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164 West Main Street
Bridgeport WV 26330

West Virginia Recreation and Parks Association
Professional Publication



Issue 2, 2007
March 2007



All meetings begin at 1:00 PM

March 30th--Clarksburg
July 20th--Martinsburg
Sept. 21st--Pipestem

November 6-9 WVRPA Conference, Pipestem Resort State Park

- Officers:**
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 - Student Liaisons: Marshall WVU
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 - Hershey Track&Field: John Cooper
 - Membership: Tom Raker
 - Nominating: Tom Raker
 - Outreach: Rick Abel
 - Professional Awards: Jodie Lamm
 - Professional Certification: Owen Walker
 - Board Members & Commissioners: Bob Clouch
 - Audit: Ralph LaRae
 - Constitutional Review: Beverly Gibb

President's Message

Spring is here and that means that summer is well on its way. Remember When you were a kid and you could not wait for school to be out and you never wanted summer break to end? Wow, how times and professions can change things!

All joking aside, it makes me smile when I see people using our parks. I like knowing that I play a big part in offering people a safe, clean environment for them to have fun. I love noisy playgrounds, busy swimming pools and overflowing picnic shelters. Funny, how at the same it can all give me a migraine. I know that each of you understands that feeling.

I have a quote that I got out of a magazine, one from the NRPA I think, that I keep right above my phone in my office. It reads, "As stated in the US Navy, Recreation Resource Guide, the qualifications of a recreation leader Requires the daring of a lion, the patience of a donkey, the industry of a beaver, The versatility of a chameleon, the vision of an eagle, the hide of a rhinoceros, an the disposition of an angel." How true that is.

A really big thank you to Jim McClelland and bill Kelly for their trip to D.C. Many of us that had planned on going were unable to due to the snow. Jim has forwarded on information concerning the LWCF and RC&D funding. If you have not taken the time to write or call your representatives concerning these issues , please do so. It is important to keep them on the front burner all year round.

WVRPA will once aging be selling Kennywood, Sandcastle, and Idewild tickets at discounted prices. Those of us that participated felt that is a nice program to offer. It was fairly easy and our departments, as well as WVRPA, profited. If you are interested contact John Copper in Clarksburg.

Do not forget to write the 2007 board meeting dates down on your Calendar. Even if you are not a board member, you are welcome to join us at Our meetings. Let me or another board member know if you are planning on Attending so that if something would be changed in regards to the date, place, Etc. we can notify you.

I wish you all the best of luck in starting up those mowers and Concession stands. It sure helps me to know that I am not the only one In this boat.

For Better Parks & Recreation
Bev Gibb, President



EDITORS NOTE: WVRPA "In the Spotlight" will be a new feature in the Review. It will feature bio's on different members in each edition. You will be asked to include personal and professional information such as family information, hobbies, interests and other interesting items that will allow others to get to know you better. Pictures will also be needed. Either a digital headshot or a picture that I can scan. Smaller departments can include multiple staff members if they choose. Anyone wishing to submit their information, please email Joe Shuttleworth at joe.shuttleworth@bridgeportwv.com. AFFILIATE BUSINESS MEMBERS AND STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE.

Jodie Lamm : New Martinsville Parks and Recreation

It was a snowy morning at Wetzel County Hospital, in New Martinsville, on April 17th, 1983 when I was born. (If you'll recall, that means I'm almost 1/2 Bruce Miller's age.) I grew up playing in the creek and the woods behind my house, catching bugs, minnows, and snakes and playing tackle football and baseball in the yard with my brother, my cousins (all boys) and friends. Yes, I was quite a tomboy. Camping, hiking, fishing, nature and animals were my favorite things back then and they pretty much still are today.

I graduated from Magnolia High School in 2001. From there I went on to Potomac State College where I was Vice President and Secretary of the Equestrian Club (and the love and fascination with horses began.) I met my best friend Amy at Potomac State. We were roommates in the delightfully damp basement of the old Reynolds Hall Dorm. She also served as President of the Equestrian Club. We spent a lot of time on the college farms. I helped her milk cattle (she got paid...I didn't...I'm just THAT good of a friend) and we also got to spend some time with the horses that Bob Evans donated to the college shortly before we left Pot State. I met my fiancé, Josh Michael, my first year at college. He made frequent trips to Keyser from Paden City to see me. He also bought me a horse and paid the boarding fees so I could have my horse nearby while attending Pot State. What a guy, huh? Before I knew it, I had completed all of my required courses and obtained an Associates Degree in Forestry from Potomac State College in 2003. All too soon it was time to leave the quaint little town of Keyser, WV.

I worked in the summer of '03 at North Bend State Park as a Seasonal Naturalist. It was a great experience hosting nature programs. My favorite program I held was "Creek Critters" because I got to play in the creek, of course. I also spent a lot of time supervising the Nature Center. My favorite part about working at the Nature Center was being a part of the interaction between kids and live animals. I also enjoyed going out and searching for food for the snakes, turtles, lizards and other various critters we had on display. To me, that wasn't work...that was fun!

After Potomac State, I then transferred to WVU. While attending WVU I was active in PAWS (People for Animal Welfare Society) and volunteered for shelters and humane organizations in the Morgantown area. I also did some volunteer work at The Shack Neighborhood House, outside of Morgantown. It was there I realized how much I enjoyed working with children in a recreational setting. Not only was it a rewarding experience, I learned a great deal from the time spent there.

My next venture toward a career came when I worked for New Martinsville Parks and Recreation as an intern for two consecutive summers, which taught me a great deal about the inner workings of a Parks and Recreation Department, interacting with the public, and gave me the opportunity to hone my multitasking skills! As it turns out, working as an intern for New Martinsville Parks and Recreation turned out to be very beneficial to my career path! Finally, I graduated Cum Laude with Bachelors Degree in Recreation, Parks and Tourism Resources in 2005. Conveniently enough, the position of Assistant Director became available in December of 2005 and here I am, a little over a year later!

As I mentioned before, Josh and I started dating while I was attending Potomac State College. After dating for 5 years, Josh and I got engaged a few weeks ago while on a trip to Deep Creek, MD. We had a great time and I couldn't be happier! We have made a great life together over the 5 years we've been together. We now have a 29 acre farm outside of New Martinsville that belonged to his grandparents when they were living. We have 5 horses, 3 dogs, and 5 cats. (I told you I love animals.) Aside from the never-ending farm work, my current hobbies include horseback riding, hiking, camping, swimming, fishing, and walking my dog Snickers. I get outside as much as possible. I enjoy trail riding my horses every chance I get and I plan to learn to team pen or barrel race this spring and summer when time allows it.

So that's my life, background and interests in a nutshell. I can be reached at jlamm@newmartinsville.com if you're dying to know more about me or if you just want to say hello. :)



WVRPA Review Deadlines

Mark your calendars!

Deadline

February 23, 2007
August 10, 2007
December 1, 2007

Publication

Mid March 2007
Early September 2007
Early January 2008

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.

News from Marshall University

The news updates from Marshall are that Dr. Van F. Anderson, formerly an assistant professor at Marshall University, has returned to his hometown of Morgantown to become the director of Mylan Park. It is a non-profit recreational and educational complex located just north of Morgantown. Information about this unique addition to this recreational agency can be found at www.mylan.org.

Several Marshall University students who are completing their bachelor of science degrees in Recreation and Park Resources will be doing senior internships this summer. Several will be with Boy Scout camps located near Louisville, KY; near Barboursville, WV; and in the Adirondacks of New York. Others will be working at West Virginia State Parks, the Kansas Wildlife and Game Commission and with non-profit youth organizations. Their experiences will include programming, high adventure, wildland trek leadership, administrative organizational training, national camping school, canoeing, shooting range management, youth outings, and endless adventures that will build a lifetime of great memories and experience.

Rick Abel

Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks & Recreation Goes Green

This fall the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks & Recreation completed projects that will not only contribute to the beautification, but also enhance the environmental friendliness of two park areas.

The Tuscarora Creek, which runs along the north side of 20-acre War Memorial Park, had begun to erode its bank to the parking area. The WVDEP, WV Conservation Agency, and Eastern Panhandle Conservation District Office created rock "vaness," a technique used in natural stream restoration that direct fast-moving water away from the stream bank and cause sediment deposits on the outside of the bend. These vanes also improve the habitat for fish by creating variety in the stream depth and water speed. Tree and shrub buffers were also planted to help hold the soil in place. Executive Director, Steve Catlett commented that, "the completed project looks very natural and I am glad that the erosion problem has been rectified."

Erosion was also a problem at the parking lot at the DuPont Soccer Complex. "With every rain storm the parking lot became a virtual mud hole," says Aly Benton, Recreation Coordinator. With a budget of \$72,000, combined funding from the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant and the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District, the parking lot was graded; four swales were created, culverts, additional topsoil, and grass were added. Trees will be added in the spring to aid with the project. The site will be used as a demonstration site with signage and educational materials available to inform the community about water quality improvements resulting from this green parking development project.



Workers begin installing the Rock "vaness" along the Tuscarora Creek at War Memorial Park in October.

What's coming up in New Martinsville

Easter Egg Hunt

As spring approaches, aside from preparing for another wet and wonderful pool season, New Martinsville Parks and Recreation will be holding its annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 7th at Lewis Wetzel Park. The park will be scattered with over 1900 Easter Eggs filled with candy goodies! The New Martinsville Parks and Recreation Department and Bayer Heritage Federal Credit Union will be sponsoring the annual Easter Egg Hunt. The Easter Bunny and the Dollar Dog will be at the park for the event to visit everybody. The planning and preparation for the event, the volunteer seeking, the stuffing of hundreds of plastic eggs until your fingers hurt, and the occasional candy "testing" one must do while stuffing eggs are all worth it to see the excitement on the kids' faces as they prepare to fill their baskets. The Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 11am sharp with the blow of the whistles and will end at...11:01 am after the mad dash and the scramble that ensues. Even though it only lasts a minute or so it is a lot of fun to watch and participate in. The New Martinsville Parks Department looks forward to it every year.

Mother Son Bowling

Another great event coming up is Mother Son Bowling. Mothers and Sons are invited to join the New Martinsville Parks and Recreation Department for some EXTREME Glow Bowling! The NM Parks & Recreation Dept. and Bruce Bowling Lanes will be sponsoring an evening of bowling, pizza, and prizes for mother and sons, ages four and up. The bowling will be on Saturday, April 14th with two sessions. The first session will be from 5 – 7 PM and the second will be from 7 – 9 PM at Bruce Bowling Lanes. Bruce Bowling Lanes will provide music and bowling with their Extreme Glow black lights, fog, and spotlight effects. The participants will get souvenir miniature bowling pins and the Parks Department will be taking photographs for the mother's to have as a keepsake from the event. Names will be drawn at random throughout the night and prizes will be given out, as well as prizes for lowest mother score, highest mother score, lowest son score and highest son score.

Spring Competitive Soccer

The New Martinsville Soccer Club (New Martinsville Parks and Recreation Department) is holding its Spring Competitive Soccer sign ups. The teams that could be offered pending participant sign -ups and availability of coaches: Under 10 Co-Ed, Under 12 Co-Ed, Under 14 Boys, and Under 14 Girls. We are hoping to fill at least one team for each age group.

Special Thanks for Nick Rahall

The West Virginia Recreation and Parks Association salutes Congressman Nick Lee Rahall, II, who addressed the N.R.P.A. delegates that attended the Legislative Reception sponsored by N.R.P.A., Thursday, February 15, 2007. Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, Congressman Rahall spoke of the importance of L.W.C.F., trails and the contributions of parks and recreations. Mr. Jim McClelland was requested to introduce him. Our West Virginia congressman continues to champion our interest and takes a national leadership role. We are very thankful for his efforts.



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Call for Sessions

The West Virginia Recreation and Parks Association has begun making plans for our Annual Conference being held at Pipestem State Park November 6-9, 2007. Do you have specific needs or interests you would like to see addressed at the conference. Have you seen a speaker that you feel would be a great benefit to others in the WVRPA? Do you have any other ideas for the conference in general?

If so, please contact our Conference planning team and we will work to make your wishes happen. Contact Bruce Miller at ranger_bmiller@yahoo.com / 304-594-1773 or Joe Shuttleworth at joe.shuttleworth@bridgeportwv.com / 304-842-8240 or Mary Ann Haldeman at mah@ghprd.org / 304-696-5954.

Any and all ideas are welcome.

Construction Under Way in Bridgeport

The Bridgeport Parks and Recreation Department is currently in the construction phase of the new Sprayground addition to the Bridgeport Pool. We are hoping that this attractive addition will boost the attendance numbers at the pool. The design and equipment for the facility were completed by Aquatic Recreation Company from Minnesota. Michel Inc. of Bridgeport is the contractor. Excavation is almost complete. Work on the mechanical room has also begun. We are anticipating that the construction will be complete and ready for the public at our pool opening on Memorial Day weekend.



Hoppy takes Holiday Ride

This Christmas season, Kanawha County Commissioner Hoppy Shores has traded in a three-piece suit for a conductor's hat, baggy overalls and a red handkerchief tied around his neck. He declares the fashion transformation is all being done for the benefit of local children and their parents. Shores is the "conductor" of Hoppy's Litte Express. More than a year in the making, the train has been a hit throughout the park (Coonskin in Charleston) since being introduced on Dec. 8th 2006. On an average night, Shores leads a pack of families through the park to enjoy the dozens of colorful light displays along the park's main drag. There is no charge for the ride. Shores, who is also the commission representative on the parks board, said he is pleased with what the train has achieved for the community.



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