



Welcome to the Summer 2021 Edition of the Corps Foundation Newsletter.

- **2020 Enduring Service Awards**
- **Maybe Coming to a Theater Near You!**
- **Attention Adults: Get Caught!**
- **Advocacy Update: New Initiatives and New Partners**
- **USACE Vicksburg District, Corps Foundation, Recognize Lake Ouachita Volunteers for Distinguished Service**
- **The Pollinator Post**
- **Send Some Smiles to the Corps Foundation!**

Corps Foundation 2020 Enduring Service Awards

The Corps Foundation is pleased to announce our 2020 Enduring Service awardees. Selected from an impressive group of more than 20 nominees, both individuals and families are recognized for their long-term commitment and accomplishments at US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) lakes, lands, and waterways. We also thank our sponsor, Bass Pro Shops for providing financial support for this award since 2016.

Established in January 2016, the Foundation's Enduring Service Award was created to identify and honor volunteers with more than six years of service. This year's award winners are:

Ronald Rabena, 24 years of dedicated service at Raystown Lake, Pennsylvania

Kim Jackson & David Piercy, 18 years of dedicated service at Milford Lake, Kansas

Ron Rabena serves as the only President of the Friends of Raystown Lake (FRL) for nearly 25 years since its founding in 1996. Throughout this time, Ron has been instrumental in developing and organizing countless FRL projects, providing valued volunteer operations and maintenance support to Raystown Lake's staff. In 1988, Ron helped develop, organize, and participated in the very first Raystown Lake Cleanup Day event, hosted by the Raystown Lake Cleanup Committee and has continued his vigorous support of the annual event that inspires volunteers across Pennsylvania to become lifelong environmental stewards of the lake. As President, he has volunteered over 5,000 hours, not counting his off-the-clock volunteer time. Ron led FRL's partnership with Raystown Lake in the USACE Cooperative Joint Management program, running the agency's highest revenue-generating campground in 2012 and 2013. This 2-year management partnership resulted in a \$1.1M investment of direct funding used for campground improvements. Through Ron's leadership, the FRL also played an invaluable role in supporting the Corps environmental stewardship program, planting more than 4,500 American Chestnut trees during a 21-year period in partnership with the American Chestnut Foundation and constructing and placing over 1,300 fish spawning structures in Raystown Lake over a 15-year period.

Kim Jackson and David Piercy have been the backbone of School Creek Off-Road Association (SCORVA) for almost 18 years at Milford Lake, Kansas. They maintain the School Creek ORV Park trails and promote public use of the trail area throughout the community. This past year alone, Kim and David worked more than 800 hours maintaining the park. Their efforts cleaning and clearing trails after the 2019 flood were instrumental to reopening the park. Kim and David meet users on the trail while riding,

recruiting many volunteers to SCORVA resulting in an even larger positive impact in the ORV area. They played an essential role in the successful 2016 Handshake Partnership Program award of \$19,000 for use in the ORV area. They assisted Lake Staff in identifying the ORV area's needs, made recommendations for improvements, and recruited volunteers on behalf of SCORVA, ensuring completion of the work. They remain engaged with the local community, maintaining their own ORV Park Facebook Page, assist the public with any questions, and post and support events bringing in riders from all over the area. Kim and David promote Corps safety regulations, clearing and maintaining trails, which greatly reduces hazards and assures users a safe ride. With a look to the future, Kim and David also dedicate time to maintain a youth only trail area helping amateur riders gain experience on easier terrain.

While the years and hours of service of these awardees are notable, the exceptional quality and impact are central to their selection as outstanding volunteer recipients of the 2020 Enduring Service Award.

We wish to thank Bass Pro Shops for their generous support of this very special and meaningful award program.

Award Presentations:



Award Photograph: Pictured Left to Right (David Piercy, Kim Jackson, Greg Miller)

Kim Jackson and David Piercy received the 2020 Enduring Service Award at the Acorns Resort at Milford Lake on May 28, 2021. Greg Miller, Corps Foundation Chairperson, Board of Directors, presented the award.



Group Photograph: Pictured Left to Right (Caleb Snider, Blake McPherren, David Piercy, Kim Jackson, Greg Miller, Kenneth Wenger)



Friends of Raystown Lake president Ron Rabena, left, was given the Enduring Service Award on 1 May 2021, which is presented to someone who's volunteered for at least five years or more with a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project. Presenting the award was Marilyn Jones, treasurer of the Corps Foundation, the nonprofit organization that supports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Rob Rabena: Awarded for Volunteerism

By Kylie Hawn, Huntingdon, Staff Writer, Daily News May 4, 2021

In the first Raystown Lake cleanup event since the pandemic, around 125 volunteers managed to clean up more than a ton of garbage from the lake's shores. Additionally, a long-time volunteer was honored for efforts Saturday morning from the Corps Foundation at the annual cleanup day event Saturday.

Jenna Conner, park ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, noted the number of volunteers at this year's cleanup day was higher than in previous years.

"Typically, we collect around 2,000 pounds of garbage, but we had more boats this year, around 13 boats, so we probably gathered around 2,500 - 3,000 pounds of garbage," she said. "(The turnout) was fantastic, as we expected a big buildup (of garbage) since we didn't have an event last year."

Conner was also excited to honor Ron Rabena, president of the Friends of Raystown Lake, for his volunteer service, through the Corps Foundation, the nonprofit organization that supports the efforts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"I don't think anyone else comes close to the number of hours of volunteering he does," said Conner.

To put that in perspective, he's officially logged around 5,000 hours of volunteer time since he started and became president of the Friends of Raystown Lake in 1996, but it's likely he's logged much more.

Jude Harrington, operations manager of Raystown Lake, said Raystown Lake is known for partnerships with other organizations, like the Pennsylvania Striped Bass Association, the Friends of Trough Creek Warriors Mark Path, Energy Transfer Partners and many more.

"Energy Transfer Partners were the ones who donated the pontoon boat that helped with the lake cleanup today," he said. "Ron, along with the Friends of Raystown Lake, were also instrumental in that."

Marilyn Jones, treasurer for the Corps Foundation, presented the award to Rabena, who noted he was the backbone of many of the partnerships at Raystown Lake.

“If it weren’t for volunteers like Ron, we wouldn’t have the kind of partnerships we do have,” she said. “A lot of programs have been cut by the Corps, but Ron has been able to find the right people to put in the right places.”

He received a plaque, a \$250 check and a \$250 gift card for Bass Pro Shops.

However, Rabena, in his remarks, was quick to thank those who work with him for their efforts.

“I wish I could cut this up so everyone could get a piece of this, because this is everyone’s award,” he said, also thanking some of the partners he’s worked with, including the Pennsylvania Striped Bass Association, Juniata College, Wild Turkey Federation, those in partnership with Putt’s Camp, and Energy Transfer Partners.

“Since this award belongs to everyone, I think it should be hung up in the (Raystown Lake) visitors enter,” added Rabena.

Rabena also donated his \$250 check back to the friends to aid in installing solar panels for electricity at Putts Camp.

The Pennsylvania Striped Bass Association was also awarded the Northeast Division of the Excellence in Partnerships award from the Corps Foundation.

Harrington detailed their work with constructing a striped bass hatchery at Raystown Lake to keep the population of striped bass at the lake.

“That’s one of the reasons Raystown Lake is a tourist attraction is because of the striped bass, so when they learned they wouldn’t be stocking anymore striped bass from outside, they came to us and asked us if they could find a way to fix that,” he said.

Kylie can be reached at khawn@huntingdondailynews.com.

Maybe Coming to a Theater Near You!

Typically, what you see in the movies about drowning doesn't represent what really happens. For example, drowning is silent and happens in seconds. This summer, the "Swimming Challenge" video PSA is being shown in movie theaters near fourteen U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) lakes. That video shows one of the most common ways that people drown, but both men are wearing belt-style inflatable life jackets, so (spoiler alert) they survive.

The Corps Foundation worked with USACE National Water Safety Program Manager Pam Doty to identify lakes with the most water-related fatalities in the past five years or other lakes near those locations. Those USACE lakes included Lewisville, Grapevine, Stillhouse Hollow, Belton, Canyon, Benbrook, Texoma, Allatoona, J. Strom Thurmond, Lanier, J. Percy Priest, Old Hickory, Lake Cumberland, and Green River Lake. The Foundation's Special Programs Director, Rachel Garren worked with four different movie theater ad companies (National CineMedia, Screen Vision Media, Before the Movie, and 1 Better) to purchase a total of \$21,971 in ads on 372 screens near those lakes. Pam Doty said, "This is a very cost-effective way to encourage adults to wear life jackets and USACE lake and river projects are encouraged to purchase movie theater ads near their locations."

An interesting tidbit about the Swimming Challenge PSA is the fact that the actor, who portrays someone almost drowning in the video, actually became exhausted while filming the swim portion, and he had to inflate his life jacket sooner than planned. That's proof that even great swimmers can become exhausted, verifying that in open waters swimmers should always wear a life jacket.

Funds to purchase these ads came from the Corps Foundation's Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust fund grant, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Attention Adults: Get Caught! By Rachel Garren

“I Got Caught” campaigns are being promoted across the nation at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) lakes. At some lakes, if you’re an adult and a park ranger catches you wearing your life jacket on or near the water, you could get a free Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns Campaign beach towel! Over 2,000 beach towels were purchased by The Corps Foundation under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, which is administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The USACE National Operation Center (NOC) for Water Safety distributed applications for the beach towels and made selections for the first round of recipients. If your project wasn’t selected during the first round, there are more giveaway products that will be purchased by The Corps Foundation utilizing USCG grant funds and distributed by the NOC for Water Safety next year. Thanks to all of the USACE park rangers and other employees who are supporting the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign and working to save lives on our nation’s waters!



Advocacy Update: New Initiatives and New Partners

By Nancy Rogers and Pep Persio, Board Members

The Foundation's Advocacy Committee has been busy with some exciting behind the scenes efforts to move the USACE Natural Resources Management (NRM) Program off of Congress' back burner, to increase NRM program visibility and ask for equal consideration during legislative deliberations similar to other Federal public lands management agencies.

In March 2020, just before the pandemic lockdown began, we were able to visit with Congressional members during a "Day on the Hill" sponsored by the Public Lands Alliance. During that day we also secured key support by meeting with Callie Hoyt, Director, Federal Government Relations, National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA). The blending of NMMA's recreational boating interests with USACE water-based recreation management has resulted in a partnership that makes sense and is gaining momentum.

Recreation Task Force and Facility Report: Ms. Hoyt has been diligent in her commitment to help carry the message forward to Congress that their neglect to include USACE in Congressional efforts to support public lands is seriously affecting the recreational boating community and local economies. The recently passed Great America Outdoors Act (GAOA) is an exciting opportunity for public land management agencies, but it doesn't include USACE. With this new reality, the Foundation and NMMA strategized on the best approach to rectify this omission. It was determined that USACE needed a comprehensive analysis completed of its recreation facilities and condition, much like the National Park Service had accomplished in anticipation of the GAOA.

As a direct result of successful Foundation and NMMA congressional outreach last year, Congress authorized and directed USACE to establish a Recreation Task Force and develop a plan to maintain and enhance public recreational opportunities at Corps projects. The task force has 18 months to assess the overall condition of recreation facilities and quantify deferred maintenance and repair backlogs. USACE will then

provide Congress a final report including proposals to address needs identified. This report will become a basis for future budget requests to repair and renovate deteriorating recreation facilities.

Legislative Initiatives: Have you received a Facebook post or E-Blast from the Foundation? We see this as a way to directly mobilize our members and supporters to contact Congressional representatives about specific legislation. We are working to track Congressional action on areas of our legislative agenda developed in consultation with leaders in the Natural Resources Management Program. Our current advocacy efforts to affect change are focused on: Cooperative Management Authorities, Fee Retention, Surface Transportation Repair and Budget Appropriations.

Building A Partnership of Many Voices: In July 2021, Ms. Hoyt and the Corps Foundation hosted a virtual meeting of potential partners to help us amplify the support for the USACE NRM Program. We are thrilled at the level of interest from the outdoor recreation industry, public lands and recreation non-profits, and tourism associations. We now have a growing list of partners who are willing to add their voices to our Congressional outreach.

The 117th Congress promises to be a time of opportunity and continued success with our legislative agenda. We are tracking actions and will continue to notify members and supporters when we need to add their voices to improve the recreation facilities and management of the Corps' NRM Program.

You Can Help! Be part of what we are doing and join us at www.corpsfoundation.org

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg District
www.mvk.usace.army.mil

Contact: Anna Owens
601-631-5208
anna.m.owens@usace.army.mil

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2021

USACE Vicksburg District, Corps Foundation recognize Lake Ouachita volunteers for distinguished service

VICKSBURG, Miss. – The USACE Vicksburg District recently recognized Lake Ouachita volunteers, Sidney and Grace Welch, with the Volunteer Excellence Coin for their years of exemplary service at the lake’s Denby Point Recreation Area.

Created in partnership with the Corps Foundation, the award recognizes volunteers’ extraordinary skills and contributions and encourages an attitude of stewardship and responsibility in caring for USACE lands, facilities, and resources.

Although 20 hours of service is all that is required per week for USACE volunteers, the Welches always exceed these requirements. In total, they have donated 670 hours of service since October 2020, and 9,296 hours since October 2010. Their efforts have allowed the lake’s operations and maintenance personnel to focus on larger projects, such as campsite amenity upgrades and renovations.

“It’s rare to drive through Denby Point and not see the Welches working,” said Lake Ouachita Park Manager Stacy Sigman. “The pride they take in keeping Denby Point clean is apparent, and the USACE Vicksburg District and Lake Ouachita staff greatly appreciate their continuous hard work and dedication.”

The Welches serve as contract-fee hosts during peak recreation seasons and volunteer at Denby Point during the off season. Their usual duties include clearing debris around the recreation area and roadway, cleaning fire rings and pedestal grills, reporting maintenance issues, maintaining bulletin boards, picking up litter, and providing information to visitors. The Welches also help campers find and set up a campsite, and routinely lend extension cords or other supplies. They help campers navigate the Recreation.gov website to book reservations. In addition to serving as campground hosts, the Welches partner in large lake cleanup events and donate their time to keeping Lake Ouachita beautiful. Over the years, many visitors have complimented their helpfulness and knowledge of the area.



Sid and Grace staffing a USACE booth.



Natural Resource Specialist, Derek Walker presents the award to Grace and Sid.

The Welches' water safety efforts include distributing themed coloring books, asking visitors to wear their life jackets, and maintaining the life jacket loaner board at the beach. They also partnered with park rangers to host a water safety information table at the Hot Springs Boat, Tackle, and RV Show to share the Vicksburg District's message.

The USACE Vicksburg District is engineering solutions to the nation's toughest challenges. The Vicksburg District encompasses a 68,000-square-mile area across portions of Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana that holds seven major river basins and incorporates approximately 460 miles of mainline Mississippi River levees. The Vicksburg District is engaged in hundreds of projects and employs approximately 1,100 personnel.

The Pollinator Post By Joseph Patrick “Pat” Barry

We’ve decided to include regular columns about pollinators. If you would like to write an article to let us know about what you are doing for pollinators, contact the editor at jpatbarry@hotmail.com

If you would like the Corps Foundation to serve as an intermediary between your partners, please contact us and let us know how we may help.

The Smithsonian Pollinator Garden in Washington, D.C. is impressive because of quality of the garden and the exhibits.

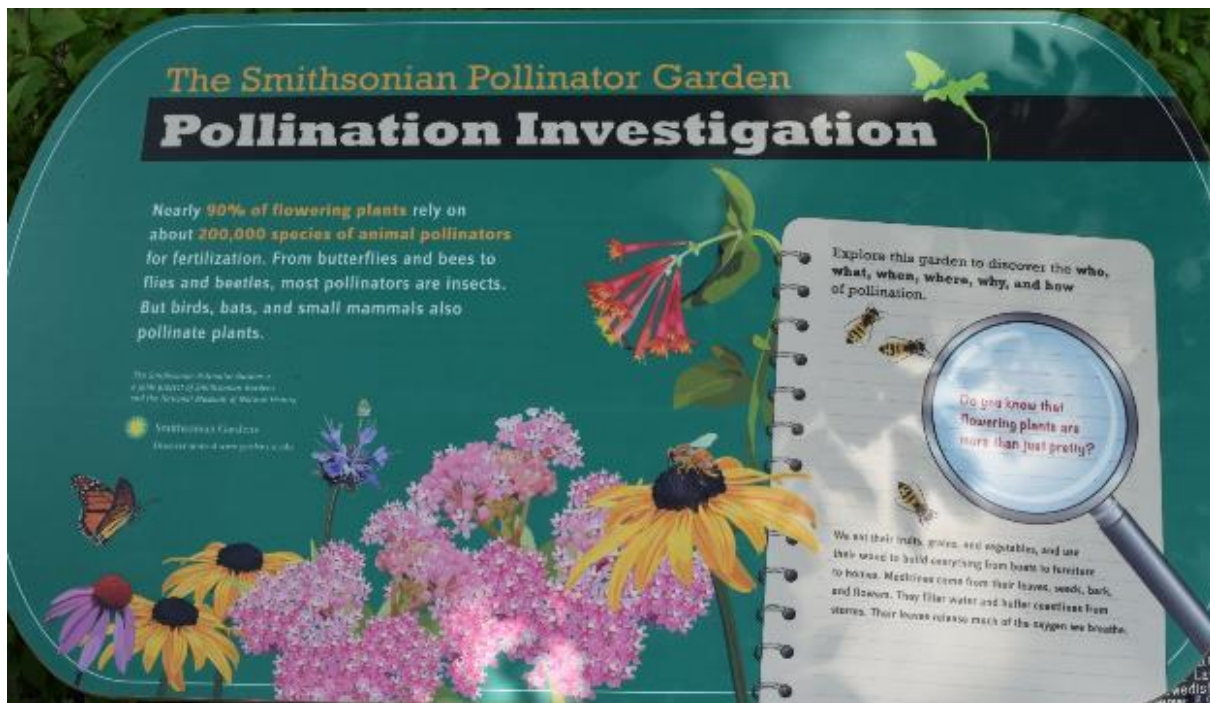
To get an overview of the garden, visit the Smithsonian Pollinator Garden website:

<https://gardens.si.edu/gardens/pollinator-garden/>

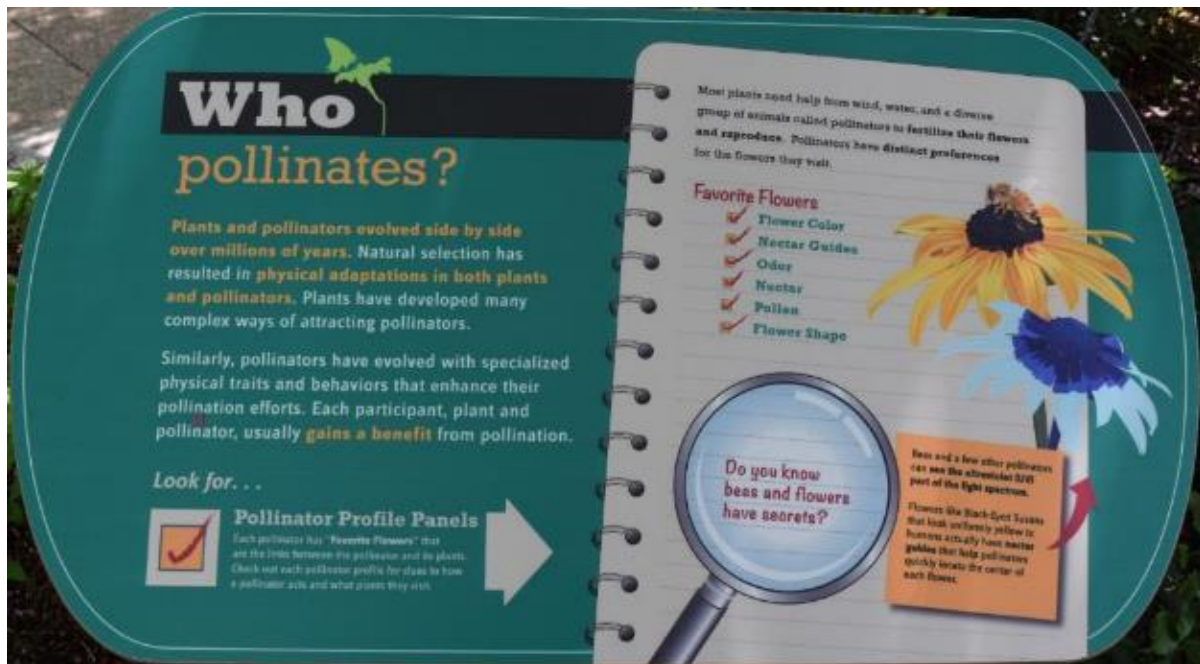
Also check out the Smithsonian Gardens Map

<https://gardens.si.edu/smithsonian-gardens-map/>

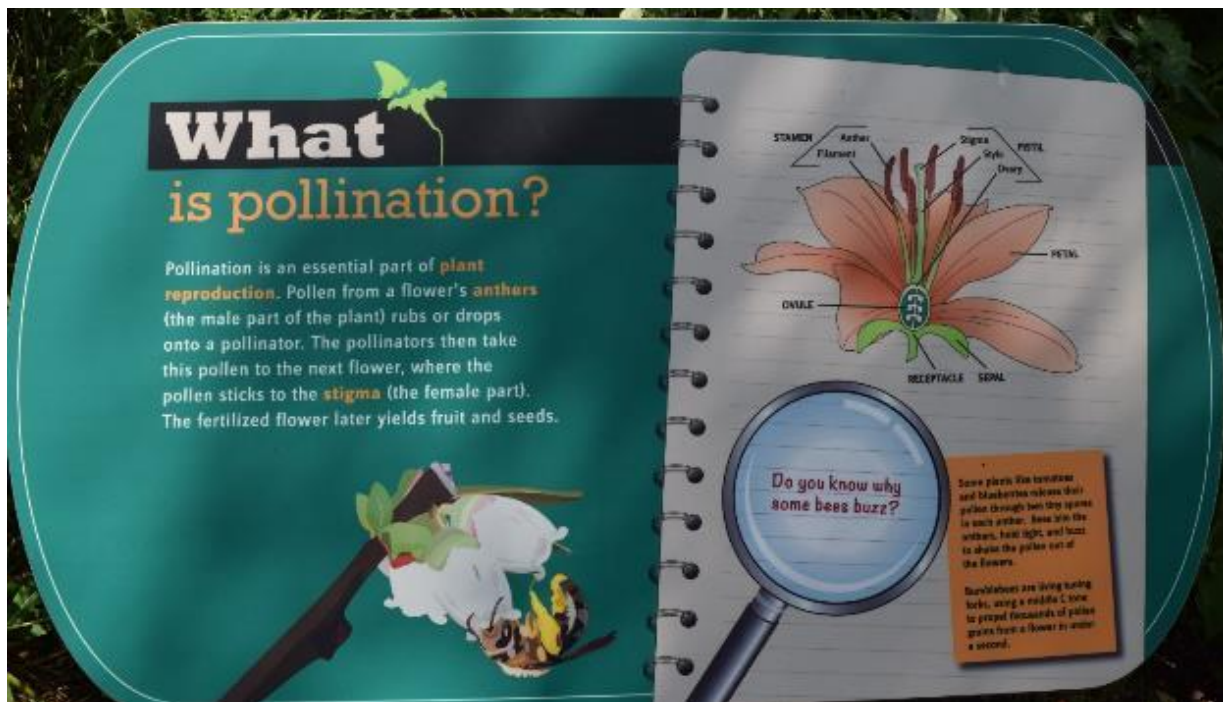
Here are some of the exhibits in the outdoor Pollinator Garden. Every journalist is trained to ask specific questions while working on a story. The questions start with who, what, when, where, why, and how. Here is how the Smithsonian handled it.



We see that plants rely upon a variety of pollinators including insects, birds, bats, and small mammals.



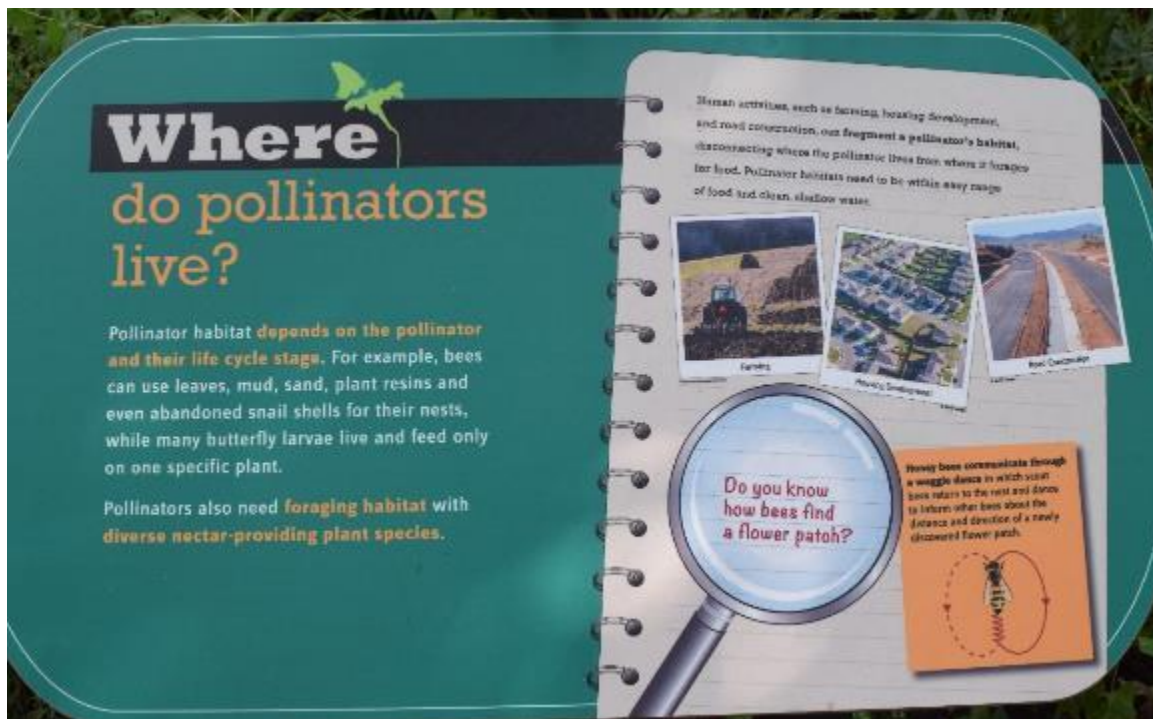
Natural selection has resulted in adaptations in both plants and their pollinators.



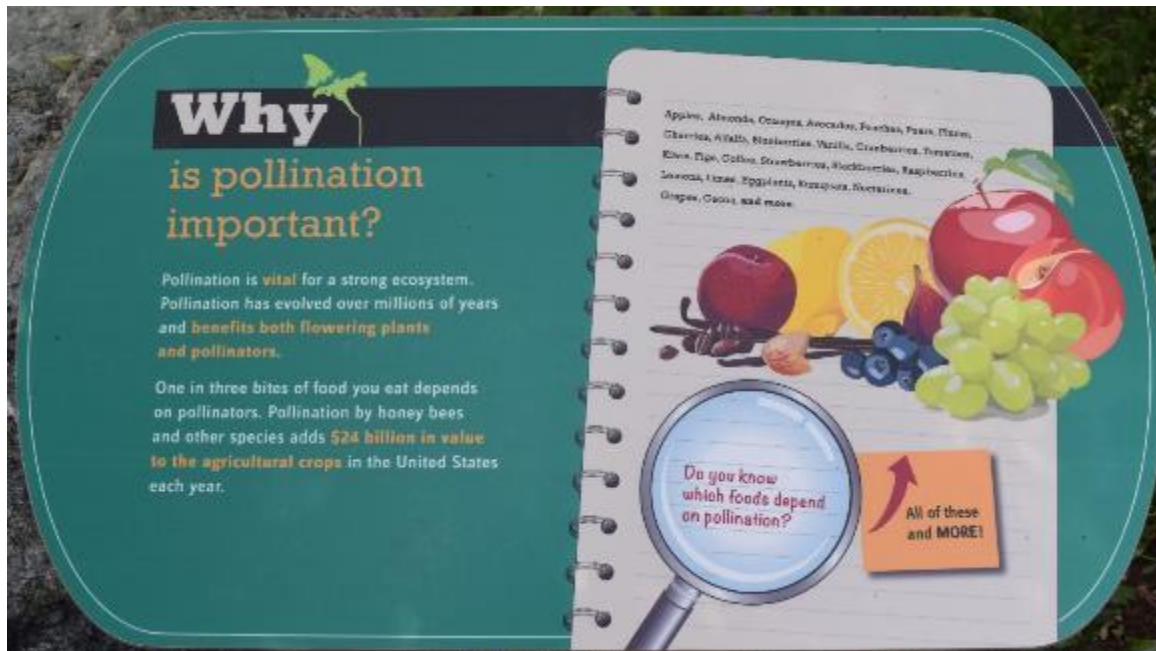
Pollinators help plants "have sex" by moving pollen from the male part of one flower to the female part of another, causing fertilization.



Winter, spring, summer, and fall...if you are a pollinator, you've got a friend.



Pollinators would thrive better if we would simply leave them alone. Where habitat has been altered, we can restore it or rewild it.



If having a healthy ecosystem isn't enough of a reward, consider this. One in three bites of food you eat is thanks to a pollinator.



How can you help pollinators? Create pollinator-friendly habitats. Rewild or restore altered habitats. Find out what pollinators need in your local area. Remember, our health is linked to ecosystem health and ecosystem health is linked to healthy pollinators.

Send Some Smiles to the Corps Foundation!

One simple way you can help the Corps Foundation is to donate to the Foundation through Amazon Smile. If you are like most people, you've been ordering more online than ever. Amazon Smile gives you an opportunity to send a small contribution every time you order.

See the website for more details:

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/dashboard/ref=smi_se_mirp_dshb_smi

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

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

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!

Need summer reading?

The Corps Foundation's book, "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 Professionals" is available in a **paperback** version and an **e-book** from Amazon Books. If you wish you had participated in this anthology, send us your stories and we will include them in this newsletter. If we get enough, we will create a second volume. Meanwhile, we've nominated this book for a National Association for Interpretation Media Award.

Park Ranger Stories

Park Ranger Stories from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is an exciting anthology of memories from Corps park rangers and other natural resource management professionals who helped shape what it meant to be a park ranger. This diverse collection includes hundreds of stories from dozens of current and former employees – from program leaders in Washington, D.C., to those in “boots on the ground” including seasonal employees. You’ll share some experiences of the first female park rangers, and understand why integrity was – and still is – so important to those who serve the public. Through first-person interviews and biographies, you’ll relive the first 60 years of Corps ranger experiences. This book captures and helps preserve the culture and values of the U.S. Army Corps rangers for future generations. Curl up and enjoy some delightful first-hand stories as told by actual rangers.



“Imagine working for the Corps of Engineers: where meeting a movie star, carrying a gasoline in your jacket, dressing up as a fish, or being thrown out of a boat is just part of an ordinary day’s work. I’ve stood inside a running generator, rescued a salmon (and that gasoline), and viewed historic artwork left by WPA workers deep inside a dam. Imagine the stories that can be told by ordinary people working in this extraordinary environment. This book is a collection of those stories.”

Darin Furry, author of “Beyond Sagebrush” and former Corps Park Ranger

Independently published
ISBN: 9781712590256

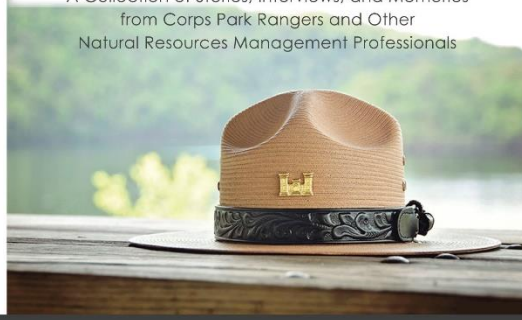
Park Ranger Stories
from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Joseph Patrick “Pat” Barry

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



An anthology compiled by:

Joseph Patrick “Pat” Barry
for

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation
doing business as The Corps Foundation

Follow us on [Facebook!](#)

Join and get a dry bag, while supplies last.

Membership Renewal: Your Support Makes a Difference!

Please enter your contact information in the space below.

Name:

Address:

Email:

ZIP:

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

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

Contact Information:

Greg Miller, Chairperson,
Corps Foundation

Phone: 816-651-4895

Mail: Millerga50@gmail.com

Corps of Engineers Natural Resource Education Foundation
404 E. 30th Avenue, North Kansas City, Missouri 64116

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

Corps Foundation Volunteer Board Members:

Greg Miller, Board Chairperson

Marilyn Jones, Treasurer

Sue Clevestine, Secretary

Rich Deline, Founding Director

Nancy Rogers, Advocacy/Outreach Director

Pat Barry, Communications Director

Pep Persio, Director, Advocacy and Outreach

Peter Lewis, Founding Board Chairperson Emeritus

Darrell Lewis, Founding Director and Treasurer Emeritus

Associates:

Heather Burke, USACE National Partnerships Program Manager

Rachel Garren, Special Programs Director

Christine F. Hamman, Assistant Treasurer

Jason Knight, Innovations team