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*Michigan Recreation
and Park Association
2010
Awards Banquet*

*February 4, 2010
Amway Grand Hotel
Grand Rapids, MI*





Photography generously provided by
Stewart Photography





Presented By: **Miracle**

EVENT SPONSORS

Regional Associations

(GERMS, NERPA, NWPRA, SMRPA, WMRPA)

Opening Session

Superior Play

Casual Dinner

C2AE

Tuesday Scholarship Social

Sinclair Recreation

Wednesday Scholarship Social

MUSCO Sports Lighting

Exhibit Hall Lunch

Grand Hotel

Awards Dinner

SPONSORS

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MRPA Awards Committee

Carla Scruggs

Awards Committee Chair
Saline 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

Oakland County Parks and Recreation

Portia Fields-Anderson, CPRP

A New Direction

Brett Kaschinske

Lansing Parks and Recreation

Andy Lang

Retired

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

Welcome
to the
2010 Awards Banquet
Presented by
Michigan Recreation and Park Association

Welcome
Dennis Schornack
MRPA Executive Director

Invocation
Darrin Duisternars
MRPA Board President

Dinner

Recognition of Conference Committee & Staff
Carrie Klingelsmith, CPRP
2010 Conference Chair

Presentation of Grand Award
Darrin Duisternars
MRPA Board President

President's Remarks and Passing of the Gavel
Darrin Duisternars
MRPA Board President

Incoming President's Remarks
Linda Walter, CPRP
MRPA President Elect

Award Presentations
Carla Scruggs
MRPA Awards Committee Chair

Entertainment provided by:
Byron Center High School Band

Fellowship

Carol Anderson
Troy Parks and Recreation



Carol Anderson is the consummate professional. A member since 1984, Carol has served MRPA in many different capacities. She served on the Scholarship Committee from 1985 until 1994, and as co-program chair of the 1991 MRPA conference in Detroit. She is currently a member of the Awards Committee, a position she has held since 1999. Carol is also the current co-chair of the Trails, Greenways, Blueways & Open Spaces Committee. Anyone who has served with Carol on any of these committees can attest: Carol Anderson represents integrity in every sense of the word. She is well-respected by her peers, and many colleagues turn to her for advice and opinion, knowing she will always be fair and honest. Carol worked as the Assistant Director of RARA from 1984 until 1989. She moved on to the city of Troy in 1989 and became the Director in 1999, a position she holds today. Carol was a member of the Troy Optimist Club from 2000 until 2005. As you can see, Carol has held many titles over the years. On a personal note, the title she relishes the most for the past two years is "GRAMS" to her three adorable grandchildren. Carol Anderson has been extremely dedicated to MRPA for many years.

Park Resource Leadership

Mike Wilhite
Oakland County Parks and Recreation



Mike Wilhite's ingenuity and mechanical talents amazed and assisted his co-workers at Oakland County Parks. Mike invented an attachment for existing equipment to construct boardwalks over wetlands. It minimized impact on the wetlands by resting on completed sections and "reaching out" to install one support helical pier at a time. On one project alone, his invention saved \$23,000. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality was so impressed with the sensitive nature of the process, it granted Oakland County Parks permission to work in wetlands during the typical restriction period of April 1-July 1. Mike also invented a "large scale gadget" accommodating four huge spools to pull wire into conduit for group camping areas. His invention enabled staff to wire the areas in about half the time. He also served as a mentor and trainer, instructing staff to operate aerial equipment, chippers, stumpers, chainsaws and heavy equipment. Mike created the annual "Groundskeeper Olympics" to keep seasonal staff focused on using equipment safely and correctly. He developed an Equipment Maintenance Program that will be rolled out to the entire 13-park system. Mike was a gentle man with sharp, mechanical mind, knowledgeable about so many things. He was never without a smile, and always willing to help or answer a question. Mike passed away September 9, 2009 at the age of 53. He was an Auto Mechanic II with the Facilities Operations and Maintenance Unit for 22 years.

Grand Award

Rebecca Humphries
Department of Natural Resources



Rebecca A. Humphries was named director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources April 19, 2004, leaving the DNR's Wildlife Division where she had served as chief since December 1998. Humphries is responsible for the administration and direction of the department, which has 1,400 employees and a \$290 million budget that supports programs for wildlife and fisheries management, state parks and recreation areas, conservation and law enforcement, forest management, state lands and minerals, and communications.

Humphries is a graduate of Michigan State University, with a degree in fisheries and wildlife, and has completed course work toward her MBA through the University of Wisconsin. She was awarded an honorary Ph.D. in public service from Central Michigan University in December 2004.

Recreation Leadership

Mike Devlin
Meridian Township Parks and Recreation



Mike Devlin has displayed Recreation Leadership for Meridian Township and MRPA for over ten years. We often use the phrase “Creating Community” in our profession, and this is definitely evident with Mike in Meridian Township. Mike is constantly greeted by the public with compliments about his programs and services. He is also responsible for the parks and recreation segment on the local cable channel. Mike still finds time to be an instructor for his Sporties for Shorties class, an extremely popular program within the community and helps young kids understand the true meaning of athletics and playing for fun and sportsmanship. When he is not at work, Mike volunteers his time at the local middle school as a basketball coach.

Mike has been heavily involved with MRPA, especially with the programming committee, as a volunteer at athletic events, and as SMRPA President. He has conducted games trainings around the state for the Association, in addition to the annual conference and teen summits.

New Professional

Cristin Spiller
Oak Park Recreation



Cristin started working for the City of Oak Park in November of 2006. In this short time she has demonstrated outstanding knowledge of the overall field of recreation. She is a graduate of CMU with a Major in Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services Administration with a concentration in Community Recreation and a minor in Management.

Cristin has been a part of MRPA for the past four years and has served MRPA in the following capacities: Chair of the Fundraising Committee for NWPRA (2007—present), volunteer at MRPA Scholarship Golf Outing and MRPA Socials (2006—present), and member of the Athletic Committee (2008—present).

Not only does Cristin taken ownership of every program she is assigned, she also successfully initiates new programs and turns around declining programs. She collaborates with other nearby communities and always goes the extra mile to help out. Her positive energy, calm demeanor and hard work ethic are well liked and appreciated in our fun, but very hectic department. She is very personable, easy to work with, a great listener, and while being a self-starter and independent, she is also always open to suggestions.

New Professional

Jason Jones
Grand Traverse County Recreation



Jason Jones has been a committed member of MRPA since he was a student at Central Michigan University and President of the MRPA Student Committee. Since that time, Jason has worked to make the Student Committee an essential part of MRPA, and has grown it to a record number of members. Jason is dedicated to providing exceptional learning experiences to all students.

Jason is co-founder of the Northern Michigan Park and Recreation Association, or Knuckles Knorth. Through his hard work, northern Michigan recreation providers are able to meet to exchange ideas and collaborate on projects.

Jason currently serves on the MRPA Board of Directors as Vice President Elect, and chairs the committee responsible for the planning and execution of the 2011 Conference in Traverse City.

Jason's eagerness and excitement for parks and recreation inspires everyone around him, and he is always prepared, focused, and willing to help.

Recreation Leadership

Julie Bouma
Oak Crest Communities of Jenison



Julie is a true team player when it comes to MRPA. She has served as the conference program chair four times (by far, the toughest job) without hesitation. She has served on the MRPA board, chaired the Senior Committee, served as an officer for West Michigan Recreation & Park Association, and currently serves as a board member on the MRPA Foundation. Julie serves whenever and wherever asked to without fail. But it's not just about her willingness to serve that sets her apart—it is the class she displays and the quality of her work.

MRPA is fortunate to have a dedicated, committed, and supportive membership base that helps make this Association the best it can be, but some members do stand out. Julie Bouma is one of those. Like many, Julie does not have a "been there, done that" type of attitude. If she can help make something happen, she will. If you need a constructive opinion, she will be fair and honest. If you need someone to just listen, she is one of the best. She is a leader in every sense of the word. MRPA has been and will continue to be an association featuring some of the finest people this state has to offer. Julie Bouma is one of the best examples we have and for that, we thank her for her leadership and her dedication to MRPA.