



Buffalo Bull

National Association for Interpretation
Region 5 Newsletter

Spring 2015
Volume 27, Number 2

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The National Association for Interpretation Region 5 membership consists of interpreters from state parks, county agencies, museums, zoos, park districts, recreation facilities, and many other public and private organizations from Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Manitoba, and Nunavut.

Our mission is to inspire leadership and excellence to advance heritage interpretation as a profession.

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Association for

Bob's Bombinations

By Bob Carter, Region 5 Director

Looking for spring? It is in Iowa. I know. I saw it there not long ago. And then I came back to Illinois - no more spring. Icebergs hanging from my windshield wipers on the way to work. Blech.

Seriously though, no matter the winter, which I really do enjoy, I always look forward to spring. When northern cardinals begin singing in January, I consider it a sign that spring is somewhere out there, but not here yet. After all, the days have only been getting longer and the sun higher in the sky for a few weeks. I don't base my spring on the calendar or meteorological definitions. I establish the beginning of spring much more scientifically: when there are no more dark-eyed juncos at my feeders. They know when it is spring. Another good indicator is the northward advance of hummingbirds. For us, here in northern Illinois, that pretty much means ruby-throats. As the juncos depart, I start monitoring the map at hummingbirds.net to see where my birds are in their travels. As I write this, they are only up to central Tennessee. Historically though, that means there is not much time left before I must set out my glass and red plastic welcome mats.

Ahh, spring. Asparagus popping up, hummingbirds popping in, and Regional Workshops just plain popping. Yes, this is my long, roundabout way to mention this year's regional which just concluded in Iowa, and send a shout out to all the folks who pulled off another great Heartland Region experience. I do feel a bit sad for all those who were unable to be there but it was, as usual, great to catch up with old friends and make new ones. The site, the crew, and the weather all conspired to create a perfect storm of a workshop. But, that is to be expected. This is Region 5, after all.

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2015 Region 5 Workshop: One for the Record Books

By Lewis Major, Workshop Chair

The 2015 NAI Region V spring workshop is in the history books. Thanks to all who traveled to Ames, Iowa to attend. We hope you enjoyed the conference. A special thanks to all the committee chairs, committee members, and workshop volunteers who helped plan a great workshop.

Nearly 140 members attended with representatives from every state and province in the region, including members from Manitoba, Canada. Also in attendance was National Executive Director Margo Carlock, her first Region V workshop experience ever. We enjoyed having Margo as our guest and the opportunity to get to know her.



The 2016 North Dakota committee is already hard at work planning what is sure to be another outstanding Region V workshop. We look forward to gathering again next year in Bismarck. Hope to see you there!

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A Glimpse into the Scholarship Realm!

By Jenny Sazama, Scholarship Chair

There were five scholarship recipients for the Region 5 Workshop in Ames, IA. One requirement

Interpretation (NAI).

For change of address or membership information contact:

Jamie King
Membership Manager
NAI
P.O Box 2246
Fort Collins, CO 80522
T: 888.900.8283
F: 970.484.8179
membership@interpnet.com

For this scholarship application was writing a simile/metaphor comparing interpreters to an Iowa state symbol. Iowa state symbols include: white oak tree, wild prairie rose, eastern goldfinch, and the geode. As you can read, the oak tree was the top choice of scholarship recipients.

- An interpreter is like an oak tree, offering a multitude of services and revealing stories from the heart(wood). - Valerie Sage
- Interpreters are like oak trees because their skills are expansive like the branches, they plant acorns that are ready to germinate and grow, and their deeply planted roots give them the ability to soak up knowledge and maintain a sturdy foundation in interpretation. - Nina Baki
- Interpreters are like oak trees: varied in their appearance, habitat, and range, but always a steadfast, nurturing, and essential part of their community. - Lilly Jensen
- An Iowa Naturalist is like a mighty oak - standing strong and weathering the ever-changing environment and adapting to survive and teach another generation. - Annette Wittrock
- Like an old oak tree, interpreters spread their branches across the landscape, providing a gentle limb for children to climb on, a beautiful silhouette for others to admire, and a strong trunk centered in the soil to stabilize the environment around them. - Sydney Algreen

These submissions were graded with the following criteria: grammar and spelling; follows directions and demonstrates proper use of a simile or metaphor; and the simile/metaphor uses universal concepts, relating tangibles and intangibles.

Congratulations to all the 2015 Region 5 Workshop scholarship recipients. For those who did not receive a scholarship this round, please keep applying and taking advantage of this membership benefit. Scholarships are made possible through the funds raised at Regional Workshop auctions and various other Regional fund-raising activities. A scholarship usually covers the workshop fee and lodging costs. Region 5 Regional Workshop scholarships are available to any Region or Province member. The National Workshop scholarship(s) is available to Region 5 members. The Scholarship Committee, their employees, and immediate family are not eligible. The scholarship is distributed as a reimbursement once all the requirements are met, which include volunteering for the auctions. Scholarship announcements are made via the Region 5 website, Facebook page and in the Buffalo Bull newsletter. Look to the summer issue for a scholarship to the National Workshop.

Here are a few tips for increasing your chances in receiving financial assistance from the Heartland Region to attend NAI workshops:

1. Take the time to apply and be sure to submit the materials by the deadline.
2. Read the application materials thoroughly and follow the directions. Contact the Scholarship Chair for clarification.
3. Have a colleague review your application to be sure all areas are complete and that it is clear, concise, and professional.
4. Be involved with NAI beyond having a membership.
5. Be creative and apply interpretive principles.

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Region 5 Awards Presented By Jeff Boland, Awards Chair

Congratulations to the 2015 NAI Region 5 Award Recipients!

The Region 5 Awards Program recognizes outstanding achievements of NAI members and others working to advance the profession of interpretation. Recipients were nominated by peers and colleagues and were selected by the Region 5 Awards committee. Awards were presented at the 2015 Region 5 Workshop in Ames, Iowa.

Excellence in Interpretive Support:

Friends of Spruce Woods, Inc. - Manitoba
The Friends of Spruce Woods has been volunteering and fundraising for Spruce Woods Provincial Park in Manitoba since 1986. In 1999 they raised funds for an interpretive center and continue to support the facility today through children's play centers, educational tipi creation, and uncounted hours of volunteering. Pictured accepting the award on behalf of Friends of Spruce Woods are Max Legal, Jennifer Bryson, and Sloan Cathcart.



Master Frontline Interpreter:

Angie Opiola - Forest Preserve District of Will County, Illinois

Angie is an Interpretive Specialist for the Forest Preserve District of Will County, Illinois. From leading paddling programs and elementary wetlands programs to implementing the event Howloween Hoopla (with over 2000 people),



Submit to Buffalo Bull!

All are welcome to submit to Buffalo Bull. Please read our [publishing policy](#) prior to submission.

Submission Deadlines:

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Winter Issue | December 1 |
| Spring Issue | March 1 |
| Summer Issue | June 1 |
| Fall Issue | September 1 |

Email:
education@winneshiekwild.com



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Director's Award Presented at 2015 Regional Workshop By Bob Carter, Region 5 Director

This year at the Iowa Regional Workshop I had the opportunity to present the Region 5 Director's Award to a very important figure in the Heartland Region's history.

The Director's Award does not have a nomination form on the regional web site as the other awards do. This one is at the discretion of the regional director and is given out only once in a while. It is intended to recognize individuals, organizations, or efforts that may fall between the cracks of our other awards for any of a number of reasons. Past winners of the award include Trish Greninger and Carl Strang of Illinois; Bradley Block and Chris McCart of South Dakota, and Mary Gruhl of Wisconsin. And now we have one more: Mark Kenneweg, who will always be from North Dakota.



Lewis Major, Bob Carter,
Kevin Kirkey, Trish Greninger

This time the award was presented posthumously as we lost Mark suddenly and tragically near the end of 2005. Those who knew Mark fully understand his contribution to NAI and his positive impact on all those who had the pleasure of knowing him. There is not room here to detail all that Mark was but you can get a sense of his importance to interpretation and the people who knew him by looking at the dedication to him on our regional web site or examining the materials accompanying our regional flag, "Mark's Flag," the last item in our live auction every year. Better yet, find someone who knew him and listen to some great stories.

The award was accepted by long time friend of Mark, Kevin Kirkey, on behalf of Mark's family. Kevin is a familiar face to Region 5ers who have been at our great North Dakota workshops. Speaking of that, remember where we are next year for the regional.

In closing, I want to thank Jeff Boland, our Awards Committee Chair, and his committee, for all their great work on behalf of Heartland Region Interpreters. I also want to encourage every one of you to look around closely at your friends, colleagues, and supporting organizations. Then go look at the award categories on the regional web site. I'm willing to bet that you know someone who should be nominated for at least one of those awards, and not just once, but until they get it. The regional awards feed into the national awards and it is a great way to keep reminding the rest of NAI just how special are the Heartland Region and the interpreters who call it home.

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2015 Mini-Grant Recipients Announced By Debra Nowak, Mini-Grants Chair

NAI Region 5 is pleased to announce the recipients of 2015 Mini-Grants! Of the 12 grant applications received, 3 were funded based on ranking criteria used by the Mini-Grants Committee. A total of \$1000 was granted.

Recipients are:

Heckrodt Wetland Reserve in Menasha, WI to support the creation of a barefoot sensory trail in order to fill a need for self-discovery natural areas. The trail will consist of different natural sections every 3 feet that participants will walk barefoot and include interpretive signage and interactive components.

First Division Museum at Cantigny, Wheaton, IL to support the purchase of video production materials in order to create 30 new educational videos for the museum and future exhibits after interviewing soldiers and their family in Fort Riley, Kansas, the home of the First Division.

Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation in Washburn, ND to support the creation of six Explorer Kits that kids can borrow from the North Dakota Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center to help them explore the exhibits with tools similar to what the Lewis and Clark Expedition used to explore the Louisiana Purchase.

We had another great year of Mini-Grant applications and were impressed by the quality of projects going on throughout Region 5 as well as the number of organizations that submitted first-time applications. Mini-Grant committee members are Becca Franzen, Tracey Koenig, Tom Miller, and Debra Nowak (chair).

2016 Mini-Grant applications will be available in January 2016 and all NAI Region 5 members are encouraged to apply.

Are you interested in serving on the Mini-Grant committee? Contact Debra Nowak at debra-thousandisland@new.rr.com for more information.

Watch for the project posters from the 2014 grant cycle coming soon to the NAI Region 5 website!

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Membership By the Numbers

By Valerie Sage, Membership Chair

General Membership

Total Region V Members: 675
Student Members: 79
New Members: 24

State/Provincial Breakdown:

Illinois: 209
Iowa: 96
Manitoba: 8
Minnesota: 73
Nebraska: 26
North Dakota: 16
Nunavut: 0
South Dakota: 19
Wisconsin: 70
Non-State/Provincial Members: 158*

*As an NAI member, you have the option of selecting which Organizational Unit(s) you'd like to be part of.

Yearly Membership Costs:

Professional: \$75.00
Retired/volunteer/Seasonal: \$50
Student: \$25

Forgot your NAI ID? Can't remember when your membership expires? I can help! Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have regarding Memberships.

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Around the Region:

Workshops, Resources, and Announcements

NAI CERTIFICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) Training Workshop

August 17-20, 2015
Fontanelle Forest, Camp Brewster Lodge
131 Bellevue Blvd. N., Bellevue, NE 68005
Fee: \$360

The CIG program is designed for anyone who delivers interpretive programs to the public. For more information, visit the [training webpage](#) or contact Debra K. Beck at dbeck@fontanelleforest.org or 402-731-3140, ext 1017.

International Conference on Interpretation

Changing Boundaries, Changing Times
May 3-7, 2015
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Hosted by NAI and Interpretation Canada. For more information, visit the [conference website](#).

Interpretive Naturalist Section Workshop

A Natural State of Mind
August 2-5, 2015
Mount Magazine State Park - Paris, Arkansas
For more information, visit the [workshop website](#).

NAI Webinars

Don't forget about NAI's webinars! [Check them out here!](#)

EXTERNAL WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Emerald Ash Borer Training and Tour

April 27

9am-12pm

Experts from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture will provide a brief overview of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), including its life cycle, ash tree identification, EAB identification, EAB distribution, signs and symptoms of EAB, biological control & biosurveillance, and how to do a visual survey. Training is free and hosted by MNA, but registration is required at <http://mnnaturalists.org>.

Online Nature Education Course for Summer Semester

May 9-August 15

4 credit online course

"Selected Topics in Early Childhood: Nature Education" offered by Metropolitan State and taught by Patricia Born Selly. This course will introduce nature education as a concept and offer students the opportunity to reflect on the role nature education plays in their practice. Contact Heidi Frankard at 651-999-5829 or mail heidi.frankard@metrostate.edu for more information on registering.

Climate Reality Leadership Training

May 5-7, 2015

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

For more information, please visit: <http://www.climate reality training.org>. Questions? Contact Rianna Eckel at rianna.eckel.intern@climateresality.com

The Farm as Nature's Classroom Training

June 10

8:30am-12pm

Discuss how lessons from the land guide farmers in their production decisions and ways you can use farming to teach about the natural world at Gale Woods Farm, part of the Three Rivers Park District. Training is free and hosted by MNA, but registration is required at <http://mnnaturalists.org>.

eii - Environmental Issues Instruction

June 16-18, 2015 and April 16, 2016

8:30am-3:30pm

St. Paul the Apostle School - Davenport, Iowa

Interdisciplinary, undergraduate-level or graduate-level course for all K-12 teachers. Total cost of \$198 includes 2 college credits, food, lodging, and teaching materials. For more information, visit <http://www.uiu.edu/eii/>.

Taking STEM Outside: WILD Project-based Learning

June 24-25, 2015

8am-4:30pm

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

Come learn how to take STEM outdoors. Spend two days turning outdoor projects and exploration into project-based learning units specifically geared for your teaching situation. \$75 registration fee includes lunches, materials, and 1 license renewal credit; or \$150 fee includes lunches, materials, and 1 EDEX graduate credit. For more information, contact Barb Gigar at Barb.Gigar@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-494-3891 .

The **Environmental Education Association of Illinois** has a calendar of a wide range of training opportunities, including Project Learning Tree, Project Wild, and more. Visit [their website](#) for a detailed list.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources' ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) educator workshops are scheduled for 2015! These workshops include hands-on activities, lessons, and supplemental resources. For more information, dates, and to register visit <https://www.enticeworkshops.com/>.

RESOURCES

Looking for a job or internship this summer? Don't forget to check out these great resources from NAI and Region 5!

[NAI's Career Center](#) (National Office)

[NAI Region 5 Job Board](#)

MN SEEK's [jobs](#) & [internships](#) (Minnesota; seasonal, full-time, interships) [MyCountyParks](#) (Iowa; seasonal and full-time)

Environmental Education proposals sought for \$46.3 million in project funding to benefit Minnesota's environment and natural resources. Deadline: May 11th. The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) has issued its 2016 Request for Proposal (RFP) for funding from Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund beginning July 1, 2016. For more information on the LCCMR funding process or the 2016 RFP, please visit <http://www.lccmr.leg.mn>.

Call for Articles: InterNEWS

If you are interested in submitted articles and/or research to this free, international heritage interpretation e-magazine, please contact John Veverka (CIT, CIP, NAI Fellow) at jvainterp@aol.com. [Click here for more information on InterNEWS](#).

Iowa Conservation Education Coalition is hiring an Executive Director. Application deadline

April 15. [Click here for more information.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is hosting an original, site-specific, musical theater production, *Cross-Pollination*, that will move the audience together from scene to scene in a style of mobile theater PlaceBase Productions has coined "Walking Theater." The original production will be performed during the Twin Cities Urban Bird Festival, June 6 & 7 to celebrate the rich history, culture, and local talent of the area and to support the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge's mission. PlaceBase Productions is producing *Cross-Pollination* in partnership with the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, The City of Bloomington, and Bloomington Theater and Art Center as a demonstration project for Creative Placemaking in the South Loop. Contact Mara Koenig, mara_koenig@fws.gov for more information.

Blank Park Zoo is excited to announce **Plant.Grow.Fly**, a conservation initiative that helps protect native pollinators. The initiative provides easy, region-specific garden recipes for planting a garden full of the flowers and grasses that our native butterflies and bees need the most. For more information, visit www.plantgrowfly.com.

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Contact NAI Region 5 Leadership

Executive Board

Director: Bob Carter, 815.753.9070; carter@niu.edu

Deputy Director: Laura Kohn, lmkohn3@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Becky Stokes Lambert, 815.987.8844, beckylambert@rockfordparkdistrict.org

Secretary: Kim Compton, 815.678.4532, ext. 8116; caldwellk@gmail.com

State & Province Representatives

Illinois: Nina Baki, 708.839.6897; Janina.baki@cookcountyiil.gov

Iowa: Heather Hucka, 515.232.2516; hhucka@storycounty.com

Manitoba: vacant

Minnesota: Mara Koenig, 952.858.0710; maralundeen@hotmail.com

Nebraska: vacant

North Dakota: Tina Harding, 701.328.4833; tinamharding@nd.gov

Nunavut: Vacant

South Dakota: Jody Moats, 605.232.0873; jody.moats@state.sd.us

Wisconsin: Fran McReynolds, 715.345.6370, Fran.McReynolds@uwsp.edu

Student Chapter Representatives

Black Hills State University: Christine McCart, 605.642.6027; christine.mccart@bhsu.edu

Iowa State University: Dr. Rebecca Christoffel, 515.294.7429; christof@iastate.edu

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point: Brenda Lackey, 715.346.2076;

brenda.lackey@uwsp.edu

Committee Chairs

Awards: Jeff Boland, 507.467.2437; Jeff.Boland@eagle-bluff.org

Fundraising: Lewis Major, 515.323.5361; lmajor@co.polk.ia.us

Scholarships: Jenny Sazama, 847.968.3482; jsazama@lcfpd.org

Elections: Lydia Austin, 605.673.3390; lydia_austin@nps.gov

Mini Grants: Debra Nowak, 920.766.4733, debra-thousandisland@new.rr.com

Membership: Valerie Sage, 815.547.7935, vcoduto@bccdil.org

Media Services

Newsletter Editor: Lilly Jensen, 563.534.7145; education@winneshiekwild.com

Webmaster: Trish Greninger, 815.479.5779; trishgreninger@gmail.com

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Contact the Editor

Lilly Jensen, *Buffalo Bull* Editor
Education and Outreach Coordinator
Winneshiek County Conservation Board
2546 Lake Meyer Road
Fort Atkinson, Iowa 52144
563.534.7145
education@winneshiekwild.com



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