

Volunteer Excellence Coin Nomination

1. Nominator
 - a. Name: Shawna Polen
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2. Nominee
 - a. Name: Neil and Nelly Cole
 - b. Lake Office: Canton Lake
 - c. Number of Years Volunteering: 6

3. ACTION: What did your nominee do to make a difference?

Neil and Nelly Cole spent this season working on numerous projects within their campground. They both helped maintain multiple flower beds and basic tree maintenance. Neil and Nelly's campground holds the best flower beds on Canton Lake. Each one is not just a job, but tended with love and care. Many times they've also spent their own money on flowers to fill the beds when we lost a plant. For many years, tree maintenance was put to the side, so many trees were in need of trimming. There were also numerous trees with low hanging branches that needed to be cut up to assist the mowing crews and provide a clear line of sight for safety. One tree in particular was blocking the sight line from the road to one of the play grounds. Neil and Nelly made this tree their first focus so that drivers could see the playground and safely watch out for children. Their actions in this matter may have saved lives. Canton Lake also boasts a volunteer tool storage building. Neil and Nelly spent 3 hours assisting me clean up and organize this building. These efforts helped all the other volunteers do their jobs more proficiently due to them spending less time hunting for the proper tools. Other odd jobs through the season include; painting of fire rings, picking up aluminum cans for recycling and replacing campsite utility boards. With Corps staff stretched thin, the Cole's efforts have helped ease the pressure of providing the best service possible to our customers. The Cole's have also helped recruit new volunteers to Canton Lake over the years. While doing their work or talking to friends, they bring up their volunteer work with the Corps and motivate others to lend a hand. They always have a helping hand, a nice word, a comforting hug, or a helpful prayer ready for anyone in need. Their work with Canton Lake is truly invaluable and over time, they are not just volunteers, but are members of our Canton Lake family. They ARE what it means to be a volunteer for the USACE.

