

NOMINATION FOR VOLUNTEER COIN

GERI HILLEGASS

Geri Hillegass has been a volunteer at Allatoona Lake since 2007. She has given over 464 hours of her time to assist with a variety of programs including water safety, visitor assistance and our large administrative load. While the value of her services is calculated at \$11,477, the service she provides is invaluable to the project.

When Geri first began volunteering, she was given a project of scanning pictures and slides to a hard drive using a small flatbed scanner. She has determinedly plugged away on this task since 2007, scanning over 6000 pictures and slides that tell the story of Allatoona Lake since its construction in 1948. This project has taken her eight years, but she has tirelessly gone through each box of slides and each folder of dusty old pictures, individually scanning every image to create a database that has brought us into the digital age. Already, this database has been used to interpret our lake project to visitors and back up historical data still relevant today.



The finished product only tells part of the story. Geri comes into the Allatoona Lake office each Friday, rain or shine, to volunteer her time. She could have completed this project faster, but she was always willing to help out in other areas in times of need, whether from ranger shortages or just during our busy season. Sometimes she stepped away from the project, but she always came back to it and picked up where she had left off. The most significant obstacle Geri had to overcome were the incredible medical issues plaguing her.

Throughout the past eight years Geri has battled lupus, cancer and multiple surgeries. Despite all these personal complications, Geri's contribution has far outweighed any monetary value. Through it all, every Friday Geri comes in with a smile on her face and a giving heart, which makes her one of our most valued volunteers.



The Allatoona Project

Interprets the Allatoona Allatoona Dam controls on flooding of the Etowah also generates power for and industry of Georgia.

Corps of Engineers designed and manages Construction was also sites.