

Welcome to the First 2017 Edition of the Corps Foundation Newsletter.

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Seattle's Chittenden Locks gets a major private grant

In December of 2016, a Challenge Grant in the amount of \$400,000 from the C. Keith Birkenfeld Memorial Trust was received for the planned renovations of the Fish Ladder Viewing Areas at the Hiram M. Chittenden/Ballard Locks in Seattle.

This gift will be managed in partnership with the Corps Foundation, Discover Your Northwest, Jones & Jones Architects and the Seattle District Corps of Engineers. No financial contributions will be required by the Corps of Engineers but engineering oversight will be provided on structurally related areas.

The Birkenfeld grant is significant in both the amount received as well as being the first step in a major campaign to provide long needed improvements to the visitor education facilities at the Locks.

"We are delighted to support this important educational effort that will reach both local and international visitors and inspire others to support the renovation efforts as well", said Director Claire Bishop of the C. Keith Birkenfeld Memorial Trust.

The Birkenfeld Grant has indeed inspired others and additional funding is forthcoming from individual memorial gifts as well as State and local organizations. We anticipate starting renovations the fall of 2017 during the Locks Centennial year. Stay tuned for further development on www.ballardlocks.org



Hiram Chittenden Locks *Concept* Design

Artist's conception of the improved fish viewing area at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks in Seattle

Corps Foundation Closes the Calendar Year on a High Note

The Corps Foundation continued to grow its outreach, financial resources, and programmatic impact throughout 2016. Private, nonprofit financial support from memberships, individual contributions, memorial gifts and businesses grew nearly 75% over 2015.

In addition, the Corps Foundation secured a new major government grant commitment from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Foundation administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. This grant, developed in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Water Safety Program will significantly expand the “Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns” water safety awareness initiative launched in 2015.

Other notable achievements included the successful introduction of the Corps Foundation Enduring Service Awards honoring long-term volunteer service and outstanding accomplishments by individuals and families at Corps of Engineers operated lakes and waterways. Together, our first honorees Bob Kendrick at Mark Twain Lake in Missouri and Pauline and Orville Nichols at Keystone Lake in Oklahoma have logged nearly 50 years of combined outstanding service at these sites.

The Corps Foundation also launched new educational outreach initiatives, including the distribution of a Toolkit for Developing a Cooperating Association Partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and delivery of Certified Interpretive Guide training for Corps of Engineers Recreation and Natural Resources staff. For more information on these and other successes, watch for our 2016 Annual Report to be distributed this winter.

Make a New Year’s Resolution to Join or Renew Your Support of the Corps Foundation

You can join the Corps Foundation at any time of year, but why not start this year by becoming a member, renewing your membership, or making an additional gift to support the foundation. Your support helps to ensure that the types of initiatives highlighted in this newsletter continue to have impact throughout the year. Your membership contributions make a tremendous difference, since the work of the foundation is volunteer driven. If you act now with a membership contribution of \$50 or more, you are still eligible to receive one of the 20 remaining Corps Foundation logo tote bags, along with the satisfaction of knowing you are supporting this nationwide network of individuals and organizations who value our nation’s lakes, lands and waterways managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Arthur Cunningham received the Corps Foundation Volunteer Appreciation Coin at Loyalhanna Lake

Mr. Arthur Cunningham, a Loyalhanna Lake volunteer, received a Volunteer Appreciation Coin from the Corps Foundation for his exceptional efforts as Campground Host in 2016. Sam Wagner, Natural Resource Management Specialist, and Paul Toman, Loyalhanna Resource Manager, presented the coin to Mr. Cunningham on November 9, 2016.

Art shows his coin to - from left to right - Joe Bowley, Arthur Cunningham, Don Bucco, Paul Toman, Dave Johnson, Roy Melius, Mary Ann Wylie, and in front row - April Richards, Eric Palmer





Left: Art Cunningham, Bush Recreation Host. Right: Receiving Coin from Manager Paul Tolman

Mr. Cunningham volunteered as the sole Campground Host in 2016 at the Bush Recreation Campground at Loyalhanna Lake. During his time as the host in 2016, he logged 438 volunteer hours welcoming and registering campers, explaining campground regulations and ensuring public safety throughout the day use area and campground. Mr. Cunningham served as the “eyes and ears” for USACE when employees were not present by reporting anticipated problems, maintenance concerns, and security issues. He acted as an Ambassador of Loyalhanna Lake by promoting the park’s recreational opportunities and the Corps water safety initiative. He assisted with interpretive programs, special events and beautification projects. Mr. Cunningham displayed pride in the position on a daily basis. He exhibited outstanding communication skills and a willingness to work with visitors, campers, and the Loyalhanna staff. His sheer dependability and commitment to the position and the organization alone is admirable. Mr. Cunningham’s exemplary volunteer service is an asset to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps recognized him for his selfless service and outstanding performance as Campground Host in 2016 at Loyalhanna Lake.

Thank you to Rick Magee

If you do not know, Rick Magee was a career park ranger in the New England District before moving to the position of National Sign Program Manager. While serving as a ranger, Rick developed the Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Excellence in Interpretation as part of his Master’s thesis. He also served on the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial as a living history interpreter. Since retirement, Rick has been performing living history at Historic Fort Snelling in St. Paul. Rick Magee has served as the newsletter editor for the Corps Foundation for nearly the past two years. Due to his busy life, this will be his last issue. Thank you, Rick, from the Corps Foundation.



Congratulations on the Book!

As far as we know, Dave Dutton is the first Corps park ranger to write a memoir about his time working as a park ranger. It is a familiar tale to those of us who have worn the green and gray. Dave is a great storyteller and the book is part memoir and part love story. If you like inspiring and funny tales, you will love this book. If you have never worked as a park ranger, read this to understand what the job is all about.

If you are not familiar with Dave, he worked for the National Park Service and moved to the Corps at Sardis Lake in Mississippi then Abiquiu Dam in New Mexico. Ranger Dutton was the first national award recipient of the Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence in 1995.

On behalf of the Corps Foundation, congratulations, Ranger Dave!

Pat Barry, Communications Director,
Corps Foundation

About the Book

Paid in Sunsets: A Park Ranger's Story is a humorous memoir of David A. Dutton's life as a Federal Park Ranger. Park Rangers are called upon to do many dangerous things, like rappel down cliff faces to rescue stranded climbers, or cut fire lines in advance of raging forest infernos. Dutton didn't do those things. He spent thirty-one years sharing the natural world with others. This memoir retells the best of those experiences—bawdy encounters along the muddy Rio Grande, ghosts in a remote Southwest canyon, swimming with Great White sharks, tweezing pernicious Kentucky ticks off his body, carrying diarrhea out of the longest cave in the world, and getting pissed on by an indignant raccoon in a Mississippi backwater, to name a few. The memoir is about birth, life, and sometimes, death. It's about a journey—from being a greenhorn Park Ranger in New Mexico to becoming an ordained Senior Park Ranger in Mississippi, twenty years later.

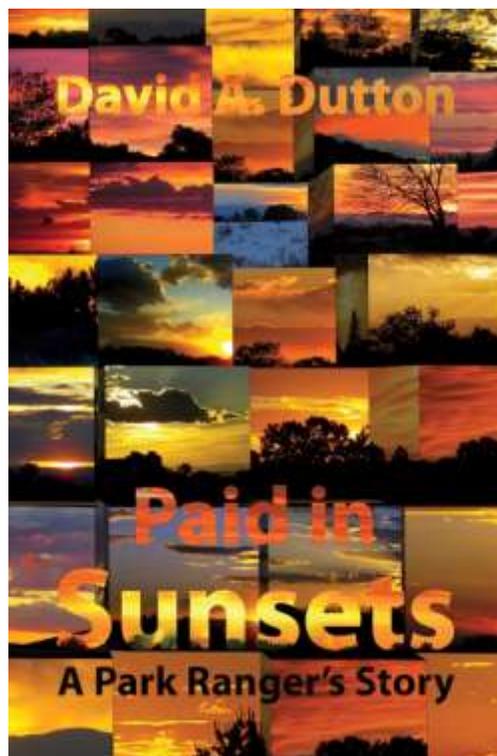
Paid in Sunsets: A Park Ranger's Story pays homage to rangers as an emblem of ruggedness, individualism, and courage. But more importantly, the memoir shows that Park Rangers are ordinary people, too—men and women who put on uniforms and hats everyday, step into the crowd, and commit themselves to the idea of protecting America's treasures for the benefit of future generations.

About the Author

For over three decades, David Dutton served as an award-winning Park Ranger for two federal agencies. He enjoys fishing, birding, gardening and red chili. He lives in Santa Fe with his wife and three rescue dogs.

To Obtain a Copy

Here is the info about how to order the book, which is available in paperback, hard cover and on Kindle. If folks want an autographed copy, they can always email Dave at: Rangerdutton@gmail.com, and work out the details. To order online: <http://www.culicidaepress.com/2016/11/26/dutton-paid-in-sunsets/> This is the direct link at Culicidae Press. For the paperback version through Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Paid-Sunsets-Park-Rangers-Story/dp/1941892302>



Corps Water Safety Campaign Recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard



Articles by Rachel Garren, Corps Foundation Special Projects Coordinator, and Pam Doty, National Water Safety Manager for the Corps of Engineers, are posted in the USCG Proceedings magazine available online at <http://www.uscg.mil/proceedings/>.

The Proceedings contains two articles with information about the Corps of Engineers “Life Jackets Worn... Nobody Mourns” campaign. Rachel Garren authored, “A Focus on Boater Safety: Using feedback to plot the campaign,” and Pam Doty contributed, “One Life Lost Is Too Many: Saving lives using education and enforcement.”

Please read and share these timely articles.

From Rachel Garren, CIT, CIGT
Special Programs Director



Corps Foundation interviews its most recent Director, Jeff Rose, Regional Vice President of Safe Harbor Marinas.

PETER LEWIS: First of all, Jeff, welcome to the Corps Foundation Board of Directors. You bring a new and very relevant perspective and I'm glad to welcome you aboard. Let's talk about your history working in the marina's industry. What brought you to it?

JEFF ROSE: I have been boating and skiing with family and friends all my life. Growing up in Texas, spending your summers on the Lake is mandatory. During my senior year of High School, I started working at Pier 121 Marina on Lake Lewisville just outside of Dallas.

After college I came back to Dallas, got married, and started looking for a job. I did several different things and eventually decided that my real passion was and had always been to do something on the water.

In 1996, I went back to the Pier 121 Marina and began working weekends leasing boat slips and helping our members in any way that I could and loved every minute of it. This was to be my career.

PETER: That's a long time, coming up on twenty years. With the same employer as well?



JEFF: When you love what you do, time passes very quickly. Hard to believe it has been 20 years. When I came on board full time in 1997, we had five marinas. Over the course of the next couple of years, we grew to 26 marinas.

Since that time, we have partnered with a couple of different equity groups trying to grow our portfolio and in 2015 we became Safe Harbor Marinas. Today we, Safe Harbor marinas have 63 marinas across 17 States. We're the largest marina company in the world and I am very proud to be a part of it.

PETER: Oh my gosh, that's great, Jeff. That's a real success story for yourselves and your partners. Wonderful.

JEFF: It's been a lot of work but worth every minute.

PETER: Are most of your marinas on Corps Lakes?

JEFF: We have Marinas on Corps Lakes as well as river authorities and municipalities.

PETER: I see. I think it's great to have you on the Board because there are so many Corps Lakes with marinas, and it gives us a better perspective of how those marinas work.

JEFF: We've certainly tried to keep those channels of communication open with the Corps. We have enjoyed many years of partnering with the Corps from the local field offices to the national Corps offices.

PETER: Do your marinas typically work with the Friend's groups to get stuff done?

JEFF: We have worked with volunteer groups such as, Keep Grapevine Beautiful, COE volunteers and the Boy Scouts of America, to enhance our properties parks and shorelines.

The Scouts have had various merit badge projects and several Eagle Scout projects over the years at some of our parks. They have re-built Corps picnic pavilions, re-furbished public restrooms, built Purple martin Houses, just to name a few.

PETER: That's a great example of not a Friend's group in the traditional manner, but certainly a friend of the area.

JEFF: Yes, that is right.

PETER: That would be quite helpful. I notice you have a lot of experience serving on boards and industry associations. What drew you to be a Director of the Corps Foundation?

JEFF: I have worked with the Corps now for over 20 years and have enjoyed doing it. When I was offered an opportunity to have a voice at the table of a group that could actually make a difference as far as recreational needs and that sort of thing, I thought, well, this might be a real opportunity to get in front of the Corps and explain some things they might not understand, about what marinas go through. It's hard to see unless you're in the field, dealing with it daily, you really can't understand what the for-profit side is proposing. It's not just about lining our pockets. Yes, we're for-profit and there is nothing wrong with that.

PETER: Right.

JEFF: There is something to be said for, "Let's do things that work for all of us and makes life better for everybody." I think I can help do that. It's one of the reasons I signed on.

PETER: Yeah. Exactly. That's interesting. All right. Thank you for this perspective. It's exactly why I am glad you are on the Board of the Corps Foundation! Is there something you'd like to bring up, a parting message you'd like to share?

JEFF: Life is good. There's nothing like boating with friends, family, and fun.

PETER: That's right. I'm with you. All right, Jeff Rose. Thank you so much for your time today.

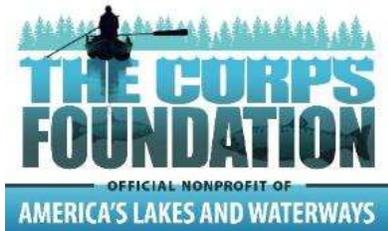
JEFF: Anytime. I'm glad to be aboard.

Corps Foundation Calls for Nominations for the Enduring Service Volunteer Award

The Corps Foundation is now accepting applications for the “Enduring Service Volunteer Award.” The “Enduring Service Volunteer Award” is an annual award honoring long-term service and outstanding accomplishments by individual and families of volunteers at Corps lakes and waterways; and who have achieved results in such areas as conservation, education, recreation, safety and community engagement. Additionally, these volunteer efforts should contribute to the advancement of:

- The mission of the Corps Foundation: “The Corps Foundation engages the public to ensure the environmental health and recreational enjoyment of our nation's lakes, lands, and waterways administered by the US Army Corps of Engineers”.
- The Corps Foundation seeks to promote:
 - Positive relationships between the Corps management, the visitors and the local community.
 - Public knowledge of and involvement in the Corps natural resources management program.
 - Partnerships and collaboration with other community organizations locally, regionally or nationally.

Nominations for the 2017 awards will be accepted between January 15 and April 30, 2017. Go to www.CorpsFoundation.org for more information on how to nominate your most exceptional volunteers. The application forms can be found at <http://docdro.id/g5nKOIL> .



Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation, is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, tax ID #20-5545091

Your donation may be tax deductible to you as permitted by Federal law for nonprofit organizations.

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

Find out more at the Foundation's website: www.CorpsFoundation.org

Contact Information:

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Membership Renewal, Your Support Makes a Difference!

Please enter your contact information in the space below.

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Contributors at levels of \$50 and above will receive the Corps Foundation logo tote bag, while supplies last.

