



SOUTH DAKOTA PARKS & RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Quick Hits End of the Year Update

Visit www.sdpra.com

This letter is interactive you can click on **green** text for a direct link.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I wanted to take this time and thank everyone for being part of this organization. Our professionals, students, and contributors of our industry truly make a difference in the lives of so many. As elected leaders, it is our duty to make our organization's members aware of industry trends, legislation, grant opportunities, education opportunities, as well as represent this State Association in various capacities. It was my privilege to serve you as President this past year. Randy Kittle was handed the board at our board meeting on December 1st. All our new elected leaders and appointed chairs in attendance, and I am excited for the future.

We will soon be conducting a membership drive. Since our annual conference was held out of state and attendance from South Dakotans was low, thus our membership for 2012 is low. If you were not in attendance please submit your annual dues into our new membership chair Dan Sternhagen. You can e-mail him at Dan.Sternhagen@state.sd.us to request information.

If you have any information that may be important to you, your organization, or your community please send it to president@sdpra.com this address is forwarded to the current president of the association.

Sincerely,

Kristy Lintz, CPRP



INFORMATION UPDATES THAT YOU CAN FIND INSIDE:

- **ACTIVITIES HOMEWORK**
- **ACCESSIBILITY IN PARKS**
- **DIRECTORY OF STAFF**
- **CONFERENCE INFORMATION**

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Jan 18 & 19: Gov. Conference on Tourism at Best Western Ramkota in Pierre, SD

Feb. 8th: Activities Meeting in Chamberlain, SD

Feb 23rd: Board Meeting in Pierre, SD

Check www.sdpra.com for details of the above meetings



MERRY CHRISTMAS

PICTURES WANTED FOR THE SDPRA WEBSITE

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY PARKS AND RECREATION RELATED PICTURES FOR USE ON THE SDPRA WEBSITE. THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED, BUT KEEP THEM COMING!!

SEND THEM TO:

LANCE.CATRON@STATE.SD.US

PICTURED LEFT IS MY COUSIN'S CHRISTMAS TREE FOR 2011!

THE PICTURE ABOVE WAS TAKEN AT CANYON LAKE PARK IN RAPID CITY ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 31ST.

RECREATION COMMITTEE UPDATES

AQUATICS INFORMATION

Many of you have questions regarding how American Red Cross changes will affect us as Authorized Providers. I do know that many of us have budgets in place based on previous pricing, and these pricing changes could impact many of our training programs. At this time we are having issue contacting a American Red Cross Representative that can offer us a reasonable response to this issue. With that being said, I am researching other opportunities so when the March deadline comes we have other options to consider if needed.

I am currently perusing other training options for lifeguards as well as other recreation staff members as pertains to Lifeguard and CPR/PR & First Aid certifications. I am in the process of speaking with Starfish Aquatics about their training program and the options available to professionals for training. Starfish Aquatics Institute has given us their information and it is posted on the SDPRA website. [CLICK HERE](#) for the pdf.

For those who may be shopping for a swim lesson program, I highly recommend Swim Lesson University. We changed to their format in March 2011. Thus far I have had many compliments in the progress of the children as well as the uniformity of instruction from instructor to instructor. The program's ease of training staff has been great and the change over was relatively smooth. If you would like more information please go to their website www.swimlessonsuniversity.com. If you would like to speak to me about the program I am more than happy to help.

Sincerely,

Barb Limbo, Aquatics Division Chair

(605) 394-5223

barbara.limbo@rcgov.org

RECREATION COMMITTEE HOMEWORK

For the next Activities Committee please bring any Aquatics Policies that you have for your facilities. We would like to discuss and review for a statewide model.

Items to be discussed:

- Preventing poo in the pool/customer consequences
- Age limits for admittance to pools/water parks without supervision
- Scheduling lifeguards

ACCESSIBILITY IN OUR PARKS

This topic has everyone talking. As a Keynote at the recent Annual Conference, the speaker updated the audience on this issue, particularly the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. Compliance for these new standards is required by March 15, 2012. Many parks and recreation providers have, or will be conducting assessments of park and recreation amenities to determine deficiencies. If you have had some experience with these assessments and would like to share them with the SDPRA membership, please contact Lance Catron and we can put post them on the SDPRA website. As you recall, in 2010 the Department of Justice issued a ruling pertaining to the use of Other Power Driven-Mobility Devices that became effective on March 15, 2011. The South Dakota Division of Parks and Recreation adopted a policy in response to the ruling to provide locations on where OPDMD's are allowed on trails managed by SDGFP.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access this policy. The following link is the webpage for accessibility for the State Parks.

<http://gfp.sd.gov/state-parks/fees-reservations/accessibility.aspx>

SOUTH DAKOTA GREAT DAY OF PLAY



The 2012 South Dakota Great Day of Play was discussed at the last Activieis Meeting. The decision was made that SDPRA was no longer going to promote The Great Day of Play as an Association Sponsored event. It will be left up to the individual communities if they want to continue to participate, set their own date and promote the event.

The Great Day of Play was initiated in 2005 to urge children, adults and families to increase physical activity by getting out and playing within state and city parks.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARKS AND RECREATION PROFESSIONALS AND THEIR STAFF

WHO NEEDS CEU'S

SDPRA board would like to know from its members what kinds of various certifications do our professional have. Currently the boards educational focus has been on Certified Parks and Recreation Professionals. In looking at the upcoming conferences, we are trying to gage what kind of educational sessions are needed for our members. If you are currently certified in something other than CPRP and need CEUs to upkeep your certification please send Kristy via email at Kristy.Lintz@rcgov.org

MOWER BLIGHT ON TREES

Mark Steck, now retired regional park supervisor, applied for a Urban & Forestry Grant through the Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry and the SD State Parks were awarded \$2500 which we matched with in-kind contributions. With the help of Vision Video in Sioux Falls & Dr. John Ball from SDSU Forestry, we were able to produce a short educational video on the consequences of mower blight and hopefully get mower operators to understand why they should not hit trees with mowers. One of the conditions of the grant is to make the video available to anyone who could benefit from it. 300 copies have been made to be distributed throughout the state. If you would like to have a free copy of the video contact Linda Birchall at Linda.Birchall@state.sd.us out of the Pierre office.

WEBINARS

Several groups have contacted us with information for free Webinars. We will post these opportunities on our site either in the News and Happenings on the Home Page or under the Conference Tab. Please check out the site periodically as items get updated. We are striving to make our site a primary source of communication for our members.

NRPA has increased their professional development offerings with webinars, letting professionals learn about a variety of topics at their desk. Webinars offer the opportunity to get professional development and education through subject matter experts in an easy, cost-effective (sometimes FREE) manner with some even earning you CEUs.

All can benefit from their time-efficient, cost-effective method of training and delivering knowledge to your staff.

Register for an [NRPA webinar](#) today!

OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR IS ATTEMPTING TO CREATE A DIRECTORY FOR PARKS AND RECREATION PROFESSION ACROSS THE STATE. PLEASE BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR HIS E-MAIL AND TAKE THE TIME TO INFORM OUR ASSOCIATION WHO THE PROFESSIONALS ACROSS THE STATE. FROM DIRECTORS TO MAINTENANCE STAFF, URBAN FORESTERS TO CEMETERY WORKERS, PROGRAMMERS TO INSTRUCTORS. WE WANT ALL YOUR FULL TIME PERSONNEL LISTED.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

SAVE THE DATES:

- APRIL 10 - 12, 2012 - CERTIFIED PLAYGROUND SAFETY INSPECTOR COURSE IN BISMARCK, ND
- APRIL 29 - MAY 1, 2012 - MIDWEST CONFERENCE IN GRAND FORKS, ND
- SEPTEMBER 25 - 27, 2012 - SDPRA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN HURON, SD
- OCTOBER 16 - 18, 2012 - NRPA CONGRESS AND EXPOSITION IN ANAHEIM, CA
- APRIL 14 - 16, 2013 - MIDWEST CONFERENCE IN DEADWOOD, SD
- SEPTEMBER 2013 - SDPRA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN PIERRE, SD
- OCTOBER 8 - 10, 2013 - NRPA CONGRESS AND EXPOSITION IN HOUSTON, TX

2012 Midwest Conference

Grand Forks, North Dakota

save the date
April 29 - May 1

Striving for Greater Health and Safety
in all we do

WORTH YOUR WHILE? ABSOLUTELY!

You will have an opportunity to engage in some of the most staggering topics and discussion related to safety, crisis management and community health and happiness.

- ▶ Explore the gripping details, along with the “do’s and don’ts” from those who have experienced disaster from the front lines.
Ask yourself: Disasters come in all types and masses, are we ready if (when) disaster strikes?
- ▶ Just when you thought talk on obesity may have run its course, we bring you high energy and high impact facts and solutions.
Did you know? Grand Forks is home to the only federally mandated obesity research center in the U.S.A.
- ▶ Historic fundraising by a grass-roots committee and the GF Park District, along with unique community partnerships result in a \$23 Million dollar, first-of-its-kind health and fitness facility.
Oh, did I mention they did it with no new taxes? Learn all about Choice Health & Fitness, scheduled to open fall 2012, during an in-depth on-site hard hat tour.

FUN AND GAMES? WITHOUT A DOUBT!

Believe it! Grand Forks does not disappoint in the area of entertainment! Our priority is to be sure you experience best possible education classes and tours with a serious flare in social networking!

Tours will include:

Ralph Engelstad Arena ◀◀

One of the most exceptional hockey facilities in the U.S. www.theralph.com

Choice Health & Fitness ◀◀

This 159 thousand sq/ft facility boasts one of the largest indoor walk/run tracks in the Midwest. www.ChoiceHF.com



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
WHAT DO YOU WANT SEE AND HEAR AT YOUR MIDWEST CONFERENCE?
Contact Brandy at bchaffee@gfparks.org