

# Increasing Scholarship and Improving Practice Editors' Notes

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The *Journal of Outdoor Recreation, Education, and Leadership* (JOREL) continues to expand its reach by increasing the reviewer pool, recruiting additional associate editors, publishing papers in different submission categories, and including scholarship from around the globe. The incoming editor-in-chief, Dr. Bruce Martin, and current editor-in chief, Dr. Andrew Bobilya, have been working together to ensure a seamless transition in expectation of Dr. Martin's taking the helm in January 2019.

This will be the last issue that Dr. Bobilya prepares for publication, which prompted his reflection on the past 8 years in the life of the journal:

I took over the editorship of the *JOREL* in January 2011 from Dr. Aram Attarian just in time to prepare Volume 3(1) for publication. I am grateful for Dr. Attarian's assistance in those early months of transition and for the ongoing support and regular assistance preparing each issue for publication provided by the longtime managing editor, Dr. Raymond Poff. In addition, I want to thank the sponsoring organizations, the JOREL Advisory Board, and Sagamore–Venture, all of whom have remained committed to improving the journal's ability to contribute to the scholarship in outdoor recreation, education, and leadership. During the past 8 years, we have been fortunate to successfully negotiate a contract with a new publisher, increase the journal publication schedule from two to four issues per year, draft and implement criteria for additional submission categories, create and implement the associate editor structure, and successfully recruit the next managing editor and editor-in-chief. I have been fortunate to work with many authors and reviewers from across the continents to publish 98 manuscripts in the journal, with an acceptance rate that has remained between 49% and 61% over the last 8 years. I have always tried to live by the motto that I learned early on in my outdoor adventure pursuits with my family—"try to leave a place better than you found it." I believe *JOREL* is stronger than it was 8 years ago and is at a place where it will benefit from the new leadership, creative ideas, and commitment to excellent scholarship in the related fields that Drs. Martin and Hobbs can provide. Thank you for the privilege of serving as the editor-in-chief for the past 8 years.

We are pleased to present the third issue of 2018 which includes two manuscripts in the category of Essays, Practices, and Commentaries; three Regular Papers; and six abstracts from the Association for Outdoor Recreation and Education's (AORE) 2017 Research Symposium. First,

Loynes shares an essay that provides an important look at Leave No Trace, suggesting an “ethic of leave more trace on the basis that this has the potential to connect people and nature in ways that encourage them to consider their trace.” Also, in the Essays, Practices, and Commentaries section, Hutson and Howard present a paper that was part of a project intended to provide baseline risk communication practices to the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) to assist the CWS in developing new policies for outdoor recreation. They provide evidence-based recommendations for risk communication and discuss implications for protected area managers.

This issue also includes three manuscripts in the Regular Papers category. First, Holland, Powell, Thomsen, and Monz provide a helpful update to the literature on outcomes associated with participation in wildland recreational activities. In their examination of 235 articles published between 2000 and 2016, they identify “(1) the breadth of individual-level outcomes associated with wildland recreation, (2) the setting and programmatic attributes that research suggests are driving these outcomes, and (3) the gaps in the peer-reviewed literature regarding the outcomes associated with wildland recreation.” Next, Yun and Peden present a paper on the “Situational Influences on Experiences of Long-Distance Hikers” in response to the heavier visitation and impact on long-distance trails in the United States. They utilize “the Benefits of Hiking Scale (BHS) to determine whether benefits of participation and components of means-end theory varied based on the duration and location of long-distance hiking experiences.” The last manuscript in the Regular Papers category is presented by Schary, Jenny, Morrow, and Wozniak. Their work focuses on bringing challenge course activities into the formal classroom. They examine “perceived strengths and limitations of a classroom-based CC intervention with intentional follow-up activities throughout the semester” using focus group interviews with class instructors and challenge course facilitators.

Finally, this issue ends with six abstracts submitted by authors who presented their work at the 2017 AORE Research Symposium and subsequently revised their work for inclusion in *JOREL*. These abstracts represent the diversity of scholarship presented at this symposium and others in similar fields.

We appreciate the contributions of all those involved with the submission and review process, editorial support, and advisory oversight of *JOREL*. We hope you will consider serving as a reviewer or associate editor and/or authoring a manuscript. Please also encourage your academic institution to maintain a current subscription for its library.

Thank you for supporting this journal,

Andrew Bobilya, Ph.D., Editor-in-Chief  
Will Hobbs, Ph.D., Managing Editor

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