



# MVD WATER SAFETY INITIATIVES WINTER 2022 REPORT

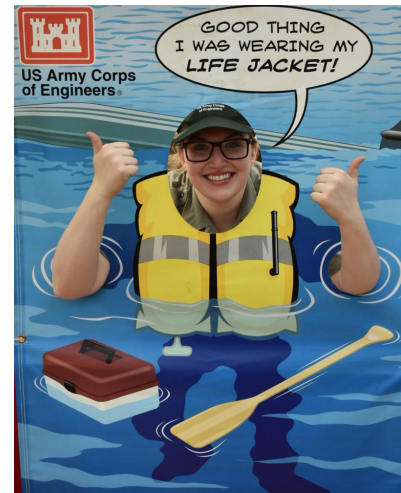
## ★CONGRATULATIONS★

### CAITLIN SLOAN - 2022 NATIONAL WATER SAFETY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Natural Resources Specialist Caitlin Sloan was selected as the USACE National Water Safety Employee of the Year! Throughout the pandemic, Caitlin used her creativity to develop new water safety programs and initiatives which allowed the MVK water safety program to excel. She also developed a virtual pilot school program to promote water safety through educational videos and online lesson plans to overcome the lack of face-to-face events.

Caitlin's recent partnerships include the Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society, where she helped improve a canoe/kayak trail by cleaning up litter and installing new signs promoting water safety. She also partnered with a local high school to organize a "Swamp Tour" of Bayou Bodcau, where 65 students learned about canoeing safety, proper lifejacket wear, and environmental ecology. Congratulations Caitlin!



### LAKE SHELBYVILLE - 2022 MVD WATER SAFETY TEAM OF THE YEAR

Lake Shelbyville was selected as the 2022 MVD Water Safety Team of the Year for their outstanding contributions to boating and water safety that made a difference in saving lives on our nation's waterways. Using a variety of techniques, the team kept water safety at the forefront of their minds throughout the year to ensure the safety of all visitors. Congratulations Lake Shelbyville!

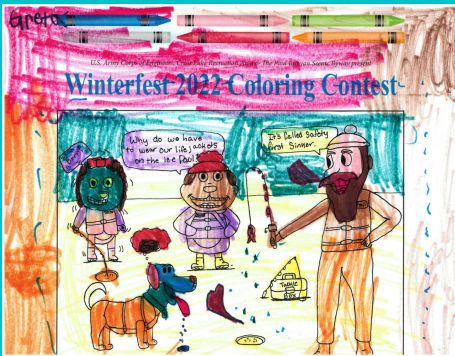


# ST. PAUL DISTRICT (MVP)

## Cross Lake

Cross Lake participated in the Annual Winterfest soup competition where they took home the first place "Golden Ladle". During the event Park Rangers Jason Hauser and Corrine Hodapp handed out over 150 water safety goody bags and discussed the importance of year-round water safety. Goody bags contained, Bobber coloring books, activity books, stickers, key chains and frisbees!

Winterfest also included a mail in/drop off coloring contest that was featured in local newspapers. The picture was created by a local high school student and focused on Paul Bunyan and Bobber teaching about winter water safety. 17 kids returned the picture for a chance to win a new life jacket!



Park Ranger Melissa Phelps visited the Eagle View elementary school and talked water safety with 136 kids and 10 adults! Each kid received a water safety themed goody bag, learned about the importance of a well fitted life jacket and watched the hit movie Safe Passage.

Park Ranger Melissa Phelps visited the Crosby-Ironton elementary school and talked water safety with 71 kids and 3 adults! Each kid received a water safety themed goody bag, learned about the importance of a well fitted life jacket and watched Safe Passage.



**Sandy Lake**



During the Hill Lake Fishing event, MN DNR Fisheries, Aitkin County Sheriff's office, Hill City Police, and USACE had various stations set up on the lake to teach 90 4th and 5th grade students from Hill City and McGregor Elementary about ice fishing. Stations included hand auger drilling, fishing, tip-ups, fish identification, ice safety, and more. USACE was responsible for the ice safety station and discussed the importance of ice safety, how to self-rescue, and how to use ice picks. The kids also got to test out using the ice picks and have races with them.



MN DNR Fisheries, Aitkin County Sheriff's office, MN Conservation Officers, and USACE also participated in the Aitkin Ice Fishing event and had various stations set up on the lake to teach 5th grade students from Rippleside Elementary about ice fishing. Stations included, fishing, tip-ups, fish identification, ice safety, and more.



**Mississippi River Recreation and Eau Galle**



Ranger Staff from the Miss. River Recreation & Eau Galle Section staffed the Corps booth at the Northwest Sports Show in Mpls., MN the weekend of 4-5 March 22.

# ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

## Coralville Lake



Coralville Lake Rangers participated in Winterfest and Freeze Fest where they promoted cold water safety and demonstrated the Cold-Hand-Luke activity and handed out various water safety items. Approximately 500 people attended the two events.



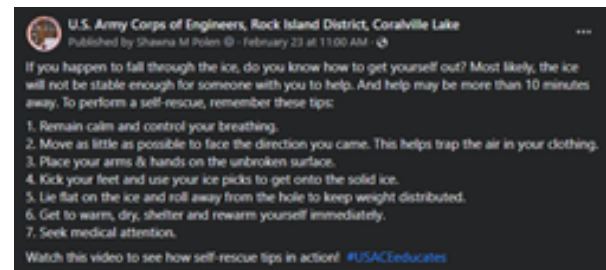
Coralville donated 800 Bobber the Water Safety Dog coloring books to the Iowa Children's Hospital. These books will be used through the year to be handed out to new patients when they arrive for care.

2022 OFFICIAL VISITOR'S GUIDE

### Coralville Lake • Lake Macbride



The new 2022 Coralville Lake & Lake Macbride Recreation Guides are out for printing and should be arriving mid-March. This year, we will be hosting a local photo contest for featuring their photos in next years guides. Photos will have to meet our guidelines and photo releases signed. Voting will be done by Coralville and Macbride staff.



MVR lakes have banded together to push out more water safety posts on Facebook pages. Working as a team, lakes have been able to post more and brainstorm new post ideas.

## Illinois Waterway Project

Composed water safety messaging for three publications Starved Rock Country, Ottawa Times and Outdoor Adventure magazine.

**Illinois Waterway Visitor Center**  
Your Best View of Starved Rock

- I&M Canal / Illinois Waterway Information
- Boat Safety Classes  
May 7, June 18 and Aug 20
- Group Programs
- Gift Store

Mention this ad during your next visit and receive a prize!

US Army Corps of Engineers - Starved Rock Lock & Dam  
950 N 27th Rd (Dee Bennett Rd), Ottawa, IL • 815-667-4054

**ILLINOIS WATERWAY VISITOR CENTER**

**LIFE JACKETS WORN... NOBODY MOURNS**  
91% of sportsmen who died in boating accidents were not wearing life jackets. Wear it for your loved ones.

- Illinois Waterway Information
- Boat Safety Classes  
May 7th, June 18th, August 20th
- Group Programs
- Gift Store/Navigation Charts

Mention this ad during your next visit and receive a prize!

US Army Corps of Engineers - Starved Rock Lock & Dam  
950 N. 27th Rd. (Dee Bennett Rd.), Ottawa, IL • 815-667-4054

Delivered water safety giveaways to Better Fishing Association of Northern Illinois. This organization hosts five fishing derbies in the spring. These giveaways will be used for fishing derby swag bags that serve hundreds of young anglers throughout the region.



## Mississippi River Project

The Mississippi River Project participated in back to back weekend trade shows at the Quad City Conservation Alliance (QCCA) Expo Center in Rock Island, Illinois. The first weekend was the Outdoor, Hunting and Fishing Show running February 17-20. The 2nd weekend was the RV and Camping Show running February 25-27.

These show attract a large audience of outdoor

enthusiasts, many of which are frequent visitors of recreation areas the Corps manages. During the shows, Rangers and volunteers manned a booth promoting water safety and recreational opportunities within the Corps. Visitors were able to interact with rangers, grab the latest copy of the "Along the River" recreation guide, obtain an Annual Day Use/America the Beautiful Interagency Pass and pick up some water safety giveaways. Over the course of the two weekends, 3,682 direct contacts were made.



## Saylorville Lake

For the 2021-2022 Hockey Season, Saylorville Lake partnered with Iowa Wild to help promote ice and water safety. A section banner is displayed during each home game reminding people to "Think twice before walking on ice". The Iowa Wild is an American Hockey Team affiliate of the Minnesota Wild with an audience primarily within the national water safety target audience of 18-35 year old males. In the past, Bobber has attended games with rangers and volunteers to help encourage water and ice safety while recreating. Recently, Bobber participated in a "birthday celebration" for the Wild's mascot, Crash. Other mascot friends joined the fun during the game and intermissions to be recognized on the jumbotron, play musical chairs, throw t-shirts to fans, give-away free pizzas, and more. This partnership is a great way to reach the water safety target audience of males 18-50 years old.



# Water Safety Wednesdays

Water safety related Facebook posts have been scheduled each week throughout February and March on "Water Safety Wednesdays". Posts will continue throughout the summer and fall. These posts don't get much attention compared to others, but we feel it is important to share the information and remind folks that water safety is important year-round.

Saylorville Lake received items from The Sea Tow Foundation to help promote water safety and eliminate Boating under the Influence boating accidents and deaths using the Sober Skipper message.

Items include floating keychains, "Sober Skipper Pledge" wrist bands, and rack cards. Saylorville Lake also applied for a Sea Tow Foundation grant that provides 50-60 life jackets to be used on the Life Jacket Loaner Stations. Saylorville has received the grant in the past, but have not yet heard if they will receive it again this year.



# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

## Carlyle Lake



Water safety billboards contained messages about winter water safety that relate to hypothermia and unsafe lake ice.



Promoted the dangers of lake ice with Facebook posts and news release.



Posted various winter water safety messages on a digital reader board located on Highway 127.



45 Facebook posts related to water safety were displayed on the Carlyle Lake Facebook Timeline with 293 post engagements from the 21,898 followers.

## Mark Twain Lake



Distributed water safety items and placed a PSA on event t-shirts for the Ben Sapp Memorial Shed Hunt for Youth

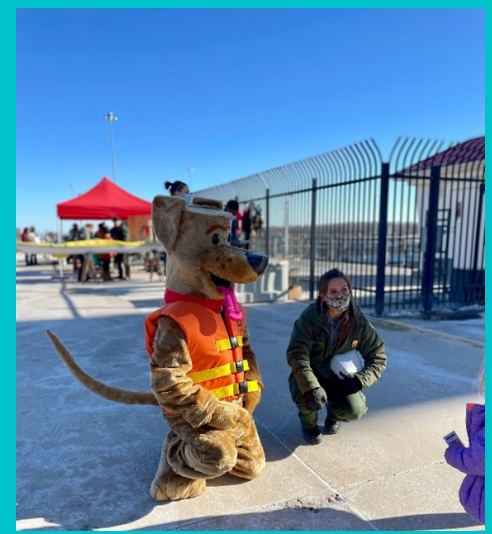


Water Safety PSA in the Mark Twain Lake Vacation Guide, Hannibal Missouri Vacation Guide, and high school basketball tournament program

Purchased new water safety yard signs using HQ provided graphics.

## Rivers Project Office / National Great Rivers Museum

In partnership with Meeting of the Rivers Foundation, Mississippi River Water Trail Association, and several other local organizations the Rivers Project presented a new special event at the National Great Rivers Museum. On 19 February 2022 Ice Jam at the Dam hosted over 1,000 visitors on the Promenade of the NGRM. Attractions included open tours of Melvin Price Locks and Dam, live animal presentations, live music, plenty of winter-themed educational booths, and visits from Bobber the Water Safety Dog. Open tours of Melvin Price brought 775 visitors to the top of the structure to learn about the Navigational Channel and how it can change when the Mississippi River freezes over in the winter.



In partnership with the City of Clarksville and in conjunction with Clarksville Eagle Days Rivers Project staff and volunteers facilitated guided tours of Lock 24 in Clarksville, Missouri. In a two-day span, 18 tours were given accommodating over 350 visitors. In addition to tours, the Rivers Project manned eagle spotting scopes and an educational booth which generated nearly 600 water safety contacts.

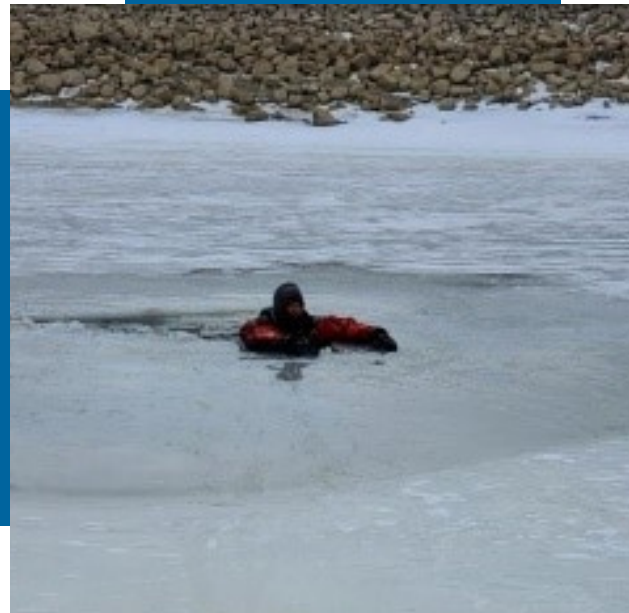
Weekly #WaterSafetyWednesday, Valentine's Day, and other periodical social media posts containing water safety messaging and content have reached over 6,000 users through the National Great Rivers Museum (NGRM) and Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary (RMBS) social media platforms.





## Lake Shelbyville

On February 12 the Shelby County Dive teamed used Lake Shelbyville as a training facility. This one-day training program was on surface rescue for cold water and ice incidents with an emphasis on personal survival and safety of the rescuer. The training was to provide public safety and rescue professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary for safe rescue and recovery operations, in on and around ice and cold water.



Lake Shelbyville is participating in a local radio show segment for approximately 15 minutes on every 1st Friday of the month providing lake update, events, and season water safety tips.

The BIG  
**870**  
AM

**Newstalk**  
**WTIM**

**96.1 FM**  
Taylorville

**107.5 FM**  
Shelbyville

## Wappapello Lake



The 5th Annual Santa Land Event was held on 7 December 2021 at the Black River Coliseum in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. Wappapello Lake staff assisted in coordinating this event with the poplar Bluff Parks and Recreation Department and staffed a booth. Water Safety Goody Bags were distributed to the children. Bags contained water safety give away items, Christmas crafts, etc. Approximately 275 direct contacts were made.



Winter Watch also known as Eagle Days was hosted by Wappapello Lake on Saturday February 2, 2022. Approximately 45 folks participated in this event.

Thursday 10 February 2022 Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson distributed nearly 10,000 safety pizza stickers to local pizza franchises in Poplar Bluff, Wappapello, Dexter and Sikeston. This safety initiative has been going on for the past 11 years leading up to Super Bowl Sunday. Participants include Pizza Hut, Pizza Inn, Little Caesar's, Dominoes, God Father's Papa John's, and Imo's. Additional stickers will be distributed during Memorial Day Weekend.



## **Safety Counts**



First Midwest Bank resumed distributing customer bank money envelopes with water safety messages in January 2022. During the months of November and December (holiday season) they utilize envelopes with a holiday greeting/message. Branches are located in Poplar Bluff (3), Jackson, Dexter, Sikeston, Puxico, Greenville, and Piedmont, Missouri.



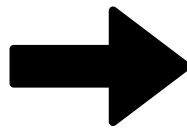
29th Annual Festival of Lights Auto Tour ran 26 November to 26 December 2021 at the Redman Creek Campground East. Approximately 30,933 attended the event which consisted of community businesses, organizations, families, and individuals helping to usher in the holiday season by decorating a campsite with Christmas lights, season greeting signs, nativity scenes, inflatable blowups, etc. This event was done in partnership with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wappapello Lake Area Association (WLAA), River Radio, and volunteers.



# VICKSBURG DISTRICT (MVK)

## DeGray Lake

On Saturday February 19, DeGray Lake sent Bobber to the Hot Springs Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics held at Hot Springs Health and Fitness Club. The event had about 150 people in attendance. Volunteer, Ryan Helms was Bobber for the event and was assisted by Rangers Robert Watson and Kolin Cogburn.



During the winter months DeGray Lake targets areas where drowning victims lived or were from with Water Safety programs. The hope is to give that community a better understanding of the dangers of the lake.

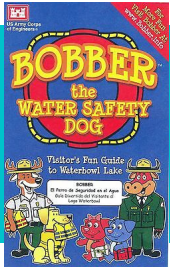
## Lake Ouachita

Lake Ouachita partnered with Lake Greeson and DeGray Lake in hosting a water safety and recreation information table at the Hot Springs Boat, Tackle, and RV show held February 25-27 at the Hot Springs Convention Center. Park Rangers: Asher Kight, Mathew Gilbert, Cole Johnson, Dan Watson, Kolin Cogburn, Robbie Morphew, Reid Hellums, and Kenneth Forga worked the show and made 855 direct water safety contacts. This was a wonderful event to spread the boating and water safety message.



### Lake Ouachita Continued

On Tuesday, March 2, Lake Ouachita Natural Resource Specialist, Amy Shultz presented an environmental and water/boating safety program to Youth Leadership Hot Springs. There were 26 students from area high schools attending this program held at Garvin Woodland Gardens.



Lake Ouachita will be delivering over 3500 Bobber Coloring books along with Bobber DVDs to nine local primary schools in Garland and Montgomery counties, Arkansas the week prior to spring break.

### LOUISIANA FIELD OFFICE

Rangers continued with small campground programs (5 or more attendees) and water safety giveaways to campground visitors. Kiosks at all areas have been maintained and consistently stocked with new water safety material. EOP Operators at all locations in collaboration with PAO posted holiday-themed Bobber graphics and shared the Please Wear-it's Facebook page posts.

### Bayou Bodcau

Rangers from Bayou Bodcau and Ouachita participated in the Vicksburg District's Mardi Gras Parade Float. Rangers and Bobber handed out water safety giveaways to the public and operated Cory the Safety Tugboat to promote water safety



Working to partner with local Game Wardens during lake patrols for courtesy boat inspections at USACE ramps.

Partnering with local school teachers and homeschooled groups for Swamp Tour event(s) planned throughout Spring 2022. This will be a day long event held at Bodcau featuring water safety themes, canoeing, nature hikes, wilderness survival lessons, fishing, and more. (This event was postponed due to COVID for the past 2 years.)

### **Ouachita Black (Monroe)**

Four Rangers attended the 2022 North Delta Boat and Outdoors Show at Monroe Civic Center February 4-6. Rangers noted the following giveaway items disappeared from the table quickly as the show progressed: Bobber water safety workbook,



carabineers, fisherman hand towels, Jr. Ranger stickers, nesting box plans for wood ducks and bluebirds as well as brochures for the Ouachita Black River. LFO Rangers fielded many questions regarding day use fees, America the Beautiful passes, and locations of recreation areas along the Ouachita River to over 5,000 attendees.



Created a water safety video entailing the dangers that come with duck hunting and why it is always important to wear your life jacket. Many different water safety themes were covered throughout this video. Rangers helped to film in-house and sent the video to ACE-It for editing.

### **Grand Ecore Visitor Center**

Grand Ecore has started a new partnership with Louisiana State Parks in Alexandria. Rangers participated in a 2-day event held at Fort Randolph on March 11 and 12th, showcasing USACE careers, environmental stewardship, and water safety. Multiple other federal agencies were in attendance. Over 400 students from two public schools and homeschool groups were in attendance.



Partnering with Forestry Commission and Local Lumber Company to teach kids about environmental studies and water safety during Forestry Week. (September 2022)

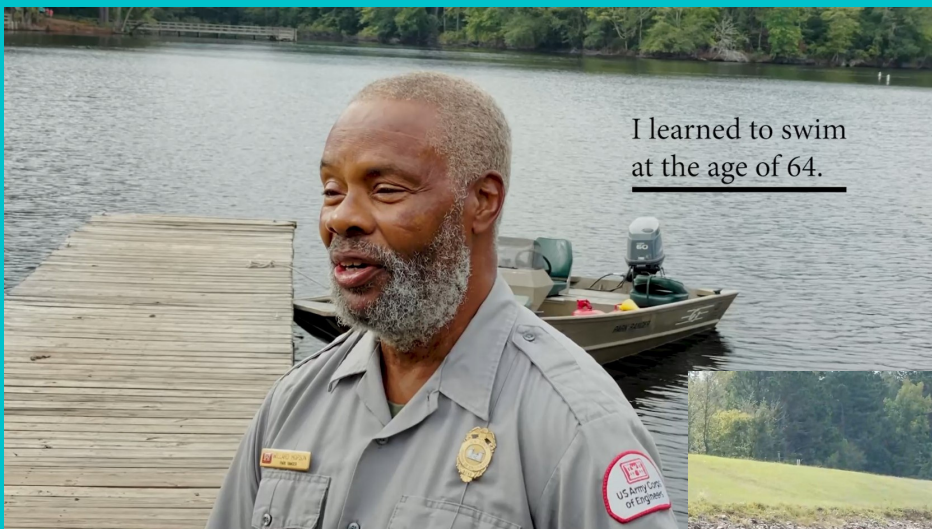


## J. Bennett Johnston Waterway - Shreveport Visitor Center



J. Bennett Johnston Waterway has partnered with the Shreveport Aquarium to help run the Shreveport Visitor Center through the month of March while the Aquarium holds their Spring Break event. The Aquarium will provide tours of the Visitor Center to the general public and utilize water safety giveaway materials. The goal of this partnership is to combine efforts to grow outreach numbers beyond the month of March once a permanent ranger has been hired at the Visitor Center. Additionally, the Shreveport Aquarium plans to begin running steam-boat tours along the Red River. Prior to each tour, Park Rangers will present a water safety program.

Plans for the Annual Shreveport Water Resource Festival are underway. This two-day long event will be held May 6th and 7th at the Shreveport Visitor Center. Local city, state, and federal park/rec agencies will be in attendance along with other vendors/booths. The first day of the event will host local schools and homeschool groups. Estimated reach is 1500-2000+ contacts for the duration of the festival.



I learned to swim  
at the age of 64.

Ranger Willard volunteered to make a water safety video explaining his personal story with water safety and the importance of learning how to swim at any age.

Many different water safety themes were covered throughout this video. Other rangers helped to film in-house and sent to ACE-It for editing.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Water Safety Training for USACE Volunteers and Employees

In December 2021, a USACE volunteer drowned at a USACE project. A Safety Investigation Board (SIB) team was put together to review the incident and recommended providing basic water safety training to all employees and volunteers that work around water. The National Water Safety Program created the a PowerPoint presentation covering water safety and can be used during volunteer/employee training and safety briefings. The training is available at the link below.

Water Safety Information  
for  
Volunteer/Employee  
Training and Safety Briefings



<https://corplakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/volunteer/pdfs/22Feb-Water%20Safety%20Information%20for%20Volunteer%20-%20Employee%20Training%20and%20Safety%20Briefings.pdf>

## National Water Safety Product Orders Update



The Depot started sending out water safety product orders in March. All orders should be sent out by 1 April. If you do not receive your order by 15 April please contact Amanda Kruse (amanda.l.kruse@usace.army.mil) to check the status of your order.

## National Water Safety Photo Contest

The 2021-2022 National Water Safety Photo Contest is underway! This is an opportunity to showcase YOUR photographs and talent. Winning photographers will receive items that can be used to promote water safety. This photo contest is open to all USACE employees and volunteers including PAO and ACE-IT employees. Photos submitted must have been taken in 2021 or 2022 at a Corps of Engineers project or off-site at an event/program involving the Corps of Engineers.

Guidelines are on the NRM Gateway at the link below.

<https://corplakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/cecwon/pdfs/21Jun6-2021-2022-WS-PhotoGuidelines.pdf>