



# WRMC 2008

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

**WILDERNESS RISK MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE  
JACKSON, WYOMING | OCTOBER 1-3**



**Welcome to the 2008 Wilderness Risk Management Conference!** We've made it even easier this year for you to get the most out of your conference experience. Presentations are organized into four main tracks so you can tailor the conference to your specific needs. A full description of each track can be found on page 6, along with their respective presentation descriptions, followed by speaker biographies on page 11. Let's get started!

<b>Presentation Tracks:</b>	
Staff Training = ST	Program Management = PM
Crisis Management = CM	Legal & Insurance = L

## PRE-CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

<b>Sunday, September 28, 2008</b>				
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	<b>WMI Wilderness First Responder Recertification (ST)</b> Erica Linnell and Gates Richards <i>Osprey Room</i>			
<b>Monday, September 29, 2008</b>				
7:30 a.m.–8:00 a.m.	<b>Pre-conference Workshop Registration</b> <i>Lobby</i>			
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	<b>WMI WFR Recert cont. (ST)</b> Erica Linnell and Gates Richards <i>Osprey Room</i>	<b>NOLS Risk Management Training (PM)</b> Liz Tuohy and Brendan Madden <i>Grizzly Room</i>		
<b>Tuesday, September 30, 2008</b>				
7:30 a.m.–8:00 a.m.	<b>Pre-conference Workshop Registration</b> <i>Lobby</i>			
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	<b>WMI WFR Recert cont. (ST)</b> Erica Linnell and Gates Richards <i>Osprey Room</i>	<b>NOLS Risk Management Training (PM)</b> Liz Tuohy and Brendan Madden <i>Grizzly Room</i>	<b>Outward Bound's Instructor Judgment Training (ST)</b> Jim Garrett and Bob Box <i>Moose 1 Room</i>	<b>Risk Management for Service and Conservation Corps (PM)</b> Kurt Merrill <i>Moose 2 Room</i>
1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.	<b>Emerging Legal Issues (L)</b> Reb Gregg and Cathy Hansen-Stamp <i>Antelope 2 Room</i>			
5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.	<b>Early Conference Registration</b> <i>Lobby</i>			
<b>Wednesday, October 1, 2008</b>				
7:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>			
8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	<b>Site Management (PM)</b> Garth Tino and Betsy Lindley <i>Osprey Room &amp; off-site</i>	<b>The Learning Brain (ST)</b> Jeb Schenck and Jessie Cruikshank <i>Moose 2 Room</i>	<b>Managing Risk With Volunteer Leaders (PM)</b> Alex Kosseff <i>Moose 1 Room</i>	<b>Using Case Studies as a Risk Management Teaching Methodology (ST)</b> Deb Ajango <i>Buffalo Room</i>

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, October 1, 2008				
7:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>			
7:30 a.m.–8:30 a.m.	<b>Conference Registration</b> <i>Lobby</i>			
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	<b>Exhibitor Showroom &amp; Bookshop Open</b> <i>Explorers Room</i>			
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	<b>Conference Registration</b> <i>Lobby</i>			
12:00 p.m.–1:15p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>			
1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	<b>Conference Opening Session: Sara Newman, National Park Service</b> <i>Explorers Room</i> Since December 2006, Dr. Sara Newman has served as the Public Risk Management Specialist for the National Park Service. She is designing and implementing a Public Risk Management Program for the first time in the Park Service’s history. Her program will conduct risk assessments and analyze risk management to prevent and reduce injuries to visitors at National Parks throughout the United States.			
3:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	<b>Break and Exhibitor Showcase</b> <i>Explorers Room</i>			
3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.	<b>The New Media Changes Everything (PM)</b> Bruce Palmer <i>Osprey Room</i>	<b>Judgment (ST)</b> Kent Clement <i>Grizzly Room</i>	<b>NOLS Crisis Management (CM)</b> Drew Leemon <i>Antelope Room</i>	<b>Understanding Your Legal Duty of Care (L)</b> Reb Gregg <i>Wapiti Room</i>
5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.	<b>Conference Reception &amp; Exhibitor Thank You</b> <i>Explorers Room</i>			
Thursday, October 2, 2008				
7:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>			
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	<b>Exhibitor Showroom &amp; Bookshop Open</b> <i>Explorers Room</i>			
8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.	<b>How Accidents Happen (PM)</b> Jed Williamson <i>Osprey Room</i>	<b>Staff Training for Therapeutic Programs (ST)</b> Kirk Shimeall and Rob Koning <i>Grizzly Room</i>	<b>Insurance Panel (PM)</b> Christopher Barnes, Cathy Hansen-Stamp, Doug Killeen, and John McManamon <i>Antelope Room</i>	<b>Legal Implications of Prescription Medication Use in Outdoor Programs (L)</b> Frances Turner-Mock and Reb Gregg <i>Wapiti Room</i>
10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.	<b>Exhibitor Showcase and Break</b> <i>Explorers Room</i>			
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	<b>Search and Rescue for Outdoor Leaders (CM)</b> Tod Schimelpfenig <i>Osprey Room</i>	<b>Staff Training for Therapeutic Programs cont. (ST)</b> Kirk Shimeall and Rob Koning <i>Grizzly Room</i>	<b>Communicating Risk to Parents (PM)</b> Claire Dallat <i>Antelope Room</i>	<b>Participant Agreements: Releases, Acknowledgment of Risks &amp; Related Issues (L)</b> Cathy Hansen-Stamp <i>Wapiti Room</i>

12:00 p.m.–1:15pm	<b>Lunch</b>			
1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	<b>Human Attitudes that Lead to Suffering in the Backcountry (PM)</b> Lester Zook <i>Osprey Room</i>	<b>Training Your Staff to Be Risk Managers (ST)</b> Liz Tuohy <i>Grizzly Room</i>	<b>Staff Injury: Claims Management and Return to Work Issues (PM)</b> Rick Braschler <i>Antelope Room</i>	<b>Legal Lab (L)</b> Reb Gregg, Cathy Hansen-Stamp, Wilma Gray, Tony Clapp, and Frances Turner-Mock <i>Wapiti Room</i>
3:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	<b>Break and Exhibitor Showcase</b> <i>Explorers Room</i>			
3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.	<b>Medical “Screening”: The Five Questions to Ask (PM)</b> Deb Ajango <i>Osprey Room</i>	<b>Risk Management in Canadian Programs (PM)</b> Jon Heshka <i>Grizzly Room</i>	<b>Risk Management for International Programs (PM)</b> Laurie Belton, Peter Harvey, and Jen Alger <i>Antelope Room</i>	<b>Litigation, Discovery, and Deposition Preparation (L)</b> Wilma Gray and Tony Clapp <i>Wapiti Room</i>
<b>Friday, October 3, 2008</b>				
7:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>			
8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.	<b>Bookshop Open</b> <i>Explorers Room</i>			
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	<b>Exhibitor Showroom Open</b> <i>Explorers Room</i>			
8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.	<b>Risk Management in Urban and One-Day Programs (PM)</b> Laura Herrin and Rebecca Bear <i>Osprey Room</i>	<b>Theory v Reality: Lessons Learned in Crisis Management (CM)</b> Claire Dallat, Kirk Shimeall, and Deb Ajango <i>Grizzly Room</i>	<b>Managing Technology on Wilderness Programs: What Are the Practices? (PM)</b> Drew Leemon <i>Antelope Room</i>	<b>What You Say and What You Write Down: Practical Value and Legal Impact (L)</b> Cathy Hansen-Stamp <i>Wapiti Room</i>
10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.	<b>Break and Exhibitor Showcase</b> <i>Explorers Room</i>			
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	<b>Risk Management in Small Programs (PM)</b> Christopher Barnes <i>Osprey Room</i>	<b>NOLS India Evacuation Case Study (CM)</b> Shawn Stratton <i>Grizzly Room</i>	<b>Lessons from Strathcona-Tweedsmuir School (PM)</b> Bruce Hendricks <i>Antelope Room</i>	<b>Mock Trial (L)</b> Wilma Gray and Tony Clapp <i>Wapiti Room</i>
12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>			
1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.	<b>Writing Risk Management Plans (PM)</b> Liz Tuohy, Drew Leemon, Shana Tarter, Mark Verma, Christopher Barnes <i>Osprey Room</i>	<b>Post Incident Response (CM)</b> Jay Satz and Laura Herrin <i>Grizzly Room</i>	<b>Updates in Wilderness Medicine (PM)</b> David Johnson, MD <i>Antelope Room</i>	<b>What to Say, What to Do: Managing Legal Issues After a Serious Incident (L)</b> Frances Turner-Mock <i>Wapiti Room</i>

2:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	<b>Break and Exhibitor Showcase</b> <i>Explorers Room</i>			
3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.	<b>Medication Management for Minors (PM)</b> Mark Vermeal <i>Osprey Room</i>	<b>Post Incident Response cont. (CM)</b> Jay Satz and Laura Herrin <i>Grizzly Room</i>	<b>Competence v Certification (ST)</b> Kent Clement <i>Antelope Room</i>	<b>Advanced Legal Session (L)</b> Reb Gregg and Legal Panel <i>Wapiti Room</i>
4:45 p.m.–5:15 p.m.	<b>Closing Session: What We Have Learned</b> <i>Explorers Room</i>			
6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.	<b>Keynote Dinner</b> <i>Explorers Room</i>			
7:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.	<b>Keynote Speaker Jack Turner</b> <i>Explorers Room</i> Jack Turner has led more than 40 treks and exploratory expeditions to Pakistan, India, China, Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, and Peru. He has guided in Wyoming’s Teton Range for 35 years and is president of the Exum Mountain Guides and School of American Mountaineering. Jack gives lectures to universities and other institutions, including Greenpeace, the Murie Center, the Teton Science School, and the Wharton School of Finance.			
9:00 p.m.	<b>Conference Ends</b>			

**WRMC Resource Center** | The learning doesn’t stop when the conference ends! We responded to your requests by making the most popular past Proceedings Articles and Take Home Action Steps available to the public for your continuing education needs. Come explore at [www.nols.edu/wrmc/resources.shtml](http://www.nols.edu/wrmc/resources.shtml).

**Meals and Dining** | Please note that break food and the keynote dinner are the only food included with your conference registration. Below are the on-site restaurant options available for your meals during the conference. 18% gratuity is added to all restaurant and bar checks.

<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>	<u>Dinner</u>
<i>Pioneer Grill</i> 6:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m. Ala carte breakfast service including breakfast burritos, eggs cooked to order and huckleberry pancakes (price range \$8–\$12)	<i>Pioneer Grill</i> 11:00 a.m. Ala carte lunch service including salads, soups, chili, hot/cold sandwiches and burgers (price range \$10–\$14)	<i>Pioneer Grill</i> 5:30 p.m. Ala carte dinner service including salads, soups, hot/cold sandwiches and assorted entrees (price range \$15–\$21)
<i>Mural Room Restaurant</i> 7:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m. Full hot breakfast buffet including fruit, pastries, yogurts, breakfast meats, Chef’s Specialty eggs and our famous “Moose” waffle station (\$13.95)	<i>Mural Room Restaurant</i> 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Daily lunch buffet featuring hot entrees plus soup & salad bar (\$11.95)	<i>Mural Room Restaurant</i> 5:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED Ala carte dinner menu featuring four Nightly Chef’s Choice Entrée specials including soup, salad and non-alcoholic beverage. (THE best dinner option! Price range \$16.95–\$18.95)
<i>Blue Heron Lounge</i> 7:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m. Continental breakfast including coffee, juices, fresh fruit, pastries, organic granola and yogurt (\$7.50)	<i>Upper Lobby Coffee Cart</i> 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Boxed lunches designed to grab-n-go: assorted sandwiches with chips, whole fruit, cookie, and beverage (\$9.95)	

# CONFERENCE TRACKS AND PRESENTATIONS

## STAFF TRAINING AND MANAGEMENT TRACK

This track addresses training staff to be risk managers in the field, using case studies as a tool, managing staff injury claims, utilizing volunteer leaders, and looking at the question of certifications versus competence. New this year is a three-hour workshop on training staff for therapeutic programs.

### **Competence v Certification** | Kent Clement

*Friday, October 3, 3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.*

This workshop will profile several cases and discuss how to deal with risk management issues arising from highly certified technically incompetent individuals, well-intentioned people with lots of certificates but lacking in field experience.

### **Judgment** | Kent Clement

*Wednesday, October 1, 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.*

Judgment is always near the top of the list of skills that outdoor leaders need to do their jobs well. However, little has been understood about how, or if, judgment could be taught and much less about whether judgment potential can be assessed. This presentation will outline what is currently being done in the industry in regard to judgment training, and then it will move into new research findings in the areas of evolutionary psychology and how we can apply these to judgment training. The workshop will conclude with a take-home plan to enhance existing judgment training or to begin to train staff in the fine art of making good decisions using judgment.

### **The Learning Brain** | Jeb Schenck and Jessie Cruikshank

*Pre-conference: Wednesday, October 1, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*

This pre-conference workshop will briefly review how the emerging brain science field of cognitive neuroscience is affecting educational theory and practice. Cognitive neuroscience provides a more predictable basis and comprehensive foundation for application to instruction than badly out of date but traditional learning theories of behaviorism (stimulus-response) that many in outdoor education still appear to use. It allows us to more precisely design student and staff instruction because we are working with the brain's processes, not against them. We will briefly examine how the brain learns and provide points of potential instructional intervention for both students and staff, along with real field examples.

### **NOLS Risk Management Training** | Liz Tuohy and Brendan Madden

*Pre-conference: Monday, September 29–Tuesday, September 30 (two-day session), 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.*

Using a structured approach, tested tools and templates, we guide you as you build a risk management plan appropriate for your organization.

### **Outward Bound's Instructor Judgment Training**

Jim Garrett and Bob Box

*Pre-conference: Tuesday, September 30, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*

Outward Bound USA's Instructor Judgment Training Workshop utilizes Harvard Business School's case study discussion method for in-depth group analysis of actual incident and accident cases. This hands-on, train-the-trainer workshop will present how-to strategies and opportunities for practice in leading case study discussions.

### **Staff Training in Therapeutic Programs** | Kirk Shimeall and Rob Koning

*Thursday, October 2, 8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*

An interactive workshop addressing a number of areas in training staff who work in therapeutic programs including behavior management, therapeutic issues, medical considerations with the unreliable patient, runaway prevention, medical exclusions, transfer of info to line staff, contraband and searches, and therapeutic holds.

### **Training Staff To Be Risk Managers** | Liz Tuohy

*Thursday, October 2, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.*

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 build risk management knowledge specific to your program. We will address the needs of small and large programs.

### **Using Case Studies as a Risk Management Teaching Methodology** | Deb Ajango

*Pre-conference: Wednesday, October 1, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*

This presentation will engage audience members in the case study method as a risk management planning and education tool. Through small group discussions and guided review, audience members will take part in a case study review and will apply key concepts in risk management planning.

### **WMI Wilderness First Responder Recertification**

Erica Linnell and Gates Richards

*Pre-conference: Sunday, September 28–Tuesday, September 30 (three-day session), 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.*

This scenario-based course is designed as review and practice of evacuation and decision-making guidelines, providing wilderness medicine practitioners with current updates in the wilderness medicine field.

### CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRACK

Using a wealth of experience, this track addresses crisis plans as well as crisis/field incident and post incident response. New this year is a case study from a field instructor's perspective and a workshop on lessons learned from three practitioners with experience in crisis management.

**NOLS Crisis Management** | Drew Leemon  
*Wednesday, October 1, 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.*

A case study, lecture, and discussion on the NOLS Crisis Management Plan and experience.

**NOLS India Evacuation Case Study** | Shawn Stratton  
*Friday, October 3, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*

Speaking from a lead instructor's perspective, Shawn Stratton will highlight details of the NOLS India crisis and evacuation plan that were implemented before, during, and after this incident. In each section Shawn will share a detailed account of the events, highlighting NOLS' procedures, while giving a personal perspective. At the end of each section there will be a short time available for questions and discussions.

#### Post Critical Incident Response

Jay Satz and Laura Herrin  
*Friday, October 3, 1:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.*

This session will focus on organizational crisis management once the field situation has been resolved. How do you keep the rest of the organization running while much of the staff is emotionally impacted by the event or involved its post incident management? Who does the external review? How are communications/relations managed with an injured or ill client, or most difficult, an aggrieved family?

#### Search and Rescue for Outdoor Leaders

Tod Schimelpfenig  
*Thursday, October 2, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*

This program is developed for use by experiential educators who may face a search and rescue (SAR) emergency while in the field. At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to identify several key aspects of SAR preparedness, including the importance of preplanning and Emergency Response Plan, key elements of search theory and rescue response, and the risks and benefits of helicopters in rescue operations. As well, we will speak to lost person plans.

#### Theory v Reality: Lessons Learned in Crisis Management

Claire Dallat, Deb Ajango, and Kirk Shimeall  
*Friday, October 3, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.*

As practitioners, receiving the call that someone has been critically or fatally injured on one of our programs is something we all dread. Most of us will never receive that call, yet we must mentally and organizationally prepare for it. Through personal experience with both the field and the management response, the presenters will provide valuable lessons from these tragic events that you can apply immediately, whatever the size of your program. This is not a "war stories" session; it is about sharing what we wished we knew before and soon found out afterwards.

### LEGAL AND INSURANCE TRACK

Our Legal Track presenters worked hard to develop a series of focused, non-redundant offerings to address current legal issues in wilderness risk management. This includes a mock trial, an advanced legal topics session and last year's popular session where you can review your specific participant agreements with an attorney.

**Advanced Legal Topics** | Reb Gregg and Legal Panel  
*Friday, October 3, 3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.*

Presented in conjunction with 3–4 attorneys in a panel presentation. The panel members will do a short presentation of a topic not otherwise addressed at the conference, followed by a questions and answer session. Potential topics include: equipment issues (maintenance and records, instructions, modifications, rental, etc.); ADA and issues in medical screening; legal issues for minors, duties of care, etc.

**Emerging Legal Issues** | Reb Gregg and Cathy Hansen-Stamp  
*Pre-conference: Tuesday, September 30, 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.*

This interactive session is designed for administrators and attorneys who understand basic legal concepts and want

a deeper look at significant new developments in the legal liability area.

**Legal Implications of Using Prescription Drugs in Outdoor Programs** | Frances Turner-Mock and Reb Gregg  
*Thursday, October 2, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.*

An organization whose policies call for the carrying and administration of prescription drugs must determine if those practices are legal in the jurisdiction in which it operates. If the practices are found to be illegal or questionable, the organization has some tough choices to make—ethical, legal and cultural. Will it continue as before, hopeful that the laws will change, or that certain immunities and defenses will be successful if a loss occurs?

Will it substitute other, perhaps less effective but more clearly legal policies? Or, will it change its operations? These and related issues will be discussed in the session.

**Legal Lab** | Reb Gregg, Cathy Hansen-Stamp, Wilma Gray, Tony Clapp, and Frances Turner-Mock  
*Thursday, October 2, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.*

Please join us for the legal lab workshop, directly following the presentation “Participant Agreements: Releases, Acknowledgment of Risks and Related Issues” for a unique opportunity to address your participant agreement concerns individually with an attorney. Several attorneys will be available to address your concerns and give you some general and targeted feedback to take back to your legal counsel. Remember to bring your program’s current participant agreement with you and obtain some valuable insight! Please note that sign up for this session is limited to the first 30 participants, and a sign up sheet will be available at the registration table when you arrive.

#### **Litigation, Discovery, and Deposition Preparation**

Wilma Gray and Tony Clapp  
*Thursday, October 2, 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.*

A general synopsis of the rules and procedure that are followed when an outdoor adventure program is sued. Participants will gain an overview of a typical summons and complaint; discovery, including written questions, document production (both paper and electronic documents); broad scope of information that is discoverable; depositions; alternative dispute resolution (mediation or arbitration). This primer into the fundamentals of litigation will serve as the basis for exposing the participants to the deposition process. The attorneys will depose 3 to 4 people selected from the audience. The deponents will be given a brief factual background from a case and then asked real questions with unrehearsed answers given by the deponents.

**Mock Trial** | Wilma Gray and Tony Clapp  
*Friday, October 3, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*

The Mock Trial will commence with a summary statement of facts from an actual case where an outdoor adventure program was sued for negligently failing to do something. The Plaintiff sustained injuries while participating in the program. Plaintiff will present evidence and testimony concerning liability and damages. The defense will focus on the duties of program director and staff. Evidence and testimony will be presented through the program director and/or a staff member concerning issues of liability. Each side will present expert witness testimony and opinions relative to the standard of care in the outdoor recreation industry. Following brief closing arguments and some limited jury instructions on liability and damages, the audience will be divided into groups to act

as the jury to deliberate considering all of the evidence, and return verdicts. Their verdicts will be compared to the real jury verdict from the actual trial.

**Participant Agreements: Releases, Acknowledgment of Risks, and Related Issue** | Cathy Hansen-Stamp  
*Thursday, October 2, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*

In this interactive session, Cathy will discuss legal and practical issues associated with use of written participant agreements with student/guests. She will highlight the value in using these documents as risk management tools, and will key in on current case law to discuss how courts view these written documents in the adventure and recreational setting. Significant issues include: dealing with minors, releases, indemnity and assumption of risks.

**Understanding Your Legal Duty of Care** | Reb Gregg  
*Wednesday, October 1, 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.*

An examination of what the law expects of your program in dealings with students and clients (the duty of care, the “reasonable professional” and negligence); how these duties might be enlarged, intentionally or not (including marketing, new promises, special relationships); and how the duties might be reduced (including warnings and disclaimers, assumption of risks and releases). We will discuss pertinent case law in a lively and focused interactive session.

**What to Say, What to Do: Managing Legal Issues After a Serious Incident** | Frances Turner-Mock  
*Friday, October 3, 1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.*

Responding to a serious incident requires focused attention to the injured, other students and staff, but what are the legal issues to be considered? What evidence do I need to collect and how do I do that? What information is available to someone who sues me? What do I need to think about when communicating with the family, my staff, the media, and land managers? This presentation addresses these issues, how to deal with a criminal investigation, and what to expect if a lawsuit is filed.

**What You Say and What You Write Down: Practical Value and Legal Impact** | Francis Turner-Mock  
*Friday, October 3, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.*

Outdoor programs talk—through their employees and representatives and through both external and internal information. External information is that intended for the public (e.g. marketing materials, websites, and participant agreements). Internal information is that developed for the organization (e.g. training manuals, risk management plans, and trip logs). Learn the practical value and legal implications of what you say and write down.

## PROGRAM MANAGEMENT TRACK

This track addresses a number of issues pertinent to program managers including managing web-based media, medical screening, communicating your program's risk to parents, international programming, smaller programs, and updates in wilderness medicine. New this year are sessions on managing participant medications, evolving risk management issues in Canada, single-day and urban programs, a panel on insurance, and risk management in conservation and service corps.

### **Communicating Risk with Parents** | Claire Dallat

*Thursday, October 2, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*

This presentation will address the increasingly important area of risk communication as a major component of an organization's overall risk management strategy. The presenter will contend, through offering a comprehensive critical analysis of the risk communication literature as well as the relevant findings and analysis of her recent MS thesis, that there is a need to consider a paradigm shift in risk communication processes with parents.

### **How Accidents Happen** | Jed Williamson

*Thursday, October 2, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.*

The classic illustrated lecture and discussion by Jed Williamson on common causes—human, environmental, and activity based—of incidents in outdoor pursuits.

### **Human Attitudes That Lead to Suffering in the Backcountry** | Lester Zook

*Thursday, October 2, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.*

Analyzing numerous “accidents” in the backcountry, we are seeing that most have human antecedents, rather than being attributable to simply “dangerous environments,” “dangerous activities,” or “acts of God.” The emerging phrase is “the dangerous client.” This workshop will illustrate various examples of these attitudes (competitiveness, ego, hurry, materialism, etc.) with actual cases, invite participants to begin thinking about the human element in outdoor incidents through story-telling and personal reflection, and then encourage active application to individual programs and operations. This session is applicable to adventure leaders, and program directors responsible for training.

### **Insurance Panel: The Insured, Broker, Insurer, and Lawyer's Perspectives** | Chris Barnes, Cathy Hansen-Stamp, Doug Killeen, and John McManamon

*Thursday, October 2, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.*

This session will enable a wilderness risk manager to understand what information is important in the underwriting process and provide a framework for how risk managers should communicate the important aspects of their operations to insurers.

### **Lessons from Strathcona-Tweedsmuir School**

Bruce Hendricks

*Friday, October 3, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*

In the wake of the tragic 2003 Connaught Creek avalanche, several reviews and reports were commissioned by

Strathcona-Tweedsmuir School. This session takes a look at specific and transferable strategies currently being used at Strathcona-Tweedsmuir School to promote effective risk management and the achievement of program outcomes.

### **Managing Participant Medications** | Mark Vermeall

*Friday, October 3, 3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.*

Using lecture and case study, this presentation will look at the issues of programs managing participant medications, one of countless tasks that field staff must accomplish each day. We'll look at pre-course medical review, gathering information on medications and guidelines for how to assist and document an adolescent's medication therapy. This session will include a discussion about the subtle differences between administering medications, dispensing medications, and assisting with medication therapy.

### **Managing Risk With Volunteer Leaders: A Discussion Forum and Training** | Alex Kosseff

*Pre-conference: Wednesday, October 1, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*

Managing risk with volunteer leaders presents unique challenges. Many professional organizations have significantly improved their risk management—facilitated, in part, by the Wilderness Risk Management Conference. Organizations with volunteer leaders can learn from professional risk management; however these practices frequently need to be adapted to work well with volunteers. The training portion of this workshop will provide a framework for thinking about this topic along with some proven solutions. Structured discussions will offer an opportunity to address volunteer culture, standards, and creative risk management solutions. In addition to providing a learning opportunity, this session is intended to catalyze ongoing dialogue on this subject.

### **Managing Technology on Wilderness Programs: What Are the Practices?** | Drew Leemon

*Friday, October 3, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.*

The intention of this session is to be a forum to establish a baseline understanding of the use of communication and other electronic technology used in the backcountry by wilderness and adventure programs. This is an interactive workshop intended to gather and share how wilderness programs are managing the use of these devices for field communication, navigation and other purposes. It is not a lecture on technology, nor is it a discussion on the value or appropriateness of technology in the wilderness. The workshop will be organized by posing a series of ques-

tions and a facilitated small group discussion will gather current wisdom and practices. This session should be useful for those program managers who use, or are considering using, technology by providing an opportunity to share experiences, management challenges and successes.

**Medication Management for Minors** | Mark Vermeale  
*Friday, October 3, 3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.*

Using lecture and case study this presentation will look at the issues of program's managing participant medications, one of countless tasks that field staff must accomplish each day. We'll look at pre-course medical review, gathering information on medications and guidelines for how to assist and document an adolescent's medication therapy. This session will include a discussion about the subtle differences between administering medications, dispensing medications, and assisting with medication therapy.

**Medical "Screening": The Five Questions to Ask**

Deb Ajango

*Thursday, October 2, 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.*

Still wondering what to ask on your medical questionnaire? This presentation will help audience members understand the dos and don'ts of gathering medical information from clients and students, whether an outing lasts an hour or a month. Specifically, the presenter will identify the importance of exchanging information on five medical conditions.

**The New Media Changes Everything** | Bruce Palmer

*Wednesday, October 1, 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.*

24/7 news channels, blogs, social networking sites, camera phones—the crisis communication landscape is constantly in flux. This informative workshop will offer insight and advice for developing a crisis communication plan—from messaging to management you will gain tools to navigate in this new world.

**Risk Management for Conservation Service Corps**

Kurt Merrill

*Pre-conference: Tuesday, September 30, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.*

The risk management and safety issues that are common to conservation service corps are unique. This interactive workshop will examine risk management issues common to conservation service corps operating in the urban wilderness, front country and backcountry locations. The workshop will be designed to meet the specific needs of workshop participants and may examine commuting and residential service corps models, insurance and insurability, workplace hazard and mitigation programs, environmental work site assessments, transportation management, crisis planning and response and criminal history background check procedures, medical screening procedures, selecting medical training providers, and "best practices" policy and procedure development.

**Risk Management for International Programs** | Peter Harvey, Laurie Belton, and Jen Alger

*Thursday, October 2, 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.*

As the need to increase dialogue and cooperation between people of different countries worldwide grows, the power of international programming to deepen mutual understanding cannot be underestimated. This session will outline what it takes to run a successful and safe international program including real vs. perceived risks of international travel, how to successfully work with third-party providers in a foreign country, finding the right travel medical and emergency assistance insurance cover, as well as the critical need for creating and testing an Emergency Response Plan.

**Risk Management in Canadian Programs** | Jon Heshka

*Thursday, October 2, 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.*

In the wake of recent accidents, some observers are demanding qualifications commensurate with commercial professional guides. Often missing from the equation is a debate on what is or should be the standard of care, what is the role of certification, and what is an acceptable threshold for risk in OE programs. This presentation will describe the evolution of outdoor education's legal standard of care in Canada and leading edge risk management strategies in schools, private programs, and federal parks.

**Risk Management in Small Programs** | Christopher

Barnes and Justin Talbot

*Friday, October 3, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*

An overview and discussion on specific risk management strategies that have proven useful to smaller programs.

**Risk Management in Urban, One-Day Programs**

Rebecca Bear and Laura Herrin

*Friday, October 3, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.*

Managing risk in an urban outdoor education environment is distinctly different than managing risk in the wilderness. Join us as we explore the differences through a panel discussion with urban outdoor risk managers. Leaders from REI Outdoor School, SCA and other outdoor programs will join us to discuss risk management planning, training and policies for the urban environment.

**Site Management Paddling and Climbing**

Garth Tino and Betsy Lindley

*Pre-conference: Wednesday, October 1, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*

A lecture and discussion, held at a river and a climbing site, of a site management and assessment tool for field staff and program managers.

**Staff Injury: Claims Management and Return to Work Issues** | Rick Braschler

*Thursday, October 2, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.*

Providing medical treatment for an injured staff person is

only the beginning of what can be a very challenging and drawn out claims management process. This session will give you practical applications for managing staff claims on the basis of understanding the general components of Workers' Compensation coverage, determining compensability, reporting criteria with insurance carriers and physicians, controlling medical care and costs, and managing injured staff programs.

**Updates in Wilderness Medicine** | Dave Johnson, MD  
*Friday, October 3, 1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.*

This session will endeavor to make some practical sense out of the medicine that many of us are called upon to

deliver in unconventional settings, far from organized help. The focus will be on: 1) new and old technologies and procedures that can have an impact on wilderness medical care, 2) common problems that continue to pose difficult diagnostic and management dilemmas, and 3) new and emerging topics.

#### **Writing Risk Management Plans**

Liz Tuohy, Drew Leemon, Shana Tarter, Mark Vermeal, and Christopher Barnes

*Friday, October 3, 1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.*

A workshop in which participants will draft a simple risk management plan for their program.

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Deb Ajango** is self employed as a safety education instructor and consultant. Deb has an extensive background working as a practitioner and administrator in the profession, has more than 2,000 field days of experience, and has provided risk management consultation and program reviews throughout the United States.

**Jen Alger** is a native of Newfoundland, Canada. Jen has a BSc in biology from Memorial University of Newfoundland in 1999 and has worked as research assistant at the Ocean Science Center of Newfoundland and as a programme coordinator for the Boys and Girls Club of Canada. Through the Student Working Abroad Programme (SWAP), she went to the UK in 1996 on a working holiday and permanently moved there in September 1999. She joined Earthwatch (Europe) in February 2002 and oversees projects in Europe, West Africa, and Sri Lanka. She is qualified in Emergency Aid in the Workplace for Appointed Persons; Foundation Certificate in Health and Safety in the Workplace; and Off-site Safety Management.

**Christopher Barnes** is the co-founder and executive director of the High Mountain Institute (HMI) in Leadville, Colorado. HMI's defining program is the Rocky Mountain Semester, a semester-long academic and wilderness program for high school juniors. HMI also offers leadership development, wilderness medicine, avalanche, and other custom courses. HMI recently completed a two-year process to switch to better insurance.

**Rebecca Bear** is responsible for managing the REI Outdoor School classes, outings, and overnight instructional courses, serving over 13,000 participants in 2008. These courses run out of REI stores and give customers the chance to experience a new activity, gain skills, and

increase their confidence. Prior to working for REI, Rebecca worked for Outward Bound International, and several Outward Bound schools in the United States. She also founded an Outward Bound School in Mexico in 1999. In 1997 she helped found Passages Northwest and Girls Rock!, a program designed to build leadership and courage in girls based out of Seattle, Washington. At Passages Northwest she served as the board president and founded its risk management committee.

**Laurie Belton** has been international director of field management for Earthwatch Institute since 2003 where she is responsible for health and safety on 120 research expeditions worldwide. She has a BA in classical and near eastern archaeology from Bryn Mawr College and has completed coursework towards a Ph.D. in archaeological studies at Boston University. She has worked on and run archaeological expeditions in Greece, Iraq, Tanzania, and the United States and is currently a member of the steering committee of the Brookings Institution Initiative on International Volunteering and Service.

**Bob Box** started working for Outward Bound in 1973 as Chief Climbing Instructor at NCOBS. Since then he has studied and guided instructor judgment in some capacity for 30 out of the last 34 years as lead instructor, director of program operations, safety consultant, staff trainer, safety and program evaluator and national program coordinator. He is the former Director of Safety for Outward Bound's National Headquarters.

**Rick Braschler** serves as full time director of risk management for the following organizations: Kanakuk Kamps, Kanakuk Ministries, CircuiTree Solutions, and Men at the Cross. Rick is the owner and senior consultant for Braschler Consulting Services, providing specialized con-

sulting for camps, conference centers, and outdoor adventure programs.

**Tony Clapp** is a partner in the law firm of Harris, Karstaedt, Jamison, and Powers, P.C. As a trial lawyer, Tony specializes in defending civil claims including those claims brought against outdoor recreation programmers and providers. Tony is a former fly-fishing and whitewater rafting guide. He also is a volunteer ski instructor at the National Sports Center for the Disabled in Winter Park, Colorado.

**Kent Clement** is a professor and department chair in the outdoor studies area at Colorado Mountain College in Leadville, Colorado. He is a long-time outdoor leadership instructor, former executive director of the Wilderness Education Association, current advisory board member for WEA, and sits on the Wilderness Risk Managers Committee.

**Jessie Cruickshank** has been the program director with Solid Rock Outdoor Ministries (SROM) since 2002. SROM was recently accredited by the Association of Experiential Education. Jessie lives in Laramie, Wyoming, with her husband Bob. She trains SROM staff over 21 field days a summer, is a staff training consultant, and joins high altitude expeditions.

**Clare Dallat** is the director of risk management and programs at the Outdoor Education Group, a nonprofit organization that serves 24,000 students annually throughout eastern Australia. Clare has worked in the field of outdoor and adventure education for the past 13 years, spanning roles from adventure trip leader to program director in the eastern United States and Australia. She has led and administered programs for 7- to 84-year-old clients. Clare gained a BA (Hons) from the University of Wales, Lampeter and an MS in risk, crisis and disaster management from the University of Leicester, UK. Clare currently lives in Victoria, Australia.

**Jim Garrett** is the project director of Outward Bound's Instructor Judgment Training Curriculum and national director of OBUSA's Service Initiative. Jim has been affiliated with Outward Bound since 1964, first as a Hurricane Island OB sea program instructor (1965-74) then as a trustee and corporation member (1990s-present). A veteran teacher in middle and high schools in the U.S. and abroad and a NOLS alumnus from 1973, Jim directed Harvard's First-Year Outdoor Program (1999) and was an advisor to Princeton University's Outdoor Action Program.

**Wilma J. Gray** has been a civil trial attorney in California for 11 years, specializing in recreation law. She is a partner in a mid-size defense law firm. When

not in trial or in depositions, Wilma loves to get outdoors. Born in rural Ontario, Canada, she spent much of her youth canoeing, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and working as a counselor for outdoor programs. After receiving a B.A. degree from Queen's University, Wilma worked for the Canadian government in Ottawa before moving to California.

**Charles (Reb) Gregg** is a practicing attorney in Houston, Texas, specializing in outdoor recreation matters and general litigation. He is an active speaker and author in the field of managing the risks of legal liability. He serves as general counsel to The Association for Challenge Course Technology and serves as counsel to numerous other education and adventure programs, including camps, schools, and others. Reb is a member of the Wilderness Risk Managers Committee and the Accreditation Committee of the Association for Experiential Education. He serves on the board of SCA, and is president of The Friends of Big Bend National Park.

**Catherine Hansen-Stamp** is an attorney in private practice in Golden, Colorado. She consults with and advises recreation and adventure providers and related organizations on legal 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. She is a member of the Wyoming and Colorado Bar Associations.

**Peter Harvey** founded an adventure travel and personal development company in 1995 that has worked closely with expedition and exploration organisations advising on global remote site health and safety systems, medical first aid systems and training, crisis management, and change management systems. He holds a BS in environmental science, an MS in Psychology at Work, and an off-site safety management certificate. He is a qualified Mountain Leader (Summer), Emergency Medical Technician, and member of a BSI Technical Committee as well as co-founder of the Expedition Provider's Association and chairman of the Young Explorer's Trust.

**Laura Herrin** is SCA's national director for conservation crews and community programs. In this role she is responsible for the oversight and management of SCA's high school programs across the country. This year SCA will have community programs in seventeen urban centers providing conservation service opportunities for over 1,000 urban youth each year. Laura has been with SCA for six years. Her background includes extensive work with children, youth and families, including at risk and special needs populations. She holds a MS in human services and is a certified trainer with the Crisis Response Institute.

**Jon Heshka** has two decades of experience in outdoor education, guiding, search and rescue, and business combined with four degrees, including a thesis that examined the liability of adventure education. He has climbed around the world, trained SAR for seven years with the BC government, worked with Denali Mountain Rescue, and has been retained by the U.S. Department of Justice as an expert witness. Jon is a professor of adventure studies at Thompson Rivers University.

**Bruce Hnedricks** is the director of outdoor education at Strathcona-Tweedsmuir School.

**David Johnson, MD**, is uniquely qualified to discuss a wide range of topics. He brings years of experience as a backcountry traveler and patient caregiver. To make his sessions as valuable for participants as possible, please come prepared to challenge him with the questions whose answers have eluded you for years. He would welcome emails before the session as well (dejo@wildmed.com).

**Doug Killeen** is the assistant vice president of commercial underwriting for Philadelphia Insurance in Littleton, Colorado. Doug has 15 years of underwriting experience dealing with contractual requirements and risk management based programs. Philadelphia Insurance is a niche oriented property and casualty insurer that specializes in several recreation and wilderness programs.

**Rob Koning** is the Wilderness Department manager for the Catherine Freer Wilderness Therapy Program in Albany, Oregon. With nine years in therapeutic wilderness expeditionary pursuits, Rob's current focus is in staff development and risk management.

**Alex Kosseff** is a partner in Adventure Safety International LLC, a risk management consulting firm, and author of the *AMC Guide to Outdoor Leadership*. The former leadership and volunteer relations director for the Appalachian Mountain Club, he developed risk management and training systems covering 9,000 annual professionally and volunteer led outdoor programs. Through ASI, Alex provides risk management support and leadership training to an array of outdoor programs.

**Drew Leemon**, NOLS Director of Risk Management, began his career with NOLS in 1978. Drew has been a field instructor, a school branch director, and a variety of other administrative positions. Drew has been the NOLS director of risk management since 1996. He is a past two-term chairman and current member of the Wilderness Risk Managers Committee. He is the leader of the Adventure Program Incident Data Reporting Project and editor of the *Adventure Program Risk Management Report*. Drew is also a

co-author of the *Manual of Accreditation Standards for Adventure Programming* and co-author of the book *Risk Management for Outdoor Leaders*.

**Betsy Lindley, Ph.D.**, is a professor of Outdoor Recreation at Utah Valley State College in Orem, Utah. She is also a field instructor for the National Outdoor Leadership School in their river programs in Utah and Idaho.

**Erica Linnell, WEMT**, first merged medicine and wilderness when she switched her college major away from pre-med in order to instruct for NOLS. Despite parental disbelief, she has been playing, teaching, and guiding in the outdoors ever since. After years of leading expeditions, Erica began a desk-bound adventure as a NOLS program supervisor and renewed her interest in medicine by becoming an EMT. She has tainted WMI students with her musical rendition of "Gender Specific Medical Issues" since 2004. Between WMI courses she can be found teaching telemark skiing at Grand Targhee or searching for fresh powder in the backcountry.

**Brendan Madden** is the NOLS Professional Training assistant director and a risk management consultant at NOLS. A former Rocky Mountain program director, he has 10 years experience as an administrator and instructor with NOLS. Also a former instructor for Outward Bound Canada, Brendan brings extensive experience with student behavior, medical evacuations, and organizational risk management cultures.

**John Frances McManamon** of Insurance Associates of Estes has been in the insurance business for 28 years. His specialties include manufacturing, hospitality and restaurants but has many general business customers as well. He competes nationally and locally in racquetball and enjoys coaching, teaching kids and spending time with his family.

**Kurt Merrill** has been an outdoor educator and administrator for over 17 years and is currently the executive director of The Boojum Institute for Experiential Education and the president of Merrill & Associates: Risk Management and Safety. Formerly, he was the national director of risk management as well as the national director of high school programs for the Student Conservation Association (SCA). In addition, he taught academic courses, administered the outdoor program, and developed the award winning ORION: Freshman Wilderness Orientation Program during his tenure at Penn State University. Kurt holds a BS in recreation and parks management and a MS in leisure studies from Penn State, with his research focusing on outdoor recreation crowding perceptions and environmental attribute preferences of rock climbers. Kurt has written numerous articles on

risk management and safety and is the co-editor of the most recent volume of the *Adventure Program Risk Management Report*. Kurt has spoken at professional conferences on field and organizational risk management. He was a member of the Wilderness Risk Managers Committee for nine years and has recently ended a three-year term as chairman. Kurt currently serves on the board of advisors for Aerie School for Backcountry Medicine.

**Bruce Palmer** is the NOLS director of admissions and marketing. During Bruce's tenure, NOLS has grown from 2,500 students to more than 12,000. With 125,000 NOLS graduates worldwide, the NOLS brand is one of the most respected in the outdoor industry. As NOLS' primary media coordinator and spokesperson, Bruce has handled communications with written, radio and television press on positive stories and in times of crisis for nearly two decades.

**Gates Richards** 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, DC, Seattle, WA, Gunnison County, CO and is an Intermediate EMT in Lander, WY. Gates began teaching for WMI in 1998 and now bears the title of WMI Special Programs Manager.

**Jay A. Satz** is vice president for Western Initiatives for SCA, located in Seattle. He has served on the Wilderness Risk Managers Committee since 1995 and regularly writes and presents on risk management issues, as well as performing safety audits and incident reviews within the industry. Jay's greatest risk management feat is raising two children, particularly serving as an umpire for his son Rory's Little League baseball team.

**Jeb Schenck** is co-founder of the Brain, Learning, and Applications Summer Institute, an adjunct professor with the University of Wyoming teaching graduate courses on learning and the brain, and a full-time high school instructor. He has received repeated national recognition for his teaching excellence. He is a former high altitude guide and a veteran of 18 expeditions worldwide.

**Tod Schimelpfenig** is the curriculum director of the Wilderness Medicine Institute and a fellow of the Academy of Wilderness Medicine. He has 34 years experience with NOLS and as a practicing EMT. Tod is a founder of the Wilderness Risk Managers Committee, former NOLS risk management director and NOLS Rocky Mountain branch director, the author of *NOLS Wilderness Medicine*, and co-author of *Risk Management and Leadership*.

**Kirk Shimeall** has been working in the wilderness since the late 70s. He has been working at Catherine Freer Wilderness Therapy Programs since time immemorial, starting off as a wilderness guide in 1991 before being demoted to management in 1994. In his free time, he enjoys many outdoor activities with his wife and two young sons, surfing off of the Oregon coast, dark chocolate in any form, playing Ultimate, natural building with cob and straw bale, and reading irreverent satire such as *The Onion*.

**Shawn Stratton** has worked with the National Outdoor Leadership School for nine years and is a senior instructor with over 150 weeks in the field at numerous locations around the world. He is currently the president and founder of LiveMore Adventures and LiveMore Consulting.

**Justin Talbot** is the wilderness programs manager of the High Mountain Institute (HMI) in Leadville, Colorado. HMI's defining program is the Rocky Mountain Semester, a semester-long academic and wilderness program for high school juniors. HMI also offers leadership development, wilderness medicine, avalanche, and other custom courses.

**Garth Tino, MA**, is the outdoor recreation management risk manager at Utah Valley State College. He has taught and led climbing trips for the last 13 years and he has climbed extensively throughout New England and the West.

**Liz Tuohy** serves as risk management senior consultant for NOLS Professional Training. Liz brings 14 years experience as a NOLS field instructor and administrator. She has supervised over 300 field courses in risk management—from student behavior to crisis incidents. Liz also brings experience working for smaller wilderness programs and a wide range of participant activities. Liz helps people to evaluate outdoor program risk management strategies in two-day NOLS Risk Management Trainings and site-specific risk management consults.

**Frances Turner-Mock** is an attorney specializing in advising recreation programs. She is Outward Bound's counsel to the National Risk Management Committee and provides advice to OB and other clients on responding to serious incidents, claims, and lawsuits, as well as other matters such as liability release forms, contracts, ADA compliance, and insurance issues. Frances worked in the outdoor industry as a guide and instructor for ten years before becoming an attorney.

**Mark Vermeal** is national director of risk management and safety for the Student Conservation Association. He is responsible for developing and implementing strategies

that enhance a culture and climate for risk management for nearly 3,800 staff and volunteers nationwide. Mark has over 15 years experience at the director level with outdoor programs at the White Mountain School and the Tin Mountain Conservation Center. An EMT, he has been a wilderness medicine instructor with SOLO since 1999 and a classroom teacher in anatomy and physiology for twelve years. Mark has professional training through the American Mountain Guides Association, with over eleven years of rock, ice, and alpine guiding experience and has been previously certified by the American Canoe Association as a white water open canoe instructor. In addition, Mark currently serves on the board of directors for the Pemi Valley Search and Rescue Team.

**Jed Williamson, M.Ed.** is immediate past president of Sterling College in Vermont, a former faculty member at

the University of New Hampshire, and a former instructor and program director for Outward Bound. He has co-authored the *Manual of Accreditation Standards for Adventure Programs*, has been the editor of *Accidents in North American Mountaineering* since 1974, and has served on boards of the American Alpine Club, NOLS, SCA, and AEE. Jed is currently a director for the Exum School of American Mountaineering.

**Lester R. Zook** leads the Outdoor Ministry program at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. His bachelors degree is from Messiah College, his masters from Temple University, and his doctorate from the University of Virginia. In 2004, he started WILD GUYde Adventures, offering adventure guiding and staff training for summer camps, groups, and families in various back-country areas of Virginia and West Virginia.

## THANK YOU 2008 CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS!

Join us Wednesday, October 1, from 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. for this year's Exhibitor Reception! While you network with great companies who support our industry, enjoy light refreshments and drinks from the bar. We will also be raffling some exciting giveaways, so show up to win! Here are this year's exhibitors...stop by and let them introduce themselves!

Aerie Backcountry Medicine  
The American Canoe Association  
American Mountain Guides Association  
Association for Experiential Education  
Backcountry Access  
The Boojum Institute  
Circuitree Solutions  
Concept Printing and Promo  
Greenfield Community College  
Helenbac First Aid  
NOLS  
Osprey Packs

Outdoor Ed LLC  
Outward Bound  
Point 6 Socks  
Powell & Elliott Collaborative  
Red Ants Pants  
Sawyer Products, Inc  
Student Conservation Association (SCA)  
SPOT Sat Messenger  
Teton Science School  
Thompson Rivers University  
Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS  
Wilderness Treatment Center

# WILDERNESS RISK MANAGERS COMMITTEE

The Wilderness Risk Managers Committee is a consortium of outdoor schools, guide services, organizations and land managers, who are working towards better clarification, understanding and management of risks in the wilderness education and adventure by facilitating communication and education through an annual conference. The committee was founded in June 1992 at a time when risk management was receiving growing attention from students, parents, land managers and the media. After the committee held an inaugural conference addressing these issues of concern in September 1994, conferences have been held annually throughout North America.

The committee is currently comprised of the following organizations and individuals representing diverse experience and history in wilderness education and adventure:

**Jed Williamson**

*American Alpine Club*

**Rhonda Michleson**

*American Camping Association*

**Henry Wood**

*Association for Experiential Education*

**Dave Uberuaga**

*Federal Land Management Agencies*

**Charles R. (Reb) Gregg, J.D.**

*Legal Issues in Outdoor Pursuits*

**David Johnson, M.D.**

*Wilderness Medical Associates*

**Charley Shimanski**

*Mountain Rescue Association*

**Shana Tarter**

*National Outdoor Leadership School*

**Drew Leemon**

*National Outdoor Leadership School*

**Lewis Glenn**

*Outward Bound USA*

**Michael Lindsey**

*Outward Bound USA*

**Mark T. Vermeal**

*The Student Conservation Association*

**Jay A. Satz**

*The Student Conservation Association*

**Kent Clement, Ph.D.**

*Wilderness Education Association*