

National Volunteer Week

April 17 - 23, 2022



Shining a Light on Those Who Serve

Across USACE we celebrate National Volunteer Week by shining a light on those individuals that give their time and talent to make a difference at our projects and in our communities.

In the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, we are shining a light on volunteers at Alum Creek Lake and Lake Barkley.

Great Lakes & Ohio River Division

Alum Creek Lake lies within the Ohio River Basin. While much of the park is leased to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, USACE manages and operates the Dam, Visitor Center, and the Below Dam Recreation Area. The project volunteer coordinator at Alum Creek Lake is Kara Blomgren.



148,191
HOURS SERVED BY
VOLUNTEERS IN LRD



\$4,229,364
VALUE OF TIME
VOLUNTEERED

With nearly 58,000 acres of water and over 1,004 miles of shoreline, Lake Barkley is the westernmost project in a series of dams along the Cumberland River and its tributaries. Coordination of volunteers is led by Wesley Davenport.



Mark Rawdon



Mark Rawdon is President of the Scioto Area Corps Cooperating Association (SACCA). In 2019, Mark began volunteering in the Visitor Center to assist with providing coverage. It quickly became apparent to Mark that the staff at Alum Creek Lake could use more assistance. Interested in finding more ways to help, Mark approached the Alum Creek staff about starting a friend's group, in the hopes to improve recreation opportunities at Alum Creek. That year SACCA was founded, and it was decided that the association should benefit more than just one project. SACCA supports the recreation and environmental missions of six USACE projects and Mark Rawdon is at the head of all the improvements.

Since the partnership became official in 2020, Mark has worked tirelessly to fundraise, plan, volunteer, and implement projects at Alum Creek and for the Scioto Area. Mark has succeeded in FY21 by implementing three new facilities at Alum Creek and was awarded nearly \$18k in grants for the operation of SACCA and for ADA improvements at Alum Creek. Mark's efforts also have led to the implementation of two new recreation programs at Alum Creek.



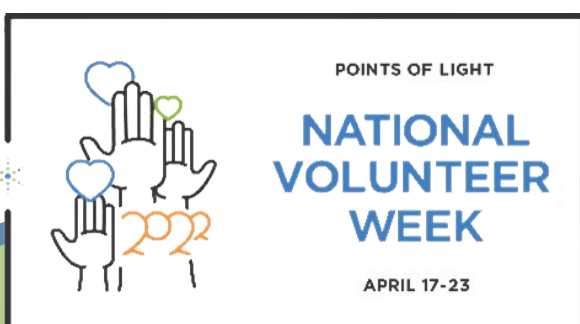
**Volunteered nearly
2,100 hours in 2.5 years**



**Helped to secure \$18k in
grants for improvements**



**Assisted in rebuilding
a brochure and
information stand**



<https://corpslakes.erdcdren.mil/employees/volunteer/volunteer.cfm>

National Volunteer Week

April 17 - 23, 2022



Tom and Kristi Battles



Mr. Tom Battles (affectionately referred to as "Mr. Tom" by the staff) worked for USACE for over 40 years and retired in 2015 as the captain of the repair fleet motor vessel Warioto. At that point Mr. Battles, along with his wife Kristi, decided to continue serving USACE as volunteers at Lake Barkley. Tom and Kristi have volunteered at the Lake Barkley Project since 2015, contributing a total of 14,177 hours of service at an estimated value of over \$350,000. The Battles have promoted USACE values through stewardship, conservation, and education. They work diligently to complete any task laid before them including general maintenance work, visitor center staffing, construction of campsites, and park beautification.



Placed over 1,400 tons of rip-rap stone for bank stabilization



Mowed over 50 acres to support Dam Safety Inspections



Provided expertise and assistance to complete a boat ramp dredging project



Installed impact area and swing set



Provides information to Visitor Center guests



Answers telephone calls to support Rangers



Cleared underbrush for waterfowl improvements



Installed a new courtesy dock

Mrs. Battles also dedicates 10-16 hours per week to perform administrative tasks in support of the Recreation and Environmental Stewardship missions. Kristi provides information to visitor center guests during the peak season. She also answers multiple phone calls and takes messages for the Ranger staff at one of the busiest Shoreline Management projects in the country. The completion of these tasks allows the office administrative assistant to focus on her priority duties without frequent interruptions. Mr. Battles shows up every day to be involved in daily toolbox safety meetings and discussions about the work plans for the day. Tom's unique skillset saved the project over \$27,000 of FY21 O&M funds



THANK YOU

To all of our volunteers in the Great Lakes & Ohio River Division!

