

# People & Places



## Restoration of Piasa Bird Landmark



Paragon cleaning the limestone bluffs



Piasa Bird Landmark in Alton, Illinois

“In June of 2007, some vandals tarred the historic Piasa Bird landmark in Alton, IL. The Piasa Bird is painted on the limestone bluffs above the Mississippi River, and the Alton Park & Recreation Commission knew that cleaning up the mess was not going to be a simple task. Subsequently, some local people and businesses teamed up to donate the time and materials in order to restore this very significant landmark. By using a new cryogenic blasting technique (dry ice blasting), Paragon Certified Restoration was able to clean up all the tar and have it ready and prepped for the restorative artist. The historical landmark is now completely restored and tradition will continue.”

Paragon Certified Restoration received a commendation letter from Michael Drake, Executive Director of Alton Park & Recreation Commissions, thanking Paragon for everything they did in helping with the Piasa Bird project and without their generous donation the project could not have been completed. He stated that the project went smoothly, and he has heard nothing but compliments on the completed work. In appreciation, Paragon will be recognized for their support on the “Thank You” board soon to be added to the Piasa Park kiosk.

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## Congratulation to Bill Heisserer, DVP, Facility Manager, CPS, CFM



St. Louis Chapter of IFMA congratulates Bill Heisserer for being one of the 2007 recipients of the William E. Maritz Non-Sales Award. Steve Maritz stated, “Bill has worked hard and contributed a great amount to Maritz’s successes this year. He has held himself to a high standard of work, a standard that every Maritz employee should try to achieve.”

Bill displayed dedication and decency by consistently acting as a tireless advocate for Maritz and motivating others to do the same. Bill consistently goes above and beyond what’s expected of him. Bill was responsible for getting Maritz’

grounds maintenance provider to donate its labor and irrigation services to help support the company's initiative to restore a New Orleans city park during the annual sales conference in 2006. Bill was also instrumental when an ice storm devastated the area and insured that the storm was not a business crippling event.

An important aspect of the high-performance culture that Maritz strives to achieve is recognition of those people who consistently live the motto, "work hard, have fun and get the job done". Named after Bill Maritz, who strongly believed in this motto, the William E. Maritz (WEM) award honors Maritz people who demonstrate and model personal characteristics of intellect, intensity, dedication, and decency. They model the Maritz values – client focus, people, teamwork, perseverance, achievement, and fun.

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## **John Francis Relocating**

John Francis, Facilities Consulting, relocated to Charlottesville, Virginia August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007. John has been a member of the St. Louis Chapter of IFMA since he came to the United States, more specifically, St. Louis in 1993. John was an active member, serving on the IFMA Board and was Program Chairman for two years.

John was with HOK Consulting for eight years, followed by two years at Nelson and has had his own consulting business, Facilities Consulting, for three years.

John described his IFMA experience in St. Louis as outstanding, great people, great way to network in the community, enthusiastic professionals, and good friends who have been incredibly supportive over the years. In closing John stated, "IFMA St. Louis has been the single most continuous source of professional contacts and friends while I've been here. Thanks to everyone. I'll miss you all."

"Life is a beautiful journey we all must travel our own unique way, with memories behind us and dreams up ahead and a brand new beginning each day."

May you find in each day, John, a new opportunity to bring you happiness. St. Louis Chapter of IFMA wishes you many successes.