

Welcome to the Fall 2017 Edition of the Corps Foundation Newsletter. In this issue:

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Awards: This issue recognizes many people who, because of their dedication and persistence, have earned awards from the Corps Foundation. We appreciate your generous service and thank you for your contributions.

We have expanded the Successful Water Safety Campaign in 2017 By Rachel Garren, CIT, CIGT, Corps Foundation Special Programs Director

(The Corps Foundation Board of Directors congratulates and thanks Special Programs Director Rachel Garren for her success in securing and managing these grants. Editor.)

Thanks to the Corps Foundation's second U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) grant and our partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) National Operations Center for Water Safety, the "Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns" campaign expanded and became more visible than ever in 2017.

The campaign targets adult males because 88% of all USACE water-related fatalities were men and 63% were between the ages of 20 and 60. In addition, 84% of all public water-related fatalities were people not wearing a life jacket. The activity that causes the most water-related fatalities is people swimming in undesignated swimming areas. Also 27% of boating fatalities were from falls overboard.

We created eleven new campaign public service announcements (PSAs) to demonstrate the many reasons why even strong swimmers should always wear a life jacket. We adapted four of the PSAs from existing video footage from the first USCG grant the Corps Foundation received. Users requested shorter 15-second PSA so we shortened the popular Man Overboard 60-second PSA into 15-and 30-second versions. We modified previous video footage to create Doggone Shame 15-seconds and Close Calls 15-seconds. We created seven of the new PSAs from new video footage and through animation. We call them Swim Challenge 15-and 30-seconds, Cell Phone Rescue 15-and 30-seconds, and LJ Song 60-30-and 15-seconds. The LJ Song PSAs features an animated character called LJ, short for Life Jacket.

Along with the animated LJ character, the LJ Song PSAs also features a catchy new campaign song. LJ rescues individuals in a variety of boating and swimming situations that people typically do not survive. The video shows a variety of styles of life jackets, including inflatable life jackets and a float coat for hunting. Our goal is for viewers to realize the importance of finding a life jacket that fits not only them, but fits their particular water activity, so they will always wear it.



L.J. (Life Jacket Character) Song PSA.

The Swim Challenge PSAs demonstrate a common way that adults overestimate their swimming ability and cannot survive conditions such as waves, current, or exhaustion. In addition, improper breathing techniques while swimming or breath holding for too long can cause hyperventilation, oxygen deprivation, and death. The inflatable belt pack style life jacket used in these PSAs saved this young man's life and it can save yours.

The Cell Phone Rescue PSAs shows proper rescue techniques captured on a cell phone when someone falls overboard. Rescuers should "reach, throw, row, and never go" near someone struggling in the water or they may risk losing their own life. Close Calls PSA is a video montage of those saved by wearing a life jacket that reminds us that water can feel like a brick wall when you're moving fast. Doggone Shame PSA shows the dangers of not wearing a life jacket at all times, especially while boating alone and drinking alcohol.

The Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign is also being promoted with 1,447 three by eight feet campaign banners at 246 USACE locations and 125 truck tailgates vinyl wraps at 47 USACE lake and river offices nationwide.

Locations for both the tailgate wraps and banners were determined through an order form process and through the USACE National Water Safety Program product catalog ordering process in late 2016. The Corps Foundation wants to thank all those who helped make this aspect of our partnership a success!

We updated the mobile game "Lake Guard" to include campaign branding and more thorough instructions on how to play the game. The game is a free download from the Apple App and Google Play stores.

We appreciate everything that is being done to promote the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign. All of the campaign products including the PSAs, campaign logo, social media ads, tailgate wrap and banner art, etc. are available for anyone to use and can be downloaded for free at <u>www.PleaseWearIt.com</u>. In 2018 the Corps Foundation's plan is to utilize the third USCG grant to implement a social media marketing plan to promote the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign even further.



Youghiogheny River Lake, Pennsylvania Staff with their New Tailgate Wraps.

Newton couple receives national volunteer award for work at Lake Red Rock

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ALTOONA — Humble. It's the best word Beth Brown can find to describe to Chester and Phyllis Briggs, who were honored at a ceremony Thursday morning at Bass Pro Shop in Altoona for their volunteer service. The Newton couple has been volunteering for more than 19 years at Lake Red Rock, building nesting boxes and monitoring the native bird population at the lake.



Phyllis Briggs shakes hands with Greg Miller, Chairperson of the Board of Directors for The Corps Foundation as her husband Chester holds the award they received for their 19 years of volunteer service at Lake Red Rock in Pella

"It's the only way that I can explain them, they get embarrassed when they get praised," Brown said. "They're just doing what they think they should, beyond what most people would do."

The Briggs have been regular volunteers at Lake Red Rock located just south of Pella for nearly two decades. Logging more than 9,300 hours, the seasonal volunteers are the driving force behind a bird habitat restoration program, which first began in 1979 to address a significant decline in the local bird population. Under the Briggs' guidance, the Lake Red Rock nest box program has grown to include a trail of 113 bluebird boxes and four purple martin colonies which contributed to the fledging of 3,412 bluebirds, 2,172 tree swallows, 825 purple martins and 304 chickadees.

The Corps Foundation established the Enduring Service Volunteer Award in January 2016. It honors long-term service and outstanding accomplishments by individuals and families of volunteers at Corps lakes and waterways. Perry Thostenson, the assistant operations manager at Lake Red Rock has worked with the Briggs' for years, and their dedication has always stood out.

"They're out there every week rain or shine, I don't know of anyone that gives as much care to a program," Thostenson said. "We couldn't have paid anyone to do a better job."

Those who've worked with the couple say it's their dedication that really makes them stand out. While neither of the Briggs' are avid birders, Phyllis Briggs said they've learned a lot about birds over the last 19 summers. Several years ago she started applying an insect repellent on nestlings that were struggling with insect issues. Figuring that they'd lose the birds anyway, she thought it was worth a shot. After carefully applying it on each of the baby birds the Briggs' were amazed on their next visit to see how much the birds had improved.

"We're still learning things," Phyllis Briggs said.

Once a week during the summer the Briggs' make the trip down to Lake Red Rock from their home in Newton, where they'll check the nesting boxes that line the 10 mile trail. They'll inspect each of the 113 boxes, with Phyllis meticulously recording their findings. Without the Briggs' Thostenson said the nesting box program wouldn't be nearly as good as it is today.

"They've really helped our nesting box program take off," Thostenson said. "To have them put so much heart and soul into this is incredible."

To check every box along the route the Briggs' drive more than 50 miles, usually splitting the task into two days, working about four hours each day. After Chester retired from Maytag and Phyllis retired from the Vernon Company they both were looking for something to do, and Phyllis said they have a love for the outdoors, so volunteering at the lake seemed like a natural fit. Phyllis works on keeping their records, and during the winter, which the couple spends in Arizona, Chester works on building new nesting boxes and making repairs to existing boxes.

"It's something to do, after you retire need something to occupy your time," Chester Briggs said.

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Editor's note: The Corps Foundation thanks Bass Pro Shop for generously sponsoring this award. The Enduring Service Award ceremony took place at the Bass Pro Shop in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Ms. Edie Wright wins National Enduring Service Award for an Individual at Carr Creek

Lake. Written by Marilyn Jones, Corps Foundation Secretary and Member of the Board of Directors.

The day was bright and sunny, with trees just beginning to turn color and the air fresh and cool. We were at the Tailwater Recreation Area, in the beautiful hills and mountains of southeastern Kentucky. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees of Carr Creek Lake, volunteers, friends and a representative from the Louisville District Office and press gathered to celebrate the many contributions of Ms. Edie Wright had contributed to Carr Creek Lake over the past 12 years, which led to her nomination for and the winner of the Enduring Service Award for an individual.



Marilyn Jones (left), Corps Foundation Board of Directors, presented the prestigious Enduring Service Award to Ms. Edie Wright. Photo Credit: Roseana Burick

Among her many contributions, Edie created many historical, cultural and wildlife displays for the Visitor Center, along with soliciting donations of artifacts and researching these artifacts. She wrote descriptive interpretive information signs for each of the items. Edie has volunteered to close to 4,000 hours over 12 years, equating to nearly \$94,000. She has repaired traffic counters, worn the Bobber the Water Safety Dog costume, staffed water safety booths, and conducted site

selection and seeding of native plants around the construction of vernal ponds. Further, Edie helped Kentucky Fish and Wildlife with planting of sago pond weed and water celery tubers in specific areas of Carr Creek Lake, thus helping to establish these native plants for increased populations of white and black crappie, as well as largemouth bass. Finally yet importantly, she volunteered her time to help with an American Chestnut Restoration Project resulting in a well-maintained and thriving orchard of chestnut trees.

The down-home atmosphere was a perfect setting for recognizing Ms. Wright for her outstanding accomplishments, as she is a humble and a down-home person. Willie Whitaker, Operations Manager for Kentucky River Area started the awards program, setting the stage for Edie's many undertakings. Next, Roseana Burick, Chief, Operations Section, Technical Support Branch in Louisville District Office presented letters from Eugene Dowell, Chief of Operations and Col. Antoinette Gant, Louisville District Commander and a Corps Castle metal paperweight. Then Marilyn Jones, Secretary for the Corps Foundation presented Ms. Wright with the Enduring Service Award plaque, a \$250 check from the Foundation and a \$250 gift card from Bass Pro Shops. Mr. Whitaker presented honey from his own beehives and flowers came from the Project staff, recognizing Edie's accomplishments. Finally, we all shared in a great meal and fellowship with Edie, her family, project staff and friends. You couldn't ask for a better day.



Carr Creek Lake staff, volunteers, and Mrs. Wright (center, holding certificate) friends and family wish her well upon receipt of this prestigious award. Credit: Roseana Burick

Corps Foundation Acknowledges the Contributions of its Advisory Council

Organizations depend on people with a vast array of experience to help set their course. The Corps Foundation Advisory Council serves that role for the Corps Foundation. The Council includes people with extensive experience in key leadership roles in their respective organizations.

According to their founding documents, the Advisory Council provides advice and support to the Corps Foundation Board of Directors to develop and validate the strategic plan. It provides feedback ideas and opinions that reflect the views of the stakeholders and constituents. It plays an instrumental public relations role and provides the Board with a fresh perspective on program issues. It helps the Board brainstorm, discuss and determine organizational directions and execute action items.

Here are the current members, with a brief description of some of their accomplishments. It would take many pages to list all of their impressive credentials.

Rodney Faldyn joined Academy Sports + Outdoors in July 2006 and retired as CEO and President in October 2015. Prior to his promotion to CEO, Rodney served as President and Chief Financial Officer. Rodney is a graduate of Texas A&M University where he currently serves as a member on the Dean's Development Council for the Mays Business School. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Goodwill Industries of Houston.

<u>Sara Fern Fitzsimmons</u>, Sara has worked as a contact for chestnut growers and researchers throughout the Appalachian Mountains. Currently enrolled as a doctoral candidate at Penn State, Sara hopes her research and professional work will facilitate long-term conservation and restoration of native tree species.

George E. Tabb, Jr. His last position with the Corps of Engineers was Chief, Natural Resources Management and Leader of the Corps Natural Resources Community of Practice in Corps' Headquarters. Mr. Tabb also worked as a Park Manager for the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority where he was responsible for five parks in Loudoun County, Virginia, including an operating farm park and a Civil War battlefield park. Outside of work, George has served as a volunteer camp counselor at a local and a state 4-H camp in West Virginia and as the Council Vice President for the local Council of

the Boy Scouts of America. He is president of the Jefferson County 4-H Foundation. He has had a life-long association with 4-H and Boy Scouts.

Jason Urroz is an interpreter who loves providing children with meaningful connections to nature through outdoor exploration. A former National Park Service Ranger in Yosemite, Jason is now the Director of the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation's Kids in Parks program—a self-guided, brochure-led program designed to get kids and families un-plugged, outdoors, and reconnected to nature for both their overall health and the health of our parks and public lands. Jason has taken the Kids in Parks program from an idea grounded in theory and research, and grown it into a national network of more than 130 trails in seven states and Washington, D.C. including a trail that goes around the White House!

Dave Washburn joined FLW as a Communications Specialists in 1999, promoted to Communications Director and Executive Editor of FLW Bass Fishing magazine in 2002. In 2004, he became Vice President of Communications and currently serves the company as Vice President of Operation, a position he has held since 2011. He also currently serves on the Wildlife Forever board of directors.

<u>Avis Kennedy</u> served 33 years in the Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Management Program. She retired in 2011 after 15 years as the Chief of the Natural Resources Management Branch for the Nashville District. Along the way, she served in temporary positions as Planner, Resource Manager at Cordell Hull and J. Percy Priest Lakes, and Chief, Regulatory Branch. In 2008, she served temporarily as the national Business Line Manager for Stewardship in the Corps' Headquarters. Avis has served on the Tennessee State Natural Areas Advisory Committee and the Kentucky Tourism Council. Avis is currently the Chair of the Tennessee Valley Authority's Regional Resource Stewardship Council.

Margaret Bailey, Senior Vice President- Government Services Division of CHM. Ms. Bailey has 30 years of hospitality operations and consulting experience concentrated in advising public sector clients on their hospitality and recreational real estate holdings. Ms. Bailey performs and oversees market, financial and investment analyses for a wide-variety of visitor-based operations. Additionally, she has developed strategic policy guidance and implementation support on concessions, pricing and other operational best practices. Visitor-based experience includes lodging, food and beverage, retail, ski resorts, campgrounds and day-use activities such as picnic areas, trails and visitor centers.

Lori McCullough, Former Chief Executive Officer of *Tread Lightly!* Lori is a respected and well-connected leader with nearly 25 years' experience advocating conservation ethics and delivering innovative, cost-effective solutions to some of the nation's most contentious issues surrounding outdoor recreation and natural resource management. A consummate networker, Lori has proven ability to collaborate with and influence disparate stakeholders, develop and implement actionable strategies and turn challenges into win/win situations. She is currently the CEO/Executive Director of The Great Outdoors Fund. It is the only national nonprofit solely focused on protecting access to the great outdoors and enhancing recreation infrastructure.

Lewis Ledford is currently the Executive Director of the National Association of State Parks Directors, an organization that helps state park systems manage and administer their state park systems. Mr. Ledford held a long career with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. He served for 37 years for the North Carolina Park system rising from park ranger to State Parks Director.

Donna Asbury is a former Executive Director of Association of Partners for Public Lands, which works to support nonprofit organizations in partnership with federal and state public land agencies, like the Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Donna once said, "Visiting the sites was always a great opportunity for me (to see) firsthand how many people across this nation value public lands and public waterways, lakes and forests. So many dedicate their time, both professionally through the work that they do, either with public land agencies or nonprofit organizations, AND as volunteers who just get out there and do something. They all get involved because they love it. They feel the value of these special places." Donna also served on the Corps Foundation Board of Directors making the Corps Foundation more effective and promoting increased membership.

Here are some of the recent accomplishments of the Advisory Council. They reviewed the 2016 and 2017 Annual Work Plans and the Strategic Framework and made numerous suggestions to improve these documents. They also reviewed and improved the 2016 and 2017 Draft Communications Plans. They analyzed the fundraising database. They reviewed and recommended changes to proposed legislation.

The members of the Corps Foundation Board of Directors express our deepest appreciation to the impressive, talented and dedicated members of the Advisory Board for sharing their time, depth of knowledge, and expertise to help guide the Corps Foundation.

If you would like more information or would like to help the Advisory Council please contact Greg Miller, Chair, Board of Directors of the Corps Foundation.

Bill Barnes, Lake Ouachita Volunteer Wins National Award

(The following is an excerpt from press release by Catherine Jennison, USACE)

VICKSBURG, MISS... A volunteer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lake Ouachita Project, Bill Barnes, received the 2016 National Volunteer Award. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the Corps Foundation, created this award to recognize the extraordinary service provided by volunteers.

This award distinguishes individuals, couples, and family units who give their skills, talents, and time beyond the normal call of duty and whose creditable service to the Corps has resulted in the significant enhancement to one or more of the Corps programs.



Lake Ouachita park manager Stacy Sigman nominated Barnes. He was selected for 25 years of dedication to the recreation, water safety, and natural resource management programs at Lake Ouachita. Rick Dwyer, Ouachita operations project manager said, "Bill is a tremendous ambassador for recreation and customer service in Arkansas."

As a first responder and Chief of the Joplin Volunteer Fire Department for 37 years, Barnes has also improved safety around Lake Ouachita with his quick response and assertiveness in many emergencies.



Other dignitaries in attendance were Johnny Kiser, Chief of Project Resources Management Branch, Vicksburg District; Pat Hemphill, Deputy for Programs and Project Management, Vicksburg District; David Jenkins, Deputy Chief of Operations, Vicksburg District. Rick Dwyer, Ouachita Project Manager, Vicksburg District.

On Friday, August 25, 2017, the Lake Ouachita Project Office hosted the Ouachita River Valley Association Convention. During the convention, Major General Michael C. Wehr. Presented Bill Barnes, Owner and CEO of Mountain Harbor Resort on Lake Ouachita, with the National Volunteer Award from The Corps Foundation to recognize his extraordinary service and contributions in caring for Corps lands, facilities, and resources. Mr. Barnes serves as a member of the Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee and the Arkansas Parks and Tourism Commission. He has dedicated countless hours to improving safety on Lake Ouachita by volunteering as a first responder and fire chief of the Joplin Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Barnes also dedicated labor and facilities to honor veterans in events such as Wounded Warrior hunts and Veteran's Relax and Relate weekends at Mountain Harbor. In addition, Mr. Barnes owns a veteran's museum open to the public free of charge. Vicksburg District Chief of Operations Division, James Ross, read the award citation and Vicksburg District, Colonel Michael C. Derosier also congratulated Mr. Barnes on his well-deserved award and continued service to the Corps of Engineers.

Award Recipients-Tioga-Hammond & Cowanesque Lakes

Please congratulate the mighty mother-daughter duo, Larae and Eleanor Smith. These dedicated volunteers contributed over 3,000 hours of volunteer work combined at Tioga-Hammond & Cowanesque Lakes Projects. Due to their hard work and dedication, they were Regional Award Recipients for the North Atlantic Division, Corps Foundation Award in recognition for their extraordinary service. Congratulations from the Corps Foundation and thank you for your service.



Supervisory Ranger Stephen Sporer presents the award to Larae and Eleanor Smith.

Susan Connole Receives Volunteer of the Year Award for Saving Part of the History of the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks in Seattle (Adapted from a nomination by Brian Carter)

Susan Connole is a rare volunteer whose love of history and the Hiram. M. Chittenden Locks inspired her and placed her at the forefront of developing the Friends of the Ballard Locks historical group. She managed, organized, cataloged, located, identified and scanned some 10,000 pictures and drawings. She located and identified historic locks artifacts. She developed and manages a web page, a Facebook page, and a blog.

Under her direction, The Friends of the Ballard Locks identifies and preserves records, images, film, and other artifacts of enduring historical value concerning the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, Carl S. English, Jr. Botanical Garden, and the Lake Washington Ship Canal.

Documents once lost in closets, corners and drawers have been cataloged, scanned. Many are out for public display. Visitors may enjoy the tools, original drawings, news clippings, and wonderful historic photos.

Park rangers, interpreters, historians, publishers and filmmakers use the historic materials to educate the public as the locks move into the next 100 years of operation. Maintenance workers and engineers are using 100 year-old construction drawings to rediscover how the site buildings and locks were actually constructed making it easier to locate valves, electrical and plumbing pathways and structural components hidden by time. One drawing showed how it was possible to actually free flow water through the large lock to prevent overtopping during flood conditions and prevent damage to the dam structure and flooding upstream.

Susan and Friends of the Ballard Locks organized and led the way on the recent Locks Centennial by working with other Seattle Area historical organizations to obtain volunteer and grant support for the following list of Centennial Events:

- Filled the Locks Administration Building with numerous historical displays and provided on-site docent interpretation throughout the Centennial.
- Headed the committee to produce a re-enactment of 1917 boat parade with 48 vintage vessels including the two historic vessels from the original parade and produced numerous supportive commemorative materials.

- Partnered with Seattle's Museum of History and Industry and the historic SS Virginia V to produce 2 three-hour long narrated history cruises.
- Worked with a local artist who drew a chalk line around Lake Washington illustrating the original shoreline, which was 10 feet higher before the Canal.
- Produced displays of antique tools and memorabilia for new display cases in the Visitor Center.
- Produced numerous lectures, musical and artistic events highlighting the Centennial including a special month long Art Show Fund Raiser headed up by Stacey Gilbert. Stacey is both a member of the Friends of the Ballard Locks and a Corps Contractor providing interpretive services at the Locks.



Rangers Brian Carter and Katie McGillvray present the Volunteer of the Year Award to outstanding volunteer Susan Connole

Splash-A Special Fund Raising Art Show by Stacey Gilbert.

Stacey Gilbert produced a month long art show in the Admin Building, featuring 40 artists, poster, opening night reception and inclusion in monthly local Ballard Art Walk promotions.

All These events headed up by the Friends of the Ballard Locks helped educate people about the history and importance of the Locks and generate public support for fund raising efforts for visitor education at the Locks.

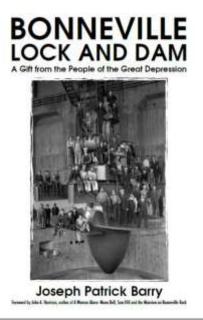
None of this would have happened had Susan Connole not had the ambition and fortitude to stick to her plan to preserve and bring all of the history of The Hiram. M. Chittenden Locks back into the light and share it with the world before it was lost forever. Congratulations from the Corps Foundation. For more information about the Friends, visit the blog: <u>http://blog.friendsoftheballardlocks.org/</u>



New Book: Bonneville Lock and Dam

The Corps Foundation is thrilled to announce that one of our board members has written a book sharing history and stories of Bonneville Lock and Dam where he spent most of his career.

<u>Bonneville Lock and Dam: A Gift from the People of the Great Depression</u> is a history of the dam, a tribute to the workers, and a personal memoir. Joseph Patrick "Pat" Barry spent 32 years at Bonneville, most of it as a park ranger managing the visitor center.



"Pat Barry's book—Bonneville Lock and Dam: A Gift from the People of the Great Depression—is truly a labor of love. Barry's historical knowledge of Bonneville Dam, his insights into the inner workings of it, as well as his descriptions of the hardscrabble men who built it, collectively makes for an entertaining, illustrative and informative read. If you really want to know about Bonneville Dam, this is the book to read."

Dave Dutton, author of Paid in Sunsets, A Park Ranger's Story

Bonneville Lock and Dam became one of the symbols of the Great Depression era efforts to jump-start the economy and get people working again. During the 1930s, massive public works projects like Bonneville gave the people of the Great Depression jobs and hope. Bonneville also played an important role during World War II, providing power for building ships and aircraft. Since the 1930s, it has generated non-stop, clean, renewable power, provided inexpensive inland

navigation, and water-based recreation. The dam evolved with the changing needs of society. This gift of 1930s infrastructure continues to return benefits for all Americans.

Enjoy this insider's view of the dam - told by a person whose job was to give tours, tell stories about the dam, and shape the visitor experience for a half million people a year. In addition to a history of the dam, here are tales from the people who worked there. Find out about Benjamin Bonneville and the natural events that set the stage for the dam. Hear suggestions from a ranger about the best ways to visit the dam and learn some obscure facts about this iconic structure. Bonneville symbolizes technology and science but also includes many works of art. It has even found its way into films and television. Discover all of this and more. The book features nearly 300 images, many never seen before. For more information: https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=bonneville+lock+and+dam+a+gift+from+the+people+of+the+great+depression

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

Your donation may be tax deductible for 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

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