



# THE Review

A publication of the West Virginia Recreation and Parks Association

FALL 2010

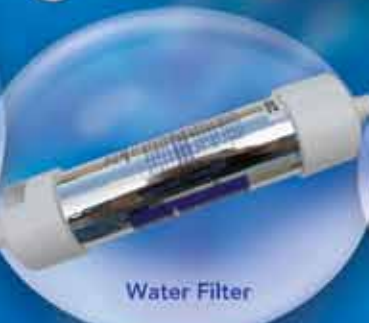
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Undergoes Restoration

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West Virginia Recreation and Parks Association

Volume 2 • Issue 2

164 West Main Street  
Bridgeport, WV 26330  
www.wvrpa.org

**WVRPA is:**

Actively concerned with recreation, parks, therapeutic recreation, conservation and environmental education, programs and issues.

A blend of professional volunteers, lay citizens, educators and students who are aware of the mental, physical, social and economic values of parks and recreation.

A nonprofit, educational leisure service organization.

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# A Job Well Done

I hope, as the summer winds down, that everyone had an enjoyable one. Yes, we were aggravated with the operation of our pools — and to think our customers actually had the nerve to expect the best we could offer. Our lifeguards reminded us to ask the question, “Why don’t humans eat their young?” But as we look back, we can say, “What a great job!”

We are lucky to be able to do what we do, to provide activities and facilities for people to put their hectic lives on the back burner and just enjoy themselves for an hour a day or a week. That is why we do what we do — to see that smile on the face of a child or that look of relief from an adult.

This issue of *The Review* highlights the Annual Conference this fall. Please make every effort to attend. This is where we as professionals get to take some time to refresh ourselves, as well as learn new trends that will help our organizations.

Also, I would like to thank the Board members and officers of WVRPA for picking up the ball and running with it, as I have been unable to fulfill my responsibilities this year due to my work schedule. I have been unemployed (from full-time work) for a year and a half, so I have had to take whatever job is available when available to be able to provide for my family. This has not allowed me the time to put in to being your president. I apologize, but I hope you understand. Again, thank you all for filling in when asked. Everyone, as I mentioned at last year’s conference, needs to step up and participate in WVRPA. You need to get involved, not wait to be asked — just show up, and jump right in. That is how we all started. WVRPA is only as good as all of us, so let’s make this year the year we all want to get involved and do something to better the Association.

Thanks, and I hope you all had a great summer!



Tom Raker

# Metropolitan Theatre Undergoes Restoration

On July 24, 1924, Morgantown residents gathered on High Street to get their first look at what would very quickly become known as “West Virginia’s most beautiful playhouse,” the Metropolitan Theatre. It was the hub of downtown activity, hosting vaudeville shows, Broadway and Hollywood stars, dance, drama and music of every kind. The “Met” premiered blockbuster movies in the days of the great “silver screen.” It was the personality of downtown Morgantown. It was a destination.

In the late 1980s, the theatre, like many single-screen theaters and playhouses across the country, fell into disrepair, and it eventually closed and was left vacant. Local citizens and businesses alike banded together and, under the auspices of the Metropolitan Theatre Preservation Foundation, bought the Met, using personal funds, donations and grants. This group of dedicated and committed people spent their weekends literally shoveling out the dirt and debris, including fallen plaster as a result of a roof leak due to years of neglect and inactivity. Since those tough early days, the theatre has been the recipient of two

major renovation projects. The first one, beginning in 2000, completely overhauled the infrastructure, including electrical, plumbing, heating, air-conditioning, the roof, dressing rooms, safety systems, theatrical lighting and sound. With this work completed, the theatre reopened in December 2003, hosting a B.E. Taylor Christmas concert. The Met was filled to capacity; the theatre was alive again!

In March 2004, the Metropolitan Theatre Preservation Foundation donated the theatre to the city and citizens of Morgantown. The foundation would continue to raise funds to complete the theatre, but it would now be owned and operated by the city of Morgantown. The theatre management was then turned over to the Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners by city of Morgantown, and, for the next five years, the theatre experienced increased use, averaging more than 100 performance nights every year and drawing nearly 40,000 patrons per year.

The second renovation project began in August 2009. It included the restoration of the decorative plastering, painting, lighting, sound, carpeting, stage lift, cap

With nearly \$4 million in renovations, the greater Morgantown community can once again boast to being home to “West Virginia’s most beautiful playhouse.”

rails and brass railings and remodeling of four additional dressing rooms. With the completion of this phase, the theatre has been restored to its original state as well as improved by adapting and providing for all the modern amenities that are now standard in today’s theaters.

With nearly \$4 million in renovations, the greater Morgantown community can once again boast to being home to “West Virginia’s most beautiful playhouse.”

The Met will reopen in late summer 2010, completely renovated, restored to her original beauty, and it will once again be the hub of activity in downtown Morgantown. Watch for updates and reopening dates at [www.boparc.org](http://www.boparc.org) and [www.morgantownmet.com](http://www.morgantownmet.com).

# Marshall's Recreation Program Is on the Move!

Throughout the past year, Marshall University's recreation major/program has made many changes. The name and degree has changed to a B.S. in natural resources and recreation management, highlighting the shift in emphasis to natural areas recreation and resource management. This change also supported the program's move from the School of Kinesiology/College of Education and Human Services to the College of Science and the Department of Integrated Sciences and Technology.

The faculty members in NRRM feel being housed in the Department of IST and the College of Science will only better prepare students for careers in the industry. With this move, a new general curriculum has been adopted that includes a heavy emphasis in technology, such as GIS and computer instrumentation. Also, students will complete more than 40 credit hours in the traditional science fields, including courses in ecology, terrestrial systems and aquatic systems, to name a few. Students will also have an increase in free electives in order to minor in an area of their choosing, such as business administration or wildlife ecology. All new majors will also be required to complete 300 field-experience hours prior to embarking on their internships, again emphasizing the need for practical experience as part of their education.

Currently, the NRRM program has 40-plus majors (up from 28 just one year ago) and two full-time faculty persons. James Farmer, PhD, joined the program last year and is the program chairperson. James graduated from Indiana University's Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies in August 2009. His teaching focus includes the human dimensions of natural resources. James studies environmental behavior, specifically considering landowners' decisions to place permanent deed restrictions on private property, as well as the public's participation in local food systems. Rick Abel is the second full-time faculty member in the program. Rick has been with the program for four years and teaches courses in park management, administration and operations, to name a few. Rick has more than 30 years of experience in the municipal park setting and has been an active member in the WVRPA. During a period when many programs have been hit with extensive cutbacks, we were granted a third tenure-line to support the expansion of the program, which underscores the importance of this program and the commitment from Marshall University.

This summer, the program saw seven students venture across the continent to complete internships. Students were

placed in programs from Alaska and South Dakota to Nebraska and Black Water Falls State Park. Our students received excellent reviews from field supervisors, with one supervisor noting that the intern has had "great insight and has truly been a valuable asset," while others have expressed how the interns are teaching the full-timers new information. We hope that our new focus in the sciences and technology will see a continuation of success for our students and the field.



## Main Pavilion in Martinsburg's War Memorial Park



In February 2010, officials at Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks & Recreation discovered that War Memorial Park's Main Pavilion was structurally unsafe. The weight-bearing posts of the 60-year-old-structure had been rotting away, and the pavilion needed to be replaced. This

The Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks & Recreation Board Members voted to replace the pavilion with a yellow pine laminated wood structure.

The estimated cost of the project exceeded \$100,000, but completing the project

pavilion, used by thousands of people for a variety of family picnics and special events throughout the year, is situated in the middle of the park, which serves as the living memorial to Berkeley County residents who died serving our country.

The Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks & Recreation Board Members voted to replace the pavilion with a yellow pine laminated wood structure.

with Parks & Recreation maintenance staff members and generous donations of labor and materials spearheaded by Chad Gochenour of Tomahawk Motorcross, the new main pavilion was constructed for approximately \$60,000. The cost was partially offset by a West Virginia Community Partnership Grant and donations by local groups and individuals. Donations for the project ranged from \$10 gifts from local citizens to \$10,000 given by the Martinsburg Lions Club.

Steve Catlett, executive director of Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks & Recreation, is very happy with the end result. "This pavilion typifies the community spirit in Berkeley County. So many people have come together to contribute to the beautiful new pavilion, and it will be used by residents for many years to come."

# Conference Agenda

## Tuesday, November 2

### 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

#### WORKSHOP #1

##### Golf Tournament

Drive, chip and putt for prizes and fun. Join several of your colleagues and exhibitors for a day on one of West Virginia's most scenic golf courses. Contact John Cooper for details: jcooper@cityofclarksburghwv.com.

### 12:30-2 p.m.

#### Workshop Lunch

Canaan Valley Golf Course. Enjoy a picnic lunch and all the fixins and sides. Sponsored by Terradon Corp.

### 1-3 p.m.

#### WORKSHOP #2

##### Trail Ride

Discover one of West Virginia's most scenic valleys, Canaan. Enjoy the views and sounds while on horseback. The two-hour ride will take you through open fields and along wooded trails. Cost: \$50. Contact Bruce Miller to register at ranger\_bmilller@yahoo.com or 304.594.1773.

### 3-6 p.m.

Registration Table Open

### 5-5:50 p.m.

#### WVTRA SESSION

##### West Virginia Adapted Track and Shooting Sports

(Birch Room)

### 6-6:50 p.m.

#### WVTRA SESSION

##### Current Geri Olympic Trends

(Birch Room)

### 6:30-8 p.m.

#### WVRPA WELCOME DINNER AND SPEAKERS

(Pine Room)

### 7-10 p.m.

#### Exhibitor Setup #1

(Spruce and Balsam Rooms)

## Wednesday, November 3

### 8 a.m-Noon

WVRPA and WVTRA Registration Tables Open

### 8-10 a.m.

#### Coffee Break

Sponsored by WVTRA

### 9-9:50 a.m.

#### WVRPA SESSION

##### Utilizing Social Networks in Parks and Recreation

Melissa Birch, BOPARC; and Joe Shuttleworth, City of Bridgeport Parks and Recreation (Willow Room)

### 9-9:50 a.m.

#### WVTRA SESSION

ICF & WHO Implications (Birch Room)

### 10-10:50 a.m.

WVRPA SESSION (TBA)

### 10-10:50 a.m.

#### WVTRA SESSION

Chair Yoga (Birch Room)

### 11-11:50 a.m.

#### WVRPA & WVTRA SESSION

Disabilities – What They Offer! Regina Mayolo, West Virginia Center for Excellence in Disabilities (Pine Room)

### Noon

#### Exhibitor Room Open

Get one-on-one updates with our exhibitors about old and new services and equipment they offer (Spruce and Balsam Rooms)

### 12:30-1:30 p.m.

#### Exhibitor Lunch

This is the opportunity for you and the exhibitors to further your professional relationships and friendships. Many of our exhibitors have been involved with WVRPA for more than 20 years. Enjoy a great meal together, and discuss anything from new services and equipment to how the family is doing (no political discussions, please)!

### 2-2:50 p.m.

#### WVRPA & WTRA SESSION

##### Therapeutic Gardening #1

Melissa Stewart (Pine Room)

### 3:3:50 p.m.

#### WVRPA & WVTRA SESSION

##### Therapeutic Gardening #2

Melissa Stewart (Pine Room)

### 4-4:50 p.m.

#### WVRPA SESSION

##### SCORP & LWCF

John McGarrity, WV LWCF (Willow Room)

### 4-4:50 p.m.

#### WVTRA SESSION

##### State Licensing

(Birch Room)

### 6-7:30 p.m.

#### Exhibitor Dinner

Another opportunity to meet the exhibitors and discover all the new and latest products and services (Spruce and Balsam rooms)

### 7:30-9 p.m.

#### Hillbilly Auction

If you enjoy winning prizes, this is it! Join in on the fun, purchase an arm's length of raffle tickets for only a few bucks, and try your chances at more than 30 piles of prizes. Contact Bruce Miller for a complete list of rules and regulations.

### 9 p.m.-?

#### WVRPA & WVTRA Social

(TBA)



# Conference Agenda

## Thursday, November 4

### 8-10 a.m.

Registration Table Open

### 8-10 a.m.

#### Coffee Break

Sponsored by WVRPA

### 9-9:50 a.m.

WVRPA SESSION

#### New Technologies in Customer Data Collection #1

Ananda Mitra (Willow Room)

### 9-9:50 a.m.

WVRTA SESSION

#### Disabilities & Relationships #1

Dr. Howard (Birch Room)

### 10-10:50 a.m.

WVRPA SESSION

#### New Technologies in Customer Data Collection #2

Ananda Mitra (Willow Room)

### 10-10:50 a.m.

WVRTA SESSION

#### Disabilities & Relationships #2

Dr. Howard (Birch Room)

### 11-11:50 a.m.

WVRPA SESSION

#### Skateplazas, Paths and Sculptures; New Faces of Skateparks

Aaron Spohn, Spohn Ranch & Action Park Alliance (Willow Room)

### 11-11:50 a.m.

WVTRA SESSION (TBA)

### Noon-1:30 p.m.

**WVRPA Banquet Lunch & Awards**  
(Pine Room)

### 1:30-2:30 p.m.

**WVRPA Board Meeting**  
(TBA)

### 2-3 p.m.

**WVTRA Board Meeting**  
(TBA)

## Chet R. Marshall

Chet Marshall is a professional speaker, an author and a life coach. He has a wealth of knowledge from business experiences, 10 years in education, 18 years in health care and his experience as an entrepreneur. He's lived in West Virginia now for more than 30 years and understands that he still doesn't qualify to be a West Virginian!

He's co-authored four books and is the author of a book entitled *Lessons on Leadership – Visualizing Qualities of a Leader*. World-famous speaker and author Zig Ziglar wrote the foreword for this book. His second authored book is *Become the Boss You Want to Be – 64 Lessons Learned from MY Bosses*.

As a member of the National Speakers Association, he had the privilege of serving as chairman of the Motivational PEG for the organization.



# 38th Annual Conference

West Virginia Recreation and Parks Association  
Canaan Valley Resort & Conference Center  
November 2-4, 2010

Name:

Agency/Organization/School:

Mailing Address:

Work Number: Cell Number:

Fax Number: E-mail Address:

## Conference Registration Options

**Professional Full Package** (includes Educational Sessions, Welcome Breakfast, Exhibit Hall Luncheon, Social, Evening Entertainment, Awards Banquet and more) Prior to 10/20/10 **\$125**   
After 10/20/10 **\$150**

**Student/New Member\*** (includes Educational Sessions, Exhibit Hall Luncheon, Social, Evening Entertainment and Awards Banquet) (\*new member is someone who has never attended before) Prior to 10/20/10 **\$50**   
After 10/20/10 **\$60**

**Daily** **Tuesday** (includes dinner) **\$75**  **Wednesday** (includes session, breakfast and luncheon) **\$100**  **Thursday** (includes banquet) **\$75**

## Extra Charge Items (Note: ALL WVRPA Memberships expire on November 1 each year)

<b>Horseback Ride</b> <b>\$50</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Professional Membership</b> <b>\$35</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Golf Workshop/Barbecue Dinner</b> <b>\$50</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BD/Commission Membership</b> <b>\$50</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Extra Keynote Dinner</b> <b>\$30</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Student Membership</b> <b>\$10</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>CEU Credit</b> <b>\$15</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Agency Membership</b> <b>\$250</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Extra Banquet Ticket</b> <b>\$30</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

## Make checks payable to:

WVRPA  
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Conference Options: \$ + Workshops: \$ + Membership: \$ = **Total Amount Enclosed: \$**

Check Number: Date Received:

\* Cancellation Policy – Registration fee minus \$25 will be refunded if cancellation notice is received prior to 10/31/10. No refunds after 11/1/10.

## WVRPA 2010 Conference Lodging

Call Canaan Valley Resort & Conference Center at 800.622.4121

### Ask for WVRPA Rates

For questions, call Bruce Miller at 304.594.1773 or go to [www.wvrpa.org](http://www.wvrpa.org)

# 2010 AWARD GUIDELINES

The following awards are being offered by the WVRPA for outstanding accomplishments under qualifications, rules and procedures listed herewith. Please read the list of available awards and submit any nominations you may have to:

Toni Saylor (toni@mbcparks-rec.org)  
or Aly Burkhart (aburkhart@mbcparks-rec.org)  
Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks & Recreation  
273 Woodbury Avenue  
Martinsburg WV 25404  
304.264.4842

Deadline for Nominations is October 18, 2010.

## General Guidelines for All Nominations

1. The person placing the nomination before the Awards Committee shall be prepared to appear before the committee in order to answer any questions that members of the committee may have and to supply any additional information that may be pertinent to the nomination but not included in the nominating materials.
2. Nominating documents for the Awards shall be displayed at the annual Conference, so format, design and presentation must be considered in this light. Nominating documents must be submitted in the appropriate protective binders.
3. All nominating documents will become the property of the WVRPA. In all likelihood, the materials will be returned, but as they are scheduled for display at the Conference, the WVRPA cannot guarantee their return in the same condition as they were received.
4. All nominations must be submitted by a member of the West Virginia Recreation and Park Association.
5. Nominees do not have to be members of the West Virginia Recreation and Park Association, unless stipulated in the qualifications.
6. A park, recreation or leisure service agency in West Virginia may nominate one of its own employees, programs, areas or facilities for an award.
7. An investigation committee composed of two members with the closest proximity to the agency that has been nominated for a program or a facility award must visit and make an evaluation, in writing, and report back to the full committee.
8. All nominations must be received by the chairperson of the Awards Committee by no later than September 30 of each year.



## Format for Nominating Documents

Include as many of the following criteria as you feel necessary to showcase the impact of your nominee.

**Section I:** A letter of presentation that identifies the nominee, the award being requested, a contact person for the Awards Committee to interview and a person to present the award if the nominee is selected.

**Section II:** Narrative materials that describe and “sell” the worthiness of the nominee or the award. Each element of the award’s criteria must be fully addressed in this section.

**Section III:** Letters or documents of support for the nominee from various segments of the community.

**Section IV:** As appropriate, either a biographical sketch of the person or a chronology of the development of the program, area, facility, etc.

**Section V:** Supporting documentation such as press releases, brochures, photographs, architectural drawings and other visuals. (This is especially encouraged in the facilities category.)

## Limitation of Awards

It is to be understood that any or all of the awards offered by the West Virginia Recreation and Park Association may or may not be given in any particular year. Unless obvious justification can be made for the presentation of an award, no award will be given, as to do so would reduce the prestige on the part of the previous recipients.

# WEST VIRGINIA RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION AWARDS

The Awards Committee of the WVRPA is now accepting nominations for the following awards offered by our association:

## **John G. Scherlacher Fellow Award**

Qualifications: Professional members of the WVRPA with at least 10 years of experience in the leisure service delivery system with at least five years of service with the WVRPA. Nominee must have demonstrated willingness to assume a leadership within our organization. This is the highest award that can be given to a professional in the state of West Virginia by the WVRPA.

## **Austin C. Palmer Outstanding Facility Award**

Qualifications: Outstanding facilities serving a large segment of a geographic area that are aesthetically pleasing, evidence of sound design, programmed to maximum potential and in operation for at least one year.

## **Richard P. Sebastian Leadership Award**

Qualifications: Active membership in the WVRPA, nominees must be under 30 years of age or younger by January 1, 2011, and nominees should exhibit qualities of ambition, creativity and dedication to the recreation profession and be cooperative, hardworking and loyal in nature.

## **Special Citation to a Citizen/Board Member**

Qualifications: Nominee should have made significant contributions to the parks, recreation or leisure service field, exhibit a firm understanding of and commitment toward providing quality

leisure services and exhibit a significant contribution to the leisure service delivery at the regional or statewide level.

## **Eugene M. Fuller Program Award**

Qualifications: Nominees must provide evidence of outstanding programming of superior quality in promoting activities that are traditionally associated with park, recreation and leisure services or in developing innovative programming ideas.

## **Legislative Award**

Qualifications: Any member of the Senate or House of Delegates in the state of West Virginia or from the state of West Virginia with a firm understanding of the need of, and commitment toward, providing quality leisure services.

## **Presidential Citation**

Qualifications: Presented by the president of the WVRPA to anyone making an outstanding contribution to the field of parks and recreation above and beyond the normal duties of his or her profession, involvement on the national or statewide level in improving the overall park and recreation services.

## **James L. McClelland Public Parks and Recreation Facility Award**

Qualifications: Exceptional park and recreation areas, spaces or facilities, with emphasis placed on design, creativity, environmental adaptability, function, usage, and community and, where applicable, inter-agency involvement in planning.



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## **WVRPA Annual Conference**

**Canaan Valley Resort  
& Conference Center  
November 2-4, 2010**

### **"Parks & Programs – Spaces, Activities and Technology"**

Once again, the WVRPA will team up with the WVTRA and return to one of our favorite locales, the beautiful Canaan Valley Resort & Conference Center. Please make the effort to not only visit one of the most scenic areas in West Virginia to recharge your batteries but also meet up with fellow colleagues to gain new perspectives on the challenges you face every day.

Bruce Miller and our conference planning team have a great lineup of current educational sessions that you can use to improve your agencies. Please register early and join us for an unforgettable experience.

# PAULA MARTIN REMEMBERED

Paula Lee Martin taught countless kids to swim, looked after the city's pools and served as an inspiration to all ages.

Martin, 62, died April 13 at CAMC Women and Children's Hospital after a battle with ovarian cancer, said her sister Susan Foose of Moundsville. A service for Martin was held April 17.

Martin was an employee of Charleston Parks and Recreation and the manager of the King Community Center.

Lynn Watts, deputy director for Charleston Parks and Recreation Department, described Martin as determined, strong-willed and outgoing.

"She taught us all to appreciate our physical attributes and to accept the disabilities of others," Watts said. "She was always determined to do the same things as everyone else."

Martin, a double amputee, lost her legs when she was 5 due to a blood disease, her sister said. She would push herself in her wheelchair to the local pool where she was a regular swimmer.

"We practically lived at our city pool," Foose said. "I helped her dive, and from that day on, it was swim, swim, swim. She would swim like a fish."

Their father died when they were young and their mother taught them to be strong and self-sufficient, she said.

"My mother would never let us baby her," Foose said of her sister. "She said someday we would have to be on our own."

After graduating from high school, Martin went to Detroit, where some friends lived. It was there she had her

first professional swim lessons. She joined a team and went on to earn medals in national and international swimming events.

She returned to West Virginia in the early '70s and entered West Virginia State to get a recreation degree. From 1973 on, she taught swimming everywhere, from the West Virginia Rehabilitation Center and YWCA to community centers and city pools.

Then in 1989, she was denied Red Cross recertification. In a *Daily Mail* interview, she said she was told she couldn't pass the test, at least in part, because she had no leg kick to go with the breast stroke and did not use legs in her CPR technique.

She was devastated, but faced the challenge head-on just as she had many others.

She filed suit with the state Human Rights Commission and she won the right to dive back into the aquatics career she loved.

It is unknown how many children and adults she has taught to swim. She also certified lifeguards, swimming instructors and scuba divers.

She loved working with the kids at the King Center where she threw a "princess party" for the girls last year when she provided them with tiaras, wands, balloons and snacks.

"The kids respected her and she was always willing to help them," Watts said. "She played games with them and organized sports and craft activities."

John Charnock, director for the Charleston Parks and Recreation



**IN MEMORY OF PAULA MARTIN**

July 10, 1947-April 13, 2010

Department, said Martin was creative with her recreational ideas.

"I came here in 2003 and Paula was senior program coordinator for citywide events," he said. "She brought the idea of a dog swim to the city. She was a big fan of animals.

"She was a big fan of aquatics," he added. "She was vigilant on safety at city pools."

Aside from her love for swimming, she also shared her gardening expertise with the children, he added.

Watts noted Martin's home was filled with flowers. In the summer, she would grow some vegetables.

In fact, there wasn't much that Martin considered out of her reach.

"We went hiking at Pipestem and she pushed herself up a hill in her wheelchair," Watts said.

Greg Blake, administrative assistant at the King Center, said, "Paula was a real go-getter and a hard worker. She did everything with the kids. She could swim like a fish. Even with no legs, nothing was a challenge."

## World-Famous Wildlife Artist Trail

Charles “Chuck” Ripper, whose reputation for outstanding wildlife illustration is unsurpassed, has been developing interpretive signage for the Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District (GHPRD), which will be placed in David W. Harris Park along Huntington, West Virginia’s waterfront. His works have appeared in numerous magazines, catalogs and books, as well as on stationery products. Ripper has been published on the cover of L.L Bean catalogs, the most recent being the current issue featuring a moose.

The National Wildlife Foundation awarded Ripper the coveted Peregrine Award in 1989 for 30 years of dedicated service and for providing NWF with more than 575 stamp paints.

He has created stamp issues for the U.S. Postal Service, one comprising a sheet of 50 stamps that was voted the most popular issue of 1987. His paintings have been shown in 15 museums

and galleries and have appeared in 25 books for publishers, including the National Audubon Society, the National Geographic Society, Readers Digest Books, Houghton Mifflin, Alfred Knopf, the Museum of Natural History and William Morrow.

“Part of the Harris Park trail system will be the Chuck Ripper Wildlife Interpretive Trail,” states Jim McClelland, “a series of at least eight full-color stations that depict flora and fauna found along the Ohio River.” Two of the stations are already in place with expectations that the trail will be complete within this 2010-2011 fiscal year. Funding for the estimated \$48,000 project is a combination of private, local, state and federal funding. “His detail and artistry are awesome,” McClelland states. “We’re fortunate to have Mr. Ripper as a longtime resident of Huntington, and, to boot, he’s just a great guy to work with.”

## Ritter Park Rose Garden Selected in Top 10

by Jim McClelland

For three-quarters of a century, the Ritter Park Rose Garden in Huntington, West Virginia, has been a delight to visit. The result of a national competition to find the best public rose gardens in America began in April 2010 under the auspices of the All-American Rose Society. The Ritter Park facility was voted one of the very best in the United States, ranking in the top 10.

Originally designed by landscape architect Gus Wofford in the early 1930s, the garden in the past several decades has been cared for by expert rosarian Truman Watts under the watchful eye of Greater Huntington Park and Recreation district (GHPRD) buildings and grounds superintendent David McKinney. Their planning and tender loving care has resulted in enlarging the garden from approximately 1,000 rose bushes to 2,000. It is open to the public free of charge 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A graceful building — The Room with a View — designed by the firm of Bohlen Cywinski Jackson, whose principal architect,



Peter Bohlin, received the American Institute of Architects prestigious “Fellow” award this past June — is part of the garden complex.

The Ritter Park Rose Garden is one of 130 AARS-plus accredited public rose gardens across America. As Henry Conklin, AARS president, wrote, “Each AARS public garden has the potential to make a significant impact in its community.” That is certainly true of the Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District facility, which is visited annually by numerous in- and out-of-state lovers of rose gardens. As might be expected, the garden is the site of numerous weddings throughout the growing season.

## Award-Winning Architect Impacts Huntington

“What’s good enough for Uncle Sam, Apple and Pixar is good enough for GHPRD,” Jim McClelland states. This past June, Peter Bohlin, a fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a founding principal of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, received the institute’s Gold Medal Award. One of the world’s finer architects, Peter is known for his highly creative architecture and contributions to his profession for more than 40 years. Among his many acclaimed designs are: Copperhill Mountain Lodge, Are, Sweden; Grand Teton National Park Discovery and Visitors Center; Apple Stores offices throughout the world; Pixar Animation Studios; and Liberty Bell Center in Philadelphia.

Peter has done outstanding work for Jim on Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania’s Coal Street and Kirby parks, and GHPRD’s Rotary and Ritter parks. His firm’s Huntington, West Virginia, work, always under his critical, creative eyes, and often under his personal pen, includes the Rotary Park shelters and ballfields, two Ritter Park playgrounds, a tennis center, and the Ritter Park Rose Garden’s Room with a View. Every one of

the projects in Wilkes-Barre and Huntington was assisted with Land and Water Conservation Funds, and many have received state and national awards. In the latest LWCF report, the Ritter Park Junior League Island Playground was featured showing a photograph with Rep. Nick Joe Rahall pushing a child on the playground’s popular zip line.

West Virginia architect Ed Tucker was on the select committee to choose this year’s recipient, and he reported to Jim and the Rotary Club of Huntington that, in the materials presented to the committee, there was a picture of Peter in Ritter Park working with children during the early stages of planning the playground.

During the award presentation, a video was shown that featured various clients commenting on his work. Jim was invited by AIA and honored to be one of those selected to appear in the film. Hats off to Peter for his fine architecture and his deserved honor. We also salute and thank him for his, and his firm’s, wonderful work on West Virginia park and recreation soil.



**T**he New Martinsville Parks and Recreation Commission is instituting a new policy concerning the waterfowl at Lewis Wetzel Park. As of September 1, 2010, patrons will no longer be permitted to feed the ducks and geese that have gathered at the park and pond. Fall is the time for Canada geese and mallard ducks to migrate south for the winter. But in recent years, an abundance of food from the public has motivated the waterfowl to stay at the park all year. This disrupts the natural cycles that nature intended. In addition, bread, cereal and crackers are deficient in protein, calcium and other nutrients. A steady diet of these foods is very harmful to the birds and causes damage to their bones.

Wild ducks and geese are protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Act. It is illegal to harm the birds, their nests or their offspring. It is also harmful to feed them. The waterfowl droppings are also unsanitary on walkways, picnic sites and grassy areas. The droppings pollute the lake, which affects fish and other wildlife. The wild mallard ducks are interbreeding with domestic ducks, creating unnatural hybrids. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is very concerned about the future of the wild mallard duck. Large groups of birds are more vulnerable to disease and parasite outbreaks. Parks and Recreation Director Beverly Gibb said, "I have found a home for the domestic goose and ducks. These birds are unable to fly to a food source and must be fed during the colder months. I made sure they are going to a home that will provide them with all of the necessary water and food that is needed. I didn't want them to end up in a cage in someone's garage with their only access to water being from a butter tub."

The number of ducks and geese has increased even over the past few weeks. "We started out with seven domestic ducks,

and we are now at 10. People get them as pets, and once they grow and become really messy, they just drop them off at the pond. I have had people call and ask permission to leave ducks at the pond, and I always tell them no. Others, for whatever reason, feel it is fine to just leave them there."

Members of the Park Commission realize that there are many people in the community and surrounding area who enjoy visiting the pond and feeding the ducks. "We believe that people will understand that this is truly what is best for the birds and will respect this decision. Other area parks have implemented this same policy," Gibb stated.

Brochures have been developed and will be distributed throughout the next few months explaining the issue. Signs have been posted at the pond.

While the domestic ducks will be leaving the pond very soon, it may take some time for the wild waterfowl to leave. "For some, this has been their home all of their lives. So, they will naturally want to stay, but once the food becomes scarce, they will move on," Gibb added.

"I have had many people over the years tell me how much they enjoy feeding and watching the ducks at the pond. I know that there will be several upset over this, but I hope that once they realize why it is being done, they will understand," Gibb said. "With any body of water, there is a possibility of visiting wild waterfowl. I have witnessed several types of ducks and birds at the pond. I believe we will still have the visitors, but the permanent residents will reduce over time."

For additional information concerning this policy, call 304.455.9130.



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# Kids Triathlon Held in Bridgeport

by Joe Shuttleworth, Bridgeport Parks and Recreation

The first annual I-Tri Kids Triathlon was held on Saturday, August 14, 2010. Working in conjunction with the Bridgeport Swim Team, 53 children from all over north central West Virginia, and even a few from Ohio and Pennsylvania, competed in the event.

The event consisted of swimming, biking and running. Participants began by swimming laps in the Bridgeport pool. From there, they entered a transition area, where they changed into their shoes, donned their bike helmets and set out on a traffic-controlled course using city streets, parking lots and Bridgeport City Park. The next phase involved transitioning from the bike to running. The competitors ran an "out and back" course on the City Park walking trail. The

distances for each leg of the race were determined by age group.

The really neat part for the children was that we contracted with a race event company that provided electronic timing services. The children wore a chip via a Velcro strap around their ankles. At each transition point, they had to cross a mat, which registered their time for each event, and their overall time was provided at the end.

The biggest challenge was sponsorships. We had to secure sponsorships to provide the race services, prizes, giveaways and post-race food and drinks. We enlisted the help of the police and fire departments, the police volunteer groups, the Bridgeport High

School Cross Country team and many individuals to control the course, assist participants into and out of transition areas and many other aspects.

The event proved to be very exciting and rewarding. More than 200 spectators lined the finish line of the event, all cheering each participant. Seeing the children as they crossed the finish line was very heartwarming, as you could see the sense of accomplishment and pride on their faces. All 53 entrants finished the race, some as young as 5 years old.

Plans are already in place for a bigger and better event for summer 2011! Contact Joe Shuttleworth at [joe.shuttleworth@bridgeportwv.com](mailto:joe.shuttleworth@bridgeportwv.com) or 304.842.8240.

