

## **New Hogan Lake Volunteer Excellence**

### **Evelyn Baker**

Evelyn Baker came to volunteer with New Hogan Lake in the month of April 2016. Never volunteering before, she jumped right into the responsibilities of tackling the park's needs. Evelyn quickly got a routine down and began to take ownership of the park.

She assisted in cleaning numerous restrooms for several months until we were able to get the restrooms added to a contract. By taking on the responsibilities of cleaning the restrooms, she continued to keep the park free of litter in all of the recreation areas. Many compliments from park visitors were received about the cleanliness of the park and how hard the volunteers worked to keep the parks clean. She made notes of areas that needed additional supplies and improvements, and soon they were added to the park.

In the summer months, she worked in the Fiddleneck recreation area where she collected day use fees from the public. While collecting fees and selling day use passes, she also managed the park's life jacket loaner station with two other volunteers and issued lifejackets to the public. Without her volunteer service, the park rangers would not have been able to be with the public or performing their other job duties.

Evelyn Baker put in 526 volunteer hours, contributing volunteer services that totaled over \$12,000.00 dollars. She was a huge part of our team and contributed immensely to our park. Evelyn has been an incredible resource and has gone above and beyond in her service at New Hogan Lake.

### **Gary and Kat Bush**

Gary and Kat Bush came to volunteer with New Hogan Lake in the month of October 2015. They mentioned before they arrived that they had never volunteered before and that they would do their best and learn as they went. They were eager to begin their role as volunteers and quickly completed every task that was presented to them. They continually asked for more responsibilities and tasks in an effort to make the most out of their experience.

Two contracts expired while Gary and Kat were here at New Hogan Lake. Knowing that the staff was going to have to take on the duties that had just expired, Gary and Kat graciously asked if they could perform the duties to help out with the work load. They cleaned several restrooms for a few months until we were able to get the restrooms added to a contract. By taking on the responsibilities of cleaning the restrooms, they continued to keep the park free of litter in all of the recreation areas. Many compliments from park visitors were received regarding the cleanliness of the park, the volunteer's helpful nature, and all of their hard work.

In the summer recreation months, they were scheduled to work in the Fiddleneck recreation area where they collected day use fees from the public. While collecting fees and selling day use passes, they also managed the park's life jacket loaner station and issued

lifejackets to the public. They inspected the lifejackets to make sure that they were suitable to be given out to the public. Without their volunteer service, the park rangers would not have been able to be out with the public providing water safety programs, campfire programs, boat patrols and routine responsibilities.

Gary and Kat put in a combined volunteer hour total of 2,007 hours. Their contributing volunteer services totaled over \$40,000 dollars. They were a huge part of our team and contributed immensely to our park.

Gary, Kat and Evelyn are excellent examples of what makes the volunteer program a vital part of the USACE natural resource program. We will miss them tremendously as they embark on their next adventures and hope that they will return to Corps parks in the future.

