

IPRA Today

May 2007
Volume VII, Issue 11



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

www.iowaparkandrecreation.org



2007 AWARDS BANQUET

Inside This Issue:

Spotlight on Joel Formanek and Justin Stuart
Page 2

Lay Organization Awards
Page 3

Professional Awards
Page 4

2007 Spring Conference—a Conference of "Firsts"
Page 6

2007 Scholarship Recipients

Hershey Track Meet
Page 7

Calendar of Events
Page 8



Photos identified on Page 7

JOEL FORMANEK

Director, Belle Plaine Parks and Recreation



Joel is a native of Belle Plaine and a graduate of Wartburg College, where he majored in Fitness Management with a minor in Business Administration. As a youth growing up in Belle Plaine, he enjoyed the activities offered by the local parks and recreation department—baseball, football, basketball and golf. If it was an opportunity to hang out with friends and participate in sports, he was all for it! Joel admits that he is very competitive, and he enjoyed the chance to compete in sports at a young age.

While in college, he participated in intramural basketball for four years and golf for one year. Joel says that he actually had not planned to major in the leisure studies field, but after his experiences of referring flag football in college, he changed his major to Fitness Management. Joe completed his internship at the Waverly Health Center.

Joel feels very fortunate to be able to return to his hometown and the parks and recreation department that helped influence his life. He began his duties March 26 and feels it is a real asset to know so many of the people in the community. He looks forward to working with and coaching the youth of his hometown to help mold them into successful individuals. He hopes to have a long professional relationship with the City of Belle Plaine.

Joel enjoys camping, fishing and playing any type of sport. He is excited about his new career. Joel feels there is a lot of potential in the community, and he looks forward to the challenges that the park and recreation programs have to offer.



JUSTIN STUART

Sports and Fitness Coordinator, Indianola Parks and Recreation

Justin began his duties as Sports and Fitness Coordinator for the Indianola Parks and Recreation on March 12. He states that the best thing about the job is the high quality of the department and the team of people with which he is fortunate enough to work. He is grateful for the help he has received from his co-workers. Justin looks forward to becoming involved with the community and being personally involved in the programs that he coordinates. With a 21-month old son and 12-week old daughter, he and his wife hope to be coaching youth sports teams for several years.

A native of Chariton, Justin graduated from Graceland University with a major in Wellness Program Management. Growing up in Chariton, he was involved in all the sports programs—Little League baseball, flag football, basketball and wrestling. He admits that what he liked best was making friends with kids from other schools or towns and just playing in an organized setting against someone other than his brother! While in college, he participated in track and most intramural programs. Athletic Training was his initial major, but decided he wanted to have a more “hands-on” job with programs and activities.

Justin completed an internship at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in the Wellness Department. They had a work-out facility and gymnasium where he spent the majority of his time. His career in recreation began with the Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department where he came to realize that the recreation field was a good fit for him. Justin shares that he really enjoys planning events and then seeing people enjoy themselves while participating in them.



Specializing in Fine Turf Grasses
Quality Seedsmen for 69 Years

WILLIAMS LAWN SEED CO.
P.O. Box 112
Maryville, Missouri 64468-0112

DENNIS CHRISTENSEN	Phone 660/582-4614
Vice President of Operations	1-800-457-9571
E-mail: dennis@wls.com	FAX 888/682-4608

Sturgis Falls Celebration

The Sturgis Falls Celebration grew out of the 1976 Cedar Falls Bicentennial Celebration. It is named after William Sturgis, who founded the community of Sturgis Falls in 1845, when he settled in Cedar Falls with his family.

The Sturgis Falls Celebration, Incorporated in 1985, acquired non-profit status and created an all-volunteer Board of Directors. The Board works hard to put on the best, most varied entertainment possible. Venues include the following: Parade, Carnival, Street Fair, Talent Show, Half-Marathon and numerous bands at three different park locations. An important aspect of the Sturgis Falls Celebration is its role as a fund raiser for local groups. Profits from the Celebration are funneled back into the community as donations, large and small, to civic groups, police and fire organizations, senior citizens groups, scholarships for college-bound area students, Cedar Falls park improvements, Community Main Street causes, Recreation Department needs, etc. Since its inception, the Sturgis Falls Celebration has donated in excess of \$244,000 to a variety of local community projects, causes and scholarships. Of this total, almost \$170,000 has been donated to park and recreation associated projects.

Specific donations for recreation-related projects include the following: The Cedar Falls Band Shell, Community/Senior Center, Gateway Park Shelter, Visitors and Tourism Office and Recreation Center addition. Their monetary donations to bricks and mortar recreation-related projects have left a legacy for their organization and what they continue to bring to the City of Cedar Falls.



Paul Nielson and Jay Stoddard, representing the Sturgis Falls Celebration, receive the Lay Organization Award from Kevin Shawgo, Awards Committee chairperson.

LAY ORGANIZATION AWARDS

Geoff Hubbard and Terry Hoffman proudly display the Lay Organization Award they received on behalf of the Sioux City Climbing Wall Committee.



Sioux City Climbing Wall

The idea of a climbing wall was born from a decision to renovate a 50-year old municipal auditorium into a community recreation center in Sioux City. A climbing wall was something new and different for the community, and the idea caught on well. The State of Iowa awarded a \$75,000 CAT grant for the project. Donations from the City of Sioux City (\$50,000) and private sectors and individuals (\$275,000) met the \$400,00 cost estimate for the project.

The end result was a 5,900 square-foot climbing wall with rock imprint and plywood surfaces, a 13 foot free-standing boulder, a 42 foot competitive wall and a 52 foot tower with a crevice. Individuals from 5 years of age to 95 can test their skills and build their confidence on this atypical Iowa recreational adventure. The committee kept talking about the "WOW" factor for the wall. They wanted it to look impressive, provide an exciting experience and add another reason to come to Sioux City. The committee is pleased that all three objectives were achieved.

Over 8,052 climbers visited the wall from the time of its opening in March 2006 through the end of the calendar year. The facility has generated revenue over expenditures each month with total revenue of \$48,630. Programming includes beginner and intermediate lessons, birthday parties, company outings, corporate team building, clinics and competitions. The Sioux City City Council is overjoyed with the level of use.

The Sioux City Climbing Wall Committee was committed to the project, raised the necessary funding and created the buzz to make the climbing wall a success beyond all expectations. The climbing wall is another piece of the puzzle that makes Sioux City a "Great Place". The people who played key roles on the committee are Dave Bernstein and Debi Durham. Their vision and passion for this project are what made the project a success!

LAY ORGANIZATION AWARD recognizes a group of lay people outside of our profession who have supported and contributed to the strengthening of programs and resources of leisure services by an outstanding contribution to the park, recreation and conservation movement within their communities, areas, county or state. IPRA membership is not required and multiple awards may be given.

AND THE WINNER IS...

Richard J. Slattery Professional Award—2007—Keith Abraham

The Iowa Park and Recreation Association's most prestigious award is named in honor of Dick Slattery, who was one of the most distinguished and respected professionals in the state of Iowa. He was only 40 years of age when he tragically lost his life while working as Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Davenport. He held virtually every office in the Association, including President and exemplified the spirit of the leisure movement. This year marks 30 years of the tragic passing of Richard Slattery, and his daughter, Mrs. Susan Slattery-Branstatter was present to share thoughts with those present and to assist in presenting this year's Richard J. Slattery Award to the most-deserving Keith Abraham, Recreation Supervisor for the Ames Parks and Recreation Department.

Keith possesses many of the same qualities that Dick portrayed. Having been a Park and Recreation professional for nearly 15 years, Keith has excelled as a professional, as a volunteer for the IPRA and as a community volunteer. Since 1994, Keith has been a member of the IPRA and NRPA, and has served IPRA as a member, as well as chair of the membership committee, recreational sports committee, community section, manual of procedures Ad Hoc Committee, prioritizing IPRA Services Task Force, Long Range Planning committee and served on the board of directors as a director-at-large, vice-president and president.

In addition to having a double major in Recreation Administration and in Business Administration, Keith has also attended a number of professional schools and is a certified Youth Sports Administrator, as well as a national playground safety inspector. Keith's professional accomplishments include certification of over 100 volunteer coaches in one year, recipient of ASA award for improving team registrations, recipient of the IPRA Outstanding Board Member Award, Hershey Track Meet Outstanding State Chair Award and, maybe most importantly in the lives of some small children, served as a Big Wheel Wrangler at the IPRA Day at the Iowa State Fair. Community and church organizations also benefit from Keith's involvement.

"As a dedicated professional, Keith strives for excellence in both himself and those around him. One of his greatest strengths is his desire to share knowledge to enable others to become leaders. His desire for his peers, seasonal staff and interns to develop personally and professionally helps improve the quality of programs for our residents and build leaders for tomorrow." was shared by a nominator. The Ames City Manager stated, "What I believe sets Keith apart from the majority of individuals in our public sector profession is his sincere, caring attitude which is reflected daily to those he supervises, to peers in our organization, and most importantly of all, to the citizen who seeks services through our Parks and Recreation Department." Congratulations, Keith, for recognition well deserved!

Dr. Carole J. Hanson Outstanding New Professional Award— Ben Page

"This employee has proven himself time and again as a dynamic and enthusiastic leader within our community. Whether it is coaxing donations from local businesses or teaching 5 and 6-year-olds the finer points of basketball, he has shown himself to be a very capable individual. He has elevated our Parks and Recreation Department to one that is showcased across the state as a premier program." This statement was made by Manchester's City Manager when speaking of Ben Page, Director of the Manchester Parks and Recreation Department.

The Dr. Carole J. Hanson Outstanding New Professional Award is designated for a person who has joined the professional ranks within the past seven years and who has exemplified commitment and outstanding service to the leisure services profession and to the association.

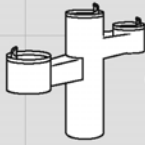
Ben's accomplishment include:

- Creation of 15 new programs in the last three years without a budget increase.
- Turned an operational loss into a \$5,000 profit at Manchester's Sports Complex.
- Started a slate of senior programs and currently offers ten programs for older active adults.
- Created the community's first "Friends of the Park" Foundation, which has raised \$100,000 since its inception.
- Implemented a successful "adopt a flower bed" program which has beautified parks and public areas throughout their community.

Ben has been credited with wearing many hats in his Director's position and has demonstrated a unique ability to achieve quality results in all facets of departmental operations. His community involvement extends beyond the realm of Parks and Recreation by serving on the facilities improvements committee of his church. Ben also serves on the scholarship committee of the local Fish and Game Association. He has been active in IPRA by serving as Membership Committee chair and as a member of the Board of Directors.

A graduate of the University of Northern Iowa, Ben has a degree in Leisure Services and completed an internship with the Cedar Falls Recreation Division. His professional career began as an Activity Specialist at the Ft. Dodge Correctional Facility, and since 2001, he has served in his present position with the City of Manchester.

SERVICE CLUB AND CLAUDE AHRENS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE JUNE ISSUE OF IPRA TODAY.



Most Dependable Fountains, Inc.

5705 Commander Drive •Arlington, TN 38002

17 Standard Colors

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| Orange | Chrome | Pyrite |
| Green | White | Gold Vein |
| Blue | Black | Sapphire |
| Brown | TextBlack | Burgundy |
| Yellow | Emerald | Sandstone |
| Red | Copper | |

Call us at 800-552-6331
for a Free Catalog!
Or visit us on the web at
www.mostdependable.com

Pedestal
Drinking
Fountains



440 SM



Shower
Towers



565 SM

Mister
Drinking Fountains



570 SM

Pet
Drinking
Fountains



440 SM
w/optional
pet fountain



BBQ Grills

BBQ 1 SM
(Black only)

Contact your Most Dependable
Fountains, Inc. representative today!

McGrory Recreation
800-718-7740

E-mail:
McGroryRec@Bellsouth.net



Get into the action today!

- Establish uniform softball rules and regulations for your softball leagues.
- Transfer your city's risk of insurance to the ASA \$2 million dollar Field Owners Policy.
- The finest umpiring organization in softball.
- Providing the sport with proper safeguards in accordance with the spirit of true sportsmanship and establishing principles for ethical behavior.
- 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.
- The Leader in Bat Certification and Equipment Testing to set and adhere to standards of safety.
- Education and Instruction of the proper skills and rules of the game by promoting and developing 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

2007 Spring Conference—A Conference of “Firsts”

By: Tab Ray and Paul Huting, Spring Conference Co-Chairs

The final numbers are in for the 2007 IPRA Spring Conference in Waterloo. There were 136 delegates and 61 exhibitors. Thirty-eight registered for the pre-conference golf event, and there were nine pre-conference ATV riders. Twenty-one rode on the Park Tour, 28 were on the Aquatics Tour and 34 did the Recreational Facilities Tour.

There were around 100 people at the NCAA social and about \$6,000 raised at the scholarship auction. The sessions were well attended with 21.3 total CEU's awarded during the three tours, CEU/Aquatic Workshop and 21 educational sessions.

A conference of “*firsts*”, it was the *first* to feature a SNL veteran as the keynote speaker. It was the *first* conference to ask a vendor to supply tables for the exhibit hall and then sell them all at the close of the show. Although we tried some new things, we borrowed plenty of old ideas from past successful conferences.

The Waterloo Conference Planning Committee thanks all the delegates, exhibitors, speakers, volunteers and the cities of Waterloo and Cedar Falls for making the 2007 event a success. Good luck to the Council Bluffs Conference Planning Committee.



Duane Randall sporting bunny ears and Geoff Hubbard with a dress???

ANYTHING can happen when park and recreational professionals network!!





Carrie Trapp, Reilly Branderhorst, Laurie Holthaus, Jeff Lucas and Jessica O'Connor—2007 Scholarship Recipients

2007 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- **Kathryn Krieg Membership Scholarship—Carrie Trapp**

Carrie is attending graduate school at the University of Iowa and will graduate in December of 2007. She hopes to one day earn her doctorate and become a professor in the area of parks and recreation

- **Foundation for Iowa Parks and Recreation Scholarship - Reilly Branderhorst**

Reilly is a senior at UNI and hopes to work with youth and help them deal with social issues, disabilities, behavioral problems, and other issues.

- **J. Nevin Nichols Scholarship—Laurie Holthaus**

Laurie is a senior at UNI and will graduate in the spring of 2008. She hopes to find a job working with Therapeutic Recreation.

- **MUSCO/ Outdoor Recreation Products Scholarship—Jeff Lucas**

Jeff is a senior at UNI and is considering pursuing Master's Degree in Parks and Recreation. He hopes to one day be a director of a Parks and Recreation Department in Iowa.

- **Iowa Amateur Softball Association Scholarship—Jessica O'Connor**

Jessica is a senior at UNI and will graduate in August of 2007, once she completes her internship. She is very interested in Environmental Education and hopes to intern with the State of Iowa this summer.

WHO'S WHO IN AWARD BANQUET PHOTOGRAPHS

Top Left: Ben Page (left) accepting Dr. Carole J. Hanson Young Professional Award from Kevin Shawgo, Awards Committee chair.

Top Center: John Hagener (at podium) presenting Ron Hopp (standing) with Past President's Award.

Top Right: Keith Abraham, recipient of Richard J. Slattery Professional Award, and his family.

Bottom Left: Susan Slattery Branstatter, daughter of Richard J. Slattery.

Bottom Center: John Hagener, new President of the IPRA Board of Directors, is sworn in.

Bottom Right: Paul Nielson (left) and Jay Stoddard, representing Sturgis Falls Celebration, recipients of the Lay Organization Award, along with Kevin Shawgo.



The Hershey's Track & Field program is alive and well in Iowa! There were 55 communities that hosted a meet in 2006. Why is Hershey so great? It takes no special equipment, you don't have to try out or be drafted, and it is free! How can any of us go wrong in offering a program like that? The support given at the national level is phenomenal. Just ask the 10 kids from Iowa that got to compete at the North American Finals.

The state meet is a big undertaking. Last year about 850 kids competed. We work hard to make the meet run smoothly. We want people to walk away with a great impression of what the people in the parks & recreation field do for their kids across the state. Help at the state meet is always appreciated. If you are available to help out for any portion of the day, please let Terry Gray know. The state meet will be June 16.

Visit our website at www.ci.marshaltown.ia.us. Last year's results are posted. Heat sheets for the 2006 state meet will be posted on Thursday before the meet, and we will update the website with photos and results afterwards.

It is never too late! If you decide you'd like to offer a Hershey's Meet in your community Terry is still offering an incentive for the first three new communities that host a meet. \$150 will be sent your way to help defray expenses. Please call me, Terry Gray, at 641-754-5715, or email me at tgray@ci.marshaltown.ia.us and I can help get you on board.



Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #269

1534 Penrose Street
Grinnell, IA 50112

Phone: 641.236.3917
Fax: 641.236.6779
www.iowaparkand recreation.org

IPRA Today is produced by the I.P.R.A.
Publications Committee Chair, Deborah
Martinez, deborah@lightenupiowa.org

Layout design by
Cathy Shutts
cshutts@pcpartner.net

IPRA Calendar of Events



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

June:

- 11 CEU/Aquatic Update—Fort Dodge
- 12-13 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Fort Dodge

Congratulations

Addison Marie Anderson was born March 30, 2007 to Troy and Jackie Anderson. Addie weighed 6 pounds, 1 ounce at birth and was 19 1/2 inches in length. Troy holds the position of Athletic Supervisor for the Coralville Parks and Recreation Association.

