

**The Chief of Engineers Annual Natural Resources Management Awards
HIRAM M. CHITTENDEN AWARD FOR INTERPRETIVE EXCELLENCE**

Nominee: David R. Weiss, Park Ranger, Bonneville Lock and Dam Visitor Center

Executive Summary

Park Ranger David R. Weiss serves as the Environmental Education and Outreach Coordinator for Bonneville Lock and Dam on the Columbia River. He is an interpretive role model who works at the largest and most-visited interpretive center operated by the Corps.

David has established a wide-reaching network of partners including interpreters and environmental educators from other federal, state, and local natural resource agencies. Through these partnerships they have staged a large number of special events and activities for thousands of school children. David personally provides hundreds of interpretive and outreach programs relating to the missions and objectives of the Corps of Engineers to numerous diverse audiences including inner city youth, local school children, and anyone who enters the visitor center. His interpretive programs demonstrate creativity and originality as he uses props, juggling, displays, and storytelling to help people relate to the National Historic Landmark, Bonneville Lock and Dam.

David creates a positive experience for visitors. At the beginning of his programs he talks with his audience to establish their level of understanding and background and then builds on that. His programs are interesting and engage the visitor. Through use of sound interpretive principles, clear themes, good organization, and thoughtful provocation he helps people relate their experiences to the role of the Corps.

With 20 years of experience as an interpreter, David offers a rich variety of interpretive techniques, a great depth of knowledge, and a good-natured and cheerful approach that helps visitors feel at ease while they learn more about the Corps of Engineers and their environment.