



Creating Michigan's Places

Michigan Recreation and Park Association

CONFERENCE  
& TRADE SHOW

Presented by



# AWARDS BANQUET

Hosted by the  
**Michigan Recreation and Park Association**

February 9, 2012  
Hyatt Regency Dearborn  
Dearborn, Michigan

Sponsored by





# 2012 MRPA AWARDS COMMITTEE

---

**Kae Eidson, CPRP**  
Awards Committee Chair  
Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation

**Carol Anderson**  
Retired

**Sal DiCaro, CPRP**  
Macomb Township Parks and Recreation

**Darrin Duistermars**  
Holland Township Parks and Recreation

**Terry Fields**  
Oakland County Parks and Recreation

**Portia Fields-Anderson, CPRP, CTRS**  
City of Pontiac

**Brett Kaschinske, CPRP**  
Lansing Parks and Recreation

**Carla Scruggs**  
Saline Parks and Recreation

**Angela Verges**

**Roy Vultaggio, CPRP**  
Oak Park Recreation

**Linda Walter, CPRP**  
Clinton Township Parks and Recreation

**Wendy Wilmers-Longpre, CPSI**  
City of East Lansing Parks, Recreation & Arts

---



Welcome to the

2012

# AWARDS BANQUET

Presented by the  
**Michigan Recreation and Park Association**

**Welcome**

Sue Wells

MRPA Board President

**Invocation**

**DINNER**

**Presentation of Grand Award**

Sue Wells

MRPA Board President

**Individual Award Presentations**

Kae Eidson, CPRP

MRPA Awards Committee Chair

**Closing Remarks**

Sue Wells

MRPA Board President

Thank you to Awards Banquet sponsor Grand Hotel



Centerpieces for the 2012 Awards Banquet created by MRPA Travel Coordinator Karen Aune.  
Thank you to all members who responded to MRPA's request for information, helping us  
showcase the value of parks, recreation and leisure services in Michigan communities.

2012 Awards Banquet



## About the Awards



The Michigan Recreation and Park Association honors exemplary park and recreation professionals through the Association's Individual Awards. Award winners serve as an inspiration to our membership and embody the core values of the profession, demonstrating the highest level of performance in their job duties, as well as a tremendous commitment to MRPA and its membership. Individual Awards are the highest honor our Association presents.

### Grand Award

The Grand Award is presented annually to an organization that provides outstanding leadership, service, education, and support to public recreation in Michigan. The award is named after inaugural recipient Grand Hotel in honor of the organization's longstanding partnership and support of MRPA and its membership.

### New Professional

The New Professional Award recognizes a MRPA member who has been in the field for less than five years and has already exhibited outstanding service and promise to their agency and the Association.

### Park Resource Leadership

Recipients of the Park Resource Leadership Award exhibit outstanding contributions in the area of maintenance practice, equipment management, resource development and environmental stewardship.

### Recreation Leadership

The Recreation Leadership Award is presented to a member who has consistently made beneficial contributions and exhibited outstanding leadership in the area of recreation programming for a minimum of 10 years.

### Fellowship

The MRPA Fellowship Award is presented to a member who consistently demonstrates significant investment, support and guidance to fellow professionals. Honorees exemplify the highest level of professionalism in his or her own organization, within the membership and within all aspects of the parks and recreation profession.





## Grand Award

### DETROIT LIONS



The Detroit Lions organization and MRPA have had a unique partnership for the past 25 years. It all began in 1987, when MRPA approached the organization to rejuvenate a once popular youth football skills competition called Punt, Pass & Kick. The efforts of the Detroit Lions, in tandem with MRPA, would eventually lead to the rebirth of the program on a national level.

Former Lions General Manager Russ Thomas first gave his blessing for the Lions to pursue involvement in the PPK program. An official partnership between MRPA, the Lions and the NFL was born in 1992, and Lions leaders and personnel, most notably Tim Pendell, led the charge in the resurrection of the national Punt, Pass & Kick program.

Being actively involved in the community is important to the Detroit Lions organization. They are involved in many community-related functions and events throughout the year. The Lions have been instrumental in providing support, assistance, and leadership for the youth in Michigan while collaborating with MRPA. Each year, thousands of youngsters look forward to competing with their peers to earn an opportunity to step foot on Ford Field for the annual PPK state championship.

The support of Lions President Tom Lewand, ticket personnel, field personnel, Detroit Lions Charities and the Community Relations staff – Kim Doverspike, Ryan Hackworth and Chad Walker - continue to make administration of the Punt, Pass and Kick program successful in Michigan. The smiles of the youth athletes, the fans cheering them on, and the MRPA logo on the Ford Field scoreboard in view of thousands of people each year are just a few of the benefits of this successful partnership!

Had the Detroit Lions organization not taken an active role in the Punt, Pass & Kick program, there may not be a national program today! The Detroit Lions are known throughout the NFL circle to be one of the best in working with the state organizations on the program. Hats off to the Detroit Lions for your continued dedication and support, and thank you for providing a fun, competitive forum for physical activity for Michigan youth!



## New Professional

### DREW BURNS

Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation



Move over Leslie Knope...

Drew Burns is a shining illustration of all that the New Professional of the Year Award represents. His quick movement through the ranks in Van Buren Township and his steadfast dedication to MRPA show that Burns is at the onset of what will surely be a productive and accomplished career in parks and recreation.

Burns launched his MRPA career and solidified his place in the profession while attending Michigan State University. As the Student Committee President in 2007, Burns worked hand-in-hand with professionals to involve students in our organization.

Burns had the opportunity to work seasonally in recreation facilities in Florida and at the YMCA of Lansing. After an internship at Panama Shores in Panama City Beach, Florida, Burns returned to Michigan and began to flourish in Van Buren Township under the watchful eye of Bruce Ross.

While in Van Buren Township, Burns was responsible for the implementation of a very successful community garden at Van Buren Park. He worked diligently with local Boy Scouts to make the Community Garden what it is today. In 2011, Van Buren Township was the recipient of an ACHIEVE grant through the Centers for Disease Control and the National Recreation and Park Association. Burns has a track record of implementing successful programs and initiatives to benefit the residents of Van Buren Township. As a result, he has been promoted quickly in Van Buren Township, and currently serves his community as the Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation.

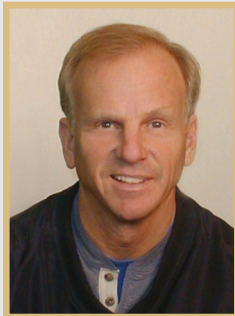
Burns' involvement in MRPA has been essential to its growth and success. Burns served as the Membership Committee Chair from 2009-2011, navigating a challenging time for communities to be members of MRPA. Burns has volunteered several times for the annual conference, and has taken on leadership roles within the 2011 and 2013 Conference Committees.



## Park Resource Leadership

### TIM WOSIK

Sterling Heights Department of Public Works –  
Parks and Grounds Division



Tim Wosik worked in a variety of capacities for the City of Sterling Heights during his 30 year tenure. He is respected by his peers as someone who can do anything, and do it well. From rebuilding storage sheds and shelters to moving electrical lines, servicing irrigation systems or holiday decorating, Wosik is truly a “jack of all trades.”

Wosik served as a wonderful lifeline between the departments of Parks and Recreation and Public Works. He made it much easier for the Parks and Recreation Department to oversee a park system that they did not maintain on a daily basis.

Wosik refuses to accept mediocrity, and always went above and beyond to make those around him look good. Never one to do anything for personal recognition, Wosik went above and beyond his job duties simply for the betterment of the community in which he works and lives.

“Any municipality would have been lucky to have an employee like Tim Wosik” says City of Sterling Heights Recreation Manager Kyle Langlois. “The only thing better would be to have a whole workforce of Tim Wosiks working for you.” His charisma, personality and ability to communicate with the public and other City departments were second to none. The City of Sterling Heights is grateful for Tim Wosik’s thirty years of outstanding service.



## Recreation Leadership

### DEREK SMITH, CPRP

Southeastern Livingston County Recreation Authority (SELCRA)



When looking up “leadership” in the dictionary, you may find a picture of Derek Smith. In his more than 13 years of experience in the administration of community recreation, he has done nothing but lead.

Smith is a Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) scholarship recipient, has been an active member of the MRPA Athletic Committee and the Southern Michigan Recreation and Park Association, and has volunteered at many MRPA events and programs. He has served as the Northwest Recreation and Park Association Secretary and President; the 2011 Conference Sponsorship & Exhibit Hall Chair; and was most recently appointed as the MRPA Director’s Committee Chair, while committing to simultaneously serve on the 2013 Conference Committee.

His service and leadership are not limited to MRPA. Smith is also a 10-year member of the Metro Detroit Amateur Softball Association (MDASA), and has served as the association’s Secretary and President. He has represented the national Amateur Softball Association (ASA) as a Great Lakes Regional Player Representative, and has facilitated numerous state and national adult and youth tournaments. Smith received national recognition from the ASA when he earned the James Farrell Award of Excellence for the 2010 ASA 18A Northern National Championships.

Smith currently serves as the Director of the Southeastern Livingston County Recreation Authority (SELCRA). He is a graduate of Central Michigan University (CMU) with a Bachelor of Applied Arts in Community Recreation and Parks Administration; he earned his CPRP certification in 1999.

Smith is an active member of MRPA, the National Recreation and Park Association, the Advantage Livingston Placemaking Committee, Trout Unlimited, Bass Anglers Sportsman Society and was recently inducted to the Brighton Rotary Club. He is a truly passionate leader in the field who advocates for community success through the placemaking attributes of parks and recreation.



## Fellowship

### MIKE McDONALD

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (Retired)



For the better part of 32 years, Mike McDonald has been a vital cog in the operations of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. He served in numerous capacities including Park Ranger, Grants Coordinator, District Business Executive, Grants Manager, Program Manager -Michigan Recreation Bond Program, and Grants Section Supervisor of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Recreation Bond program.

Throughout his career, McDonald has been an active member of both MRPA and NRPA. McDonald has filled the role of presenter at the MRPA Annual Conference

15 times and has served on the Public Policy Committee since 1993; he served as the Committee Chairman from 1999 – 2004. He was a member of the Great Lakes Regional Council from 2001-2010, and served as the GLRC Representative to the National Forum from 2004-2010. In addition, McDonald has been a member of the initial BOT/ NBDC since it began in 2007.

In addition to his service to MRPA and NRPA, McDonald has volunteered his time on the Ingham County Parks Commission for 11 years, including seven years as Chair. He was named Volunteer of the Year in 2010 in recognition of his service. McDonald is still active in the field, serving on the Meridian Township Harris Nature Center Foundation Board since 2007, the Heart of Michigan Trails Committee since 2005, and the Governor's Citizen's Committee for Michigan State Parks (CCMSP) since its creation in 2003. He lists his involvement with the CCMSP and its leadership in passing the State Park Passport Bill as one of his proudest accomplishments. For their work, the CCMSP received the Senate's "White Pine Award" and a Resolution from the Michigan State House of Representatives recognizing their efforts in passing the bill that generated \$17 million for Michigan State Parks in its first year, including \$1 million for development grants to local parks. McDonald is the former Chair of the CCMSP Stewardship Subcommittee.

A 1972 graduate of Michigan State University, McDonald stays busy working part-time at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing. He notes that the "part-time" label means it's a part-time job, not that he only works part of the time that he's on duty.





## CONGRATULATIONS TIM WOSIK

on your Park Resource Leadership Award.

You deserve it!

From all of your NERPA friends.



MRPA Conference & Trade Show photography generously provided by Stewart Photography.

**MRPA's Community Service Awards** recognize individuals and groups who show outstanding support to public recreation and park programs in their community.

The nomination deadline for the 2012 Community Service Awards is Friday, February 17! Don't miss your chance to recognize friends groups, department volunteers and advocates in your community!

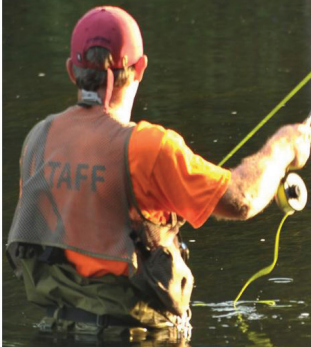
Visit [www.mrpaonline.org](http://www.mrpaonline.org) to learn more and nominate today.

SELCRA is honored to call

*Derek O. Smith*

The 2012 MRPA Leadership Award Winner

**“BOSS”**



**SELCRA**

*Southeastern Livingston County Recreation Authority*



# GRAND HOTEL & MRPA: 45 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP.



Thank you, Grand Hotel, for sponsoring the Annual MRPA Awards Banquet and hosting the Spring Fling, Late Summer Holiday, Jazzy Walk Weekend and Grand Experience Trips.

In 2012, we honor your 125th Anniversary and celebrate 45 years of MRPA programs at Grand Hotel.

