



PRMonthly June 2008

In This Issue

What's New With Our Members?

The Key Word is Fun

WPRA Board Highlights

Recreation Section Call for Nominations

Recreation Pays Big Dividends

Park Goes Smoke Free

What's New With Our Members?

Congratulations to **Carol Poole**, Sun Prairie Park, Recreation & Forestry, for completing the requirements to become a Certified Park and Recreation Professional!

Congratulations to **Jill Dudley**, Mt. Horeb Park & Recreation and husband **Casey Dudley**, Verona Park & Recreation, on the birth of their son **Brecken Arthur Dudley**! Brecken was born May 16th, weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce, and was 20" long. Brecken and Jill are doing well.

Upcoming WPRA Activities

* All conference registration booklets for the 2008 WPRA Annual November Conference to be held in La Crosse have been mailed to all members. Members should be receiving them within the next 2 weeks.

Registration is now open on-line

[Register today!](#)

* Registration is now open for the Summer 2008 Park Tour to be held in Platteville July 23-25.

* 2009 Official ballots will be mailed sometime within the next couple of weeks. Please take the time to vote for your 2009 Leadership! Ballots will be due to the WPRA Office prior to October 1, 2008.

The Key Word is FUN...

One of the best methods of engaging youth and parents to reconnect with nature and the outdoors is through rewarding, fun outdoor programs. "Engaging Youth in the Outdoors" is a concept that offers a number of examples of successful outdoor youth and family programs in private school settings, scouts, state parks, and local park programs.

Examples of successful programs such as the Catlin Gabel School, operated by director of outdoor education Peter Green, and REI's "Let's Go Camping" initiative, administered by Bob Leonard, focuses on some simple guiding principles. One key they each points out is that the programs must break down the fear of the unknown.

Many of the participants in these programs have had limited experience in the outdoors and the simple act of setting up shelter can prove to be a daunting barrier to those who wish to participate. One other key concept is that the program should be experiential as opposed to a technical skills class. The outdoors can be a great equalizer when working with a diverse cross-section of youth cutting across physical ability as well as age differences.

The other obvious keyword is . . . "fun."

VOTE

Quick Links

WPRA Board Highlights - May 14th

The following business took place at the May 14th WPRA Board of Directors Meeting at the Maritime Museum in Manitowoc:

- After nearly two years of review and extensive discussion, the Board approved a new governance structure for the Board. Starting in 2009, the WPRA Board will consist of the following representatives: President, President-Elect, Past President, Secretary/Treasurer, Region I, II, III, IV Representatives, Section Chairs-Aquatics, Park, Recreation, WTRS, and Student and ex-officio members: Executive Director. In addition, the Section representatives will serve a two year term. (This will be brought up and voted on at the annual meeting in LaCrosse)
- An updated Strategic Plan and new Business Plan were reviewed and approved. Both documents are on the WPRA website for viewing.
- A resolution was introduced by President McLafferty that would request an increase from 600 hours to 1,000 hours for part-time employees before they would be eligible for the Wisconsin Retirement System. An attempt to have a legislator to introduce this change as a bill will now take place.
- Governor Jim Doyle proclaims May as Community Fit Month in Wisconsin per President McLafferty's request to enhance individual and community fitness and wellness.
- An Executive Search format and fee structure is approved by the Board that would provide non-member agencies with assistance in job development and search, job postings, etc.

Current Board Structure

President
 Past President
 President-Elect
 Secretary/Treasurer
 Region I Representative
 Region II Representative
 Region III Representative
 Region IV Representative
 Aquatic Section Chair
 Park Section Chair
 Recreation Section Chair
 WTRS Section Chair
 Student Section Chair
 Emeritus Section Chair
 Student Advisor - ex-officio
 Executive Director - ex-officio

Proposed Board Structure

President
 Past President
 President-Elect
 Secretary/Treasurer
 Region I Representative
 Region II Representative
 Region III Representative
 Region IV Representative
 Aquatic Section Rep (2 years)
 Park Section Rep (2 years)
 Recreation Section Rep (2 years)
 WTRS Section Rep (2 years)
 Student Section Chair
 Executive Director - ex-officio

* Must be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting in LaCrosse.

Recreation Section Call for Nominations

We're searching our membership to find dedicated people interested in serving on the WPRA Recreation Section Board! WPRA REC Section members are encouraged to nominate themselves or fellow colleagues. Please complete the necessary information and fax / e-mail this form to Jacob Tisue at (608) 839-4698 or jtisue@village.cottage-grove.wi.us

Please complete and return by August 8, 2008

I, _____ of _____
(name) (agency)

am interested in serving on the Recreation Section Board. OR, I would like to recommend _____ of _____

(name)

(agency)

for the Recreation Section Board.

Please check the position for which you are nominating the aforementioned individual. Only those members in their respective Regions elect the Region Representatives. The Chair Elect and Secretary/Treasurer are elected by the entire WPRA Recreation Section membership.

- _____ 2009 Chair Elect, 2010 Chairman, 2011 Past-Chair
 _____ Region II Representative (2 year term 2009-2010)
 _____ Region IV Representative (2 year term 2009-2010)
 _____ Secretary/Treasurer

 Person Submitting Recommendation

Date

_____ I may be interested, but would like more information.

 Please contact me via phone _____ or
 email _____
WPRA Recreation Section Position Responsibilities:***Chair Elect, Chair, Past Chair (3 Year Term)***

During the first year, the Chair-Elect is responsible for learning the policies and procedures involved with running the section. The Chair-Elect is responsible for the following year's nominations.

During the second year, the Chair governs the section board. The Chair organizes section board member assignments, develops meeting agendas, facilitates meetings, manages the section budget, and guides the section to reach its prescribed goals and objectives. The Chair also serves on the WPRA Board of Directors during the year.

During the final year of the term, the Past Chair is primarily responsible for the Conference sub-committee and for providing guidance to the current Chair.

Region Representatives (2 Year Term)

Region Representatives may be responsible for a variety of sub-committee assignments; which may include: planning the annual Spring Workshop, coordinating the Youth Leadership Workshop, soliciting conference speakers and moderators, fundraising and promotion of section events, and developing and facilitating the section award program. Region Reps are also responsible for communication lines between the WPRA Recreation Section Board and the members of their respective regions.

Secretary/Treasurer (2 Year Term)

Secretary/Treasurer may also be responsible for a variety of sub-committee assignments; which may include: planning the annual Spring Workshop, soliciting conference speakers and moderators, fundraising and promotion of section events, and developing and facilitating the section award program. Secretary/Treasurer is also responsible for copying WPRA office on minutes, agendas, and other vital paperwork, set up budgetary and expense accounts as needed, and direct coordination with the WPRA Budget sub-committee.

Recreation Pays Big Dividends**By ROBERT LEE LONG**

HORN LAKE - Some DeSoto County cities say investing in parks and recreation is a calculated risk that has paid off big dividends to taxpayers. Horn Lake Mayor Nat Baker said despite that city's cash-strapped resources, city officials have made an investment in state-of-the-art recreational facilities that draw hundreds of visitors to Horn Lake each year for tournaments and other events. Much like Southaven, Baker said it's a gamble city leaders are willing to make.

"It kind of makes you want to push out your chest with pride," Baker said of the Latimer Lakes recreational complex, the crown jewel of 17 city parks. Latimer Lakes Park comprises nine baseball fields, a walking track, two football fields, four lighted tennis courts, a greenways path, playground, picnic area, pavilion and outdoor skating park built for skateboarders, in-line skates and bicycles. Horn Lake spends approximately 10 percent of its \$10 million budget on parks and recreation.

"A complex like that is a big, big draw," Baker said. "It gives the kids in the community an impressive place to play ball," he said. "It helps the local economy with hotels, food and I think it kind of gives the community bragging rights. I've heard several people from out of town say they wish they had something nice like this back home."

Greg Booker, athletic coordinator for the City of Olive Branch, said Olive Branch has five parks - Olive Branch City Park, Southridge Park, Ivy Trails, the George M. Harrison Community Park and Soccer Complex and Magnolia Park. All totaled, Olive Branch has 14 ball fields, five international-size soccer fields and a five-acre multi-purpose field.

The Parks and Recreation Department operates a city-run youth basketball league, adult softball league and fall and spring soccer league that average 1,200 and 700 children a year, respectively. The City of Olive Branch budgeted \$1.5 million for parks and recreation this year, said Will McNeer, Director of Parks and Recreation.

"Parks and recreation is about quality of life," McNeer said. "We try to offer a variety of programs and activities." The city has 20 parks employees on the payroll, who, like Hernando, mow grass around interchanges and pick up litter.

"We have a good crew that keeps the facilities nice," Booker said. "We have top-notch parks. The parks mean a lot to this community," Booker said. Walls Mayor Gene Alday said the Town of Walls currently has one park, a two-and-one half-acre complex in the Caitlyn Ridge subdivision. The Town of Walls had a total budget of \$441,000, with no money earmarked especially for parks. Walls recently installed lights at the park and several benches through a \$5,000 appropriation from the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors. There is no parks budget per se, Alday said.

"We budget a little money for cutting grass and repairs but most of the work is done on a volunteer basis," Alday said. Alday himself climbs on a mower and mows grass along city right-of-ways.

"As our future growth occurs, we will work with the county to take over the old Lake Cormorant School baseball diamond. "I'm big on parks myself," Alday said. "Parks are kind of a little safe haven."

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Park Goes Smoke Free

Park Goes Smoke Free - Will It Happen In Wisconsin Next?

Richland Township supervisors on Monday banned smoking in public parks, but not before some wavering and a philosophical debate on the role of government.

Smoking in Veterans Park and other township open spaces could result in up to a \$600 fine

under the ban, which was part of a comprehensive set of park rules enacted by a 2-1 vote. Last week, a majority of supervisors said they supported the smoking ban, which is similar to an ordinance Quakertown adopted in March. But one of the two, Supervisor Rick Orloff, said Monday he was reconsidering his stance in favor of prohibitions only during the summertime, when cigarettes could pose a fire hazard. After calls of support from the township's police chief and two residents, however, Orloff agreed with Supervisor Mike Zowniriw and voted for an outright ban.

"I'm all for quitting smoking," said Lawrence Schroy, 70, of Paletown Road, a prostate cancer survivor. "If you stop one, two, three, four kids, maybe you've saved a life."

The voice of opposition to the ban was from Supervisor Chairman Craig Staats, a nonsmoker who said he believes the ordinance tries to regulate what is a personal decision. Staats, who has been involved in youth baseball, said he saw few parents lighting up in front of children when Quakertown allowed smoking at its fields. Most smokers would move away from the kids without being told to, he said.

"I find myself coming on the side of less intrusive government," Staats said.

Before Monday's vote, Richland Township lacked any rules for its parks. The ordinance enumerates 31 regulations, including prohibitions on fireworks, alcoholic beverages and littering. Police Chief Larry Cerami said the township will not be heavy-handed in enforcing the rules. Police will issue warnings about smoking and probably would only ticket someone if he or she consistently refused to listen, he said. Cerami floated offering a designated smoking area at Veterans Park, but made clear he supported the ban.

"If you're going to allow smoking, you might as well allow drinking," Cerami said. "I'll bring the cards and we'll have a good old time."

Jim Sulger, 58, who smoked for 35 years before quitting, said he believes the majority of residents support the ban. Sulger is a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee, which first drew up the ordinance. Zowniriw, a former two-pack-a-day unfiltered cigarette smoker, said the township should do what it can to set a good example for its children.

"If there was any redeeming value to inhaling nicotine, I wouldn't be opposed to it," Zowniriw said of the rule. "But I don't see any."

Juliene Hefter, MSOLQ, CPRP Deputy Director
Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association

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