



# WATER SAFETY JOURNAL

June 2009 • Vol. 25, No. 2

Newsletter of the National Water Safety Congress

## 2009 INTERNATIONAL BOATING & WATER SAFETY SUMMIT



The International Boating and Water Safety Summit was held in late April in Panama City Beach, Florida. The National Safe Boating Council, our “sister” organization in the presentation of the Summit, our Boards, Staff, and partners are all pleased to say thank you to the just under 400 attendees who were able to participate. With the challenges that we all face it was a privilege to host all of these attendees. With over an 86%

“excellent” rating from the attendees we are able to confirm that the Summit was a great success!

Over 320 attendees were able to try the new braking system on the Bombardier personal watercraft and they were also able to say “*I Did It*” to kayaking/fishing, parasailing, and hands on flare testing thanks to BoatU.S. Foundation. In and on water breakouts allowed participants to literally get into the program. Please watch for the Proceedings for additional program information.

On behalf of both organizations a huge thank you to the U.S. Coast Guard for their support and to all of our partners for another successful Summit. We are looking forward to the 2010 Summit which will be held in Daytona Beach, Florida, March 28-31. **Applications for requests for presentations are being accepted until AUGUST 15.**

Applications for scholarships to the 2010 Summit are also being accepted.

Watch the web sites for additional information on the 2009 and the upcoming 2010 Summits.

## USCG Grant Funding for FY2009

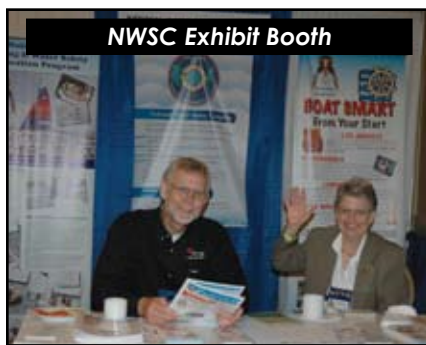
The National Water Safety Congress is pleased to share with our partners our good news. The United States Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety has awarded four of the six grants that we applied for. Those grants include the following:

- Spirit of America Youth, Family & Community Boating Education Programs . . . . . **150,000.00**
- Partnering . . . . . **90,000.00**
- Beyond Cold Water Boot Camp: the Three “R”’s Rescue, Recovery and Rewarm. . . . . **260,000.00**
- Grass Roots Grants Program. . . **70,000.00**

Spirit of America will continue to support open programs as well as allowing three additional states to open programs of their own. We currently have programs operating in Ohio, where Spirit opened its’ hatches in 1995, and in Iowa, Tennessee, Maryland, Mississippi, and Kentucky. 6,500 families have been educated through the Spirit of America Programs. To learn more, please visit [www.SpiritofAmerica95.org](http://www.SpiritofAmerica95.org).

**GRASS ROOTS GRANTS** will be offered again this year to any boating and water safety program in the United States. We are pleased to announce that we are now able to increase the amount of the grant from \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 per grant. Applicants may apply for up to the 2000.00 limit for their grass roots programs. Applications require that the partnering organization follow the

*continued on page 4*



NWSC Exhibit Booth



Luncheon Demos by ACA



Flare Demonstration



PWC Trials

*continued on page 2*

**Thank You!**



**BOATED**  
Innovative Education Solutions for Your State  
is a proud sponsor of  
the Water Safety Journal.



# THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Arlyn Hendricks

For some people seeing the number 13 makes them a slight bit apprehensive or at the very least it gives them reason to pause and consider other options. Those folks that attended the **13th annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS)** this past April in Florida appeared to suffer no ill affects. From the feedback I have received most attendees not only enjoyed the IBWSS they were able to take home with them ideas and programs that they can use to make our waters safer. Many thanks for the efforts and great hospitality shown by our hosts from Florida.

Speaking of the IBWSS, I want to thank all the partners of the National Water Safety Congress (NWSC) for their support and collaboration in this effort. If I try to name them all I will surely leave someone out so I will not attempt that. That list has grown over the years into a very long one. This has truly become a unified team effort. The IBWSS continues to be the premier educational experience for boating and water safety professionals. I would like to thank **Cecilia Duer**, our Executive Director for her efforts to make the NWSC a success. Her passion, drive, and desire for water safety and for teaching others cannot be overstated. Thanks Cecilia!!!



Veronica Floyd, NSBC Chair, Mayor Oberst and Arlyn Hendricks, NWSC President

The summer recreation season is getting into high gear. That means millions of visitors engaging in some sort of water based recreational activities. For most their experience in or on the water will be enjoyable. Unfortunately, for some that enjoyable experience will become tragic. It is because of the dedicated folks that are out interacting with those recreating on and near the water that the tragedies are the exception not the rule. Thanks in advance for all your efforts this summer. Please continue to stress to people to wear life jackets. Tell them about the dangers of using alcohol or drugs while in or on the water. Educate them about proper vessel operation. You will probably never know how many tragedies were averted due to you efforts. You do make a difference.

It was my pleasure to present the NWSC Presidents Award at the IBWSS to my good friend **Brenda Warren**. Brenda recently retired from her career with the Corps of Engineers as a safety professional. She has been a mentor and advisor to me for many many years. I look forward to continuing to work with Brenda. She may have retired from her day job but she has not retired from working in the water safety arena.

My wish for you and yours is a safe and enjoyable summer recreation season and as always wear your life jacket!!!

## IBWSS

continued from page 1



## Mark Your Calendars!

**MARCH 28-31, 2010**  
**2010 International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS)\***

**Daytona Beach, Florida**  
*Call for Presentations now available and DUE AUGUST 15, 2009.*

*\* Go to [www.watersafetycongress.org](http://www.watersafetycongress.org) for applications and information.*

Grass Roots Grant applications and IBWSS Scholarships available soon.

## WATER SAFETY JOURNAL

Vol. 25, No. 2 June 2009

A publication of the National Water Safety Congress, a tax-exempt, nonprofit, public service organization dedicated to water safety.

<b>President</b>	Arlyn Hendricks
<b>Executive Vice President</b>	Gary Owen
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tom Plante
<b>Executive Secretary</b>	Russ Minton
<b>Executive Director</b>	Cecilia Duer
<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>	Louise Smith
<b>WSJ Editor</b>	Donna Angus

The *Water Safety Journal* is produced three times yearly by the National Water Safety Congress, P.O. Box 1632, Mentor, OH 44061. Phone (440) 209-9805

Send address changes to [journal@watersafetycongress.org](mailto:journal@watersafetycongress.org)

## Aquatic Invasive Species – Iowa Great Lakes Update

Introducing non-native species into Iowa waters can upset the balance of the ecosystem, hurting the environment. Aquatic nuisance species (Eurasian Milfoil, Zebra Mussels, Asian Carp, etc.) are most often spread between waterways by hitching a ride on boats and trailers. When transplanted into new waters, these organisms proliferate, displacing native species and damaging the water resource.

### Eurasian Watermilfoil

In nutrient-rich lakes, Eurasian watermilfoil can form thick underwater stands of tangled stems and vast mats of vegetation at the water's surface. In shallow areas, the plant can interfere with water recreation such as boating, fishing, and swimming. The plant's floating canopy can also crowd out important native water plants.

Milfoil is found in waters less than 20-feet deep. It may form mats in waters less than 15-feet deep. A native look-alike northern watermilfoil has fewer (5-10) leaflet pairs.

A key factor in the plant's success is its ability to reproduce through stem fragmentation and underground runners. A single segment of stem and leaves can take root and form a new colony. Fragments clinging to boats and trailers can spread the plant from lake to lake. The mechanical clearing of weed beds for beaches, docks, and landings creates thousands of new stem fragments that can drift with the wind. Removing native vegetation creates perfect habitat for invading Eurasian watermilfoil.

### Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels are small clam like animals about the size of your fingernail - when fully grown. Zebra mussels have multiple stripes that give them their "zebra" name and are shaped like the letter "D". Zebra Mussels are very fast growing with sharp edges that cut swimmers feet. Zebras can also clog water intake pipes. (All of residents in the watershed draw their drinking water from the Iowa Great lakes.)

In 2005, two adult Zebra Mussels were found in Clear Lake (Less than 100 miles from the Iowa Great Lakes). In 2006 juvenile Zebra Mussels were found. By the fall of 2007 Zebras are growing exponentially at Clear Lake.

### Asian Carp

Bighead and silver carp are two species of Asian Carp that impact Iowa's waters. Silver carp can jump above the water as boats drive by, injuring boaters, tubers, and water skiers. This species can grow to be three feet long and weigh up to sixty pounds. Bighead carp can reach sizes up to five feet long and ninety pounds. Both species compete with native species for food and space.

Asian Carp are in the Missouri River, and bighead carp have found their way up the Little Sioux River to Lynn Grove dam (32 miles South of the Iowa Great Lakes).

Because small Asian Carp look like native minnows they could be spread by way of live bait.

### Summer 2009 Volunteer AIS Inspection Program

For a number of years, the residents and visitors to the Iowa Great Lakes have been concerned about the threat of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). There are a dozen types of invasive species, but the three that are of the most concern to us are Eurasian milfoil, zebra mussels, and Asian Carp. In the fall of 2007 it was found the tiny zebra mussel population at Clear Lake had increased exponentially. Now Clear Lake docks and hoists are covered with zebra mussels. With this new zebra mussel outbreak at Clear Lake, we need to significantly increase our efforts to protect the Iowa Great Lakes.

For the past three summers, 3 DNR Water Patrol Officers have been stationed on boat ramps to educate boaters about the threat of AIS. While on the boat ramps these officers are also inspecting boats and trailers for any signs they are carrying AIS. However, with 12 major boat ramps and 3 officers, many boat ramps remain uncovered. The major concern is with coverage is on weekends and holidays when the number of boaters using our ramps increases significantly.

Last summer we launched a program for volunteers to assist the DNR at major boat ramps on busy weekends and holidays. Each volunteer would cover a boat ramp for two hours a month to educate boaters about the harm AIS can do to our lakes. Some volunteers may want to contribute more than two hours per month - that is encouraged.

## From The NSBC...

### Float Yourself "Floato" Contest

Check out the National Safe Boating Council's (NSBC) online photo contest, "*Float Yourself*," to promote life jacket safety and overall safe boating practices. Go to [www.FloatYourselfContest.com](http://www.FloatYourselfContest.com) to personalize several boating safety scenarios by adding your face to humorous photos that feature characters wearing life jackets.

To enter the contest, simply upload a photo into one of the existing images in the "Floato Album". The picture is then posted in the "Floato Gallery" and can then be shared with friends and family. Visitors can vote for their favorite entry by entering the "Floato Gallery" and clicking on the thumbnail version of their favorite photo. The participant who receives the most votes at the end of the contest will win a personalized iPod Nano.

The "Float Yourself" online photo contest runs through September 7, 2009. Winners will be announced following the end of the contest.

#### To help prevent the spread of AIS, boaters should follow a simple set of procedures each time when leaving the water:

- Remove any visible plants, fish, or animals before transporting equipment
- Drain water from all equipment (motor, livewell, bilge, transom well) before transporting
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, boots, clothing, dogs).
- Before moving to another waterbody either: Rinse your boat and equipment with hot (104 degree) water; or spray your boat and trailer with a high pressure water at a car wash; or dry your boat and equipment for at least 5 days.
- Never release plants, fish, or animals into a waterbody unless they came out of that waterbody. Empty unwanted bait in the trash.
- Learn to identify aquatic invasive species. Report any suspected infestations to the nearest DNR fisheries station.
- If a boat, motor, trailer, live well, etc. have been out of the water for a considerable length of time (five days minimum – ten days better) any AIS should have died. To be sure, everything should be washed with hot water and allowed to dry before entering the lake.

# Panama City Beach Mayor, Gayle F. Oberst, Presents Proclamation at 2009 IBWSS

Gayle F. Oberst, Mayor of Panama City Beach, Florida, presented a Proclamation to Arlyn Hendricks (NWSC President) and Veronica Floyd (NSBC Chair) during the opening of Monday's General Session. (See photo on page 2.) The Proclamation declares that the Mayor supports the efforts of NWSC and NSBC to improve boating and water safety.



~Proclamation~

A PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING  
APRIL 19-22, 2009, AS  
THE 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
"INTERNATIONAL BOATING AND WATER SAFETY SUMMIT"  
IN PANAMA CITY BEACH.

WHEREAS, prior Summits have brought together hundreds of boating and water safety professionals and volunteers who acted as teachers and students, sharing invaluable knowledge and techniques; and

WHEREAS, these Summits are helpful to anyone involved with boating and water safety by sharing ideas for reducing boating accidents, preventing drowning, and helping to save lives; and

WHEREAS, many presentations, demonstrations, and workshops are held during the Summit, offering a wide variety of topics ranging from kid's topics to first responders; and

WHEREAS, these professionals gather to discuss and learn effective new techniques in Education, Outreach and Communication, Law Enforcement, and Risk Management, and set the current and future direction of boating and water safety; and

WHEREAS, these Summits afford the opportunity for the boating and water safety professionals to receive awards and recognition for their achievements throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, performance goals and objectives set through strategic planning will hopefully lead to a new evolution in boating safety, recognized by the Administration and Congress;

THEREFORE, I, Gayle F. Oberst, Mayor of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida, do hereby support the efforts of the National Safe Boating Council and the National Water Safety Congress to improve boating and water safety and proclaim the days of April 19 through April 22, 2009, as

**"INTERNATIONAL BOATING AND WATER SAFETY SUMMIT"**

and look forward to changes made in the industry due to the issues discussed during this Summit.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City to be affixed this Twentieth of April, in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nine.

**City of Panama City Beach**  
*Gayle F. Oberst*  
Gayle F. Oberst, Mayor



*Holly J. White*  
Holly J. White, City Clerk

## Grants

continued from page 1

requirements which the National Water Safety Congress has set forth to match the goals of the National Recreational Boating Safety Strategic Plan. Please watch the Congress web site for more information and for the application for 2010 Grass Roots Grants which will be available in August.

### BEYOND COLD WATER BOOT

**CAMP:** The huge success of Cold Water Boot Camp will be followed up with *Beyond Boot Camp The Three "R"'s Rescue, Recovery, Rewarm*. The program will begin this fall in Ohio on the chilly shores of Lake Erie. The focus of this program will be based on the continuation of education of dangers of Cold Water Immersion, the important roll that the life jacket plays for all those working or recreating near or in cold water, and the rescue, recovery, and rewarming of a victim surviving, most likely because they have had their life jacket on, cold water immersion. Believe it or not our "campers" from the first Cold Water Boot Camp have asked to return to assist!

The National Water Safety Congress, its' Board of Directors, Staff, and our partners in boating and water safety education publicly acknowledge and thank the U.S. Coast Guard for their continued support of these very important programs. We will keep you updated through this Journal and our web site.



Thanks to Mentor (Ohio) Dive Team, Spirit students in Ohio learn about rescuing a victim from the water



Spirit students in their NASBLA approved Ohio Boating Education Course, the first step in the Spirit of America Youth Education Programs.

# 2009 NWSC Awards Luncheon

The 2009 International Boating and Water Safety Summit showcased individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to water safety at the NWSC Awards Luncheon on April 21, and the IBWSS Awards Banquet held April 22.

**THE DEADLINE FOR 2010 NOMINATIONS IS DECEMBER 1, 2009.** Please see the web site for your application, [www.watersafetycongress.org](http://www.watersafetycongress.org). Complete the application and get it to us through your Regional Vice President.

## REGION ONE:

**Brian Davidson, Vice President**

### Awards of Merit:

Wendell Thompson, SOA-Mohican School Program

James Kriner, North Central Ohio Safe Boating Council

Blystone's Marine Supply

Nickolas J. Suvak

Columbus Sail & Power Squadron

John Wargo, Park Ranger, USACE

Tionesta Lake Park Rangers, USACE

### Letters of Commendation:

RAD Planning Team Water Safety Council of South Central Ohio

Patricia A. Hixon, Park Ranger, USACE

Carl Anderson

George Christ

Alyssa Duer

Jennifer Way-Young

## REGION TWO:

**John Punkiewicz, Vice President**

### Awards of Merit:

Lt. Farmer, Indiana DNR

USCG Aux. Flotilla 085-33-04

Water Safety Quiz Development Team

Robin Absire, City of South Haven, MI

Salyorville Lake Interpretive Services

Team and Volunteers

### Letters of Commendation:

John Burger, Steve Bielser, John Perrault, Lisa Perrault, and Ken Mulally, USACE

Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal

Aquatic Nuisance Species Dispersal

Barriers Safety Work Group

## REGION THREE:

**Ernie Lentz, Vice President**

### Awards of Merit:

Safety on the Blue Water Safety Committee

Bobby Bartlett, Dale Hollow Lake, USACE

West Point Lake Water Safety Council

Maryland Natural Resources Police,

Western Region Area 8, Districts 7 & 8

Melissa Scarborough, Maryland Natural Resources Police

Houston Nutt, J. Stern, and Michael Oher, University of MS

### Letters of Commendation:

Frederick T. Matthies, West Point Lake, USACE

Brandy Bennett and Vance Austin, Enid Lake, USACE

Ronald Robertson, North Carolina Resources Commission

Jim Legge, Wal-Mart Corp. Genada, MS

## REGION FOUR:

**Alan Bland, Vice President**

### Awards of Merit:

Robin H. Mills, Tulsa District Water Safety PDT

Joseph McLane, First Midwest Bank Austin Boat Show Boating and Water Safety Partners

San Antonio Boat Show Boating and Water Safety Partners

### Letters of Commendation:

Bootheel Sign Company & Advertising

Justin Tuck

Orville Fisher

## REGION FIVE:

**Ed Huntsman, Vice President**

### Awards of Merit:

Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona

California Boating Safety Campaign (YBYR)

Shawn A. Alladio, K-38

California Boating Safety Campaign (Wear It)

### Letters of Commendation:

Arizona GOHS Joint OUI/DUI Campaign

## REGION SIX:

**Ed Huntsman, Interim Vice President**

### Awards of Merit:

Mike Swanson, USCG Aux.

Dean Terencio, USCG Aux.

Nanci Terencio, USCG Aux.

### Letters of Commendation:

Unified Boaters of Canyon Ferry



continued on page 8

# Hydropower Practitioners Attend International Summit

Members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and Hydro Public Safety Issues Group (HPSIG) held their annual meeting on water safety, shoreline development, and public recreation issues at licensed hydropower projects throughout the U.S during the Summit. They also sponsored a 4-hour block of presentations on various topics that included: High-Tech Tools for Safer Lake Management, On-Water Habitable Structures, Property Management Strategies, and South Carolina's first Alligator Harvest.

FERC is an independent regulatory agency that has broad responsibilities licensing and inspecting non-federal hydropower projects. Most of the 2,000 FERC-regulated hydropower projects provide water-based recreational opportunities and comprehensive water safety programs. HPSIG is a group of FERC hydropower licensees organized in 1992 to communicate and collectively learn from each other about public safety. Both are represented on the Board of Directors of the National Water Safety Congress (NWSC).

Joe Morgan, Director of FERC's Compliance Division and meeting participant, noted "Public safety at hydropower projects is everyone's responsibility and the Summit is the premiere venue for the exchange of information. Identification of hazards and implementation of safety measures are all in a day's work to ensure that projects are constructed, operated, and maintained to protect life, health, property, and the environment."



# Hawaii Safe Boating Partnership

by Don Sanders

The Hawaii Safe Boating Partnership (HSBP) has been very busy organizing and implementing National Safe Boating Week events. This partnership is comprised of the following organizations who are dedicated to safe boating: the Hawaii State Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, the Honolulu Sail and Power Squadron, the US Coast Guard and the U S Coast Guard Auxiliary. On April 22, we invited the Mayor of Honolulu, Mufi Hannemann, to present his annual Safe Boating Proclamation at the Waikiki Yacht Club. Then, on May 4th, we participated in a Safe Boating Week Proclamation by Lt. Governor Duke Aiona at his office in the Hawaii State Capitol Building. Finally, on May 16, HSBP held a very successful Safe Boating Fest at the Koko Marina Shopping Center in Hawaii Kai on Oahu. This event included safe boating demonstrations, life jacket fittings for keiki (children) and a SAR demonstration by the Coast Guard.

## YouTube Video Has Big Impact

On May 8, 2009, a man was being filmed while driving his Bass boat on Ross Barnett Reservoir north of Jackson, MS. Traveling at approximately 70 mph, he hit a wave at the wrong angle and unintentionally sent a safety message to all of us.

Check out the link to the video:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UEETjztLqI>



**Get REVVED UP**  
**for the 2010 Season!**

**SAVE THE DATES:**  
**March 28 - 31, 2010**

Join us!  
14th Annual  
International Boating &  
Water Safety Summit  
in Daytona Beach!

**HILTON DAYTONA BEACH OCEANFRONT RESORT**  
**DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA**

# Idaho Marine Law Enforcement Academy

Inspired by the officer safety messages of former NASBLA President John Fetterman, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation state boating program put a new twist on their annual marine law enforcement academy recently held in Boise. To stress officer safety, the 21 students attending this training course were provided a complimentary Mustang inflatable PFD that they could take back to their duty station and use during their marine patrols. There was, however, one catch. Not only were the students required to wear the PFDs while on-the-water in a patrol boat during the academy, they were required to wear them during the classroom portions as well.

Many of these students had limited exposure to operating patrol boats and marine law enforcement issues so this was an ideal time for a strong message on officer safety. To reinforce this concept,

the academy instructors also wore PFDs at all times.

In Idaho, marine law enforcement is the responsibility of county sheriffs, not a state agency, so there is no opportunity to implement a statewide PFD wear policy for marine deputies. "While we cannot and do not tell the counties how to run their marine law enforcement programs, we can educate individual officers and recommend counties have a wear policy", says Randy Herman, Boating Law Enforcement Training Coordinator and developer of this training technique. Herman further stated that this concept was well accepted by both students and instructors. In fact, students strongly supported the wearing of PFDs at all times during the academy as comments received in the evaluations cited opportunities to educate, setting an example, and muscle memory development as reasons

why they were supportive. One of the students even relayed an interesting story. Apparently the student forgot he had the PFD on and drove home with it still on. He walked into the house and was greeted by his son who was wondering what that that funny looking thing was daddy was wearing.

The wearing of PFDs and boating safety education reached beyond the marine deputies. The classroom portions of the academy were held in a hotel conference facility and while students were walking around on breaks, several were approached by hotel patrons inquiring what these strange looking things around their neck were. This was a great opportunity to educate the public.

For more information on this program contact Randy Herman at (208) 799-5126 or rherman@idpr.idaho.gov.



# Benefits of NWSC Membership!



Please visit us on line for your application to become a member of the NWSC today! Applications can be downloaded, printed and sent to our office, or join directly through the web site.

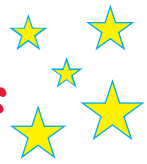
*Individuals, companies, agencies, and organizations –*

*Expand your influence through NWSC membership!*

### Members of the NWSC receive:

- Opportunity to participate in a first-class annual international professional development, training and education programs.
- Professional recognition through participation in national, regional and local awards programs.
- *The Water Safety Journal* – current water safety news and information.
- Opportunity for input into national, state, and local legislation with support of the national organization.
- Access to the expertise of water safety professionals across the country.
- Opportunity to develop international contacts with water safety professionals.
- Discounts on NWSC sponsored classes.

# Who's Who in Water Safety: Awards and Recognition



## 2009 NWSC Regional, National and President's Award Winners



**Region One Award:**  
*Spirit of America Foundation*



**Region Two Award:**  
*Jack Tumbleson, Rock Island/ Moline Dispatch/USCG Aux. Flotilla 93*



**Region Three Award:**  
*J. Percy Priest Lake Park Rangers, USACE*



**Region Five Award:**  
*Arthur L. Wirtz, U.S. Forest Service*



**Region Six Award:**  
*RBS Arctic Team*



**The National Award:**  
*Kerri Nguyen, Associate Marketing Director, Allstate Insurance Co.*

*Congratulations to ALL our award winners... and Thank You for striving to make a difference!*



**President's Award:**  
*Brenda Warren, USACE (retired)*

*See page 5 for a listing of all recipients of Letters of Commendation and Awards of Merit.*