doug Zande, Wayne Schloop, Terry Long, and John Larson to New York City. They were key members of FEMA's sixteen separate Search and Urban Rescue (US&R) teams. They served as structural engineering experts. As you can imagine, digging through thousands of tons of rubble and evaluating scores of other damaged buildings is a hazardous, but necessary job. Doug, Wayne, Terry, and John were trained to provide this type of technical expertise and by all accounts, they did a great job. They have lots of interesting and heart-rending stories: ask them if you get a chance. Interestingly, Terry had the unenviable job of escorting a national reporter for several hours as he documented Corps work. It was gratifying to read the end result, which was a highly complimentary article from a reporter who in the past has written highly critical articles about the Corps.

The Detroit District and the rest of the Corps stand ready to provide additional help, if and when requested. I am



confident that we will get the call. A recent media interview of Mr. Tom Ridge, the newly named Assistant to the President for Homeland Security was extremely revealing. He talked about the huge task before the country and specifically mentioned the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers repeatedly and said we are and will continue to be a key player.

In times such as these, it is important to reflect on the important things in life. While it's a truism that no one's life is perfect, I feel certain every member in the district has much to be thankful for: whether it is health, family, friends, professional associates, or the opportunity to be engaged in meaningful work. Make no mistake, your work serves the Army and the Nation and directly benefits our fellow citizens.

In closing, I'd like to share with you a scene from the 60 Minutes special. At the very end of covering the damage and the rebuilding effort at the Pentagon, the CBS cameras zoomed in on the nation's flag. In the background flew the Corps' flag. The scene was a literal and figurative metaphor. Namely, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can be counted on to serve the Nation, and the Corps will ALWAYS be called upon. **Essays.** 

# The CORPS of Engineers – Defining the American Spirit

*Editorial by Joyce Hess, Executive Officer, Detroit District*

*Note: The complete version of this article is available at the Detroit District web site: [www.lre.usace.army.mil](http://www.lre.usace.army.mil)*

The morning of September 11 began just as any other in the Detroit District. But, by 9:15 a.m. the news of a possible accident rippled through the district -- a hijacked commercial plane flew into the World Trade Center. This grim news snowballed as an awful understanding came to light -- our nation was under terrorist attack. More than six thousand lives lost, and 1.5 million tons of debris littered landscapes in New York City, Pennsylvania and northern Virginia.

By 11 a.m. grim understanding gave way to resolve in this district and many others -- the Corps would have a part to play in cleaning out the wounds of our nation, and would have a part to play in the healing process beyond the initial response.

The Detroit District Emergency Operations Centers and those across America were activated to begin supporting the recovery and relief efforts. By the end of the day on September 11, the Detroit District dispatched its four volunteers to the disaster staging areas in New York City as part of a national "call-for-experts."

Corps of Engineers involvement in national emergencies is part of a strategic



national plan, "The Federal Emergency Response Plan," headed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA. It is FEMA that is charged with providing disaster response support in the aftermath of all federal emergencies. The Corps is designated as the Department of Defense, DoD, planning and operating agent for the Emergency Support Function, ESF#3, of the Federal Emergency Response Plan, which deals with the public works and engineering portion of the plan.

The Corps executes several

missions from a staging point in Edison, New Jersey, providing support to New York City, and from Corps headquarters in Washington DC to support the Pentagon. Corps teams have been on the ground playing a critical role from the first day with expertise in debris assessment and removal, structural analysis, urban search and rescue, emergency power, emergency contracting and emergency repair of wastewater and solid waste facilities. Through out the current FEMA mission as many as 171 Corps members were

involved. Of this total, 16 Great Lakes and Ohio River Division personnel, including four from Detroit, were on the ground performing missions.

As efforts continue, we will continue to be there in well-planned and organized stages, until the devastation is cleared, and beyond. With the spirit of the Corps in our hearts and the spirit of a nation behind us we can all move beyond this terrible event and rebuild America. The Corps of Engineers Motto "Essayons," says it best..."Let us try..." 

# What Does PMBP Really Mean?

**M**any of you have heard about the project management business process (PMBP), but what does PMBP really mean to us in the Detroit District, and to each of you in particular? I hope I can help you understand the answers to these questions by explaining the seven PMBP imperatives from ER 5-1-11.

**1. One project, one team, one PM:** Each project is placed under the responsibility of one particular Project Manager (PM) and Project Delivery Team (PDT). The definition of what a "project" is sometimes confuses some folks. ER 5-1-11 defines a project as "...any work intended to produce a specific expected outcome. A project has a defined scope, quality objectives, schedule, and cost. Internal services are discreet projects when they are non-recurring or of a special significance." This is interpreted to mean that any funds received by the District from any customer can be considered to have been provided for a project. All projects will have a PM assigned, but that doesn't mean that each and every project will be managed by a PM from Project Management Division; while many will, there are many organizations within Detroit District will have personnel in them who will act as and be assigned as PMs (i.e., ETS, H&H, Regulatory, etc.). For instance, for the recent move and furniture replacement project for Programs and Project Management, the Chief of Logistics performed as the PM.

**2. Plan for success and keep commitments:** The PM and PDT must, early on in the life of the project, develop the PMP. This PMP must document all project execution parameters (i.e., time, cost, quality, etc.), and must essentially become the "contract" between all parties for the execution of the project. The PMP is the "plan" on how the PDT will successfully execute the project deliverables, be it a planning document, a completed construction project, a permit...whatever. This PMP could be 1, 10 or 100 pages long, or somewhere in between, depending upon the complexity of the project.

**3. The PDT is responsible for project success:** All members of the PDT are responsible and accountable for delivering a quality product to the customer, by the time and within the budget specified in the PMP. Each team member is responsible for their portion of the deliverable; the PM is overall responsible to ensure the team delivers according to the PMP. In the near future, the District will be defining specific roles and responsibilities of PDT members in a separate and more detailed document.

**4. Measure quality with the goals and expectations contained in the PMP:** ER 5-1-11 defines quality products as..."those that comply with legal obligations, Administration policy, and meet or exceed the goals, objectives and expectations defined in the PMP." As such, it is imperative that the PDT work with the customer(s) and stakeholder(s) for each project to ensure the PMP documents

their expectations of a successfully completed project.

**5. Manage all work with the PMBP, using corporate automated information systems (AISs):** Again, the PMP must document the project delivery parameters, including cost, time and quality; this PMP is then used to measure performance. District AISs will be used to evaluate performance on a periodic basis, no less often than during the monthly project review boards.

**6. Build effective communications into all activities and processes:** Efficient performance and project delivery can only be accomplished with strong communications amongst PDT members, which include customer and stakeholder representatives.

**7. Use best practices and seek continuous improvement:** The District's work has and will continue to change. We all must realize that excel-

lent project delivery performance on the smaller projects (i.e., CAP and O&M) is now and will continue to be our "bread and butter"; the larger projects are just not frequent enough to keep the District financially "healthy". Note that lots of smaller projects means we're interacting with a much larger audience of customers and stake-holders; these organizations and people will help "sell the Corps" and keep us a viable, valuable organization to the Great Lakes Region and to our Army and Nation.

I do hope I've helped you understand the PMBP a bit better. In the very near future, the USACE Business Process manual will be published, as well as the Detroit District's PMBP, complete with the "what's" and "how to's". Please feel free to contact myself if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Rich Dickson, X 62296 

## Deputy Ready for Corps Projects

**Major Regan P. McDonald,** deputy district engineer, a native of northern New York, graduated from Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY, with a B.S. in Civil & Environmental Engineering in 1987. McDonald was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and entered active duty.

After many assignments around the world he attended Cornell University, earning a Master of Science in Civil Engineering; Water Resources and Environmental Systems. Upon graduation he joined the Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering at

the United States Military Academy, West Point. He served as the course director and primary instructor for the Hydrology and Hydraulic Design course and also worked with the Waterways Experiment Station and the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory. McDonald is a registered professional engineer.

"Being here for the past three months, I've met most of the people in the district, and I look forward to working with everyone on our many projects and programs," said McDonald. 

# Lieutenant General Robert Flowers Visits the Detroit District

By Joyce D. Hess, Executive Officer

From June 17 - 18, 2001, Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, chief of engineers, visited the Detroit District in a busy, entertaining and information packed visit.

Lt. Col. Richard Polo, district engineer, Detroit District and many senior leaders joined Flowers for dinner and an informal game of "feather bowling" at the Cadieux Café. Feather Bowling, a unique Belgian game, is an amusing cross between bocci ball (only played with disks) and an old English game of "Curling" in which contestants attempt to roll disks on hard packed courts to position them close to feathers that are standing upright (without knocking them over.)

Flowers and team began Monday morning in a whirl of activity, beginning in an early meeting with Senator Carl Levin (D- MI), which included a follow on tour of important Detroit projects along the Ambassador Bridge and Belle Isle.

Flowers met the Detroit District team members, first in a Town Hall meeting and then a walk around the district HQ offices. Flowers' Town Hall began with some especially positive opening remarks concerning the Detroit District's good work. Throughout his presentation, Flowers explained his philosophy borrowing from Stephen Covey's, "7 Habits of Highly Successful Peo-

ple." He went on to explain his "Just Do It" philosophy and addressed the importance of what the Corps does. This activity was followed by a discussion of his philosophy about how good people make it all work. General Flowers then offered a motivational film presentation.

The Town Hall shifted from the serious to the entertaining, when Flowers asked each of the districts "10 Heroes" a tough (impossible) question. If the hero could not answer, (always the case) "punishment" in the form of push-ups was exacted, not upon the hero -- but rather, on the District Engineer and the Deputy District Engineer. Focusing on each hero's area of expertise, Flowers asked questions that were hilariously detailed.

The audience, nearly 200-members from the work-



General Flowers demonstrates his feather bowling technique at the district outing during his visit.

force, enthusiastically showed its appreciation for the information, humor, and lighthearted spirit of the meeting. Flowers' style, as a personable, informative and talented speaker, kept the audience enthralled for the entire presentation.

Flowers then presented each 2001 graduating class member of the Leadership Development Program, from Chicago and Detroit, with their certificates and

his very personal thanks and congratulations.

Following a working lunch with office chiefs, LTG Flowers took a walk around the Detroit District individually visiting many employees, and addressing questions. This gave the Chief the opportunity to converse, one on one, with about 35 members of the command. This popular and very personal touch epitomized the Chief's approach to the people of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Flowers followed the walk around with a meeting of Detroit Districts important stakeholders. The time led to very fruitful discussions about a multitude of important issues involving the Great Lakes, the State of Michigan and the City of Detroit.

Flowers expressed many thoughts about his command, his visit with the Detroit District, and his thanks for such an enjoyable time. 

Photos by Carletta Degroot



Lt. Col. Polo presents Lt. Gen. Flowers with a watercolor composite reflecting the Corps Vision and the pride of the Detroit District.

# Soo Locks Receive Visitors

By: Carmen Paris, Soo Area Office



Michigan Senator Carl Levin and aide Diana Charles visited the Soo Locks on Tuesday, August 7th. The senator was given an overview of the operation of the locks by Area Engineer Stan Jacek. This was followed by a presentation on the proposed new super lock which was given by District Engineer Lt. Col. Richard Polo.

The senator was then given a short tour of the locks facility. 



Michigan Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus visited the Soo Locks on Wednesday, August 15. Also with Lt. Gov. Posthumus was State Representative Scott Shackleton, (R- Sault Ste. Marie).

Following a short briefing by District Engineer LTC Richard Polo and Area Engineer Stan Jacek, the Lt. Gov. was given a power point presentation on the proposed new super lock by W. Scott Parker of the Detroit District Office, and a tour of the dispatch tower. 



On Wednesday, August 22nd, 30 officials from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) visited the Soo Locks.

The group was given a short history of the four locks by Area Engineer Stan Jacek, which was followed by a presentation on the proposed new super lock given by Gary O'Keefe of the Detroit District Office.

A tour of the facility was then given to the visiting MDOT officials. 

# Soo Area Office Participates in Facilities Management Internship Program

By Carmen Paris, Soo Area Office

This past winter Ferris State University student Kris Hill was looking for a summer job in his chosen field of study, Facilities Management. While searching the internet for possible sources of employment, Kris visited the Detroit District web site. He then emailed the Soo Area Office asking if there were any summer openings for a student in the field of Facilities Management.

Following a series of telephone conversations and emails between the faculty of Ferris State University and the Soo Area Office, Kris was hired as an intern at the Soo Locks after school ended in May. At the completion of his summer internship, Kris

returned to school in late August to complete his last year of studies.

During his internship at the locks Kris performed a variety of duties including the set up of a REMR inspection database for all the respective branches. Kris also performed field inspections on the North Dike at the powerhouse, and at the Compensating Works. Kris performed his duties independently and accomplished a great deal.

Owing to the tremendous success of Kris and his efforts, the Facilities Management student intern partnership between Ferris State University and the Soo Area Office has commenced on a highly positive note. 



## Army Suggestion Program Seeking Participants



The district is still in need of new ideas and improvements in efficiency. The number of suggestions in FY 2001, was down from previous years. The new procedures were supposed to increase the efficiency in evaluations, and decrease the time for finalizing the suggestion process. Due to some offices being shorthanded, some

evaluations were not completed in a timely manner. In Fiscal year 2002, the evaluators will be given an incentive to complete evaluations by the due date because a token will be given for evaluations completed on time. I'm looking forward to a lot of good suggestions for FY 2002, so get ready, get set, and **let's get started writing.** 

### What is the Army Ideas for Excellence Program (AIEP)?

It is designed to solicit suggestions to implement ideas and changes, make improvements of management within the Government, and encourage employees to improve present policy, practices, and regulatory constraints. Army Regulation AR 5-17 governs the AIEP. The AIEP is administered entirely on the basis of merit, without regard to age, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, or physical or mental handicap. Participation is entirely voluntary. Active promotion of the AIEP is the responsibility of all levels of command. 

# Grand Haven Volunteers Help Build School Playground

## "TGIF"

That is what the teachers and principal from Maplewood Elementary School in Holland were thinking on August 24th. That was the day that volunteers from the community - including three employees from the Grand Haven Area Office - got together to assemble some playground equipment for the school.

"We do have a 'conductor' hired for the project" indicated Dan Day, the principal at Maplewood. But, he needed workers to assist in the assembly of the playground "kit". And so he started calling around. One of his first calls was to a fellow principal at VanRaalte School where a similar situation had taken place in 1996. She indicated that engineers and construction representatives from the Corps of Engineers had helped and suggested calling.

Over the years, Ross Kittleman, the Area Engineer, has supported such volunteer efforts and community outreach programs. GHAO employees have been active in both their local communities and throughout West Michigan, both as volunteers supporting anything from blood drives to community clean-up days and as employees promoting science and engineering fairs and events within the community. "Our presence in the community better helps us do our primary job when the need arises."

So, when the question went up, several people volunteered



Dear Pat, Ross and Kevin,

How can we begin to thank you for coming on Friday and working so hard so long on the playground! Today was the first half-day and it was a pleasure to see the faces of the students enjoying the new structures.

Many thanks for taking the time, caring and bringing your expertise/experience with you. Your dedication to bettering communities is commended!

Sincerely,  
Dan Day, Principal

to take a day of annual leave to help out. Due to shifting schedules, only Ross Kittleman, Kevin McNally, and Pat Klever eventually were able to make it. As time neared, Day indicated that there would be "20+" volunteers. However, on "assembly day", there were probably closer to 40 people who showed up at various

times. Volunteers from Maplewood Church, retirees, school parents, and the Holland High 9th grade soccer team dug holes, pre-assembled units, mixed concrete, spread mulch, and bolted it all together. McNally summed up the thoughts of the group when he said "It is a pleasure to be associated with something

*Among those working on the playground are Ross Kittleman, Pat Klever and Dan Day, the principal of Maplewood Elementary.*

that kids will enjoy for many years to come. It really makes your hard efforts seem worthwhile." Klever added, "In some sense, this is really what government should be about ... people getting together to help other people to do what cannot be done all alone by individuals."

"Today was the first half-day and it was a pleasure to see the faces of the students enjoying the new structures." Dan Day wrote in a thank you to the three. "Many thanks for taking the time, caring and bringing your expertise/experience with you." Day asked how he could thank the Corps employees for working so long and hard. The three agreed that doing it was thanks enough. 

# Detroit District Selected for National Demonstration Project

A proposal submitted by Great Lakes Hydraulics and Hydrology Office was selected among dozens of proposals to participate in a program to demonstrate innovative methods of shore protection. This 5-year project will examine the effectiveness of bluff dewatering as an alternative form of shore protection. The most common methods of shore protection typically consist of a stone revetment or steel sheet-pile bulkhead. The bluff dewatering concept will use passive and active wells located on the bluff face to remove water from the confined layers. The removed water will relieve internal stresses believed to be partly responsible for the failure of the bluff.

Three locations in Allegan County, MI have been selected as demonstration sites. Monitoring and dewatering

equipment will be installed over the next year. Any bluff movements will be monitored and recorded with a series of electronic devices located within the bluff face.

This project evolved out of a partnership between Detroit District's H&H Office and the Department of Geosciences at Western Michigan University. WMU has been monitoring bluff failures in Allegan County for many years and is among the premier geoscience departments in the country. If this technology is proven to be successful, a new shore protection approach would be available to property owners and coastal managers throughout much of the Great Lakes. The cost of this approach is approximately 1/3 the cost of a hardened structure. 



Professor Ron Chase (WMU) explains bluff failure mechanisms to a group of WES engineers and visiting scientists. The bluff in the background is one of the proposed demonstration sites.



Professor Chase describes the data obtained from the monitoring well in the foreground.



Location of one of the proposed demonstration sites.

## The "EFFECT" Was Experienced

It became official on 17 May 2001, when the doors opened for the grand opening of the exhibit 'The Lake Effect: Superior's Influence' at the Marquette County History Museum. A gala attended by City of Marquette officials, museum supporters, exhibitors, and the general public and media. There was no red carpet or the glitter of a Hollywood opening, just the backdrop of a Lake Superior sunset.

However, fireworks were provided by a brief thunderstorm that interrupted the live, on the scene, weather forecast.

Nature's festivities outside the museum, as if on cue, emphasized the theme of the exhibit, especially for those museum goers that were scurrying from their cars to the shelter of the museum during a momentary summer downpour.

*(continued on page 11)*



# Regional Sediment Management Demonstration Program

The Great Lakes Regional Sediment Management (RSM) Demonstration Program was initiated by the Corps of Engineers, Detroit District in FY 2001 in conjunction with the Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory in Vicksburg, Mississippi under the authority of Section 516, WRDA 1996. By gaining state and local government support for policies that help protect the unique Great Lakes environment, RSM will strive to address weaknesses in current coastal management practices. RSM refers to the management of nearshore, estuarine, and riverine sediment within physical, not political, boundaries where sediment exchange occurs naturally. A "region" may include a variety of beaches, bluffs, inlets, rivers, estuaries, bays, and communities. Implementation of RSM recognizes that a coastal system is made up of many interconnected ecosystems. Affecting one ecosystem can alter how the rest of the coastal system functions.

The Great Lakes RSM Demonstration Site being studied spans north from Burns Waterway, Indiana to

Ludington, Michigan (See Figure 1). This 186-mile region contains 12 Federal structures and 1 private jetty system at Port Sheldon, Michigan. The region is the focus of an array of coastal issues including erosion and bluff recession. By identifying key stakeholders, forming partnerships with state and local agencies and obtaining available coastal data, we will gain a better understanding of regional and local processes while approaching efficient sediment management.

Through the acceptance and use of RSM practices, the Corps of Engineers would like to accomplish the following:

- A reduction in harbor maintenance costs by altering existing dredge practices.
- Improvement of beach quality and recreational use by implementing non-intrusive sand bypassing policies.
- Investigation of the "Sand Bank" trust system where private homeowners and/or communities can combine funds to finance beach nourishment projects to provide environ-

mentally friendly shore protection.

- The development of a centralized web site and GIS Database to keep people informed of regional issues and provide a rich data set that can be used by all regional stakeholders.
- Locate coastal "Hot Spots" and address their issues accordingly.
- Efficient use of sediment material to create, restore and enhance aquatic habitats.

RSM increases collaboration and improves decision-making between stakehold-

ers within the coastal region. RSM is intended to provide improved information on environmental, economic and social consequences of proposed projects as well as understand potential trade-offs. RSM will result in partnerships and the joining of resources for the betterment of the Great Lakes. However, only through support by the Great Lakes coastal community can RSM achieve improvements to current coastal management policies.

For more information please feel free to contact Phil Ross or Scott Thieme.



*(EFFECT continued from page 10)*

As advertised the exhibit displayed the history of the Marquette area and the north shore of the Upper Peninsula from the perspective of the influence Lake Superior has had on area culture and development. Experienced was insight into early Native American culture, establishment of

settlements by explorers and missionaries, fur trapping and trade routes, discovery of mineral wealth, harvesting of the timber, to the influence the Lake has had on area populations and activities of present day. The exhibit also empha-

*(continued on page 15)*

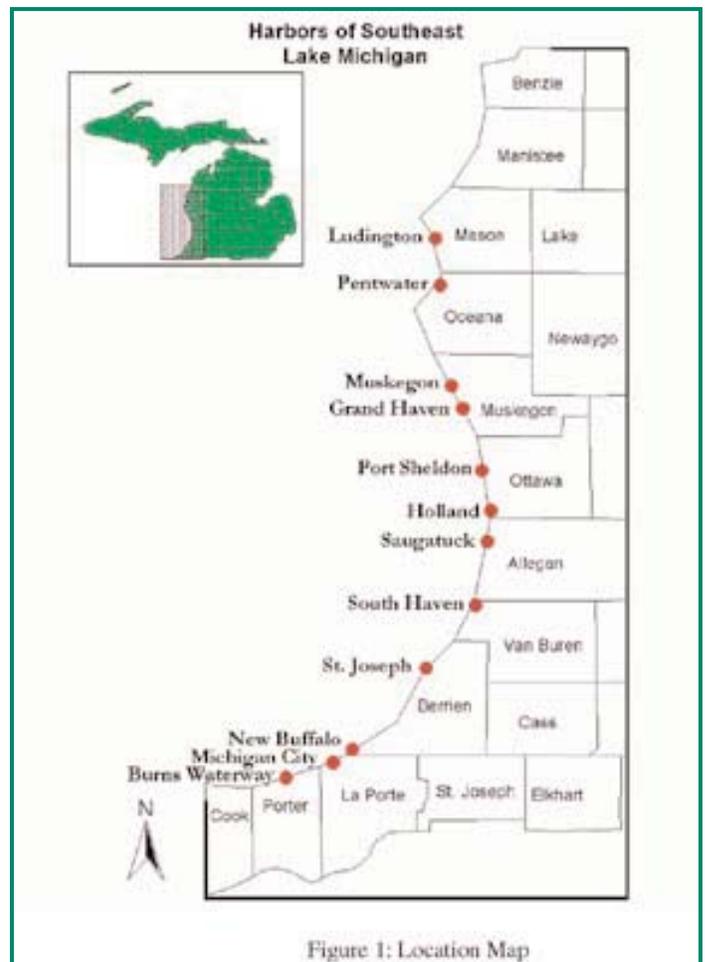


Figure 1: Location Map

# Gold in Cedar River, MI

By Tom Johnson, Kewaunee A.O

Is it true, did the Corps really discover gold in Cedar River, MI? Well, not really...but sometimes you need to look beyond the glitter of gold to find real value.

Cedar River Harbor is a small boat harbor located on Lake Michigan about 30 miles South of Escanaba, MI. In 1999, the East Pier was reconstructed under the supervision of the Kewaunee Area Office. Some of the lessons learned during that project would be ultimately carried over to result in a substantial cost savings for the current West Pier reconstruction.

Both projects are similar in that the old piers, consisting of slab wood, fill stone, and wood piling, would be removed and replaced with new rubble mound structures. During the construction of the East Pier, disposal



of the old debris became a sticky issue due to the lack of a disposal site and resulted in a costly modification to resolve.

Determined to avoid this issue for the West Pier construction, the designers (A-E) proposed requiring the contractor to landfill the existing structure. With a \$50/ton tipping fee, and an estimated 12,000 tons of debris, it became very obvi-

ous that we needed to achieve some cost savings by finding a better way of doing business.

The solution was to require the contractor to sort the materials and recycle. Currently, the old debris is excavated with a backhoe and stockpiled. A separate contractor is on site and working to sort the material into three separate piles consisting of riprap stone,

clean sand, and wood. The riprap stone is then placed as bedding stone into the new project, thereby eliminating the need to purchase much of the required bedding stone, and resulting in further savings. The clean sand is hauled to a nearby beach site resulting in an improved beach. The timber is hauled to the landfill, but represents a small proportion of the total excavation.

How much money that will ultimately be saved remains to be seen, but already substantial costs savings have been reaped, probably in excess of \$200,000 had the debris been landfilled. So sometimes one man's garbage is another man's gold.

Current sorting operations at Cedar River Harbor, MI.



# Keeping the Lights On in Duluth

By Thom Holden

With cooperation of the U.S. Coast Guard, the Lake Superior Marine Museum Association, Lampist Jim Dunlap, volunteer Peter Valencia, and Builders Commonwealth of Duluth, the historic lighthouse lens at the Duluth Visitor Center is getting close to relighting.

The lens is a 5th Order classical Fresnel lens with six flash panels (bulls-eyes) complete with its original clockworks. Barbier & Benard of Paris manufactured the lens in 1896. Its home was the Duluth Ship Canal's Inner Range Light,

square pyramidal skeleton tower with an enclosed staircase. The lens was removed in 1995 because it had gotten into disrepair and was replaced by a newer design. Later, the U.S. Coast Guard offered the lens as a long-term loan to the Visitor Center.

This past summer the Museum Association was able to fund the restoration. Association President Bruce VonRiedel said it was "their pleasure to be able to fund such a significant project" after two successful fundraising events this past

year. New York Lampist Jim Dunlap came to do the work in mid-August assisted by wife Rita and granddaughter Alex. Jim said the lens was "young for its age," meaning it was in excellent condition. While the lens was being restored, workers from Builders Commonwealth built a new concrete base for the lens and moved the heavy clockworks base to the new exhibit case. The lens was reassembled in its new home and Peter Valencia of New Orleans began

(continued on next page)



# Highest Lake Level Anyone Can Remember at Lake Nebagamon, Wisconsin

By Curt Goltz, Duluth Area Office

I'd personally like to thank the Detroit District, for allowing me to work on a flooding disaster near my front door. In late April 2001, the residence of Douglas County, Wisconsin received over 10 inches of rain in three days. This rain caused numerous roads to wash out. On Monday April 22, a culvert near my house (at the bottom of a road thru a ravine) became blocked with debris and 20 some feet of water backed up behind it; the water topped over the road, washed out the other side and the two sides met as the now acting dam let go. A wall of water, some 5 feet high and 150 wide came through, adjacent to my back yard. My three neighbors to the west where inundated with water and sand and mud. The middle house was knocked off its foundation and later declared uninhabitable.

This inflow of water, along with the other points of inflow around the lake, raised levels to an all time high. On Tuesday April 23, Douglas County emergency coordinator Mr. Keith Kessler, had numerous calls from lake shore property owners, concerned with the still rising water levels of the lake. On Wednesday, I was sent with a trailer of sandbags and plastic to aid my neighbors construct dikes to protect several lake homes, many with water within inches of entering their homes.

I have participated in several disaster operations, and there is great deal of satisfaction helping those who need assistance. It was especially rewarding this time to be allowed to help my fellow neighbors. To use the knowledge I've learned working other floods to save homes that belong to friends. 



Photos by Curt Goltz.

(Lights continued from page 12)

the task of shining the brass. "There are parts of this that probably hadn't been polished in decades," said Peter, adding, "Some parts that are shining now didn't even look like they were brass when I started." Thanks to everyone, the brass is brighter every day and the lens will be ready for lighting next spring. 

## Learn to Master Stress so It Doesn't Become Your Master

### DO

- ✓ Approach situations like a problem solver, not a victim.
- ✓ Put matters in perspective; every problem isn't a crisis.
- ✓ Maintain self-confidence.
- ✓ Adopt a cooperative work style.
- ✓ Accept that no one is perfect.
- ✓ Forgive yourself (and others) for making mistakes.
- ✓ Set priorities and tackle tasks in an organized way.
- ✓ Find a constructive way to express anger or concerns.
- ✓ Exercise - walk, join a health club, take up a sport.
- ✓ Get enough rest.
- ✓ Laugh as often as possible.
- ✓ Get professional help if you're having trouble handling stress.

### DON'T

- ✗ React to every problem as if it's a crisis.
- ✗ Take work-related problems or situations personally.
- ✗ Be a "control freak."
- ✗ Be afraid to make a mistake.
- ✗ Blow up at yourself or others.
- ✗ Try to assign blame.
- ✗ Expect the worst.
- ✗ Worry about the unknown future.
- ✗ Suffer in silence.
- ✗ Withdraw from potentially stressful situations or people.
- ✗ Use alcohol or other drugs to reduce stress.

# Copper Slab

Contributions by John Larson, Duluth Area Office

A slab of pure copper ore weighing 33,000 lbs. (16.5 tons) is now on display at the Michigan Technological University (MTU), thanks to a Detroit District barge crew from the Duluth Area Office. The crew raised the gigantic rare block of copper from the bottom of Lake Superior and hauled it to shore for display in MTU's Seaman Mineral Museum.

"It's all in one piece – no stresses, no strains," said project coordinator Bob Barron, facilities manager for MTU's geology department. Barron discovered the boulder a decade ago and has worked since then to retrieve it.

It's rare to come across unburied copper slabs of this size, even underwater, according to officials of the Seaman Mineral Museum. The boulder, which lay nearly one mile offshore in 30 feet of water, was lifted onto the Detroit District derrick barge *H.L. Schwartz* by a crane with a built-in scale.

The *Schwartz's* dynamoelectric weighing system topped-out the slab at 33,000 pounds. The slab measures more than 18 feet long, eight feet wide, and 15 inches thick. The predominant color is a light green, with patches of brown and purple. According to museum officials, it is the biggest chunk of copper ever pulled from the lake, and one of the world's largest copper specimens on display.

A 20-ton jack lifted the boulder and heavy-duty nylon straps were slipped underneath. The crew on the derrick barge attached their crane to the straps and brought the boulder to the

surface. The boulder was transferred to a flatbed truck and taken to the museum.

The museum is in Houghton, Mich., on Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula. Mining was a way of life on the Keweenaw Peninsula for more than a century because, according to museum experts, no place on Earth has so much pure copper in the ground.

Volcanic activity millions of years ago created vast deposits of copper on the Keweenaw, which juts out 80 miles into Lake Superior in the northwestern corner of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. American Indians mined copper between 3,000 and 7,000 years ago, using it for weapons and tools. White explorers discovered it anew in the mid-1800s, touching off a mineral rush and economic boom.



Mining ended in the region in the late 1960s. Although there is more copper underground, producing it is too costly to compete with open-pit operations elsewhere.

The copper boulder will become the centerpiece of the Seaman Mineral Museum. "It's a gorgeous hunk of Keweenaw," said Barron. "It's

one of the natural wonders that you just can't find anywhere else but the state of Michigan."

*Photos by Dean Woodbeck, director of news/information at Michigan Technological University*

*John Larson, Duluth Area Office, contributed to this article. *

## Corps Speaks...

**Kathleen Moore** of our Office of Counsel, along with Susan Nee of HQ Counsel, were this year's recipients of the E. Manning Seltzer Award for their efforts on the Fox River Transfer Agreement.

This award is presented every other year "In recognition of special and significant contributions to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers legal services mission, symbolizing the continuing tradition established by Mr. E. Manning Seltzer." 

**Thomas Freitag** of the Permit Evaluation Branch B gave a half-hour long presentation at a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Environmental Assessment Seminar in Flint, Michigan on July 31, 2001. Approximately 50 people from HUD offices in Michigan attended the seminar. The presentation was on the Regulatory Program and wetlands. 

On May 24th, **Pat Klever**, Chief of Operations in Grand Haven, gave a lake levels presentation at the

weekly luncheon meeting of the Lion's Club of St. Joseph, MI. 

On August 1st, Pat Klever from the Grand Haven Area Office spoke at the Dedication Ceremony for the newly installed pier safety devices at the north pier in Frankfort. The community funded and installed life rings, throw ropes, an emergency call box, and an educational display. Actions were started after the death of 11 year old Caleb Sutter last June. 

*Corps Speaks* (continued)

**Nancy Peterson** and **Bill Seib** led a project on wetlands for an Ann Arbor (Michigan) Girl Scout troop on August 21, 2001. The Cadette Scouts were attending a three day camp at Camp Hilltop in Ann Arbor and working on getting a wetland/watershed patch. At the camp we first discussed wetlands and their importance, looked at some macroinvertebrates, studied a topographical map of the area and reviewed food webs and animals that utilize wetlands. Then Nancy and Bill led the troop and their leaders to the nearby Huron River to do a wetland test pit, look for macroinvertebrates in the river and look at watershed features. 



## CFC Campaign Kickoff

**O**n Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2001 we began our 2001 Combined Federal Campaign with a "Kick-Off" which was held at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1515. The presentation addressed new information on this year's campaign, which included a list of some of the local and national organizations directly connected with disaster relief. 

**O**n May 2, 2001, **Dr. Steve Sprecher** from the Corps of Engineers South Bend Field Office shared some of his extensive knowledge of soils, specifically hydric field indicators, with Regulatory personnel. Dr. Sprecher formerly worked at WES in Vicksburg, MS as a soil scientist. 



## IN MEMORIAM

### RONALD SHEFFIELD

*Federal Protective Services*

**O**fficer Ronald Sheffield was well liked, respected and relied upon heavily. He was an able civil servant, and trusted in his work to protect the workforce and assets of the U.S. Government. That trust was not misplaced. On Friday, September 21, 2001, true to his character and responsibility, he protected the employees of the Patrick V. McNamara Building with his life. The Detroit District is stunned by his loss. On that day, the federal workforce lost a colleague, friend and protector. We deeply share in the grief of his family. We remain eternally indebted for his protection.

*The miracle, or the power, that elevates the few is to be found in their industry, application, and perseverance under the prompting of a brave, determined spirit – Mark Twain*

(EFFECT continued from page 11)

sized the effect the human presence has had on the Lake from this growth and the subsequent shoreline development. A number of displays demonstrated efforts being conducted by volunteers and governments to regulate the effect we are having on Lake Superior's environment.

The Corps' exhibit of the Soo Locks was of special interest to many of the visitors, particularly the scale of the engineering feat and the opportunities it has afforded

the area by providing a shipping connection to the rest of the Great Lakes. Of course, in light of the recent fluctuation of lake levels, crowds were also drawn to the Corps' Lake Level display.

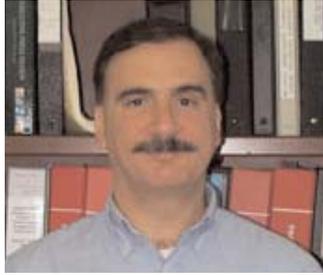
The exhibit will remain available for viewing until the spring of 2002. The Museum is located at 213 North Front Street, Marquette, and information regarding visiting hours can be obtained by calling (906) 226-3571. 

## Employees of the Month

MAY

### Carmen Paris

Mr. Carmen Paris, Engineer Draftsman at the Soo Area Office, has been tasked with providing historical data, historical drawings, and any other information requested by the Huntington District Design Team for the new lock at the Soo. Mr. Paris has provided a significant amount of information requested by the design team while continuing to accomplish his normal duties. In addition to providing the requested documents, Mr. Paris, as a history buff, was able to provide information to the team that nobody else could provide from the Soo Area Office. Mr. Paris has a positive can do attitude and enthusiasm for taking on new tasks and is a credit to the Soo Area Office and the Corps of Engineers.



THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE. 

JULY

### Paul Allerding

Paul Allerding (Environmental Analysis Br) was given several "hot potato" projects that without his dedication, perseverance and hard work, may not have ended as successfully as they did. St. Joseph Harbor was in danger of closing due to the shoaling and low water level. Paul closely coordinated with the locals, the State of Michigan and in-house in successfully obtaining a disposal site that was put forward by the locals so that dredging could be performed. In addition Paul was the Environmental PM of the high profile, Congressionally watched Grand Valley State Section 14 project. The EA was completed even though this high visibility project required patience and perseverance which Paul had in spite of the many last many changes. Paul is an asset to his organization in addition to the Detroit District Corps of Engineers.



THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE. 

JUNE

### Clarence Cadreau

Clarence Cadreau (Soo Area Office) has been tasked with keeping the Soo's oil inventory at the lowest possible level. Through his efforts in working with a local vendor, the stock level was reduced dramatically. He set up a just-in-time delivery for many hard to get oil products which resulted in a higher quality product and allowed the Soo Area Office to lessen the risk of environmental hazards. Mr. Cadreau is a pleasure for coworkers to work with and an asset to the Soo Area Office and Detroit District Corps of Engineers.



THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE. 

## Welcome new employees

*As of 1 June permanent employees for the District:*

Patric Kuhne, *Civil Engineer, ETS, Contract Management Branch*  
 Jihad Safa, *Civil Engineer, ETS, Design Branch*  
 James Hoff, *Geographer, ETS, Watershed Hydrology Branch*  
 Nora Donahue, *Budget Analyst, ETS, Management Support Office*  
 Kerry Kuhne, *Biologist, ETS, Regulatory Office*  
 Christopher Yee, *Biologist, Regulatory Office*  
 Sandra Horton, *Biologist, Regulatory Office*  
 Bryan Rintamaki, *Power Plant Operator Trainee, Soo Area Office*  
 Willard Nolan, *Tugboat Operator, Soo Area Office*  
 William Stratton, *Power Plant Operator Trainee, Soo Area Office*  
 John Laitinen III, *Master-Large Tugboat, Kewaunee Area Office*



 For those of you who haven't heard....  
**Heather Calappi** had a baby girl Thursday, July 5th at 11:20 am. Her name is Emily Dawn and she weighs 8.5 lbs and 21 inches long.

Both the mother and daughter are doing well.

 **Eric Tauriainen** (H&H) and his wife Karen are the proud parents of a baby girl. Jessica Ann-

Marie was born at 11:25 pm on May 19. She weighed in at 8 pounds 3 ounces and was 20-3/4 inches long. Everyone is doing fine. Congratulations to the Tauriainen family! 