



Regional Conference Reports

2015

Rocky Mountain Region

RMA



By Victoria Drummond
2015 Host Committee Chair
Montana State University

RMA's 2015 Annual Meeting was held September 9-11 at the Big Sky Resort in **Big Sky, Montana**. Preconference activities included the RMA board's fall meeting, fishing, golf, and tours of Montana State University's campus. The golf tournament hosted 62 golfers sponsored by McKinstry. Fishing included 35 anglers on the Madison and Gallatin Rivers, sponsored by Nalco Company and Armstrong International.

At the opening reception, RMA members reconnected under the big sky and late sunset with guitar music played by Kevin Fabozzi and enjoyed Montana wild-meats appetizers featuring elk, venison, and trout hosted by OpTerra.

Attendees were captivated by Chad Pregracke's keynote talk about his crusade to clean America's rivers and a gift copy of his book, *From the Bottom Up*, sponsored by Republic Services and MSU Facilities Services. Friday's keynote speaker, Jim Evanoff, presented Yellowstone National Park's historical management approaches to recreation or conservation.

The session tracks were "Institutional & Organizational Leadership," "Technology & Methods," "Maintaining a Culture of Service Excellence," and "Sustainability & Stewardship," and are available at <http://rma.appa.org/History-events.html>.

Mobile sessions (new this year) featured behind-the-scenes operational maintenance of a tram, including a trip up Lone Peak's summit (11,166 feet), and service excellence at Yellowstone Club, a private residential development. Other give-back opportunities included a Real Colors workshop sponsored by GLHN.

The AZ Sponsor Group hosted Business Partner Bingo, encouraging booth interactions with a chance to win either a fly fishing rod, gourmet chocolate, or a



APPA President Peter Strazdas and keynote speaker Chad Pregracke after speaking on cleaning America's rivers.



Attendees at the top of Big Sky's Lone Peak (11,166 feet elevation) for the tram expedition mobile session.



Twenty-five RMA Conference first timers attended a special welcoming session to meet the RMA Board and have a chance to win RMA and APPA scholarships.

Photos by Gary Gramer.

check to a charity of choice.

The theme dinner along the banks of the Gallatin River at the historic 320 Guest Ranch featured a barbecue with make-your-own s'mores around a campfire and dancing to the lively Bottom of the Barrel band.

The closing ceremony and Awards Banquet began with appetizers in Chet's Bar and background music by the MSU Jazz Band (students) and ended with dancing to Little Jane and the Pistol Whips. During dinner, RMA President Emmet Boyle presented the following awards:

- **H. Val Peterson Award:** Lisa Potter
- **Lee Newman Award:** INVISTA
- **RMA President's Award:** Chris Kopach
- **APPA's Unsung Hero Award:** Steve Hoskins
- **APPA's Effective and Innovative Practices Award:** The University of Colorado Boulder
- **APPA's Award for Excellence:** Weber State University
- **Host Committee Award:** Victoria Drummond and MSU's Host Committee

Boyle also recognized RMA leading APPA with EFP/CEFP credentials. The ceremony culminated with APPA President Peter Strazdas swearing in the 2015-16 RMA board officers.

THE 2015-2016 RMA OFFICERS

President—**David Turnquist**, University of Colorado
President-Elect—**Lisa Potter**, University of Colorado Boulder
Secretary—**Mike Millsapps**, Aims Community College
Treasurer—**Steve Hoskins**, University of Utah
APPA Senior Representative—**Brian Johnson**, University of Idaho
APPA Junior Representative—**Emmet Boyle**, University of Regina
APPA Liaison—**Kristin Witters**

To view RMA's website and find a complete listing of the board of directors, visit <http://www.appa.org/regions/rma.cfm>.

2016 CONFERENCE: September 25-28, 2016 • Flagstaff, Arizona