



Welcome to the Winter 2020 - 2021 Edition of the Corps Foundation Newsletter.

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Membership, Website and More!

By Nancy Rogers, Board Member, Advocacy and Outreach

Increasing memberships to the Foundation is the primary focus of the newly formed Membership Committee and like spokes in a wheel, it takes a variety of contributing parts to make that wheel spin smoothly. The Committee decided after reviewing all of our outreach platforms that our website, www.corpsfoundation.org, was in need of considerable updating. Our efforts have focused on the following priorities:

- Update text and information for main page and all links
- Replace and/or add new photos of current activities
- Reorganize how information is presented, moving some information to new links for more logical placement.
- Add new links to showcase Cooperating Associations and Friends groups that assist individual lakes with projects. These folks are the backbone of local partnerships around the Corps, and we need to do more to include them in our outreach.
- Showcasing existing partners who help fund and support Foundation activities.

We have changed our membership levels and have already begun to reach out to lapsed members to reconsider joining. If you aren't a member of the Corps Foundation- we need you! We are increasing our outreach and advocacy nationally, as well as field support to local projects, but we can't do this alone. Since we have no paid staff, all of your membership dues go to continuing our success.

Make an investment in supporting the recreation program for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and join now!



Please join at www.corpsfoundation.org at the \$50 or higher level and receive this dry bag for your next water adventure! Makes a great gift too!



Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns Water Safety Campaign 2020-2021 Update

By Rachel Garren

The tremendous success of the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign in developing innovative approaches to encourage adults to wear life jackets, resulted in a three-year grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The Corps Foundation has completed the first year (October 2019 to September 2020) spending \$195,000 in grant funds to help promote this campaign in partnership with the USACE National Operations Center for Water Safety. In the first year, funds were used to manage the campaign's social media pages (Please Wear It); promote the 2020 Life Jacket Video Contest; purchase campaign advertising in ten state fishing guides; and purchase campaign promotional products (patches, t-shirts, bandanas, and beach towels) for distribution by USACE and on social media.

For the second year of this grant (October 2020 through September 2021), we have big plans to continue supporting USACE in promoting this campaign with an additional \$195,000 in grant funds. **Total grant funding for the campaign to date totals over a million dollars.** In addition to continuing to promote the campaign on social media (Please Wear It), the 2021 Life Jacket Video Contest has been launched. Details on how you could win up to \$8,000 for creating videos that encourage adults to wear life jackets can all be found at www.LifeJacketVideoContest.com. Campaign promotional products planned for this second year of our fifth grant, include vehicle window sunshades, vinyl banners, and dry bags. We also have funds to purchase advertising to promote the campaign. The types of advertisements we are planning to do include state fishing guides, billboards, and possibly movie theaters.

Thanks to all those who are helping to promote this campaign and save lives on our nation's waters. Most U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) water-related fatalities happen to men between 20 to 60 years old that were not wearing life jackets. Follow [Please Wear It](#) on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, for great information that focuses on the importance of wearing a life jacket, enter giveaways, and more. Also, visit PleaseWearIt.com for more water safety information and resources.

The Corps Foundation Salutes the Winners of the 2020 Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence, by Pat Barry

Every year since 1995 when Ranger David Dutton won the first Chittenden Award, the Corps of Engineers has selected a winner among District and Division nominees. To see a list of everyone who has received the award, click here:

<https://corpslakes.ercd.dren.mil/employees/awards.cfm?Id=0&Year=0&Option=Chittenden>

To learn the history of the award, see Rick Magee's chapter in [Park Ranger Stories from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#).

https://www.amazon.com/Park-Ranger-Stories-Corps-Engineers/dp/1712590251/ref=asc_df_1712590251/?tag=bingshoppinga-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=&hvpos=&hvnetw=o&hvrnd=&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=e&hvdev=c&hvdvcmld=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=&hvtargid=pla-4583795269794438&psc=1

The Corps Foundation salutes all the nominees and congratulates the 2020 Hiram M. Chittenden Award Winner, Amanda Kruse.

Amanda Kruse, Mississippi Valley Division, St. Louis District (National Award Winner)



As the Lead Interpretive Services and Outreach Program Ranger for Carlyle Lake, which has more than three-million visitors annually, Ms. Kruse worked diligently to provide an extraordinary range of programs, special events, partner connections, and other interpretive projects. In 2019, she coordinated more than 245 interpretive and outreach programs reaching more than 11,000 participants. Ms. Kruse led the Carlyle Lake Water Safety Program which provided more than 140 programs and 15,000 direct interpretive contacts.

A force for change, in 2019 Ms. Kruse implemented numerous new programs, partnerships, events, and projects to accomplish the interpretive and outreach goals at Carlyle Lake. These included developing Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) programs with local schools and organizations, upgrades to the Carlyle Lake Visitor Center, and installation of a new amphitheater at Dam West Campground. She also coordinated the implementation of a variety of first-time special events including the “first in the nation” U.S. Army Reserves Expo, Capabilities Exercise (CAPEX) Triathlon, and Carlyle Lake Carp Fest.

Other Division Winners include:

Robert Buck, Great Lakes Ohio Rivers Division, Nashville District, Lake Barkley



Mr. Buck joined the Lake Barkley staff in February 2019. During a short time, he’s displayed a positive attitude and an exemplary work ethic, especially in promoting the Corps’ Water Safety Mission. Ranger Buck made more than 8,300 direct contacts while conducting 22 water safety events that included youth camps, fishing tournaments, and project tours. He promoted the “Every Kid Outdoors” campaign by conducting multiple school water safety programs and issuing free 4th grade passes. Ranger Buck

also partnered with other park rangers to staff a large water safety display at the Kentucky State Fair.

As a new ranger, Mr. Buck took traditional interpretive programs and incorporated new ideas. He used his wildlife science background to include reptile programs into weekly youth camp presentations. Robert's fresh outlook and changes to routine programs improved the learning environment for nearly 2,000 youth campers.

John Thibodeaux, North Atlantic Division, New England District, Ball Mountain & Townshend Lakes



Mr. John Thibodeaux exemplifies the spirit of interpretation through his exciting, innovative, and engaging programming. He continually seeks to meet the needs of park guests both young and old by developing presentations and activities that foster interactive learning that is accessible to all. He strives to educate his local community about the importance of the Corps' flood risk management mission and to impart a love and appreciation of the area's natural and cultural resources.

At Ball Mountain and Townshend Lakes, in the Southern Region of Vermont, Mr. Thibodeaux, has been pivotal in bringing back much desired year-round outdoor educational experiences to this rural community. Shining examples include bringing a Junior Ranger Program back to the Winhall Brook Camping Area with the development of a Junior Ranger booklet, a full suite of Ranger led programs, and multiple indirect interpretive opportunities for visitors at his project.

John takes an "all of the above approach" to interpretation to maximize its reach, even when resources may be minimal. He developed and implemented formal, informal, and

indirect interpretation at his project, and served on multiple teams to reach beyond his project to achieve the full range of the Corps' Interpretive Services and Outreach Program goals.

George McBroom, South Atlantic Division, Mobile District, Carters Lake



Mr. McBroom demonstrates the highest levels of creativity and originality in the execution of the project Interpretation Services and Outreach Program. His efforts to implement cutting edge technology into the Carters Lake Nature Center significantly increases the quality of visitor experience. Mr. McBroom is a pioneer of innovation. His efforts to introduce novel technology into the learning experience significantly expands the effectiveness in delivery of our mission. Initiatives such as augmented reality, virtual reality, and touch panels provides exceptional value to American citizens of all ages and demographics. Mr. McBroom's pursuit and determination to achieve success in these realms provides an extraordinary endorsement of USACE advocacy to STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields.

Throughout the 2019 season, Mr. McBroom planned and implemented the inaugural Carters Lake Summer Learning Series. This long-term event provided environmental education for nearly one thousand Americans and an excellent opportunity for citizens to get outdoors to experience nature. Mr. McBroom developed numerous meaningful relationships with partner organizations and individual professionals in the delivery of this program; these relationships will benefit USACE for years to come.

The Corps Foundation encourages USACE Divisions across the Unites States continue to nominate their interpretive stars for this prestigious award.

More Park Ranger Stories!

Editor's note: We've heard from people who, in hindsight, wish they had contributed to the recently published book, Park Ranger Stories from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In response, we are starting a regular column written by people who want to share their stories. In this first installment, Amy Galperin, who started with the Corps and during her successful career, rose to lead interpretation for the U. S. Bureau of Land Management, tells her story.

We encourage all Corps NRM Employees, past and present, to contribute an article. If we get enough interest, we may produce a second volume.

Amy Galperin

In 1979, while in Graduate School at the University of Washington, the Corps opened a regional visitor center at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks (Ballard Locks). To help run the new visitor center the Corps hired interpretive graduate students. It was a great introduction to the Corps for me. I read about Hiram Chittenden, the Corps role in the establishment of Yellowstone, and the history of the locks and the Corps role in the nation's navigation system. I had the pleasure of meeting John W. Morris Lieutenant general, and learned the difference between a Colonel and a General.

After Graduation and a few seasonal jobs with sister agencies, I got a wonderful break, a permanent, at Cape Cod Canal, working for the Corps. It was a new ranger program. I had the fantastic experience working with five others newly hired natural resource staff, all with years of experience working for other Federal natural resource agencies. We loved to work outside of the box and we had lots of freedom to do so. We developed a school group program that had three parts; a trip to the school to introduce the canal, a trip at the canal and follow-up presentation from the students. Our programs were all designed around activities and realistic games. For example, one of the programs had students pretending that we just landed on shore and were deciding where to put up our cabin. Out of the woods came another settler (one of the staff members) telling us about some of the challenges we will face. We had programs where we had the students rescue and explore old tug boats. The canal mail boxes filled with teachers' and students' letters of compliments. We had a waiting list of schools wanting to get on our schedule. It was fun for the staff and the students, plus they were learning. The freedom to create was very special.

From the Canal I moved on to the Tri-Lakes Project in Denver. Again, I was working at a new Corps major visitor center. Though I thought I was hired because of my Masters in Interpretation and years of experience working for many Federal agencies as a Ranger, I learned years later I was hired because I could take apart a Kodak slide projector and fix it. I was hired to run the visitor center. But soon I was able to convince my boss there was so much more an interpreter ranger could do to help connect the Corps to the public. I networked with the Denver Water Board's environmental educator and the state park rangers to set up a major field day for the local school system. This worked perfectly for the state since they really did not have an interpretive program, but they were very willing to help out on a one-day event. This became a very popular program as school buses traveled around Chatfield exploring the many programs that make up a Corps lake project.

I developed many programs at Chatfield, just loving my freedom to create. I had a junior ranger program for 11-13-year-olds. The children signed up for three hours a day, each week for a month. We rode our bikes around Chatfield, exploring a specific theme for the day, such as water quality, flood control and natural resources. I loved these days as much as the students. They learned all about being a ranger and the Corps role in their environment.

I also had a place in the visitor center to develop my own exhibits. When we had flood waters which put many recreation facilities under water, I put together an exhibit on the management of floods and the role of the dams. This exhibit was so popular, people were returning with friends and families to see it. That was one of many exhibits I built to help people understand why the dams were there. I also did weekly natural history walks and formed many friendships with people in the surrounding community on these walks. I loved being in the dam, working controls in the tower and helping with the flood control duties. I also had the opportunity of meeting, Lieutenant General Joseph K Bratton and helping him with a presentation he gave in Denver.

My career took me to the regional office in Omaha, NE. It was my first time out of a field office and I reported to work in a shining uniform, to discover people did not wear uniforms in Regional offices. I did not have any clothes except uniforms and jeans. Another experience I gained from the Corps was learning how to shop for clothes. My job in Omaha completely changed from running interpretive programs to teaching others how to do interpretation. I loved teaching and helping the staff understand how effective interpretation is gaining support and understanding from the community and within the agency. In Omaha, I realized that key Branches to getting your job done are procurement and contracting. I found great value in reading procurement manuals. I

also did interpretive presentation for the procurement staff in their office, to show them what Corps rangers do and need. That helped us get the resources we needed.

I then had the wonderful opportunity to spend some time in the Corps Headquarters Offices in Washington, D.C. I had the privilege of working with great people and learning about the Corps Wildlife Management program, as well as how Washington works. Soon after my time in D.C., I transferred to the Bureau of Land Management as a regional interpretive specialist and retired as the BLM national interpreter lead.

The training I got in the Corps on contracting and procurement regulations was critical in helping me in my career when I transferred to the Bureau of Land Management. There were many times that I silently said “Thank you, Corps of Engineers, for showing me the way to do this”. Through my time with the Corps, I learned about; our national navigation system, flood control, bridges, tugboats, and the working of dams and canals. Each time I explored one of these topics my world expanded in joyous ways. Thank you, Corps of Engineers.

The Corps Foundation Promotes Pollinator Projects, by Rachel Garren

Scientists estimate that one out of every three bites of food we eat depends on pollinators and the Corps Foundation wants to promote what you’re doing to support pollinators. Pollinators are an integral part of our environment and are essential components of the world’s ecosystems. Nearly 75% of the 250,000 flowering plant species require animal pollinators for the production of seeds, which will become the next generation of plants. Examples of pollinators include bees, butterflies, wasps, beetles, ants, flies, hummingbirds, and bats. Bees alone are responsible for about 35% of the world’s crop production.

Populations of bees, monarchs, and other pollinators are declining around the world for several reasons:

- Agriculture, mining, and human development contribute to pollinator habitat loss and fragmentation. In addition, nonnative plants often out-compete native species reducing suitable pollinator habitat.
- Parasites and diseases affect both pollinators and the plants on which they depend.
- Insecticides kill pollinators and may hamper the ability of pollinators to navigate or forage. Herbicides kill important host plants.

- Climate change is modifying the distribution of pollinators and their host plant bloom dates, which affects the availability of food sources.

The Corps Foundation knows that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and others are doing great things to help pollinators continue to feed the world. We would like to feature your pollinator story on the Corps Foundation's Facebook page and in our newsletters. Please send a picture of what you're doing to support pollinators with a brief description to jpatbarry@hotmail.com. Sharing what you're doing could encourage others to help support this worthy cause.

Corps Foundation Volunteer Appreciation Coins Awarded to Two Deserving Volunteers, by Francis Ferrell, Chief Ranger - Falls Lake

We recently issued two small volunteer coins from Falls Lake (SAW) to volunteers with our partner organization, Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail. Due to the pandemic, we mailed the coins to these volunteers with a letter of appreciation rather than issue them in person. I have attached a picture of one of the recipients below, and have included citations for both.

Grace Iovine: Grace has been a volunteer with the Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail (FMST) since 2007 with the Falls Lake Trail Task Force. Her fellow volunteers have recognized Grace as an extremely cheerful person that enjoys volunteering on the trail. She has overseen Eagle Scouts building bridges and made local landowner connections for outreach about the trail. She attended FMST workdays regularly and has worked hard to recruit new volunteers. She has helped out on sections of the MST across the state and recently worked on new trail routes in eastern North Carolina. Her love for the trail is evident as she is currently section hiking the MST during her free time and often leads groups of people on those trips. Her passion for the MST, the outdoors, and volunteerism are evident in every aspect of her life.



Grace Iovine holding her Corps Foundation Volunteer Appreciation Coin

Steve Terrill: (No photo available) Steve has been a volunteer with FMST since 2011 with the Falls Lake Trail Task Force. He has taken on multiple difficult projects that have required detailed planning and engineering on many different aspects of the Falls Lake Trail, a segment of the NC Mountains to Sea Trail. He was a key volunteer in a recent project to transform three old metal floating docks no longer in use into long term bridges at Falls Lake. The countless hours and effort to turn the floating docks into bridges is truly remarkable and everyone involved was thrilled to see them get recycled and repurposed again.

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/

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Your Support Makes a Difference!

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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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