



Welcome to the Summer 2023 Edition of the Corps Foundation Newsletter.

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

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Corps Foundation Participates in Award-Winning Partnership

The Public Lands Alliance presented Discover Your Northwest “The Outstanding Public Engagement Award” for “The Fish Ladder Viewing Gallery Renovation and Ballard Locks Salmon Legacy Wall.” This annual award recognizes exemplary products, displays, programs or services created in partnership by a nonprofit organization. The Salmon Legacy Donor Wall has raised over \$200K for interpretive exhibits in the salmon viewing room. Check out this video that provides an overview of the presentation ceremony.

https://youtu.be/3_thRvSpmlg

Corps Foundation’s Founding Board member Rich Deline worked with Jim Adams of Discover Your Northwest, leadership at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks and Seattle District and a host of other partners to refurbish the Salmon Viewing Room at the locks. This partnership converted a dingy and uninviting space into an attractive and inviting exhibit area. Kudos to all the partners who participated!

Support the LAKES Act

The Foundation is excited to share the news! The LAKES Act needs your support and advocacy. Many thanks to Senators Kevin Cramer-ND and Martin Heinrich-NM for their bipartisan support of the bill.

We Need Your Support! Corps Foundation Announces LAKES Act Legislation!

The Corps Foundation is thrilled to announce the proposed LAKES Act with bipartisan support! Senators Kevin Cramer (R-ND) and Martin Heinrich (D-NM) introduced the Lakes Access Keeping Economies Strong legislation that’s building support everyday.

Lake Access Keeping Economies Strong
ACT

Senator Kevin Cramer — Senator Martin Heinrich

The LAKES Act expands opportunities to improve and develop outdoor recreation facilities at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers managed areas.

Outdoor recreation is a vital economic driver in local economies across the U.S.

1.9% of U.S. GDP
\$454B in gross economic output

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assets are one of the nation's largest federal outdoor recreation providers

257,000 facilities
43 states

Retention of Recreation Fees:
Under current law, local units of federal land management agencies at the Departments of Interior and Agriculture can retain 80% of recreation fees collected on site. These funds are then dedicated to the site's operation and maintenance needs without approval from headquarters, allowing them to be nimble and more responsive with their planning decisions. Currently, USACE recreation facilities are excluded from this benefit.

The LAKES Act rectifies this discrepancy by enabling recreation sites and facilities under the jurisdiction of USACE to retain 80% of recreation fees collected at a particular location for its operation and maintenance.

This funding would supplement annual appropriated funding, while the other 20% of collected fees would be available for operations and management at any Army Corps recreation facility. This authority provides for more expedient reinvestment of recreation fees by USACE in local recreation infrastructure.

Joint Recreation Management:

- The LAKES Act amends Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management Agreement authority, enabling private nonprofit entities to enter into cooperative agreements with USACE to operate and maintain recreation facilities under USACE jurisdiction.
- The LAKES Act will foster agreements between nonprofits and the USACE, as well as affirm the authority of the USACE to enter into cooperative joint management agreements with Tribes.
- The LAKES Act fixes issues with the USACE's inability to collect and send funds to partners under existing CCSMA authority using the Recreation.gov system. This issue has deterred partners interested in cooperatively managing parks with USACE. The LAKES Act would allow USACE to handle partner-collected fees and return them to the partner after processing.

This bipartisan bill would improve outdoor recreation facilities in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)-managed areas, provide new opportunities for public-private investments, and give local districts more flexibility to reinvest their resources.

Specifically, the LAKES Act will include authority for the US Army Corps of Engineers to retain up to 80% of recreation use fees to be reinvested directly to the Corps project where the fees were collected. This gives local managers the flexibility to repair infrastructure and complete maintenance with funds already paid by the visiting public. This long-awaited authority will allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to join other Federal land management agencies such as the National Park Service, Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in retaining recreation fees.

Many non-profit organizations would like to do more to jointly operate recreation projects managed by the Corps, but current authorities do not allow it. The LAKES Act gives that authority to the Corps to share management responsibilities with local organizations and to use collected fees to pay for the reinvestment.

There is still work to do! Contact your Senator and Congressional representative to encourage their support for America's lakes and waterways managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and specifically mention the LAKES Act.

Vehicle Sunshade Giveaway



Vehicle Windshield Sunshades are one of the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign products purchased by the Corps Foundation and given away to those who are caught wearing their life jackets at USACE lakes. Image from Wappapello Lake, Missouri.

Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns Campaign 2023 Update

In Fiscal Year 2023, the Corps Foundation started working on their 6th grant, funded by the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the US. Coast Guard and this is a three-year grant. Current grants funds include \$150,000 each year to promote the award-winning Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign targeting high-risk, adult boaters in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). We have seen phenomenal growth on the **Please Wear It** social media pages (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). Facebook had attracted more than 25,000 followers as we kicked off the 2023 recreation season. On social media, we will continue to promote two big giveaways each year and the Life Jacket Video Contest in partnership with USACE. Promotional products will continue to be purchased and distributed through social media giveaways and to USACE to distribute primarily through "I Got Caught" initiatives. Grant funds will continue to be used to purchase campaign advertisements through a variety of avenues in high-risk areas. We have partnered to share the costs of billboards, movie theater ads, and state fishing guides in the past. We especially like partnering with USACE offices in high-risk areas who take the initiative to purchase campaign ads on their own and want to work with us to share the costs. Contact our Special Programs Director Rachel Garren at RachelGarren22@gmail.com, if you're interested in partnering for an advertisement purchase.

Many lives are lost every year on our nation's waterways, so there's work to be done and we need your continued help. Be sure to follow Please Wear It on social media and explore the Campaign Resource Guide at www.PleaseWearIt.com for ideas on what you can do to further promote the campaign.

The poster features a blue background with a filmstrip graphic. At the top left, the year '2023' is written in a white, outlined font. Below it, the title 'Life Jacket Video Contest' is displayed in large, bold, white sans-serif font. Underneath the title, the text 'CONTEST DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2023' is written in a smaller white font. A large circular inset on the right side shows a group of five people (three men and two women) wearing life jackets and smiling on a boat during a sunset. In the center-left, the text 'THE PRIZE:' is in bold white, followed by '\$5,500 for 55-second Video PSA' and '\$2,500 for 25-second Video PSA' in white. Below this, a small line of text reads '*ONE WINNER PER CATEGORY WILL BE SELECTED'. At the bottom left, there is a circular logo for 'Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns' with a red life jacket in the center and the website 'PleaseWearIt.com' at the bottom. To the right of the logo, the text 'TO LEARN MORE:' is in white, followed by the website 'www.LifeJacketVideoContest.com' in a larger white font.

Life Jacket Video Contest Update

In the 2022 Life Jacket Video Contest, we had 24 video entries from 18 entrants and a double winner for the first time! Lauren Stamper won \$8,000 for her 25- and 55-second videos. You can view her videos, as well as all the winning videos from previous years on the www.LifeJacketVideoContest.com website.

The 2023 Life Jacket Video Contest was launched on October 19, 2022 and it ends on September 8, 2023. The winner(s) of the 25-second-long video will get \$2,500 and the 55-second-long video winner(s) will get \$5,500. Share the website with those you know who might be interested in creating a video that encourages adults to wear a life jacket and winning some cash.

The Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign, including this contest, are managed through a partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Operations Center for Water Safety and the Corps Foundation. Prize money for the video contest is funded through a Corps Foundation grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. Thanks to everyone, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers offices that are helping to promote the contest.

Corps Foundation Featured in Kansa City!

Jessica Schaeffer, Public Affairs specialist for the Kansas City District-US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), selected the Corps Foundation for her article in the Kansas City District magazine. Jessica interviewed several Corps Foundation Board Members for this feature news story how the Corps Foundation's work to help USACE with their natural resource management missions. Read the full news story here.

<https://dvidshub.net/r/82fqsp>

Former Park Ranger Brenda Lackey, Ph.D. Honored by National Association of Interpretation



Congratulations to Brenda Lackey, who was awarded the National Association for Interpretation's highest honor – The NAI Fellow Award. It is given to an individual member exemplifying career achievement in guiding the interpretive profession through training, mentoring, writing, front-line interpretation, and management.

Over her 15 years of teaching at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Brenda has mentored and provided professional experiences for hundreds of students who now work as interpreters throughout the world. Her dedication to the field of interpretation is inspiring for us all. Brenda currently serves as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor at University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. Some of you may remember working with her when she was a Park Ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

National Volunteers of the Year: Red and Joy Lyons

This year's USACE national volunteer of the year award recipients are Red and Joy Lyons of Carters Lake in the Mobile District. They have donated more than 5,100 hours of volunteer service over a two-year period. In 2022, they coordinated, led, or supported a dozen interpretive events, made hundreds of water safety contacts, saved USACE tens of thousands of dollars in repairs and specialty construction work, and provided thousands of dollars' worth of training to produce a hands-on artistic experience for visitors.

One of their most substantial contributions was working to form Carters Lake's first and only nonprofit organization, Our Beautiful Carters Lake.



Photo above: Red Lyons with Buddy Beaver preparing for a water safety event.

The national volunteer award is sponsored by the Corps Foundation to recognize extraordinary service provided by volunteers, draw attention to their vast skills and contributions, and encourage an attitude of stewardship and responsibility in caring for USACE lands, facilities, and resources.

Excellence in Partnership Award 2022 The New Riverr Alliance of Climbers

The New River Alliance of Climbers (NRAC) at Summersville Lake in the Huntington District have been selected as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2022 Excellence in Partnerships Award recipients for their steadfast commitment in creating sustainable use and continued access to climbing opportunities along the stunning and stone cliffs of Summersville Lake.

Since 2019, NRAC has contributed \$60K in funding, provided \$50K in volunteer services, and generated more than \$100K in environmental stewardship value to Summersville Lake, constructing a 20-foot metal staircase against a cliff for improved emergency evacuation and filling gabion baskets to prevent erosion of the shoreline.



The Excellence in Partnerships Award, sponsored by the Corps Foundation, annually recognizes exceptional contributions by a partner providing substantial support to the USACE Recreation and Environmental Programs.

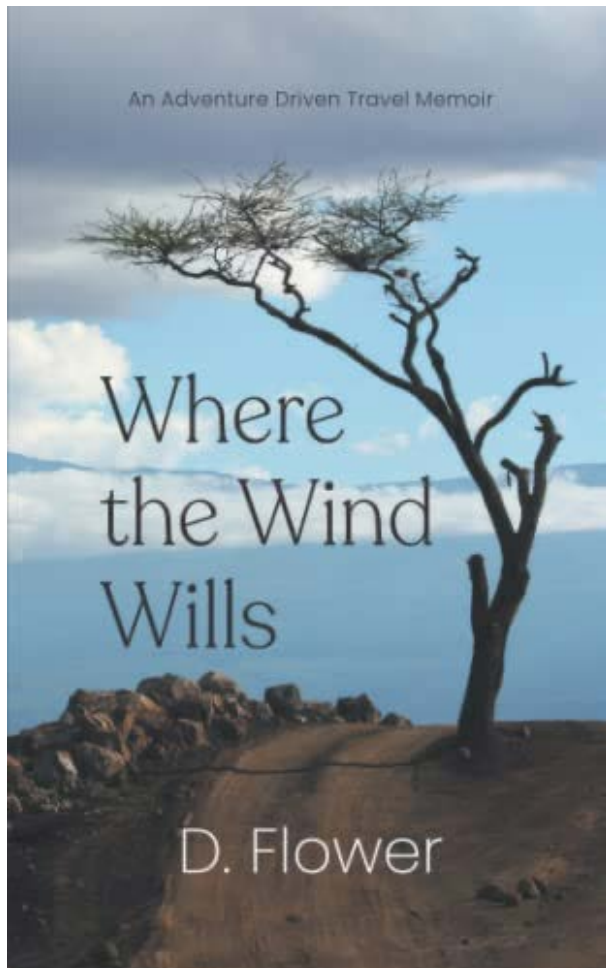
Alise Lampi Received NWP Volunteer of the Year Award



Left: Alise Lampi received the NWP Volunteer of the Year Award at Fern Ridge Lake, Oregon. Kym Anderson, Chief of Portland District Operations Division, presented the certificate and the coin. Right: Natural Resource Manager Wendy Jones and Project Wildlife Biologist and Volunteer Coordinator and supervisor, Kathleen Smith stand with Alise. Willamette Valley Project OPM Erik Petersen and Portland District Volunteer Coordinator Nick Racine also took part in the award ceremony. Alise was honored to have the recognition saying, "I've never felt so appreciated in my life." So, mission accomplished.

Foundation Member News

Dee Flower, former USACE Park Ranger at Center Hill Lake and Albeni Falls Dam, among other locations, has published a book recounting her adventures in Africa. *Where the Wind Wills: An Adventure Driven Memoir*, was released by Lisa Hagan Books in August 2022. One of Dee's proudest accomplishments during her time in Africa was presentation of National Association of Interpretation (NAI) Certified Guide Training for safari guides, scouts, and managers from tour companies, sanctuaries, and conservation trusts in Kenya. A compelling read, the book is available from Amazon in both Kindle and paperback formats.



Amazon is No Longer Smiling

Unfortunately, AmazonSmile, a source of donations for the Corps Foundation, has been discontinued. The Corps Foundation was a participating charity and shoppers were able to contribute 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the Corps Foundation or other charity of their choice. In 2013, AmazonSmile was launched to make it easier for customers to support their favorite charities. The Corps Foundation will continue to pursue similar fundraising programs. Thanks to all of the Corps Foundation supporters who joined Amazon Smile and chose the Corps Foundation as their charity

AmazonSmile issued the following explanation about closing the program:

After almost a decade, the program has not grown to create the impact that we had originally hoped. With so many eligible organizations—more than 1 million globally—our ability to have an impact was often spread too thin.

We are writing to let you know that we plan to wind down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023. We will continue to pursue and invest in other areas where we've seen we can make meaningful change—from building affordable housing to providing access to computer science education for students in underserved communities to using our logistics infrastructure and technology to assist broad communities impacted by natural disasters.

To help charities that have been a part of the AmazonSmile program with this transition, we will be providing them with a one-time donation equivalent to three months of what they earned in 2022 through the program and they will also be able to accrue additional donations until the program officially closes in February. Once AmazonSmile closes, charities will still be able to seek support from Amazon customers by creating their own wish lists. As a company, we will continue supporting a wide range of other programs that help thousands of charities and communities across the U.S. We'll continue working to make a difference in many ways, and our long-term commitment to our communities remains the same—we're determined to do every day better for our customers, our employees, and the world at large.

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

You can make the difference in programs and partnerships that are 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.

Both new and renewed memberships, at the \$50 level or higher, will receive a Corps Foundation t-shirt (size XL only) as a thank you gift.

Follow us on [Facebook!](#) .

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 (USACE) 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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