



ISSUE 101 | FALL 2022

ADVOCATE

Vermont Recreation & Parks Association

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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.

Editor: Jessica Brodie

Next issue submission deadline:

December 2, 2022
Send to: Jessica@vrpa.org or by mail to:
VRPA, PO Box 33
Brownsville, VT, 05037



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure to check our website and our weekly Rec Check-In emails, a VRPA member benefit, for more details and updates as they become available! More trainings and meetings may be added as well!

2022-2023

October 12 & 13	VT Conference on Recreation – Lake Morey Resort
December 7	VRPA Quarterly Meeting
January 4–6	Northern New England Recreation & Parks Conference – Mountain View Grand
February 2023	Playground Maintenance Training (PMT) course
March 15	VRPA Quarterly Meeting – VT State House
March 23–24	Certified Pool Operator (CPO) Course
April 4–6	Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) Course
May 10	VRPA Annual Meeting
June 2023	Summerama Camp Staff Training
July 2023	VT State Track & Field Meet St. Johnsbury Academy

If you have any suggestions for future trainings, workshops, or special events please let us know! Email Jessica@vrpa.org with your suggestions. We hope to see you all soon!

Mission

The mission of the Vermont Recreation and Parks Association is to provide training and resources to help Vermonters to "Create Community through People, Parks and Programs."



VRPA PRESIDENT'S

Perspective

Though it doesn't quite feel like it weather-wise, the calendar, school schedules, the onslaught of school sports, and the diminishing amount of daylight confirms to us that it's fall! For many of us, summer is the most intense part of our professional calendar year, but it's also the time that many of us cram in a week along the coast or a family camping trip. Regardless of how you spent your summer, I hope that you feel accomplished personally and professionally. With any luck you made a few memories along the way. As the saying goes, "The days are long, but the years are short." I hope you made the best of it!

As we transition to fall, I naturally feel a little funny. I worked seasonally in parks for many years and fall always brought a level of uncertainty, even anxiety, about what would come next. Even though my days working as a seasonal employee are long behind me, and the workload is constant and could care less about whether it's August or September, transitions are still challenging to me like they are to many people. Maybe you can relate to this sentiment, maybe not, but if you do, please know that you aren't alone in that feeling.

Fall offers a bounty of professional development and networking opportunities. I'm blessed to be travelling to the NRPA conference in Phoenix, Arizona. I'm looking forward to tapping into the network of professionals from across the country to rejuvenate myself professionally and to hopefully bring back new ideas to Vermont. In addition, the Vermont Conference on Recreation is happening in October, and I hope to see you all there. The conference committee has been working hard to pull off this year's conference. Seeing old friends, familiar faces and meeting new people is what it's all about for me. With each passing year, the conference means more to me and holds a very special place in my heart.

Finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't report on Vermont State Parks. We've had another banner year and attendance is currently up 8% over 2021's attendance levels, which was the highest attendance year in over 20 years. When the dust settles around Halloween, I'm expecting an impressive final tally. That being said, get out to a park this fall! There's still time! Our last one closes at the end of October. Regardless of what fall means to you, make the most of it!

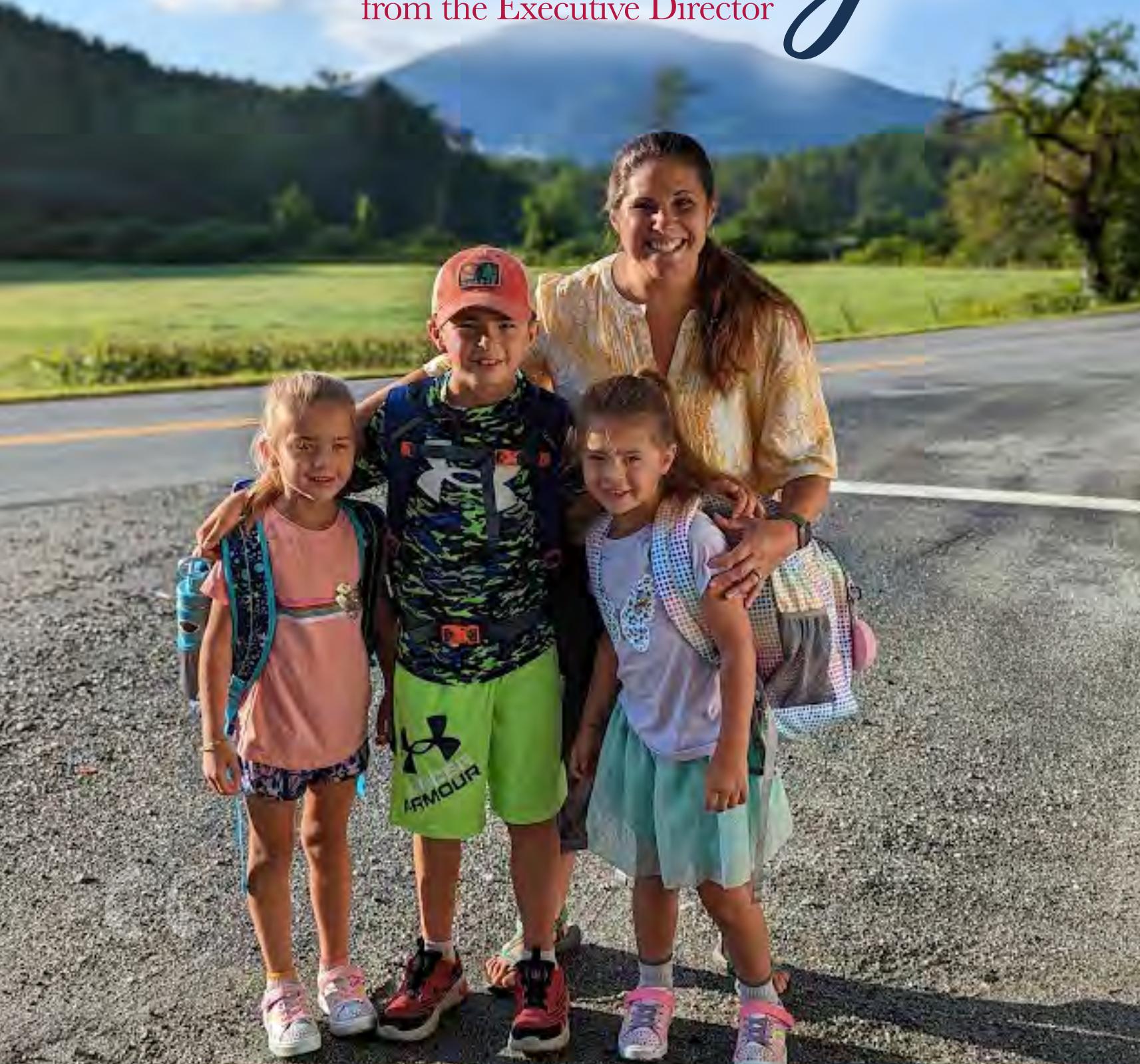
Cheers, and keep up the great work! ■



Rob Peterson CPRP
VRPA President

Message

from the Executive Director



"Back to Normal?!"

Happy Fall!

For the first time in a couple years now the start of school seemed almost “normal” (dare I say that?!). I hope your fall programs and activities are off to a great start and you are getting in the groove again of planning more “normal” programs and events.

As the fall season is well underway, be sure you take a moment to admire all the summer programs you were just able to run and enjoy. Take a walk through one of your parks, write a list of new goals, talk to co-workers about their experiences, and be sure to connect with your community members to see what new programs or events they are hoping for in the future. The start of a new season is a great chance to take a breath and figure out the best path forward for you and your department in the forever changing landscape we are all living in.

The VRPA is here to support you in the ways needed – from finding new funding opportunities, advocating for your needs, and providing new trainings. Let us know what your continued challenges and needs are and we will be sure to work hard to help you with those this year and beyond. We are excited to offer a full schedule of in-person meetings and trainings again this year, and would love to hear about any new opportunities your staff may be interested in.

Our 79th annual conference on recreation is taking place October 12th & 13th at Lake Morey Resort. We are so excited to see you all again for some great education sessions and networking opportunities and hope you will join us! We have over 30 speakers lined up, and two days of learning & networking. Don’t miss the fun!

We will also be sharing information soon on upcoming certification courses and our Quarterly meetings as well. The year ahead will be full of great opportunities

to help you and your communities professionally. If you have never volunteered on a VRPA committee, this is your year! Serving on a committee at any capacity you are able not only helps the association, but builds your network and professional experience as well. This helps your department have insights and local connections, and supports new learning opportunities for professionals around the state. Reach out anytime to learn more!

I would like to thank all our new members that have joined VRPA, and an extra big thank you to those that have volunteered so much of their time on our various committees to help plan all these wonderful events for everyone. To all of our commercial members and vendors that joined us as new or returning members this year, to those that have sponsored and advertised with us, and to all those that have volunteered time to support our efforts. Your involvement and support is truly appreciate, thank you!

As I reflect personally on the past few months, it has been an ongoing balance like everyone else to juggle work, kids, and life in general. Everyone I talk to feels stretched thin these days, so don’t feel alone if that is how you feel as well. I am so thankful for the work you do, as I get to live it with my own kids through youth sports, summer camps, state parks, and all the other ways you as professionals make fun happen! Thank you all for helping keep our communities connected and growing!

Keep up the amazing work everyone and I look forward to seeing you all soon! ■

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Brodie".

Jessica Brodie
Executive Director

Meghan O'Daniel

What influenced your decision to choose the career you did?

I have always been fascinated with how food and culture are related, with a keen interest in food justice and sovereignty, and their role in people's individual lives, communities and society at large. When I was studying these things in school, it didn't occur to me that facilitating access to gardening space could fall within this scope, but as soon as I learned about the Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront's community garden program I knew it would be a perfect way for me to engage in that important work.

Career positions held.

Before I started working for the Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department in early 2016, I had held various customer service positions and worked as a nutrition educator for an after school program.

What do you consider your greatest career accomplishments?

I am proud of and humbled

by the relationships that I have built with the New American gardeners in our community garden program. Getting to know folks over the past 7 growing seasons has been such a joyful experience and one that I am truly grateful for. I have grown a lot, both personally and professionally, in this position and these gardeners have been open, honest and supportive every step of the way. They have helped shaped me into the person that I am today.

What have been your biggest professional challenges?

At previous jobs, it was difficult to be taken seriously as a small (standing at just under 5ft tall!), young female. That all changed when I started working for the Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department though, and I'm grateful to be part of a team where I feel respected and valued each and every day!

Professional advice from lessons you have learned...

Always try to approach every

person and situation with constructive curiosity. I have found that doing this helps to create a positive and open environment where people feel seen and heard!

What are some of the benefits you value most as a member of VRPA?

I truly appreciate the ongoing educational offerings and consistently available resources that VRPA has!

Personal Recreation Interests.

No surprise that I'm an avid gardener! In the summer (when I'm not overwhelmed with zucchini and tomatoes) I enjoy swimming, hiking and camping. And in the winter, I try to get out on my snowshoes as much as I can.

Family.

I live in Brookfield with my partner Sam, our dog Flora, our cats Matilda and Snacktime and lots of chickens and geese! We have loved ones located around the state and in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. ■

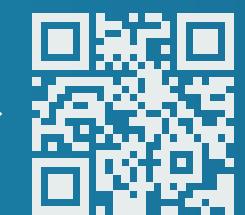
"I have always been fascinated with how food and culture are related..."



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Craftsbury TRAILS

Craftsbury Trails is a volunteer driven community collaboration supported by town officials, local businesses and key players including Sterling College and the Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

For decades the Craftsbury community has recognized the role outdoor recreation plays in the local economy, as well as the social, quality of life and health benefits, access to the outdoors provides. Cross country skiers, mountain bikers and runners from all over the country have enjoyed the Craftsbury Outdoor Center's world class trail networks since the 1970s. There is an active snowmobile club and primitive trail networks are on local public land.

Late in 2018 a group dubbed Craftsbury Trails coalesced with a main purpose of creating year round trails from the towns three historic village areas and to connect the villages with off-road routes. (The existing ski trails on private land are for winter use only and are often in areas not suitable for non-winter use.) The idea was to create trails where people live, work and go to school and where businesses are located, not at far flung trail heads.

In order to garner interest and support, a logo, unique signage and kiosk designs,

and a website that describes Craftsbury Trails and the town's outdoor recreation resources were identified as needs.

Craftsbury Trails, through the town of Craftsbury, applied and received a state 2020 VOREC grant to undertake that work.

The project was delayed for year due to COVID. In 2021 The Center for Community GIS was hired to assist Craftsbury Trails, a logo design was approved and the website was launched late in August of this year. Visit the Craftsbury Trails website [here](#).

Craftsbury Trails continues to work with Sterling College, private land owners, the Craftsbury Planning Commission and others on off road trail routes for mountain biking, walking and hiking. This work requires constant communication, building trust and finding financial resources necessary to build and maintain infrastructure. It's not easy.

Our volunteers include, not only trail professionals, but many who are simply passionate about being outside and enjoying the beauty of the NEK. ■

For more information, contact:

craftsburytrails@gmail.com


CRAFTSBURY TRAILS

Around the State

GREAT SEASON FOR VT SENIOR GAMES

It has been a record-breaking summer for the Vermont Senior Games, with over 600 athletes participating in the nine events thus far. With the dry weather conditions, we enjoyed beautiful days of competition and witnessed terrific performances. Dozens qualified for the 2023 National Senior Games to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The VSG triathlon, held the past few years at Lake Dunmore in partnership with the Vermont Sun Triathlon series, has become one of the most popular events of the season. Many states do not offer Senior Games triathlon, so many out-of-state athletes participate, especially from the NY Capital district. It has also an event in which Vermonters excel at Nationals.

This year, several Senior Games National Champions were in the field and successfully defended their titles. Donna Smyers from Adamant was the third woman finisher overall, at the age of 65, with a time of 1:16:55.

For the senior men, Shelburne's Dave Connery took top honors, taking the gold medal among

50–54-year old's with a fine 1:08:12 time. Burlington resident Mark Mulder, and Jeff Schumann of Salisbury proved their National Championships were no fluke with solid wins among men in their 60's.

VSG golf moved to the Ralph Myhre course at Middlebury College this summer, with some remarkable scores resulting despite exceptionally tricky greens. Melissa Lafayette from Burlington led the way with an outstanding 78 on her scorecard, the first time a Vermont Senior Games athlete had scored in the 70's in as long as anyone could remember. Hancock's Dale White almost matched her result with an excellent score of 81.

A new venue hosted the tennis tournament as well, as players trekked up into the mountains to battle it out at the Bridges Resort at Sugarbush. 77 athletes took to the clay courts over the two days of competition, and VSG officials had to resort to numerous tiebreakers to resolve the final results in many brackets.

This has become another sport in which Vermonters are faring well at Nationals.



Yet Pickleball continues to be the most popular Vermont Senior Games sport, requiring multiple venues and three days of play to accommodate the interest – and that's with having to close registration early, as the brackets fill up fast. This August 168 players competed, with almost 100 in more than one event.

The 5K road race had several new twists, despite being held as usual over Labor Day weekend in Northfield. Northfield Savings Bank ended its long-time role as primary sponsor of the event, so it was co-hosted by the Vermont Senior Games and Central Vermont Runners. Both groups were fortunate that Jim Flint stepped up to be race director. Not only did Jim bring new energy and his incredible attention to detail in organizing the event, but he is a member of both organization's boards and brought in dozens of volunteers.

A power-walking option was also added to the competition options, and it was very well received. We see this activity as a probable area of growth going forward.

Finally, Castleton University was the site of the second Cycling event staged by VSG in Vermont in recent years. 43 riders took part in the 5K Time Trial and / or the 22-mile Road Race, thanks to the efforts of race director Andy Weinberg. This is another event that continues to grow each year.

With basketball and table tennis upcoming, the season is winding down for the Vermont Senior Games, but with many positive memories already having been made, 2022 will go down as perhaps the strongest in the organization's history. ■

THE ASCUTNEY OUTDOORS & ASCUTNEY TRAILS ASSOCIATION NETWORK



Two local organizations - Ascutney Outdoors (AO) and the Ascutney Trails Association (ATA) - have teamed together to create sustainable, community-based outdoor recreation at Mount Ascutney to make the area a year round recreation destination. After the Town bought the bankrupt ski area in 2014, Ascutney Outdoors was formed to manage activities on the land including the development of recreational facilities in accordance with a Land Use and Operating Agreement with the Town. The ski area purchase adjacent to the Town forest placed 1500 acres on the Mountain in the Town's hands. The challenge was to steward the land under a conservation easement while creating economic opportunity through outdoor recreation.

What ensued was the creation of an amazing mountain biking network along with skiing, hiking, running and even a few equestrian trails through the managed forest and open slopes while creating zones to protect wildlife habitat and other natural assets on the upper mountain and forest. While an incredible system of mountain biking trails link areas of the mountain and connect to the adjacent Ascutney State Park, the long term vision for biking will be realized with the addition of two features - a Mountain Bike

Skills Park and three new Flow Trails – both made possible as part of a 2022 grant from the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC). (The grant also included electrification and upgrades to the rope tow and extension of the Discovery Interpretive Trail.)

With Act 250 and the West Windsor zoning approvals finalized in 2022, ATA got right to work on these features and completed the Skills Park in time for the 2022 Flow State Vermont Mountain Bike Festival. Build out of the climbing and Flow Trails are in progress at the time of press.

These new trail features can all be accessed from the Base Area and the Ascutney Outdoors Center at 449 Ski Tow Road in Brownsville.

ANDREW GOULET SKILLS PARK

The “Andrew Goulet Skills Park” was named in recognition of the passionate young rider from Windsor who died (at Sugarbush) doing what he loved and continued his legacy through being an organ donor to at least three recipients. The Skills Park has been the vision of ATA for a very long time and finally came to fruition this summer.



The Park opened July 29, 2022 to greet a crowd of nearly 1,000 at the Annual Flow State festival, many whom enjoyed some first laps. The Park was designed to familiarize riders with freeride skills and offers features for the Intermediate/Advanced difficulty level. Many young riders are expected to flock to the area to hone their skills. Created by Powderhorn Trail Company, the Park brings exciting features for the rider looking to improve downhill skills.

THE NEW FLOW TRAILS AND UPHILL TRAVEL TRAIL

Several flow trails are in the works both at the Base area and higher up the former ski slopes and will run from intermediate to advanced levels of difficulty. Described as a “terrain-induced roller coaster experience” pedaling and braking can be minimized as one rolls down the mountain. Flow trails are often viewed as vital to the growth of the sport of mountain biking and are critical additions to many mountain bike networks. Banked turns and rolling terrain bring a smile to most riders’ faces.

At Ascutney, three flow trails will be added. First, near the Base Area will be a machine built flow trail with a 6-8 % average grade. This Intermediate level trail will include machine-built berms, rollers, and grade reversals to maximize fun and flow. Some rollable features such as small tabletops and doubles may be incorporated – stay tuned. This trail should be completed by early October for some fall riding before snow falls.

A little higher up the mountain, a more challenging trail will run roughly 4,100 linear feet down the mountain. This singletrack flow trail will have an average 8-10% grade and be more advanced – a Black Diamond difficulty level. The long flow will have some isolated steep sections and technical challenges such as drops, gaps and jump features for the rider, as it is designed to challenge a rider’s technical downhill skills.

Finally, a third new trail will offer singletrack, hybrid riding. Mostly machine built, it will include some isolated sections of ledge rock, roots and rocks along with natural surface loam. The planned 7-9% average grade will avoid isolated steep sections to maintain an intermediate difficulty designation. This trail is designed for riders who would like to challenge their skills without a high level of risk. (Note that mountain biking is inherently risky.)

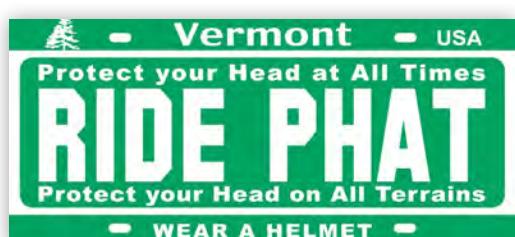
These flow trails will be accessed through a new uphill travel trail both designed and built by ATA and local Jim Lyall with assistance from Powderhorn. Together the Park and trail additions will make experiencing Ascutney riding much more exciting. ■

Questions? Contact:

Ascutney Trails Association | info@ascutneylevel.org
Ascutney Outdoors | info@mountascutneyoutdoors.org

PARTNER UP WITH PHAT

Protect your Head at All Times
Protect your Head on All Terrains



PHAT is a non-profit program with a mission to promote the use of helmets and safe skill development in all sports and activities that involve a risk of head injury. From biking to ATVing to snowboarding and everything in between, PHAT is focused on changing the culture around helmets and safety. Even more importantly, PHAT is a resource to support you in making affordable bike helmets and education accessible in your community! From one day events to regular sales, PHAT can provide you with a supply of helmets with no upfront cost as well as any materials you may need.

“For the past two summers



the Mad River Valley Recreation District has held a PHAT bike helmet sale at the Waitsfield Farmer’s market. We’ve put more than 160 helmets on heads in Central Vermont and are proud to work with the University of Vermont Medical Center on this important initiative. Their Injury Prevention Coordinator, Abby Beerman, has made it very easy to participate. The program offers free publicity materials, forms, stickers and brochures, everything

you need to help your community stay safe. We’re making this an annual event to continue building awareness!” Laura Arnesen, Ex. Director, Mad River Valley Recreation District ■

For more information or to partner, contact:

[#LivePHAT #RidePHAT](mailto:InjuryPrevention@UVMHealth.org)





Network • Learn • Empower

79th Annual Vermont
Conference on
Recreation



R.E.C.

RESILIENCE.
EXCELLENCE.
COMMUNITY.

Our 79th Annual Conference on Recreation is just around the corner! We're thrilled to bring you speakers from around the region and country compiling a total of 33 educational sessions geared towards Directors, Programmers, Parks & Trails staff and Customer Service Professionals- there is something for everyone!

We are honored to have Phil Gaines as our Keynote Speaker this year. Phil is a Professor of Practice in the Parks Recreation and Tourism Management Department at Clemson University. Phil completed a 38-year career in State Parks in 2018, where he began his career as an entry level Park Ranger at Kings Mountain State Park. He served as Park Superintendent at three different state parks, and Assistant Director of State Parks, before

serving as Director of South Carolina State Parks for 13 years

Phil's Keynote session "Why Be Normal", will focus on leadership and the importance of authentic leadership, discovering your why, your purpose and adjusting and adapting in a fast-paced world.

VRPA: Conference



Kristine Stratton
**AWARDS
KEYNOTE**



Phil Gaines
KEYNOTE

THANK YOU

To Our
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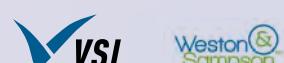
Platinum



Gold



Silver



EDUCATION

Join us for another jam packed VRPA conference! We've done it again and had so many great education sessions that we increased the number of sessions that you have to choose from during each time block! There are sessions for everyone – admin, Staff, programmers, park staff, and all those in between. Don't miss out on the chance to reconnect in person over some hot topics!

EXHIBITORS

What if we could just get all the vendors that are already serving this industry into one room so that in a couple of short hours you could be reconnect with longtime partners that you have not seen in years, be introduced to that next great idea, and be reminded of that project you had put on the shelf 20 months ago?! What if that room was conveniently located just downstairs from that inspirational session on trying new things in your town? Well look no further and join us for the 79th Annual VT Conference on Recreation with over 25 vendors already registered to join us.

Do you struggle with meeting new people? Well walk the floor with a colleague and introduce each other to your existing contacts and brave meeting new people together.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to meet industry experts who have helped people just like you with challenges just like ones that you might be facing.

SOCIAL

Since we are back in person you can look forward to the built in social time associated with VRPA's conference. Along with the delicious food that is provided, we have also planned a handful of morning activities to choose from on the 2nd day as well as night time activities. Join us for Happy Hour in the Exhibit Hall featuring beverages and popcorn, followed by dinner with our exhibitors, and then an amazing Fireworks Display brought to you by NorthStar Fireworks! After the Fireworks join us in the Steamboat lounge for some fun with "Boom City Improv"! Board and lawn games, and fun conversations are always an option as well.

This gathering of Parks & Recreation professionals will leave you feeling inspired, re-energized, and ready to take on the world!

We look forward to seeing you all October 12th & 13th!



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- > KOMPAN, Inc
- > Lunenburg Skate Park
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- > MyRec.com Recreation Software
- > New England Recreation Group
- > Northstar Fireworks
- > Pettinelli & Associates, INC.
- > Pioneer Athletics.com
- > Read Custom Soils
- > SE Group
- > SLR International Corporation
- > Small Business Administration
- > SOLitude Lake Management
- > UltiPlay Parks & Playgrounds, Inc
- > USTA New England
- > Vermont Display Inc
- > Weston & Sampson
- > WICKED COOL FOR KIDS
- > Wickham Park
- > Vermont Systems



Kathryn Wrigley
22 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHAIR



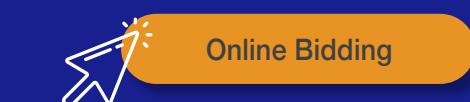
Jessica Brodie
VRPA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Vermont's Finest" SILENT AUCTION

It's almost that time of year when we huddle together around the tables checking out the items for this year's VRPA Silent Auction. The committee has been working hard to put together a selection of auction gifts that will provide something of interest to everyone. The auction items will be on display at the conference but you won't need to be there to bid all bidding for this year's conference will be online so make sure you have a smart device with you when you come to the conference. The auction list will be emailed to all VRPA members prior to the conference, please forward it to all your friends so that they can bid too. This is a VRPA fundraiser and the more bidders we have, the merrier!

EXCITING NEWS

The bidding for this year's auction is already live! Start your bidding online here now!



Each year we take time to repeat our auction founder's words, "Bid high and bid often." Thank you, Carol Hartshorn for getting this all started for us!

If you'd like to make a donation, contact [Joanne Putzier](#). Auction items will continue to be added right up through the auction closing so be sure to check back often. ■

SCHEDULE & ROOM LOCATIONS



TIME	PROGRAM	SPEAKER	CEUS	ROOM LOCATION
8AM	Registration & Silent Auction Bidding Open			Lobby (upstairs)
9AM–Noon	MyRec.com Recreation Software User Group		0.3	Gardenview Room (Upstairs)
9–10:10AM	Growing Vermont's Outdoor Recreation Economy A Review of Liability & Risk Management In Recreation	Kelly Ault, VT Outdoor Business Alliance Wade Masure & Kelly Knotek, Vermont League of Cities & Towns	0.1 0.1	Edgewater Room (downstairs) Lakeside West (downstairs)
	Helping Teens Understanding The Value Of Leadership VT Adaptive's Veterans Program	Lori Hoffner, Supporting CommUnity, Inc. Jeff Alexander & Misha Pemble-Belkin, VT Adaptive	0.1 0.1	Theater Waterlot Room (Downstairs)
10:30–11:40AM	I Was Today Old When I Realized I Was An Idiot Best Practices for Lasting, Sustainable Public Access Trails Contracts & Project Management Vacation Camps & Afterschool Programming	Lisa Paradis, Berry Dunn Nick Bennette, VT Trails & Greenways Council Frank Spaulding, VT FPR Jazmin Averbuck	0.1 0.1 0.1 0.1	Theater Edgewater Room (downstairs) Lakeside West (downstairs) Waterlot Room (Downstairs)
Noon–12:45PM	Lunch Buffet & Conference Welcome	Rob Peterson, VRPA President &		Morey Room (upstairs)
12:45–1:45PM	Keynote: "Why be Normal?"	Phil Gaines, Professor of Practice,	0.1	Morey Room (upstairs)
2–3:10PM	eBikes: Are they Right for You, Your Trail Network or Community? Living in (Extraordinary) Stressful Times Managing Ash Trees & Emerald Ash Borer	Karen Yacos, Local Motion; Nick Bennette, VMBA; and Abby Long, Kingdom Trails Lori Hoffner, Supporting CommUnity, Inc. Elise Schadler, VT	0.1	Waterlot Room (Downstairs) Theater Lakeside East (Downstairs)
2–2:30PM	Birding: A Gateway For Community Engagement Google Forms	Allan Strong, UVM Jazmin Averbuck	0.05 0.05	Garden View Room (Upstairs) Edgewater Room (downstairs)
2:40–3:10PM	Partnering With Libraries To Lend Non-Traditional Items Rec Professionals Panel: Connecting to Colleges & Students	Jessamyn West Kathryn Wrigley, VT FPR & Jazmin Averbuck	0.05 0.05	Garden View Room (Upstairs) Edgewater Room (downstairs)
3:30–4:40PM	"The Customer Is Not Always Right. Now What?" Do It Tomorrow Myth Busting Esports & Gaming Words Matter - "Inclusion" - Getting On The Same Page	Phil Gaines – Keynote Cindi Wight, Burlington Patrick Burke, S. Burlington HS Principal Lisa Drennan, MERGE Consulting	0.1 0.1 0.1 0.1	Theater Garden View Room (Upstairs) Lakeside East (Downstairs) Edgewater Room (downstairs)
4:40–4:45PM	Get Your CEU Form Signed			Registration Area
4:40–5:30PM	Free Time: Room Check-in & Silent Auction Bidding			
5:30–7PM	Exhibit Hall - Exclusive Time & Hosted Cocktail Hour & Snacks			Terrace Ballroom (downstairs)
7–8PM	Dinner With The Exhibitors			Morey Room (upstairs)
8:30PM	Fireworks Over Lake Morey	Northstar Fireworks		Viewing from the Front Deck
9PM	Relax, Have Some Laughs with "Boom City Improv"!	Boom City Improv		Steamboat Lounge
6:45–7:30AM	Sunrise Walk Along Lake Morey			Meet at Registration Area
7–7:30AM	HIT Bootcamp Workout With Jaz	Jazmin Averbuck		Outside
7–7:30AM	Contemplating Life Choices By The Lake With Rob Picking Up Firework Debris	Rob Peterson		Town Beach
7–8:30AM	Full Breakfast Buffet			Dining Room (downstairs)
7:30AM	Registration & Auction Bidding Open			Lobby (upstairs)
8:30–9:40AM	Pickleball – Keeping Up With The Demand Creating Equity In Outdoor Recreation The Master Planning Mindset: From Napkin Sketches To Developing Lasting Landscapes! Creating Relevant & Meaningful Programs	Melissa Cate, Betsy Terry, Glen Cuttitta, Todd Goodwin, Chris Tudor - USA Pickleball Ambassador Caleb Weathers (S.E. Group) Doug Gerber, Weston & Sampson Chris Nunes, The Woodlands Township, TX Danielle Doll, NRPA	0.1 0.1 0.1 0.1 0.1 0.1	Waterlot Room (Downstairs) Lakeside West (downstairs) Garden View Room Edgewater Room (downstairs) Lakeside West (downstairs) Theater
9:50–11AM	Advocacy For Parks & Recreation: How To Tell The Story Of What You're Doing Family Programs & Sharing Program Ideas Preventing Targeted Violence & Terrorism, DHS: Center for Prevention Programs & Partnerships Recruitment & Retention - Today & Tomorrow's Challenge	Todd Goodwin, Williston Robert Mahoney, DHS Chris Nunes, The Woodlands Township, TX	0.1 0.1 0.1	Waterlot Room (downstairs) Theater Edgewater Room (downstairs)
11AM–Noon	Exhibit Hall - Exclusive Time & Scratch Ticket Raffle			Terrace Ballroom (downstairs)
12–1:30PM	Awards Luncheon			Morey Room (upstairs)
12:20–12:40PM	Awards Keynote - NRPA President & CEO, Kristine Stratton	Kristine Stratton, NRPA President & CEO		Morey Room (upstairs)
12:45–1:30PM	Theresa S. Brungardt Awards	Ally Vile, VRPA Awards Chair		Morey Room (upstairs)
1:45–2:55PM	Building Community Outdoors "The Words In The Woods": Arts Programming With VT Arts Council Anti-Racism & Being an Ally Mental Health Session - For Staff & Community	Ari Cano, The Nature Conservancy; Latino Outdoors Amy Cunningham, VT Arts Council Cindi Wight, Burlington Ingrid Padgett & Martha Staeheli New England Mental Health Technology Transfer Center	0.1 0.1 0.1 0.1 0.1	Theater Edgewater Room (downstairs) Lakeside West (downstairs) Garden View Room (Upstairs)
3–3:15PM	Silent Auction Final Bidding			Lobby & Card Room (upstairs)
3–3:15PM	Get Your CEU Sign Formed			Registration Area

Wednesday, October 12

Thursday, October 13

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Attendees!
Please complete our attendee survey after the conference

[SURVEY](#)



Exhibitors!
Please complete our exhibitor survey after the conference

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[MORE INFO](#)



VERMONT
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April 4-6, 2023



CPSI

(Certified Playground Safety Inspector Course)

Join NRPA instructors this April to become a new CPSI or renew your existing certification. The course will take place over 3 days, in person. Instruction takes place the first two days, with an exam the third day. Course materials sent in advance.

More details and registration coming soon.



[MORE INFO](#)



VERMONT
Recreation & Parks Association

DECEMBER QUARTERLY MEETING

DECEMBER 7TH, 2022

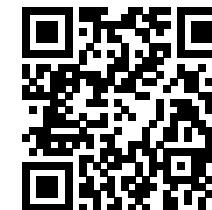
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"Show me the Money"

Join us to discuss all things related to budgets and finances. More details available soon.

CEU credits will be offered.

MORE INFO



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**Earlybird
registration ends
October 30th!**

MORE INFO

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The annual **VRPA Membership Directory** is available to all current members in electronic and hard-copy format.



Access to VRPA library.



Opportunities to meet other people who work and volunteer in parks and recreation.



Access to certification, awards, grant information, technical assistance, and many other resources.

For more information, visit vrpa.org

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE VERMONT RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION

The members of the Vermont Recreation and Parks Association **meet four times a year:** in March and December for Quarterly Meetings which include a 0.1CEU Education Program, for the Annual Meeting each May, and in the Fall for the state recreation conference known as the Annual Vermont Conference on Recreation. All current members receive notice of these meetings either via mail or email. These are all great opportunities to network with parks and recreation colleagues from throughout the state.

The **VRPA newsletter, The Advocate,** is published three times each year in the Winter, Spring, & Fall. All current members receive an electronic copy and is posted on the VRPA website.

Nearly every Friday, the **weekly Recreation Check-In** is sent to all current members via email. This provides up-to-date information about VRPA news, current issues in parks and recreation, funding and grant opportunities, employment opportunities, and an opportunity to ask questions of other VRPA members and get help with your issues and challenges. Many members consider this to be the most significant benefit of being a VRPA member. ■

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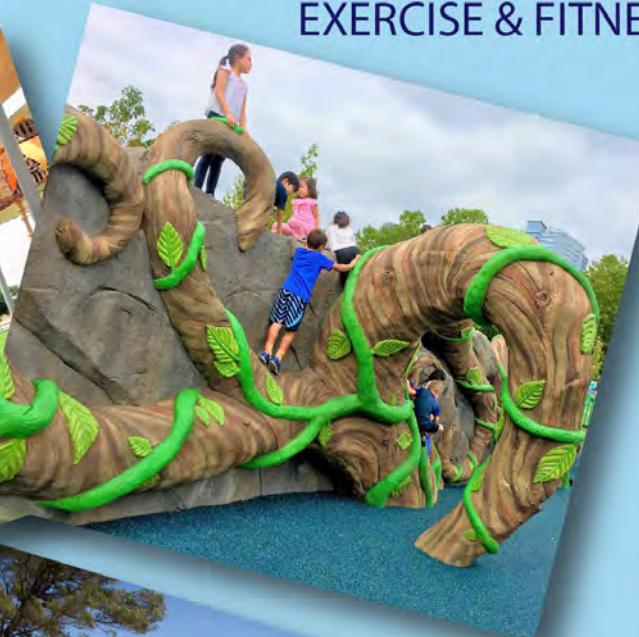
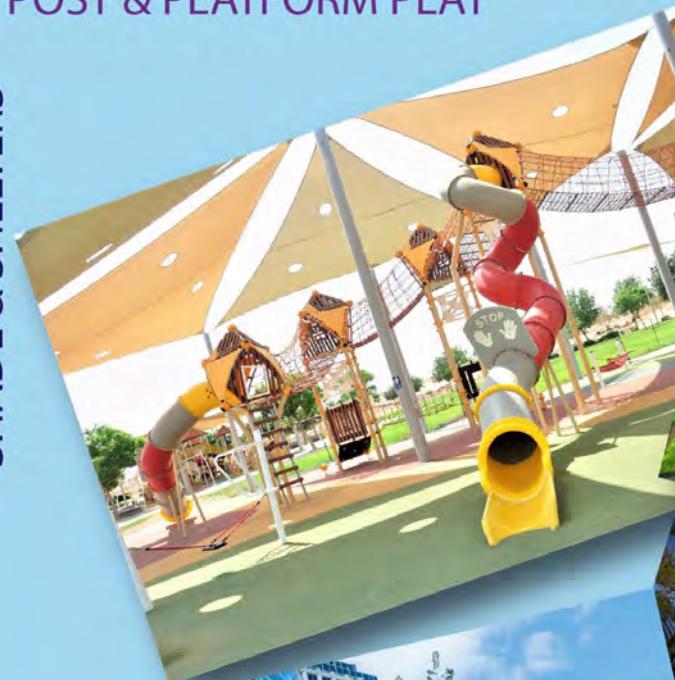
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Application

May 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023

APPLICATION & ANNUAL RENEWAL

NAME	TITLE		
ORGANIZATION			
STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
OFFICE PHONE	CELL PHONE		
EMAIL			

CLASSIFICATION (See next page for classification descriptions)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agency (check one)	No. of Persons	Membership Fee
<input type="radio"/> 1-4 staff		\$305
<input type="radio"/> 5-10 staff		\$420
<input type="radio"/> 11+ staff		\$540
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Professional	1	\$90
<input type="checkbox"/> Board/Commission*		\$125
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial (check one)**		
<input type="radio"/> 1 staff only	1	\$205
<input type="radio"/> 2-5 staff	2-5	\$305
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Organization (1-4 staff)	1-4	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Student <input type="checkbox"/> Friend <input type="checkbox"/> Retiree (check one)	1	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Honorary Life	1	Complimentary

* (Includes ALL board/commission members) ** (inc. link from VRPA website)

Check enclosed Payment being mailed Total amount due \$_____

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.

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

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!

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Showcase |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summerrama | <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Track & Field |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awards | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance Workshop | <input type="checkbox"/> State Conference |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern NE Conference | <input type="checkbox"/> Other ways you'd like to help: _____ | |

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

Are you a member of NRPA? No Yes, who? _____

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY RENEWED YOUR 2022-2023 VRPA MEMBERSHIP, IT IS TIME.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RENEWED, THANK YOU!

Online: vrpa.org | Mail: send printed application to VRPA, P.O. Box 33, Brownsville, VT 05037

Questions? Call the VRPA office at 802-878-2077



ADVOCATE

Vermont Recreation & Parks Association

ISSUE 100 | SUMMER 2022