



Meet the July 27, 2019 WaterFire Orb Lighter:

John J. Kolodziejski

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District

John J. Kolodziejski is the Resource Manager at the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Pittsburgh District's Shenango Lake. He and his team are responsible for the management and operations of the dam, the 3,500 acre lake and over 15,000 acres of recreational area. Control of the dam also means control of the water flow in the Shenango River downstream, including the stretch of river on which WaterFire occurs. John has worked with the ACOE in Pittsburgh to provide safe water levels for all WaterFire events since year one.

John received the Ohio River Division Natural Resource Management Employee of the Year honor which recognizes ACOE employees who make their regions effective, responsive, innovative and visionary. Because John was previously a national instructor who taught resource managers and park rangers tactical communication, professionalism, and safety, he has enjoyed passing along his knowledge by helping to direct the ACOE District Leadership Development Program which promotes leadership tenets into aspiring Corps employees. He also leads a Resource Manager Enhancement Initiative for young tenured staff who possess strong leadership potential. John is very active with numerous partnerships and volunteer groups who share the common goal of improving and safeguarding the resources at Shenango Lake.

In his free time, John relishes time spent outdoors in all seasons hunting, trout fishing and simply discovering and exploring nature. He is married to his best friend Diane and is the father of two wonderful daughters, Amber and Alyssa.

True to his nature, John wants everyone to know how great Shenango Lake is for camping, boating, fishing, hunting and sightseeing. Nearly 600,000 people visit the lake annually. If you haven't visited Shenango Lake, you should, it's one of the jewels in our Shenango Valley!



WaterFire Sharon is Honored to have John Kolodziejski light the Orb tonight!

ART

MUSIC

DANCE

PERFORMANCES

FOOD

Meet the July 27, 2019 WaterFire Orb Lighter:

Bob Wilson

Bob Wilson was part of the initial group that helped bring WaterFire to Sharon. Wilson served as WaterFire's first Chairman and also served as interim Executive Director during the first year of WaterFire and full time Executive Director during WaterFire's second year. Wilson was also part of the exploratory group that first visited WaterFire in Providence, Rhode Island. In addition to Wilson, the group included Gary Meszaros, Donna Winner, Karen Winner Sed, Chip Mastrian and Rick and Jen Barborak. Wilson recalled, "Gary Meszaros organized the trip to visit WaterFire. He had seen it years earlier and envisioned something like it for the Shenango River in downtown Sharon. At the time, I was an active volunteer in local economic development, and was serving on the board of Penn Northwest. Someone couldn't make the trip, and my name was suggested as a fill in. Having been a lifelong resident of Sharon, I was very interested in exploring anything that could benefit our area."



The group of seven that first visited WaterFire, served as the core that brought WaterFire to Sharon. Wilson commented, "bringing WaterFire to Sharon was like starting a small business. There were a lot of hurdles to overcome, but through hard work and tremendous community support, we were able to achieve great success. I will always be proud of what we and our hundreds of volunteers accomplished." Wilson vacated his leadership role with WaterFire after serving for three years. Wilson stated "I am strictly a volunteer now. I like working the last shift as a fire tender on one of the boats. Seeing WaterFire in Sharon is still one of the most beautiful things I have experienced in my life".

Wilson resides in Sharon with his wife Fran, and their two sons Ben and Jacob.

WaterFire Sharon is Honored to have Bob Wilson light the Orb tonight!