

WLN NEWS

ISSUE 53

**OFF TO A GREAT 2024 FOR THE
LEISURE COMMUNITY WORLDWIDE!**



January 2024

Editorial

Are you a
WLO Premium
member?
Submit your
news here!

Dear members, dear colleagues,

This issue of *WL News*, the newsletter by the World Leisure Organisation (WLO), highlights key developments and initiatives in the leisure sector globally.

We celebrate Shangyu District, China, as a new World Leisure Community of Excellence, recognizing its integration of leisure for economic, social, and cultural well-being. We also share with you that the 17th World Leisure Congress proceedings are now available, including the abstracts of the research works presented during the event. In this issue we also announce the revitalization of Special Interest Groups (SIG) webpages.

Echoing some interesting news from our partners, we share a piece by Leisure Media on a new study by the Global Wellness Institute, on global wellness market leaders. In addition, this issue covers the UNWTO's rebranding to UN Tourism, emphasizing tourism's role in global development, as well as the Glasgow Declaration's Implementation Report 2023, which showcases commitments to climate action in tourism.

The issue is completed with featured publications from the *World Leisure Journal*, offering free access to significant research; a call for papers for the upcoming Leisure Studies Association (LSA) Conference in Scotland, which has an extended deadline, and details on the "Living Green, Liveable Cities" Research Symposium, in the Upcoming Events section, among other carefully curated contents!

Finally, we share the recording of the webinar organized jointly by the Leisure Management and Leisure and Ageing SIGs, on community building through leisure programs for older adults.

Stay tuned for more information and opportunities to be coming soon!

Yours truly,

Dr. Cristina Ortega Nuere
WLO Chief Operating Officer



WLO News



Save the date for the 2024 World Leisure Day on April 16!

Step into the world where imagination meets innovation! Join this global celebration on April 16, 2024, as the World Leisure Organization marks the fourth edition of World Leisure Day (WL Day). This worldwide initiative embarks on a new journey, delving deep into the theme of "Embracing Digital Horizons in Leisure". Unleash your creativity and join us!

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WLO congratulates its new WL Community of Excellence: Shangyu District, China

Shangyu District, located in Zhejiang Province, China, has been recently awarded as WL Community of Excellence. With its profound history, strategic location, agreeable environment, thriving economy, and cohesive society, is esteemed as one of the communities enjoying the utmost levels of happiness in China. Congratulations, Shangyu! The WL Communities of Excellence recognition, bestowed by the WLO, honors communities that have effectively harnessed the diverse facets of leisure to revitalize themselves and enhance the economic, social, and cultural well-being of their residents. Shangyu stands out for its clear purpose in integrating leisure into the community, consistent alignment with WLO values, strong commitment to community engagement, and well-documented success in fostering economic growth, poverty alleviation, improved quality of life, cultural preservation, environmental contributions, social inclusivity, and leisure education. Shangyu emerges as a commendable example, illustrating its dedication to promoting leisure for the betterment of its citizens and the broader community.



17th World Leisure Congress proceedings published at the congress' website

The 17th World Leisure Congress: "Leisure: Learn well, Live well" proceedings, containing abstracts' presentations introduced last December 2023 in Dunedin, New Zealand, have been published. This compilation provides a straightforward repository of abstracts covering various leisure-related topics discussed during the congress' sessions. Aimed at academics, practitioners, and those interested in the field, the proceedings offer a convenient reference to explore the variety of ideas presented. To download the proceedings, click [here](#).

Research



innovative projects, or simply connect with like-minded individuals, our SIGs provide a unique platform to engage with the global leisure community.

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Visit our renewed Special Interest Group (SIG) webpages!

We are happy to announce the revitalization of our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) webpages. Our SIGs are vibrant communities where members, scholars, and practitioners converge to explore, research, and share knowledge on specific leisure-related domains. From leisure management and sustainable tourism to therapeutic recreation and leisure for older adults, our SIGs cover a diverse range of interests that cater to the ever-evolving landscape of leisure studies. We invite you to explore these renewed webpages, which now offer an enriched user experience with enhanced navigation, updated resources, and the latest research findings. Whether you're looking to deepen your expertise, collaborate on

Industry



New GWI study unveils global wellness market leaders: US, China and Germany

By Megan Whitby

The US, China, Germany, Japan and the UK have been identified as the world's five largest wellness markets in new research released today by the Global Wellness Institute (GWI). Called *The Global Wellness Economy: Country Rankings*, the new study provides market size, rankings, analysis and per capita wellness spending for 145 nations. Findings show the US remains the undisputed goliath in wellness spending, with an annual market worth US\$1.8 trillion, and ranking first in nine of the 11 wellness sectors measured by the GWI.

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ACSM publishes its 2024 Worldwide Survey of Fitness Trends

By Cath Hudson

The fitness industry is gearing up to engage with the medical profession according to the results of the American College of Sport's Medicine (ACSM) trends list for 2024. Now in its 18th year, the annual Worldwide Survey of Fitness Trends gathers data from thousands of respondents to predict the trends which will impact the fitness industry. While trends vary across the globe, exercise for improved health outcomes is prevalent everywhere, including exercise for weight loss in response to the obesity epidemic, exercise for older adults and exercise as medicine.

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Network



UNWTO introduces its new name and brand: UN Tourism

Source [UNWTO](#)

On January 23, 2024, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) announced that hereafter will be officially renamed as UN Tourism. This big announcement took place during Fitur 2024, the annual Madrid International Tourism Fair. During Fitur 2024, UN Tourism also presented its priorities for the sector for the year ahead and the results of the first [World Tourism Barometer](#) of the year highlighting the sector's recovery, with international arrivals back to 88% of pre-pandemic levels at the end of 2023.

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Glasgow Declaration signatory parties presents the Implementation Report 2023 in the framework of Fitur 2024

On January 25, 2024, in the framework of the Madrid International Tourism Fair, Fitur 2024, the signatory parties of the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism held an insightful event to present the results of the Glasgow Declaration Implementation Report 2023 and provide a platform to brainstorm on next steps. In fact, this was intended to be a dynamic discussion with four predefined and clear objectives: to showcase achievements and success stories in climate action, to encourage collaborative efforts among industry leaders and destinations, to identify obstacles and explore solutions to accelerate climate action in tourism and to promote awareness on the importance and benefits of climate action in tourism. With this flagship event, the Glasgow Declaration has proven to be a fundamental catalyst for increased urgency about the need to accelerate climate action in tourism and to secure strong commitments to support the global goals to halve emissions over the next decade. Until December 2023, over 850 organizations have signed this declaration.

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Publications



WORLD LEISURE JOURNAL

Check out free access publications by *World Leisure Journal*!

A selection of Free Access publications by *World Leisure Journal* will be available during the month of February:

Global South Paper of the Month

Disadvantaged communities and leisure: an ethnographic study in the countryside of the Brazilian Amazon

Flavio Henrique Souza Lobato & Mirleide Char Bahia

World Leisure Journal, Volume 66, 2024- Issue 1

World Wetlands Day (2nd February)

Empirical Evidence of the Contributions of Park and Conservation Lands to Environmental

Sustainability: The Key to Repositioning the Parks Field

John L. Crompton

World Leisure Journal, Volume 50, 2008 – Issue 8

Tourism Resilience Day (17th February)

Carrying capacity and impact indicators: analysis and suggestions for sustainable tourism in protected areas – Brazil

Cézar Henrique Barra Rocha, Leandro Martins Fontoura, Wesley Badoco do Vale, Luiz Fernando de Paula Castro, Ana Luíza Fortes da Silva, Tamires de Oliveira Prado & Fábio Jacob da Silveira

World Leisure Journal Volume 63, 2021 - Issue 1



These are some of the recently published contributions of the *World Leisure Journal*

We bring you a selection of publications during the month of January by World Leisure Journal:

News

News from the office: WLJ (January 2024)
WLO Secretariat

Book Review

Leisure resurrected: Rekindling the fire of early Christian communities

by Jeffrey Paul Crittenden, Eugene, OR, Pickwick, 2023, pp. 168, ISBN 978-1-6667-5117-8

Robert A. Stebbins (FRSC)

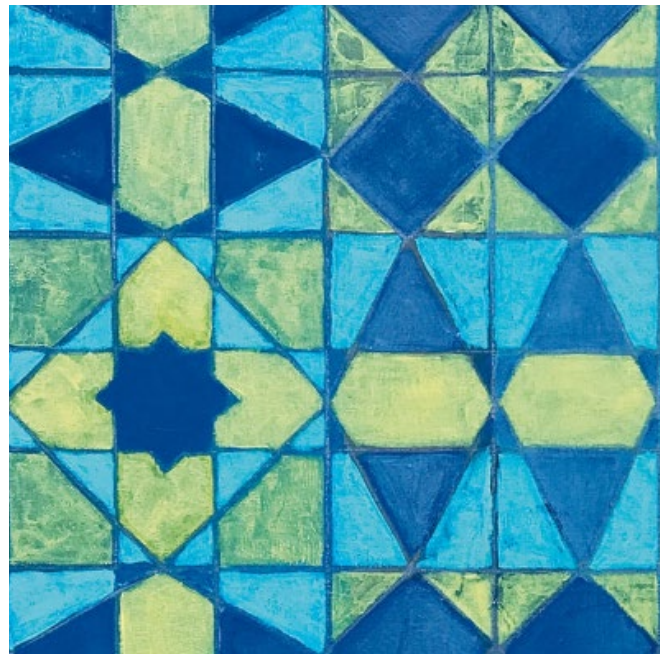
Published online: 21 Jan 2024

Research Article

Get in touch with leisure: a community-based therapeutic recreation programme for older adults during COVID-19

M. Rebecca Genoe, Roz Kelsey, Courtney Domoney, Michelle Buhay & Shauna Reles

Published online: 10 Jan 2024



A new issue of *Revista E* by Sesc Sao Paulo is now available (in Portuguese)

Revista E is a monthly publication by Sesc Sao Paulo committed to the reflection on the contemporary world in connection with the institution's cultural action. February issue of this publication includes reports, interviews, original articles and fiction texts. The issue is devoted to the climate emergency and how the cities can adapt to the effects of global warming. *Revista E* is available in Portuguese only.

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Opportunities



Call for papers Leisure Studies Association Conference 2024 (extended deadline!)

The Leisure Studies Association (LSA) will hold its 2024 Conference from July 10 to 12, 2024 at University of the West of Scotland, UK, with the theme “(Re)claiming Leisure: Rights, Responsibilities, and Resistance”. The LSA 2024 Conference seeks to bring together inter and multidisciplinary perspectives on leisure, events, tourism and sport and, to explore their relationship to global challenges. Specifically, it aims to initiate discussion on the importance of Rights, Responsibilities, and Resistance as they play out in the transformation of society. The Scientific Committee now invites researchers, educators, and practitioners, amongst others, to submit abstracts for papers, posters, workshops, panels and productions such as performances, short-films, and other artistic expressions, by no later than March 1, 2024, Friday.

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Call for abstracts for ATLAS Africa ONLINE Conference 2024 – Tourism after freedom: Democratic Africa

South Africa celebrates three decades of democracy and freedom in April 2024. Not unlike most other countries on the African continent, this watershed moment for the respective nations introduced new dispensations in a postcolonial environment. Tourism was – both before and after these changes – an integral component of the respective African country's economies and infrastructures. Since the mid twentieth century when these historical changes began taking place, tourism has been perpetuated as an integral feature of societies of various African destinations. This ATLAS Africa online conference, to be held on 26 April 2024, calls for papers that reflect on the “then and now”, as well as how travel and tourism as an industry and profession has changed, revived and reinvented itself over the past half century or so across the African continent. Abstracts submission closes on February 15, 2024! The conference will take place in Zoom and will be free of charge.

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Upcoming events



Forum québécois du loisir (March 11 and 12, 2024, in French)

The Forum québécois du loisir – whose 2024 edition will take place in Trois-Rivières on the 11 and 12 March 2024 – is a collective achievement that highlights current leisure issues and brings together hundreds of players at the heart of the leisure world. It is a remarkable forum for concerted action and mobilization, designed to affirm the importance of leisure in Quebec society and promote leisure and its accessibility to the population's quality of life. Since its first edition in 1999, the Forum québécois du loisir has been a must-attend event for all those involved and interested in leisure. The event, held in French, is coordinated by the Conseil québécois du loisir, leader of the World Leisure Chapter in the region. The 8th edition of the Forum québécois du loisir is supported by the Government of Quebec.

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ATINER announces its 9th Annual International Symposium on Leisure & Research

Athens Institute for Education and Research, ATINER, will hold its 9th Annual International Symposium on Leisure & Research from May 13 to 16 in Athens, Greece. The aim of the conference is to bring together academics and researchers of Leisure & Recreation and other related disciplines. Consistent with the theme of ATINER's small academic events, all programs may include a few sessions on current topics in education and research. You may participate as presenter of one paper, chair of a session or observer. Call for abstracts submission is open until April 2, 2024. If interested, please submit your abstract to atiner@atiner.gr, using the submission form to: Dr. Maria Kosma Head, Sports Unit, ATINER & Associate Professor, Louisiana State University, USA. Abstracts should include the following: Title of Paper, Full Name (s), Affiliation, Current Position, an email address, and at least 3 keywords that best describe the subject of your submission. Decisions are reached within 4 weeks.

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LIVING GREEN LIVEABLE CITIES



“Living Green, Liveable Cities” Research Symposium to take place in Doha

The International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH) will host next February 4 and 5, 2024, the Research Symposium “Living Green, Liveable Cities”, in Doha, Qatar. This will take place alongside the Expo 2023 Doha Qatar which will conclude in March 2024. Presentations will touch upon designing therapeutic environments, nature-based urban design, and the impact of green spaces on overall wellbeing. Environmental health topics will include the effects of green solutions on city health and local-scale assessments for air quality. The symposium will conclude with insights into the role of sensory gardens and integrating nature into urban life for enhanced health and wellbeing. The Research Symposium accompanies the special Cities & Health journal issue, also titled ‘Living Green, Liveable Cities’. This special issue was instigated by AIPH and Expo 2023 Doha Qatar to investigate the science and practice supporting the concept showcased the Expo of creating liveable and healthy urban environments through city greening.

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Encounter



Did you miss the LM & LA SIG webinar on Building community through leisure programs and services for older adults? Watch it here!

On November 2023, Leisure Management (LM) and Leisure and Ageing (LA) Special Interest Groups (SIGs) co-organized a webinar on *Building community through leisure programs and services for older adults: A management perspective*. The conversation with Toni Liechty, Associate Professor of the University of Illinois, US, Margaret Donnelly, Senior Compliance Officer, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, Brisbane, Australia, and Janell Payne, Director of Recreation, City of South Jordan, Utah, US, covered the research's perspective about principles to guide community leisure programs for older adults, the challenges and success of delivering older adults' programs, and the principals and necessary practices for older adults' community leisure programs and services and how they can be incorporated into public policy.

[Watch it here.](#)





WORLD LEISURE ORGANIZATION (WLO)

World Leisure Organization is a non-profit organization registered in the State of New York in Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council since 1990.

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