



South Atlantic Division

# WATER SAFETY INITIATIVES NEWSLETTER

Quarter 2 • Published April 2024



Photo: John H. Kerr Reservoir  
(Dan Robillard)

## Goals for Water Safety Initiatives Newsletter

Why participate in this quarterly newsletter?

- Showcase what your project or office is doing nation-wide
- Share water safety programs & initiative ideas between projects and offices
- Provide a brief record of SAD water safety initiatives

## Water Safety Initiatives Newsletter Timetable

Quarter 1 | Oct. - Dec. | Submit by Dec. 30th

Quarter 2 | Jan. - Mar. | Submit by Mar. 25th

Quarter 3 | Apr. - June | Submit by June 25th

Quarter 4 | Jul. - Sept. | Submit by Sept. 25th



**HOT DOG**  
It's Summertime!



## THIS ISSUE:

**ANNOUNCEMENTS &  
REMINDERS**

PAGE 02

**JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT**

PAGE 03

**MOBILE DISTRICT**

PAGE 06

**SAVANNAH DISTRICT**

PAGE 09

**WILMINGTON DISTRICT**

PAGE 10

**SAD FY24 Q1  
AWARD WINNERS**

PAGE 11

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

## WATER SAFETY NEWS RELEASE USACE HEADQUARTERS

Water safety is a priority throughout all levels of our organization and since we are entering into the main outdoor recreation season your help is needed to make our visiting public aware of some important water safety tips. Throughout the year please keep water safety in mind and share information about it whenever and however you can. The attached news release can also be found on the HQ website at <https://www.usace.army.mil/Media/News-Releases/News-Release-Article-View/Article/3767096/army-corps-of-engineers-reminds-visitors-to-practice-water-safety/>

## UPDATE: WATER SAFETY PRODUCT ORDERS

The USACE Depot is working hard to get all product orders shipped. If you haven't received your office or lake project's water safety product order by the beginning of May please contact Emily Jones the SAD Water Safety Representative.

## SAD QUARTERLY AWARDS SCHEDULE

The SAD Water Safety PDT wants to recognize you for your outstanding efforts to educate the public on water safety, the environment, Corps mission, your project, and more!

- Awards program open to all employees within the Operations Community of Practice
- Recipients receive time off awards
- Nominations can be received from anyone (co-workers, supervisors, self-nominations)
- No effort is considered too small
- Can include - direct contacts, social media engagement numbers, EKO cards, and pictures

Quarter 1 | Oct. - Dec. | Submit by Feb. 14th  
Quarter 2 | Jan. - Mar. | Submit by Apr. 28th  
Quarter 3 | Apr. - June | Submit by July 28th  
Quarter 4 | Jul. - Sept. | Submit by Nov. 30th

*Send nominations to your district representative on the SAD WS PDT!*



## St. Lucie Visitor Center - Okeechobee Waterway

Ranger James Norris, Ranger Robert Wiggins, and volunteers represented the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at the 50th Annual Stuart Boat Show. By participating in this 3-day event on January 12-14, 2024 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 water safety contacts were made at this event by rangers and volunteers speaking with the public.





# JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT (SAJ)

Photo: @JacksonvilleDistrict

## W.P. Franklin Visitor Center - Okeechobee Waterway

On Saturday, February 24th, Park Rangers Megan Parsons, Robert Hill, Jorge Leyro-Montalvo, and 8 USACE 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 this event, rangers and volunteers promoted water safety by wearing their life jackets with Bobber the Water Safety Dog while on board their trailered ranger patrol boat. Rangers and volunteers who walked, made approximately 1,500 contacts by giving out water safety swag and Junior ranger badges. The parade announcers helped us spread our water safety message by reminding the public to “always wear their life jackets!”



On Saturday, March 9th, Park Rangers Megan Parsons and Rob Hill participated in the Annual Plant Sale & Strawberry Festival in Alva, FL. This event was hosted by one of our partners, the Alva Garden Club. At this event, Parsons and Hill not only promoted water safety, but spoke about Florida native and invasive plant species and handed out educational materials for the public. A total of 275 water safety contacts were made during this event.





# JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT (SAJ)

Photo: @JacksonvilleDistrict

## W.P. Franklin Visitor Center - Okeechobee Waterway

On Saturday, March 16th, Park Rangers Megan Parsons, Jorge Leyro-Montalvo, Preston Heaton and USACE volunteers, participated in the 2024 Clewiston Sugar Festival in Clewiston, FL. This festival is always the largest of our winter outreach events. Volunteers and Rangers set up a water safety table, as well as the Interpretive Trailer which teaches about the history of the Okeechobee Waterway and the Corps missions. Nearly 2,000 water safety contacts were made.



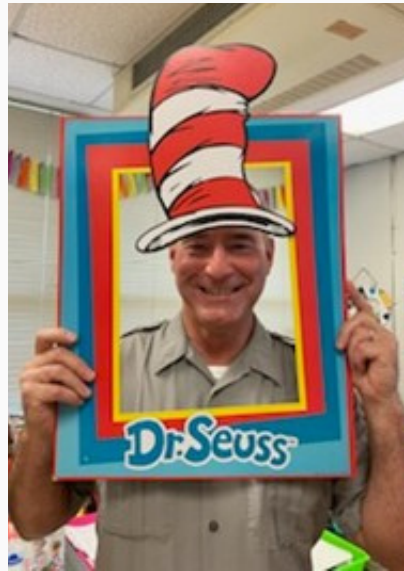


# MOBILE DISTRICT (SAM)

Photo: @USACEMOBILE

## West Point Lake

On 05 Mar 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, Alabama. He made 120 water safety contacts by discussing safe habits around water and reading “Water Watcher” The Importance on Wearing a Life Jacket. He also enjoyed reading “Green Eggs and Ham” to the students in honor of Dr. Seuss.



West Point Project Park Ranger Mike Linville joined Park Rangers Josh Davis and Mason Whitlock, from Walter F. George, to attend a career fair hosted by the Auburn University, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment on 07 Feb 24, in Auburn, Alabama. The team made approximately 35 contacts and received several resumes at the fair.





# MOBILE DISTRICT (SAM)

Photo: @USACEMOBILE

## Walter F. George Reservoir

The water safety word was spread through 3 career fairs held in the month of February this year (Clay County Middle School, Auburn University, and the Worlds of Work fair in Dothan, AL). Attending the Clay County Middle School was Rangers Shannon Schaefer and Jason Kelly, Walter F. George Lake (WFG) and Lake Seminole with 80 contacts. The Auburn University career fair booth was operated by Rangers Joshua Davis and Mike Linville, WFG and West Point Lake with 35 contacts made. Lastly, the Worlds of Work fair in Dothan, AL was operated solely by WFGs Rangers Shannon Schaefer, Anthony Strickland, Evan Boatwright, and Mallory Brown with a total of 461 contacts made at that 2-day event. With any luck we will have our next Ranger out there spreading the water safety word!



On March 7, 2024, approximately 20 2nd grade students were taught water safety poolside 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. Every year the local 2nd grade students get to participate in swimming lessons at the community center, and the Corps of Engineers' Ranger Shannon Schaefer is there to pass the safety word along!



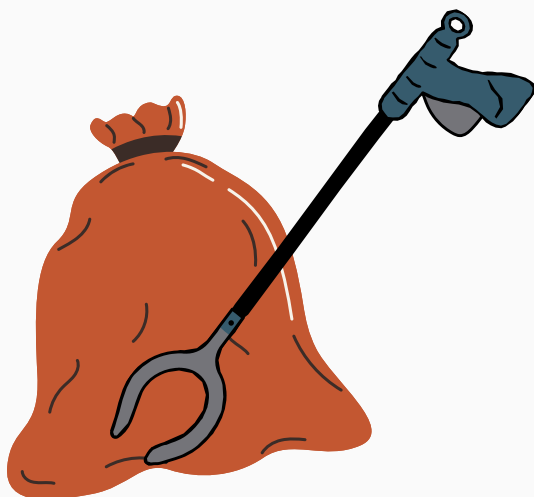


# MOBILE DISTRICT (SAM)

Photo: @USACEMOBILE

## Walter F. George Reservoir

On March 23, 2024, the Friends of Lake Eufaula group hosted a spring lake cleanup effort around the lake with 87 Volunteers. Every spring this group does a cleanup effort around the lake in conjunction with Alabama Power and other local organizations to clean litter up from around the lake. The Corps provides a 40-cubic-foot dumpster and PFDs for the event for boaters going out to clean up shoreline.



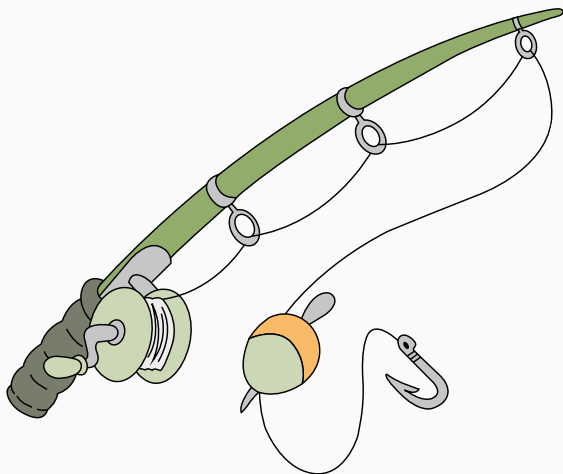


# SAVANNAH DISTRICT (SAS)

Photo: @SavannahCorps

## Hartwell Dam & Lake

Rangers from Hartwell Dam & Lake participated in Hartwell Elementary (GA) Career Day on March 15th, 2024. Rangers spoke about water safety to 200 elementary school students grades kindergarten through fifth grade plus eight adults totaling 208 direct water safety contacts.



## The Four Signs of Drowning

**HEAD BACK**  
Bobbing Up and Down, Above and Below the Surface

**MOUTH OPEN**  
Gasping for Air

**NOT YELLING**  
Can't Call for Help

**ARMS FLAPPING**  
Slapping the Water Surface

US Army Corps of Engineers®

## Proper Rescue Method

### Método Apropiado de Rescate

**REACH**  
ALCANCE

**THROW**  
LANCE

**ROW**  
REME

**Don't Go In, Get Help!**  
¡No Entre, Busque Ayuda!

**Please Wear Your Life Jacket**  
Por Favor Use Su Chaleco Salvavidas



# WILMINGTON DISTRICT (SAW)

Photo: @JohnHKerrReservoirBuggsIslandLake

## John H. Kerr Dam & Reservoir

On 23-25 February 2024, W. Kerr Scott Park Rangers Johnny Jones and Grace Trimble along with John H. Kerr Park Ranger William Daniel and Conservation Biologist Alec Mitchell attended the annual Fishing Expo in Greensboro, NC where they operated a water safety booth. A total of 1483 visitors stopped by the booth to inquire about recreational opportunities at Corps lakes in the Wilmington District including boating, camping, and swimming and to obtain brochures and water safety material.



On Friday, March 22nd Park Rangers Emily Jones, Grace Trimble, and Elaine Wittry participated in Creech Road Elementary School's Science Day. Rangers Jones, Trimble, and Wittry facilitated a Critter Cardio program where over 80 students and their teachers participated. The kindergarteners learned about adaptations that native wildlife must use to survive via activities focused on getting the students moving. A water safety message and giveaways items were given to each student in attendance.



On Saturday March 23rd, 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. Rangers Emily Jones, John H. Kerr, Elaine Wittry, B. Everett Jordan, Carmen Boyette, District NRM Section, and Michael Hosey, District NRM Section spent the day talking with families about the Corps, wildlife, and water safety. A bonus was the opportunity to talk with the students about their projects and what they wanted to be when they grew up.





# SAD FY24 Q1 AWARD WINNERS

## Q1 Water Safety Award Scott DeMore, Hartwell Dam & Lake

Park Ranger Scott DeMore was nominated in recognition of his proactive efforts to spread the water safety message around and beyond Corps-managed areas at Hartwell Lake. He collaborated with local and state agencies, and business owners to display "Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns" vinyl banners at 15 new locations across Anderson and Oconee Counties, the City of Clemson, Tugaloo State Park and Lake Keowee. Ranger DeMore's outreach efforts significantly enhanced Hartwell's water safety program by engaging user groups not typically reached by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Rangers.

## Q1 Education Award Shannon Schaefer, Walter F. George Reservoir

Park Ranger Shannon Schaefer is recognized for her exceptional dedication to community education at Walter F. George Lake. Through meticulously planned programs and innovative outreach efforts, Ranger Schaefer engaged with audiences of all ages through programs, parades and creative social media campaigns. Through her innovative programming and engaging presentations, Shannon facilitated more than 3,000 education contacts throughout the 1st quarter of FY24.

# Congratulations