

Woodruff-Seminole Installs Pollinator Garden with Boy Scouts



Young volunteers hard at work at Lake Seminole (2015)

By Kelly Bunting

To celebrate National Public Lands Day, on Saturday, September 26, 2015, volunteers came together with the Corps of Engineers to install a pollinator garden at a Corps park on Lake Seminole. Among the volunteers were Boy Scout Troop 502 from nearby Bainbridge, Georgia. This national partnership between the Corps and Boys Scouts of America has been instrumental in accomplishing tasks around the lake during several National Public Lands Day events in the past, including maintenance and repair of bluebird boxes and park cleanups.

For this event, the Boy Scouts, along with volunteer park hosts and several volunteers from the local communities of Chattahoochee and Bainbridge, “dug in” and

planted a variety of native flowering plants in a garden box located in Chattahoochee Park, a popular day use park. The plants were both nectar sources and larval food sources, to provide food sources during the complete butterfly life cycle. To begin the morning, Natural Resource Specialist Kelly Bunting gave a presentation about pollinators, their importance, and how we can aid in their survival. During the discussion, we discovered that one of the Scouts had a father who keeps bees, so he was able to add quite a bit to our talk! A water safety talk was given at the end, and water safety “goody bags” were provided to the attendees. The event was a big success; everyone had fun. A bench and interpretive sign are also planned for installation in the future.

The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America are two groups who have consistently partnered successfully with the Corps at Lake Seminole to do important work at our parks. These partnerships operate under the National Corps MOU to work with these scout troops.



Corps Foundation Volunteer Coin Spotlight

Patrick Schrock, recipient of the Corps Foundation's Volunteer Coin - Crooked Creek Lake

Mr. Patrick Schrock was awarded the Corps Foundation's Volunteer Coin of Excellence. He has volunteered over 100 hours at Crooked Creek Lake during the 2016 recreation season.

His accomplishments include trail maintenance, refurbishing benches and picnic tables, painting parking lot bumper blocks, beautifying landscape beds

throughout the day use areas of the park, assisting in enhancement of a new project conference room by constructing new office chairs, conducting inspections of geocache sites, aiding in the Crooked Creek Lake Visitor Information Center renovation project by relocating materials throughout the park, refurbishing several horseshoe pits, building owl boxes, constructing shelving and organizing Water Safety materials, and removing and replacing bumpers on multiple boat trailers. Mr. Schrock's actions have improved the aesthetic

appeal of the park and supported the flood damage reduction, recreation, and environmental stewardship missions. Mr. Schrock's efforts have inspired the participation of additional volunteers at the project. Mr. Schrock should be commended for his selfless service and outstanding performance at Crooked Creek Lake.

Contact your PAC Team representative to nominate a volunteer for the Volunteer Coin of Excellence.

