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164 West Main Street
Bridgeport WV 26330

West Virginia Recreation and Parks Association
Professional Publication



THE REVIEW

Issue 1, 2008
December 2007 / January 2008



WVRPA 2008 Board Meetings

Jan. 23-Charleston
April 11-Clarksburg
July 18-Bridgeport
Sept. 12- At conference site TBA
November 5-7 - Annual Conference TBA

Officers:

President: Beverly Gibb
gibb4@hotmail.com
President Elect: Tom Raker
tom@kprc.com
Past President: John Cooper
jcooper@cityofclarksburgwv.com
Secretary: Lauren Benment
parksandrec@frontiernet.net
Treasurer: Don Burton
donburton@bridgeportwv.com

Board of Directors

First Year: Ralph LaRue
Second Year: Lynn Watts
Third Year: Steve Carlett
NRPA/Citizen Representative: Bob Clouch
NRPA/Southern Regional Rep.: Jim McClelland
Student Liaisons: Marshall
WVU

Committee Chairpersons

Annual Conference: Bruce Miller
Programming Exchange: Don Burton
Site Selection: Joe Shuttleworth
Workshops: Paula Martin
Legislative: Jim McClelland
Finance: Don Burton
Fund Raising: John Cooper
Newsletter: Joe Shuttleworth
Archives: John Cooper
Hershey Track&Field Membership: John Cooper
Nominating: Tom Raker
Outreach: Rick Abel
Professional Awards: Jodie Lamm
Professional Certification: Owen Walker
Board Members & Commissioners: Bob Clouch
Audit: Ralph LaRue
Constitutional Review: Beverly Gibb

President's Message

I love snow! I will never live where it doesn't snow. As I sit at my desk writing this big, beautiful, sparkling flakes are falling from the sky. There is something mesmerizing about watching it snow. Like listening to the waves of the ocean roll in at the beach. Very relaxing. Gives you a few moments to not think about anything. Of course now I am going to need to clean off my Explorer, again. I want to thank Bruce Miller, Joe Shuttleworth, and everyone else that was involved with putting the 2007 conference together. Congratulations to all those who won an award. I look forward to attending the conference every year and spending time with everyone. I also want to thank everyone for making my first year as president of our association run a fairly smooth course. We have so much talent inside this organization. It just amazes me when we get together, and start comparing notes, what we all have accomplished. Often times with very little financial support. We would make McGuyver proud! Building new playgrounds out of two paper clips and a rubber band! The board meeting dates for 2008 are listed in this issue. Everyone is welcome to attend all of the meetings. We always enjoy hearing new ideas. You can also present you ideas in this newsletter. It is a great tool for giving and finding information. Now that I have a year of serving as president under my belt, I will do my best to take what I have learned and help continue to move our organization in a positive direction. If you haven't already, take the time to watch it snow and pat yourself on the back for a job well done. Then, get back to work.

For Better Parks & Recreation
Bev Gibb, President

Have a Successful, Fun-Filled Season with...COACHING BASKETBALL FOR DUMMIES®

Almost 2 million parents in America volunteer to coach children's sports, and many of them are sports with which they aren't entirely familiar. For those wanting basic tips and practical advice, there's now help with the ever-popular For Dummies series! The latest coaching guide in the series, Coaching Basketball For Dummies (Wiley, September 2007, 362 pages), explains in simple, easy-to-understand language the key points of playing and coaching the game. This handy reference, written by the National Alliance for Youth Sports with Greg Bach, teaches coaches how to build young players' confidence, communicate the value of teamwork, and provide basic and advanced basketball skills. Coaching Basketball For Dummies is more than just a guide to basketball strategy. Perfect for both first-time and more experienced coaches, it reveals the key steps to making the season an enjoyable experience for everyone—children and parents alike.

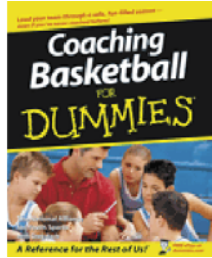
Readers will learn how to:

- Meet with parents before the season, and stress the importance of sportsmanship among the players and the fans
- Organize all of the required league paperwork, so that parents can understand it and complete it quickly and easily
- Figure out who plays where
- Conduct practices that the kids will look forward to
- Work with players of different personality types

Coaching Basketball For Dummies begins by explaining the basics: the court's layout, the rules of the game, the different types of fouls, and skills like passing, dribbling, and shooting. Chapter III, "Working with Beginning and Intermediate Players," focuses on teaching fundamentals like playing defense and shooting accurately (without placing pressure on children to perform perfectly!). Here, coaches can begin creating and teaching basic offensive and defensive plays and help players learn about teamwork.

Chapter IV covers more complex material, similar to that used in high school, college, and professional basketball games. This includes fast breaks (passing the ball while running down the court quickly), zone defenses (a stay-in-your-area style of defense), high-, low-, and double-post styles of offense, and good use of time (known as "clock management"). Finally, Bach advises on topics like children's health and diets; handling injuries; traveling with a team to road games (and staying safe while traveling); and dealing with challenges such as difficult parents, aggressive coaches, or dissatisfied players.

Like all For Dummies® books, Coaching Basketball For Dummies concludes with "The Part of Tens," including ten things to say to a team before a game and ten ways to keep a realistic perspective while coaching youngsters. A helpful "Cheat Sheet" in the front of the book summarizes what to bring to basketball practice and how to keep it fun; how to give 'pep' talks to kids; and how to bolster young players' confidence.



CPRP RENEWAL UPDATE

By
Owen Walker

Another little reminder that Mary Ann will be needing continuing education, ceu's, information in by December 31st. NRPA requires all state certification boards to send them updated information on persons who hold certifications to them during the month of January.

The following persons have let their certification lapse one year and will need to provide 30 hours of continuing education for the period of 2005, 2006, and 2007 Rick Abel, Jeff Berryman, Don Burton, Dr. Raymond Busbee, Gabriel Fiest, David Glover, Mike Hager, Mary Ann Haldeman, James McClelland, and Mark Wise. You all still have the CPRP certification but you will need to provide ceu information this year if you wish to keep this certification. Your certification will lapse and I do not think anyone will want to pay for and take the test to get it back.

The following persons will need to provide 20 hours of continuing education for the period of 2006 and 2007 Dr. Jennifer Mak and Owen Walker.

We have two persons who has lapsed one year on APRP and these people will need to provide 30 ceus with in the period of 2005, 2006, and 2007 David Glover, Kathy Hall. You still have the APRP certification but will lose it at the end of the year if you do not provide the ceu information.

All persons will also need to include a \$25.00 check made payable to WVRPA. Please send your check and information to Mary Ann Haldeman 99 Township Road 1302, Chesapeake, Ohio 45619

WVRPA Review Deadlines

Mark your calendars!

Deadline

February 29, 2008
August 8, 2008
December 5, 2008

Publication

Mid March 2008
Early September 2008
Early January 2009

Please submit your articles to joe.shuttleworth@bridgeportwv.com. Please include digital pictures if possible. Articles are open to any WVRPA Members for announcements, news or anything else you wish to share with the organization. Regular pictures can be scanned - mail them to 164 West Main Street, Bridgeport WV 26330. Should you have any questions, call Joe Shuttleworth at 304-842-8240.

AFO CLASS

The Marion County Parks And Recreation Commission will be hosting an Aquatic Facility Operators certification course at East Marion Park next to the MCPARC Wave Pool in Fairmont on March 4th and 5th. Ralph Larue will be the instructor for the course. The 3-year AFO certification is required by health departments and focuses on pool maintenance, management, pool chemistry, problem solving and much more. Registration deadline is January 31st. Contact the MCPARC office @ 363-7037 or by E-mail at mcparcfun@aol.com for additional information.

Santa Claus to visit New Martinsville Parks and Recreation to make special phone calls!

Santa Claus has contacted the New Martinsville Parks & Recreation Department to let us know that he will be stopping to make phone calls to the good boys and girls in the area. Santa will be calling the children on Thursday, December 13th between 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM.

2008 NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE FORUM ON PARKS AND RECREATION

National Recreation and Park Association

Grand Hyatt Washington - Washington, D.C.

MARCH 12-14, 2008

A Hidden Gem on the West Side City, land trust exploring uses for 50-acre tract

"Where else in a capital city can you find a trail system in the middle of the woods?" asks Will Hanna, a member of Charleston City Council.

Where indeed? In Charleston, behind Cato Park and Edgewood Summit, you can find about 50 acres of city-owned woodlands with some old roads and trails, practically begging to be turned into a recreational area. Hanna, who lives nearby on the West Side, is leading an effort to develop the property — and get the word out. "It's something we've been working on for a while," he said Thursday while leading a small group on a tour of what city employees refer to as the Cato property. "Dennis [Strawn] has been involved, and Kasey Russell. With the help of the Parks & Recreation Department and the administration, I think it's something we can move forward." City Council President Tom Lane, who leads the Charleston Land Trust, said the Cato tract was given to the city in 1993 by Francis T. and Frances Layne Washburn. In their deed, they stipulated the land must be used only for public outdoor recreation uses. "That's exactly what we have in mind," Lane said.

Mayor Danny Jones formed the Land Trust about five years ago to oversee the various undeveloped tracts of land the city owns. To date, the group's most notable projects have been the Sunrise Carriage Trail and Riverfront South. "The first thing we did was inventory city property that was not on the radar screen," Lane said. "We found five pretty large pieces of property. We divided up, looked at each piece, assessed the potential use and got back together. "The Cato property came back at the top of the list for potential use. We came up with three uses: a soccer field on the bench; hiking/biking trails; and possible flood protection. On that, we haven't gotten too far."

The property is ideal, however, for hiking and biking, said Hanna and Strawn, who toured it a few weeks ago. In fact some mountain bikers have already discovered it by word of mouth, said Strawn, a member of Mountain State Wheelers. Most folks approach the property from the top, from the Garrison Trail. The half-mile hiking trail starts beside Edgewood Summit and circles behind the Cato pool. About halfway along, an old trail heads straight down the mountain. "This road was probably cut here for power line maintenance," Strawn said. "They're probably coming in here, blasting straight down and pushing their bikes back up." Though exciting for riders, the fall-line road is a bit dangerous and erosion-prone, Strawn said. He envisions a longer path that would follow natural contours downhill, where the property levels off. "The roads are already down in here. All we need to do is connect them and trim a little brush. You can see how level it is. It goes all around the cove, the ravine."

In the 1940s and '50s, he said, when the city population was booming, developers bought the property, pushed through primitive roads and laid out lots. The Washburns' deed refers to the C.C. Gebhart Addition. But the plans apparently fell through, although the remains of three or four homes can be found scattered about the tract. "It's a beautiful piece of property," Hanna said. "Between the natural contours and benches and old city right-of-ways, there's almost a natural trail system in there. It's just public space in peoples' back yards. People just don't know about it."

Parks & Recreation Director John Charnock thinks his employees can help clear the trails. They already maintain the Garrison Trail, and recently laid down crushed rock there with the help of a \$6,000 sustainable communities grant from the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation.

"There's a lot of potential," he said. "We're looked at it before. There's at least two shelves parallel to the existing trail. There are grants, but as long as we manage our money wisely, we can do it within our existing budget."

The biggest expense might be construction of some trail signs, Strawn said. Another council member, Lewis Payne, is adding the site — and its trail system — to a citywide map of hiking and biking trails. That map could be added to the city's visitors' guide, Lane said.

"The nice thing about it is that now, if you want to get out walking in the woods, you have to go out to the [Kanawha State] Forest," Charnock said. "Nothing against the forest, but here's something right on the West Side."

To contact staff writer Jim Balow, use e-mail or call 348-5102.

WVRPA Awards

Cunningham Scholarship Recipients chosen.

During the Awards Banquet at the annual WVRPA Conference at Pipestem State Park three students were chosen to receive scholarships. Rick Abel did a wonderful job of speaking about the background of the Cunningham Scholarship. This year we were honored to award the Cunningham Scholarship to three very deserving students, David Newmann from West Virginia University and Raymond Blevins and Jeremy Cochenour from Marshall University. These students have proved themselves as active parks and recreation scholars showing leadership and dedication in the field of Parks and Recreation. Congratulations students!

Awards

There were 4 awards given at the WVRPA Conference at Pipestem State Park this year.

***Conference Chairperson Awards- Co-chairs: Bruce Miller and Joe Shuttleworth**

An award of recognition for the successful administration and organization of the 2006 WVRPA Conference in Morgantown at the Waterfront Place Hotel was given to Bruce Miller and Joe Shuttleworth for all their hard work and dedication to the success of the 2006 conference.

***James L. McClelland Public Parks and Recreation Facility Award -Bridgeport Parks and Recreation**

The James L. McClelland Public Parks and Recreation Facility Award is one given to exceptional park and recreation areas that place special emphasis on environmental adaptability, function, usage, and design.

The Bridgeport Parks and Recreation Department has been working diligently the last few years to revamp the Bridgeport Pool. Several upgrades have been completed to breathe new life into the facility and create local excitement for aquatic activities at the pool.

Along with the support and financial commitment of the Bridgeport City Council, the department applied for and was awarded a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant for the addition of a Spray Ground Feature for the Bridgeport Pool.

The Aquatic Recreation Company from Minnesota was chosen to design and supply the features for the project. The Bridgeport Parks and Recreation Department staff worked closely with the designers and made several changes to the initial designs. The design is zoned into areas that attract appropriate aged children. It allows for multiple age groups to use that feature with limited problems of small vs. larger children. The design features water spraying from the ground, dumping buckets, and many interactive features that allow the participants to manipulate in some manner. Furthermore, the entire feature is completely handicap accessible.

Construction began in February and was completed Memorial Day weekend, just in time for the pool opening.

The impact of this addition of the Bridgeport Pool has been dramatic. The number of pool passes sold increased dramatically from '06-'07 as did total attendance. Bridgeport Parks and Recreation can be proud of the completion of an outstanding facility. Way to go guys!!

***Richard P. Sebastian Leadership Award - Jodie Lamm**

Jodie Lamm, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director for the City of New Martinsville, received the Richard P. Sebastian Leadership award at the WVRPA Awards Banquet. The award recipient of this particular award must be 30 years of age or younger and show an active membership in WVRPA. The recipient must also exhibit qualities of ambition, creativity, and dedication to the recreation profession and have a cooperative, hardworking, loyal nature.

The award was presented by New Martinsville Parks Director and WVRPA President Bev Gibb. Jodie has been the Assistant Director for New Martinsville for two years. Prior to becoming the assistant, she held various other positions within the department. She worked as the summer intern for two summers. She graduated from West Virginia University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Recreation, Parks & Tourism Resources. "Jodie is a great asset to our department" stated Gibb. "She really enjoys her job and working with people. She is constantly looking for new ideas and ways to improve our current programs. Her positive attitude shows with her work. It was a pleasure to be able to present her with the award."



WVRPA GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS

In conjunction with the annual WVRPA Conference this year, the WVRPA Golf Tournament was held at Pipestem Resort State Park.

In an epic battle, two teams finished tied for 1st Place at -3 and in the tiebreaker, the team of Rick DeGroff, Tom Raker, Greg Fox and Steve Englehardt captured the tournament. The team of Greg Zentarsky, Bruce Miller and Jeff Roth finished in second and team Crown Royal finished at -2, this team consisted of Tom Nelson, Joe Shuttleworth, Pete Williams and John Cooper.

The "Closest to the Pin" contest was won by Joe Shuttleworth with a great iron shot on the 17th green.

John Cooper nailed a long distance putt to win the longest putt competition.

Jeff "Long Distance" Roth nailed a drive right down the middle to capture the long drive contest for the second consecutive year, the exact distance was unknown! (Due to it being too cold to actually care about measuring.)

On behalf of all of the tournament participants, special thanks go out to Terradon and Steve Englehardt for the great barbeque after the tournament.



Picture of the Tram at Pipestem State Park. Submitted by Dan Sample

Conference Wrap-Up

Bruce Miller and Joe Shuttleworth, Conference Co-Chairs

On behalf of the West Virginia Recreation and Parks Association, we would like to thank everyone for their involvement in the 2007 Conference held at the beautiful Pipestem Resort State Park. We felt the facility, educational sessions, activities and other events were top-notch.

We would especially like to thank our vendors who attended this year's conference. Without their support, much of what happens at the conference would not be possible. Please remember this and keep it in mind when making your local purchasing decisions.

We would like to thank all of the speakers who gave up their valuable time to share their knowledge with our group. Special thanks to Frank Boetler, our keynote speaker.

Plans are in the works for next year's conference. While the conference site has not been fully secured yet, ideas for sessions and activities are always welcome.

