



President's Report

Peter Witt, Ph.D.

AAPRA has accomplished a lot...and is positioning itself to accomplish even more. With the hard work of many of our members, significant activity is taking place on a number of fronts. Some examples:

Research Information Access: A few years ago, the Academy began efforts to establish a research institute. The plan was to solicit funds to support promising park and recreation administration oriented research. Despite the dedication of the Academy committee working on this issue, economic hard times, uncertainties about NRPA's plans in this arena, and several other factors got in the way of pushing this effort forward. At the NRPA Congress in St. Louis, a series of conversations between Phil Rea (NRPA Research Committee), Mike Blazey (SPRE President) and myself led to the conclusion that after several "fits and starts," the Academy should team with NRPA Board of Trustees, SPRE, APRS, and the Academy of Leisure Sciences to push forward a plan to move existing research into practice. This is seen as the necessary first step to eventually looking at additional research needs. Karla Henderson has agreed to chair this effort on behalf of the cooperating organizations. Specific objectives of the committee are:

- To develop a multi year plan to determine what information is needed that will promote best practices in the field as well as public advocacy for parks and recreation. (The first year will likely focus on 'benefits.')
- To develop a mechanism(s) for making research information readily available to researchers, practitioners, and the general public.
- To initially get available material (e.g., Research Update columns for the past 10 years, JPRA abstracts/executive summaries)

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on the NRPA website or other appropriate electronic sites.

- To solicit "interpretation pieces" that will pull together material addressing various facets of benefits (economic, social, health etc.) for various groups of people, and to make them available on the designated website.

This effort should help with the longstanding concern with improving access to available research and is consistent with John Thorner's interest in using the internet and other electronic means more fully to both store and access information.

Gold Medal Awards: A committee of Academy members is working to secure the funding and working out relationships with regard to the future administration of the Gold Medal Awards. Steve Messerli's group is working to develop a transition and action plan for a cooperative Gold Medal Awards program involving NPRA, the Academy and sponsors; and insuring the successful solicitation, selection and award process during the 2004 transition year; and providing for a permanent structure, sponsorship and funding for the long-term. This is a significant undertaking and expands the Academy's involvement in recognizing excellence (Pugsley Award and best dissertation/thesis/paper awards).

Diversity: Joe Wynns and Richard Ash are co-chairing a committee charged with finding successful ways to increase the diversity of professionals in the park and recreation field. Their efforts grow out of the pre-conference AAPRA Institute held in St. Louis. Specific objectives of the committee are still being worked out. Plans are to work with other organizations that also have an interest in diversity issues.

Professional Services, Park Practice Program. Under the leadership of Max Ramsey and Dale Larsen, the Academy is working with NRPA to reinitiate Academy's professional service project. John Thorner has shown interest in this project and discussions are ongoing. In addition, discussions are proceeding with regard to the potential of re-instituting the Park Practice Publications Program.

JPra Best Paper Award. In the past, AAPRA gave an award every three years to the best JPRA paper written by a practitioner. Unfortunately few practitioners write for the journal and therefore the Academy Board approved a proposal to change the award to the best JPRA paper in a three-year period by any author (other than an Academy member). Geof Godbey (chair), John Hultsman, and Darrell Lewis are serving as the selection committee for the 2002–04 award.

Membership Selection Issues. Several issues continue to arise regarding the criteria and processes used to select new Academy members. Sandra Whitmore is heading an ad-hoc committee to report to the board on any needed improvements or adjustments in the current procedures.

In addition, the Academy continues to be responsible for the *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, selection of the annual Pugsley Award recipients, running the Extern Program, selecting individuals to tape for the Legends Program, and creating opportunities for Academy members to present at the NRPA Congress.

The Academy is alive and well, vibrant and involved. What we are doing is making a difference in the profession. While members are elected because of their past contributions, the Academy is judged both internally and externally by our ability to make a difference in the future. Given the

Academy's record of service, members should be proud of what we have done, what we are doing, and what we will do.

2004 Officers and Committees

2004 Board of Directors

President: Peter Witt
 President-elect: Michelle Park
 Past President: Terry Trueblood
 Secretary: Sara Hensley
 Treasurer: Karla Henderson
 Directors: Dale Larsen, Linda Kotowski, Bob Rossman, Richard Zavala, Joe Wynns, and Bill Nelson
 Executive Secretary/Treasurer: John Potts

2004 Committee Chairs

Annual Banquet & Social: Jane Adams
 Best Paper Award: Geoff Godbey
 Bylaws: J. Robert Rossman
 NRPA Congress Program: Ray Morrill
 Legends in Parks & Recreation: Jane Adams
 Journal of P& R Administration: Peter Witt, Editor
 Membership: Jody Stowers
 Newsletter: Lowell Caneday
 Nominating: Terry Trueblood
 Pugsley Awards: John Crompton
 Young Professional Externship: Alice Conkey
 Agency Services & Resources (co-chairs): Max Ramsey, Dale Larsen
 National P&R Research Institute: Karla Henderson
 Diversity Ad-Hoc Workgroup (Co-chairs): Joe Wynns, Richard Ash
 Membership Criteria Ad-Hoc Committee: Sandra Whitmore

2004 Bulletin Committee

Chair: Lowell Caneday, Phone (405) 744-5503, FAX (405) 744-6507, Email Lowell@okstate.edu
 Members: Bob Dunsmuir, Chris Edginton, Jeff Farland, Jane Hodgkinson, and Peter Murphy

Representatives on Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Harvey Faust | 2001 – 2004 |
| Jane Adams | 2002 – 2005 |
| Dale Larsen | 2002 – 2005 |
| Sandra Whitmore | 2003 – 2006 |

Academy Externship Program

EXTERNS MEET ACADEMY MEMBERS IN ST. LOUIS

The American Academy of Park & Recreation Administration chose two outstanding young professionals for the 2003 Externship Program. The externs, Anne Nixon, Des Peres, MO, and Jason Genck, Buffalo Grove, IL, attended the 2003 National Congress for Parks and Recreation in St. Louis, MO, with their Academy mentors.

Externs attend the Congress as a guest of the Academy, they attend our annual meeting and banquet, and they spend two days with a mentor meeting other Academy members and professionals. In exchange, the Externs are asked to submit a report giving an overview of what they learned; the experiences they had at Congress; and strengths and weaknesses of the Extern program.

Anne is currently Recreation Superintendent for the City of Des Peres, MO. She has previously served as Graduate Assistant, Midwest Special Recreation Association and Intern, City of Clayton, MO. Prior to her position at Des Peres, Ann was the Fitness Supervisor, City of Clayton, MO. Anne has a M.S. in Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration from Western Illinois University and a B.S. in Exercise Science from Illinois College. She is a member of NRPA, the Missouri Park and Recreation Association, serving on the Curriculum Committee and the Municipal Section. She is a certified personal trainer through the American Council on Exercise (ACE), a certified pool operator, an Aerobics and Fitness Association of American Kickboxing Instructor and she holds national certification as a CPRP.

In applying for an extern position, Anne stated, “My motivation for applying to this program is to meet and learn from Academy members. Speaking as a young professional, programs like this are essential to fostering a continuous environment of professionalism. I have been fortunate throughout my life to find great mentors and surround myself with supportive people. To have the opportunity to meet and network with members of the Academy would be a great learning experience and honor.”

Genie Zakrzewski nominated Anne and Sara Hensley, City of San Jose, CA and Jane Hodgkinson, Carol Stream, IL mentored Anne during the Congress.

The second Extern is Jason Genck, Division Manager, Buffalo Grove Park District, Buffalo Grove, IL. Jason has previously served as Recreation Supervisor for Buffalo Grove Park District and as Recreation Leader/Coordinator, City of Phoenix, AZ. Jason is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Saint Francis, in Joliet, IL. Jason has a M.S. in Public Administration from Arizona State University and a B.A. in Recreation Administration from University of Saint Francis. Jason is a member of the NRPA and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association. He is certified as a CBRP, a certified aquatics facility operator, and a NYSCA Clinician.

In applying for the extern program, Jason stated, “If I am selected to participate in this program, I plan on taking full advantage of this great opportunity to enhance my education through learning from Academy members. Previous experiences with members have proved to be extremely beneficial to the enrichment of my career. I am confident that this program would serve as one of the highlights of my development as a recreation professional.”

Jason was nominated by Ron Dodd and was mentored during the Congress by Jim Niskanen, City of Modesto, CA and Sandra Whitmore, Alexandria, VA.

Jane Adams, Externship Program Chair, wishes to acknowledge the Committee members for their work: Katherine Chappellear, Ned Cheely, Lori Daniel, and John McGovern as well as the Congress mentors – Sara Hensley, Sandra Whitmore, Jane Hodgkinson, and Jim Niskanen.

At their October 23rd Board meeting, the Academy Board removed the requirement that an Academy member nominate a young professional to the externship program. This will be for a trial period of two years at which time the Board may re-instate that requirement or remove it completely. It is hoped removal of this requirement will encourage more young professionals to take advantage of this outstanding opportunity.

New Academy Members

- Dr. Michael Blazey: Professor, Recreation and Leisure Studies, California State University – Long Beach.
- Susan Eaves: VISIONS IN ACTION, Lancaster, TX.
- Darrell Lewis: retired Chief, Natural Resources Management Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Now living in Hayden, ID.
- J. Thomas Lovell, Jr.: Administrator of Lee's Summit Parks and Recreation, Lee's Summit, MO.
- Ray Morrill: Director of Recreation And Special Facilities, Wheaton Park District, Wheaton, IL.
- Peter Murphy: General Counsel, Illinois Association of Park Districts
- Dr. Anne Simonsen: Professor and Coordinator, Recreation and Leisure Studies Program, Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.

Pugsley Awards

John Crompton, Chair

This is the second in a series of write-ups on current Academy members who have received the Pugsley Award.

Richard "Dick" Trudeau received the Pugsley "Local Level" Award in 1990. He was born in Tracy, Minnesota, but his mother moved the family to



Seattle following the death of his father when he was only three years old and he lived throughout his life on the west coast. The leadership and initiative that he exhibited throughout his life in all his roles were manifested in his formative years. He was a student leader both at Queen Anne High School in Seattle and subsequently at the Montezuma Mountain School in Los Cabos, California, which he attended on a scholarship. While in high school, he was the first national president of the Junior Statesmen of America organization and he founded the Junior Statesman program in the state of Washington.

Trudeau was a campus leader in his years (1938-42) at the University of Washington where he chaired the university's International Relations Club, serving as the national president for two years, and organized the northwest region's student programs on world affairs. He began his career in Seattle by working for several newspapers and coaching the Queen Anne Junior Legion baseball team to the state championship.

In World War II, Dick initially served as a Private First Class in an MP Battalion. Subsequently, he became a special assistant to a colonel with responsibility for editing the Fort Lawton (Washington) newspaper and raising funds both for programs at the Fort Lawton Hospital and US war bonds. When he was honorably discharged as a limited service member in the army, he went back to college, receiving a scholarship from the Maxwell Graduate School at Syracuse University, New York, from which he received his MS degree in Public Administration in 1945.

Upon graduation, Trudeau was hired by the US State Department as American Vice Consul to Denmark, where he worked with the Danish State Radio and was involved in administering scholarships for Danish applicants to US universities. He worked with musicians and symphony conductors in Copenhagen, and was responsible for instituting the first free children's concert conducted at the Danish State Radio symphony by former Seattle conductor Karl Kruger. When he returned to the US he was assigned to Indo-China, but rather than go there he resigned and taught political science at the University of

Washington. In 1951 he used his network of contacts to organize a Scandinavian Music Festival. It was attended by 20,000 people at Seattle's Volunteer Park, including the state's governor and senior senator, and was subsequently transmitted to the Scandinavian countries by the US Information Service. This led to an organization of similar major ethnic concerts, including one at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, and to him being sent to Europe by the Liberty Radio network to do programs there.

This work also led to his recruitment by the United Bay Area Crusades as public relations director for Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, where he received the coveted "Silver Anvil" for public relations in a time of crisis by the Public Relations Society of America in 1962. During this period, he worked with Bill Mott, who was then Superintendent of Oakland Parks. When Mott moved to become the General Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District in 1963, he asked Dick to join him as Public Relations Director for the Park District. Here Trudeau worked long hours to achieve a successful public vote supporting the annexation of Contra Costa County into the Regional Park District. When Mott went to Sacramento to become State Park Director, Trudeau was appointed to succeed him at East Bay.

As General Manager at East Bay, Trudeau was following both his mentor and a legend. In his 18-year tenure in that position, he in turn became a legend and a mentor to many professionals. He led by example and inspired many others with his vision and innovations. During his time as General Manager, the District grew from 19 parks and 20,000 acres in 1968, to 45 parks and over 60,000 acres in 1985, while visitations increased from 6 million to 11 million over the same time period. Perhaps the most impressive outcomes of his leadership were the acquisitions of over \$35 million in gifts and grants to the Park District and East Bay voters passing by a 68% approval vote bond issue for \$225 million, which was the largest local bond issue ever passed in the US. His skill in organizing successful large bond issues for parks was widely recognized. He also chaired the statewide bond issue campaign (Proposition 43) that authorized \$100 million and was currently involved in subsequently passing Proposition 70, which authorized \$776 million for parks and conservation.

Among the innovations that Dick Trudeau introduced while at East Bay which received national attention were:

- Founding of the Special District Forum in 1972, the first time special districts in parks met to exchange ideas and programs.
- Initiated the first nonfederal park foundation for East Bay in 1947-48.
- Developed the first "Adopt-A-Park" program in 1979 after Proposition 13.
- First local park agency to hire lobbyists to aid legislation in Sacramento (1968) and in Washington DC (1972).
- First local park agency to hire female public safety officers.
- Advocacy of emphasizing the importance of economic benefits associated with parks, exemplified by commissioning an economic benefits study of East Bay in 1978.

In summary, during his tenure at East Bay Dick Trudeau brought parks to a new level of importance and prominence in the eyes of citizens. He raised the bar for excellence in park planning and management through developing the first District Master Plan, and built relationships between the park agencies and the private sector which increased public support and funding for parks through local park foundation programs, and innovative local and state legislative and other programs.

When Trudeau retired, an editorial in the Oakland Tribune lauding his contributions commented:

“Without Trudeau’s relentless advocacy and political skills, it is doubtful the district would have grown from 19 parks and 20,000 acres in 1968 to its current 45 parks and 60,000 acres... It forms a greenbelt cherished by Bay Area residents and envied by park and recreation experts throughout the nation.”

“Trudeau’s single-minded drive to save large chunks of land from development was smoothed by an engaging manner and a ready smile. Where someone else might have fallen off the tightrope he walked between open space advocates and land-hungry developers, Trudeau said cheerfully, ‘I

know we're doing the job when both sides are mad at us.' . . . Trudeau leaves a legacy that will endure like the land he loves so well."

Trudeau was a champion of parks and recreation throughout the country. He made hundreds of presentations at seminars and conferences, and taught others how to be effective advocates with local, state and national legislators. His appointment as the only professional to be a Senior Advisor to the President's Commission on American Outdoors (1985-87) was indicative of his eminent reputation in the field.

After retirement in 1985, Dick Trudeau continued to serve the field, remaining involved in assisting East Bay's funding and legislative efforts and on the Boards of a multitude of organizations in the Bay area, elsewhere in California, and nationally. He continued to receive great satisfaction from helping others and furthering the goals of parks and conservation. He believed there was a strong correlation between those who have invested a lot into their career with those who have revved most satisfaction from it. He observed, "Why just retire and ruminate? If you enjoyed something, if you can make a contribution, then as the Nike commercial commands, 'Just Do It!'"

The retirement project that meant most to him was probably his work as chair of the William Penn Mott, Jr. Memorial Fund. He launched the Fund in 1992, and worked tirelessly to establish the Presidio National Trust (the Presidio was Bill Mott's final project); to fund exhibits and establish the acclaimed Mott Visitor Center at the Presidio; and to fund the outstanding biography of Mott, published by NRPA. He was driven by a passion to honor the memory of his mentor, friend and inspiration with whom he worked for so many years.

It was appropriate in 2003 that, in turn, Dick Trudeau's contributions to East Bay were tangibly recognized by the Park District's Board of Directors renovating the building where he worked for 22 years and renaming it the "Richard C. Trudeau Training Center" in 2003.

NRPA 2003 in Pictures

