



Welcome to the Fall 2020 Edition of the Corps Foundation Newsletter.

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

https://www.usace.army.mil/Coronavirus/fbclid/IwAR0Wxq9t_2TqIm67Qnh-9IkNU27avZfXxaVWH_Q9IU317OdcUfowu2G2c58/

Nominate Your Volunteers for the Enduring Service Volunteer Award

You have an easy opportunity to nominate your best volunteers for a nationwide award! The Enduring Service Volunteer Award was established in January 2016 by the Corps Foundation. It honors long-term service and outstanding accomplishments by individuals and families at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) lakes and waterways. The award is intended as a lifetime achievement award for exceptional volunteers who have made a positive difference in the lakes and waterways and the communities, they serve by volunteering for a period of 6 years or more. Recognizing the excellence of these individuals and families, the award highlights the long-term dedication and devotion of those who support USACE lakes and waterways. A maximum of two individual or group awardees will be recognized.



USACE parks benefit from more than 45,100 volunteers donating over 1.5 million hours to help USACE meet its recreation and stewardship goals. This equates to approximately 27% of the USACE workforce!

Our Enduring Service Award was originated in 2016 to annually honor volunteers who serve at least six years at a USACE project. We coordinate the award applications. Recipients are recognized in a special ceremony involving the local USACE project and communities where they live. In 2020, we plan to continue this popular award to a volunteer group who work just for the love of their local public lands.

AWARD NOMINATION

Nominations will be accepted between September 15 and December 30, 2020.

Nominations will be reviewed and winners will be announced in spring of the following year.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY

This award recognizes the outstanding contributions by individuals or families of dedicated volunteers who provide essential services to USACE operated lakes and waterways. The Corps Foundation Enduring Service Volunteer Award may be given to an individual or family performing voluntary services that meet the criteria below.

CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION

This award will be presented to an individual or family who demonstrates long-term dedication, innovation, and excellence in volunteer service; and who have achieved results in such areas as environmental stewardship, conservation, interpretation, education, recreation, safety, administration, 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 and collaboration between USACE management, the visitors, and the local community.
- Public knowledge of and involvement in the USACE natural resources management program

Nominees are volunteers who have demonstrated significant dedication by volunteering and providing leadership for a minimum of 6 years. Nominees with less than 6 years of service will not be considered.

Click here for the application form: <https://docdro.id/ctvDCig>

The Innovations Store Is Open!

In case you missed our last issue, The Corps Foundation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Multi-District Innovations team are pleased to announce this exciting new partnership. The Innovations Store hosts

newly developed technology tools for Park Rangers/Field Employees use to enhance the recreational experience for the visiting public. All products and prototypes, along with the team’s history are available at the Stores website. To check it out: [Click Here](#). It’s one more way the Corps Foundation works in partnership to benefit USACE employees, the parks and recreational facilities and the visiting public to our nation’s lakes and waterways.



Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns Campaign Bandanas Distributed

A conversation between the Corps Foundation’s Board Chairman, Greg Miller and Special Programs Director, Rachel Garren sparked an idea last spring to purchase Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign bandanas to use as optional face coverings

during the COVID-19 pandemic. USACE Headquarters liked the idea, so National Water Safety Program Manager Pam Doty agreed to coordinate the delivery to USACE offices.

Bandanas were not originally budgeted as a grant product purchase this year. Grant funds originated from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), so USCG had to approve a shift in funds from other items in the budget to purchase bandanas. The USCG agreed that this was a great idea. The pandemic eliminated the need for grant-related travel that was budgeted for this year so those funds and some funds from another planned product purchases were combined to come up with \$12,500 to purchase bandanas. This was quickly advertised to bidders and 10,584 bandanas were purchased, boxed, and shipped to the USACE National Water Safety Program for distribution. In slightly over a month from start to finish, high-quality cotton, 22" square bandanas were distributed to 176 USACE offices for employees and others to use as optional face coverings.



Huge Success-2020 Life Jacket Video Contest



The 2020 Life Jacket Video Contest has ended and we were extremely pleased with the entries we received. Many of the video entries will be posted during the 2021 recreation season at Please Wear It on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The 1st place winners will be posted on social media in October 2020. The first-place, 25-second-video winner of \$2,500 is Alexander Goldstein from Scarsdale, NY, and the first-place, 55-second-video winner of \$5,500 is Jessica Couture from Brooksville, FL. We were so impressed with some of the video entries that we created honorable mention monetary prizes for three of the 55-second videos and three of the 25-second videos. The 55-second honorable mentions will receive \$500 each and the 25-second honorable mentions will receive \$250 each.

The Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign, including this contest, are managed through a partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the nonprofit Corps Foundation. Prize money is funded through a Corps Foundation grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.


Watch for information on the 2021 Life Jacket Video Contest that will be announced at www.LifeJacketVideoContest.com and on social media starting in January 2021.

Congratulations to the Wall Family for Receiving the 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award!


2019 NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARD

On 19 August 2020, Col. Benjamin Bennett presented the 2019 National Volunteer Award to the Wall Family. Eric, Cathy, Alec, and Harrison Wall were selected for their dedicated service to the natural resources program and other efforts at W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir. They have donated over 3,100 hours of volunteer service to date. The family has demonstrated their dedication to USACE through their efforts supporting trail systems, facility maintenance, shoreline cleanup, community outreach, water safety outreach, educational interpretive programs, and recreation. The award is co-sponsored by The Corps Foundation.



Working Today to Build a Better Tomorrow



Volunteer of the Year award presented to Cathy Wall on behalf of the Wall Family



From left to right, Cathy, Eric, Alec, and Harrison Wall



US Army Corps of Engineers

NOTE: Photos taken by Park Ranger Johnny Jones and Park Ranger Kevin Reynolds

Bill and Brenda Geter received recognition from Allen Earhart and CSM Blansett

Bill & Brenda Geter have been summer volunteers for four years. This year they really stepped up. They have been serving as Volunteer Park Hosts at Doll Mountain Campground. Due to COVID-19 have been vital to the new camper self-check-in system. They currently work Monday-Thursday ensuring campers get to their sites with the information needed.

While excelling at the Park Host position they have also taken it upon themselves to complete multiple maintenance projects within the campground including; mulching, trimming, cleaning, sign replacement, and mowing. They also helped to update campground operation procedures to coincide with the camper self-check-it, which we plan to continue for years to come

by

Allen Earhart

Lead Natural Resource Specialist / Ranger, USACE Mobile District



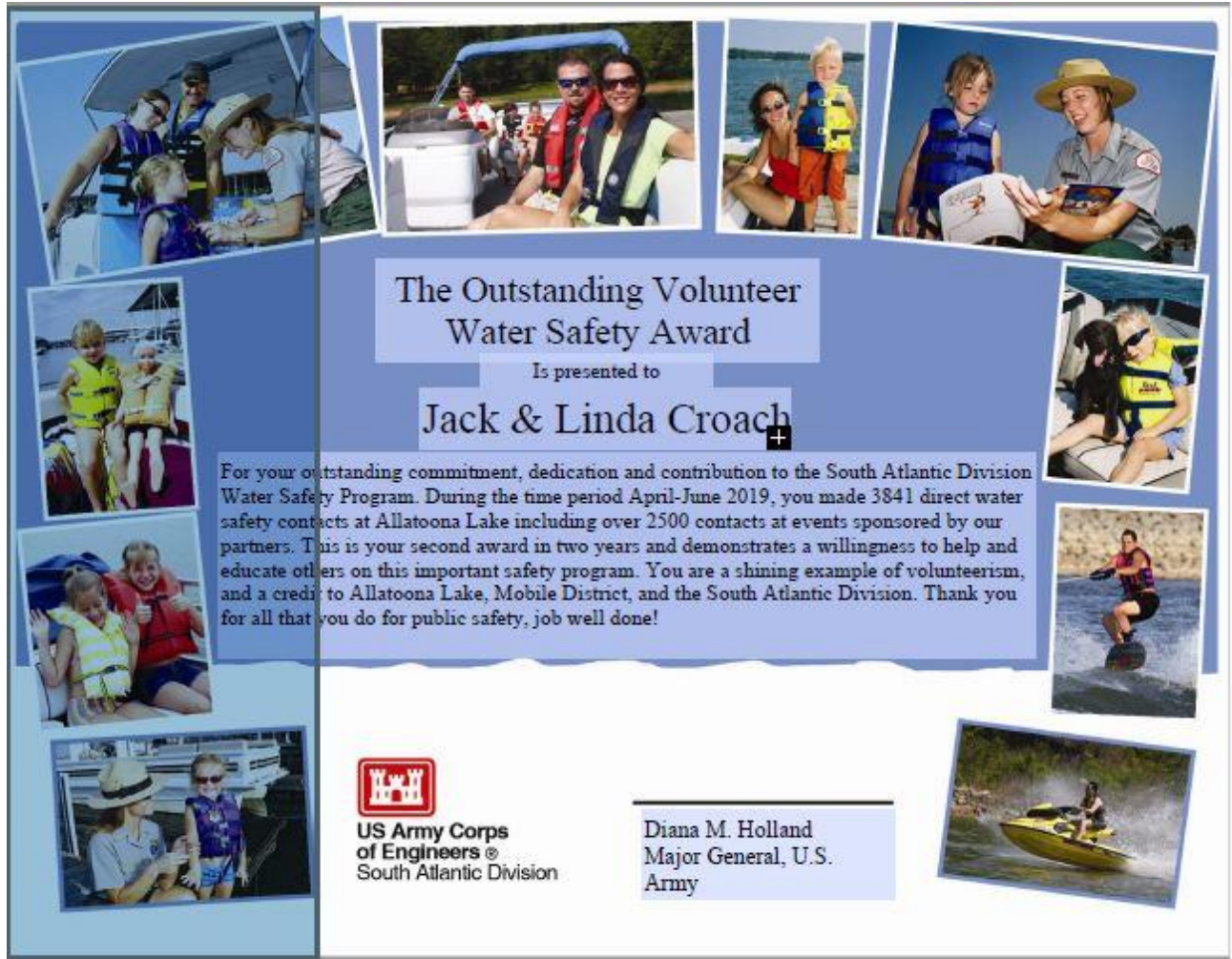
CSM Blansett visited Carters Lake on September 22nd to observe some new ways of doing business during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here he presents coins to the Geter's.

National Older Workers Career Center

Are you retired and interested in finding either full or part time work? Check out this information from the National Older Workers Career Center at:


<https://docdro.id/fK5ibzV>

Congratulations! Outstanding Volunteer Water Safety Award: Jack and Linda Croach



**The Outstanding Volunteer
Water Safety Award**
Is presented to
Jack & Linda Croach

For your outstanding commitment, dedication and contribution to the South Atlantic Division Water Safety Program. During the time period April-June 2019, you made 3841 direct water safety contacts at Allatoona Lake including over 2500 contacts at events sponsored by our partners. This is your second award in two years and demonstrates a willingness to help and educate others on this important safety program. You are a shining example of volunteerism, and a credit to Allatoona Lake, Mobile District, and the South Atlantic Division. Thank you for all that you do for public safety, job well done!


**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
South Atlantic Division

Diana M. Holland
Major General, U.S.
Army

Working with pollinators? Restoring habitat?

Are you involved with pollinator programs, habitat restoration, or rewilding Corps Lands? Please get in touch with the editor to tell us your story. We would love to tell your story in this newsletter. We may be able to help you connect with partners to support your efforts!

Recognition for Warren Brawley and Richard Whitehead, two volunteers at the Black Warrior-Tombigbee/Alabama-Coosa Project, SAM.



Park Ranger David White presented the volunteer coins on 20 August and provided the attached pictures and citations below for Warren Brawley (left) and Richard Whitehead (right). Thanks to David White and Francis Farrell for this nomination.

Richard "Ricky" Whitehead filled multiple roles at the Black Warrior and Tombigbee Lakes project. He has been a facility cleaner at Jennings Ferry Campground, Foscue Creek Campground, and Spillway Falls Park. He performed duties to make improvements to each of the parks as well as maintaining campground cleanliness. He is always ready to lend a helping hand to project staff or visitors.

Soon after the Ricky's arrival at Black Warrior and Tombigbee Lakes we realized that his talents would be very beneficial. He assisted with multiple projects on top of his normal facility cleaning duties. He maintained four miles of walking/hiking trails, cleaned and stabilized one mile of shoreline, assisted in planting 8.25 acres of wildlife food plots, and aided in prescribed burns of native grasses. These yearly burns help eliminate invasive and nuisance species, allowing native grasses to provide habitat for pollinators, songbirds, turkey, quail, whitetail deer, and other species. Without his help, many of these projects would take much longer to complete or simply would not be done at all.

Ricky is among the hardest workers the Black Warrior and Tombigbee Lakes staff has ever seen. Many improvements have been made to the project lands due to his volunteering. Being always eager to help and one of the most pleasant personalities to be around make Ricky a priceless addition to the Corps of Engineers.

When Warren Brawley first arrived at Black Warrior and Tombigbee Lakes project, he and his wife were operating the gatehouse at Foscue Creek Park and Campground. Visitors to the campground praised their friendly personalities. They were excellent in gatehouse operation, collecting funds, maintaining grounds, and communicating with the park campers and visitors about the programs of Corps of Engineers. The following year he returned to maintain our day use park, Spillway Falls. He maintained the extensive trails located in the park as well as cleaned the restrooms, pavilion, and kept the grounds clear of litter. During his time at Spillway Falls, the co-volunteer had to leave due to family responsibilities. Warren stepped up to fill this vacant role and maintained the park on his own. His efforts allowed us to keep the park open. He is a great asset to the Black Warrior and Tombigbee Lakes project.

by: Francis Ferrell
Chief Ranger - Falls Lake
Partnership Advisory Committee - SAD
US Army Corps of Engineers

The following are a few of the 2019 Highlights from the Corps Foundation. Help us continue this momentum by becoming a member!

Support to the Field

Many USACE projects don't have access to a nonprofit partner to take advantage of grant opportunities. As a direct service to field units and park rangers, we serve as that partner. We provide coaching on grant development and non-profit governance. Additionally, we sponsor specialized training to park staff in Interpretive Services, whose skills then develop programs and events, enhancing visitor experiences. We have a proven track record of success. With your help, we look forward to expanding these critical support programs.

Park Ranger Stories: More Than 100 Copies Have Sold!

We are pleased that, as of the end of September, more than 100 copies of the Corps Foundation's book have sold. Curious about the life and times of a Park Ranger in the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)? Corps Foundation Board Member, Pat Barry, compiled an anthology of memories from USACE park rangers and other natural resource management professionals who helped shape the USACE Natural Resources Management Program. This diverse collection includes hundreds of stories from dozens of current and former employees. Check it out and order your copy of [Park Ranger Stories from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#) today on Amazon Books! It's available as a paperback or e-book.

Like what you've read? Can we count on your support today?

You can make the difference in programs and partnerships that are critical to providing improved services to the visiting public- *like you!* We are fully managed and operated by volunteers; your support is used directly for priority program initiatives, not administrative overhead.

Please join by visiting our website at www.CorpsFoundation.org, and clicking on the "Donate Now" button takes you to our membership form.

While supplies last, if you donate at the \$50 level or higher, you'll receive a logo dry bag for your next boating adventure!



Follow us on [Facebook!](#)

Membership Renewal: Your Support Makes a Difference!

Please enter your contact information in the space below.

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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

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Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way to support the Corps Foundation every time you shop at Amazon, and at no additional cost. From your web browser simply go to smile.amazon.com and then sign in with your Amazon.com credentials, select the Corps Foundation as your charitable organization of choice.



The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. You get the same prices and Amazon shopping experience you have come to know, but with the added benefit of knowing that you are helping the Corps Foundation.

Remember us as you think about tax-deductible donations!

Developing Philanthropic Support

Have a Great Steak and Support Corps Lakes!



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 U.S. 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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<https://docdro.id/KdviHQ>

