

Ripples Journal



*"Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean."
Ryunosuke Satoro*

*A quarterly journal produced by the
USACE National Water Safety Program
with help from everyone within USACE
that promotes water safety.*



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®

**ISSUE 05
MAY 2024**

UTILIZE THIS JOURNAL TO...

- Showcase agency-wide what your division, district, or project is doing to promote water safety.
- Share your water safety initiatives to spark ideas in others.
- Show that you care about saving lives on our nation's waterways and that you have fun doing it.



Your Help Is Needed to Make This Journal As Good As It Can Be.

- Send your water safety initiatives to your Division Representative on the National Water Safety Committee at any time.
- Include good quality pictures whenever possible.
- If it pertains to water safety send it in including but not limited to interpretive programs, special events, displays, promotional products, partnerships, visitor assistance items, etc.

- **Primary topics:**

1st Quarter (Oct - Dec) Life Jacket Loaner Stations and Drives

2nd Quarter (Jan - Mar) Water Safety Partnerships especially those with local businesses

3rd Quarter (Apr - Jun) Water Safety Promotional Products and I Got Caught Initiatives

4th Quarter (Jul - Sep) Media Tactics used to promote water safety and Water Safety Trailers

Your Division Representatives on the National Water Safety Committee

LRD-Chelsea.J.Jones

NAD-Jenna.M.Conner

MVD-Erica L. Nabers

NWD/POD-Tana K. Wilson

SPD-Pamela.B.Bowie

SAD-Emily A. Jones

SWD-Abby L. Jones

Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Water Safety Initiatives

Chicago District (LRC)

J. Edward Roush Lake

On February 8 - 11, 2024, park rangers staffed a booth at the Fort Wayne Boat Show. 6,800 direct interpretive contacts were made during the boat show.



On March 26, 2024, Park Ranger Amber Arena and Maintenance Mechanic DJ Unger conducted a tour of the dam for Huntington University's biology class & professor. They discussed the history, construction, and purpose of J. Edward Roush dam. Park Ranger Arena discussed how recreation is essentially a "byproduct" of the dam and reservoir, and took the opportunity to discuss water safety and share statistics pertinent to the course age group.

Huntington District (LRH)

The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Huntington Post and Marshall University held its annual Engineering Career Day in the Marshall Student Center. Up to 140 area high school sophomores who are interested in engineering took part in the event. Huntington District conducted break out sessions and provided displays on watershed management, robotics, surveying, diving, and water safety.



Burnsville Lake



Friends of Burnsville Lake hosted their Annual Easter Egg Hunt that included Bobber the Water Safety Dog.

Participated in the Fun at the Irish Spring Festival Parade to promote water safety.



J.W. Flannagan Lake

Staff shared a St. Patrick's Day water safety message.

Alum Creek Lake

Shared water safety messages on their social media pages for Groundhog's Day and Valentine's Day.



Louisville District (LRL)

In January 2024, Rough River Lake Manager Jon Fillingham, Green River Lake Park Ranger Larry Lemmon, and Barren River Lake Park Ranger Adam Vanzant staffed a booth at the Louisville Boat and RV show. They discussed water safety and answered questions about their lakes and boating during the event.

Monroe Lake

Staff delivered an assortment of 2,000+ water safety materials to a local school for K-6th grade students and shared various social media posts to promote water safety message.

Patoka Lake

Staff created Valentine's Day packages for elementary school students featuring Valentine's Day cards, Bobber activity books, and photo of Bobber and shared various social media posts to promote water safety.



Nashville District (LRN)

Several park rangers within the Nashville District were recognized at their annual Park Ranger Workshop in Paducah, KY on March 5, 2024 for their water safety efforts in FY23.

Old Hickory Lake Park Ranger Gabby Fontaine received the LRN Water Safety (Individual) Award.



Cordell Hull Lake Natural Resource Management Staff received the LRN Water Safety (Team) Award.



Tim Dunn presents the LRD Star of Life Award to Lake Cumberland Park Ranger Tanner Rich at the

Nashville District's Park Ranger Workshop for his response to aid a severely injured woman on the lake during the 2023 recreation season.



Park rangers from across LRN staffed booths at several boat and outdoor shows. Lake Barkley staff provided water safety information at the West Kentucky Boat & Outdoor Show in Murray, Kentucky. Cheatham and Old Hickory Lakes staffed a booth at the NWTf Sport Show in Nashville. Cordell Hull, Center Hill, and Dale Hollow staff provided attendees at the Cookeville Home and Garden Show with water safety tips and promotional items.

Dale Hollow Lake

In February and March, Park Rangers Sondra and Desmaray made water safety contacts at the YMCA Learn to swim program for 2nd grade students, where they discussed the importance of water safety.



Pittsburgh District (LRP)

Pittsburgh District participated in the City of Pittsburgh's 36th Annual Mascot Skate on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at the Schenley Ice Rink. This event included a Bobber the Water Safety Dog meet & greet and photo opportunities with approximately 25 other Pittsburgh area mascots. Approximately 125 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



Pittsburgh River Ranger Chelsea Jones and Braddock Lock and Dam Assistant Lockmaster Peter McDowell represented USACE at We Work the Waterways event on the Gateway Clipper Fleet. This event included a water safety presentation, giveaways, and learning check. USACE staff assisted students with proper life jacket selection after PPE demonstration, and exploration of waterways career opportunities.



USACE staff assisted students with proper life jacket selection after PPE demonstration, and exploration of waterways career opportunities.

Pittsburgh District participated in the 2nd Annual USA International Sportsmen's Show and Outdoor Recreation RV's & Boats February 16-18, 2024 at the Monroeville Convention Center. Park Rangers promoted water safety through various giveaways and approximately 2,168 water safety and USACE mission related contacts were made.



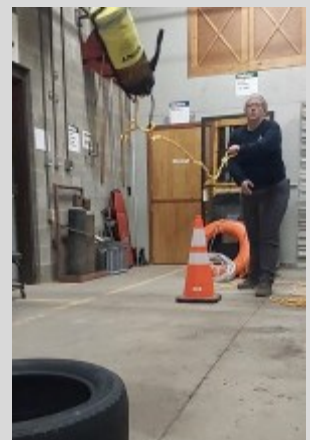
Stonewall Jackson Lake



Updated their water safety displays in their information center and on the 4th floor of their dam.

Youghiogheny River Lake

Park Ranger Karen Osler led water safety training at Youghiogheny River Lake. The training began with a PowerPoint presentation and discussion about water safety. Then, they watched a video titled, "How to Throw a Water Safety Bag." The video was created by Chris Calhoun, Lead Water Rescue Instructor of the PA Fish and Boat Commission, and is a super informative resource. After watching the video the team gathered at their maintenance garage for a hands on training exercise. A number of water rescue workstations were created for each staff member to test and hone in on their water rescue skills and techniques.



Mississippi Valley Division Water Safety Initiatives

Vicksburg District (MVK)

DeGray Lake

Assisted Lake Ouachita staff with staffing a booth at the Hot Springs Boat Tackle & RV Show.
Assisted Little Rock District staff with staffing a booth at the 48th Annual Arkansas RV Show .
Provided solar eclipse glasses to the public that had the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns logo on them.

Louisiana Field Office

Swim For Life is a program that guarantees every second grader in Caddo Parish receives instruction in swimming and water safety . Every week a group of 80 - 120 second graders come to the BHP YMCA 4 days in a row, and every day the YMCA does 30 minutes of in- water instruction and 30 minutes of classroom instruction. The in-water skills are bubble blowing, rescue bounce, floating, swimming, and jump-push-turn-grab. The classroom portion includes the big water rules like asking permission and never swimming alone, the dangers of natural bodies of water, how to identify and wear the right life jacket, and “Reach Throw Don’ t Go”.



St. Paul District (MVP)

Mississippi Headwaters Project

Staff provided water safety programs at local schools. During the programs, the water safety video, “Safe Passage”, produced by the National Water Safety Program is shown. The video is followed by discussion on the importance of wearing a life jacket. They also included a water safety ad in a local lake association newsletter.

Eau Galle Recreation Area

Worked with local newspaper to have a water safety ad placed in the newspaper.

Staff attended local boat and travel sport shows to promote water safety and talk to attendees about the Corps mission. Public Affairs and Lock and Dam staff also helped staff the booths.



Lake Ashtabula

Staffed local boating, travel, and outdoor recreation sport shows. Utilized a low head dam model, life jackets, and other interactive presentations to engage attendees.

St. Louis District (MVS)

The St. Louis District Water Safety Team was awarded the Mississippi Valley Division Water Safety Award for their water safety initiatives and efforts in having no public recreation fatalities in FY23. FY23 was the first year there were no public recreation fatalities in the St. Louis District since FY98 when the National Water Safety Program started tracking fatalities.



Park Ranger Tanner Canoy was awarded with the Star of Life Award for his fast action while on patrol that saved a life at Wappapello Lake.

Carlyle Lake

The groundwork for their annual “I Got Caught” initiative started in March, rallying support from local businesses. This year 35 partners will be involved in the lake’s efforts to promote water safety through their “I Got Caught” initiative.



Water safety messages were displayed on digital reader panels along a local state highway and on all day-use recreation area information boards.



Water safety social media posts provided by the National Water Safety Program were posted on the lake’s Facebook and Instagram pages generating a total of 43 posts with a total of 359 likes, comments, and shares.

Kaskaskia River Project

Purchased a water safety message design from Put-In Cups and placed it on the fence near the entrance to the only gate at the Jerry F. Costello Lock and Dam.



Staffed an interactive area at the annual Southern Illinois

Conservation Fair where approximately 200 students learned about water safety and soil erosion.

Built five new life jacket loaner stations that will be put in place this recreation season.

Rend Lake

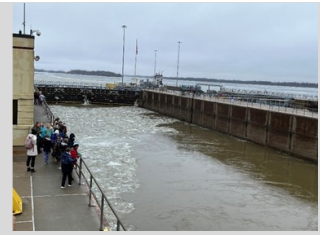
Park rangers presented their “Many Hats of the Corps” program at a career day event at Sesser-Valier High School. The park rangers emphasized the many roles of a USACE park ranger including water safety. The programs also included water safety trivia for the students to participate in.

Continued to promote water safety through unique social media messages and placed water safety messages on their visitor center electronic marquee.



Rivers Project Office

On January 26, 2024, in partnership with the City of Clarksville and in conjunction with Clarksville Eagle Days, Rivers Project staff and volunteers conducted Eagle Education Day. Seven regional schools totaling 250 4th grade students participated in the event. They learned about navigation, natural resources, and water safety. The public portion of the event took place on January 27 and 28, 2024. Park rangers provided tours of the dam and staffed a water safety information table. Approximately 900 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



On February 17, 2024, Rivers Project staff conducted Ice Jam at the Dam event at the National Great Rivers Museum in partnership with Meeting of the Rivers Foundation, Mississippi River Water Trail Association, and several other local organizations. Over 600 visitors attended the event. Event attractions included tours of Melvin Price Locks and Dam, live animal presentations, live music, educational booths, and visits from Bobber the Water Safety Dog and the St. Louis Blues Hockey Team's mascot, Louie. Additionally, a special water safety Polar Passport was given to children who visited all ten of the educational booths at the event.

Lake Shelbyville

Seasonal water safety messages are added to the electronic message panel that is located along a state highway in front of the visitor center and project office.

On the first Friday of every month, park rangers conduct interviews with local news station WTIM to promote water safety and provide lake updates.



Partnered with local movie theater to run water safety public service announcements before every movie starts. A different water safety message is highlighted every month.

Rock Island District (MVR)

Saylorville Lake

Staff contributed information that is included in the 2024 Saylorville Lake Area Recreation Guide. Inside the recreation guide is information about the lake and recreation areas in the area. One of the most important things in the guide is the water safety ad and information about life jacket stations available at the lake.



On January 24, 2024, park rangers and volunteers staffed a water safety table at a Iowa Wild Hockey Game in the concourse area of the arena. Approximately 150 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



Coralville Lake

Park rangers promoted water safety at two hockey games near the lake, Heartlander's in Coralville, IA and Rough Riders in Cedar Rapids, IA. Bobber the Water Safety Dog made appearances and participated in mascot games. Over 5,750 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



Park rangers staffed water safety booths at two community events, Winterfest and Freeze Fest. Activities provided at the booths included a ring toss activity. 775 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



Park rangers staffed a booth at the Cedar Rapids Outdoor Show to promote water safety and provide information on Coralville Lake. 1015 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

Illinois Waterway Project

Distributed water safety information to 658 students at their 4th and 5th grade Eagle Watch Weekend school program.

Provided water safety information to the Illinois River Regional Boater Association's Late Winter gathering. Over 100 boaters were in attendance.

On March 11, 2024, presented water safety information at the Monthly Senior Lunch Program held at the Illinois Valley YMCA.

Mississippi River Project

On February 15 - 18, 2024, staffed a booth at the Hunting, Fishing, and Outdoor Show in Rock Island, IL. Information regarding water safety, river navigation, upcoming boater safety classes was provided during the event. 1,491 direct interpretive contacts were made.

Staffed a booth at Quad Cities Bald Eagle Days that included provided attendees with water safety information. 3,432 direct interpretive contacts were made.

Lake Red Rock

During a weekly safety meeting for staff, a Cold Water Boot Camp video was shown to review the dangers of cold-water immersion and ways to increase chances of survival.



Park rangers created a scavenger hunt to encourage kids to explore the Lake Red Rock Visitor Center. One task on the hunt includes searching for several small graphics of Bobber the Water Safety Dog that are hidden throughout the visitor center. Kids receive a Junior Ranger Badge sticker as a reward for their efforts.

Park rangers utilized graphics from the Bobber the Water Safety Dog activity book to create a temporary display in the Lake Red Rock Visitor Center. The display highlights the Reach, Throw, Row, Don't Go message and throw ring challenge using the water safety flying rings provided by the National Water Safety Program to hook an orange cone.



Life Jacket Loaner Stations within the Mississippi Valley Division (MVD).
St. Louis District



Vicksburg District



Rock Island District



St. Paul District



North Atlantic Division Water Safety Initiatives

New England District (NAE)

West Thompson Lake

On January 26, 2024, Park Ranger Mariah led a tour of the West Thompson Lake Dam that included the history of the facility, tour of the gatehouse, missions of the lake, and water safety.

West Hill Dam

In March 2024, Park Ranger Viola Bramel conducted life jackets fittings and shared water safety information at the Milford Family Fun and Disability Fair and the annual Kids Safety Fair. Approx. 2,700 visitors participated in the fun during both of these events.



Baltimore District (NAB)

Raystown Lake

This January marked one year since the harrowing near-drowning incident involving an 18-year-old male at Raystown Lake. On January 21, 2023, Mr. and Mrs. Ford (pictured on the right) were taking a stroll through Senoia Campground in Seven Points when they witnessed a young man attempting to swim after his drifting boat. It's worth noting that the lake temperature was a bone-chilling 37°F, with the air not much warmer at 38°F. The Fords watched in alarm as the 18-year-old swam out to his boat, which had floated about 200 feet from the shoreline. Miraculously, he managed to haul himself back into the boat from the icy water, start the engine, and navigate it back to shore. However, upon reaching land, he had totally lost control of his extremities due to the cold. Without hesitation, the Fords dialed 911 and swiftly helped the 18-year-old out of his wet clothes, replacing them with dry clothes. Fortunately, the 18-year-old had the foresight to keep a dry jacket and pants on the shoreline, and more importantly, he put on a life jacket before entering the water. Park Ranger Graham, coincidentally in the area on his day off, arrived within five minutes of the 911 call. Park Ranger Graham provided the 18-year-old with a wool blanket and ensured he remained conscious by engaging him in conversation until further emergency assistance arrived. Reflecting on the incident, Ranger Graham emphasized, "Two factors saved the 18-year-old's life: the fortuitous presence of the Fords, who coincidentally happened to be walking in an area that's off-the-beaten path during a slow time of year, and his decision to wear a life jacket. This situation could easily have ended in tragedy. I was reminded of the importance of staying vigilant and being prepared for anything, even during the off-season and on one's day off." Unfortunately, the 18-year-old's ordeal didn't end there. Despite receiving treatment for hypothermia at the hospital, he faced another health crisis a few days later. He had to be readmitted due to acute renal failure stemming from Rhabdomyolysis, a condition triggered by severe muscle strain caused by swimming a long distance in extremely cold water. Following a week-long hospitalization, his kidneys began to show signs of improvement, and he eventually made a full recovery.



Northwestern Division Water Safety Initiatives

Kansas City District (NWK)

A representative with Bass Pro Shops contacted Pomme de Terre Lake and offered to make a donation of life jackets worth \$9,500 that could be used to supply life jacket loaner stations. All that the Corps of Engineers had to do is pick up the life jackets and distribute them to the lakes within NWK. Shannon Henry, Natural Resource Manager and the Pomme de Terre staff facilitated the distribution effort.



Kansas City District's Public Safety Team partnered with the Kansas City Mavericks Hockey Club to promote water safety during their Scout's night. Bobber the Water Safety Dog made appearances during the event. Over 5,800 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

Portland District (NWP)

John Day Lock and Dam

Park Ranger Volkman staffed a information table at a Career Day event hosted by Columbia High School in White Salmon, WA. 200 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



Willamette Valley Project



Partnered with the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service to staff an area at the Eugene Boat and Sportsmen's Show. Seven USACE Park Rangers and two USACE Fish Biologists worked the three day event in the beginning of February 2024. Carla Robinson, former USACE employee and SPD Representative on the National Water Safety Committee now works for the Forest Service and helped staff the Forest Service's portion of this event. Each year, the three agencies establish a theme for



the Boat and Sportsman's Show to highlight topics they would like to communicate to the public. This year, they designed a Leave No Trace (LNT) display to discuss visitors' knowledge on the 7 Principles of LNT. The agencies promoted safety, preparedness, and preferred outdoor practices. About 1,600 visitors interacted with the staff and the display. Visitors had the opportunity to win water safety giveaways when they spun the "LNT activity wheel" or rolled the LNT dice. They answered questions about the LNT principle they landed on and provided an example how they would follow it. People of all ages

were attracted to the display and left learning how to recreate responsibly in the outdoors.

At the NWD NRM Conference, participated in bringing a Good Enough to Share display to the workshop. The display focused on water safety materials that were designed in the Willamette Valley Project staff. Several artwork proofs and products were available for NWD employees to view. The display offered unique ideas to

Walla Walla District (NWW)

Lower Granite Natural Resource Management Office

Manages three developed water recreation sites within Whitman County, WA that are open to the public on the Lower Snake River. Utilizing its own funding, Whitman County Public Health (WCPH) built three mobile life jacket loaner stations and obtained life jackets for the stations. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) partnership has provided public safety benefits for both WCPH and USACE.



S A D

South Atlantic Division Water Safety Initiatives

Jacksonville District (SAJ)

St. Lucie Visitor Center - Okeechobee Waterway

Park Ranger James Norris, Park Ranger Robert Wiggins, and volunteers staffed a booth at the 50th Annual Stuart Boat Show. By participating in this 3-day event on January 12-14, 2024 park rangers and volunteers were able to share water safety messages, develop professional and community relationships, and inform the general public of the work that the USACE park rangers conduct on the Okeechobee waterway. 783 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made at this event.



W.P. Franklin Visitor Center - Okeechobee Waterway

On February 24, 2024, Park Rangers Megan Parsons, Robert Hill, and Jorge Leyro-Montalvo, and eight volunteers participated in the 2024 Labelle Swamp Cabbage Festival parade in Labelle, FL. This event is one of the biggest of the winter season, as this parade draws an estimated 15,000 attendees. During the parade park rangers and volunteers promoted water safety by wearing their life jackets with Bobber the Water Safety Dog on board their trailered patrol boat. The parade announcers helped promote water safety by reminding the parade attendees to “always wear their life jackets!”



On March 9, 2024, Park Rangers Megan Parsons and Rob Hill promoted water safety and talked about Florida native and invasive plants at the Annual Plant Sale & Strawberry Festival in Alva, FL. This event was hosted the Alva Garden Club. A total of 275 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made during this event.



On March 16, 2024, Park Rangers Megan Parsons, Jorge Leyro-Montalvo, and Preston Heaton and volunteers staffed an information area at the 2024 Clewiston Sugar Festival in Clewiston, FL. Volunteers and park rangers staffed a water safety information table, as well as their interpretive trailer that is used to teach the public about the history of the Okeechobee Waterway and USACE missions. Nearly 2,000 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



Mobile District (SAM)

West Point Lake

On March 5, 2024, Park Ranger Rusty Newton participated in “Read Across America Week” by reading to Fairfax Elementary School and Huguley Elementary School kindergarten classes in Valley, AL. He made 120 direct water safety interpretive contacts by discussing safe habits around water and reading “Water Watcher”. He also enjoyed reading “Green Eggs and Ham” to the students in honor of Dr. Seuss.



Walter F. George Reservoir



On March 7, 2024, Park Ranger Shannon Schaefer taught water safety poolside to approximately twenty 2nd grade students during their swimming lessons at the Eufaula Community Center. The 2nd graders learned how to properly fit a PFD, water safety tips, and basic drown victim rescue tactics for their age group.

Savannah District (SAS)

Hartwell Lake

On March 15, 2024, park rangers talked about water safety to approximately 200 elementary students during Hartwell, GA Elementary Career Day.

Wilmington District (SAW)

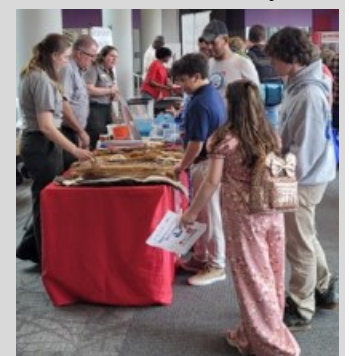
John H. Kerr Reservoir

On February 23-25, 2024, W. Kerr Scott Reservoir Park Rangers Johnny Jones and Grace Trimble along with John H. Kerr Reservoir Park Ranger William Daniel and Conservation Biologist Alec Mitchell staffed a booth at the annual Fishing Expo in Greensboro, NC. They provide information on water safety and recreational opportunities at the lakes within SAW. 1,483 direct interpretive contacts were made during the event.



On March 22, 2024, Park Rangers Emily Jones, Grace Trimble, and Elaine Wittry presented a Critter Cardio program to over 80 students and their teachers during Creech Road Elementary School’s Science Day. The kindergarteners learned about adaptations that native wildlife must use to survive via activities focused on getting the students moving. They also provide the students and teachers with water safety information and promotional products.

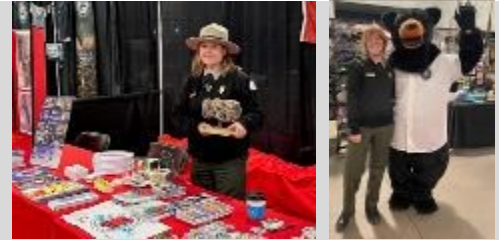
On March 23, 2024, regional award winners at the elementary, middle, and high school levels participated at the state level fair held at NC State University. As part of the day, students and their families had the opportunity to visit booths setup by various organizations promoting STEM education. Park Rangers Emily Jones from John H. Kerr Reservoir, Elaine Wittry from B. Everett Jordan Lake, and Carmen Boyette and Michael Hosey from the District NRM Section spent the day talking with families about the USACE, wildlife, and water safety.



South Pacific Division Water Safety Initiatives

Albuquerque District (SPA)

On February 16 - 18, 2024, staffed a booth at the Outdoor Show at the Albuquerque Expo Center. Park Rangers Paul Sanchez from Santa Rosa Lake, Malia Sutphin from Cochiti Lake, and Pamela Bowie and Kara Rapp from Abiquiu Lake and District Natural Resources Specialist Mike Bullock talked to show attendees about water safety and invasive species. 2,750 direct interpretive contacts were made.



Park Rangers Kara Rapp and Pamela Bowie presented water safety programs to over 3,320 students.

Sacramento District (SPK)

Hensley Lake

From March 5 to March 7, 2024, the Sea Tow Foundation hosted a virtual Life Jacket Loaner Conference that featured guest speakers representing various county, state, federal agencies coming together to discuss life jacket loaner programs. Hensley Lake Park Ranger Shawna Polen volunteered and was chosen to be a panel speaker during the conference. She spoke on the USACE loaner station guidelines, public engagement, and tips for retaining life jackets.



Black Butte Lake

On March 21 2024, Park Rangers Mylaina McMurray and Ethan Renaud, and Project Admin Christina Tice conducted a water safety program at Plaza Elementary, instructing over 120 students and 14 adults on water safety and recreational hazards. Student and school staff received an interpretive program and then students and staff moved outside to participate in water safety games. Games included the Cold Hand Luke where students plunge their arms into a 5-gallon bucket of ice water and attempt to unscrew a bolt. This challenge demonstrated the effects of what cold water can do to a body. The next game was a life ring toss. This helped train students on the real-world application of tossing a life ring towards a person that may be drowning. Students then participated in a life jacket relay where students had to sprint to a life jacket, put it on, and then run back to the starting point. Rangers used this as a teaching point to help students recognize how difficult it is to put on a life jacket under stressful situations.

Ranger Ethan Renaud coordinated with Eagle Scout candidate Johnny Methvin-Terry to construct a life jacket loaner station in Buckhorn Recreation Area. With the assistance of 15 other Scouts John oversaw the design and construction of the station. This highly visible station constructed with a roof and walls will prolong the life of the life jackets.

Southwestern Division Water Safety Initiatives

Fort Worth District (SWF)

Lewisville Lake

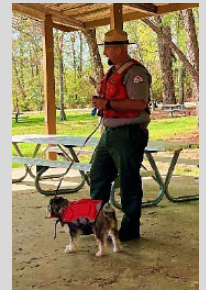
On March 6, 2024, Park Rangers Grayson Gregory and Jennifer Lawson talked to over 300 elementary students about the duties of a USACE park ranger and water safety at Career Days held at Central Elementary. The students learned about the importance of life jackets and how to properly wear them.



Whitney Lake



On January 17, 2024, Whitney Lake volunteers met at the project office for their orientation/annual refresher training. Whitney Lake Park Rangers provided training on a variety of topics, including job duties, general safety, SHARP, and water safety.



Town Bluff Project

On March 12, 2024, Park Ranger Bryan Heffernan conducted a water safety program to the Piney Woods Area Learners (PAL) home school group in Lufkin, TX. Park Ranger Heffernan explained the importance of and how to select a proper fitting life jacket, and “Reach, Throw, Row, Don’t Go” was explained and practiced.

Belton Lake



Park Rangers Katriana Joyce and Cassy Hill staffed an information table at the Harker Heights Youth Science Expo to teach about the importance of water safety and the use of life jackets in and around the water.

Georgetown Lake

Park Rangers Tanner Creel and Josh Houghtaling presented water safety programs to McCoy, TX Elementary School. The park rangers provided water safety tips that will help the students be safe while visiting Lake Georgetown and San Gabriel River and showed the students how to properly wear a life jacket.



Park Ranger Tanner Creel and Bobber the Water Safety Dog attended the 12th Annual Georgetown, TX Police Department's Chase The Chief event. This event is done to promote “Georgetown Get Fit Initiative” with healthy living, exercise, and getting outdoors. Over 1,100 direct water safety interpretive contacts with kids, parents, and grandparents were made.

Stillhouse Hollow Lake

Park Rangers Madison Wetterstroem and Alex Klepac presented programs at a career day at House Creek Elementary School in Copperas Cove, TX. They talked to over 400 students about the duties of a park ranger, the importance of wearing a life jacket, and how to properly wear a life jacket.



Park Rangers Madison Wetterstroem and Alex Klepac coordinated with their public affairs office to produce a PSA informing the public about the newly installed life jacket loaner stations and how to use QR codes to pay day use fees.



Navarro Mills Lake



Park Rangers Casey Hackler and ReAnna Carpenter staffed an information table at the Texas Waterfowl Symposium. This event brought together over a hundred attendees for waterfowl education from a variety of public and private entities. The park rangers educated attendees about hunting and recreation opportunities at Navarro Mills Lake and the importance of water safety when on or near water.

On March 8, 2024, staff and visitors witnessed the solar eclipse. Being within the path of totality, Navarro Mills Lake saw numerous out-of-state visitors and even some travelers from other countries like Belgium and Germany. Park rangers took this opportunity to spread awareness for water safety by installing water safety banners in all the parks and provided water safety information to their campers.

Waco Lake

On March 11, 2024, Park Rangers Matthew Hackler and Taylor Christian, along with SWF Regulatory Project Manager Brian Bartels presented programs at the Lake Waco Wetlands Career Day for Lorena, TX students. They provided information on what they do for USACE, college degrees, benefits of working for USACE, and how to gain experience through volunteer or internship opportunities. Park Rangers Hackler and Christian also presented a water safety program, which covered the 7 Deadly Swims, Reach Throw Row Don't Go, items are required on a vessel, and how to properly select and wear a life jacket. Sixty students participated in the presentations.



On March 26, 2024, Park Rangers Matthew Dutton and Taylor Christian gave presentations at the Lake Waco Wetlands to fifty-three 5th grade students from Mountainview, TX Elementary. Ranger Dutton provided information on water safety, how to properly wear a life jacket, and “Reach, Throw, Row, Don't Go” to keep the kids safe during the spring and summer months. Ranger Christian provided information on invasive species identification and prevention, especially regarding zebra mussels.

On March 22, 2024, Park Rangers Matthew Dutton and Matthew Hackler staffed a table at the World Water Day event at Independence Park in Waco, TX. Keep Waco Beautiful sponsored this event in partnership with the City of Waco. The purpose of the event was to educate the public on all aspects of water and our watersheds. The park rangers educated the public on water safety and invasive species prevention during the event.



On March 27, 2024, Park Ranger Matthew Hackler assisted Waco, TX ISD with a film project highlighting Waco landmarks. The short film is titled “Goodnight Waco” and was inspired by the children’s book Goodnight Moon. Ranger Hackler talked about Waco Lake including the history of the lake, geography, and water safety. The filmmakers hope to premier the film at an upcoming Waco event before using it to orient Waco ISD students to what makes their city great.

Proctor Lake

Park Rangers Jared Harris and Elyssa Mendez conducted a water safety presentation at Stephenville, TX school. They explained the importance of wearing a properly fitted life jacket and the how to help someone drowning.



Sam Rayburn Lake, Town Bluff Project, Lake O’ the Pines, and Wright Patman Lake March 21-31, 2024, park rangers travelled to Beaumont, TX to staff a booth at the regional state fair. Park rangers educate thousands of people on water safety, recreational opportunities, and invasive aquatic species.

Galveston District (SWG)

On March 22 and 23, 2024, park rangers from Wallisville Lake and Addicks and Barker Project staffed a booth at the Annual Liberty Jubilee event held in Liberty, TX. The park rangers provided information on water safety information, recreational opportunities, and demonstrated the proper selection, and sizing of life jackets.



Little Rock District (SWL)

On January 19-21 and 26-28, 2024, Park Rangers from MKARNS, Greers Ferry, Nimrod, and Blue Mountain Lakes staffed a booth at the Little Rock Marine Expo and Big Buck Classic events. These events targeted outdoor enthusiasts and allowed staff to educate the public on the importance of life jacket wear while recreating on or near water. Park rangers made contact with over 35,000 attendees by engaging them in water safety activities and distributing promotional



Tulsa District (SWT)

On January 29 - February 4, 2024, USACE employees staffed a booth at the Tulsa Boat Show that was held at the Tulsa, OK Fairgrounds. During the show they provided information on water safety to event attendees.



Park rangers staffed a water safety information table at Shamrockin' Family Fun Day at the Claremore, OK Community Center.

Waurika Lake

Park Rangers Alan Harper and Destany Rochell presented water safety programs at the Stephens County Safety Day. All the 5th graders in Stephens County, OK were educated on different safety topics from several different agencies. Approx. 500 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



Tenkiller Ferry Lake

Park Rangers Sheryl Townsend, Cathy Hendrix, and Bridger Montgomery were judges at the Sallisaw Central Science Fair. During the science fair, the park rangers also presented a water safety program to the students. In attendance were approximately 150 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students.

Oologah Lake

Park Rangers Matt Nolen and Preston Jones, and Environmental Specialist Raef Perryman received the Life Saving Award for their actions in rescuing two individuals that were stranded on a shallow flat in rough lake conditions. Employees were recognized for their outstanding level of service and quick actions to prevent injury and loss of life on Oologah Lake.



Fort Gibson Lake

Park Rangers staffed a water safety booth at the Wagoner County Emergency Management Expo in Coweta, OK.



National Water Safety Program Resources and Initiatives

Our target audience is adult males (18 and older) not wearing life jackets because our statistics from FY98-23 show that 88% of our public recreation fatalities were male, 82% were 18 and older, and 89% were not wearing a life jacket. Ten year statistics (FY14-23) show that 88% of our public recreation fatalities were male, 86% were 18 and older, and 89% were not wearing a life jacket, so please focus on promoting water safety to adult males and increasing life jacket wear.



The Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign is our campaign used to promote water safety to adults. Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns promotional items from the National Water Safety Program should only be used to promote water safety to adults.



The Bobber the Water Safety campaign is our campaign used to promote water safety to kids. Bobber the Water Safety Dog promotional items from the National Water Safety Program should be used to promote water safety to kids.

National Water Safety Committee Meeting Conducted at Cape Cod Canal Project

On March 12 - 14, 2024, the National Water Safety Committee Meeting was conducted at Cape Cod Canal Project in Massachusetts within the New England District. During the meeting the committee discussed USACE public recreation fatalities and trends, items regarding water safety in the updated safety manual (EM 385-1-1), promotional products, updating USACE Strategic Plan for Reducing Public Recreation Fatalities, Water Safety Forum for Commanders conducted by MG Graham, quarterly water safety journal, Bobber the Water Safety Dog and Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaigns, monthly social media post lists, National Water Safety Awards and Photo Contest, and bilingual subcommittee and created a list of things that can be done to help reduce the loss of loaner life jackets. Park Ranger Samantha Gray provided the committee the history and update on water safety initiatives at the Cape Cod Canal and along with other USACE employees provided a tour of the project.



2024 National and Division Water Safety Award Winners

These awards recognize U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees and teams that have contributed to boating and water safety in an effective manner that has made a difference in saving lives on our nation's waterways. These awards are done in cooperation with the National Boating Federation. These are annual awards so everyone that meets the criteria is encouraged to apply. Nominations for next year's awards will be accepted towards the end of this year, so start planning throughout the year to submit your nominations for these awards. Winning nomination packages are on the NRM Gateway.

National USACE Water Safety Employee of the Year
Travis England, Natural Resources Specialist,
Allatoona Lake, Mobile District



National USACE Water Safety Team of the Year
Carlyle Lake Water Safety Tea,, St. Louis District



Division Water Safety Employee Award Winners:

LRD Water Safety Employee of the Year – Gabby Fontaine, Old Hickory Lake, Nashville District
MVD Water Safety Employee of the Year – Chris Gurner, Mississippi Project Office, Vicksburg District
SWD Water Safety Employee of the Year – Randi Clifton, Oologah Lake, Tulsa District

Division Water Safety Team Award Winners:

LRD Water Safety Team of the Year – Cordell Hull Lake NRM Staff, Nashville District
NAD Water Safety Team of the Year - Raystown Lake Ranger Staff, Baltimore District
NWD Water Safety Team of the Year - Willamette Valley Project Park Rangers. Portland District
SAD Water Safety Team of the Year – West Point Lake Staff, Mobile District
SWD Water Safety Team of the Year – Keystone Lake Staff, Tulsa District

Spanish Resources

Spanish Communication Phrase List created by National Water Safety Bilingual Subcommittee is available on the NRM Gateway at this link. <https://corpslakes.erc.dren.mil/employees/watersafety/toolbox/Phrases%20and%20one%20line%20Spanish%20translations%20for%20USACE%20personnel.pdf>

Water Safety Tips in English and Spanish, audio PSAs, and artwork for banners and billboards are available on the National Water Safety Program's webpage. Tips are on the main page and other things mentioned are under campaign materials. https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/National-Water-Safety_Program/

Learn Spanish: Go to <https://www.dliflc.edu> then click on eLearning. Rapport provides six to eight hours of training and HeadStart 2 provides about 100 hours of basic language training. These were developed to be taken before pre-deployment, but can also be used by others within DoD to learn a language.

Spanish for Wildlife, Forest and Park Personnel from Command Spanish, Inc. available from Amazon for \$34.95. Contains useful phrases translated into Spanish regarding camping, swimming, boating, fishing and more. <http://www.amazon.com/Spanish-Wildlife-Personnel-English-Edition/dp/1888467657>

There are several free language translator apps available on smartphones that have both text and voice capabilities.

Videos, Videos, and More Videos

Here are some great video resources from the National Water Safety Program.

Water Safety Interpretive Program Training Videos



There are a total of fifteen training videos (six interpretive programs and nine roving interpretation scenarios) available for you to download from the NRM Gateway Water Safety Section under Training and Conferences. <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/watersafety/water.cfm> To download open a video, right click on the video, from the popup menu select Save Video As, and then save it on your computer. If that doesn't work here is another download option, in the bottom right-hand corner of the video click on the three stacked dots (more options), select download, select Save As, and then save it on your computer. These videos are to be used for internal training purposes

only and should NOT be shown to the public. They are a great resource to use to train your employees and volunteers on how to present water safety interpretation. The videos were created by the National Water Safety Committee with our target audience in mind, which is adult males that are 18 and older. The six interpretive program training videos include Captain Alcohol, Cold Hand Luke, Flotation Fashion Show, Safety First and Always, Sink Fast, and Sink or Float. The nine roving interpretation training videos include boat show scenario, cleat hitch knot, inflatable life jackets and float coats, I Got Caught, life jacket loaner station, overestimating swimming ability, photo op frames, signs of drowning, and vest type life jacket not worn properly.

Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns Video PSAs (public service announcements) and “Inflatable Life Jackets: Everything You Need to Know” educational video

A total of 53 Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns video PSAs (60, 30, and 15 seconds) and a nine minute “Inflatable Life Jackets: Everything You Need to Know” educational video have been created by the Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation (The Corps Foundation) in cooperation with the National Water Safety Program. These are outstanding videos that you can use to promote water safety to adults, primarily men. Through a partnership with the US Power Squadrons, the Corps Foundation, and National Water Safety Program the videos have been placed on America's Boating Channel that is available on Roku, Fire TV, Apple TV, and at www.americasboatingchannel.com. These videos are available to view and download on DVIDS at <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/USACE-WS> (you must register and login to download) and are on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/USACEwatersafety>. Please take full advantage of using these videos. The videos can and have been used in several ways including on social media pages, movie theater ads, gas pump video monitors, television station PSAs, visitor center/office lobby monitors, etc. Think outside the box and get them out there so that our target audience can learn from them and be encouraged to wear a life jacket when in, on, or near open water (lakes, rivers, ponds, etc.).

Enjoy Watching the
Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns
videos on



bit.ly/TCFonTV

Videos, Videos, and More Videos continued

Life Jacket Video Contest

The Corps Foundation has been conducting a Life Jacket Video Contest since 2020 in cooperation with the National Water Safety Program. Some of the 53 Life Jackets Worn... Nobody Mourns video PSAs mentioned above were developed from winning entries and other entries from this contest. The Corps Foundation utilizing U.S. Coast Guard grant funds pays the 55-second video winner \$5,500 and the winner of the 25-second video \$2,500. Deadline for the 2024 video contest is August 18, 2024. USACE employees and members of their immediate household are not eligible to win, but you can help someone creating a video as long as you are not listed as a team member on the entry and no government funds are used to produce the video. Also, your help is needed to promote this video contest to your visitors, partners, local colleges and universities, etc. A promotional flyer, social media image, and sample news release are available on the video contest website, <https://www.lifejacketvideocontest.com> under Resources and Promotional Items.



Resources to Help You Promote Water Safety

USACE National Water Safety Program's Webpage

www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/National-Water-Safety_Program/

(PleaseWearIt.com redirects to this) Includes Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns Campaign Materials, Water Safety Tips in English and Spanish, News Releases, and more.

Please Wear It Social Media Pages on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. These are the National Water Safety Program's social media pages that are managed in cooperation with The Corps Foundation.

NRM Gateway Water Safety Section

<https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/watersafety/water.cfm>

Includes USACE Strategic Campaign Plan for Reducing Public Recreation Fatalities, Public Recreation Fatalities Data Summary and Statistics, Life Jacket Loaner Program Guidelines, Promotional Materials Policy, GSA Vehicle Public Safety Marking Guidance Memo, Life Jacket Mandatory Wear Policy Selective Expansion Memo, Water Safety Graphics Library, Media Interview Fact Sheet, Water Safety Resource Guide for Interpretive Services and Educational Outreach, Bobber the Water Safety Dog Costume Guidelines, and much more.

Bobber the Water Safety Dog website www.Bobber.info

National Water Safety Program's YouTube Channel and DVIDS Unit

www.YouTube.com/user/USACEwatersafety

www.dvidshub.net/unit/USACE-WS

Numerous water safety video PSAs are available and can be downloaded on the DVIDS Unit page so you can use them however you can to promote water safety.

Past issues of this quarterly water safety journal "Ripples" are on the NRM Gateway

<https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/nrm.dfm>

Operation Dry Water

Heightened awareness and enforcement weekend: July 4 - 6, 2024

Website: www.nasbla.org/operationdrywater/home

USACE lakes and river projects are encouraged to register as an outreach partner at www.nasbla.org/operationdrywater/outreach/outreach-partners

Operation Dry Water is a national boating under the influence heightened awareness and enforcement campaign coordinated by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) with the goal of removing impaired operators from the water and raising awareness of the dangers of boating under the influence.

Invitation Letter from NASBLA



1020 Monarch Street, Suite 200
Lexington, Kentucky 40513
859-225-9487
NASBLA.org

Ms. Pam Doty
National Water Safety Program Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

May 21, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

The [National Association of State Boating Law Administrators](http://www.nasbla.org) invites and welcomes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to participate and support the *Operation Dry Water* campaign as Outreach Partners.

[Operation Dry Water \(ODW\)](#) is a year-round boating under the influence awareness and enforcement campaign. The mission of ODW is to reduce the number of alcohol- and drug-related incidents and fatalities through increased recreational boater awareness and by fostering a stronger and more visible deterrent to alcohol use on the water.

Getting the attention of boaters and the media on the issue of boating under the influence is a crucial part of the Operation Dry Water campaign. While law enforcement is on heightened alert for impaired boaters during the annual three-day weekend, July 4 – 6, it is important for our outreach partners to continue to educate boaters and the media on safe boating behaviors over the course of the three-day weekend and year-round.

Outreach partners are asked to use their networks and resources to share the [free outreach materials](#) provided and assist in raising awareness about the dangers of boating under the influence during the heightened enforcement weekend and all year long. The Operation Dry Water campaign materials are available to our outreach partners for your awareness efforts.

We hope you will consider [registering as an outreach partner](#) and joining us in our mission to reduce the devastating impact boating under the influence has on recreational boating. Please visit operationdrywater.org/outreach/outreach-partners to register and access campaign resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Sarver".

Ron Sarver, CAE
NASBLA Interim Executive Director & CEO



There is an image hidden in this journal. Your job is to find it. This journal's image is this one of Ranger Jane. The actual image may be larger or smaller than what you see here. If you find the image, email Pam Doty, National Water Safety Program Manager, pamela.j.doty@usace.army.mil. Your email MUST include the subject as Ripples Journal Image, your name, shipping address, phone number, and the journal page number where you found the image. Entries need to be sent NLT June 7, 2024. The first five USACE employees that submit their entry correctly will receive Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns dry bag that was donated to the USACE National Water Safety Program by The Corps Foundation.



www.Bobber.info