



EJ and Lori Hornick – Volunteers

Raystown Lake
Baltimore District, CENAB

Just over four years ago, EJ and Lori Hornick starting visiting and camping at Raystown Lake. They originally came here because they heard of this awesome mountain bike trail, the Allegrippis Trails, which they just had to ride. Since that first trek, they were hooked on not only the Allegrippis Trails, but Raystown Lake and the surrounding community. However, rather than just camping and riding for two weeks, EJ and Lori wanted to do more; they wanted to stay longer, give back, and make a difference.

Since then, EJ and Lori have become some of the most dedicated and hard working volunteers that Raystown Lake has ever had. EJ and Lori quickly found their niche at Raystown supporting the environmental stewardship program and providing campground maintenance. In 2013, the Raystown staff submitted and received funding through the Corps Handshake Program to renovate and revitalize over 15,000 ft² of degraded wildlife and birding habitat adjacent to the Visitors Center. The Hornicks played a critical role in each step of this multi-year project to transform an area dominated by invasive species and plagued by maintenance and erosion issues to create an environmentally sound, sustainable, and aesthetically pleasing landscape feature for the visiting public. Through their hard work and dedication, the project area serves as a critical educational (interpretive) extension of the Visitor Center and proudly represents a prime example of the Corps effort to support the Presidential Memorandum – Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators. Overall, this project could not have been completed within budget and on time without the help of EJ and Lori. Together, they have

- Removed over 100 non-native plants
- Planted over 450 native plants
- Carefully laid 16 tons of river rock
- Spread 45 cubic yards of mulch

Outside of the rain garden work, the Hornicks provide maintenance on campsites, trails, and various facilities around the Raystown Lake Project. In addition to their 1,000 hours of volunteer work valued at over \$22,000, EJ and Lori provide valuable insight to Raystown staff on new projects and ideas from a visitor and volunteer perspective. After the completion of all of this work, EJ and Lori continue with their volunteer enthusiasm outside of Corps projects and provide maintenance care on the trails that originally brought them to Raystown by supporting the Raystown Mountain Biking Association.

Volunteers like EJ and Lori are rare. They have a passion for our lake, for our community and for our natural resources that is contagious to those around them. For all of their hard work and dedication; the Raystown Lake Project will proudly present EJ and Lori Hornick with The Corps Foundation's Volunteer Coin.



Photo Top Left: A before picture of the pond area at the Raystown Lake Visitors Center. **Photo Left:** An after picture of the pond area that now acts as a rain garden providing bountiful pollinator habitat. **Photo Above:** EJ and Lori among a few of the hundreds of flowers planted in the rain garden. **Article Below:** EJ and Lori were featured on the front page of the Huntingdon Daily News regarding their volunteer efforts at Raystown Lake and what that means to the region.

Visiting and volunteering

Florida couple devotes summer months to serving region

By **APRIL FEAGLEY**
Daily News Staff Writer

Visitors, volunteers and vacationers are words which could aptly be used to describe a Florida couple who have spent the past four years devoting their summers to service.

E.J. and Lori Hornick of Fort Myers, Florida, were first drawn to the region by the Allegrippis Trails.

"We are avid mountain bikers, so we travel a lot just to get to some of the nicer trails," said E. Hornick. "When we found out about this one, we came here and camped at the facilities. The trails were awesome and the campgrounds were awesome. The trails are as good as anything you can ride in the east and maybe anywhere. We were elated when we first came up here."

As the pair found more aspects of the area to enjoy, they also found the popularity of the Raystown Lake region often limited the duration of their stay due to the campgrounds' reservation policies.



Photo by **APRIL FEAGLEY**

E.J. and Lori Hornick of Fort Myers, Florida, have spent the past four years camping at Raystown Lake each summer and volunteering their time on maintenance and projects including the installation of a rain garden at the Raystown Lake Visitors Center to solve storm water runoff issues.



Diamond Volunteer Award



The United States Army Corps of Engineers, Kaystown Lake recognizes the exemplary volunteer service of Lori & EJ Hornick on the amount of

1000+ hours

The commitment from Mr. & Mrs. Hornick to the United States Army Corps of Engineers has helped to enhance the natural resources and recreational opportunities at Kaystown Lake.

The Diamond Volunteer Award is presented to Mr. & Mrs. Hornick this August 20th, 2015.

Lori & EJ Hornick

Nick Krupa
Operations Manager



William Amix
Volunteer Coordinator