

Nomination for the Hiram M. Chittenden Award;  
Marci Montrose

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Natural Resource Specialist (Park Ranger) Marci Montrose is nominated for the Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence because of her outstanding contributions in the field of interpretation and environmental education. Marci is recognized for her outstanding achievements in the continued development and strengthening of Interpretive Programs and Outreach Services for the Hop Brook Lake Unit. As a result of her exceptional resourcefulness, judgment and dedication to these programs, Hop Brook Lake Unit continues to have one of the most comprehensive and successful Interpretive Services Programs in the New England District. In 2007 Marci has demonstrated her creativity and motivation by producing excellent interpretive programs for the general public which effectively promote our agency's mission. Marci took part in coordinating and presenting over 19 programs, dedicating over 103 hours and reaching 1275 contacts. Marci's talent, extensive knowledge of the interpretive process, selfless service and strive for excellence has marked her highly as a respected and admired individual, and team player throughout the New England District.

### **NARRATIVE JUSTIFICATION**

Marci Montrose's highly valued interpretive skills and apt knowledge of education were relied upon greatly and effectively utilized ever since she became a member of the Hop Brook Lake Unit. Her enlightenment in education has enabled her to create interpretive programs that work with state curriculum standards. Specifically Marci has developed programs and a working relationship with Terryville High School. This relationship has not only strengthened the interpretive outreach program but also Hop Brook Lake Unit's volunteer program and Natural Resource Management Program. Teachers and students have volunteered for other outreach programs the unit has held, one in particular is the National Trails day event, and as well as offered their services to collect flora and fauna data for the unit's Natural Resource Program. Marci not only works with High School ages but also tailors a number of programs to reflect state curriculum standards for elementary to college.

Marci performs and develops programs for all ages from pre-school to our oldest visitors. She continues to research new ways to reach out to all and comes up with new program materials every year. She is very influential in supporting and maintaining the successful Junior Ranger and Junior Project Programs at Hop Brook Lake. Marci enhances these programs by leading the children and adding new ideas and inside to the educational development of the programs each year. Marci has given time, comment, and freshness to the two programs through continually researching and developing new programs and activities. The Junior Project Program is a continual changing program offering new topics each year; it's a 3 hour 5 day program for two age groups. Without Marci's dedication, input, talent and ideas this program would have suffered greatly.