

# The Bulletin

A Quarterly Publication of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration

## message from the president

As we approach the summer, I have good news on the Academy's work.

To begin with, the mentoring program has begun, and results are great. I am especially pleased that many of our members have signed up to be mentors.

In other news, I can report that the Gold Medal Committee is doing a great job. The committee continues to refine its work and establish guidelines for those to follow. Our partnership with NRPA and Musco, our sponsor, has continued to grow stronger, in large part thanks to Rich Grodsky, our executive director.

Also, the Pugsley Committee has once again worked to produce results that reflect the excellence of this award.

The Membership Committee has started its process, seeking outstanding candidates to join our Academy. If you have any questions about the process, contact Bill Mitchell, Membership Committee Chair or Rafael Payan, Urban Directors Committee Chair.

Andee Chestnut has once again managed our operations and ensured we met all our auditing and reporting responsibilities.

Our Board will meet again in July to review all committee reports and prepare for our annual meeting in Las Vegas. Have a great summer and see you at the Congress!

Sincerely,

William C. Scalzo  
President

## from the editor

A quick note introducing this newsletter. As you can see we've changed the delivery method and appearance of the newsletter along with frequency.

It's a work in progress, but we hope these are meaningful changes that benefit you as an Academy Fellow. Check out the new feature regarding international parks, and member profiles.

It's easy to forget how incredibly talented and accomplished our member fellows are; Rich Grodsky, Amy Hurd and Jonathan Korfhage have volunteered to be our first member profiles, so thank them along with our other contributors.

Safe and fun summer thoughts.

Stephen A. Wolter

## Cornelius Amory Pugsley Award 2015

# Pugsley Awardees are True Stewards of American Parks

## Davey Tree Corporate Communications

This spring, communities across the United States celebrated Arbor Day for the 143<sup>rd</sup> time. School children, governmental officials and homeowners came together to plant trees and reaffirm what we all know: People love nature.

As an AAPRA member, you help safeguard the places where such park visitors will find countless untold moments of peace and joy among the trees, rivers and mountains. You have a keen understanding of the need to perpetuate parks of all sizes—and to educate the public about the benefits of reconnecting with nature, and each other, in such serene and pristine natural places.

It's because of this passion that The Davey Tree Expert Company gratefully supports the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration's commitment to

natural resource preservation through the endeavors of the Pugsley Award recipients, who protect and promote the outdoors.

Davey's supporting sponsorship of the award started in 2009, and this year marks the seventh year of supporting efforts to perpetuate green spaces across America for future generations to continue to enjoy.

The Davey Tree Expert Company's more than 8,000 employees provide tree care, grounds maintenance and environmental consulting services for the residential, utility, commercial and government markets throughout the U.S. and Canada. Davey has provided Proven Solutions for a Growing World since 1880 and has been employee-owned for 35 years. For more information, visit [www.davey.com](http://www.davey.com).

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## Advocacy starts at home

NRPA has determined that its traditional Legislative Forum in Washington D.C. would be better served by a more targeted, grassroots advocacy approach. Parks and recreation professionals, citizen board members and stakeholders will be advocating in Congressional District offices and at special events this summer to celebrate parks and recreation's positive impact on communities.

Advocates are faced with a significant challenge in 2015. The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act will expire on September 30, and reauthorization legislation is being debated in Congress. The LWCF includes two major programs, including the land acquisition program for federal agencies and the State Assistance program. The State Assistance program provides competitive grants to state and local governments to develop parks and outdoor recreation facilities.

The State Assistance program is subject to the discretion of the annual Congressional appropriations process. Consequently, the program has received a meager 13% of the annual LWCF appropriation. July is Parks and Recreation Month, and a great opportunity to invite congressional representatives to visit a park, trail, recreation center or summer camp program. Seeing parks and recreation in action will give legislators a new perspective, and hopefully garner their support for parks and recreation legislation like the Land and Water Conservation Fund and its State Assistance program.

Mark Young

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## Calendar

Tentative Meeting Schedule in Las Vegas

We don't have the official information for our meetings in Las Vegas, but for planning purposes, this is our tentative schedule:

### Monday, September 14

8:00 PM Gold Medal Reception (Invitation Only)

### Wednesday, September 16

TBD JPRA Associate Editors Meeting

TBD Academy Foundation Board Meeting

### Thursday, September 17

7:00 AM AAPRA Board Meeting

9:15 AM AAPRA New Member Orientation

10:30 AM AAPRA General Membership Meeting

6:00 PM AAPRA Banquet at Bootlegger Bistro

AMERICAN ACADEMY FOR  
PARK AND RECREATION  
ADMINISTRATION

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## Share Your Advice/Insights with Young Professionals

The Externship and Mentoring Committees invite all Academy members to contribute to mentoring the Academy's young professional externs and young professional mentees by providing your advice and/or insights. This can be your own advice/insight or something you learned from someone else that you would like to share. This information will be compiled and placed on the Academy website so that it is available to all.

Advice should be concise and relatively self-explanatory. The statement[s] will be attributed to you so that the young professionals can follow up with you if they want to.

Examples of such advice are: from past president Tony Cisneros in a past Academy newsletter, "...my advice to all is to seek change before you have to! It is far too easy to simply sit back, wait and see what life may throw our way"; and from NRPA member Amy Fortenberry in a Parks and Recreation magazine member spotlight, "Be willing to try something that you are not incredibly comfortable with and raise your hand for the jobs that people don't want to do."

Please provide your contribution no later than July 24 to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HPFF6L5> If the link doesn't work, copy the URL and paste into your browser's address bar.

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## First World Urban Parks Congress held



Academy Fellow Steve Wolter, led a workshop in international certification and continuing professional development in parks management ( The shortened process to become a Certified International Park Professional Senior Professional is ending soon and was an important topic for the workshop) , and delivered a keynote speech on "Smart Parks and the Smart City" at the Congress.

The first World Urban Parks Congress was held in Ponte de Lima, Portugal from 26-30 May in partnership with the Spanish Association for Parks and Gardens and the Ponte de Lima Municipality. The Congress involved 200 participants, with over 45 speakers from around the world. The venue was the Expolima conference centre and show grounds that included a Green Spaces fair. The conference was timed to include the 11th International Garden Festival of Ponte de Lima.

With projections that 70% of the world's population will live in urban areas by 2050, the World Urban Parks is a newly formed organization representing all countries in a focus on promoting urban parks, recreation, and lands management. World Urban Parks is collaborating with many organizations worldwide including US organizations to advance the many issues affecting parks organizations. One outreach program is the Certified International Park Professional and World Parks Academy at <http://ifpra-academy.org>. Both of these programs are valuable for US park leaders and executives in understanding trends and issues that affect the US in the new global economy.

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## Pottsie Award

The AIPE/American Academy Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients for the 2015 John C. Potts Leadership Development Scholarship for the 2015 NRPA Directors School. The "Pottsie" scholarships honor former AAPRA Executive Director John Potts by supporting young professionals who have demonstrated leadership and management potential within their organizations.

Jay Lerner, CPRP, Superintendent of Recreation for the Waukegan Park District, Waukegan, Illinois and Mark Lynch, CPRP, Parks Superintendent, Martin County Parks and Recreation Department, Florida will receive scholarships that cover the first year's tuition, lodging and up to \$500 in travel expenses to the school.

Thanks to the Academy members for your donations to the Foundation that make these scholarships possible.

## Mentor Committee

Currently, the committee is soliciting applicants for mentors and mentees for a joint program sponsored by AAPRA, Young Professionals and Administrators Network (NRPA). There has been a great response by Academy members to serve as mentors! The next step will occur with matching mentors and mentees which will occur during the first week of June, then the pairs will be announced.

## Member Fellow Profiles

In Member Fellow Profiles we take time to get to know our fellow members. This month get to know these members:

### [Amy Hurd](#)

**When were you selected to the Academy?**

2014

**What is the most important trend you feel our profession has to address in the next 3 years?**

Declining infrastructure. Agencies expanded with many different types of parks & facilities in the late 90's & early 2000's. Now these facilities are starting to age to the point of needing significant repair. With budget cuts over the last decade in particular, agencies haven't keep up with the costs of maintaining these facilities. The budget allocation to do everything that needs to be done is astronomical & impossible. This problem is going to require some difficult decisions and creative management.



**Describe the path you took to enter the park and recreation profession?**

My path to the profession was influenced by several key people, including many Academy members. I started out as an English major at Indiana University looking for a humanities elective that I would like. Dr. Ruth Russell had an opening in her introduction to recreation course. It took about a week in her class & I was sold on the profession. A strong connection between IU & Bob Toalson at the Champaign Park District then led me to an internship, after which Sara Hensley (Austin Parks & Recreation Department) hired me in my first full time job as the special events and public information supervisor. Going back to IU after 8 years in the field resulted in a PhD. My ideal higher education job was Illinois State because of the high quality interns we got from ISU when I was in Champaign. I was lucky to be hired by Dean Bob Rossman & have been at ISU ever since, just recently moving to an administrative position as Director of the Graduate School.

**What was the most recent book you read, and why?**

*Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking* (Susan Cain). I originally read this because it was the selection by a reading group on campus. Being an introvert I would never actually go to the group, but I did want to read the book!

**Favorite 'fun', leisure activity?**

Favorite physical activity is cycling. Favorite creative activity is developing fused glass & stained glass pieces.

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### [Jonathan Korfhage](#)

**When were you selected to the Academy?**

2000 - What an honor!

**What is the most important trend you feel our profession has to address in the next 3 years?**

To continue to strive for political and community support for the valuable and essential services that we provide in the face of the increasing threats of civil strife & community safety, global warming & weather irregularities, homelessness, employment challenges & the economy, and the preservation of our planet.



**Describe the path you took to enter the park and recreation profession?**

It began with a family that was involved in church recreation, the theatre, community services, education, and two brothers already involved in recreation administration. My base was already established. My youth was packed with outdoor activities, camps, aquatics, basketball, football, track, tennis, and golf which provided further interests toward a

life in parks and recreation. The deal was sealed with four years at San Jose State in the recreation program with mentoring from outstanding educators. By the time I entered the work force I had built a full resume of experience.

**What was the most recent book you read, and why?**

I am currently reading several books. The most recent one finished is David Toolan's book *At Home in the Cosmos* which embraces one of my interests which is to attempting to live in harmony with Nature locally and globally. It becomes increasingly critical to acknowledge the inherent value of all life, human and non-human, and strive to treat all living beings with compassion and respect.

Another book almost finished is Susan Dunn's book *Jefferson's Second Revolution, The Election Crisis of 1800 and the Triumph of Republicanism*. It is an interesting study of Jefferson and his contemporaries including a closer look at George Washington. I enjoy reading about biographical history as it increases my insight and understanding.

**Favorite 'fun', leisure activity?**

Spending time with family and friends is at the top of the list. But great fun also comes from my keeping in shape, my correspondence, serving in leadership with a non-profit dedicated to helping homeless or near homeless families & veterans. Also enjoy leadership activity in a 'fraternity' of 275 retired men, being a puppeteer as time allows, and working on a book about the complete history of parks and recreation in California. Life is good!

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**Rich Grodsky**

**When were you selected to the Academy?**

2004

**What is the most important trend you feel our profession has to address in the next 3 years?**

Over the last number of years I have seen a change in how elected boards have become polarized therefore making it difficult for people to create and manage long term strategic planning. As this has occurred fewer people have elected to go into the municipal (government) side of the profession. This has forced agencies to hire people that may not have a long term view of the critical role P and R plays in our daily lives.



**Describe the path you took to enter the park and recreation profession?**

After being a participant in many park district programs as I got older I thought "I could one of those counsellors." So during high school I worked thorough out the year at the Glenview Park District in Illinois. I had two great mentors who suggested that I might be interested in majoring in Park and Recreation management in college. I did and was lucky enough to get a job I pin graduation. The profession has been great and I am grateful to have met and worked with wonderful people throughout the years.

**What was the most recent book you read, and why?**

*The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough. It is a historical review of the invention of the airplane but more importantly a perspective of how people can change the world if they believe they can.

**Favorite 'fun', leisure activity?**

Beach and golf in Hilton Head, South Carolina.