

Welcome to the Spring 2022 Edition of the Corps Foundation Newsletter.

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Have something you want to share? Send us an article!

Note from the Editor: WE NEED YOUR HELP! The FY 23 proposed budget for the USACE Recreation Program is at an historic low! Please use the following information to appeal to key legislators and your local Congressional representatives to save facilities at our lakes and waterways from being closed-thank you!

Proposed FY 23 Recreation Program Funding at Historic Lows! Support the Corps Foundation's Advocacy Appeals by taking action.

Visitors to the 400+ lakes and waterways will see closures, service and staffing reductions if the FY23 President's Budget, released on March 29, 2022, is approved by Congress.

The proposed President's Budget reduces the Recreation Program's annual funding from \$295 million to \$240 million- the lowest amount projected in the history of the USACE recreation program. This reduced budget amount reflects up to 30% reductions in some areas of the country and a 13% reduction overall. Doesn't sound like much? Think closed Visitor Centers, campgrounds, reductions in janitorial and trash services. Lack of staffing for visitor information, law enforcement and water safety initiatives. Contact your Congressional representative as soon as possible! Find all the information you need using the *Corps Foundation Advocacy Toolkit* on the Corps Foundation website: <a href="https://www.corpsfoundation.org">www.corpsfoundation.org</a>.

The newly released *Corps Foundation Advocacy Toolkit* is specially prepared as a one-stop source of information to join in supporting the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Natural Resources Management (NRM) Program. Use this toolkit to access the Corps Foundation's most recent advocacy proposals. Information provided assists individuals, organizations, and local communities in developing an advocacy strategy in their area of interest.

#### Toolkit Includes:

(1) Search links, source information and data about the USACE Recreation and Environmental Stewardship programs,

- (2) Identifies 117th US Congress House and Senate members, including their committee and subcommittee assignments,
- (3) Identifies the Corps Foundation's current advocacy appeals and initiatives and
- (4) Provides links to retrieve suggested appeal letters for your use to contact and encourage Congressional support of legislation favorable to the USACE NRM program.

The following is a synopsis of our current 2022-2023 advocacy issues. Each targets specific legislation, encouraging beneficial changes to USACE NRM's ability to maintain or advance programs from recreational facility improvements to wildlife protection and habitat enhancements.

To read the full text of each issue, link to the Toolkit: <a href="https://corpsfoundation.org/advocacy/">https://corpsfoundation.org/advocacy/</a>

#### **Appropriations Bill Fiscal Year 2023**

#### (1). Recreation Business Line, Operations and Maintenance Account

**Request:** Consider and support an amendment in the forthcoming FY 2023 Appropriations Bill, that the FY 2023 Recreation Program funding be allocated at not less than \$295,000,000 to continue the existing level of operation, maintenance, and repair of recreation facilities and public access. This represents the same amount as enacted for FY 2022's Recreation Program budget.

**Impact:** Funding at \$295 million allows USACE to continue to provide public access at acceptable levels and avoids an increase in deferred facility maintenance backlog.

#### (2) Operation and Maintenance Account, Other Authorized Project Purposes

**Request:** Consider additional funding in the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Operations and Maintenance Account, Other Authorized Project Purposes that not less than \$40,000,000 be allocated for the Recreation Business Line.

**Impact:** Additional funding allows USACE to continue to provide public access at acceptable levels and avoids an increase in deferred facility maintenance backlog.

#### Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2022

1) Request: Modify Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management Authority (CCSMA)

**Impact:** Eliminating existing authority limitations gives USACE the capability to effectively partner with both non-federal entities and the private sector to maintain and improve recreation facilities and visitor services.

2) Request: Provide authority to Retain Recreation Fees

**Impact:** This allows USACE to join other Federal Land Management Agencies to use revenue generated onsite for strategic improvements to recreation features and in natural resources management. Without the ability to use these fees for improvements and other operation and maintenance activities, USACE must rely on annual appropriations which currently only cover basic operational expenses, which, if not increased, will lead to a continued decline of recreation infrastructure and quality of service.

(3). Request: Establish a Public Lands Restoration Fund

**Impact:** Directs funds retained for extraction of resources on public lands to the benefit of the public using the recreation facilities similar to the funding provisions in the Great American Outdoors Act.

- (4). Request: Use Recreation Fees to Cover Recreation One-Stop (Recreation.gov)
  Contract Management and Support Costs and Full Refunds to Visitors
  Impact: Improves customer service and streamlines administration processes. Allows for greater flexibility in response to visitor requests.
- **(5). Request:** Provide ability to spend appropriated funds on volunteer recognition as part of incidental expenses.

**Impact:** No funding impact is anticipated. Current appropriated funds are sufficient to provide non-monetary awards to volunteers. Expands the use of "Incidental Expenses" to purchase awards with appropriated funds. Improves recognition of valued volunteers.

**(6). Request:** Provide ability to spend appropriated Recreation and Environmental Stewardship funds to set up cooperative agreements.

**Impact:** Saves appropriated funds and streamlines operations.

**(7). Request:** Provide authority for acceptance of Active, Reserve, and federally activated National Guard troop labor services.

**Impact:** Accepting troop labor reduces project operation and maintenance costs and improves capability to maintain recreation facilities and visitor services.

**(8). Request:** Establish US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP) Dedicated Set Aside

**Impact:** By not reassessing agency allocations for maintenance funding post-GAOA, these funding inequities only further exacerbates transportation infrastructure assets, leaving USACE to struggle with facing a worsening backlog while managing increased demand for recreation opportunities at USACE-managed sites.

## **Exploring Lewis and Clark along the Columbia**

Editor's note: Peter B. Lewis is one of the Founding Directors of the Corps Foundation.

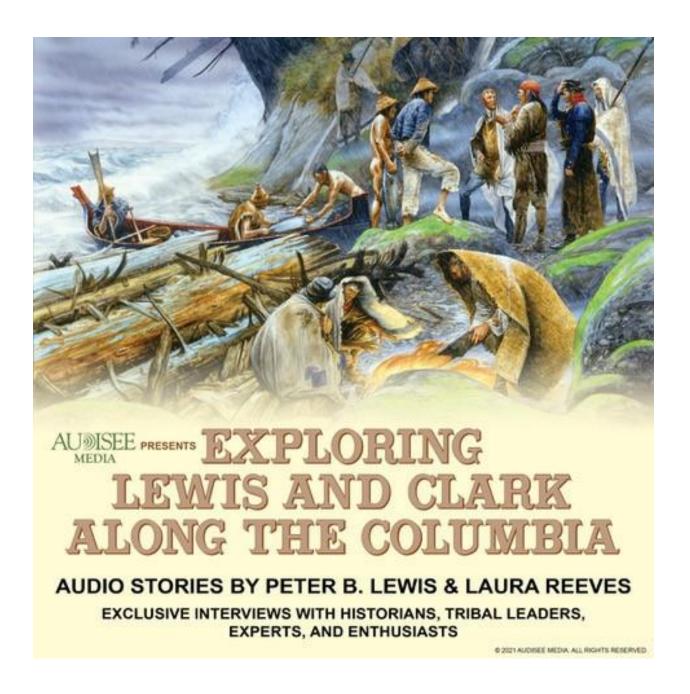
Exploring Lewis and Clark along the Columbia! is an audiobook compiled from The Trail of Discovery series of audio tours by Laura Reeves and Peter B. Lewis.

Originally produced at the time of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, this three-hour collection incorporates interviews and reminiscences of historians, tribal leaders, and Lewis and Clark enthusiasts recorded along the Trail. Among the many voices are noted historians Gary Moulton, Stephen Beckham, and James Ronda; tribal Chiefs Jim Gray, Cliff Synder, Gary Johnson and other tribal members provide the perspective of the people on the banks of the rivers. Several National Park Service interpreters as well as Journal readings and reenactments help keep the audio stories lively.

Laura and I attended several Bicentennial planning sessions and met with many stakeholders in the process. One of our first contacts came on a bus ride along the Trail in North Dakota. A fellow tapped on my shoulder, "Did you know the Lewis and Clark Expedition was a military operation?"

"No," I replied, "tell me more." He introduced himself and his co-traveler. I had the pleasure of meeting Jean Nauss and Ken Wilk of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. During the course of the next couple years, we became friends and, as our work on the Bicentennial planning drew to a close, it was Ken Wilk who suggested I consider forming the Corps of Engineers Foundation. Ken had many good plans for the organization and I could see that the Corp's Natural Resources Management (NRM) program was an important asset for campers and other outdoors types so I agreed to

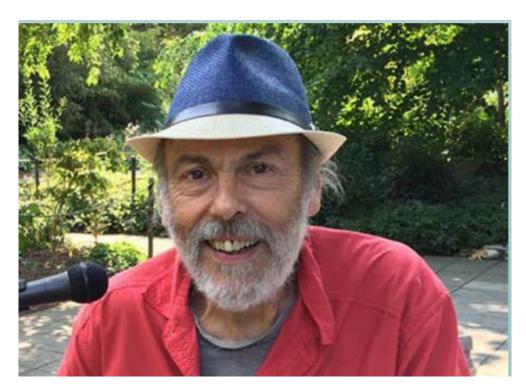
help set it up. Today, the Corps Foundation supports the NRM in several ways and I'm grateful to have helped get this organization underway.



If you're interested in how life was for the explorers at the western end of the Trail, I know of no better source than "Exploring Lewis and Clark Along the Columbia!" As NPS superintendent Don Striker said of the initial release, "It made me feel like a member of the Expedition!" After listening to the prerelease of the new compilation,

media producer Donald Goldmacher commented, "This audiobook is a treasure and a delight. We are accustomed to learning about our earlier history through school textbooks, which make history very dry for us. This audiobook provides another view of what occurred, with a tremendous soundtrack that makes you feel like you're actually there on the expedition. Here is a thoroughly engrossing picture of one aspect of this country's history." The leader of the Chinook tribe, Gary Johnson, told us, "It made my heart happy."

I encourage you to listen to the preview trailer <a href="https://503hl6pee3-flywheel.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Trailer-02.mp3">https://503hl6pee3-flywheel.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Trailer-02.mp3</a> A special thanks to the Corps of Engineers for the significant effort made toward educating and inspiring the public about this pivotal moment in our country's development. I think it's a great gift for any arm chair traveler or American history buff!



Peter B. Lewis, Founding Director and Emeritus Chairperson of The Corps Foundation.

# Watch the Corps Foundation's New Video

Enjoy our new video and share it with your friends. It is available on both Vimeo and YouTube as well as on the home page of our website. Copy and paste these links into your browser.

Vimeo. <a href="https://vimeo.com/688551760">https://vimeo.com/688551760</a>

YouTube <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SJhq9-5wIQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SJhq9-5wIQ</a>

The Corps Foundation keeps doing more and more to support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Program. Whether it is securing more than one million dollars in grants, recognizing volunteers, refurbishing a visitor center, advocating for funding increases with members of Congress, recording institutional memory and history of the ranger program, the Corps Foundation keeps making progress. Help support our efforts by becoming a member, making a donation, or participating in some other way.

Here are some screen shots from the video:



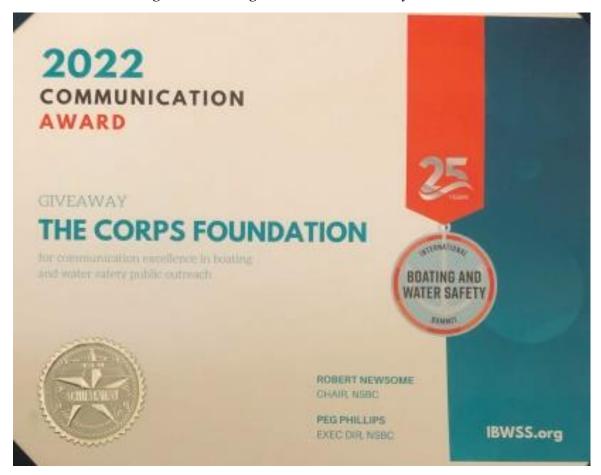
You know it is a good day to be a ranger when you see an osprey on its nest, or you plant some native species or, like Ranger Mason Scharfe, you measure and release a Western Painted Turtle back into its natural habitat.



## **Award-Winning Beach Towel**

The Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign beach towel was recognized as the best giveaway in the communication awards at the March 2022 International Boating and Water Safety Summit. Beach towels with the campaign logo on them were distributed to promote the campaign through social media giveaways at Please Wear It on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and through our partner, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). USACE employees and volunteers gave a beach towel to adults they caught wearing a life jacket. When recipients show off their towel to others who may not be inclined to wear a life jacket, those adults see the campaign message that prompts some to think about why they should wear a life jacket. Plus, the beach towel itself gives those who don't always wear life jackets another incentive to wear one.

Beach towels were purchased by the Corps Foundation with funds from a Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund grant, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.



Thanks to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers offices that helped to promote this giveaway. You could win one of these towels in the upcoming boating bundle giveaway this summer by following Please Wear It on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

#### This Volunteer Saved a Life!

On September 21, 2021 at approximately 0730, Stillhouse Hollow Lake Volunteer, Mr. James (Jimmy) McCue was summoned to aid another lake volunteer, Mr. Joe Benavidez, by his girlfriend. Upon arrival at the site of Mr. Benavidez, Mr. McCue quickly realized that Mr. Benavidez was unresponsive. Mr. McCue immediately jumped into action performing life-saving CPR. He asked the girlfriend if 911 had been called, which she responded yes. Mr. McCue continued administering CPR until paramedics arrived. By then, Mr. Benavidez had regained a weak pulse, at which time the paramedics provided the necessary medical attention and transported Mr. Benavidez to the nearest hospital for further treatment. Mr. McCue's quick actions and training saved a life! The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Corps Foundation expresses sincere appreciation to Mr. Jimmy McCue for his life saving actions that day.



## **Corps Foundation Provides Interpretation for Touchscreens**

Touchscreens are often used to provide interpretation to visitors when rangers are not available. In the past, they have been very expensive and difficult to change content. During the recent renovation at the Ballard Locks in Seattle, we used custom touchscreens to provide interpretation on a variety of site-based subjects. The vendor, Candela Displays, has made these touchscreens available at a discounted price for Corps visitor centers.

The units come with four main categories: First, Corps History and Missions, which includes five short videos on the missions of the Corps and the NRM program. An additional three categories of site interpretation, such as wildlife, project details, will be developed by Foundation Board members, Pat Barry and Rich Deline on a volunteer basis, making these units affordable for limited budgets. These units are easily updated by anyone familiar with PowerPoint or Candela can provide assistance in making changes.

Nearly a dozen units have been purchased for Corps visitor centers in places as far away as the Chena River Lakes project in North Pole, Alaska.



For more information, contact the vendor, Candela Display Systems at <a href="https://www.candeladisplays.com">https://www.candeladisplays.com</a>
or watch their videos on YouTube
<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKqS8dUNcBI&t=2s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKqS8dUNcBI&t=2s</a>

## **Crooked Creek Lake Earth Day 2022**

Crooked Creek Lake will hold its second annual Earth Day Event in April 2022. The day will be dedicated to planting tree saplings throughout the project. Over the last few years, the staff at Crooked Creek have been removing and managing invasive species. The areas are cleared of the invasive species and then replaced by native species. Future planning and management is required for the success of the event. Without the assistance from our partners, volunteers, and fellow employees this initiative would not be possible.



Crooked Creek began working with the Corps Foundation in 2020 for the initial Earth Day Event. The Corps Foundation accepted the donation of tree saplings from West Penn Power. Without this partnership, this annual event wouldn't have taken place. West Penn Power is leading an initiative to help return native species to the areas in which they work by targeting their right of ways and neighboring public lands.





We'd like to extend a huge thank you and appreciation for the support and partnerships. We hope to continue working together in the future and establishing multiple programs between these agencies.

Happy Earth Day to all and a special thanks to others who are supporting this annual event worldwide!



Happy Earth Day from the Corps Foundation!
Remember there is no "Planet B."

Photo credit: NASA

# Lake Ouachita Resource Manager Stacy Sigman presented Windell and Carolyn Belford Volunteer Excellence Coins



Lake Resource Manager Stacy Sigman presented Windell and Carolyn Belford their Volunteer Excellence Coins, letter, and certificate on Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> 2022 at the Lake Ouachita Field Office.

If you have volunteers you wish to recognize and thank for their contributions, please contact your district volunteer coordinator who will coordinate with the Corps Foundation.

#### 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 so your support is used directly for priority program initiatives, not administrative overhead.

Please join by visiting our website at <u>www.CorpsFoundation.org</u>, 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!

Name:	
Address:	ZIP:
Email:	Phone number:

Please enter your contact information in the space below.



## **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 <a href="https://www.corpsfoundation.org">www.corpsfoundation.org</a> 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:**

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# Corps Foundation Volunteer Board Current Members:

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