

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lake Ouachita would like to submit Volunteers, Windell and Carolyn Belford for consideration for a Volunteer Excellence Coin.



Windell and Carolyn Belford have served in the Denby Point Recreation area on Lake Ouachita since 2008. During the peak seasons (May-September), they served as contract fee hosts, but during portions of the off-seasons (October-November and March-May), they were volunteers in the Denby Point area. Mr. and Mrs. Belford helped to maintain the recreation area by blowing the leaves and debris off campsites and roadways, cleaning fire rings and pedestal grills, reporting any maintenance issues, maintaining bulletin boards, picking up litter, and providing information to visitors when Park Rangers were not available. Mr. and Mrs. Belford have volunteered at Lake Ouachita for the past 14 years making them the volunteers with the longest duration of service, and they are now retiring to spend time with family. They have been extremely beneficial in providing a point of contact and assistance to the public, and cleaning the recreation areas, allowing the Park Rangers and Operations and Maintenance personnel at Lake Ouachita to spend more time on other projects such as campsite amenity upgrades and renovations.

Mr. and Mrs. Belford were always ready to assist campers finding and setting up on a campsite in the campground, and Visitors have complimented the Belford's on their kindness and courteous manner and knowledge of the area. They distributed lake maps, campground maps, and other





recreation information each day they were working. They also helped campers navigate the [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) website to book a reservation. In addition to serving as campground hosts, Mr. Belford is an avid fisherman and loved to give fishing tips to the public daily. Mr. Belford has also assisted our Natural Resource Management staff in sinking fish shelters to enhance the fisheries habitat on Lake Ouachita.

Windell and Carolyn Belford assisted in promoting water safety at Ouachita by handing out coloring books, asking visitors to wear their lifejackets, and helped maintain the lifejacket loaner board located at the swim beach by re-hanging and re-stocking lifejackets when needed.

Since October 2008, they have donated over 3100 hours of service. It is very rare to drive through Denby Point and not see them working or visiting with campers. They both shared how much they would miss Denby Point and all the campers, friends, and Corps personnel they have formed relationships with over the past 14 years. The Corps and recreation users will certainly miss them, and the Corps of Engineers, Lake Ouachita, appreciates their dedication and service to accomplish our missions, and feels they are most deserving of a Volunteer Coin of Excellence Coin.

