

IPRA Today

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2009 Fall Workshop Deemed a Success!!

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With the 2009 Fall Workshop under wraps, it is safe to say it was a success! With participants from all over Iowa and surrounding states, the IPRA Fall Workshop Committee, the city of Ames and surrounding communities were able to showcase excellence at its finest.

Participants were greeted at the annual Golf Outing by beautiful weather and a friendly Coldwater Golf Links staff. Throughout the day, colleagues enjoyed each other's company as well as challenge holes, enthusiastic hole supporters and a unique hole supporter scavenger hunt to showcase our generous supporters. Every small detail during the day was orchestrated to demonstrate "Excellence Through People" which reflects the city of Ames' continuous efforts to provide quality services. (Further details of the golf outing, as well as photos, can be found on Page 4.)

The second day opened with a greeting from Ames City Manager, Steve Schainker, who shared the clear goals and values Ames has been built on for over 15 years. This welcome and introduction set the tone for the workshop by challenging each individual to be a leader in their community by using values and excellence in their every day work and lives. Also, Donna Gilligan, speaker and keynote presenter, shared how parks and recreation has influenced her family in a great way. She also challenged everyone to remember the goals they set out to achieve and to accomplish them with values of leadership in mind.

Along with Gilligan, many other professionals from all over Iowa illustrated excellence by sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for their work. Another emphasis for the workshop was "going green", so all the handouts for each education session were not printed and will be available at www.iapra.org.

Another area of emphasis were the off-site institutes, which showcased the unique parks and facilities in Ames. Each institute started at Jack Trice Football Stadium and Facilities, and again a great day of weather allowed for each coach bus to unload and walk around their respective stops: Furman Aquatic Center and Ada Hayden Heritage Park, to name a few. Providing comfortable rides on motor coaches, combined with specifically choosing the finest parks and facilities in Ames, participants were able to experience excellence first hand.

After a full day of education sessions and off-site institutes, participants headed to Nevada to enjoy great food and fun at SCORE Park. The committee provided a unique atmosphere by bringing in a mechanical bull and hosting a cow chip-throwing contest.

(Continued on Page 3)



Chris Barkema, Recreation Coordinator, Ames Parks & Recreation, and a member of the Fall Workshop Planning Committee, discussing some last-minute details!

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

www.iapra.org

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This letter was found among Terry Trueblood's personal effects, and his family has directed us to share it with his many friends in the Iowa Park and Recreation Association. Terry, former Director of the Iowa City Parks and Recreation, passed away on July 3 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Dear I P R A Friends,

I thank you so very much for all your cards, emails, phone calls, letters and gifts expressing your kind thoughts and well wishes, and especially for your prayers. I thank you also for your contributions to the Foundation on behalf of my family... Dawnita and I are both just overwhelmed. We hardly know what to say.

We have been home since February 12th, after having spent 60 days at the Mayo Clinic. I wish I could report to you that my rehab is going great, but I'm afraid it's a very slow process with many peaks and valleys. I'm still not back to work, and no sign of getting there anytime soon. As soon as my body has healed sufficiently, I have both chemotherapy and radiation treatments to look forward to.

I sincerely hope that I will be up to attending ~~the~~ at least part of the conference so I can thank each of you personally. Again, on behalf of both Dawnita and I, thank you so much for your expressions of kind ~~and~~ and your generosity! It's great to have so many ~~going~~ friends.

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(Continued from Page 1)

The Wednesday night BBQ was followed by a great time at Perfect Games in Ames, where participants enjoyed bowling, and playing laser tag among other activities.

The Fall Workshop would not have been possible without the dedicated work of the planning committee and the following generous sponsors. Kudos to Boland Recreation, Outdoor Recreation Products, Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau, Burbach Aquatics, Inc, Shade Creations by Waterloo, Dr. Pepper, Iowa ASA, Integrated Print Solutions, Iowa Sports Foundation, Kay Park, Kessler Team Sports, Midwest Sales, Inc., Pool Tech Midwest and Snyder & Associates.

Again, thank you to the 2009 Fall Workshop Committee for all your hard work and leadership.

Join IPRA for the 2010 Spring Conference in Sioux City, April 12 - 14!

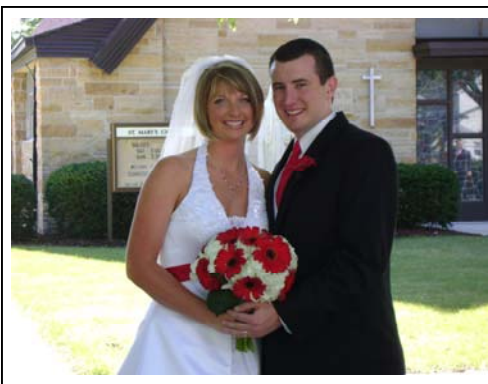
Article submitted by Anna Faber, Recreation Assistant, Ames Parks and Recreation.



Mindi Harklau and Dan O'Hern were married Saturday, August 22, 2009, at 2:00 p.m., St. Mary's Church, Humboldt. The reception followed at the Best Western Starlaite Village in Fort Dodge.

Mindi is the Recreation Director for the City of Humboldt and is IPRA's Publications Committee Chair. Dan is a Commercial/Agriculture Loan Officer for Northwest Bank in Fort Dodge and is originally from Barnum, Iowa. The newlyweds are currently residing in Humboldt.

A trip to Estes Park, Colorado followed the wedding, and Mindi and Dan are planning a trip to Mexico this winter for their "official honeymoon".



Congratulations and best wishes!!

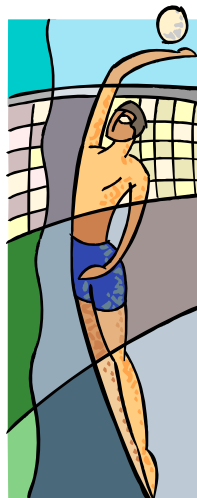


If you're anxious to know what Carolyn Hamilton is up to, ask her about Keith Abraham's team building workshop and the little green men from Mars. You may be surprised at her response!! Carolyn is Aquatics Supervisor with the Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation.



I would like to thank the Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation for providing me with the 2009 Fellowship Scholarship. I had a great experience at the Fall Workshop and enjoyed the golf outing, offsite tours, education sessions and the opportunity to meet my professional peers. I also enjoyed being paired with a great mentor, Angie Cole, to maximize my experience. I would encourage anyone who qualifies to apply for the Fellowship Scholarship to attend the Spring Conference, which will be held in Sioux City April 12-14th.

Mandi Parker
Recreation Supervisor
City of Sioux City



IPRA Volleyball Tournaments

Saturday, November 14—Adult Coed

Saturday, January 17—Women & Men

Saturday, March 6—Adult Coed

Tournament site: Grinnell Athletic and Recreation Center

(All dates are subject to change based on facility availability.)

Partnerships with Professional Organizations for Your Youth Recreation Programs

In the early fall of 2008, we became alerted to the Jr NBA / Jr WNBA program through our membership with NRPA. The FREE program provided many resources such as coaches and parent calendars for the season, officials whistles, coaches guides and additional online trainings as well as personalized program certificates for all the participants grade 1st through 6th. We also took part in a Skills Challenge in which the program sent us FREE basketballs, cones, floor markers, stop watches and everything else to conduct the skills challenge event on a Saturday during our regular youth basketball games.

As part of the program, we worked with the local NBA D-League affiliate, the Iowa Energy, and players from the Energy came up to our game days and played basketball with the kids and signed autographs. It was a neat addition to the program and great for the kids, parents and coaches alike.

This year, as you may be aware, the NBA and NCAA recently announced a new business initiative, called iHoops. This venture will provide a structure and develop programs to improve the quality of youth basketball and enhance the experience for all participants. Youth basketball programs, events and opportunities will be made available exclusively by iHoops starting in the fall, and additional information was sent to us over the summer from iHoops.

As part of this change, the Jr. NBA/Jr. WNBA national programs will no longer be available and instructional materials will not be distributed (coach's guides, player posters, and family calendars) to our member leagues. By joining the NBA FIT program you will gain access to information on health and fitness from NBA and WNBA players, special NBA FIT product offers and opportunities to participate in NBA FIT programs, including: **NBA FIT Challenge**, a national fitness competition available in NBA and D-League markets and **NBA FIT Dribble, Dish & Swish**, a national skills competition available in selected NBA markets. We quickly setup a NBA Fit Challenge event for November during any early out school day and are now working on that event as well.

Overall, the membership to NRPA has provided us the foundation for programs such as the NBA Fit program that adds something to the same programs from year to year and doesn't add any cost to your expense line! I would strongly encourage any young professional looking for a way to spice up their youth basketball program to sign up for the NBA Fit program and give it a try in your community. Our city council and parks and recreation board have appreciated us creating a higher quality program, partnering with a national organization and not asking them for more money to do so.

If you have questions about the program visit their website at

<https://rsvp.nba.com/reaction/RSGenPage.asp?RSID=869E03E6CAED198D8657263CC20700ABB1573F119>

Submitted by Joshua Larsen, Director of Parks & Recreation, City of Huxley



Children participating in the NBA Challenge in Huxley



Young Professionals Forum November 12—Ankeny

The Young Professionals Forum is especially designed for new professionals within their first three years in the parks and recreation field. Participants are provided with a platform to interact with other young professionals, network and develop a base for their development within the field. Forum begins at 9:00 a.m., with lunch provided from 12:00 to 12:30. The forum will resume at 12:30 and run until 2:00 p.m. Snacks and drinks will also be provided.

Check out the IPRA web site for more details and registration information!



- To all departments that participated in this summer's consignment ticket program. The IPRA staff appreciates your return of the unsold tickets in a timely manner!
- To the communities that hosted a local Placekick, Punt and Pass (PPP) competition. October 24 is the date for the state competition at the Bergstrom Indoor Practice Facility on the ISU campus in Ames. Results of the competition will be available in the November issue of this publication.

I P R A State Fair Day—2009



Big
Wheel
Wranglers



Scavenger
hunts



Out
of
this
world
pie

Fall weather reminds us that the holidays are rapidly approaching. Is your organization or agency sponsoring a special Halloween, Thanksgiving or Christmas event? If so, please share a few details and photos in upcoming issues of *IPRA Today*. Information can be sent to rechbt@ci.humboldt.ia.us or cshutts@pcpartner.net.



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IPRA Calendar of Events

October

- 10 District PPP Competitions: Ankeny (SW) & Sioux City (NW)
- 13-16 NRPA Congress—Salt Lake City, UT
- 17 District PPP Competitions: New Hampton (NE) & Coralville (SE)
- 19 CEU/Aquatic Workshop—Cedar Rapids
- 20-21 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Cedar Rapids
- 24 State PPP Competition—Ames

November

- 4 Playground Maintenance Workshop—Waukee
- 11 State Office Closed—Veteran's Day
- 12 Young Professionals Forum—Ankeny
- 14 Adult Coed Volleyball Tournament—Grinnell
- 16 CEU/Aquatic Workshop—Burlington
- 17-18 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Burlington
- 26-27 State Office Closed—Thanksgiving Holiday

Congratulations Gil Spence!



To honor his years of service to the profession, Gil (center) was presented with this Iowa Hawkeye rock. Gil is retiring as Director of the Dubuque Leisure Services effective December 31, 2009. Flanking the honoree on the left is Duane Randall and on the right is Richard Fox.