

AMERICA'S LAKES AND WATERWAYS

Welcome to the Spring 2020 Edition of the Corps Foundation Newsletter. In this issue:

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IMPORTANT See the USACE Website for updates on the COVID-19 Pandemic

https://www.usace.army.mil/Coronavirus/fbclid/IwAR0Wxq9t_2TqIm6 7Qnh-9IkNU27avZfXxaVWH_Q9IU317OdcUfowu2G2c58/

Corps Foundation Goes to Washington!

by Pep Persio and Nancy Rogers, Board Members, The Corps Foundation



In conjunction with the annual Public Lands Alliance convention in Washington DC March 1-5, 2020, *A Day on the Hill* was set aside for March 5 as part of the week's agenda. Board members Pep Persio and Nancy Rogers attended the convention, and then participated with hundreds of other public lands partners to visit their Congressional representatives from around the country.

The Foundation prepared specifically to meet with members of Congress from states with large USACE recreation footprints and visitation. We were provided information and data from HQ NRM Chief, Jeff Krause, HQ Recreation Program Manager, Scott Strotman and Heather Burke, National Partnership Program Manager in order to develop key areas to address:

- Include the US Army Corps of Engineers in the reauthorization of FLREA, the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, commonly referred to as "fee retention".
- Amending WRDA 2016 to include private sector and non-profit organizations to participate in challenge cost sharing cooperative management agreements to jointly manage Corps parks.
- Additional \$30 million in appropriated funds to the O&M account for Recreation Operations and Maintenance.
- Include the Corps in the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act- comprehensive infrastructure and deferred maintenance funding bill.

Pep and Nancy met with key staff for Rep. Rob Woodall (R-GA) and Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN). In addition, they visited the offices of Congressman Jared Huffman (D-CA), Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA), and Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) to leave information for their review. A follow up meeting with Congressman Huffman was scheduled for March 17 in California but was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The meetings provided an opportunity for the Foundation to explain the value of Corps recreation facilities to the House and Senator's constituents and economic value to their local communities. Everyone we spoke to was surprised to hear about the Corps' impact on outdoor recreation, and that it was the largest provider of water-based recreation in the country. They welcomed the information we provided.

An additional meeting with Callie Hoyt of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) completed our day. The NMMA is currently working with the US Coast Guard for improved boat safety, and with small harbors and marinas regarding access and maintenance. The NMMA is a key member of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable - an industry group supporting access and infrastructure improvements for all areas that provide outdoor recreation. They are a supporter for the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act to increase appropriations to address deferred maintenance on Federal public lands. It makes sense for the Corps Foundation and the NMMA to work together on behalf of the Corps' recreation program! Pep and Nancy were able to provide critical information on the Corps' recreation program and it was a great start to what will become an ongoing discussion.

This was the first time the Corps Foundation met with Congress in Washington DC, but it won't be the last. The increased advocacy and outreach of the Foundation is ramping up and will build on this initial great start!

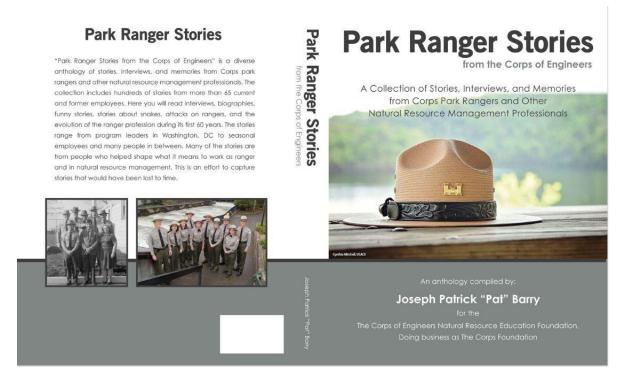
We welcome all comments and questions regarding the Foundation's programs so let us hear from you! Better yet - join the Foundation and receive quarterly newsletters on our growing influence. Learn more at www.corpsfoundation.org.





The Corps Stories Anthology is for Sale!

Please share this news widely!



Cover design by Linda Purvis.

The Corps Foundation is proud to announce the release of the Premier Edition of the anthology, <u>Park Ranger Stories from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers: A Collection of Stories, Interviews, and Memories from Corps Park Rangers and Other Natural Resources Management Professionals.</u> This long-awaited publication is on sale now, in both printed and digital formats.

A diverse group of contributors joined in to create this fascinating 654-page volume of institutional memories, stories, interviews, and more than 300 captioned photos.

Part one includes a brief history of the Natural Resources Management (NRM) program. Part two includes chapters from each of nearly 70 story contributors. There are also chapters about the badges, uniforms, vehicles, hats, pins, posters, and patches familiar to Rangers.

Have you wondered how the Chittenden Award started or are you curious about the beginnings of the NRM Community Forum? Want to know what it was like for women during the early days of the program? The answers to these and dozens of other questions are included.

In this book, you'll see many color and black and white photos, and discover stories ranging from those at the top of the Natural Resource Management organization who helped establish the program, to a journal of a summer seasonal employee. Most stories come from rangers who worked at their dream jobs. You might be surprised to read tales from many NRM employees left their normal jobs to participate in the multi-year commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

The Corps Foundation is grateful to all the contributors including: Bill Allbright, Steve Austin, Kim Baker, Joseph "Pat" Barry, Aaron Boswell, Jeff Boutwell, Ryan Braaten, Viola Bramel, Bonnie Bryson, Jon Carlson, Bob Chapman, Debby Chenoweth, Bob Chitwood, Sue Clevenstine, Pete Colangelo, Mary Coulombe, Paige Cruz, Dennis Daum, Rich Deline, Pam Doty, David Dutton, Bonnie Lambers Ecker, Kevin Ewbank, Brandon Faneuf, Tom Fleeger, Darin Furry, Rachel Garren, Clyde Gates, Sherm Gee, Kim Hammel, Linda Hartsfield, Roger Hayes, Don Hibbs, Kathleen Perales Jackson, Bill Jackson, Susan J. James, Marilyn Jones, Pat Kline, Jamie Kordack, Darrell E. Lewis, Peter B. Lewis, Miriam MacDermot, Rick Magee, Brian McCavitt, Greg Miller, Scott Moore, Jean Nauss, Robin Norris, Pep Persio, Gerald T. Purvis, Kimberly Roberts Rea, Melissa Rinehart, Nancy Rogers, Art Ruebenson, Merritt Stegmeier, George E. Tabb Jr., Tom Thomsen, Amber Tilton, Daniel Troglin, Bobbi Jo Trout, John Veverka, Greg A. Webb, Paul Weidhaas, Ken Weiner, Brian Westfall, Ken Wilk, and Karla Zeutenhorst. The book also includes memorial chapters about John Derby, Fred Huelson, Opal James, Richard Doherty, Kathie McMillan Morgan, and David Weiss.

Even if you are not a ranger or a natural resource employee, you'll gain many new insights about what it is like to be part of this rewarding profession.

We believe every current and former NRM employee will proudly enjoy and relate to this anthology of stories, which capture a huge piece of natural resource management history. It should be a valuable reference for all NRM employees regardless of whether they are newly hired or in retirement.

The paperback book is expensive because of the size of the book and the number of color photos. The Corps Foundation earns only about \$5 from each copy; the rest are production and printing costs that go to the publisher. Pat Barry, the person who compiled this anthology, did not and will not earn anything from this book. He volunteered all of his time and expertise, as did the other contributors and Corps Foundation Board Members and Associates. Founding Chairperson Peter Lewis, donated getting the interviews transcribed. Linda Purvis donated the cover. The Corps Foundation is dedicated to supporting and helping preserve the Corps of Engineers

NRM program. If you order through Amazon Smile and designate the Corps Foundation as your charity of choice, an even greater benefit will go to the Corps Foundation.

Two versions are available. The Premier Edition paperback is an 8x10 inch 656-page volume (\$87.91) and is great addition to any bookshelf. A more portable and affordable e-book edition (\$12.95) is also available.

For a preview or to order your paperback copy, go to:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/1712590251/ref=sr 1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Park+Ranger+Stories+from+the+U.S.+Army+Corps+of+Engineers&qid=1586796350&s=books&sr=1-1

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Social distancing? Now is the time to read this compelling anthology.

Life Jacket Video Contest 2020 Launched

The Corps Foundation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are proud to announce they have launched a Life Jacket Video Contest. The contest invites you to create a video public service announcement (PSA) that helps encourage adults to wear life jackets. Winners will receive a cash prize and the opportunity for national exposure for their winning entries.

Key Information about the Life Jacket Video Contest 2020:

- All submissions will only be accepted through the online application that can be found at https://www.LifeJacketVideoContest.com. Also at this website, you can find official rules, FAQs, tips for creating successful video PSAs, and resources to help you promote this in your area.
- To enter, you must be a legal resident of the United States, who will be age 18 or older, by September 1, 2020.
- Entrants may enter individually or as part of a team consisting of no more than four (4) members. All team members must be age 18 or older.
- Employees of USACE, The Corps Foundation board or contractors, and members
 of their immediate households, are not eligible to enter. USACE employees are
 allowed to assist entrants at their location, USACE employees are not allowed to
 be part of a team, nor use any government funds to procure any aspect of a video
 entry.

- Submissions will be accepted for a 55-second video and a 25-second video. A winner will be selected in each category. The winner of the 55-second video category will receive a cash prize of \$5,500 and the winner of the 25-second category will receive a cash prize of \$2,500.
- Deadline for Video PSA submissions is September 1, 2020.

Funding for the Life Jacket Video Contest is provided by a Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund grant that was awarded to The Corps Foundation and is administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Be sure to follow "**Please Wear It**" on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>Instagram</u> for other great information and visit <u>PleaseWearIt.com</u> for a variety of water safety promotional materials.



Corps Foundation Enduring Service Awards Takes the Unusual Step to Award Three Enduring Service Awards for 2019, by Greg Miller, Corps Foundation Chairperson

We are pleased to announce the 2019 Corps Foundation "Enduring Service" awardees. They were 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. The 2019 winners include:

- Glenn and Bobbie Wehrmann, 12 years of dedicated service at Lake Texoma, TX
- Rod Hankamp, 12 years of distinguished service at Canyon Lake, TX
- Darrell E. Lewis, 13 years of distinguished service as a 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 for 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 Hankamp served as a 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 much 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 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.

Presenting the 2019 Enduring Service Awards, by Marilyn Jones, Corps Foundation Treasurer

As a former employee of the Tulsa and Fort Worth Districts, I had the privilege of traveling back to Texas and Oklahoma to present the two Enduring Service Awards for 2019.

The first ceremony was in the Bass Pro Shop in Garland, Texas on January 21, 2020, for Glenn and Bobbie Wehrman who have provided their services since 2007.

Their services have equated to 13,300 hours of service for a value of \$338,219. The Wehrman's time at Texoma has been invaluable. They have been instrumental in cleaning up debris, trash, bags of trash, even picking up cigarette butts, and utilizing heavy equipment in the process of making repairs to roads and campsites after major flooding events and felling dead trees and cleaning up after the cutting of those trees was completed.



Glenn and Bobbie Wehrmann, both long-time U.S. Army Corps of Engineers volunteers at Lake Texoma, located on the Oklahoma and Texas border, were presented the prestigious Corps Foundation Enduring Service Volunteer Award, Jan. 21. USACE Photo.

Without the Wehrman's volunteerism, things like debris removal and flood recovery efforts would be delayed and potentially causing an issue between the public wanting to use the lake and parks and the Corps of Engineers. They have been the face of the Corps of Engineers in many instances and have given a very positive view of the Corps of Engineers.

The Wehrman's were awarded a plaque for their outstanding volunteer services, a Foundation Coin, a \$250 Bass Pro Gift Card, and a \$250 check from the Foundation.

Glenn mentioned that his new hunting rifle was just paid for. So, the Wehrman's can be found at Lake Texoma this year, 2020. Glenn will be hunting with a new rifle.

I traveled from Garland, Texas to Cabela's Store in Buda, Texas to celebrate the outstanding volunteer services at Canyon Lake, Mr. Rod Hankamp. He provided his services in the area of maintenance since 2007. His services have equated to 4800 hours of service for a value of \$120,000 in those 12 years. Mr. Hankamp's time at Canyon Lake has been invaluable. Not only has he helped new volunteers learn the processes for lake maintenance and business, he taught them about the tools they will be using during a course of a project and he also led a team of volunteer maintenance workers in daily work activities.

Without Mr. Hankamp's volunteerism and his many accomplishments, things like vegetative growth management and erosion control in Corps recreation areas most likely would not occur if Mr. Hankamp hadn't volunteered his time. His primary duties included trimming trees, mowing grass, installing erosion control blankets, and spreading grass seed.

Rod has also been responsible for preparing and planting native wildflower seeds in highly visible areas of the lake. This has resulted in recreation areas that are beautiful and safe for the public to enjoy while also being sustainable from natural hazards such as fire and flooding.



Rod Hankamp, center, is holding the certificate with Marilyn Jones in the purple jacket.

Without volunteers like Mr. Hankamp and the Wehrman's, the Corps of Engineers would be looking to close parks and reduce many activities that make the lake and parks what they are today and a place where the public wants to come and recreate.

These volunteers are truly value-added for the Corps of Engineers.

Rod also received a Plaque of Thanks, Foundation coin, \$250 check from the Foundation, and a \$250 gift card from Bass Pro.

Darrell Lewis, 2019 Enduring Service Award Recipient



Darrell Lewis is a founding member of the Corps Foundation and served on the Board of Directors from 2006-2019. As a Founding member, Darrell was involved in developing the vision for the organization and much of the originating policy, the Incorporation documents, and Bylaws that allowed the Corps Foundation to gain IRS recognition as a non-profit 501c3 organization. Because of Darrell's "big picture" perspective, he was relied upon heavily during the early years to steer the Foundation's direction and accomplishments.

The origins of the Foundation began with the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, a grassroots National project that involved communities throughout the US. During the Bicentennial, individuals and communities developed a relationship with the Corps and its natural resources management and its recreation program. Rich Deline and Peter Lewis had been working with the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial (L&C) effort and realized the benefits of the non-profit support that the other land management agencies had.

They met with the Corps L&C team and discussed ways that the Corps could involve the public in educating about the history and mission of the Corps. Knowing the Corps

could not be directly involved in the formation of the Education Foundation, and that Darrell has just retired from his position in HQ, they recruited Darrell for the Board. Darrell helped guide the early planning and the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Corps of Engineers and the Corps Foundation. Darrell was instrumental in helping develop a membership strategy and to identify potential members. Darrell's background was a perfect fit for helping the fledgling Foundation steer its course. Darrell had just retired after serving more than 20 years as Chief, Natural Resources Management branch in the Headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and had over 35 years of experience working for three federal land management agencies. He held a Master's degree in Natural Resources from the University of Michigan. As a founding member of the Corps Foundation Board of Directors, Darrell's experience as Chief of Natural Resources Management Branch was instrumental in helping develop the organization. His vast knowledge of the Corps of Engineers Natural Resource program helped to connect the new organization to the right people and stakeholders. His main interest in the Foundation was to help lead the governance effort by volunteering to be Treasurer, a position that he held for 13 years. Darrell was invaluable to the organization's financial interests. One of his major contributions was to recruit another volunteer with an accounting background to keep the financial records for the organization.

Darrell helped to develop the initial Corps Foundation business plan which focused on assisting the Corps to complete unfunded work by soliciting donations from private sector stakeholders (e.g. equipment manufacturers/retailers, tourism industry, marina industry, etc.) and finding partners to participate. Following modest success in this arena due to a more localized corporate funding climate, the CF expanded its priorities to include education and public awareness on behalf of Corps lakes. Darrell continued to play a significant role in strategic planning throughout his tenure on the Board.

Perhaps the Foundation's most successful program was to partner with the USACE National Water Safety Program by applying to the U.S Coast Guard (USCG) for a grant to support a nationwide media campaign. CF's bid was successful resulting in a grant to the Foundation administered by the USCG. This effort has led to a total of five successful grant applications. The grants would not have been executed without Darrell's support as Treasurer to handle the financial aspects of implementing the different programs funded by the grants. He played a vital role in expending the funds and keeping the records. Darrell's long-term dedication by volunteering to serve on the Board of Directors for 13 years is well-deserving of the Enduring Service Award.

Frankly, the Corps Foundation would not have been formed nor would it have survived without his long-term dedication and service. In particular, his service as an Officer has contributed greatly to the governance of the organization and its ability to support the Army Corps of Engineers Natural Resource Management Program.

Water Safety Campaign Logo Pavement Stencils

The Corps Foundation purchased Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign pavement stencils and over 100 of them have been distributed to U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) lake and river offices nationwide to paint on boat ramps and other areas. Park Ranger Barbara Litman at Lake Mendocino in California did a very nice job of painting the logo at one of their boat ramps. These stencils are made of sturdy plastic so they can be reused many times. We encourage offices to share them with others nearby that may not have received one.

Please send USACE National Water Safety Program Manager Pam Doty (Pamela.J.Doty@usace.army.mil) any images of your Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign promotional initiatives, including your use of the pavement stencils.

These stencils were purchased using grant funds the Corps Foundation received from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund which is administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.





PARTNERSHIPS KEY TO REACHING GOALS

BY BILL DOWELL, Seattle District

Discover Your Northwest (DYNW) Executive Director Jim Adams (left) and board member Christy McDanold (right) talk with Seattle District Commander Col. Mark Geraldi in the Carl S. English Jr. Botanical Garden. DYNW received the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2018 Excellence in Partnerships Award as a key partner of the district's Hiram M. Chittenden Looks.

 he U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, locally known as the Ballard Locks, are one of Seattle's top tourist destinations.

Each year, hundreds of thousands flock to the more-than-acentury-old locks to wander atop the gates and lock walls, marveling at the engineering feat and watching vessels transit from the fresh waters of lakes Washington and Union to Puget Sound's salt waters, and back. They visit the fish ladder to view salmon migration, and walk among plants from around the world in the Carl S. English Jr. Botanical Garden.

"It truly is a magical place to visit," said Discover Your Northwest (DYNW) Executive Director Jim Adams. "It holds a special place in my heart."

DYNW and Adams have been key partners at the locks for decades. The Seattle-based nonprofit was selected for the USACE 2018 Excellence in Partnerships Award. "It is without question [that] their contributions have helped make the Ballard Locks a top Seattle

destination spot," said District Partnership Program Manager Alana Mesenbrink.

The large nonprofit serves more than just USACE facilities in the Pacific Northwest and operates in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, and Montana. It serves national park sites, national forests, and many others. Yet, according to Mesenbrink, DYNW dedicates time and energy to each project as if it were its only partnership.

Adams was personally involved in supporting nine months of special activities held in 2017 for the locks centennial commemoration. DYNW was the first partner, and Adams was a key member on the centennial planning team.

Even while the centennial festivities were going on, Adams and another partner, the Corps Foundation, and its founding director, Rich Deline, were working on the next project at the locks: a \$1 million fish ladder viewing area renovation.

Credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District, Northwest Division

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Through the Steaks for Good program from Omaha Steaks, you can shop for steaks, burgers, chicken, veggies and more, and 10% of every order you make will go towards our fundraising goal! With over 80 retail stores in 26 states, you may have a store near you – just mention when checking out that you would like to have your purchase benefit the Corps Foundation through Steaks for Good. You can also order by phone at 800-994-7455 or online at www.OmahaSteaks.com/Corps Simply tell the Omaha Steaks specialist that you are ordering through the Corps Foundation campaign.



Your Support Makes a Difference!

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 of the Corps Foundation helps US Army Corps of Engineers projects and friend's groups connect, grow, and increase their capacity to fulfill USACE's 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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