

David Fischbach

Maintenance Supervisor, Patapsco Valley State Park, Maryland Park Service



Nita Settina, Superintendent, Maryland Park Service, nominator Robin Melton, Secretary Griffin and Employee of the Year David Fischbach at the awards ceremony taking place on May 18, 2009 in the Tawes Garden at DNR headquarters.

Affectionately known as “Fish” among colleagues, David Fischbach is a utility infielder for Captain Robin Melton at Patapsco Valley State Park. He does it all. He is responsible for all of the electrical and mechanical systems, the structural, landscape and equipment maintenance for the entire Park, in addition to being a mentor for his staff. With over 20 years of experience in the Maryland Park Service, Fischbach is an integral member of the team at Patapsco Valley.

His formal title is Maintenance Supervisor for the north end of the Park. However, after an assistant manager left on extended sick leave last Memorial Day, his duties expanded. Then a month later, the southern Maintenance Supervisor left on special assignment, and his territory practically doubled. Instead of becoming discouraged, Fischbach accepted his new

responsibilities, approaching this new era of park service with a positive attitude.

This past winter, Fischbach had an opportunity to showcase his handiness. There was a leak in the Park’s main waterline. Due to its age and remote location, engineers determined that a temporary road must be built to access the pipe, and that the whole operation would cost the State around \$10,000. A true jack of all trades, David Fischbach led an internal investigation into the leak, found it and repaired it. The job cost about \$500. This is one example of Fischbach’s ingenuity. His familiarity with Patapsco Valley State Park and his ability as a maintenance man allow the Park to conduct most repairs internally, saving the State loads of money.

Being an experienced hunter certainly is not in the job description for a

Also nominated for Employee of the Year

Becky Barbee (Finance & Administrative Service)

Officer Gerry Bond (Natural Resources Police)

LaVon Boston (Watershed Services)

Ranger Cineva Kline (Maryland Park Service)

Gary Burnett (Maryland Park Service)

Jim McGee (Engineering & Construction)

Arden Fields (Information Technology Services)

Patricia Delgado (Chesapeake & Coastal Watershed Services)

Barbara Stelzer-Herfel (Natural Resources Police)

Marti Woodfield (Maryland Park Service)

Laura Younger (Coastal Management Zone)

Kevin Zeigler (Maryland Park Service)

maintenance supervisor, but it’s just another tool in Fischbach’s seemingly infinite toolbox. Earlier this year, he prepared Patapsco Valley State Park for its first managed hunt, marking boundaries, setting up deer transport and coordinating with private land owners. The Park safely and successfully completed two hunts in January.

His supervisors admire his work ethic and call his “can-do” attitude infectious. In her nomination letter, Captain Melton described the scene:

It is snowing and most of her other employees have left to go home. Not David Fischbach, though. He and his maintenance team are readying the Park for the next day, making sure the roads are plowed and salted. She asks for an update on her way out, and Fischbach tells her not to worry.

“I don’t worry,” says Captain Melton, “and that, more than anything, is why Dave Fischbach should be DNR’s employee of the year.”

And that is why Dave Fischbach is DNR’s employee of the year. n