



Welcome to the Fall, 2019 Edition of the Corps Foundation Newsletter.

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Corps Foundation Wins NDPA Lifesaver of the Year Award

On April 15, the Corps Foundation was awarded the Lifesaver of the Year Award at the 2019 National Drowning Prevention Alliance Conference in New Orleans, LA. Pam Doty, USACE National Water Safety Program Manager nominated the Corps Foundation for this prestigious award. The foundation received the award for everything they have done and continue to do to support and promote the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns National Water Safety Campaign that targets adults.



Pictured left to right: Cindy Johnson, NDPA Board Member; Pam Doty, USACE National Water Safety Program Manager; Rachel Garren, Corps Foundation Special Programs Director; Laura Metro, NDPA Board Member; Jeremy Smith, NDPA Treasurer.

2019 Corps Foundation “Enduring Service” Awards Announced

We are pleased to announce the 2019 Corps Foundation “Enduring Service” awardees, selected from an impressive group of individuals nominated for their continued service and accomplishments at US Army

Corps of Engineers lakes, lands and waterways. We greatly appreciate the support of Bass Pro Shops in bringing this award to fruition this year.

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. This year's award winners include:

- Glenn and Bobbie Wehrmann, 12 years of dedicated service at Lake Texoma, TX
- Rod Handkamp, 12 years of distinguished service at Canyon Lake, TX
- Darrell E. Lewis, 13 years of distinguished service as founding member and Treasurer on the Corps Foundation Board of Directors

Glenn and Bobbie Wehrmann served as volunteers at Lake Texoma where they assisted the maintenance staff by participating in the full range of day-to-day maintenance activities. Glenn was invaluable to the maintenance staff by operating most of the project's heavy equipment including tractors, skid steer, backhoe and his commercial driver's license allowed him to drive trucks and tractor trailers hauling materials to job sites. Glenn also provided equipment training for other volunteers and employees alike, and often served as a work leader for other volunteers. After a high water event in the fall of 2018, Glenn helped clean up downed trees, hauled rock, repaired roadways and installed new electric lines. Bobbie was a huge asset to the Corps natural resource management program at Lake Texoma by helping to maintain and beautify the Corps campgrounds, picking up truckloads of litter and debris every year. She assisted with fall leaf removal and many other tasks in preparation of opening the campgrounds. Glenn and Bobbie have been key players in preparation for the Lake Texoma Youth Draw Hunts including cooking world class BBQ for the youth hunters. The Wehrmann's long-term dedication and service to Lake Texoma is well deserving of the Enduring Service Award.

Rod Handkamp served as volunteer, and maintenance project team leader at Canyon Lake, TX. His leadership quickly led to his selection as the designated equipment trainer for both staff members and volunteers on how to use hand tools, power tools, riding lawnmowers, and tractors. Rod spearheaded vegetative management and erosion control in Corps recreation areas by trimming trees, mowing grass, installing erosion control

blankets, spreading grass seed and planting native wildflower seeds. Rod was involved in a partnership between the Corps of Engineers and the local Comal County Community Service Restitution Program, supervising community service workers. Those workers with specialized skills were assigned to assist Rod with his projects. Due to Rod's supervisory skills the Corps has been able to leverage both community service workers and volunteers to accomplish work normally done by contractors, helping the Corps keep parks open in periods of dwindling budgets and increased administrative duties. Rod's long-term dedication and service to Canyon Lake is well deserving of the Enduring Service Award.

Darrell Lewis served as a volunteer and founding member of the Corps Foundation's Board of Directors and as the organization's Treasurer for the past 13 years. His leadership and substantial knowledge positively influenced the growth of the Foundation, particularly in the areas of governance and fiscal accountability. His leadership was also instrumental in helping provide the vision and strategic direction for the Corps Foundation support of the Corps' Natural Resource Management program. Under his guidance as Treasurer, the Corps Foundation successfully secured and executed numerous Coast Guard Grants that resulted in an award-winning water safety program. The grants would not have been as successful without Darrell's support as Treasurer to implement the different programs funded by the grant. Darrell's long-term dedication to the Corps Foundation is well deserving of the Enduring Service Award

While their years and hours of service are notable, it is the exceptional quality and impact of each of these outstanding volunteers that is central to their selection as the 2019 recipients of this award.

We look forward to presenting these awards this fall and again, we wish to thank Bass Pro Shops for their generous support of this very special and meaningful award program.

Changes at the Corps Foundation

Darrell Lewis, who is one of the founding members of the Corps Foundation and retired Chief of Natural Resource Management in Headquarters, has turned over the responsibilities of serving as Treasurer to Marilyn Jones. Marilyn, who has been Secretary on the Board of Directors has assumed the responsibilities of Treasurer. She is also holding

down the responsibilities of Secretary until a replacement is found. The members of the Board of Directors want to thank both Darrell and Marilyn for their volunteer service to these positions. Darrell will continue to be involved occasionally as Founding Director Emeritus.

Jeff Rose, a representative of the marina industry has resigned from the Corps Foundation Board of Directors after completing his three-year term. The Corps Foundation thanks Jeff for his participation and insights into the needs of this vital partner to the Corps of Engineers. He is a strong supporter and advocate for the marina industry through his efforts lobbying the U.S. Congress and Senate during NMMA's American Boating Congress (ABC) week in Washington D.C.

Expanding Expertise with New Members to Board of Directors!

By Nancy Rogers, Board Member for Advocacy and Outreach; Board Recruitment Committee

Following a four-month initiative to identify and recruit new members to the Corps Foundation Board, we are pleased to announce the addition of three new Board Members. These extremely qualified and enthusiastic supporters of the Corps' Natural Resource Management Program (NRM) bring a combined 90 years of experience to the Board! It's my honor to introduce them:



Len Cardoza, LTC (retired)- As the former District Commander for the San Francisco District, US Army Corps of Engineers, Len brings his knowledge and leadership to the Board in areas of budgeting, Congressional liaison, and project management in all areas of the Corps. His first-hand knowledge with the interface of public, private and legislative processes will be put to good use while on the Foundation board. Len is well connected to agency leaders and continues to work as a consultant to water agencies regarding salmonid restoration. He is an avid sailor and is very interested in participating in the water safety initiatives of the Foundation.



Sue Clevestine - After serving 33 years as a Corps of Engineers park technician, ranger and supervisory outdoor recreation planner with the Rock Island District, Sue understands the value of partnerships to accomplish the critical work at Corps field sites. She brings a strong level of experience on partnering and knows the partnering program from all sides. Sue served on the agency task force to plan partnering initiatives within the Corps and is an excellent team player for accomplishing mutual goals. She is organized and creative in her approaches to problems and believes in the Corps Foundation's efforts to support the field in its partnering efforts. This level of agency experience is critical to the work of the Foundation.



Pep Persio - Pep's 40-year career spanned every level of park management from Park Technician, Park Ranger, Manager, Operations Project Manager, Regional Program Manager for the Europe District and culminating with his last position as the Corps' National Recreation Program Manager in Wash. DC. There isn't much he hasn't done or knows about the Corps' Recreation Program. His understanding of the Corps' budget process is essential to the achieving the Foundation's goal in advocating for the Corps' recreation program in Congress.

The Corps Foundation, is incredibly fortunate to have these individuals share their time and energy to support the Corps' Natural Resource Management Program! We look forward to broadening the Foundation's influence and targeted initiatives in support of the programs, partners and staff of the Natural Resource Management Program.

National Water Safety Committee and Foundation Meeting Spring 2019

The Corps Foundation's Special Programs Director Rachel Garren met with the USACE National Water Safety Committee at their annual meeting in March to discuss the Foundation's partnership with USACE to promote the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign. This year's meeting was held at Carlyle Lake Visitor Center in Illinois. The Corps Foundation provided campaign shirts to the committee members to assist in promoting the campaign. The committee discussed some of the outstanding efforts and partnerships that are being done to promote this campaign nationwide. For example, Savannah District put the campaign logo poster artwork on the back page of the Georgia state fishing regulations publication. Headquarters USACE put a full-page campaign ad in the Building Strong magazine. Publication ad artwork along with other campaign resources can be found on www.PleaseWearIt.com.

While at Carlyle Lake, the interpretive staff gave a presentation about some of their outstanding efforts to promote the campaign, including the local ambulance company that put the logo on one of their ambulances at no cost to the government. The Corps Foundation appreciates all of you who are working to promote the campaign. Please follow Please Wear It on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and share the outstanding water safety posts that are available. If you have a partnership or something you're doing to promote the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign, please make sure the USACE National Water Safety Program Manager, Pam Doty is aware of it by emailing descriptions of your efforts and pictures to her at Pamela.J.Doty@usace.army.mil.



Pictured left to right: left side – front row: Paige Laughman, Kate Hilmes, Kim Hammel; back row: Sylvia Guerrero, Robert Moreno, Chris Purvis; right side – front row: Amber Tilton, Romanda Walker; middle row: Bill Mehr, Julie Franco, Roxane Krutsinger, Abby Jones, Toby Isbell, Pam Doty; back row: Matthew Palmer

Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns Campaign Update

By Rachel Garren, CIT, CIGT, Corps Foundation's Special Programs Director

We hope you've been following the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign at "**Please Wear It**" on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). [You don't want to miss out on the life-saving educational information in our posts and there have been some amazing giveaways of water safety gear and campaign t-shirts so far in 2019.](#)

Through the Corps Foundation's fourth \$175,000 Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund grant, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) National Operations Center for Water Safety, we have been working together to create new Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign products and materials.

This fall three new videos will be shared on social media, [PleaseWearIt.com](#), YouTube, and DVIDS. Two are PSAs in 60 and 30-second versions. One PSA is called "Retrieval Done Right, Knot Wrong" and the other is "Carbon Monoxide: The Silent Killer". Also, an approximately nine-minute Inflatable Life Jacket Instructional video will

be shared out to help you learn how to select, care for, and maintain the best inflatable life jacket for your activities.

Another new product that will be distributed later this year or early next year is a pavement stencil of the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns logo that can be used to paint the logo onto boat ramps, sidewalks, parking lot, etc. USACE National Operations Center for Water Safety will be distributing the stencils to USACE offices. There will be a limited supply of stencils, so we will be encouraging USACE offices that receive one to share it with others. If your office doesn't receive a stencil, we will be providing information on how you can purchase one.

Currently on the Please Wear It social media pages there's a Vest Bump Challenge going on to raise awareness for life jacket wear by having fun with your family, friends, and co-workers! We've had some great help from USACE park rangers sharing this challenge with the public. While the park rangers are making interpretive direct face-to-face contacts with their visitors, they are asking them to participate in the challenge and share their pictures on social media. Share your photos or videos by using hashtag #VestBumpChallenge and tag @PleaseWearIt.

It's a good idea to let USACE National Water Safety Program Manager, Pam Doty know what you're doing to promote the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign and the Vest Bump Challenge by emailing descriptions of your efforts and pictures to her at Pamela.J.Doty@usace.army.mil. If you let Pam know about your efforts you might receive a Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign logo t-shirt while supplies last.

If you haven't read any of the National Water Safety Blogs you should check them out. These contain information that could save your life or the life of someone you love. You can read all the blogs/articles either on the Please Wear It social media pages, PleaseWearIt.com under news releases and stories, or at <https://medium.com/@pleasewearitarmycorps>.

Thanks again to all of you who are helping promote this campaign! Together we're saving lives on our nation's waters.

[Corps Foundation to Soon Publish Stories from Park Rangers and other Natural Resource Management Employees](#)

Soon, you will be able to read stories and learn from about 60 past and present Corps of Engineers rangers, resource managers and other natural resource management (NRM) employees.

For the past year, the Corps Foundation has been collecting stories and interviewing past and present Corps NRM employees.

Some of the stories come from four of the former chiefs in headquarters. Some stories came from some of the groundbreaking female rangers and others who shaped the program over the years. Many past and current employees have added their stories so far.

If you would like to get involved, a few skills are still needed. If you have superior graphic arts skills, we still need a cover design. Editing, layout, photo editing skills are also needed to get this book published. There is no budget to reimburse you. We are an all-volunteer board. But, your reward will be a product we can all read with pride. Please help us with this worthwhile effort to preserve some of our institutional memory.

Corps Foundation Sponsors Another Certified Interpretive Guide Course

Eleven students received certification from the National Association for Interpretation, the professional organization for those in the interpretive profession.

The students attended the 32-hour Certified Interpretive Guide Training, June 4-7 2019 at the Caesar Creek Visitor Center. The students came from the Corps of Engineers Caesar Creek Visitor Center, nearby Caesar Creek State Park and other locations.

Corps Foundation Board Member Pat Barry served as the class facilitator. Barry has been offering the course since 2002. He also served as the lead instructor for the Corps of Engineers Interpretive Services courses for 14 years.

Barry strives to set up a supportive learning environment and, in this case, the students responded by encouraging one another and working well together. "I could tell that we had a group of motivated and enthusiastic students by half-way through the first day." Barry said.

The Corps Foundation wishes to thank the staff at Caesar Creek for their excellent logistical support.

This is at least the fourth Certified Interpretive Guide offered by the Corps Foundation. If you are interested in having the Corps Foundation help you offer a course, contact Pat Barry at jpatbarry@hotmail.com to work out the details. We will need at least 10 students to make it work, so partner with surrounding organizations, as needed, to get enough students. If you have a large group, we can bring in additional instructors.



Certified Interpretive Guide Training, June 4-7 2019 at the Caesar Creek Visitor Center

Bonneville Lock and Dam Presents Wendy Lambert and Wanda Scharfe with Corps Foundation Volunteer Coins

By Natural Resource Specialist Meg Sleeper and Nicole Baker

Volunteer Wendy Lambert always enters the Visitor Center at Bonneville Lock and Dam with a smile. Her enthusiasm for greeting visitors and answering their questions is infectious. Her innovative talks and tours have inspired and educated thousands of visitors during the two years she has been volunteering. Wendy has developed several illustrated programs about Bonneville Dam to engage visitors about electricity production, salmon migration, and the Corps Story. She has even been known to serenade the audience with an original song about Bonneville, if the right

moment presents itself. She consistently raises her hand for extra hours to support outreach efforts, having volunteered for seven outreach events, including the Great Electrifying Event, Earth Day, Geology Day, Every Kid in a Park, and Sturgeon Festival. Her dedication and selfless service speaks to her loyalty to the Bonneville Ranger team and the Army Corps missions. As a result of Wendy's contributions, we have been able to provide the high-quality interpretive experience we strive to achieve at Bonneville Lock and Dam.



Natural Resource Specialist Meg Sleeper was proud to present the Corps Foundation Volunteer Excellence Coin to Wendy Lambert.

Volunteer **Wanda Scharfe** is a member of the local community who has always enjoyed visiting Bonneville's recreation areas, but was troubled by the trash left by other users. She took the initiative to make a change in her experience by volunteering to help solve the issue and is a great example for other community members who may be looking to volunteer. Her selfless service sends a visual message of stewardship support to our visitors.



Wanda Scharfe
cutting Scotch
broom at Bonneville

Over a seven-month period, Ms. Scharfe alone picked up 71 – 20-gallon bags of litter from our recreation areas. By removing the equivalent of over 1,400 gallons of trash from Bonneville’s recreation areas, Ms. Scharfe has supported the NRM team by creating a cleaner space for wildlife and visitors, making Bonneville a great place to visit. Her efforts made significant impacts to high visitation areas such as Ft. Cascades National Historic Site Trail and has proven that one person really can make a difference.

USACE 2018 Partnerships and Volunteer Program Summary

First appeared in the FY 18 Partnerships and Volunteer Summary Sheet

<https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/partners/ombil-annual.cfm>

The Corps of Engineers natural resource management mission is to manage and conserve natural resources, consistent with ecosystem management principles, while providing quality public outdoor recreation experiences to serve the needs of present and future generations. The challenges facing this mission require a new way of doing business, by increasing community engagement and collaboration to ensure we meet the needs of the public. Our partners and volunteers are organizations and people who want to give back to their communities and are interested in being involved in the Corps natural resource management program. Whether it is an environmental ethic, a love of parks, or enthusiasm for the outdoors, like-minded partners and volunteers share their expertise, resources, time and energy to work together toward common goals. In FY 18 volunteers at Corps Lakes contributed:

- **Total volunteers: 31,156**
- **Volunteer hours: 1,621,763**
- **Value of volunteer service: \$40,041,334**

In the 2018 Fiscal Year we saw an increase in the number of partners (from 1,889 in FY 17 to 2,168 in FY 18) and total value (from \$65 million in FY 17 to \$70.6 million in FY 18). This increase in the number of partners truly demonstrates how our field sites are reaching out and engaging more organizations within their communities.

We strive to match our partners and volunteers' talents and interests with work to be done, in order to achieve our shared vision. While partners and volunteers are not a substitute for Corps management of the federal resources, they help accomplish programs and activities for which funding is not available and therefore would not normally be performed. In FY 2018, 43% of our partnerships were for environmental stewardship projects, and 57% were for recreation projects.

- **Boy/Girl Scouts: 3,323 scouts from 88 troops were able to complete eagle scout projects, learn new outdoor skills, beautify parks through shoreline cleanups, raise funds by recycling, perform service projects, earn badges, and participate in educational programs by park rangers to learn about natural resource careers.**

- Cooperating associations: 52 nonprofit associations held special events, operated bookstores, fundraised, provided interpretive programs, and served as community advocates for the Corps.
- CVBs, businesses, community organizations: More than 800 businesses and community organizations partnered with the Corps to offer recreation related services and supplies to visitors while also generating an economic benefit to the local communities.
- Educational institutes: Corps lakes provided 74 universities and schools with hands-on learning in an outdoor classroom setting, research projects, volunteer projects to meet service goals, water safety and environmental education programs, and career days.
- Youth service and conservation corps: 33 Corps lakes worked with conservation service corps organizations to provide 16 to 25-year-old youths with job training, academic programming, leadership skills, and experience in environmental stewardship and recreation projects.
- Outdoor recreation organizations: 282 clubs, national organizations, and other recreation groups partnered with the Corps to improve access, upgrade facilities, and create new opportunities for their members and the public at Corps lakes.
- Conservation organizations: 489 public and private entities, including federal and state land management agencies, non-profits, and wildlife and conservation groups, completed projects to improve habitat and meet their stewardship goals

Beginning in 2016, Corps volunteers who served 250 hours with the Corps of Engineers or other participating Federal land management agencies became eligible to receive an America the Beautiful (ATB) Interagency Volunteer Pass. In FY 2018, 217 America the Beautiful Volunteer passes were issued to Corps volunteers for their service. In addition to the ATB pass, 43 Corps volunteers who served 100 hours received a Corps annual day use pass.

Volunteers who perform exceptional service are also eligible to receive a Corps Foundation Volunteer Excellence coin, and can be nominated for the Corps Foundation sponsored National Volunteer of the Year Award or the Enduring Service Award. In FY 2018, 41 Volunteer Excellence coins were awarded for exceptional volunteer service.

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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Corps Foundation Newsletter assembled by communications director and editor:
J. Patrick Barry, jpatbarry@hotmail.com Contact him with your story ideas and photos.

Membership Renewal: Your Support Makes a Difference!

Please enter your contact information in the space below.

Name:

Address:

ZIP:

Email:

Phone number:

Contribution Level Payment

Please return this form with your check payable to CNREF, c/o Dave Wahus, 422 Silver Fox Lane, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768. If you prefer, you can renew your membership online by visiting the Foundation's website at www.corpsfoundation.org

Please indicate your contribution level:

\$25 \$250 Other: \$_____

\$50* \$500

\$100 \$1000 Lifetime Membership

Corps Foundation Board Members:

Peter Lewis, Founding Chairman
Emeritus

Darrell Lewis, Founding Director and
Treasurer Emeritus

Greg Miller, Chairman of the Board

Marilyn Jones, Treasurer and Secretary

Rich Deline, Founding Director

Nancy Rogers, Advocacy/Outreach
Director

Pat Barry, Communications Director

Len Cardoza, Director

Sue Clevestine, Director

Pep Persio, Director

Associates:

Special Programs Director: Rachel
Garren

Assistant Treasurer: Christine F.
Hamman

Heather Burke, USACE National
Partnerships Program Manager