

IPRA Today

March 2010
Volume X, Issue 9



Doesn't It Feel Sometimes Like We're in the Circus?

There are days when our work is very rewarding, and then there are the days when it feels like a circus. The Spring Conference education sessions will, hopefully, bridge the gap on those days when the clowns show up. The last time the conference was in Sioux City was 2005. Sioux City has changed a lot in that time, and we want to show you all the new parks and improvements. As a community, we have been designated a "Great Place", and we're proud of it.



Skyline of Sioux City

Sunday we have a golf outing at Green Valley Golf Course, the indoor climbing wall from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. and a social at Sweet Fanny's starting at 6:00 P.M. Monday we have the keynote speaker, Fran Mainella, during the opening luncheon. Fran is a past director of the National Park Service and past president of NRPA. She has a lot to say about our profession and will also be presenting at two other sessions. Monday night we have a Dueling Piano social planned for your enjoyment. You won't want to miss that! Tuesday we have a full day of education sessions and the grand opening of the Exhibit Hall. Tuesday evening at the banquet we take time to recognize those who have served the organization, received scholarships and represent the best in professionalism. Following the banquet we relax with the auction and a DJ.



We have a three-ring circus of sorts planned for you. In the first ring is education. In ring number 2 is entertainment. The third ring is networking. We have a lot of new faces in IPRA, and we want you to get to know each other. Book your hotel room at the Clarion by calling 712.277.4101. The rate is \$79 (single or double) plus tax, and the cut-off date is March 31. It is located at 707 4th Street—right across the street from the convention center. Register online as we gather for the 2010 IPRA Conference in Sioux City, April 12-14. I promise the snow will be gone, and winter will be an afterthought. See you in Sioux City!

Contributed by Terry Hoffman, Parks and Recreation Manager, City of Sioux City, and Spring Conference Committee Chair.

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

www.iapra.org

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RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT City of Iowa City



HELP
WANTED

This position organizes, directs and supervises city-sponsored recreational programming. Coordinates the provision of leisure skills and recreational services for the general public. Directly supervises seven employees, plus others on occasion. Indirectly responsible for an additional nine permanent employees and approximately 400-600 temporary employees. Prepares and administers annual budget for the Division. Monitors expenditures during the year and makes recommendations for budget modifications or additional funds. Performs budgetary responsibilities including preparing, documenting, amending and monitoring of Division budget; prepares and administers CIP and capital outlay activities and oversees contract administration; writes grant applications; recommends program fees and charges. Represents Division to outside agencies and general public; monitors public service announcements; monitors activities and relationships of outside organizations and other City departments with Division; coordinates all use of recreation facilities by City programs and community groups. Plans, prepares, produces and disseminates Division program brochures to general public and school children. Interviews and selects staff; trains and supervises selected employees; conducts performance appraisals; approves Division personnel actions; takes disciplinary action as needed; recommends wage scales. Determines City recreational facility maintenance needs, and schedules preventative and ongoing maintenance functions. Develops, maintains and coordinates policies for operation of Division. Listens and responds to complaints, suggestions and ideas from the general public regarding Division activities. Attends meetings of and provides information to Park and Recreation Commission. Functions as liaison to youth sports organizations on monthly basis. Performs as Acting Director of Parks and Recreation in Director's absence. Performs other related duties as assigned.

The selected candidate must possess a Bachelor's degree in recreation administration or a related field from a DOE recognized accreditation body required. A minimum of six years of responsible supervisory experience in community recreation required. Valid Iowa driver's license with satisfactory driving record required. Must become a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional within one year of hire. Must pass a background check.

Salary range: \$64,188.80 to \$99,756.80

City of Iowa City application must be received by 5:00 P.M., Friday, March 5, 2010, in Personnel, 410 E. Washington Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52240. It is anticipated that interviews will take place in late April. Applications are available at www.icgov.org.



SPRING/SUMMER INTERNSHIP POSITION City of Vinton Parks & Recreation

The internship position will include responsibilities associated with the operation of the community center, skate and activity center and outdoor swimming pool facility for the City of Vinton Parks and Recreation Department. The intern will work with several programs operated through the community, including summer playground program, youth athletic leagues, swim lesson programs and assist office staff with daily administrative duties. The position will also help in development, budgeting and operation of the community festival. Working with children and experience in the field of parks and recreation is preferred. Working hours will vary, and time will be spent with all staff to learn about the operation of the entire City of Vinton Parks and Recreation Department.

Salary: \$3,000 for 12-week internship



*We build community through our
People, Parks & Programs.*

Deadline to apply: March 26, 2010, or until position is filled.

For further information, contact Duane Randall, Director of Parks and Recreation, 701 East A Street, Vinton, IA, 52349. Phone: 319.472.4164; e-mail: vprdrandall@mebbs.com; web site: www.vprdzone.com.

Leisure Services Specialist Link Associates

This part-time position (approximately 20 hours per week) is responsible to plan, organize and implement leisure service activities. Selected candidate will also assist with participant's assessment, programs, community evaluation and program evaluation administration.

Additional details available at the web site:
www.linkassociates.org

Deadline: Close of business; March 12, 2010. Submit current resume and cover letter to: Laura House, Link Associates, 4301 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50313.

Outdoor Recreation Products Recognized as 2009 Rep of the Year

Landscape Structures Inc., a Delano, Minnesota-based commercial playground manufacturer, has named Outdoor Recreation Products of Elkhorn, Nebraska 2009 Rep Organization of the Year. The award was presented to the Outdoor Recreation Products team during Landscape Structures' annual sales meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Because of the leadership of Principals Bill and Jennifer Pospichal, the team at Outdoor Recreation Products has been successful. The Pospichals and the entire organization were recognized for their dedication to continuous learning and improvement, investment in their company and enthusiasm to partner with Landscape Structures. Outdoor Recreation Products is the exclusive playground consultant of Landscape Structures playground equipment in Nebraska and Iowa.

"Outdoor Recreation Products embodies and lives the values that have come to define Landscape Structures," explained Pat Faust, Landscape Structures president. "Their consistency and business model should be recognized and set as a standard to which other organizations should aspire. We are proud to have them as partners."

Outdoor Recreation Products is one of 48 independent sales organizations representing Landscape Structures playground equipment worldwide. They have represented Landscape Structures playground equipment for nearly 30 years.

Outdoor Recreation Products, combined with Landscape Structures, offers nearly 70 years of experience in playground projects. The companies are committed to providing inspiring play experiences and creating healthy kids and a sustainable world. Learn more about Outdoor Recreation Products at www.outdoorrecreationproducts.com or 800.747.5437 and Landscape Structures at www.playlsi.com or 888.4FUNLSI.

Bits and Pieces

The following commercial member's information was inadvertently omitted from the 2010 IPRA Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide:

Charlie Rochford
Commercial Sales Manager
Pool Tech Midwest, Inc.
3233 First Avenue SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
319-365-8609
crochford@pooltech.com
www.pooltechmidwest.com

* * * * *

Congratulations is extended to

- **Maureen Condon**, who recently retired from the position of director, Knoxville Recreation Department. Best wishes for a fulfilling and enjoyable retirement!!
- **Brandon Nemmers**, former program supervisor of the Knoxville Recreation Department, who has accepted the position of director of that department.

Come out and play!



Innovative, challenging playground equipment

- Fun climbing and overhead events that move!
- Water play features
- Accessible, inclusive play environments

Skatewave™ modular-steel skate park components

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Park benches, tables, shelters, grills and more

Athletic equipment

LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES INC

Superior service since 1979

- On-site consultations
- Custom design and layout
- Unsurpassed quality
- Serving Nebraska and Iowa





800-747-KIDS (5437)
1055 N. 204th Ave. ■ Elkhorn, NE 68022
Phone 402-289-0400 ■ Fax 402-289-0300
www.OutdoorRecreationProducts.com

outdoor recreation products

Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation Board Nominations

The Iowa Foundation For Parks and Recreation will be holding their annual elections on April 12 this year to potentially replace five (5) current board members whose terms are up. We would strongly encourage anyone interested to submit their application! We have no term limits for board members, so those five (5) board members are eligible to run for re-election. However, as stated below, we are responsible for notifying IPRA to let their membership know that anyone interested in being considered as a nominee for the Iowa Foundation For Parks and Recreation Board should submit their application, (in the form of a resume), to Steve Grimes no later than April 5th at 5:00 P.M. Apologies are extended for the lateness of this notice, as it was to have occurred by the end of January.

Anyone looking for more details on the Foundation can look at the Foundation link on the IPRA website or contact any of the Foundation members directly. Resumes can be sent to Steve's e-mail address at sgrimes@bettendorf.org.

At least three (3) of the Board of Directors shall be professional members of the Iowa Park and Recreation Association. Board of Directors shall be made up of nine (9) to fifteen (15) members. As provided in Paragraph 1 above, the Nominating Committee, appointed by the President, will notify the Iowa Park and Recreation Association to inform their members that those interested in being considered as a nominee to the Board of Directors shall contact the Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation nominating committee by a date selected in **January** of the year. The Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation elects Board of Directors at their annual meeting of each year.



2010 Scholarship Auction and Concert

The IPRA Scholarship Committee is gearing up for an eventful Scholarship Auction at the 2010 Spring Conference in Sioux City. We will continue the changes made by last year's committee and bring our members some great entertainment and the chance to purchase some great merchandise, with all proceeds benefiting the scholarship fund.

A number of items will be available to bid on during silent auctions occurring throughout the entire conference. Once again, the scholarship committee is collecting items for members to bid on. We will continue this year to spread the auction out, and it will take place all day Monday and Tuesday. Big ticket items will be available to place your starter bids on throughout the conference, and the final auction will take place on these items at the 2010 Scholarship Concert sponsored by Shade Creations by Waterloo. We will have a DJ playing at the auction, a local Sioux City favorite, with a play list ranging from the oldies to 80's, 90's and today's modern rock! The concert and auction are scheduled to start after the Awards Banquet on Tuesday evening. This event will be free to anyone who wishes to attend.

What can you do to help? We are still asking for your donations for the auction to be turned into the committee by Monday, March 22, to allow committee members time to organize the items into packages for the auction.

We look forward to raising money in support of the future of our field. Questions? Contact Andy Lueth, Recreation Director, City of Sheldon and Scholarship Committee Chairperson at 712.324.2769 or alueth@cityofsheldon.com



Congratulations to Retiring Don McLaughlin

(Editor's Note: Don retired February 26, 2010 from the Des Moines Park and Recreation Department. He shares a few details about his career and future plans.)

I was born in Canton, Ohio, 1947, a farm boy until, at age 15, the family moved to Mesa, Arizona. After high school, I attended Northern Arizona University as an undergraduate receiving a BS in chemistry. I spent two and one-half years in the Army as an Artillery Lieutenant during the last part of the Vietnam War. After military service, I took a job with the Corning Glass Company in Raleigh, North Carolina. It was in Raleigh that I met my future wife, Carrie, a medical technologist. After graduating with a Master of Science degree in Parks and Recreation from North Carolina State University,



Carrie and I were married in 1977. I spent the first 15 years of my career as a Park Manager, Assistant Director, and Director of the Lee County Parks and Recreation Department, in Sanford, North Carolina. Carrie and I became proud parents of Michael and Mark early in my career. The family outgrew Lee County and accepted an offer to move to Des Moines, Iowa, in 1992 where I became Assistant to the Director (Don Tripp) for the Des Moines Park and Recreation Department.

Over the past 17 ½ years I have served Des Moines P&R as Business Manager, Parks Development Manager and Parks Manager.

In retirement Carrie and I hope to become snowbirds, spending time in North Carolina and Arizona in the winter and summers here in Des Moines. We want to travel a bunch and enjoy our two sons and their families. I hope to volunteer my time while I'm healthy to an agency that works in countries where, because of war, pestilence, or natural catastrophes, there are orphaned children who face poverty, starvation, abuse and murder. I hope to write a book or two as well as write some music. I will continue to teach canoeing classes and hope to get in some whitewater canoeing and backpacking with friends. I'm not sure what I'll do in my spare time.

Steve Jordison, Executive Director, helping out in Sioux City with the Daddy-Daughter Date Night which had 370 guests. Steve was in Sioux City facilitating the Aquatic CPO School and stopped by to check out the Sioux City Parks and Recreation event. Many thanks to Steve for helping clean up after the event.



Providing Softball to Park and Recreation Departments:

Founded in 1936 – Iowa ASA Serves 2,000 Recreational Adult Teams, 9,000 Youth Players and 400 Umpires

Provide Standardized Softball Playing Rules and Regulations for your softball league teams.

Provide teams with the Official Rule Book, Scorebook, Softball Magazine and membership publications to add to the educational and benefits for league teams. ASA is the National Governing Body of Softball in the United States

Provide the best league and tournament umpires. ASA offers local and state-wide umpire training clinics/schools.

Iowa ASA supports your local league with sportsmanship in establishing principles for ethical behavior, rule interpretations and protest rulings, player hearings and suspensions.

Risk Management with ASA \$2 million dollar Field Owners Policy.

ASA is the Leader in Bat Certification and Equipment Testing to set and adhere to standards of safety for bats, balls and playing equipment.

85% of all teams registered are local recreational teams. Over 35 Championship Play tournaments are offered for all age groups, levels and divisions of play.

Opportunity for member teams and individually registered players to purchase accident insurance at low group rates.

Comprehensive general liability coverage in the amount of \$2 million for league officers and organizations if 100% of the teams are registered with ASA.

Education and Instruction of the proper skills and rules of the game by promoting and developing coaching clinics, seminars and training materials.

For more information on the Iowa Amateur Softball

Association and its programs, contact us at 641.236.5766 or visit our website at

www.softball.org/iowa

Li6 - IPRA's Leadership Institute



Li 6, held February 2 and 3, at the IPRA state office in Grinnell, brought together 12 young professionals from across the state for presentations from seasoned professionals, networking, sharing challenges, problems, dreams and more!

Adam Spangler, Rick Courcier, Josh Larsen, Mitch Aalbers, Libby Gemberling, Mandi Parker, Sheri Penney, Mindi O'Hern, Sarah Schrader, Erica Eichhorn, Katie McKinnon and Chelsea Bengford were participants of Li6. The Leadership Institute was facilitated by Marie Ware and Terry Hoffman. "Seasoned professionals" were Jan Herke, Angie Cole, Todd Redenius, Mike Moran and McKenzie Kiger, and they presented various topics of interest, as well as sharing their insights into the park and recreation profession.

Many thanks to Mark Boland of Boland Recreation for again sponsoring this unique experience for the young professionals.

Here are some comments from the Li6 graduates:

"Through Li6 I am now able to relate to others' work experiences regarding parks and recreation and have created a life-long network of friends and colleagues with similar interest, successes, failures and experiences. Thank you, Li6!" Sarah Schrader, Eldridge

"Of course I would recommend other professionals to attend Li. It is a great experience, getting to know more professionals around the state, great discussions, great topics, great time just to 'handgout' and much more!" Adam Spangler, Tipton

"One thing I will try to do is sell programs to the community. I want to look for new places to advertise and organizations to get involved with parks and recreation. I want the community to buy into parks and recreation. They may buy into bits and pieces, but I want to improve my avenue of youth and adult sports." Libby Gemberling, Ames

"To be honest, I was somewhat hesitant to come to Li6 because I didn't know anyone going, and I was unsure what to expect being so new to IPRA. However, seeing as that was the point to Li6, I felt I needed to gain the experience. Once I was there, I immediately felt welcomed by everyone and quickly became acquainted with people I felt I otherwise would not have known. I was very impressed with the speakers and the round table discussions. I gained a lot of insight to the field and knowledgeable resources." Katie McKinnon, North Liberty

"Overall, Li6 was great in that it provided not only time to think about our jobs and doing them better, but also time to reflect on ourselves and personalities and how our attitudes can greatly

Impact our ability to excel in our positions. I would highly recommend any IPRA professional or new staff member in even the smallest town in Iowa attend Li because of the enormous opportunity to begin spreading your web and making your community better in the process." Josh Larsen, Huxley

"Li6 gave me the confidence and courage to take whatever may be thrown at me because I now feel that I have people I can call on for help. I am so thankful for the great networking opportunity this gave me and am really looking forward to the mentoring program." Sheri Penney, Mason City

"I would encourage anyone and everyone to attend Li if they get a chance. The networking itself is a huge thing to walk away with along with all the knowledge you learn from the speakers and roundtable discussions!" Mindi O'Hern, Humboldt

"It was a great time getting to meet everyone and share ideas, as well as get solutions to problems." Mitch Aalbers, Orange City

"The speakers—they all have been through it. What better resource to have than someone that has already been through it. That is a great connection to make and hold on to because they are just an e-mail or a phone call away, and I know I won't feel uncomfortable to make that phone call because of Li6" Rick, Courcier, Pleasant Hill

(Continued on Page 8)



FREE!



COME CELEBRATE
SPRING BREAK
WITH US!

Special Training and Seminars Committee presents...

Spring Community Trends Forum

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Northridge Park Pavilion - Coralville, Iowa 52241
2250 Holiday Road

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Programming for Active Older Adults in Your Community

Speaker—Dr. Ken Mobily, University of Iowa

Hear the latest in research and learn practical applications for programming for active older adults in your community. Dr. Mobily brings a wealth of knowledge in his position as Professor in the Leisure Studies Program at the University of Iowa.

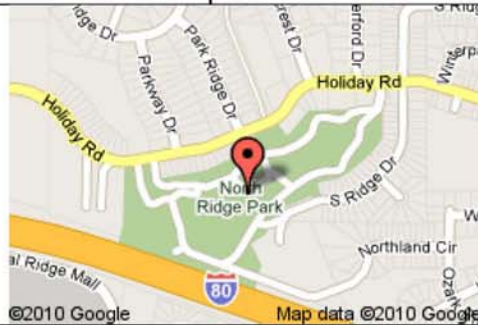


10:00 am - 11:00 am

Recreation Center Management

Speaker—TBD

Does your community have a recreation center? Need some help marketing, working with customers, and juggling your other duties too? Learn how to better manage your recreation center and put that business plan sitting on your shelf to practical use!



Directions: From Interstate 80

Exit 240 (Hwy 965), Turn North and follow to Holiday Road. Turn right and follow Holiday Road. The entrance to the pavilion is on your right hand side. Free parking in the parking lot.

Registration Information: Deadline is Tuesday, March 16

SPRING COMMUNITY TRENDS FORUM—CORALVILLE, MARCH 18, 2010

Name: _____ Organization: _____
Daytime Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Submit Questions for Q&A Sessions as Time Allows:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

Register by email to cshutts@pcpartner.net or mail to 1534 Penrose St, Grinnell, Iowa 50112



1534 Penrose Street
Grinnell, IA 50112

Phone: 641.236.3917
FAX: 641.236.6779
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IPRA Calendar of Events

March

- 4 Parks Forum—Marshalltown
- 6 Co-ed Volleyball Tournament—Grinnell
- 15 CEU/Aquatic Workshop—Ames
- 16-17 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Ames
- 16-19 NRPA Legislative Forum—Washington, D.C.
- 18 Community Trends Forum—Coralville
- 27 IPRA State Spot Shot—Grinnell
- 29 CEU/Aquatic Workshop—Iowa City
- 30-31 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Iowa City

April

- 2 State Office Closed—Good Friday Observance
- 12-14 IPRA Spring Conference—Sioux City
- 13 CEU/Aquatic Workshop—Sioux City
- 19 CEU/Aquatic Workshop—Clear Lake
- 20-21 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Clear Lake

Li6—IPRA's Leadership Institute

(Continued from Page 6)

"I, too, feel very energized after attending Li6!! I would recommend others in the field to attend because you make so many connections with other professionals. It was nice to hear about other towns' programs and ideas that might work in my community. I really enjoyed listening to the speakers, and I, too, feel very comfortable contacting them in the future with any questions" Mandi Parker, Sioux City

"There are many things that I will incorporate in the next 30 days. I plan on using my new found relationships to generate new ideas and ask for help. I now see the importance of stepping away from my e-mails and getting out of my office to meet new people and try new things" Erica Eichhorn, Coralville



Todd Redenius, a speaker at Li6.