

Delaware Recreation & Parks Society



Fall 2010

Newsletter

DELAWARE
RECREATION &
PARKS
SOCIETY

**General Membership Meeting
November 10
Rose Cottage in Dover**

Committee Notes

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 14, 2010

Checking Account Balance \$19,205.29

Regular Money Market (DRPS Savings) \$ 8,247.91
as of Sept 18, 2010

Delaware Community Foundation Trust Fund
(Including Hopkins Fellowship and Adams \$36,501.12
Scholarship) as of June 30, 2010

Fund DE418 \$12,063.61

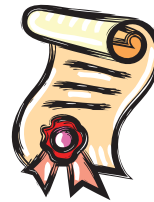
Adams Scholarship \$11,562.70

Hopkins Fellowship \$12,874.81

Submitted by: Tyler DeBruin, Treasurer

Nominations

Nominations for the 2011 Executive Board should be submitted to Missie Jones, no later than January 7, 2011. Missie can be reached at Michaelina.Jones@state.de.us or (302) 761-6963.



Awards

The Awards Committee is accepting applications for 2010 awards and 2011 scholarships.

Please consider nominating a person or organization that has significantly contributed to Parks & Recreation in Delaware in 2010. The awards package will be emailed in the coming weeks. Please return all nominations to James Wagner by January 21, 2011.



Membership

Please remember to complete your DRPS membership application and return it with payment for the annual conference. If you are not planning to attend the conference and need membership information, please contact Scott Coulbourn at the Seaford Parks and Recreation office.

Mark Your Calendars

The DRPS

Annual Conference

is scheduled for

March 2 & 3 2011

At the Atlantic Sands

In Rehoboth Beach.

**Look for your registration
packet coming soon.**





Presidents Message Fall 2010 Newsletter



The fall has finally arrived. For some of us it means taking a much needed break from a busy summer season. For others the craziness' continues. Some of us may be busy planning for Spooky and Fun Halloween programs others are prepping for a full slate outdoor activities. Just last week I reviewed and approved winter programs. It does not matter what time of the year it us Park and Recreation Professionals are always busy. To say the least our job is not boring. Maybe that is why we do what we do.

It seems like yesterday I was sworn in as President elect. Not to mention President. While I admit I may not have accomplished everything I have wanted to do as President I have been working on a couple of items. The key item being a new revamped website. I hope to unveil the site in early 2011. Ideally the site will be up and running so folks can easily register for the 2011 Conference.

The DRPS board is busy planning for the 2011 Conference. The dates are March 2nd and 3rd at the Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center. I still remember the inspiring keynote address by Ian Hill at the 2010 Conference. It is going to be hard to top Ian's keynote address, but it looks like it may happen. Conference chairman and President elect Lee Murdoch has lined up two great keynote speakers. The March 2cd speaker is Michael Brandwein. Mr. Brandwein is an internationally recognized on teaching and leading young people. He has made presentations in all 50 states, most provinces of Canada and 6 of the 7 continents. The March 3rd speaker is Mickey Fearn Deputy Director of the National Park Service. Mr. Fearn's specialty is to help or assist groups to create a workplace that allow employees to excel as a team as they work towards the mission of the organization. In addition to the keynote addresses there will be concurrent sessions on topics that will interest everyone. If you are interested in being part of the planning committee please contact Lee Murdoch lmurdoch@bsaemail.org. Rumor has it that the committee is planning a great social on the 2nd.

In just a few weeks I will be jetting off to Minneapolis Minnesota to attend the annual National Parks and Recreation Conference. I look forward to not only representing the Delaware Recreation and Parks Association but also meeting other Park and Recreation Professionals from around the country. I hope to bring back information that I can share with you. In closing I would just like to say thanks each of you for what you do in the Park's Profession. I know that it is not easy. Keep your head up and smile.

Pat Cooper
President
Delaware Recreation and Parks Association

DRP\$ Conference – 2011
SAVE THE DATES – March 2nd and 3rd, 2011!



The annual conference is this March at the Atlantic Sands Hotel in Rehoboth Beach! There will be five main groups of sessions offered both days – Management, Maintenance, Program, Personal and General. The areas of focus are being designed to offer something for everyone whether it is your first or fifteenth visit to the conference. Session topics are still being developed and any particular sessions that you would like to see added to the conference please email Lee Murdoch at lmurdoch@dmvc.org

Aside from the sessions you can't take don't forget that there will be a multitude of Vendors displaying new products and old favorites at the Vendor Fair as well as the opportunity to socialize with old friends and make new ones.

The conference will be highlighted with the Annual Awards Presentation luncheon on the 2nd and it will include two key note addresses; on Wednesday the address will be from Michael Brandwein. The second day of the conference, Thursday, will include an address from Mickey Fearn. Please plan to invest some of your time in attending your Annual Conference this March!

"MICHAEL BRANDWEIN is an internationally recognized expert on teaching and leading young people. Michael has made presentations in all 50 of the states, most provinces of Canada, and on 6 of the 7 continents. He is the author of three best-selling books on the training and supervision of youth leaders, called Training Terrific Staff, Super Staff SuperVision, and Learning Leadership. He wrote and presented three Emmy® award-winning public television programs about communicating with young people which have been broadcast on PBS stations throughout the U.S. Michael is best known for his highly practical, "use-it-immediately" approach and entertaining and engaging teaching methods. He is a frequent staff development speaker for schools, camps, recreation programs, child care centers and community service organizations and is a keynoter for many national, state, and international professional associations that serve young people, educators, and families.

He has worked with young people for over 25 years in a wide variety of settings as a front-line staff person, supervisor, and director. He has served on the national board of directors and executive committee of the American Camp Association. He has been a training consultant for the National PTA's national program to increase parent involvement and build better partnerships between parents and schools.

Michael has a summa cum laude degree in Speech Communication from the University of Illinois, where he graduated as a Bronze Tablet Scholar, the highest academic recognition awarded by the University. His Juris Doctor degree is from the University of Chicago. Michael is based in the Chicago area in Lincolnshire, Illinois, where he lives with his wife Donna, a certified sign language interpreter, and their two children.

Michael's presentation skills are enhanced from his creative background, which includes graduating from the famed Second City improvisational theater school in Chicago. He wrote and performed for two years on an Emmy® award-winning weekly educational television program for children on CBS in Chicago. He has been a professional magician for over 25 years and wrote and performed in a live presentation with Jim Henson's Muppets for HBO and the American Library Association to encourage young people to read.

Successful Meetings magazine searched nationwide and selected Michael as one of two "unique, exceptional speakers who provide real entertainment value with important messages that listeners can apply to their jobs immediately." Corporate Meetings & Incentives magazine identified Michael in as one of 15 "sure-thing speakers."

"Mickey Fearn comes to the NPS from Seattle, Washington, where he created and directed a summer youth program for Seattle Parks and Recreation aimed at connecting urban youths to the natural world while promoting personal responsibility and healthy lifestyles.

In Seattle, Mickey held positions as the manager of the City of Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative, director of the City's Innovation Project and director of Seattle's Neighborhood Leadership Program. Mickey also served as a Washington State Parks and Recreation commissioner for 12 years. Prior to his work in Seattle, Mickey Fearn worked for the governor of California, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the mayor of Oakland California

One of Mickey's greatest strengths is the ability to create a workplace that allows employees to excel as a team as they work towards the mission of the organization.

As the NPS strives to create the next generation of park stewards, Mickey will be well-positioned to lead these efforts based on his experience working across all levels of government to develop and implement new initiatives and programs.

"Many of innovative approaches and programs I have developed and managed on the local level can be expanded to a national audience, especially outreach efforts to underserved populations in urban areas" says Fearn. "Traditionally, these communities haven't always felt that the stories of national parks were their stories. I want to connect all Americans to these special places."

Mickey earned his bachelor of arts degree in recreation and park administration at California State University and his masters of science degree in recreation and leisure studies from the University of Oregon."



Take a Kid to the Autumn Woods!



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Autumn is a glorious season! Think about those really special times you've spent in the woods at this time of year: cool days; crisp nights; wonderful colors; enticing smells; falling leaves. No bugs! Autumn has so much to offer.

Recall your autumns past. Likely you go back to sometime in your youth, when someone took you into the woods or fields. Perhaps that person took you by the hand or carried you into the outdoors and you reveled in the season and the time you spent together. You might associate autumn with the "skretch - skretch" of a rake making piles of leaves to cushion your tumbles. You might recall the cool evenings when a sweater was just the ticket to keep you warm, but you felt the chill on your face as you looked up into a clear sky, full of twinkling stars. There is nothing like walking in woods under a dazzling blue sky, leaves slowly floating like colored snowflakes on a chilled wind, smelling the mold of leaves on the forest floor.

Research repeatedly has shown that we make memories and build affinity to the outdoors through our association with other people who enable the experience. Who took you to the woods? Was it a parent, grandparent, neighbor, or family friend?



The health of our children is frequent fodder in current headlines, news reports, magazines, and books. Research is demonstrating strong links between childhood mental and physical health and time spent in the outdoors connecting with nature. Today's youth spend countless hours engaged in virtual worlds or communicating with "friends" through social media. Where will this leave them in regard to their appreciation and understanding of the outdoors?



There's still time to make a difference, and much cause for hope. You don't have to travel far in Pennsylvania to experience autumn. City parks and streets, local to where you live, can provide an invigorating experience. Or, if you are lucky, there are nearby forested parks or private woodlands you can visit and enjoy. Rather than bemoan the passing of summer, go out and enjoy the changing seasons, and take a young family member or friend with you and introduce them to the outdoors. As you walk, pick up fallen leaves and fruits, see their colors and shapes. Look for autumn flowers; they often come in purples, whites, and yellows.

It's more than likely the child you take along will welcome the chance to explore a real world, one that stimulates all the senses: autumn's chilling air, wonderful smells, bright colors, tactile objects, and unpredictable sounds. Ask and encourage them to experience the outdoors with you.

You can be the catalyst to initiate a time of discovery and memory building and become a partner in discovering an autumn day or night this year. Don't miss your opportunity.



Written by Jim Finley and Sandy Smith

Email: fj4@psu.edu, sss5@psu.edu Phone: 814-863-0401



Fall Camping in Delaware State Parks

Camp in a Delaware State Park any weekday between September 19 and November 19, and receive a 50% discount on your stay! Or stay with us on select weekends in November, and get a 25% discount! Offer is good at [Cape Henlopen](#), [Delaware Seashore](#), [Killens Pond](#), [Lums Pond](#) or [Trap Pond](#) State Parks and for the [Cottages at the Indian River Marina](#). For the weekday promotion, use promotion code **1050fallcamp**

For the November weekend discount, use promotion code **1050novcamp***

Make your reservation online today, or call our reservation call center at 1-877-987-2757



National News & Information



AMERICA'S BACKYARD

About America's Backyard – Make it yours.

Imagine a nation without parks and recreation.

Parks and recreation are invaluable to American communities, providing the opportunities, places and spaces for people to connect, be active, and get healthy. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) launched the America's Backyard initiative in 2010, to empower citizens to support and protect the nation's parks and recreation areas, and draw attention to the powerful role that parks and recreation play in the lives of every individual.

By supporting America's Backyard, you will be supporting important work in parks and recreation related to national advocacy, education, health, youth programming, and community revitalization.

How are public parks and recreation supported in the U.S.?

Many people believe that taxes alone support parks, but they are only part of the picture. The truth is: thriving parks greatly depend on the advocacy work, partnerships and resources made possible by individuals, local businesses, and organizations in communities.

In many states, as the country has recently struggled to rebalance its economy, parks have experienced cuts and closures in amounts unmatched since the 1920s. Yet, parks are also reporting record visitation rates.

Did you know?

- It is estimated that there are 105,000 state and local parks in the U.S.
- State and local parks receive annual visits in the billions.
- Public parks and recreation provides jobs for roughly 160,000 people, and connect thousands of others through volunteerism and training.
- America's state park system contributes \$20 billion to local economies, annually.

Parks and recreation make it possible for children and adults to get healthy and connect to the outdoors. They conserve natural resources and preserve wildlife and plant habitats. They support local economies, create jobs, and raise property values. They provide safe and constructive activities for youth, and decrease crime in the process.



Parks and recreation take many forms. They are your greenspace, your hiking and biking trail, your ball field, your natural area, your garden, your swimming pool, your fishing pond, your campsite, your beach at sunset, your playground, your dance class, your concert, your festival, your favorite statue, your connection to the past...

your health...
your happiness...
your children...
your future.



America's Backyard is a program of the National Recreation and Park Association.

This article was taken from the NRPA America's Backyard Facebook page. America's Backyard is a 2010 NRPA initiative.

AMERICA'S BACKYARD PHOTO CONTEST ON FACEBOOK

Photo Contest Rules

- Anyone may enter the contest.
- Images must be posted by Nov. 1, 2010.
- You may submit as many entries as you like, but we will limit each contestant to one winning entry.
- We encourage you to include people in your photos. However, please obtain permission from individuals prior to submission.
- The photo must not include brand names or trade marks.
- The photo must not contain material that infringes another's rights, including but not limited to privacy, publicity, or intellectual property.
- The photo must not contain material that is inappropriate or promotes bigotry, racism, hatred, or harm against any group or individual, or promotes discrimination based on race, sex, religion, nationality, disability, sexual orientation, or age.
- No compensation will be offered to winning photographers or for images used.

Winning entries will be used in the 2011 NRPA calendar. We will contact you via Facebook if you are a winner. All winners will be asked to submit a high-resolution copy of their photograph.

Eligibility: Professional and amateur works accepted.

Copyright: In turn, by submitting your entry, you grant NRPA full rights to use the photo in whatever ways the association chooses in relation to promotions, programs, and events, now and in the future.

Deadline to upload photos: Nov. 1, 2010



Park & Trail Development

James F. Hall Trail recognized as newest National Recreation Trail in Delaware

Newark, DE (May 19, 2010) – In honor of the 18th annual National Trails Day and the 42nd anniversary of the National Trails System, Department of Interior Secretary Salazar has announced the designation of 31 trails in 15 states as National Recreation Trails (NRTs).

The James F. Hall Trail in downtown Newark was recognized as the only National Recreation Trail designated this year in Delaware. The trail is the third NRT in Delaware, joining the 0.8-mile historic Hagley Museum Trail and 1.2-mile Pinelands Nature Trail in Cape Henlopen State Park. The addition of the newly designated NRTs increases the National Trails System by 722 miles.

"From coast to coast, the National Trails System helps connect American families with the wonders of the outdoors," said Secretary Salazar. "These new National Recreation Trails, built through partnerships with local communities and stakeholders, will create new opportunities for fitness and stewardship, while creating a lasting legacy for our children and grandchildren."

The designation as a National Recreation Trail will be recognized at a ceremony on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 5th at 2:30 p.m. at Kells Park, Kells Avenue. The event will be the kick-off for this year's Newark Nite Festival in downtown Newark.

Invited speakers include Newark Mayor Vance Funk; Julie Bell, of the National Park Service's Northeast Region Rivers and Trails Program; and Chuck Barszcz, of the National Park Service's Northeast Region National Wild & Scenic Rivers Program.

The James F. Hall Trail is named for the late and long-time Newark Parks and Recreation Director. The trail is 1.76 miles long and runs east to west across the City of Newark in New Castle County. For its short length, the trail is jam-packed with a variety of distinctive features and is itself a popular downtown destination. Open for public use since 2003, the trail accesses three City parks which feature several active recreation facilities. It passes through a pristine wetland area and the Old Newark

Train Station, which is home to the Newark Historical Society. The trail features footbridge crossings of two streams that are tributaries of the White Clay Creek, designated a National Wild & Scenic River.



The trail provides safe and easy access to the outdoors for more than 28,000 residents of Newark and the surrounding suburbs, 20,000 students of the University of Delaware—with access to student housing units and a child care facility—the Delaware Technology Park with 40+ tenants, and the College Square Shopping Center. The trail is hard surfaced for multi-use and ADA accessible, lighted for 24-hour use, and allows for intermodal access to Amtrak and SEPTA rail service.

Thanks are due to the many partners that helped make the trail a reality. The City of Newark partnered with the Newark Bike Committee, University of Delaware, Amtrak, and Delaware's Department of Transportation and Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to make the project happen. The Newark Bike Committee was an early driving force, developing the trail concept in 1996. \$1.95 million in funding was provided by the City of Newark, Federal Highway Administration TEA-21 Program, Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund, and Delaware Department of Transportation.

This section of trail designated as a National Recreation Trail will become part of a larger 2-mile trail system that includes the Pomeroy and Newark Rail-Trail, currently under development for walking and biking. The trail will extend north into White Clay Creek State Park and link to trails on Pennsylvania public lands.

For more information, please contact Charles Emerson, City of Newark Parks and Recreation Director at (302) 366-7060 or e-mail cemerson@newark.de.us or go to www.cityofnewarkde.us/parksrecreation and click on "Parks and Trails".

National Recreation Trails are components of the National Trails System and recognize existing trails that connect people to important natural, recreational and cultural places and improve their quality of life. The program is jointly administered by the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program and the U.S. Forest Service in partnership with other federal and nonprofit partners, notably American Trails. Each of the trails added to the system will receive a certificate of designation and trail markers. They become part of a national network of more than 1,050 trails encompassing more than 12,500 miles.



Playground Safety

By Mary Betts, MA, CPSI

Delaware will once again be hosting an NRPA National Playground Safety Institute. We have been offering it every 3 years for almost 20 years. The first two courses were held at Cape Henlopen State Park back in the '90's. Since that time they have been held in Milford. The next class is scheduled for March 15, 16 & 17 2011. The first two days are from 8am-5pm and the certification test will be on Thursday morning from 9am-11am. The class will be held at Milford Parks and Recreation Department. There is a minimum requirement of 40 registrants. The deadline for registration is February 11, 2011. If we have enough people registered, you will then be sent your text books. The fee is \$380, food expenses are \$20 and the test is \$100.

The registration forms are being updated and will be mailed at the beginning of November. I will also be sending you hotel/motel information. Please start spreading the word with your colleagues !



CAN-DO Playground

By Mary Betts, MA, CPSI

The Milford Rotary has been approached by CAN-DO Playgrounds and they have agreed to begin a campaign to bring a Can-Do Playground to the Southern Area of Delaware. The first and only Can-Do structure is located at the Blue Ball Barn on DNREC property in New Castle County. According to Can-DO, Inc. this structure has become a big hit and constantly draws visitors from Pennsylvania, Maryland & New Jersey.

There is property set aside for this playground in Milford. However, there is now talk of re-vamping our newest playground near the Boys & Girls Club and adding on to it with the Can-Do Playground which would make the new addition 100% accessible for all patrons.

Playground Spotlight



MILFORD's Playground updates

By Mary Betts, MA, CPSI

Tony Silicato Memorial Park

Milford opening their newest park & playground in the spring of 2010. It is located on land behind the new Boys & Girls Club Facility off of Airpark Road. We have a ½ mile asphalt walking trail and 7 multi-use athletic fields as well as a school-age Game Time play structure. Phase two of this playground will be bid out this spring. It will include a pre-school aged play structure.

Newark Safety Town Celebrates 30 Years of Keeping Kids Safe

Newark, DE (August 31, 2010) – The City of Newark Parks and Recreation Department annual Safety Town program celebrated its thirtieth year this August. The thirty hour program, which began in 1980, teaches 4-6 year olds about safety when encountering strangers, railroads, poisons as well as fire safety, pedestrian safety, water safety and about 9-1-1.

Seventy three children participated in this year's program and were treated to interactive presentations about dangers that surround them and personal safety. The program included presentations by the Newark Police Department, Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder (Aetna H.H.L.), Prevent Child Abuse Delaware, DOW, DelawareSafe Kids Coalition, AAA Mid-Atlantic, Lums Pond State Park, Dart First State and the Emergency Room Nurses Association.

Newark's Police Department provided a police officer to assist the recreation staff and thirty-three volunteers to administer the program. A visit to the Newark Police Station and Aetna H.H.L. Fire Station allowed children to see firsthand how large emergency management groups come together to help the community every day. For many children, these trips were their first experience riding a school bus.

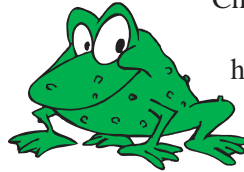
Personnel from area police and emergency response teams participated in the program's annual Vehicle Day. Children were able to get an up close look at an ambulance, fire truck, State Police Helicopter, New Castle County Mounted Patrol as well as Newark police cars, motorcycles, bicycles, and the animal control vehicle.

Several local businesses and organizations helped by sponsoring the program as well as providing expert presenters and items needed for the program. Major sponsors include, Dow, DuPont, and McDonald's (DuKart Management).

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Children at Safety Town enjoyed an up close look at a State Police helicopter during Newark's 2010 Safety Town program.



Newsletter Notes

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles for this edition of the DRPS Newsletter. Your input is wonderful and this is a great opportunity for others in the field of Parks & Recreation to see what is happening in your department or area of expertise.

Look for exciting new changes coming soon to the DRPS Newsletter. Special sections that will be included are:

- What's Hot
- Committee Notes
- Park & Trail Development
- Upcoming Training Opportunities
- Farewell, Welcome, & Congratulations
- Grant & Funding Opportunities
- Playground Spotlight
- Volunteers

If you have ideas for articles or would like to submit information for future editions, please send them to sbruen@newark.de.us

Feel free to send digital images along with your submissions.

This could include photos, maps, logos, or graphics. The next edition of the Newsletter will be published in January, so please submit your information by January 14, 2011.

Thank You !
Sharon Bruen
Sbruen@newark.de.us
(302) 366-7060

