

ARNOLD HABIG RECEIPT OF CORPS FOUNDATION VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE COIN AND

COMMANDER'S AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE



On August 2, 2018, Lake Ouachita Resource Manager, Stacy Sigman, and Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee Chairman, Jerry Shields, traveled to North Little Rock, Arkansas to present Arnold Habig the Commander's Award for Public Service and Mr. Habig was also the recipient of the Corps Foundation's Volunteer Excellence coin for outstanding volunteer service.

Mr. Habig served as a charter member of the Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee (LOCFC) founded in 2001. He donated his time serving as Chairman of the committee from 2001 to 2014. After he stepped down as Chairman, he continued to serve on the LOCFC until March 2018. Mr. Habig is a very hard-working individual, donating countless hours to programs designed to enhance recreation on Lake Ouachita. Mr. Habig was instrumental in working on the Marine Sanitation Advisory Committee to recommend changes to the Marine Sanitation act. Mr. Habig also conducted studies and successfully lobbied for grant funding to assist with a non-native aquatic vegetation problem on Lake Ouachita, thereby enhancing the fisheries on Ouachita. In addition, Mr. Habig worked tirelessly while serving on the LOCFC to coordinate annual volunteer Lake Ouachita clean-up days. He garnered donations for the prizes and luncheons following the events, and also cleaned the shoreline and cooked lunch for the other volunteers during the events.

As an avid Lake Ouachita camper and recreation user on Lake Ouachita, Mr. Habig's love for the lake was demonstrated through his volunteer work. He continuously searched for ways to improve recreation and natural resource management and has served on various LOCFC sub-committees in these program areas. Additionally, Mr. Habig has volunteered his services by working on construction of the Lake Ouachita Vista Trail-a 44 mile long hiking/biking trail connecting the recreation areas on Ouachita.

Even though he had an hour and a half commute from North Little Rock, AR to Lake Ouachita, Mr. Habig always arrived early for the LOCFC meetings and was very prepared to discuss the topics on the agenda. He was instrumental in forming the committee and facilitating the meetings to ensure a positive partnership with the Corps of Engineers. His presence on the LOCFC will be missed, and he was very deserving of the Volunteer Excellence Coin for his tremendous work and countless hours of service.

Mr. Habig was very appreciative of the honor of receiving the Volunteer Excellence Coin, and Commander's Award, and his only request was to display the awards in the Lake Ouachita Project Office Display case because he believed the entire LOCFC deserved the awards, and he didn't want to take credit for the hard work of so many valuable volunteers.

Mr. Habig resides in North Little Rock, with his wife Jean. In addition to relaxing at Brady Mountain Recreation Area, Lake Ouachita, they enjoy traveling and spending time with their kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids.



Mr. Habig painting a fence during a Brady Mountain campground work day.