

The Paper Buoy



Delivering news from Ozarks Rivers Heritage Foundation
a Missouri Non-Profit 501 3c Corporation

Volume 1 Issue 1 May 2011



“NEW DEWEY” is PROGRESSING



In spite of the recent record-setting lake levels, the builders are still hard at work constructing the new Dewey Short Visitors Center. The site was 2.5 ft above the encroaching flood waters and the project remains on schedule. The building is beginning to take shape as the walls rise above the shoreline of Table Rock Lake. The exterior walls, built using ICF (Insulated Concrete Forms) are nearly 90% concrete poured, the remainder are set to be finished in about two weeks. The energy efficient ICF construction will aid in acquiring a LEED “Gold” certification for the building.

The foundations are in and approximately 50% of the concrete floors are poured. The process of heavy steel construction will begin soon, followed in early June by the wood portion of the structure. Site work is also progressing as the landscaping and drives are being fashioned. Parking lot improvements should be finished in time for the busy Memorial Day weekend visitor traffic.

The Corps has given final approval for the exhibits inside the new Visitors Center. More news and a sneak peek coming soon!

this issue

Visitor Center Construction Continues
Life jacket Loaner Station Program
Water Safety Info Day

OUR MISSION

Provide financial support for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreational facilities and projects determined to enrich the public's quality of life.

By providing: Special Events, Educational Programs, Volunteer Opportunities, Advocacy, Technical Assistance, Stewardship, Land/Lake Access improvements and Research.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chip Mason - President

Rob Dixon – Vice President

Ross Summers - Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Pat Cox

Judge David Daily

Duane Gerken

Martin McDonald

Encouraging a fun and SAFE summer

WATER SAFETY AWARENESS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

One is too many when it comes to lake fatalities. We all feel the pain of tragedy when we learn of a drowning on our lakes. Education about safety around the water is crucial to helping prevent these accidents. Lifejackets should always be available and in use. Many safety precautions are overlooked or perhaps folks are simply unaware of the necessity of playing it safe around the water.

You could be a BIG part of encouraging water safety on Table Rock Lake. Ozarks Rivers Heritage Foundation is seeking your assistance in a new safety campaign. Please consider helping us by sponsoring a Lifejacket Loaner Station at one of the US Corps facilities.



A Lifejacket Loaner Station is a freestanding steel structure designed to hold several Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs). These PFDs are available for the public to borrow **free of charge** and then return to the Station after use. ORHF has plans to install one Lifejacket Loaner Station at each of the fourteen US Army Corps of Engineers parks on Table Rock Lake, with two Stations at

Moonshine Beach. The colorful eye-catching board posts a message stressing water safety and the importance of wearing a PFD for safety.

ORHF is looking for businesses, groups or individuals to donate funds for these life saving additions to our shoreline. A donation of \$500 will pay for one Lifejacket Loaner Station and its installation.

These permanent boards will include the sponsor's name or business name. Several area businesses, including Cape Fair Marina, Ozark Anglers, Ozark Mountain Bank, Golden Corral, Ride the Ducks and State Park Marina have already agreed to sponsor stations. ORHF is proud to support the US Army Corp of Engineers in emphasizing water safety.

Our job isn't done yet, we continue to ask for donations to insure that each Corps operated facility has at least one Station.

The potential to save lives by providing free use of lifejackets is tremendous! This is your opportunity to make a difference. Please make a donation today to have a Lifejacket Loaner Station placed in time for the busy summer season.

Call 417-334-6394 for complete details. Remember- water safety is **EVERYONE'S** concern!



Lifejacket Loaner Station Rules and Regulations

- 1) Life jackets are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- 2) Parents/Guardians are responsible for making sure their children are in the right sized life jacket. If the size is incorrect, the life jacket will not work effectively.
- 3) Borrower assumes all responsibility and liability of life jacket use/non-use.
- 4) Borrower will not hold liable any party involved in the distribution of life jackets.
- 5) Borrower must inspect life jacket prior to use to make sure life jacket is in good working condition.
- 6) Return life jackets to this station before leaving the park!

These colorful boards attract the attention of children and encourage them *and* their parents to be **safe at the lake**.





Corps Corner

All 14 US Army Corps of Engineer parks on Table Rock Lake opened May 1. However, due to recent flooding, three parks are closed until further notice. Record high water has necessitated the closing of Moonshine Beach, Millcreek and Old 86.

The remaining parks- Baxter, Cape Fair, Campbell Point, Long Creek, Cricket Creek, Viola Park, Aunts Creek, Big M, Indian Point, Eagle Rock, and Viney Creek- are all open with approximately 50% of the sites available for camping at this time.

Please visit the Corps website at www.swl.usace.army.mil or go to www.recreation.gov for current availability or to check on a reservation. These sites are updated frequently and provide accurate information regarding flooding at the various parks.

Baxter Park has recently been reconstructed after the 2008 flooding. Every site is now paved and has 50 amp electric hookup plus water. At this time, Baxter is one of the parks operating with about 50% of the sites available, please call the park or check the above websites before heading out.

Little Rock District is among the most visited Corps districts in the nation. The district operates nearly 180 public parks and access areas in Arkansas and southern Missouri, including Table Rock Lake. Twenty-five multi-purpose lakes

and navigation pools, combined with project lands, provide nearly 500,000 acres of public land and water that offer a full range of outdoor recreation opportunities. The Corps manages these public resources to benefit fish and wildlife and to serve present and future generations. Major activities include sightseeing, camping, boating, swimming, skiing, hiking, fishing, hunting, picnicking, scuba diving, and more.

The central location and the region's natural beauty draw visitors from Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis, Dallas and Tulsa, not to mention visitors from every state and several foreign countries. Consider the fact that the country's population center is in south-central Missouri, and you get a full realization of just how central we are.

VOLUNTEER Spotlight

JERRY BOWLIN



Jerry Bowlin began volunteering in 2008, originally with the Corps of Engineers then joining ORHF. Jerry is a full-time RV'er, retiring to Branson from Biloxi, MS. A former resident of the area, he is once again enjoying the beauty of the Ozarks, right outside his front door! His favorite part of volunteering is being of service to our visitors. He enjoys helping them find their way around the area, locating their favorite attractions and dishing out a little local information on the side. Jerry says he highly recommends volunteering!

Thanks Jerry, we truly appreciate you!

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

ORHF is looking for volunteers to guide tours of Table Rock Dam. Schedule is flexible and training is provided. Call ORHF at 417-334-6394 or stop by Dewey Short Visitors Center to apply. Applicants are subject to a background check and must be a US citizen, 18 years of age or older.

Table Rock Dam Tours Rates & Reservations

Adults (ages 12 and up): \$14.50*

Children (ages 6 – 11) : \$8.00*

**Price includes tax. Children younger than 6 are not permitted in the dam.*

Tours daily – 10:00 AM, 12:00 NOON, 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM**

For Reservations call 417-334-6394 or visit us online at www.tablerockdamtours.com

Guests must be US citizens and present a valid government issued photo ID. Arrive 30 minutes prior to departure time for security processing.

**Schedule subject to change/modification- call for availability.



Upcoming Events

WATER SAFETY INFO DAY – MAY 28, 2011

National Safe Boating Week is May 21- 27, 2011. ORHF is hosting a Water Safety INFO DAY on the grounds of the Dewey Short Visitors Center.

Please visit our website www.tablerockdamtours.com or our Facebook page to keep up with the our plans.

CHILDREN'S POSTER CONTEST

Win tickets for a tour of the dam! Children ages 6-11 are encouraged to create a poster with a Water Safety theme. Posters should be hand drawn and submitted for judging by Monday, May 23, 2011. Be sure to include the child's name, age and a contact phone number on the back of the poster. Age groups will be 6 to 8 and 9 to 11, with prizes for the winner in each division. A limited amount of supplies will be available at the Dewey Short Visitors Center. Winners will be announced at the Water Safety Expo on May 28th. Posters will be on display at the Visitors Center through the next month.

Contact ORHF

Ozarks Rivers Heritage Foundation a MO Non-Profit 501 3c Corporation welcomes your comments, input and inquiries.

Call the Foundation office at 417-334-6394

email us at info@ozarksriversheritage.org

visit us on line at tablerockdamtours.com

or come by the Dewey Short Visitors Center 4600 ST Hwy 165, Branson, MO

Tara Workman, Director

Gala Solari, Assistant Director

The Paper Buoy

Volume 1 Issue 1 May 2011

OZARKS RIVERS HERITAGE FOUNDATION

6400 State Highway 165
Branson, MO 65616
417-334-6394
www.tablerockdamtours.com