

Forum Update

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Hershey Meet Report

Larry Davis, State Coordinator

The state program was very successful this year; there were five new communities (Long Beach, Hattiesburg, Pearl, Woolmarket and Anguilla) participating in this program. We had a total of one hundred and forty-nine participants to participate in this year state meet. The following young men and women finished in first place at the Hershey Track & Field Games State Meet on Saturday, June 7, 2008, at Gulfport High Track in Gulfport, Mississippi. The five participants below broke the state record in their event this year.

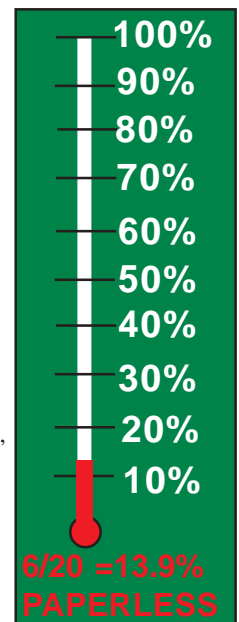
EVENT DISTANCE*	NAME OF WINNER	CITY	TIME/
Softball Throw (9-10 boys)	Monterrio Davis	Jackson	128'-9"
50 M Dash (9-10 girls)	Julina Johnson	Pascagoula	0:7.06
100 M Dash (9-10 girls)	Ty Horne	Hattiesburg	0:13.38
200 M Dash (9-10 girls)	Ty Horne	Hattiesburg	0:30.14
800 M Dash (11-12 girls)	Lindsay Raybourn	Long Beach	2:41.58

In all, there were forty-six first place winners, who will be submitted to the regional office where all times are compared to the other states winners in the Region 4. The individuals with the best time are usually selected to attend the National Hershey Track and Field event. Each state must have at least five representatives at the final meet so all winners of the state meet have a chance to attend the national final. Last year five athletes from Mississippi were selected to represent our state.

A special thank you to the Moss Point Parks & Recreation Department for their Support. I would like to thank the following individuals who helped coordinate this year's Hershey Program.

Biloxi Parks and Recreation Department (Jamie Bell)
Moss Point Parks and Recreation Department (Ronald Mims)
Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department (Bo Cole)
Jackson Parks and Recreation Department (Samuel Miller Jr.)
Ridgeland Parks and Recreation Department (John North Jr.)
Ocean Springs Department of Leisure Services (Jo Knippers)
Port Gibson Parks and Recreation Department (Marvin Lucas)
Anguilla Sports & Youth Leadership Program (Barbara Lovette)

If you need any more information or would like to find out how your community can participate next year, please do not hesitate to contact Larry Davis, Hershey State Track & Field Coordinator, at ldavis@ci.gulfport.ms.us or 228-831-0153.



Local News

A recent poll indicated that MRPA members would like more news about other Mississippi agencies: promotions, job changes, projects recently approved, projects now underway, number of participants in this year's league, or who is making it to the championships. What action is your agency undertaking to combat the cost of fuel? Does your department support green practices on the job?

You've already made your commitment to parks and recreation apparent by joining a professional organization. Please consider sharing your experience. Your comments spark change in the profession! If it works, if it doesn't, if it's good news, MRPA are interested.

Submit your professional milestones to info@aboutmrpa.org.

NRPA Announcing an Exciting New Project

NRPA is undertaking a project, with the support of the American Park and Recreation Society branch, to identify a minimum set of variables, called attributes and value in this project, which should be captured to describe parks, trails and recreation facilities. The ultimate goal is to create consistency in data that is maintained by communities in their GIS systems. Simply put, NRPA is putting some structure around what to count and how it is measured.

Historically, NRPA produced a per capita standard that in the mid 1990's evolved into an 8-step planning process to determine a community's level of service. This project will provide some structure around the baseline function of system inventory, which generally occurs before the planning process even begins. The deliverables of this project will consist of a standard with required and optional variables for inclusion in any GIS database for the park, trail and recreation facility layers and a downloadable data model that can be imported into any GIS system. In addition, there will be full documentation regarding the attributes, values and their definitions.

NRPA is looking for individuals to serve on one of two groups. A project advisory committee will be created to endorse the overall project and facilitate a broad national review of attributes and values among their constituent groups. The attributes and values task force will be a working body to develop the draft attributes, values and definitions. The deadline for applying to these groups is June 20.

NRPA is also looking for examples of what your agency is including your GIS database and how your agency is using that data. Examples will be accepted through the end of July.

A draft set of attributes and values will be available for review beginning at NRPA's National Congress and Exhibition in Baltimore, October 14 – 18, 2008. The full project is expected to be complete and launched in October 2009.

For more on this project in general visit www.nrpa.org/gis and for more on the ways to contribute visit <http://www.nrpa.org/content/default.aspx?documentId=7356>. Meredith Bridgers is the NRPA staff lead for this project and she may be reached at 703-858-2191 or mbridgers@nrpa.org.

Mississippian the USPTA Southern Division Pro of the Year

The United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA) is the world's oldest and largest association of tennis-teaching professionals. With more than 14,500 members worldwide, USPTA strives to raise the standards of the tennis profession while promoting participation and lifetime enthusiasm for tennis.



Julio Godreau is the Director of Tennis and the Academy Director at Parham Bridges Tennis Center in Jackson. He was recently named as the Alan Henry Pro of the Year for 2007 by the USPTA. Fellow teaching professionals nominate their

peers and the winner is chosen by a committee. "This is a very prestigious award and Julio is very deserving of it," Jeff Hawes, President of the USPTA Southern division says. "He joins a very prestigious group of past winners including: Dennis Van Der Meer, Bill Tym, Jorge Andrew, Greg Grover, Tom Daglis and Fernando Velasco." Godreau has also been recognized in the past as USPTA Rookie Pro of the Year for Northern California in 1997, Developmental Coach of the Year for the Middle States in 2004, and Mississippi's Pro of the Year in 2006.

Julio currently runs a top notch junior academy for children ages 5-18 at Bridges. He also teaches private and group lessons, manages a staff of seven teaching professionals, directs USTA sanctioned events, and serves as the USTA/Mississippi Competitive Training Center Co-Head Coach. He volunteers as a member of the USTA Southern Section Tennis Professionals Committee and the USTA/Mississippi Tennis Association Officials Committee. His involvement in the tennis community also includes five full and five partial scholarships to his academy for financially challenged children.

Godreau received his bachelor's degree in Psychology from Duquesne University and a master's in Business Administration from American InterContinental University. He also holds tennis teaching certifications with the USPTA, the Professional Tennis Registry (PTR), and the USTA High Performance Coaching Department.

Julio lives in Madison with his wife Charisse and their 15 month old daughter Sophie.

MRPA Members on Paperless Membership

"The 'Don Lewis' made me do it." Seth Gaines, Sports Director 6/4/08

Beating High Fuel Costs

The Mississippi Center for Non-Profits offers the following tips to help you help your employees with rising fuel costs. Maybe some of these will generate some ideas that will help you or your company.

1. Raise mileage reimbursement for your employees. The current IRS business standard for mileage reimbursement is 50.5 cents per mile driven.
2. Offer employees a flexible workweek. The city of Birmingham, AL will adopt four day workweeks starting July 1 for its city employees. *Can't close the door one day a week?* Allow employees to stagger their workweek so you can keep the the office staffed at all times.
3. Allow employees to try out telecommuting. Telecommuting allows employees to work from remote locations, such as home, through the use of videoconferencing and other technology. If your employee doesn't need to be in the office to work hands-on with clients, this is a great solution to help cut down on travel time and cost.
4. Give your employees public transit discounts. If your city has a good public transportation system, buy your employees monthly passes to ride the bus or trolley to work.
5. Reward employee performance with gas cards or paycheck bonuses.

Association-Wide Fees & Registration Survey

When was the last time you raised rental fees? Are your team registration fees too high? MRPA has created a survey to address three main areas: adult teams, youth players, and facility rentals. The survey is currently gathering data to calculate 'average' rental fees for:

Adult teams:

Softball
Soccer
Basketball
Tennis
Flag Football

Youth Players:

Baseball
Soccer
Softball
Tennis
TeeBall
Flag Football
Football
Swim Lessons
Day Camp

FIELDS

By the Hour:

Softball
Baseball
Soccer
Football
Tennis
Basketball
Public Swim
Pool Party
Community Center

By the Day:

Softball
Baseball
Soccer
Football
Tennis
Basketball
Public Swim
Pavilion
Community Center

This survey is conducted by request of MRPA member Ann Jones, City of Hattiesburg. Data collected will be summarized and published in the next newsletter for use by all association members.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Go to www.aboutmrpa.org/FEERENTALPOLL.htm to open instructions. Follow the link to open survey results. As you list current registration/rental fees you can watch the average on the left change. The survey is a public spreadsheet saved to one of Google's servers. The spreadsheet is updated automatically and can be reached anywhere in the world by typing in its web address.

The survey takes approximately five minutes. Please contribute your agency's information! Deadline for submission is 7/15/08. Contact info@aboutmrpa.org if you're interested in association wide statistics.

Upcoming MRPA Conference



This year's conference will be held September 15-18, 2008, in Vicksburg, MS. For your convenience, if you have misplaced your registration packet, you can register online at www.aboutmrpa.org/Delegate%20Registration.htm.

More session information has been made available since the packet printing. For updated schedule information, check www.aboutmrpa.org/conference.htm.

Save up to \$20 on your conference registration by registering before **August 6, 2008**. The following hotels offer discounted room rates when reservations are made before **August 6, 2008**:

Horizon Casino Hotel

1310 Mulberry St
\$59.99 Single/Double + 10% tax
800-843-2343

Hampton Inn & Suites

3330 Clay Street
\$139 Single/Double + 10% tax
1-800-HAMPTON (Use the Code MRP)

If you are an MRPA member, and your agency would like to submit a proposal to host the 2010 conference, download a conference resume at www.aboutmrpa.org/pdf/resume.pdf. Submit your proposal to MRPA, P.O. Box 16451, Hattiesburg, MS 39404-6451 before October 15, 2008. The board will convene to review submissions at their Fall meeting.

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