



AWARDS Committee

Kae Eidson, CPRP

Awards Committee Chair Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation

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

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Brett Kaschinske, CPRP

Lansing Parks and Recreation

Kyle Langlois, CPRP

Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation

Carla Scruggs

Saline Parks and Recreation

Roy Vultaggio

Retired

Linda Walter, CPRP

Clinton Township Parks and Recreation

Wendy Wilmers-Longpre

City of East Lansing Parks, Recreation & Arts

WELCOME TO THE

AWARDS Banquet

Presented by

MRPA Michigan Recreation

Welcome

Vic Chiasson
MRPA Board President

Invocation

DINNER

Presentation of the Grand Award

Vic Chiasson MRPA Board President

Individual Award Presentations

Kae Eidson, CPRP MRPA Awards Committee Chair

Closing Remarks

Vic Chiasson MRPA Board President

Thank you to Awards Banquet sponsor Grand Hotel







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

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.

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.

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.



Brittany Bird



Brittany Bird began her career with Oakland County Parks and Recreation as a Geographic Information System CAD technician in 2006 and has worked as the organization's first Natural Resource Planner since 2008. Bird has been a driving force behind the Oakland County Parks and Recreation culture of stewardship in the management of park natural resources, improving accountability, enhancing stakeholder relations and promoting fiscal sustainability for the organization.

Bird is responsible for the ecological management of more than 6,700 acres of parkland in 13 parks across Oakland

County. Her responsibilities involve the development and implementation of management plans for locally and regionally significant natural communities, serving as a liaison to local and regional conservation partners and community governments, managing program budgets, providing contractor oversight and providing grant application assistance.

In just a few years, Bird has implemented a prescribed burn program, strategies for invasive species monitoring and removal, a lake level monitoring program and a recreational trapping initiative to stabilize beaver populations in rural parks. She has been instrumental in the standardization of park practices to comply with stormwater mandates and has lead five golf courses and one park through the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Certification Program.

Bird's approach to natural resource management is thoughtful: she considers what is needed for goal achievement and is strategic about what has to be done. Bird has a profound sense of responsibility to natural resource management. She views natural resource stewardship as an obligation for all public entities that own natural resources. It would be difficult to find someone who is more passionate about natural resources management than Bird.

Brittany Bird's service in preserving and protecting parkland in Oakland County will have value for generations of Michigan residents in the years to come.



Maia Stephens

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Upon joining the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in 2008, Maia Stephens began an innovative and creative approach to recreation programming. She has worked with staff and sponsors to develop programs designed to get people outdoors, which have attracted thousands of "newbies" to state parks and provided reasons for everyone to purchase and use their Recreation Passport.

Stephens was a driving force behind a partnership with Hudsonville Ice Cream to develop a "Pure Michigan" ice cream flavor for Michigan State Parks. The program resulted in a "Create a Flavor" contest, generating 3,000 submissions

evoking the sights and sounds of getting away from it all in Michigan's State Parks.

Stephens is always thinking out of the box. She led the effort to create Recreation 101, a year-round program encouraging residents to try new outdoor activities by eliminating barriers to participation such as lack of gear, perceived expense, or a fear of the unknown. Park & Read, another Stephens initiative, partners more than 400 libraries statewide to offer library card holders the option of checking out a free one day pass for entry to Michigan State Parks.

Stephens has also assumed a mentorship role, leading a course to help program assistants provide excellent customer service. Stephens inspires everyone with her attitude, work ethic and leadership, and as one colleague put it "quite simply, she is excellent."

Stephens has a background in marketing and communications. Her experience ranges from on-site marketing for Miller Brewing Company and Eastpak backpacks, to serving as Marketing Manager for Chateau Grand Traverse and the Traverse City Record-Eagle, but her passion has always been in recreation. Her first job was with Oakland County Parks, and though it took 16 years to get back to it, she is proud to bring her private sector marketing experience to the DNR Parks and Recreation Division.



Troy Stowell, CYSA



Troy Stowell began his career in 2001 as an intern with Battle Creek Parks & Recreation; for the next seven years he specialized in managing youth and adult sports leagues, events and tournaments. In 2008, he returned to his hometown of Lansing to work in the Lifetime Sports Division of Lansing Parks & Recreation, where he had worked his first job as a scorekeeper at age 14. Today, he manages many of the programs he played and worked in as a kid.

Stowell has implemented a variety of programs, including a sportsmanship incentive program for baseball and floor hockey leagues, pre-school sports feeder programs, and has

expanded Lansing's 3 to 4 year-old soccer program to more than 200 Little Kickers. In 2012 he led volunteers in revitalizing the annual girls high school Softball Classic, growing participation exponentially.

Stowell has served as MRPA Board Secretary and has been involved with the Athletic Committee since 2001. He has served as a MRPA State Volleyball Tournament Director since 2004, providing athletic opportunities to residents while generating revenue to support the Association. Stowell routinely leads sessions at the annual Conference regarding current trends in athletic programming.

Currently the President-Elect for Michigan Amateur Softball Association (MASA), Stowell has served as a commissioner for District 11 and as Vice President-Elect. He has been involved in bringing tournaments to the Greater Lansing area, has been an advocate for MASA in the field, and has been a leader in bat testing for local leagues, helping to ensure player safety.

Troy Stowell uses his great knowledge of technology to benefit the workplace, is an excellent team player and goes above and beyond to provide his employees with the tools to be successful. His dedication to the profession includes leadership roles within several associations and a position on the Parks and Recreation board in Charlotte.



Scott Pratt, CYSA

NOVI PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES



A tireless worker with great enthusiasm and relentless creativity, Scott Pratt has been a leader in recreation, in both the communities of Novi and Oak Park, as well as within the Michigan Recreation and Park Association.

Pratt began his career in Marshall, where he served eight years, before spending a year and a half as the Adult Athletic Supervisor in the Marshall Islands. Pratt would then travel to Oak Park Recreation; during his tenure as Recreation and Aquatics Coordinator, Pratt revamped and reinvented many aspects of the department, implementing pre-school programs, expanding swimming programs,

improving municipal pool operations, enhancing the program brochure and streamlining facility rentals.

Pratt currently serves as the Superintendent Recreation with Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services. His ability to work with a variety of stakeholders, including vendors, employees, colleagues, program participants and partner organizations is one reason he is so successful as a recreation professional. Since arriving in Novi, Pratt has expanded sports and fitness programs, initiated adaptive recreation opportunities and played an instrumental role in revamping the City's Theatre and Cultural Services Division.

An active and engaged member of MRPA since 1999, Pratt has served on a variety of Association committees, including Aquatics, Athletics, Conference and Scholarship. He has served on the MRPA Board of Directors and as President of the Northwest Recreation and Park Association, where he increased attendance and participation by introducing fresh ideas, programs and speakers into Association meetings.

An enthusiastic, creative leader, Pratt talent to lead and ability to accomplish objectives empowers people to provide the best in recreational services for their residents.



Stuart "Stu" Alderman, CPRP

NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB OF GROSSE POINTE



As a 34-year member of MRPA, Stuart "Stu" Alderman has demonstrated outstanding leadership and made incredible contributions in the development of programs and facilities on the local, state and national levels. He has taken a very active role within MRPA, serving on several committees, on the Board of Directors, and as president of the Association. Alderman was instrumental in the revitalization of the National Punt, Pass & Kick (PPK) competition, which celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2011. After Ford Motor Company discontinued the program, Alderman started a local PPK competition, which developed into a statewide competition in cooperation with the Detroit Lions.

A member of the Metro Detroit Amateur Softball Association (MDASA) since the 1970s, Alderman has balanced recreation duties with his love of the game to serve the communities, teams and players of the Metro Detroit area. Highlights of his tenure include directing the Men's 35 & Over and Women's Slow Pitch softball national tournaments, serving as player representative for the Great Lakes Region for more than 15 years and serving as associate commissioner for the late Tim Doyle. Alderman was selected as commissioner of MDASA in 2009; he has served on a variety of MDASA committees and is an active member of the national association as well.

Alderman began his career in Oak Park, coordinating athletic programs and special events. He then moved on to the City of Troy, where he would later be named director of Parks and Recreation. He played a key leadership role in the development of the new community center, and was responsible for the establishment of a variety of programs and facilities during his 25 years in Troy. In 2011, Alderman became the Executive Director of the Neighborhood Club of Grosse Point. With a bachelor of science degree in journalism from Oakland University and a master's degree in public administration from Central Michigan University, Alderman continues to be an exceptional ambassador for the field of parks and recreation and MRPA.





Metro Detroit

"The Best in Softball" Metro Detroit ASA congratulates Stu Alderman on receiving the 2013 Fellowship Award from MRPA.

Your dedication and leadership within both associations has been instrumental in maintaining the strong partnership that we share.

The Metro Detroit chapter of the Amateur Softball Association is dedicated to promoting and enhancing the quality of softball activities in Oakland, Macomb, Wayne, and Livingston counties. Join the volunteer board of directors at a bimonthly meeting, register your teams, and see why ASA is the national governing body of softball in the United States! Visit us online at www.metrodetroitasa.com.



NERPA congratulates Stu Alderman for receiving the 2013 MRPA Fellowship Award. Your hard work and dedication to the profession is an inspiration to all of us! Keep up the outstanding work!

FAST FACTS

Stu Alderman now joins the many past award winners from the NERPA Boundaries. His esteemed company includes:

- 8 Fellowship Award Winners
- 5 Program/ Recreation Leadership Award Winners
 - 3 Maintenance Leadership Award Winners
 - 5 New Professional Award Winners
 - 4 Special Award Winners

The Northeast Recreation and Park Association is proud to have all of these professionals as part of our history, and we look forward to adding many more award winners over the years!



CONGRATULATIONS TROY!

We are so proud of all the work you do for Citizens of Lansing! We are glad you are a part of our team!





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

Learn more by visiting www.mrpaonline.org/Travel.

