

CommunityMatters

for friends and neighbors of the Pine Bend Refinery



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92 Tons Of Work

Chad Pregracke (pictured) and some 1150 volunteers piled more than 92 tons of trash and debris onto this barge, and two others just like it, during an eight-day Mississippi River cleanup effort in June. The Mississippi River Relief – Big River Cleanup covered 43 river miles and was coordinated by Pregracke who has led scores of community cleanups along various rivers. Flint Hills' employees spent a day canvassing eight miles of riverfront as part of the overall cleanup project. See pages 4 and 5 for details.

Photo taken by John Sucansky, printed courtesy of This Week Newspapers

Memorable Community Events

My two favorite community events took place this spring: the Discovery Scholarship Banquet and our Community Partners Luncheon.

The best thing about both events is that I get to meet new neighbors as well as reacquaint myself with old friends. I always leave both gatherings feeling proud to be part of a community that is rich in spirit and committed to building a better future.

This marked the fourth year we hosted our Community Partners Luncheon. The event offers Flint Hills Resources an opportunity to report to our key stakeholders – community leaders, government officials, neighbors, employees and customers – on our progress in the areas of environment, safety, our products and community investment initiatives. (Look for photographs from the event held at the Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul, inside on page 6.)

I was pleased our president Dave Robertson joined us again this year. He and Don Maher, Chair of Dakota County Board of Commissioners, unveiled plans for a new interpretive



Jeff Wilkes

trail in Lebanon Hills Regional Park. The trail will be completed early next year enabling visitors to take a self-guided tour of the park's surroundings. (Details on Flint Hills' contribution are outlined on page 6.)

I'm inspired by the enthusiasm and determination of our Discovery Scholarship winners. We celebrated the achievements of 22 young adults who accomplished incredible things during their high school years. This marks the 10th year the refinery has awarded scholarships to area students. I can't imagine a better way to invest for the future. The back

page has details on the banquet and Discovery winners.

I continue to welcome feedback and thoughts from our *Community Matters* readers and look forward to seeing you at upcoming community gatherings.

Jeff Wilkes,
Refinery Manager and
Vice President of Minnesota Operations

INSIDE THE REFINERY

Wastewater Treatment Plant Reaches Milestone

Employees who work with Pine Bend Refinery's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) celebrated this spring when they reached an important milestone by going three straight years discharging wastewater below permit limits set by regulatory agencies.

"This is a significant achievement for us," said Jeff Wilkes, refinery manager and vice president of Minnesota Operations for Flint Hills Resources. "With the combined efforts of the entire refinery, we've made the necessary changes and adjustments to operate our wastewater treatment plant in a manner that helped us maximize operations and as a result achieve this impressive level of industry performance."

Pine Bend's wastewater treatment plant operates under a National Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit established through the Clean Water Act. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has authority over the refinery's NPDES permit. A NPDES permit establishes rules facilities must follow when discharging treated wastewater into the Mississippi River. The permit requires treated water to meet high quality standards before it can be released from the plant.

Since 1999, Pine Bend has successfully passed 10 toxicity tests and met all other NPDES permit requirements for treated water quality. Various refinery and WWTP changes helped the refinery reach this milestone:



The right attitude, knowledge and initiative helped Flint Hills employees reach a milestone with the refinery's wastewater treatment plant. For three consecutive years, water discharged from the plant into the Mississippi River not only met water treatment limits, but it was actually at a higher quality level than required by regulatory permits. Flint Hills employees pictured here represent a handful of the men and women committed to helping the refinery achieve top-notch performance.

- monthly training programs and open communication help WWTP operators maintain current knowledge of WWTP operations
- proactive reliability programs ensure timely wastewater treatment plant maintenance
- close attention from the environmental and process labs help validate and optimize the plant's operations
- procedural changes during scheduled refinery maintenance work or "turnarounds"

According to Judd Moorhouse, water compliance system owner, the entire refinery team deserves credit for the accomplishment. "Employees' initiative, attitude and conscientious behaviors have been the key to reaching this level of performance. Significant improvements in managing the waste sent to the WWTP has allowed us to perform this well."

The three-year record of meeting permit requirements, along with wastewater plant upgrades, helped the refinery reduce its water emissions by 65 percent from 1997 to 2000.

Neighborhood News

Little Hands Extend a Big Thank You

During the 2001-02 school year, more than 3,000 Dakota County first- through fifth-graders took part in the Science Museum of Minnesota's School Outreach Program sponsored by Flint Hills. The program enables students to explore science through a hands-on learning program taught by Science Museum educators. The program includes a field trip to the Museum where children take in various exhibits and conduct their own experiments.



Rosemount Parade

Everybody loves a parade – including Flint Hills employees, retirees and their family members who turned out to show their community spirit at Rosemount's famous Leprechaun Days festivities last month. The Blue Planet® Volkswagen Beetle cruised the parade route, while employees handed out Blue Planet T-shirts, Frisbees and key chains along the way.



Fine Feathered Friends



Refinery employees, family members and friends volunteered their time, talents and tools this spring to build 26 new birdhouses with hopes to lure more native bird species to the Pine Bend Bluffs neighborhood.

The "new development" was built for Bluebirds, Kestrels and Barred Owls as well as some additional bird species around the Pine Bend Bluffs, a 78-acre

section of land owned by Flint Hills Resources. John Bowman, Pine Bend digital maintenance supervisor, worked with employees and scout troops to construct and place the houses. Joel Mielke, systems manager, organized a program to monitor the birds and track their eggs and fledglings.

"This has been a great employee effort," said Paul Wright, Pine Bend analytical reliability engineer and Bluffs volunteer liaison. "As more people get involved with the Bluffs restoration efforts, we're able to make a broader impact. It's very gratifying to see the progress."

In addition to the birdhouse blitz, Flint Hills employees have spent hours clearing the site of invasive plant species and participated in seed-collecting and planting events.

Help Reduce Ozone

Cleaner air means better health for Minnesotans and our environment. That's why the American Lung Association of Minnesota (ALAMN) offers these tips to help improve air quality

by reducing ground-level ozone pollution. Especially during summer months, ozone can damage lung tissue and puts additional stress on the respiratory system particularly with elderly persons and children. Ozone is a secondary pollutant that forms when volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) interact together in heat and sunlight. These pollutants are emitted from vehicles, small engines, power plants and industries. Here's how you can help reduce ozone:

- Purchase environment-friendly fuels, such as low-sulfur Blue Planet® gasoline.
- Consider low-emission vehicles when you buy, lease or rent.
- Refuel cars late in the day to limit daytime pollution releases and afternoon ozone formation.
- Don't top off your fuel tank as this leads to spills and more evaporative emissions.



- Keep all engines – such as lawn mowers and chainsaws – well-maintained.
- When purchasing lawn equipment, such as weed trimmers, look for models featuring a 4-cycle engine vs. a 2-cycle engine; they release less pollutants into the atmosphere.
- If your job allows, consider telecommuting one or more days per week.

Community Comments

... For families who are struggling to keep up with the demands of daily life, it may be hard to see there is light ahead. Thank you for your gift of 1,000 pounds of food and \$500 from PACE Union 7-662 in support of CAC's Food Pantry. Your support will help more families reach their brighter days.

With regards,
Mary Ajax, president/CEO
Community Action Council, Lakeville

I'd like to personally thank Flint Hills Resources for sponsoring the Science Museum of Minnesota residency program. All of my students enjoyed the assembly, classes and field trip. We truly appreciate your support of this program!

Sincerely,
Maria Therres
St. John – Vermillion

Thank you for your continued support of the Y Partners Program and the YMCA. In 2001, the YMCA gave out over \$150,000 in financial assistance to kids and families. I know that number will continue to grow. Thanks again for your help.

Tim Staley, district vice president
YMCA of Greater St. Paul

Thanks for all Flint Hills Resources is doing to help us protect, preserve and restore Minnesota's last great places.

Rob McKim, state director
The Nature Conservancy of Minnesota

Thank you for allowing the Dakota County Sheriff's Office Tactical Unit to conduct training exercises on your property, which provided an excellent training experience for our tactical officers. The entire team commented on the fact that using this property is a great benefit. Again, thank you.

Jason Lindner, deputy sheriff
Dakota County

Thanks so much for all that you do to further the partnership between DARTS and Flint Hills Resources. All of us at DARTS are so grateful.

Warm regards,
Jan Needham, major gifts officer
DARTS

I just wanted to take a second to say thank you for your support and the scholarship banquet. I'll say it again; the money Flint Hills Resources has invested in me is a testament of commitment to the community by Flint Hills...investments pay off.

Mike Wiese
Eagan High School graduate and
Flint Hills 2002 Discovery
Scholarship recipient

Big River Cleanup Yields Incredible Results

One hundred Flint Hills employees traded their refinery gear for insect repellent, sunscreen and lifejackets on Wednesday, June 26 as part of a company-wide effort to help cleanup the Mississippi River. Environmental steward Chad Pregracke and his six-member crew led the Mississippi River Relief - Big River Cleanup. The team travels the country rallying people to join in their cause and help restore rivers to their natural beauty. The Mississippi River project was sponsored in part by Flint Hills and included a weeklong, 43-mile cleanup encompassing shoreline from Prescott, Wis. to Saint Paul.

Rollin' On The River

Employees focused on a eight-mile stretch of river and island shoreline located along the Pine Bend Bluffs natural area.

While their day off was paid, it was anything but vacation, according to Don Kern, Pine Bend employee and volunteer liaison for the cleanup. Employees were amazed to find discarded items such as couches, 55-gallon drums and even

a houseboat that had to be dismantled with a chainsaw.

"It was hard work. On average, each person filled five large garbage bags with everything from plastic bottles and tires to Styrofoam and tennis balls," said Kern.

Kern and several employees coordinating Flint Hills' effort planned the day with safety in mind. "We had a full safety plan in place in case of an emergency including first-aid kits, two-way communication and a buddy system. Everything went well, and everyone felt good about the work we accomplished."

92 Tons Total

Once collected, debris was placed onto one of three barges that served as the central collection site. Over the course of the week, volunteers gathered more than 92 tons of garbage. Thirty-six percent of the material – including tires, scrap metal, glass and plastic – was recycled. The rest was made into pellets to be burned for electricity.

"The Mississippi River is a national treasure; we should treat it like a natural park," said Anne Hunt, Big River Cleanup coordinator. "This has made a huge difference, with more 1,150 volunteers total, each one picking up an average of 135 pounds – this cleanup was an overwhelming success. I think it was an eye-opener for many volunteers to realize how much trash is discarded along the riverbanks or washes into the river through the storm sewers."



Pine Bend Refinery employees (from left to right) Steve Vance, Annie Forsberg, Basant Ahluwalia, Loren Thompson and Ime Udo display some of the garbage they collected along the Mississippi River as part of the Mississippi River Relief – Big River Cleanup. Approximately 100 Flint Hills employees received a paid day off from the company. In exchange, they used their muscle and might to collect nearly 500 bags of trash along the river shoreline.



Big River Cleanup



(Above) Craig Dressel pulls a tire from the Mississippi River. In all, 1,634 car tires were collected during the week-long river cleanup.

(Above) Small boats served as mini trash collection sites along the river. Refinery volunteers piled discarded trash onto the boats as they made their way along eight miles of shoreline. Once the boats were filled, employees motored over to a central collection site to load the trash on a river barge.

Coming Together For The Cause

Hunt cited two factors contributing to the project's overall success. "More than 50 partners, including corporations, non-profit groups, civic agencies and environmental organizations, completed the largest Mississippi River cleanup on record. It was impressive that partnering corporations, like Flint Hills Resources, didn't just help fund the effort. Their employees actually signed-on, too, and played an integral role. The event brought together a lot of groups and people from various backgrounds all for a great cause."

Hunt also noted the leadership and infectious enthusiasm of Chad Pregracke, the 27-year-old man responsible for the Mississippi River cleanup effort. "Chad spirited the cause. He's very charismatic and passionate about his work."

Pregracke, a native of East Moline, Ill., is nationally known for filling barges with discarded tires, refrigerators, 55-gallon drums and other rubbish pulled from America's rivers. In total, Pregracke has removed 400,000 pounds of trash from the rivers since 1997.

According to the Audubon's Upper Mississippi River Campaign, the Mississippi River is the source of more than one-third of the metro area drinking water and home to more than 400 species of fish, birds and wildlife.

For details on Pregracke's environmental stewardship, visit www.cleanrivers.com.



(Above) Eric Mathiesen, Greg Most and Tom Duea gather debris from the Mississippi River shoreline.

Talking Trash

In all, here are some examples of what 1,150 volunteers pulled from the Mississippi River corridor during the 8-day cleanup, June 22-30:

- 1,634 car tires
- 16.6 tons of metal
- 20 55-gallon drums
- 24 propane tanks
- 3 houseboats
- 4.9 tons of Styrofoam
- 5 refrigerators
- 5 bicycles
- 1 snowblower
- 1 vacuum cleaner

(Left) Three barges were topped off with 92 tons of trash over the course of the eight-day cleanup. Here, one barge stops near the Pine Bend Refinery so employee volunteers could pile on the bags they filled. A total of 36 percent of the collected material was recycled. The remainder was made into pellets to be burned for electricity.

(Below) At the close of a long but productive day, some volunteers were amazed with what they'd uncovered. Pine Bend employees collected everything from Styrofoam and plastic bottles to an abandon houseboat and 55-gallon drums. Much of the trash either had washed down storm sewers or was improperly disposed of by river users.



2002 Community Partners Luncheon

Flint Hills Resources' Pine Bend Refinery celebrated its fourth annual Community Partners Luncheon on April 19. More than 150 friends, neighbors, community members, employees, customers and civic leaders attended the event that took place at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul.

A. Children's Home Society of Minnesota representatives Jerry Jackson (far left), Donna King and Kimberly Morgan are pictured with Jeff Wilkes, Flint Hills Resources vice president and refinery manager



B. Flint Hills Resources President Dave Robertson pictured with Dakota County Commissioners Don Maher and Will Branning

C. Mary Hamann-Roland, Apple Valley mayor

D. (left to right) Nancy Ludwig, Dakota County Technical College Foundation, Mark Jacobs, Dakota County and Molly Schultz, Northern Dakota County Chamber of Commerce

E. Patti Dalen-Leisinger (left) and Alisa Rabin-Bell from Regions Hospital

F. Allen Wright (left), Flint Hills Resources, and State Senator John Hottinger

G. David Olson, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

H. Rob Buefler (left), Great River Greening, and Mayme Johnson and Jim Fitzpatrick from Carpenter Nature Center



COMMUNITY GIVING

A Big Step Forward For Lebanon Hills Interpretive Trail

Construction is underway for a mile-long interpretive trail at Dakota County's popular Lebanon Hills Regional Park. Flint Hills Resources and Dakota County unveiled plans for the trail project at the company's fourth annual Community Partners Luncheon last spring.

Interpretive signs along the trail route will enable visitors to take a self-guided tour year round. Information about habitats and other natural park features will be updated with the changing seasons.

Flint Hills' funding is part of the company's tradition of supporting park and recreation projects in communities around the Pine Bend refinery, including Rosemount, Inver Grove Heights and Hastings. Lebanon Hills is the busiest park in Dakota County's park system and draws visitors statewide. Ninety percent of residents in Dakota County live within 10 miles of the park.

"Lebanon Hills Regional Park is a very valuable part of Dakota County. We are pleased to be able to support this

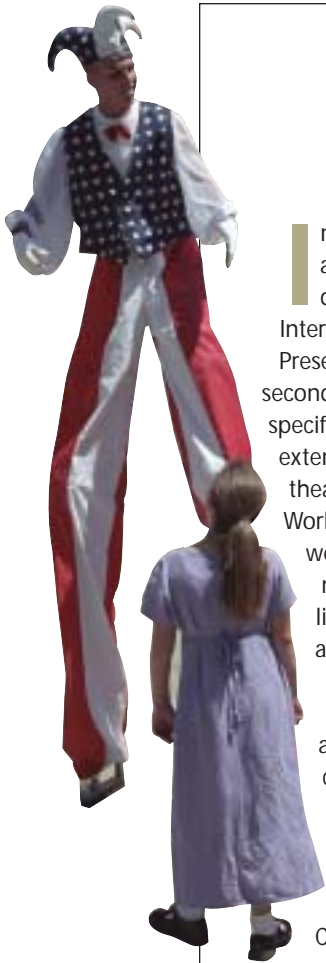
exciting educational and recreational project for the county and its residents," said Dave Robertson, Flint Hills Resources president.

"With our new visitor center and trailhead opening next year, this was an unmet need that will offer visitors a wonderful opportunity to learn even more about what is around them as they walk through the new trail," said Don Maher, chair of the Dakota County Board of Commissioners. "We welcome this partnership with Flint Hills Resources in providing an even better experience for our park visitors."

Park visitors can hit the trail early next year.



Art Is In The Air



Internationally acclaimed entertainers and artists from around the world magically appeared on Saint Paul's doorstep last May to help celebrate the Flint Hills International Children's Festival.

Presented by Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, the second-annual festival included 7 original shows tailored specifically to kids ages 4 to 4th grade. The excitement extended beyond Ordway Center's theater doors to Rice Park where a World Party offered families a weekend full of free activities, more inspiring performances, live music, international fare and fun.

Headliner acts from Canada, England, Denmark, Scotland, Puerto Rico and China amazed audiences. From acrobats and juggling to comedy troupes and puppetry, the Festival line-up offered something for both the young and young at heart.

"We're extremely pleased with this year's successful event," said Heather Spicuzza, Ordway Center director of programming. "The Festival really did what it was supposed to do – created

an environment where spontaneous moments create real-life magic for children and families."

The Twin-Cities' own talent – such as the Mexica Multicultural Education Charter School, Rimshots! from MacPhail Center for the Arts, and Hmong youth HMAA Butterfly Dancers – brought the World Stage to life with moving, cultural performances.

FLINT HILLS 2002 International Children's Festival

Presented by **ORDWAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

"This is an important event for our company and our community," said Jeff Wilkes, Pine Bend refinery manager and vice president for Minnesota Operations for Flint Hills Resources. "Flint Hills believes that exposure to the arts helps young people discover their greatest potential. Our sponsorship, and our employee volunteerism, is part of an ongoing commitment to support educational opportunities for children and youth."



Fun Festival Facts

30,000 • Total attendance at the 6-day Festival reached 30,000.

1,400 • During the World Party festivities, Flint Hills sponsored a puppet making area where children could make a snake or fish – or create their own animal – using a sock and colorful decorations. More than 1,400 socks were transformed into puppets at the Sock It To Me booth staffed by 24 volunteers.

12,688 • A total of 12,688 metro-area school children from 87 schools traveling in 242 busses participated in the four-day Student Days component and took-in the amazing acts at Ordway Center and Landmark Center.

6,306 • The Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats traveled the farthest of all the international performers. Their home is Beijing, China, 6,306 miles from St. Paul.

1,000 • More than 1,000 beautiful butterflies captured children's curiosity in the Butterfly Tent.

6 • The 2003 Flint Hills International Children's Festival will run for 6 days May 27 through June 1.

A Decade Of Discovery

Flint Hills Resources recognized a handful of Dakota and Washington counties' best and brightest 2002 high school graduates during its Discovery Scholarship Awards at the Science Museum of Minnesota in June. The banquet marked Pine Bend Refinery's tenth year of granting scholarships to young adults who excel in school and help make a difference in their community.

Twenty-two graduating seniors each received a \$2,000 scholarship to help cover post-secondary education expenses. The students represented 11 Dakota and Washington county high schools including: Apple Valley, Eagan, Eastview, Hastings, Henry Sibley, Park, Rosemount, School of Environmental Studies, Simley, South St. Paul and Woodbury.

Jeff Wilkes, refinery manager and vice president of Minnesota Operations for Flint Hills, welcomed the graduates and their guests noting that the banquet is one of his favorite annual community events. "The future leaders of our state, even our country, are in this room tonight and we celebrate them and their accomplishments. They got here on their own initiative, but we should also recognize the unconditional support from parents and family members."

State Senator David Knutson addressed banquet guests as the keynote speaker. His closing advice to students summed up his speech: "Expect greatness, take risks, never give up and you will achieve success."

Since 1992, the refinery has helped over 160 young, aspiring adults through its Discovery Scholarship program. Recipients are evaluated on academic achievement as well as community service, leadership and their entrepreneurial endeavors, which also is an important part of Flint Hills Resources' company culture.

CONGRATULATIONS

2002 Flint Hills Resources

Pine Bend Discovery Scholarship Recipients!



Apple Valley High School • Ben Christenson & Sara Hojan

Eagan High School • Dana Mueller & Michael Wiese

Eastview High School • Katy Hanenberger & Kate Munson

Hastings High School • Tom DeSautel & Ashley Siebels

Henry Sibley High School • LeAnna Pierson & Bouachanh Vue

Park High School • Mary Kate Erickson & Gregory Frahm

Rosemount High School • Hanna Hansen & Matthew Sondag

School of Environmental Studies • Laura Jackson & Vanessa Perez

Simley High School • Eric Johnson & Kelly Van den Berghe

South St. Paul High School • Joseph Mueller & Laura Oestreich

Woodbury High School • Justin Lockrem & Jamie Reski

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