



President's Report

Chuck Wilt, CPRP



Our first Board Meeting of 2008 was held on January 17. The Board approved Max Ramsey's Agency Services Committee proposal to re-establish the Park

Practices Publications Program. Max and his committee are moving forward on formal contracts between the Academy, Clemson University and Sagamore Publishing.

Congratulations to Max and his committee for their dedication and perseverance over the past several years to re-establish this important publication for the park and recreation profession.

Progress was made in December on meeting another 2008 goal to bring the Academy and NRPA together in a collaborative relationship to position parks and recreation as an essential service in communities throughout the United States. Linda Kotowski, NRPA President and Academy Member, helped set up a meeting in late December which included her, John Thorner, NRPA Marketing Director, John Crosby, Barry Weiss, Jane Adams of the Academy Positioning Task Force and me. It was a very positive meeting. John Crosby and NRPA will be hiring a consultant to develop a national grass roots public awareness campaign in 2008. There was much discussion about how valuable the Academy involvement with NRPA in this process will be. Barry and Jane will be the Academy contacts for John Crosby.

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The 2008 Committees and Task Forces have been organized and are listed as part of this newsletter. Thanks to all who have volunteered to be Chairs and to those serving on the committees and task forces. The important work of the Academy can't happen without your dedicated support. A special thanks to Don Cochran and the Academy Banquet Committee. They have identified and reserved the location for our 2008 Banquet in Baltimore in October.

Also, special thanks to Bertha Cato, Phil Rea and Brett Wright of the Agency Services Committee for conducting the first test of the Consulting Services Program at the University of Tennessee last fall.

Thanks for your involvement and support.

Agency Resources and Services Committee Work Plan and Progress Report

1. Academy Brochures

Final review and printing of two new brochures as follows:

A. General Brochure on the Academy, its programs and services.

B. Brochure on the Professional Services Program of the Academy. First draft reviewed in Indianapolis. Comments and suggestions from that review are being used in preparing the final draft. Michelle Park, with excellent design and layout help from Vern Hartenburg is leading these projects.

2. Academy Outreach

Assist Academy Board in setting up meetings with a few of the institutions previously identified in working with our committee, where new or renewed relationships need to be established, and joint projects or program possibilities explored. Our newly upgraded brochures will be key elements here.

3. Park Practice Program Revival

General outline of program revival was approved by Academy Board in Indianapolis. Our subcommittee on Park Practice is currently working on the following:

A. Finalizing project budget and proposal.

Target - Complete by third week in January – Board approved.

B. Recommending to the Academy Board members for the initial Editorial and Advisory Boards for appointment by the Academy.

Target - Complete by third week in January

C. Selecting the editorial emphasis for the first years issues (four quarterly productions). The Editorial Board would select the inaugural issue format and topics. Sagamore would develop inaugural mailing list with help from the Editorial and Advisory Boards.

Target - End of May, with issue distribution planned for Jan. '09.

D. Advisory Board to hold its organization meeting/teleconference to prepare a promotion and marketing concept and assist the editorial process, where appropriate with activities such as testing market ability of logo, etc.

Target - Initial meeting by April. Promotion and marketing plan by June.

4. Professional Services Program

The Academy and NRPA have agreed to work together with a few clients (agencies, community systems, institutions or other organizations) to test the proposed implementation format for providing the services. However, the Academy is announcing this program as its own, stating that occasionally NRPA will be partnering with us in delivering the services. So far, the visit with our first test client has already happened. A team of Academy members, including Phil Rea, Team Leader, Larry Allen, and Bertha Cato, visited the University of Tennessee- Knoxville to do an overview of their programs and make suggestions on strengthening their related curriculum. The written report of the team has just been sent to UT, and to us and it appears to have been a successful trip; how productive will be in evidence soon. The primary activity for the coming year will be finding new potential test opportunities, conducting the tests and based on the test results, make recommendations to the Academy Board (and NRPA) as to how we should implement the program.

A. Bill McKinney will begin the process of updating our inventory manual. New member to the Academy will be inventoried in the future at the time of acceptance into the Academy. Bill may need help from the committee and Academy staff in this process.

NRPA Congress

The NRPA Congress Program Committee evaluated, selected and slotted 285 educational sessions for the 2008 Congress. That's about 70 more than were offered in 2007.

The top 27 rated sessions get in automatically. I'm pleased to report the Academy had 9 of those top 27 ranked sessions. By my crude account the Academy had 41 sessions proposed with 17 being selected. The numbers are not absolute. As the Program Committee continues to work, contacting program chairs and speakers, some changes are likely to occur. This means some sessions could go away or others may be added.

For those who had a session accepted, a representative from the Program Committee will be contact you. Please give them a few weeks to make contact. I'm sure they all have much catching up to do back in their own agencies. If you don't hear from anyone in a few weeks, Danielle Price (DPrice@nrpa.org) at NRPA is the main contact.

2008 Gold Medal Program Timeline



September 2007 – February 2008

- Held Inaugural Reception for the Gold Medal Award Finalists which was overwhelmingly received.
- Successful presentation of the 2007 Gold Medal Awards at the Opening General Session in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Call for Nominations in P & R Magazine and Email blast went out in December and January 2007
- Successfully launched 2008 Gold Medal Program January 4, 2008 and began nomination registrations
- 2007 Gold Medal Winners Video generated and available for sale February 1, 2008
- 2007 Recipient follow up article went out in December issue of P & R Magazine

2007 Gold Medal Reception Photo Gallery



JPRA Subscription Task Force on Practitioners Participation and Readership

In the original purpose statement in the Academy's ByLaws it clearly calls out that we are to place a high emphasis on relevant scholarly research and public understanding of parks and recreation. With that in mind, the task force was established to investigate the perception that the Journal does not receive the participation or readership that it warrants as the primary research source for Park and Recreation practitioners.

Conclusions

There is no question that the JPRA and other research/scholarly journals are not being read by practitioners nor are they participating in the research/writing process. This is due to the following factors:

- limited time for this type of reading (due to the perception of limited value for time spent).
- material not easily understood due to the target audience of the writer and research writing protocols.
- typically it is difficult to apply research to practice.
- practitioners are not aware of the topics that have been researched nor the sources to access to find this type of material.
- anti-intellectual feelings by practitioners that researchers are not focused on "real world" needs in their evaluation of topics and presentation of formats.



(left-right)

Dr. Phil Rea; Dr. Bob Rider, Dr. Joy DeSensi, Dr. Larry Allan, and Dr. Bertha Cato

Announcements...

As a reminder, please pay your Academy dues if you have not already done so. Questions? Please contact Andee Chestnut at (217) 586-3360 or AChestnut@aol.com.

Submittals for the Best Paper Award are due by March 1. Papers can be submitted to:

James R. Hall, Director
Boise Parks & Recreation Department
1104 Royal Blvd.
Boise, ID 83706
jhall@cityofboise.org

If you have an article, announcement, or committee update you would like to include in the next Bulletin, please send your information to editors, Rich Grodsky and Kim Pugh, at rgrodsky@epd.org.

In Memoriam

For those who may not have heard, Doug Sessoms passed away on Tuesday, February 12. We share in the great sadness of losing a wonderful colleague and friend, and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

2008 COMMITTEES & TASK FORCES

Agency Services & Resources

Max Ramsey, Chair
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Chris Dropinski
Jim Garges
Elizabeth Kessler
Darrell Lewis
Michal Anne Lord
Bill McKinney
Bill Nelson
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Bonnie Noble
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Michelle Park
Kathleen Perales
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Richard Rose
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Dean Tice

Park Practices Oversight Committee

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Dan Dustin
Chris Jarvi
Darrell Lewis
Fran Mainella
John Potts
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Annual Banquet & Social

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Marco Cisneros
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Nancy MacCartney
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Marco Cisneros
Patricia A. Delaney
Jan Geden
Steve Neu
Bonnie Noble

CAPRA

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Don Cochran (2006-2009)
Sandra Whitmore (2006-2009)

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Nick Digrino
Regina Glover
Ira Hutchison
Andrew Kimmel
Joe O'Neill
Wayne Roberts
Anne Simonsen
Bob Stanton
Richard Zavala

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Harvey Feldman
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Joe Schultz
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Richard Johns
Walt Johnson
Steve Messerli

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Lynn Jamieson
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Mike Blazey
Alice Conkey
Bill Palmer
Bill Mitchell

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Vern Hartenburg
Dale Larsen

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Kathy Spangler
Chuck Wilt

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Lori Daniel
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Jim Donahue
Jane Hodgkinson
Richard Horton
Jonathan Korfhage
Bill Nelson
Jim Niskanen
Michelle Park
Max Ramsey
Paul Romero
Bill Scalzo
Kathy Spangler
Bob Stanton
Judy Weiss

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Max Ramsey
Graham Skea
Bob Stanton

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Mark McHenry
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