

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 Southwestern Division, we are shining a light on volunteers at Kaw and Benbrook Lakes.

Kaw Lake, with over 17,000 acres of water, is located in north central Oklahoma.

There are nine public use areas and two lake access points located around the lake for visitors to enjoy. The project volunteer coordinator at Kaw Lake is Dakota Allison.

Visitors to Benbrook Lake, located in the scenic open countryside of rolling hills and prairie meadows southwest of Fort Worth, Texas, have a wide range of recreation opportunities to choose from. Volunteers are coordinated by Lyndy Black.

Southwestern Division



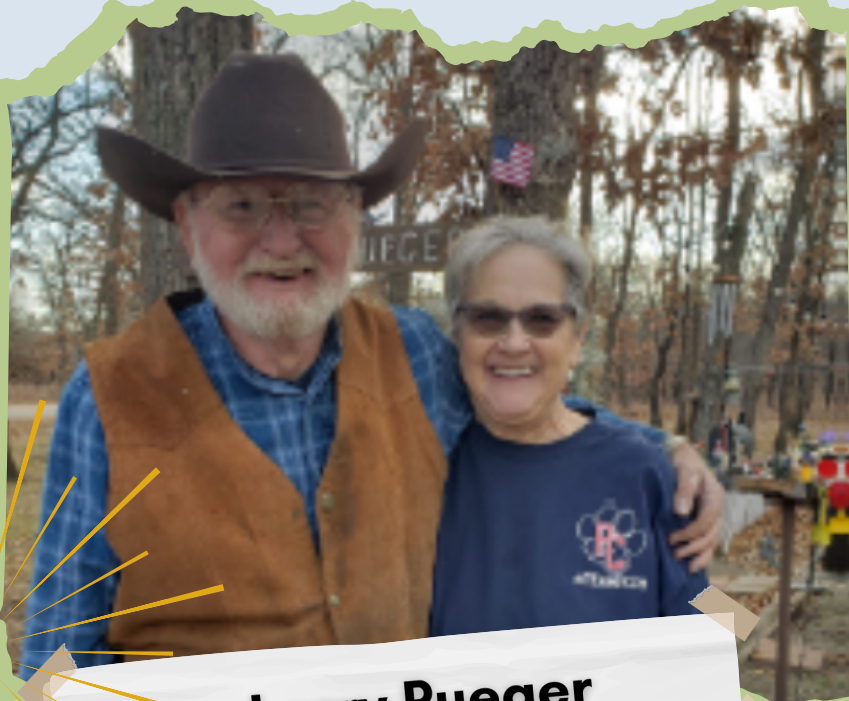
478,133

HOURS SERVED BY VOLUNTEERS IN SWD



\$13,645,902

VALUE OF TIME VOLUNTEERED



Larry Rueger



Larry Rueger has been a volunteer and part of the Kaw Lake team since 2016 performing over 6,000 hours of volunteer service with his wife, Laura at Osage Cove, the largest recreation area. During the summer months Larry can be found daily through Osage Cove Campground, cleaning the grounds, trimming brush, checking for safety issues and visiting with the public. He always carries water safety materials in his vehicle while making park rounds. During a 2019 major flood event, Mr. Rueger played a large role in assisting project staff during the flood event as well as with the post-flood cleanup and restoration.

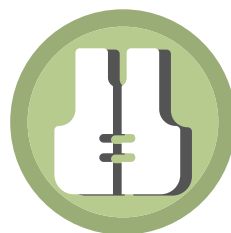
Larry has a magnetic personality that inspires others to help during times of need. He has made connections with several routine campers and community neighbors who also offer their time in labor in assisting with work in Osage Cove. He has participated in several National Public Lands Day events, group trail work events, Girl Scout and Boy Scout outreach events, and litter cleanup days. Not only has Mr. Rueger served his country through his active-duty military service in the U.S. Navy, but he now continues that service to country and others through his volunteer role at Kaw Lake.



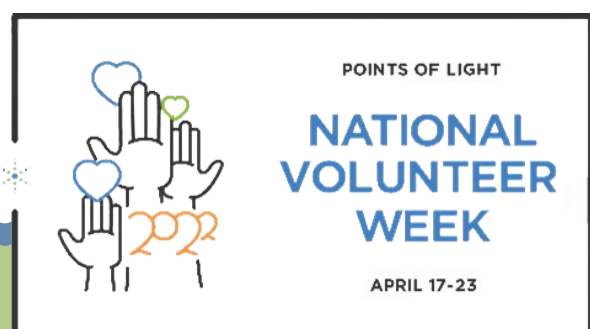
Volunteered over 6,000 hours of service



Assists in maintaining the Osage Cove Campground



Promotes water safety



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

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Al Barboza

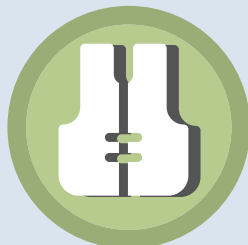
Mr. Al Barboza has worked on the Benbrook Lake volunteer maintenance crew since November 2019 and has performed over 1,600 hours of volunteer service. He has regularly assisted with flood response efforts at Benbrook. In 2021 he helped assemble and create buoy lines and anchors so that project staff could quickly place buoys on the lake to assist boaters with navigating higher lake elevations. As a skilled equipment operator, Mr. Barboza helped with the gathering of large woody debris and trash with a dump truck and hauled it off to a proper disposal site.



Assembled and created buoy lines



Gathered and hauled large woody debris



Promotes water safety



Answers visitor questions



Volunteered over 1600 hours of service



Lends a helping hand to park visitors



Assists in general maintenance



Identifies improvements

Al has also assisted with water safety education on high visitation weekends; he is very knowledgeable about USACE operations and can provide information to lake visitors on the USACE missions of flood risk management and recreation. He's also been known to help park patrons fix a flat tire or start a car. He is often first on the work site and ready to step up and help in every aspect of any project he's asked to assist with. He can often identify improvements that can be made with existing resources, and his wide range of maintenance skills often saves the project time and money.



THANK YOU

To all of our volunteers in the Southwestern Division!

