



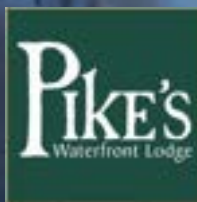
**Alaska**  
Recreation and Park Association

# 2019 ARPA CONFERENCE



**"A TIME FOR RENEWAL"**

Fairbanks, Alaska | Pike's Waterfront Lodge | October 8-10, 2019



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# WELCOME TO FAIRBANKS

## Greetings conference attendees!

It blows my mind to be sitting here, writing yet another conference welcome message: it seems like the conference just ended a couple of months ago. Surely it can't be time yet, right? Like many things in life, as children it is impossible to "get" what adults are talking about when they say that time goes by quicker each year you get older. From a science perspective, I'm pretty sure that time is still a constant. From an adult perspective, I know that time is a relative construct, designed by our Matrix overlords to placate our feeble brains. But as a child, we either:

- a) Cannot imagine what that would even be like (in our 50's, would we move around like we were in fast forward?), or
- b) Cannot wait for time to start speeding up! (so we don't have rules, so we can do what we want, etc.)

None of that really matters for the purpose of this message, other than I sometimes wish we could slow things down again. Often, we get caught up in the daily frenetic rush of life that we do not take even a moment to stop and take a deep breath.

THAT is one of the reasons why our theme this year is "A Time for Renewal." What better chance to refresh and renew than at our annual conference, surrounded by fellow professionals? While we know that the educational side of the conference is our primary purpose (and we have some AMAZING sessions!), this is, as we all know, often our ONLY chance to connect with our statewide Parks and Recreation network.

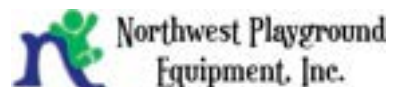
ARPA has also gone through some significant changes this past year, so "A Time for Renewal" seemed appropriate to recognize those efforts as well. Our new Agency-based membership structure is in its infancy, so we will have to see how things shake out, but response has been very good so far. One of the ARPA Board's goals this year will be to try and bring many of our unrepresented communities into the ARPA membership, and each of you will be a big help in spreading the word!

The other major change to ARPA is the new website/membership management system, provided by MyRec.com. This is an exciting change that will allow all of us in ARPA to interact, collaborate, share ideas, and network much more efficiently and easily. It is also a much smoother platform for registering for professional development, keeping up-to-date on national P&R news, job postings, etc.

Donnie Hayes and I have thoroughly enjoyed chairing the conference for the past two years. Fairbanks is truly a city with a Golden Heart, and we are glad you have chosen to join us! Andrew and Joel in Soldotna will take the conference-planning reins for the 2020-2021 conferences, and it will be great to get back down to the Kenai Peninsula again. Between quality educational sessions, massages, amazing food and lodging at Pikes, and a soak in geothermal hot springs on Wednesday, we hope you use this conference for your own "Time for Renewal!"

Recreationally,  
 Michael A. Bork, MS, CPRP, CLYT  
 Parks & Recreation Director, Fairbanks North Star Borough

## THANK YOU 2019 ARPA CONFERENCE SPONSORS!



# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

- 8:00am - 5:00pm      Playground Maintenance Certification
- 12:00pm - 6:00pm    Vendor Set Up
- 3:00pm - 6:00pm      Check-In & Registration
- 3:00pm - 6:00pm      ARPA Board of Directors Meeting
- 6:00pm - 10:00pm    (Unofficial) Social gathering at Pike's Restaurant



## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

- 7:30am - 9:00am      Check-In & Registration
- 8:30am - 9:30am      Education Session 1
- 9:45am - 10:45am    Education Session 2
- 11:00am - 12:00pm   Education Session 3
- 12:30pm - 2:00pm    Keynote Luncheon - Jeff Wozer
- 2:15pm - 3:15pm      Education Session 4
- 5:00pm - 10:00pm    All-Conference Social Event



## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

- 7:30am - 9:15am      Exhibit Hall Reception Breakfast
- 9:30am - 11:45am    Offsite Education Sessions
- 12:00pm - 2:00pm    "Topic Table" Lunch
- 2:15pm - 3:30pm      Education Session 5
- 3:45pm - 4:45pm      Education Session 6
- 6:00pm - 7:00pm      Cocktail/Social Hour, Silent Auction Begins
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm      Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

- 8:00am - 5:00pm      ARC Lifeguard Instructor - Trainer Review
- 10:00am - 12:00pm   ARPA 1st Quarter Board of Directors Meeting

### REGISTRATION HOURS

#### Tuesday, October 8th

3:00pm - 6:00pm

#### Wednesday, October 9th

7:30am - 9:00am

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### EXHIBIT HALL HOURS

#### Wednesday, October 9th

9:00am - 5:00pm

#### Thursday, October 10th

9:00am - 3:00pm

## 2019 Alaska Recreation & Park Association Conference General Schedule

### "A Time For Renewal"

#### Tuesday, October 8

8:00 - 5:00	Pre-Conference	NRPA Playground Maintenance Certification*
3:00 p.m.	Q3 - Board Meeting	Pike's Board Room
6:00p.m.	Pike's Restaurant & Bar	No official social event, but feel free to gather at Pike's for some networking and reconnecting!

#### Wednesday, October 9

Time		Binkley Room Classroom	Fireweed Room	Board Room
7:00 - 8:30a.m.	Registration Open - Lobby	<b>"RENEW" Yourself with a 10-minute "Head &amp; Shoulders" complimentary massage!</b> <i>First-Come availability - In Binkley Room</i>		
8:30 - 9:30a.m.	Education Session 1	Lead With Laughter - Michael Bork	More Case Studies in Aquatic Emergency Care - Joe Stefanyak	Energy <b>CANCELLED</b> Joeffler
9:45 - 10:45	Education Session 2	Renewing Approaches to P3 - North Star Comm. Found.	FLIPPING Out - Marketing and Advocacy - Chausse/Eck	Recreation Research Efficacy - Fix/Diamond/Garcia
11:00 - 12:00p.m.	Education Session 3	Playground Safety & Maintenance - Dan Gardiner	The Watermelon Trail - Matt Steffy	Week In the Woods Folk School - Hamos/Mantel
<b>12:30 - 2:00</b>	<b>Keynote Lunch</b>	<b>Keynote Jeff Wozer - "Seize the Day, Not Your Phone"</b>		
2:15 - 3:15p.m.	Education Session 4	Herding Cats - Wendy Clubb	Finding Happiness in Mistakes - Josie McClain	Homelessness in Parks - Michael Sanders
3:15 - 5:00p.m.	On Own	Enjoy a bite at Pike's, take a walk, or go out and grab something to eat!		
5:00p.m.	BUS LEAVES! - NO WAITING!	<b>Bus leaves for Chena Hot Springs**</b>		
9:30p.m.	BUS RETURNS TO PIKES	DONT MISS THE BUS, IT IS A LONG WALK BACK		

#### Thursday, October 10

Time		Binkley Room Classroom	Fireweed Room	Board Room
7:30 - 9:15	Vendor Breakfast	<i>Join us for a "Meet &amp; Greet" continental breakfast social in the Exhibit Hall. Complimentary 10-minute "RENEWAL" chair massages. First-come</i>		
9:30-11:45	Off-Site Sessions	<b><u>We'll Be Working on the Railroad - Donnie Hayes**</u></b>	<b><u>Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics - Eck/Wright**</u></b>	<b><u>Rink Rat Ice Rink Round Table - Steve Taylor**</u></b>
		<b><u>Take a Hike! - Michael Bork**</u></b>	<b><u>SPA TIME - Sign up for a 30-minute massage. \$45**</u></b>	<b><u>On Your Own! Choose your own adventure!</u></b>
12:00-2:00p.m.	Lunch	Find a "Topic Table" and enjoy stimulating conversation & soup & sandwich bar @ Pike's		
2:15-3:30p.m.	Education Session 5	Digitalized Brains at the Expense of Grass Stairs - Jeff Wozer	Challenge - An Opportunity for Excellence - Kathleen Thomas	Summer Programs for HS Students - Nicholas Fairline
3:45-4:45p.m.	Education Session 6	Kids Don't Float - Annie Grenier	Power of Trail Volunteers - Steve Cleary	A Fresh Look at Lifeguard Vigilance & Staffing - Joe Stefanyak
6:00 - 7:00p.m.	Cocktail/Social Hour	Binkley Room - Pike's - Photo Booth, Giant Jenga, More!		
7:00 - 9:00p.m.	Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet	Binkley Room - Pike's		

#### Friday, October 11

8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.	Post-Conference	ARC Lifeguard Instructor-Trainer Review - Hamme Pool*
10:00a.m.	ARPA Q4 Board Meeting	Pike's Board Room

\* - Requires Pre-Registration ahead of time

\*\* - Requires Sign-Up at Registration - Space Limited

## ARPA'S MISSION

- Providing a forum for interchange of ideas and information among parks, recreation and wildland professionals and supporters
- Promoting the personal, environmental, social and economic benefits of parks, recreation and wildlands
- Coordinating, organizing and promoting quality educational opportunities; AND
- Preparing and providing educational information relating to parks, recreation and wildlands.

## KEYNOTE LUNCHEON SPEAKER **JEFF WOZER**



**Wednesday, October 9th | 12:30pm - 2:00pm | Pike's Lodge - Binkley Room**

Jeff Wozer is a speaker, comedian and writer. He has toured the nation for 23 years as a stand-up comedian performing with the likes of Martin Short, Brian Regan and Jim Gaffigan. His articles, mainly on the outdoors, have appeared in publications such as ESPN's Active.com and the Explorer Club's Explorer's Journal. In addition, he combines his stage abilities with a life devoted to outdoor adventure to deliver a highly impactful and entertaining presentation on digital detox, helping individuals become aware of how our electronic devices are stealing time at the expense of family, jobs, health, and outdoor experiences.

We spend almost 2 hours per day checking social media. Over a lifetime that equates to 5 years and 4 months looking at cat photos. The average human attention span is down to 8 seconds, representing a 4-second drop since 2000 when, not surprisingly, cell phones became human accessories (for context purposes goldfish have longer attention spans – 9 seconds – than us). Yikes. My one-of-a-kind presentation encourages seizing the day over seizing our phones and iPads, helping individuals and organizations understand how our screen obsessions are distracting, stealing time, creating sedentary, two-dimensional lifestyles devoid of life-enhancing experiences. Instead of doing, we're all viewing. I mesh my struggles with screen distractions with my 23 years as a nationally touring stand-up comedian along with lessons learned from a life devoted to backcountry adventure to offer a unique presentation that is motivating, inspiring, and entertaining with the ultimate intent of encouraging participants to live more intentionally by unplugging from their electronic devices, getting outside, and pursuing experiences rather than likes. Imagine, if you will, Dead Poets Society meets National Geographic with a healthy dose of Comedy Central.

# EDUCATION SESSIONS

**Education Session 1** *Wednesday, October 9th*  
 8:30am - 9:30am

## Binkley Room

### Lead With Laughter

Michael Bork

Specific techniques and tools to use for de-stressing your life with laughter!

- Understand the difference between conditional and unconditional laughter, and articulate the importance of each.
- Learn how stress impacts health, work, and brain function.
- Walk away with at least three new techniques to unwind, de-stress, and give.

## Fireweed Room

### More Case Studies in Aquatic Emergency Care

Joe Stefanyak

As a follow-up from last year's session (new content entirely), we will again take a look at examples of Emergency Care provided at aquatic facilities, and will discuss the details of specific events, the care provided and the outcomes of the incidents

- Evaluate aquatic incidents to identify and correct errors in operations/celebrate success.
- Formulate opinions regarding actions taken to address several emergencies.
- Discuss practices that could prevent or minimize the likelihood of similar incidents.

## Board Room

### Energy in Parks & Recreation

Ben Loeffler

I worked as Energy Management Engineer for FNSB for 10 years and implemented energy reductions projects at several P&R facilities. Will share on energy project basics, strategies for implementing projects.

- Understand energy project basics.
- Explore P&R energy opportunities.
- Learn project management lessons.



**Education Session 2** *Wednesday, October 9th*  
 9:45am - 10:45am

## Binkley Room

### Renewing Approaches to P3

North Star Community Foundation

Using foundations as a fiscal agent can shape project partnership that bring private funding to public activities.

- Understand relationships with potential umbrella organizations.
- Learn how to articulate agreements.
- Explore how to use networks to ask donors to raise funds for projects.

## Fireweed Room

### FLiPping Out - Marketing and Advocacy

Amy Chausse and Lauren Eck

How do parks and recreation staff embrace the sometimes overwhelming job of marketing, advocacy, and social media and make it a reality? This session will highlight Fairbanks' FLiP Program and provide professionals with effective digital marketing strategies. Explore best practices for building a marketing strategy that highlights and promotes your organization - all with limited resources.

- Become familiar with Fairbanks' FLiP Program.
- Identify the qualities and importance of effective digital marketing.
- Leave with practical ideas to create social media and email marketing campaigns.

## Board Room

### Recreation Research Efficacy

Peter Fix, Kimberly Diamond & Rachel Garcia

Researchers from the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of Alaska Fairbanks will describe their efforts to advance the management of recreation and associated health outcomes.

- Become familiar with recent advances in managing for health outcomes.
- Recognize challenges to multi-site analysis of health outcomes.
- Increase effectiveness in managing specific sites for health outcomes.

**Education Session 3** *Wednesday, October 9th*  
11:00am - 12:00pm

**Binkley Room**

**Playground Safety & Maintenance**

Dan Gardiner

This session is for the maintenance and safety of playground sites.

- Recognize safety issues on a playground.
- Learn how to assess immediate safety issues.
- Understand the importance of repairs to prolong the life of the playground equipment.

**Fireweed Room**

**The Watermelon Trail**

Matt Steffy

Creative approaches to the logistical challenges presented by remote Alaskan trail work. A discussion on partnering, planning, and rapid adaptation to changing factors. Lecture will be facilitated through a case study discussion.

- Explore effective habits of effective partners.
- Understand logistical planning.
- Learn environmental rehabilitation strategies.

**Board Room**

**Week In the Woods Folk School**

Kerri Hamos & John Manthei

This session will introduce folk schools in general, with some history of the movement, then talk about our school and the move to Pioneer Park, and how Week in the Woods is our flagship program.

- Introduction to folk schools, specifically The Folk School of Fairbanks, and Week in the Woods program

**Education Session 4** *Wednesday, October 9th*  
2:15pm - 3:15pm

**Binkley Room**

**Herding Cats**

Wendy Clubb

How do you translate our professional skills, knowledge and abilities on paper to showcase your talents within the work force? This session will explore activities to determine what SKA you currently have and how to word them on a resume.

- Identify one of their on the job skills, knowledge, and/or ability.
- Gain brainstorming activities to help their employees identify their job skills, knowledge, and/or ability.

**Fireweed Room**

**Finding Happiness in Mistakes**

Josie McClain

This session will discuss how failure happens only when we stop trying. Mistakes are learning opportunities! This session will provide opportunities to make mistakes and encourage you to change your mindset to a growth mindset.

- Participants will see failures as a learning opportunity.

**Board Room**

**Homelessness in Parks**

Michael Sanders

This session will explore the challenges of helping people experiencing homelessness in parks.

- Identify resources available to people experiencing homelessness.
- Explore best practices for ending homelessness.
- Review Alaskan homelessness data.



**Education Session 5** *Thursday, October 10th*  
 2:15pm - 3:30pm

**Binkley Room**

**Digitalized Brains at the Expense of Grass Stains**

Jeff Wozer

This session will be discussion based, led by ARPA's 2019 Keynote Speaker, Jeff Wozer! Come listen, learn and discuss how our screen obsessions are distracting, stealing time, creating sedentary, two-dimensional lifestyles devoid of life-enhancing experiences.

**Fireweed Room**

**Challenge - An Opportunity for Excellence**

Kathleen Thomas

Session attendees will participate in a round table discussion focused on problem solving the common and unique challenges Parks and Recreation professionals are facing throughout their communities, as well as the state and nation.

- Identify challenges and causes in Parks and Recreation.
- Find opportunities in Parks and Recreation.
- Develop pathway to success.

**Board Room**

**Summer Programs for HS Students**

Nicholas Fairline

This session will introduce folk schools in general, with some history of the movement, then talk about our school and the move to Pioneer Park, and how Week in the Woods is our flagship program.

- Learn framework for hybrid summer program for high school students.
- Use natural resource education as the vehicle to deliver life skill development.
- Understand the development of partnerships between a Parks department and other organizations.

**Education Session 6** *Thursday, October 10th*  
 3:45pm - 4:45pm

**Binkley Room**

**Kids Don't Float**

Annie Grenier

The Kids Don't Float program is an injury prevention program that offers a life jacket loaner board program and boating safety education opportunities.

- Understand the need for the Kids Don't Float program.
- Learn new ways Alaska Parks can partner with KDF.
- Discover new ways to keep Alaskans safe on the water through classes and on-water trainings.

**Fireweed Room**

**Power of Trail Volunteers**

Kristen Mrozowski

Alaska Trails' volunteer program, the Alaska Trail Stewards, is in its fourth successful season this summer. There are lots of other great volunteer programs around the state. We would like to share and learn at the conference and help grow volunteers.

- Highlight Volunteer Success.
- Share challenges and tips.
- Link with partners to grow volunteers in AK.

**Board Room**

**A Fresh Look at Lifeguard Vigilance & Staffing**

Joe Stefanyak

This session will take a look at Lifeguard Vigilance, discussing some of the challenges guards have in remaining attentive. We will also take a look at the many often overlooked and unthought of issues that make identification of, and response to a Guest in distress difficult.

- Discuss the roles that extraneous factors play with regard to a lifeguard's ability to recognize and react to guests in distress.
- Implement best practices that will improve lifeguard performance and recognition of a Guest in Distress.



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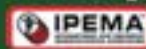
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## OFFSITE EDUCATION SESSIONS

**These off-site education sessions require Sign-Up at Registration. Space is limited. Transportation will be provided.**

*Thursday, October 10th  
9:30am - 11:45am*

### Pioneer Park

#### **We'll Be Working on the Railroad**

Donnie Hayes

I've been working on the Railroad, all a live long day... Donnie walks you through Railroad maintenance, common concerns, risk management, and state inspections. If you have ever been interested in having a railroad, or a carnival style ride this would be a great walk and talk through Pioneer Park for you.

### Tanana Lakes

#### **Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics**

Bryant Wright & Lauren Eck

This hands-on workshop will provide you with a better understanding of recreation-related impacts, the Seven Principles and how Leave No Trace skills and ethics can help protect the outdoor places we love. Participants will leave the workshop with tools and techniques for disseminating low-impact skills to others. The experience will consist of a mix of classroom time and outdoor field training and participants should be prepared to go on a short walk.

- Knowledge of Leave No Trace and its seven principles.
- Understand importance of Leave No Trace.
- Identify where to locate additional Leave No Trace resources and opportunities for further Leave No Trace training.

### Big Dipper Ice Arena

#### **Rink Rat Ice Rink Round Table**

Steve Taylor

This session will be a round table discussion of Ice Rink operations. Discussions will focus on programming, revenue generation, user group relations. Perspectives will be shared from various rink operators around the state.

- Identify new methods for revenue generation.
- Develop new ice related programs and events.
- Compare management strategies from various ice rinks.

### Pike's Hotel

#### **Take a Hike**

Mike Bork

Enjoy a walk along the Chena River.

### SPA TIME!

#### **30 Minute Massage**

\$45 fee

Enjoy a 30 minute massage. Complete renewal!

# ALL CONFERENCE SOCIAL EVENT

Wednesday, October 9th  
5:00pm - 10:30pm  
Chena Hot Springs Resort

Come for a soak in Fairbanks' natural hot springs! Enjoy Chena's natural outdoor hot springs, adult rock lake, indoor pool and the gorgeous scenery with your ARPA friends & coworkers.

BUS LEAVES FOR CHENA HOT SPRINGS AT 5:00PM. MEET OUTSIDE PIKE'S. SNACKS AND BEVERAGES PROVIDED ON BUS RIDE. BUS RETURNS TO PIKE'S AT 9:30PM. DON'T MISS THE BUS, IT IS A LONG WALK BACK!



## THANK YOU BREAK SPONSORS



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## ARPA CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Thank you to all 2019 Conference Presenters!



**Michael Bork**

**mbork@fnsb.us**  
**(907) 459-1069**

Michael Mr. Mirth” Bork combines 25 years of Parks and Recreation experience with expertise in organizational psychology, mixed with a hands-on teaching method and a sprinkling of therapeutic and healthy laughter. Add a dash of energetic zest, and Voila! You have an engaging, knowledgeable, and unforgettable speaker and educator. Every day, he tries to live the motto: “If you can’t SEE the sunshine, BE the sunshine!” Mr. Mirth is a balloon artist, ukulele player, clown, and Elvis impersonator who lives with his two boxers (Oscar & Mayer), Chiweenie (Tater Tot), Border Collie/Blue Heeler (MuuMuu), African Grey Parrot (Rocky Road), Rose-Breasted Cockatoo (Hula), Yellow-Sided Green-Cheeked Conure (Hot Fudge Sundae), Green Cheek Conure (Tiki), Cat (Bacon), and Wife (Mary).



**Nicholas Fairline**

**nfarline@valdezak.gov**  
**(907) 835-2531**

Nicholas Farline is the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director for the City of Valdez, Alaska. He has been in the field for about 17 years and recently earned his Certified Parks Recreation and Executive Certificate from the National Recreation and Parks Association. Prior to his role in Valdez, Farline worked for the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department. Nicholas considers his role in Valdez as an “awesome, powerful responsibility and opportunity.”



**Wendy Clubb**

**wclubb@valdezak.gov**  
**(907) 835-5429**

Wendy Clubb is the Aquatics Coordinator for the City of Valdez, AK. She earned a Bachelor of Applied Science in Recreation Management in 2014 from Northern Arizona University. Wendy is the current past-president to the Alaska Recreation and Parks Association, have volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts, Little League Baseball and Basketball, USA Swimming, as well as many other local groups. Her passions include her family, traveling, movies, lifeguard training, visiting amusement parks and water parks, and providing a quality of life to the community she lives in through the recreation services she provides.



**Peter Fix**

**pjfix@alaska.edu**  
**907-474-6926**

Peter Fix earned his PhD in Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism from Colorado State University. Dr. Fix joined the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2002. His courses include outdoor recreation management and survey research methods. He has conducted research for the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management, with a recent focus on advancing Outcomes Focused Management within the BLM. He enjoys bicycling and cross country skiing.



**Lauren Eck**

**leck@fnsb.us**  
**(907) 459-1098**

Lauren Eck is a Recreation Specialist III with the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department. Lauren graduated from Penn State with a degree in Recreation, Park and Tourism Management and has been working in the field for five years. She recently became a Certified Park and Recreation Professional and Leave No Trace Master Educator. Lauren is passionate about special event planning, programming and graphic design. When she’s not working, Lauren can be found traveling, skateboarding, and playing and coaching soccer.



**Dan Gardiner**

**dan@exerplay.com**  
**800-457-5444**

Dan Gardiner has been with Exerplay since 2001, beginning this career as a salesman for the newly launched SkatWave line by LSI. His entry level qualification? He was an expert skateboarder and a friendly guy. He and his wife moved from Canada for an adventure that enlarged his family to six and took him to his current position: President and Owner. Dan leads a team of 30 employees in over six states. Dan is NIPSI certified, has served on several boards and committees, including the New Mexico Parks and Recreation Association, and the LSI and DuMor advisory boards. He is a certified IACET speaker for teaching CEU courses to the Landscape Architect industry.





**Annie Grenier**  
annie.grenier@alaska.gov  
(907) 269-6041

Annie Grenier is the Education Coordinator for the Alaska Office of Boating Safety and oversees the Kids Don't Float education program. The Kids Don't Float education program teaches cold water survival skill through a variety of classes with its school program and pool program. Combined with the Kids Don't Float Loaner Board program there are many ways for Alaska parks to utilize the Kids Don't Float program to make recreational boaters safer. Annie is an avid paddler and is currently working on developing a paddle safety course for the Alaska office of boating safety.



**Kerri Hamos**  
kerri@folk.school  
(907) 457-1219

Kerri Hamos is the Program Director at The Folk School in Fairbanks. She is looking forward to sharing information about the history of folk schools, the current folk education movement in the United States, and how the folk school model works. In addition, she will talk about The Folk School's move to Pioneer Park, and how other park leaders might be able to learn from these experiences. Kerri has been in Fairbanks for 10 years, and loves to hike, travel and knit.



**Donnie Hayes**  
dhayes@fnsb.us  
(907) 459-1269

Donnie Hayes has been involved in Recreation Management for almost two decades. Over the years his love for the sounds of laughing kids, smiling parents, and community fun hasn't waned. He continues to love the joy that comes from providing community members opportunities for growth, excitement, competition, and wholesome fun. The ability to learn from such a diverse group of instructors and professionals has given him a wonderful base that helps him lead at home, at work, and during PLAY.



**Josie McClain**  
Jmclain@cityofseward.net  
(907) 224-5472

Josie McClain is the TYC Coordinator in Seward Alaska. She has worked for the Seward Parks and Recreation for 15 years in this capacity. She loves her job and working with kids keeps her busy. She has joined multiple parenting groups to assist in raising her behaviorally challenged son whom she adopted in 2018. From these programs she has learned so much about raising independent, strong kids she has brought that to the Teen and Youth Center through training her staff in Growth Mind Set information and Positive Parenting skills. She now brings this information to you to share with your staff and friends. It works on adults too. Happy Mistakes!



**Kristen Mrozowski**  
trailstechnician@gmail.com  
(517) 927-8959

Kristen Mrozowski is in her second season as the Trails Technician for Alaska Trails. Through the Alaska Trail Stewards program, she coordinates and trains volunteers while leading trail work events on Denaina lands throughout southcentral Alaska. In the heat of the summer, Kristen is the project site manager for the twenty-four youth laborers and four crew leaders of the Youth Employment in Parks program in Anchorage parks. Kristen grew up in Michigan, and prior to joining Alaska Trails, she spent six years working with conservation corps crews throughout the Lower 48 and Alaska, and a season leading a trail crew at Kachemak Bay State Park in Homer. She brings a background in risk management and a passion for teaching technical trail skills to both youth and adults in an accessible and inclusive manner. Her favorite type of work is moving boulders.



**Michael Sanders**  
msanders@fairbanks.us  
(907) 459-6794

Mike Sanders has been the Housing & Homeless Coordinator for the City of Fairbanks since March 2017. Mike is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) with a PhD in Public Policy Administration. He enjoys helping develop collaborative, multiagency projects that assist vulnerable community members regain their independence. In his off time, Mike, his wife, and two sons have several outdoor hobbies including: scuba diving, snowboarding, hunting, and riding ATVs.



**Joe Stefanyak**

[joe.stefanyak@jellis.com](mailto:joe.stefanyak@jellis.com)  
(407) 401-7120

Joe Stefanyak is Senior Director at Ellis & Associates, an Aquatic Safety & Risk Management Consulting firm that provides solutions to the many challenges Aquatic Facility Operators face and who's mission it is to eliminate drowning and catastrophic injuries in aquatic facilities around the world. Joe is widely recognized as a leader in the aquatics industry, speaking at various tradeshow and conferences, and for the last 30+ years serving as an advocate for facility operators through his involvement in the MAHC/CMAHC, ASTM, IAAPA, WWA, NAARSO, NDPA, WAHC, and AOAP. Joe was recognized as the 2014 World Waterpark Association's - Kelly Ogle Memorial Safety Award Recipient; "Awarded to an individual or organization for significant contributions to guest and employee safety in the water attractions industry." Joe's true passion lies in the outdoors, and he is an avid hunter and fisherman, spending as much of his free time as he can at his cabin in the woods in the mountains of his home state of Pennsylvania, and he looks forward to his visit to Alaska each year, as there is no place on earth with more of the great outdoors than the "Last Frontier".



**Kate Thomas**

[kthomas@wrangell.com](mailto:kthomas@wrangell.com)  
(907) 874-2444

Kate Thomas started her Alaskan career in 2007, with a degree in Adventure Tourism and Business Operations from the College of the Rockies in British Columbia. Kate has worked as a backcountry canoe, kayak and hiking guide for high end clients and behavioral health programs serving at-risk youth. She currently resides in Wrangell and has served as the Parks and Recreation Director for the Borough since 2015. Kate is passionate about making small Alaska communities a better place to live, love and work, and focuses on finding ways to incorporate the best into services for all demographics in Wrangell. When Kate isn't in the office she can be found tromping around the Tongass National Forest with her friends and family.



**Matt Steffy**

[msteffy@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:msteffy@ci.homer.ak.us)  
(907) 435-3139

Matt Steffy has been working in Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resource Management in Alaska for over 20 years. He has served in several positions on the board at ARPA, and presented sessions on a wide variety of topics at conferences such as ARPA and Alaska Trails. He is a UAF graduate with a B.S. in Biological Sciences with minors in Biological Anthropology and Music Composition. A born and raised Alaskan, Matt always enjoys getting outdoors with his family and friends. He is currently the Parks Maintenance Coordinator for the City of Homer.



**Bryant Wright**

[bwright@fnsb.us](mailto:bwright@fnsb.us)  
(907) 459-7401

Bryant Wright is the Trails Coordinator for the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department. Before working at the Borough he worked as a researcher at the University of Alaska Fairbanks where he completed his Masters of Science degree in Natural Resources Management. Whether he's helping establish trail easements, working with trail volunteers, coordinating grant projects, or leading the Fairbanks Trails Challenge, Bryant is dedicated to getting the Fairbanks community outdoors to explore and have fun. Bryant grew up in Fairbanks, Alaska and Tulsa, Oklahoma and enjoys running and skiing the local trails and exploring Alaska's backcountry.



**Steve Taylor**

[staylor@fnsb.us](mailto:staylor@fnsb.us)  
(907) 459-1068

Steve Taylor is the Recreation Superintendent for the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks & Recreation Department. Over the past 10 years he has helped develop recreation areas and implement new recreational programs in Interior Alaska. He believes that quality recreation facilities and opportunities build a stronger, healthier and more vibrant community. He is always up for a ski, hike or paddle adventure and most any home renovation project.

**Thank you to all 2019  
Conference Presenters,  
Special Guests, Sponsors,  
and Guest Speakers.**

*Have a great education session idea? Submit a session proposal for the 2020 conference - applications starting in August 2020!*

# EXHIBIT HALL RECEPTION BREAKFAST

Thursday, October 10th  
Binkley Room  
7:30am - 9:15am

Join us for a "Meet & Greet" continental breakfast social in the Exhibit Hall. Talk with this year's vendors and enjoy Complimentary 10-minute "RENEWAL" chair massages.



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The Friendship® Swing lets kids and adults share in the camaraderie. This multi-user swing is one-size-fits-all, from two kids to a multi-generational family. Designed for easy access, the Friendship Swing encourages social engagement, whether it's fun with your besties or with the whole family. Everyone loves to swing—now they can enjoy it together!

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# EXHIBIT HALL VENDORS



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Tatyana Kiselyov  
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**University of Alaska Fairbanks Sport & Recreation Business Program**  
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# ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS BANQUET

Thursday, October 10th  
6:00pm - 9:00pm  
Binkley Room

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 6:00pm      Cocktail Hour, Silent Auction begins  
                 Photo Booth, Giant Jenga, & More!
- 7:00pm      Dinner served
- 7:30pm      Annual Meeting and Awards
- 8:15pm      Silent Auction ends

## ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

- I. Call to Order - Welcome of Membership
- II. Approval of Minutes of Last Year's Annual Meeting
- III. Action Items
- IV. Reports to Membership
  - a) Treasurer's Report
  - b) Introduction of Committee Chairs
  - c) Membership Committee Report
- V. Installation of Officers
- VI. Presentation of Awards
- VII. Proclamations
- VIII. Open Forum for Member Comments
- IX. Adjourn

## SILENT AUCTION

All of the proceeds from the Silent Auction go to the ARPA Scholarship Fund! ARPA Scholarships are available to any ARPA Member in good standing, and may be awarded for professional development and to help offset the cost of attending the annual conference. Thank you for your donation to ARPA!

# ANNUAL ARPA AWARDS

## PROFESSIONAL AWARD

This is the highest recognition that ARPA can bestow upon a deserving candidate. The person will be carefully chosen.

## NEW PROFESSIONAL AWARD

These professionals are not necessarily the superintendents or leaders that have been visible in the field, but are the “up and coming” leaders. They should possess all of those qualities and talents that will eventually place them in the top leadership, but at this time in their careers, they are climbing.

## BOB ROBERTSON SERVICE AWARD

This award is for service to the Alaska Recreation and Park Association by members of the association. These are the people that volunteer to be on committees, to work with their sections, to help with conferences and workshops and generally are the backbone of the Association. This award was approved by the Board in 1995. It is a Board Award in that the nominees are selected only by the ARPA Board.

## OUTSTANDING BUSINESS PARTNER AWARD

The purpose of this award is to annually recognize one (1) outstanding business partner that has supported ARPA and its mission. This support can be shown in any manner.

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

A recipient who receives this award shall have made note-worthy and measureable positive contributions to ARPA. Past recipients have made contributions such as procedures manuals, template formatting, led a specific campaign or training or other such tangible results.

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

This achievement award is given to a deserving individual and / or groups whose voluntary contribution of time and effort over the years has improved the quality and quantity of leisure opportunities through park, recreation, and conservation projects on the local, state, regional, or national levels.

## OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION AWARD

This award recognizes the agencies, departments, and organizations that make great contributions to their community and to the improvement of recreation in Alaska.

## FACILITY EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award recognizes significant new projects, major renovations, or long-term performance as a flagship of recreation. Any facility from any area of recreation, from trails to aquatic centers, is eligible.

# LAST YEAR'S ARPA AWARD RECIPIENTS



## PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Donnie Hayes, Fairbanks North Star Borough

## NEW PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Brandon Harker, Challenge Alaska

## BOB ROBERTSON SERVICE AWARD

Michael Bork, Fairbanks North Star Borough

## OUTSTANDING BUSINESS PARTNER AWARD

Playcraft Systems, Margaret Miller

## OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION AWARD

Friends of Tanana Valley Railroad

## FACILITY EXCELLENCE AWARD

Pioneer Park, Fairbanks North Star Borough

# ARPA SPECIAL INTEREST SECTIONS

## Aquatics Section



The Aquatics Section members enjoy a network of peers from across the state who are available to share their knowledge and experience. The section provides public awareness of water safety through the development and promotion of performance standards for aquatic professionals and to provide opportunities for quality training and instruction in facility and risk management, water safety techniques and program development. The section also hosts Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO) Certification courses in partnership with NRPA.

## Citizen Board Section



Citizen/Board members are challenged to help individuals of all backgrounds improve their health and quality of life. We are committed to helping citizen advocates and board members increase awareness, support, and funding to address important community and state needs for public parks and recreation. In today's environment of decreased resources, we must work together to communicate the value of parks and recreation provide to individuals well being and communities' ability to thrive.

## Park Maintenance



Parks Maintenance Section works to develop, improve and disseminate park maintenance standards applicable to facilities and landscapes in a northern environment, and to encourage professional excellence in the field. Alaskan park maintenance professionals face unique challenges and barriers and this section provides the opportunity to learn from each other and share best practices. The section hosts Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) courses in partnership with NRPA.

## Recreation Services Section



The Recreation Services section provides support to administrators, supervisors and recreation staff employed by Parks & Recreation Agencies from across the State. In a state made up of agencies that face geographic separation from other communities this networking provides a critical link to support and resources. Members of this section network via teleconference, email, and in person allowing agencies to benefit from successes enjoyed by other members while working together to problem solve and improve services provided to consumers and constituents.

## Therapeutic & Adaptive Recreation Section



Our section offers support and continuing education for those who work with a variety of populations within Alaska. Our members represent community agencies who serve people with disabilities in recreation, city and borough recreation departments that serve members of their communities with disabilities, and staff of long term care centers and hospitals. The section meets on a regular basis to provide support through teleconferences as well as CEU's for those in need.

## Wildlands Section



The Wildlands Section works with land managers from public agencies across the state to provide a forum for education, problem solving and networking. We provide and promote appropriate wildland recreation opportunities on public and private wildlands in Alaska. The section also works with other non-profit organizations in the state such as Alaska TRAILS to help meet the needs of public land managers from borough, state and federal agencies.



**Alaska**  
Recreation and Park Association

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## NEW ARPA MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

### **Agency (7 or fewer FTE's) \$95.00**

For agencies, organizations or businesses who employ 7 or fewer Full Time Equivalency positions in the Park & Recreation field. This membership includes the agency, organization or business plus all Park & Recreation employees.

### **Agency (8-20 FTE's) \$245.00**

For agencies, organizations or businesses who employ between 21 and 50 Full Time Equivalency positions in the Park & Recreation field. This membership includes the agency, organization or business plus all Park & Recreation employees.

### **Agency (21-50 FTE's) \$495.00**

For agencies, organizations or businesses who employ between 21 and 50 Full Time Equivalency positions in the Park & Recreation field. This membership includes the agency, organization or business plus all Park & Recreation employees.

### **Agency (51 or more FTE's) \$907.00**

For agencies, organizations or businesses who employ more than 51 Full Time Equivalency positions in the Park & Recreation field. This membership includes the agency, organization or business plus all Park & Recreation employees.

### **Student Membership FREE**

Subscription period: 1 year No automatically recurring payments Students are defined as anyone who is currently enrolled as a full time or part time undergraduate student pursuing a degree in parks, recreation, conservation, or related matters AND is not simultaneously employed as a full time professional. Currently enrolled in a park, recreation or related university curriculum.

### **Professional Membership (Individual) \$49.00**

Persons currently retired from a recreation, leisure or related profession are eligible for a Professional Membership.

### **Lifetime Membership \$490.00**

Persons eligible for Professional or Citizen Membership may become Life Members.

## ARPA SCHOLARSHIPS

ARPA currently offers 6 scholarships per year (December 1 - November 30) of up to \$500 each in the following categories: 3 individual scholarships to assist with attendance at the ARPA Annual Conference (allowable expenses include travel, registration fees and/or hotel and 3 individual scholarships to assist with professional development (any certification/education relating to the Parks & Recreation field with preference given to NRPA programs). Scholarship requests are open only to current ARPA members in good standing. Scholarships may be awarded to an individual in each category once every two years.

## THANK YOU TO THE 2019 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE!

Michael Bork	Laura Minski
Donnie Hayes	Sandy Harrington
Steve Taylor	Eve Karczmarczyk
John Haas	Jason Jones
Michelle Leonard	Robyn Dick
Dave Jones	Amy Chausse
Brian Charlton	Lauren Eck

## THE 2020 ARPA CONFERENCE IS IN... **SOLDOTNA!**



## A SPECIAL THANKS TO:



