

# The Coop Scoop

2nd Quarter 2019



the COOPER GROUP of companies



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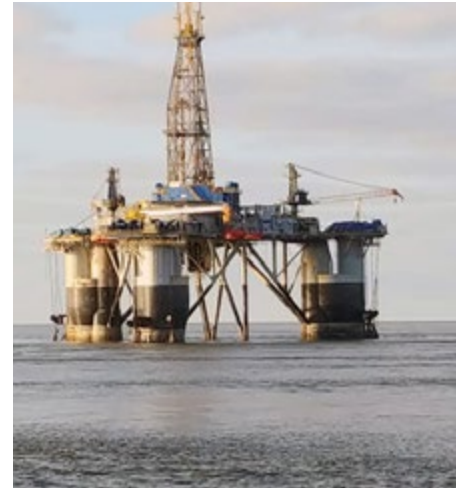
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Crawfish at the Zoo  
Crescent Towing

Cover photo: "Asleigh" in Cordova, Alabama, with a load of lock gates destined for Keokuk, Iowa.

## Tugs, Push Boats Transport Oil Rig

In early May, Crescent Towing - Mobile and Cooper Marine and Timberlands (CMT) assisted with the transport of an oil rig from Texas to the Alabama Gulf Coast. It took four Crescent tugs, three CMT push boats and one additional push boat to successfully move this enormous rig. To our captains and crews, great job! •



> CP&O

## Sunrise Sets Sail



On April 27, Carnival Cruise's newly renovated *Sunrise* arrived at Norfolk, Virginia's Half Moone Cruise Center to commence its maiden voyage. In collaboration with a host of other agencies, CP&O played a vital shore-side role in the offloading and loading of the *Sunrise* to ensure the vessel was ready to set sail on April 29.

The 893-foot-long ship arrived from Spain, where it had undergone an extensive \$200-million refurbishment. The *Sunrise* departed for its seven-day Caribbean cruise on schedule, making it the first Carnival ship to launch from Norfolk in nearly two years. •

> Crescent Towing

## WISTA Lunch and Learn

On Friday, June 21, Crescent Towing was visited by 22 members of the Women's International Shipping & Trade Association (WISTA). Members of the local chapter of WISTA are all involved in some way in the maritime industry. Their visit was a lunch and learn that exposed them to the Crescent Towing and Cooper/T. Smith Mooring operations. The group toured the office, took a tug ride on the *Mardi Gras*, and was treated to a lunch prepared by Kurt Gegenheimer, Shane Johnson, and the rest of Crescent Towing's store-room team.

For more information about WISTA, visit:  
[www.wistainternational.com](http://www.wistainternational.com) •



## Shaping the Global Economy: Steel Industry



Click the "Play" button to watch the video

Steel is everywhere. It's in our homes, automobiles, parks, and offices. An alloy comprised of iron, carbon and other elements, steel adds strength and durability to our daily lives.

With 1.3 billion tons produced annually, we're honored to play a role. From loading carbon and hauling pig iron to transporting steel slabs and unloading steel coils, Cooper/T. Smith is shaping the global economy by proudly serving the steel industry. •

> Cooper/T. Smith Mooring

## NOBRA Pilot Relieves Linemen

While working a job at the lower 122 midstream buoys, Cooper/T. Smith Mooring's linemen were treated to pizza by a New Orleans Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association (NOBRA) pilot as a gesture of appreciate for all of their hard work. As a ship was breaking out of the system, CTS Mooring linemen worked to retrieve the broken lines, return them to the ship, and release the remaining lines so the ship could re-anchor. Once the ship was settled, Johnny Macaluso, NOBRA Pilot 39, hopped in his car only to return to the vessel about an hour later with four hot pizzas and a case of bottled water in tow to show his gratitude to the linemen for their assistance. •



Top, l-r: Blake DiMaggio, Jason Kanz, Matthew Carter, Robert Lidell.  
Bottom: Joseph Olivio

> Cooper Marine and Timberlands

## Career Day at Saraland High School



On April 23, members of Cooper Marine and Timberlands (CMT) participated in Saraland High School's Career Day. Students had the opportunity to meet with employers from various fields, including marine biology, accounting, manufacturing, military, law enforcement, construction, health science, and more, to receive insight into the career opportunities available to them. Representatives from CMT gave students an overview of what it's like working on the river, fielded questions, and gave encouragement and advice to our next generation of deckhands, linemen, and pilots. •



### Larry Victor, Welding Supervisor

Larry Victor is a second-generation employee of Crescent Towing. He got his start with the company as a laborer before welding eventually caught his interest. Approaching 50 years of service, Larry never lost his love for welding and currently serves as the Welding Supervisor. •



### Robin Rogers, Office Manager

Part of the Cooper Consolidated team for 40 years, LaPlace Office Manager Robin Rogers knows a thing or two about cultivating positive business relationships that last a lifetime. •



### Greg Mondello, Lead Application Developer

As Lead Application Developer, Greg Mondello and his team are tasked with creating and managing the many computer applications responsible for keeping our daily maritime, logistics and transportation services running efficiently. •



### Syd Reed, Operations Manager

Syd Reed has been part of Cooper Marine and Timberlands (CMT) for 30 years and has held a variety of roles, including crane operator and stevedore. Currently, he's Operations Manager for CMT's ChipCo segment, where he's responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations. •



### Prentiss "Tadd" Willcutt, Senior Consultant

Tadd began his maritime career in 1967 and went on to serve as General Manager for Crescent Towing in 1979. Currently, he's the Senior Consultant for Crescent Towing's Mobile operation, serving as a mentor for new talent. •



### Submit Your Recommendations

Do you know an employee who should be featured in a future We Are Cooper/T. Smith profile? Send your recommendations to Thomas Smith, Director, Corporate Communications: [thomas.smith@coopertsmith.com](mailto:thomas.smith@coopertsmith.com). •

## Captain and Deckhand Meetings

Safety training and continuing education are pivotal to building and maintaining a successful team. Throughout the month of May, all Cooper Marine and Timberlands vessel captains and deckhands met at the Cooper Farm to review and discuss the latest safety, security, and operational reports. Among the topics covered, included: safety incidents and statistics, 2019 near miss reports, security protocols, and a question and answer session with representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard. Lunch was served at the end of each meeting, and deckhands even competed in a line-throwing competition for the chance to win gift certificates. Coming together as a team to learn, build relationships, and develop their skills ensures that our crews provide outstanding service to our customers. •



> Community

## Summer Blood Drive



Click the "Play" button to watch the video

On May 14, Cooper/T. Smith partnered with LifeSouth to host a blood drive at our main office in Mobile, Alabama. We're pleased to announce that the blood drive was a great success, as we exceeded our donation goal! The blood collected will save more than 90 lives in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. To everyone who braved the needle and donated, thank you!

Did you know that every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs a blood transfusion? Blood is essential for surgeries, cancer treatment, treating chronic illnesses and traumatic injuries. Whether a patient receives whole blood, red cells, platelets or plasma, this life-saving care starts with a donor.

The Cooper Group is committed to serving the global economy, and our local neighbors and communities. The blood donated by our team helps patients in local hospitals. No one can predict when or where an accident will happen, but we can help ensure that medical facilities are prepared the moment a patient arrives. Giving back. Meeting the needs of our community and its people. That's the Cooper commitment. •

## Company Overview: Blakeley BoatWorks



Situated on 26 acres along the Mobile River, Blakeley BoatWorks is a full-service shipyard with active marine repair projects, new ship construction, and multiple field service capabilities. Due to its location, Blakeley has convenient access to the Warrior Tombigbee Waterway, Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, and the Gulf of Mexico. Customers vary across multiple industries, including inland river push boats, ship-assist tugboats, offshore vessels, marine research vessels, and even dinner cruise boats.

Click the "Play" button to watch the video

Consisting of a 1,900-short-ton capacity floating Dry Dock and a 660-short-ton Travelift, Blakeley BoatWorks has a professional and skilled workforce that is committed to the highest standards of quality and safety. To best serve its customers, Blakeley BoatWorks has incorporated a full in-house service department that includes steel, pipe, electrical, carpentry, blast and paint, exhaust installation, marine mechanics, and a traveling field repair team. The facility can block up to 15 vessels on the yard, 10 vessels on the waterfront, two in new construction bays, and one on dry dock.

The team at Blakeley BoatWorks believes safety isn't just about numbers. The facility strives to focus on its people daily, which in turn provides dividends for customers in the form of reduced down time, consistent work performance, and better team work from associates, contractors and service partners. To learn more, visit [www.blakeleyboatworks.com](http://www.blakeleyboatworks.com).

### Company Events

## Crawfish at the Zoo

Crescent Towing and Cooper/T. Smith Mooring hosted their annual company picnic on Saturday, May 18. Held at New Orleans' Audubon Zoo, the event saw employees and their families come together for a fun-filled day of games, awards, and a heaping helping of boiled crawfish!



Keith Kettenring presents Larry Victor with an award for his 50 years of service.

Kettenring presents Captain Terry Murley with the 2018 Boat of the Year Award.

## Boy Scouts Honor David Cooper, Sr.

In April, the Mobile Area Council Boy Scouts of America presented David Cooper, Sr., Vice Chairman of Cooper/T. Smith, with the Golden Eagle Award at its annual Boy Scout Golden Eagle Dinner onboard the USS Alabama.

The Golden Eagle Dinner brings together business, civic, and political leaders in our community to share the story of Scouting's impact on our youth. The event also affords the Boy Scouts the opportunity to honor community leaders for their service, as selected by their peers. The Golden Eagle Award recognizes citizens who serve our community through financial, volunteer, or business leadership.

The Mobile Area Council Boy Scouts of America provides service to over 4,500 registered youth and registered adult leaders in the Southwest Alabama Counties of Baldwin, Clarke, Mobile and Washington. •



*Pictured: Mobile County Sheriff Sam Cochran presents Mr. Cooper with the Golden Eagle Award*

### > SRT Transportation Solutions

## SRT Power Plant Delivery



SRT Transportation Solutions recently completed the transport of a 650,000 lb. transformer and 840,000 lb. generator.

The units moved on both Norfolk Southern and CSX in the eastern U.S. for delivery to a new power plant. The generator shipment required the use of a shiftable-deck railcar with SRT operators maneuvering the 15-foot-wide load past obstructions.

Big thanks to Norfolk Southern, NS Clearances and CSX for the great service! •

### > Safety

## Committed to Safety

Safety training begins on the first day of the job and continues everyday thereafter. Upon hiring, all employees undergo an extensive orientation process, which includes multiple safety evaluations.

Our co-workers, customers, industry partners, families, and friends depend on us to operate safely everyday. Safety is our number one priority.

Click the thumbnail to watch a brief video that features our employees with their families as they speak about the importance of safety on the job. •



*Click the "Play" button to watch the video*

## CSA Launches Website

We're pleased to announce that CSA, a division of the Cooper Group, has launched its website: [www.csaports.com](http://www.csaports.com). Formed in 1999, CSA is a partnership between Cooper/T. Smith and SSA Marine. This new website provides an overview of CSA's services, which include forest product, break bulk and heavy-lift operations; terminal operations for loading and unloading rail cars, trucks and river barges; and container services. For more information, visit: [www.csaports.com](http://www.csaports.com). •



> CSA

## CSA Welcomes New President



*Britton Cooper*

The Cooper Group of Companies is pleased to announce that Britton Cooper has been named President of CSA. Mr. Cooper will be responsible for overseeing the company's operations, opportunities for growth and expansion, and continued customer satisfaction. He takes up the position from Dan Wilkins, who retired in October 2018. Mr. Wilkins was part of the Cooper Group for 46 years, the past 20 of which he served as CSA President in Mobile, Alabama. He remains with the company in a consulting capacity, assisting Mr. Cooper as he transitions into the role of President.

CSA was formed in 1999 as a joint venture between Cooper/T. Smith Stevedoring and SSA Marine. The company provides world-class services for forest products, break bulk, and heavy-lift operations, as well as Terminal Operations for loading and unloading rail cars, trucks, and river barges, in addition to a Container Services division. •

> Crescent Towing

## Crescent Towing Receives Safety Award

Crescent Towing and the crew of the *South Carolina* were recently awarded the 2018 Jones F. Devlin Award. The Devlin Award recognizes the skills and dedication of the men and women who are responsible for safe vessel operations. To qualify for a Devlin Award, a manned merchant vessel must have operated for two full years or more without a crew member losing a full turn at watch because of an occupational injury. The award was presented at the Chamber of Shipping of America's Annual Safety Awards Luncheon. Crescent Towing has 20 vessels with a combined total of 133 years with no lost-time injuries. The *South Carolina* was Crescent Towing's "2018 Boat of the Year" and subsequently earned the right to accept the award on behalf of all of the Crescent Towing mariners. •



*Pictured: Gawain Schouest, Eddie Pinner, Tina Adams, Phil Katz, Keith Kettenring, Steven Reeg, Ben Morvant, Joe Carson, Kyle McDermott, Kevin McDermott*



# Milestones

## 5 Years

Terry Collum  
Ira Simoneaux IV  
Brandon Centanni  
Sam Smith  
Robert Cooper III  
Jeff Michlowitz  
Amy Trammell  
Jacob Lucius  
Drew Carson  
Ernie Hayes  
Clay Colombo  
Landon Caceres  
Chase McLean

## 10 Years

Andrew White

## 15 Years

Dan Curtis  
Christian Frey Jr.  
Hays Clark  
Roy Saranthus Jr.

## 20 Years

Doc Jarman  
Gregory Barnes  
Tom McCormick Jr.  
Steve McNeil  
Derrick Carstarphen  
Doug Hall  
Bennie Coates  
Jeff Murphy  
Steve Myles  
Ray Goodwin Jr.  
Terry Parten  
Kelly Ward  
Gary Goodwin  
Levone Hinton  
Teresa Sanderson  
Tim Rush  
Curt Anderson  
Mark Luke  
John Stokes  
Pleas Sumrall

Freddie Williams Sr.  
Johnny Moore  
Jerry Williamson  
Randy Schultz  
Glenn Hilburn  
Andrew Cooper  
Roy Helmstetter Jr.  
Dave Ledet Jr.

## 25 Years

Todd Lewis  
Cathy Billiot  
Viki Wortham  
Damion Bonvillian

## 30 Years

Alfonso Irby  
Charles Messmer Jr.  
Deveret V. Napoleon

## 35 Years

Albert Crespo  
Jamie Davidson  
Kerry Wright



Captain Ray Schwartz, who began working at Crescent Towing in April 1979, marked his retirement in December 2018. Joey Pinner, Regional Safety Director (left), presents Ray with a retirement gift.

Heather Lech, who had been an Administrative Assistant for Crescent Towing since 2012, was named Maritime Administrator for Cooper/T. Smith Mooring. She assumed her new duties on April 1.



Buddy Greene (top), Vice President, CSA, 25 years, with wife Pat; and Dan Wilkins (bottom), President, CSA, 46 years, with wife Cyndie, celebrate retirement at the BLUEGILL.



Ed Laurendine, Senior Vice President, Cooper/T. Smith retired on June 30 after 41 years of service to the company.

Wendell Landry, who has served as Managing Director, Stevedoring/Maintenance, at Cooper Consolidated, has been named Senior Vice President, Stevedoring Operations, for Cooper Marine and Timberlands.

