



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

FEB 03 2015

CECW-CO

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, Major Subordinate Commands and District Commands; Chiefs, Operations, Major Subordinate Commands and District Commands

SUBJECT: 2014 National Volunteer Awards Selection

1. I am pleased to announce that the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Cooper River Rediversion Project Visitor Center Team in the Charleston District (SAD) has been selected as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recipient of the 2014 National Volunteer Group Award, and Ms. Mikayla Conrad of Deer Creek Lake in the Huntington District (LRD) has been selected as the recipient of the 2014 National Volunteer Individual Award.

2. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Cooper River Rediversion Project Visitor Center (CRRPVC) Team dedicated more than 700 hours to the concept, design, printing, and installation of new interpretive displays and the live 'Shad Cam' at the CRRPVC. The creativity and 'get it done' attitude of the team were the keys that transformed the space into a visitor center that showcases the balance between the CRRP's hydropower and aquatic species protection missions and its many positive impacts on Atlantic coastal migratory aquatic species. The facility will be utilized by the Charleston District's STEM program participants, local school groups, and private citizens alike to broaden the understanding of the Corps mission and its preservation and enhancement of aquatic natural resources. The improvements to the CRRPVC were well received by the public; demonstrated by an increase in visitation of 50% in FY 2014, even while renovations were in progress.

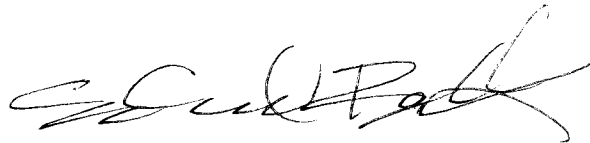
3. Ms. Mikayla Conrad was selected for her outstanding service in the water safety outreach program and flood risk management education efforts at Deer Creek Lake over the past two summers. Mikayla has spent over 1,000 hours at events, working fair booths, presenting programs, leading tours of the dam, performing visitor use surveys, serving as the Volunteer Coordinator, and assisting permanent staff in a variety of tasks. She has built new partnerships for the Corps of Engineers with Wilmington College, Student Conservation Association, Mt. Sterling Library, The Well, local community groups, and county fair boards. Ms. Conrad has been responsible for an increase in volunteer contacts and opportunities, number of water safety programs performed each year, has trained other/new volunteers, and has done so with a very high level of dedication and professionalism.

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4. The National Volunteer Awards are co-sponsored by the Corps Foundation in recognition of the extraordinary service provided by volunteers. These awards distinguish those individuals, couples, family units, or groups who give their skills, talents, and time beyond the normal call of duty and whose creditable service to the Corps has resulted in the significant enhancement to one or more of the Corps business lines. The awards will be presented to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Cooper River Rediversion Project Visitor Center Team and to Ms. Conrad in the spring of 2015.

5. All of the nominees for this year's awards provided significant service and contributions to their Corps sites and are deserving of special mention. They are: Mr. Robert Morris at the National Great Rivers Museum, Rivers Project (MVD); Ms. Betty Haase at Tioga Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes Project (NAD); the Sault Sainte Marie Garden Club at St. Marys Falls Canal (LRD); University of Mississippi Beta Alpha Psi at Sardis Lake (MVD); Don and Marilyn Van Baale at Lake Red Rock (MVD); Virgil and Penny Bray at Dworshak Dam and Reservoir (NWD); and Cape Fear River Watch Environmental Education Center at Cape Fear River Locks and Dam (SAD). I sincerely appreciate your efforts to nominate top quality volunteers for these significant awards.

6. Please pass along my congratulations to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Cooper River Rediversion Project Visitor Center Team and to Ms. Mikayla Conrad as the 2014 overall winners and to all of the nominees for their outstanding service! My point of contact for this award is Ms. Miriam Fleming, who can be reached at (251) 690-3004.



EDWARD E. BELK, Jr., P.E.
Acting Chief, Operations and Regulatory Division
Directorate of Civil Works

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