

IPRA Today

August 2009
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A Message from IPRA President Ben Page

A little over eight years ago, I started a career in in the municipal park and recreation profession. And to this date, I still remember my first IPRA experience. I had just returned from the 2002 spring conference in Waterloo where I met many great professionals as well as our fearless leader, Steve Jordison. Also, at that conference I met Richard Fox. Some of you may remember Mr. Fox prior to his days of joining the PGA senior tour; he worked as the Director of Park and Recreation for Marion, Iowa. As luck would have it, I had a chance to visit with Richard during the conference in regards to the benefits of becoming involved in IPRA. Little did I know, Richard was the IPRA membership chair for some time and was looking for a replacement. Before I had a chance to officially accept, I was on a road trip with Richard to Grinnell for a board meeting.

As I now begin the thrilling journey as your IPRA President, I would like to share what the board of directors and I consider being the vision and direction for our tremendous association. Much like each of you in your communities, we have a strong obligation to create opportunities for all of our members, communities as well as advocates to participate and enjoy endless recreational opportunities and public spaces regardless of the size of your community.

Looking back, there is not a time in our current history that Park and Recreation services were ever more important than they are today. The current economic conditions have forced many of our citizens to stay home this year and utilize our services more than ever. With opportunities like this come limitations, such as not enough funding and resources dedicated to providing services and maintaining our infrastructure. However, we must now all channel our creativity to continue to deliver these services without sacrificing the quality of our missions.



Moving forward, the association will focus on its mission "To support the advancement of park, recreation and environmental conservation opportunities through education, resource tools and advocacy." As many of you know, in 2008 the Board of Directors approved a three year action plan that is currently being implemented. The action plan has primary goals which have benchmarks set forth along a timeline. The four goals are

- Enhance educational opportunities for members
- Enhance resources for members
- Enhanced advocacy efforts for members
- Enhance operational efforts for members

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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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AQUATICS COORDINATOR

City of Cedar Rapids

The Cedar Rapids Recreation Department is seeking an energetic individual to fill the position of Aquatics Coordinator. This position coordinates one indoor year-round pool operation, program and staff. Also assists with general aquatic operations at five newly constructed outdoor pool facilities. Responsibilities include, but not limited to the following: program development and implementation, staff training and scheduling, completion of reports and statistics gathering as well as patron interaction. This job requires a Bachelor's Degree in Leisure Services or related field and strong aquatics background and experience or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the knowledge and abilities to perform the work. Full benefit package included.

American Red Cross Lifeguarding Certification, Water Safety Instructor (WSI), Lifeguarding Instructor Certification required.

Application and resume accepted through 4:00 p.m., Friday, August 14, 2009.

Expanded description of duties and requirements, salary range and application may be found at www.cedar-rapids.org.

Submit completed application and resume to hr@cedar-rapids.org or to the following address: Iowa Workforce Center, 800 7th Street, SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401.

EOE: Assistance provided to disabled individuals upon request. Pre-employment drug screening required.

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

City of Cedar Rapids

The City of Cedar Rapids is currently recruiting for a Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor. This position directs and supervises the work of maintenance crews in the Parks, Recreation and Aquatics Operations. Details on the required qualifications and job duties for this position can be found at their Web site: <http://www.cedar-rapids.org/hr>.

Applications accepted until August 14, 2009. Annual salary is \$45,219 to \$62,067.

Specific qualifications include:

- Certified Pool Operator certification within six months of appointment
- Valid Iowa Driver's License
- CDL with Hasmat endorsement within six months of appointment
- Considerable experience in maintenance of modern public aquatics facilities with multiple site experience preferred and some supervisory experience



A complete listing of position requirements and an application can be found at the Cedar Rapids Web site: www.cedar-rapids.org/hr. Submit completed application to: hr@cedar-rapids.org.

Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE. Assistance provided to disabled individuals upon request.



The IPRA Publications Committee would like to remind all IPRA members receiving a paper copy of *IPRA Today* that this will be the FINAL issue they receive. Many factors have brought the committee to this decision. Of course, the greatest consideration is IPRA's continuing efforts to GO GREEN! GO GREEN is one tool enabling us to fulfill an integral part of our mission "...environmental conservation..." Please contact the state office staff with your e-mail address, if you have one, so we can provide the newsletter electronically. Forward that information to cshutts@pcpartner.net. If you are a board or commission member, you might wish to contact the department you represent and request them to share the newsletter with you. Receiving IPRA Today is a membership benefit so we want to ensure that reception of this benefit is not interrupted!

Adult Kickball = Fun For All



There is a slight drizzle in the air on a cool, fall day. The sound of laughter, giggling, cheering, oohing and aahing can be heard for blocks and the twang of a playground ball being kicked is evident. Obviously someone is having fun. If you were to close your eyes you would imagine yourself at an elementary school yard at recess. Instead, you are at the South 6th Street Softball complex in Marshalltown, Iowa on the inaugural night of adult coed kickball. That's right. You read it correctly, Adult Coed Kickball!

In September 2008 the Marshalltown Parks & Recreation department offered an adult kickball league. When I started in December of 2007, Kalonji Brooks, an adult activities supervisor, told me we needed a kickball league. He had three teams ready to go as soon as we could get it implemented. He had two or three sets of rules which he gave me and we created our own rules to fit our leagues. I was hoping for six teams at minimum and would be happy with eight.

Well, word spread and when the deadline came and went, we had twelve adult teams signed up to play. We used all three softball diamonds one night a week and had three games per diamond. Participant ages ranged from 18 – 60 years old. There were no umpires, no balls and strikes, no arguments and we used an 8.5 inch playground ball. It was great. The teams kept their own score on a flip score board behind home plate. The only staff that was required were two supervisors who roamed the diamonds to make sure things were going okay and to help when needed. Our concession stand was busy, and the event brought people to Park and Recreation who hadn't participated before.

I would highly recommend giving this a try in your communities. The softball diamonds in Marshalltown are perfect for this, and any softball/baseball field or open area in your community should work. Our fields have 250 foot fences, and no one came near the fence on the fly. I would say the longest kick I saw would have been no more than 200 feet.

It started with an idea from a staff member, the confidence to say yes and run with it. Then on a rainy September night in Marshalltown a classic playground game became a league that looks to be a staple in our programs for years to come.



(Photos courtesy of Ames Parks and Recreation. Article submitted by Chad Weir, Recreation Superintendent, Marshalltown Parks and Recreation.)

IPRA Public Parks Youth Tennis Tournament

The tournament was completed July 30 after a short rain delay. Participants gathered to compete from Des Moines, Urbandale, West Des Moines and Windsor Heights. Tournament was held at the McCollum/Waveland Tennis Center in Des Moines. No trophies or medals this year; instead the shirts had either "Champion" or "Finalist" on the right sleeve. Every participant got a t-shirt. In addition, first and second place winners got a tennis poster and a USTA label pin.



16-year-old boys: Chris Poague, second place, and Anthony Kaiser, first place

10-year-old girls: Jenna Pokorny, second place, and Caroline Brosnahan, first place





FALL ACTIVITIES



NIABI ZOO



JOHN DEERE PAVILION



RIVER EXCURSIONS



HAUNTED HOUSES

Bring the Family for an Unforgettable Weekend of Fun & Play!

Register for the 2009
Bettendorf Soccer
Association 16th Annual
OCTOBER FEST Tournament



- October 2-4 Ages U12-U15
- October 9-11 Ages U8-U11

Register today at www.bsasoccer.org

Be sure to visit these attractions and events!

- Putnam Museum & IMAX Theatre
- Niabi Zoo
- Family Museum
- John Hauberg Indian Museum
- John Deere Pavilion
- Corn Mazes, Pumpkin Cannons, Pumpkin Patches
- Feargrounds Haunted House – Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds (10/2 to 10/11)
- Fall Foliage River Cruises – Celebration Belle Riverboat (10/2,10/3,10/9,10/10)
- Apple Festival – Mississippi Valley Welcome Center (10/11)
- Field of Screams – Modern Woodman Park (Weekends in October)

For more information on the Quad Cities visit
www.visitquadcities.com

Quad Cities – Bettendorf & Davenport, Iowa
and Moline/East Moline & Rock Island, Illinois

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A New Playground in Huxley

(Article and photos submitted by Josh Larsen, Recreation Director, Huxley Parks and Recreation)



On Friday, July 31, City of Huxley Public Works and Parks & Recreation Department staff were assisted by community volunteers to construct the city's first new playground since 2003. Trailridge Park, a one-acre park located in southwest Huxley's Sand Cherry Development along 560TH Ave and north of the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail, is slated for continued improvements over the next year due in large part to over \$20,000 awarded in grants for the project from the Ahrens Foundation in Grinnell, the Iowa DNR, and Alliant Energy's Branching Out grant through Trees Forever. A new playground was installed, and soon recycled rubber tiles from Iowa tires will be installed as safety surfacing. It is anticipated the playground area will be open to the public in late August when a park dedication is being planned.

REAP Regional Assemblies

REAP stands for Resource Enhancement and Protection. It is a program in the State of Iowa that invests in, as its name implies, the enhancement and protection of the state's natural and cultural resources. Iowa is blessed with a diverse array of natural and cultural resources, and REAP is likewise diverse and far reaching. REAP contains many opportunities for public participation, including regional REAP Assemblies. Attendance at regional REAP Assemblies is fundamental for people interested in any facet of REAP, particularly those who truly and sincerely want to make a difference. There are 17 assemblies held every two years in the areas of Iowa's 17 Councils of Government. REAP Assemblies are basically public meetings at which information is given out and ideas are taken in by the attending state officials. The REAP law requires the following things happen at each assembly:

- The DNR provides those attending with information regarding REAP expenditures. The overall REAP budget is presented and projects in the region are listed that have been funded with REAP dollars.
- People attending the assemblies shall identify opportunities for regional REAP projects. Examples that have frequently come up are trails, river corridor protection, wetland restoration, soil erosion prevention, conservation education, and resource inventories.
- People attending the assemblies shall also review and recommend changes to REAP policies, programs, and funding. This is the portion of the meeting that people speak out on anything they want regarding the inner workings of REAP.
- And last but not least, the people at the assemblies are responsible for electing five individuals to serve on the REAP Congress. In addition to the five delegates, three to five other people are elected as alternates to the delegates. In the event that one of the delegates cannot attend the Congress, an alternate fills that spot.

"If you have even the slightest interest in natural resources and outdoor recreation you should consider these must-attend meetings," says Stacey Olson, DNR REAP assistant. "You will find it highly interesting and well worth your time as you participate to make REAP better and stronger, right here in your own back yard." REAP assemblies will be held during September and October of 2009. A schedule of Assemblies is printed on Page 6.



2009 REAP Assemblies All meetings scheduled for 7:00 - 9:00 PM.
REAP Congress is January 9, House of Representative

CITY	Date	LOCATION	COUNTIES IN REGION
Cedar Falls	9/21	Hartman Reserve Nature Center 657 Reserve Drive, Cedar Falls 3 blocks north of Rainbow Drive	REGION 7: Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw, Grundy
Monona	9/22	Community Center 104 S Egbert St. 1 block east of N Main Street	REGION 1: Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, Winneshiak
Coralville	9/23	Brown Deer Golf Course 1900 Country Club Drive, Coralville www.browndeergolf.org North on First Avenue over I-80. Stay to right on roundabout and continue north about .25 miles. Turn left into Country Club Drive	REGION 10: Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Washington
Maquoketa	9/29	Hurstmiller Interpretive Center 18670 63 rd St., North of Maquoketa on Hwy 61	REGION 8: Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson
Mason City	9/30	Lime Creek Nature Center 3501 Lime Creek Road, less than one mile north of Mason City on Hwy 65, then take Nature Ct. Rd	REGION 2: Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Kossuth, Mitchell, Winnebago, Worth
Marshalltown	10/1	Grimes Farm and Conservation Center 2349 233 rd St., West of Marshalltown From the west, take Exit 181 from Highway 30. Turn left at Highland Acres Road and head north for about half a mile. Turn left again on 233rd Street. From the east, take Exit 182 (Highland Acres Road) and turn right. The road will make a peculiar little jog as it goes over Iowa Avenue, but keep on going north for another half a mile or so. Turn left on 233rd Street.	REGION 6: Hardin, Marshall, Poweshiek, Tama
Correctionville	10/5	Correctionville Community Center 312 Driftwood (Hwy 31)	REGION 4: Cherokee, Ida, Monona, Plymouth, Woodbury
Spencer	10/6	Clay County Regional Events Center 800 W. 18 th	REGION 3: Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Sioux
Fort Dodge	10/7	Bob Heuen Shelter at Kennedy Park 1415 Nelson Ave., approximately 5 miles north of Fort Dodge on 15th street or County Road P56	REGION 5: Calhoun, Hamilton, Humboldt, Pocahontas, Webster, Wright
Muscatine	10/13	Environmental Learning Center 3300 Cedar St.	REGION 9: Muscatine, Scott
Burlington	10/14	City Auditorium 200 North Front Street	REGION 16: Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Louisa
Albia	10/15	Knights of Columbus 2123 N. Clinton St; 1 block off NW corner of town square	REGION 15: Appanoose, Davis, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lucas, Mahaska, Monroe, Van Buren, Wapello, Wayne,
Shenandoah	10/19	Shenandoah Chamber and Industrial Association 100 S. Maple	REGION 13: Fremont, Mills Montgomery, Page
Council Bluffs	10/20	Council Bluffs Public Library 400 Willow Avenue	REGION 17: Pottawattamie, Harrison, Shelby, Cass
Carroll	10/21	Conservation Center at Swan Lake State Park Southeast of Carroll	REGION 12: Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, Sac
Afton	10/27	Three-Mile Lake Lodge 2 miles north of Afton on P53 (Creamery Rd)	REGION 14: Adair, Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Madison, Ringgold, Taylor, Union
Des Moines	10/28	Izaak Walton Clubhouse 4343 George Flagg Parkway	REGION 11: Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Marion, Polk, Story, Warren

Mayor Frank Cownie along with Des Moines Park and Recreation Board Chair Joe Galloway and Des Moines Foundation Chair Jane Hein pose with Parks and Recreation Director, Don Tripp (second from right) and IPRA Executive Director, Steven Jordison (far right) at the July 13 Council meeting. A freshly signed proclamation declaring July Parks and Recreation Month is proudly displayed.



A Message from President Ben Page

(Continued from Page 1)

Recently, the Board of Directors convened and was challenged to be more interactive with the committee chairs and committees than in years past. Furthermore, I have left it to our Board to reinvigorate committee chairs by way of allowing others to lead committees who have never had the opportunity. My challenge to our membership is to become more involved as volunteers are critical to carry our mission and facilitate others to understand our profession's relevancy.

I conclude with a question. Does your community really understand what you do? Why are you here? How you can help? The average citizen understands very little about the function of our profession and the challenge for each of us to increase awareness. It will be both a pleasure and honor to lead our association for the next two years. During our journey together, my phone, email and door will always be open. Your ideas, concerns, suggestions and involvement are vital to the continued enhancement of IPRA.

Former IPRA member, Troy Anderson, will undergo surgery for colorectal cancer on August 25.

For those wishing to send greetings, Troy's address is: 4217 Stormy Drive, Kansasville, WI 53139. More information will be provided as it becomes available.



2009-10 CEU/Aquatic Update and CPO Schedule

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October 19
November 16
January 11
February 8
March 15
March 29
April 13
April 19
May 10
June 7
August 9

Cedar Rapids
Burlington
Cedar Falls
Sioux City
Ames
Iowa City
Sioux City Spring Conference
Clear Lake
Cedar Rapids
Fort Dodge
Des Moines

October 20 & 21
November 17 & 18
January 12 & 13
February 9 & 10
March 16 & 17
March 30 & 31
April 20 & 21
May 11 & 12
June 8 & 9
August 10 & 11

**C
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1534 Penrose Street
Grinnell, IA 50112

Phone: 641.236.3917
Fax: 641.236.6779
www.iapra.org

IPRA Today is produced by the I.P.R.A.
Publications Committee Chair, Mindi Harklau,
rechbt@ci.humboldt.ia.us.

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Cathy Shutts,
cshutts@pcpartner.net

IPRA Calendar of Events



August

- 15 REAP Applications Due
- 20 IPRA State Fair Day
- 21-23 IPRA/IASA 14" Slow Pitch State Tournament—Cedar Rapids
- 21 Foundation Golf Outing—Dubuque

September

- 7 Office Closed—Labor Day Holiday
- 22-24 Fall Workshop—Ames



Check Out This To Do List!

- Sign Up for the Foundation Golf Outing. Contact Duane Randall at 319.472.4164 or vprdrandall@mebbs.com.
- Schedule a local PPP (Placekick, Punt and Pass) competition by contacting the IPRA state office at 641.236.3917 or cshutts@pcpartner.net.
- Register for the IPRA Fall Workshop. Mail or fax to the state office or register on-line.
- Complete membership renewal forms and return to the IPRA state office by August 31.
- Send open autumn internship announcements to Steve Jordison via email jordison@pcpartner.net or fax to 641.236.6779.