

## Bob Gardiner Final Kudos and Retirement Wishes

Mike Warner – Bob successfully handled the widest variety of resident issues of all staff. His infinite patience, demeanor and method became the standard that SMC staff strive. Bob always brought a positive attitude and is a pleasure to work with. He will be missed and I wish him the best that being retired can offer.

Ashley – Bob is not only an exemplary SMC employee and public servant, but also a great co-worker to work with. He will be greatly missed as Bob has been a staple at SMC and has trained and offered daily guidance to his fellow co-workers (including myself on many occasions). Although Bob will be missed by Lake County co-workers, residents, government staff and all of his rainfall analysis fans, he is very deserving of a long and happy retirement! We wish him the best of luck and many years of relaxation during his retirement!

Darcy McNeill – I have mixed emotions about Bob retiring.....happy for him, but sad for SMC. I started at SMC just before he did, and really enjoyed seeing him everyday. I will greatly miss his insight, knowledge, sense of humor and willingness to help! When my husband, Bill and I are trying to figure something out, all we say is “just ask Bob”! He truly deserves to enjoy his retirement, as he has worked very hard to earn it. Best of luck my friend, I will miss you, but know we will keep in touch!

Ernesto Huaracha – In the short time I have known Bob, he’s been a great co-coworker and resource to make the work we do a lot easier. Bob either always had the answer or with perseverance would figure out the answer. His WDO tutelage and quick reference spreadsheets will continue to benefit SMC for the long term. Enjoy retirement!

Glenn Westman – Bob and I have “grown up” together at SMC, starting here just few months apart some 18+ years ago, so I feel like my brother is leaving! I will miss him greatly. Bob's trademarks have always been his easy-going demeanor and upbeat attitude, along with his vast engineering knowledge. He has always made time for staff and permit applicants to answer questions, even when he has been swamped with permit reviews. Bob has rightfully earned the respect of staff and many throughout the industry, and in turn has shown a high degree of respect for all the staff and our colleagues, which I admire. We will never be able to fill Bob’s shoes, but we can fill our own and do the best we can to keep his great legacy at SMC going. Bob: blessings to you my friend - I hope you and Mary will enjoy many fun and relaxing years in the U.P. Watch out for those bears ! Keep in touch please.

Mea Blauer – I have known Bob through 3 jobs I held in Lake County Government over the last 18 years and through each one of them, Bob has been a tremendous stable presence, full of knowledge and patience. I have always enjoyed working with him and I have learned so much in the last year and half here at SMC. Bob will leave a huge hole behind that will be very hard to fill. I will miss our regulatory talks as well as health and wellbeing talks. I hope retirement brings you relaxation and enjoyable times with your lovely wife! I will greatly miss you, Bob!

Jeff Laramy – Bob started about 3 months before I did so he was still one of the new “kids” on the block when I started. Since I am the GIS Analyst/IT Liaison, the first thing he asked me to help him with was deleting about 1000 blank cells in MS Excel. He said he wasn’t sure how to do it but there must be a macro or formula to do this automatically. He asked if I could figure it out. I did in a few minutes and Bob was impressed! Imagine that! Bob needing help? I only mention that because now Bob is the go to person for basically everything at SMC from Excel statistical analysis and programming to regulatory concerns. Through our common interests, Bob became a great co-worker and even better friend over the last 18 years. Bob, I’ll see you around in Tamriel, again someday at the Bristol Renn Faire, and occasionally enjoying a cold one together at Tighthead. Well earned, my friend. Enjoy your retirement.

Michelle Pope – Bob is always willing to help no matter the situation. He always answers calls with a smile on his face. In the short time I have known him, he has taught me more about the WDO and floodplains than I would have learned by myself. He is a great coworker and friend. Enjoy retirement, Bob! We will all miss you!

Kurt Woolford – Prior to joining SMC, I worked as a design engineer in the private sector and had to obtain permits from many agencies. Bob reviewed my designs and always provided detailed and thoughtful comments. He took the time to explain the requirements and always had the best attitude. Without a doubt, the experience I had as a consultant working with Bob lead me to want to be a part of the SMC team. Throughout my 13 years with SMC, Bob has maintained that strong sense of commitment to help others. Thank you for making a real difference for many, Bob. Enjoy retirement my friend, you have earned it. And I’ll see you again up at the Ore Dock!

Sharon Østerby-Bob’s amazing contributions extended beyond SMC & Lake County. Bob is the definition of brilliance; a form of excellence beyond the norm. Bob is patient, kind and helpful and makes a difference every day. He sees a problem and has the wisdom to solve it. He is optimistic in everything he does. He aspires to achieve and always believes there is room for improvement. He shines a light beyond himself and reflects greatness and creativity. Most importantly, he is a good friend and I will miss working with him at SMC. Congrats on your retirement Bob, you actually got promoted to one of the best roles in your life!

Tim Cook – Bob is a long timer like myself. Bob was friendly and knowledgeable from day one. Whenever I had a question about anything Bob was quick to help. I thoroughly enjoyed working with Bob. What can I say he’s one of a kind. I wish you the best Bob. Look forward never back!

Juli Crane – Bob is a rare breed of engineer—he ‘gets it’ when it comes to plants and wetlands (in my 30+ year career, I’ve only encountered one other)! His ability to explain the weather is unparalleled, and he LIKES doing statistics! His heart is as big as his engineering knowledge. When he heard I would be alone for Thanksgiving one year, he invited me to spend it with his family! My friend, I am going to miss your energy, patience, approachability, wisdom, practicality, and humor. I’ve enjoyed our chats about the latest book in the “Black Jewels Trilogy” or “The Others” series, the volunteer plants growing among your orchids, the photos you’ve taken at the Ren Faire or up in Michigan, interesting anime, and so

much more. You truly are the “heart” of SMC. You have more than earned your retirement. Please don’t be a stranger!!

Jacob Jozefowski- Bob’s enthusiasm, excitement and ability to relate to anyone was a critical component of SMC’s positive workplace atmosphere. His infinite knowledge and willingness to help was greatly appreciated. His passion was evident in all the work he did. His ability to make a weather report email both informative and entertaining was truly astonishing. He will truly be missed, but his retirement is well deserved.