

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO

AUGUST 2014

Save the Date—CVP Potluck Dinner 28 Sep 2014



Colonel Dan Choike (USMC Ret), and Amy Denn present Jim Bobbitt with CVP 1,000 hour award.

Please join the NREA Branch on 28 September for a CVP appreciation dinner to be held at Prince William Forest Park, Campground #5 dining hall at 4 PM.

Bring a dish to share and enjoy the camaraderie of those who appreciate outdoor recreation at MCBQ.

NREA gives thanks to the many persons who volunteered their time and services and plans to recognize them at this gathering.

Mac Garner, Fred Salo and Ed Sobieranski were recognized for their

service in forming and directing the Quantico Injured Military Sportsman Association.

QIMSA has provided food, lodging, equipment and CVP leadership to support wounded warrior hunting opportunities aboard MCBQ.

Former MCBQ Commander Dan Choike helped Amy Denn, Head, NREA Branch, issue Certificates of Appreciation to the volunteers in attendance.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Raptor Tales 2

CLEO Training 3

Snakehead Tournament 3

Trails and Landscapes 4

FIELD NOTES:

- ◆ Wildlife baby boom in 2013 turns to bust in 2014.
- ◆ Turkey brood sightings were highest ever in 2013 but lowest ever in 2014.
- ◆ White-tailed deer fawning period delayed in 2014. Newborn fawns are still being found in July and August. Normal fawning is in May and June.
- ◆ Acorns, an important wildlife food crop, are being produced by oaks this year and the annual count will be conducted in late August. Good news—we expect at least a moderate crop, unlike last year's failure.
- ◆ Please participate in the fall archery hunter survey and let us know what you observe this fall.

MCBQ a Haven for Bluebirds

William and Jeannie Hartzell became MCBQ bluebird stewards in 2009, taking over from Alex and Joyce Paszly. They have continued to ensure bluebirds have suitable nesting boxes.

“Our first year had a really high occupancy (>90%), and the following year was really low (39%). In 2010, a lot of the nests were used by other wildlife – such as other birds and insects (ants and wasps). We learned to put cedar chips

in the bottoms of the boxes each year when we clean out the boxes in early spring. We also soap the sides of the boxes to deter wasps from building nests.”

Jack Reedy and Dave Smith are key CVP associates, tending to many of the pre-season box inspections, cleaning and replacement details. And when a box is damaged, Ferd Heider is quick to construct replacements. Will gave an interesting presentation at the 2013 CVP meeting con-

cerning the history of the bluebird program and nesting success on Base. In most years, over 80% of boxes are used by bluebirds.



William and Jeannie Hartzell

Birds of Prey are Subjects of Conservation Activities



Bill Campbell marks protection zone around active bald eagle nest.

In 2014, CVP members helped mark a protection area to provide a quiet zone around a bald eagle nest in Training Area 10B in keeping with Chesapeake Bay region eagle management recommendations.

In April 2014, Jeff Cooper and associates from the Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries worked with MCBQ staff to climb the nest tree and put leg bands on the two eaglets.

“AN OSPREY WAS
 TRYING TO FLY
 FROM THE NEST
 BUT IT WAS
 TANGLED IN TWINE
 AND COULDN’T
 FLY”

On 11 August, the Quantico Marina reported that a grown osprey was apparently stuck in a nest. A photographer zoomed in and a close-up photo documented twine was wrapped around the bird’s legs.

The osprey was tied to the nest material. Justin Jennings, NREA contractor, with help from Facilities Maintenance Section, arrived on scene to rescue the bird.

They were repeatedly dive-bombed by other hovering ospreys as they cut away the material from the entangled bird. The operation was successful and the tangled bird flew away, carrying a glove with it.

Photo by Brad Watkin



Technician controls talons during banding. Photo by Damon Lowery.



Osprey rescue team in action.

Conservation Law Enforcement In-Service Training

The Marine Corps currently has a staff of 29 Conservation Law Enforcement Officers (CLEOs) located at 11 installations. Quantico CLEOs have the lead for organizing and operating mandatory annual in-service training in all aspects of conservation law enforcement and criminal investigation.

USMC CLEOs also serve as Federal Law Enforcement Officers and are commissioned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The 2014 training was held at Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina, and focused on constitutional law, search and seizure, use of deadly force and firearms qualification.

Volunteers cannot serve in law enforcement operations but are a valued resource as “eyes” and “ears” to report suspicious activities to the CLEO’s.



Dan Hensley scores targets.

“STRONG HAND ONLY, TWO ROUNDS IN THREE SECONDS, SCAN AND HOLSTER! **GUN!**”



Officer “Dan” directs in-service firearms qualification.

Snakehead Fishing Tournament

The Second Annual Commander’s Snakehead Fishing Tournament was held 6-7 June 2014.

CVP members helped staff the weigh-in and youth fishing games. Prizes donated by Marine Corps Community Services were awarded to youngsters who were able to capture “practice” fish scattered across the softball infield. Jim Diggins (pictured) along with other volunteers ensured the kids had a great time.

Marilisa Porter, NREA, painted faces to the delight of many.

Tournament winners included:



Team Ironwoods, Total weight=196 lbs.

Snakehead Down: Biggest and most snakeheads.

Individual Category: Emmitt Pilkington, largest fish.

Photos by Amy Denn



Volunteers Tend to Landscapes and Trails

NREA Branch (B 046)
3049 Bordelon Avenue
Quantico, VA 22134

CVP Contacts:
703-432-6782
703-432-6776
703-432-6777
E-mail:
John.rohm@usmc.mil

Numerous volunteers contributed to trail maintenance activities in 2014. Quantico Mountain Bike Club members signed up for the CVP and contributed many hours on tree clearing, boardwalk construction and route markings. Thanks go to Major James Long (USAF) for organizing QMBC work parties.

A large endeavor has been the fabrication of over 140 new trail signs to mark interior crossing points on the Mainside Trail system. Ferd Heider has led efforts along with help from Frank Harris, Jeff Shively, Jim Clarke, Cecil Milner and others.

Ice storms are the worst but tornados, derechos, wind gusts, lightning strikes, and decay all result in falling trees. Over 16 miles of trails at Mainside and 100+ west of I-95 require inspection and clearing on a regular basis to provide access for recreation and resource management.

Volunteers Jeremy Hinson, Mark Curtis, Curt Lewis, Andy Tirsch and Jim Kirkman used chain saws and brush cutters to clear blowdowns and restore the 2nd Prince William County cultural resources site in Training Area 17B. See photos at bottom.



Colonel Harris (USMC Ret) and Jeff Shively assemble trail signs.
Photo by Brad Watkin



Colonel Dave Peeler (USMC Ret), Dennis Mitchell and others "supervise" as the treads get secured to a boardwalk on Beaver Pond Trail.



Monument site restored in TA 17B



Chain saw master, Curt Lewis, in action