

MRPA would like to thank



*for their generous sponsorship
of the
Awards Banquet*



2009 Awards Banquet

*Sponsored by:
Grand Hotel*

*Thursday, February 5, 2009
6:00 p.m.
Dearborn Regency Hyatt*



MRPA Awards Committee

Brett Kaschinske, CPRP

Awards Committee Chair
Lansing Parks & Recreation

Carol Anderson

Troy Parks and Recreation

Sal DiCaro, CPRP

Macomb Township Parks and Recreation

Darrin Duistermars

Holland Township Parks and Recreation

Kae Eidson, CPRP

Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation

Terry Fields

West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation

Portia Fields-Anderson, CPRP

A New Direction

Andy Lang

Farmington Hills Special Services

Tony Mulkey, CPRP

Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation

Carla Scruggs

Saline Parks and Recreation

Angela Verges, CPRP

Ypsilanti Parks and Recreation

Roy Vultaggio, CPRP

Oak Park Parks and Recreation

Linda Walter, CPRP

Clinton Township Parks and Recreation

Wendy Wilmers-Longpre

City of East Lansing



Recreating how Michigan
thinks about recreation.

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Mission Statement

The Michigan Recreation and Park Association is a professional organization committed to providing professional development, advocacy, information, resources and visibility to a membership dedicated to enhancing the quality of life by creating community through people, parks, and programs!

Core Values

Integrity: We foster honesty, trust, and respect in all that we do, and we are committed to the MRPA Creed of Ethics.

Commitment: We are committed to serving our members' needs. We are flexible and innovative in delivering quality services and resources to make the Association and our members successful.

Diversity: We seek diversity in membership, governance, process, ideas, and relationships.

Community: We foster community and friendship, because it allows us to highlight our individual strengths. They grow best through active participation.

Advocacy: We are proactive in our approach to advocacy on the behalf of the Parks and Recreation Profession to build healthy and active individuals, families, and communities.

Welcome
to the
2009 Awards Banquet
Presented by
Michigan Recreation and Park Association

Welcome

Dennis Schornack, MRPA Executive Director

Invocation

Darrin Duistermars, President Elect

Dinner

Recognition of Conference Committee & Staff

Linda Walter, CPRP, 2009 Conference Chair

2010 Hall of Fame Announcement

Bruce Ross, Past President

Recognition of Canton Leisure Services

Kendall Klingelsmith, CPRP, MRPA Board President

Presentation of the Grand Award

Kendall Klingelsmith, CPRP, MRPA Board President

President's Remarks and Passing of the Gavel

Kendall Klingelsmith, CPRP, MRPA Board President

Incoming President's Remarks

Darrin Duistermars, President Elect

Award Presentations

Brett Kaschinske, CPRP, Awards Committee Chair

Pre-banquet entertainment provided by Stolen Moments

Recreation Leadership Award

Carla Vaughan
City of Troy



An MRPA member for 34 years, Carla has shown outstanding contributions and leadership in the area of senior and adaptive programming. A modest professional, she only looks at what more she can research, create, and offer. With her staff and 249 volunteers, she serves a population in Troy of 80,000 plus. Carla's dedication to programming for the community is truly remarkable. Estimates from old budgets project the senior budget before Carla began was \$27,880. Today, more than 105,000 seniors participate in a variety of programs, generating over \$275,000 in revenue. In 1978 Carla's job expanded to include adaptive programming, which today serves 166 individuals. Not afraid to tackle a difficult task, Carla has initiated numerous programs and services. Her innovative ideas have led to the creation of Adopt-Our-Senior-Center, Friendship Club, and SeniorNet Learning Center. This is just a small sampling of the successes brought to Troy by Carla. She has obtained numerous grants to fund senior and adaptive ventures, including the Community Foundation of Troy Grant in 2003 and 2007, Detroit Lions, Dominos, Generations Online, HAP and SeniorNet National Grants. Due to Carla's diligence, Troy's Senior Center was awarded the National Council on Aging/ National Institute of Senior Center accreditation. Over 20 partnerships have been forged with agencies to provide additional services. Carla has dedicated herself to serving populations that most put limits on, but she puts no limits on what anyone is or what they can do.



MRPA would like to extend a special Thank You to the 2009 Annual Conference and Trade Show Sponsors:

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We would also like to thank the following:

Beckett & Raeder - *Signs*
Cold Stone Creamery - *Awards Banquet Dessert*
Dearborn Parks & Recreation - *Scholarship Social Transportation*
JL Photo - *Photography*
Mahoney & Associates Inc. - *Delegate Badge Holders*
Miracle Recreation of Michigan - *Scholarship Social*
Oakland County Parks and Recreation - *Take a Student to Lunch Transportation*

Fellowship Award

Mickey Alderman
Clawson Parks and Recreation



As a 35-year member of MRPA, Mickey has been instrumental in developing and growing programs at the state and local levels. He has been a member of the MRPA board for nearly 20 years as the Special Projects Chair, overseeing the Amusement Park ticket program. This program has generated nearly \$2 million for MRPA and \$500,000 in commissions to local agencies statewide. Mickey was one of the founding members of MESRA (Michigan Employee Service and Recreation Association) in 1982 serving offices of President, Secretary, and Treasurer in Michigan as well as being a national board member for NESRA. He has been dynamic in his roles at Southfield Parks and Recreation (12 years) and Clawson Parks and Recreation (23 years). He was responsible for establishing a Community Center in Clawson—a place for residents of all ages to congregate. His dedication and commitment to the local parks and recreation departments as well as his involvement with MRPA continues to make a difference in the lives of people in Michigan! With a BS in Recreation Leadership from Wayne State University and a Masters degree in Recreation and Park Administration from Central Michigan University, Mickey continues to have a passion for the parks and recreation industry. When you talk about creating community, Mickey has done that from the small town of Clawson, to the larger city of Southfield, to the entire state of Michigan, to the national stage!

New Professional Award

Adrienne Wallace Schumacher
City of Holland



Adrienne Schumacher has worked for the City of Holland's Department of Leisure and Cultural Services as its Recreation/Special Events Coordinator and been an MRPA member since 2004. During this time, Adrienne has not only performed her duties to the City, but has also involved herself in many volunteer pursuits with numerous other area community. She has been MRPA's Coordinator for Hershey Track and Field, PPK, Hoop Shoot, Advisor for the '07 Youth Symposium, and Website and Athletic Committee Member for the WMRPA. Adrienne's extracurricular activities have brought organizations together by finding common goals that will benefit the community she lives in, such as partnering with Holland's Herrick Library and Holland Public Schools to provide free lunches and expand library memberships to the children in the City's free daily Playground Program in the summer. She also secured a grant in partnership with Ottawa County. She not only helps to form a vision of what could be, but works tirelessly to collaborate and grow programs to provide lasting opportunities for people to take advantage of and enjoy. She has accomplished many things beyond her job and volunteer duties: she is a published author, marathon participant, certified MHSAA volleyball official, adjunct GVSU communications professor, and a 2007 "I" Magazine *Woman of Influence*.

New Professional Award

April Heier
Clinton Township



April Heier graduated from Central Michigan University in 2002. April was involved in the MRPA Student Committee and was the Student Committee President from 2001-2002. It was at the time that April's dedication to the Parks & Recreation profession began to shine. After graduation, April held different positions within the Parks & Recreation field, beginning at Farmington Hills Special Services, where she planned and led the Scout Badge workshops and many other successful programs. Later, she was hired at Orion Township Parks & Recreation and was involved with leagues and special events. During that time, she joined other MRPA Committees such as the Scholarship Committee (2003-present), and was actively involved in the Northwest Regional group, where she served one term as Treasurer. Currently, April is a Recreation Coordinator for Clinton Township Parks & Recreation. She is responsible for all therapeutic programming (which includes an award winning Adaptive Bike Club), a flag football league that is 100% compliant in the NAYS/PAYS training, and much more. She has worked on the Programming Our World Conference Committee and more recently worked as Program Co-Chair for the 2009 MRPA Annual Conference and Trade Show. Last but not least, April is a Girl Scout leader within the Oksikita Council and is a Certified CPR and First Aid Instructor. Her community involvement is never ending! Thank you April, for your hard work and dedication to the Parks & Recreation field!

Park Resource Leadership Award

Gary Huizenga
Kent County



Through 37 years of service to Kent County Parks, Gary Huizenga continually achieves new levels of performance in resource leadership. Making good use of his business degree and instinct for management, he has risen through the ranks from laborer to park manager to his current position, Manager of Park Operations. Gary is very adept at managing budgets and resources to maximize results for the 41 properties in the park system. His dedication to mentoring upcoming professionals is evident through his daily interactions with employees, his devotion to providing ongoing education and training through the local annual Learning Series, and his long-standing involvement with MRPA's Managers' Workshop. Gary also demonstrates his leadership through his long-time membership in MRPA's Park Resources Committee and the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority's Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. He has successfully launched critical new practices and he continually seeks to develop partnerships with outside groups to assist in tree planting, invasive species control and general park maintenance. Gary's current focus on reducing energy use throughout the park system demonstrates his ongoing enthusiasm for embracing new challenges and developing efficient, forward-looking solutions. In short, the extensive growth and success of the Kent County Parks program is due in large part to Gary Huizenga's unwavering commitment to providing quality recreational opportunities for our community.