

Jerry Shields Receives Enduring Service Award from Corps Foundation



Corps Foundation Chairperson, Greg Miller (left), Jerry Shields, (center), Lake Ouachita Lake Manager, Stacy Sigman (right)

The Enduring Service Volunteer Award, established in 2016 by the Corps Foundation honors volunteers who have provided long-term service and outstanding accomplishments at Corps projects. Lake Ouachita volunteer, Jerry Shields, was presented this prestigious award by Corps Foundation Chairperson, Greg Miller, on October 16, 2018 during an awards ceremony held at Lake Ouachita Project Office for donating countless hours of volunteer service for the betterment of Lake Ouachita. Bass Pro Shops is a partner and supporter of the Enduring service award, and Mr. Shields also received a \$250 gift certificate to Bass Pro.



As a charter member since 2001 of the Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee (LOCFC), Mr. Shields was instrumental in forming a plan for a hiking and biking trail along the southern shore of Lake Ouachita. He along with a small group of trail enthusiasts, presented this plan and gained support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Jerry Shields working on LOVIT

and Forest Service fifteen years ago. Mr. Shields served as the “Alpha” Trail Dog and was instrumental in marking, constructing, and maintaining the Lake Ouachita Vista Trail—a 46 mile hiking/biking trail that has gained nation-wide publicity and was named an EPIC model trail in 2014 by the International Mountain Biking Association. He has also been influential in forming partnerships with city, county, state, and federal agencies in gaining support, funding, and personnel to construct and maintain the Lake Ouachita Vista Trail, and has garnered over 1 million dollars in grant funding for the trail.

Mr. Shields currently serves as Chairman of the LOCFC and has worked on many projects from shoreline cleanup events to fisheries management projects, he is always willing to volunteer his time and service whenever needed. Mr. Shields has assisted with a native aquatic plant, *Vallisneria*, planting project and also worked on a “Grab-a-Bag” program where he helped design trash bag dispensers and signage to be placed at Lake Ouachita Boat ramps and marinas where boaters and island campers can grab a trash bag before their trip on the lake, and hopefully use it to dispose of their litter. He has been instrumental in garnering donations and grants for these programs. As an avid outdoorsman who loves to fish, garden, and hike, Mr. Shields is a wonderful supporter of protecting the Natural Resources while providing valuable recreation opportunities at Ouachita. He has worked alongside the Corps of Engineers on many projects, and is very well-respected with the Corps and the local Mount Ida community where he and his wife, Gail, reside. He is also an active member of the Master Gardner’s Association and has served as president of the Mount Ida Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Shields exemplifies selfless service. He does not volunteer for recognition as was evident during his award’s speech when he was quick to give credit to the other LOCFC members who also volunteer their time and service. Jerry Shields is a most deserving recipient of the Enduring Service Volunteer Award, and the Lake Ouachita Corps of Engineers looks forward to working with Mr. Shields for many years to come.

