



JOHN LATVA RETIRES

John Latva (above front row center) pictured with his family, a mainstay in our IT & engineering department for more than 35 years, retired on April 1.

Born and raised in the Detroit area, John graduated from Dearborn Edsel Ford High School in 1970. After high school John would become employed with Ford Motor Company where he worked while attending college.

In May of 1974, John would marry the former Camille Przywara. Then, as a result of a layoff at Ford and the desire to get away from the big city, John and Camille moved near Big Rapids, MI where John worked for Kraftube Fabricators who introduced him to the tool & die industry. While there, John enrolled in and completed the Machine Tool Associate Degree program at Ferris State University. When Kraftube decided to move operations to Reed City, John came to Greenville Tool & Die, June 4, 1979.

John started as a tool & diemaker apprentice which he completed in 1983. He then completed his apprenticeship for tool & die designer in 1985. Since that time, John has essentially been our computer guru and systems manager doing everything from implementing new CAD software, design programming, CNC programming, our business operations, as well as maintaining our systems hardware.

John and Camille have been blessed with four daughters, Andrea, Naomi, Cherie, and Rosa, and, two sons, Joe and David. Those six have expanded to now include four son-in-laws, and 15 grandchildren.

John and Camille like to travel and have been to such places as Spain, Italy, Israel, and Hawaii. They have plans to do more traveling during retirement when not spending time with the family. John is very involved and passionate about prison ministry and has plans to continue and expand upon that ministry.

John says he is very thankful for the opportunities he has been given here at GTD. Also his entire family is very grateful for the generosity of the Stanley & Blanche Ash Foundation scholarships that provided education opportunities for all of them. John shared that he has enjoyed being involved in all the growth of GTD, not only in personnel but also in building and equipment.

On behalf of all of us here at GTD, “thank you” John for your many contributions and we wish you and Camille many years of good health and prosperity in your retirement.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We would like to take this opportunity to wish the following GTD employees a Happy Birthday on:

MAY 2015

- 1.....Don Orr
- 1.....Nate Akin
- 1.....Andy Green
- 6.....Trenton Heintzelman
- 7.....Dan Gasper
- 10Kevin Coon
- 10Dan Updike
- 18Brian Lake
- 18Mark Heintzelman
- 18.....Ben Crawford
- 30Brett Tomkinson

SAFETY & SUGGESTION COMMITTEE

Jay Vlahas
Nick Tillottson

Mike Geister
Rick Wheaton

The next Safety & Suggestion Committee meeting will be Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. in the large conference room.

BLOOD DRIVE

We had a great turnout for our March Red Cross Blood Drive with 48 donors. Several reaching milestones with their donations were;

Travis Colter	1 Gallon
Neal Fisher	2 Gallons
Jeremy Schaap	2 Gallons
Justin Stump	2 Gallons
Kevin Lipp	5 Gallons
Tony Ross	6 Gallons
Joe Hoy	13 Gallons

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive here at GTD will be on Tuesday, May 12, from 12:30 pm until 5:45pm.

SERVICE AWARD

We would like to recognize and thank our Joe Dempsey for 25 years of service on April 4th. Best wishes to Joe for continued success in his career. We will profile Joe in next months issue of the ToolBits.



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CAREER SHOWCASE 2015



Second from left, Kevin Lipp shows students and parents our DEA CMM in our inspection department.



Joe Hoy (R) talks to students and parents about the die making and assembly process.

On Tuesday March 10, Greenville Tool & Die once again opened our doors for the Career Showcase. Each year in March GTD joins other area businesses to offer students and parents an opportunity to visit and investigate possible career opportunities. These events typically include demonstrations, tours, and information packets. This year we had eight students and twelve parents participate. We would like to thank our night shift engineering supervisor Jerrad Higgins, engineering toolpather Matt Edwards, diemakers Joe Hoy, Jesse Playter, and Rick Wheaton, and inspection department's Kevin Lipp for their assistance and sharing their expertise with our guests.

BELDING MIDDLE SCHOOL CAREER FAIR

On March 26 our Rich Ring presented the tool and die skilled trades career under the engineering and manufacturing category to the entire 7th grade class of Belding Middle School. The student body also heard from other presentors in the career fields of human services, arts and communication, business management, marketing, technology, health services, natural resources and agriscience.

RELAY FOR LIFE REMINDER

We would like to remind everyone that this year's American Cancer Society's Montcalm County Relay for Life is Friday and Saturday June 12 and 13 at the Greenville High School Track Complex, Yellow Jacket Stadium. If you wish to participate and receive an event t-shirt you need to sign up online before May 8 at www.relayforlife.org under team Wheeler's Walkers. See Mici Bos for further information.

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