



VOLUME 16, NUMBER 1

# NARRP NEWS

APRIL 1, 2009

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## DATES TO NOTE:

NARRP Conference, April 27-May 1, Pittsburgh PA, [www.narrp.org](http://www.narrp.org)

Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference, July 9-12, Gainesville FL, [www.southeasternequestriantrails.com](http://www.southeasternequestriantrails.com)

National Scenic Byways Conference, August 23-26, Denver CO, [www.bywaysresourcecenter.org](http://www.bywaysresourcecenter.org)

## ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is with a sense of gratitude that I write my last President's Letter for NARRP. It has been a great run with great people for a great cause. But I hope not to go too far, in that I was nominated to serve as the NARRP's new VP for Development.

In looking over the last two years, the Board has taken NARRP to a new plateau. We have changed in order to prepare us for a greater role in serving the recreation resource planning profession. To mention a few:



**501c3 Status.** The change of NARRP to a tax deductible non-profit organization was significant. This new tax status opens the way to build another financial "leg" (i.e., grants, donations, gifts) that NARRP can stand on and grow from.

**Recreation Resource Planning Principles.** NARRP is professional association of recreation resource professionals. We include members from a wide array of outdoor recreation providers. As such, it is fitting that NARRP provide leadership by developing a set of planning principles to help the profession and the stakeholders who rely on us.

**Salary Study.** NARRP can help its members in many ways. We hope the recently released salary study will be useful over the years to individuals and organizations as they try to strengthen their recreation planning programs and ensure a professional and financial status for recreation resource planning.

**Inaugural National Award for SCORP Excellence.** It is impressive to think that SCORP planning will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014. In recognition of this long-term effort, NARRP and the National Park Service have come together to present an annual award. The 2009 National Award for SCORP Excellence will be

*(Continued on page 2)*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

awarded to one of four extraordinary SCORP plans finalists from Georgia, Oregon, Virginia, or Wisconsin.

**River Management Society.** The future is exciting in that the River Management Society and NARRP will team together to host the 2010 RMS/NARRP Symposium in May in Portland, Oregon. Program planning is underway so please feel free to offer your ideas.

**Bylaw Changes.** NARRP recently made a fundamental restructuring of its Board. We moved from having regional representatives on the Board and a position of past-president to having at-large seats and a second vice president to help with organizational development. This is an important change that will strengthen NARRP in the years to come.

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** Most people are not aware and do not appreciate that NARRP turned 25 years of age in 2008. That is impressive for a small organization. It reflects the passion and energy of over one hundred Board volunteers and perhaps over a thousand volunteers who have helped stage our national conferences over the years.

**Membership/Communications Manager.** For sure, the best move we made in the past two years was hiring Brenda Adams-Weyant as the association's membership/communications manager. She has done an excellent job. NARRP's progress is a credit to her professional help.

NARRP is in good shape. I would like to thank the membership of NARRP and my Board colleagues the last two years for a very special time and memory in my professional career.

Respectfully yours, *Glenn*



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## MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

**By Brenda Adams-Weyant**

**Committee Members:** Brenda Adams-Weyant (chair), Bob Reinhardt, Mary Donze, Tom Matthews, Roger Lewis, Edie Trimmer, John Baas, and Will Ballard.

The Member Services Committee is responsible for developing strategies to recruit and retain members, and recommending member services and benefits. 2008 was a busy year for the committee. The Member Services Committee worked hand-in-hand with the Website Committee to build the new website. Here are the 2008 accomplishments:

- ◆ New website with enhanced capabilities.
  - Online membership and conference registrations.
  - Robust set of planning tools and resources.
  - Book recommendations in our Marketplace.
  - Listing of Planning Consultants.
  - Online membership directory.
- ◆ Membership numbers held steady in the 180's.
- ◆ Improved the quality of our member and prospect database.
- ◆ Regular updates to the website.



**NARRP - Celebrating 25 Years Serving the Profession**

## 2008 CONFERENCE: THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

By Jim Eychaner

**Missoula, Montana.** In May of 2008, the National Association of Recreation Resource Planners (NARRP) and the Organization of Wildlife Planners (OWP) partnered with one another for the first time to put on a ground-breaking conference event which was intended to provide a forum for recreation and wildlife (including fisheries) professionals to:

- ◆ Share similar experiences...by discussing the many common goals and issues faced by both professions.
- ◆ Expand horizons...by exploring ways in which these two highly specialized professions can benefit from working more closely together with one another in the future.
- ◆ Forge new professional relationships.



Ultimately, the goal of this conference was to generate new ideas for collaborative approaches to wildlife and recreation planning, while fostering an increased sense of camaraderie among recreation and wildlife professionals.

The Missoula, Montana, location proved to be a popular choice. A resounding 77% of those submitting conference evaluations rated the location very acceptable.

Among the many sessions of interest, conference attendees rated the field sessions as most satisfactory. The trips included a visit to Milltown Dam to learn about the dam's Removal and resulting benefits to Local Area Fisheries, Wildlife and Parks; Bitterroot River Birding & Traveler's Rest State Park; and Hiking at Mount Jumbo Wildlife Management Area.

Summing up the experience of most attendees are these verbatim comments submitted on the conference evaluation form:

*I enjoyed the blending of the topics (wildlife and recreation). The commonalities of the topics allowed me the flexibility to attend sessions without feeling unconnected, while learning more about issues from other perspectives.*

*Please do joint conference again soon. My position straddles the line between both organizations and I think the joint conference was one of the main reasons I was approved to travel.*

Will NARRP and OWP team again in the future? This decision depends on the initiative of the membership. Certainly, the joint venture has value for both organizations.

As the local state host, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) contributed significant support for this conference in the form of planning assistance, program development, marketing, local logistics, professional staff, printing, teleconference calls, and providing technical and other equipment for the conference. From the very beginning to the end, the entire conference planning process was a shining example of partnership at its best.

Of the many individuals who volunteered time and talent, NARRP members Mike Lewis & Jim Eychaner and OWP member Larry Gigliotti deserve recognition for outstanding efforts.

## AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

By Edie Trimmer

**Committee Members:** Edie Trimmer (chair), Jim Eychaner, Glenn Haas, and Rick Just.

Each year NARRP recognizes and honors individuals for their outstanding accomplishments in the field of recreation and park planning, management and administration, as well as service to NARRP.

### National Recreation Resource Leadership Award

This award is the most prestigious recognition presented by NARRP. It recognizes the significant contributions of other political, scientific, educational and organizational leaders in both the public and private sectors. It is presented annually to one individual who has demonstrated leadership for, or in the field of, parks, recreation and natural resources management, and has made significant and sustained contributions in the fields of parks, recreation or natural resources management.

#### 2008 Awardee:

Bob Meinen, Idaho Parks and Recreation

### Distinguished Service Award

This award is presented annually to up to three recipients who have made significant contributions to the profession of recreation resource planning. A determining factor shall be the degree of sustained contribution and proficiency or the excellence of a single achievement or contribution. The achievement may be in the areas of policy development, administration, public affairs, resource planning and design, program, finance, research, education, or other areas in the recreation resource management profession.

#### 2008 Awardees:

Tim Bradle, Lower Colorado River Authority

Merdith "Cam" Lockwood, USDA Forest Service, Trails Unlimited



### Excellence in Planning Award

This award is presented annually to not more than four eligible recipients, including not more than two individuals and two agencies or organizations, public or private. It is awarded primarily for professional achievement in the field of parks and recreation planning contributing to the advancement of the profession or park and recreation programs. The determining factor shall be the degree of sustained proficiency or excellence of a single achievement or contribution made by the nominee. The achievement may be in the area of policy development, SCORP planning, administration, public affairs, physical planning/design, program, finance, research, education, intergovernmental relations, volunteerism or other related areas. Primary consideration shall be given to achievements furthering recreation planning.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT, CONT.

*(Continued from page 5)*



### 2008 Awardees:

Floyd Thompson, USDA Forest Service

Winter Recreation Assessment & Use Guide for the Diamond Lake Ranger District, Christina Lilienthal, USDA Forest Service

Canyon Lake Gorge Master Plan, Guadalupe Blanco River Authority, Gorge, Preservation Society, Halff Associates, Inc

Sustainable Niche Based Strategic Recreation Budget Approach, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

### By Rick Just

**Committee Members:** Rick Just (chair), Edie Trimmer, Sergio Capozzi and Brenda Adams-Weyant

In 2008 NARRP created a new, more interactive website for the membership using the Memberize service. The site includes an extensive library of resource materials for planners, a membership directory, a complete newsletter archive, organizational materials, NARRP Board minutes and much more. The web service also includes the capability of hosting online conference registration, which we will use for the 2009 conference.

Once the website was up and running well, the website committee was incorporated into the communications committee.

The NARRP Communications Committee recommended to the Board that the organization adopt an all-electronic newsletter format. The committee also recommended that those electronic communications would go out on an as-needed basis to better inform the membership and give them more current news. Under the proposal, one newsletter each year would become an annual report to the membership, which would include an updated membership directory. The Board approved that recommendation.

The committee also reviewed the reminder notices that go out when a membership expires. To avoid nagging, the committee decided three reminders were enough. The final reminder now includes a short question regarding why people are letting their membership expire.

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

By Sergio Capozzi

**Committees Members:** Sergio Capozzi (chair) Mary Donze, Steve Holland and Tom Matthews

NARRP believes that promoting and fostering recreation and natural resource planning education is tantamount to helping develop the recreation planners of the future. As such, NARRP helps cultivate tomorrow's leaders with scholarship programs that encourage and support appropriate educational opportunities and allow recipients to cultivate relationships with today's leaders.

The NARRP student scholarship program is funded through proceeds raised during the conference auction. Conference auction items are generously donated by NARRP members and bid on by conference attendees.



Summary of 2008 Accomplishments:

- ◆ Awarded 2 student conference scholarships for the 2008 Planners' Rendezvous in Missoula, MT.
  - Christine Paulu, University of Montana
  - Darin Radatz, Michigan State University.
- ◆ Successfully raised \$3,429 in new scholarship funds via the silent and live auctions at the 2008 Planners' Rendezvous.
- ◆ Began development of a new student research scholarship (to be initiated in 2009).



## AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

By Jeff Prey

**Committee Members:** Glenn Haas (chair), Jeff Prey and Rick Just

The Audit Committee conducted the audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. In our opinion, the Association end FY 07-08 with a cash reserve of \$63,645.21 and no liabilities. This was 19% increase in cash reserves from the previous fiscal year. This cash reserve increase was due to a net profit from the 2008 conference and fundraising campaigns.

## 2009 CONFERENCE PROGRAM - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

### Program at a Glance

#### Monday, April 27, 2009 - Optional

##### 9:00am – 4:30pm Optional pre-conference Field Trips

- 1) Visit the homes of Frank Lloyd Wright: Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob.
- 2) Learn about the management and experience whitewater rafting on the famous Youghiogheny River.
- 3) Experience the rivers and streams of SW Pennsylvania through guided fly fishing.

##### 5:00 – 7:00pm Conference Opening Evening Reception

#### Tuesday, April 28, 2009 – First Full Day

**8:00am Opening Comments:** Conference Co-chairs Heather Bennett and Matt Beaver, PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources and Mayor of Pittsburgh (invited)

**8:30am Keynote Speaker:** Secretary Michael DiBerardinis, PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources

##### 9:30 General Session: Future Trends and Needs in Recreation Resource Planning

Bob Ratcliffe, BLM Director of Recreation and Visitor Services  
 John Norbeck, Director of Pennsylvania State Parks  
 Glenn Haas, President, National Association of Recreation Resource Planners

##### 10:45 Networking Session

##### 11:30am Awards Luncheon and 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Board Reunion

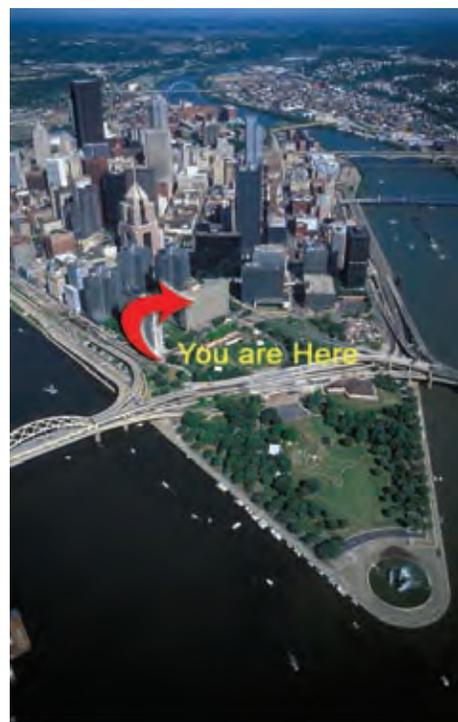
##### 1:15 – 2:45pm Concurrent Sessions A

SCORP Updates, Best Practices and Lessons Learned  
 Pat Gillespie, NPS  
 The Great Allegheny Passage  
 Linda McKenna Boxx, President, Allegheny Trail Alliance  
 Cathy McCollom, Regional Director of Trail Town Program, The Progress Fund

##### 3:00 – 4:30pm Concurrent Sessions B

State Trails Planning  
 Brenda Barrett, Director, PA Bureau of Recreation and Conservation  
 Steve Elkington, NPS Program Lead, National Trails System  
 Branding the Outdoor Recreation Community  
 Ginette Walker Vinski, Communications Manager, Sustainable Pittsburgh  
 River Corridor Planning in Pennsylvania  
 Brenda Adams-Weyant, Senior Recreation Planner, Fermata Inc.  
 Meredith Hill, PA Wilds Director, PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources

##### 5:00pm Cracker Barrel Reception and Poster Sessions



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## 2009 CONFERENCE PROGRAM, CONTINUED

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### Wednesday, April 29, 2009

**8:30am – 4:30pm All-conference Field Workshop:** The Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Initiative and the Trail Towns of the Great Allegheny Passage.

**6:00pm Conference Banquet and Live Auction at Heinz Hall**

### Thursday, April 30, 2009

**7:00 – 8:30am NARRP Member Business Meeting and Breakfast**

**9:00 – 11:30am Half-day Workshops**

1) The Next 50 Years of LWCF and SCORP: A 2 1/2 hour facilitated session to discuss and recommend a path to strengthen the LWCF Act and SCORP Planning in the US. Hosted By: Pat Gillespie, NPS

---- OR ----

2) Local Field Workshops (pick one)

Point State Park Management – Hosted By: Frances Stein, Regional CLI Coordinator,  
PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources

Sustainable City Tour – Hosted By: Ginette Walker Vinski, Communication Director, Sustainable Pittsburgh  
Reconnecting to the Three Rivers through Recreation – Hosted By: Venture Outdoors Programming Staff

**1:00 – 2:30pm Concurrent Sessions C**

Regional REC THINK

Tom Christensen, USFS Enterprise Technical Services

Regional Recreation Economics

Scott Jackson, USACE Vicksburg Experiment Station

Kathleen Perales, USACE Vicksburg Experiment Station

Wen-Huei Chang, USACE Vicksburg Experiment Station

Leveraging Outside Talent: Using Consultants in Recreation Resource Planning

John Baas, Senior Environmental Planner, MBA

**2:45 – 4:15pm Concurrent Sessions D**

Making the Park Master Planning Process More Efficient

Bob Reinhardt, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

Scenic Byway Planning

David L. Dahlquist, President, Dahlquist L. Dahlquist Associates

Measuring Recreation Use

Dr. Alan Graefe, Pennsylvania State University

Dr. Robert Burns, West Virginia University

**4:30 – 5:00pm Conference Synthesis Presentation,** Hosted By: Rick Potts, Chief of NPS Conservation and Outdoor Recreation and Marcella Wells, President, Wells Resources Inc.

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## 2009 CONFERENCE PROGRAM, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 9)

### Logistics

#### Registration Fees:

- Before March 20: \$325/Members, \$425/Non-members
- After March 20: \$425/Members, \$525/Non-members
- Student, full conference: \$150
- One-Day Registration: \$175/day
- Register at [www.narrp.org](http://www.narrp.org)

#### Venue:

- [Hilton Gateway Center](#), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Room cost: \$108 for single or double (plus 14% tax) (guaranteed until 3/27/09)
- Use Group/Convention Code: RRP
- Call (412) 391-4600 for reservations
- Online reservations: <http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/PITPHHF-RRP-20090423/index.jhtml>
- Hotel Parking: \$21.25/day



#### Transportation:

- Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT) is served by 13 air carriers
- City Bus Route 28X picks up at the airport and drops off at Gateway Center, across from the Hilton. One way fare is \$2.60. Exact change required. [Download a bus schedule.](#)
- [Shuttle from Airport to Hotel](#): \$35/round trip

#### Meals Provided:

- Tuesday: Breakfast, Lunch
- Wednesday: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Thursday: Breakfast

#### Trying to Save a Few Bucks?

- Become a member for \$70 and save on your registration fee.
- Take the shuttle or bus from the airport to avoid paying high parking fees.
- Are you driving to conference? Want to share a ride? Willing to share your hotel room? Email [Brenda@narrp.org](mailto:Brenda@narrp.org) with your travel dates and starting point, and we'll see if we can hook you up with another attendee.

## 2010 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Jim Eychaner

What do Mount Saint Helens, Mount Hood, the Columbia River, abundant micro brews, heady coffee, recreation resource planning, and river management have in common? Some would argue: the potential for an extraordinary conference setting and partnership.

A team from your Board has been working with officers of the River Management Society over the past several months to negotiate a joint venture in Portland, Oregon for 2010. Modeled on our successes with past partners including Organization of Wildlife Planners and the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers, the joint venture with the River Management Society has all the elements of likely success.

While tracks, topics, and field opportunities are to be determined, we know the conference will start May 18, 2010, in Portland. We are negotiating with a well-known hotel chain whose property sits on the banks of the Columbia.

So, make note the date in your calendar, and another note to say “Yes” when we ask you to volunteer.



## WHAT DOES THE NEXT YEAR HOLD FOR NARRP?

### By Rick Just, Vice President

Under the leadership of Glenn Haas, NARRP has made huge strides the last couple of years in becoming a more professional organization. I will leave enumeration of those achievements—which are many—to Glenn in his president's report. I would like to take this opportunity to look down the road a bit past the conclusion of Glenn's term in April.

NARRP is as solid as it has ever been in terms of economic stability, its experienced board, its bylaws and professional management structure. In these difficult economic times the membership will be able to count on that stability in their professional lives, even as budgetary issues may bring less certainty for them at work. NARRP will continue to serve as an important network between planners as we look to learn from each other about how we can go forward with sometimes reduced resources. With everyone's help, the organization will be an important source of information on new professional opportunities in the areas of education and employment.

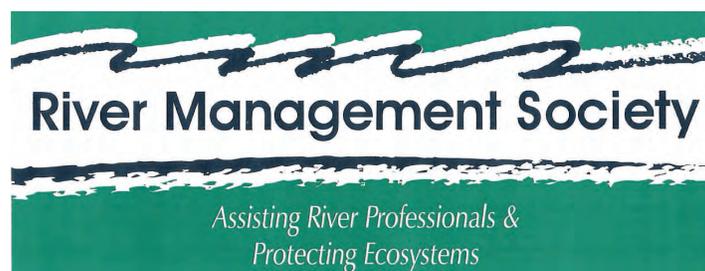
In the coming months we will seek closer ties with organizations such as the River Management Society and the National Association of State Park Directors that share our areas of interest. During this time of turmoil on the federal level, it will be imperative to strengthen our ties with federal agencies, giving planners there our support and also seeking to capitalize on opportunities that may arise from the federal stimulus program and a possible reinvigoration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. No matter what the outcome of LWCF funding, NARRP will remember its roots by continuing to work with the National Park Service on improving the process and products of Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans.

The membership is likely to see some new features on the website, which under its current configuration is just over a year old. NARRP will also strive to remain responsive to member needs in this area, so I encourage you to make suggestions about content.

This coming year should see the completion of the planning text project spearheaded by John Bass and the institutionalization of the professional planning principles now under development.

We're very much looking forward to the 2010 joint symposium in Portland, Oregon with the River Management Society. Interacting with the larger organization at a great venue will provide membership with a wider variety of opportunities for training and field trips than usual.

After a couple of years where we have experienced major changes in organizational structure and bylaws, and undertaken many new projects, I look forward to a time when we can devote most of our energies to day-to-day management and completion of existing projects.





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