VPP
WM WASTE MANAGEMENT

Wheelabrator GLOUCESTER News

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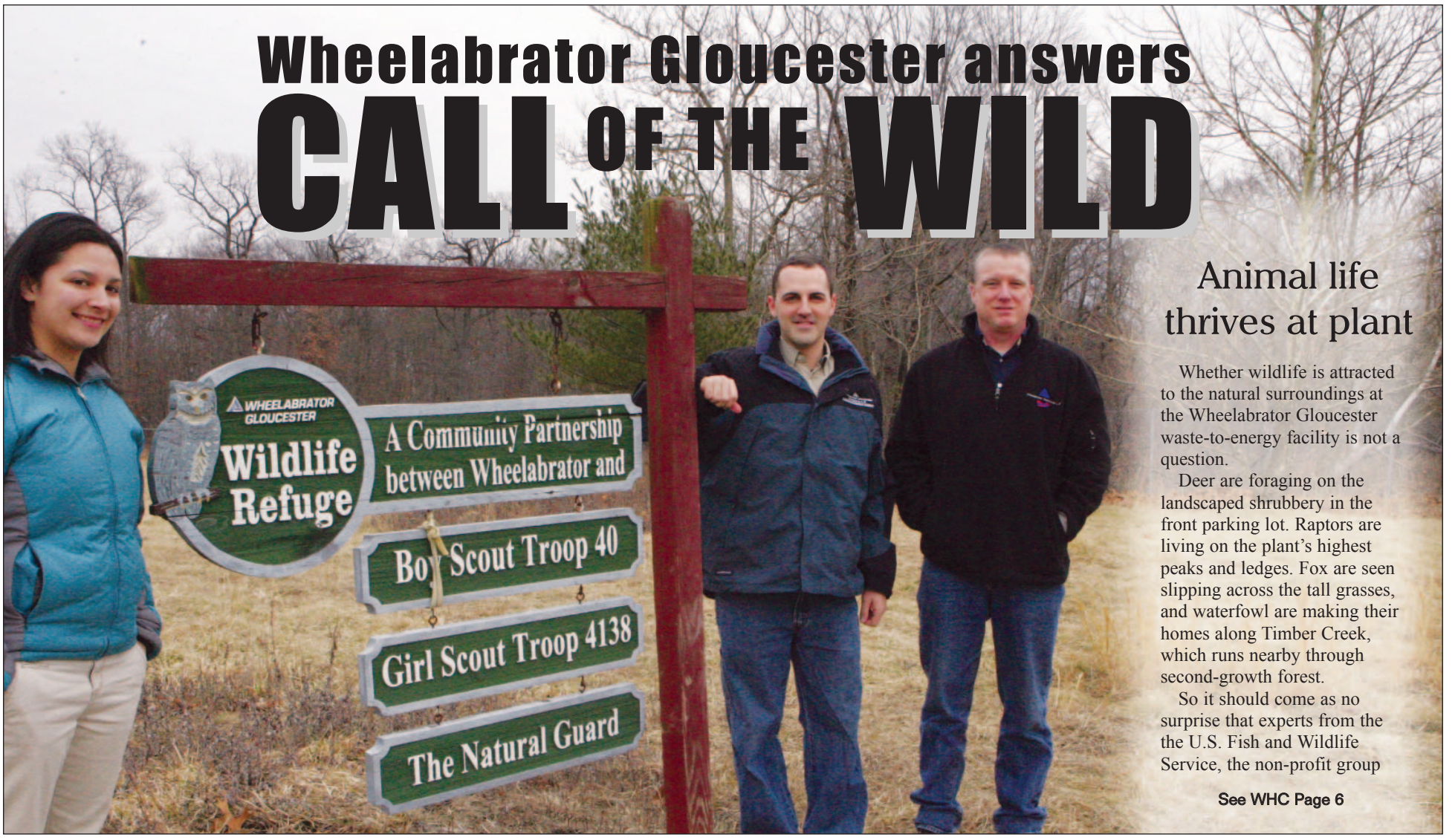
Wheelabrator Gloucester answers

CALL OF THE WILD



Wheelabrator Gloucester Plant Manager Mike Kissel and Environmental Health and Safety Manager Jeff Morris take Kelly Cunningham, a Wildlife Habitat Council education specialist for a tour of the wildlife sanctuaury.

Animal life thrives at plant

Whether wildlife is attracted to the natural surroundings at the Wheelabrator Gloucester waste-to-energy facility is not a question.

Deer are foraging on the landscaped shrubbery in the front parking lot. Raptors are living on the plant's highest peaks and ledges. Fox are seen slipping across the tall grasses, and waterfowl are making their homes along Timber Creek, which runs nearby through second-growth forest.

So it should come as no surprise that experts from the the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the non-profit group

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Pre-Sort Standard
US POSTAGE
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Communications

SHINING STAR

Gloucester plant earns VPP recertification

Wheelabrator Gloucester remains among the safest workplaces in the country, according to the federal government.

The Gloucester waste-to-energy facility first earned the prestigious Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star Worksite rating from the U.S. Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) in 2004. The designation was valid for three years, after which the plant again came under federal review.

Jeff Morris
EHS manager

In December 2008, Wheelabrator Gloucester Plant Manager Mike Kissel and his management team learned they had again achieved VPP status. Wheelabrator has actively participated in the government program, which encourages a cooperative approach to workplace safety. The VPP Star Worksite designation is in effect until 2012.

"With VPP, the overall safety at the plant falls to everybody," said Jeff

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LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Wheelabrator supports student education

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Wheelabrator GLOUCESTER News

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Happy to serve Gloucester County

Mike Kissel

Welcome to the spring edition of *Wheelabrator Gloucester News*. I am happy to be here in Gloucester County as Wheelabrator's newest plant manager, and I look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead.

When former plant manager Peter Kendrigan relocated to Peekskill, N.Y. to lead Wheelabrator Westchester, he left me with big shoes to fill. However, I am fully confident in our operations. This plant has consistently ranked high in safety, as evidenced by our VPP Star Worksite rating – the highest designation from OSHA.

We are also moving forward in pursuit of certification from the Wildlife Habitat Council. Environmental awareness is one of Wheelabrator's top priorities and we are excited to be creating a 27-acre habitat for the rapidly declining Bobwhite Quail. It's also gratifying to be working with students at West Deptford Middle School, who will be traveling to Florida in May for the annual Wheelabrator Symposium for Environment and Education. I will have the privilege of going with them for the first time during my seven year career at Wheelabrator Gloucester. From the glimpses of their project I have already seen, I am impressed. It is inspiring to see young people with such passion for making this world a better place.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope to meet many of you. Remember, our doors are always open and we encourage you to arrange for a tour of our waste-to-energy plant.

Mike Kissel is plant manager at Wheelabrator Gloucester.

Wheelabrator Gloucester Quick Facts

In 2008:

Total refuse processed
189,570 tons

◆

Total electricity generated
109,908 MWh

◆

Iron and steel recovered and recycled
2,425 tons

Wheelabrator is 'like a family' to Plant Manager Kissel

It would not be an exaggeration to say Mike Kissel knows the workings of the Wheelabrator Gloucester waste-to-energy plant from many perspectives.

Although he's only 27 years old, Kissel was recently promoted to the job of plant manager, following the transfer of Peter Kendrigan to Wheelabrator Westchester (N.Y.). Before assuming his new responsibilities, Kissel served as operations manager, maintenance superintendent and plant engineer – all at the Gloucester plant.

Mike Kissel today, at left, and above, in 2006, as plant engineer.

Kissel grew up in Hopewell Township, N.J., where he developed a passion for surfing at Long Beach Island along the Jersey shore. His family's vacation home on that thin sandy strip put him in touch with the ocean and nature. Kissel also pursued interests in golf and sport shooting, which continue today.

"I just bought a new Browning over-under," he said, referring to a brand of shotgun with twin barrels designed one above the other rather than side-by-side. "We shoot sporting clays — trap and skeet. But I haven't been able to do that much lately because I'm here a lot."

Kissel attended Maine Maritime Academy, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in marine engineering. "I came here right out of the maritime academy," he said. "Wheelabrator was recruiting at our college."

Kissel and his wife, Patricia, a third-grade teacher in Mantua Township in Gloucester County, have been married for five years.

"I've been at this plant for 6½ years and I've been plant manager for about a year and four months. It's a lot like a family," he said. "The guys work hard for us and they actually care about the plant, about how it performs. A lot of them don't just work together, they see each other socially."

In addition to overseeing the facility, Kissel is involved with the community and its schools, particularly the 10 West Deptford Middle School students who will participate in Wheelabrator's Environment and Education Symposium in Florida in May.

Two weeks a year, Kissel trains with the Merchant Marine Reserve, which is not unlike the Navy Reserve, only as a merchant mariner he would be the liaison between the Navy and a commercial ship. "We're a Ready Reserve, which means we could be called up if a lot of commercial ships were needed all of a sudden, but I don't see it happening," he said.

2020 vision

Waste Management's O'Donnell highlights company's green initiatives

Green may be today's buzzword among the environmentally conscious, however sustainability is not a new concept for Waste Management. Year after year, Waste Management has found cutting-edge ways to use trash as an energy source.

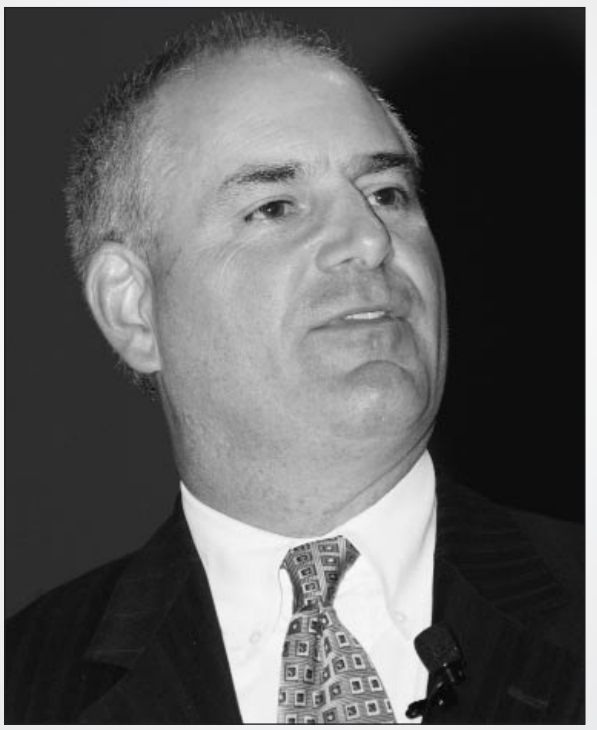
This message was the theme of the keynote address delivered by Waste Management President and Chief Operating Officer Lawrence O'Donnell III at the 20th annual symposium of the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC), held in Baltimore on Nov. 17-18.

According to O'Donnell, the company's more than 47,000 employees often express a desire to get involved in community efforts to preserve wildlife habitat, conserve open land and generally make the planet healthier.

> **"We feel like we're making a difference. Companies are coming to us. People are starting to look at us differently.**
>
> **Lawrence O'Donnell III**
> ***WM President and COO***

"In the late 1980s, Waste Management began working with the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC). Our employees were looking to get involved and this organization helped us do just that," he said, noting the council has been responsible for ensuring 2.4 million acres, most of them owned by large U.S. corporations, remain as wildlife habitat, conservation land, or are otherwise part of sustainability projects.

"We have been thinking green for a long time. So, what in the world is a trash company doing talking about sustainability?"



With this rhetorical question, O'Donnell launched into a list of Waste Management's green initiatives, particularly its hallmark program including 16 waste-to-energy facilities capable of creating enough steam to push turbines to generate electricity for homes and businesses.

At some facilities, such as the waste-to-energy plant in Saugus, Mass., landfills have been capped and transformed into scenic wildlife habitats, complete with a visitor center and associated education program. In Baltimore, a riverside fish hatchery is operated adjacent to the company's waste-to-energy facility. Both projects are evidence of the company's environmental commitment.

In 2006, Waste Management recycled enough paper to save more than 41 million trees and generated electricity capable of annually powering more than one million homes. The company's waste-based energy annually replaces the nation's need for more than 14 million barrels of oil. Its landfills, designed with liners to prevent leachate from entering the region's groundwater, provide more than 21,000 acres of WHC-certified land.

By 2020, the company expects to double its green energy output, increase the volume of recyclables processed from eight million tons to more than 20 million, and boost the efficiency of its truck fleet by 15 percent, which simultaneously will reduce emissions. O'Donnell said the company also plans to quadruple the number of acres currently set aside for conservation and wildlife habitat – news met with a roar of approval from WHC members at the Baltimore symposium.

O'Donnell credits the WHC for helping Waste Management achieve its ranking. WHC's programs can clearly benefit a corporation committed to leading the way in environmental stewardship. Since the start of their collaboration 20 years ago, the WHC has certified 49 Waste Management sites.

"We feel like we're making a difference. Companies are coming to us," said O'Donnell. "People are starting to look at us differently."

Wheelabrator celebrates 100 years of business

Wheelabrator Technologies Inc., the U.S. pioneer for municipal waste-to-energy technology, is observing its 100th year of environmental achievement and innovation by looking forward to the next 100 years of continued excellence and leadership.

The company's accomplishments span a century of establishing global standards for design and efficiency in materials handling, industrial foundry and castings, dust control, worker safety, and environmental control.

"On behalf of our 100-year heritage of excellence and innovation, this celebration marks the beginning of an even more exciting future for Wheelabrator," said Mark A. Weidman, president. "We're deeply proud of the inventive, landmark environmental achievements of our predecessors and equally enthusiastic about the potential for even more challenging leadership and innovation in the decades ahead."

Wheelabrator was founded in 1908 as Sand Mixing Machine Company, which, by 1910, had evolved into American Foundry Equipment Company, inventor of the American Dust Arrestor, an industrial fabric cleaning system for foundry operations. In 1932, the company introduced the airless centrifugal wheel for efficiently cleaning industrial surfaces.

Over the next two decades, through acquisitions and innovations, the company grew into an environmentally focused company. By the early 1970s, Wheelabrator emerged as the founder of the U.S.-based waste-to-energy business when it opened the industry's first commercially successful facility in Saugus, Mass.

Today, wholly owned by the largest environmental service company in North America, Waste Management, Wheelabrator is a recognized market leader in the design, construction, and operation of waste-to-energy and independent power plants, with 21 facilities across North America. The company has recorded numerous industry firsts in providing reliable and safe waste disposal, clean energy, natural resource management and protection, and air quality control.

Other Wheelabrator "firsts" include:

1975 — first commercially successful waste-to-energy facility

1979 — first commercial reuse/recycling project for waste-to-energy residue

1987 — first modern air quality control technology for large-scale, waste-to-energy

1994 — first waste-to-energy facility with integrated materials recovery/recycling and carbon injection control

According to Weidman, "The people who founded this company in 1908 and those who will lead it in the next century will have shared the same motivations — leading very talented people in developing better and better technologies for industry and the environment. We're extremely proud to be a part of this chain of past and future innovation."

Environmental enthusiasts

West Deptford symposium team to shed light on recycling and waste reduction

Ten students from West Deptford Middle School are bound for Florida to participate in the annual Wheelabrator Technologies Environment and Environmental Symposium from May 4-7.

Working directly under the supervision of mathematics teacher Bob Creamer, Laura Whalen from the non-profit Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Wheelabrator Gloucester Plant Manager Mike Kissel and Administrative Assistant Teresa Sigmund, the students have immersed themselves in an array of environmental science projects related to recycling and waste-stream reduction.

"They're all very excited about the symposium. These students have been working very hard on their projects and doing a lot of thinking about various environmental problems and how they might go about solving them," said Creamer, who teaches math in grades 6-9.

Once a week, Kissel and Sigmund meet with Creamer and others involved in the projects to review the progress, offer assistance, and discuss details related to the upcoming trip.

The students include eighth-graders Chris Corsi, Jeff Rattay and Katie Guest; and seventh-graders Kaitlin Hackett, Kelly Meagher, Kim Pierce, Chris Barron, Ashley Olivia, Hilary Fiorentino and Brandon Beversluis.

On a recent visit to the middle school, Fiorentino and Barron were busy running computer programs related to the wastestream, focusing on reduction, recycling and reuse. Fiorentino was researching how single-stream recycling works within a community.

Students Kelly Pierce, left, and Kim Meaghar show off their project to Laura Whalen from the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary.

Rattay was delving into how paper can be best reclaimed and recycled – a difficult task, given that over the years an erratic commodities market put paper prices anywhere from hundreds of dollars per ton to virtually nothing.

From left, West Deptford Middle School teacher Bob Creamer, Laura Whalen of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Wheelabrator Gloucester secretary Teresa Sigmund, liaison for the environmental symposium, and Plant Manager Mike Kissel worked with students on their symposium project.

Beversluis and Hackett have been collaborating on the recycling of batteries and other electronic waste, known in the industry as e-waste. "A lot of this stuff goes back to the stores, but not everything," said Guest, holding up a battery the size of two thick books. "Big batteries like this can be recycled, but small ones like AA and AAA can't, unless they are the rechargeable kind."

The remaining students were piecing together posters that explain various types of e-waste, including batteries, fax machines, telephones, televisions, computers, PDAs, stereos, printers, copiers and cell phones.

"A big part of what they're doing is to raise awareness about the environment," said Kissel, noting that several activities have been planned at the school and RiverWinds, the town's community center.

Before heading to the symposium, where they will present their projects, the students plan to attend Community Day in April at RiverWinds. According to Creamer, the student team will identify and explain its recycling projects and how these initiatives will have a positive effect on the environment. The students will also explain how individuals can get involved and implement such strategies themselves.

> **"A big part of what they're doing is to raise awareness about the environment.**
>
> **Mike Kissel**
> ***Plant manager***

Additionally, three of the 10 students on the team will create and perform in a videotaped infomercial on recycling and why it helps the environment. The videotape will be shown to students in the first and second grades. At the conclusion, the younger students will be given a coloring sheet to complete, along with a pencil or magnet as a token gift for participating.

Student Brandon Beversluis holds a battery that will be recycled as part of the project.

As if that weren't enough, students on the team will perform a musical with a storyline showing individuals who do not recycle plastics, batteries or paper. The offenders will be "caught" by the recycling police, who will explain the damage caused by their actions, or inaction, and offer advice on the proper way to dispose of certain discarded items.

The musical will be recorded on DVD and shown to students in the third and fourth grades.

To make sure the word on recycling reaches West Deptford students in grades 5-6, the 10-member team will also create a news broadcast, which will be recorded on DVD and distributed to the students. The broadcast may also be shown on the local cable television channel.

Teacher Bob Creamer works with student Kaitlin Hackett on an e-waste poster as part of the symposium project.

West Deptford Middle School students, from left, Jeff Rattay, Hilary Fiorentino and Chris Baron work on their recycling project for the symposium.

View of the Wheelabrator Gloucester plant from the wildlife refuge.

Wildlife thrives at Wheelabrator

SUSTAINABILITY: from Page 1

Quail Unlimited, and the New Jersey Quail Project are partnering with Wheelabrator to create a 27-acre habitat for the rapidly declining Bobwhite Quail.

Jeff Morris, the plant's environmental health and safety manager, has been spearheading the initiative, with its two-fold goal of creating the habitat and obtaining certification from the Wildlife Habitat Council for the project.

The WHC certifies corporations that use their fallow lands in environmentally sustainable ways. The Wheelabrator waste-to-energy plant in Saugus, Mass., is among the projects already certified for its Bear Creek nature sanctuary constructed atop a capped ash landfill.

"We have a fragmented wildlife corridor along the river. The Bobwhite Quail are living about a mile downstream, but once we create a habitat here, we think they'll come. It's a natural stopover," Morris said.

The Game Bird and Conservationists' Gazette explains that "the Bobwhite Quail name comes from its delightful call, a sort of ah-bob-white, that registers cheerfully upon the ear of game farm keepers or those fortunate enough to hear them in their natural habitat. During most of the year, they are easy going and good-natured quail."

A recent Audubon Society study revealed an 87-percent decline in Bobwhite Quail populations over the past 40 years. Research found Bobwhite Quail numbers estimated at approximately 40 million in 1967 now number only about 5 million.

According to Morris, efforts are underway to reintroduce the Bobwhite Quail to the refuge behind the plant. Of the 150 acres of Wheelabrator-owned land along the river, about 30 are occupied by the waste-to-energy facility buildings. The remaining 120 acres are relatively fallow and encompass a network of woods trails and bird-watching platforms. The 27-acre quail habitat will be part of that land.

"The acres we're talking about along Timber Creek are non-wetlands. They were already drying up," said Morris. "That's why we were able to move forward quickly with the project."

Phragmites, a common reed, had already replaced the cat-o-nine tails, but quail prefer tall grasses. The phragmites were burned off and weed-killing chemicals applied to assure they would not return. The area was also overgrown with Mile-a-Minute Weed, an invasive species of trailing vine that tends to take over where it seeds and was interfering with the project.

To deal with that nuisance, Wheelabrator sought expert advice from private lands biologist Brian Marsh, who recommended a New Jersey state entomologist. The result: a species of weevil was unleashed on the land to eat the Mile-a-Minute Weed.

With the land free of weeds and reeds, Wheelabrator and its partners are preparing to plant beans. "The beans will grow and then decompose, which will enrich the soil," said Morris. "They'll also be a food source for the various animals that live along the river. It won't be just a dormant field."

Bobwhite Quail chick.

Kelly Cunningham, a WHC education specialist for the environmental organization's Corporate Lands for Learning Program and Wildlife at Work Program, toured the Westville site in February.

Explaining that the WHC has made recommendations to Wheelabrator about how to best create the habitat, she said, "In order to apply for certification in Wildlife Habitat Council programs, including Wildlife at Work and Corporate Lands for Learning, the team at Wheelabrator Gloucester will need to demonstrate and provide documentation of their commitment to enhancing wildlife habitat and providing conservation education programs" Wheelabrator Gloucester is aspiring toward both programs, she said.

Once finished, the habitat will be stocked with quail raised in captivity and released, while other wild birds are likely to take up residence as well. Wheelabrator will maintain the habitat throughout the year.

VPP rating retained

CONTRACT: from Page 1

Morris, the plant's environmental health and safety (EHS) manager. "Everyone is responsible for it. The employees voluntarily follow all of the safety practices we have put into place, which are at VPP levels and comply with OSHA standards."

Created in 1982, VPP recognizes and promotes effective workplace safety and health management. Companies in the program achieve average injury rates 50 percent lower than other companies in their industry. Of the seven million worksites nationwide that are monitored by OSHA, only 2,161 have been awarded VPP status, according to OSHA.

Adhering to such high standards means complying with rules about wearing hard hats, ear protection, safety goggles, reflective vests, and generally being aware of potential dangers that could result in injury, anything from a tipsy ladder or puddle of water to heavy equipment operation.

"We had been going along for nearly five years without an OSHA-reportable injury, and then in April 2008 we had a loss-time accident," said Morris, explaining that a loss-time injury means the employee can't immediately return to work. "So in April this year, it will be one year without a loss-time accident or an OSHA-reportable injury at the plant," Morris said. "We're going for both."

Maintaining VPP Star Worksite rating is undeniably a challenge.

"Safety is the No. 1 priority. It comes before anything else," he said. "We want to make sure everyone goes home the way they came to work."

Wheelabrator's VPP flag flies side by side with the American and Waste Management flags at the plant.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Anchoring Wheelabrator

Operations manager comes aboard after eight years at sea

Whenever Wheelabrator Gloucester operations manager Phil Laporte sees a big commercial ship leaving a harbor, he can't help but wax nostalgic.

After all, Laporte spent eight years at sea, much of it aboard massive ships laying fiber-optic cable on the ocean floor. In that time, he saw plenty of foreign ports, which left him with a worldly view.

Today, the 37-year-old is strictly a landlubber. As operations manager, Laporte is responsible for personnel, maintenance, keeping the plant running and ensuring all necessary permits are acquired and the requirements met.

Laporte enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking, biking and camping with his wife, Stephanie, a registered nurse who typically works in intensive-care settings. The couple has an infant, Kenton, and two German short-hair pointer dogs. Laporte, who grew up in Massachusetts and now lives in Mickleton, N.J., relaxes some days by walking the dogs and training them in the field.

"I'm not sure I'd actually describe it as training," he said.

If it were not for Laporte's work aboard the cable-laying ships, the couple might never have met. Stephanie, an Arkansas native, was conducting a training session for registered nurses in Hawaii when Laporte's ship sailed into port.

Laporte still misses New England, particularly Massachusetts and the scenic coastlines of Cape Cod. He graduated from high school in Billerica, Mass., and then moved on to the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, where he was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in marine engineering in 1993.

"I went to sea for eight years aboard big transatlantic, cable-laying ships," he said, recalling days far from land on the North Sea, the mid-Atlantic and the seemingly endless Pacific. "We laid some of the Hibernian cable, so we spent lots of time in Halifax, Nova Scotia. I've been to Singapore, Japan, Guam, lots of places."

Laporte also worked on land, mostly laying pipelines in Virginia, Texas and the Gulf of Mexico.

Four years ago, he left behind the sea to take a job as facilities manager for the Tri-County Regional School District in Franklin, Mass. A football game between the New England Patriots and Philadelphia Eagles changed the direction of his life and steered him toward Wheelabrator.

"We were watching a Pats game and the Pats were beating the Eagles when a buddy of mine from college told me about the opportunities here," he said. "What Wheelabrator offered was better than the school system and I knew it would give me the chance to grow."

McCormick celebrates 20 years at Wheelabrator

McCORMICK: from Page 8

nearby West Deptford with his wife, Karen. They have five children – Ray, Stephanie, Chris, Roy IV and Amy — and eight grandchildren.

"I never finished high school here. Just didn't agree with me. I dropped out in the 10th grade," he said. "I joined the Marines."

While stationed in Okinawa, Japan, McCormick earned his high school diploma and during the four years of military service was promoted to sergeant. "I got two meritorious promotions and made sergeant in three years," he said, recalling his days in the U.S. Marine Corps and training at the infamous boot camp on Parris Island, S.C.

"When I got out I worked a concrete job for about eight months and then spent 10 years at a factory that made wooden crates; I was always good with my hands," he said. "I also worked carpentry, all parts of it, until I got sick, which was about 10 months before I landed this job. I came in here as a laborer, a temp. I did whatever was needed. The plant wasn't even completely built yet. People were working from trailers."

Once he established himself, McCormick became part of the full-time staff and, less than two months from his start date, applied for the position of loader operator, one he has held ever since.

Roy's son Ray is following a similar path, having recently landed a job in the Gloucester plant's control room.

Each day, a convoy of trash trucks lines up outside the tipping floor room, awaiting the signal from McCormick that all is ready for their arrival. Driving the massive, yellow front-end loader, McCormick pushes the trash into mounds where the crane operator, looking down from a glass-enclosed booth near the ceiling, can scoop it with the claws and drop it into the chute that will send it to the boilers.

"Your job is what you make it," said McCormick. "I like mine. I don't understand people who just go to their job every day and complain because they hate it. If you don't like what you do, find something else. There's no sense in being miserable."

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

20 years of ROY-AL SERVICE

McCormick still enjoys his job

Nearly every day of the week, Loader Operator Roy McCormick III pushes tons of trash into neat piles on the tipping floor of the Wheelabrator Gloucester waste-to-energy plant. Every so often, a discarded toy catches his eye, and McCormick adds it to the playful collection of miniature trucks, cars, motorcycles and heavy equipment that line a concrete shelf in the cavernous room. He's proud of the dust-coated menagerie.

At 52, McCormick ranks among the plant's oldest employees chronologically, and is currently entering his 20th year of service, which puts him among those employed the longest.

"I was 32 when I started here," he said. "A friend of mine saw an ad in the newspaper and we applied. I got the job. He didn't."

McCormick, who grew up in Gloucester, now lives in

See McCORMICK Page 7