

*Welcome to the Winter, 2017 / 2018 Edition of the Corps Foundation Newsletter.*

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## 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.”
- 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.

Application forms, which are accepted each year between January 15 and April 30, can be found at: <http://docdro.id/gshlOVC>

## Advocating for Public Lands and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Natural Resource Management Program. By Nancy Rogers

*"If you're not at the table, you're on the menu"- Former Interior Secretary, Sally Jewel.*

Secretary Jewel's remarks at the 2017 Outdoor Retailer's Market in Salt Lake City this past July were both urgent and profound, especially with regard for the US Army Corps of Engineers and its Natural Resources Management (NRM) Program. Heather Burke and I were fortunate to attend the Market on behalf of USACE and the Corps Foundation. Together we shared the "table" with representatives from all the Federal agencies that manage public lands and waters for recreation- National Park Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and NOAA- National Marine Sanctuaries. The Outdoor Retailer Market is the world's leading outdoor sports show where industry retailers, suppliers and recreation providers gather to share their products. It is also an ideal setting to increase awareness of the Corps as a leading recreation provider and promote public/private partnerships.

During the week-long retail frenzy for over 1500 outdoor recreation vendors, the Federal agency representatives staffed the Great Outdoors USA booth coordinated by [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov). We also presented information on our agency's recreation priorities as well as reached out to potential partners in the retail environment.

This is only one example of what it means to be "at the table", and what the Corps Foundation is doing to increase its advocacy efforts. Advocacy can take many forms and the Foundation is focusing on several new initiatives:

- Participating in public/private efforts to support public lands. Agency budgets are decreasing and there is considerable push by the Administration and industry stakeholders to increase private/public partnerships to address infrastructure needs and funding of programs. The Foundation has begun to investigate private and other non-profit partners who might be interested in providing funding for grants to local projects.

- Networking to increase visibility of Corps managed lakes and waterways by attending meetings, conferences and conventions where other federal land management agencies and our stakeholders are present.
- Re-invigorating the effort to establish the Corps Foundation as a congressionally authorized non-profit charter- similar to the National Parks Foundation.
- Increasing efforts to be a visible presence at Corps agency functions such as attending Ranger Training meetings, Park Manager meetings, 2017 NRM Meeting in Norman, Oklahoma, Partnership meetings in addition to meeting with Chief of Operations and other headquarters personnel who need to know who we are and what we do.

I look forward to updating you as we work to achieve these big goals, and I hope you will be a part of advocacy too. The impact of one person- YOU- can make a big difference, one step at a time. If you believe in the Corps' NRM program- speak up in local papers, social media, and conversations – and join the Corps Foundation!



Heather Burke and Nancy Rogers at the Outdoor Retailers Market, July 2017

## 2018 Capacity Building Grants

NEEF, in partnership with Toyota, will provide Friends Groups with grant funds of up to \$5,000 to implement year-long projects that build their organizational capacity to serve public lands. <http://go.neefusa.org/e/137431/y-day-capacity-building-grants/2cjt6c/94257968> . These organizations, while dedicated and passionate, are often underfunded and understaffed. The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), with generous support from Toyota, seeks to strengthen these organizations and unleash their potential to serve their public lands. NEEF's Every Day Capacity Building Grants contribute to the conservation and stewardship of our public lands by funding projects that build the organizational capacity of Friends Groups.

Applications for the 2018 Capacity Building Grant will be accepted on a rolling basis through November 2018. More detailed information about the application process and timeline can be found here <http://go.neefusa.org/e/137431/acity-building-grants-Timeline/2cjt6h/94257968> .

**Environmental Education (EE) Grant Solicitation Notice** Up to \$3 million in funding for locally-focused environmental education grants is now available. EPA expects to award three to four grants in each of EPA's ten Regions, for no less than \$50,000 and no more than \$100,000 each, for a total of 30-35 grants nationwide. **Proposals are due March 15, 2018.**

Although USACE is not directly eligible to apply for these grants, this is a great opportunity to work with our cooperating associations, other nonprofit partners, local schools and universities to develop environmental education programs that can be carried out at Corps projects. Through this grant program, EPA intends to provide financial support for projects that will serve to increase environmental and conservation literacy and encourage behavior that will benefit the environment. Applicants must apply under the Request for Proposal (also known as a Solicitation Notice) for the EPA Region in which the funded project would be located. Please refer to the full announcements for details, available at <http://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grant-solicitation-notice>. All RFPs are available on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), where applications must be submitted. For questions about the EE Grant Program, please contact [EEGrants@epa.gov](mailto:EEGrants@epa.gov).

## J. Strom Thurmond Dam and Lake Presented Corps Foundation Coins to three volunteer couples. By Miriam Fleming

From J. Strom Thurmond Dam and Lake, on the border of South Carolina and Georgia. Ron and Cindy Furr – They have been the go to couple for maintenance and general repair work. Over the years, they have constructed information boards for kiosks for use by the public and they ensure that task did not get bogged down or forgotten about due to other priorities. They have been readily available for anything asked of them. Bill and Carol Roy - They are the primary water safety contact volunteers as they go out to the schools and present water safety materials to children of all ages to better educate them on the potential hazards of water and the lake. Mike and Terri Young - They count and assist in maintaining our record keeping for recreational fee areas. They helped develop a better tracking program that transferred our counting process from manual to electronic recording keeping mythologies. They also serve as the secondary couple to Mr. & Mrs. Roy in water safety presentations. All couples have been heavily involved in specialized projects over the years such as annual Christmas tree collection and disposal, annual waterfowl surveys, National Public Lands Day, volunteer workdays and other projects as needed.



From left: Ron and Cindy Furr, Mike and Terri Young, Carol and Bill Roy and Ranger Allen Atkins.

## Volunteer Chet Hall Receives Volunteer Coin. By Assistant Lake Manager Dakota Allison



Since joining the Kaw Lake, Oklahoma team in May 2015, Mr. Hall ranges over five different, distinct recreation areas of the southern portion of Kaw Lake. In addition to Sandy Beach, Mr. Hall maintains Sandy Park campground, Mcfadden Cove campground, Fisherman's Bend access area, and Mcfadden Day Use area. He is always willing to assist when called upon in all parts of the lake, even outside his assigned areas.

The duties included: dead tree cutting and removal, controlled vegetation burning, mowing and weed eating, litter removal, campsite clean-up and debris removal, minor maintenance tasks, opening and closing project gates, painting recreational facilities, prepping of swim beaches, tractor operation, distributing water safety materials, replacing campsite reservation posts and a plethora of other duties.

Chet diligently works on items he knows need to be completed to improve recreation areas for the public. When assigned tasks, they are always performed in a timely and professional manner. Chet is truly a public servant and his service and dedication will continue to be appreciated by coworkers and visitors. He shows selfless service to the Nation through his work efforts. I consider his contributions to be as valuable as any full-time staff at this project and we are glad to include him on our team at Kaw Lake.

## Clarence and Nancy Capps, Corps Foundation Volunteer Excellence Coins Winners at Arkansas Post Field Office. By Park Ranger Michael Groves

Clarence and Nancy Capps are great volunteer park attendants at Pendleton Bend Campground in Arkansas. The public often compliments them on the great job they do registering campers and keeping the campground looking good. Mr. and Mrs. Capps go beyond their required hours of work and responsibilities, volunteering for extra duty at the Pendleton Bend area. In FY 2017 thru July, they volunteered 720 extra hours beyond their required hours for an additional value to the Government of \$17,380.80. Some of the extra work included: Mowing in the park during the absence of a mowing contractor, trimming trees, facilities cleaning and other maintenance. They happily assisted campers and provided friendly, helpful assistance to the public any way they could. We are thankful for their year of volunteer service.



Nancy and CW Capps with Daren Olson



## Robert and Susan Evans received Volunteer Coins



Robert and Susan Evans are great volunteer park attendants at the Wilbur D. Mills Campground in Arkansas. We often get positive comments from the public on the great job they do registering campers and keeping the campground looking good. Mr. and Mrs. Evans exceed their required hours of work and responsibilities volunteering for extra work at the Wilbur D. Mills Campground.

Through July of fiscal year 2017, they volunteered 261 hours beyond their requirement for an extra value to the government of \$6,300.54. Examples of their extra work included: mowing the park during the absence of a mowing contractor, tree maintenance and other park maintenance jobs. They eagerly greeted campers outside of the scheduled gatehouse hours and provided friendly, helpful visitor assistance in any way they can.

We are thankful for their year of volunteer service. Nominated by Park Ranger Michael Groves, Arkansas Post Field Office (at left in photo). Daren Olson is on the right.

## Jack and Cathie Foster received Volunteer Coins



Jack and Cathie Foster are great volunteers at Notrebess Bend Campground in Arkansas. We often get positive public comments on how clean and orderly these volunteers keep our facilities. Mr. and Mrs. Fosters go way beyond their required hours of work by volunteering for extra projects at other field office areas. In FY 2017 thru the month of July, they have volunteered 389 hours beyond their required amount for an additional value to the Government of \$9,390.46. Some of their extra work includes: Mowing in the park during the absence of a mowing contractor, painting, power washing, cutting and bundling firewood, repairing fences, filling holes, replacing signs, removing trash, making repairs, cleaned and organized our project storage shed and compound, inventoried all the supplies, compiled a CD of pictures of all items with inventory numbers and descriptions. Their work in organizing the compound has been especially beneficial to the recreation and lock and dam staff. They now know what supplies are on hand and where they are located.

## Larry and Judy Weems received a Foundation Volunteer Coin

Larry and Judy Weems are great winter volunteer park attendants at Merrisach Lake Campground in Arkansas. Everyone appreciates the great job they do registering campers and keeping the campground looking good. Mr. and Mrs. Weems work more than their required hours and volunteer for additional duties. In FY 2017, they volunteered 172 hours beyond what was required for an extra value to the Government

of \$4,152.08. Some of the extra work included: keeping the gate house open to register campers and picking up litter. They always provide friendly helpful assistance to the public.



Larry and Judy Weems flanked by Park Ranger Michael Groves and (at left) and Daren Olson on the right. Arkansas Post Field Office

## **Troy Blanton receives a Corps Foundation Coin at John Redmond Lake. By Barb Busenbarrick**

Troy Blanton spearheaded the "Ride for St Jude" at John Redmond Lake, Damsite Park in Kansas. He used the abandoned Pin Oak area for part of the festivities. He spent countless hours planning this trail ride, clearing debris, lopping and cutting limbs and marking the trail. He enlisted two other volunteers to help put up a trail sign and move picnic tables before the event. The event was a great success. Nearly 100 people came for the ride and festivities. Tony plans to have this ride in future years. He said it raised close to \$2000 for St Jude Children's Hospital, not bad for a first time event! He is now talking about having trail rides to raise money to put in more permanent round pens. He is very deserving of a Corps Foundation Coin.



Barb Busenbarrick presenting a Corps Foundation Coin to Troy Blanton

## Maxine Watts recognized for 23 Years of Volunteer Service. By Kirk Weber



Ranger Kirk Weber awards a Corps Foundation Coin to Maxine Watts

Ms. Maxine Watts has been a vital part of the Oologah Lake Recreational Program in Oklahoma, providing thousands of hours of volunteer service for more than 23 years. That's longer than any of the current project staff! She continually supports the mission of the Corps of Engineers by providing outstanding customer service and engaging with the public as they visit the Hawthorn Beach Public Use Area. Her involvement has proven paramount to the smooth operation and efficiency of the Beach Shack. She continually provides support by providing coverage on the Contract Gate Attendant's non-working days, helping maintain an open line with the visiting public and saving the government an estimated \$5,000 annually in CGA services. In addition to staffing the Hawthorn Beach Shack, Ms. Watts also works hand in hand with the CGA and Recreation Fee Cashier (RFC) to collect and maintain funds collected in the Project Honor Vaults in various locations all around the lake. Her integrity and work ethic continually shines through as she helps new CGAs and assists the RFC to train them on proper procedure and documentation. She continually provides outstanding representation of the Corps of Engineers with her unwavering commitment and outgoing, friendly nature. Ms. Watts also promotes the annual Sun and Fun Kids Fishing Derby, as well as the National Lands Day. Overall, Ms. Watts has proven herself to be a key part of the Oologah Lake Project and the surrounding Oologah Lake community.

## **[Another Ranger Author: Roger Hayes, Author of, On Point: A Rifleman's Year in the Boonies: Vietnam 1967-1968](#)**

In recent issues we featured David Dutton's book, Paid in Sunsets and Pat Barry's book, Bonneville Lock and Dam: A Gift from the People of the Great Depression. That led to the suggestion we should contact Roger Hayes, author of On Point: A Rifleman's Year in the Boonies: Vietnam 1967-1968. After his days as a soldier, Roger served in the Corps of Engineers as a ranger and in the St. Louis District. Here is the story about the book from Roger.

"The book, On Point: A Rifleman's Year in the Boonies: Vietnam 1967-1968, was published in 2000 by Presidio Press. It appeared on the recommended reading lists of the Army War College and the Command and General Staff College, and was required reading for two years at the Army War College. St. Martin's Press bought the paperback rights, and their book appeared in bookstores about 9 months after initial publication. Later ISIS Publishing in Oxford, England, bought the large print rights, and they published hardback and paperback editions. The book won two awards: a Distinguished Book Award from the Army Historical Foundation and a similar award from the 25th Infantry Division Association, an organization composed of veterans of

the division. The Army Historical Foundation is dedicated to the preservation of the history of the American soldier. The awards were quite an honor for this draftee.”

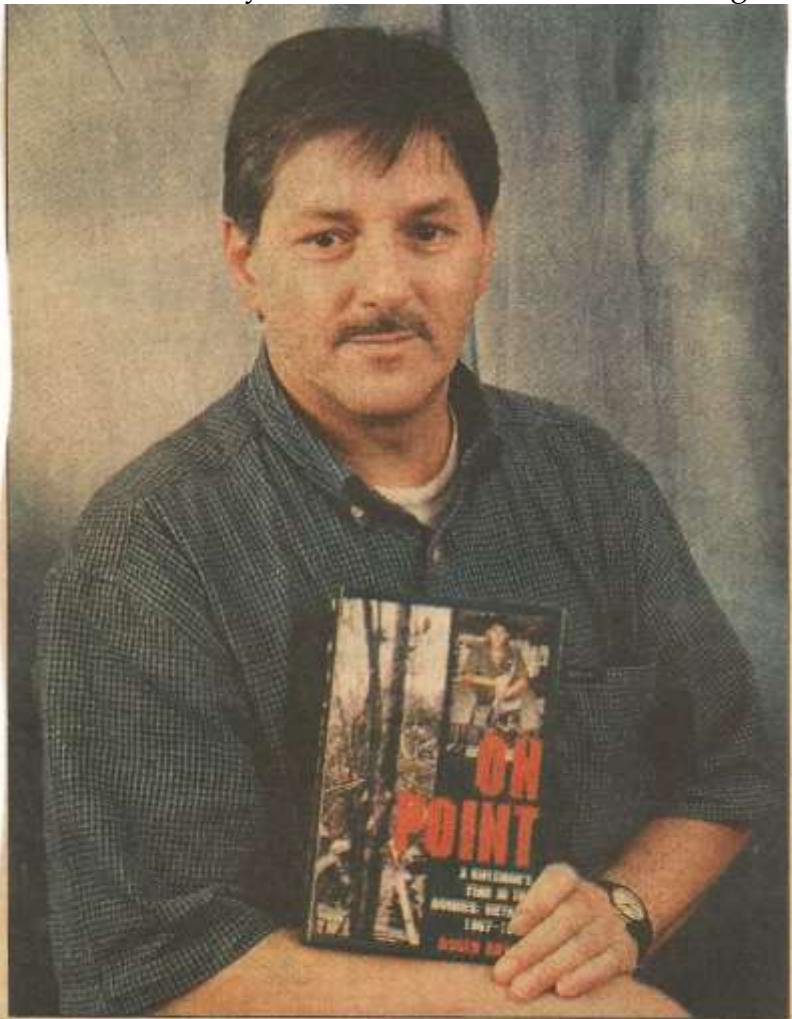
Roger added, “I was drafted in May 1967, went to Vietnam as a Private First Class, served as a tunnel rat, point man (hence the title), and squad leader, and returned wearing sergeant stripes, having been wounded on four occasions.”



Left: Hayes riding on the top of his squad’s armored personnel carrier. Right: Hayes with his squad. “Absent from the photo is the guy who took the picture. So we numbered 7 at the time. They are, from l to r: Big John, Bo, Pinon, Hack, me, and Little John.”



Hayes: "I'm displaying an AK-47 that I captured. I wore that set of fatigues—the only ones I had—until they rotted off my body. They're not too clean in the photo. I had new boots, though. My first pair wore out. The photo showing the AK-47 was taken inside our armored personnel carrier. That's way too many syllables for infantrymen, and we called them simply, tracks. The driver's compartment is on the left. Above my head is a hatch leading to the .50 caliber machine gun mounted on top. I'm sitting on our squad's ammunition supply that included thousands of M16 rounds, .50 caliber machine gun ammo, Grenade launcher ammo, several cases of hand grenades, and miscellaneous other stuff like Claymore mines, star clusters, smoke grenades, and pop flares."



T.L. Witt photo

Carlyle author and Vietnam War veteran Roger Hayes holds up a copy of the book he wrote about his experiences in Vietnam, entitled "On Point: A Rifleman's Year in the Boonies: Vietnam 1967-1968." The book is available in area bookstores.

The jacket of one of the editions of Roger's book includes this description. "In the fall of 1967 baby-faced, mild-mannered Roger Hayes went to Vietnam—with a year-and-a-half

of college behind him and having completed six months of military training. And there on the strange and savage battlefield, amidst the dying and the loss, Roger Hayes became a warrior, a leader, and a comrade, forging friendships that would last the remainder of his days.

In this fascinating, penetrating memoir of a young rifleman in Vietnam, Hayes takes us through a tour of duty with a mechanized infantry unit in the 25th Infantry Division during the bloodiest year of combat in the Vietnam war. Here are the ambushes and mortar attacks, moments of terror, and moments of camaraderie that made up one soldier's coming of age in war. At the same time On Point captures a young man's awakening to his own inner resources: to the courage, skill, and self-reliance that made him the right man for the most dangerous job in the world."

Though out of print, you will be able to find used copies.

If you are aware of other Corps ranger authors who would like to be featured, please let us know how we may contact them. Editor.

*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](http://www.CorpsFoundation.org)

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