



Welcome to the Fall Edition of the Corps Foundation Newsletter!

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Thank you Members and Donors!

Thank you to those who donated through Amazon Smile and Steaks for Good!

<http://corpsfoundation.org/join-donate/>

The Corps Foundation has limited sources of income. We are an all-volunteer board but we have expenses. We rely on membership fees and donations to keep us afloat. Thank you for taking the extra steps required to donate to us through Amazon Smile and Steaks for Good. Also thanks for the donations! It all helps us provide service to Corps Lakes and Rivers!

Pat Barry, Board of Directors

Corps Foundation Conducts a National Association for Interpretation, Certified Interpretive Guide Class



You may remember that the longer, original, and “official” name of the Corps Foundation is the Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation. One of the ways U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) employees learn how to provide education for the public is through the USACE, Interpretive Services PROSPECT Courses.

Two former instructors of the Interpretive Services courses are with the Corps Foundation and are Certified Interpretive Trainers through the National Association for Interpretation (NAI), the professional association for those in the interpretive profession.

The Corps Foundation decided to offer an interpretation course and open it up to USACE rangers as well as interpreters from partner agencies. The course took place at the National Great Rivers Museum in Alton, Illinois. This USACE regional visitor center at Melvin Price Locks and Dam is one of the largest and most up-to-date of any of the USACE visitor centers.

NAI certified instructors included Corps Foundation Board Director Patrick Barry, Corps Foundation Special Programs Director Rachel Garren and USACE National Water Safety Program Manager Pam Doty.

The Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) class spanned four days in May 2016. By successfully completing the class, the students received professional CIG certification from NAI and learned the basics of program development and presentation. Eleven students from USACE and other natural resource agencies and organizations completed the course.

Student feedback was all positive. Comments included "Having the diversity of three different personality types and perspectives in you as instructors was great. This was a very enjoyable experience."

"The test questions were very challenging for the amount of time of the training course. Instructors were very knowledgeable and helpful, also passionate about interpretation. Location was wonderful."

The course culminated with a ten-minute presentation from each of the students where they put what they learned into practice.

We want to thank Kim Rea, Janet Meredith and Tommy Smith for helping to host the class. Thanks also to management at the site including Andy Schimpf and Karen Watwood.

If anyone is interested in bringing the course to your location, please contact Corps Foundation Director Patrick Barry at jpatbarry@hotmail.com

Ms. Beth “Buffy” Murphy receives Volunteer Appreciation Coin



On a daily basis, volunteers play a vital role in protecting natural resources, maintaining recreation facilities and assisting with interpretation and community outreach. At Hensley Lake, one special volunteer supported all of these programs simultaneously. Ms. Beth “Buffy” Murphy has been a volunteer at Hensley Lake for over 3 years and has served the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers selflessly across multiple agency missions.

In her time with the Corps, Buffy has contributed over 2,500 volunteer hours, valued at over \$57,675.00 for services provided. Buffy plays an essential role on the Hensley team with her knowledge, support of our leading project/agency missions, and her genial personality that boosts team morale.

With few interpretive rangers on staff, capacity for outreach is limited. Through Buffy’s effort and support, Hensley Lake’s outreach opportunities for the public and park visitors increased significantly. Buffy spends countless hours preparing school and onsite programs, representing the Corps at children’s fishing events, fairs, school programs, parades, and major outreach activities such as, National Public Lands Day, Warrior Day on the Lake, Every Kid in the Park, and Kids Fish Day. This is all in addition to fielding visitor phone calls and visitors at project headquarters.

Last year, Buffy expanded her volunteer effort to assist the project assistant with administrative duties. She supports the maintenance team with reports and documents

supporting Flood Risk Management. Buffy also helped maintain the project by updating bulletin boards, assisting with invasive species removal, and installation of food plots. As a volunteer she also helps to ensure the safety of staff and visitors by maintaining safety equipment and conducting safety inspections..

Buffy's is a natural fit with the Corps team. She provides exceptional customer service to thousands of visitors and her knowledge of park facilities, rules and regulations makes her a valued member of the Corps team. Buffy is well deserving of the recognition and the award of the Volunteer Excellence coin for her exceptional volunteer service at Hensley Lake.

The Corps Foundation Partners with Pacific Northwest's Burgerville Restaurant Chain

Have you ever gone to a restaurant where they provide coloring sheets for children? We thought, "Why not provide a water safety message on those coloring sheets?"

The Corps Foundation set up an agreement with Burgerville, a Pacific Northwest "healthy and locally sourced" fast food restaurant. Pam Doty, Corps of Engineers National Water Safety Manager provided artwork and added the logos of Burgerville and the Corps Foundation to the coloring sheets

The purpose is to provide water safety awareness by using Corps of Engineers "Bobber the Water Safety Dog" coloring sheets for the restaurants.

We are happy to report that some of the 39 Burgerville Restaurants have begun to use the coloring sheets. Using the sheets is optional but a Burgerville representative reported that many restaurant managers are using them throughout boating season.

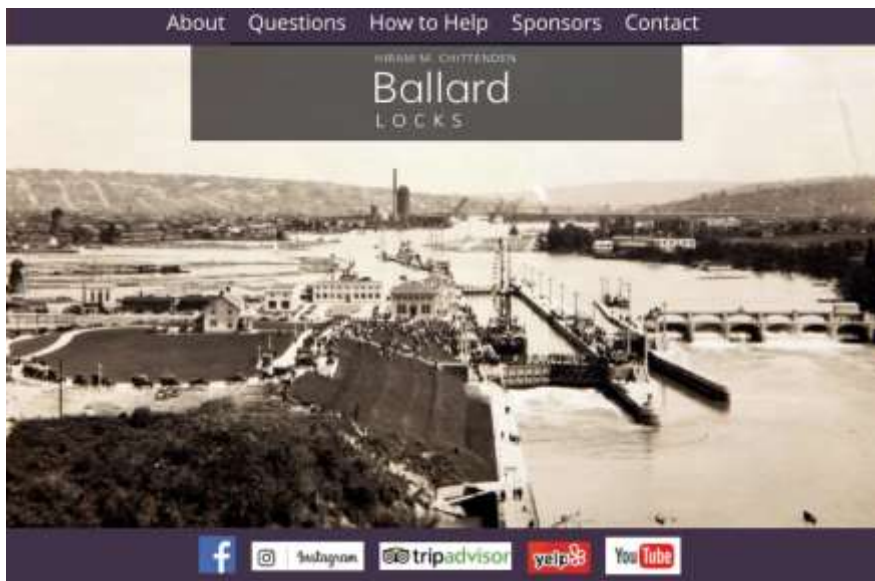
We believe this is an untapped audience and is an idea that should be expanded to restaurant chains across the country.

If anyone would like assistance from the Corps Foundation in contacting restaurants, please get in touch with J. Patrick Barry, Corps Foundation Communications Director at jpatbarry@hotmail.com



Caption: Left, Bobber artwork at Burgerville Restaurant on Interstate 5. Right: Will Barry, son of Corps Foundation Board Member Pat Barry and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Natural Resource Manager, Melissa Rinehart, using one of the coloring sheets at a restaurant in Vancouver, Washington.

Quarterly News from the Locks: Using Social Media



The Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, locally known as the **Ballard Locks**, are the busiest in the Nation and a major tourist attraction for Seattle. But after 100 years of use and

inadequate federal funding, the locks are in serious need of major repairs for both the major structural components and visitor facilities. The non-profit Corps Foundation, in partnership with a local non-profit, *Discover Your Northwest*, is helping to raise needed private funds for visitor facilities and programs. The locks celebrates its Centennial in 2017.

Using internet social media resources, we are increasing public awareness about the issues and how the public can help:

A **special website** (www.ballardlocks.org), sponsored by the Corps Foundation, covers specific relevant information to the 1.3 million visitors and boaters who use the locks every year. The site works for mobile devices as well as computers. Information includes a site map, “Commonly Asked Questions by Visitors” and a “How to Help” page. The website now attracts 10 thousand hits monthly and has become a critical source of information for locks visitors and boaters.

There are a variety of contact methods on the website, including email and texting for those seeking both general information and quick answers. The website originator, Rich Deline, Corps Foundation Director, recently received a phone call from a captain on a brand new \$2M yacht asking for assistance on “Locking Through.” Rich contacted the Operations Project Manager who relayed the message to the lock wall attendants and they were able to assist the yacht. Later, the captain thanked Rich for his help and expressed interest in supporting the locks.

Another social media tool in use is **Trip Advisor**...the most popular travel planner app in the world. The website www.ballardlocks.org is now shown on **Trip Advisor** as the source for tourist info and visitor reviews has proved invaluable in evaluating and responding to public comments about the Locks.

Additionally, Rich created a special Locks **YouTube** channel for viewing videos about the Locks history, salmon, locking through, and other subjects. The YouTube videos have totaled over 18,000 views ...the most popular being “How to Lock Through” with 500 views a month.

Other social media tools, such as **Facebook** and **Yelp**, Instagram and Google Maps are making a major impact on public awareness to assist in increasing public awareness and support for the locks. The key social media tool in this case was the new website www.ballardlocks.org and cross-linking to other websites & apps. For more

information on social media tools or to make a donation contact Corps Foundation Board Member Rich Deline at rich.deline@gmail.com

Join or Renew Your Corps Foundation Membership Now and Receive our Logo Tote Bag



Special Offer – Logo Tote Bag with New or Renewed Corps Foundation Memberships

Good news! Promotional products retailer 4imprint® has chosen to feature the Corps Foundation on its website at <http://info.4imprint.com/blog/the-corps-foundation/>

The Corps Foundation is a recent recipient of the company's one by one® product grant program, which we used for tote bags featuring our logo. The Corps Foundation offers tote bags as a premium for our current membership drive, while supplies last. To join us and receive your tote bag visit www.corpsfoundation.org and click on "join."

Volunteers Needed!

Do you have website skills? Do you want to help the Corps Foundation? We currently need someone to help with our website. Work involves a knowledge of WordPress and about one hour a month to add updates to the site.

Another opportunity: If you are interested in learning Constant Contact and loading the newsletter into Constant Contact, we have an opportunity for you too! Contact Board member and Communications Chair, Pat Barry at jpatbarry@hotmail.com for more information. Please type "website volunteer" in the subject line. Thanks!

Every Kid in a Park at Libby Dam



Libby Dam collaborated with the Corps Foundation to apply for and receive a “Kids to Parks Transportation Grant.” Nationwide only six of these grants were awarded to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers parks. By winning the National Park Foundation grant, the Corps Foundation was able to provide the funds for bus transportation to bring 172 students from three schools in Lincoln County, Montana to Libby Dam and learn firsthand about the many things that U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other Natural Resource Management agencies do in their area. Sometimes the high costs of transportation prohibit visitors in rural, economically impacted areas like Lincoln County from visiting and enjoying all that the park has to offer. The grant made possible a field trip to Libby Dam that the schools might otherwise have been unable to afford.



To assist the students in getting the most from their field trip, Libby Dam Park Ranger Susan James used her Master's degree in education to design pre and post field trip classroom programs to create natural "bookends" for the field trip experience to Libby Dam and the Souse Gulch Day use area.



As part of the pre and post visits, multiple partners helped bring their professionalism and passion for natural resource management to the students. For example, Birds of Prey Northwest brought live hawks, owls, falcons and an eagle to the schools, teaching about human-caused bird injuries and rehabilitation efforts. They also covered what kids today can do to help. Birdwatching and other educational activities with USACE Park Rangers, volunteers and guest speakers filled the field trip. A nature hike, followed by time to dissect owl pellets was a particular hit with the students. The students also toured Libby Dam's hydropower facility followed by discussions and demonstrations of USACE missions including flood control, hydropower, recreation, and natural resource management.

Other partners included The Lincoln County Conservation District who provided a stream-table hands-on demonstration of how people change the environment. The Forest Service and the Eureka Audubon Society teamed up to lead a birdwatching activity. All of these partners helped to leverage the relatively modest transportation

grant from the National Park Service Foundation of \$ 1,233.25 to provide educational programs and resources valued at over \$47,000. As explained by Ranger James, "The students and parents and teachers and other resource professionals are still talking about how great this experience was, and so, with help from the Corps Foundation we plan to apply for the grant again in the fall. We may have started an annual educational event for all the county's 4th graders here!"

Corps Foundation Communications Director Speaks at Portland District Retiree Luncheon

On 13 May 2016, Corps Foundation Communications Director J. Patrick Barry spoke to those attending the Portland District Retiree Luncheon. Barry explained the role of the Corps Foundation and told of some of the foundation's recent successes.

Current Portland District Commander Col. Jose Aguilar attended as well as well as Deputy Commander Robledo and about 50 retirees.

Melissa Rinehart, Portland District water safety coordinator also attended and showed off the District's water safety efforts including the "Lifejackets Worn...Nobody Mourns" Campaign developed by the Corps Foundation.

We encourage retired U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees to join and support the efforts of the Corps Foundation.



Caption: Pat Barry chats about the Corps Foundation with retired former Portland District Commander Terry Connell and Deputy Commander Major Robledo

Lake Ouachita Recipient of Every Kid in a Park Grant

Every Kid in a Park (EKIP) is a White House initiative with the goal of providing an opportunity for every fourth grade student in the country to experience their federal public lands and waters, free of charge. In support of the Every Kid in a Park program, the National Park Foundation, the official charitable partner for the National Park Service, is helping to connect fourth graders to America's public lands and waters by giving out transportation grants. Federal agencies and non-profit partners receive these transportation grants to provide transportation and meal grants for the students.



Left: Lake Hamilton students arrive! Right: Brett Hobbs, Arkansas Game and Fish Biologist Presents fisheries programs

The Lake Ouachita Field Office in partnership with the Corps Foundation received a \$9,000.00 transportation grant to host two large Every Kid in a Park (EKIP) field trips to the Avery Recreation Area below Blakely Mountain Dam. The first field trip was held on Thursday, April 21st for a group of 360 fourth grade students from the Lake Hamilton Intermediate School.



Left: Park Ranger, Karl Studenroth, presents Snake Program with help of his “pets”
Right: Park Ranger, Amy Shultz discusses Fisheries Management with Mountain Pine students

Students were treated to rotating, (round-robin) style programs on snakes of Arkansas, fisheries management, timber management, water quality testing, trees of Arkansas with a tree planting activity, and nature hikes.

Lake Ouachita partnered with DeGray Lake Corps of Engineers, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Diamond Lakes Master Naturalists, and Arkansas Forestry Commission in facilitating and presenting these programs. Even though rain was in the forecast for the day of the event, the weather turned out perfect with partly-cloudy skies and cool temperatures.



Park Ranger and USACE Interpretive Services instructor, Brian Westfall, leads students on a nature hike.

On Thursday, May 5th, Lake Ouachita hosted the second EKIP field trip at Avery Recreation Area for 150 students from Mountain Pine School. Partners who assisted with this event included DeGray Lake Corps of Engineers, Diamond Lakes Master Naturalists, and the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Students received the following programs: snakes of Arkansas, fisheries management with a casting contest, timber management, trees of Arkansas with a tree planting activity, water quality testing, and nature hikes. Although a little warmer, it was a beautiful day for this field trip also! USACE and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission incorporated Water Safety education into many of the programs.



The grant funds provided box lunches from Subway, transportation money to and from the school, and supplies for the programs. The Corps Foundation administered the grant funds for Lake Ouachita Corps of Engineers.

Following the field trips, Every Kid in the Park Passes were distributed to the teachers to give to all the students. These passes are good for the fourth graders and their families to received free use to USACE day-use areas (boat ramps and beaches). In addition, they receive free entrance to national parks and other federal fee sites throughout the country. Through the EKIP program, more youth may take an interest in our nation's lands and waters and learn to protect the natural resources for future generations. One student from Mountain Pine School shared with us that this was the BEST Day he ever had while at school and that made the hard work that went into facilitating the programs well worth it!

Enjoy Great Cookouts and Benefit Corps Lakes

Do you want to help the Corps Foundation and enjoy gourmet food from Omaha Steaks too? Through Steaks for Good, you can shop steaks, pork chops, chicken, vegetables and more, and 10% of your order will go directly to our fundraising goal! With over 80 retail stores in 26 states, you may have a store near you – just mention when checking out that you would like to have your purchase benefit the Corps Foundation through Steaks for Good. You can also order by phone at 800-994-7455 or online. See our special packages at: <http://bit.ly/1N9rXQG>



Board Member Spotlight: Darrell Lewis



Darrell Lewis is a founding member of the Corps Foundation Board of Directors and serves as Treasurer for the organization. He was Chief of the Natural Resources Management Branch in the Headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1982 to 2003. Here in conversation with Board Chair emeritus Peter Lewis, Darrell shares some of his experiences and stories about his long career of public service.

Darrell Lewis (DL): In practice, my whole success in life and my satisfaction in my career has been about people – the people I worked with and the people I served (the public). That may sound a little pretentious, but the research backs it up. I was lucky enough to work with a lot of scientists over the years and there's no doubt in my mind that when the Corps provides recreational opportunities for millions of visitors to Corps administered lakes, the value of those activities is far greater than people realize. Those activities bring benefits to the nation, regions and the local zones, and the individuals. And that's a rewarding career. So, I never felt I was in a light-weight program, even though most agencies I worked with considered the recreation program as light weight. I knew better.

(PL): In my experience, outdoor recreation is pivotal to a person's well-being.

(DL): Of course, I was involved in more than recreation. I was in environmental and conservation areas as well. I know the value of it. I worked for the Bureau of Land Management and TVA before the Corps of Engineers. A high percentage of the customers of those agencies were people like me, blue collar. They don't have that fancy wilderness and they don't have sailboats. They might have a big ole bass boat or big camper.

Working was never a job for me. I always enjoyed it. I spent a lot of time face-to-face with people out in the field, people working and people using the lands and waters.

(PL): Well, from what I've heard, it sounds like you did it fairly, which is really important to those involved.

(DL): The power of integrity is an amazing thing. I found it to be most valuable. The second thing is thinking long-term. You've got to have an eye on where you're going. I had projects that went on for years, and you have to keep pushing. I had a kind of a mascot: the tortoise. Mine came from Sienna, Italy. Well, I had a banner on my wall, I guess it was no bigger than two feet by two feet, and people would ask, "Why are you using that thing? You think everybody is slow?"

"No," I would answer, "that's how projects get done. They move slowly, and you just have to keep herding the turtles!" That's been my way of thinking – you don't get it all done overnight. You can't just put together a briefing take a decision, and it's all done. There's a lot more to it than that.

(PL): Yes, indeed.

(DL): And then there is short-term thinking. Strategic thinking. You've got to think and speak on your feet. Sometimes it just takes one word to turn something from a disaster to a success. And I have a - it's kind of a lengthy example. I don't know how much time you want to develop out to this. But, you're stuck listening to me this time!

(PL): I'm listening and enjoying.

(DL): One of the things my staff felt, and this is extended out to several people in the field, was we needed to do something about access to Corps facilities and our lakes. The pattern was that local people, because of their access to campgrounds, could send a family member out on Friday morning to put the gear on a campsite table and that would essentially reserve that site for the weekend. When others came out, from the further distances, they got the leftover campsites. Several of us thought this wasn't fair. We are to serve the entire public, not just the local population.

(PL): That makes sense. Federal funds built these facilities, they should be for the public, right?

(DL): So we got to thinking about ways to give everyone equal access. Someone suggested a reservation system where anybody, anywhere in the country could make a reservation. So we put together a team. And oh man, did we get beat up! I had an assistant secretary saying, "Stop this nonsense." And I got Congressmen asking, "What are you guys thinking? You're not serving my constituents." And I had the privilege of responding to those type of statements over a period of probably two years.

Eventually, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Corps started developing the idea of a nationwide reservation system. Just writing the Request for Proposals was far more complicated than we thought. The team was relatively small

and they worked basically 12 hour days, six, seven days a week, for months getting this RFP ready to publish.

Of course all this time, I'm taking flack. It was extremely, extremely controversial, and people just didn't like it. And so you had to keep our eye on the long-term, serving the nation. At the same time, fighting those fires. I mean, they were pretty nasty. I had personal assaults, verbal assaults by people in the Corps and outside the Corps. And I got called on the carpet by Congressmen in their home offices, things like that. They were really P.O'd at the idea of taking away the opportunity for their constituents, the local people, to essentially own the facilities at the lakes.

And so the only way I could persevere was if I kept in mind we were serving the nation, not just local individuals. Because it was the right thing, eventually the National Reservations System was launched, including the National Park Service, BLM and the Corps of Engineers! And the last time I checked the revenue from that system for one year was \$30 million.

And I don't know how many people I've talked to over the years who said they were camping on a Corps lake. "Did you make a reservation?" I'd ask. "Oh, yeah," they'd say. "And what did you think of that system?" The answer was always the same, "Wonderful. Wonderful." "Okay," says I, "Thanks for the paycheck!"

(PL): Well, that's a big long-term project, probably moved like a turtle?

(DL): Well, it took nearly three years to get that thing to where it was going. And we had threats to kill it. The closer we got to rolling it out, the more threats we got. It's an interesting world out there.

(PL): Well, you had both short and long-term goals going there, didn't you?

(DL): That's a fun story. We had others, but that's one I still remember being so controversial and I think there were people thinking about lynching me for a while. But not now. Everybody thinks it's a wonderful idea.

(PL): That's part of having a big idea is letting others own it.

(DL): Yeah. Okay, I'm ready to move onto your next question.

(PL): Great. Well, what I'd like to ask is are you a camper

(DL): I've traveled extensively. And, I remember one District was a particular challenge to get their participation in agency policy, etc. I worked hard to get the staff to accept the broader views of Corps leadership. It took a couple of field visits to make friends

and reach an understanding on both their views and HQ's views. It was a struggle that lasted several years.

Why do I mention this? Because at my retirement they sent a plaque that read: "To Darrell Lewis. A Friend to the Field" That plaque has a place of honor in my home. It caught the essence of what I aspired to be.

(PL): That's exactly the hub and the heart of what you've been describing. A Friend in the Field.

(DL): Yup. I look at it all the time. It's right there in the hallway. And I value it as much as anything else I got, and I got a lot of neat things.

(PL): I bet you have a lot of wonderful memories.

(DL): Yes, but that kind of put my career in perspective, it's not the facilities that the Corps provides and manages, it's the people.

(PL): Right.

(DL): And the other half of it was, I went to National Public Lands Day every year -- and I may have mentioned this in the beginning or so. But anyhow, what I would do, I would just be there. And I'd sign up for, you know, like the one time we put some concrete benches that are on a hiking trail. There were about, I don't know, eight or so we put in. It was rainy and muddy, and we had a post-hole digger, and they were going in, land-filling and busting them in there and everything. And when they called us, they said, "We have one more to go, we'll get there when we finish." And this was, you know, some Corps people, but mostly public people. There weren't many of us, maybe about four of us. But anyhow, I was called up to speak, because I was the guy from Washington. So I talked about how we had been a team mud and all. A good feeling about all of us working together to provide public facilities. I introduced the folks working with me, muddy and bragged about how every one of those benches were level. A good day's work as a team.

(PL): Working with you, the Chief from HQ?

(DL): They had no idea who I was. I was just there, you know.

(DL): I made a lot of friends in those things -- I heard members of the public say, "You are a pretty decent fella for a headquarters guy." And, you know, there were just all kinds of things like that. What I remember more about visits to Corps sites is the people more than the facilities. There are beautiful lakes, one after the other, all kinds of wonderful resources both environmental as well as recreational.

(PL): Lots of great amenities...

(DL): But it's the people. That you can quote.

(PL): All right. Easily.

(DL): Yeah. Was I a camper or a boater? Yeah. I grew up camping in tents, there were no formal camp sites or anything. And then when I got interested in fishing, and I ended up in the bass boat. So I'm a pretty good bass fisherman, but my youth was spent fly-fishing on rivers and I became pretty knowledgeable about what goes on out on the ground.

(DL): I was asked to speak to a group of industry executives in D.C. about tourism. And so I went in there, and I says, "Well, we are from the Corps of Engineers. I don't know if we're in the tourism business or not, but let me tell you a few things about the Corps' recreation program." And I did.

A chief executive officer of a major camping vehicles company was there and I finished, he said, "Mr. Lewis, you are in the tourism business!" He just shouted it out.

(DL): Economics. You've heard me talk about stakeholders time and time again. And I don't feel like the Board really gets that. But that's really the mainstay of what the Corps of Engineers is about. It supports an industry of significant proportions, and it's huge. And we don't do a very good job, as an agency, in communicating with those people. I'm talking about the manufacturers, the wholesalers, the retailers that service this community for all that equipment that's out on the lakes. And, you know, I'm not talking about Bass Pro or any of those. I'm talking about Johnson and Mercury, Winnabego and Ford, Chevrolet. That's who our real stakeholders are because Corps lakes are used by God-knows what percent of their market area.

If it weren't for Corps lakes, where would Mercury outboard motors be? They wouldn't have nearly the sales they have, nationwide. It's just a huge thing. So our stakeholders and the ones I used to work with, they knew it. But we never were able to figure out a way, and it's just - I'm going to do a bit of bragging at establishing a rapport with the people who make a living off the Corps lakes. Because now, when budgets are down, they need to know their livelihood is being threatened by continuously restrictive budgets. And they need to know that, you know, that over time, they're letting it happen without realizing that this year, next year, and the following year, it's just a gradual loss.

And before you know it, they're going to be dealing with the smaller market, servicing their equipment and things. So that's one benefit of the Corps' projects

(DL): I met a fellow on the boardwalk of an Audubon preserve down in Florida. He was a well-equipped birder, so I took his picture and in talking to him learned that his gear that had that day was worth around \$30,000. Now that gets up there with other groups of users. The economic impacts of leisure activities just isn't appreciated. But it's important to both local and regional economies.

(DL): The second value is public health. Mental health, physical health, getting outdoors. Now people are beginning to understand the value of that. Research has begun to identify what's involved, and the relationship between health and activities. And there's something special about outdoor activities. And I was invited to write a paper for the Journal of Leisure Research. In it, I pointed out that there's a real surge of interest in fitness, i.e. the Fitbits and things like that. And everybody is running and going to the gym and everything. But the biggest thing being passed over is the extra value that's been proven with outdoor activities. Not just being fit, but being active in the outdoors and being in the presence of nature, rather than man-made scenery. But guess what? The blue-collar community is out there already, getting more of that than the rich guys down at the gym!

(PL): You've worked with many teams in your time. What has been your most rewarding memory?

(DL): I believe that if you get out of people's way, they'll do a wonderful job. And so it's not about trying to urge them to do things. You hire smart people, and you get out of their way. People would ask me, "How do you get so much done there at headquarters?" I'd say, "I hired good people, and got out of their way."

(PL): That's a great, great management technique.

(DL): Got a letter from this guy. He said, "I took my grandson out fishing in our Jon boat, but he wouldn't get in the boat until I put my life preserver on. He told me, the ranger says, 'You've got to wear your life preserver.' So I put mine on and you know the rest of the story. I screwed around and fell out of the boat. I can't swim and would have drowned if my grandson hadn't told me what the ranger said."

(PL): Wow.

(DL): Well, that's another paycheck! You know, I passed that letter around the whole office and talked about it a lot because you never know if you're doing good until some guy ends up like I just described.

(PL): Yeah.

(DL): What a chuckle.

(PL): Well, in your position as Chief, you're making a huge impact on people's lives.

(DL): That's right. And that's why I never really had any doubts that I had the best job around.

(PL): Yes. I've heard you say that before. What do you think is the greatest opportunity for the Corps Foundation.

(DL): I think the missing ingredient for the Corps' natural resources program is public awareness. Because you have national forests. You got national parks. People know all about those places. They love them. But people who use Corps lakes are mostly blue collar, and they just aren't joiners. They don't do things to support the Corps of Engineers or the Foundation. That is not what they do. They work, and they play. But they don't do all this other stuff. You think about it. They don't. The blue collar population in this country just aren't vocal about things.

So I'm saying the greatest opportunity for the Corps is the Corps' natural resources program but it's never going to get the attention it needs, unless the public falls in love with it. And does that in a full array, rather than just taking their boat out and fishing or water skiing or camping or whatever people do. You know, Corps lakes have more visitors than the other agencies. More than the Forest Service, and a lot more than the National Park Service. And yet, who gets the credit?

I recently listened to the Secretary of the Interior talk about all the people who visit national parks, she gave a number. And then she asked somebody in the audience, "So how many people you get in the Forest Service?" And he gave a number. Not a mention of the Corps who hosts more outdoor visitors than either of those agencies.

When the Partners Outdoors was starting up, Derrick Crandall, the President of American Recreation Coalition, started off talking about the Big 4: the Forest Service, Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and the BLM.

(PL): Missed our Corps projects?

(DL): And they had all this team building, he went all the way around the room, and when it came to me, I said, "I am looking forward to the day when somebody realizes it's the Big 5 and includes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers!" And for the next several years, it was Darrell's Big 5.

(PL): Oh, no.

(DL): They always brought it up, you know, and that's the way you can get attention. You get public.

(PL): You've got to have public awareness.

(DL): We need public awareness of the social and recreational value of Corps resources.

(PL): That's important. And yet, it's unappreciated.

(DL): That's the greatest opportunity for the Corps Foundation, to become the "Chamber of Commerce" for the Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Program. Nothing more I can say on that. I mean, it's cheap. That's not expensive. You don't even have to build anything.

(PL): You just have to write something.

(DL): Well, that's where I stand. And when you get down to the biggest challenge, it's to expand political awareness of the values of the natural resources administered by the Corps.

(PL): So often is the case. All right. So what would you like to say to the membership and our friends?

(DL): I wrote a couple notes down. I'm reading so I don't get too far off track.

(PL): Sounds good!

(DL): Well, friends, I'd like to thank the Corps Foundation that supports the Corps of Engineers NRM program. We're getting things done. I think Rachel Garren is one of the best things that's happened to the Foundation, in terms of being a doer. I love doers, and she is one. That's what we need if people are going to see the Foundation and the Natural Resources Program as something that's extremely valuable to this nation.

I mean, it's scary when you look at our project people. They're so strapped with paperwork, they can hardly even get out in the field, let alone do public speaking and all the things that are really needed. The Foundation can start filling that void

(PL): Yes. We've begun to send speakers to select events, but you're right. We need to do more.

(DL): Well, it started -- there's always a start. I have no problem with being small. And the other thing is to make sure that the Natural Resources Program continues to serve the nation in ways that I've already talked about. I mean, those folks are hurting out there. And they're strapped to get any real work done.

(PL): We need to help Natural Resources Management Program continue to serve the nation. Simple.

(DL): I worry that it is just being squeezed out. Bureaucracy is taking over.

Toolkit for Developing a Cooperating Association Partnership

Dear Members and Friends:

The Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation, the Corps Foundation, is pleased to release a new Toolkit for Developing a Cooperating Association Partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. (Click on the following link to download <http://docdro.id/SFAV6Os>)

Since our inception, the Corps Foundation has made it a priority to network with the cooperating associations, friends groups, and partners who support the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) sites around the country - and explore ways to support and expand these valuable partnerships. We developed this Toolkit as a reference for these organizations to help clarify the requirements and benefits of developing a cooperating association partnership with USACE. The Toolkit is also a useful reference for Corps of Engineers staff working with interested groups who are forming, supporting and maintaining a strong cooperating association program.

Cooperating associations are a specific type of partnership established to support USACE's educational, interpretive or scientific programs. They accomplish this through sales of educational materials, memberships, special event fees and fundraising contributions. Since cooperating associations have non-profit and tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Service codes, they broaden the capacity of the agency to fulfill its goals, and to strengthen relationships between the agency and the public it serves. This Toolkit provides useful information on the structural, governing, and procedural requirements for initiating and maintaining this type of nonprofit relationship with USACE.

We hope that the Toolkit for Developing a Cooperating Association Partnership will be a valuable reference guide for the growth and development of local friends groups and cooperating associations. Please widely distribute the Toolkit to anyone who has an interest in forming a non-profit organization to support project sites and the natural resources management program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Sincerely,

Greg Miller

Chairperson, Board of Directors

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Corps Foundation

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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!

Support what we do by contributing and joining so we can make a difference together!

Please send potential articles and photos to the Communications Director, Pat Barry at jpatbarry@hotmail.com