

THE Review

A publication of West Virginia Recreation and Parks Association

Fall 2016



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West Virginia Recreation and Parks Association

Volume 8 • Issue 2

164 West Main Street
Bridgeport, WV 26330
www.wvrpa.org

WVRPA Is:

Actively concerned with recreation, parks, therapeutic recreation, conservation and environmental education, programs and issues.

A blend of professional volunteers, lay citizens, educators and students who are aware of the mental, physical, social and economic values of parks and recreation.

A nonprofit, educational leisure service organization.

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Joe Shuttleworth

It Must Be Summer

Feeling beat down and battered? Well, it must be summer time in the parks and recreation field!

You have my condolences as I am right there with you. It is no doubt this time of year can take a toll on our staff and ourselves. I always try to keep in perspective the number of smiles and memories our citizens create through our hard work. The sense of community created through parks and recreation facilities and programs is difficult to match. The bright side is that by the time you see this, we should be wrapping up the crazy season!

Please mark your calendars for the Annual Conference being held at Stonewall Resort on November 2-4, 2016. Recharge your batteries, relax and enjoy the company of others who have the same stresses and struggles. Registration information is included in this issue, so please register early (you know what it is like in recreation programming when everyone waits until the last minute to register!).

To those in southern West Virginia affected by the devastating floods this summer, our hearts go out to you. It has been amazing to see the outpouring of support from around our state and nation to help these folks rebuild. I hope that dedication perseveres as long as help is needed. If anyone knows of any parks that were destroyed and are in need of assistance in rebuilding, please contact me. I'm sure the WVRPA would show the same support.

See you in November!

Joe Shuttleworth
President



44th Annual West Virginia Recreation & Park Association Conference

Individual Application

The **44th Annual WVRPA Conference** will be held at **Stonewall Resort and State Park** on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, November 2, 3 and 4, 2016.

This year's theme, **Parks and Your Environment**, will focus on various environmental trends, programming, architecture, recreational development, products and services, and how these trends may benefit your recreation and park department.

To register online, go to wvrp.org.

Name (one name per form): _____ Title: _____

Agency/Organization: _____ Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell: _____ Email: _____

#1 – Professional Three-Day Package: \$125 (educational sessions and activities)

Check activities you will be attending:

- Tuesday Evening Social
- Thursday Exhibitor Luncheon
- Thursday Exhibitor Dinner
- Thursday Evening Fundraiser and Social
- Friday Awards Luncheon

#2 – Student and New Member Three-Day Package: \$50

(educational sessions and activities)

Check activities you will be attending:

- Tuesday Evening Social
- Thursday Exhibitor Luncheon
- Thursday Exhibitor Dinner
- Thursday Evening Fundraiser and Social
- Friday Awards Luncheon

#3 – Daily Registration Individual Day Package

(educational sessions and activities)

**Wednesday, November 2: \$75
or Friday, November 4: \$50**

Check activities you will be attending:

- Tuesday Evening Social
- Thursday Exhibitor Luncheon
- Thursday Exhibitor Dinner
- Thursday Evening Fundraiser and Social
- Friday Awards Luncheon

Membership and Extras *Check and add up appropriate items below:*

(A) Annual Memberships

- \$10 – Student Membership
- \$35 – Professional Membership
- \$50 – Board/Commission Membership (include member list)
- \$250 – Agency Membership (include members list)

(B) Workshops and Extras

- \$75 – Golf Tournament and Lunch
- \$75 – Segway Tour and Lunch
- \$25 – Extra Exhibitor Luncheon
- \$30 – Extra Exhibitor Dinner
- \$30 – Extra Awards Banquet

Total Payment

Conference Package (#1, #2 or #3) + Membership (A) + Workshop/Extras (B) = \$ _____

For \$50 discount on lodging, contact Stonewall Resort directly at (304) 269-7400, and let the resort know you are with WVRPA

Make checks payable to: WVRPA

Mail checks to:

Don Burton
164 W. Main St.
Bridgeport, WV 26330

Golf Tournament

John Cooper
(304) 624-1655
jcooper@cityofclarksburgwv.com

Questions and Segway Tour

Bruce Miller
(304) 669-3181
wvrpaorg@gmail.com

Lodging

(Ask for WVRPA rate)
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and State Park
940 Resort Dr.
Roanoke, WV 26447
(304) 269-7400

Exhibitor Application

Business Name (attach business cards in lieu of writing) _____

Business Address _____

Exhibitor Name _____ Exhibitor Name _____

Phone _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Email _____

Special Booth Request (i.e. electric, corner, etc): _____

CONFERENCE & SPONSOR OPTIONS

Conference Promotion = \$50 For business/website members unable to attend this year's conference. Your business's product and services (e.g. catalogs, CDs) displayed and promoted in Exhibitor Hall.	\$ _____
Conference Plus = \$275 *savings of \$25 Mountaineer Business/Website Membership (\$100), exhibitor booth space (\$200), product and service promotional opportunities and more!	\$ _____
Conference Premier = \$350 *savings of \$25 Wild 'n Wonderful Business/Website Membership (\$175), exhibitor booth space (\$200), product and service promotional opportunities and more!	\$ _____
Booth Extra = \$50 person Booth space is based on two attendees. Fee is to offset exhibitor lunch and dinner.	\$ _____
Activity Sponsor = \$100 Segway Tour <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Social <input type="checkbox"/> Snack and Registration Table <input type="checkbox"/> Giant Pizza Duffel Bag and Fun Fundraiser <input type="checkbox"/> Banquet and Awards Prize Drawings	\$ _____
Golf Outing = \$75 (includes lunch, prizes and more!)	\$ _____
Student Association Donation = \$25 Your support for our student associations will be recognized during the conference and in other WVRPA media promotions.	\$ _____
Send Payment and Registration Don Burton – WVRPA Treasurer, 164 W. Main Street, Bridgeport, WV 26330 Make checks payable to: WVRPA	TOTAL \$ _____

EXHIBITOR SCHEDULE

Setup

Wednesday, November 2, 8-9:30 p.m.
 Thursday, November 3, 8-11:00 a.m.

Open and Luncheon

Thursday, November 3, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Teardown

Thursday, November 3, after dinner

Open and Dinner

Thursday, November 3, 6-8 p.m.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions, Comments and Segway Tour

Bruce Miller
 (304) 669-3181
 wvrpaorg@gmail.com

Golf Tournament

John Cooper
 304-624-1655
 jcooper@cityofclarksburgwv.com

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940 Resort Drive
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(Save \$50 on lodging – ask for WVRPA rate.)

wvrpa.org

Bridgeport Takes a Huge Step on the Recreation Front

by Joe Shuttleworth

On Monday July 11, 2016, a presentation was made to Bridgeport City Council that will surely change the face of recreation in the city of Bridgeport and the region. Warren Bulseco of WTW Architects, a Pittsburgh-based firm, presented the culmination of almost a year's worth of studies, surveys and focus groups to the Bridgeport City Council.

A few years ago, the city made a huge jump by investing \$8 million into the Bridgeport Recreation Complex. This outdoor venue features a wagon-wheel baseball complex and soccer/football fields. The city had a vision of creating these beautiful fields to be used locally and to also host travel baseball tournaments. These tournaments and the resulting visitors who are shocked by the beauty of the facility have created a huge economic impact on the area, specifically hotels and restaurants.

Like many communities around the state, Bridgeport has applied for and received approval for a local 1 percent sales tax. Bridgeport has planned from the start to do something positive for the community with these funds.

The city began the planning process by hiring the team of WTW Architects, pool consultants Counsilman-Hunsaker,

Ballard-King and E.L. Robinson Engineers to complete the feasibility study. From this study, a conceptual plan was presented along with several options. From the committee, the focus groups and surveys, the city developed a concept that encompasses many areas. First and foremost, many of the features will surely benefit the local citizens. From local sporting groups to preschoolers and seniors, the opportunities abound.

The economic side of the project is the vast potential to host regional tournaments. These can include basketball, volleyball, wrestling, soccer and swimming, just to name a few. The city currently hosts tournaments for baseball, cross country races, 5K races and a CrossFit event. The bottom line is that all these types of activities have the potential to provide a sports tourism boost to the area while providing valuable and much-needed recreation space to the local region.



Site plan concept

The city began collecting the tax as of July 1, 2016. Financing is anticipated to require 12 to 18 months of financial data in order to bond the project. The plan is to use the funds currently coming in to begin site work, finalize a design within the next 12 months and begin construction in 2018.





Park District Unveils Plans for *All-Inclusive Playground*

by Kaitlin Bishop, Awards Chairman

The Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District is once again working on plans for a new playground, but this one will be the first of its kind in West Virginia.

Kevin Brady, executive director of the park district, said the new \$1.2 million playground at St. Cloud Commons will be a fully-accessible playground and cater to children with all scopes of abilities.

“This has been a dream of mine for so long,” he said. “To be able to have a playground where every child, no matter their ability, along with their parent or grandparent, can come and play — it’s something we have needed for a long time.”

Brady recently unveiled the designs and plans for the playground in the Ritter Park Rose Garden’s Room With a View. He also introduced the members from GameTime, a PlayCore company, and Cunningham Recreation, which supplies GameTime equipment.

The playground will be wheelchair-accessible and will have multiple places for kids to slide, swing, twirl and climb.

Brady said the playground will serve as a national demonstration site that will represent the proper way to build an all-inclusive playground and will likely become a destination playground for families from across the region.

“The driving force behind this all-inclusive playground is the parents and community members that have approached me and said that their child can’t use our playgrounds because it doesn’t accommodate their child’s needs,” Brady said. “But this new playground will be for children of all abilities, those who are hearing and vision impaired, autistic children, those with learning disparities, children in a wheelchair. This is the way that playgrounds should be built.”

As the model playground for future developers, Brady said the park district has been given about a \$500,000 discount on the equipment. He said the district’s goal is to raise the \$1.2 million in one year and break ground on the playground in June 2017.

To help accomplish this feat, the park district will use a branch of Cunningham Recreation called Play 4 All.

Victoria Schmitt Babb, community resource manager for Play 4 All, said her role will be to inspire individuals and companies to donate to the playground by creating connections that will help people understand why this unique playground would be beneficial to the community.

“I am totally confident that we will be able to raise all the funds we need in a year,” Brady said. “I’ve already reached out to several hospitals, foundations. We’ll be looking into grants — anything we can do to make this a reality.”

This playground will be the eighth new playground the park district has built in the past five years. To donate, go to www.ghprd.org.



Palatine Summer Events

This summer has already kicked off with more than twice the turnout we were seeing last year. The Fourth of July was a bit soggy, but everything was on schedule except the Davisson Brothers concert. The band will be rescheduling that concert for later on in the summer.

Saturday, July 16, was the motorcycle show and street fair for veterans hospitals. There was live music on stage from 12:30 until 8 p.m. along with an ongoing day of the motorcycle show vendors and many other activities.

Saturday, July 17, was the flood relief concert with Marshall Lowry and Friends — 12 solid hours of volunteer music from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. while volunteers collected, sorted and loaded goods headed for Richwood.

July 23 was the second Monongahela River Jam and movie night this year. The jam featured various local talent followed by the movie *Daddy's Home*.

July 30 was the first Marion County rock and roll tribute. The day began with Ryan Cain and the Ables. Ryan brought us music from the '50s and early '60s. The David Daugherty Band paid tribute to Elvis Presley and his band with their appearance. Next up were the Desperados, a nationally known

Eagles tribute band. The feature for the evening was Think Pink Floyd from Philadelphia with Pawn Laser Show. Pawn Laser is a favorite at Disneyland.

Palatine kicked off August with a southern rock show, including the Marshall Tucker Band and the Road Dogs, on Saturday, August 6. Saturday, August 13, was a community event backpack project helping make sure all students were ready for the school year. The August Big Show was Saturday, August 20, with a parrothead party on the banks of the Monongahela River. Performing live was Tom Watts, the biggest Buffett man tribute concert in the country, along with Sabor Latino, CB Studios, a Caribbean steel drum band, and the Tuiki Polynesian dancers bringing music, fire and hula dancing from the islands.

August 27 is the Palatine Park Connector Hearts Day, where local artists and artisans come to show their work. And to make the day even more special, it is the third



Monongahela River Jam night this year and movie night featuring *Star Wars*.

September 3 is the West Fest Urban Arts and Music showcase.

The feature for September will be Saturday, September 10 — the Blues & BBQ Festival. Shades of Blue, a Blues Brothers tribute band, will be kicking off the day followed by the Miss Freddye Stover band from Pittsburgh and Palatine's own local blues favorite, the Dennis McClung Blues Band.

September 17 will be the last Monongahela River Jam and movie night. The feature for the evening will be *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*.

After a long summer of great events, the finale for the year will be October 22, the third annual Palatine Park Trick or Treat Tailgate. Hundreds of kids from all around the area will be treated by area residents, organizations and businesses as they go from station to station collecting their goodies. Onstage during these activities will be two specialty bands for the season — the Grateful Deadheads and the Mortuary Men.

Along with this spectacular season lineup, Palatine Park is hosting a flea market every Sunday from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. now through September.

If you haven't been to Palatine Park, now's the time. Marion County welcomes you.



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Jefferson County Parks Celebrates Independence Day

The Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission (JCPRC) celebrated Independence Day at Sam Michael's park, in Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia, on July 2, 2016. Gates opened at 5 pm, and families, couples and individuals poured through the gates throughout the evening. Participants were allowed to bring coolers and picnic baskets, chairs, and blankets. Family games, such as corn hole and badminton, were also welcome. West Virginia Delegate Paul Espinosa shared his time and energy on our stage as master of ceremonies, the newly crowned Miss West Virginia took the stage to share her platform with us, and local musicians entertained the crowd throughout most of the evening.

Food options were plentiful, as 10 different vendors offered midway-style choices including hamburgers, pulled pork, shrimp salad, popcorn, drinks, ribbon fries and very popular funnel cakes! Business and craft vendors also enjoyed sharing their wares with spectators.

JCPRC offered inflatable bounce houses and a 20' inflatable slide for children 12 and under. The park also offered glow sticks and glow toys for purchase at gates.

At dusk, the sky filled with a spectacular fireworks show, provided by Washington, D.C., pyrotechnics, Digital Lighting. The show included fireworks of all colors, shapes and sizes and entertained the estimated 12,000-15,000 spectators for approximately 20 minutes.



Photo by spectator, Kellie Tatem

Safety and security were provided in partnership with the county sheriff and local fire departments.

The fireworks event was offered with free admission and free parking, which meant JCPRC had to raise significant funds before the event to ensure it could take place. No tax money from the county or city governments was set aside for fireworks, so significant work needed to be done to raise the estimated \$25,000 necessary for the festivities. Money was raised through donations and partnerships with local businesses, individuals and organizations.

All proceeds and donations collected by JCPRC on July 2 during fireworks will be reserved for the fireworks show planned for 2017.