

IPRA Today

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Our Mission ...
"To support the advancement of park, recreation and environmental conservation opportunities through education, resource tools and

Bettendorf's Palmer Hills Golf Course New Clubhouse Project By: Steve Grimes, Director, Bettendorf Parks and Recreation

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The Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department completed the construction of a new 8700 square foot clubhouse facility at the Palmer Hills Golf Course this past year. The new clubhouse facility replaced a 90-year old farmhouse that was intended to serve as a temporary facility when the course was built in 1974. The course itself is a premier 18-hole championship level course that hosted the 2005 IPRA Fall Workshop golf tournament. Two weeks after the Workshop outing was held, the old clubhouse was demolished and the new construction began.

The Park Board had been considering the replacement of the old clubhouse for a number of years. They had contracted with Downing Architects of Bettendorf to prepare an estimate on renovating the old facility. Due to the challenges of the location of the clubhouse in the middle of the course and some severe topography to deal with, renovation designs were limited in the amount of addi-

tional space that would be created. The Board then commissioned Downing to design a new clubhouse. The staff and a volunteer committee visited a number of clubhouses in the area to gain insights into current design ideas. After gaining additional public input, a final design was selected that included an underground storage area for golf carts, a 2400 square foot dining and kitchen area, and a new proshop area, along with a resurfaced parking lot and driveway area.

Once a cost estimate was finalized for \$1,500,000 for the entire project that included the driveways and parking lot resurfacing and design fees, the Board and staff proceeded to develop a funding proposal. The proposal required the approval of the City Council and included the following:
(Article continued on Page 2, along with a photo of the interior of the clubhouse.)



This 8,700 square foot club house facility replaced a 90-year-old farmhouse that was intended to serve as a temporary facility when the course was built in 1974. The premier facility enhances not only the quality of life for golfers, but for anyone who benefits from the availability of such an outstanding attraction to the community of Bettendorf.

BETTENDORF'S PALMER HILLS GOLF COURSE

(Continued from Page 1)

- A \$400,000 contribution to the project from the city's share of gaming revenues
- A \$400,000 general fund contribution that is being paid back over an eight year period from either course revenues or from the Park Board's annual CIP allocation
- A \$300,000 grant from the local gaming authority (The Scott County Regional Authority) that was broken up into four separate cycle grants of \$75,000 each.
- The balance of \$400,000 coming out of the Golf Course Enterprise Fund balance.

With the funding approved and in place, the project was let out to bid in May of 2005. Construction continued after the demolition through the winter, and the new clubhouse proshop opened April 1 and the dining area on May 12.

The new facility has been very well received by the public. The new dining area is open to the general public and offers a greatly expanded menu and a very pleasant atmosphere with several large screen TV's and a large deck area overlooking the course. The new clubhouse has truly set a benchmark in the area for public golf facilities. The dining area revenues have already exceeded expectations, and they have already begun to branch out to do catering for outside events.

The combination of public funding sources has enabled Bettendorf to provide a premier facility to enhance the quality of life for not only the golfers of our community, but everyone that benefits from the availability of such an outstanding attraction to Bettendorf! Be sure to check out the new clubhouse and stop in for a round of golf or just for lunch or dinner the next time you visit the Quad Cities.



Patrons enjoy the tastefully decorated dining area of the recently constructed Palmer Golf Course Clubhouse.



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ONE WORD SIR: NETWORKING

By: Rick Edwards,
Director, Decorah Parks &
Recreation and Spring
Conference Committee
Member

One definition of **network** is an interconnected or interrelated chain, group or system. We, as recreation professionals, are interrelated and interconnected through the challenges that come with our jobs. There is much to be learned through the experience of our peers.

Social settings provide the best opportunities for the free flow of valuable information leading to the solution of some problems that we all face. There are many opportunities to interrelate and interconnect with our fellow recreation professionals at this year's IPRA Spring Conference to be held in Waterloo April 1, 2, 3 and 4. The conference opens on Sunday, April 1, with a golf outing, an ATV ride and a social that follows for participants of both events. Many problems will be solved. Although probably not Barry's slice.

Monday evening another social opportunity will take place at Doughy Joey's Pizza, located close to the hotel. The Men's Final Four Basketball Championship Social will offer pizza, liquid refreshments and a chance to watch the Hawkeyes win the national championship. Well, on that last point, there is probably a better chance of straightening out Barry's slice.

Networking opportunities abound on Tuesday, beginning at 4:30 p.m. with the exhibit hall social. Meet with other professionals and exhibitors and learn all you can. A pre-event social, awards banquet and scholarship auction round out the evening. Where else is it appropriate to wear a tie and talk about the price of dog poop bags?

Networking can be a very valuable part of your excursion to Waterloo. When that one particular City Council member happens to question that much more detailed than expected city credit card receipt, showing those nine Heinekens, your answer— one word sir: **Networking**.

Oh, and Barry, swing harder.



NRPA's Mid-Year Forum was held in Washington, D.C. February 14-16, 2007. IPRA's Executive Director, Steve Jordison, had the honor of introducing Iowa's Senator Tom Harkin at the "Play Every Day" bill announcement. Pictured below are Ron Lehman, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the NRPA; Tom Farrell, NRPA President; Senator Harkin; Steve Jordison and John Terpkosh, Program Manager of USTA—Missouri Valley Section.



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Emerald Ash Borer Preparation Bark Peeling Workshops Spring 2007



The Pest Management and Environment Program of Iowa State University Extension, the Forestry Bureau of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and the State Entomologist's Office of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will host a training session to prepare for emerald ash borer. This hands-on workshop will focus on bark peeling techniques and review the signs, symptoms, and biology of this invasive, exotic insect pest of ash trees.

Arborists, city/county/state forestry staff, landscapers, and related forest personnel are encouraged to attend this free workshop.

The first workshop will be April 11, 2007, at Davenport Public Works, 1200 East 46th Street, Davenport, IA 52807. The second workshop will be April 12, 2007, at the Comisky Park Building, 255 E. 24th St, Dubuque, IA 52001. Two sessions will be offered for each date.



There will be a limit of 30 persons per session, so please send in the Registration Form to Mark Shour (fax: 515-294-8027 or email: mshour@iastate.edu) to reserve a space and secure a registration form.

Please wear appropriate field attire and bring work gloves, as participants will practice bark peeling and insect collection techniques. Equipment will be provided.

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The Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department received an award for their efforts in conservation. This is the first urban award given by the Polk Soil and Water District. Included in the photo above are four members of the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board, as well as three Soil and Water Commissioners and NCRS District Conservationist, Paul Miller, Des Moines Mayor Cownie and some Des Moines Park and Recreation staff members. (Please see article on Page 6.)

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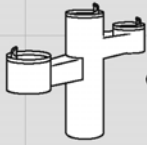
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Des Moines Park & Recreation Department Receives Stewardship Award

The Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) named the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department its 2006 Urban Steward Award winner. The conservation award recognizes the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department for their efforts that resulted in the installation of soil and water saving practices on park land.

Jane Clark, Polk Soil and Water Conservation District chairperson and Paul Miller, Natural Resources Conservation Service district conservationist, presented the award to Des Moines Parks and

Recreation Department board members and staff at a recent city council meeting.

Within the last two years the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department formed an Urban Conservation Advisory Committee and developed a Land Stewardship Policy. As a result, the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department started an Urban Prairie Project, installed rain gardens on park land and developed a rain garden toolkit educational program for urban residents.

"These policies and practices are benefiting the environment," said Clark. "Planting native prairie species and installing rain gardens reduce storm water runoff on public property. These practices not only lessen the potential for flooding for people downstream, but they also provide habitat for butterflies and birds and add natural beauty to the parks."

Rain gardens are low lying areas designed to capture rain-water runoff from parking lots, roofs and roads, filter the water and infiltrate it into the soil. As a result, flooding is reduced and storm water runoff can be filtered before entering rivers, lakes and streams.


"The Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department," Clark said, "Is setting an example for Des Moines area property owners to follow in managing storm water and protecting our natural resources."

For more information about the urban environmental programs of the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department, visit the City of Des Moines web site at www.ci.des-moines.ia.us and look under departments.

The Polk Soil and Water Conservation District is a legal subdivision of state government. The district, in cooperation with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's Division of Soil Conservation, is responsible for conservation programs aimed at reducing soil erosion and improving water quality.


NCRS District Conservationist, Paul Miller, offered additional information regarding the award: "For many years the Polk Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners would select a farmer to recognize each year to thank them for their conservation efforts. As staff members assist landowners and producers, we nominate individuals to the commissioners for awards. The commissioners would select the winner simply based on their conservation accomplishments. Other awards we gave this year included conservation farmer, conservation partner and native buffer award. In 2005, the commissioners added an award to recognize conservation efforts in urban settings. Jennifer Welch and I have worked with some of your staff people on projects and knew of your conservation efforts such as the urban prairie project, rain garden installation in parks, advisory committee and a land stewardship policy. We nominated the department, and the commissioners agreed."

(Photo on Page 4)



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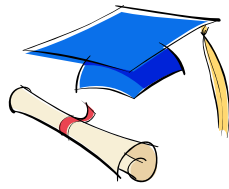
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Scholarship Fund Drive



This year's Kathryn Krieg Membership Scholarship fund drive was a huge success. It is named in honor of Kathryn Krieg. Ms. Krieg was instrumental in shaping the model of what parks and recreation looks like today in Iowa. Her pioneering work in recreation focused on the total human needs of the people in her local community of Des Moines. She served as the Iowa Recreation Association president in 1947. The National Recreation and Park Association inducted her into their Hall of Fame at the 2005 National Congress in San Antonio. The IPRA board of directors passed a unanimous resolution to change the annual member fund drive to the Kathryn Krieg Membership Scholarship fund drive at their meeting in November, 2005.

Monies are placed into the scholarship fund account where it earns interest. As this account grows, the goal is to have it generate enough interest so the principal is not used. Donations are tax deductible with 100 percent of the contributions being placed into the fund account.

To date, in this fiscal year, our members have donated \$1,065! We sincerely appreciate the following individuals and companies who have stepped forward:

- \$100 or more—Steve Jordison, Shive-Hattery Architecture Engineering, Tennis Services of Iowa
- \$75 to \$99—Terry Gray, Angie Nelson, Christine Page
- \$50 to \$74—Patrick Prevenas, Scott Prochaska, Cathy Shutts, Gil Spence, Ward Stubbs, Marie Ware
- Up to \$49—Terry Hoffman, John Pletchette, Terry Robinson, Bruce Beasley, Bill Blanchard, Angie Cole, Glen Cowan, Richard Fox, Steve Grimes, Martha Jorgensen, Kevin Shawgo, Bob Workman

Our members have spoken from the heart by giving almost \$6,100 in the past five years. Here is a yearly breakdown: FY 2006/2007 = \$1,065; FY 2005/06 = \$1,445; FY 2004/05 = \$1,110; FY 2003/04 = \$1,060; FY 2002/03 = \$740; FY 2001/02 = \$675.

We also appreciate the efforts of the Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation (\$1,000), Iowa Amateur Softball Association (\$750) and MUSCO/Outdoor Recreation Products (\$750) for sponsoring additional scholarships. There will be five scholarship recipients announced at the Awards Banquet to be held Tuesday, April 3, at the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center.



SPOTLIGHT ON KEVIN SCHRECKENGAST

Kevin Schreckengast recently assumed the position of Director of the Guttenberg Parks and Recreation Department. He shares that he initially went to the University of Southern Mississippi where he studied Hospitality Management and worked in the industry for some time. His leisure time consisted of a myriad of outdoor activities like athletics, fishing, camping and much more. At one point, Kevin met an individual who worked for the Mississippi Department of Natural Resources. He inquired about his position and his education background and thought, "Wow, I can go to school for that and get paid for it!?!?" Kevin says that was his moment of clarity and decided that the field of Leisure Services was right up his alley! Kevin had close family in the Cedar Rapids area who pointed him in the direction of the University of Northern Iowa of which he was informed had a terrific Leisure Services program!

Kevin admits that he has always been involved with athletics and various other leisure activities. Involvement with local little league, as well as nature improvement organizations have been a priority for him. Once he realized he could have a career relating to his interests, he knew he had to pursue it.

January 6, 2007 was the starting date for Kevin in his new position with the City of Guttenberg. He is responsible for hiring seasonal personnel for maintenance of parks, mowing and operating the pool. He is also responsible for all budgeting issues pertaining to the parks, recreation, pool and local access channel areas. Kevin's additional duties include operating the local cable access channel and its billing for advertisements and overseeing all events and daily operations of the city pool. In addition, he serves on the park board, recreation board and cable commissions and is responsible for advertising, creating and implementing new and existing athletic programs as well as special events.

Kevin is currently preparing the community's first Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This is being accomplished through community forums, focus groups, consulting with experts and research. Kevin is working on a field renovation plan for this upcoming fall to rotate and overall renovate a little league ball diamond. Additional projects include a long-term trail for a multi-use along the riverfront. Minor renovations of the pool are currently taking place to include a new filtration system and chlorinator. Kevin is also working on new program ideas for the local public access channel.

Welcome to the IPRA, Kevin! The membership looks forward to seeing you implement your new ideas and fresh outlook to the City of Guttenberg's Parks and Recreation Department!



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IPRA Calendar of Events

April:

- 2-4 IPRA Spring Conference—Waterloo
- 3 CEU/Aquatic Update—Waterloo
- 9 CEU/Aquatic Update—Iowa City
- 10-11 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Iowa City
- 14 State Spot Shot Competition—Grinnell
- 23 CEU/Aquatic Update—Clear Lake
- 24-25 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Clear Lake
- 24 Leadership Summit—West Des Moines

May:

- 14 CEU/Aquatic Update—Cedar Rapids
- 15-16 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Cedar Rapids
- 18 Pool Managers' Workshop—Clive
- 28 State Office Closed—Memorial Day

WELCOME

- Mike Bushman has been recently named the Recreation Director for the City of Huxley.
- James Kezar will begin duties April 1, 2007 as Aquatics Coordinator for the City of Perry.
- Justin Stuart is the new Sports and Fitness Coordinator for the Indianola Parks and Recreation Department.



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