By John Baas

It’s been another year of growth and change for SORP. A summary of some of last year’s accomplishments is given below.

At the 2015 National Outdoor Recreation Conference in Annapolis, Dr. Mamie Parker was a highlight of the opening plenary sessions and Neil Kornze gave an enthusiastic lunchtime talk that received high marks from conference attendees. The conference also featured awesome field workshops that highlighted the incredible efforts of the Baltimore Department of Recreation and Parks to provide outdoor recreation and engage their citizens. And of course, the conference provided the usual incredible opportunities to network and learn from other outdoor recreation professionals.

Last June, in addition to myself assuming the President role, SORP obtained three new board members, Annie McVay, Maren Murphy, and Dr. Michael Bradley. These fresh new faces come from a local park and recreation agency, a state parks and wildlife agency, and an academic institution, respectively. They bring different skill sets and experiences compared to previous SORP Boards I have served with between 2007-2013. I am excited about their new potential and anticipate great outcomes from our board.

In September, SORP engaged California Polytechnic University-San Luis Obispo to help us develop our public relations skills. A group of highly articulate students and their professor provided SORP with some great insights on how to improve our website, some of which we’ve already implemented. Our Membership and Communication committee will have more to say on this topic in this report.

Since 1983, the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP) has been serving the outdoor recreation profession. It is the Nation’s leading association of outdoor recreation and related professionals who strive to protect our natural and cultural resources while providing sustainable recreation access.
This winter Sagamore Publishing completed its review of the book, *Outdoor Recreation Planning*. The book which is the result of substantial SORP input (both board and the membership at large) will be going into production in spring of this year. More on that later.

Over the last few years SORP has been discussing the possibility of establishing a national advisory council, which has been named the Outdoor Recreation Leadership Council. The idea is a national council would advise the board on key policy initiatives affecting our profession. We have convened an ad hoc committee to work on establishing this group, and have drafted a charter outlining its scope and purpose.

Last October at our mid-year meeting, the board discussed in a very philosophical way, what the scope of SORP’s membership services should be. To advance our thinking in this regard, the board has started to develop a business plan, led by our very capable Treasurer, Josh Nadas. The business plan will outline our core services and identifies the resources needed to carry out those services.

None of our accomplishments would be possible if it weren’t for our dedicated board members, vital partners, and our loyal members. Thanks to all of you who make SORP the best professional organization it can be! Let’s keep the enthusiasm rolling and continue our essential job of making conservation relevant to the public through safe and rewarding outdoor recreation experiences.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Jefferson County (Colorado) Parks and Open Space. As part of the board’s mid-year meeting, we had a great field trip with the Jeffco staff to visit and learn about challenges and solutions of constructing the Peaks to Plains Trail through the Clear Creek Canyon.

Going forward this year we plan to solicit and approve members for the Outdoor Recreation Leadership Council, develop some new whitepapers, and complete the business plan.

Our annual conference is always a focal point for the board and our members. This year SORP is partnering with the River Management Society for the conference and expect great learning, partnership and networking opportunities based on our very successful joint 2010 conference in Portland, Oregon. You can learn more and register for the conference by visiting our website [www.recpro.org/conference](http://www.recpro.org/conference).

I hope to see you at this year’s National Outdoor Recreation Conference in Boise, Idaho. However, if you’re unable to attend the conference, please take advantage of SORP’s ongoing webinar series, unparalleled online resources, and networking opportunities.

SORP’s ultimate purpose is to provide outstanding leadership and service to our members for advancing the outdoor recreation profession. Please contact me, or our other board members if you have ideas on how we can improve in these two critical areas.
Jefferson County Open Space members Scot Grossman and Nancy York took the SORP Board on a tour of their Peaks to Plains Trail construction in Clear Creek Canyon while the board was in Denver at for their mid-year meeting.

Left to right - Janit Llewellyn-Allen, Rachel Franchina, Brenda Adams-Weyant, Josh Nadas, John Baas, Jean Akers, Annie McVay, Maren Murphy, and Michael Bradley (standing)
Financial Reports

**Balance Sheet**
As of December 31, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Accounts</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Conference Checking</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Bank Checking</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Bank Money Market</td>
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<td>Total Bank Accounts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other current assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment (at FMV)</td>
<td>27,266.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Other current assets</td>
<td>$27,266.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$84,247.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Cards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Bank Credit Card</td>
<td>1,725.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Credit Cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Current Liabilities</td>
<td>$1,725.39</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$1,725.39</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Retained Earnings</td>
<td>99,291.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>(16,769.77)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
<td>$82,521.69</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</strong></td>
<td>$84,247.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Profit & Loss Report**
January - December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Conference</td>
<td>79,135.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dividend Income</td>
<td>128.05</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>39.04</td>
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<td>Membership Dues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>36.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Scholarship Income</td>
<td>1,394.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Webinar</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>408.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Charges</td>
<td>3,649.36</td>
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<td>Board Travel</td>
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<td>Conference</td>
<td>56,799.17</td>
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<td>Insurance</td>
<td>888.00</td>
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<td>Management Services</td>
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<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>84.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Miscellaneous Service Cost</td>
<td>40.00</td>
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<td>Postage and Shipping</td>
<td>176.17</td>
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<td>Professional Services</td>
<td>2,988.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarship</td>
<td>7,000.00</td>
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<td>Telephone</td>
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<td>Training</td>
<td>40.00</td>
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<td>Web services</td>
<td>7,541.62</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Operating Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Endowment Investment</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Realized/Unrealized Gain/Loss</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Other Income</strong></td>
<td>($107.05)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
<td>$3,623.29</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Audit Committee Report

By Josh Nadas

Committee Members: John Baas (Chair), Josh Nadas, Rachel Franchina, and Brenda Adams-Weyant

The Audit Committee met during the SORP mid-year meeting, which was held in Denver, CO, in October 2015. The committee reviewed financial statements and other fiscal-related records, and the Treasurer, Josh Nadas, provided an overall picture of the organization’s financial health. In general, the committee found no major concerns with the financial operation, cash flow and balances, and accounting practices of the organization. The committee also determined that organizational funds were being spent appropriately.

In an effort to enhance the financial oversight of the organization, the committee also discussed the following:

- SORP’s audit procedures need to reflect an analysis that reconciles our books with what was filed with the IRS. Doing so will ensure that the organization is not making mistakes when filing taxes, and it will demonstrate financial transparency in lay terms. The Treasurer will make arrangements to conduct regular audits.

- One difficulty in reporting on the organization’s finances has to do with the SORP’s fiscal year. Our current fiscal year starts June 1, which divides conference income and expenses between two fiscal years. This often results in deficits showing in one year and strong profit in the next. The committee recommended changing the fiscal year start October 1 to resolve this issue.

- The Audit Committee took a hard look at the costs associated with the mid-year meeting, and other planning trips. The committee determined that it would be difficult to cut those costs, because the trips and meetings are necessary for conducting SORP business, and those activities are frugal. Board members are very conscientious of cost, and it is obvious from reimbursements that board member spending was necessary and appropriate.

Strategic Plan Update

By Rachel Franchina

At the 2015 mid-year meeting, the board reviewed and updated SORP’s five-year strategic plan. One key change was updating the vision statement to better reflect the Society’s future - “SORP is the voice for advancing outdoor recreation professionals.” This year the board also identified key services that SORP provides to members and the outdoor recreation profession.

The strategic plan details SORP’s mission, goals and objectives, as well as the key activities and actions for the next five years (2016-2020). In addition to providing a management framework for the Society, the five-year Strategic Plan also serves as a communication tool to members, the profession, and potential funders.

There are six major goal categories: Communication and Marketing, Membership, Professional Development and Education, Financial Strategy, Strategic Partnerships, and Operations. A few major activities for the next year will include highlighting board and member accomplishments to use in communications and marketing, developing a comprehensive funding strategy for SORP, continuing to collaborate with the National Park Service to host the SCORP University at the National Outdoor Recreation Conference, and conducting webinars on relevant topics. Membership recruitment and retention remains a high priority.

Click here to download a copy of the strategic plan.
Committee Members: Chad Schneckenburger (Chair), Steve Holland, Michael Bradley, Michael Ferguson, Jean Akers, Janit Llewellyn-Allen, Margaret Bailey, and Elise Gatti

The Education and Professional Development (E&PD) Committee focuses on promoting learning and professional development opportunities for students as well as young and established outdoor recreation professionals. Each year, the E&PD Committee selects qualified students and awards conference scholarships to attend SORP’s National Outdoor Recreation Conference. At the 2015 conference in Annapolis, Maryland, 10 student conference scholarships were awarded to undergraduate and graduate students representing nine different universities throughout the U.S. (see photos at right). Each year, our student scholar applicant pool continues to expand, drawing in students with a range of degree specializations that involve outdoor recreation and active living. This is a very encouraging sign, indicating that SORP is the recognized leader in the outdoor recreation management field on university campuses. Another reflection of SORP’s commitment to reaching out to young professionals is the continued involvement of student representatives on the SORP Board of Directors. Elise Gatti from the University of Utah and Mike Ferguson from Penn State University continued with their second year as Student Delegates to the board, and bring a unique and fresh perspective to the board.

Now in its third year, SORP offered three presentations in 2015 that attracted more than 200 professionals across the US and Canada from all segments of our profession - government, non-profit, private practice, and academia.

1. Evolving Market Trends for Outdoor Recreation Professionals - presented by Ivan Levin from the Outdoor Foundation; 97 attendees
2. Trail Towns: Bringing Outdoor Recreation and Communities Together - presented by Renee Tkach from the Friends of the Columbia Gorge, and Elaine Wilson from the Kentucky Office for Adventure Tourism; 89 attendees
3. Long Distance Trails: think regionally, implement locally - presented by Dawn Fredrickson from Missouri State Parks, Diane Kripas from Pennsylvania Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Elissa Garofalo from Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Inc.; 51 attendees

One of the more successful new initiatives for the E&PD Committee in 2015 was the roll-out of the New Professionals Conference Scholarship. This scholarship is geared towards new professionals in the outdoor recreation management field and intended to provide them an avenue to attend the National Outdoor Recreation Conference, take advantage of networking opportunities, and generally help to prepare them to be the future leaders in this profession. SORP awarded four New Professional scholarships for the 2015 conference in Annapolis and plans on awarding four more in 2016.

Goals for the coming year:

- Continue to expand opportunities for involving and engaging aspiring recreation resource professionals at the annual conference and through other means.
- Continue pursuing the establishment of a formal accreditation process for academic programs specializing in recreation resource planning through the NRPA Council on Accreditation.
- Collaborate with the Membership and Communications Committee to establish an Education and Professional Development page on the SORP website.
- Provide direct opportunities for professional development to SORP membership.
2015 New Professional Scholarship Recipients

Michael Bradley
Eastern Kentucky University

Maren Murphy
Montana State Parks

Adam Straubinger
Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Mary Van Dyke
Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources

2015 Student Scholarship Recipients

Lauren Abbott
Penn State University

Silvia Kainzinger
West Virginia University

Ojetunde Ojewola
University of Missouri - Columbia

Anna Pechenik-Mausolf
Texas A&M University

Courtney Schultz
North Carolina State University

Eric Thompson
North Carolina State University

Rose Verbos
University of Utah

Emily Wilkins
University of Maine

Jamie Woolery
Eastern Kentucky University

Bryant Wright
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Committee Members: Rachel Franchina (Chair), Jean Akers, Brenda Adams-Weyant, Mark Young, Maren Murphy, Mike Bradley, Michelle Ahearn, and Mary Donze

The Membership and Communications (M&C) Committee is responsible for developing a strategy and schedule for association communications, developing strategies to recruit and retain members, and recommending member services and benefits.

In 2015, the M&C Committee focused on implementing the 2015-2019 SORP Strategic Plan, including:

- Implement a consistent brand across all SORP products. The committee continued to ensure a consistent look and feel by using the SORP logo on various products, including items sold at conference.
- Develop an annual communication plan to allow us to think strategically about the timing of our communications. The committee developed an annual communication schedule for general and conference related communications. We increased the use of social media including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.
- Develop a marketing strategy to guide communications. The committee outreached to membership to seek marketing experience assisting non-profits. The board hired Dr. Vince Magnini, a marketing professor at Virginia Tech, to develop a marketing plan. Recommendations to retain current members and recruit new members focused on capitalizing on SORP’s brand attributes of “passionate, professional and networked.”
- The marketing strategy outreach also elicited a response from the Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo student-led public relations firm. Two students, Kristen Ale and Hannah Stone, with guidance from the director of the firm, Dr. Kirk Sturm, developed recommendations to improve relationships by communicating values. The team identified draft values for SORP, assessed the organization’s website, and ways to reframe messaging to current and potential members.

In 2016, the committee will continue implementing the SORP Strategic Plan by focusing on the following tasks:

- Implement marketing and public relations recommendations.
- Develop a corporate membership proposal.
- Develop strategies to improve the diversity of membership.
- Enhance opportunities for two-way communication between the membership and SORP Board.
Development Committee Report

By John Baas

Committee members: Darren Goodding (Chair), John Baas, Rachel Franchina, Mark Young, Paul Purman, Annie McVay, and Josh Nadas

The Development Committee’s primary focus in 2015 was establishing a national advisory council. The national council would be comprised of senior level outdoor recreation professionals from a variety of professions and organizations, whose purpose is to advise the SORP board on key policy issues affecting the profession. An ad hoc committee was established, and they met during fall of 2015 to give the council an “official” name - Outdoor Recreation Leadership Council - and to develop a draft charter, which was subsequently approved by the SORP Board. The charter outlines the council’s purpose and mission, membership structure, terms of membership appointment, and communication protocols. The next step will be to solicit members.

2015 SHIFT Festival

By Rachel Franchina

In October 2015, Vice President of Operations, Rachel Franchina, attended the 2015 SHIFT Festival in Jackson Hole, Wyoming on behalf of SORP. The purpose of the festival is to unite natural allies – youth engagement proponents, outdoor recreationists, land managers, and conservation advocates – around the common goal of protecting public lands.

The Festival is centered around a two-day summit in which participants discussed issues such as the Principles for the Advancement of Outdoor Recreation and Conservation, conservation leadership and youth engagement, responsible recreation, and outdoor access. The Festival also included breakfast and lunch discourses on topics such as the public lands transfer and newly established state offices for outdoor recreation in Washington, Utah and Colorado. The SHIFT Summit participants concluded the meeting by engaging in discussion around potential next steps and action items for carrying the above ideas back to their work.

Outdoor Recreation Planning book - Coming this summer

By John Baas

In February, 2016 Dr. Robert Burns and Dr. John Baas finalized the text, graphics, references, acknowledgements, and study questions for the book titled Outdoor Recreation Planning. This book represents the culmination of seven years of work, with book chapters prepared by recreation resource professionals—both practitioners and academics. The book has 13 chapters and is about 300 pages in length. It represents a substantial contribution to the professional literature on parks and outdoor recreation, especially given that there has not been a comparable book published in the last 30 years. Sagamore Publishing is developing their marketing and promotional materials for introducing this book, which will be available for sale in spring or summer of 2016. SORP support, both from board members and members at large, was critical in bringing this book idea to fruition. Previous and current SORP members wrote chapters, helped identify additional authors and source material, and reviewed draft chapters.
Awards Committee Report

By Mike Bradley

Committee Members: Mike Bradley (Chair), Chad Schneckenburger, Elise Gatti, Margaret Bailey

A request for nominations for 2015 was sent out in December, 2014. Four nominations were received for the Distinguished Service Award and 17 nominations for the Project Excellence Award were received.

At the fall board meeting, the board discussed the growing trend of awardees asking for additional copies of the award to share with partners. Bob Reinhardt handcrafts the awards and only charges SORP for the materials, engraving and shipping. Quantities are limited and many times the requests for additional plaques exceeds what is available. In an effort to reduce the impact on Bob and SORP's time, the board agreed to limit one duplicate per awardee which must be ordered when the awardee is notified and market value will be charged for the duplicate. This will be a more efficient use of time and resources.

2015 Award Recipients

National Recreation Resources Leadership Award

Dr. Glenn E. Haas specializes in natural resource planning, policy analysis, marine and terrestrial protected area planning and management, sustainable ecotourism development, conservation trust funds and foundations, sustainable revenue generation strategies, administrative decision making, and visitor capacity analysis. He is a former professor and chairman of the Department of Natural Resource Recreation and Tourism at Colorado State University.

Dr. Haas has worked 20 years in the Caribbean on the development of conservation trusts and was a lead-developer of the Belize Protected Areas Conservation Trust legislated in 1995. Currently, he is a sustainable financing specialist with The Nature Conservancy working in Jamaica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Dr. Haas has served as President and Vice President of the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals, and on the national boards of the National Society for Park Resources and the National Parks Conservation Association. He also served two years as a special advisor in the U.S. Department of the Interior while he chaired of the Federal Interagency Task Force on Visitor Capacity on Public Lands and Waters.

Distinguished Service Awards

Andy Windsor, Bureau of Land Management - Andy demonstrates excellence in recreation planning through his a commitment to promote a more informed and educated public lands recreation clientele. He implements this commitment through development and delivery of national training courses, working with local users and interest groups to assess demand and develop land use plan alternatives, mentoring young recreation professionals, serving as a consultant for state and Washington, DC level program managers, and through on the ground day-to-day management.
2015 Award Recipients, Cont.

Danette Poole, Director of Planning and Recreation Resources, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation - The 2013 Edition of the Virginia Outdoors Plan was the tenth to be produced and the first to be completely paperless and featuring a custom-built online mapping tool called VOP Mapper.

Bob Campbell, National Park Service - Over the past 20 years working for the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office, Bob Campbell has managed nearly 200 outdoor recreation projects supporting land and water trails that promote cultural heritage, natural resources, land conservation and public water access in six states and the District of Columbia throughout the 64,000 square mile Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Project Excellence Awards

Natural Environment Trail Strategy, LEES+Associates - The City of Toronto's Natural Environment Trail Strategy, underpinning the future planning, design and management of nearly 300km of natural trails within Canada’s largest municipality, represents a shift in natural area management recognizing that building sustainable trails with a light footprint is a more effective solution to managing a city's sensitive ecosystems than attempting to limit public access.

Careers in Conservation Summer Internship Program, Los Angeles County Dept. of Parks and Recreation - Through hands-on experience, the Careers in Conservation Summer Internship Program is designed to boost interns understanding of key principles of conservation and environmental stewardship.

Kachemak Bay Water Trail - Kachemak Bay Water Trail Association - Collaboration overcomes lack of money and experience to create a 125-mile water trail in Alaska.

Blue Hole Regional Park - Design Workshop, Inc. and City of Wimberley - Through strategic public/private partnerships, the pristine waters, limestone bluffs and towering age-old cypress trees of Wimberley's historic spring-fed "Blue Hole" were saved from the threat of private development to create Blue Hole Regional Park - the largest Sustainable Sites certified park in the nation.
By Jean Akers

The 2015 National Outdoor Recreation Conference was held in partnership with the Northeastern Recreation Research (NERR) Symposium in Annapolis, Maryland from April 12-16, 2015. Participants, totaling 260 professionals, came from across the United States, Canada and as far as Singapore, China and Austria. Representatives from 42 different universities, 17 state agencies, and 10 federal agencies comprised the majority of conference attendees with the remaining ranks coming from cities, counties, tribes, non-profit organizations and private consulting firms.

As a joint conference, NERR kicked off their welcome and educational session on Sunday including an evening joint NERR/SORP poster session. NERR continued their concurrent sessions through Tuesday morning.

“SCORP University” was again offered and jointly orchestrated by NPS and SORP representatives and presented by state planners from Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Oregon.

On Monday afternoon the main welcome plenary featured a rousing discourse by Dr. Mamie Parker – Chesapeake Conservancy Board Member (retired Assistant Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service). Dr. Parker’s life experience and outlook on outdoor recreation and conservation was inspirational.

The opening plenary featured agency representatives from the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service sharing their perspectives on the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plans (SCORP), participation trends, the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, the NPS-led initiative to get every 4th grader to a National Park, and other agency efforts that will guide outdoor recreation in the coming years.

For the focus on outdoor experiences, the City of Baltimore Department of Recreation and Parks partnered with SORP to host three field workshops focused on the urban interface with nature: Waterfront Partnerships at the Baltimore Inner Harbor, Gwynn Falls Trail Bike Tour, and Jones Falls to Druid Hill Walking Tour. Guides from the Baltimore National Heritage Area provided an exploration of the Inner Harbor at the end of the field workshops. Learning opportunities were centered on the history of urban park areas, management challenges, regional trail connections and partnerships for urban waterfront revitalization.

The SORP conference scholarships added the category of “new professional” to the existing student scholarship program offering support to enable new and aspiring professionals the opportunity to expand their learning and networking resources.

Continuing education units (CEU) totaling 15 credit hours were available to certified AICP planners (and other professionals requiring training) starting with Monday morning’s SCORP training and continuing into Tuesday and Thursday concurrent sessions. Topics offering CEUs included conservation management, water trail planning, international outdoor recreation management, measuring health impacts, creating better public access, and balancing habitat restoration /outdoor recreation.
The National Park Service & SORP Partnership

By Janit Llewellyn-Allen and Martha Droge

The National Park Service and SORP continue working as partners to strengthen the relationship of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planners with SORP membership. SORP members are working to identify SCORP planners in each state, and are planning a survey and outreach to connect these professionals with opportunities offered through SORP membership.

2015 SCORP Excellence Award: Martha Droge coordinated the National Park Service (NPS) Land and Water Conservation Fund SCORP Excellence Award Review team and nomination process. In late 2014 Martha asked the four NPS regional offices to nominate recent SCORP updates for national review. Team members Megan Lang (Philadelphia), Alexis John (Atlanta), Roger Knowlton (Omaha), and Martha Droge (Seattle) reviewed the nominations according to criteria for SCORP excellence. The team forwarded the two finalists (Delaware and Ohio) to SORP for consideration and to achieve consensus on the award selection. The NPS and SORP gave the award to the State of Delaware. Susan Moerschel and Kendall Sommers represented Delaware at SCORP University and at the SORP awards ceremony (photo below). The State of Ohio, represented at the SORP conference by Mary Fitch, was honored as a high quality ‘close second’ for its most recent SCORP update.

SCORP University 2015: At the conference in Annapolis, Martha Droge coordinated the fourth annual SCORP University, a three hour pre-conference session dedicated to SCORP-related topics. Several presentations and panel discussions on best practices for SCORP updates were shared. Attendees participated in several question-and-answer periods and provided feedback on SCORP training needs to SORP and the NPS.

Joel Lynch, Kendall Sommers, Susan Moerschel, and Sergio Capozzi
“Rivers and Recreation in a Changing Climate”

Conference Hosts
The Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP) and the River Management Society (RMS) are proud to present the 2016 River Management Symposium and National Outdoor Recreation Conference.

Venue and Lodging
The conference will be held at the Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho - http://riversideboise.com

The deadline for the group room rate is April 26. To make a reservation, call (208) 343-1871 and ask for the "SORP" rate, which is $95 plus tax.

Registration Fees
Early Bird Rates available through April 15.

- $385 - Early, full conference registration, member (SORP or RMS)
- $485 - Early, full conference registration, non-member
- $250 - Student registration, full conference
- $165 - Early one-day registration
- $165 - Social registration**

** The Social Registration includes entry to the Monday Poster and Exhibitor Reception, Tuesday Awards Luncheon, Tuesday Celebration Park Excursion, Wednesday Field Workshop, and Thursday Banquet and Live Auction.

Guest tickets for the field workshop, reception, banquet and awards luncheon are available for an extra fee.
**2016 Conference Preview**

**Become a Sponsor or Exhibitor**
The best way to develop your network with the SORP and RMS membership is being on-site. We have been told by exhibitors that the power of personal connection, brand placement and recognition, and their support of the field of outdoor recreation and river management is helping their company develop meaningful and productive relationships. [Click here](www.reipro.org/conference) to learn more about sponsorship opportunities.

**For More Information:** [www.reipro.org/conference](http://www.reipro.org/conference)

**Preliminary Program**
Visit the conference website for the most recent program. 55 concurrent, pre-conference and field sessions have been approved for [AICP](http://www.aicp.org) Continuing Maintenance credits. Identified in the program with this notation: **CM | 1.5**

**Monday, May 16**

**8:00 am to 12:00 pm - Pre-Conference Training (Optional)**
- SCORP University - **CM | 3.0**
- Visual Resource Management Training - **CM | 3.0**
- Story Maps Workshop – Everyone has a story to tell - **CM | 3.0**

**1:00 to 3:00 pm - Welcome Plenary**
The City of Boise and the State of Idaho have incredible outdoor recreation opportunities and innovative conservation efforts. After a general welcome to the conference from the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals, the featured speakers of this plenary session will provide an overview of outdoor recreation in Boise and Idaho and touch on innovative and collaborative programs related to the area’s natural, cultural, historic and recreation resources.

**3:30 to 5:00 pm - Opening Plenary: The Face of Tomorrow’s Leaders**
The future of the management of our public lands and waterways will soon be led by those who have never known a world without the Internet. Their environmental ethos has evolved tree hugging to a place where a passionate idea or best practice can be shared, replicated and launched into action worldwide, within hours. In addition, the majority of these individuals whose ethnic communities will soon represent our popular majority are noticeably underrepresented in college classes, field internships and incoming classes of emerging leaders.

We are familiar with this elephant standing amidst us, and she has thoughts on the matter. Are we listening to what she is seeking to share with us?

Meet early career workforce leaders from the following organizations whose bold initiatives are fueling tomorrow’s ‘normal’ with focus, enthusiasm and collaborative tenacity: **21st Century Conservation Service Corps, Environmental Stewards Program, Greening Youth Foundation, Utah Conservation Corps.**
5:30 to 7:30 pm – Exhibitor and Poster Session Reception

- Exploring Vertical Wilderness in the Acoustic Environment
- Targeting the Urban Angler - Outcomes of Kentucky's FINs Program
- In Pursuit of Pork: Determining Outcomes of Permitted Wild Hog Hunting at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area
- Assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of human-created trail drainage features
- Vive "l'hiver" - A case study of winter outdoor recreation along urban waterways in the Province of Quebec
- Federal Recreation Council
- Petroglyphs, Parks and Purpose: Students Merge Rock Art Recording and Recreational Planning
- A Rapid Assessment of Condition Class in a Riparian Area: Evaluations of Site Conditions on Forest Road #085-Holman Flat of Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
- The Upper Nooksack River Recreation Plan: Finding Common Ground Between Conservation and Recreation through Collaborative Planning
- Using Computer Simulation to Forecast the Effects of Recreation on Protected Species
- River Safety Awareness for new river users: old message new media
- Wild and Scenic Rivers: the Next 50 Years
- Constructing Artificial Fish Habitat in the Chicago River System
- Recreation Disturbance to Golden Eagles Biological Consequences, Behavioral Mechanisms, and Management Implications
- Protective Mineral Withdrawals for the Trinity River Restoration Program - Lessons Learned by BLM and USFS
- Normative Standards for Alpine Recreation During Air Pollution Episodes
- Idaho Invasive Species Sticker and Prevention

7:30 pm - The History of Inflatable Boats and How They Saved Rivers – Herm Hoops

Tuesday, May 17

8:00 to 9:30 am – Concurrent Sessions

- Water Trails: Making the Plan Come to Life CM | 0.5
- Caring for the Fragile Edge: A Workshop on Water Trail Stewardship CM | 0.5
- Where do the signs point? Creating criteria and best practices for river signage
- Waterfront Issues and Climate - Smart Cities Strategies CM | 1.5
- Recreation and Interpretation: Connecting People to Nature and Open Space
- Connecting Children and Water
- Minnesota Parks/Trails Legacy - 5 years connecting people to the outdoors CM | 0.5
- An Interagency Approach to Visitor Use Management CM | 0.5
- Overview of Interagency Wild & Scenic River Council and capacity
- Vision, Data Partners including Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers 2.0, Integrating Partnered Data
- The National River Recreation Database Lives!
**2016 Conference Preview**

- Data Partnerships: American Whitewater, University of Tennessee, American Canoe Association
- Language of Landscapes
- Data Driven applied tools for recreation planning and management - panel/roundtable CM | 0.75
- Foreshadowing issues to consider in capacity sessions
- The National River Recreation Database Lives!
- Outcome Focused Management (OFM)

**10:00 to 11:30 – Concurrent Sessions**

- Getting Seniors Outdoors (on land and water)
- Tennessee Blueway Mapping Application
- Changing Climate and Management Jurisdiction
- Development of the Kansas River Water Trail CM | 0.5
- A (tenuous) mountain refuge: Backcountry skiers and poor air quality
- Blue Trails: Using recreation to enhance river protection CM | 0.5
- State Scenic Waterway Planning & Setting Scenic Flows in Oregon CM | 0.5
- Lifeblood of a Region: the Value of Streamflow for the residents of the Salmon River Basin, Idaho
- Developing Social Media Content to Promote Recreation & Conservation Objectives
- Bijou Bike Park, A study in partnerships and future trends CM | 0.5
- Addressing User Capacities for Wild and Scenic Rivers CM | 0.75
- Mapping river management: An innovative approach to visualizing and anticipating river-system management conflicts CM | 0.75
- The National River Recreation Database Comes Alive in ArcGIS Online Applications CM | 0.5
- Donate Data. Win and iPad or fund a boat launch? Geodata Crowdsourcing and the NRRD Co-op
- How the agencies inventory the landscape for scenic values and how these values are integrated into land use plans
- Federal Recreation Council: Outdoor Recreation though a federal interagency lens - panel/roundtable
- Best practices for the production of recreation and management plans CM | 0.75

**11:30 am to 1:30 pm - Luncheon and Awards Presentation**

**1:30 to 3:00 pm - Concurrent Sessions**

- The Los Angeles River: Building a Resilient Future for LA CM | 0.75
- Los Angeles River: Kayaking towards revitalization CM | 0.75
- Public land recreation evolves towards sustainability
- Measuring Community Benefits from Trails CM | 0.5
- Advancing Community through River Conservation CM | 0.5
- St. Louis River Corridor Initiative: Connecting People to the River CM | 0.5
- Visualizing Recreation Opportunities at Timothy Lake CM | 0.5
- Reservoir Elevation and Outdoor Recreation Opportunities CM | 0.5
- Incorrect for the last 30 years? Evidence for updated boating capacity standards on lakes and reservoirs
- Eyes on the River: The Use of Drones for River Management CM | 0.75
Overcoming fears about Liability for River Recreation: A toolbox CM | 0.75
Research on visibility of constructed encroachments and integrating guilt features into the landscape
A discussion session - sharing technological innovations in recreation management
Interactive Watersheds Online Community Networking - A 20-year experiment

3:30 to 5:00 pm - Concurrent Sessions
- Dollars alone - viable water trails
- Exploring Statewide Water Trail Programs: Administration, Benefits, Funding
- Rivers and Climate Change: Effects on channel morphology, habitat, infrastructure, and recreation CM | 0.5
- Changing technological climates and how we get to the water
- Rivers, Recreation and the Rim of Fire
- Understanding Outdoor Recreationists/Recreational Specialization Framework CM | 0.5
- Outdoor Recreation: Connecting Land and Water at the Refuge CM | 0.5
- Spatially mapping the relationship between trail conditions and the long-distance hiking experience on the northern section of the Appalachian Trail
- Managing Visitor Use in Diverse Settings CM | 1.5
- Don’t Row Your Boat Here: An Update on Limitations on River Use CM | 0.5
- Wild and Scenic River Management – the Good, Bad and Ugly
- Impact analysis and compensatory mitigation
- The importance of river navigation system for recreation CM | 0.5
- The Upper Nooksack River Recreation Plan - finding common ground between conservation and recreation through collaborative planning CM | 0.5

5:30 to 9:30 pm - Excursion to Celebration Park (Optional, $15 fee)
Here is your chance to jet boat on Idaho’s Snake River! Come join Director Tom Bicak of Canyon County Parks, Recreation, and Waterways and his staff as they provide conference participants a not-to-be-missed evening of adventure at Celebration Park, Idaho’s premier archaeological park.

Wednesday, May 18 - Field Workshops
- Boise River Greenbelt Bicycle Ride SOLD OUT
- Ridge to Rivers Center and Hike
- Learning and Research Tour
- Idaho Botanical Garden and Old Penitentiary
- Art Tour
- Peregrine Fund’s World Center for Birds of Prey
- Snake River Birds of Prey Float Trip (Class I-II) SOLD OUT
- Cabarton stretch North Fork Payette Rafting (Class II-III)
- South Fork Payette Canyon Rafting (Class III-IV)
- Visual Resources and Scenery Management in Recreation and River Management CM | 6.0
- Universal Design of Watercraft Landing Sites and Adaptive Equipment for Access Sites
2016 Conference Preview

Thursday, May 19

8:00 to 9:30 am - Concurrent Sessions

- Commercial Vending on the San Antonio River
- Canoe/Bike Share on the Mississippi River - to Launch or Not to Launch?
- Exploring the relationship between water-related recreation activity and river values and conservation policy among urban Utah residents CM | 0.5
- Introduction to Wild and Scenic Rivers CM | 0.5
- Effectiveness of Scenic River Designation in Virginia CM | 0.5
- Learn About TYO: Transforming Youth Outdoors
- Community Engagement/successful volunteer stewardship
- Lasting Legacies and the Green Hat
- Capacity and Allocation on the Snake River through Jackson Hole
- Managing Visitor Capacity on Snake River System in Eastern Idaho: The Value of Partnerships
- A Case Study of Visitor Use Management and Planning at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
- Recreation Studies on the Snake River CM | 0.5
- Idaho Power’s Recreation Developments on the Middle Snake River: How to be Engaged in the FERC Hydropower Licensing Process
- Applying Adaptive Management to Hydropower Licensing
- Measures to Protect and Enhance Scenic Values (ORVs) CM | 0.5
- Exploring Types of Visual Technologies and the Enhancement of Landscape Management CM | 0.5
- The Results are In - findings of the visual resource inventories for BLM administered lands in the western US CM | 0.5
- Trends in hydropower Policy and Development: Challenges Coming to a River Near You - panel/roundtable CM | 1.5

10:00 to 11:30 am - Concurrent Sessions

- Water Trail Planning for Accessibility: The San Francisco Bay Water Trail Case Study CM | 0.5
- Activating urban river corridors for year-round recreational use
- Minnesota River School Community Partnership
- Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Case Study - on the River and in the Courts CM | 0.75
- Yellowstone-Teton Paddling - the Leader's Experience
- The Evolution of Community Support through Engagement: How one successful volunteer program is addressing the changing climate of volunteerism to meet the needs of 21st century volunteers
- A Confluence of Partners: Exploring the Transformation from Superfund Site to Milltown State Park CM | 0.75
- Determinants of Tourism Attractiveness in the National Parks of Brazil
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- The influence of place attachment, motivations for use, and litter on campers, evaluations of site conditions
- Social Values in River Corridors: Using PPGIS to Spatially Map Social Values along Idaho’s Middle Fork of the Salmon River
- Using Lidar and GIS to Map Rivers and Floodplains at the Watershed Scale
- Gap Mapping? Using GIS and the latest natural landscape and demographic information to find the next Missouri State Park CM | 0.5
- Visual Resource Protection in an Urban River Corridor CM | 0.5
- Defining and analyzing critical views for urban and suburban and naturalized environments in the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area CM | 0.5
- Flows and Aesthetics CM | 0.5

1:30 to 3:00 pm - Concurrent Sessions

- Boise River Park - Keys to Successful Planning and Management of Integrated Whitewater Recreation and Infrastructure
- Leveraging Wildlands Anniversaries by Engaging Millennials through Digital Storytelling CM | 0.75
- Wild and Scenic Rivers: the Next 50 Years
- The Peaks to Plains (P2P) Trail Corridor: Challenges and Successes in Connecting People to the Water's Edge in Jefferson County, Colorado CM | 0.75
- A phenomenological assessment of stress that results from involvement in and performance during wilderness and outdoor recreation accidents: personal reflections and analysis of stress and coping
- Federal Perspectives on River and Recreation Capacity CM | 0.75
- Recreation Capacity Panel moderated interviews
- Great River: Got Water? CM | 0.5
- Visitor-employed GPS survey method to examine distributions of off-highway vehicle use in southwest Idaho
- Using WiFi in Hells Canyon to Disseminate Real Time and Future Stream Flow Information
- Long Distance Landscapes - conducting a baseline visual assessment for the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail CM | 0.5
- Advancing scenery management of national trails: Establishing and implementing the scenic and landscape elements of a national trail CM | 0.5
- Enjoy the view - a linear feature
- Universal design of watercraft landing sites and adaptive equipment for access

Boise Depot
2016 Conference Preview

3:30 to 5:00 pm - Closing Plenary

Bryan Brown - Blind Spots in the Administrative Fabric of Parkland America

Expedition kayaker Bryan Brown has completed historic solo, self-supported, source-to-mouth descents of the most embattled watersheds in North America. 7,000 miles of solo travel has reinforced his focus upon the big-picture environmental issues they face. Comparing the heavily modified Colorado watershed with the nearly pristine Yukon River network, using Canada's MacKenzie watershed as a critically important midpoint benchmark, his over-the-bow overview reflects a unique approach to a complex problem.

5:30 to 9:30 pm - Banquet and Live Auction
Our Values

People
Our strength is the passion, diversity, and leadership of our members.

Community
We thrive in the cultivation of shared purpose and the opportunity to make lasting connections.

Collaboration
We embrace collaboration to advance the outdoor recreation profession and foster meaningful results.

Sustainable Recreation
We encourage innovative approaches to manage outdoor recreation.

Professional Development
We believe that a distinguished career includes life-long learning.