WELCOME TO THE
2019 HALL OF FAME BANQUET & INDUCTION CEREMONY
PRESENTED BY THE MICHIGAN RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019 | 6:00PM
SUMMIT ON THE PARK | CANTON, MI
2019 Hall of Fame Banquet & Induction Ceremony

Presented by
mParks | Michigan Recreation and Park Association

Welcome and Introductions
Jon LaFever, Immediate mParks Past President

Opening Remarks
Brett Kaschinske, Master of Ceremonies

Invocation
Jon LaFever, Immediate mParks Past President

Dinner

Induction Ceremony
Mickey Alderman
Ernest Burkeen
Roger Coles
Gerald Nelson
Ric Scott
Rodney Stokes

Tour of mParks Hall of Fame

Dessert in Lobby

Special Thanks To Our Host
Canton Leisure Services Department
The mParks Hall of Fame

Class of 2005
Jim Bristor
Harry Burns
Arch Flannery
Herb Jennings
Hubert Johnson
David Laidlaw
Lawrence Moser
Virginia Munger
Karla V. Parker
R. Eric Reickel
Jesse Rutherford
Joe Seavey
Benjamin Yack

Curt Shaneour
Susan Wedley
Margaret Whitehead

Class of 2006
Jim Beers
Jim Bruce
John Considine
Jack Golden
William Kreger
Harold Myron
Jim Perry
James Reid
Henry Schubert
Lew Wint

Class of 2007
Tom Chappelle
David Ewalt
Anthony Filippis, Sr.
Kerry Kammer
Chuck Oxley
William Sherman
Kenneth Smithee
Thomas Washington

Class of 2009
Chase Hammond
Roger Kowalski
Chuck Lewis
Betty Lloyd
Olga Madar

Class of 2011
David “Bud” Brown
Hurley Coleman, Jr.
Michael Engan
Larry Fitch
Peter Harlow
Luther T. Holt
R. Dan Musser & R. Dan Musser III
Ralph Richard
Donald Sparpana

Class of 2013
Mel Bailey
Jeffery Coupie
Trudy Cross
Ted D’Pulos
Geri Jackson
Jon Kipke
Ron Reinke
Bill Rhodes
Lou Twardzik

Class of 2015
Representative Kathy Crawford
John T. Dufour
Malcolm “Mal” Elliott
Portia Fields-Anderson
Pecky D. Lewis
Linda Myers
William “Bill” Waterhouse
Mary Winegar

Class of 2017
H. Lee Bancroft
Edward Deeb
Bob Tooley
Marye Miller
Timothy John Doyle
Gerald Jaloszynski
Mickey Alderman was the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Clawson for an impressive 28 years. A longstanding member of mParks for more than 40 years, he is well known for his dedicated, unwavering leadership of the Amusement Park Ticket Sales program.

“Year after year, he negotiated with each of the parks, coordinated the distribution of the tickets and assumed responsibility for the return and accounting of literally thousands of tickets,” said Ann Conklin.

“He patiently handled the task, solicited communities to participate, provided detailed accounting and helped maintain the program year after year.”

His interests also included the growth and development of the Michigan Employee Service and Recreation Association (MESRA).

“His commitment to make lives better in every community he has worked with is unparalleled,” said his brother, Stu Alderman. “He has mentored many professionals throughout his career and has the quiet, well natured attitude to get the job done no matter what it takes.”

Often described as conscientious, he was also Chairman of the Considine Awards Committee of the Metropolitan Youth Fitness Meet for many years.

“The legacy he probably doesn’t realize is that he mentored and encouraged others – giving many of us our first welcoming experience in Association committee and regional group efforts,” said Linda Walter. “That welcoming and mentor-type approach makes Mickey’s reach and influence far beyond those in his workplaces. There is a large group of folks who became active in our Association as a direct result of Mickey’s actions, encouragement and mentorship, and I am proud to be one of them.”

“He was a dedicated, humble, positive influence for mParks,” said Ann Conklin. “His calm demeanor, attention to detail and passion for the Parks and Recreation profession earned him the respect and admiration of his peers.”
Ernest Burkeen served as director of five different city departments over the course of his career, focusing on major urban areas. He created partnerships and built community in Detroit through his connections with the Police Athletic League, Northwest Activities Center and the Rivertown Business Association through his service on each organization’s board of directors.

“At the Huron-Clinton Metroparks, as the superintendent of Lower Huron, Willow and Oakwoods Metroparks, he successfully advocated for millions in investments to connect his parks with both roads and non-motorized paths and created an innovative and spectacularly popular partnership between the Metroparks and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra,” said Amy McMillan.

“As the director of the city of Detroit Parks and Recreation he spearheaded the development of a new master plan for Belle Isle, secured the first million dollars in gifts to construct Campus Martius Park, and kept open the doors of community centers that ensured a safe, healthy environment for Detroit’s youth.”

Ernest was also a catalyst for the development of the Electronic Music Festivals in the city of Detroit. He was very active in the NRPA and was honored as NRPA Professional of the Year, as well as many other awards and recognitions from numerous organizations and committees.

“Whether it was his sharing of wisdom with our students, mentoring young professionals from all walks of life, his service to mParks and NRPA, or simply his ability to motivate and inspire you with a phone call or lunch meeting; his impact on Michigan’s parks and recreation profession will be felt forever,” said Vic Chiasson.

“Ernest was a change agent everywhere he worked,” said Ron Olson. “He always strived for excellence and he has left a sustaining impact in every community he served. His wisdom and impact will forever influence the many he mentored.”

Ernest Burkeen died on December 2, 2018 after a year-long illness.
Roger Coles has served 45 years at Central Michigan University (CMU). First as a graduate assistant, then as a faculty member, department chairman, interim dean of graduate studies, interim associate vice-provost and finally, as Dean of Graduate Studies.

"Under Roger's direction the Recreation Program at CMU grew to be one of the largest in the nation; the first in Michigan to receive national accreditation; and to innovate curriculum in Recreation and Management, Therapeutic Recreation, and Leadership Studies," said Bob Frost. "With approximately two-thirds of recreational professionals being CMU alums, it is safe to say that most of the recreation professionals in Michigan have been impacted by Roger's academic leadership."

"Dr. Coles had the opportunity to influence, mold, guide and develop literally hundreds of park and recreation professionals in the State of Michigan," said Ann Conklin.

Coles served in many capacities with mParks, including President during a challenging time for the association, when his calm leadership and vision positioned the organization for sustainability and success. His leadership extended to the NRPA where he served on the Accreditation Council, Accreditation Council Chair, Accreditation Visitor; President of the Society of Parks and Recreation Educators and President of American Association for Leisure & Recreation.

He served on the Games Committee for the Michigan Special Olympics for more than 40 years and was instrumental in the creation of the MSO Winter Games. He is known internationally through his work with World Leisure, where he has been a long-time Chairman of the Board and international presenter.

In addition, Roger has been lauded by his home community of Greenville for his work with various schools and agencies, and has made 92 presentations in 21 countries and five commencement addresses. He is the author of 56 published articles and two books, as well as the recipient of several mParks awards.

"There is no one person in the State of Michigan who has had more influence on the Parks and Recreation profession than Dr. Roger Coles," said Ann Conklin.
Gerald Nelson served as the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of St. Clair Shores from 1972-1995.

Some of his accomplishments include an eighteen-hole championship golf course, a dual ice arena, a $1.5 million fishing pier, numerous lighted and unlighted ball diamonds, and redevelopment of lakefront parks, as well as numerous youth and adult sports programs, senior citizen activities and instructional programs.

“The Under Mr. Nelson’s guidance, parks such as Brys, Memorial (now Veterans Memorial) Kyte Monroe, Walsh, Gafkey and Blossom Health, just to name a few, were developed and improved,” said John Jonassen. “Another gem of the Recreation Department is its Municipal Golf Course. With Gerry’s guidance that facility became one of the more sought-after courses in Southeastern Michigan.”

He also served as Assistant Superintendent of Parks at the Wilmette Park District in Illinois and Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Inkster. After his retirement he went on to work as the Ice Arena Manager at the City of Farmington Hills and the Ice Arena Manager and Recreation Specialist for Rockledge and Port St. Lucie in Florida.

Over the years Gerald has made significant contributions to mParks. He has served as Second Vice-President of the Association, Chairman of the Personnel and In-Service Training Committee, Northeast Regional Chairman of the Amusement Park Ticket Sales Program, and Board of Directors, as well as serving as a member on several other committees.

The success of St. Clair Shores Parks and Recreation Department has come as a result of his high quality of leadership and understanding of the philosophy and management principles necessary to operate revenue-producing facilities and conduct programs.

“I have been dedicated to leisure services throughout my life,” said Nelson. “I am thrilled to see the progress in Michigan’s parks and the expansion of recreational activities and offerings.”
“Ric Scott spent his entire career in Parks and Recreation, making the City of Muskegon an amazing lakeshore community for residents and visitors alike,” said LuAnn Maisner. “He began his career in 1972 as the Recreation Supervisor and was promoted to Director of the Department of Leisure Services from 1980 to 2004.”

“Several notable accomplishments took place under Ric’s tenure, including the development of a skate park in Seyferth Park, the expansion of Kruse Park and Margaret Drake Elliot Park, refurbishing Veterans Memorial Park, renovation of Beukema Park, construction of a boardwalk along the Lake Michigan shoreline, and the national ‘Clean Beach’ and ‘Healthy Beach’ designations of Pere Marquette Park,” said Maisner.

“He was instrumental in providing leadership, dedication, time, energy and a skill set that was invaluable,” said Dr. Roger Coles. “We owe him our sincere debt of gratitude.”

Ric was very involved in mParks, serving as President and Treasurer as well as his involvement on several committees. As Treasurer he developed the professional Certification Program for Michigan in association with National. He also served on the Michigan Amateur Softball Association, Umpire Committee and National Amateur Softball Association.

“Ric Scott was a pioneer of sorts for collaboration between agencies. He would team-up with schools and other entities to maximize resources. At one time in his career he coordinated well over 300 softball teams!” said Bernadette Young. “All about community and making it better for the city in which he lived and worked – Ric Scott exemplified that philosophy.”

“Ric served as a mentor to many,” said Ann Conklin. “He encouraged active involvement in the profession and provided guidance and direction to new and seasoned professionals. He is a remarkably kind, honest and faith-filled person and that was demonstrated in his words and actions every day. He was a quiet leader who served as a mentor, advocate and innovative professional.”
“Rod Stokes’ 38-year parks and recreation career and his impact in Michigan was significant,” said Ron Olson. “He was instrumental in enhancing the state DNR grant programs, and more importantly helped lead the plan for the parks and recreation bond programs, such as the $50 million Park Improvement Bond in 1998.”

He was the first African American state parks chief and DNR director.

“When Mr. Stokes became Director of the department in January 2011, I was very impressed with his strong commitment to increase diversity and inclusion within the DNR,” said Murdock Jemerson. “As Executive Secretary of the MNRTF, Mr. Stokes showed great leadership, financial and administrative skills in reviewing, evaluating, scoring and recommending hundreds of grant proposals from across the state of Michigan.”

Rodney established an Outdoor Recreation Management Academy in conjunction with Michigan State University. He also expanded the Adventure Ranger program, managed the Statewide Trails program, redesigned and put into action the Campground Reservation System and, in conjunction with other DNR divisions, established the Kids in the Park program. His mParks involvement included sitting on the Board of Directors as well as the Minority Affairs Committee. He was also honored with several awards, including the mParks Fellowship Award. He has been involved in numerous state and local Legislative Days, and testified to Congress when they were looking to eliminate the Michigan Land and Water Conservation Fund.

“The Riverfront Parks of Detroit would not have been purchased and built without Rod’s involvement,” said Mike McDonald. “Projects such as trails in Battle Creek, Wayne County’s Elizabeth Park, thousands of acres along the AuSable and Manistee Rivers, and the Lansing River Trail, were all built or acquired under Rod’s guidance.”

In addition to his extensive work at the DNR, he also held positions with the Parks and Recreation Departments in the City of Gainesville, the City of Detroit and the City of Lansing.
Miracle Recreation and Miracle Midwest would like to congratulate the honorees on their induction to the MParks Hall of Fame.

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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Music by Mark Reitenga
Photography by Dalke Photography
Catering by Katherine’s Catering
The mParks Foundation congratulates the 2019 Class of the mParks Hall of Fame!

Special congratulations to mParks Foundation Board Member, Roger Coles!

The mParks Foundation provides financial support to people and programs that work to enrich the health and well-being of all Michigan citizens through increased access to recreation and outdoor experiences.

In addition, the Foundation supports ongoing professional development opportunities and recognition of parks and recreation practitioners, including the mParks Hall of Fame.

Learn more at www.mparksfoundation.org

The mParks Hall of Fame Committee:

Larry Fitch
Brett Kaschinske
Geri Jackson
Dan Sullivan
R. Eric Reickel
Traci Sincock
Chuck Yakemonis
Bill Waterhouse

Thank you to the mParks Foundation for continued support of the mParks Hall of Fame.

About the Hall of Fame

The mParks Hall of Fame provides recognition for professionals and special individuals who have made outstanding, unique, lasting, and extraordinary contributions though recreation and park services in Michigan. The Hall of Fame is on permanent display at the Summit on the Park in Canton, Michigan.