

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

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Advocacy Update: Capitol Hill Congressional Visits and More - May 2022

Foundation Board Members Nancy Rogers and Pep Persio traveled to Washington DC for two days of Congressional visits 2-5 May 2022. Objectives for their trip were twofold:

1. Advocate for the proposed Recreation Program's Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) received a \$540 million increase for its overall budget, but reduced the Recreation Program's budget by \$55 million.

The consequences of this historically low \$240 million budget are not sustainable in light of rising inflation and increases in the cost of materials and goods. Further, this proposed budget would have resulted in reduced services and staff hiring at USACE managed projects nationwide. Recreation areas would close.

The Foundation delegation participated with Callie Hoyt of the National Marine Manufacturers Assoc. (NMMA), and reached out to Senators Heinrich (NM) and Feinstein (CA), both of whom demonstrated support for a recreation budget increase in recent Appropriations Committee testimony with USACE leadership.

Late Breaking News! Thanks to advocacy efforts from the Foundation, NMMA and others additional funding has been provided that will allow the Recreation Program to continue offering existing facilities and maintain staffing in the FY 23 fiscal year.

2. Lobby for Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2022 Legislation

The long sought-after legislation authorizing USACE-managed projects to retain and use revenue generated onsite for strategic improvements to recreation features and in natural resources management is within reach. With the staunch support from US

Senators Boozman (AR) and Cramer (ND), they have included this enabling legislation in the current Senate version of WRDA 2022.

Other targeted legislation they have included is a “technical” fix for the Cooperative Joint Management Authority to allow non-profit organizations to enter into these agreements. Further, it authorizes a partner to receive user fees returned to be reinvested in recreation facility repairs and infrastructure improvements.

Unfortunately, a follow-up US House version of WRDA 2022 does not include the Senate’s fee retention nor the Cooperative Joint Management Authority language. Corps Foundation board members are in discussions with Representatives Westerman (AR) and Huffman (CA), asking they include the Senate’s language in the House version. Both are supporters of USACE managed public lands and waters.

We Need Your Help! It is an uphill climb to achieve legislative parity with other Federal land agencies like the National Park Service. If you love your local Corps Lake and you want to see improved infrastructure and access, you need to join the fight! We are building support, but the journey is made longer without the help of our visitors and organizations that love public lands.

Advocacy Toolkit - The Foundation developed a Toolkit at www.corpsfoundation.org to help you find the right committee, the right Congressional Representative and the right issue. Contact your own Senator and House Member.

Tell them you support the lands and waters managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers and ask that they support legislation that makes beneficial changes to its ability to maintain or advance programs from recreational facility improvements to wildlife protection and habitat enhancements. **They need to hear from you!**

Corps Foundation is pleased to announce our 2021 “Enduring Service” awardees



Selected from an impressive group of individuals, the Corps Foundation is pleased to announce our 2021 “Enduring Service” awardees. These individuals are recognized for their continued service and numerous accomplishments at US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) lakes, lands and waterways. We also thank and appreciate Bass Pro Shops’ support in bringing this year’s award to fruition.

Established in January 2016, the Foundation’s Enduring Service Volunteer Award honors the long-term service and outstanding accomplishments of volunteer individuals and families. This year’s award winners are:

- Ray Garner, 20 years of dedicated service at Eufaula Lake, Oklahoma
- Chip Parrill and Kathy Parrill, 7 years of dedicated service at Jennings Randolph Lake, West Virginia

Ray Garner volunteered at the Eufaula Lake more than 25,000 hours, equivalent to more than 11 years of full-time service. Ray was instrumental in developing and organizing customer assistance projects and leading volunteer operations and maintenance support at one of the busiest projects in Tulsa District. Ray coordinated the distribution of supplies, weekly timesheets, and associated tasks to more than 70 volunteers.

For the last 15 years, Ray has been responsible 43 traffic counters placed at Eufaula and Robert S. Kerr lakes, and along the Illinois and Arkansas River, maintaining logs of each traffic counter, and checking each counter to obtain monthly readings, perform routine and non-routine maintenance to capture an accurate representation of annual visitation.

Ray was instrumental in the organization and execution of the Eufaula Lake Annual Fishing Fling, an event where elementary children are taught valuable outdoor skills

and water safety. At a large project such as Eufaula, with over 600 miles of shoreline, a volunteer as dependable Mr. Garner has proven himself an invaluable asset and instrumental member in the continued success and operation of the Eufaula Lake Project.

Chip Parrill and Kathy Parrill have been volunteering at Jennings Randolph Lake since 2015. The Parrills serve as camp hosts and run the Camp Store at the Robert W. Craig Campground where they create schedules, recruit volunteers, and provide the public with camping essentials and quality customer service. They also provide trail maintenance and trash removal for over 8 miles of trail. Through their leadership, over 200 interpretive programs, covering conservation, wildlife rehabilitation, water safety, and recreation have been delivered to over 5,000 visitors and helped organize an annual water safety festival.

They are members of the Friends of Jennings Randolph Lake Non-Profit Group and serve as the group's president and treasurer providing leadership and securing several community grants, at a value of over \$130,000, for many project improvements. They volunteer at and help host events such as an annual car show where the funds support annual disabled/wounded veteran deer and turkey hunts. The Friends group partnered with the Corps to build and maintain the Lakeside Trail and the Challenged Partnership 30 target 3D Archery Range.

The Jennings Randolph Lake has benefited immensely from the Parrill's community involvement, compassion and dedication to project and its visitors.

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 2021 Enduring Service Award.

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

Water-Safety Campaign Billboard Advertising

By Rachel Garren



The Corps Foundation purchased a total of \$37,450 worth of billboard advertisements to promote the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign near five U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) lakes for the month of July 2022. Historically, July is the worst month for water-related public fatalities at USACE lakes. The five USACE lakes with the most water-related fatalities in recent years were Lake Sidney Lanier in Georgia; Hartwell Lake in South Carolina and Georgia; J. Percy Priest Lake in Tennessee; Lewisville Lake in Texas; and Lake Texoma in Oklahoma and Texas, so those were the locations selected for billboard ads.

Both digital and vinyl billboard ads were purchased. The vinyl billboards from the Corps Foundation purchases will be available to the lakes locally so they can use them again in the future. Billboard advertising is a relatively inexpensive way to promote water safety as many USACE lakes have already discovered.

Billboard graphic artwork was created by the USACE National Operations Center for Water Safety and other examples of billboard graphics for anyone to use to promote water safety are available at [PleaseWearIt.com](https://www.pleasewearit.com).

This is the final year of The Corps Foundation's three-year U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) grant, which is funded by the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. It's unlikely that the Corps Foundation will be able to purchase billboard advertisements with future grants.

Get Caught This Summer!

By Rachel Garren



“I Got Caught” initiatives are being promoted across the nation at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) lakes again this summer. At eighty-nine USACE lakes, if you’re an adult and a park ranger catch you wearing your life jacket on or near the water, you could get a free Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns Campaign dry bag or vehicle windshield sunshade! Approximately 4,100 vehicle windshield sunshades and the same number of dry bags 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 a request form for these products and the USACE lakes that requested them received them to use as part of their “I Got Caught” initiatives. 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 to USACE lakes. 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!

Another U.S. Coast Guard Grant!

By Rachel Garren



The Corps Foundation has been awarded another grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, managed by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). This is a three-year grant providing \$150,000 each year to promote the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign, if USCG funds continue to be available each year. This is \$45,000 less each year than our previous three-year grant, so we won't be able to afford the advertising expenditures like we have in previous grants. However, we will continue to purchase campaign promotional products that help encourage adults to wear life jackets and give them to USACE for distribution. The Life Jacket Video Contest will continue as long as it's a viable way to obtain videos to use at Please Wear It on social media. This grant will begin October 2022 and run through September 2025.

The Corps Foundation's Executive Committee (Chairman Greg Miller, Secretary Sue Clevenstine, and Treasurer Marilyn Jones), Grant Administrative Assistant Christine Hamman, and Special Programs Director/Grant Manager Rachel Garren will continue to work together to coordinate grant expenditures.

Thanks to all of our partners who promote this campaign! The success of the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign is mostly due to the USACE National Operations Center for Water Safety, aka the USACE National Water Safety Program and all the USACE employees who work hard to promote it.

Opinion: Support the Organization that Supports What You do for a Living (Does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Corps Foundation)

By Joseph Patrick "Pat" Barry, Newsletter Editor

Every organization has a message. When I was in grad school, the Department Chair had a message. His was, "Support a professional association or some organization that supports what you do for a living." As the Chair of a Recreation and Park Administration Department at California State University, he encouraged us to join the National Park and Recreation Association. I did.

At the time, I decided to also join Western Interpreter's Association and Association of Interpretive Naturalists. These organizations seemed to be a better fit for my desire to make environmental interpretation my line of work. They merged to form the National Association for Interpretation in 1987. I've been a member ever since because that organization supports what I did for a living.

Now I'm thinking that our message to you is that the Corps Foundation needs the support of all park rangers, past and present.

During the early years, this all-volunteer board of directors set a course. People like Darrell Lewis, Peter Lewis, George Tabb and others made sure the organization was launched on a path to success. Recently, under the direction of Greg Miller, great accomplishments have helped the park ranger community immensely. Rachel Garren has secured grant after grant to help fund the "Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns" water safety campaign. Several of us have offered Certified Interpretive Guide courses around the US. Nancy Rogers and Pep Persio made members of Congress aware of how dire the budget has become for the Natural Resources community. Marilyn Jones and Sue Clevestine have supported volunteer recognition, among many other tasks. We produced a volume of park ranger stories to preserve institutional memory. Rich Deline worked with the cooperating association, Discover Your Northwest, to refurbish an entire large exhibit space at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks.

Our message to you is that we need your ongoing support. We need you to contribute articles to this newsletter. Use Francis Ferrell at Falls Lake as a role model. He frequently recognizes his volunteers and then sends us articles and photos so we can also recognize them. We need you to join and contribute so we can continue to support Corps rangers. We need you to contact your members of Congress and ask for their support. Remember the words of my Department Chair, "Support the organization that supports what you do for a living." Thank you.

The Ukiah Valley Fish & Wildlife Club: Corps Foundation Volunteer Excellence Coin Nomination, 2022 by Taylor Baughn, U.S.A.CE. National Partnership Advisory Committee, South Pacific Division Representative

The Ukiah Valley Fish & Wildlife Club (UVFWC) led by President Joe Christensen, has been instrumental in the successful operation of USACE Lake Mendocino's Coyote Valley Fish Facility. The Coyote Valley Fish Facility is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and operated by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife in conjunction with volunteers from UVFWC. The facility primarily operates as an egg collection, artificial spawning, and imprinting facility for steelhead and serves to mitigate the loss of upstream spawning habitat caused by the creation of the Coyote Valley Dam. In addition to its primary operations, the facility is used as an interpretation/educational tool and has an on-site hatchery used to rear a subset of artificially spawned eggs for release in local fishing holes. Volunteers from UVFWC run the Bill Townsend Hatchery.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the education/interpretation mission during the 2021 season by causing a close of the facility to the public. Fortunately, with the proper precautions, the 2022 saw a re-opening of the facility to the public and successful education/interpretation program that would have been difficult to achieve without the contributions made by UVFWC. Thanks to them, the Coyote Valley Fish Facility was not only able to operate successfully, but it was also able to exceed expectations in its missions of conservation and education for the 2022 season. Some of the Ukiah Valley Fish & Club's specific contributions include the following:

- Provided valuable daily support to California Department of Fish & Wildlife staff for fish counting/sorting operations and showed an increase of presence and support once a week on spawning days. An average of 6 volunteer hours served EVERY SINGLE DAY throughout the season (~4 months), plus an increased average of 14 volunteer hours served weekly on spawning days for 3 months
- Operated the Bill Townsend Hatchery in its entirety and was responsible for the rearing of an estimated 20,000 trout eggs
- Assisted in advertising the re-opening of the facility to the public and personally reached out to local schools informing them that the education/interpretation program has been re-established (USACE-provided fish tour field trips)
- Provided support and materials to USACE ranger staff during in-person school group fish tours to ensure the students had a pleasant experience
- Established hand sanitizing stations necessary for COVID-19 safety protocols
- Purchased two white boards used to inform the public on fish count information

- Managed/ published up-to-date information on boards throughout the season
- Donated and set up a TV in the Bill Townsend Hatchery that played USACE's Virtual Fish Tour on repeat during public visiting hours

UVFVC President Joe C.

UVFVC Volunteers & CDFW Fish Biologists at Spawning Station



CDFW personnel & UVFVC Volunteer Troy P.



Bulletin Board with fresh new white board purchased by UVFVC

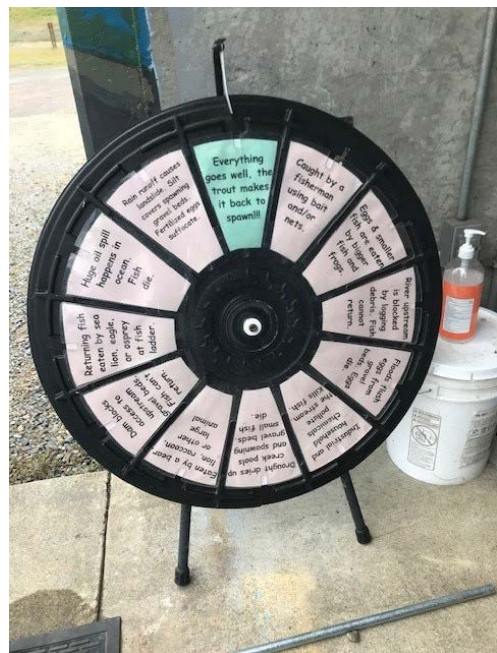


“Beware of Alligator” sign and fake alligators in water donated by UVFVC & enjoyed by the visitors

“Wheel of Life” game played by visiting school groups helped maintained by UVFVC



UVFVC Volunteer Troy P. netting a steelhead



UVFVC Volunteer Joe P. & CDFW personnel sorting a male steelhead into the appropriate holding tank



Donna Terry: Outstanding Volunteer at Harry S. Truman

It is my pleasure to introduce Donna Terry, a volunteer at Harry S. Truman Dam and Reservoir. Donna has been volunteering with us for a dozen plus years, wearing MANY hats throughout. Most recently, Donna has assisted us with litter pick-up, mulching and weeding flower beds, as well as invasive species management. Earlier this season, and most every season from 2010 to 2021, Donna has been a volunteer visitor attendant at the Harry S. Truman Visitor Center. In that capacity Donna has been our go-to for working countless weekends with high visitation, at times even working alone. Donna doesn't simply say "hello" to each person who enters the Visitor Center—she takes the time to personally give a warm, heartfelt welcome to every single visitor. She delights in teaching youngsters about water safety by giving out coloring books, iron-ons, cups, etc. Donna also excels in making our Veterans know how much they are appreciated—she personally thanks every one she encounters with a sincere "Thank you for your service."

Many winter seasons, Donna has been a volunteer park host in various campgrounds at Truman. She always finds ways to keep busy picking up litter, cleaning fire rings, vigilantly checking facilities, and keeping us posted on any issues that may arise.

Other jobs that Donna has done for us over the years include park mowing, filling in for other volunteers, checking on volunteers in other parks, donning the Bobber the Water Safety Dog costume for children's groups, and providing assistance at special events such as Heritage Days, Kaysinger Christmas, Eagle Day, and the Fireworks Display. She also knows just the right times to arrive with lunch, drinks, or snacks on a long, strenuous day of prescribed burning, tree trimming, or park cleanup. Above and beyond does not come close to a proper description of Donna's efforts.

All of Donna's contributions to Truman Project stand out. But one incident that occurred in June of 2021 was particularly noteworthy. Donna has spent this season camping in Thibaut Point Park. On that date in early June, Donna notified me that a camper in the park was not doing well mentally, blocking people from entering the campground, and making threats to other campers. While Ranger Roeder and I were enroute to the park and calling for backup from Benton County Sheriff's Department, Donna kept us posted on everything as it was happening. Upon our arrival to the park, she briefed us on what had already transpired and then set to work keeping others from entering the park while law enforcement officers made contact with the troubled individual. A several-hours-long standoff ensued involving over a dozen law

enforcement officers from Benton County Sheriff's Department, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Missouri Department of Conservation, and the Corps of Engineers. During the standoff, Donna provided cold bottled water for all LE officers present and guarded the entrance to the campground with vigilance and calmness. The hot, tense, and ever-changing standoff ended on a positive note. And Donna's contributions from a safe distance were truly a blessing that day.



Ranger Erin Cordrey presented the award to Donna Terry at Harry S. Truman Lake. Donna's volunteerism cannot be sufficiently summed up in her 7,600+ hours worked or the \$217,500+ volunteer value to the nation. Heartfelt love of the lake and the visitors, attention to detail, and drive to always do the right thing—these are the things that make Donna Terry a proud, wonderful volunteer.

Wappapello Lake St. Louis District Corps Foundation Volunteer Excellence Coin 2022



On March 7, 2022, Wappapello Lake Volunteer Park Host Mike Williamson went above and beyond the call of duty to maintain order and keep all parties safe during an incident that occurred in the Redman Creek East Campground. Mike was enroute to assist a first-time camper when he encountered two belligerent individuals causing serious problems in the campground. The two individuals were driving their vehicle into another camper's RV. One of them was also kicking the campers' door. Mike recognized the two individuals as long-time users of the campground and attempted to make small talk with them to diffuse the situation. During the encounter, both individuals assaulted Mike and tried to provoke Mike into a physical altercation. Mike's even keeled temperament and calm, composed demeanor was integral in avoiding a much worse outcome. Even after the belligerent individuals intentionally used their vehicle to ram into his personal pickup truck, Mike continued to maintain his composure. Throughout the ordeal, including their assault on him, Mike maintained a calm disposition, ensuring everyone involved was safe from harm and handling the situation until law enforcement arrived on the scene. Mike always goes the extra mile to ensure incoming campers receive first-class treatment, and he is an integral part of the Wappapello Lake team. His dedication and service this day, and for the past ten years, makes him more than worthy of receiving the Corps Foundation Volunteer Excellence Coin.

Park Passport App Badge is now online



Corps of Engineers Lakes/Rivers

This is the design that the National Park Trust designed for USACE for the Park Passport app badge that people can earn for virtually visiting Corps Lakes.

National Volunteers of the Year award ceremony for Brenda Grano and Nony Brakeman yesterday at the Allatoona Lake by Christopher Purvis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Lead Ranger, Allatoona Lake Partnerships, Public Awareness, Volunteers



We held the National Volunteers of the Year award ceremony for Brenda Grano and Nony Brakeman yesterday at the Allatoona Lake OPMO. Dr. Larry McCallister, the SES Director of Programs in SAD, was the guest speaker and presenter. Also in attendance was Amy Cobb, SAD NRM Program Manager, and Kimberly Wintrich and Chad Elder from SAD PAO. It was a packed house with Allatoona staff, volunteers and 14 family members attending the ceremony. Afterwards attendees were treated to a Cajun Shrimp Boil luncheon that was a big hit all around.





Alfred Barboza at Benbrook Lake. By Lyndy Black, Park Ranger, Benbrook Lake
CISM Peer Supporter



Lake manager Justin Berndt on March 31st, 2022 presents a Volunteer Award to Alfred Barboza at Benbrook Lake.

Enduring Service Award Finalist Jeff Brewer with the Friends of Mountains to Sea Trail

By Francis Ferrell, Chief Ranger, Falls Lake

We took advantage of beautiful weather on National Public Lands Day to recognize Jeff Brewer with the Friends of Mountains to Sea Trail for being an Enduring Service Award finalist and presented him with one of the large Volunteer coins. I've attached a photo, storyboard, and a summary of his accomplishments as follows:



Chief Ranger Francis Ferrell presents an award to Jeff Brewer

Since 1997, Jeff Brewer has enthusiastically served in various roles as a leader with the North Carolina Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail (FMST) organization. He has organized and led volunteers as they planned, marked, built, and now maintain 60

miles of the Falls Lake Trail; part of the 1,200-mile Mountains to Sea Trail that spans the state of North Carolina. Mr. Brewer's down-to-earth personality and genuine love of the trail and the outdoors are just some of the qualities that allow him to excel as a leader in the hiking community.

Mr. Brewer was instrumental in the founding of the FMST and acted as President from 2004 – 2009. He took the lead in working with USACE and other land managing agencies to develop an MOA for building 35 new miles and maintaining the full 60 miles of trail at Falls Lake. Mr. Brewer's strong determination and his ability to form positive relationships with partners and the local community have directly led to providing and expanding excellent hiking opportunities for the public. Since stepping down as President in 2009, Mr. Brewer has served as the Falls Lake Trail Task Force Leader. In that role, he coordinates efforts of nearly nine volunteers that are active in six trail workdays each year. He has worked closely with partner agencies to keep all informed of issues as they arise, and promptly works to resolve them.

Mr. Brewer has been an invaluable champion of our NRM mission at Falls Lake. He always works with USACE staff to ensure new trail is constructed in accordance with NEPA and trail safety standards. He has led the effort to design and install three new campsites along the trail for backpackers completing overnight hikes. He organizes an annual chainsaw safety course with USFS to ensure the local chainsaw crews are properly trained. He educates and informs an email list of trail volunteers about workdays and other important news about the trail at Falls Lake. He is currently involved in updating all of the interpretative map kiosks on the trail. It goes without saying that because of Jeff Brewer's heartfelt dedication to the hiking community and natural resources at Falls Lake, thousands of people across North Carolina will enjoy the beauty and tranquility of Falls Lake and all the MST offers.

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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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 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!

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Membership Renewal: Your Support Makes a Difference!

Please enter your contact information in the space below.

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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 Volunteer Board Current Members:

Greg Miller, Board Chairperson
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Sue Clevestine, Secretary
Rich Deline, Founding Director
Nancy Rogers, Director, Advocacy and Outreach
Pat Barry, Newsletter editor
Kent Dunlap, Board Member

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