Let’s Grow Together

Featuring Keynote
Sarah Kurtz McKinnon
Co-Founder, The Summer Camp Society
Monday, March 16
11:00am - 12:15pm

Featuring Endnote
Seth Rigoletti
Leadership Coach
Tuesday, March 17
11:15am - 12:30pm

www.merpa.org
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020

8:00am  Registration Begins, Breakfast, & Student/Intern Meeting
9:00am  Educational Session Block 1
10:15am Visit with Exhibitors
11:00am  KEYNOTE ADDRESS
12:15pm  Visit with Exhibitors
1:30pm  Educational Session Block 2
2:45pm  Break
3:00pm  Educational Session Block 3
4:45pm  EXHIBITOR SOCIAL
6:00pm  Dinner & Annual Awards Reception
8:30pm Social event: MRPA Comedy Club Featuring Tammy Pooler—Sponsored by Funtown/Splashtown!

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

7:30am  Breakfast
8:00am  Registration opens
8:30am  Educational Session Block 4
9:50am  Educational Session Block 5
11:15am  ENDNOTE ADDRESS
12:30pm  Lunch Buffet

SAMOSET RESORT: FACILITY LAYOUT and ROOM LISTING

LOWER LEVEL
Rockport—Lower Level, West Wing
Rockland—Lower Level, West Wing
Camden—Lower Level, West Wing
Vinalhaven—Lower Level, West

UPPER LEVEL
Spruce Head—Upper Level
Owls Head—Upper Level
Bay Point Ballroom—Upper Level

LOBBY LEVEL
Ebb Tide—Lobby Level
Monhegan—Lobby Level
Schooner—Lobby Level
Penobscot Bay—Lobby Level
GREETINGS AND WELCOME TO THE 2020 MRPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW!

This gathering is the largest attended MRPA event each year and is our premier event for Parks and Recreation professionals in Maine. Your attendance at the Samoset Resort on March 15-17 shows your commitment to your chosen field and allows for numerous learning and networking opportunities so we may all participate in the conference theme, “Let’s Grow Together.”

The MRPA Conference committee members spent many hours putting together a great list of activities, exhibitor time, and educational sessions for you. This comprehensive event provides a special opportunity for coaches, programmers, managers, directors, and industry representatives from all around Maine and New England to exchange experience, gain new knowledge, establish contacts, and reconnect with peers.

During this event we also recognize people within our profession for their efforts and passion for our field. We encourage you to celebrate those professionals selected at this year’s awards reception.

One of the most important aspects of our conference is the level of professional development opportunities available. Whether it’s funding resources, staff management, program ideas, unique partnerships, or current trends, you’ll find what you and your staff are looking for at this meeting.

Enjoy the MRPA Annual Conference and Trade Show. Enjoy the people who make up MRPA. We hope you all “...Grow Together” and leave the conference bigger and better than you were yesterday. ~MRPA President Karyn MacNeill, CPRP, Yarmouth Community Services Director

THANK YOU TO OUR SPRING CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

Chair: Nicole Welch, Buxton Recreation Director
Vendor Co-Chairs:
Brady Lloyd, Standish Parks and Recreation Assistant Director
Tyler Stewart, OOB Parks and Recreation Programmer
Committee Members:
Gary Colello, Bridgton Recreation Director
Erika Dube, Saco Parks & Recreation Deputy Director
Debbie Gendreau, Bangor Parks & Recreation Assistant Director
Andrew Kaeperl, York Parks & Recreation Coordinator
Amelia Meier, Saco Parks & Recreation Community Outreach Coordinator
Deb Smith, MRPA Executive Director
Lisa Thompson, Wescustogo Hall and Community Center Director

Pre-Conference Social

6:00pm  Evening social event and networking – Owls Head Room
SPONSORED BY NORTHEAST CHARTER & TOUR Co.

CORN HOLE II: THE RETURN! Have you ever wanted to hang out with your peers and throw bean bags in a hole? If so, we have the perfect event for you!! Coming to a Conference near you.... Corn Hole II – The Return!

Sunday, March 15th is the date to mark on your calendars. Sign up your teams and be ready to ride the rollercoaster of fun that is corn hole. To make it even better, there will be food, drinks and believe it or not.... prizes. Not only for the team WINNERS.... but come up with your BEST COSTUME and your BEST TEAM NAME and you will be walking off with some sweet swag to show off to all the “winning impaired” teams.
8:00-9:00am  Conference Check-in and Registration  
HOTEL MAIN LOBBY

8:00-8:45am  Breakfast  
ROCKLAND/ROCKPORT

9:00-10:15am  EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS BLOCK I  
SCHOONER ROOM

**Avoiding the Parent Trap: Working with Difficult Parents**  
Presenter: Sarah Kurtz McKinnon, Co-Founder The Summer Camp Society

Most camp parents are wonderful, but at every camp, there are a few who are some degree of difficult. From parents who demand special exceptions to parents who are wholly disengaged from their child’s development, it is vital that we as camp professionals take a proactive approach when dealing with any challenging situation with a camp parent. This enjoyable (and yes, funny!) workshop will discuss techniques to help you turn your most difficult parents into loyal promoters of your camp!

**Learn How to Apply for LWCF Funds for Your Community**  
MONHEGAN ROOM

Presenters: Marie Carmichael, Houlton Parks and Recreation; Lara Sargent, Bristol Recreation; Beth Latsey and Wendy Betts, Casco Recreation; and Phil Spiller, Westbrook Grant Coordinator

Here is an opportunity to hear directly from individuals who have applied for and received Land and Water Conservation Funds for projects in their communities. Breaking the LWCF application down into manageable parts, and pulling together a good team are keys to this process. Learn from community leaders who have been successful applying for and have been awarded LWCF grants. Hearing their stories and the process that they used to develop their application may be beneficial to you!

**Preventing and Addressing Substance Misuse:**  
PENOBSCOT BAY ROOM

**What Parks and Recreation Departments Can Do**  
Presenter: Liz Blackwell-Moore, MPH, Public Health Consultant, Birch Lane Strategies

Substance Use Disorder is a problem that impacts every community in Maine. Towns and Recreation Departments have a unique role to play in preventing and addressing substance misuse. In this workshop, participants will learn what experiences and environments put the developing brain at greater risk for addiction and what research-based strategies could be implemented at a recreation program to help build healthy brains and prevent substance misuse. Participants will also consider strategies to address substance misuse, especially in parks and recreation centers. Participants will have time for discussion and group work with scenarios to deepen their understanding and ability to use the information and will receive a toolkit for guiding changes within their own department.

This workshop is provided through the New England Prevention Technology Transfer Center (New England PTTC) a program funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA). SAMHSA Cooperative Agreement #1H79SF081020-01.

10:15-10:55am  BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS  
VINALHAVEN ROOM

Join Exhibitors and Sponsors in a social, relaxed space to learn about some of the best offerings out there to help you in your day-to-day job! While walking around, refresh your coffee & tea and grab a quick bite to eat. THEIR SUPPORT HELPS MRPA PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES EACH YEAR!

11am-12:15pm  KEYNOTE ADDRESS: THE POWER OF POSITIVE ORGANIZATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP  
BAY POINT BALLROOM

**Presenter: Sarah Kurtz McKinnon, Co-Founder The Summer Camp Society**

Founded at the University of Michigan, Positive Organizational Scholarship (POS) aims “to inspire and enable leaders to build high-performing organizations that bring out the best in people.” Whether a Fortune 500 company or a local camp, organizations that employ these principles find enormous success. This presentation explores important tenants of POS and applies them to our industry, including how to leverage strengths, motivate staff and utilize positive social capital. Participants will gain tools they can employ right away to improve organizational excellence and positive outcomes at their camps.

12:15-1:25pm  Lunch & Annual MRPA Business Meeting  
ROCKPORT/ROCKLAND

Hear about the upcoming MRPA plans, place your vote for our Board Members, and refuel your body and mind for the rest of our Annual Conference’s first day!
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1:30-2:45pm EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS BLOCK II

**Camp Staff Appreciation: A Step-by-Step Plan**
*Presenter: Anna Hopkins, Director of Friends Camp*

Camps should leave at the end of the summer thinking that they had the best summer of their lives...and so should the staff! This session will describe a framework for staff appreciation techniques so that camp leaders can prevent burnout, inspire their staff members and show gratitude for everything they do. This in turn will enhance the camp experience for everyone involved!

**Understanding Alzheimer’s**
*Presenter: Benjamin Smith, Director of Operational Consulting Woodfords Family Services*

Alzheimer’s is not normal aging. It’s a disease of the brain that causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior. Join us to learn about the impact of Alzheimer’s, the difference between Alzheimer’s and dementia, Alzheimer’s disease stages and risk factors, current research and treatments available to address some symptoms and Alzheimer’s Association resources. You will leave this session with skills on how to work with your community members who are showing signs of Alzheimer’s.

**Jump and Juggle**
*Presenter: Liz Giles-Brown, Learning on the Move*

You already have the equipment, now come get the know-how! Liz Giles-Brown from “Learning On The Move” will show you how rope jumping and juggling skills make a great addition to any multi-age before or after school program. Individual skills can be set up as instant activities, offering choices and getting participants focused and moving as they arrive at your programs. Partner and group skills and activities can be used to foster connection, unity, problem-solving skills, and social and emotional skills practice. As students climb skill ladders, they gain competence and confidence and eventually become helpful teachers for others, which can lead to student run show’s and performances! Session attendees will be “learning on the move” as they are introduced to a variety of individual, partner, and group skills and activities.

2:45-3:00pm Break - Sponsored by O’Brien and Sons

3:00-4:15pm EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS BLOCK III

**99 Seconds... Your Program Ideas**
*Facilitator: Lisa Thompson, CPRP, Wescustogo Hall and Community Center Director*

This is an interactive session where you share your best program ideas. Each person will have 99 seconds to share their ideas on selected topics, including senior programs, family events and multi-generational programs, summer camp themes, special events and many more! We will fit in as much as we can in 75 minutes. Bring your best to share and plan to take lots of notes. This session is guaranteed to provide a lot of “take-aways”!

**Healthy Parks, Healthy People**
*Presenter: Laura Cohen, Chief of Interpretation and Education at Acadia National Park*

Learn about Acadia National Park’s formal and informal education programming and discuss ways that national parks can play a role in healthy habits for the mind, body, and soul. Laura will talk about the role of national parks as gateways to good health for people and the planet.

**Engaging the Next Generation Through Academy Partnerships**
*Presenter: Tom Mullin, Professor at Unity College*

Creating positive relationships with colleges and universities today will pay off down the road whether you will be looking for an intern or your next full time employee. This session will explore the best practices for creating academic partnership with colleges and universities through internships, service learning and career center connections, with a part two section of recent research and practices in creating Next Generation Advisory groups. All of with the idea of bringing new insights and career professionals in to the Park and Recreation field, which will be a win-win situation between your agency and local educational institutions.
4:45-6:00pm EXHIBITOR SOCIAL
Don’t miss the great end to a day filled with learning, laughter, networking, and enrichment opportunities. Enjoy a drink, an appetizer, and a chance to win some awesome raffle prizes. Book a great deal with a vendor—shake a hand, drop off your business card, and take time to see who supports your department’s and individual growth.

6:00-8:00pm ANNUAL AWARDS RECEPTION & DINNER ROCKLAND & ROCKPORT ROOMS
Celebrate the end of our first day and recognize the deserving 2020 award recipients for their commitment and efforts to our profession. In addition, enjoy the “Why We Love Summer Camp” video contest. Be part of your state’s professional organization and learn about the amazing things happening all around Maine!

Recommended attire: Professional dress encouraged. This is our night to shine. Join us and make your best professional appearance!

8:30-10:00pm MRPA COMEDY CLUB FEATURING TAMMY POOLER!
Join us in the SCHOONER ROOM! In the tradition of Lucille Ball, Phyllis Diller, Joan Rivers, Suzanne Sommers, Carol Burnett, etc. Tammy is the carefree, devil-may-care spontaneous silly lady who knows no bounds. Her spontaneity, serendipity and silliness, single her out as the next female super star.

Tammy accents the absurdity of everyday life. As if destiny scripted her comic role through years of training as a kid growing up in a Maine trailer park; a high school “McDonald’s job, where she managed her parents; a stint as a ‘hairpist’, cosmetologist, children’s thrift shop owner, wife, mother, and, finally, as marketing guru, who branded four successful retail stores.

Featuring the 2019 MRPA Award Recipients, listed below in order by photo:

♦ Facility of Merit Award: Belfast Pickleball Courts
♦ Citizen Volunteer of the Year Award: Lawrence Kovacs, Bath Parks and Recreation
♦ “Dr. Bill Eckart” Young Professional Award: Erika Dube, Saco Parks and Recreation
♦ Outstanding Parks Professional Award: Jay Astle, Brunswick Parks and Recreation
♦ “William V. Haskell” Distinguished Professional Award: Lisa Thompson, Wescustogo Hall and Community Center

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Tuesday, March 17, 2020

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

7:30-8:20am  Breakfast  
ROCKLAND ROOM

8:00am  Conference Check-in and Registration  
HOTEL MAIN LOBBY

8:30-9:45am  EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

**Becoming an Age-Friendly Community**  
**Presenter:** Lori Parham, State Director, AARP
How is your department aiding in livability and engagement for the aging population? Get ready to learn about opportunities to engage people over 50 in creating or maintaining vibrant outdoor and public spaces! Municipalities across the state are helping to drive AARP’s Network of Age-Friendly States & Communities, and parks and recreation is playing a vital role in the execution of these essential programs. Session attendees will dive into one of 8 domains of livability that the AARP work focuses on, as well get the inside information about some of the programs Maine communities have been able to implement.

**Water Safety 101: The Challenges Ahead**  
**Presenter:** Jeffrey S. Patten, Beach Operations Coordinator/Ocean Rescue Supervisor, York Parks & Recreation Department
This session will focus on water safety and what municipalities can do to increase the safety of patrons using their recreational water facilities. Specific areas to be covered will include: General safety tips around water facilities with and without lifeguards, the day to day operations at open water facilities, Lifeguard Training for the 21st Century, special event safety and current challenges facing municipalities striving to improve the safety factors at their municipal facilities.

**Grant Writing 101**  
**Presenter:** Bob Barcelona, Department Chair and Associate Professor, University of New Hampshire Department of Recreation Management and Policy
In tight budget times, recreation organizations are pursuing grant funding to help run programs and build facilities. Join us for this interactive workshop if you’ve ever wondered how to navigate through the murky waters of the grant industry, how to work through a maze of funding opportunities, or how to write a successful proposal to get projects funded. Be sure to bring project ideas, as we will work through the grant writing process, from determining your funding needs to writing the actual grant proposal.

9:45-9:50am  BREAK—Sponsored by MUSCO Lighting  
KNOX COUNTY HALLWAY

9:50-11:05am  EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

**Beyond Mandated Reporting**  
**Presenter:** Stephanie Wiken, Policy and Training Specialist, State of Maine Office of Child and Family Services
You’ve made the phone call- now what happens? This session dives into the post-reporting procedures, involving how and why an investigation will open, and differences between a service case and a protection case. OCFS works to bring permanency and well-being to families and children across the state. Session attendees will walk away with a better understanding of the legal and child protection processes that occur once a report has been made.

**Building a Community Center in your Town**  
**Panel:** Linda Brooks, Windham Parks & Recreation Director; Chris Beaulieu, Presque Isle Parks & Recreation Director; Todd Souza, Scarborough Community Services, Director; and Mark Lee, Harriman Associates
We’ve brought together a panel of Recreation professionals who are working on getting a community center built in their community or who have recently accomplished this. Hear how they went about gathering community input, developing a concept plan, creating a cost analysis to determine what it will cost to build and to maintain/operate the building, and putting an Ad Hoc Committee together to help with fundraising.

**The State of Youth Sports: What’s Going Right (and Wrong) in 2020**  
**Presenter:** Bob Barcelona, Department Chair and Associate Professor, University of New Hampshire Department of Recreation Management and Policy
Come join us for a discussion of youth sports trends and issues, and how they are impacting your programming. We will draw on the latest information on the state of youth sports, and touch on topics related to participation rates, sport specialization, burn-out and drop out, travel teams, sport parents, coach training, physical activity, and more. We will also talk about how these trends are impacting youth sports programs here in Maine, and what we can do (and are doing) to address them.
Communicating a Culture of Values and Inspiration
Speaker: Seth Rigoletti, Executive Leadership Coach
How can leaders create a culture that not only provides good guidance but also inspires excellence? How can they build trust with their employees as well as with their partners and stakeholders? The answer lies in how clearly they communicate their values and their vision. When leaders excel at communication, they are able to inspire confidence, trust and genuine passion for their goals. This talk offers practical advice on how to communicate values and build relationships in a way that will be heard and understood by all. Seth will demonstrate the ways that emotions, body language and story can create resonance (or dissonance, if done poorly), and how to communicate more than just what you want people to do but also why they would want to do it.

Seth Rigoletti is a leadership and communication coach with over 8 years experience working with CEOs, politicians, scientists, authors and doctors to help them not only communicate more clearly but also more authentically. A former actor and teacher, Seth’s approach to coaching is to help his clients cut through the noise and confusion and become better communicators by showing them how to connect who they are to the message they need to deliver. Seth focuses on using personal growth as a tool for growing one’s influence and managing change. As one client put it, “Seth has this uncanny ability to make you feel comfortable with being uncomfortable.” His specialty is helping people communicate their excellence effectively and passionately by finding and embracing their genuine voice. Using an intuitive style and a variety of acting-based techniques, Seth is able to guide people away from old patterns and into a new, more genuine, confident and resonant style of communication.

Looking for ways to get more involved with MRPA? Wondering how the association can help you?

During this year’s conference, there will be a survey available for attendees to offer input to the board and identify opportunities for committees and involvement. Thank you for helping us make this organization the best we can offer to MRPA members!

12:30-1:30pm—JOIN US FOR LUNCH BEFORE YOU LEAVE!
ROCKPORT/ROCKLAND ROOMS
17th Annual MRPA Bill Bonnyman Memorial Golf Tournament 
Friday, September 11, 2020 · Point Sebago Golf Club

UPCOMING MRPA EVENTS

Please join us for these events in 2020!
FMI: www.merpa.org

Fall Workshop and Business Meeting
October 2020 · Chair: Gary Colello, Bridgton Recreation Director

Pine Tree State Track & Field Games · Tuesday, July 14, 2020 · Bangor

Contact:
Tim Baude, 992-4490
Tim.Baude@bangormaine.gov

Matt Bouchard, 493-4224
Matt@cariboumaine.org

MRPA thanks Northeast Charter & Tour Co. and New Balance for sponsoring the 2020 Pine Tree State Track & Field Meet
Many Thanks to our 2020 Sponsors & Exhibitors!

MRPA Regional Groups
Join us throughout the year for networking and educational opportunities in regions statewide!
Open to all MRPA members!

MRPA Representatives:
SMART—Southern Maine Association of Recreation Technicians
Rep: Erika Dube, Saco Parks and Recreation Deputy Director

EMPRA—Eastern Maine Parks and Recreation Association
Rep: Debbie Gendreau, Bangor Parks & Recreation Asst. Director

NMCRA—Northern Maine Community Recreation Association
Rep: Hillary Hallet, Easton Recreation Director

Annual Conference 2020: #MRPAGrowTogether
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