



Trailblazer November 23, 2011

APRA Website Gets a New Look

The revamped **APRA website** is up and running. If you haven't had a chance to take a look, pull it up, browse the pages and see what is new. We hope that the website will be a place you will check often for professional development opportunities, news and events, and more. The new issue of the APRA magazine is also available online to all active APRA members.



APRA Arizona Salsa Festival



The Inaugural **APRA Arizona Salsa Festival** held on Saturday, November 5th in Chandler, Arizona was a great hit! Thanks to all the volunteers and APRA members that came out to lend a hand.

And the winners are: Eric Gerhne (M-1) for Best Mild and Best Overall. He took home a \$1,500 bounty for his efforts! Lance Anthony's Team (H-4) won for Best Hot and Debra Donald (U-5) for most unusual.

What a great day with just under 3,200 people in attendance!

If you've been searching for a unique, ultra-relevant training opportunity, look no further. In its 21st year, the National Executive Development School (NEDS) continues to provide creative, targeted learning opportunities for Parks and Recreation directors, managers and staff. Offering innovative leadership, management and professional development workshops along with cutting-edge training sessions, NEDS focuses on solutions to the specific challenges that exist in the forefront of today's parks and recreation industry. Featuring three distinct tracks and highly interactive educational sessions, NEDS curriculum is tailor-made for inventive, entrepreneurial Parks & Recreation.

Plus...it's in our own back yard (or at least close by). Note that the two Plenary sessions are also available if you don't have the time/budget for the entire school. They are only \$35ea and included breakfast. The first session speaker is Peter Harnik, with Trust for Public Land who will focus on the value of Parks, Trails, and Open Space to a community; the second session speakers are City of Albuquerque Mayor Richard J. Berry and Economic Development Director, John Garcia who will focus on Sport Tourism...Selling the Vision and the value it has to a community, state, region.

For more information click on this link (<http://www.nmrpa.org/workshop.htm>) or just give me a call.

Kristy Diaz-Trahan
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City of Albuquerque
Parks & Recreation Department
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From the NRPA Public Policy Office:

The U.S. Senate just released a draft of its FY 2012 Interior Appropriations bill, which recommends \$45 million in funding for the LWCF state assistance program. That is a \$5 million increase over FY 2011 funding. Of that amount, \$42.2 million would go directly to states while just under \$3 million would fund the administrative expenses of the program.

The Senate bill specifies that \$0 of the LWCF state assistance funding is to go to Dept. of Interior's proposed competitive grant program. Remember that DOI has proposed to change the distribution formula of the LWCF state assistance program so that 60% of the LWCF state assistance funding would be under the control of DOI, and would fund only a handful of large projects rather than being distributed among all 50 states per the traditional formula. In this scenario DOI, rather than the states, would decide which projects would receive 60% of the LWCF state assistance funding. The inclusion of a line item specifying that \$0 is to go to a competitive grant program instructs DOI to not use the money for a competitive grant program.

In August the House appropriations committee provided only \$2 million for LWCF state assistance, which would effectively eliminate funding for state and local parks conservation and recreation projects. The full House has not yet voted on the Interior appropriations committee's proposal.

While the Senate bill is only a draft and still must go through the legislative process, LWCF is in a much better position than it was a few months ago. In a fiscal environment where funding for government programs is being cut rather than increased, a \$5 million increase for LWCF state assistance as well as the provision which specifies that \$0 is to go to a competitive grant program is positive sign.

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), ranking member of the Interior and Environment Appropriations subcommittee with jurisdiction over LWCF annual spending, was chief advocate for the state assistance program. As the Interior bill begins to move, I will keep you informed as to what advocacy efforts and strategies are needed to ensure that the state assistance program remains part of the LWCF Act just as Congress originally intended.

Thanks for your continued advocacy for parks, recreation and environmental conservation.

Mark A. Young

APRA Winter Craze Weekend



The deadline to register for the first ever **APRA Winter Craze Weekend**, February 3-6, 2012, in Durango, Colorado, is rapidly approaching! Take advantage of this new member benefit! Join your APRA friends and colleagues for a wonderful getaway. Don't ski? Don't worry! There will be plenty of activities for everyone. Non-skiers will get a discount.

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
- Super Bowl 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 refrigerator in room

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

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

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 7:15 a.m. and from Phoenix at 8:00 a.m. (actual location addresses to follow). **To register simply contact [Cindy Hunt](#), City of Mesa, at 480-644-2863.**

The trip is being coordinated by Alpine Ski Club Trip & Adventure Tours. Go to the [Alpine Ski Club](#) website for more information.

The Association of Aquatic Professionals

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Thank you to the following AOAP Partners!

The Association of Aquatic Professionals would like to thank the following for partnering with us on promoting the upcoming AOAP 2012 Conference and Exhibit Hall:

[Aquatics
International](#)

2012 AOAP First Annual Conference & Exhibit Hall ~

February 12-16, 2012, Austin, TX

Come join the AOAP celebration! Register now to secure the best rate!

The ridiculously low (as low as \$275/person or \$575 for a Member Vendor!) registration for the 2012 Association of Aquatic Professionals Conference and Trade Show registration rate expires January 6!

Why pay more when you can pay less? Register today and take advantage of the opportunity to capitalize on a GREAT DEAL for the 2012 Association of Aquatic Professionals Conference and Exhibit Hall!

With our keynote speaker Ruby Newell Legner and many of the Nation's top aquatic professionals presenting, the AOAP conference promises to deliver one of the Nation's best aquatic based educational conferences.

Join us, won't you?

The Association of Aquatic Professionals Conference and Exhibit Hall - February 13 - 16, 2012 in Austin, Texas
(While you are at it, don't forget to register for the golf tournament or the AFO Course!) - Great Discounts for those that register for the Conference and AFO!

[Click Here to Register on-line or download a registration form and mail it in with your payment!](#)

Secure your hotel room today at the conference hotel (only \$139/night!) Make sure to mention you are coming for the 2012 Association of Aquatic Professionals Conference!

Renaissance Austin Hotel
9721 Arboretum Boulevard Austin, TX
(512) 343-2626 or 1-800-228-9290

Don't be the only fish out of water.....jump on in, the water's fine!

See you soon!

[Athletic Business](#)

[Rec Management Magazine](#)

Without the support of these amazing organizations we would not have been able to accomplish all that we have accomplished to date. Please review their upcoming electronic and print issues for information regarding the Association of Aquatic Professionals as well as the Annual Conference & Exhibit Hall!

THANK YOU!

FREE Sessions and Exhibit Hall Entrance at AOAP Conference

One of the main goals of the AOAP is to provide drowning prevention education! What better way to do this then to invite Facilities that have pools in the area to attend a portion of the Conference and Exhibit Hall! (this includes HRA's, Fitness Clubs, etc) ~ On Tuesday, February 14 beginning at 1:15 pm, these individuals may walk the exhibit hall. They are also welcome to attend a session of their choice from 4:15 - 5:30 pm. Topics include: Drowning Prevention, Best practices for Drowning Prevention,

AOAP Current Highlighted Sponsors...

Thank you to the following organizations and companies that have registered as sponsors so far for the 1st Annual AOAP Conference and Exhibit Hall:

Lincoln Aquatics: USB Zip Drives (Handouts)

Recreonics: Partial sponsor of pizza in exhibit hall on Monday night and a session

About AOAP



Association of Aquatic Professionals

The Association of Aquatic Professionals is a Non-Profit 501(c)3 Organization. You are among many who have chosen to be involved with a cutting edge professional membership based organization. It is our goal to bring together professionals from all aspects of aquatics to network, educate, advocate, enrich, and improve the aquatics industry across the United States and internationally.

Please feel free to scan the website located at www.aquaticpros.org. This site has been developed by the passionate Aquatic Professionals for the Aquatic professionals. We are so excited that there has proven to be so many who are eager to join the adventure and that you have also chosen to come along!

There are already over 300 Members!!!
And we are Growing Every Day!
www.aquaticpros.org

Register for the AOAP Conference and Exhibit Hall and receive MORE for LESS \$...

Individual Registration Includes: Full access to all sessions and exhibit hall as well as tickets for the Monday night pizza in Trade Show, Tuesday Box Lunch, Tuesday night BBQ and Wednesday night social! (as long as you register

Basic Pool Chemistry:
Problems & Solutions
or The National
Movement In
Drowning Prevention.

This is an exciting and
new venture in the
field of aquatics! Let's
educate community
members and those
operating swimming
pools who may not
normally have the
opportunity to attend
this type of event on
drowning prevention!

for each)

Extremely LOW Cost Exhibitor

Registration Includes: Booth, drayage, table, 2
chairs and waste basket as well as tickets for one
vendor for the Monday night pizza, Tuesday Box
lunch and Tuesday BBQ if marked on registration
form. (additional individuals at \$75/each)

** Registration for the Conference is now at the
low rate of \$275 for members, and Exhibitor
Registration is ONLY \$575!

If you have any questions please feel free to contact:

Farhad Madani

Executive Director farhad@aquaticpros.org

Juliene Hefter

President juliene@aquaticpros.org

Shawn DeRosa

Conference Chair

shawn@derosaaquatics.com

2012 APRA Conference and Trade Show

We are still looking to fill key positions on the Conference Committee, including a
Conference Chair. The **62nd Annual APRA Conference and Trade Show** will take
place at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess Resort from August 27-31, 2012. Anyone
interested should contact Bryan Hughes, APRA President, at 480-816-5135.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Katherine O'Connor / Susan Seils
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Web: www.azpra.org

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