



Trailblazer October 17, 2011

Post-conference announcement:

Please join us in congratulating Paul King from Glendale Parks & Recreation, recipient of the "President's Award" during the recent 2011 APRA Annual Conference and Trade Show. Congratulations Paul !!!

APRA Board of Directors Meeting and Leadership Planning Retreat

Date: Thursday, October 27, 2011

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Fountain Hills Community Center - 13001 N La Montana Dr, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

The Annual APRA Board of Directors Retreat will be hosted by incoming APRA President, Bryan Hughes, and the Town of Fountain Hills Community Services Department at the Fountain Hills Community Center. We will hold a "brainstorming session" in the morning followed by a regular Board Meeting after lunch. See the AZPRA website for details and registration information.



SENATE TO MARK UP DRAFT EDUCATION BILL— HELP SECURE SUPPORT FOR THE INCLUSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Senator Harkin, Chair of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) has announced that the committee will mark up a draft of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) on October 18.

Congressional support for the NCLI Act is critical to ensuring that the HELP Committee includes environmental literacy in the draft legislation. Please help us to add additional co-sponsors to Senate Bill 1372 (the NCLI Act) by [contacting your Senator today](#).

It has always been the aim of the NCLI Act to embed support for implementation of state-wide environmental literacy plans into ESEA. With the Senate prepared to produce a reauthorization bill for ESEA *this month*, we must act now to show support for expanded environmental and outdoor education in our nation's schools. **Please let your Senator know that s/he can support this goal by cosponsoring the NCLI Act today.**

An ESEA that includes the provisions of the NCLI Act would support outdoor learning activities both at school and in non-formal environmental education centers, teacher professional development, and the implementation of state environmental literacy plans. By offering states increased flexibility to infuse environmental education into the preK-12 curriculum, the No Child Left Inside Act will give our nation's students the knowledge they need to advance American competitiveness in a clean energy economy, help boost academic achievement, and offer a pipeline to success in STEM subjects.

Thank you for all you do! Please remain poised for action as we continue to make progress towards historic success!

www.nclicoalition.org



Arizona Salsa Festival - November 5th, 2011 Tumbleweed Park; Chandler, Az.

The inaugural Arizona Salsa Festival presented by the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association is coming up on Saturday, November 5, from 12-6 p.m. at Tumbleweed Park in Chandler.

The hottest event to hit the state of Arizona will heat up the cool month of November and excitement is already building around the inaugural Arizona Salsa Festival presented by APRA! The Arizona Salsa Festival is an event that features amateur chefs creating their favorite salsa recipes on-site. The Festival will take place on Saturday, November 5th, 2011 and will run from Noon to 6:00 pm at Tumbleweed Park in Chandler. Participants in the salsa contest will create hot, mild, or unusual salsas (fruit salsa, shaved ice salsa, and more) and compete for a \$1,000 cash prize for the Best Overall Salsa. Participating in the competition is free.

The event has already received significant attention and was recently labeled an "Official Centennial Event" by the Arizona Centennial Commission. Admission is only \$10 for those 12 and older! The Festival is being produced by the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association (APRA) and will serve as a major fundraising event for the association. Arizona Parks and Recreation Association is a non-profit professional organization designed to operate for the promotion, broadening and improvement of parks and recreation in Arizona.

The festival is a traditional salsa competition. In addition to the \$1,000 grand prize, contestants will also have the opportunity to win \$500 cash awards for Best Mild Salsa, Best Hot Salsa, and Most Unusual Salsa. Additional categories are available for the contestants to compete in; the Best Guacamole and Best Bean Dip categories each with a \$300 cash prize on the line.

Everyone attending the event will receive a free bag of tortilla chips and have a chance to vote for their favorite salsa. This year's event will feature live music, a beer and margarita garden, a huge Kidz Zone with a Jr. Salsa Bar, Salsa dance lessons and more!

Do you own a company that you would like to showcase at the festival? Get a booth for just \$125. Electricity is also available for just \$50 more. Sponsorships for the Festival are also available on the APRA website.

To learn more about the event and download all registration materials or buy your event tickets online, please visit www.azpra.org or send email to:

For more information about entering, participating, or volunteering with this event, email us at arizonasalsafest@gmail.com.

2011 ARIZONA SALSA FESTIVAL – EQUIPMENT NEEDS

In order to make the 2011 Arizona Salsa Festival a major success, we need to rely on partnerships with APRA agencies. The following list of equipment is needed and it is the hope of APRA that all items can be donated in kind. All quantities are assumed to be “1” unless otherwise noted.

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL EQUIPMENT IS LABELED SO IT CAN BE RETURNED ACCORDINGLY. All equipment must be ready for pick up no later than Tuesday, November 1. Equipment will be returned on Monday, November 7. All equipment will be safely secured and locked in a U-Haul Trailer.

- Portable Stage + Staff to Assemble and Take Down
- Portable Light Towers
- Any type of First Aid signage would suffice
- 5** 3600 KW portable generators
- 12 to 15 John Deere Gator Vehicles with empty beds (Club Car or Toro's are acceptable too)
- Fuel to run Vehicles. Approximately 20 gallons.
- Communication Radios (hand held or head set style)
- Agency Banners & Stakes (this is to put up around the event to give cities recognition)
- Bull Horn or Megaphone
- 3 bags of Zip Ties, 2 rolls of duct tape, 12 bungee cords.
- 36 Orange Traffic Cones
- 200 feet of nylon rope
- Printing of Vendor Booth & Salsa Contestant Signs

Thank you for helping make the 2011 Arizona Salsa Festival a major success! We appreciate your support. If you have any questions please contact Event Chair Marty McDonald at [480-236-6394](tel:480-236-6394) or by email at arizonasalsafest@gmail.com

Urban Forestry Community Members:

The Arizona State Forestry Division is pleased to announce the next grant cycle for the 2011 Urban and Community Forestry – Community Challenge Grant Program. Application information, forms, and submittal instructions are now available on our website (www.azsf.az.gov) under 'Grant Opportunities'. Grant applications for this program are due by **12:00 noon, on Tuesday, November 22, 2011.**

Alix Rogstad, MS

Program Manager

Urban & Community Forestry | Arizona State Forestry Division

1110 W Washington Street, Ste 100 | Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2957

Arizona Parks & Recreation Night at the Phoenix Coyotes

APRF is hosting a fundraising night with the Phoenix Coyotes. If you can come out and support the cause that would be great and much appreciated! What would be even better, and make a big impact, would be for you to also forward the message you see below to your friends, family, groups, basically everybody you know - if a few APRA members attend we'll make a few dollars, but if we can get hundreds of non-members to attend it has an exponential impact on what we can accomplish. Emails, Facebook, or even printing a copy and putting it on a bulletin board will all help. Thank you for your support.

When: Saturday, October 29th, 6 pm game against the LA Kings

Where: Jobing.com Arena in Glendale

Why: A fundraiser for the Arizona Parks & Recreation Fellowship (501c3) and to cheer our Phoenix Coyotes

The Deal: \$75 **lower level seats** discounted to only **\$55** and \$36 **upper level seats** discounted to only **\$25** - with \$5 from every ticket going to APRF!

Who #1: Anybody can purchase tickets by going to the following link:

(https://oss.ticketmaster.com/html/group_corp_start.html?l=EN&team=coyotes&owner=131&group=1175&err=&event=&customerID=)

The password to enter is: RECREATION. If this is not for you, please pass on to someone you know who might want a great discount.

Who #2: If you want to try and organize a group of 50 people or more ... again any and all groups are welcome ... contact the Coyotes' APRA account executive Phil Martin at 623-772-3229 or phil.martin@phoenixcoyotes.com ... your group will get to sit together and have a display table at the game to promote your organization.

COYOTES FLYER – also on AZPRA website!

Please send to friends on email and Facebook and post a copy on a bulletin board!

2012 APRA Winter Craze Weekend!

WHEN: February 3 - 6, 2012

WHERE: Durango, Colorado

One low price trip package includes:

- Luxury bus round trip transportation with trained trip captain, on board DVD player, restroom, complimentary soft drinks, water, ice, cups, and sandwich on return trip.
- Lodging at your choice of Rio Grande Lodge or Durango Lodge
- Lift Tickets for three days
- Daily shuttle to and from slopes
- Discount on rentals
- Long sleeved commemorative t-shirt
- Superbowl parties in town

Choose either low price trip package:

- \$385 per person double occupancy at the Rio Grande Lodge includes:

All listed items above, extensive continental breakfast, happy hour with complimentary drinks, heated indoor pool, indoor hot tub, sauna, microwave and frig. in room

\$340 per person double occupancy at the Durango Lodge includes:

All listed items above, continental breakfast, frig. in room, enclosed hot tub

Join your APRA family and friends for this exciting trip!

You don't ski? No problem!

Enjoy a \$100 discount off package price while you enjoy at your leisure the following activities and more:

Silverton Train Ride

Trimble Hot Springs

Ice Climbing

Ski Bikes

Snowshoeing

Snowmobiling

Cross Country Skiing

Sleigh Rides

Famous Silverton Extreme Skiing

Buses will be leaving from Mesa at 7:15am and from Phoenix at 8:00am (actual location addresses to follow)

To register simply call *Cindy Hunt with City of Mesa* at 480-644-2863 or email cindy.hunt@mesaaz.gov

FYI - This is not the outcome we wanted! Watch for more information to come out in the next few days..

CPSC Ruling Upends Drain Requirements

By Rebecca Robledo | 9.28.2011

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has voted to restrict allowances given to unblockable drain covers in the federal pool and spa safety law.

Today, CPSC's voting commissioners decided to change the definition of an unblockable drain to require that the sump, in addition to the drain cover, measure more than 18 by 23 inches and meet certain other testing criteria. The measure passed 3 to 2, in what some say was a predetermined outcome.

The decision is retroactive, so pools that were brought into VGBA compliance with the installation of an unblockable-sized cover over a single, blockable-sized drain will have to be split, supplemented with a secondary system, or otherwise treated like a single outlet.

While the agency originally considered setting a compliance date of May 28, 2012, it has instead declared a 60-day public-comment period for affected parties to provide input on a feasible deadline.

This latest episode attached to the first federal pool and spa safety law began in April 2010, when the Commission decided a drain can be considered unblockable if its cover complies with the VGB Act, regardless of sump size. This measure proved controversial. It spurred immediate push-back and a letter-writing campaign from safety advocates, as well as some politicians and industry professionals concerned that unblockable drains would become unsafe if their covers came off and exposed a smaller sump.

The CPSC is comprised of five commissioners - two Republicans, two Democrats and a chairman appointed by the US President. Two of the three Democrats - Chairman Inez Tenenbaum and Thomas Moore - opposed last year's ruling. The two Republicans - Anne Northup and Nancy Nord - voted for it.

The only Democrat to approve last year's interpretation, Robert Adler, was the primary target of the letter-writing campaign and other protest. After receiving input from parties on both sides of the question, Adler had a change of heart and initiated the revote. In early September, with two weeks' notice, the agency announced the meeting but did not invite public comment.

The two Republican voting members publicly protested the revote. While it was originally scheduled to take place Sept. 21, one of the Republican members - Nord - exercised the right all commissioners have to move the hearing back a week, to today. Both she and Northup voted against the move.

"Certainly Anne's disappointed in the outcome of the vote," said Mark Fellin, a spokesperson for Northup. "We knew it was coming, but I think the entire time we had hoped that the facts would present themselves and we would make a rule based on those facts. ... All the facts that we've received have been that the current method was ... safe and where we're going forward now is actually going to create more problems in the future."

Look for additional coverage of this issue in Pool & Spa News and on www.poolspanews.com

Brian G. Witty, CPRP

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WILDERNESS FIRST AID (WFA)

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But are you ready for
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Option #2: Jan. 28 & 29, 2012

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Accidents happen. People get hurt, sick, or lost. Would you know what to do? By learning a few basic skills, you can make the difference between a good outcome and a bad one – and maybe even save a life.



The WFA is the perfect course for the outdoor enthusiast or trip leader who wants a basic level of first aid training for short trips with family, friends, and outdoor groups. It also meets the ACA guidelines.

The WFA is 16 hours long (two days), and focuses on the basic skills of: Response and Assessment, Musculoskeletal Injuries, Environmental Emergencies, Survival Skills, Soft Tissue Injuries, and Medical Emergencies. Tuition is \$155 inclusive.

You will receive a WFA certification, which is good for two years.

To Register:

MountainRescue.org/solo.html

If You Have Questions:

WildernessMedicine@cox.net

Mike Englund (623) 692-1908

SOLO WFA PRESENTED BY CENTRAL ARIZONA MOUNTAIN RESCUE

Always Ready, "That Others May Live"

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*Do you Facebook? Join APRA's Facebook by clicking on the following link:
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=100264241972>. See you there!*