

WRMC

—21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE—

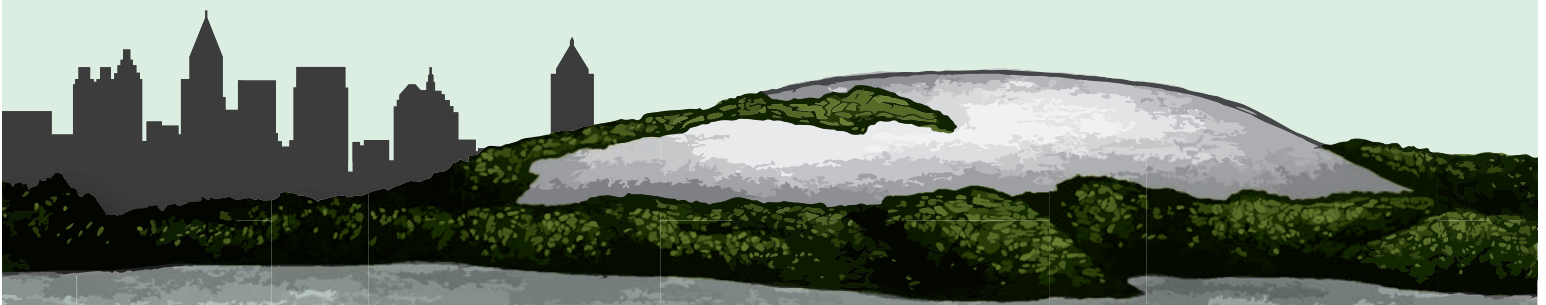
STONE MOUNTAIN PARK, ATLANTA, GEORGIA | OCT 1-3, 2014



Photos left to right: Outward Bound, NOLS/Brooks Eaton, SCA/Dan Eldridge, NOLS/Kyle Duba, NOLS/Benjamin Lester

2014

WILDERNESS RISK MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE PROGRAM



Welcome to the

2014 Wilderness Risk Management Conference

On behalf of the steering committee and co-sponsors of the WRMC, it's our honor to welcome you to this year's conference. We have designed the conference to challenge your assumptions and quench your thirst for information, hopefully providing you with inspiration and connections to take home for your own professional development and the evolution of risk management in your program. We believe that taking risks adds fundamental value to wilderness experiences but that these risks need to be accurately assessed and properly mitigated. For 21 years, this conference has served as a focal point for programs to come together, identify problems, and share practical solutions.

We are here to help you make the most of your time. Look for conference staff/volunteers wearing black vests and "Ask me" name tags if you have any questions. Our staff office is located in the Magnolia room on the lobby level. If you are new to the WRMC, please join us for community building events such as our inaugural movie night this year, as well as structured networking. Enjoy meeting others in the exhibit hall or at the keynote address and dinner. Don't hesitate to approach steering committee or co-sponsor members with your questions or comments about your conference experience as well.

Many participants report being overwhelmed when first exposed to all of the resources and information at the conference. We encourage you to engage, ask questions, absorb as much as possible, make a list of action steps, prioritize that list, and create a reasonable timeline so that you can make progress applying the learning from this conference when you return home. Don't be overwhelmed – be inspired to learn and translate that learning into practice.

Sincerely,



Steve Smith, WRMC Steering Committee Chair

Important Information

Evergreen Salon – Exhibit Hall – The Heart of the WRMC

From the opening event to closing remarks, you will want to spend your spare time in the Evergreen Salon located on the lobby level. This space is the hub of the conference where you can mingle with exhibitors and learn about their services and products, network with peers through formal and informal channels, and re-energize with coffee and snacks, all while enjoying beautiful views of the surrounding lake.

Exhibitor Reception – Poster Session – Award Ceremony

Start off the WRMC with a trip around the Exhibit Hall for the chance to meet this year's exhibitors. From 5–6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, join us in the Evergreen Salon for light appetizers, cash bar, prize giveaways, and more.

From 5–6:30 p.m., the WRMC poster presenters will be available alongside their posters to interact with conference-goers and answer questions. Posters will continue to be accessible for the duration of the conference as stand alone presentations. If this is your first conference, be sure to visit with committee members at their poster and learn how to get the most out of your WRMC experience.

At 6:30 p.m., grab a chair for welcoming remarks and the Reb Gregg Wilderness Risk Management Award ceremony.

Events will conclude at 7:30 p.m. to allow enough time for you to get dinner and catch up with friends and colleagues.

Keynote Dinner

Wrap up the conference in style by joining us Wednesday evening for a social cocktail hour at 5 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. The final WRMC presentation will feature Captain Andy Chase, professor of Marine transportation at Maine Maritime Academy, sharing lessons learned from the

2012 sinking of the HMS Bounty, an approximate replica of the 1787 Royal Navy ship of the same name.

Movie Night

Looking for a relaxed and fun way to spend an evening? On Thursday, October 2, we'll gather in the Laurel Amphitheater at 8 p.m. for a communal viewing of *White Squall*, a "riveting" and "thrilling" high seas adventure with risk management lessons! Bring your own beverages; we'll provide the popcorn.

Survey Participation

Please support the educational growth of our speakers and sessions by participating in the online survey at the end of each day. This information is used to make improvements and provide feedback to speakers. Your opinion is highly valued. Prizes will be given at random to people who complete the surveys.

Presentation Tracks

Emergency Planning & Crisis Response
 Field Practices
 Legal Considerations
 Program Administration
 Staff Training & Decision Making

Core Workshop Look for this symbol to identify workshops that provide a fundamental introduction to risk management and mitigation strategies. If you are new to the WRMC, we strongly encourage you to attend the core workshops.

Pre-Conference Schedule

*Find a map of conference rooms on page 14

Monday, September 29, 2014	
7 a.m. – 8 a.m.	Pre-Conference Check-In , <i>Magnolia</i>
8 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	ACA Stand-Up Paddleboard Instructor Certification orkshop Jeremy Oyen, Nick Cross, <i>Willow</i>
Tuesday, September 30, 2014	
7 a.m. – 8 a.m.	Pre-Conference Check-In , <i>Magnolia</i>
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	ACA Stand-Up Paddleboard Instructor Certification orkshop, cont. Jeremy Oyen, Nick Cross, <i>outside location TBA on day 1</i>
	Inclusion and Cultural Competence for the Outdoor Educator Aparna Rajagopal-Durbin, <i>Cherry</i>
	NOLS Risk Management Training for Administrators Liz Tuohy, Katie Baum Mettenbrink, <i>Willow</i>
Wednesday, October 1, 2014	
7 a.m. – 8 a.m.	Pre-Conference Check-In , <i>Magnolia</i>
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	ACA Stand-Up Paddleboard Instructor Certification orkshop, cont. Jeremy Oyen, Nick Cross, <i>outside location TBA on day 1</i>
	Inclusion and Cultural Competence for the Outdoor Educator, cont. Aparna Rajagopal-Durbin, <i>Cherry</i>
	NOLS Risk Management Training for Administrators, cont. Liz Tuohy, Katie Baum Mettenbrink, <i>Willow</i>
8 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Parent Phone Call Practice Lab Justin Talbot, <i>Poplar</i>
	Performing Under Pressure: Making Good Decisions in Stressful Times Deb Ajango, <i>Dogwood B</i>
	The Value and Practice of Medical Screening Amberleigh Hammond, <i>Dogwood A</i>
1 p.m. – 5 p.m.	And the Winner is ... (?) Hot Issues, Hot Cases Catherine Hansen-Stamp, Reb Gregg, <i>Dogwood B</i>
	Creating an Emotionally Safe Environment on Wilderness Expeditions Janae Turner, Katie Dalbey, Amy Ambachtsheer, <i>Dogwood A</i>
	Incident Reporting and Analysis Billy Roos, Mark Vermeal, <i>Poplar</i>

Conference Opening

Wednesday, October 1, 2014	
4 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Conference Check-In , <i>Evergreen Salon</i>
5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Poster Session , <i>Evergreen Salon</i>
5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Exhibitor Reception Giveaways, Appetizers, and Cash Bar, <i>Evergreen Salon</i>
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Opening Remarks and Reb Gregg Wilderness Risk Management Award Ceremony , <i>Evergreen Salon</i>

Conference Schedule

Thursday, October 2, 2014

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Exhibitor Showroom, <i>Evergreen Salon</i>	
	EMERGENCY PLANNING & CRISIS RESPONSE	FIELD PRACTICES
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.	Core Workshop Risk Management: The Traumatic Aftermath Will Marling <i>Audubon</i>	Should Wilderness Program Staff Always Accompany Their Group? Three Views Ken Kalisch, Brad Daniel, Andrew Bobilya <i>Evergreen A</i>
10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Exhibitor Showcase and Break, <i>Evergreen Salon</i>	
10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Core Workshop Crisis Management: A Preplan in Action Drew Leemon <i>Audubon</i>	Supporting Struggling Participants: Strategies for Managing Behavioral and Mental Health Issues Katie Baum Mettenbrink, Emily Ledingham <i>Summit</i>
12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Exhibitor Showcase and Break, <i>Evergreen Salon</i>	
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Small Organization Emergency Response Plans: Where Do I Start? John Kelley <i>Audubon</i>	It's Not All Megafuana and Altitude: Mitigating the Small but Mighty Hazards Nelson Bruni, Laura Luttrell <i>Evergreen A</i>
2:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Exhibitor Showcase and Break, <i>Evergreen Salon</i>	
3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Core Workshop How to Prepare and Execute Effective Critical Incident Simulations with Administrative Staff Mark Vermeal, <i>Audubon</i>	Electronics for the Outdoor Leader Bob Myron <i>Summit</i>
4:45 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Structured Networking, <i>Evergreen Salon</i>	
8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Movie Night, <i>Laurel Theater</i>	

Friday, October 3, 2014

8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Exhibitor Showroom, <i>Evergreen Salon</i>	
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.	Near-Critical Incident Response Brendan Madden <i>Audubon</i>	Intro to Climber First Aid Seth Hawkins, Bryan Simon <i>Evergreen A</i>
10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Exhibitor Showcase and Break, <i>Evergreen Salon</i>	
10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Case Studies in Wilderness Medicine Shana Tarter <i>Evergreen A</i>	Tech Talk: Safety, Communication, and Navigation in the Backcountry Chip Noble <i>Audubon</i>
12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Exhibitor Showcase and Break, <i>Evergreen Salon</i>	
1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Core Workshop Performing Under Pressure Deb Ajango <i>Audubon</i>	Risk Management: An Ocean Rowing Perspective Lloyd Figgins <i>Evergreen A</i>
3 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Exhibitor Showcase and Break, <i>Evergreen Salon</i>	
3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.	It Just Got Worse: Managing Conventional and Social Media in Crisis Situations Skip King <i>Audubon</i>	Transplant: Cultural Diversity from City to Wilderness Milosz Peirwola <i>Summit</i>
5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Social Hour and Keynote Dinner, <i>Evergreen Salon</i>	
7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.	Closing Remarks and Keynote Address, <i>Evergreen Salon</i> Lessons Learned from the Loss of the HMS Bounty , Captain Andy Chase	

PROGRAM SCHEDULE		
LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS	PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION	STAFF TRAINING & DECISION MAKING
Where are We Now? Epinephrine and Outdoor Programming 2014 Frances Mock, David Yacubian <i>Evergreen C</i>	Near Miss Incidents are Telling You Something Important. Are you Listening? Josh Cole, Steve Smith <i>Summit</i>	Core Workshop Training Your Staff to be Risk Managers Liz Tuohy <i>Lake</i>
Contracting with Third Parties Catherine Hansen-Stamp, Justin Talbot, Todd Duncan <i>Evergreen A</i>	Vetting for International Programs: What Can You Know; What Should You Know? Bill Frederick <i>Evergreen C</i>	'I'm Not Like the Others': Three Activities to Minimize the Emotional Risk of Exclusion Aparna Rajagopal-Durbin <i>Lake</i>
Mock Trial Focus Group Tracey Knutson, Wilma Gray, Tony Clapp <i>Summit</i>	Standards Do Exist for International Programs Natalie Mello <i>Evergreen C</i>	Decision Making: Errors of Perception Gates Richards <i>Lake</i>
Insurance Provisions in Outdoor Organization Contracts and Permits Don Pachner <i>Evergreen A</i>	Containers as Boundaries: Proactive and Participant-Centered Strategies to Raise Risk Awareness Ryan Wagner, Tim Hare, Aaron Slosberg <i>Evergreen C</i>	Core Workshop Training to Failure and Other Unlikely and Highly Effective Training Strategies Jeff Jackson, <i>Lake</i>
PROGRAM SCHEDULE		
Core Workshop The Law Says 'Yes' to Risk Reb Gregg <i>Summit</i>	Concepts & Strategies for Developing Risk Management Related Decision Making in Your Staff Aaron Ball <i>Lake</i>	Beyond Read & Repeat: Training Staff to Understand & Analyze Risk Management Policies Aaron Gorban, Jess Wilson, Winslow Carroll <i>Evergreen C</i>
Core Workshop Use of Participant Agreements: Releases and Related Issues Catherine Hansen-Stamp <i>Evergreen C</i>	10 Steps to Better Risk Management Alex Kosseff <i>Summit</i>	Keeping Your Field Staff Fresh: A Model for Ongoing Training Rebecca Bear, Jeremy Oyen <i>Lake</i>
Managing Legal Issues After a Serious Incident: What to Do, What to Say Frances Mock <i>Summit</i>	Grassroots Organizing: A Tool to Shift Your Risk Management Culture Melanie Mac Innis, Alex Kosseff, Sascha Paris <i>Evergreen C</i>	Core Workshop Stupidity Explored: Mindful Leadership Amplified Lester Zook <i>Lake</i>
Screening the Whole Applicant Anneliese Thies <i>Evergreen A</i>	The Normalization of Deviance Aram Attarian <i>Evergreen C</i>	Buried: A Mountain Guide's Reflection on a Tragedy Ken Wylie <i>Lake</i>

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

New ACA Stand-Up Paddleboard Instructor Certification Workshop

September 29 – October 1, three days, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Jeremy Oyen

New Sneaker Nick Cross

Willow on day 1, then outside location to TBA

The American Canoe Association Level 1-2: Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP) Instructor Certification workshop will provide you with the skill and understanding to teach others the art of SUP. This three-day program is an intensive, fast paced workshop designed to refine our instructional techniques, teach you how to assess SUP skills, and provide on-water program risk management. Pre-requisites: SUP paddling skills / ACA Membership / First Aid & CPR certification / 18 or older.

Inclusion and Cultural Competence for the Outdoor Educator

September 30 – October 1, two days, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Aparna Rajagopal-Durbin

Cherry

Diversity is what we are, inclusion is what we do, and cultural competence is what we need to do it. As outdoor educators continue to engage a broader range of people, our staff need the tools and training to welcome and value what this diversity brings. And this level of inclusion can only happen if we strive to gain more competence regarding the various cultures with which we work. In this seminar participants will learn how to be inclusive, how to gain more cultural competence, how to run some basic activities with their staff and participants to foster more inclusive environments, and how to manage inclusion-related incidents in the field.

NOLS Risk Management Training for Administrators

September 30 – October 1, two days, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Liz Tuohy

Katie Baum Mettenbrink

Willow

Using lecture, discussion, exercises, and hands-on scenarios, this two-day training will provide a structured approach and the necessary tools to build a risk management plan appropriate for your organization. You will walk away with a detailed action plan designed to improve your curriculum, oversight structure, administrative process, staff hiring, field support services, and crisis planning.

Parent Phone Call Practice Lab

October 1, half day, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Justin Talbot

Poplar

Test your conflict communication skills in this interactive parent phone call lab. Spend three hours preparing for and practicing challenging phone call scenarios and hone your

skills by serving as both caller and coach. After each call, the “parent,” an experienced program administrator, will offer feedback to help you develop your skills. We will review successes and persistent challenges, and you will leave with strategies for applying lessons learned in your own program.

Performing Under Pressure: Making Good Decisions in Stressful Times

October 1, half day, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Deb Ajango

Dogwood B

This workshop will provide audience members with an understanding of how people tend to react, both cognitively and behaviorally, in stressful situations. Additionally, the presenter will explore how training can influence one’s response. The presenter will offer suggestions on how participants might modify staff trainings and organizational emergency action plans so that desired behaviors are more likely. Participants will be given time to create realistic scenarios, trainings, and/or checklists for use within their own organizations.

New The Value and Practice of Medical Screening

October 1, half day, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Amberleigh Hammond

Dogwood A

This presentation will help field and administrative staff better understand the overall value of screening in outdoor programs. The presentation will give screening guidelines, examples, and advice as participants align their medical and psychological screening, program descriptions, student paperwork, program framing, and Essential Eligibility Criteria with current industry standards. We will discuss the predictive value of screening, what purpose it serves, student selection, and how screening fits into your program’s values.

And the Winner is...(?) Hot issues, Hot Cases

October 1, half day, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Catherine Hansen-Stamp

Reb Gregg

Dogwood B

In this interactive session, we will ask attendees to consider several 2013-14 court opinions addressing significant legal issues in the industry. Participants will consider—and attack or defend—conflicting arguments pertaining to, among other issues: negligence and the duty of care owed to participants, inherent risks and assumption of risks, who can release whom for what, when what you say or write hurts you, protection from claims of minors, and other timely issues.

New Creating an Emotionally Safe Environment on Wilderness Expeditions

October 1, half day, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

New Sneaker Janae Turner

New Speaker Katie Dalbey

New Speaker Amy Ambachtsheer

Dogwood A

It is far easier to identify what our programs do that affects physical safety and to create organizational policies and procedures to mitigate those risks, but emotional safety is just as important and gets far less attention. This four-hour pre-conference workshop provides outdoor professionals with a better understanding of emotional safety, tools and ideas for creating emotionally safe learning environments (including organizational policies and procedures, staff training, and on course lessons and activities), and an overview of anti-bullying curriculum.

New Incident Reporting and Analysis

October 1, half day, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Billy Roos

Mark Vermeal

Poplar

Incident reporting, data collection, and analysis provide a critical function for outdoor (and other) organizations to enable them to better prevent or mitigate future incidents. This presentation is designed to provide participants with a variety of options for documenting, archiving, and analyzing incidents.



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EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT

Poster Session

Wednesday, October 1

5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Evergreen Salon

New A Critical Evaluation of Certification

New Speaker Curt Davidson

New Speaker Graham Ottley

This presentation will examine the conventional practice followed by many adventure education companies and instructors seeking certifications. Certifications such as Wilderness First Responder are often used to supplement the skills of instructors. A critical examination of this process is warranted due to the high resource commitment to attain and maintain these certifications. Evaluation of the certification process is relevant due to the burden placed upon institutions obligated to offer these certifications for instructors.

New Media Training: Sound Bites, Tips and Tricks, and Communicating in a Crisis

New Speaker Travis Taylor

New Speaker Karmina Zafiro

Crises come when you least expect them, and news won't wait. Are you prepared to handle aggressive media under the pressure of a crisis? This interactive media training presentation will teach attendees of all experience levels how to better communicate with media during a crisis. Fineman PR's media experts will discuss the changing media landscape, dos and don'ts of media interviews, and how to develop and convey key messages effectively in a crisis.

New Physiological Effects of Adventure Activities: Is it All in Our Minds?

New Speaker Andrew Bailey

Seasoned outdoor athletes are cognizant of the personal physical and mental impacts of adventure activities. Trip leaders also have a feel for how each activity will affect participants. Objective data, however, paint an interesting picture of how outdoor amateurs experience various activities. Results from a pilot study on outdoor recreation students indicate that mental stress can induce substantial energy expenditure above and beyond the physical effort exerted. Students were fitted with a fitness armband during a variety of outdoor tasks, and the results help to illuminate the unpredictable ways we experience outdoor adventure.

New Risk Management Update to Drowning and Submersion Injuries

New Speaker Justin Doroshenko

Seth Hawkins

This presentation will include an introduction to new drowning terminology, an update on drowning epidemiology, new difference in drowning care compared to other first aid events, and specific risk management interventions. It will provide an opportunity for audience interaction and involvement with the topics of drowning and submersion incidents.

Coaching Sessions

Thursday and Friday, October 2-3, by appointment

Holly and Cedar

A one-on-one coaching experience can lead to professional development or learning that can catapult a program forward. Focus time on a given question or get some coaching on how to implement change in your organization based on things that you have learned during the conference. Forty-minute sessions with a risk management or legal coach will be offered during workshop time slots.

Structured Networking

Thursday, October 2, 4:45 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Evergreen Salon

Join your peers for some engaging and informal conversations and hear how like organizations manage similar challenges. We will provide topics and facilitate the formation of small discussion groups. The goal is to provide a venue for participants to connect with others who experience similar interests and to share ideas that will help attendees improve their programs.

Action Steps

The true value of attending the WRMC is in the resulting action you take upon returning to your organization. Each presenter has contributed three action steps from their workshops. Action steps are measurable tasks or ideas you should be able to do or implement in your program within a reasonably short time frame. They are not meant as large sweeping changes, rather as small steps to move you forward in your risk management strategy. In some cases the action steps parallel the main take home points of the workshop; in other cases the action steps are examples of a multitude of possible follow-up action. This year's action steps can be found on the WRMC online resource page.

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

The following workshop descriptions are organized under their appropriate tracks. Track headings are ordered alphabetically and workshops are in chronological order.

Keynote Address

Lessons Learned from the Loss of the HMS Bounty

Friday, October 3, following Keynote dinner

Captain G. Anderson Chase

Evergreen Salon

In October of 2012, the HMS Bounty, an approximate replica of the 1787 Royal Navy ship of the same name, sailed from New London, Conn. and proceeded almost directly into Hurricane Sandy where she sank with the loss of her captain and one crewmember. Captain Andy Chase, Professor of Marine Transportation at Maine Maritime Academy in Castine, Maine, will discuss lessons learned and identify strategies to prevent repeat poor decisions.

Emergency Planning and Crisis Response

Thursday, October 2

Core Workshop Risk Management the Traumatic Aftermath

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Will Marling

Audubon

This workshop is an introduction to processes and protocols for addressing the traumatic impact on clients, staff, and responders in the aftermath of a traumatic critical incident. It is based upon 40 years of field-tested, evidence-informed best practices in the area of trauma mitigation and education.

Core Workshop Crisis Management: A Preplan in Action

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Drew Leemon

Audubon

Responding to a crisis, such as a participant fatality, presents a complex situation that demands a thoughtful and reasoned response. This workshop will provide attendees with an overview of the five elements of successful crisis management, begin to delve into the complexities of responding to crisis situations through the presenter's personal and professional experience while providing a forum for exchanging ideas and sharing experiences of the audience. Additionally, this workshop will provide a starting point for creating a crisis management plan.

New Small Organization Emergency Response Plans: Where Do I Start?

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

New Sneaker John Kelley

Audubon

Recently, the Verde Valley School revamped its emergency response plan and implemented staff and student training. This presentation will reflect upon the creation of this plan and provide others with the tools and resources needed to begin the process of creating a current and user-friendly emergency response plan for their institution.

Core Workshop How to Prepare and Execute Effective Critical Incident Simulations with Administrative Staff

3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Mark Vermeal

Audubon

During this interactive lecture, participants will gain an understanding of the value of utilizing simulations to prepare administrative staff to effectively manage critical incidents. Participants will be taught a framework for conducting simulations that highlight strengths and expose gaps in their incident management. This session will discuss the benefits, relevant considerations, and potential pitfalls of conducting simulations. It will also provide participants with a continuum of simulation models that can target incident management goals.

Friday, October 3

New Near-Critical Incident Response

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Brendan Madden

Audubon

A cultural blind spot in our industry is the "Near-Critical Incident:" a category of serious near-miss where staff or participant(s) come close to a fatal accident. Experience has shown that these incidents can be quite traumatic for those involved, yet, because no serious incident occurred, there is often little support offered. This presentation will attempt to address that void by showing techniques for identifying the near-critical incident, structuring an effective debrief, and providing guidance for longer term healing and support.

New Case Studies in Wilderness Medicine

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Shana Tarter

Evergreen A

This workshop will explore the real life application of wilderness medicine skills by WFR trained faculty on remote wilderness expeditions. In addition to assessing the decision-making curriculum taught in wilderness medicine courses, we will discuss the unexpected challenges and realities of long term care. These cases are drawn from actual incidents and include perspectives from the involved faculty.

Core Workshop Performing Under Pressure

1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Deb Ajango

Audubon

This workshop will provide audience members with an understanding of how people tend to react, both cognitively and behaviorally, in stressful situations. Additionally, the presenter will explore how quality training can influence one's response. The presenter also will offer suggestions and will share ideas from the pre-conference workshop on how people might modify their staff trainings and/or organizational emergency action plans so that desired behaviors are more likely.

New It Just Got Worse: Managing Conventional and Social Media in Crisis Situations

3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

New Speaker Skip King

Audubon

You've handled the incident itself pretty well. But social and conventional media are hammering you. It doesn't have to be that way. Communicating in a crisis can't be an afterthought; it requires as much planning, training, and practice as your field evacuation protocols do. In this session, we'll look at real-world examples of major incidents from a communications perspective, building an understanding of how to plan, train, and practice for serious events.

Field Practices

Thursday, October 2

New Should Wilderness Program Staff Always Accompany Their Group? Three Views

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Ken Kalisch

New Speaker Brad Daniel

Andrew Bobilya

Evergreen A

Should program leaders always be present with individual participants and their group on wilderness expeditions? Does this guard their safety or only compromise their learning? This workshop will present three distinct positions in response to these questions. Through scenarios, discussion, and a mock debate we will explore the staff challenge of providing unaccompanied components (e.g. solo, final expedition distance run) that maximize learning and minimize risks.

New Supporting Struggling Participants: Strategies for Managing Behavioral and Mental Health Issues

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Katie Baum Mettenbrink

New Speaker Emily Ledingham

Summit

Managing behavior and mental health issues, and deciding who should stay or leave the field, can be intimidating and drain for field staff and administrators alike. This workshop aims to help you more effectively support struggling participants who can stay on your program, and identify those who should leave.

We will explore continuums of behavior through scenarios, and I will provide a framework to define thresholds of acceptable behavior and corresponding responses that match your program. This workshop is targeted towards field staff and administrators in non-therapeutic programs.

New It's Not All Megafuana and Altitude: Mitigating the Small but Mighty Hazards

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

New Speaker Nelson Bruni

New Speaker Laura Luttrell

Evergreen A

Join staff members from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) as they discuss the small but mighty hazards that could plague your outdoor program. It is often the small things – ticks, red ants, and poisonous plants – that take up the most time and resources during field season. Their effects span from mild annoyance to lifelong illness. This presentation will cover case studies from SCA programming and discuss effective (and not-so-effective) mitigation techniques for these tiny hazards.

New Electronics for the Outdoor Leader

3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

New Speaker Bob Myron

Summit

Electronics are in! We all have them, there is a place in our kit for electronics so they are handy, and when they work, they work well. Learn what's out there, what it's being used for, and why it's important to keep the basic non-electronic skills alive. We will talk about benefits and risks of sat. phones, satellite communication devices, smart phones, GPS, ipads, and personal locator beacons. Taught by a self-proclaimed "non-geeky," nuts and bolts, compass-wielding guide. Feel free to bring your favorite device and apps to share!

Friday, October 3

New Intro to Climber First Aid (CFA)

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Seth Hawkins

New Speaker Bryan Simon

Evergreen A

Participants in climbing activities are prone to particular overuse and acute injuries, which are rarely or never covered with a climbing focus during standard WFA/WFR training. This lecture will be extremely helpful for all climbing programs. It is taught by Vertical Medicine Resources (VMR) instructors who are themselves both climbers and healthcare providers. VMR has pioneered the concept of medical guides, and specializes in the conversion of cutting edge evidence-based medicine into easily-understood climbing applications.

New Tech Talk: Safety, Communication, and Navigation in the Backcountry

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

New Speaker Chip Noble

Audubon

Selecting the right off-the-grid communication device for your

program, organization, or trip can be overwhelming given all the satellite messaging and tracking options on the market. Join us for an interactive discussion comparing each of the available technology categories, covering the functionality and purpose of each. This session is intended for those evaluating their current program's technology protocol or looking for better solutions for communication, tracking, and emergency management.

New Risk Management: An Ocean Rowing Perspective

1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Lloyd Figgins

Evergreen A

In December 2011, Lloyd Figgins set off from Morocco to row across the Atlantic in a 23-foot boat. Along the way he encountered shipping, pirates, sharks, storms and 50-foot waves. This presentation looks at how to recognize, mitigate, and manage risk effectively, even in the most extreme conditions. It also provides workable and practical solutions to many of the hazards faced on expeditions.

New Transplant: Cultural Diversity from City to Wilderness

3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

New Speaker Milosz Peirwola

Summit

Shaped by television shows like *Naked and Afraid*, *Man vs. Wild*, *Survivor*, etc., clients from urban areas have vastly diverse impressions of what the wilderness is. This presentation is designed to clearly communicate the essential characteristics of your business and create a seamless introduction that encourages safe behavior and expectations for clients.

Legal Considerations

Thursday, October 2

New Where are We Now? Epinephrine and Outdoor Programming 2014

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Frances Mock

David Yacubian

Evergreen C

The decision as to whether to carry epinephrine in outdoor programs is a difficult one that raises legal, operational, an moral dilemmas. This presentation will provide an overview of the legal and programming concerns related to carrying and administering epinephrine and an update on the current state of the law governing the use of epinephrine by non-licensed individuals. Participants will leave with greater clarity of the issues and options for managing the severely allergic student.

Contracting with Third Parties

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Catherine Hansen-Stamp

Justin Talbot

Todd Duncan

Evergreen A

In this session, we will approach contracting with outside organizations from both a legal and program perspective.

We will highlight, among other things, how screening, clarifying respective responsibilities and liabilities in a written contract, informed negotiation, and staff role training drive more thoughtful and intentional relationships with partners and contractors. Arrangements to be discussed include an organization sub-contracting a portion of programming, teaming up on a mutual services arrangement, and facilities use or rental. Attendees will also engage with an interactive case study.

Mock Trial Focus Group

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Tracey Knutson

Wilma Gray

Tony Clapp

Summit

This focus group research format session allows the trial attorneys to test lawsuit themes, assess the strengths and weaknesses of the positions, and ultimately identify and craft a persuasive argument strategy. WRMC participants will play an active role as members of a jury focus group listening to experienced trial attorneys present limited, short segments of evidence for a mock trial case involving a wilderness recreation organization that has been sued. A moderator will stop frequently to probe the participants with questions for discussion, reactions, feedback, input, attitudes, and beliefs about the evidence presented. As additional topics are raised, they can be pursued further by the attorneys presenting evidence within the mock trial.

Insurance Provisions in Outdoor Organization Contracts and Permits

3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Don Pachner

Evergreen A

Outdoor organizations enter into many written agreements, including leases, financing/grants, memoranda of understanding, memoranda of agreement, land use permits, vendor and professional contracts, and subcontracting arrangements—all of which should contain insurance provisions spelling out insurance responsibilities. This class will review and discuss insurance provisions commonly found in these agreements, and it will discuss insurance provisions you should be asking your attorney to include in vendor contracts or agreements with subcontractors.

Friday, October 3

Core Workshop The Law Says 'Yes' to Risk

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Reb Gregg

Summit

In recent years, the law has moved with increasing clarity and frequency to an acknowledgment of the value of adventure and risk in promoting personal development and a healthy society. This acknowledgment plays out in evolving notions of an organization's duty of care to its clients in certain types

of activities pertinent to our audience. We will cover this and other trends in areas of the law fundamental to our industry, including negligence and defenses to claims of negligence (inherency of the risks, assumption of risks, and waivers) and the not-so-minor problem of dealing with minors.

Core Workshop **Use of Participant Agreements: Releases and Related Issues**

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Catherine Hansen-Stamp
Evergreen C

In this interactive session, Cathy will outline legal and practical issues associated with use of written participant agreements with clients/guests. She will highlight the value in using these documents as risk management tools, identify key components, and use current case law to discuss unique issues, and how courts view these documents in the adventure and recreation program setting. Significant issues include dealing with minors, releases, indemnity, assumption of risks, and e-signatures.

Top 10 General Dos and Don'ts to Avoid in Liability

1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Tracey Knutson
Summit

There are very specific areas of law, specific types of claims and specific instructor/operator practices that are 'hot' right now in terms of generating claims or making claims harder to defend. In this session, we want to look at a literal 'top 10' and examine what these areas of law, practices, and claims are to develop our growing awareness of how we avoid creating liabilities and therefore lawsuits. A few of the topics we'll be talking about include: GoPros and social media issues; release and waiver conflicts with promotional materials; incident/emergency response allegations; participant duties of care; third party vendors involved in recreational courses or products; operator DUTY to communicate experience, risk and changing conditions; and more.

New **Screening the Whole Applicant**

3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

New Speaker Anneliese Thies
Evergreen A

When you are on a field-line summitting a remote peak your team matters, trust matters. How can your organization utilize the time before participants' boots hit the ground to increase their success rate? How can the admissions process be used as a tool to promote safer courses? For the Colorado Outward Bound School, the admissions process is the first step in a rigorous commitment to safety. What sets our screening process apart is our commitment to interviewing every student who attends a backcountry program. Come look at our application process and learn why we believe in gathering more than a legal release from our students. Discuss how pre-course follow-up has helped to decrease our motivational incident rate and boosted field staff engagement. Gain tips on crafting the kinds of interview questions that draw vital information from participants. Review case studies.

Program Administration

Thursday, October 2

Near Miss Incidents are Telling You Something Important. Are you Listening?

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Josh Cole
Steve Smith
Summit

There is little statistically-significant data that indicates direct connection between incident rates and organizational structures. Our organizations likely cannot significantly change the prevalence of minor incidents related to inherent objective risks, but through excellent training and incident analysis, we can reduce the likelihood and severity of significant incident particularly by focusing on near miss incidents. Within this context, this session will focus on accurate assessment of incident data, creation of an organizational culture that actively reports, analyzes, and communicates near miss incidents and uses this information to inform staff training to increase judgment and decision-making skills.

Vetting for International Programs: What Can You Know; What Should You Know?

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Bill Frederick
Evergreen C

And had we but world enough, and time—and money, it is possible to thoroughly assess, evaluate, and document one's staff, vendors, third-party providers, and the relative safety management of such things as transportation, accommodations, home-stays as well as surfing, whitewater paddling, and canopy tours. In this session, we will explore what can be done as well as what constitutes a reasonable vetting strategy for your programs.

New **Standards Do Exist for International Programs**

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

New Speaker Natalie Mello
Evergreen C

Standards do exist for international programs. After an overview of the field and the standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad, we will work through several case studies. Participants will understand how these standards can be used to guide the development of new programs, or to review existing programs. Each participant will be given a hardcopy of the current edition of the Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad.

New **Containers as Boundaries: Proactive and Participant-Centered Strategies to Raise Risk Awareness**

3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

New Speaker Ryan Wagner
New Speaker Tim Hare
Aaron Slosberg
Evergreen C

This session explores a model and delivers tools for effectively engaging risk with participants by clearly defining th

boundaries, or “container” of the experience. We will analyze the group development sequence in terms of dynamics, daily routines, expectation-setting, and individual development levels as pivotal tools in raising awareness of human factor risks within certain containers. Carried out with increased intentionality, these specific actions will all w for participants to take healthy and appropriate risks on programs ranging from international cultural immersion to wilderness excursions. The session draws on experience from Where There Be Dragons and Camp Manito-wish YMCA.

Friday, October 3

New Concepts and Strategies for Developing Risk Management Related Decision Making in Your Staff

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

New Speaker Aaron Ball

Lake

This presentation will explore results from a comprehensive study, which found that certain criteria have a significant impact on the development of risk management related decision-making. After a brief explanation of how the study was conducted, the implications for program application will be explored.

New 10 Steps to Better Risk Management

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Alex Kosseff

Summit

Risk management reviews are a powerful tool for identifying gaps in safety practices. Learn about reviews and how the Outdoor Safety Institute has used them to identify 10 important but relatively simple risk management steps that many programs aren't taking. The 10 steps involve aspects of management, staffing, crisis response, field practices, training and transportation. This introductory level session (and accompanying 25-page written guide) provide the resources to navigate through these 10 challenges and beyond.

New Grassroots Organizing: A Tool to Shift Your Risk Management Culture

1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Melanie Mac Innis

Alex Kosseff

Sascha Paris

Evergreen C

How can organizations that work with volunteers (or staff with limited training) improve their risk management practices? We will explore grassroots organizing tools that can be used to create risk management improvements. Part of the discussion will center on a case study involving a serious water incident, how this catalyzed change, and how to lead change before tragedy strikes. This interactive discussion will help organizations understand and manage change through volunteer engagement, training and support.

New The Normalization of Deviance

3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Aram Attarian

Evergreen C

“Normalization of deviance” demonstrates a human tendency to deviate from established standards. The problem with deviating from original standards is that most of the time nothing negative happens. The fact that there are no repercussions reinforces the deviant behavior until the behavior is accepted as the new norm. This workshop will explore ways of recognizing, evaluating, and preventing normalization of deviance. As a group we will share examples and management practices that work for creating a culture that addresses this phenomena.

Staff Training and Decision Making

Thursday, October 2

Core Workshop Training Your Staff to be Risk Managers

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Liz Tuohy

Lake

Learn how to use the limited amount of time you have for staff training to maximize your staff's alignment with organizational values and make them competent field based risk managers. Learn how to influence organizational culture and build risk management knowledge specific to your program. We will address the needs of small and large programs through small group discussion and exercises.

'I'm Not Like the Others': Three Activities to Minimize the Emotional Risk of Exclusion

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Aparna Rajagopal-Durbin

Lake

We want to broaden the reach of our programs to more and different people, but are we ready to manage the emotional risks that come with this diversity? How can our programs provide an experience that best honors this diversity while maintaining positive outcomes? This interactive workshop will help you train your staff to conduct three activities that set up an inclusive environment in your program.

Decision Making: Errors of Perception

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Gates Richards

Lake

In this session, we will explore the neurobiological factors of perception that contribute to human errors in decision making. Using video, activities, and magic, we will experience and discuss errors of attention, errors of pattern recognition, and priming errors. Though we cannot eliminate these hazards from our decision-making process, we can recognize their effects, account for their presence, and minimize the chances of significant fallout from the traps they set. By increasing our awareness of how the brain processes

information, we can take steps toward being more deliberate in our decision-making awareness, and perhaps make more consistently good decisions.

Core Workshop Training to Failure and Other Unlikely and Highly Effective Training Strategies

3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Jeff Jackson

Lake

The realities of accelerated timelines and compressed training requires turning traditional staff training on its head. A focus on non-normal, training to failure, testing, and sensemaking are uncommon, unlikely, and proven effective in building competency fast. This workshop focuses on applying atypical training strategies.

Friday, October 3

New Beyond Read and Repeat: Training Staff to Understand and Analyze Risk Management Policies

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Aaron Gorban

New Sneaker Jess Wilson

New Sneaker Winslow Carroll

Evergreen C

Challenge your staff to surpass simply remembering and repeating risk management policies by exercising their capacity for higher order thinking. This workshop will model a training that has participants apply, analyze, and synthesize risk management policies, with the aim of greater accuracy and consistency in implementing such policies in the field. Workshop participants will develop a lesson specific to their program policies and will leave with resources on incorporating higher order thinking into future trainings.

Keeping Your Field Staff Fresh: A Model for Ongoing Training

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Rebecca Bear

Jeremy Oyen

Lake

Training part-time and seasonal field staff can pose challenge to the program and risk management needs of your

organization. REI Outdoor School will share techniques from their training program that can be utilized by seasonal and year-round programs for on-going staff training. Utilizing a variety of field, on-line, self-stud , and mentorship will enhance the culture of risk management and the comfort level for field and administrative staff. Come prepared to share your personal insights.

Core Workshop Stupidity Explored: Mindful Leadership Amplified

1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Lester Zook

Lake

“Idiots!” Many of us have, no doubt, drawn this conclusion after reading some disaster story or watching an insane YouTube video. But what is stupidity? What does research say about stupid behavior? Can it be predicted before the fact, and thus maybe prevented? How might practicing mindful leadership help us to know it when we see it, and maybe avoid stupidity before it happens? How does mindful leadership synthesize with our long-held understandings of experiential learning? This workshop will explore these questions through some lecture, story-telling, group sharing, and fashioning of personal and group applications.

New Buried: A Mountain Guide’s Reflection on a tragedy

3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

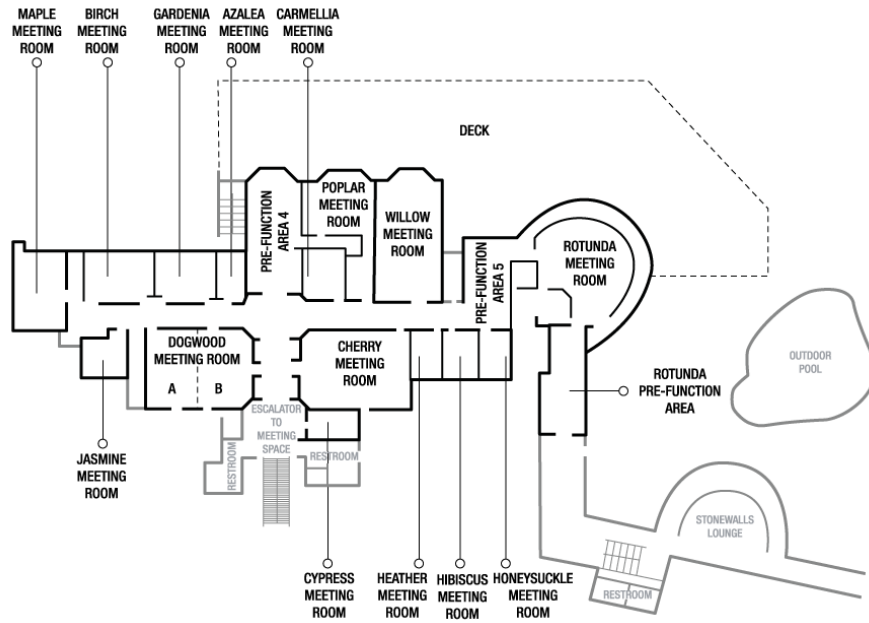
New Speaker Ken Wylie

Lake

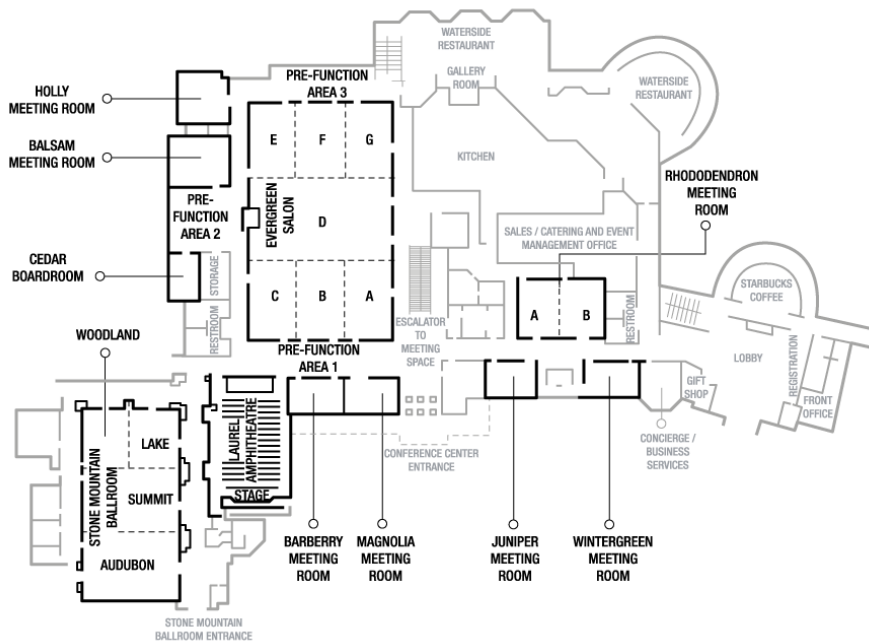
On January 20, 2003 an avalanche broke loose from a back-country ski run in British Columbia, called La Traviata. Of the 13 involved, seven died. “Buried” is the second guide’s reflections on the human factors involved in the accident. It is common for outdoor practitioners to perceive that we can “compartmentalize” our lives, to subscribe to the idea that “who we are” has nothing to do with the decisions we make in the field. Ken Wylie makes the case that one cannot separate the person from the decisions and that “self awareness” is a powerful tool for managing risk in the field

Hotel Floor Plan

LAKE LEVEL



LOBBY LEVEL



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Deb Ajango has presented nationally and internationally on the topic of risk management, emergency action planning, and wilderness medicine. In 2014, she was the recipient of the Paul K. Petzoldt award (WEA), and in 2012 she was the recipient of the Charles (Reb) Gregg Award (WRMC). In addition to presenting at the WRMC, Deb has been a keynote speaker in Canada, Maine, Utah, and Colorado. Deb has presented at law and student travel symposiums across the United States, and in 2010, she presented extensively throughout Australia. Deb has been an instructor for WMA for nearly 20 years.

Amy Ambachtsheer has over six years of experience as a program administrator and field instructor at Outward Bound. She currently serves as the program director at the Key Largo basecamp for the North Carolina Outward Bound School. At Outward Bound, she has worked primarily with the at-risk population and has extensive experience as both an at-risk field instructor and staff trainer.

Aram Attarian, Ph.D. is an associate professor in the department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management at North Carolina State University where his teaching and research focuses on the human dimensions of outdoor recreation. He is a former instructor and course director at North Carolina Outward Bound and currently serves on the School's BOD as chair of the safety committee. Aram is the associate editor for *Accidents in North American Mountaineering* and is a certified Wilderness First Responder and AMGA single pitch instructor. He is the author of *Risk Management in Outdoor and Adventure Programs*.

Andrew Bailey is assistant professor of recreation and tourism at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. He has been exploring the outdoors for over 20 years by himself, with groups, and now with his 2-year-old little girl. Andrew's outdoor experience, both personal and professional, have compelled him to investigate the human/nature relationship on many levels. He specializes in psycho-social impacts of outdoor activities. When Andrew is not teaching, advising, or researching, he can be found exploring the trails, crags, and rivers around Chattanooga with his two girls (wife Stephanie and daughter Anya).

Aaron Ball has worked in the outdoor industry for over 16 years as a guide, instructor, and supervisor in the mountains and on the river. Currently, Aaron owns and operates Southwest Rescue, a company offering remote rescue education in the Four Corner's region. He is also an alpine guide and avalanche instructor for San Juan Mountain Guides, a faculty member and the operations coordinator for Fort Lewis College's Adventure Education Program, an instructor trainer for the American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education, and a senior instructor for the Wilderness Medicine Training Center. Aaron has a master's degree in adventure education with a specific emphasis on risk management from Prescott College.

Katie Baum Mettenbrink brings over 10 years of experience as a program administrator and field instructor at NOLS. She is the staffing coordinator at NOLS Professional Training, a senior NOLS field instructor, and also works as a consultant and administrator for NOLS Risk Management Services. Before coming to NOLS Pro, she supervised faculty and risk management as the program manager at NOLS Alaska and has accumulated over 130 weeks of field experience on extended wilderness expeditions.

Rebecca Bear currently works as REI Outdoor Programs and Outreach manager overseeing REI's education programs both in-store and in the field. She directs the instructor training program and supports REI's risk management committee. Prior to working at REI, Rebecca served as the chair of risk management committee for Passages Northwest and worked with Outward Bound International. Rebecca has an Ed.M. from Harvard University and a certificate in Sustainable Business from Bainbridge Graduate Institute.

Dr. Andrew Bobilya is an associate professor of parks and recreation management at Western Carolina University (NC). He has over 20 years of experience as a wilderness instructor, trainer, and program coordinator for various outdoor and adventure education programs. His research interests include autonomous student experiences and first-year college student programs.

Nelson Bruni has been SCA's equipment manager for over a decade. His background includes stints as a trail crew leader, outdoor educator, and fire effects intern. A veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, Nelson is a Wilderness First Responder, Leave No Trace Master Educator, and is USFS Chainsaw and Red-Card certified. He is an SCA conservation work skills instructor and an Aerie Backcountry Medicine apprentice instructor. He currently resides in Vermont.

Winslow Carroll teaches workshops on leadership, decision making, risk management and wilderness first aid to volunteers and staff at the Appalachian Mountain Club. Before coming to the AMC, Winslow was a guide in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, a NOLS instructor, and a leader and trainer for the Harvard First-Year Outdoor Program.

Captain Andy Chase is a professor of marine transportation at Maine Maritime Academy, in Castine, Maine. He began his professional sea-going career at the age of 16 as a deckboy aboard a Norwegian bulkcarrier. Captain Chase, a graduate of Maine Maritime Academy, has sailed aboard many types of merchant vessels, including tankers, container ships, tugs, and freighters. He has sailed as deckhand, bosun, third, second, and chief mate. He was the subject of a book about the U.S. Merchant Marine by author John McPhee, entitled *Looking for a Ship*, and is the author of a book by Cornell Maritime Press entitled *Auxiliary Sail Vessel Operations – a Textbook for Professional Sailing*.

Tony Clapp was born and raised in Colorado and has practiced law there since 1996. Prior to practicing law, he was a fly fisher and whitewater rafting guide. Tony also taught skiing at the National Sports Center for the Disabled. He is a current member of the Winter Park Ski and Ride School and the executive director of CatSki U.S., a not-for-profit trade association serving backcountry snowcat tour operators in the United States.

Joshua Cole is the Washington program director for Northwest Outward Bound School and has been a field instructor, course director, and trainer for Outward Bound. He is a mountain and ski guide for North Cascades Mountain Guides and North Cascades Heli Skiing and a lead instructor for the Wilderness Medical Training Center. Josh has an MSc in geological sciences, with several publications and presentations at national conferences.

Nick Cross currently serves as the REI Outdoor Programs and Outreach Manager for central North Carolina, overseeing REI's Outdoor School program in the region. Prior to working for REI he was the assistant director at NOLS Southwest in Tucson, Arizona. Nick has been a NOLS field instructor since 2001 and has 130 weeks experience working field-based rock climbing, mountaineering, caving, and backpacking courses. He is a certified Wilderness First Responder, ACA SUP instructor, AMGA Single Pitch instructor, NASAR SAR Tech III and Leave No Trace Master Educator. Nick enjoys playing the harmonica and spending time with his wife Heather and their dog Abby.

Katie Dalbey, during the past 12 years, has taken on a number of roles, both in the field and as a program administrator, for Outward Bound. She currently serves as the director of Florida At-Risk Programs for the North Carolina Outward Bound School. She has extensive field and management experience with both at-risk and standard populations.

Brad Daniel is professor of outdoor education and environmental studies at Montreat College (NC). He holds a master's in Outdoor Teacher Education from Northern Illinois University and a Ph.D. in Environmental Studies from Antioch University. Brad has led multiple, extended wilderness expeditions and environmental field trips since 1986. He has strong research interest in how these outdoor experiences contribute to life significance.

Curt Davidson is a doctoral student at Indiana University. His research focus is on social support, group development, and a multitude of outcomes of adventure education. He also published a book on facilitating student learning last year. Curt has worked as an instructor with a number of organizations including Outward Bound and Summit Adventure.

Justin Doroshenko, M.Ed., is a senior instructor for Landmark Learning and a lead instructor for Starfish Aquatics Institute's Wilderness StarGuard program. Justin has worked in a variety of settings within the outdoor industry over the last 12 years, including extended backcountry and aquatic environments. He is also a paramedic in the state of North Carolina and has been involved with EMS and rescue for over 10 years.

Todd Duncan has managed and directed adventure, research, and education programs on five continents. He specializes in developing new programs and has been creating and running programs in Hawaii and Belize for 10 years, where he also served with the Wildlife Conservation Society as manager for Glover's Reef Marine Research Station. After two years as the director of safety and student life for the School for Field Studies (SFS), Todd now helps administer operations as program safety manager for the Sierra Club.

Lloyd Figgins is a British adventurer and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society who has led expeditions all over the world. Having been to over 70 countries, he is able to draw on a wealth of experience to advise others on effective risk management strategies. Lloyd is a former soldier and police officer and qualified as a Wilderness EMT. In 2012 he completed a 3,200 mile row across the Atlantic Ocean in a 23-foot boat!

Bill Frederick is the founder of Lodestone Safety International, a training and consulting company specializing in health, safety, and security for educational organizations operating abroad. Prior to that, he served as safety director at SFS for eight years and as an instructor/PD at OB for 16 years. He is a faculty committee member for WMA and holds an M.Ed from Harvard University and a CTH from the International Society of Travel Medicine.

Aaron Gorban has spent the past seven years directing the Appalachian Mountain Club's leadership training and risk management departments. During his tenure, Aaron has trained thousands of staff and volunteer leaders on behalf of the nation's oldest conservation organization. Formerly, he led environmental education programs and managed an outdoor education program for adults in Maine and New Hampshire. A Wilderness EMT, Aaron also teaches Wilderness First Aid on behalf of SOLO.

Wilma Gray, born in Ontario, Canada, received her bachelor's degree from Queen's University in 1984 and law degree from New College of California in 1996. Wilma has been practicing law since being admitted to the California Bar in 1997, joined McNamara Law Firm in California 1998, and became a partner in 2005. She is a member of the State Bar of California, the American Board of Trial Advocates, the American Bar Association, the Contra Costa County Bar Association, and the Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California. When not working in trial or deposition, Wilma loves to get outdoors to enjoy hiking, canoeing, biking, skiing (cross-country and downhill), and snowshoeing. Winter recreation time is spent volunteering at the Disabled Sports USA Ski School at Alpine Meadows at Tahoe.

Reb Gregg is a Houston, Texas, attorney specializing in outdoor adventure and education law. He is a member of the WRMC Steering Committee, the Accreditation Council of the Association for Experiential Education, the Board of the Independent Schools Experiential Education Network, and the Risk Management Committee of Outward Bound International. Reb serves as legal counsel to the Association for Challenge Course Technology and to a number of adventure programs including

summer camps, college and secondary school outdoor programs, and challenge course and zip line operators and builders. He is a frequent lecturer and writer, and honoree of the Charles (Reb) Gregg Wilderness Risk Management Award, established by the WRMC in 2009.

Amberleigh Hammond is the Risk Mitigation Systems manager and functions as the national medical screener for the Student Conservation Association. Her primary focus is screening, leader training, incident response, and compliance with field standards. Prior to the SCA, Amberleigh was at Outward Bound for six years as the national senior medical screener for OBUSA. She, along with Dr. Moore, recently updated SCA medical guidelines and has worked over the years with Dr. Johnson to update the WMA medical guidelines, providing screening advice to several outdoor education programs. Amberleigh teaches wilderness medicine courses and is an EMT and ski patroller.

Catherine Hansen-Stamp is an attorney in Golden, Colorado. She advises recreation and adventure providers on law, liability, and risk management issues. She speaks and writes on these issues both regionally and nationally and has presented at the WRMC since its inception in 1994. Cathy provides legal counsel to a variety of organizations, including recreation, adventure and sport program providers, camps, schools, outfitters, and guides. She is a member of the Wyoming and Colorado Bar Associations and co-authors for ACA Campline and the Outdoor and Recreation Adventure Law Center with Reb Gregg.

Tim Hare, Where There Be Dragons director of risk management, has worked in outdoor and international settings since 1999. He has given professional trainings to Outward Bound and Dragons instructors, school faculty, and conference attendees. An accomplished rock climber and alpinist, he has climbed and guided throughout the U.S. West, Alaska, and the Andes. Tim believes that healthy risk taking is essential for living an inspired and full life.

Dr. Seth Hawkins has over 15 years of experience in wilderness and field medical care. He is board certified in both emergency medicine and EMS and is the first physician to be designated a Master Fellow by the Academy of Wilderness Medicine. He serves as medical advisor/director for numerous groups, including NC Outward Bound School, Landmark Learning, and REI. When indoors, Dr. Hawkins works as a clinical emergency physician and vice president of Mountain Emergency Physicians.

Jeff Jackson is a professor and coordinator of Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley's Outdoor Adventure professional guide training diploma, where he oversees 18,000 student field days per year. He teaches courses in leadership, risk management, and systems planning, and is completing a Ph.D. on peer influence on safety motivation. Jeff is an award-winning educator and co-author of the widely adopted textbook *Managing Risk: Systems Planning for Outdoor Adventure Programs*.

Ken Kalisch has more than 40 years of experience in adventure education as a college professor, field instructor, program

manager, researcher, and author. His classic book, *The Role of the Instructor in the Outward Bound Educational Process*, has been used for leadership training at numerous colleges and outdoor programs over the years. Ken is currently an associate professor of Outdoor Education at Montreat College (NC).

John Kelley has worked in outdoor and experiential education for the last 15 years. He is currently the head of school at the Verde Valley School in Sedona, Arizona. He has been an instructor at a number of therapeutic wilderness programs, international schools, collegiate outdoor programs, and adventure travel organizations. In addition to his work at Verde Valley, John teaches periodically at Prescott College and works as a climbing guide in a variety of locations.

Skip King began working in emergency medical services before graduating high school. He worked EMS in Boston during college, then became a professional ski patroller and, later, a patrol director. He shifted to communications in 1990, and has since handled many of the ski industry's most visible incidents. In private practice since 2002, he serves a variety of clients in the active outdoors industry, including Outward Bound.

Tracey Knutson is a licensed attorney whose primary practice involves working with recreation and adventure sports commercial operators, public land administrators, and recreation oriented educational groups. An experienced trial lawyer, Tracey defends recreation companies and sports groups from liability claims, often negotiating pretrial conclusions that minimize time and expense. In addition, she provides risk management and training services. Tracey's belief, when it comes to recreational endeavors, is that risk and opportunity exist simultaneously. Learning how to maximize the opportunities in your recreational endeavors by minimizing or mitigating the risks is a key component of operating a quality adventure sport or recreational endeavor or business.

Alex Kosseff is the founder of the Outdoor Safety Institute and author of the *AMC Guide to Outdoor Leadership*. He believes that outdoor programs can do a better job with risk management and has assisted over 50 outdoor education, recreation, and conservation programs in improving their practices. As the Appalachian Mountain Club's first risk manager, Alex established risk management systems for 8,000+ annual trips. He lives in Bozeman, Montana, and enjoys instructing in and exploring the Yellowstone ecosystem and beyond.

Emily Ledingham is a senior NOLS field faculty and administrator. She has accumulated over 130 weeks of experience instructing wilderness hiking, mountaineering, whitewater, and backcountry ski courses. Emily currently supervises faculty and risk management as a program supervisor NOLS Rocky Mountain and NOLS Yukon.

Drew Leemon, director of risk management at NOLS, began his career in outdoor education in 1979 and has held his current position since 1996. He is a past chairman of the Wilderness Risk Managers Committee and is on the steering committee for the Wilderness Risk Management Conference. He has published

papers on wilderness injury and incident data and is co-editor of the *Manual of Accreditation Standards for Adventure Programming* and co-authored *Risk Management for Outdoor Leaders*.

Laura (Nulman) Luttrell is the program manager for Student Conservation Association's National Conservation Crews program in the eastern half of the U.S. She supports more than 30 crews of high school students, along with their adult leaders, as they engage in trail work, habitat restoration, and other hands on conservation work in national, state, and municipal parks and forests. She joined SCA in early 2013 and, before that, worked in outdoor programming and outreach with REI. Laura is a NOLS and Towson University graduate and is based in Baltimore.

Melanie Mac Innis is the Sierra Club Outdoors assistant director for volunteer engagement. Mel supports and trains volunteers to lead in the outdoors for the Sierra Club. She leads day hikes, backpack, and river rafting trips as a volunteer and as a commercial guide. She's an open water swimmer, a whitewater guide instructor, and a first aid and CPR instructor. Mel's undergraduate and master's degrees are in the humanities from San Francisco State University.

Brendan Madden is the national director of operations for Outward Bound Canada. Over the last two decades, he has been a senior instructor and program director at both Outward Bound and NOLS. He was previously the director of Hulbert Outdoor Center in Vermont.

Dr. Will Marling earned his undergraduate (1986), graduate (1989), and post-graduate (1997) degrees in a variety of disciplines. In 2000 he was trained by the National Organization for Victim Assistance© (NOVA) and added to his skill set and experience base in responding to people in crisis. His praxis has been informed as a responder to a variety of national and international events from violent crimes to natural disasters.

Natalie Mello is the vice president for member services and training for The Forum on Education Abroad. She joined The Forum in 2011 after serving as director of global operations in the Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division at Worcester Polytechnic Institute for 18 years. Natalie has been involved with national education abroad organizations, particularly in the area of risk management, and has become recognized as an expert in responsible risk management for off-campus experiences.

Frances Mock is an attorney specializing in advising outdoor education and recreation programs. She is counsel to NOLS, Outward Bound, and other clients providing advice about responding to serious incidents, claims, and lawsuits, as well as other matters such as ADA compliance, liability release forms, contracts, and general risk management. Frances worked as a Class V whitewater rafting guide, cross country skiing instructor for special needs populations, and in other adventure-based industries for 10 years before becoming an attorney.

Bob Myron has been an American Canoe Association instructor and a registered Maine guide since the 1980s. As an instruc-

tor trainer in SUP, canoeing and coastal kayaking, Bob enjoys sharing his passion for the woods and waters with others. Bob is the founder of Outdoor Leader Trainers of America (OTLOA), which specializes in ACA instructor certification courses, guide training workshops, customized staff trainings, and outdoor leadership courses for organizations around the country.

Steve Neal, risk management officer for Outward Bound USA since 2007, has been a risk management and safety professional for 37 years. After an early career as a paramedic, he developed a keen understanding of the importance of proactive loss prevention. His career spans his current position with Outward Bound; nine years as risk manager for the City of Portland, Maine; 20 years in the ski industry focusing on insurance, safety, and risk management; and six years as a licensed insurance professional providing loss control and claim services to the outdoor recreation industry. A native Mainer or "Maniac," Steve enjoys sailing, biking, skiing, and all the outdoor activities New England has to offer.

Chip Noble is an avid outdoorsman and gear junkie with 16 years of mapping, GPS, and satellite communications experience. As the outdoor recreation product manager at DeLorme, Chip designs GPS and satellite communication solutions for consumers, enterprise professionals and military. Chip's resumé includes design management of DeLorme Topo USA software, PN-series GPS technology, and the inReach satellite communication and navigation technology. Chip lives in Maine and is married with two young girls.

Anne Ogilvie is the director of global operations at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) where she oversees operations and risk management for the Global Perspective Program, WPI's international, interdisciplinary project program. Previously, she was international director of field management at Earthwatch Institute. Anne has a bachelor's in Zoology from UMASS, Amherst and a master's in adult and organizational learning from Suffolk University. She has expertise leading program operations for research and education programs on six continents.

Graham Ottley serves as program director with Outward Bound California with their High Sierra and Joshua Tree programs. He has been working in the field of outdoor and experiential education since completing his undergrad in outdoor education at Montreat College in 2004.

Jeremy Oyen has worked in the outdoor education industry developing instructional programs and training instructors for over 25 years at the local, regional, and national level. He is the current program manager for REI Outdoor Programs and Outreach and is responsible for alignment and development of the REI Outdoor School national program curriculum and training. Jeremy is a current instructor trainer and educator with the American Canoe Association in stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking, canoeing, and adaptive paddling.

Donald Pachner worked at a respected international insurance brokerage firm for 25 years before turning his outdoors and

environmental volunteer work into a business 11 years ago. His growing firm Achner & Associates specializes in insurance for outdoor recreation, outdoor and nature education, environmental conservation and research organizations, trail associations, and outdoor clubs around the U.S. He has authored articles for the *American Mountain Guides Association Mountain Bulletin*, *American Institute for Avalanche Research & Education Instructor Newsletter* and teaches professional development courses for mountaineering guides and guide services. Outside of work, he volunteers with Sierra Club, Audubon, and other outdoor and conservation organizations.

Milosz Pierwola, Esq. is an attorney turned world adventurer. In 2011, he started the company EXPadventures.com that has catered to unique clients from large cities around the world. Through the process of introducing himself to responsible outdoor adventure, he overcame many obstacles that have more impactful significance to those for whom access is difficult. He has developed a presentation to detail his integration from urban dweller to outdoorsman and the miscommunication between social media portrayal and reality with respect to the wilderness.

Sascha Paris is the Sierra Club's outdoor activities training manager. Since 2003, Sascha has trained hundreds of Sierra Club volunteer trip leaders and program managers who lead thousands of outings for 200,000 members annually across the country. Sascha brings both institutional program management and educational experience from his work as an instructor and course director for Outward Bound, program director for the University of California, San Diego, and instructor for NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute.

Aparna Rajagopal-Durbin has served as NOLS' diversity and inclusion manager for over three years. In this capacity, she has trained hundreds of faculty and staff within NOLS on inclusion and cultural competence both in the field and in traditional office settings. She has also facilitated workshops for external organizations such as the Student Conservation Association, the Outdoor Educator's Institute, and Green Mountain College.

Gates Richards is a senior instructor for NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute. Gates has been involved in outdoor education and EMS since the early '90s. Over the years he's worked outdoor programming throughout the Rocky Mountains, Pacific Northwest, and Alaska. He's worked urban EMS in Washington, D.C.; Seattle, Washington; Gunnison County, Colorado; and is an Intermediate EMT in Lander, Wyoming. Gates began teaching for WMI in 1998 and now bears the title of WMI special programs manager. He oversees WMI's WEMT and instructor training programs and is a Fellow of the Academy of Wilderness Medicine.

Billy Roos has had 50 years of experience with Outward Bound as a student, instructor, course director, medical screener, facilities manager, and as director of safety for OBUSA. He has been on more than 25 expeditions to Alaska, South America, and the Himalaya. Billy is a WRMC Steering Committee member.

Jay Satz is the northwest regional vice president at SCA, where he serves as a senior risk management advisor. He joined SCA 25 years ago leading a conservation crew of teens and recent immigrants to the Seattle area. He has served as program manager, traditional skills instructor, and vice president of program and safety for SCA. As a member of the WRMC Steering Committee since 1995, Jay is committed to building a community of dedicated professionals to support each other in our important work.

Bryan Simon, West Point graduate and former U.S. Army Ranger and infantry officer, is an AMGA certified single pit instructor, a Fellow in the Academy of Wilderness Medicine, and a registered nurse. He holds a diploma in Mountain Medicine from the UIAA/University of Leicester and is a Vertical Medicine Resources partner and medical guide. He has published articles on climbing/wilderness medicine in *Climbing*, *Dead Point Magazine*, *Wilderness Medicine*, and *Nursing*, among others.

Aaron Slosberg, before working with Where There Be Dragons, was the program coordinator for UCLA Outdoor Adventures where he managed the university's group wilderness excursions and outdoor leadership training program. He has a master's in history from UCLA with a focus on U.S. influences in Latin America and Southeast Asia. As executive program director, Aaron manages Dragons' regional program directors, supervises the work of course directors, and manages Dragons' instructor training.

Steve Smith, WRMC Steering Committee Chair, has greatly enjoyed (and grown from) his association with all three of the WRMC's sponsoring organizations. He is the national director of risk management for the SCA, providing risk management tools and resources for students and staff in all 50 states. A two-time NOLS alumnus, he has also served over 15 years at Outward Bound as a mountaineering instructor, staff trainer, staffing manager, and board member. While at Outward Bound, Steve hired and trained hundreds of staff and wrote sections of Outward Bound's *Trainer's Manual* and *Instructor Manual*. As a consultant and employee, he helps outdoor programs identify the relationship between their mission and their organizational risk tolerance—and uses trainings, policies, and systems to align operations to risk tolerance. Based out of Seattle, he routinely finds humility climbing in the North Cascades.

Justin Talbot is the director of wilderness programs and risk management at the High Mountain Institute in Leadville, Colorado. HMI's defining program is a semester-long academic and wilderness program for high school juniors. HMI also offers a summer term, wilderness medicine, avalanche, and other custom courses. Justin has presented at the WRMC several times and reviews the risk management practices of other small schools with outdoor programs.

Shana Tarter is the assistant director of NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute. In addition to two decades of experience in wilderness medicine and outdoor education, she chaired the Wilderness Risk Management Conference Steering Committee for five years.

Travis Taylor specializes in a full range of executive-level consulting and communications strategies and services for corporate,

nonprofit, and government clients. He has extensive experience in crisis and issues management, media training, corporate communications, community building, and digital and social media. Travis helps clients prepare for and manage volatile situations, including labor negotiations, employee and activist demonstrations, natural disasters, product recalls, workplace accidents; eminent domain and land use issues; legal actions, and legislative issues.

Anneliese Thies is the admission manager for the Rocky Mountain program at the Colorado Outward Bound School. She oversees the medical screening and enrollment for backcountry expeditions in the Colorado wilderness and Ecuador. She has been training medical screeners since 2012 and consults on medical screening and admissions policy for Outward Bound USA. Outside of Outward Bound Anneliese has worked as a field researcher and has presented internationally on labor rights, agriculture, and community development. She is an avid rock climber and trail runner.

Liz Tuohy has worked at NOLS since 1994, serving as field instructor, admissions office, and program manager for NOLS Rocky Mountain, overseeing risk management, student outcomes, curriculum, and staff performance for 250 staff annually. Her perspective is based on direct oversight of field staff and countless conversations with outdoor, adventure, and international program administrators. She currently leads NOLS Risk Management Services, which offers consulting and training to organizations internationally. Liz is a member of the WRMC Steering Committee.

Janae Turner has over 10 years of experience as a program administrator and field instructor at Outward Bound. She currently serves as the safety and education resource coordinator for the North Carolina Outward Bound School. During a short break in her OB career, she taught students with language based learning disorders at The Howard School in Atlanta. Since returning to OB, she has worked to adapt classroom based anti-bullying curriculum to fit wilderness expeditions

Mark Vermeal, vice president of safety for Outward Bound, USA, is responsible for the oversight of safety management systems for all Outward Bound Charters in the U.S. Mark has almost 20 years of experience managing staff at organizations like the Student Conservation Association and White Mountain School. As a Wilderness EMT, Mark managed emergent situations and has been a wilderness medicine instructor and a classroom teacher in anatomy and physiology. With rock, ice, and alpine guiding experience, he is a certified AMGA rock instructor and single pitch instructor provider who co-owns and guides for Mountain Sense. Mark currently serves on the AEE Accreditation Council, the steering committee for the WRMC, and has presented at the WRMC since 2007.

Ryan Wagner is the former wilderness program director at Camp Manito-wish YMCA in Boulder Junction, Wisconsin, where he was responsible for the staff hiring, training, and field operation for Camp Manito-wish's tripping program that deploys over 250

canoeing, backpacking, or kayaking trips each season ranging 3-45 days in length. This is Ryan's fourth Wilderness Risk Management Conference. Last fall he hosted and chaired the first annual Midwest Risk Management Symposium where organizations gathered to share ideas and strategies for managing risks much the same as the WRMC.

Jess Wilson is the Appalachian Mountain Club's Leadership Training manager and has worked delivering leadership and risk management trainings to AMC staff and volunteers throughout the Appalachian region for seven years. Prior to joining the department, Jess led and supervised volunteer trail crew programs and guided adults and families on hiking and backpacking trips in New Hampshire and Maine. Jess is a Wilderness EMT and is a SOLO instructor.

Ken Wylie is an internationally certified mountain guide and a member of the International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations. Ken has 30 years of experience as a mountain guide and experiential educator for organizations including Yamnuska Mountain School, Outward Bound Canada, and Outward Bound USA. He has also taught Adventure Programming at the University of Calgary and as a faculty member at Mount Royal College and Thompson Rivers University. Author of *Buried*, published by Rocky Mountain Books in fall 2014, Ken is the owner operator of Mountains for Growth Life and Leadership Development. Originally from Alberta, Canada, Ken currently resides in the Appalachian mountains of southwest Virginia.

David Yacubian is the owner of Ready SE, a San Francisco-based company specializing in risk management and emergency preparedness services. He is a trainer for NOLS Professional Training, and instructs for NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute. From 2005-2010, Dave was the risk management director for NatureBridge. Dave has worked as a field instructor for a variety of programs. He serves on the board of ETC, and volunteers as a raft and sea kayak guide.

Karmina Zafir has worked with educational institutions facing issues and crises related to town-gown relations, accidents, injury and death, litigation, activist action, labor negotiations, and organizational restructuring/layoffs. She has worked with outdoor education clients including NOLS, HMI, and Overland. She has also managed crises for universities including UC Hastings College of the Law and UC Santa Cruz. Karmina is a senior director at Fineman PR, a public relations agency renowned for its crisis communications practice.

Lester Zook directs the Outdoor Ministry program at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va. In addition, he owns WILD GUYde Adventures – a guide service for taking families, camp groups, scout troops, and individuals climbing, caving, and paddling in the Shenandoah Valley, along Virginia's Blue Ridge, and in the caves and mountains of West Virginia's Allegheny Front. His doctorate is from the University of Virginia, and he is a member of AMGA, PCIA, and NSS. He and his wife Robin have four children and one grandson.

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Gray Wolf Ranch has a mission to provide a natural, safe, and supportive setting for beginning a structured progression toward a sober lifestyle. We believe that we live and work on recovery as a community and, while ultimately the journey toward sobriety is a personal one, it is best undertaken in the company of friends.



Pachner & Associates, LLC insurance brokers and consultants are leaders in insurance for outdoor recreation, nature and outdoor education, environmental conservation, scientific research/media, trail associations, and outdoor clubs. Members of The Conservation Alliance.

Exhibitors



Being self-sufficient in the outdoors is essential, especially during an emergency when assistance from rescue teams may be hours away. Adventure Medical Kits is dedicated to bringing you the most innovative products, which will keep you safe in the outdoors.



The Association for Experiential Education (AEE) is a nonprofit, professional membership association dedicated to experiential education and the students, educators, and practitioners who utilize its philosophy.



Welcome to American Backcountry. We have merged our test of time Outdoor Graphics with top quality Moisture Wicking Apparel and trend forward printing technologies. Our destination graphics touch the pulse and passion of a wide spectrum of outdoor enthusiasts. Our garments are manufactured with performance, comfort and function in mind. Our printing processes almost exclusively utilize water based inks and all are environment friendly. Our products are Phthalate free and in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Standards.



CampDoc.com is the leading electronic health record system for camps. Designed by camp doctors, nurses and directors, our secure, easy-to-use web-based solution manages health forms, medications/allergies and illness/injury logging for your wilderness program throughout the summer.



Send and receive text messages via satellite with DeLorme inReach SE. Plus: GPS tracking, SOS, and satellite coverage anywhere on earth. Features a color screen and virtual keyboard with predictive text. inReach pairs with smartphones to access maps and NOAA charts.



Founded by Hans Deuter in 1898, we are one of the oldest backpack manufacturers in the world. We make sure that our products are functional and durably reliable companions for active people. That is why we invest a great deal of time and effort in the development, production, testing and repairs service of our backpacks, bags and sleeping bags.



Global Rescue provides worldwide advisory, field rescue, and evacuation services, in both medical and security emergencies.



For nearly 50 years, students with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) have learned and mastered outdoor skills, developed leadership, and studied environmental ethics in some of the wildest classrooms in the world.



Osprey packs provide innovative design and exceptional fit, making them a leader in gear-carrying equipment. For over 35 years, Osprey has been actively involved in outdoor education programs. We continue this effort in the evolution of the Escalante program-specific series

OutdoorEd.com

The Professional's Resource

OutdoorEd.com is the premiere outdoor education Web resource. Our mission is to provide the best collection of online resources for outdoor education professionals. Whether you are presenting your company or school, offering trainings, looking for a job, developing a new program or looking for risk management resources, when people want information about outdoor education, they turn to OutdoorEd.com. We are excited to announce the opening of our new Web site with a full array of new features.



Outdoor Safety Institute (OSI) provides outdoor education and recreation providers with safety, liability, and program management solutions. OSI provides global safety management support to organizations of all types operating in remote environments.



Outward Bound delivers challenging learning expeditions that inspire character development, leadership, and service. Outward Bound helps its students realize their full potential, for themselves, and for a better world.



“The Natural Choice for Insurance”, Pachner & Associates Insurance Brokers and Consultants specializes in the non-motorized outdoor recreation industry, trail associations and outdoor clubs, nature education, environmental conservation, and environmental research organizations.



The Student Conservation Association (SCA) provides college- and high-school-aged members with hands-on conservation service opportunities in virtually every field imaginable, from tracking grizzlies through the Tetons to restoring desert ecosystems and teaching environmental education at Washington D.C.'s Urban Tree House.



Solid Rock Outdoor Ministries (SROM) is a premier Christian outdoor leadership education and wilderness adventure ministry. Our programming activities include backpacking, rock climbing, mountaineering, backcountry cooking, alpine and backcountry living, orienteering, and community building. SROM programming occurs in the heart of the Rocky Mountains and desert southwest with courses and trips conducted in Wyoming, Colorado, and Arizona in locations such as Rocky Mountain National Park, Wind River Wilderness, and Grand Canyon National Park. SROM is the only wilderness ministry accredited by the Association for Experiential Education.



Vertical Medicine Resources is a medical guiding and consulting team dedicated to provide training and support for clients in a vertical environment. Whether at the local crag, a desolate alpine ridge, or trekking through remote highland villages, our mission is to assist individuals and groups with their adventures in vertical and mountainous terrain, prevent injuries while in these surroundings, and overcome challenges to succeed in their personal and professional summits.



NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute (WMI) has a goal to provide the highest quality education and information for the recognition, treatment, and prevention of wilderness emergencies. Our dynamic curriculum is accurate, practical, and relevant. WMI offers a wide range of courses, tailored to meet the needs of all students, from novices to medical professionals. Join us!



Wilderness Medicine Training Center provides practical courses in wilderness medicine and outdoor program risk management. Hybrid courses require home study using animated lectures (DVD), texts, and online testing before attending a practical session.



Willis is a leading global insurance broker. We develop and deliver professional insurance, risk management, and human capital consulting services to corporations and nonprofits around the world. Your Seattle team has decades of experience in the wilderness and conservation industries and is dedicated to the growth and success of our clients.

Additional Supporters



Being self-sufficient in the outdoors is essential, especially during an emergency when assistance from rescue teams may be hours away. Adventure Medical Kits is dedicated to bringing you the most innovative products, which will keep you safe in the outdoors.



Here at Black Diamond it's all about climbing and skiing. We share the same experiences that you do on rock, ice and snow and these experiences push us to make the best gear possible for our worldwide family of climbers and skiers.

Here at Black Diamond it's all about climbing and skiing. We



Cleanwaste has been providing solutions for “when plumbing’s not available®” for over 12 years. We are the manufacturers of the Original WAG Bag® and produce quality solutions such as the GO anywhere portable toilet®, the GO anywhere toilet kit®, Pee Wee® Unisex Urine bag and the Toilet in a Bag®.

Cleanwaste has been providing solutions for



Elemental Herbs inspires people to live in balance with nature by offering All Good sun, body, kids and beauty products made from organic & botanical ingredients. We measure success through environmental, social and economic health. All Good makes everything better™.



In the backcountry, having the right shelter is crucial. For 40 years, Hilleberg has specialized in making that “right shelter” by building the highest quality all season tents that offer the ideal balance of low weight, extraordinary strength and remarkable comfort.

In the backcountry, having the right shelter is crucial. For 40 years,



Klean Kanteen collaborates with and supports dozens of organizations working to protect people and our planet. Our network of friends stretches across the country and around the globe, and includes everything from tiny hometown environmental education programs to nationally acclaimed leaders in advocacy for health and environmental stewardship, music festivals, and private companies known worldwide for their conscientious approach to doing business.

Klean Kanteen collaborates with and supports dozens of organizations working to protect people and our planet. Our network of friends stretches across the country and around the globe, and includes everything from tiny hometown environmental education programs to nationally acclaimed leaders in advocacy for health and environmental stewardship, music festivals, and private companies known worldwide for their conscientious approach to doing business.



Rugged. Authentic. Reliable. Timeless. What started as a casual conversation at the Shady Lady Saloon in Jackson Hole, Wyo. has become a top-performing mountain-inspired lifestyle apparel brand. Established in 2003, Mountain Khakis quickly became a staple in the wardrobe of everyone from ranch hands to golf pros, those who travel by jet, as well as those who travel by thumb. The Mountain Khakis brand story continues to resonate as it connects to the enthusiast who believes that freedom and rugged adventure is a way of life. Mountain Khakis “Built for the Mountain Life.”

Rugged. Authentic. Reliable. Timeless. What started as a casual conversation at the



NEMO Equipment, manufacturers of Sleeping pads, sleeping bags and tents, designs products to improve the experience of adventure. NEMO believes meaningful adventures are possible for everyone, anywhere. Possible, that is, if you bring the will, the imagination, and the right gear.

NEMO Equipment, manufacturers of Sleeping



For 47 years, students with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) have learned and mastered outdoor skills, developed leadership, and studied environmental ethics in some of the wildest classrooms in the world!

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The Professional's Resource

OutdoorEd.com is the premiere outdoor education Web resource. Our mission is to provide the best collection of online resources for outdoor education professionals. Whether you are presenting your company or school, offering trainings, looking for a job, developing a new program or looking for risk management resources, when people want information about outdoor education, they turn to OutdoorEd.com. We are excited to announce the opening of our new Web site with a full array of new features.

Company & School Profiles and Job Postings are the best way to find new staff and Training Listings let you promote your program activities. With rich outdoor education curriculum, blogs from industry experts, articles, online media and shared documents, OutdoorEd is your portal to a better program.

The Recreation Law Center at OutdoorEd.com is the online legal resource that provides subscribers with analysis of important legal cases that can impact your organization's safety. When the conference is over, you can continue your learning and sharing at OutdoorEd.com.



Outward Bound delivers challenging learning expeditions that inspire character development, leadership, and service. Outward Bound helps its students realize their full potential, for themselves, and for a better world.



Point6 derives from 98.6 F, the optimum body temperature. Our goal is to take the merino revolution to the next level and produce the best wool socks ever. We use compact spun merino wool offering the best durability and comfort. Our socks are designed for performance and are back by a 100% guarantee.



REI is a national outdoor retail co-op dedicated to inspiring, educating, and outfitting its members and the community for a lifetime of outdoor adventure and stewardship.



The Student Conservation Association (SCA) provides college and high school-aged members with hands-on conservation service opportunities in virtually every field imaginable, from tracking grizzlies through the Tetons to restoring desert ecosystems and teaching environmental education at Washington, D.C.'s Urban Tree House.



NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute (WMI) has a goal to provide the highest quality education and information for the recognition, treatment, and prevention of wilderness emergencies. Our dynamic curriculum is accurate, practical and relevant. WMI offers a wide range of courses, tailored to meet the needs of all students, from novices to medical professionals. Join us!



California-based Vapur, Inc is on a mission to make hydration incomparably portable. As the leading designer, marketer and distributor of reusable, handheld, collapsible hydration products, Vapur's complete line of Anti-Bottles have been adopted by athletes, outdoor enthusiasts, celebrities, green activists, government agencies, fashion gurus and families alike. Vapur's ultra durable Anti-Bottles are proudly made in the USA, BPA free, freezable and dishwasher-safe.

Atlanta Evergreen Marriott

Internet

Complimentary high-speed wireless internet is available throughout the hotel, in guest rooms, and the lobby. Please contact the hotel front desk if you need assistance.

Sustainability

The WRMC is committed to developing sustainable event practices. The green-minded Evergreen Marriott boasts environmentally friendly facilities and is a Green Leaders 2014 silver award winner. You can help with sustainability efforts by bringing your own coffee mug and water bottle for your beverages.

Business as Usual

The hotels offers a full-service onsite buisness center to help you conduct your business while away from the office

Sustainability

The Evergreen Marriott provides a fitness center and whirlpool heated indoor and outdoor pools, and full-service spa. Numerous hiking, jogging, and biking trails are accessible nearby. Bike rentals are available from the hotel on a first come, first s ved basis. Other outdoor attractions include Stone Mountain Park and two 18-hole golf courses.

Meals and Dining

Your registration fee includes the following food: appetizers at the Exhibitor reception, coffee and snacks during morning and afternoon breaks, and a meal at the keynote dinner.

For your convenience, the Evergreen Marriott is offering breakfast and lunch buffets for special WRMC rates on Thursday and Friday in the Waterside Restaurant. In an effort to provide a social atmosphere and networking opportunities, a section of community tables at the restaurant will be reserved for our group. Just look for the WRMC sign.

Breakfast Buffet: \$15.95 (or \$11.95 for continental)

Lunch Buffet: \$17.95 (or \$13.95 for soup and salad bar)

Dining options at the Evergreen Marriott

- Waterside Restaurant offers daily breakfast, lunch, and dinner buffets.
- Mountain Brew Café serves light fare, including breakfast and hand crafted salads and sandwiches.
- Poolside Grill offers burgers, sandwiches, and salads for quick lunches.

Keynote Dinner

Dinner prior to Captain Andy Chase's keynote address on Friday, October 3 is included in your WRMC registration and will commence at about 6:30 p.m. following a social hour and remarks from seering committee members.

Vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options are available. Just let your server know of your dietarty needs.

If your travel plans don't allow you to join us for dinner, please notify WRMC staff so we do not waste food. In your name badge holder, you'll find a dinner ticket. f you are not planning to attend the keynote dinner, please turn in your ticket to staff at the registration table.

- Stonewall's Lounge is open for dinner and offers light fare.
- The Commons, located in the golf clubhouse (two miles down the road), is open for lunch and dinner.
- Snack foods are available at the general store, and each room is equipped with a small refrigerator.

WRMC Year-Round Community

WRMC Social Media

Join the WRMC Facebook page or follow us on Twitter to get updates surrounding the conference. Look for comments and photos from this year's conference, news on next year's WRMC, or use it to share information with your colleagues and to keep in touch with your fellow WRMC attendees. Use #WRMC.



Wilderness Risk Management Conference
on Facebook



WildrnssRiskMgmtConf on Twitter

Engage with us all year long at www.nols.edu/wrmc

WRMC Online Resource Center

The learning doesn't stop when the conference ends! Past proceeding's articles, workshop outlines, and take-home action steps from the 2014 WRMC and past WRMCs are available to the public for your continuing education needs.

Charles (Reb) Gregg Wilderness Risk Management Award

This award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions in risk management to the outdoor adventure education profession. The award's namesake, Reb Gregg, is a practicing attorney who specializes in outdoor adventure and education law. He has been instrumental in the development of the WRMC. The award is presented annually at the WRMC. Visit the WRMC website to nominate someone for this prestigious award.

History of the WRMC

In 1992, representatives from Outward Bound, Alpine Towers, Wilderness Medical Society, Wilderness Education Association, Exum Mountain Guides, Association for Experiential Education, International Safety Network, National Association of Search and Rescue, American Mountain Guides Association, American Alpine Club, Outdoor Network/Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America, the National Park Service, and the National Outdoor Leadership School met in Lander, Wyoming, to form the original Wilderness Risk Managers Committee. The group set an agenda that involved an examination of current issues within the industry and each organization. The committee wanted to serve as an informal think tank, providing better understanding and coordination in the outdoor education arena.

After meeting for a second time in 1993, the committee sponsored the inaugural Wilderness Risk Management Conference (WRMC) at NOLS Pacific Northwest in Conway, Washington, in 1994. Since that time, the conference has served as a venue for sharing experiences and aligning practices in wilderness risk management. The conference is known for its high quality workshops and spirit of collegiality and openness.

Over time, multiple groups have influenced the WRMC. The committee has become a national consortium of outdoor schools, guide services, organizations, and land managers who have helped to develop the conference agenda and to attract high quality presenters. NOLS, the lead conference sponsor, along with co-sponsors Outward Bound and the Student Conservation Association, continue to enhance the professionalism of the conference and extend its reach within the industry.

As both the conference and committee grew, it became apparent that the current structure no longer best served the needs of either planning the conference or addressing key industry issues. In 2009, the committee disbanded itself and installed a small annual steering committee with responsibility for speaker selection and agenda development. In addition, a new interest group forum was created to follow the annual conference to allow for discussion of current industry related issues. The WRMC continues to evolve under the guidance of the co-sponsors and remains an excellent educational opportunity for those providers new to the field and the premier venue for established professionals in the adventure education industry.

2014 WRMC Steering Committee

Katie Baum Mettenbrink
National Outdoor Leadership School

Charles (Reb) Gregg
Legal Issues in Outdoor Pursuits

Amberleigh Hammond
Student Conservation Association

Drew Leemon
National Outdoor Leadership School

Kevin Moeller
Santa Fe Mountain Center

Jay Satz
Student Conservation Association

Steve Smith
Student Conservation Association

Jeannette Stawski
Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education

Liz Tuohy
National Outdoor Leadership School

Mark Vermeal
Outward Bound USA

For more information on the WRMC Steering Committee, contact:

Steve Smith
Steering Committee Chair
(206) 496-1288
SSmith@thesca.org

WRMC

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