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Message from the President...



Finally! The weather is warming up across the country and children are increasingly going outside to play on the equipment and safety surfacing that we all manufacture.

IPEMA continues to be successful through our active committees- membership, surfacing certification, equipment certification, education, marketing and public relations, advocacy, and affiliations. Each committee plays an integral role in ensuring the market presence for our members and companies with certified products. As a leader in the association, I appreciate the time and effort that you, my colleagues, contribute.

By now each of you should have received the 2008 renewal packet. Please take the time to fill this out and send it back in. We do not want you to miss out on any benefits of membership or news from IPEMA. If for some reason this packet has not made its way to your door or has been misplaced, please contact IPEMA headquarters at 888-944-7362 so that we may get another to you.

Here are some of the reasons why IPEMA membership benefits YOU:

Legislative News

Each quarter a report is posted on the IPEMA website in the “Members Area.” This report has links in which you can

track your state legislation for any bills that may affect the industry. This is valuable information that will keep you informed.

Public Relations Firm

IPEMA has a contract with Euro RSCG Worldwide PR to implement our public relations needs. A committee of both surfacing and equipment manufacturers advises our PR firm. Reports are also given to the board of directors by the committee chair, Tom Norquist. Most recently efforts are focused on consumer media. Read more on page 7 to see how the committee’s efforts are benefitting you.

Associate Membership

IPEMA has expanded membership to include individuals and entities that are involved in the play industry, but not manufacturing equipment or surfacing. These members will benefit the committees they sit on and provide more depth to our organization.

Certification

Our certification program is one of the most vital aspects of IPEMA. We continue to utilize the ASTM and CSA standards for IPEMA certification, which elevates the value of products. The committees meet regularly to review standards and ensure that the certification programs meet the expectations of the industry.

We encourage you to be involved in IPEMA because the mantra of “what you put in is what you get out” is so very true.

Lastly, I would like to once again mention

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Message from the President...continued from page 1

the passing of two very important and influential individuals, Fran Wallach and Barb King. Their contributions to our industry and children's play have been immense over the years and they both will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families as they deal with their loss.

Thank you,
Tim Ahern
IPEMA President

Voice of Play Initiative Wins National Play Advocacy Award

The International Playground Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA) has been honored for its work on behalf of children and playtime. IPEMA's Voice of Play initiative received the Joe L. Frost Play Advocacy Award, a national award given to organizations who display excellence in promoting the benefits and importance of play. IPEMA's past-president and Sr. VP of GameTime, Tom Norquist, accepted the award on behalf of the Voice of Play.

"Since launching the Voice of Play last year, we have worked hard to spread the word about the incredible developmental benefits of play," said Norquist. "It is refreshing to be with such an educated audience and to receive this positive acknowledgement for IPEMA and the Voice of Play. We are really excited about the enthusiastic feedback on our new Play Pledge program."

The national award was given on April 16, 2008 at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, TX. Awards were also given to recognize The Strong National Museum of Play and the Alliance for Childhood.

The Voice of Play is an advocacy initiative aimed at educating the public about the importance of play in chil-

dren's lives. The effort includes a web site, www.voiceofplay.com, that features comprehensive information about the physical, intellectual, social and emotional benefits of play, as well as safety tips for parents about how minimize risk of injury on their neighborhood playgrounds.



Tom Norquist (L) accepts the Joe L. Frost Play Advocacy Award from Betty & Joe Frost.

"Joe Frost's tireless efforts to increase play time for children are unmatched, and this award is a fitting way to honor his work," Norquist added. "We are thrilled to continue our work with Joe and his wonderful wife, Betty, toward our mutual goals of increased outdoor play time for children."

The Voice of Play also includes a nationally-recognized Board of Advisors, to help guide the effort. The Board includes Dr. Joe Frost, Ms. Teri Hendy and Mr. Ken Kutska. Click [here](#) to view the Board's biographies.

The Voice of Play's "Parent Play Pledge"

asks parents to prioritize at least one hour of outdoor play every day for all children. To find out more information and download the pledge, visit www.voiceofplay.org/playPledge.asp.

Pledge to Make Time for Outdoor Play

Tag, jump-rope and swinging on the jungle gym used to be the staples of kids' afternoons and weekends. While the benefits of free play are well-documented, tempting kids away from online gaming, instant messaging and TV is easier said than done.

To urge parents to take a new look at old-fashioned play and its numerous benefits, child advocates are asking parents to commit to carving out time to play on behalf of their kids by signing the "Play Pledge." The pledge, developed by the Voice of Play, a play advocacy outreach initiative, asks parents to find time for unstructured play in their kids' busy schedules.

"Play is serious business and essential for healthy child development," says Joe Frost, member of the Board of Advisors for the Voice of Play initiative. "Without play, we are running the risk of raising a generation of children who are lacking in the intellectual, social and physical skills that play builds."

"Parents want to make sure their children have the best opportunities, and it seems that those opportunities start earlier and can be time-consuming," Frost adds. "Ironically, the enrichment activities parents choose can be at the expense of free play -- which in a single activity nurtures emotional, physical and social development."

The Play Pledge was released by IPEMA in April and is available on the Voice of Play website.

Formal education can begin earlier than age five, with the advent of pre-kindergarten programs and extracurricular activities that children become involved in before beginning schooling. Between these activities, and the decrease in time for recess for school children, good, old-fashioned playtime is in danger of becoming a thing of the past.

Play Fosters Social Learning

Playgrounds are microcosms of adult social networks, teaching kids valuable lessons about group interaction and social norms, while providing a platform for relationship-building skills. Kids learn by playing alone and in groups: solitary play encourages creativity, reflection and the ability to solve problems and alleviate boredom while group play promotes social roles and helps kids develop cooperation skills, verbal and body language.

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Play Pledge

Outdoor play is an essential part of every child's healthy growth and development. As a parent, make the pledge to make your child's play a priority in your life by designing your own "Play Program" and signing the play pledge below. Make a commitment to ensure that your child has an hour of outdoor play a day at home or at school.

Personal Play Program
Encourage your child to get involved by thinking of their favorite outdoor activities and creating a poster for your home that outlines a personal play plan.

Play Plan activities could include:

On the Playground	Jumping Rope	Climbing	Spinning
Sliding	Biking	Chase Games	Hiking
Swinging	Walking	Hide & Go Seek	Sledding
Ball Games	Playing Catch	Exploring Nature	Tumbling

Child/Childrens name(s) _____

I pledge that my child(ren) will have at least one hour of outdoor play each day. I am making a commitment to my child's healthy development by recognizing the importance of making play a priority in his/her life.

Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date _____

Please print off this Play Pledge, sign it and return it to:
IPEMA Play Pledge
International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association
4305 North Sixth Street, Suite A
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Once your signed Play Pledge is received, IPEMA will e-mail you a "packet" of information about how various play activities help children grow, as well as ideas about creative ways to fit play into your child's day and tips for making play a priority for your family's health, growth and development.

E-mail address where you would like your packet to be sent: _____

I prefer not to receive e-mails from IPEMA

Fran Wallach passed away on January 27, 2008. Fran was a nationally-known expert with more than 30 years of experience in park and playground safety, planning, design and evaluation, including expertise in program and equipment design for physically challenged children. Fran was a member of the IPEMA Board of Advisors in 2007 and was a valuable resource for the Voice of Play initiative. She also served as a board member and officer for many industry organizations including the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Sub-Committee on Public Playground Equipment Safety and was an instructor for the NRPA Annual Safety School and for the National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI), as well as founding member of the NPPS Board of Directors. In 2006, Fran received the Margaret Dana Award, the highest award given by ASTM International Committee F15 on Consumer Products to an individual who has made the most outstanding contributions to the advancement of voluntary standards for consumer safety products. Fran is survived by her husband, Gil, two children and grandchildren.



Fran with her NPSI recognition award



In Memoriam



After a courageous seven-month battle with cancer, Barbara (Barb) King passed away on March 4, 2008. As founding member and president of Landscape Structures, Barb had been an active advocate for more than 30 years. She co-founded Landscape Structures with her husband, Steven King in 1971. Since that time, the family-owned company has introduced many playground innovations that changed the playground industry. Barb headed up the sales and marketing area, oversaw the manufacturing operations of the company and worked closely with staff on a day-to-day basis.

Born in Illinois, Barb graduated from Iowa State University in 1968, with a degree in Food Science. Barb served on several boards of directors, including Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, Landscape Architecture Foundation, National Association of Women Business Owners, and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Board of Trustees. Barb received numerous state and national awards during her career. She was selected Woman Business Owner of the Year for the Minnesota chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO). She was inducted as an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) in 2004. Barb was also nominated and awarded membership on the “Committee of 200” Professional Women’s Organization. In 2005, Barb, along with her husband Steve King, received the Christian Petersen Design Award from Iowa State University’s College of Design. In 1994, in partnership with her husband, Barb, received the Small Business Person of the Year award for the six state Midwest region. One of Barb’s proudest achievements was founding the Säjai™ Foundation in 2006. This national non-profit organization promotes healthy lifestyles and healthy futures for children and families. She served on the board and was a primary benefactor.



She is survived by her loving and supportive husband of 40 years, Steve King, her children Adam King (Tara), Erin King (Mark) and her two treasured granddaughters, Isabelle and Charlotte.

Advocacy Monitoring Report

IPEMA tracks legislation that relates to our industry on a national level. A monthly report is posted on the IPEMA website so that you may be kept up-to-date. In addition, links are provided to all bills.

Bills were researched by the following subject areas:

- Liability (Product Liability, Joint & Several etc.)
- Equipment Manufacturing Requirements
- Playground Safety
- Lifestyle (Child Obesity, Recess etc.)
- Procurement/State Budget Issues (Appropriations/Changes in Procurement affecting playground equipment manufacturing)

There is a plethora of bills being introduced regarding chemicals or unsafe components in children's toys or play equipment, in part spurred by the lead-content controversy with Chinese-manufactured products/components. Appropriations/procurement bills are generally not noted here unless they specifically reference playground equipment.

To view the full report, visit www.ipema.org.

Pledge to Make Time for Outdoor Play *continued from page 3*

Play Fosters Intellectual Learning

When playing games, kids learn skills such as planning, decision-making and creating and understanding strategy, rules and objectives. Through free play, children develop language and reasoning skills, autonomous thinking and problem solving, and improve their ability to focus and control behavior.

“Kids are literally learning how to be adults through play,” adds Frost. “These aren’t skills that are necessarily learned in the classroom, yet they have an enormous impact on a child’s growing process.”

Play Has Physical Benefits

There have been numerous alarming statistics reported in recent years about the rise of childhood obesity. Many causes factor into this problem, including genetics, lifestyle, and the younger ages at which kids become computer-savvy. The wealth of video games and television programming for children are also big contributors to kids staying indoors instead of playing outside. In addition to burning calories while playing, various types of playground equipment, such as swings, overhead apparatus and climbing equipment help kids build strong leg, arm and core muscles.

Making a Pledge to Make Time for Play

Frost advocates that parents and children talk about the importance of making time for outdoor play. Parents

need to make a commitment to ensure that children have the environment, time and materials for play. Kids need supportive involvement of adults during their play. It can be hard to find the time, but it’s an invaluable part of your children’s intellectual, social and physical development. Talk with your children about reasonably safe places to play, join them in exploring these places and assist them in creating back yard and neighborhood playgrounds, gardens and natural areas and places for organized games. Encourage the formation of play groups and reprioritize conflicting activities to ensure daily opportunities for children to be outdoors.

Visit www.voiceofplay.org/playPledge.asp to download and sign the free pledge certificate that reinforces why play is so important in kids’ lives. As Friedrich Froebel, the inventor of Kindergarten, once said, “Play is the work of children.”

IPEMA received a thank-you note from the Sājai® Foundation for the contribution of \$100 on behalf of Barb King. By providing children with knowledge about nutrition and activity, Barb envisioned leading the way to reverse the frightening trends of increased obesity and related health issues. The Sājai® Foundation is committed to working with the same level of passion and enthusiasm Barb always demonstrated. To learn more about the Sājai® Foundation, visit www.sajaifoundation.org.

Magazine Releases Ten Safest States Article

by Martin Speece, IPEMA staff writer

What makes children safe when it comes to playground equipment? Is it the laws that legislators pass? Is it the safety standards that our industry follows? Or is it the parents that watch the children while they play? All of these factors come into play when trying to answer the first question. In the April 2008 edition of *Parents Magazine*, the writers came up with the top 10 safest states for children. Some of their criteria for creating the list involved booster seat laws, pool safety laws, fireworks laws, and most importantly, playground safety laws.

The criteria listed pertinent information for children in all related school settings. The first piece of criteria was state laws mandating safety education in schools. Some states have laws that require students to be educated about safety both on and off the playground. IPEMA tries to promote both play and safe play through our “Value of Play” brochures. Parents can also work with members of their boards of education to develop and enhance safety curriculum for each school districts.

The second piece of criteria are laws that make it illegal to sell recalled children’s products or use them in a child care setting. Obviously when school districts are searching for new play equipment, they do their research. Inform them of what materials have been recalled or what materials have not been deemed safe (i.e older play equipment). If you manufacture IPEMA certified products, tell them of what to look for when purchasing equipment that may not be IPEMA certified.

The final piece of criteria pertinent to playground safety is state laws that require regulations of playground equipment. Obviously state laws that regulate playground equipment can only do so much. Parents need to regulate and supervise their children. One of the most common causes of playground related injuries is when children do not play on age inappropriate equipment. An older child playing on a piece of equipment that is more appropriate for a toddler is just as likely to get injured compared to a younger child playing on a more mature piece of equipment. But many of these little things, such as parents watching their kids, were not factored into the study. Rather what was factored into the state by state study was the amount of legislation passed concerning playground equipment. For example, they used criteria such as California playgrounds must meet all federal government safety regulations, while 34 other states offer no regulations for playgrounds, so California is ranked higher in the study.

To learn more about this study, visit the *Parents Magazine* website.

Parenting Magazine divided up each classified category by a variety of bench marks. The three main benchmarks that were studied were violence-related bench marks, safety-related benchmarks (i.e. firefighters, police, EMS per capita) and last but not least the accident related injuries, which best categorizes any playground related accident. Even though the accident-related benchmarks does not specify only playground accidents it does give a good idea of what states have stricter laws on playground and child interactive activities.

Here are the states the rank in the top 10 for accident related child death prevention programs.

- 1- Massachusetts
- 2- Connecticut
- 3- New Jersey
- 4- New York
- 5- Rhode Island
- 6- New Hampshire
- 7- Maryland
- 8- California
- 9- Hawaii
- 10- Maine

Save the Date for NRPA 2008

Baltimore, Maryland

October 14-16, 2008

IPEMA Membership Reception to be held on October 14th. More details to come!

IPEMA Committee Updates

Equipment Certification Committee Report

There was a question about the use of PVC and Mr. Curtis Cleveland reported that he has a copy of the California regulation passed and will send that to those interested. He noted that the definition of “toy” puts playgrounds in a gray area. Mr. Cleveland noted that the organization also needs to watch other chemicals used in the production of BPA-polycarbonates. The Board agreed that IPEMA will continue to watch this issue and Ms. Denise Calabrese will ensure that this is on the monitoring list.

Communications & Marketing Committee Report

Euro RSCG Worldwide PR, along with the Communications & Marketing Committee, has been very busy in completing consumer marketing, as well as remaining involved in the industry. Most recently the following tasks were accomplished:

- Worked with Joe Frost to develop and distribute a national "Parent Play Pledge" to encourage parents to commit to taking their child(ren) outside for at least one hour of free play a day
- Publicized the Parent Play Pledge in media markets around the country, including Detroit, New York, Philadelphia, Orlando, Dallas, Chicago, San Antonio, San Francisco and Hartford
- Developed and distributed a "Top 5 Safety Tips" news release for national publication. The news release was picked up in various national media outlets, including the Los Angeles Times, Yahoo!, Philadelphia Business Journal, Arizona Republic and Forbes.com
- Received recognition with a national award (The Joe Frost Play Advocacy Award) for the Voice of Play initiative
- Continued drafting consumer editorial opportunity for Exceptional Parent magazine three-part series

Surfacing Certification Committee Report

The IPEMA Surfacing Certification Committee met on Wednesday, May 8, 2008 in Denver, Colorado. Committee Members in attendance were Ted Illjes, Chairman, Keith Sacks, Michael Hayward, Elouise Bird, Richard Hawley, and Tom Descipio. Visitors Present were David Splane, Keith Ward, Jill Hagen, John Rockwell, Robert Heath, Mark Koch, Keith Shelton, and Tom Siebert. It was reported by Detroit Testing Laboratory (DTL) that they are currently treating new turf systems (those that have infill added to provide fall protection) the same as Poured-in-Place, in regards to re-testing and initial approval. Note that these systems are not the artificial playing fields that are being used for athletic field applications (football, etc.). This type of applications may be discussed in June at the Executive Board meeting and the committee plans to discuss new verbiage in a future conference call. In addition the topic of manufacturers requesting contract manufacturer status for products other than EWF was discussed. DTL has already approved some

participants loose fill rubber locations in the same manner as the EWF. DTL does not have any issues with this as its similar process. It was discussed that each site should be included in the inspection of rubber mulch suppliers. Tiles on the other hand are a little different, because they are a manufacturing process. The next meeting will be the week of November 17, 2008 in Miami, Florida in conjunction with the ASTM meetings.

The ASTM F08.63 Committee has named George Sushinsky as Chair. Sushinsky is a mechanical engineer at the CPSC Laboratory. He is currently involved with research on playground surfacing and the application of test methods to indoor surfacing.

CPSC has released an Updated Public Playground Safety Handbook 325

During National Playground Safety Week (April 21-25), CPSC staff released an update to the popular Handbook for Public Playground Safety (PDF), which contains guidance for childcare personnel, school officials, designers, inspectors, parents and school groups on building safer playgrounds. The updated Handbook for Public Playground Safety contains new guidelines from CPSC staff for playground equipment for children as young as six months old, track and log rolls for older children, and playground surfacing, as well as suggestions on protecting children from sun exposure on playgrounds. To find out more, visit www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/325.pdf.

In the News

Landscape Structures announces President

Landscape Structures Inc. has named Pat Faust new president of the company. Faust succeeds previous president and co-founder Barb King, who passed away March 4, 2008, from cancer. Faust has been with the company for 13 years in a number of roles, most recently serving as vice president of operations. Previously, he had been employed by Aveda. He holds a bachelor's degree in industrial technology and business management, and is currently pursuing a master's in business administration...Faust played an integral role in 1999, when Landscape Structures undertook a complete culture and manufacturing shift to become a world-class lean manufacturing company, and adopt a kaizen/continuous improvement culture..."

*Source: Landscape Structures, Inc.
17 March 2008*

PlayCore buys Arizona firm

PlayCore Inc. has acquired an Arizona manufacturer of safety surfaces for recreational and athletic uses... [Richard Hawley] said that with the help of PlayCore, Robertson [Industries] can expand its product offerings and enter new areas. Robertson makes and markets a product known as TotTurf. Mr. Hawley said the company has service centers mostly in the West except for Pompano Beach, Fla. The acquisition by PlayCore will help Robertson align itself on the East Coast, he said..."

*Source: timesfreepress.com/news/2008/feb/16/playcore-buys-arizona-firm
16 February 2008*

School must remove \$50K fence at park

"A private school will have to dismantle a \$50,000 fence it installed without permission at a Peoria, AZ park. Some neighborhood residents saw the fence as exclusionary...Opponents also had submitted a petition with 215 signatures of residents opposed to any changes to the agreement...Residents also were upset that Meritas, which is leasing the school site from Nobel Learning Communities, built the fence without approval from the council and without alerting the neighborhood. School officials said they could not wait and had to get a safety barrier up in time for the campus' opening to 450 students last month. "This is all about the safety of the kids," said James Carruthers, president of the Peoria campus. "There's a moral obligation to protect these chil-

dren..." Under the agreement with the city, the school has the right to use the park in exchange for maintaining it. The public still has access to the entire park at all times...He said the city made a mistake in 1998 when it gave a charter school at the site exclusive use of the 4-acre park during school hours. The city was able to renegotiate the agreement in 2000 when Nobel purchased the site, he said..."

*Source: The Arizona Republic
21 March 2008*

Going Green is Easy as Child's Play

"On September 1 [2007], about 100 people gathered on the site of a new playground about to be unveiled in Atlanta's Piedmont Park. As a Boundless Playground®, it was designed to be inclusive of children of all abilities, enabling them to interact, learn and play side by side. The project would also include a new green restroom facility, helping replace the outdated restrooms of the nearby historical bathhouse that would not be renovated for another few years. The unveiling of the playground was part of local ABC affiliate WSB TV's "Extreme Green Makeover," a prime time special that was part of its Going Green campaign, an initiative designed to transform Georgia into a more sustainable state by encouraging others to become environmentally responsible...The work that went into the creation of Mayor's Grove Restrooms and Playground required wholehearted commitment from a multitude of partners in a very short period of time...When HGOR set out to design the site, Carlisle made sure to consider the sustainable elements of each component. Reuse of material from the old play site was the first step before tackling the new playground. Cypress bark mulch was removed and reused beneath existing trees in the park. Even the old playground itself is now being enjoyed in the backyards of other children throughout the city..The granite used is a local material, cutting down on transportation energy, pollution and costs that would have been associated with materials brought in from other areas...Respecting the existing vegetation, the restrooms building only required the relocation of one small flowering tree to another location in the park. Construction was carefully staged and coordinated to protect root zones to ensure the livelihood of the vegetation...Decades of foot traffic have caused the soils of Piedmont Park to become heavily compacted. This

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Be a Part of Disability Awareness Night

The mission of Disability Awareness Night is to recognize the 54.6 million people in the United States classified as having some form of disability and highlight their extraordinary persistence, dedication, passion and commitment as well as their abilities in accomplishing their goals and achieving their hopes and dreams in the face of adversity. DAN also strives to recognize the many people who care for and support people with disabilities and special needs and who recognize them as contributing, valued citizens of our nation. They are sources of inspiration and motivation for us all.

Disability Awareness Night began in 2002 when EP Global Communications established relationships with the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox. Today, over 35 annual DAN events are hosted at major and minor league baseball stadiums, as well as several NBA arenas. In 2007, EP collaborated with NASCAR, the largest spectator sport in the United States, to host a DAN event at the New Hampshire International Speedway.

With the advent of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, EP Global Communications saw a need to recognize the Wounded Warriors returning home with permanent disabilities. To fill this need, Disability Awareness Night of Military Distinction was introduced as part of our annual event schedule. This event was first introduced as part of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's annual Hall of Fame Game. In 2007 the event moved to the New Hampshire International Speedway in Loudon, New Hampshire as part of the Lenox Industrial Tools 300, a major NASCAR Race. Prior to the start of the race, over



Disability Awareness Night held in Cleveland, OH

120,000 people watched as we honored 10 brave Wounded Warriors at the start/finish line on the track.

All of these locations and opportunities open the door for playground equipment and surfacing companies to be a part of through sponsorships. As a sponsor of one of these nights, your company would receive some of the following:

- The opportunity to have a concourse table allowing for interactive one-on-one face time with potential clients (minor league venues only)
- One 4 color full page advertisement plus a disclosure page of advertising in a 2008 issue of Exceptional Parent magazine
- Information regarding pre- and post-DAN events will be mentioned in EP magazine's monthly "What's Happening" section
- Recap of DAN season on the EP website and December 2008 issue with the sponsor listed as a "Corporation that Cares"
- National press releases sent to all major media outlets
- Local press releases sent to targeted media in the local communities
- Listed on local media outlet event calendars
- Event to be placed on team's website promotional calendar, with team permission, to be monitored by EP
- Sponsor logo and link placed on the DAN page of EP's website



Another event held to honor those who take care of children with disabilities

Continued on page 10

Disability Awareness Night *continued from page 9*

- Sponsor logo and link placed on team website (with permission from team)
- Sponsor logo engraved on nominee plaque

EP Global Communications, Inc. is a publishing and communications company that provides information for families and professionals involved in the care and development of people with disabilities and special healthcare needs. EP disseminates information via its monthly print publication, *Exceptional Parent*; its Web site (www.eparent.com); custom communications projects; the EP Bookstore of disability books, videos and DVDs; live and on-line interactive seminars through EPLiveOnLine, a joint venture with Vemics, Inc. and community outreach programs such as the national Disability Awareness Night (DAN) campaign.

To learn how you can be a part Disability Awareness

Night, contact Curt Mellott at 800 372-7368 x102 or by visiting www.eparent.com.



In the News *continued from page 8*

has prevented on-site infiltration of stormwater in many of its areas. As a result, the park's main water body, Lake Clara Meer, is experiencing erosion along its banks and a large amount of silt and sedimentation is polluting its water. In an effort to reduce the amount of runoff and improve the quality of the water entering the lake, the landscape architects found a bioswale, or rain garden, to be the perfect solution.

Source: www.landscapeonline.com/research/article/10403, March 2008

Landscape Structures Inc. to Offer Play That Cools the Globe™

Landscape Structures Inc. announces that it has entered into a partnership with American Forests, the nation's oldest non-profit citizens' conservation organization, to actively offset the carbon dioxide produced in the manufacturing of each of its playsystems. For each Evos™, PlayBooster® and PlayShaper® playsystem purchased in 2008, Landscape Structures will calculate the total amount of CO² (a greenhouse gas) produced in the manufacturing process, and then have trees planted through American Forests' Global ReLeaf initiative to offset that amount of CO². Landscape Structures is the only playground equipment company in the world that compiles and publishes the amount of carbon dioxide

that it produces in its manufacturing of each playsystem. In 2008, Landscape Structures expects to plant tens of thousands of trees at Global ReLeaf's major tree restoration sites throughout the United States... For more information about American Forests' Global ReLeaf initiative, please visit www.americanforests.org or call 800-368-5748.

S o u r c e : www.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20080417006122&newsLang=en

Play pledge to tackle risk adversity

In a sign that the Government is serious about challenging the risk-averse society, 30 local authorities are to be given £2 million each to build 3500 new adventure playgrounds in disadvantaged areas, as part of a £235 million investment in children's play... In addition to the £2 million 'adventure playground' grant for 30 councils, all local authorities will get funding to build play areas, while 43 councils will receive an additional £1 million for play areas... For further information, visit www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/fairplay.

Source: United Kingdom, www.shponline.co.uk/article.asp?page-name=news&article_id=7494

International Playground Contractors Association Update

The International Playground Contractors Association enters into our 11th year as a service organization we are pleased to provide an update of our activities.



The NPCAI Third Semi-Annual Playground Construction School was held in Charlotte, North Carolina on March 13-15, 2008. Thirty-eight participants were in attendance at the school and once again, we received high remarks from all the participants. The school had two days of lectures, hands on and group activities. Followed by a field trip to two parks that belong to the Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation Department and we were welcomed and escorted by Jack Hill, Maintenance & Operation Specialist.

After the site evaluations participants photos were taken for their identification cards, the class returned for an afternoon of testing. The instructors and staff were able to network with the participants. We received many complements from the attendees and the NPCAI staff and instructor take great pride in having a professional playground construction school available for the playground industry.

Our next session is scheduled for September 18-20, 2008 in Sacramento, CA and we look forward to having a full session. The session is filling up early so we strongly suggest you register early at www.playground-contractor.org or call 1-888-908-9519.



E-Zine Newsletter and Buyers Guide

The Playbook and Newsletter will be combined into an e-zine (electronic magazine). We will have installation tips, business tips, member spotlights, and pertinent industry information. We are also producing a 'buyer's guide' (membership directory) that will help promote our members to the industry. This will ultimately help spread our mission to Architects and Park organizations and help build business for professional playground installers.

We are working with Naylor, LLC as publisher of the di-

rectory and newsletter, recognizing their 39 years of experience with trade association publications. We are confident that the professionals at Naylor will provide us with a top-quality publication that will enhance the growing reputation of our organization as "The Association of Choice" within the industry. We are currently working on having the first e-zine by June 2008. If you are interested in submitting an article, photos, or other industry related information please contact us at 1-888-908-9519 or e-mail us n pca@playground-contractors.org. We welcome all submissions. If you are interested in advertising opportunities please call Heather Zimmerman, Marketing Associate for Naylor, LLC at 1-800-369-6220 x 3477 or e-mail her at hzimmerman@naylor.com.

General Liability Insurance

City Securities has announced



they have secured one underwriter Western Heritage to be available for the NPCAI members which have provided a significantly reduced rate. The Playground Equipment Installation Program offers a nonauditible policy, General Liability, Errors & Omissions for Playground Safety Inspectors, No minimum deductible unless there are losses, \$5000.00 minimum premiums, Quick turn around for certificates and competitive rates.

According to many of our members they have saved over 20% on their annual premium, so it is a great savings to our members. For details contact Steve Carraway at 318-808-7265.

NPCAI Holding 2008-2011 Executive Board Election

We recently had nominations for the new officers for 2008-2010 and they will officially be announced in the May Board Meeting. The spring board meeting will be held in Kansas City, MO and this year host will be Jack Fry of Fry & Associates.

We look forward to hearing from you and feel free to contact us at 1-888-908-9519 or visit us at www.playground-contractors.org

2008 Board of Directors

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Director- Surfacing Certification

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