

# National Volunteer Week

April 16-22, 2023

## Shining a Light on Those Who Serve

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

In the South Pacific Division, we are shining a light on volunteers at Lake Sonoma and the Bay Model Visitor Center.

Created by the construction of Warm Springs Dam in 1983, Lake Sonoma provides for flood control, irrigation and recreation. When full, the lake has a surface area of more than 2,700 acres and 50 miles of shoreline, forming the perfect setting for a wealth of recreational activities. Visitors enjoy a variety of recreation activities such as hiking, swimming, biking, camping, boating, fishing and hunting.

The Bay Model Visitor Center hosts a working hydraulic model of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta System. The model provides scientists, educators, and visitors a unique opportunity to view the complete delta system at a glance.

## South Pacific Division



**\$1,660,182**

VALUE OF TIME VOLUNTEERED



**55,432**

HOURS SERVED BY VOLUNTEERS IN SPD

## Skip Brand



The staff at Lake Sonoma/Warm Springs Dam would like to recognize Skip Brand, owner of the Healdsburg Running Company, for his outstanding volunteer service on the Lake Sonoma trail system. Skip has been instrumental in organizing and leading numerous volunteer days at Lake Sonoma to keep the trails clear and accessible for public recreation.

In the winter of 2022-23, the weather at Lake Sonoma in Geyserville, CA has shown its extremes. After enduring multiple years of drought, storms coming off the Pacific Ocean hammered down on the park with 10 atmospheric river events, to date. This has provided the area with some much-needed relief from the drought and a full lake, but along with the rain came extreme wind events and even unprecedented snow fall! This left the park staff reeling in their attempts to keep project infrastructure and the trail system safe from falling trees and debris flow.

One of the key features for recreation at Lake Sonoma is the nearly 50 miles of trail system provided to the public. Skip, a local business owner, has taken a true love of the lake and the trails and all they offer to the community. He is the president of The Friends of Lake Sonoma, a non-profit volunteer group, and he is nationally known for his running events which are held annually on the trail system. In essence, he's adopted the trails, and the staff at Lake Sonoma couldn't be happier to have him on our team! Skip has organized multiple work parties, created social media campaigns to gather volunteers, donated time, supplies, and of course he has led these volunteer efforts from start to finish. This year alone, Skip's efforts have resulted in:



**600**

Nearly 600 hours of volunteer service provided



**200+**

Removed 200+ downed trees across the entirety of the trail system and fixed multiple mudslides

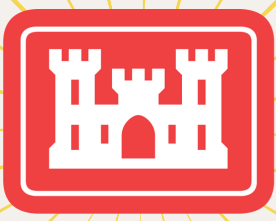


**\$400**

Provided over \$400 in food and supplies for work parties

The staff at Lake Sonoma is extremely grateful to have such an excellent volunteer in Skip Brand. We look forward to continuing work with Skip, fostering relationships with the community, and helping to keep Lake Sonoma a great place for everyone to visit.





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**Lon Woodrum**



**400**

Nearly 400 hours of volunteer service provided during the past year.



**Greets**

Greets thousands of visitors with a smile.



**Shares**

Shares his knowledge with staff and visitors.

It didn't take long for Bay Model Volunteer Lon Woodrum to get his sea legs when it comes to sailing. An experienced sea scout by the time he was 12, he raced an 8-foot dinghy "El Toro" around the area where his family made their home in Hawaii.

The love of a seafaring life took Lon and his family across the Pacific on a two-year journey through the islands of Tahiti to Auckland, New Zealand, and beyond. "We would stop at an island for a month and meet the people," said Lon, who serves as the Bay Model's dedicated front desk docent, greeting visitors from around the world.

Quick with a smile and sailing advice, Lon has devoted almost 400 hours of volunteer work in the past 12 months at the Bay Model information desk, sharing details about the unique hydraulic model built by USACE in the 1950s with thousands of visitors in exchange for thank you's and thin mints.

Lon came to the USACE waterfront through his longtime volunteer work with Bay Model nonprofit partner Call of the Sea and its educational sailing vessels—the 82' Seaward schooner and the 132' Matthew Turner brigantine tall ship.

Lon's shipyard history and sailing tales turned out to be a big hit at the Bay Model Visitor Center desk as well. "I was immediately in love, and I haven't left it. You love the sportsmanship of (sailing). You love what's happening around you, and you see things differently than you would from the freeway. It's just amazing," said volunteer Lon, who has spent most of his 78 years in, on, and around boats and loves to talk about it.

# THANK YOU

**To all of our volunteers in the South Pacific Division!**

