



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
TABLE ROCK LAKE
4600 STATE HIGHWAY 165
BRANSON, MISSOURI 65616-8980

CESWL-OP-TR

19 OCT 2020

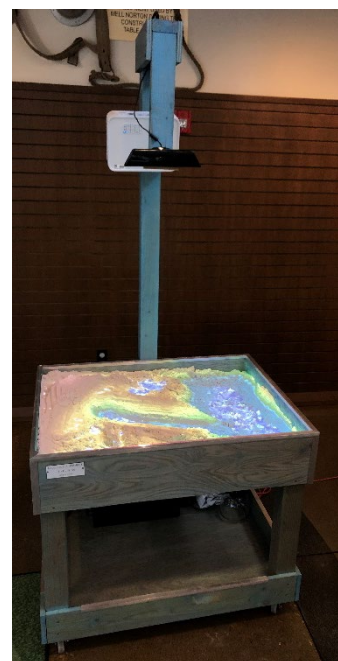
MEMORANDUM FOR PARTNERSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

SUBJECT: Table Rock Lake's 2020 nominations for Volunteer Excellence Coins.

1. Table Rock Lake would like to nominate two individuals and two couples for providing excellent volunteer and partnership services to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Little Rock District and request they each receive a Volunteer Excellence Coin.
2. The following are the nominations:

- a. Boy Scout Luke Johns, Troop 226, Branson, MO. As a part of achieving Eagle Scout status, Scout Johns reached out to Table Rock Lake for any service projects he could perform for the Natural Resources Management missions of USACE. There was a need to build an Augmented Reality Sandbox (AR Sandbox) for the Dewey Short Visitor Center to use during Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) interpretive programs that explain Corps missions in an interactive way.

Commercially built AR Sandbox sell for about \$8,000.00 but competing business lines made it difficult for USACE to justify its purchase. Scout Johns made this exhibit a reality for Table Rock Lake by partnering with Lowe's home improvement store to donate all the needed raw materials at no cost. Scout Johns and his father Rob built the sandbox in their garage and donated it to USACE in August 2020. This donation reduced the total costs of this exhibit for USACE to about \$800.00, a total savings of around \$7,200.00.



Developed by and distributed for free by the University of California, Davis, this hands-on exhibit will be used teach visitors of all ages earth science concepts including geography, geology, hydrology, topography, watersheds, levees and the benefits of dams. A 3D camera, computer and projector collect real-time elevation data from the sand while it's shaped, turns that data into a topographic map and projects the map onto the sand. Users can make it digitally rain onto the surface by holding their hands above the sand to see how water flows through a watershed. Dams made of recycled materials can be placed to demonstrate the benefits of dams.

b. Merrie Jackson, Volunteer. Mrs. Jackson and her husband Mr. Preston Jackson have provided excellent volunteer services on and off for USACE since 2016. Mrs. Jackson has served in the Project Office, both Mr. and Mrs. Jackson have staffed the information desk at the third most visited Type A regional visitor center in USACE, Dewey Short Visitor Center, where they greeted visitors and provided information.

In 2020, due to a vacancy caused by COVID-19, Mrs. Jackson quickly fulfilled a long term volunteer position in the Project Office acting as the primary point of contact for the public needing information on parks and shoreline management as well as processing incoming mail. Without Mrs. Jackson's willingness to serve, the same high level of customer service wouldn't be achieved and there would be an increased burden on project staff.

c. Rick and Tammy Leeper, Volunteers. Mr. and Mrs. Leeper have provided excellent volunteer services for USACE since 2018. Both have provided exceptional customer service in the third most visited Type A regional visitor center in USACE, Dewey Short Visitor Center. Mr. Leeper has been a valued asset to the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) section for three years. He is always willing to do what is required of him and takes the initiative to perform work above and beyond what's required. He is flexible and willing to work unscheduled days that will better benefit the mission. Mr. Leeper's skills and work ethic has been invaluable in helping O&M repair damages from the high-water event of 2020.

In 2020, due to an unplanned vacancy, Mrs. Leeper willingly stepped into a long term volunteer position in the Project Office acting as the primary point of contact for the public needing information on parks and shoreline management as well as processing incoming mail. Without Mrs. Leeper's willingness to serve, the same high level of customer service wouldn't be achieved and there would be an increased burden on project staff.

d. Aaron and Alison Reavis, Purple Martin Conservationist. Since 2017, Mr. & Mrs. Reavis have taken the lead in maintaining five Purple Martin bird houses located at various locations around the Table Rock Lake Project for the protection and conservation of these native songbirds. Although not listed as an endangered or threatened species, Purple Martins are considered a species of special concern in the U.S. because of the competition for housing they experience with invasive species of House Sparrows, starlings and bluebirds.

Mr. & Mrs. Reavis go out of their way to take on the necessary management of these houses beyond their normal daily jobs. They install barriers to invasive species, clean and maintain the boxes when damaged, designed and install custom nesting structures out of foam to reduce the risk of disease and attach special perches to support the colonies. Without Mr. & Mrs. Reavis' efforts, these boxes would not receive the same level of care and conservation efforts of this important species would be diminished.

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e. The POC for this nomination is Lead Park Ranger Ryan Braaten, (501) 340-1933 or at ryan.c.braaten@usace.army.mil.

RODNEY A. RALEY
Deputy Operations Project Manager
Table Rock Lake