Kudos Helen Burgan

Last month park staff recognized Campground Host Helen Burgan’s dedication to Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Helen began volunteering at the Oregon Inlet campground in 2016 and has contributed more than 1,500 hours. Thank you, Helen!

Left to right: Volunteer Coordinator Nicole Loiseau, Supervisory Visitor Use Assistant Darius Collins, Campground Host Helen Burgan, Superintendent Dave Hallac, Revenue & Fee Business Manager Susie Kowlok

Stories From the Field – Caryn Fitch

Most understand intuitively why a person like me puts on a volunteer shirt with the VIP emblem of the National Park Service on its sleeve, and goes off to work, just like most regular folks go to work...but who does so, and willingly, without pay. It is just for the privilege to associate with, and be a supportive part of, our national parks: They are beautiful, amazing, awesome—inspirations to more people than we will ever know—if only because they exist!

But in my case, it is more than that. I owe a wonderful life that has been...
filled with treasures of time spent in these special spaces. I “grew up” in Tuolumne Meadows, in the Yosemite, and backpacked as a teenager in the rugged High Sierras. I lived for those times in each year when I could go to these places. I had no idea how unique, special and limited they were. They led me to an absolute “must do” if I were to attend college…no other college would do but Humboldt State (Arcata, CA) where, in those days in the 60s, lived the best “ranger factory” anywhere around.

So, with a bachelor’s degree in Wildlife Management, way back when, I began to fulfill my wish to support wildlands and things. I delayed this incredible deep-rooted goal to serve in the US Navy—fulfilling another perceived obligation to our incredible and amazing and almost unbelievable forefathers who managed to forge a democracy and then to forbid slavery and to yet maintain an amazing country.

When that service time passed, it was time to return “home”—to do what I could do with the time and energy that I might have left—to support my first love in every way that I could. Living within the park is truly just frosting on the cake for me, hurricanes and all!

There is a shorter way to explain “why does a VIP volunteer?”—it is really, simply, “payback time”. Payback to all who have gone before, for all who serve and toil now, and for all those yet unborn who – because of what the living are doing now – will have the joy and pleasure and beautiful living that exposure and experience in our national parks make possible. How lucky am I to be a small, very small, part of it all!

Caryn Fitch volunteers in the Bodie Island Fee Office and at Headquarters assisting the Environmental Compliance Specialist

From the Volunteer Office

Each year every NPS park unit must submit an annual volunteer report. I’m pleased to say that last fiscal year (Oct 1, 2016 - Sept 30, 2017) the Outer Banks Group reported 300 volunteers who contributed 22,954 hours. This is a 29% increase in the number of hours from the previous year! These hours show that our volunteers are dedicated. Our volunteers are contributing their talents and making a difference, to our visitors and to the daily operation. Thank you for all you do!

As always, BIG thanks,
Nicole Loiseau
Outer Banks Group
Volunteer Coordinator
252-475-9042
Cape Hatteras National Seashore hosted a volunteer event Saturday, October 28 in recognition of Make a Difference Day—the largest national day of community service. Thirty-eight volunteers helped plant sea oats along Ramp 4. Thank you to all the volunteers! You made a difference!!

Each year the Outer Banks Group hosts a volunteer event to celebrate this special day. Next year, Make a Difference Day is October 27th. Mark your calendar!
Alternative Fall Break

Last month 12 students from UNC Chapel Hill helped Fort Raleigh National Historic Site Facility Management Division meet an environmental assessment finding by locating and exposing the tops of the housing septic tanks so that the tanks could be assessed. They also cleared vegetation at the housing area. Thank you for spending part of your fall break with us!

Volunteers Needed!!!

Please spread the word! Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Wright Brothers National Memorial, & Fort Raleigh National Historic Site are looking for dedicated volunteers to assist in various areas:

- **Museum Aide** (Manteo)
- **Receptionist** (Manteo)
- **Volunteer Events Assistant** (All locations)
- **Visitor Center Assistant** (Kill Devil Hills)
- **Landscaper** (Manteo & Kill Devil Hills)
- **Maintenance Worker** (Manteo & Kill Devil Hills)
- **Permit Office / Visitor Center Assistant** (Bodie Island)

From everyone at the Outer Banks Group, happy Thanksgiving!!!

At this time of Thanksgiving celebration our thoughts turn grateful to you with warm appreciation. Thank you!!