



PRMonthly May, 2008

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May is Community Fit Month

Parks and recreation significantly contributes to and enhances the individual and community health, well-being, and quality of life of residents of your community by; Providing Opportunities to Be Active and Stay Healthy: Active people are less prone to obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and even depression. Parks and recreation is becoming a low cost health prescription with fun and enjoyment as an added advantage.
Healthy, Engaged Communities: Parks bridge gaps between people and serve as a place for people to connect. Growing a hometown with a sense of community is healthy for individuals, neighborhoods, and the vitality of a community.
Clean Air and Water = Life's Essentials: Parks, open spaces, and natural areas are nice, but they are also a necessity. Our greatest natural treasures, clean air, clean water and the open space associated with those treasures are crucial for our survival. Conserving the natural

Dear Juliene,

Welcome to the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association monthly update.

What's New With Our Members?

Congratulations to the following members that have completed the requirements to become Certified Park and Recreation Professionals!

James Andersen, Green Bay Park, Recreation and Forestry.

Nate Brooks and Kirk Krychowiak, Nicolet Recreation Department.

Andrew Leischer, Neenah Park and Recreation.

Dr. Rita Yerkes, Dean & Chair of the George Williams College of Aurora University-Recreation Admisitration, has announced her retirement, effective this May.

environment is essential for all of us.

Wisconsin's Preferred Future: Active Recreation for All - Places and Spaces to Connect and Engage, Open Space and Conservation result in Healthy Individuals of All Ages, Vital and Viable Communities, Clean Air and Water, Parks and recreation provides for people today and supports a preferred future for individuals, communities, and our state overall.

Get Active, Be Healthy during May as Community Fit Month. This month, and Every Day

Youth Leadership Workshop

* Sponsored by the WPRA Foundation

Presented by the Youth Leadership Workshop Committee in conjunction with the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association - Recreation Section

"Building Your Playground Leaders Tool Box"

Professional Facilitators

Kris Henker has worked in the outdoor education field for the past 15 years. She directed an environmental education program in New York State for 10 years and has also taught outdoor education and directed a center in Australia. She has trained over 100 staff, and worked with guests ages 6 - 70. Kris has presented at YMCA and Environmental Education Conferences around the United States and has also presented at the Osaka Youth Conference in Japan. Kris currently resides in Northern WI, where she facilitates programs for Camp Manito-wish's Leadership program.

John Harrits has over 25 years of business experience during which he volunteered his time to youth organizations. He has led youth retreats, outdoor adventure activities including ropes courses, canoeing, backpacking and caving trips for youth. In 2001 he formed his own company which specializes in developing leaders and teams. Over half his business involves working with youth and young adults to develop leadership, decision making, problem solving, communication and teamwork skills. In addition to his own business, John collaborates with Adventure Rock Climbing Gym and Camp Manito-wish YMCA to develop and implement programs for youth.

What You'll Learn At This Workshop

Dozens of developmentally appropriate games & activities for all. How to sequence games and activities to build your playground community. How to reduce conflicts in games and develop a feeling of inclusion for your participants. How to intrinsically motivate kids to participate.

Dress casually and wear tennis shoes (staff shirt recommended). Those attending full day workshop please remember to bring sack lunch and beverage.

3 options to choose from:

Half Day - \$10.00 Per Person - 4 Hour Workshop

Thursday, June 5 (4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.), Cravath Lakefront Center, 341 S. Fremont St., Whitewater, WI 53190. Contact Marge Klinzing at 608-329-2460 with questions.

Half Day - \$8.00 Per Person - 3 Hour Workshop, Friday, June 6 (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
Neenah Boys & Girls Brigade, 109 W. Columbian Ave., Neenah, WI 54956. Contact Jim Kluge at 920-886-6064 with questions.

Full Day - \$15.00 Per Person - 7 hour Workshop, Saturday, June 7 (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) (learning lunch - bring a bag lunch & beverage), Greendale Middle School, 6800 Schoolway, Greendale, WI 53129. Contact Jackie Schweitzer at 414-423-2790 with questions.

The full day workshop will have twice as much information that will be covered that day.

[Click Here to go to the Recreation Section page of the WPRAs website to see additional information or to register on-line.](#)

NRPA Announces the 2008 "Take Me Fishing" Grant Program

Just Launched.....

[The 2008 Take Me Fishing™ Program](#)

What is the Take Me Fishing™ Initiative?

Take Me Fishing™ is a national initiative to grow participation for recreational boating and fishing, reconnect youth with the outdoors, create lifetime anglers and support environmental conservation efforts. NRPA and the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) are partnering to bring resources and support to communities who are committed to growing and improving recreational boating and fishing programs for youth ages 6-15, reconnecting kids with nature, protecting the environment and creating future lifetime anglers.

Benefits to participating agencies

Give a child an opportunity to go fishing! The Take Me Fishing™ initiative is a means to engage communities and provide support via grant funding, programming and marketing support to enable local park and recreation agencies to grow a boating and fishing activities in the community.

How does my community participate in the 2008 Take Me Fishing™ Initiative?

As partners, RBFF and NRPA are pleased to support local communities and provide resources to grow existing recreational boating and fishing programs through our "Anchor Agency" program and support the development of new programs by becoming a "Casting Community".

Complete the [2008 Take Me Fishing™ Program Application](#)

Only online submissions will be accepted. Applications will not be accepted via mail, fax or phone.

When is the deadline to apply?

You must complete your on-line application by 5pm (EST) Friday, May 9, 2008. All applications will be considered.

NOTE: A complete application is indicated by receiving an electronic "Thank-you" page after you have completed the on-line application and hit the "submit" button. If you do not receive a "Thank-you" page, then your application has not been successfully completed and submitted to NRPA.

Need more information?

General questions, please contact us at programs@nrpa.org or 703-858-2199.

Tennis and the Connection to Health

[USPTA](#) is promoting the health benefits of tennis in its new campaign, "[Tennis--for the health of it!](#)". Exercise physiologist and USPTA Master Pro Jack Groppe, PhD, is

the chief evangelist. Even a couple of his "[34 Reasons to Play Tennis](#)" should be enough to convince anyone to trade the treadmill for the baseline.

Cardio Tennis is a new, fun group activity featuring drills to give players of all abilities an ultimate, high energy workout. Taught by a teaching professional, Cardio Tennis includes a warm-up, cardio workout, and cool down phases. If you are looking for a great new way to get in shape and to burn calories, you must try Cardio Tennis.

QuickStart Tennis is an exciting new play format for learning tennis, designed to bring kids into the game by utilizing specialized equipment, shorter court dimensions and modified scoring, all tailored to age and size. It is divided into two different levels-- ages 8 and under and ages 10 and under.

Questions? Please contact NRPA National Partnerships at programs@nrpa.org

City Names Trail for Longtime Forester

"Liska Woods Trail" is new name for southeast side location **Freeman Staff**

WAUKESHA - The trails at Timber Ridge Park on the city's southeast side have a new name - Liska Woods Trail - to honor David Liska, who retired in March after 30 years as city forester. A wooden plaque was unveiled Monday night at the Waukesha Parks, Recreation and Forestry board meeting. The naming came as a surprise to Liska, who was in the audience. "We thought maybe you would have a suspicion that something was up when we corralled you into coming to another meeting," parks director Ron Grall said to Liska. "We just couldn't help but feel this was an appropriate reflection of your long tenure and dedication," Grall said of the new trail name. "I know there are many parks but this one came to mind because it was snatched out of the grasp of development." Liska pulled away a wrapping of white paper to reveal a large wooden plaque bearing the parks department symbol and an inscription that reads: "Liska Woods Trail, dedicated April 14, 2008 to David P. Liska, city forester, 1978-2008, in recognition of his steadfast devotion and stewardship to the 'urban woods.'" "I am flattered, humbled and awed," Liska said. "It might have my name on it but it's a really a reflection of a lot of people. I had a great team to work with."

Liska said his interest in trees began when he was 6 years old. "I have always been fascinated by trees," he said. "I was one of those few people who knew what they wanted to do from a very young age." In a note Liska wrote for the latest edition of the parks department activity guide, in 1978, when he started as city forester, there were 6,000 street trees and 200 acres of park land. Today, there are 24,500 street trees and 1,100 acres of parks.

Midwest Symposium on Therapeutic Recreation

Please join us for the

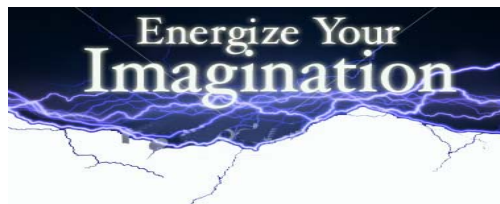
Midwest Symposium on Therapeutic Recreation,
April 28-30 at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, Lake Geneva, WI.

**BROCHURE IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AND
REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN!**

Register for the conference online at
http://muconf.missouri.edu/midwest_symposium

For additional questions or information, contact Jamie Davis at
davisj@missouri.edu or call 573-882-4038.

National Playground Safety Inspector Certification News



National Playground Safety Inspector

Certification Course & Exam
November 2-4, 2008
at the La Crosse Convention Center

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, 200,000 children are treated annually for playground accidents. Of these, 70 percent, or 140,000 occurred at public parks and schoolyards.

Sponsored by the NRPA National Playground Safety Institute, **Wausau Insurance Companies** and **Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association**, this course is the most comprehensive training program on playground hazard identification and risk management methods offered. Advanced reading and 10 hours of training will prepare you for the Certified Playground Safety Inspector Exam scheduled at the culmination of this certification course.

For more information, or to register, visit the WPRA website at
www.wpraweb.org

All-American Aquatics has special offers for WPRA Members

All-American Aquatics is offering a one-time special for all Wisconsin Park and Recreation Members. They have one of the largest Lifeguard Suits and Apparel inventories in the United States and have Speedo Guard suits available as low as \$9.95. Call today to get your Lifeguards and Staff outfitted with the best quality at the best price. They also offer TYR and A3 Performance swimwear and accessories for your Lifeguards and Recreation staff. Custom t-shirts, sweatshirts and apparel can be ordered at a great price. Call today to take advantage of these savings.

This offer is only available to WPRA members and only while supplies last.

Contact All-American Aquatics at 1-800-910-7946
swimmers@all-americanaquatics.com

PGMS Searching for Top Park and Recreation Areas

The Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) is looking to honor the nation's top **parks and recreation areas** with its Green Star Awards. The Green Star Awards program complements other national landscape award programs that recognize outstanding landscape design and construction by saluting the grounds superintendent and staff responsible for maintaining a well-manicured landscape year round.

Last year's Green Star Grand Award winners in the **Park, Recreation Area, or Playground Category** included **Mission Hills Park** in Henderson, Nev. and the **Biltmore Estate** in Asheville, N.C

The deadline for entries is Friday, August 1, 2008.

Attached is a press release providing further details about the Green Star program along with a photo of the 2007 Green Star Honor Awardee in the Park, Recreation Area, Athletic Field, or Playground Category: Mission Hills Park. Please consider sharing this news with WPRA's members.

Sincerely,

Eric Grammer
Professional Grounds Management Society
<http://www.PGMS.org>
"We Grow People"
P: (410) 223-2861
F: (410) 752-8295
ericgrammer@assnhqtrs.com

Please note the untimely passing of Jim Smrz, our 2007 WPRA Honorary Fellowship Award recipient. The following was published in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on 4/24/08.

Smrz, James J. "Jim" Passed away unexpectedly at home on April 22, 2008, at the age of 77. Loving husband and best friend of Kathryn (nee Dutton) for 53 years. Proud and loving father of Jeanne (Charles) DuPont, Timothy (Sandra) and Tracy (Lane) Barton. Proud Grandpa of Julie, Alicia, Caity, Lane, Samantha, Catherine, and Kayla. Dear brother of Barbara (Joseph) Saitz and Jerold (Judy) Smrz. Further survived by numerous relatives and friends. Memorial visitation was held at ST. ALPHONSUS Catholic Church (6060 W. Loomis Road) on Friday, April 25 from 4-7 PM with a 7 PM funeral mass. Private interment. Jim was a generous volunteer of his time for many organizations in the community. Jim was a community leader, a member of the Dahlia Society and a Partner of the Parks and Recreation Department. Memorials to the Deanna Favre Hope Foundation in Jim's name are appreciated. MAX A. SASS & SONS Funeral & Cremation Services GREENRIDGE DIRECTORS 414-282-4050 guestbook-maxsass.com.

If anyone has information that they would like shared with our members please forward information to jhefter@wpraweb.org

Sincerely,

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

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