



VRPA Advocate

Issue 89

Vermont Recreation & Parks Association

Late-Fall 2017

VRPA President's Perspective

Scott Hausler, CPRP,
VRPA President

Dear VRPA Members,

The Holiday Season is often identified as a time for reflection, personally and professionally.



Family gatherings and office holiday parties both provide great opportunities to unwind. If it's unwinding with the family or your city and town employees, it allows us all to see each other outside the hustle and bustle of the workday and personal stresses, appreciating all the memories created together.

As I reflect on all the memories we have made at VRPA, it is important that we also celebrate the many successes too. 2017 has been a great year for us. This past year VRPA implemented a new web site and on-line registration tools for meetings, memberships and sharing information. Our educational conferences and workshops continue to be second to none. The VRPA Annual Conference has nationally recognized speakers, our workshops including the VT/NH Maintenance Workshop and Performance Showcase provide members with hands on learning opportunities from many of our own professionals and commercial members. Summerama staff training draws 100+ from across the state of Vermont to engage in new trends and happenings within the summer camping industry. Workshops such as the Certified Pool Operator Course and Playground Safety Inspector Course provide the educational knowledge that keeps our facilities safe and well maintained. Programs such as the VRPA St. Johnsbury

(Continued on page 17)

The Barnes Camp Boardwalk – A Legacy Project

By Tasha Wallis, Executive Director, Lamoille County Planning Commission

The Boardwalk at Barnes Camp is now open for Vermonters and visitors alike. The five-foot-wide walkway is just below the gate that closes Smugglers Notch for winter, on the Stowe side. It's about 600 feet long, is a universally accessible portion of the Long Trail and offers stunning, and previously unavailable views of the Notch.

The walkway is constructed on helical piers - pretty much large screwdrivers - over a wetland and was designed and built with attention to the sensitive environment of Smugglers Notch. The piers were installed by drilling, rather than excavating soil. And during construction, an excavator with a hydraulic attachment was moved about on cedar mats so it wouldn't touch the wetland. Sawdust was bagged up and carried out by hand.

The elevated boardwalk allows wildlife to move through the wetland and accommodates natural water level variations. This attribute proved key when the beavers moved in, changing water courses and adding a beautiful pond right at the end of the walkway. They seemed

to want to do their part for this hugely collaborative project.

The Boardwalk was possible due to a direct earmark secured by then Congressman Bernie Sanders and the remaining funds were provided by the VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Green Mountain Club, Spruce (Continued on page 6)

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and much more...



VRPA will be hosting a Certified Pool & Spa Operator certification course on Tuesday & Wednesday, March 27

& 28, 2018 in South Burlington. The Certified Pool Operator® certification program is a nationally recognized course which teaches advanced techniques in safety, water chemistry, maintenance and management. This course is recognized as the standard in the industry. Plan now to send your pool staff. Registration will open in early January.

The VRPA March Quarterly Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 15th in Montpelier. Plan now to attend this meeting in the morning and to have lunch with your local legislators at the statehouse afterwards. This is their place of work; going to them will make it easy to gather all in one place and to tell them about the great things going on in your community. The members who took advantage of this opportunity last year found it very worthwhile. Mark your calendar and get it on your legislators' calendars too.



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VRPA Newsletter

The VRPA Advocate is published three times a year by the Vermont Recreation and Parks Association. Contributions to the newsletter are welcome, including commentary on subjects of interest to Vermont's recreation professionals and volunteers.

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VRPA Calendar of Events

2018

Jan 9-11	Northern NE Recreation Conference, Attitash, NH
Jan 17	VRPA Executive Committee Meeting
Jan 18	Summerama Committee Meeting, Montpelier
Mar 15	VRPA Quarterly Meeting, Montpelier
Mar 27-28	Certified Pool Operator Course, South Burlington
May 8	VRPA Annual Meeting
Jun 3 (tent)	Summerama
Jul 28	VRPA – St. Johnsbury Academy State Track Meet
Sep 25-27	NRPA Conference in Indianapolis
Oct 10-11	75th Vermont Conference on Recreation, Lake Morey
Nov 15	15th Vermont Performance Showcase, Lake Morey

Message from the Executive Director

Dear friends,

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's Vermont Conference on Recreation! So often people tell me...*of all the conferences I go to, this is my favorite one.*

I can think of a long list of reasons why that is the case. At the top of my list would be that we all truly care about each other and are genuinely excited to see each other and to share what we have been up to, both personally and professionally. Welcoming new friends into the group who come from afar to speak is always a bonus.

A very special personal thanks to this year's Conference Committee for all your creativity and hard work, and to everyone who helped pick up the pieces when I left halfway through the conference to get to the hospital to be with my mom. You know you are working with a special group when you can leave your biggest event of the year and everything goes off like clockwork. Thank you all very much for this and for the cards that followed.

Next year will be our 75th annual Vermont state recreation conference. Mark your calendars now for October 10 & 11, 2018. The Committee will be working especially hard this year to create



a professional development opportunity and a celebration worthy of the legacy of Theresa Brungardt, Perry Merrill, and many others who had the vision and got us started on the path to create a Vermont where we enjoy the gift of living in a wonderful place to work, play, and recreate.

As we approach the start of another new year, may you heed the lessons about managing time that we learned at the December Quarterly Meeting. If you weren't able to attend, flip to page 11 to read Claire Wheeler's top 5 tips on time. I hope you will join me in striving to work efficiently and make sure that you save time to exercise regularly and spend quality time with family and friends.

Make time to be associated, the benefits are proven and long-lasting. The 70-20-10 rule for learning contends that 20% of our learning at work comes from interacting with colleagues. You can read more about this on Google.

All the best to each and every one of you in the year ahead...may 2018 be a year of hope, wonder, joy, and good health for you and everyone you love.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Betsy Terry, CPRP
VRPA Executive Director

VRPA Mission:

**Provide training and resources to help Vermonters to
"Create Community through People, Parks and Programs."**

Meet the 2018 Brungardt Award Winners

The 2018 Theresa S. Brungardt Awards were presented at the 74th Annual Vermont Conference on Recreation on October 12, 2017. Meet this year's highly-regarded winners.

Kathy Baumann & Judy Robinson - Friend Award



Kathy Baumann and Judy Robinson have served as "Chiefs of Refreshments" for the Colchester Triathlon for the last 33 years. They have been there every single year, haven't missed a one. Since the start, this race has developed quite a reputation for the food spread at the end and the triathletes look forward to seeing what great post-event food Kathy and Judy will have for them when they finish the race. This is no typical post-event spread. They serve peanut butter and homemade herbed cream cheese for the bagels with herbs from their gardens, fresh sliced tomatoes, oranges, bananas, watermelon and grapes, and an assortment of drinks. There are tablecloths on the tables and bouquets of cut flowers too. More often than not, their Refreshments Committee consists of their own children, and as the years have gone by, their grandchildren too.

"Kathy and Judy do a wonderful job, year after year! We do not even have to check in on them because we know they will do a fantastic job. Kathy and Judy are a wonderful one-two punch when it comes to volunteering for the triathlon. Each of them takes a portion of the work and does a great service to the event. It has been 32 years since they started and we hope they have 32 more years in them!" - Glen

Cuttitta, Colchester Parks and Recreation Director

Timber & Stone - Organization Award

Since 2004, Vermont based company, Timber & Stone, LLC, has provided technical advice and construction expertise to land managers seeking to build or improve recreational trails. Timber & Stone Founder, Principal, Trail Designer and Builder, Josh Ryan, has been recreating on and caretaking trails since the day his parents first laced up his hiking boots. For the past twenty years, Josh has worked on trails with a wide array of students, volunteers, and fellow trail builders, both as a Crew Leader and as an independent contractor.

Timber and Stone has worked on a wide variety of public and private trails throughout the Northeast, including the recently completed universally accessible boardwalk trail at the Barnes Camp in Smugglers Notch (see the cover story and Facility Feature). To learn more about some of their projects, go to the portfolio of projects on their website at <http://www.timberandstonellc.com/>.

"Josh's passion for and progressive attitude toward trail design and building has significantly advanced the quality and quantity of recreation trail opportunities around the state." - Frank Spaulding, VT State Parks

Another example of their work, Timber & Stone worked with the Town of Essex



over several years making upgrades to their existing high-use recreational trail system at Indian Brook Reservoir. Since the plan's development, Timber & Stone has worked, over the course of several seasons, to make upgrades and repairs to the trail system. By installing

bridges, elevated boardwalks, and stone cribbing, damage from high-use has been remediated and the trail has been brought back to its original footprint.

"Josh Ryan's qualities as a contractor are rare & inspiring. He has a special way of working with people and working collaboratively to form partnerships that make a difference in Vermont's trails community. He volunteers effortlessly and he's very generous with his time. It's a gift to all of us in the recreation community."

- Sherry Winnie, Recreation Trails Program Manager, VT Forests, Parks & Recreation

For the last 3 years, Josh Ryan has been an integral part of the state recreation conference committee. He joined the committee to represent the Vermont Trails & Greenways Council (VTGC) and to ensure that a series of trails sessions would continue to be included in the conference. He has done this and more, bringing in the perspective of a commercial member and always challenging the Committee with ways to make improvements to ensure that we continue to offer a high-quality conference event. Year after year, Josh has been one of our speakers and he always receives high marks. In addition to being a regular speaker at our Vermont state recreation conference, Josh has been a regular speaker at PBTA's Sustainable Trails Conferences, VTGC's Trail Symposiums from 2005 – 2011, and at the Massachusetts Trail Symposiums.

Gary Rogers - Professional Award

Gary Rogers has been working with Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront (BPRW) for twenty years. He started with the department as a part-time basketball supervisor and quickly moved up the ranks to full-time status as a Recreation Coordinator, then Assistant Recreation Superintendent, and now the Recreation Superintendent. In his current role, he oversees more than 400 programs, including several major special events, and manages an annual recreation budget of 1.3 million dollars.

His leadership and work performance are exemplary as described by some of his colleagues who have worked most closely with him...

(Continued on page 4)

Personal Profile (cont'd)

"It was an honor to work with Gary Rogers at BPRW for over 16 exciting and creative years. He NEVER said NO to anything, particularly related to social equity issues of making life better for high risk individuals and families. His leadership skills, community partnerships, passion, compassion and energy have always been remarkable. He is one of those extraordinary professionals you can trust and count on for anything and he always goes above and beyond to make your experience amazing and memorable. Gary works tirelessly providing recreation opportunities that have touched thousands of Vermonters. - Maggie Leugers, Director, S. Burlington Recreation & Parks

"During the 20 years that I have worked with Gary Rogers, I have watched him grow and cultivate amazing relationships with the community. He has put in endless hours and dedication to the youth of Burlington and beyond, always encouraging and cheerleading to be the best they can be and supporting them in doing so. He is an amazing leader and advocate of cultural diversity and inclusion of all the citizens of Burlington." - Joanne Putzier, Admin Assistant, Burlington PRW

"I'm so thankful that Gary hired me to be the Recreation Program Manager in November of 2015. Little did I know that making a move from a park district in Illinois to Burlington's Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department would be so remarkable in numerous ways. Gary has taught me an incredible amount about not only how to be a great team leader, but to be a great human. Gary is the most approachable supervisor I've ever had. His "lead by example" attitude makes work enjoyable every day." - Candice Holbrook, Recreation Program Manager, Burlington PRW

Theresa S. Brungardt was a pioneer and outstanding leader of parks and recreation in Vermont. She began her career in 1917 when she joined the staff of the National Recreation Association during World War 1. She was Vermont's first state Director of Recreation in 1943. She traveled tirelessly throughout Vermont to help communities with their recreation programs. She was nationally recognized for her expertise and in 1952 was elected the first female president of the American Recreation Society. Her involvement continued after her retirement in 1964 when she was an active member of the



Citizens Board Member Branch of NRPA. She was inducted into the NRPA Hall of Fame in 1997.

Mrs. "B", as she was affectionately known, was the primary organizer of the Vermont Recreation and Parks Association (VRPA) and in 1975, the VRPA established the Theresa S. Brungardt Awards to "pay tribute to this true pioneer in recreation in both Vermont and the United States." The purpose of the award was to encourage the improvement of recreation and park services in Vermont by recognizing outstanding recreation and park professionals, lay members and organizations so that all will strive for higher levels of service.

Each year, the Brungardt Award nominations close in August and the awards are presented at the annual Vermont Conference on Recreation.

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Cooking the Books at the Colchester Library

By Betsy Terry



The programming at local libraries seems to be getting more extensive all the time. I know it has at my library, the Burnham Memorial Library in Colchester.

One of my friends works there as a volunteer and called to invite me to a program called "Cooking the Books". She knows that I like to cook ...and love to eat. "What do I have to do?", I asked.

The answer was, stop at the library and look through the selected cookbook; this season the book was the *Cabot Creamery Cookbook*. I was to choose a recipe, make it and come to the library with it for a luncheon a few weeks later. Make something with Cabot cheddar cheese...I was in!

The library is a very short walk from my house and one day I walked up at lunch to look through the cookbook. What a great cookbook! I couldn't come up with one recipe and the librarian graciously printed off four recipes for me so that I could decide later. Incidentally, I was supposed to tell them what I was going to make so that there wouldn't be duplicates. I signed up to make cheese straws because they looked easy but the cheddar corn chowder

was very tempting.

A few weeks later, again over the lunch hour, I walked to the library with my cheese straws in hand. Twenty some people, we even had one man, were all there with something to contribute. There

were soups and breads and veggie dishes, and desserts. Cabot makes yogurt too so some recipes included yogurt and not cheese. We sat for an hour, enjoyed lunch, met some new people, and heard about people's experiences with the recipes. It was fun.

The librarian chooses a different book each season; the program write-up says that it can be a cookbook or a novel. In December, they cooked from *The Perfect Cookie*...I was too busy to participate and I had already been to one cookie party and eaten more than my share of cookies but really...cookies for lunch? I love it.

I decided to include this as one of our Program Spotlights because I think it has lots of possibilities for recreation departments. You could certainly do something similar for children, seniors, singles groups, teens, etc. Who doesn't love to eat? And if you are making dinner every night, it is always nice to check out some new recipes. Hats off to the Colchester Library staff, what a great idea.

By the way, if you stop by your library to look through the *Cabot Creamery Cookbook*, check out the recipe for Cheddar Cheese Straws...they were delicious and super easy.



The Barnes Camp Boardwalk – A Legacy Project

(continued from the cover page)

Peak Resort Association, Lamoille County Planning Commission, and Lamoille Economic Development Corp.

Josh Ryan, whose company, Timber & Stone LLC, built the project, started his career twenty years ago and just down the road at the old Vermont ski dorm working with the Youth Conservation Corps. For him, this trail – which allows wheelchair users and through hikers alike to enjoy the Notch - is a legacy project. Fittingly, his daughter played the fiddle at the opening event.



The Long Trail relocation to connect with the Boardwalk will be completed next spring, and will take hikers into the woods



and no longer down the side of Route 108 next to the traffic. Actually, a big part of the point of a Scenic highway is to get out of the car and away from the road.

The Boardwalk is located next to the historic Barnes Camp visitor center – which was built in 1927 and played a key role in creating Vermont's outdoor recreation economy. Before ski lodges

and resorts, the Camp provided food and shelter for hikers and skiers braving the Mountain slopes. Now, Green Mountain Club volunteers help show visitors the way into the woods on summer weekends.

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Conference Wrap-Up...

THANK YOU to all our 2017 Conference Exhibitors and Sponsors!

Thank you very much for choosing to be one of our exhibitors at this year's Vermont state recreation conference! Your support and commercial membership allows us to do many of the things that we do, thank you!

Please remember to support all our exhibitors and commercial members. Be sure to include them on your bid lists when you are purchasing supplies, equipment, and services.

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Three members of Mrs. Brungardt's family were with us to help with the award presentations this year. Pictured here with Gary Rogers, recipient of the 2018 Theresa S. Brungardt Professional Award, from (L to R) are Joann Schmidt, Dave Schmidt (Mrs. Brungardt's nephew) and Nancy Walden (Mrs. Brungardt's niece). Sadly, Mrs. Brungardt's niece Lois Peterson who has been with us at the previous four conferences, passed away on the Wednesday night of the conference. It was wonderful getting to know Lois and her daughter Wendy Flickinger! Our sincere condolences to the Brungardt family.



It was a real treat to have Governor Phil Scott with us at this year's Awards Luncheon.

SAVE THE DATES
for the 75th Annual
Vermont Conference on
Recreation
Wednesday & Thursday,
October 10th & 11th, 2018
Get ready for a real
celebration!

We had another great Performance Showcase in November. When you are hiring performing artists for the year ahead, be sure to look through the Showcase Program Booklet available on the VRPA website under the Programs tab.



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The 2017 NRPA Agency Performance Review is now available.

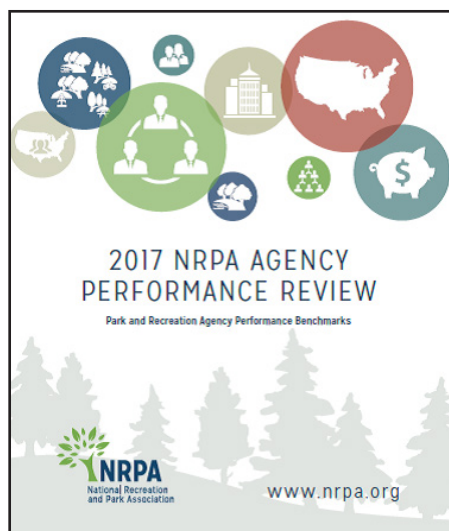
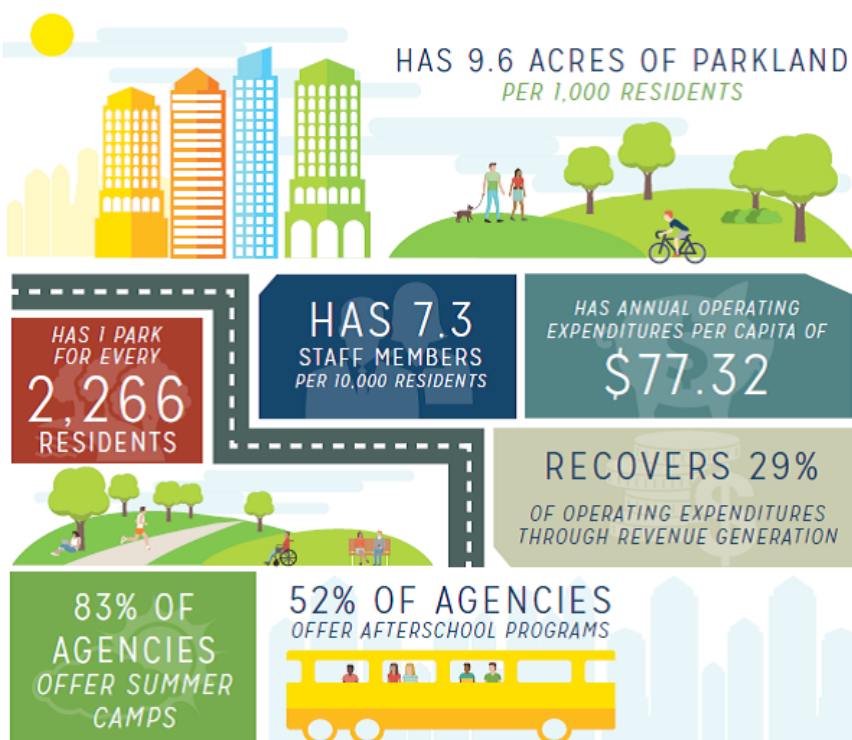
With data from 925 park and recreation agencies across the country, this report is the most comprehensive resource of data and insights for park and recreation agencies in the United States. It replaces what NRPA once published as “national standards.”

In 2017, the typical park and recreation agency offers one park for every 2,266 residents served, with 9.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Read more about these and additional benchmarking data in the full report.

Park and recreation agencies are as diverse as the communities that they serve. A successful agency is one that tailors its services to meet the needs and demands of its community. This report provides current data for comparable communities to help you make management decisions and long-range plans for park facilities, programming, staffing, budgeting, agency funding, and more.

For the full report, go to www.nrpa.org and click on the “Publications & Research” tab.

THE TYPICAL PARK AND RECREATION AGENCY...



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Top 5 Tips for Time

By Claire Wheeler, Principal Consultant, Re:work

I've always been fascinated with time: how we choose to spend it, how we're expected to spend it, how we never seem to have enough of it.

Ultimately, time is a language of movement. We created the concept of time from the observation of the sun moving across the sky, which of course is actually the Earth orbiting the sun. When we try to gauge how much time an activity will take, say to drive a car from point A to point B, that calculation is a simple comparison of the movement of the car, the variable, against the movement of the sun, the constant, to yield the number of miles traveled per hour. We can think about modern day clocks and calendars as a sort of compromise, a method of marking the passage of occurrences and events in a continuing attempt to stay in sync with Earth itself.

Time might be one of our best attempts to align ourselves with the earth's natural rhythms. It's actually quite beautiful!

When I think about time this way, I'm grateful that I have so much of it. It's when time feels like it is working against me that I get frustrated, stressed, and overwhelmed.

Rather than thinking of time as something outside of ourselves, like mandate or judgment on what we should be doing or that we have to be doing, try to approach time as what it has always been... a tool for understanding how things, including ourselves, move in relation to one another and to the earth. This shift puts us back in the driver seats of our schedules and commitments. How are you moving in relation to your coworkers, your goals, your workload?

Here are some tips for maintaining a healthy relationship to time:

1) Prime Time – Everybody has a unique timetable. Know when are your high and low energy times throughout the day. Schedule bigger, more strategic work during high energy and more auto-pilot tasks for low energy moments, and use energy boosters like walks, exercise, and caffeine when you need them.

2) No Excuses – Be aware of when you're using time as an excuse. Lines like "I didn't have time" or "I'm too busy" are

frequent placeholders for the real reasons why we don't or can't do something. Treating time badly in this way sets a precedent for time to work against you rather than being a resource to help you do what you choose for your life.

3) Live with Limits – Parkinson's Law explains that "work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion". Time only works if we build a structure for it. Without boundaries in workplaces, you will never be able to get to the most important and impactful tasks.

4) Make Time for Time – Effective time management takes time! Schedule time every day to create your to do list, update your schedule, and set boundaries around your needs for the week. Schedule and do first the things that are most important to you, and let all the other stuff follow.

5) Ms. Em Ail – Email is no longer an ancillary work task, email IS work. Schedule times in your day for working on email rather than trying to keep up with it as a constant distraction. Tell others when in the day they can expect a reply.

Claire Wheeler was the speaker at the VRPA December Quarterly Meeting. She is the owner and principal consultant at Re:Work, a consulting firm based in Montpelier. You can contact Claire at www.thisisrework.com and claire@thisisrework.com.



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Local Motion's Bike Ferry Reaches a Major Milestone - More than 16,000 Passengers in a Single Season



One of New England's most visited and spectacular rail-trails is Northwestern Vermont's Island Line Trail. It starts at Burlington's Oakledge Park and continues north to the Allen Point Access Area in South Hero, passing through 12 public parks and natural areas owned by the City of Burlington, Winooski Valley Park District, Town of Colchester, UVM, and the State of Vermont.

The Island Line Trail is an experience unlike any other. With distant views of the Adirondacks to the west and Green Mountains to the east, the trail includes a 3-mile packed gravel section along Colchester's Causeway Park that will lead you literally to the middle of Lake Champlain. Here, surrounded by water, you can either choose to turn around and head south back to the mainland or hop Local Motion's Island Line Bike Ferry to continue onto South Hero Island. The Bike Ferry will carry you comfortably across the 200 foot "cut" whether you are heading

north from the Burlington/ Colchester area or south from the Islands.

The Island Line Trail is an amazing place—and the Bike Ferry is an amazing experience.

April Green didn't know just how special her Island Line experience was going to be. She and her husband were in Vermont visiting family on October 6, 2017, and were trying to ride as much of Vermont's roads and rail trails as possible during their short stay. April's sister had previously shared pictures of a ride on the Island Line Trail, and April and John knew they had to experience it for themselves.

The crew counted—15,997, 15,998, 15,999—as riders filed down the gangplank with their bikes. When April stepped onto the ferry, she was welcomed aboard with claps and cheers. Pictures were taken, gifts were given and Captain Ed took all on an extended (but still short) sightseer's detour to mark the occasion.

The Island Line Bike Ferry has carried

nearly 100,000 passengers since the first crossing of the mouth of the Winooski River in 1998. Island Line passengers have begun their journeys from as far away as Australia and as close as Colchester. All have ventured out onto Lake Champlain, admired the spectacular views, and boarded the Island Line Bike Ferry for a ride they'll never forget.

"We enjoyed our ride so much and loved the information and enthusiasm of all the folks on the ferry. We have ridden in many countries and LOVED riding in Vermont. Thanks so much!" -April Green and John Long, Mill Valley, CA

Local Motion is a member-supported non-profit organization working to make "Biking and Walking for a Better Vermont" a reality. For more information about the Bike Ferry, the Island Line and Local Motion, go to www.localmotion.org.



Labatt USA Promotes Northern Forest Canoe Trail & Helps On Stewardship Project

Volunteers from Labatt USA joined Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT) Stewardship Coordinator Noah Pollock on August 28th at the Nulhegan Gorge in Vermont for a volunteer work day. Jessica Woodcome, Brian McMahon and Christopher Duggan helped build and install a kiosk and put siding on the hut that is steadily progressing towards completion.



Labatt Beer has been hosting a summer-long promotion featuring the Northern Forest Canoe Trail on specially

marked 18 packs and tap pours from participating locations sold in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. They will donate a percentage of sales from these products to support stewardship along the trail after the promotion is over.

Vermont River Conservancy is the lead on constructing the Nulhegan hut and NFCT has gladly provided muscle to support construction and holds a trail easement to help make the entire hut and portage trail project a reality.

For more information about the Nulhegan Hut, go to <https://www.northernforestcanoetrail.org/nulhegan-confluence-hut-and-trails/>.

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2018 Summerama

We are thinking about having Summerama on Sunday, June 3rd this year to avoid a conflict with SATs. If you plan to bring staff to Summerama this year, please let Summerama Committee Chair, Jess Booth, know what you think about changing from Saturday to Sunday at jbooth@newportrecreation.org. The Summerama Committee is meeting again on January 18th to confirm the date. All are welcome to attend.

Net Generation – An Invitation from the U.S. Tennis Association

Park and Recreation Leaders,

The United States Tennis Association recognizes that you are introducing tennis, along with other great sports and activities, to the next generation of players in your communities. As the game's governing body, the USTA is committed to helping you grow your tennis community. This year, we have introduced Net Generation, the new youth tennis brand from the USTA. It was designed with YOU in mind. Net Generation can expand your programs, make your job easier, and provide recognition for your efforts; all at no cost! These easy to use resources and tools can be sculpted and put into place by you.

BENEFITS TO YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY

[Joining Net Generation](#) gives you an easy-to-follow curricula and tools that are customizable and collaborative as well as additional benefits:

- A print or online suite of teaching materials to help build your tennis plans
- **A Net Generation equipment starter kit that includes a digital and print manual, and apparel**
- A free listing at www.netgeneration.com (searchable by consumers)
- Opportunities to partner with local schools
- Digital communication and support including updates, tips, and guidance
- National and section marketing support to promote Net Generation and find local programs
- Free participation for coaches at Net Generation training workshops led by the USTA
- Free online and in-person training

Provider registration is now open. [Register for free](#) and join the Net Generation today. Help **shape the future of tennis!** If you have questions or want to learn more, contact VT Service Representative, Karen Didricksen, at didricksen@newengland.usta.com.



VYCC Staff Send Chainsaw Crew to Audubon

Most of you likely recall that at the very end of October, Vermont was hit by a high-powered wind storm that knocked down trees of all sizes all over the state. Much of the biggest damage was within our forests, impacting trail networks and making some impassable. The Audubon Vermont trails in upper Richmond were badly damaged and

in need of highly technical tree removal—something VYCC crews are taught each year.

So, what do good Vermont neighbors do? The VYCC headquarters staff pulled out their chainsaws and safety gear and made a day of it.

“We were proud to be able to help a great, local organization and have the

chance to demonstrate our excellent team work and attention to safety while doing trail repair,” said Breck Knauft, VYCC Executive Director.

Watch the [short NBC5 piece](#) about this project day.

Learn more about the [Audubon Vermont](#).

VYCC Recruitment for 2018 has begun!

Corps Leader and Member applications are now open for all our farm and conservation crews. Do you know a young person who should join the corps? Help them apply today! Interviews start in January.

VYCC is much more than a job, it is an experience! We have day crews who live at home and camp crews who camp near work sites, experiences as short as four weeks or as long as five months, and opportunities for youth (ages 15-18) and young adults (ages 18-24).

Several different opportunities exist in 2018 on VYCC Farm Crews:

- Community Crews: Richmond, Newport, or Rutland (youth/day crew)

- Leadership Development Crew: Addison County (young adult/camping)

- Venture Semester Crew: Gap year program (young adult/live on VYCC campus)

[Learn more about our farm crews.](#)

Day and camping opportunities also exist in 2018 on VYCC Conservation Crews:

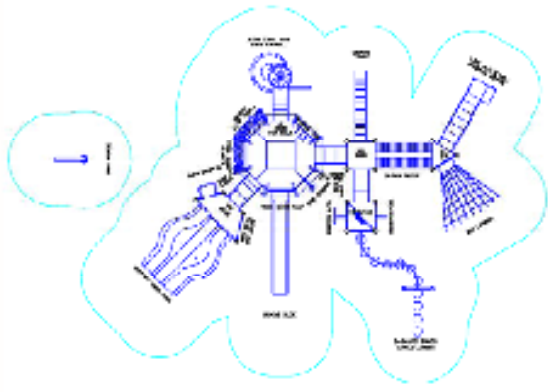
- Community Crews: Brattleboro, Burlington, South Burlington, Washington County, and Woodstock (youth/day crew)
- Spike Crews: Various locations across Vermont (youth and young adult/camping)
- Americorps Crew: Various locations across Vermont (young adult/camping)

[Learn more about our conservation crews.](#)

Go to <http://www.vycc.org/join/> to apply to join VYCC in 2018.



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Start the New Year on the right foot with a hike in a Vermont State Park.

Join a free, guided, easy, family hike taking place in state parks and forests throughout the state. Hike leaders include professional guides and outdoor educators, sharing their knowledge and love of the Vermont outdoors. Don't need a guide? Then get outside at the state park or forest of your choice. They are always available and close by to all of us. Entry is free and you will discover a whole new world in the winter.

Bring the whole family! Dress for the weather; bring snowshoes if there is a lot of snow. Bring some beverages and snacks. Dogs are welcome (on leash)

President's Perspective (cont'd)

Academy State Track Meet provide our summer track stars with a professionally run state level competition in both track and field events.

The importance of the Vermont Recreation & Park Association's efforts, to provide training and resources to help Vermonters to "Create Community through People, Parks and Programs" would not be possible without you, our supportive professional and commercial members. During this time of my reflection I can't go without recognizing the hard work and efforts of the VRPA Executive Board and the leadership of our great Executive Director, Betsy Terry. All your efforts make a strong organization and set the stage for what great collaboration is all about.

I appreciate the opportunity to be associated with VRPA. It has served me well. Thank you for all your efforts in making Vermont a great place to live, work and play. To you and yours, I wish you all a Happy Holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Respectfully,



Scott Hausler, CPRP

unless otherwise noted. You don't need to pre-register, just show up. To check the status of the hikes call 802-249-1230. Updated messages will be posted on December 31st and January 1st. Check out our website at www.vtstateparks.com and our Facebook and Twitter feeds for more information and more hikes as they are added.



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It's Winter. Is it Time to Think About Your Pool?

By Ken Bisceglia, PE, Weston & Sampson

If your town or park has a pool, water feature or splash pad, you know that there is a lot to think about in terms of maintenance to keep the facility up to modern standards and in good, safe working condition. As community demographics are changing, with people living longer and seeking healthy activities, pool facilities are increasingly needed to accommodate not only young children and families but the elderly with features such as aquatic therapy programs, easy access and tempered water.

Unfortunately, many of Vermont's pools were built decades ago and are now aging and facing both functional and mechanical issues. Dealing with these day to day issues can become overbearing, never mind addressing new trends.

Functional issues are related to safety and accessibility of the pool, surrounding deck, bath house facility and parking. Given the age of many of these facilities, designed before the acceptance of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), communities are increasingly required to provide accessibility improvements to ensure facilities are in compliance, such as the addition of handicap lifts, and where possible, ramps or sloped entries into pools.

Mechanical issues are generally related to the chemical treatment and filtration systems. Pump and filtration rooms are susceptible to corrosion and safety concerns can exist for lifeguards, pool staff and maintenance technicians related to electrical equipment, water and pool chemicals that are often housed together in small under-designed rooms with poor air circulation and weather protection. Many pools struggle to maintain water quality with outdated and defective equipment.

When assessing aquatic facilities for repairs or upgrades, there are many things to be aware of and review. It is recommended that communities engage a

qualified pool consulting firm to perform a comprehensive inspection of the facility. This inspection will inventory and detail the condition of the facility features, code compliance, existing equipment and should provide recommendations for improvements. Improvements will focus on addressing deficiencies, starting with safety and accessibility, and whether to consider rehabilitation or replacement of existing features or in select cases the entire facility.

Budgeting improvements can range significantly depending on the nature of problems identified and desires of the community. Small bathhouse improvements may be as low as a few thousand dollars, whereas a new multilane lap pool, bathhouse, and deck area can be on the order of several million dollars.

For large investment projects, community involvement will be required to convey issues, actions needed, and to obtain input from user groups that will eventually be using and paying for the facility. Large projects will often require

a bond vote, so it is important to provide the community and select board members with detailed renderings of the proposed facility and justifiable costs. Scheduling for a large improvement generally takes about 2 to 3 years from the time of the first inspection, through concept planning, community approval and construction.

Pools are a part of our community fabric that bring us together in a unique way. It's not too early to be thinking about next summer, but in the meantime, enjoy the winter!

Weston & Sampson is an employee-owned company with an office in Waterbury, VT. They offer interdisciplinary design, engineering, and environmental services for public and private entities. For more than a century, they have been committed to improving the natural and built communities where people live, work, and play. Weston & Sampson is a commercial member of VRPA and was an exhibitor at the 2017 VT Conference on Recreation.



Winter Athletes of All Ages...

Opportunities Abound for Winter Sports in Vermont

A wide variety of recreational and competitive winter sport opportunities are available across Vermont and New England. Winter has arrived, so get out your ski and snowshoe equipment and check out the following websites.

New England Masters Skiing (www.nemasters.org) has a whole listing of events including several in Vermont. Their current calendar shows the first Vermont event is the Kelly Brush Challenge Giant Slalom at the Middlebury Snow Bowl on January 13, 2018. They show events at Stratton, Suicide Six, and Sugarbush too.

The **Mansfield Nordic Club** (www.mansfieldnordic.org) offers a popular Masters program for adults with a variety of backgrounds and goals. They provide opportunities for all levels of skiers with an emphasis on camaraderie, fun, fitness and skill. Beginners, novices and intermediate skiers work in small groups to improve skills and get a good workout, while advanced skiers can take part in challenging workouts. Skiing takes place on a 6km lighted trail system at the National Guard facilities in Jericho. Thanks to the snowmaking capabilities and a higher altitude than Burlington, you'll be able to ski on good conditions for much of the winter – even when there is no snow in town!

Green Mountain Skimo Citizen Race Series at Bolton Valley - Join the

Catamount Trail Association (CTA) on Wednesday nights in January, February, and March at Bolton Valley Resort for some casual uphill competition. The Green Mountain Skimo Race Series is designed to get you off the couch and out on snow! This winter after work don't let the darkness take you down. Embrace it and come out and kick some uphill butt! Getting after it once a week is great for your fitness, and will help you ski more once the weekend hits. Who doesn't want to be faster on the up, and stronger on the down! For more details go to <http://catamounttrail.org/events/citizenskimo/>. Participants can register on-site at these events: \$10/Race – CTA Members, \$15/Race – Non-Members, and \$50/season for a Skimo Season Pass (CTA members only). Don't forget your headlamp!

The **Unites States Snowshoeing Association** has a whole calendar of snowshoe races by regions. Wow...looks like their 2018 National Championships are going to be in Bennington, Vermont on March 9-11, 2018. Check out their website at www.snowshoeracing.com for more details.

For the past several winters, **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont** has hosted **Snow Day Events** in Vermont with free snowshoeing, x-c skiing, and sledding when available on four different weekends. Their 2018 events will be held on January 27th at the Grafton Outdoor



Center, February 3rd at Mountain Top Inn & Resort in Chittenden, February 17th at the Lyndon Outing Club in Lyndonville, and on February 24th at Bolton Valley Resort. For more details, go to <http://www.bcbsvt.com/why-us/community-involvement/events/snow-days>.

Smugglers Notch hosts all kinds of events including Free Family Fun Races on most Saturdays and Sundays in January and February. Their website is www.smuggs.com. They will keep you updated if you subscribe to their eNotch News.

Check out the website of the ski area closest to you...it is likely that they have a calendar of events & activities too.

The **Green Mountain Club** hosts a wide variety of winter hikes, snowshoe and X-C skiing events all winter long, on weekdays and weekends. For all the details, check out their monthly event calendar at www.greenmountainclub.org.

Here's to a great winter ahead...happy skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, sledding and whatever outside sports you choose to do this winter!



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE VERMONT RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION

- ❖ Align yourself with 400+ professionals & volunteers who operate with a shared mission, vision, and values.
- ❖ Access tools and resources to position recreation and parks as essential community services.
- ❖ Develop strategies to advance and thrive within your profession and as an agency/organization.
- ❖ Build your skills and your professional network too.
- ❖ Shape our profession today and tomorrow.

- ❖ As a VRPA member, you will receive:

Recreation Check-In – Weekly information and happenings, via email.

The Advocate - VRPA newsletter – three issues a year, via email.

VRPA Membership Directory – Annual directory of member contact information, electronic format.

Discounted Fees – Conferences, workshops and event registration fees, and advertising rates.

Professional Assistance – In person and online.

VRPA website – Access the VRPA website at www.vrpa.org.

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May 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018 APPLICATION AND ANNUAL RENEWAL

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Classification (See next page for classification descriptions)

☐ Agency * (check one)

☐ 1-4 staff

☐ 5-10 staff

☐ 11 or more staff

☐ Individual Professional

☐ Board/Commission *

(Includes ALL board/commission members)

☐ Commercial (inc. link from VRPA website)

☐ Student ☐ Friend ☐ Retiree (check one)

☐ Honorary Life

Number of Persons

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-- One --

-- One --

-- One --

Membership Fee

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\$25

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☐ Payment Being Mailed

Total Amount Due

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* Please list all names & contact information for agency and board memberships. Thanks!

New memberships received in the months of Nov, Dec and Jan are half price. New memberships received in the last three months of our fiscal year (Feb, March and April) are full price and include the following year membership also.

Would you like to become more involved with VRPA? Listed below are the various VRPA committees. Please check if you are interested and someone will contact you. Thank you for your interest!

☐ Membership ☐ Newsletter ☐ Performance Showcase ☐ Summerama ☐ Executive Committee

☐ Track & Field ☐ Awards ☐ Maintenance Workshop ☐ State Conference ☐ Northern NE Conference

☐ Other ways you'd like to help: _____

Is there a VRPA member who influenced your decision to join?

Are you a member of NRPA? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, who? _____

Please make checks payable to VRPA and mail to: VRPA, 721 Main Street, Colchester, VT, 05446.

Completed registration forms can be emailed to info@vrpa.org. Please keep a copy.