33rd Annual National Boating Access Conference

September 9 – 12, 2019
Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel
Portsmouth, Virginia

Overcoming Challenges to Improve Boating Infrastructure
Table of Contents

States Organization for Boating Access ................................................................. 3
Board of Directors 2018 – 2019 ........................................................................ 5
Welcome Letter ...................................................................................................... 6
Resolutions ............................................................................................................ 7
General Information .............................................................................................. 9
Agenda .................................................................................................................. 10
Presentation Details ............................................................................................. 15
Annual Member’s Business Meeting ................................................................. 23
Speaker Biographies ............................................................................................ 24
2019 Annual Awards Presentation Program ..................................................... 36
Sponsors ............................................................................................................... 50
SOBA Presidents ................................................................................................. 54
Slate of Directors ................................................................................................. 55
Thank You ........................................................................................................... 58
2020 SOBA Conference ....................................................................................... 59

The 2019 National Boating Access Conference was partially funded through a Sport Fish Restoration grant provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for education, outreach and training, planning, and site inspection visits highlighting the federal boating programs.
WHO is SOBA?
Established in 1986, SOBA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, consisting of boating officials that represent member states and U.S. Territories. SOBA is the only national organization dedicated exclusively to improving access to waterways by promoting the acquisition, development and maintenance of public recreational boating facilities.

SOBA functions as a professional association for agency staff that work in boating access programs in their respective states and territories. Staff from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is also actively involved with SOBA as are a wide range of affiliate boating organizations, engineering firms, consultants, manufacturers, and suppliers interested in public boating access. SOBA is the collective voice of public boating access in the United States.

What is SOBA’s Mission?
“To encourage, promote and support federal and state programs that provide safe, high-quality and environmentally sound public recreational boat access to the waterways of the United States and its territories.”

What are the benefits of being an active member of SOBA?
SOBA provides a variety of services to its members. While there are several categories of membership, the primary avenue for membership is through a state agency. State membership extends full benefits to two professional staff. Additional staff can become affiliated professional members at a nominal annual cost. Members of SOBA receive a variety of benefits, including:

- Access to SOBA technical publications and research. SOBA is the premier source for reference materials related to boating access, including:
  - Pump-out Boat Selection and Operation Guidelines
  - Design Handbook For Recreational Boating & Fishing Facilities
  - Construction Techniques for Recreational Boating Access Facilities (DVD)
  - Operations & Maintenance Program Guidelines for Recreational Boating Facilities
- SOBA on-line support including a Listserv and downloadable publications;
- Advocacy on behalf of states for common issues relating to federal boating and boating access programs;
- Annual awards recognizing staff accomplishments and exemplary boating facility projects;
- Annual symposiums held in diverse locales offering technical training, topical educational sessions, trade show, on-site visits to public recreational boating facilities, and interaction with the leading experts in the field of boating access.

What is the National Boating Access Education & Training Symposium?
The National Boating Access Education & Training Symposium is an annual event sponsored by the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) and hosted by a member State. The conference combines educational programs, technical training, professional interaction, boating access site visits, and exposure to new products and services – all uniquely focused on recreational boating and boating access.
Over the years, this symposium has enabled the creation of a nationwide network of state and federal boating professionals, leaders in the boating industry, and affiliated nonprofit organizations. This event offers a forum for exchanging views, ideas, concepts and experiences related to all aspects of recreational boating access and facilities.

How You Can Get Involved in SOBA?

- **Serve on the SOBA Board.** The SOBA Board is a governing body composed of volunteers elected from member states. In addition to officers, the Board also has member-at-large positions, allowing interested members to serve in various capacities. Travel costs of Board members to meetings are paid by the organization. The Board is always interested in recruiting new members to serve the organization.

- **Serve on a Task Force or Committee.** The products developed by SOBA are the result of collaborations between its members. Technical documents are typically produced through a Task Force involving individual SOBA members from multiple states. SOBA members can sign up to serve on a SOBA Task Force or Committee to work on a specific project or product. Examples of existing SOBA efforts include the development of a Guide to Best Management Practices for Vessel Waste Containment Systems and the National Assessment of Boating Access. A project currently in the works includes the development of design guidelines for boating access for non-motorized or paddle craft.

- **Host an annual SOBA Symposium.** The SOBA Board provides general leadership for the organization but host states are always needed to help organize and staff the annual conference. SOBA members benefit enormously from being able to travel to diverse locations to see the different approaches states are using to provide public boating access. Each state has a unique story that can offer valuable insight to conference delegates.

The Board encourages states to volunteer to act as a local host. This involves local staff commitment from the host state, especially in the development of the educational program, identification of local or regional experts as presenters, and selection of host facilities and locations for on-site visits. Fortunately, most of the financial, contractual and logistical arrangements are handled by the SOBA Executive Director, relieving the host state from having to deal with these aspects of the conference. The Board also provides regular input and feedback and many Board members have experience hosting a SOBA symposium in their state.

**Upcoming SOBA Symposium:** August 31 – September 3, 2020 Boise – Idaho
2018 – 2019 Board of Directors

**PRESIDENT**
Preston Smith  
Environmental Health Coordinator  
Marina Programs Manager  
Office of Environmental Health Services  
Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Health  
109 Governor Street, 5th Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219  
T: (804) 864-7468  
Email: Preston.Smith@vdh.virginia.gov

**VICE PRESIDENT**
Trey Cooksey  
Recreational Trails Program & Boating Access Program Manager  
Texas Parks and Wildlife  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, TX 78744  
T: (512) 389-8743  
C: (512) 657-3195  
Email: Albert.Cooksey@tpwd.texas.gov

**TREASURER**
Lorene Reid  
Federal Assistance Coordinator CVA/BIG Coastal Resources Division  
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources  
One Conservation Way  
Brunswick, GA 31520  
T: (912) 262-3114  
C: (912) 617-8500  
Email: Lorene.reid@dnr.ga.gov

**PAST PRESIDENT**
Janine Belleque  
Boating Facilities Manager  
Oregon State Marine Board  
435 Commercial St. NE  
P. O. Box 14145  
Salem, OR 97309-5065  
T: 503-378-2628  
C: 503-302-8396  
Email: Janine.Belleque@oregon.gov

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**
Mike Wichrowski  
Lands & Facilities Administrator  
Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department  
1 National Life Drive  
Davis 2  
Montpelier, VT 05620  
T: 802-917-1347  
Email: mike.wichrowski@vermont.gov

Nancy Stewart  
Water Recreation Consultant  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Parks and Trails  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
T: 651-259-5616  
Email: nancy.stewart@state.mn.us

B. Todd Mize, PE  
Civil Engineer  
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Div. - Engineering  
64 North Union St., Room 551  
Montgomery, AL 36130  
T: 334-353-8596  
Email: todd.mize@dcnr.alabama.gov

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
Libby Yranski  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
650 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 520  
Washington, DC 20001  
T. 312-946-6280  
F. 202-737-9755  
C. 508-735-9018  
Email: lyranski@nmma.org
September 2019

Dear SOBA Members, Conference Sponsors, Exhibitors, Speakers, Alumni, Guests, and other Conference Participants:

On behalf of the SOBA Executive Board of Directors, it is my honor to welcome you to SOBA’s 33rd annual National Boating Access Education & Training Symposium in beautiful Portsmouth, Virginia. SOBA is proud and honored to host this event with our many members, supporters, and strategic partners here in the City of Portsmouth, overlooking the Elizabeth River. We extend a warm welcome to returning conference alumni and first time attendees, and the wonderful hospitality extended by the Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the City of Portsmouth Visitors Center all but guarantees a memorable and vibrant conference.

This year’s theme, “Overcoming Challenges to Improve Boating Infrastructure,” captures a unique agenda and provides the opportunity to highlight the evolving dynamics of public boating access. Beginning with our Federal Programs Workshop, followed by two full days of technical sessions, and ending with site visits to boating access, Boating Infrastructure Grant, and Clean Vessel Act funded projects on the eastern shore, we have developed a robust agenda of current, relevant topics and training opportunities, along with a review of the activities SOBA and our industry partners have accomplished over the past year. As with years past, this conference is a unique opportunity to gain invaluable insight, experience, and knowledge from boating access experts regardless of whether you are a returning conference participant of a first-time attendee.

Please join me in thanking our gracious host state Virginia, the Department of Health, and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and in particular, our state hosts, John and Preston for welcoming SOBA members to the beautiful state they call home. Please be sure to let John Kirk and Preston Smith know how much you appreciate their hard work towards ensuring a successful conference.

In closing, please let us not forget the generosity of all of our sponsors and exhibitors. Their generous financial assistance and support for this year’s conference allow for the possibility to continue providing these educational symposiums. Be sure to visit with our exhibitors to learn about the latest products and services they have to offer our industry, and do not forget to say “Thank You!”

Enjoy the conference, spend time with colleagues, and take advantage of this unique opportunity to gain valuable insight, experience, and knowledge from recreational boating access experts. Enjoy your time in Portsmouth, and I look forward to another successful National Boating Access Education & Training Symposium.

Preston Smith
RESOLUTION

IN APPRECIATION OF HOSPITALITY

WHEREAS, the delegates and guests at the 2019 Annual Boating Access Education & Training Symposium, sponsored by the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) and held at the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, this September 9 through September 12, have appreciated the gracious hospitality of the residents of Portsmouth and Virginia.

WHEREAS, the delegates and guests have come together to celebrate the 33rd Anniversary of the founding of SOBA through the conference theme “Overcoming Challenges to Improve Boating Infrastructure”, which reflects the infrastructure challenges of building in areas susceptible to coastal flooding, sea level rise, and severe tidal fluctuations especially in the Chesapeake Bay area.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board and members of the States Organization for Boating Access do hereby express heartfelt appreciation to our gracious site hosts, the city of Portsmouth, the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel and the people of Virginia.
RESOLUTION

IN APPRECIATION OF THE
HOST AGENCY AND TEAM

WHEREAS, the delegates and guests at the 2019 Annual Boating Access Education & Training Symposium, sponsored by the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) and held at the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, this September 9 through September 12, have thoroughly enjoyed the unique educational offerings, professional exchanges, boating access site visits, and hospitable social offerings associated with the conference agenda, and;

WHEREAS, the delegates and guests have come together to celebrate the 33rd Anniversary of the founding of SOBA through the conference theme “Overcoming Challenges to Improve Boating Infrastructure”, which reflects the infrastructure challenges of building in an areas susceptible to coastal flooding, sea level rise, and severe tidal fluctuations especially in the Chesapeake Bay area.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board and members of the States Organization for Boating Access do hereby express heartfelt appreciation to the appointed members of the Virginia Department of Health, and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for their gracious gift of the time and talents of the Conference Co-Host Team, including: Chairs Preston Smith and John Kirk, and all agency volunteers. All mentioned played a vital role in ensuring the success of this year’s conference.
All the conference sessions will be held at the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel.

Registration Desk
Located on the second floor of the hotel, you can pick up your name badge and registration packet here. Your name badge is your key to participate in meals and activities. This is also the place to ask questions if you’re lost. The registration desk will be open Monday through Wednesday from 7:30am – 5:00pm.

Sessions
We have put together a wide range of topics to suit the needs and interest of all our SOBA members. Choose from over forty-five topics over the next three days with speaker and discussion tracks that promise to be engaging and interesting. The Federal Assistance Workshop, all General Sessions, and the breakout sessions will be held in the Ballrooms on the second floor. Signs outside the rooms will list the daily sessions and presentations.

Exhibitors
Check out the Exhibit Hall upstairs in the Portsmouth Ballroom. Do you want to learn about new products and services related to our field? Looking to network with new contacts and look for advice? Our exhibitors will have the latest and greatest.

Exhibitors will set up on Monday, September 9th. They will then be available on Tuesday and Wednesday. All breaks and meals will be located in and amongst the exhibitors.

Exhibitor Area Open Hours
Tuesday: 7:30am – 5pm
Wednesday: 7:30am – 3pm

Lacy Nichols Silent Auction Hours
Monday: 12pm – 3pm
Tuesday: 8am – 5pm
Wednesday: 8am – 1pm

Meals and Refreshments
Breakfast is provided each day of the conference, except for the FWS Workshop on Monday, September 9th. Lunch is included on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. All meals will be held with the exhibitors in the Portsmouth Ballroom.

Dinner on Monday is on your own. Join us on Tuesday night from 6:00pm – 8:30pm for a welcome reception with light refreshments on the vessel the Carrie B. The Carrie B will cruise the Elizabeth River. Wednesday evening we will have our traditional Awards banquet in the Portsmouth Ballroom on the second floor of the Renaissance hotel. Your banquet meal selection ticket and drink tickets are in your name badge holder.

The Networking Suite is in the Admiral Boardroom, located on the second floor of the Renaissance. It will be open from 9pm – 11pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Transportation
There will be transportation to and from the boating site visits on Thursday.

Networking Suite Open Hours
Monday – 9pm – 11pm
Tuesday – 9pm – 11pm
Wednesday – 9pm – 11pm

Dress Code:
General Session / Breakouts: Business Casual
Opening Reception: Casual
Awards Luncheon: Business Casual
Awards Banquet: Business
Boating Access Site Visits: Casual - Dress for elements
## MONDAY
### Day 1 – September 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Registration Opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>(Ballroom V, VI, VII, VIII) Welcome and Logistics</td>
<td>Brad Gunn, USFWS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45</td>
<td>Regulation and Legislation Updates – CVA, Financial Assistance</td>
<td>Lisa Van Alstyne, USFWS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Interior Regulation (FAIR), 50 CFR 80 and Congressional Actions</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Useful life / Monitoring Discussion</td>
<td>Open discussion – Moderated by the SOBA Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Boating Grant Programs Update</td>
<td>Brad Gunn, USFWS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15</td>
<td>Should the BIG rule be modified?</td>
<td>Open discussion – Moderated by the SOBA Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 – 1:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>TRACS Update Followed by Q&amp;A Session</td>
<td>Lorene Reid, SOBA/GADNR</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mary Price and Ramon Martin, USFWS</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45</td>
<td>NEPA Compliance Efficiencies: CatEx Expansion Initiatives</td>
<td>Lisa Van Alstyne and Ruth Utzurrum, USFWS</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00</td>
<td>Navigating the Endangered Species Act Section 7 Process - The</td>
<td>Ramon Martin and Scott Meister, USFWS</td>
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<td>Mount Pleasant Case Study</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45</td>
<td>Panel Discussion - Boating Grant Issues and Recommended BMPs</td>
<td>Scott Meister, Ramon Martin, Bill Perry, Tony Hewitt, Mary Price, and Larry Riley, USFWS</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:45</td>
<td>Close and Logistics</td>
<td>Brad Gunn, USFWS</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00</td>
<td>Free Time, Dinner on your own</td>
<td>Preston Smith, SOBA President</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>(Admiral Ballroom) Networking Suite, Open until 11:00 pm</td>
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## TUESDAY
### Day 2 – September 10

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Registration/Breakfast with Exhibitors</td>
<td>Preston Smith, SOBA President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>(Ballroom I, II, III, IV) Welcome/Logistics</td>
<td>John L. Rowe, Jr., Mayor, City of Portsmouth</td>
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<td></td>
<td>City of Portsmouth</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Virginia Department of Health</td>
<td>John Ringer, Director of Public Health Planning &amp; Evaluation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Virginia Department of Game &amp; Inland Fisheries</td>
<td>Ryan Brown, Director</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Industry Partner : RBFF</td>
<td>Joanne Martonik, Senior State Marketing Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Industry Partner : BoatUS</td>
<td>Alanna Keating, Director of Outreach, Boat U.S. Foundation</td>
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Preston Smith, SOBA President
John L. Rowe, Jr., Mayor, City of Portsmouth
John Ringer, Director of Public Health Planning & Evaluation
Ryan Brown, Director
Joanne Martonik, Senior State Marketing Manager
Alanna Keating, Director of Outreach, Boat U.S. Foundation
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Industry Partner</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:15</td>
<td>Break with Exhibitors</td>
<td>AMI</td>
<td>Eric Krestch, Legislative Coordinator, Association of Marina Industries</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>SOBA Update</td>
<td>NMMA</td>
<td>Paul Rauch, Assistant Director, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Lunch with Exhibitors</td>
<td>USFWS</td>
<td>Nancy Stewart, SOBA Member-at-Large</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jenny East, OR Sea Grant, Boating Outreach Coordinator, WA Sea Grant, Boating Program Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>Clean Vessel Act</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ben Solomon, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Environmental Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00</td>
<td>Break with Exhibitors, 15 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bruce Lunde, P.E., Senior Project Manager, MSA Professional Services, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
<td></td>
<td>Michelle L. Hamor, CIV USARCY CENAO, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15</td>
<td>Engineering: Climate Change and Resiliency</td>
<td></td>
<td>Michelle Covi, Professor, Old Dominion University, Department of Ocean Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, VA Sea Grant Extension</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15</td>
<td>BIG – What do transient Boaters Seek?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jackie A. Specht, MD Department of Natural Resources, NOAA Coastal Management Fellow</td>
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**Clean Vessel Act** (Ballroom VI, VII, VIII)

- "Training Boating Facility Staff on CVA Best Practices"
- "Building an Effective CVA Program: How to prioritize and tackle decades of strongholds"
- "Florida CVA Program"
- "Heated Lines, creative solutions to New England winters"
- "Wastewater Characterization from Type III Marine Sanitation Devices"
- "Are Boat Pump-outs Compatible with Onsite Sewage Treatment Systems?"

**Engineering: Climate Change and Resiliency** (Ballroom V)

- "Resilience in Age of Climate Change"
- "Climate Change and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects"
- "Hurricane planning at marinas and marine recreational facilities"
- "Climate Change, Sea Level Rise, and Public Health Policy Challenges"
- "Sea Level Rise Risk and Response in Coastal Virginia"
- "BUILDing Resilience: MD’s approach to the beneficial use of dredged materials"

**Panel Discussion: “What Transient Boaters Seek when Mooring Overnight”**

- "Atlantic Intercostal Waterway Association Experience"
- "What do Transient Boaters Want?"
- "Historic Yorktown Riverwalk Landing Transient Opportunities"
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<tbody>
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<td>7:30</td>
<td>Registration/Breakfast with Exhibitors</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 – 10:30</td>
<td><strong>Breakout Sessions</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>&quot;Achieving Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act while Filling Boating Access Program Objectives in Georgia&quot;</td>
<td>Jeff Bishop, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, State Boating Access Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Now What! An Answer to Dock Transfer for Disabled Boaters&quot;</td>
<td>Mike Payton, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Navigation and Boating Infrastructure Unit Supervisor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Engineers Handbook incorporating ADA requirements at boating access sites&quot;</td>
<td>Fred Bedell, Chesapeake and Coastal Services, Department of Natural Resources, Administrator</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Overview of ADA Access in Michigan-Going Beyond ADA to Expand Access to the Water&quot;</td>
<td>Greg Weykamp, ASLA, LEED AP, BD+C, President/Principal, Edgewater Resources, LLC</td>
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<td>&quot;Update on ADA Council&quot;</td>
<td>Janine Belleque, Boating Facilities Manager, Oregon</td>
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<td>Todd Mize, P.E., Project Engineer, North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission</td>
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<td>Daniel Cabe, P.E. Project Engineer, North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission</td>
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<td>Nathan Owens, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources</td>
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<td>John Kirk, Boating Access Maintenance Supervisor Region 1, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries</td>
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<td>John Bishop, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, State Boating Access Coordinator</td>
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**Boating Access**

(Ballroom V)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Catching the “Unicorn;” Changing Boaters’ Behaviors to Reduce the Spread of AIS&quot;</td>
<td>Ed Rudberg, Ph.D., CEO CD3, General Benefit Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;The Next Dimension in Clean, Drain, Dry-Using 3D Models to Educate&quot;</td>
<td>Alanna Kealing, Director of Outreach, Boat U.S. Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Quagga and Zebra Mussel Management Efforts in the West&quot;</td>
<td>Nathan Owens, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Float Fishing Access Points in DOT Right of Way&quot;</td>
<td>Daniel Cabe, P.E. Project Engineer, North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Virginia’s Boating Access Site and Facility Management Plan: Implementation&quot;</td>
<td>John Kirk, Boating Access Maintenance Supervisor Region 1, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries</td>
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**ADA at BIG and Public Access Sites**

(Ballroom V)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Clean Vessel Act&quot;</td>
<td>Andrew Bleier, Senior Vice President, Keco Incorporated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Exciting Pollution Prevention Updates from Sunny California&quot;</td>
<td>Adrien Baudrimont, Environmental Planner, San Francisco Estuary Partnership and the Bay Foundation</td>
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<td>Kimberly Riley, Community Engagement Coordinator, San Francisco Estuary Partnership and the Bay Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liz Juvera, Environmental Planner, San Francisco Estuary Partnership and the Bay Foundation</td>
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**Clean Vessel Act**

(Ballroom VI, VII, VIII)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;What to Specify, Require and What Not to Do when Installing Pump-out Units&quot;</td>
<td>Andrew Bleier, Senior Vice President, Keco Incorporated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Break with Exhibitors, 15 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 – 11:45</td>
<td>SOBA Business Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 – 12:50</td>
<td>Awards Luncheon, Winning Project Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:50 – 1:05</td>
<td>Vendor Presentations</td>
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<td>1:05 – 1:30</td>
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<td>State CVA and BIG Tier @ Projects (Ballroom VI, VII, VIII)</td>
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<td>“Hampton Roads Sanitation District Commission – Pump-out Education Program”</td>
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<td>“Transient Operations Marina Perspective – daily operations to navigating CVA and BIG</td>
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<td>Boating Access Creative Solutions (Ballroom VI, VII, VIII)</td>
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<td>“Operating a Sport Fish Restoration funded Boating Access Program in Large Southeastern State; Georgia USA”</td>
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<td>“Reconciling a Variety of Environmental Aspects in the Development of a Boating and Fishing Access Facility in Puerto Rico”</td>
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<td>“Up Coming Boating and Fishing Access Facilities”</td>
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**Speakers:**
- **Mike Pascucilla**, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Director of Health, Eastern Shore District Health Department
- **Kate Brown**, BIG/CVA Program Coordinator, Boating Division Connecticut Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection
- **Lisa Van Alyste**, Fish & Wildlife Administrator, WSFR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- **Tom Jones**, Senior, Environmental Health Specialist, CVA/BIG Coordinator, Arkansas Department of Health
- **Tony Kelleher**, Vice-President, Customer Support and Training, Volvo Penta
- **Kevin Michael**, Executive Director, Water Sports Industry Association
- **Todd Mize**, P.E., Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division-Engineering
- **Amanda Albright**, Pretreatment & Pollution Prevention Supervising Specialist, Hampton Roads Sanitation District
- **William (Bill) J. Young**, Vice-President of Marina Operations, Morningstar Marinas
- **Christopher Ferguson**, General Manager Morningstar Marinas Golden Isles – St. Simons Island GA
- **John Burkhalter**, P.E., Burkhalter Technologies, Inc.
- **Jeff Bishop**, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, State Boating Access Coordinator
- **Mayra T. Garcia Perez**, Project Leader, Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, Government of Puerto Rico
- **Luis U. Vélez Martínez**, E.I.T., Construction Project Manager, Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, Government of Puerto Rico
- **Sara Sherman**, P.E., North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Lead Civil Engineer
- **Steven Bailey**, P.E., North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Facility Construction Engineer
### BIG Projects – Issues and Challenges (Ballroom V)

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00</td>
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Tuesday, September 10th
1:30-3:00pm Breakout Sessions

CLEAN VESSEL ACT (BALLROOM VI, VII, VIII)

**Title: Training Boating Facility Staff on CVA Best Practices**
**Speaker: Jenny East and Aaron Barnett**
Success in the CVA program is a team effort. It takes boaters making the choice to dispose of waste properly and boating facility staff keeping the equipment operational. Helping boating facility staff with this program has led to stronger partnerships in the Pacific Northwest. Staff turnover within marinas and boating facilities can be high and having consistent resources can support the transfer of information. Staff from Oregon and Washington Sea Grant will share strategies on the development of training materials to support equipment maintenance and completing application materials to the CVA grant program.

**Title: Building an Effective CVA Program: How to prioritize and tackle decades of strongholds.**
**Speaker: Ben Solomon**
The North Carolina Wildlife Commission began the NC’s Inland CVA Program in 1997. Many of the marinas that we partnered with in 1997 are owned and operated by the same families now. Many of the obstacles encountered in 1997 are still present today. By providing adequate education, establishing good working relationships, and leaning on your neighboring CVA programs, any program can conquer disinterest and negative “state government” stigmas. The success and effectiveness of North Carolina’s Inland CVA program relies on the partnerships that were established years ago and establishing trust with new partners.

**Title: Florida CVA Program**
**Speaker: Brenda Leonard**
Florida is home to approximately 2000 boating facilities, nearly a million registered recreational vessels and home to many sensitive habitats and species. Florida uses a positive proactive partnership based approach to encourage marinas to install and use pumpout facilities and to encourage boaters to use them.

**Title: Heated Lines, creative solutions to New England winters.**
**Speakers: Cecil French**
Winters in New England can be brutal but pumpouts must go on. Heated lines make year round pumpouts from the dock a sure thing. Charlestown Marina, USFWS, and Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries partner to tackle CVA pumpout challenges when temperatures dip below zero.

**Title: Wastewater Characterization from Type III Marine Sanitation Devices**
**Speaker: William (Bill) Coleman**
This presentation will cover the general wastewater characteristics of the effluent generated from Type III Marine Sanitation Devices and the potential challenges in the design of an on-site treatment system for this type of effluent.

**Title: Are Boat Pumpouts Compatible with Onsite Sewage Systems?**
**Speaker: Marcia Degen**
Properly disposing of boat pumpout waste can be a challenge. Often the pumpouts are collected in remote areas and rural onsite sewage treatment systems are more readily accessible than a large central sewage facility for treatment and disposal. However, unless specifically designed to treat pumpout waste, most onsite systems are not capable of treating the high strength pumpout waste. Disposing of pumpout waste in an onsite sewage system may lead to premature failure of the onsite sewage system. This talk will
examine the wastewater characteristics of boat pumpout waste and the compatibility of that waste with an onsite sewage system.

ENGINEERING: CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCY (BALLROOM V)

Title: Climate Change and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects
Speaker: Michelle Hamor
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) conducted its first climate related study in the 1970's when cooling was believed to be the mechanism for climate change. Today, the agency actively participates in climate change coordination and research and employs planning processes to consider climate change impacts to current and proposed projects.

Title: Hurricane planning at marinas and marine recreational facilities
Speaker: Eric Kretsch
Hurricane planning is arguably the most critical action a marine recreational facility can take to enhance its resilience to hurricanes and a changing climate. Hurricane plans establish policies to be carried out by marina managers and staff. They set the stage for long-term adaptation, allowing those responsible for marina planning to regularly evaluate the facilities strengths and weaknesses. The Association of Marina Industries in the summer of 2018 reviewed hurricane plans submitted by marinas throughout the southeast United States. This presentation discusses what we learned from this review and discusses the essentials for a marina or marine recreational facility hurricane plan. These essentials included hurricane forecasting and plan timing, marina design, and communicating to your staff, customers, and the outside community.

Title: Climate Change, Sea Level Rise, and Public Health Policy Challenges
Speaker: David Fridley
This presentation will discuss basic evidence for climate change and the effect of rising temperatures on sea level, including a case study of erosion in a low-elevation area that poses challenges to preserving waterfront infrastructure, developing public policy and effective communication strategies between scientists, policy makers and the general public.

Title: Sea Level Rise Risk and Response in Coastal Virginia
Speaker: Michelle Covi
Sea level rise, the increased threat of intense rainfall events and associated flooding are the most immediate threat of climate change in Coastal Virginia. This presentation will provide an overview of the risk posed by these climate change impacts to coastal communities and describe response at the local, regional and state level.

Title: BUILDing Resilience: Maryland DNR’s approach to the beneficial use of dredged material
Speaker: Jackie Specht
The beneficial use of dredged material can increase coastal resilience while dramatically reducing the financial costs of dredge disposal and coastal restoration projects. Though these benefits have been identified, there is still a need to optimize beneficial use opportunities in Maryland. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources’ (MD DNR) is pursuing opportunities to better align dredging and restoration projects to achieve the financial, environmental, and community resilience co-benefits. To achieve this goal, MD DNR has developed an online mapping tool, “Beneficial Use: Identifying Locations for Dredge (BUILD)” to better locate beneficial use of dredged material opportunities. Through the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, BUILD enables quick spatial identification of beneficial use opportunities to promote dredged material placement where it will be both environmentally- and economically-sound. Additionally, MD DNR has developed guidance documents and outreach materials to complement BUILD and to support this wider state initiative to use dredged material to build resilience.
3:15-5:00pm Breakout Sessions

BOATING ACCESS (BALLROOM V)

Title: Catching the “Unicorn:” Changing Boaters’ Behaviors to Reduce the Spread of AIS
Speaker: Edgar Rudberg
Due to the high cost of high pressure, heated water decontamination, reducing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) often relies upon the adoption of best management practices at the individual level. However, until CD3’s 2017-2018 Waterless Cleaning Station Pilot, tools to implement best management practices were unavailable to boaters. The process for developing these tools was an example of how we caught a “unicorn,” and changed behavior. This presentation will outline the results of the pilot including usage rates, lessons learned, adoption rate, increases in compliance, and outline the future direction of the project.

Title: The Next Dimension in Clean, Drain, Dry – Using 3D Models to Educate
Speaker: Alanna Keating
BoatUS Foundation is utilizing 3D art and immersive technologies to find innovative ways to educate boaters on various safe and clean boating topics including invasive species and Clean, Drain, Dry. Our goal is to use these technologies to change boaters’ behaviors and make any AIS watercraft inspections as easy as possible for boater and inspectors. Join us to see these models in action and provide us with feedback on additions, improvements and future uses.

Title: Quagga and Zebra Mussel Management Efforts in the West
Speaker: Nathan Owens
The Western Regional Panel (WRP) members and partners recently completed a multi-year effort known as Building Consensus in the West to further zebra and quagga mussel management in the West and developed a final report summarizing the process and final work products, including a legal framework and operational standards for watercraft inspection and decontamination programs. In a parallel track, the WRP developed a Status Report for the Quagga Zebra Action Plan for Western Waters (QZAP, 2010). The WRP approved both documents in April 2019 and is now considering developing revised priorities for the QZAP to guide future management priorities to stop the spread of invasive mussels in the West. This presentation will summarize the history of invasive mussels in the West and the current status of management activities, provide an overview of these final reports, and create an opportunity for SOBA to provide input on future western priorities.

Title: Float Fishing Access Points in DOT Right of Way
Speaker: Daniel Cabe
Developing access at DOT bridge crossings is an innovative way to mitigate losses of traditional water access points. These smaller access areas serve the fastest growing user groups on underutilized resources. Just be aware, negotiating the process to a successful project requires innovation and compromise.

Title: Virginia’s Boating Access Site and Facility Management Plan: Implementation
Speaker: John Kirk
Demand for public access to water resources continues to increase and is a significant need and expectation by Virginians as expressed in the 2017 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey. The DGIF completed the development of its first Boating Access Site and Facility Management Plan in 2018, in partnership with the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech. The document was endorsed by the
agency’s Board of Directors in 2019. The Plan provides a strategic approach to addressing policy needs and solidifying operational procedures that should enable the DGIF to best allocate its resources and management efforts to fulfill the agency’s obligations to boaters across the state. The DGIF has initiated its implementation of the Plan and will discuss that effort, along with challenges, opportunities and lessons learned along the way.

**Wednesday, September 10th**
**8:30-10:30am Breakout Sessions**

**ADA AT BIG AND PUBLIC ACCESS SITES (BALLROOM V)**

**Title:** Achieving Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) while Fulfilling Boating Access Program Objectives in Georgia.  
**Speaker:** Jeff Bishop  
The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) has undertaken efforts to achieve compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act standards & requirements. Compliance with ADA can be challenging, but when undertaken within the context of a construction program that already carries a significant permitting load the effect is often compounded. Several topics within the scope of ADA Compliance will be presented; these will include at minimum: basic requirements for compliance, access and exclusions, inspections and facility upgrades, program offerings and website information. Discussion involving suggestions for compliance from various state programs will be welcome.

**Title:** Now What! An Answer to the Dock Transfer Question for Disabled Boaters  
**Speaker:** R. Michael Payton  
This talk will showcase the new ADA Accessible Dock Transfer Device for boaters. Presentation includes description of features, explanation of design considerations, applications and installation, and a dry and possibly wet demonstration.

**Title:** Engineers Handbook Incorporating ADA Requirements at Boating Access Sites  
**Speaker:** Fred Bedell  
This talk will include an overview of the Chesapeake and Coastal Services part of the Center for Waterway Improvement and Infrastructure. Details will be given about grant, funding generation, and the benefits of funding. The online viewing platform of past depth surveys, tide board locations, dredged channels, and spoil sites will be explored. The presentation will also include information about ADA requirements, site issues, and methods to guide engineers in facility design. There have been issues with incorporating sea level rise into project design as well as construction oversight.

**Title:** Overview of ADA Access in Michigan – Going Beyond ADA to Expand Access to the Water  
**Speaker:** Gregory Weykamp  
Expanding access to the water for everyone, regardless of age, income, or ability is critical to the future of boating. While ADA does a very good job of making docks accessible, it doesn’t always achieve the goal of making it easy for users of all abilities to actually get on the boats. This presentation will address key ADA issues for consideration, outline strategies for more flexible approaches to creating access to all types of boats for users of all abilities, in a climate of ever-changing water levels. Further, this session will address strategies for making boating more economically accessible.
CLEAN VESSEL ACT (BALLROOM VI, VII, VIII)

Title: Exciting Pollution Prevention Updates from Sunny California!
Speakers: Adrien Baudrimont, Kimberly Riley, Liz Juvera
As California CVA grantees, the San Francisco Estuary Partnership and The Bay Foundation are crafting innovative tools and solutions to decrease the amount of sewage discharged in the State’s waterways. Come join us to hear what we’ve been up to including: Pumpout Nav updates, pilot programs we think you’ll love, the results of targeted social media ads, and more. Learn how you can implement these resources in your state.

Title: Solar-Electric Pump-out Boat Technology: Impacts on the Marine Environment, Public Health and Climate Change - A Federal, State & Local Prospective
Speakers: Michael A. Pascucilla, Kate Hughes Brown, Lisa E. Van Alstyne
The East Shore District Health Department (ESDHD) of Branford, Connecticut has pioneered the implementation of the nation’s largest solar-electric pumpout boat to replace an older gasoline-powered model. This study and project were conducted with ESDHD, US Fish and Wildlife and Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Yale University, Pilots Point Marina, and other partners sought to assess the environmental and health effects of solar-electric pumpout boat technology. We conducted national surveys of pumpout program managers and boat operators to gauge pumpout boating costs, cultures, and best practices. We also conducted life-cycle analyses of gasoline-powered and solar-electric pumpout boats to compare their production of environmental pollutants. Our work constitutes the most comprehensive study into pumpout boating in the United States to date, and identifies challenges and opportunities that remain for the widespread adoption of solar-electric pumpout boat technology. Performance results will be presented from the first operational season, to include a local, state and federal study/project prospective.

Title: Extreme Challenges Establishing Remote Floating Comfort Stations on Inland Lakes
Speaker: Thomas L. Jones
This talk will include an accurate list of complications concerning environmental changes on inland lakes, water qualities, low lake level destructiveness, flooding, wind speed challenge, and partnership development on making an extreme environmental project become a reality and popular. It will also include the construction demands, effects of being remote and independent from civilization, operation and maintenance, planning, material qualities, expense of construction, disposal and discoveries, adaptation, partnerships, and combined efforts to make floating remote comfort stations reality and sustainable.

1:30-3:00pm Breakout Sessions

ENGINEERING – WAKEBOARD BOATS (BALLROOM V)

Title: Wake Responsibly: Educate Not Regulate
Speaker: Kevin Michael
Water sports industry guru, Kevin Michael, will explain the importance of captain’s behavior and what the Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA) is doing to educate the masses. Reactively, the WSIA is responsible for handling over 50 open cases of threats to ballasted boats on waterways today. With the help of manufacturers and dealers, Kevin is leading the industry to promote and protect all of the towed water sports you see behind boats today and believes we can all get along.
Title: Power Loading – Combating Boat Ramp Scour  
Speaker: Todd Mize  
Power loading and general prop wash will cause unnatural erosion, scouring effect, of the water bottoms at the toe of any boat ramp. If left unattended, this activity can have a detrimental effect on the structural integrity of the boat ramp toe. The state of Alabama has dealt with this issues for many years, especially in our coastal region where sandy soils are more prevalent. The use of articulated concrete block mats has given the state the most success with preventing this issue. This presentation will expand on the need, design, and cost of articulated block mats and how they have been successful for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

STATE CVA AND BIG TIER PROJECTS (BALLROOM VI, VII, VIII)

Title: Transient Operations Marina Perspective – daily operations to navigating CVA and BIG grants  
Speakers: Christopher Ferguson, William J. Young  
Morningstar Marinas Golden Isles runs a transient program that will produce 1.75MM in gross revenue in 2019, from a 650’ Transient dock. The marina was hit by Tropical Storm Hermine, Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Irma. Learn aspects of transient management from Marketing, Amenities, Customer Service, and the Berthing plan. Hear how we managed to operate through three storms, navigate insurance, and plan for a complete replacement using CVA and multiple Tier 1 and Tier 2 Boating Infrastructure grants. Transient Dock replacement to include new fuel, new electric, new pump out and new CAT 10 Aluminum Dock Design with concrete piles and baffling system.

Title: The Flood They Said Could Never Happen  
Speaker: John Burkhalter  
This presentation will include details about a record breaking flood that occurred on June 5, 2019 on the Arkansas River in Little Rock, Arkansas. Many had predicted that this flood would not occur. This presentation will cover the methods of preparation, the post-flood damage assessment, lessons learned, and plans for the future.

3:15-5:00pm Breakout Sessions

BOATING ACCESS CREATIVE SOLUTIONS (BALLROOM VI, VII, VIII)

Title: Operating a Sport Fish Restoration funded Boating Access Program in Large Southeastern State; Georgia USA  
Speaker: Jeff Bishop  
The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) maintains and operates more than 155 boating access sites across the largest state east of the Mississippi River, Georgia. There are certain challenges associated with operating and managing a large and diverse portfolio of boating access facilities across this geographic space. Many of these challenges are similar to those which other state natural resource agencies face. Strategies which Georgia has developed and implemented to confront these challenges will be presented. A range of topics will be covered including program structure, boat ramp construction, facility data and information management along with a brief overview of efforts to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
Title: Stormwater Best Management Practices for Boat Access Areas  
Speakers: Sara Sherman, PE, Steven Bailey, PE  
The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) has used a variety of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) to develop boat access areas and meet regulatory requirements. Recently, we have had success with the installation of permeable pavements. The presentation will include an overview of the types of BMPs we have used and show case studies of the installation of permeable pavement.

Title: A Major Renovation of a Small Impoundment in Oklahoma Focusing on Improving Access  
Speaker: Kurt Kuklinski  
The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Fisheries Division is dedicating significant resources to improve and renovate agency-owned state fishing lakes. Dahlgren Lake, a 32-acre impoundment in central Oklahoma was one of the ODWC renovations completed in 2018. Renovation objectives were to improve boating access and fishing access through a reservoir draw-down, major bank repair, and improving boating access amenities. Project achievements, issues, and details will be presented and discussed.

BIG PROJECTS – ISSUES AND CHALLENGES (BALLROOM V)

Title: Balancing Historical Preservation with Coastal Resiliency and Public Access  
Speaker: Mark Pirrello  
The City of Alexandria, Virginia was founded in 1749 as an active seaport that supported trade along the Potomac River during the colonial era of the United States. The City’s waterfront continued to grow as its seaport became a hub of the timber, tobacco, and wheat trade into the mid-19th century. Land was reclaimed from the Potomac River to support this explosive growth. It was during this period that the City’s waterfront first experienced flooding of its newly created low-lying lands, effectively shutting down the seaports and access to the city center. As the industrial age transformed the waterfront into a manufacturing and shipbuilding center, the dense urbanization of the City’s waterfront resulted in more frequent flooding and inundation.

By the mid-20th Century, the City became a bedroom community to the Nation’s capital, with industry along the waterfront removed to support the historical preservation of colonial era buildings and infrastructure. The City’s waterfront evolved into a series of public and private spaces (waterfront parks, residential areas, and office and retail/food services) to support the burgeoning tourism trade seeking to experience the historical significance of the City. The nuisance flooding has persisted along the City’s waterfront, affecting public access to the waterfront and historical sections of town. In 2010, the City experienced nuisance flooding from the Potomac River on the order of 10 events a year. By 2018, the frequency of flooding had increased, with 20 plus events occurring above flood stage. With successful regeneration of waterfronts along the Potomac River occurring in the District of Columbia and Maryland, the City of Alexandria has developed its own waterfront master plan to create distinct and active public spaces that attract business and visitors alike. Implementation of the master plan requires the City to address the rising water levels and frequent nuisance flooding in a manner that does not distract, affect, or alter the historical significance or hinder access to the water. This presentation discusses the challenges the City faces, the initial and preferred solutions moved forward to balance these competing interests, and the planned implementation strategy.
Title: Special Considerations in Marina Design – Solutions for Non-Typical Marinas
Speaker: Pete Peterson
While every marina project has its own special set of design constraints and considerations, and no two projects are exactly alike, some are so different that thinking outside of the box is a necessity. This presentation will focus on two extraordinary projects similar only in that they required the marina designers and planners to come up with solutions not typically considered.
The first is North Cove Marina in NYC in downtown Manhattan. The project site was located directly adjacent to the commercial ferry docks in a confined basin with poor soils and a construction timeline that could not be extended due to the America’s Cup. Engineers and the construction team needed to make decisions on the fly in real time to meet the project schedule. The second project is a municipal seaplane base/marina in Tavares, Florida. When the original marina was destroyed by Hurricanes, The City desired replacing the old facility with a premier waterfront project that can cater equally to seaplanes and boaters. Special considerations needed to be accounted for regarding dock design including wave attenuation, dock freeboards, public access, fueling and separation of boat and seaplane operations. This presentation will entice marina planners, engineers, and owners to embrace different solutions for special circumstances and think outside of the box.

Title: Navigating Challenges on B.I.G. Projects
Speaker: Kirby Marshall
So your project was awarded a Boating Infrastructure Grant, fantastic! Now what? Mr. Marshall will present examples of recent “post award honeymoon” challenges he and his firm have faced on the implementation of B.I.G.-funded projects as well as strategies employed to overcome these. Such challenges include additional regulatory hurdles/scrutiny, state-specific procurement requirements, state funding cycles and many other factors.
The 2019 States Organization for Boating Access Business Meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 11th, at the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel in Portsmouth, Virginia. All state representatives are strongly encouraged to attend. Agenda Items include:

I. WELCOME REMARKS AND SOBA PRESIDENT’S REPORT
   Preston Smith, SOBA President
   ➢ Accomplishments Within the Year

II. TREASURER’S REPORT
    Lorene Reid, SOBA Treasurer
    ➢ Revenues and Expenditures
    ➢ Analysis and Observations

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS
    ➢ California CVA App Committee: Chaired by Mike Wichrowski (VT)
    ➢ ADA Guidelines: Chaired by P. Todd Mize (AL)

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2019 – 2020
    Janine Belleque, SOBA Past President

V. CLOSING REMARKS (OPEN FORUM)
   Preston Smith, SOBA President
   ➢ Public Comment Opportunity

ADJOURN
Steven Bailey, PE, Facility Construction Engineer, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Steven has worked for the Engineering Section of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission for six years. He has provided engineering and project management for the construction and renovation of boating access areas in the piedmont and coastal regions of North Carolina. He has also provided engineering and project management for the Commission’s public hunting range program. Prior to joining NCWRC, Steven worked for private engineering firms providing consulting and project management services. Steven has a Bachelor’s and a Master’s Degree in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University.

Aaron Barnett, Boating Program Specialist, Washington Sea Grant
Aaron manages the Pumpout Washington Program in collaboration with Washington State Parks Clean Vessel Program. Aaron presented at SOBA in 2013 and 2016. His experience includes working in the private industry on marine pump systems, serving in the U.S. Coast Guard, and has an education in interdisciplinary arts and sciences and marine affairs.

Adrien Baudrimont, Environmental Planner, San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Adrien manages the Clean Vessel Act Program, working with marinas and boaters to increase awareness of the effects of sewage discharge. Previously, Adrien managed the Flood Control 2.0 project, long-term innovative strategies to align flood protection with habitat creation and water quality improvement. Before joining the Partnership, Adrien worked as a consultant in urban planning and sustainable development. Adrien has a Master in Geography and Urban Planning from the University of Paris Sorbonne.

Fred Bedell, Administrator of Chesapeake and Coastal Services, Center for Waterway Improvement and Infrastructure, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fred has been working for the Department of Natural Resources since August 1973 to present (46 years). His work at DNR has varied from designing and inspecting shore erosion structures, to working on buoy tenders, to designing boating facilities. What he found out is that many engineering firms in the area were not familiar with boat ramp design or marine work in general. So he put together a guide called “Design Guidelines for Boating Facilities”. These guidelines cover basic definitions of things in a marina facility, recommend slip sizes for different vessels, ADA requirements like SOBA’s, some standard details for boat ramps, cofferdams, piers, finger piers, floating docks, mooring line holders, etc. It also includes rain garden designs, marsh creation cross-sections. He hopes that SOBA can come up with a recommendation for a standard placement of safety ladder locations and spacing, fire extinguisher spacing and life ring spacing. It is a common question that comes up on almost every project.

Jeff Bishop, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Jeff Bishop is a native Georgian who has lived most of his life in the Piedmont area of the state about 40 miles east of Atlanta. His early experiences hunting and fishing along local rivers with his father, has helped to develop a strong conservation ethic for the use of natural resources. As an experienced fisherman, the use of boats to access “hard to reach” places have helped to shape his perspective with regards to managing a Statewide Boating Access program. A major point of satisfaction for him in the role of boating access coordinator is to witness a major project come to completion and then witness the satisfaction of local citizens who will be benefitting from the new addition. He feels fortunate to be surrounded by a supportive management structure and a highly skilled and well equipped construction team which “builds out” the projects from ground up. Jeff resides in Covington with his wife (Martha) and family and is devoted to the principle of stewardship in all things, especially our use of natural resources.

Kate Hughes Brown, BIG/CVA Program Coordinator, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Kate is the BIG/CVA Program Coordinator for the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection’s Boating Division where she manages the Connecticut Clean Vessel Act Program and the
Boating Infrastructure Grants Program. Prior to joining the Boating Division, Kate worked in the Connecticut Coastal Management Program for 20 years on regulatory permits, legislation, coastal habitat restoration, education, public access and research grants, ecosystem management projects, the NOAA Post-Sandy Marine Debris Removal Grants, and seafloor mapping of Long Island Sound. Kate has been involved in SOBA since 2010, and has participated on several taskforces and working groups, and served as co-chair of the SOBA Pumpout Vessel Taskforce. She has presented at numerous conferences and has actively worked in her state to expand pumpout vessel programs and to eliminate all pumpout fees for recreational boaters in Connecticut. Kate served two terms on the SOBA Board as a Member at Large and as Treasurer.

John Burkhalter, PE, President, Burkhalter Technologies, Inc.
John is the President of Burkhalter Technologies, Inc. This business specializes in general, civil and marine contracting. He currently owns Rock City Yacht Club in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Daniel Cabe, PE, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Facility Construction Engineer
Daniel has worked for the Engineering Section of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission for twenty-one years. His initial duties included providing surveying, engineering, and permitting and construction management for boating access projects completed by in-house construction crews. Since that time, he has worked on a variety of projects across North Carolina including fishing piers, depot sheds, road construction, shooting ranges, and floating fishing access. Daniel has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

William (Bill) Coleman, PE, Civil Engineer 3, Engineering and Field Support Division, Bureau of Central Services, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
William Coleman has worked as a civil engineer and project manager for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for 25 years. Currently working as a project manager on construction projects, including the renovation of state boating launching facilities. Previous positions within the DEEP included working as an engineer in the Subsurface Disposal Group overseeing the design and permitting of large scale septic systems. Mr. Coleman has a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Northeastern University and is a Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Connecticut.

Michelle Covi, Faculty, Department of Ocean Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Old Dominion University
Michelle Covi is faculty of practice at Old Dominion University in the Department of Ocean Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and part of the Virginia Sea Grant extension program. She conducts research and outreach activities for climate change adaptation and coastal resilience efforts for Virginia. Her research areas include sea level rise risk perception and communication, public participation in adaptation planning processes and engagement/outreach practices. She co-organizes the Hampton Roads Sea Level Rise/ Flooding Adaptation Forum, a quarterly meeting of adaptation stakeholders and co-chaired the Citizen Engagement Working Group of the Hampton Roads Intergovernmental Pilot Project She is involved in a number of engaged research project as a part of team efforts to understand shoreline management decision-making and its impact on ecosystems, understanding the needs of tourism businesses to become more resilience, developing methods to engage neighborhood in resilience planning and building university-community partnership in resilience through service-learning. She has a doctorate in Coastal Resources Management from East Carolina University and a Master’s degree in Marine Science from University of Georgia.

Marcia J. Degen, PhD, PE, Technical Services Manager, Virginia Department of Health
Dr. Degen has a B.S. in Biology, a Masters in Environmental Sciences and Engineering, and a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering, all from Virginia Tech. She is also a licensed Virginia professional engineer. Dr. Degen’s Ph.D. research was in onsite wastewater disposal systems, specifically looking at the effect of several variables on the in-ground denitrification rate. Dr. Degen’s career has involved consulting and
teaching at the community college level, but has primarily been with state government. She started her regulatory career with the water permit program at DEQ, moved to wastewater engineering both at VDH and DEQ where she was a district engineer and then technical program coordinator for the Office of Wastewater Engineering. Dr. Degen moved to VDH in 2009 to assume the role of Technical Services Manager in the Division of Onsite Sewage and Water, Environmental Engineering, and Marina Programs. She is currently a member of the Virginia Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association Board, the Virginia Environmental Health Association, and the Virginia Water Environment Association, and is a past member of the Virginia licensing Board for onsite soil professionals. Dr. Degen has participated in several EPA committees including technical review panels that developed onsite BMPs for use in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

**Jenny East, Boating Outreach Coordinator, Oregon Sea Grant**

Jenny East works with boaters and facilities on the Clean Vessel program in a partnership with the Oregon State Marine Board. She has presented at SOBA since 2017. Her background is in marine science and environmental education.

**Christopher Ferguson, General Manager Morningstar Marinas Golden Isles, St. Simons Island, GA**

Six months after graduating with honors from Boston University with a BS/BA, Chris relocated to South Beach Miami where he began his career at the Miami Beach Marina. He was quickly promoted to the Dock Manager Position and after several years relocated to the Florida Keys becoming the Director of Marina Operations at Hawks Cay Resort and Marina. After five years in this role, having converted a failing resort marina into a substantial profit center for the property, Chris left the marine industry transitioning into the world Real Estate development.

Chris Returned to the Marine Industry in 2010 as the General Manager for Morningstar Marinas Golden Isles in St. Simons Island, GA. In his time at Morningstar he has made Golden Isles a premier marina for all customers from the 100’ Transient boater to the 21’ flats boat fisherman. Chris’s ability to manage the operations, regulatory compliance, and full P&L while providing some of the best customer service on the east coast has made him a leader at Morningstar and within the marine industry. Chris completed his AML Advanced Marina Management course in 2019 and will soon become a Certified Marina Manager. Chris also has great experience in pre and post hurricane operations. His Marina was hit by Hermine, Matthew and Irma and is in the final stages of being 100% replaced while being fully occupied. Not only has Chris shown the ability to operate a marina, but he has acted as the General Contractor rebuilding his marina as well. Golden Isles has been awarded BIG Tier 1, Tier 2 and CVA grants. Chris loves the industry and Morningstar and plans to retire with them in the coming years.

**Cecil French, Boating Grants Coordinator, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries**

Cecil French is the Massachusetts Boating Grants Coordinator, administering CVA and BIG grants for 67 pumpout boats, 75 stations and several Boating Infrastructure Grant sites. Growing up on an island gave him an appreciation for clean coastal waters. CVA and BIG grants allow him to help ensure that Massachusetts waters continue to be pristine for all.

**David Fridley, Environmental Health Manager, Three Rivers Health District, Virginia Department of Health**

David Fridley attended the University of Virginia and was employed by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science for several years before joining the Virginia Department of Health in 1998. Since then, he has worked as an environmental health specialist, supervisor, and program manager for the Three Rivers Health District. David is responsible for oversight and program development for all areas of environmental health in that ten-county district.
David has been on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Environmental Health Association for almost twenty years, and has served several terms as its president and representative to the National Environmental Health Association. David attended the Management Academy for Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Brad Gunn, Lead for Boating Access, CVA, and BIG programs, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) Headquarters Office
Brad is the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program's National Lead for Boating Access, the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) and the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) grant programs for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and is based out of the Headquarters Office. He has been in this position since September 2015 and came from the Service's Migratory Bird Program where he managed North American Wetland Conservation Act grants. Prior to that he retired from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission where he was an Assistant Chief in the Division of Wildlife Management as well as the Federal Assistance Coordinator with responsibilities over Wildlife Restoration, Section 6 and State Wildlife Grant programs.

Michelle L. Hamor, CFM, Chief, Flood Plain Management Services Section, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District
Michelle Hamor serves as the chief of the Flood Plain Management Services Section of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District. The Flood Plain Management Services Program was established to carry out Section 206 of the Flood Control Act of 1960, as amended, to encourage prudent use of the Nation’s flood plains for the benefit of the national economy and general welfare by supporting comprehensive flood plain management planning at all appropriate government levels. Beginning as a Co-op student with Old Dominion University, Ms. Hamor has worked for the Norfolk District for 26 years. She has a B.S. in Civil Engineering and is a Certified Floodplain Manager through the Association of State Floodplain Managers. Ms. Hamor serves as the Flood Risk Manager for the Norfolk District and co-chair for the Virginia Silver Jackets Team, and actively participates in climate change initiatives in Hampton Roads.

Tony Hewitt, Fish & Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) Region 3
Tony is currently (2016-present) located at the Regional Office in Bloomington, MN as Fish and Wildlife Biologist for the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. He administers approximately $41 million in federal grants to all 8, Region 3 States’ natural resource agencies through 11 grant programs including: Boating Infrastructure Grant tier 1 and 2, Clean Vessel Act, Boat Access, Section 6 Conservation Grants, Recovery Land Acquisition, Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance, Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition, Wolf- Livestock Demonstration Program, White-nose Syndrome, Science support Partnerships, and Quick Response Program. Prior to his time in the WSFR program, Tony served as a Wildlife Biologist for the National Wildlife Refuge system for 7 years.

Thomas L. Jones, Environmentalist, Arkansas Department of Health
Tom Jones, has been with the AR Department of Health as an environmentalist for over 45 years. In the last 21 years, he has established the AR Marine Sanitation Inspection Program, inspecting over 5000 pleasure boats in AR for the possibility of illegal overboard discharge of marine waste. He has taken the AR CVA Grant Program from $40,000 per year to one of the highest states in the US for the past 4 years. He is working intensely in the BIG Program on developing a transient pleasure craft system for fueling and pump-out capabilities on the Arkansas River, which runs across AR from Oklahoma to the Mississippi River. Tom has presented previously at SOBA 2014 and 2018, on his findings and environmental projects in Arkansas.

Liz Juvera, Environmental Planner, San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Liz has been an Environmental Planner with SFEP since September 2018. Before joining the Estuary Partnership, Liz worked with NASA and the Bay Area Environmental Research Institute to coordinate logistics for research missions and conferences supported by NASA’s Earth Science Division. Liz has a B.S. in Biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz and an M.S. in Environmental Management from the University of San Francisco.
**Alanna Keating, Director of Outreach, BoatU.S. Foundation**

Alanna Keating is the Director of Outreach for BoatU.S. Foundation and has worked for the Foundation for over 14 years. The Foundation’s mission is to reduce accidents and fatalities, increase stewardship of our waterways and keep boating a safe and enjoyable pastime though education and outreach. Alanna’s current programs include Grassroots Grants program, Life Jacket Loaner program and other various outreach efforts. Alanna leads the Foundation’s environmental efforts including outreach on invasive species, marine debris and pumpout. She holds degrees in Business Management and Environmental Management with a focus on education from University of Maryland University College. She lives outside of Annapolis, MD with her husband and daughter.

**Tony Kelleher, Vice President of Customer Support and Training, Volvo Penta of the Americas**

As Vice President of Customer Support and Training for Volvo Penta of the Americas, Tony Kelleher leads the company’s customer support and product training teams to further expand and strengthen Volvo Penta’s partner network capabilities. His responsibilities include supporting both marine and industrial segments within the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. Before his promotion to Volvo Penta’s executive team in 2018, Kelleher was director of the marine leisure segment, overseeing OEM and dealer sales and partnership development of North America. He has also served as head of the service department and purchasing director within Volvo Penta of the Americas. Kelleher previously held purchasing and quality positions at Ford Motor Company in the United Kingdom and Visteon Corporation in the United States. He earned a Master of Science degree in Engineering Management from Wayne State University and a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Manufacturing Systems Engineering from Leeds Metropolitan University.

**John Kirk, Boating Access Maintenance Supervisor, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**

John Kirk is the Boating Access Maintenance Supervisor for the coastal region of Virginia. He has a Bachelor in Science in Organizational Leadership from Penn State with a minor in Wildlife and Fisheries Science and a Master’s Degree in Construction Project Management from the University of Alabama-Birmingham. John supervises day-to-day maintenance of regional boat ramps, assist with construction and renovation oversight, and coordinates the prioritization and budgeting for capital boat ramp repairs. John is the team lead for the DGIF Lands and Facilities Team, which makes recommendation for all the DGIF capital improvements throughout the state. John served as the DGIF project chair for a statewide boating access study and currently is working to implement the DGIF Boating Access plan from that study. In his free time he enjoys fishing and boating on the Chesapeake Bay.

**Eric Kretsch, US Legislative Coordinator, Association of Marina Industries**

Eric Kretsch is the US Legislative Coordinator for the Association of Marina Industries (AMI) located in Warren, RI. He has held this position since September 2016 and primarily works on AMI’s Legislative priorities in Washington D.C. with industry partners and AMI’s contracted lobbyist, LobbyIt. Eric also coordinates AMI’s economic data collection, analysis, and reporting, including the recent Marina Economic Impact Study and Industry Financial Benchmark Report. Eric has experience speaking at AMI’s International Marina and Boatyard Conference (IMBCC) and the Marina Association of Texas (MAT). While at the University of Rhode Island to obtain a graduate degree in Coastal and Marine Policy, Eric worked closely with Dennis Nixon teaching Introduction to Marine and Coastal Law. His graduate research led him to present at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington DC on the importance of climate change adaptation leadership in complex port systems. Recently, Eric spoke at the International Boatbuilders’ Expo and Conference (IBEX) and the Wisconsin Marine Associations annual conference.
Kurt Kuklinski, Boating Access Coordinator and Fisheries Research Supervisor, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Kurt Kuklinski serves the citizens of Oklahoma as the Boating Access Coordinator and Fisheries Research Supervisor for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. He earned a B.A. Biology degree from The College of Saint Scholastica in Duluth, MN before completing a M.S. Zoology degree at the University of Oklahoma. An applied research scientist at heart with 20 years of fisheries research experience, Kurt administers the ODWC Boating Access program with an open mind and a willingness to explore and evaluate new ideas. Since taking over the program in 2014, Kurt has supervised the completion of 17 boating access projects, with three others currently in progress.

Tom B. Langley, PE, LS, President, Langley and McDonald

Mr. Langley’s project experience includes over 40 years of master planning, project management, design and construction administration of a wide variety of marine projects. He has designed major inlets, beach stabilization and nourishment projects, dredging of rivers and harbors, bulkheads for residential, commercial and industrial uses, and all of the upland improvements associated with marine facilities. He attended North Carolina University for his BS in Civil Engineering (1975) and the University of Florida for his ME in Civil Engineering (1976). He served as Principal-In-Charge for marina projects ranging from small community piers to major marinas serving commercial interests. He also has a particular expertise in riparian rights apportionment.

Brenda Leonard, MSA, FCCM, Program Administrator, Clean Boating Programs, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Brenda Leonard represents the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection Clean Boating Programs. She has been managing Florida’s Clean Marina Program, Clean Vessel Act Program, Clean Boater Program and Clean Boating Partnership for nearly 15 years. The Clean and Resilient Marina component was added approximately 5 years ago to encourage marinas that have implemented a set of standards that help to prepare the facility for hurricanes and other disasters. These voluntary, non-regulatory, designation programs are partnership driven, criteria and incentive based pollution prevention programs for marinas, boatyards, retailers, and boaters. Clean facilities are good environmental stewards and leaders in their communities in protecting the environment. Resilient facilities strive to return to business quickly which is a direct impact on Florida’s boating economy.

Brenda is a native of Florida and has lived most of her life in Tampa. She graduated from the University of South Florida with a B.S. degree in Environmental Science & Policy and has a M.S. degree in Public Administration from the University of West Florida. In her free time Brenda enjoys gardening, rock collecting, jigsaw puzzles, spending time with family, and spending time outdoors especially in and around the water.

Kirby Marshall, PE, Principal, Applied Technology & Management, Inc. in South Carolina

Kirby Marshall is a principal with Applied Technology & Management, Inc. based out of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. He has 20 years of experience in the recreational marina industry, including all phases of project planning, permitting, and development. Specifically, Mr. Marshall has extensive experience with the Boating Infrastructure Grant (B.I.G.) program and has worked with clients in numerous states and territories obtain B.I.G. funding. Additionally, he has worked on the implantation phase of several B.I.G.-funded marina projects and has first-hand experience with the challenges that such projects often present. These include additional regulatory hurdles/scrutiny to state-specific procurement requirements and many other factors.

Ramon Martin, Fish & Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) Regions 2 and 4

Ramon is a Fish and Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) where he has administered Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration, Boating Access, CVA, and Boating Infrastructure Grant programs for states in the southeast and southwest regions since 2013. Prior to his time with WSFR, Ramon was the Assistant Program Manager for the Anadromous Fish
Restoration Program where he managed a complex inter-disciplinary program implementing habitat restoration, fish monitoring, and research projects in the San Francisco Bay-Delta and Central Valley of California in the USFWS Pacific Southwest Region. He was also the Fisheries Program Regional Supervisor with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR) where he managed Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) funded hatchery facilities, Boating and Public Fishing Areas, restored aquatic habitats, and conducted fisheries research on Georgia’s reservoirs, rivers, and estuaries.

Luis U. Vélez Martínez, PRDNER Engineer in Training, Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources

Luis U. Vélez Martínez works as an Engineer in Training for Project Planning for Boating and Fishing Access Facilities at the PR Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER). He holds a Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering from the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico and is an Associate Member of The Professional College of Engineers and Land Surveyors of Puerto Rico. He began working in the PRDNER in 2012 as a Technical Engineer inspecting and monitoring Flood Control Projects at the DNER Water and Minerals Resources Area. He transferred to the boating and fishing access facilities project in 2014, as a construction project manager. His worked experience included overseen construction performance for projects such as the Restoration of the Punta Santiago Fishing Pier, Rock Revetment at the Caño Tiburones Navigation Channel, the Reconstruction of the Administrative Facilities at the Lucchetti Reservoir and the Boat Ramp at La Parguera, in Lajas. His involvement within project tasks has also contributed to receive in 2017 the President’s Award for a useful and high quality public recreational boating access project. He will continue working as the Construction Project Manager for upcoming projects. This will include a new freshwater boating and fishing access facility at the Loiza Reservoir and a new boat ramp at the Yabucoa Bay located at the southeast of the island.

H. Scott Meister, Fish & Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) Region 4

Scott is a Fish & Wildlife Biologist with Region 4 of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife’s (USFWS) Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) where he has been employed since November of 2018. Scott coordinates the Boating Access and Boating Infrastructure Grant programs for all states in Region 4 as well as Sport Fish Restoration grants for Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Prior to his time with USFWS, Scott was employed for 24-years with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) where as a Program Coordinator he managed the Marine Sport Fish Restoration (SFR), Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG), and Clean Vessel Act (CVA) programs. Prior to managing boating-related initiatives he served as a department fish biologist conducting fisheries research on southeastern US reef fishes and ecosystems.

Scott served 4-years on the SOBA Board of Directors in the capacity of President, Vice President, and Member-at-Large. He has chaired numerous taskforces for the organization and continues to work towards SOBA’s goal of developing safe, effective, recreational boating facilities for use by the public.

Todd Mize, PE, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Engineer, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Todd currently works as a professional engineer for the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR). He received his bachelor of science in Civil Engineer from the University of Mississippi in 2004. The same year, he began his career with the State of Alabama’s Environmental Department. In 2006 Todd made an in-state transfer to ADCNR’s general engineering section. During his 13 year tenure with the engineering section he gained a professional knowledge of boating access design and construction. He has held his current position since 2018.

Kevin Michael, Executive Director, Water Sports Industry Association

Fueled by a lifelong passion for towed water sports, Kevin Michael has spent nearly his entire life on the water and has been heavily involved in the industry for over 30 years. At 18 years old, Kevin won the coveted “Skip Gilkerson Award” for the best male performance at the 1993 Show Ski National Championships. To this day, he is still the youngest recipient of the award. This fueled his professional career
to begin in Japan as well as skiing professionally at parks like Marine World and Sea World. During that time, “Kevco” developed a passion for wake sports and later he became the editor of Wakeboarding Magazine for 13 years. Kevin has now worked with the Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA) for seven years, and has served as executive director for the last three. Kevin’s favorite part of the job continues to be anything related to the water, which includes field work such as #PassTheHandle, Wake Responsibly and other projects to promote and protect all of the towed water sports.

Nathan Owens, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)
Mr. Owens joined the UDWR’s Aquatic Invasive Species Program five years ago and has served as the statewide program coordinator the last three years. He helped develop the cooperative containment plan with the National Park Service and Arizona Game and Fish Department for quagga mussels at Lake Powell. His vision for the AIS Program includes data-driven outreach efforts, incorporating more efficient methods for watercraft decontamination, and partnering with adjacent states to develop a more comprehensive and complementary regional AIS strategy. Mr. Owens also serves on the Executive Committee of the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species.

Michael Pascucilla, MPH, REHS, CEO/Director of Health, East Shore District Health Department
Michael Pascucilla was appointed as the Director of Health for the East Shore District Health Department (ESDHD) in 2010 which serves the Towns of Branford, East Haven and North Branford. Prior to ESDHD, he served as the Assistant Director of Health for the City of Hartford, Department of Health & Human Services, and held positions at both the University of Connecticut and Yale University. Michael holds a B.S. degree in Public Health/Nutrition from Southern Connecticut University and a Master’s Degree in Public Health from the University of Connecticut. He is a Registered Sanitarian and has over 28 years’ experience as a public health official in local, state and federal government. Michael also is an Adjunct Professor at Southern Connecticut State University and a Lecturer at Yale University in the School of Public Health located in New Haven, Connecticut. Michael resides in the Town of Guilford, Connecticut with his wife and two sons.

R. Michael Payton, Navigation & Boating Infrastructure Unit Supervisor, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Michael supervises and manages the State of Connecticut boat launch program, including construction and renovation project oversite, and establishing policies, standards, and procedures for boat launch design, operations, and maintenance. He also designs and constructs ADA accessible boat launches. Michael coordinates launch repairs, alterations and upgrades while overseeing CVA and BIG program operations including reviews CVA and BIG projects for ADA compliance. Michael is responsible for administering the USF&W Federal grant program and supervises the State’s navigation safety program. Michael addresses navigational hazards and conflicts and reviews and advises officials and individuals on navigation and speed zone proposals. Also, Michael establishes standards and procedures, and reviews, drafts and issues navigational and regulatory marker permits.

Mayra T. Garcia Pérez, PRNDER Project Leader, Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources
Mayra Garcia is the project leader for “Project Planning for Boating and Fishing Access Facilities” at the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources. This project developed coastal and inland boating access facilities, funded through the sportfish restoration act. She has held several positions within the agency since 1987, including President of PRDNER Bid Board (2014) and Special Assistant to DNER Secretary (2008-2012). She graduated from the University of Puerto Rico, Humacao Campus with a B.S. in Biology with a concentration in Coastal Marine Biology. A 32-year employment experience, had allowed her to find solutions to concealed boating access development through innovative ways for conservation. Environmental aspects, as well as State and Federal permits compliance are part of her task during project planning. Throughout the years, her participation in the boating access project, contributed to PRDNER receiving two awards within the SOBA organization. One in 2003 as a small access category and another in 2017 under the President's Award category. She has attended several SOBA Conferences for the past 15 years adding this knowledge and extraordinary experience to local projects in Puerto Rico.
Bill Perry, Fish & Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) Region 5
Bill is Fish & Wildlife Biologist for WSFR in the Northeast Region. He has managed BIG, CVA, and Boating Access grants for the 13 states in the region for 4 years. Prior to joining WSFR, Bill worked for the Migratory Bird program on seabird projects and for the National Wildlife Refuge System as a planner. Bill has worked for the USFWS for 15 years.

Pete Peterson, P.E., Sr. Coastal Engineer, Applied Technology & Management, Inc.
Mr. Peterson has extensive experience with coastal structures, tidal and current studies, and marine construction. He has worked on and served as the Engineer of Record for marine and waterfront projects throughout the U.S., Central America, and the Caribbean. He has been responsible for all facets of marine projects, including planning, design, permitting, and construction. Mr. Peterson’s work includes large marine construction projects including commercial docks, piers, revetments, jetties, dredging, and mooring facilities. He has an extensive background in oceanographic and water related activities from both a construction and environmental perspective. Mr. Peterson works on a variety of international marina, coastal, and port projects, including Central America, China, and throughout the Caribbean. Projects include private marinas, large cruise ship siting studies, coastal processes and shoreline change analysis, coastal structure design, and due diligence investigations for marina and coastal developments.

Mark Pirrello, PE, Engineer, Moffat & Nichol
As a professional engineer with more than 28 years of experience, Mr. Pirrello regularly serves as project manager or civil/coastal engineer for a broad range of public and private waterfront and coastal projects involving multi-disciplined, multi-firm consultant teams. He has provided planning and engineering services for a wide variety of waterfront projects involving field investigations, alternative development, analysis, evaluation, design, construction document preparation, and post-construction-award services. Through his work on urban waterfront projects, Mr. Pirrello has worked with local communities and stakeholders to address their concerns as well as with local, state and federal regulatory agencies to provide environmental documents and obtain necessary permits. His experience with coastal and hydraulic engineering including an emphasis on riverine and coastal flood hazards.

Mr. Pirrello has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Lafayette College and a Master of Science in Coastal Engineering from University of Florida. He is a registered Engineer in Florida and Virginia. His professional affiliations include American Shore & Beach Preservation Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, Association of Coastal Engineers, and PIANC where he currently serves as the US delegate on the Recreation Navigation Commission. Mr. Pirrello currently works for Moffatt & Nichol where he has been employed for more than 17 years. His work experience includes projects along the eastern seaboard, gulf coast, Caribbean islands, and inland waterways of the US.

Mary Price, Fish & Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) Region 7
Mary is a Fish and Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) program in the Alaska Region (2011-present). She manages grants for the Sport Fish Restoration, Boating Access, Aquatic Education, Boating Infrastructure, and Clean Vessel Act programs. She has served as a Fishery Biologist with the Service in the Alaska Region for the past 27 years at three field stations and in the Regional Office. Prior to moving to Alaska, she was an Area Fishery Biologist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Fishery Biologist with the Klamath National Forest.

Paul Rauch, Assistant Director, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Headquarters
Paul Rauch is the Assistant Director for Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). Mr. Rauch is responsible for the administration and oversight of federal grant programs that provide over $1 billion of funding annually to help States, territories and the District of Columbia conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, their habitats, and the hunting, sport fishing and recreational
boating opportunities they provide. During his tenure as Assistant Director, Mr. Rauch has focused on program improvements through collaboration with State and industry partners.

Previously he has served as Assistant Director for Business Management and Operations for the Service. In this role, he served as the Chief Financial Officer, Head of the Contracting Activity, Designated Safety and Health Official, and Senior Sustainability Officer, while leading the financial operations, procurement, facilities, personal property, engineering, economics and safety programs for the organization. In addition to his business management experience, Mr. Rauch has a background in natural resource management and has worked in a variety of positions over his 26 year career with the Service.

Kimberly Riley, Community Engagement Coordinator, The Bay Foundation
Kimberly Riley joined the Southern California Boater Education Program team in 2017. As a Community Engagement Coordinator with The Bay Foundation, she is dedicated to engaging the public on waste reduction efforts. Her work with the boating community includes monitoring and reporting of vessel sewage resources and overseeing volunteers who distribute pollution prevention tools and resources. Kimberly has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Gordon C. Robertson and Marilyn Sue Robertson
Gordon and Sue have owned eight boats in their 48 years of marriage having boated on inland lakes, large navigable rivers, the Chesapeake Bay, the Atlantic and of course the Intra Coastal Waterway from VA to both coasts of Florida. They have logged over 7,000 miles on their current boat since acquiring it in August 2015.

Gordon retired in 2014 after a natural resources career spanning 43 years, much of which has been in natural resource policy and administration. Through most of his career, he has been involved in key federal and state legislative and policy decisions for the benefit of anglers, boaters and hunters and the resources upon which they depend. Sue retired in 2011 after a 41 year career as a dental hygienist, having worked mostly in periodontal practices and also served as an adjunct clinical professor at WVU-Tech for six years. Sue has a bachelor’s of science degree in dental hygiene from West Virginia University. Gordon received both his bachelor’s degree in Forestry and his master’s degree in fish and wildlife management from West Virginia University.

Ed Rudberg, PhD, CEO CD3, General Benefit Corporation
As the third generation of his family in the boating industry, Dr. Rudberg has a passion for outdoor recreation and conservation. His Ph.D. in Natural Resources Science and Management blended communication and psychological theory to catalyze individuals’ adoption of conservation behaviors on lakes. As an entrepreneur of over a decade, he has developed numerous conservation focused products which grew to national distribution. He is formally trained in qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, project management, and various behavioral metrics. He is an avid angler, bow fisherman, hunter and boater.

Sara Sherman, PE, Lead Civil Engineer, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Sara has worked for the Engineering Section of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission for 11 years and has been the agency’s lead civil engineer for the past 3 years. Sara is responsible for design, permitting, and project management of agency infrastructure projects. These projects primarily include public boating access and public fishing areas and can also include game lands projects. Sara works on projects statewide but her specialty is coastal projects. Sara has completed 52 projects with NCWRC, including 37 boat ramp projects. Sara also works with local governments and other partners to evaluate potential projects’ feasibility and set up partnership agreements to expand public access throughout the state. Prior
to joining NCWRC, Sara began her government career with NCDOT. Sara has a Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University.

Jackie Specht, NOAA Coastal Management Fellow, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Jackie Specht holds a B. A. in Biology from Hamilton College and an M. S. in Oceanography from Rutgers University. She currently is a NOAA Coastal Management Fellow at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, located in Annapolis, MD. Jackie leads efforts to address sediment management issues that will assist state resilience goals. She manages grants for the Selsey Road Resiliency Project and the Beneficial Use Site Suitability Model. She also lead the development of BUILD (Beneficial Use: Identifying Locations for Dredge), which is an ArcGIS tool that allows project planners to proactively identify sources of dredged material to place in restoration projects, or vice versa.

Ben Solomon, Environmental Specialist, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
After graduating from Appalachian State University with a degree in Environmental Geology, Ben has served in various roles with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission as an Environmental Specialist and as an Engineering Technician. Aside from being the CVA and Clean Marina Program Coordinator, Ben also handles the environmental management of 10 NCWRC shooting ranges across the state.

Ed Tillett, Editor-in-Chief and General Manager, Waterway Guide Media
Ed Tillett is Editor-in-Chief and General Manager of Waterway Guide Media. He took an early retirement from Northrop Grumman Corporation to fulfill a lifelong ambition of combining boating, travel, journalism, media design and publishing in a single job. A lifelong resident of Virginia, Ed is an award winning multimedia producer who has been honored with five Tellys and seven Communicator of the Year awards for his work in instructional design, media production, scripting and directing. A former radio and television news anchor with WHRO public broadcasting (NPR & PBS) and the NBC TV affiliate in Hampton Roads, his lifelong enthusiasm for learning has provided multiple opportunities to engage in projects with corporate, broadcast and government clients worldwide.

A lifelong sailor, fisherman and outdoorsman, he and his wife, Anne, now own a 1947 Trumpy diesel cruiser, Adonia, which they proudly share with anyone interested in hearing her story. Growing up on Chesapeake Bay and North Carolina’s beaches, Ed recalls the stories of his grandfather’s tenure with the Lighthouse Service and U.S. Coast Guard as keeper of Cape Henry, Corolla, Thimble Shoals, Old Plantation Flats, Lower Cedar Point, Bodie Island and other lights during his lifetime. Ed’s extensive travels in Cuba over the past 15 years resulted in the latest Waterway Guide publication, Cuba Bound, to join the company’s line-up of cruising guides.

Ruth Utzurrum, Grants Program Manager, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR), Region 1
Ruth currently manages all WSFR grant programs (SFR, WR, SWG, CVA, BIG, and Coastal) in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the WSFR Pacific Northwest and Islands Region. She has been with WSFR since 2010. Originally based at a WSFR satellite office in Honolulu, she moved to Portland in 2017 as the regional operations were consolidated. She shares the region’s Boating Access, BIG, and CVA folio with Paul Hayduk (for ID, OR, and WA), Chris Swenson (HI and AS), and Heidi Nelson (ID and OR CVA).

Lisa E. Van Alstyne, Fish & Wildlife Policy Administrator, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) Headquarters Office
Lisa is the National Policy Lead for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR). She has worked for WSFR Policy since November 2009. Prior to that, Lisa was New York State’s Clean Vessel Act Coordinator.
**Gregory J. Weykamp, ASLA, LEED AP, BD+C**

Greg Weykamp has more than twenty five years’ experience in the planning and design of the public realm, with an emphasis on implementation of sustainable built landscapes and urban waterfront environments. His project experience spans marinas, waterfront parks, master planned communities, urban revitalization, streetscapes, parks and recreation facilities, medical and university campuses, and military installations. As a LEED Accredited Professional, Mr. Weykamp approaches every project from the perspective of efficiency in design, maintenance, and operations to create the most environmentally sustainable project possible within a pragmatic framework of cost and value to the client and community. As a registered landscape architect, certified nationally by the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards, Mr. Weykamp has the technical expertise and proven construction experience to ensure safe and efficient completion of the built environment.

**Darren Williams, Operations Supervisor, York County Tourism Development**

Darren Williams is the Waterfront Operation Supervisor in Historic Yorktown Virginia. He’s overseen operation of the Riverwalk Landing area since 2013. Having lived and worked in Yorktown for a majority of his life he is passionate about highlighting the town and its waterways.

**William J. Young, Vice President of Marina Operations, Morningstar Marinas**

Bill started working at Morningstar in the spring of 2008 at the Skippers Landing location and transferred to Kings Point as the General Manager in June of that same year. After six successful years running Morningstar’s largest marina (800 boats), Bill moved into a corporate role as the Director of Marina Services. In May of 2019 Bill was promoted to VP of Marina Operations. Morningstar has more than 3,500 slips, and strong ancillary programs including Transient, Rental Boats, Services, Food & Beverage and Fuel.

Prior to Morningstar, Mr. Young spent 15 years in wholesale distribution including roles as Operations Manager, Sales Manager, General Manager, and Director of Field Services. Mr. Young graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 1994 with a degree in Business Logistics. He obtained his captains license in 2010, served five years as the Mecklenburg County Lake Norman Marine Commission, completed the AMI Advanced Marina Management Course in 2017, and was elected to the board of directors for the Association of Marina Industries in 2019.
2019 ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTATIONs
of the
States Organization for Boating Access

National Boating Access Symposium
Portsmouth, Virginia
Wednesday, September 12, 2019

Outgoing President Award
For service as president

1988: Keith Wilson  
1990: William H. Ivers  
1992: Paul Gregory  
1993: Mike Markell  
1994: James Duke  
1995: Dave Obern  
1996: Judith A. Wheeler  
1997: Tom Vaughn  
1998: Frank Ryck  
1999: Paul Curtis  
2000: Mike Hough  
2001: Jill Murphey  
2002: Steve Lewis  
2003: Larry Rider  
2004: Larry Killien  
2005: Julie McQuade  
2006: Terry Boyd  
2007: Ed Poolos  
2008: Kent Skaar  
2009: Wayne Shuyler  
2010: James Adams  
2011: Steve Miller  
2012: Janine Belleque  
2013: James Adams  
2014: Ron Christofferson  
2015: Scott Meister

William H. Ivers Award

Presented to an individual who has contributed significantly over at least 15 years to the design, construction, management or administration of boat access facilities or programs

1993: Bill Satow for leadership in the development of California’s harbors and marinas.
1994: George Van Zevern for a lifetime of service to the nation’s boaters through his many publications.
1996: Keith Wilson for a career dedicated to enhancing Michigan’s boating program, for leadership during the founding of SOBA, and for his continuing contributions and involvement on behalf of SOBA.
1997: Judith A. Wheeler for a career devoted to preserving the public trust interest in Michigan’s waterways and exemplary service to the nation’s boaters and disabled outdoor recreationists through her chairmanship of SOBA’s Barrier Free Task Force.
1998: Ron Stone for a career devoted to the preservation and enhancement of the nation’s boating access facilities network, for his vision and instrumental role in the creation of the “Boating Access Enhancement” component of the 1984 Wallop-Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Program, and for his leadership in forming the States Organization for Boating Access in 1986.
1999: Tom Taylor for his long-term service to SOBA as mentor, counselor and all-Around ombudsman to SOBA’s relationship with U.S. Fish & Wildlife as its Chief of Resources Management.
2000: Bill Curry for his many contributions to and support of SOBA since its formation, for his management of California’s boating access program, and for his efforts on behalf of disabled boaters.
2001: Mike Markell for a career devoted to the enhancement of boating access in Minnesota, for his role in founding SOBA in 1986 and for his service as its fourth president in 1993.
2002: Dave Obern for his contribution in the development of the Layout and Design Guidelines for Recreational Boat Launching and Transient Tie-Up Facilities, for serving as a SOBA board member, as well as president in 1995.
2003: Tom Vaughn for his devoted contributions to SOBA as executive board member and as president in 1997, as well as his many years of service with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission boating access program.
2004: Larry Rider for his many years of service as a SOBA board member and his efforts to represent the recreational boater and angler in the re-authorization of Wallop-Breaux.
2005: Ronald Rhodehamel, P.E. for his legacy of contributions to SOBA and the Oregon State Marine Board.
2006: Robert Williams for his devotion and contribution as a vocal and passionate proponent of public recreational boating access in the State of Maine.
2007: Tom Donek for his development of the Sport Fish and Boating Access Program in the State of Alaska and
involvement with over 100 boating access projects at 70 sites, including land purchases at 15 of those sites.

2008: Daniel P. Thompson for his distinguished service on the SOBA Board and for his contributions to providing boating access to citizens of Alabama for 38 years.

2009: Erasto Nieves for 23 years of pioneering the boating access program in Puerto Rico.

2010: Mike Hough for many years of service to the recreational boaters of Kentucky and to SOBA.

2011: Steve Lewis, for his service on the SOBA board, and for his numerous contributions to boating access.

2012: Lacy Nichols, for 22 years of service to the State of Delaware, and to the development of public boating access facilities. For steadfast dedication and participation on the SOBA Executive Board, Numerous National Task Forces and Committees, a Past SOBA Conference Chair, and finally, for a lifelong commitment to the ongoing improvement of public boating access.

2013: Wayne Shuyler for more than 30 years of service and a lifelong commitment to enhancing public access to the waterways for recreational boating.

2014: Terry N. Boyd for his commitment to managing hurricane clean-up and boating access rebuilding efforts for the State of Alabama and a lifelong commitment and advocacy on behalf of SOBA.

2015: Stephen A. Kesler for a 25-year commitment to developing and managing a formal and proactive boating access program for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

2016: James Adams for an 18-year commitment to developing and managing a formal and proactive Boating Access Program for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

2017: Steve Miller in memory of a great man, friend and conservationist, who exemplified the highest standards of professionalism and outstanding achievement while working for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

2018: Larry Killien for a 34-year commitment to the people and boating community of Minnesota by fostering relationships and managing proactive boating access and Safe Harbors programs for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

2019: To be announced at the 2019 National Boating Access Symposium.

Outstanding Service Award

Presented to an individual or agency who has made either a one-time or continuing contribution to the fight to provide improved access for boaters and anglers to our nation’s public waters

1990: Ron Stone for service to the nation’s anglers and boaters through leadership in the fight for more and better public access to our waters.

1993: Senator John B. Breaux for outstanding service to all anglers and boaters through co-creation of the National Aquatic Resources Trust Fund.

1994: Senator Malcolm Wallop for outstanding service to all anglers and boaters through co-creation of the National Aquatic Resources Trust Fund.

1997: Ron Poff for outstanding contributions to boating access in Wisconsin over a 41-year career, for landmark research into the concepts of boat carrying-capacity, and for his pivotal role in establishing Wisconsin’s 1994 “Public Access Policy for Waterways” law.

1998: Congressman John Tanner for his instrumental role in restructuring and reauthorizing the Wallop-Breaux program in 1998, the provisions of which are incorporated in the “TEA-21” highway bill signed into law in June 1998.

1999: Detroit District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for innovative and far-sighted cooperation with District States in the Upper Midwest/ Great Lakes area on boating access enhancement projects.

2000: Steve Kesler for his many innovations in the management of Virginia’s boating access program including access site modernization, maintenance program improvements, and cost efficiency measures.

2001: Michael Sciuilla for spearheading efforts that led to the enactment of the new Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG) component of the Wallop-Breaux program.

2002: John MacPherson for outstanding professional contributions on numerous projects for SOBA on behalf of America’s boaters and anglers.

2003: Terry Kincaid for his outstanding contributions and guidance in developing and promoting water-based recreation in northern Idaho and western Montana.
2004: Michigan Department of Natural Resources for commitment to use of leading edge technology to develop an interactive website that helps boaters find pertinent boating access information.

2005: Bob Sousa, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, for dedication and persistence in leading the charge for access for recreational boaters and anglers.

2007: Mike Ammon for his 33 years of service to the boating community in which during that time he was the initiator for what is now known as the California Boating Trails Program.

2008: Brian Bohnsack, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for exceptional career achievement and dedication to providing and maintaining boating access facilities throughout the United States.

2009: Ted Leverman, Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, for 15 years of outstanding service to the boaters and anglers of Indiana.

2010: Kim Elverum for his initiative, flexibility and passion over more than 35 years of service in the funding of boating access to the Recreational Boaters of Minnesota.

2011: Ryck Lydecker for 16 years of service on numerous national panels, committees and councils dedicated to boating, clean water and public boating access.

2012: Jon Fleishman, Gator Dock, for over two decades of service developing innovative design and fabrication of public boating access docks, piers and gangways.

2013: Doug Hobbs, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, for his commitment and exceptional leadership to the boating and fishing communities.

2014: Steven Miller for his commitment to boating access, and his exceptional leadership of the boating community.

2015: Craig Walker for exceptional knowledge and leadership in boating access programs and commitment to the boating community.

2016: John Sprague for his leadership in boating access programs and his commitment to the boating community.

2017: Fred Bedell for his leadership and commitment to boating access programs and in the state of Maryland.

2018: Jim Richardson for his commitment to boater education, water safety and the boating communities of Texas.

2019: To be announced at the 2019 National Boating Access Symposium.

**Professional Service Award**

*Presented to an individual or group of volunteers for service on a special project or ongoing efforts on behalf of SOBA*

1992: Judith A. Wheeler for outstanding service as Chair of the Barrier Free Task Force.


1996: Bill Curry for outstanding service as Chair of the Combined Handbook Task Force.

1997: Jim Zohrer for outstanding service on SOBA’s Small Craft Ramp and Access Committee and as SOBA treasurer for 1996 and 1997.

1998: Eric Ott for his many years of service to SOBA on several task forces and as an At-Large member of the SOBA Executive Board in 1992 and 1993.

1999: SOBA’s Maintenance Manual Handbook Task Force consisting of Jill Murphey, Chair (ID), Larry Killien (MN), Lacy Nichols (DE), Don Tobaben (NC), Tom Donek (AK) and Tim Bazley (Moffat & Nichols Engineers) for outstanding service in producing SOBA’s Operations & Maintenance Program Guidelines for Recreational Boating Facilities.

2000: Kevin Atkinson for his leadership of SOBA’s CVA Committee and for his development of the SOBA website.

2001: Kim Czapla for leadership in the development of SOBA’s website and for contributions to SOBA’s Outreach, Education and Technology Committee.

2003: Mike Hough for his many years of dedicated service to SOBA as an active member on the Executive Board, for hosting the 1996 conference, for editing the newsletter, for serving as SOBA president in 2000, and for representing SOBA on the Sport Fish Boating Partnership Council.

2004: Big Payette Lake Water Quality Council for dedicated service in promoting educational activities to maintain, protect, and improve the water quality of Big Payette Lake.
2005: SOBA’s Clean Vessel Act Committee consisting of Kevin Atkinson (CA), Rocky Browder (SC), Jill Murphey (ID), Ron Rhodehamel (OR), Rick Huntley (CT), Ed Poolos (TN), Bob Clark (VA), Tom Callahan (EMP Industries), and Peter Burlinson (Edson International) for outstanding service in producing SOBA’s Performance of Marine-Use Waste Pump-out Stations.

2006: SOBA’s Design Handbook Re-Write Task Force consisting of Terry Boyd (AL), John McPherson (MO), Jill Murphey (ID), Tim Bazley (CA), Bobby Edwards (WY), Mike Hough (KY), and Kent Skaar (MN) for dedication, effort and timely completion of the SOBA Design Handbook, Second Edition.

2007: Tom Parker for his 34 years of professionalism, integrity and commitment to natural resources and his significant accomplishments involving the 2005 - 2009 Fishing and Motorboat Access Plan, which outlines the current status of Department-administered boating facilities.

2008: Gary Iles, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, for his dedication and commitment to SOBA as evidenced by his hard work on the Executive Board and numerous SOBA Committees.

2009: Vaughn Douglass, US Fish and Wildlife Service, for 25 years of Federal Grant Assistance for boating access to the states in Region 5.

2010: Construction Techniques for Recreational Boating Access Facilities, 2009 DVD Committee consisting of Terry Boyd (AL), Gary Iles (IL), Ted Leverman (IN), James Adams (VA), Lacy Nichols (DE), Kevin Atkinson (CA), Tim Bazley (CA), and Dave Kieffer (OH).

2011: Boating Access Operations and Maintenance Manual Committee: James Adams (VA), Lacy Nichols (DE), Tim Gilley (FL), John Kirk (VA), Phil Miller (OH), Tom Holman (MS), John Skans (MS), Ron Christofferson (AZ), Kristen Kuykendall (WA), Dennis Kincer (WV), Rachel McMillan (VA), Molly Kirk (VA).

2012: Alberto (Al) Ortiz, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Region 5, for providing high quality service assisting states implement sport fish restoration programs.

2013: Julie McQuade, for her ongoing efforts on behalf of SOBA’s mission. 2014: No nominations received.

2015: Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force: Nancy Stewart (MN), Craig Walker (UT), Glenn Dolphin (OR), Todd Mize (AL), Bob Wakeman (WI), Anne Smith (VA), Brian Bohnsack (USFWS), Laura Norcutt (USFWS), Wendy Flynn (CT), and Kirsten Barta (MN).

2016: Patricia Harrell for her steadfast service to recreational boating and dedication to boating access design, construction and maintenance.

2017: Al Wolslegel for this steadfast service to recreational boating and dedication to the Clean Vessel Act grant and boating programs.

2018: Not Awarded.

2019: To be announced at the 2019 National Boating Access Symposium.

Special Recognition Award

Presented to an individual, group, organization or political subdivision in recognition of activities singularly illustrative or supportive of SOBA’s mission

1988: “Dick” Skinner for service as Chair of the Small Craft Ramp and Access Committee.

1992: William Jansen for service as Chair of Small Craft Harbor and Dock Committee and service on the Barrier Free Task Force.

1994: Appalachian Power Company for cooperation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in the development of access on company and state waters.

1995: City Utilities of Springfield (MO) for cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation on four public boating facilities.

1995: Lower Colorado River Authority (TX) for providing ten new, and twelve renovated, public boating and fishing access areas.

1996: NMMA Boating Facilities Development Committee for a decade of strong support for SOBA.


1996: Merl Mews (ID) for service to boaters and anglers throughout his career as Chief of the Development Bureau of the Idaho Parks and Recreation Department.

1997: Bass Anglers’ Sportsmen’s Society for BASS staff members Wayne Gobel’s and Shupp’s effort at protecting nationwide public waterway access rights.

1998: Denny Yoder for his personal and corporate support of SOBA and its mission.
1999: Frank Ryck for his many years of service to SOBA in numerous Executive Board positions including president in 1998.

2000: Duke Power Company for many years of participation in SOBA conferences and for its “access-friendly” corporate policies.

2001: Bill Curry, Dave Obern and Dan Natchez for their contributions in achieving a national consensus on the proposed Boating Facilities rule to be implemented under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

2003: James Mark Wood for his 15 years of professionalism and dedication to boating access for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

2004: Philip D. Lownes for his diligence and professionalism in promoting and developing boating access facilities in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

2005: Jerry Novotney, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service for many years of being a true partner in federal and state boating efforts.

2007: André Boudreau, Block Island Pumpout Program, and The Committee for the Great Salt Pond for outstanding environmental outreach programs and boating community environmental protection efforts.

2008: NMMA Government Relations and BoatUS, for their outstanding work in helping to ensure the passage of the Clean Boating Act of 2008 which prevented the implementation of a national permitting program for recreational boaters.

2009: Lower Colorado River Authority, City of Austin and Texas A&M University for research that contributes to the management of boating satisfaction, access, recreation and safety.

2010: Lacy E. Nichols, Jr. for 19 years of outstanding service to SOBA and to the recreational boaters of Delaware.

2011: Federal Lakes Recreation Committee Detroit Lake for providing the impetus to expand boating access to Detroit Lake.

2012: Thom Dammrich, NMMA, for dedication in coordinating industry leaders in promoting safe and enjoyable recreational boating.

2013: Joyce Johnson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for her efforts in the administration of Federal grant programs in support of SOBA’s mission.

2014: Lisa Van Alstyne in grateful appreciation and recognition of her leadership in fishing, boating and hunting programs that will endure into the future.

2015: Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation for its leadership in implementing programs to insure the future for boating and fishing throughout America.

2016: Bernice McArdle for her leadership in implementing programs to ensure the future for boating and fishing throughout America.

2017: Not awarded.

2018: ABYC Aquatic Invasive Species Product Technical Committee for their leadership in understanding the complexities and challenges of how AIS affects boat design and overcoming them to find solutions that will benefit the boating industry as a whole.

2019: To be announced at the 2019 National Boating Access Symposium.

State CVA Program Excellence Award

Presented to a state agency having primary responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) of 1992 which has excelled over time and provided outstanding service to its residents.

1998: Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries for its enlightened and innovative CVA program involving the extensive deployment of a network of pumpout boats in the state’s coastal waterways.

1999: California Department of Boating and Waterways for its innovative approaches to providing pumpout services on the highly diverse waterway network in California.

2000: Maryland Department of Natural Resources for establishing the first pumpout grant program in the nation, which served as the model for the federal Clean Vessel Act pumpout grants program.

2001: Florida Department of Environmental Protection for its leadership and innovations in promoting “clean marina” concepts and for its employment of a web-based public information system about pumpouts and marinas in Florida.

2002: Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency for its unique and innovative way of securing positive working relationships with marinas across the state.

2003: Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Watercraft, for providing an outstanding service to Ohio boaters by dedicating an employee to the
program, which has provided additional pumpouts across the state.

2004: No nominations received.

2005: Oregon State Marine Board for dedication and excellence in implementing the Clean Vessel Act in island and coastal waters of the state.

2006: South Carolina Clean Vessel Act Program for excellence in providing pumpout grants and services that benefit South Carolina boaters.

2007: Virginia Department of Health for excellence in providing pumpouts and pumpout services that benefit Virginia boaters.

2008: Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection for excellence in providing pumpout services that benefit Connecticut boaters.

2009: No nominations received.

2010: New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife for excellence in pumpout services through partnerships, innovative approaches, and thoughtful planning.

2011: New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation Clean Vessel Act Program for providing outstanding pumpout facilities, pumpout boats, O & M grants, and partnerships.

2012: Arkansas Dept of Health (Marine) Sanitation Program for greatly expanding the availability of pumpout facilities and developing a comprehensive inspection program.

2013: Mississippi Department of Marine Resources for providing outstanding pump-out facilities, planning, education and partnerships.

2014: Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, for providing outstanding pumpout facilities, planning, education, and partnerships.

2015: California Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways for providing outstanding pumpout facilities, planning, education and partnerships.

2016: Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Boating Services Unit for providing outstanding pumpout facilities, planning, education and partnerships.

2017: Florida Department of Natural Resources – Clean Vessel Act Program for providing outstanding pumpout facilities, planning, education and partnerships.

2018: Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Coastal Resources Division for their commitment and successful re-establishment of the CVA program, resulting in positive relationships with coastal marinas.

2019: North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality – Division of Coastal Management for their outstanding commitment to the expansion of the CVA program and promotion of boater education.

State Boating Access Program Excellence Award

Presented to a state agency having primary responsibility for boat access development which has excelled over time and provided outstanding service to its residents

1993: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for farsighted management of its public access facilities.

1995: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for outreach efforts including a video and brochure about Wallop-Breaux.

1996: Oregon State Marine Board for sustained excellence over many years in the construction, operation, and maintenance of boat access facilities and for the quality of its public outreach efforts.

1997: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Trails and Waterways for its continuing dedication to the concepts of free public access to the state’s massive water resources, in administering one of the largest waterway access infrastructure networks in the nation (1500 sites).

1998: Wyoming Game and Fish Department for its innovative boating access program, including the 1997 renovation of the Saratoga Lake diversion dam and headgate and its 1997 award-winning Anvil Draw Boat Ramp project on Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

1999: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources for its continuing excellence in the modernization and management of its waterway access network, including two SOBA “Project Excellence” award winners.

2000: Michigan Department of Natural Resources for its long-term and groundbreaking leadership in financing and developing waterway access facilities, most notably in the Great Lakes including two SOBA “Marinas and Harbors” project excellence award winners—Presque
Isle Harbor on Lake Huron and Harbor View Marina on Lake Michigan.

2001: California Department of Boating and Waterways for its long-term leadership in the boating access field and its enlightened and innovative financing of boating access programs in California.

2002: Missouri Department of Conservation for its long-term and excellent relationship with the citizens of Missouri in providing river and stream access.

2003: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for its long-term, efficient management and modernization of its public access network.

2004: Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for their innovative approach in developing new boating access facilities to meet the needs of regional and national fishing tournaments.

2006: Oregon State Marine Board for grasp of the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program and their ability to deliver the needed facilities to the public.

2007: Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency for innovative use of the BIG Tier I program for the Tennessee River Water Trail.

2008: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for excellence in maintaining boating access in a highly urbanized and ecologically sensitive environment.

2009: Maine Department of Conservation, Boating Facilities Division for over four decades of excellence and service to the recreational boaters of Maine.

2010: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, for continued excellence and service to the people of Wisconsin in providing boating access to the waters of the state and for developing an online database of public access sites.

2011: Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Watercraft for excellence in providing quality boat launching and marina facilities to the boaters of Ohio.

2012: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Engineering Services Division for outstanding planning to assess public boating access needs and implementation of programs to address those needs.

2013: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, for providing high quality public launch facilities for the boaters of Georgia.

2014: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for the development of their “Grants to Localities for Public Boating Access Facilities” Program.

2015: Arizona Game and Fish Department for their outstanding commitment and success in developing safe and innovative boating access facilities throughout the State of Arizona.

2016: Alaska Department of Fish and Game - Boating Access Program for their outstanding commitment and success in developing safe and durable boating access facilities throughout the State of Alaska.

2017: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources - Boating Infrastructure Grant Program for their outstanding commitment and success in developing safe and durable recreational boating infrastructure throughout the State of South Carolina.

2018: Not awarded.

**State BIG Program Excellence Award**

*Presented to a state agency having primary responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Boating Infrastructure Grant which has excelled over time and provided outstanding service to its residents.*

2017: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources - Boating Infrastructure Grant Program for their outstanding commitment and success in developing safe and durable recreational boating infrastructure throughout the State of South Carolina.

2018: Not awarded.

**Past Outstanding Project Awards**

*Presented to an agency, group, or corporation for quality, unique, useful, economical or innovative projects.*

Projects are judged on the basis of:

- Utilization of sound engineering principals
- Economy of design, materials, time, etc.
- Innovative design
- Embodiment of SOBA design guidelines
- Ease and cost of maintenance and operation
- Potential life span of the project
- Accessibility
• New or improved materials, methods, or construction
• Safety practices

**Small Access Category**

1995: Alsip Access (IL) on the Cal-Sag Channel in the Chicago Metro area.

1995: Marquette Access (IA) on the Mississippi River, a cooperative venture between the City of Marquette and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

1996: John F. Kennedy Memorial Park (NY) on the Lower Hudson River in the City of Yonkers.

1997: Depoe Bay Harbor (OR) on the Oregon Coast in the City of Depoe Bay.


1998: Auburn Lake Public Access Site (WI), Fond du Lac County, 1999: San Souci Landing (AR) on the Mississippi River, a cooperative venture between the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the City of Osceola.


2001: Slippery Rock Launch (CA) on the Kern River in Kern County, a cooperative project of California Boating and Waterways and the Bureau of Land Management – Bakersfield.

2002: Moffitt Beach Boat Ramp Facility (NY) on Sacandaga Lake in the town of Lake Pleasant in Hamilton County.

2003: La Plata Freshwater Fishing and Access (PR) on the La Plata Reservoir in the town of Toa Alta, Puerto Rico.

2004: Fort Osage Access (MO) at historic Fort Osage on the Missouri River.

2005: Stome Park (OR), a $201,000 project on the Siletz River in Lincoln County, partially funded by a grant from the Oregon State Marine Board.

2006: Oyster Creek Boating Access Area (NC), a $341,000 project in eastern Carteret County.

2007: Kern River Granite Launch and River Access (CA), a $208,800 project near the Bodfish exit off Highway 178.

2008: Negro Bar Boat Launching Facility (CA), a $302,000 project on the American River in the City of Folsom.


2010: Eight Point Lake Boating Access Site (MI), the first public boating access on largest lake (400 acres) in Clare County, Michigan.

2011: Indian Mary Park, Mike Cooley Ramp (OR) for innovative approach in using natural river features to create an environmentally-friendly, safe launch site for the Josephine County Parks.

2012: Red Hills Lake, (IL), for creative designing to integrate an ADA compliant boat launching facility while retaining the natural features of the site.

2013: City of Winston, (OR) Harold and Sid Nichols Park boating facility development project.

2014: Town of Three Lakes (WI) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for development of the Townline Lake Boat Landing.

2015: City of Covington (VA) for development of the Covington Boating Access Facility.

2016: City of Rhinelander for development of the Boyce Drive Boat Landing.

2017: Sub-category discontinued.

**Medium Access Category**

1998: Cooper Landing Scenic Overlook Boat Access (AK), a $1.4 million project on the Kenai River in south central Alaska.

1999: Scott’s Flats Lake Boat Access Area (CA), a $477,000 project in Nevada County.

1999: Forbes Lake Boat Access Area, Steven A. Forbes State Park (IL), a $715,000 project on 585-acre Forbes Lake in Marion County, 2000: Rosenbaum Public Water Access (SD), a $96,000 project on the Missouri River in Union County in southeastern South Dakota.

2001: Cooper Creek Access (MO) on Lake Taneycomo near Branson, a $765,389 project in cooperation with the Empire District Electric Cooperative providing access to 1700-acre reservoir in southern Missouri. Site is fully ADA compliant.

2001: Squam Lake Public Boat Access (NH) in Holderness Township on the lake that was the site of the movie
“On Golden Pond”. The $491,000 access site, purchased and developed by New Hampshire Fish and Game, provides the only public boat access to the 6,700 acre lake, the second largest in the state.

2002: Haines Memorial Park Boat Access (RI), an $870,000 project in Bullock’s Cove on Narraganset Bay.

2003: Delonegha Launch and River Access (CA), a $520,000 project near Delonegha Hot Springs on the Lower Kern River.

2004: Newport Public Boat Ramp (DE), a $1,385,000 project located on the Christina River, constructed by Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife in partnership with the town of Newport. An abandoned construction landfill was developed into a public boating access area.

2005: Franklin Street Boat Ramp (MD), a $575,000 project in Cambridge.

2006: California State University Aquatic Center (CA), a $3.8 million project on Lake Natoma.

2007: Boggy Point Boating Access (AL), a $706,010 project in Terry Cove of Perdido Bay in Orange Beach, Baldwin County.

2008: Blackwater Landing – Public Boating Access Facility (VA), a $1.1 million project on the Blackwater River in the City of Franklin.

2009: Gloucester Point Boat Landing (VA), a $1,005,000 project located beneath the George P. Coleman Memorial Bridge (U.S. Highway 17), on the north side of the York River.

2010: Lawnes Creek Boating Access (VA), a $220,000 project which used alternative materials to replace the courtesy pier and wave screens in Surry County, Virginia.

2011: Gardner Lake State Boat Launch (CT), a $915,000 project with improved access turning radius, new two-lane ramp, solar streetlights, ADA access and separate canoe launch area.

2012: Two Harbors, (MN) for the perseverance to overcome design challenges and adjacent landowner concerns to renovate a boat launch facility to meet current standards.

2013: Arizona Game and Fish Department, (AZ) Pena Blanca Lake boating access renovation project.

2014: City of Keizer (OR), for development of the Keizer Rapids Boating Facility.

2015: Talbot County Department of Parks and Recreation (MD) for development of the Oak Creek Landing boating access facility.

2016: City of West Point and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for development of West Point Landing.

2017: Sub-category discontinued.

Large Access Category

1995: Charleston County (SC), a $2.7 million project to renovate and make 19 public access areas ADA accessible.

1996: Woodhead Park (ID), a $7 million development on Brownlee Reservoir in Hells Canyon.

1997: McCormick-Dorn Sportfishing and Boating Facility (SC), a $1.4 million project on J. Strom Thurmond Lake.

1997: Black River Wharf Boat Launch (OH), a $3.1 million project in Lorain, accessing Lake Erie.

1997: Maxwell Bay Public Access (MN), a $2.4 million project on Lake Minnetonka.

1997: Anvil-Draw Boat Ramp (WV), a $350,000 project on Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

1998: Hickory Point Recreation Facility (FL), a $3.5 million project on Little Harris Lake in Lake County.

1998: Lake Pleasant Access Area (AZ), a $6.1 million project in Maricopa County.


1999: Yatesville Lake State Park Marina (KY), a $2.4 million project on Yatesville Lake in Lawrence County. A cooperative project between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kentucky Department of Parks and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

2000: Columbia River Boat Launch (WA), a $1.8 million project on the Columbia River in Cowlitz County. A cooperative project between Cowlitz County and the State of Washington Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation.

2001: Massey’s Landing Public Boat Launch (DE), on Massey’s Ditch, accessing Rehobeth Bay, Indian River Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. This $1.5 million project is totally
ADA compliant, featuring four launch lanes, docks, and parking for 80 C/T units and 30 single cars.

2001: Cleveland Lakefront State Park, Edgewater Boat Launch (OH), a $1.1 million boat launch renovation on Lake Erie in the City of Cleveland.

2002: Wayne Fitzgerrel State Park (IL), a $480,000 boat launch renovation on Rend Lake.

2003: Cedar Creek Lake Development Project (KY), an $8.5 million project that includes a three lane ramp in Lincoln County, five miles west of Stanford, Kentucky.

2004: Hell Creek State Park Boating Access (MT), an $825,000 project located on Fort Peck Reservoir, the second heaviest fished body of water in Montana.

2005: Almaga Harbor Boat Ramp Rehabilitation (AK), a $2.4 million project in Juneau.

2006: Gray’s Bay Public Water Access (MN), a $7,610,000 project on Lake Minnetonka.

2007: Port of Coos Bay (OR), a $596,170 renovation project on South Slough of Coos Bay in Charleston.

2008: Charlestown Landing (IN), a new $2.8 million boat launching facility on the Ohio River in Charlestown State Park.

2009: McQuade Public Access and Small Craft Harbor (MN), an $8.43 million renovation project on Lake Superior near Duluth.

2010: Huron River Wildlife Ramp Access (OH), a $2.4 million project providing access to Lake Erie in Huron, Ohio.

2011: Pyne Road Park Mega Boat Ramp (GA), an $800,000 project including the largest (160’ by 50’) push-in-place ramp to date, 49 new parking spaces, floating launch and courtesy dock.

2012: Crystal Lake, (MI) the fortitude to create a $1.2 million public boat launching facility that required over 10 years of planning and numerous creative solutions.

2013: Metro Division, (OR). M. James Gleason boating facility project, 2014: Worcester County Department of Public Works (MD), for the West Ocean City Harbor project.

2015: Appalachian Power Company and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for the Oak Grove Boating Access Facility.

2016: Otter Tail County and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for development of the Pelican Lake - West Water Access site.

2017: Sub-category discontinued.

**Marinas and Harbors Category**

1995: Harbor Center Marina (WI), a $12 million project in Sheboygan which created a prime new recreational facility in an area of need.

1995: Presque Isle Harbor (MI), a $5 million project on Lake Huron serving the North Channel and other cruising waters.

1996: Sturgeon Point Marina (NY), a $5.5 million project on Lake Erie in the city of Evans serving boaters and anglers in the Buffalo area.

1997: Port of Ilwaco Marina Boat Launch, City of Ilwaco, Pacific County (WA), a $715,000 project at the mouth of the Columbia River.

1999: Harbor View Marina, City of Ludington (MI), an $8.6 million project on Lake Michigan serving boaters in the Ludington and mid-lake area of the eastern shore of Lake Michigan.

2000: Spring Shores Marina (ID), a $2.5 million project on Lucky Peak Reservoir in southwest Idaho, serving boaters in the Boise area.

2001: Silver Bay Safe Harbor and Marina (MN), an $8.25 million project on Lake Superior, the only safe harbor along a 90-mile stretch of shoreline, featuring a 10-acre harbor basin, 68 slips (15 transient), marina parking for 50 cars and 20 large vehicles, a four lane ramp, parking for 38 C/T units, toilet facility, site administration building and more, all ADA compliant.

2003: Rainier Marina and Transient Tie-up Facility (OR), a $499,000 project on the Columbia River in the City of Rainier.

2004: St. Ignace Municipal Marina Expansion (MI), a multi-phased $8+ million project on Lake Michigan completed within a two year time frame, limiting disruptions to local residents and tourists.

2005: Marjorie Park Marina (FL), a $5.1 million project in Tampa Bay. 2006: Chippewa Marina (OH), a $1.1 million marina restoration project at Indian Lake State Park.

2007: Petenwell Park Harbor of Refuge (WI), a new $1.2 million project in Adams County on Petenwell Lake.
2008: Glass City Marina (OH), a $6.3 million project on the Maumee River that is part of a redevelopment in downtown Toledo.

2009: Pier 39 West Basin (CA), a $2.6 million renovation project at the Fisherman’s Wharf, on San Francisco Bay, San Francisco.

2010: Straits State Harbor (MI), an $11 million project in Mackinaw City using “green” solutions in providing 130 slips, fuel sales and harbor master building.

2011: Middle Bass Island Marina (OH), a $10 million marina with 250 slips built in an environmentally sensitive area which utilized unique methods to protect wetlands and Lake Erie Water Snakes.

2012: Port Aransas, (TX), for integrating transient boater docks within a busy municipal harbor.

2013: City of Indian Rocks Beach, (FL), Keegan Clair Docks project. 2014: Whitehouse Cove Marina (VA), for their boating infrastructure renovation projects.

2015: No nominations received.

2016: Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Watercraft, for development of Caesar Creek Marina.

2017: Sub-category discontinued.

Outstanding Project Awards


2017: PDN Engineers and the City & Borough of Juneau, Alaska for development of the Statter Harbor Launch Ramp Facility.


2018: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEH Engineers for development of the Okauchee Lake Boat Access.

2018: Historic Bristol Borough for development of the Bristol Borough Waterfront Transient Docks.

2018: City of Avalon for development of the City of Avalon Boating Infrastructure Grant Tier I & Tier II Projects.

2019: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division for Pope’s Ferry Landing.


President’s Award

Presented to an agency, group, local government, or corporation for projects or activities that are judged to be innovative, useful, of high quality, unique, and/or economical.

2017: Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources for the Parguera Boat Ramp facility.


2019: Oregon State Marine Board and the City of Reedsport for the Rainbow Plaza Boating Facility.

Past SOBA Conferences

SOBA was officially formed at the “National Boating Waters Access Conference” in Roseville, Michigan in 1986.

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<th>Year</th>
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47
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Windsor Beach, Lake Havasu, AZ

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Visit http://bit.ly/vdhcva or call (804) 864-7467 for a map of sewage pump out stations or to report a broken pump out.
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<td>Janine Belleque</td>
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<td>Ron Christofferson</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>Scott Meister</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>Preston Smith</td>
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</table>
Preston Smith is an Environmental Health Coordinator – Marina Programs Manager in the Office of Environmental Health Services at the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Health. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies from Warren Wilson College, a Master’s degree in Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia, Master’s degree in Public Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University, and is a Fellow of the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute.

In 1994 he began his career in public service as a Shellfish Specialist in the Division of Shellfish Sanitation. In 1999, Mr. Smith became the VDH Marina Technical Consultant and the Clean Vessel Act grant coordinator in the Division of Wastewater Engineering. In 2002, Mr. Smith became the Boating Infrastructure Grant coordinator for the Office of Environmental Health Services. Among his other duties as an Environmental Health Coordinator, he is responsible for managing the statewide marina sanitation and boating facility regulatory inspection program, and is a member of the Virginia Clean Marina Advisory Council and Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Implementation committee.

Mike Wichrowski is the Fish & Wildlife Lands & Facilities Administrator for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department and has been in this current role since 2007. Throughout his time in Vermont he has been managing the boating access, CVA, and BIG programs for the state. Prior to working in Vermont, Mike has spent time managing lands in Florida for the FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, and completing graduate work researching moose in NH and elk in KY. He is a graduate of the SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry and the University of Kentucky where he earned his BS and MS, respectively. Mike was also the 2015 SOBA conference host at the fabulous Basin Harbor Club.
JANINE BELLEQUE, PAST PRESIDENT

Janine is the Boating Facilities Manager for the Boating Facilities Section of the Oregon State Marine Board where she manages state and federal boating-related grants, including Boating Infrastructure and Clean Vessel Act grants, as well as Sport Fish Restoration Motorboat Access grants in partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. Additionally, she manages a technical assistance program providing survey, design, engineering, permitting and planning assistance for boating access to local governments, state and federal agencies.

Janine helped to host the 1997 and 2013 SOBA Conference in Portland, has presented at several SOBA Conferences, has served on the SOBA Board from 2013 to 2017, and in 2018, came back as the current Past President. Janine has been the alternate and primary SOBA representative on the DOI Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, in addition to serving on the Recreational Boating Leadership Council on behalf of boating access.

NANCY STEWART, TREASURER

Nancy is the Water Recreation Consultant for the Parks and Trails Division of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. She works with the operations and maintenance side of the public water access, fishing pier and water trail programs. She is responsible for all aspects of policy and guideline development, work and budget planning, and legislative reports statewide. Nancy helped lead the SOBA AIS Taskforce, which received the Professional Service Award in 2015. Nancy was a speaker at the 2008, 2014, and 2017 SOBA conferences. She was the 2018 Conference host and a current SOBA Member-at-Large.

TREY COOKSEY, MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Trey works for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and is the Boating Access, BIG, and CVA Program Manager. Texas has both inland and coastal programs and is the only state with such a designation in USFWS Region 2.

Trey began his career with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 1999 as a manager trainee in the State Parks Division. Shortly thereafter he became the Assistant Superintendent at Government Canyon State Natural Area and spent more than
nine years there working with the staff and volunteers to develop the new site from the ground up, to build forty miles of multi-use trails, all associated facilities, and open the 12,000 acre park to the public in the fall of 2005. He became the first State Parks Trails Coordinator in the spring of 2010, and worked with the Recreational Trails Program on a state-wide level, while accepting the challenge of developing a new State Park Trails Program to help address trail needs across the state. On April 1, 2015 Trey was promoted to the position of Recreational Trail Program and Boating Access Program Manager. Trey is committed to finding innovative ways to increase and provide better Boating Access opportunities and to grow the CVA program to meet the needs of the citizens of Texas. Trey is the current Vice President of SOBA.

LORENE REID, MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Lorene Reid is the Federal Assistance Coordinator for Georgia DNR’s Coastal Resources Division. She is also the program coordinator for both the CVA and BIG programs. She was responsible for reinstituting both programs in coastal Georgia during her time in the Coastal Resources Division. Prior to working for the State of Georgia, Lorene was the Executive Director of a non-profit agency - the Coastal Coalition for Children, a business owner, and sales manager with AT&T. Lorene is currently the SOBA Treasurer and has the committee responsibilities of representing SOBA on the TRACS National Working Group, helping to develop the BIG Applicants Guide, and she chairs the Lacey Nichols Foundation and the Tribes committees.

B. TODD MIZE, MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Todd currently works as a professional engineer for the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR). He received his bachelor of science in Civil Engineering from the University of Mississippi in 2004. The same year, he began his career with the State of Alabama’s Environmental Department. In 2006 Todd made an in-state transfer to ADCNR’s administrative engineering section. In his 14 year tenure as an engineer with the ADCNR, Todd has gained a professional knowledge of boating access design and construction. He has held his current position with the ADCNR’s WFF division since 2018. Todd has been an active member of SOBA since 2007.
Thank You!

The 2019 National Boating Access Education & Training Symposium Committee would like to thank all of the attendees, exhibitors, presenters, sponsors, and people who donated items and services to make this conference successful. Without their combined contributions and efforts this conference would not have achieved the Committee’s goal of providing an education and informational experience while providing an opportunity to visit and experience the inviting city of Portsmouth.

Special thanks are given to the following:

Brad Gunn and Lisa Van Alstyne for helping to coordinate the Federal Assistance Workshop.

Paul Rauch and Bob Curry and their continued support for SOBA and the National Boating Access Conference.

Thom Dammrich for his years of unwavering support of SOBA from NMMA.

The Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Health and the Director of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for the support of staff to host the 2019 National Boating Access Education & Training Symposium.

SOBA Board for support and encouragement during the planning process.

The Virginia DOH and DGIF Co-Hosts, Preston Smith and John Kirk; and the Agency Volunteers especially Litta Paulson and Tom Wilcox, without whom we would not have a symposium. These volunteers worked countless hours to make sure all attendees felt welcome and that this event continues to grow!
SOBA 2020
August 31 – September 3

Riverside Hotel
2900 W Chinden Blvd.
Boise, Idaho

Hosted by:
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Phone: 208-287-2773
Email: thomas.bassista@idfg.idaho.gov
Email: sharon.clark@idfg.idaho.gov