

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

Nominee: Karen W. Hoey, Park Ranger, Hopkinton-Everett Lakes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Park Ranger, Karen Hoey is nominated for the Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence because of her outstanding contributions in the field of interpretation and environmental education. Karen is recognized for her achievements in developing and enhancing the Interpretive Programs and Outreach Services for the Hopkinton-Everett Lakes and Elm Brook Park. Her commitment and dedication to expanding interpretive services at the park has made Hopkinton-Everett one of the strongest interpretive providers in the New England District. Karen has demonstrated her originality and resourcefulness by producing new and innovative presentations as well as tools to aid in the success of her programs. Her perseverance in expanding interpretive services and outreach for Hopkinton-Everett has paid off in 2010 with over 980 contacts made, which has more than doubled since she began her career there in 2008. Of particular note, is the quality of these contacts, and the positive impact that Karen has had not only on her local community, but the entire New England District, as she continuously strives for interpretive excellence.

As a member of the ISOP (Interpretive Services Outreach Program) committee, Karen works with other dedicated interpretive providers to continue to enhance the quality of programs for the visitors and guests to the parks. She continuously exceeds expectations, developing programs which are engaging and inspiring, and through these efforts instills a desire from her participants to become involved in protecting their cultural and natural resources, as well as spreading the message of conservation. Through Karen's programs and presentations about the Corps sites and mission, she has enlightened the public to the abundant resources that are available to all on Corps lands, and how the Corps has benefited the American people for decades.

Karen illustrates leadership in interpretive excellence, managing, motivating and inspiring volunteers and peers to positive action. Her dedication and selfless service is evident, and when faced with an objective, she has the vision and know-how to get the job done. In 2010, Karen has created a top-notch interpretive program at her project, but more importantly her positive impact has resonated well beyond the local level, inspiring the public, future Rangers, and the entire District through her endeavors and desire to make a difference.