



Engaging the public to ensure the environmental health and recreational enjoyment of our nation's lakes and waterways administered by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Autumn 2015

Welcome to the Newsletter of the Corps Foundation.

By supporting the Corps Foundation, you become a partner with the largest Federal provider of outdoor recreation facilities, helping with the stewardship of millions of acres of land and water managed by the Corps of Engineers. Read this newsletter to learn of the accomplishments of The Foundation and ways you can support the work of the Foundation and the Corps' natural resource and recreation professionals.

We invite your ideas and articles about how the Corps Foundation has helped our lands and waters. Please contact Rick Magee, Newsletter Editor, at rrickvex@aol.com.

Join Us or Renew Your Membership

Why become a member of the Corps Foundation? When you join the Corps Foundation you are supporting the only national foundation dedicated solely to supporting our nation's lakes, lands and waterways managed by the Corps of Engineers.

The Corps Foundation provides primarily philanthropic benefits – that is, the knowledge that you are giving back and investing in a growing program that supports initiatives like volunteer recognition, water safety, conservation and advocacy. Overhead costs are virtually nonexistent, since the Corps Foundation is fully managed by dedicated volunteers. That means your membership contribution goes directly to support these important program initiatives. Join us now, by visiting www.corpsfoundation.org and clicking on the Join/Donate tab.

Annual Board of Directors Meeting



The Board of Directors of the Corps Foundation met September 8-9 in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, to strategize and plan key actions that will help us advance our mission and make the Corps Foundation more meaningful and relevant to our constituents.

Pictured left to right: Pat Barry, Board Member; Peter Lewis, Chairman of the Board Emeritus; Donna Asbury, Board Member; Marilyn Jones, Secretary; Darrell Lewis, Treasurer; Greg Miller, Chairman of the Board. Not

pictured: Rich Deline, Board Member unable to attend.

One of the main objectives of the meeting was to use the recent survey to evaluate the strategic plan and to

develop an annual work plan and budget. The meeting was very productive and successful in identifying a number of actions that have potential to dramatically improve the Foundation's ability to support Corps operated lakes, lands and waterways.

The Board was too busy to get bored! Several of the key outcomes of the 2015 meeting are summarized in the following article.

Supporting Corps Lakes, Waterways, Friends Groups and Volunteers

Advocacy. One of the common responses from the survey suggested the Corps Foundation expand its role as advocate with Congressional leaders. Subsequent to our annual meeting, a federal government shutdown again threatened to force Federal agencies to close parks, negatively impacting the operational partners and local economies that rely on visitors and tourism. As a result the Corps Foundation wrote letters to key Congressional leaders urging them to avoid the devastating impact of a government shutdown. In the future we hope to play a greater role in educating key leaders on other relevant issues such as the engagement of military personnel as volunteers at Corps sites.

Grants. One of the Foundation's long term strategies is to identify partners that we can assist in utilizing grant funding. As a direct result of discussions during the meeting, we were able to identify a partnering opportunity with the Corps at Libby Dam and later with Lake Ouachita. Encouraging them to apply for an Every Kid in a Park Transportation Grant, the applications for the National Park Foundation's grant have been submitted and we are hopeful they will be approved to fund transportation and education activities for 4th grade elementary students at Libby Dam and Lake Ouachita.



Libby Dam, Montana

Partnership and Volunteer Awards. The Corps Headquarters recently announced their request for nominations for an outstanding partner for the USACE Excellence in Partnership Award and outstanding volunteer(s) for the USACE National Volunteer Award. These awards will again be sponsored by the Corps Foundation in cooperation with USACE. Nominations should be routed through each District to their respective Division (or "MSC") Office. Each MSC will forward nomination packages and instructions to POC, Ms. Miriam Fleming, SAD Partnership Advisory Committee member, CESAM-OP-TR, who can be reached via e-mail at miriam.j.fleming@usace.army.mil or phone at [251-690-3004](tel:251-690-3004). The nominations are due no later than 15 December 2015. More information about these awards can be found on the NRM Gateway at <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/partners/awards.cfm>

Strengthening Organizational Identity and Outreach

Communications. New Board member, Pat Barry has accepted the leadership role for our Communications Committee which will help build awareness of the Corps Foundation and its activities with our constituencies. Pat and the committee will be very busy working on improvements to the newsletter, website, Facebook page and developing other media in an effort to make the information more pertinent and timely. Pat recently recruited retired Corps ranger Rick Magee to be our new editor of the newsletter. Many of you may know Rick through his role with the Corps as the National Sign Program Manager where he published the informative and humorous newsletter, *The Sign Post*. Rick, welcome to the Corps Foundation team!

Ensuring Organizational Sustainability

Advisory Council. The Corps Foundation is in the process of establishing an Advisory Council to review our strategic plan and help advance our initiatives. We recently recruited retired HQ Chief, Natural Resources Management, George Tabb to lead the Advisory Council. George welcome to the Corps Foundation team!

When established, the group will provide the Corps Foundation with valuable feedback that reflects the views of stakeholders and constituents. The Advisory Council will also play an instrumental public relations role and provide the Board with a fresh perspective on program issues. The Advisory Council will consist of representatives from the Corps, business community, Friend's groups, Cooperating Associations, other non-profit recreation and environmental support organizations.

Developing Philanthropic Support

Have a Great Steak and Support Corps Lakes!



We're happy to announce that we've just started a fundraising campaign through the newly launched Steaks for Good program from Omaha Steaks. Shop steaks, burgers, chicken, veggies and more, and 10% of every order you make will go towards our fundraising goal! You may purchase online at www.steaksforgood.com/CorpsFoundation, at your local Omaha Steaks store, or by phone at 800-994-7455. Simply tell the Omaha Steaks specialist that you are ordering through the Corps Foundation campaign.

Holiday time is just around the corner. Enjoy great family meals and stock up for special gatherings. And don't forget to share – food products make great gifts that can be shipped to friends, colleagues and family throughout the U.S.

Shop Online through AmazonSmile and Contribute to the Corps Foundation

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way to support the Corps Foundation every time you shop at Amazon, and at no additional cost. From your web browser simply go to www.smile.amazon.com and then select the Corps Foundation as your charitable organization of choice. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate .5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. You get the same prices and Amazon shopping experience you've come to know, but with the added benefit of knowing that you are helping the Corps Foundation.



Volunteer Recognition

2014 National Volunteer Individual Award: Mikayla Conrad of Deer Creek Lake in the Huntington District received the 2014 National Volunteer Individual Award. At the time she earned the award, Ms. Conrad served as a park ranger assistant volunteer. She spent over 1,000 hours at events, fair booths, leading tours of the dam, serving as volunteer coordinator, and numerous other essential tasks. The award was co-sponsored by the Corps Foundation. Partially as a result of her volunteer service, Mikayla was selected as the 2014 recipient. She currently serves as a park ranger performing water safety activities.

The Board of Directors of the Corps Foundation congratulates Mikayla, the Team and the staff of Deer Creek Lake for their outstanding accomplishments!



Lake Manager Bonnie Maki (on left) presenting the individual Award to Mikayla Conrad at Deer Creek Lake.

National Volunteer Group Award: The South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources Cooper River Re-diversion Project Visitor Center Team received the 2014 National Volunteer Group Award.

Volunteer Recognition Coins



The Corps Foundation sponsored new coins to recognize the outstanding volunteers who support Corps park rangers in their efforts to provide exceptional service and outstanding interpretation at our recreation sites and who contribute to natural resource management efforts. These coins will be awarded this year for the first time to volunteers who help make significant contributions!

Evan Gross, a volunteer at Raystown Lake, Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers, is the Winner of the First Volunteer Coin! He is recognized for his dedication to the excellence of the Allegrippis Trail system at Raystown Lake.

The Allegrippis Trails are recognized as some of the best mountain biking trails anywhere in the United States, some may argue even the world. That reputation exists due to the hard work and dedication of Evan Gross. Serving as the President of the Raystown Mountain Biking Association (RMBA), Evan coordinates a club approach to regular trail maintenance by coordinating and overseeing a volunteer work force that loves the trails. Evan also serves as a model trail maintenance volunteer by doing much of the tree and debris removal himself.



In addition to the regular club members and trail volunteers, Evan also coordinates special activities that reflect well upon the Allegrippis and the Corps of Engineers. Every fall Evan works with the United Way to organize a "Day of Caring" where kids from the Raystown area visit the Allegrippis to complete a more laborious task along the trails. For more click this link: <http://www.docdroid.net/axSb8ip/evan-gross-coin-rlp-2015.pdf.html>

Mr. Fran DiGiano

The Corps Foundation Salutes Mr. Fran DiGiano, a recent winner of a Corps Foundation Coin, for his contributions to making Jordan Lake a better place to recreate! We applaud his excellent question regarding litter at Corps Lakes. "Whether we can tackle this is the interim question," he says. "The real question is how do we stop all of this (litter) at the source?"



Survey Results are In!

Special thanks to those who took the time to fill out our recent survey. We distributed the survey prior to our annual Board of Directors meeting that was held in Coeur D'Alene, ID, September 8-9, 2015. Fifty-two people responded to the survey, with over a hundred fifty written comments to clarify individual answers. The Board used your responses to shape our goals, objectives, and action items for the next year. It was extremely helpful to hear your views on the types of efforts that are important to you.

Want to learn more about the survey results? This link provides a summary of survey responses followed by an outline of important priorities identified in our 2016 Annual Work Plan. Thanks again for helping our organization better serve the lakes and waterways operated by the Corps of Engineers. <http://docdro.id/rYZHgvB>

More Good News!

The Corps Foundation has received the GuideStar Exchange Gold participation level, a leading symbol of transparency and accountability provided by GuideStar USA, Inc., the premier source of nonprofit information. This level demonstrates the Corps Foundation's deep commitment to nonprofit transparency and accountability. <http://www.guidestar.org/.../corps-engineers-natural-resource...>

We have worked hard to showcase our progress toward our mission, and our long-held belief in being transparent about our work, to our constituents," said Greg Miller, President of the Corps Foundation. "As a GuideStar Exchange participant, we use their platform to share a wealth of up-to-date information about our work to our supporters and GuideStar's immense online audience of nonprofits, grantmakers, individual donors, and the media. I encourage you to check out our profile on GuideStar to see what we're all about," added Greg. "We are engaged in exciting initiatives, and we are thrilled to have another platform for communicating our advancement and progress."





“Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns” Boating and Water Safety Campaign

The Corps Foundation developed this new nationwide campaign through a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Foundation administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The campaign has produced a DVD that includes four television-quality video public service announcements (PSAs), three radio-quality audio PSAs and two posters.

Even more exciting for its possibility to reach the Digital Demographic, the campaign also includes a free mobile game app called “Lake Guard”. The “Lake Guard” game is now downloadable from the Google Play and Apple app stores.

Campaign materials are available at PleaseWearIt.com and will be promoted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to save lives on our nation’s lakes and rivers. Special thanks go to Rachel Garren for her work on managing the grant. Thank you also to Pam Doty, National Water Safety Manager for the Corps of Engineers.

The Corps Foundation Supports Improvements at Chittenden Locks



The Lake Washington Ship Canal was built a century ago under the direction of Seattle District Engineer, Hiram Martin Chittenden, to create a shipping connection between Lake Washington and Puget Sound. Yes, this is the same Hiram Chittenden who did so much work for Yellowstone National Park and the namesake of the Corps of Engineers Award for Excellence in Interpretation. The locks are officially named after Brigadier General Chittenden and are also known locally as “Ballard Locks” for the neighborhood where they are located. On one side of the waterway is the Carl S. English Gardens, named for the Corps employee who created this landscaped oasis and on the opposite side of the lock is a fish viewing gallery. This 100 year-old facility and Seattle icon is in need of significant upgrades and repairs. The Corps Foundation and Discover Your Northwest have teamed up to encourage public support.

Our goal is to solicit public funding to help return the locks to a World Class Facility befitting the City of Seattle. Please [contact us](#) to learn about our plans and how you can help.

Smith Family Remembers Dad, Helps Chittenden Locks Centennial

The Corps Foundation recently accepted a first-ever Memorial check for \$7,545 from the Smith Family in memory of their father. The money is earmarked to help on planned renovations at the 100 year-old Hiram M. Chittenden Locks in Seattle. In their words:

"The Chittenden Locks and Fish Ladder topped Dad's list of favorite places in Seattle. After he passed away, we wanted to give a gift in his memory. We contacted Rich Deline of the Corps of Engineers Foundation. The Locks, Fish Ladder and Gardens represent Dad's hobbies, and are such a beautiful and peaceful setting! We are very pleased to know that our gift is so timely, as the need is great and it will contribute to improvements as you prepare to celebrate your 100th anniversary."

If you would like to donate to the needed work to renovate the Chittenden Locks or would like more information please contact the Corps Foundation or visit the website: www.ballardlocks.org

Every Kid Should Visit a Park

Our children are showing the effects of "outdoor deficit syndrome" and the Corps Foundation wants to help get them out to Corps Recreation Areas. For that reason the Foundation supports the new *Every Kid in a Park* recreation initiative announced by President Obama in September. The Every Kid in a Park initiative will provide all fourth grade students and their families with free admission for a full year to more than 2,000 federally-managed sites nationwide.



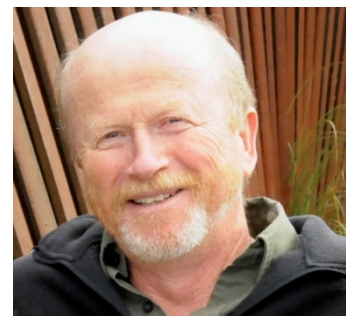
Fourth graders can visit the "Get Your Pass" section of the Every Kid in a Park website at www.everykidinapark.gov and complete a fun educational activity to obtain and print a personalized voucher for unlimited use at federal lands and waters for one year. Passes are valid from Sept. 1, 2015 through Aug. 31, 2016. The paper voucher can be exchanged for a more durable interagency annual fourth grade pass at certain federal sites. The Every Kid in a Park website also provides information on tips for trip planning and how parents and educators can get involved.

To find the Army Corps of Engineers, recreation site near you, [visit www.CorpsLakes.us](http://www.CorpsLakes.us).

Pat Barry – New Corps Foundation Board Member

J. Patrick Barry has joined the Foundation as the Communication Committee Chair. Pat retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2015 after more than thirty-five years of Federal service. During twenty-five of those years he supervised the Bonneville Lock and Dam Visitor Center.

Pat served as the lead instructor for Interpretive Services and Outreach courses for the Corps for fourteen years. Along with Nancy Rogers and others he developed an advanced course called "Interpretive Services for Managers, Supervisors and Team Leaders." Pat also is a Certified Interpretive Trainer for the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) since 2002.



He has written numerous articles and technical bulletins on the subject of interpretation and has presented over a dozen sessions at NAI National Workshops. He has conducted training sessions and given keynote addresses to numerous organizations.

Pat has a BS degree in Biology and Environmental Science from Long Island University and a MS in Recreation and Parks Administration with a focus on Environmental Interpretation from the California State University.

Participate!

Your support helps Corps projects and their friends groups connect, grow and increase their capacity to fulfill the Corps' natural resource education mission on lakes and waterways across America.

The Corps Foundation is a non-profit public charity designated 501 (c) 3 by the Internal Revenue Service. All contributions are 100% tax deductible-and all amounts are appreciated!

Find out more at our website: www.CorpsFoundation.org

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www.CorpsFoundation.org

Please send your ideas and your articles to your Newsletter Editor. Ideas for a great new name for the newsletter are welcome before the 15th of January.

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