



ADVOCATE

Vermont Recreation & Parks Association

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2021

“If the plan doesn’t work, change the plan, but never the goal. - unknown”



VRPA Executive Committee Officers

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- President Elect**
[Rob Peterson](#) (VT State Parks) 279-8329
- Secretary**
[April Cioffi](#), CPRP (Rutland) 773-1822
- Treasurer**
[Melissa Cate](#), CPRP (Burlington) 864-0123
- Past President**
[Scott Hausler](#), CPRP (Hartford) 295-5036

Executive Committee Members-at-Large

- [Reuben Allen](#) (Vt State Parks) 786-3838
- [Joanne Putzier](#) (Burlington) 864-0123
- [Brett Leonard](#), CPRP (South Burlington) 846-4137
- [Drew Pollak-Bruce](#), CPRP (SE Group) 735-2370

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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:

May 7, 2021
 Send to: Jessica@vrpa.org or by mail to:
 VRPA, PO Box 33
 Brownsville, VT, 05037



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2021

February 1-12	Playground Maintenance Training (PMT) Course - Virtual
Wednesday, March 10	VRPA Quarterly Meeting - Virtual
Wednesday, March 24	CPO (Certified Pool Operator) Course - Virtual
Wednesday, March 31	VRPA Executive Committee Meeting - Virtual
April 6-8	CPSI (Certified Playground Safety Inspector) Course - Virtual
Wednesday, May 12	VRPA Annual Meeting, Location TBD
Thursday, June 3	Maintenance Workshop, Location TBD
Sunday, June 6	VRPA Summerama Summer Staff Training Location TBD
Saturday, July 17	VRPA – St. Johnsbury State Track Meet St. Johnsbury
September 21-23	NRPA Annual Conference Nashville, TN
October 13-14	78th Annual Vermont Conference on Recreation, Lake Morey
November, Thursday 18	Vermont Performance Showcase Lake Morey
Wednesday, December 1	VRPA Quarterly Meeting, Location TBD

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

Happy 2021 VRPA!

Well...that was crazy!

As the New Year starts up, so will the articles and quotes about making changes to your current routine and being a "new you". In my opinion, we have already learned a lot about ourselves in the last 10 months. Maybe for some, that was the light switch we needed to break from the norm. For others, you shined brighter for others to follow as you lead the way for us through changes.

I am not here to state my resolutions or to tell you how to be better in the coming year. As we know, things change day to day...or every Tuesday and Friday with press conferences at this point, and you have already proven yourselves in so many ways.

What I do want to share is what I am thankful for and what my wishes are for the coming year.

I am thankful for: house projects, supportive colleagues, creative thinkers, amazing seasonal staff, reliable & positive friendships, new connections, exercise & wine (it's all about balance, right?), new "spins" on old events, collaborating on new opportunities at work, VRPA calls, in-school learning,

happy community members, family game nights, coaching youth field hockey, OTF, new trainings, and our two new kittens.

My wishes for the new year are: to go on our family beach vacation; completing house projects; cheering from the sidelines for my boys; running in the VCM again with our work relay team (Municipal Marvels); seeing programs at full (or closer-to-full) capacity; celebrating a friend's 40th; having in-person meetings; to visit the Berry-bunch; go to Nashville, and to see my parents in FL.

I suppose some of these are more wishful thinking as many were missed last year. Missing out on them was a reminder to my family how much all of them mean to all of us.

Although what we have been through is not over yet, there is no doubt in my mind that we will get through another year – again, one that is unlike any other. Thank you for showing our communities how adaptable, selfless, and determined our profession is to providing care, healthy opportunities, and fun memories in a not-so-normal year. ■

Ally Vile
 Ally Vile, CPRP
 VRPA President



Message

from the
Executive Director



“ It is amazing to see all the talented and hard working professionals come together to do great things. ”

Here we are in 2021, and by now I am sure you have read or seen several summaries of this past year and might simply be tired of hearing about anything related to Covid, or “the Rona”, as my kids call it. Our shared experiences this past year have allowed us to feel similar emotions like never before. We have been scared, upset, nervous, uncertain, but also inspired, hopeful, and determined. Through all the changes and negative news, YOU – Parks & Recreation professionals were able to make good happen.

We all made it through this past year together and became closer because of it. There is no doubt the effects of the past year will be felt in the years to come as it has been a really hard year for everyone in various ways. Together, we have discussed new management procedures, mental health impacts from the pandemic, racial justice and equality, as well as an unstable financial future. Through all of these changes and challenges, you all not only continued to serve your communities through your core services, but you also took on new roles to make sure people had access to food, childcare, healthcare, and other critical resources. Through quarantines and lockdowns, you found ways to allow the public to access the outdoor spaces that we oversee. You got creative with programming and learned new ways to reach those that you serve.

As I look back on 2020, I see an amazing group of creative, passionate, and hard-working professionals ready to crush the new year ahead. We have blown away the barriers of “what has always been done” and learned to be innovative and adapt, which has only made us stronger for the future. I truly hope to see you all in person again this year, hopefully even mask-less! We can not go back and change what has already happened, so I encourage all of you to start writing your new year’s story now.

As you start your journey into 2021 be sure to stay positive and keep moving forward. Stay structured enough for success but remain flexible enough for fun and creativity. We are all traveling through un-charted water’s, but I have complete confidence we will get through this next year together as well.

As I reflect personally on the past year, just like for many of you, it has been a challenging one. Learning to juggle

work, childcare, and school all at the same time is certainly something none of us had “hoped” for this year, but it became our reality day to day. I am, however, more thankful than ever to live in this beautiful state with so many great outdoor opportunities. I will forever remember 2020 as the year that we had a chance to slow down a bit and enjoy more walks in the woods with our family, more bike rides, playing in rivers, and enjoying so much time outdoors together. There is no doubt it was stressful and tiring, but it was also filled with so much time together that I will always be thankful for that alone.

I am also very thankful for all of you. Your role as a parks and recreation professional is so important, and a light has been shown on that fact this year. Thank you to everyone that helped keep parks open this year, made summer camps available, and got creative to provide new seasonal opportunities for your communities. It has truly made all the difference and you have all done an amazing job!

Thank you also to everyone that has supported the VRPA this past year. To all of our commercial members and vendors that joined us at first ever virtual conference. To those that have sponsored and advertised with us. And to all those that have volunteered time to support our efforts in a variety of ways. Your involvement and support is truly appreciate, thank you!

In the next few months ahead, the VRPA has many great meetings and trainings coming up and I hope that all of you are able to participate in some of them! I would like to thank all our 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. It is amazing to see all the talented and hard working professionals come together to do great things – keep up the amazing work everyone and I look forward to seeing you all soon! ■

Sincerely,
Jessica Brodie
Jessica Brodie
Executive Director

We are proud to share a full suite of Selfie products that continue the innovation of including an embedded cell phone holder that allows users to share moments that make memories.

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playandpark.com/selfieworld

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Back to the Parks!

Make Park Health and Safety a Priority, Not an Obstacle

With Vermont Systems technology for social distancing, contact-less methods for engagement, and contact tracing, everyone can get back to safely enjoying their parks!



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Cleaning, and
Maintenance



Touchless POS
and Interactions



Instant SMS
Communications

Download a Park Masters Guide to Social Distancing and Contact-less Engagement and learn more at vermontsystems.com/vrpa.



VT STATE PARKS CONNECTING PEOPLE



Rebecca Roy, Parks Interpretive Program Manager
Kaitlin Alford, Parks Communications & Customer Service Assistant

In May when no one knew much about COVID-19 and how it spreads, we chose not to offer any in-person programming in state parks. This decision canceled our park interpretive program which sees over 50,000 visitors in programs each summer.

To help fill this gap, we decided to offer some virtual interpretive programming. We talked to other state park systems offering online programming to get advice. Everyone shared Facebook Live programming is the best attended, and therefore has the best reach. Other formats used in other states are Youtube Live, Instagram Live, and Microsoft Teams. With over 50,000 followers on our Facebook (@vtstateparks), it made sense to use the Facebook Live for our programs.

We decided to highlight some lesser visited parks with these live programs for two reasons: to encourage visitors to check out quieter, out of the way places, and to highlight cool resources people do not experience often.

We shared our first program from Allis State Park, and we had 61 participants. We learned some important things. The program was almost 40 minutes long which is too long for people to hang on during a virtual program. Best practice is program length of half an

hour or shorter. It is best to do more frequent, shorter Facebook Live experiences, and you want to focus on only two or three core messages in each program.

For our programs, we used an iPhone 7, a tripod, cell phone camera mount, and a gimbal as well as a Rode GO wireless mic system.

Live streaming requires a strong signal and a fully charged phone/camera is crucial. For our Mt. Ascutney program, we started with a full battery on the phone and by the end it was down to 20 percent. To help reduce battery draw:

- use the lowest screen brightness to be visible
- when possible, stream using Wi-Fi networks versus cellular networks
- turn off phone location services and background refresh for phone applications

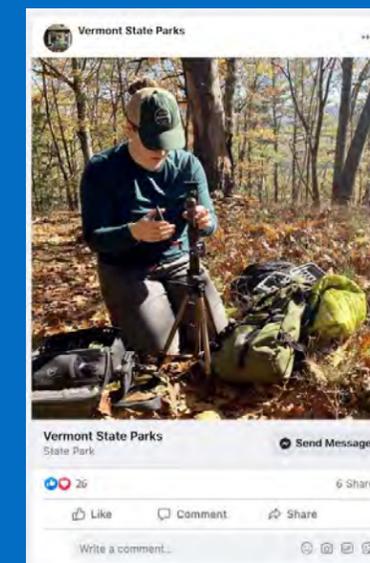
If you can, film indoors where factors can be controlled. Demos or tutorials can be done this way. However, our hope was to showcase the parks on location. Filming outdoors is an inherently tricky operation. Electronic equipment is not weatherproof, lighting can vary dramatically from second to second, and any amount of wind makes it hard to hear the presenter. To counter these issues, we have planned alternate dates for

shooting, adjusted shots for optimal lighting, and used a portable wireless mic with a “deadcat” or wind muff to reduce the amount of wind caught in audio. After our first program, we received feedback the video was too shaky. To remedy this we have used a tripod with a cell phone mount that you can either stand alone or walk with and this slightly reduces the shake for walking shots and we have also tried a gimbal which automatically stabilizes the phone and allows for stable walking or even running shots. We love interacting with our visitors through these experiences. Visitors share comments and ask questions in the comment section during programming. It is helpful to have two people for these programs, the videographer can share visitor questions and comments as the presenter is recorded.

Follow us at VTStateParks on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) for future videos! We encourage you to jump in and try Facebook Live. You can teach skills, share unique things about your parks, or even just walk a trail and have your visitors experience that peaceful walk with you. ■

Check out our programs below:

- [Virtual Hike: Secrets of Allis State Park](#)
- [Virtual Hike: Reading Rocks at Mt Ascutney](#)
- [Virtual Program - Living Memories at Kingsland Bay State Park](#)



“I have found that one of my greatest career accomplishments is in creating opportunities for young girls to participate in programs without barriers.”



JAZMIN AVERBUCK

To kick off this new year we are highlighting a professional in our state that has worked tirelessly both in her job, with the VRPA, and in her personal life this past year. I want you all to meet Jazmin Averbuck, or “Jaz”, from The Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains.

Jaz has been very active and a huge asset to the VRPA, as she currently serves as chair of the Summerama Camp Staff Training committee, as well as on our Conference committee. Jaz has a very positive, motivational, and hard working approach to all that she does and we are excited for you all to get to know her better.

We asked Jaz a few questions to help us get to know her and her responses are below. Thank you Jaz & keep up the great work!

What influenced your decision to choose the career you did?

Many different things have influenced the career I have now over the last decade. I have found a passion for creating and implementing programs that enrich community standards. Currently, I enjoy presenting young girls with opportunities to learn new skills and grow as they practice these skills in the outdoors, at camp and within the communities they live.

Career positions held.

1. Resident Director & Activities Coordinator at Newbury College (Brookline, MA)
2. Resident Director at Merrimack College (North Andover, MA)
3. Assistant Director at The Carnegie of Homestead Athletic Center (Munhall, PA)
4. Director of Afterschool & Vacation Programs at The Edge (Essex, VT)
5. Outdoor Programs Coordinator at The Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains (Thetford, VT)

What do you consider your greatest career accomplishments?

I have found that one of my greatest career accomplishments is in creating opportunities for young girls to participate in programs without barriers. I have built relationships with community organizations to provide resources for girls to use such as using Local Motion, an organization out of Burlington, VT, to provide bicycles and safety gear to campers for their multi-day trip around the 3-ferry loop.

What have been your biggest professional challenges?

My biggest professional challenge has been providing programs for girls throughout communities across two

states. Not living or working within the one community that I serve can be difficult, but I have made this challenge one of my best allies by creating relationships and networks with so many of the fantastic recreation professionals through my work with the VRPA.

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

As a member of the VRPA for the last 3-years, I value the network of professionals I’ve been able to work with most. Being able to learn from other recreation professionals in the field and sharing ideas has become one of my favorite things to look forward to during our quarterly meetings as well as the many conference committee meetings I attend.

Personal Recreation Interests.

In my free time I train and compete as a strongman athlete. I also enjoy spending time outside on short walks through the woods with my pup and along the water.

Family.

I live, in Thetford, with my pitbull terrier, Pixie. On weekends, when I am not working, she loves to go for long walks in the woods but I think she much prefers napping on the couch after. ■





MUNICIPALITY FINANCES REALice GETS REBATES TOO

In an effort to reduce costs, extend the life cycle of its refrigeration equipment, and lower greenhouse gas emissions, the [Town of Hartford, VT](#) has implemented a REALice floodwater system at the [Wendell A. Barwood Arena](#) (WABA). The 3D-printed system is maintenance-free and uses water pressure, eliminating the need for extremely hot water to maintain the ice. It was installed in October.

The Town of Hartford began considering REALice earlier this year when one of two on-demand propane water heaters failed that was supplying hot floodwater in the WABA's Zamboni room. The Town was faced with replacing the 5-year old water heater, cognizant the second water heater might soon fail as well, or to find a way to cut

down the WABA's reliance on hot floodwater. REALice emerged as an attractive solution that would pay for itself in energy savings over the next 3.5 years.

BIG SAVINGS

Over the next 10 years of operation, the Town is expected to save over \$87,000 by using REALice. The upfront cost of the system was offset by a rebate from [Efficiency Vermont](#), the statewide energy efficiency utility. This is the latest investment in energy efficiency and sustainability from the ongoing town-wide Energy Program, led by the Town's former Energy Coordinator, Geoff Martin

In August, the Selectboard approved the purchase of REALice, voting to finance the purchase through the [National Energy](#)

[Improvement Fund](#), a Certified B Corp® specializing in energy efficiency projects. By financing the purchase, the Town incurred no out-of-pocket expenses, and the energy costs saved each month will be more than the cost of the 60-month term.

Parks and Recreation Director Scott Hausler says there has been no impact to ice quality.

"This system is mimicking hot water, but uses pressure instead of temperature to deliver water that makes great ice," Hausler says. "In addition to continuing to deliver a quality product to our user groups,

the REALice fits in well with the Town Plan in ensuring that Hartford is economically, environmentally and socially healthy, and resilient."

Tom Smolarek, the Managing Director of [Cypress, Ltd.](#), the distributor of the Swedish-made technology in the US, says he's thrilled for the Town of Hartford.

"Every municipality needs to find ways to operate that make better financial sense. By using REALice's cold floodwater technology, Hartford will be saving on the propane they needed to use to heat the water, and on their refrigeration costs,

BOTTOM PHOTO
Left to right: Rink Attendant Kevin Hoisington, Park Maintenance Anthony Gove discuss the new REALice System with Director of Parks & Recreation Scott Hausler at the Wendell A. Barwood Arena in Hartford, VT.



BOTTOM ABOVE
WABA Rink Attendant David Fitzgerald on the Zamboni



too. And it will make a huge impact on greenhouse gas emissions, an estimated 27 tonnes less of CO2 each year."

This is the third arena in Vermont

to install the REALice floodwater system. Castleton University has been using the system at the [Spartan Arena](#) for over 5 years; [Riley Rink at Hunter Park](#) in Manchester Center installed its system in 2019. ■



Essex Programming

To say it has been an odd year for programming would be an understatement. It has required a lot from the recreation world; creating programs and events to bring community together while adhering to a variety of safety protocols.

In Essex, along with departments throughout the state, we have been called on to be extra innovative in creating programs and events. At the same time, we headed into our second year of Essex Town and Essex Junction Recreation Departments being co-located. We are proud to say that we were able to pull off events this fall that were not only successful in terms of safety and COVID protocols, but were also well run and things we can repeat in the future.

Our major accomplishment was the creation and execution of the first ever Essex Trick or Treat Trail. This event was a combination and redesign of two of our Halloween staples; the Halloween Celebration and the Pumpkin Palooza. The Halloween Celebration is a trick-or-treat event and the Pumpkin Palooza is a tiered pumpkin display with over 500 carved pumpkins. Knowing that

this year we were going to have to reimagine what any event looked like, we decided to take that opportunity to create a combined event to include both trick-or-treating and the pumpkin display. Thus was born the Essex Trick or Treat Trail, a socially distanced trick-or-treating event with the pumpkin display in full view throughout.

With the two departments working tirelessly, we pulled this event off with only a month between conception to event date. There were 2,400 participants (with no contact between households), 45,000 goodies, 30+ volunteers, 550+ pumpkins carved, and 40 tents decorated by community members. This was easily one of the

biggest undertakings of either department and it showcased our strength in working together. One of the most exciting take-aways is that we created something that served our community better than our previous Halloween events and in a way that we can repeat in the future.

We've been reminded so many times over the past few months that good things can, and are, coming out of this pandemic. Here in Essex we are energized by the opportunities we've been presented with that allow us to invent and reimagine how we do things and look forward to improving for the future. ■



The University of Vermont

In Pandemic, People Are Turning to Nature – Especially Women

Study is among first to explore COVID-19's impact on how people value nature

Key findings from a recent UVM Survey about Nature & COVID.

Read article: [In Pandemic, People Are Turning to Nature – Especially Women](#)

AROUND

THE

STATE





Hartford Parks & Recreation Earns National Accreditation



Mark of distinction recognizes commitment to highest level of service to the community.

Today, the Town of Hartford Parks & Recreation Department joins the ranks of elite park and recreation agencies across the country by earning accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This distinguished accomplishment was awarded during the 2020 NRPA Annual Conference: A Virtual Experience. CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies, and is a measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community. This mark of distinction indicates that an

agency has met rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services.

As part of the accreditation process, Hartford Parks & Recreation had to demonstrate compliance with 151 recognized standards and document all policies and procedures. Often the process helps identify efficiencies and heighten areas of accountability, all of which translate into higher quality service and operation to benefit the community.

“Hartford Parks & Recreation is the only agency in Vermont that has achieved this national honorary distinction through the National Recreation and

Park Association” said Hartford Parks & Recreation Director Scott Hausler. “Re-accreditation is a great achievement for our department and confirms our commitment to providing the highest level of park and recreation services to our community. Successfully completing the stringent review process is the mark of excellence that demonstrates Hartford Park & Recreation’s commitment to providing quality programs, parks and customer service,” he added.

The process for accreditation involves a formal application, self-assessments, a site visit by a team of trained visitors that results in a written report, and a hearing with the commission to grant accreditation. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s visitations were held virtually. Once accredited, the agency must uphold the standards by submitting an annual report and is reviewed again in five years.

The Commission is comprised of representatives from NRPA, the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials, the International City/County Management Association, the Academy for Leisure Sciences, the Armed Forces Recreation Network and the Council of State Executive Directors.

[Click here](#) for more info about CAPRA accreditation.

Hartford Parks & Recreation’s mission is to serve the recreational needs of the community by offering lifelong learning through recreational and educational programming utilizing existing parks and facilities.

The Department oversees 18 park and recreation facilities for the community to enjoy, from nature trails, outdoor fields, courts and open green spaces along with the Wendell A.



Barwood Arena and Sherman Manning Pool which has been closed and under new design and engineering. We provide the natural landscape and recreation facilities for the community to get in touch with nature, keep healthy and active through parks and play, and connecting with each other as a community through our special events and programs. In addition to our great parks and facilities, the Department oversees a wide variety of recreation and sport programs and activities to provide something for

everyone. The department is committed to maintaining the highest quality parks and facilities while dedicating itself to improving its program offerings and practices to meet current and future needs. For more information, visit www.hartfordrec.com

About the National Recreation and Park Association

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is the leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to building strong, vibrant and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation. With more than 60,000 members, NRPA advances this mission by investing in and championing the

work of park and recreation professionals and advocates — the catalysts for positive change in service of equity, climate-readiness, and overall health and well-being. For more information, visit www.nrpa.org. For digital access to NRPA’s flagship publication, Parks & Recreation, visit www.parksandrecreation.org. ■



RECREATING & COVID-19

Winter Outdoor Recreation

BE PREPARED
Winter conditions can change quickly; be prepared for a backcountry emergency by carrying enough gear and extra warm clothing to be self-sufficient for an extended period of time.

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE
Give people outside your household at least 6 feet or more of space; activities may involve no more than two individuals from different households. When yielding to other groups move well off the trail. Please leash your dog. Do not carpool with anyone outside of your household.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO
At many locations, use peaks between 10am and 2pm on weekends and holidays. Go early. Go late. Go during the week. Check trailfinder.info before you head out.

WEAR A MASK
Anyone participating in outdoor recreation activities is required to wear a cloth face covering.

STAY HOME
If you're not feeling healthy or have been exposed to COVID-19, please stay home. **Do not risk the health of others.**

TAKE IT EASY
Help can be difficult to summon and there may be significant delay in receiving emergency assistance. Please plan your trip responsibly, and do not take unnecessary risks that burden our healthcare system and emergency responders.

STAY SAFE
Parking space at trailheads is often limited. Have a backup plan to go somewhere else in case you encounter a crowded lot. **Do not socialize or tailgate before or after an outdoor recreation activity.**

RESPECT TRAVEL GUIDELINES
Please respect out-of-state travel guidance and **only drive in your personal vehicle with members of your household.** Follow quarantine requirements available at: accd.vermont.gov/travel

For more information visit HEALTHVERMONT.GOV/COVID-19



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- Tree Lightings
- Weddings
- Class Reunions
- Graduations
- Concerts
- Family Reunions
- Sporting Events
- Old Home Days
- Back To School
- Homecomings
- Ski Races
- Sledding Parties
- Torchlight Parades
- Fairs
- Festivals
- Fishing Derbies
- Independence Day
- Barbeques
- Drive-Ins
- Guy Fawkes Day
- Diwali
- Corn Mazes

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VRPA

ONLINE TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

From the comfort of your own home become certified as a pool/spa operator, playground inspector or become trained as a playground maintenance technician. Each program is eligible for Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Program details are outlined in the next pages. Space is limited so register early!



Jump to a course description by clicking a button below

✓ Playground Maintenance

✓ Pool/Spa Operator

✓ Playground Inspector



Certified Pool/Spa Operators Course

March 24 | Virtual

What is Pool/Spa CPO®?

The Certified Pool Operator® certification program is a nationally recognized course which teaches advanced techniques in safety, water chemistry, maintenance and management. This course is recognized as the standard in the industry. The CPO® seal of approval is assurance to pool and spa owners, from motels to Olympic-sized municipal and college pools, that their facilities and their swimmers are under the supervision of trained certified professionals. Those who complete the program and open-book and open-note examination receive certification and a registration number which is valid for five years in all 50 states.

Why do you need training?

The CPO® course is a training program specially designed to meet the needs of supervisory or operations personnel working in public and semipublic recreational pools or water park facilities. As a pool or spa operator, you are obligated to provide a clean, disease free, and safe facility. Your facility must be kept in good operating order and needs to operate efficiently. Only an individual with suitable training and experience is qualified to meet these responsibilities.

REGISTER ONLINE

Deadline to register is February 22

COST

REGISTRATION	Non-Member	VRPA Member
	\$385	\$350

*No refunds will be issued after registration deadline

COURSE INFO

- The CPO® certification program includes pool and spa chemistry, testing, treatment, filtration, maintenance, automatic feeding equipment, and government requirements.
- The CPO® certification program requires an open book written examination.
- The CPO® certification is valid for five years.
- This course will be taught by an NSPF®-certified instructor.

WHY DO YOU NEED TRAINING?

- Proven educational tool.
- Widely accepted by local and state authorities.
- Covers topics necessary for pool and spa operators including local and state codes.
- Comprehensive handbook that is updated regularly.
- The CPO® certification is recognized nationally and internationally.
- Gives participants a better understanding of the operator's role in pool care, management and risk reduction.
- The CPO® Certification program is eligible for IACET Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

MORE INFO

For course details, cancellation policy, CEU credit, exam and accommodations, [click here](#) or call VRPA at 802-952-0030.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Service Technicians
 - Pool Directors
 - Pool Managers
 - Health Inspectors
 - Apartment/Condo/ Building Managers
 - Recreation Directors
 - Engineering Staff
 - Spa Personnel
 - Maintenance Personnel
 - Aquatic Staff
 - Recreation Facility Managers
- From community recreation centers, swim clubs, municipalities, hotels, motels, swim parks, resorts, health clubs, country clubs, colleges, universities, military installations, hospitals, schools – any facility with a pool, spa, or aquatic feature.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 24

- 7:30AM** Zoom meeting opens for sign-in
- 8–8:30AM** The live webinar portion of the course begins. During this time the instructor will discuss:
 - Procedures on how to access the exam (also gone over right before the exam)
 - notification by the PHTA
 - Exam retake options (if necessary)
 - Time for Q&A
- 8:30–9:45AM** The instructor will discuss Federal Guidelines, Chemical handling, Filtration and Circulation
- 9:45–10AM** Break - 15 minutes
- 10AM–Noon** Will be general discussion of material relevant to the CPO course and some exam 'pointers'
- 12–12:30PM** Lunch break on your own
- 12:30–1PM** Sign in to TestTrac by 1PM to start the exam. The exam is 2.5 hours.

PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE TRAINING



Features 3 Live Webinars & 13 e-Courses!

February 1-12 | Virtual | 1.5 CEU Credits

The PMT training program is the most comprehensive, long-standing maintenance and inspection training program for playgrounds in the country. It teaches systems, process, and best practices in proactive maintenance to prevent incidents and minimize liability.

The Playground Maintenance Technician training program is designed for front-line, “boots-on-the-ground” staff and their supervisors who are responsible for regular, hands-on inspection and maintenance of playground equipment. PMT focuses on practical, real-world application of common playground inspection, maintenance and corrective action practices.

This course is different than NRPA's CPSI certification course, as this is a much more involved maintenance course for your front line workers. These two programs differ but do compliment each other, so you can do both. For more info on the CPSI Course being offered by VRPA in April, please [click here](#).

BENEFITS

Participants will learn the maintenance needs and process to enhance your organization's safety and inspection program. This knowledge will help keep children safer and lower risk and liability for your organization.

The course will be instructed by Bill Hooker, CPSI, ARM of Illinois

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Park, Building, & Playground Maintenance Staff
- Managers & Directors
- Playground Safety Inspectors
- Supervisory staff & administrators
- Public Works Departments & Agencies such as YMCA's

DAILY SCHEDULE

February 1

Introduction live-webinar at 2-3PM

February 1-5

Participants complete the first three e-courses on their own

February 5

Second live-webinar at 2-3PM

February 8-12

Participants complete e-courses #4-10 on their own

February 12

Third live-webinar at 2-3PM

February 12-19

Participants complete e-courses #11-13 on their own

February 19

Final live-webinar at 2-3PM

"The most comprehensive, long-standing maintenance and inspection training program in the country."

MORE INFO

For course details, cancellation policy, CEU credit, exam and accommodations, [click here](#) or call VRPA at 802-952-0030.

REGISTER ONLINE

Deadline to register is January 22

REGISTRATION

COST

Non-Member
\$400

VRPA Member
\$375

*No refunds will be issued after registration deadline

CERTIFIED PLAYGROUND INSPECTOR COURSE



April 7 | Virtual | 1.5 CEUs

The Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) certification program is the most comprehensive training program on playground hazard identification and risk management methods offered nationwide.

By becoming a CPSI, you will learn how to identify hazards on public playgrounds and playground equipment, rank those hazards according to injury potential and apply that knowledge, as well as how to establish a playground safety program.

REGISTER ONLINE

Register by February 17

REGISTRATION

EXAM ONLY

COST

	Non-Member	VRPA Member
REGISTRATION	\$595	\$575
EXAM ONLY	\$130	\$120

*No refunds will be issued after registration deadline

BENEFITS

MAINTENANCE

Learn how to identify safety hazards on the play-ground, and the steps needed for correction.

ADMINISTRATION

Review of risk management techniques and liability problems, implementation of risk management programs. Learn how to conduct an audit of your playgrounds.

RESOURCES

Become familiar with the US Consumer Products Safety Commission Guidelines and the ASTM Standard for Public Use of Play-ground Equipment Safety; identify the differences between them and their impact on playground safety.

ACCESSIBILITY

Learn about safety in accessibility and the recommendations of the ASTM standard.

SURFACING

Become aware of the characteristics of the various surfaces used on playgrounds.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Injury Statistics
- Hazard Identification
- Safe Surfacing Materials
- Playground Equipment Accessibility
- Off-Site Park Visit
- Safety Management
- Audit Objectives & Procedures
- Maintenance Procedures & Standards

MORE INFO

For more information about the program's cancellation policy, CEU credit, exam and accommodations, [click here](#).

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Administrators
Supervisory Personnel
Public Works Departments
Planning Departments
Building & Grounds Maintenance Staff
Engineers
Architects
Playground Equipment Representatives, Operators, & Caretakers of Playgrounds in:
Parks
Schools
Summer Camps
Day Camps
Homeowners Associations
Hotels/Resorts
Child Care Centers
Agencies such as:
YMCA's and YWCA's

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 7

7:50AM Zoom meeting opens for sign-in
8-12PM The live webinar portion of the course begins. This training session led by the CPSI course instructor provides practical training on how to apply the ASTM standards and the CPSC guidelines to playground environments.
The training is conducted through a four-hour Zoom meeting.

The Zoom meeting link will be sent to all registered participants in advance of the meeting.

After the Virtual Instructor Training session, participants will schedule a time to take the exam within the 90 day window allowed. The exam is a total of 2 hours FROM THE TIME THE STUDENT SIGNS INTO THE EXAM.

77th Annual VT CONFERENCE ON RECREATION

The first ever VRPA Virtual Conference!

By Jessica Brodie & Adriane Martin

The 77th Annual Vermont Conference on Recreation was held on September 23rd & 24th virtually for the first time in history because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. We missed our normal setting along the beautiful shores of Lake Morey at Lake Morey Resort, but made the best of things through this virtual experience.

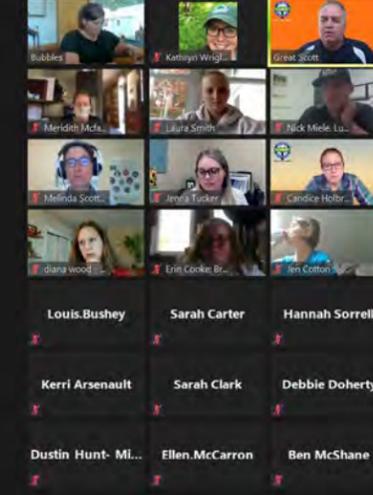
Though the conference had lower registration numbers than in a typical year, attendance was still great with over 97 attendees and 17 Exhibitors. To help make the conference accessible to all during this truly challenging year, the conference committee slashed registration costs in half and offered participant registration AND vendor registration at just \$77 for the two days!

We were very fortunate this year to still attract talented speakers from all over the country, including the states of Colorado, Virginia, Massachusetts, and several other states. Attendees also came from all over Vermont, including many small communities and rural towns. Perhaps the highlight of the conference was keynote speaker Michael Kirschman of Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Department. Kirschman, an experienced Parks & Recreation professional managing his own department as well, gave an interactive and inspirational keynote address as well as offered an additional session!

In place of a traditional Exhibit hall this year, the Conference Committee built into the schedule planned “Coffee Talk” times for the exhibitors to each have time to talk about their companies and share videos with conference registrants. There was a lot of positive feedback from attendees who said they learned new things about each of our vendors through this format that they may not have ever gotten to know walking the floor at a traditional conference. We certainly missed seeing everyone in person, but there were some great positive outcomes from this non-traditional format. Thank you so much to each of our exhibitors that took the chance on a virtual conference this year to join us. Your support is greatly appreciated! Do you know of a vendor who should be at our conference who wasn't? Please contact Adriane Martin, 2021 Conference Chair with your ideas!

For entertainment this year, we missed the amazing fireworks display from Northstar Fireworks, but had a great time playing interactive, virtual games such as BINGO and Scattegories. We look forward to seeing everyone in person again in the future, but it was still a fun experience to share some laughs virtually with colleagues from around the state.

To honor Theresa S. Brungardt this year we were not able to offer the annual awards virtually, but we did hear a great Keynote opening message from her great-niece, Wendy Flickenger.



“I was asked how I thought my Great Aunt would have responded to recent events. We know feeling a part of a community is essential — so I think she would remind us of what we are ALREADY convinced: That Recreation does more than give folks something to look forward to. That it creates different kinds of families and communities... and then offers stability to them all. That by building “community” we can then offer helpful responses to all manner of issues. That as we re-emerge from the pandemic we need to be sure to remember our “senior citizens.” The very first White House Conference on Aging was held by President Eisenhower in 1961 — and of course you know that Mrs. B was there. She knew seniors need Recreation and Parks...and that Recreations and Parks need seniors! That was nearly 60 years ago...and now here WE are today — men and women of all ages — together despite obstacles — thanks to the valiant efforts of the Planning Committee.”

For our annual “Vermont’s Finest Silent Auction” this year, we were able to expand our virtual world in a new way for this as well and offered the Silent Auction through an online site. This worked out so well that we will likely offer the Silent Auction virtually even when we are able to meet together in person again. We were able to raise over \$3,000 in proceeds from over \$11,500 in auction donations. Thanks to the fine work of conference committee member and auction organizer Joanne Putzier of Burlington, and Emily Boek of Smugglers’ Notch Resort, the auction was a smashing success. Thank you again to all of our amazing donors that contributed items to the Silent Auction!

The Vermont Conference on Recreation is an event that continues to grow, evolve and change, meeting the needs of contemporary recreation professionals while honoring and respecting the conference’s origins, history and roots. Planning is already underway for the 2021 conference. In our planning efforts, we will be keeping budgets and content in mind as we all continue this journey through the pandemic. If you’d like to participate in the planning process or help at the conference itself, the planning committee can always use more volunteers. Contact Adriane Martin, Conference Chair at AEMartin@Essex.org if you are interested.

Until 2021 – keep recreating, stay well, and see out there again soon! ■

Sincerely,
2020 Conference Committee Members

VRPA: 2020 Conference



2020 Conference
Exhibitors & Sponsors

Thank you very much to our conference exhibitors and sponsors. Please be sure to include them on your bid lists when you are purchasing services, supplies and equipment. We couldn't do half of what we do without their ongoing support.

- Atlantic Golf and Turf
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- Musco Sports Lighting
- MyRec.com Recreation Software
- New England Park Association
- New England Recreation Group
- Landscape Structures
- Pettinelli & Associates, INC
- Pioneer Athletics
- S.E. Group
- UtiPlay Parks & Playgrounds, Inc
- Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports
- Weston & Sampson, Inc.
- Wicked Cool For Kids

SILENT AUCTION DONORS



\$11,000+

in goods were donated



\$3,000+

raised to VPRA



INCREASE

in educational & professional opportunities

On behalf of the Vermont Recreation and Parks Association (VRPA) I would like to say THANK YOU VERY MUCH to all of the generous and supportive businesses and organizations from around Vermont that supported VRPA through our Annual Silent Auction that was held at our 77th Annual Vermont Conference on Recreation held virtually this year.

Once again the participants of the Vermont's State Conference on Parks & Recreation were wowed by the overwhelming generosity of the Vermont businesses and non-profits that donated to our silent auction. You truly showed your care for others through your support and fit the title of one of "Vermont's Finest"!

Over \$11,000 in goods were donated to the Auction, allowing VRPA to raise just over \$3,000. The Auction is always a true highlight of the conference, and was again this year even though it was in a new, virtual format through the website "32auctions.com".

The proceeds of the auction will be used for professional development and to continue offering many other educational opportunities for our members. As professionals in the field of parks and recreation, we hold the goal of improving the quality of life for Vermonters and visitors. Your contribution is helping to educate these professionals to reach our goal.

Thank you all again very much! We appreciate the generosity and support. ■

2020 AUCTION DONORS

Donor

- American Flatbread
- Betsy Terry
- Betsy Terry
- Billings Farm & Museum
- Birnn Chocolates of Vermont
- Brown/Coombs Family Farms
- Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront
- Catherine Putzier
- Cathy Pratt
- Danforth Pewter
- Danforth Pewter
- Elmore Mountain Farm

Donation

- American Flatbread Gift Certificate
- Angel Wing Begonia Plant
- Nike Skull Cap and Post Card
- 1 Day Family Pass to Billings Farm & Museum
- Birnn Chocolate Truffles
- Pancake and Maple Syrup Gift Set
- Weekend Lean-to Stay at North Beach
- Oil and Cold Wax Wall Art
- Cathy Pratt Art Collection
- Pewter Ornament
- Vermont Danforth Keyring
- 6 Pack Variety Soap

VRPA COMMERCIAL & ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS 2020-21

A very big thank you to all our Commercial VRPA members as well as our supporting organizational members!



Visit [VRPA's website](#) for a direct link to each of our commercial member's websites. Please remember to support them with your business and be sure to include them on your bid lists when you are purchasing services, supplies and equipment.

The VRPA could not do half of what we do without the ongoing support of our commercial members as well as our supporting organizational members. Thank you very much. We really appreciate you choosing to be a VRPA member!

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| American Camp Association | Local Motion | Pioneer Athletics |
| Andrew Pinard | GameTime / Marturano Recreation | R.J. Thomas Mfg. Co. Inc. |
| Atlantic Golf and Turf | MUSCO Sports Lighting | Rise VT |
| Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont | MyRec.com | SE Group |
| Calypso Connections | National Alliance for Youth Sports | The Fourth Wall Ensemble |
| Catamount Trail Association | National Parks & Recreation Association | UltiPlay Parks and Playgrounds |
| Clivus New England, Inc. | NE Sports Turfgrass Foundation, Inc. | USTA |
| Cousineau Forest Products | NESTMA | Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports |
| Durgin and Crowell Lumber Co. | New England Mountain Bike Association | Vermont AfterSchool |
| Eco Equipment Supply | New England Park Association | Vermont Arts Council |
| Fillion Associates Inc. | New England Recreation Group | Vermont Mountain Bike Association |
| Franklin Paint Company | NORTHSTAR Fireworks | Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance |
| Green Mountain Club | Northstar Fireworks | VT Safe Kids |
| Jason Tardy | O'Brien & Sons | Vermont Systems |
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NESTMA members advance professionalism in sports turf management and athletic field safety through education, research, and advocacy.



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Application

May 1, 2021 - May 1, 2022

APPLICATION & ANNUAL RENEWAL

NAME _____ TITLE _____

ORGANIZATION _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

OFFICE PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

CLASSIFICATION (See next page for classification descriptions)

Classification	No. of Persons	Membership Fee
<input type="checkbox"/> Agency (check one)		
<input type="radio"/> 1-4 staff	_____	\$285
<input type="radio"/> 5-10 staff	_____	\$395
<input type="radio"/> 11+ staff	_____	\$510
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Professional	___1___	\$80
<input type="checkbox"/> Board/Commission*	_____	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial**	___1___	\$190
<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"/> Summerama | <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 2019-2020 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



Vermont Recreation & Parks Association

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