

IPRA Bestowed Honors

Awards were presented at IPRA's Spring Conference Awards Banquet held in Sioux City April 13, 2010.

Mark Jacobs Recipient of T. Ray Frame Award

The T. Ray Frame Outstanding Maintenance Award is given to an outstanding maintenance person with a park and recreation department who has demonstrated a high level of skill in his/her work. Going beyond what would be considered adequate or expected is one hurdle. Another hurdle is the devotion on and off the job. This award is designed for an individual in a non-supervisory or working supervisor position.

Mark Jacobs of Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation Department epitomizes this role according to nominator Ms. Julie Sina (Director). His work with Cedar Rapids began in 2001 as the northeast quadrant maintenance worker. Workload increased tremendously in April 2008 when his supervisor was required to take extended medical leave. This assignment added responsibilities such as seasonal hiring and training, supervision and startup of all northeast quadrant city parks, hundreds of pavilion reservations, as well as dozens of athletic field preparation and snow removal operations during

winter months. His situation was exasperated during the catastrophic floods of summer 2008. Days before the forecasted flood encompassed long hours. Then word came flood waters were higher than expected. Mark exceeded expectations by working to remove thousands of dollars of equipment and tools from the city's maintenance facility before flood waters ravaged the facility. Mark has a great deal of mechanical ability. This ability has saved the parks and recreation department many thousands of dollars which normally would have been outsourced.

Nominator Daniel Gibbins, Parks Superintendent, stated in his letter of support the following, "in these trying times, it is nice to see someone who consistently maintains a proactive attitude. This attitude also carries over into his personal life as he has always made himself available to friends and family for any projects where his expertise could be utilized."

Additional award recipients announcements on Pages 2 and 3.



Julie Sina (left), Director of the Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation Department shown with award recipient, Mark Jacobs.



**June 2010
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Jan Herke and Scott Hock accept the Ahrens Community Service and Corporate Support Award on behalf of recipients.

Urbandale Citizen Recipient of Claude Ahrens Community Service Award

Bob Bernard of Urbandale was selected as this year's recipient. Bernard serves fellow citizens with countless volunteer hours working with the Urbandale Action Council, Urbandale Library Board,

Memorial Tree Park Marketing Committee, Chairing the Friends of the Parks Committee, Public Art Committee, and Youth Restorative Justice Committee. In the words of nominator Jan Herke, Director, "Personally, I thought the addition of the Memorial Tree Park was going to be a struggle for our city; but in less

than a year, due in large part to Bruce's passion, skills and the ability to pull people together, our city now has a beautiful park to enjoy and to be proud of."

Claude Ahrens Community Service Award is given annually to an individual who exemplifies Mr. Ahrens' belief "leave it better than you found it".

Huxley Senior Programming Grows Outside the Box

What started as an idea for an area in which we were "lacking" has become a reality. When both Josh and I started a little over 3 years ago we knew we were lacking in the area of senior citizen programs. Now we have a good start on having programs for this age group, but still more can be done.

Our senior luncheon, now called **Lunch and Learn**, is just over two years old. What started as soups and deserts, provided by Amber Williams, a DMACC student, and Merea Bentrott, in February of 2008, now is backed by our local Subway and many businesses to present our older population the knowledge on several different topics to help their minds grow even more. Presentations have been given on heart health, financial planning, essential oils and their benefits, cancer and heart health, life planning, chiropractic care, and the list goes on and continues to grow. The **Lunch and Learn** is held the second Monday of every month at 11:30 a.m. While most attendees are from the Ballard area, there are a few that come from Ankeny and other surrounding communities. Word of

mouth seems to be our best source of advertisement. It is very common for many of the attendees to sit and visit with each other after the presentation is finished and catch up or reminisce about the "good ol' days" or even play a card game or two.

Another area that is growing for our older adult population is in the area of fitness and wellness classes. Last July a class of five was started. The class was started to introduce this population to activity and how to incorporate it into their daily life. The class now has about 27 participants. While we exercise our muscles we also exercise our social capabilities. Along with new strength and balance comes new friendships and memories. The strength training for older adults meets each Monday and Wednesday morning from 9:30-10:30.

The participants strongly believe in these programs and look forward to them each time they meet. In addition, they encourage their friends and neighbors to join. While we (Continued on Page 5)

Corporate Support Award Goes to Iowa Outdoor Products

Iowa Outdoor Products owner Mr. Shane Miller is this year's recipient. The company, aided through its generous donation and commitment toward the development of the Memorial Tree Park and Gardens, enhanced the park system and quality of life in Urbandale. This commitment included, but was not limited to, a \$50,000 in-kind donation of material and labor. Miller was also a key in arranging other vendors to donate park brick pavers and an irrigation system. Urbandale Mayor Robert Andeweg shared this in his support letter, "the city of Urbandale is adding a beautiful new 'jewel' to the park system with completion of the Memorial Tree Park and Gardens, and Iowa Outdoor Products was key in the development of this project".

Corporate Support Award is designed to recognize a private commercial organization that has contributed to the leisure services professions and enhanced the quality of life within the community, county, or state.



**REAP Funding
Still High**

The legislature was gracious in appropriating \$15 million to REAP for the fiscal year beginning this July. While it is less than the last two years at \$18 million each, considering the state's financial situation, REAP interests should be quite grateful.

For city park and recreation departments, the \$15 million means \$2.2 + million will be available for city park and open spaces grants. The deadline for submitting grant applications is 4:30 CST, August 16 (because the 15th is on a Sunday). As always, applications, rules and all associated helping materials are available at www.iowareap.com. Click on City Parks and Open Spaces in left column.

No program changes are in store in the coming year for REAP, with the exception that DNR's REAP coordinator for the past seven years, Ross Harrison, retired May 28. He has been replaced by Tammie Krausman, who, according to Ross, will be twice as good

as he ever was. Contact her at tammie.krausman@dnr.iowa.gov.

For those of you who have completed REAP projects in your cities, the DNR reminds you that REAP law requires your projects to be posted with "Funded by REAP" signs. You can order those from Tammie, free of charge. These are colorful, no maintenance 12 x 12-inch aluminum. They do help keep legislators aware of the local impact of REAP, so order away and get them posted.

The DNR reminds us all that the purchase of REAP license plates continues to be an important funding stream. With the newly added brook trout and whitetail buck, there are now five designs to choose from. Those of us who benefit from REAP would do well to buy the REAP plates.



Boy Scout Troop & Cub Scout Pack Receive Lay Organization Award

Urbandale Boy Scouts Troop 3 and Cub Scouts Troop 3 were acknowledged by being tabbed as this year's Lay Organization Award. Over the past fifteen years, members of Troops 3 have assisted with a variety of projects in the Urbandale parks system. These have included work such as planting and mulching trees and shrubs in parks and greenbelts; cleaning up and beautifying many of the playgrounds, trails, and 48 parks within the Urbandale system; helping build park benches; installing concrete pads for park benches, picnic tables and grills. During the decade and a half of volunteerism, it is estimated that over 15,000 volunteer hours have been given. "It is dedication such as this that makes the community of Urbandale one of the top places in the nation to live," states nominator Jan Herke, Director.



Lay Organization Award recipients and Jan Herke.

This award is crafted with the intent to recognize a group of lay people outside our profession who have provided support and contributed to the strengthening of programs and resources of leisure services within their community, area or state.

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Recreational Coach Workshop

Sign up today!!

Anyone interested in learning the basics of coaching and teaching tennis or seeking a refresher on more current methods and effective tools should attend a Recreational Coach Workshop.

Taught by a specially trained, certified teaching professional, this active 6-hour session covers:



- Games and drills every coach should know
- The games-based approach to coaching
- Teaching large groups
- Running effective team practices

WHEN: Thursday, June 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Mercer Park Tennis Courts (2701 Bradford Drive), Iowa City, Iowa

TRAINER: USTA National Trainer

COST: \$5 (includes lunch)

RSVP and more information: Matt Eidahl
 Iowa City Recreation Division
 319-887-6081
matt-eidahl@iowa-city.org



Huxley Senior Programming Grows Outside the Box

(Continued from Page 2)

are on the right track for the older adult population, there is more improvement that can be made. More social gatherings for them to get out and “hang” out, more informational seminars to be help on every aspect of life and aging, or just card game “night” to socialize with new and old friends.

I encourage each of you— young or “old” to try some of these ideas in your own community!

Submitted by Rhiannon Hermann, Administrative Assistant, City of Huxley Parks & Recreation Department

DES MOINES PARKS AND RECREATION SPONSORS NEW FISHING TOURNAMENT THAT LASTS ALL SPRING AND SUMMER

Des Moines Parks and Recreation has joined forces with Angling Masters International (AMI) and the non-profit, national conservation organization Recycled Fish to bring lowans a new kind of fishing tournament that allows anglers to fish when they want, where they want, and for what they want this spring and summer . . . and win prizes!

The new program is called the “AMI Des Moines Grandmasters Cup,” and allows people to fish not just in the Des Moines area but in any public waters in the state of Iowa for any of six species of fish. The overall top fish in the tournament will win anglers prizes like an all expense-paid Canadian fishing trip, \$500 Scheels All Sport shopping spree or fishing tackle from Berkley.

Anglers simply register free of charge online at www.AnglingMasters.com/DesMoines once for the whole season. Next they will need to make a one-time purchase of a \$25 official measuring tape at the Scheels All Sport store in West Des Moines or at www.RecycledFish.org. Then they fish! Anglers can fish every day, once a week, or just one time until the tournament ends September 2.



They will photograph their catch of any of the six eligible species - largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, channel catfish, crappie or northern pike - on the measuring tape, and then can release the fish. Catch photos and details are uploaded to the Angling Masters website where they are juried.

Fish are awarded a score based upon the Angling Masters Fish Calculator, which uses an algorithm to rate how difficult it is to catch different species of fish by size. It allows a walleye angler to compete against a bass angler, or to compare a crappie and a catfish. Daily, weekly and annual winners receive recognition – and prizes. Daily “Catch of the Day” winners enter a fish-off for a \$500 Scheels shopping spree. Weekly winners (best three fish) automatically win a Berkley tackle pack, AMI T-shirt and fishing hat, and are entered into a fish-off for a guided fishing trip for two in Canada. The fish-off events are held during the month of September.

Department Director Don Tripp says, “The AMI Des Moines Grandmasters Cup is one of several new fishing programs that Des Moines Parks and Recreation is sponsoring in response to our survey of Des Moines citizens that showed that fishing is one of their overall top choices of recreation. We’re pleased to be offering this new-style fishing tournament that virtually allows anyone in the state of Iowa to participate.”

“Angling Masters International is a groundbreaking social networking fishing website,” says Dave Abbott, AMI Founder and CEO. “It is unique in the industry and provides a level playing field for multi-species online fishing derbies, in addition to its social networking platform.”

“We are excited about this kind of fishing contest,” says Teeg Stouffer, Executive Director of Recycled Fish. “It creates excitement for fishing, but it does it in a way that has less impact on our waters. Rather than having a bunch of people come to one lake at one time, this spreads out the fishing pressure, and doesn’t require fish to be transported in livewells and taken through the weigh-in process. They can be caught, measured and released immediately, right where they are caught.”

In addition to its partnership with Des Moines Parks and Recreation, the AMI Des Moines Grandmasters Cup is made possible through the support of Angling Masters International, Scheels, Berkley and The Iowa Sportsman. A portion of proceeds benefit Recycled Fish, a national, IRS classified 501(c)3 non-profit organization of anglers living a lifestyle of stewardship both on and off the water, because our lifestyle runs downstream. Angling Masters International (AMI) is a social networking website designed specifically for the fishing community. It provides a level playing field for multi-species online fishing derbies.

For additional information, please contact Donald M. Tripp, Director Des Moines Park and Recreation Department at 515-202-8388 or Teeg Stouffer at 712-256-4907 or fishrecycler@recycledfish.org.



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR:**
Thursday, August 19– IPRA State
Fair Day
September 14-16—Fall Workshop—
West Des Moines

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

I P R A T O D A Y

NRPA National Certifications and Education

National Recreation and Park Association is the premier association focusing on educational and networking opportunities for professionals and citizen advocates alike. Currently, there are greater than 18,000 members from not only all 50 U.S. states but around the globe as well. With such resources at its disposal, NRPA makes being a member a "no-brainer". It offers certification programs, agency accreditation, conferences, online learning, webinars, seminars and publications. Joining this vast network is as simple as clicking the computer's mouse. Professional membership fee is \$140, young professionals (younger than 30) is \$110, citizens are \$60, retired only \$62, and finally students are just \$45. Like IPRA, an agency membership is also available for \$550. Agency membership includes three professionals plus ten board and commission members with each additional professional member \$105.

CPRP. What do these four letters mean? Certified Park and Recreation Professional is the spelled out version of CPRP. There are 43 persons with this designation in IPRA. But why become a professional? There are five simple reasons: 1) greater career opportunities and advancement as more agencies are requiring or preferring CPRP, 2) demonstration of your commitment to the parks and recreation profession, 3) enhanced quality of parks and recreation services nationwide, 4) recognition of your accomplishments and ability to meet national standards, and finally, 5) expansion of your skills and knowl-

edge through continuing professional development. At the click of a mouse, a potential employer can easily access a national list of current CPRP's.

Okay, so you want to become a certified professional. What next? To be eligible, you must meet one of four initial requirements. These include 1) have just received, or are set to receive, a Bachelor's degree from a program accredited by the Council on Accreditation (Students who have not yet graduated from an COA accredited program with a major in recreation, park resources, and leisure services but are in their final semester on campus may be able to qualify for exam status), 2) have a Bachelor's degree from any institution in recreation, park resources, or leisure services; and also have no less than 1 year of full-time experience in the field, 3) have a Bachelor's degree in a major other than recreation, park resources, or leisure services; and also have no less than 3 years of full-time experience in the field, or 3) have a high school degree or equivalent, and have 5 years of full-time experience in the field.

A candidate's next steps include completing an application (by mail or online), paying an application fee of \$55 for NRPA members then lastly passing a computer based examination. Examination fee is \$195. Exams can be set up with your local H&R Block office. One way to assure exam passage begins with a good recourse tool - *Official Study Guide for the CPRP Exam* (cost \$47). Also, accessible via the NRPA web-

site is the free online version of *CPRP Candidate Handbook*. Realizing the economic difficulty of departmental members becoming certified, NRPA has taken the lead in offering an agency discount. Savings could be up to 50 percent off the normal exam fee.

Finally, to maintain the acquired certification, just attend IPRA or NRPA approved continuing educational sessions totaling 2.0 units in two years. All educational sessions approved by the IPRA Professional Certification and Continuing Education Board (PCCEB) are recognized by the NRPA for use in obtaining the 2.0 unit requirement. Not to forget, delegates attending the NRPA Congress can also obtain CEU session credit towards the minimum 2.0 units. National Certification Board (NCB) is the administering body of NRPA charged with maintaining all CPRP as well as other certification paperwork.

To learn more about becoming a CPRP, please visit www.nrpa.org. This website has a wealth of detailed information. Or if you prefer a local contact, please visit with Iowa Park and Recreation Association PCCEB Chair Cindy at 319-356-5100 or email her at cindy-coffin@iowa-city.org.

Next month's newsletter feature will be agency accreditation





There's a world of experience coming to Iowa this summer! The First Annual Iowa Trails Summit—a day of learning and a day of fun!!

The members of the Iowa Trails Summit Committee, as Friends of Iowa Trails, invite you to participate in this year's activities. Never has it been more important for us to work together to preserve, protect and enhance the opportunities available for our friends, families and children to experience the great outdoors. Trails connect us to the world around us, nurture our communities with healthy activities and embrace a quality of life legacy that will one day pass on to many generations of children in the future. Great journeys begin with the first step.

This conference involves a diverse group of trail organizations representing virtually every trail user group imaginable—including motorized and non-motorized, equestrian and water sports. There will be an emphasis on strategies, policies and development opportunities vested in unique partnerships that will be effective in creating new trail opportunities.

Friday, June 18—Some of Iowa's leading experts on trail development and healthy communities are meeting in Cedar Falls to share their ideas on the challenges and opportunities we face in the coming years. There will be four auditorium sessions with expert panelists moderated by leaders in the trails community. Our panelists represent a cross section of professionals and will each present an innovative and interesting view of issues important to the future of Iowa Trails, as well as participate in question and answer sessions.

Saturday, June 19—There will be a variety of outdoor recreation exhibitions open to the public at Waterloo's Riverview Recreation Area. This will be an exciting day for the public to explore the wide range of trail recreation opportunities available, as well as a great chance to network with other trail users and user groups. Families and children are welcome.

Register today!! We look forward to seeing you there.



Prepping for the Summer

(Continued from Page 8)

Kelli Rose (Grinnell) lead another portion of the workshop challenging each group with topic talking points. Again, everyone got an opportunity to open up and share past experiences.

The discussion portion ended with a round table presentation by full-time park and recreation professionals. To cap off the day, everyone was invited to take a facility tour of the Clive Family Aquatic Center.

Communities attending the half-day workshop included: Altoona, Ames, Ankeny, Bettendorf, Carlisle, Chariton, Clear Lake, Clive, Corydon, Denison, Des Moines, Grinnell, Humboldt, Marshalltown, North Liberty, Pella, West Des Moines and Winterset.



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Prepping for the Summer

Sunny. Hot. Humid. The days an outdoor family aquatic center staff dreams of. Most outdoor facilities in Iowa opened to one of the best weather wise Memorial Day holidays in a long time. What a welcome relief from the past two summers!

Last year there were only two dozen or so participants who attended the IPRA annual pool manager's workshop. This year the number more than

Kelli Rose, Director of the Grinnell Parks & Recreation, draws the layout of Grinnell's newly constructed aquatic center.



doubled – with 65 individuals taking part. There was a change-up from the routine classroom style lectures. Rather, the Aquatics Committee wanted to focus on group interpersonal discussion. The day splashed off with each pool staff drawing a rendition of his/her respective facility. This was followed by other pool staffers reviewing it for trouble spots as well as good points to highlight.

(Continued on Page 7)

IPRA Calendar of Events



June

- 7 CEU/Aquatic Workshop—Fort Dodge
- 8-9 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Fort Dodge
- 10 Recreational Coach Workshop—Iowa City
- 18 IPRA Board of Directors meeting—state office
- 18-19 Iowa Trails Summit—Waterloo/Cedar Falls

July—Parks and Recreation Month!

- 5 State office closed—Independence Day holiday
- 14 Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation Board meeting—state office