

Narrative: Nomination for the Hiram M Chittenden Award:  
Thomas Chamberland

**Executive Summary**

Park Ranger Tom Chamberland is nominated for the Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive excellence because of his outstanding contributions in the field of interpretation for the year 2008. Tom's efforts throughout his career have focused on providing new venues for the public to learn about, and appreciate the natural areas that his projects have to offer. Central to the art and act of interpreting our environment are the efforts of those who work to facilitate a place to learn and a place to park, walk, and ride and experience the lands and water of the natural world.

But Tom Chamberland is highly active in the more traditional area of interpretation by visiting schools, speaking to town groups, volunteers and creating medium for the better understanding of a subject. As a licensed arborist, effectively communicated to members of the public and his peers, the importance of the access to healthy woods and waters and how the Corps is dedicated to the care of its project areas for public benefit. During the past year, Tom initiated the forming of a partnership between the USACE and the Town of Brimfield, to create a new, one half mile trail project. This action re-sparked a local non-profit trail group whose efforts are focused on creating a 60 mile, 2 state trail system that could connect 5 different USACE projects. These efforts will bring untold enjoyment to people who love to connect with nature and more visitors, resulting in more interpretive activities.

Tom's experience, education, dedication and enthusiasm for public outreach thru brochures, maps and other medium demonstrate a talent for graphics and the written word that visitors can use to further enjoy their time at East Brimfield and Westville Dams.

For the following reasons, he is an excellent candidate for and will make a deserving recipient of this award.