



Buffalo Bull

National Association for Interpretation
Heartland Region Newsletter

Summer 2015
Volume 27, Number 3

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The National Association for Interpretation Heartland Region 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.

Bob's Bombinations: The Beat Goes On

By Bob Carter, Region 5 Director

The Beat Goes On.

That is the title of a 1967 song by Sonny and Cher but it is also an apt description of the evolution of NAI. There are many little summer-timey things I could put in this column this time around, but it happens to be a good time to catch you up on NAI goings-on. In last winter's *Bull*, I reported on what had transpired during the Advisory Council meeting at Nationals in Denver and some of the things coming down the road for NAI and their implications for NAI Regions and Sections.

With new by-laws and a new strategic plan in place, the "Brave New NAI" (see last winter's *Bull* for that story) is well on its way into deep infrastructural changes that are much more appropriate for a 21st century professional association. Along with those substantive changes, there are what could be called, for lack of a better term, cosmetic changes. That might not be a completely fair statement, since, while some are entirely superficial, others may go a bit deeper. You can be the judge of that.

One change that goes a little deeper is the disappearance of the practice of numbering the regions. For years now, all the regions have had "nicknames" corresponding to their geographic locations. Those names are now supplanting the numbers. It will be hard to stop calling my NAI home by the name "Region 5" simply out of habit, but I am also quite happy to identify with "The Heartland Region." So the numbers are going away. The national web site no longer displays the numbers of the regions, only the names, and the "Region Formerly Known as 3" has dropped its number and is now The Sunny Southeast. Here in the Heartland Region we have new logos for the *Bull* and the website. Don't worry. You won't be fined, imprisoned, or pummeled with a dead carp if you call it Region 5, but soon we may have new members who have no idea what you are talking about.

Another change, one about which I am truly ecstatic, is that we no longer have a National Interpreters Workshop. In case you didn't notice, it is now the NAI National Conference. In keeping with that, the Pacific Northwest Region (10) has adopted "conference" in place of "workshop" for their

Quick Links

[National Association for Interpretation](#)

[NAI Heartland Region](#)

Buffalo Bull

is published quarterly by the Heartland Region of the National Association for Interpretation (NAI).

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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
Summer Issue	June 1
Fall Issue	September 1

Email:

education@winneshiekwild.com

annual event. Others may follow suit eventually, but, again, it is nothing earth shattering. What I like about it so much is that now, when I put in my travel request with the university I no longer need to explain, and substantiate, that a workshop is the same thing as a conference. Believe me, that was a chore at my institution.

Ahhh, Brave New NAI! I hope to see you at the Heartland Region's annual conference in North Dakota next year. And the beat goes on . . .

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Executive Board Elections Coming This Fall By Kim Compton, Secretary

Looking to get more involved with the Heartland Region? Join the executive board!

This fall, elections will be held for both the deputy director and secretary positions. Serving on the board involves one in-person meeting at the Regional Workshop and an additional 2-3 conference calls per year.

For more information about other duties and responsibilities please feel free to contact current officers Laura Kohn and Kim Compton, both of whom would be happy to tell you more.

Our region is one of the strongest in the nation thanks to the volunteer spirit and dedication of our wonderful members. We can't do it without you!

Your intent to run for a position, along with a short biography and a photo, are due to elections chair Lydia Austin by August 7th, 2015.

Elections take place alongside national positions in October and the two year term begins in January 2016.

Thanks!

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2015 Mini-Grant Update By Debra Nowak, Mini-Grants Chair

The Minigrant committee would like to congratulate another recipient of a 2015 NAI Heartland Region Minigrant.

Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, IL: To support the creation of an animal showcase in which visitors can participate in a "Meet an Animal" program while that animal is still in a natural environment, giving the public clear visibility of the animal and allowing the animals a more comfortable environment in which to be on display.

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NAI Student Chapter Profile: UW Stevens Point

By Joseph Montaine, EENA

The Environmental Educators and Naturalists Association (EENA) of UW Stevens Point has been growing steadily in recent years. This organization is dedicated to both fostering networking between budding naturalists and professionals, as well as bringing education about the natural world to the rest of the UW Stevens Point campus and the larger Stevens Point community.

We offer educational programming to the community by working community groups including, but not limited to, the Boy Scouts of America and local and regional elementary school classes. We have also hosted educational events on campus, such as our annual Eco-Fair, in an effort aims to bring education about the environment and environmental issues to campus and the community. This year, the fair's educational message was centered on the plight of bees and colony collapses and was immensely successful.

We also send members to NAI-sponsored events-like this year's NAI National Conference in Denver and the NAI Heartland Region workshop in Ames, Iowa-to increase our knowledge of environmental education. EENA treasurer Lydia Bashaw describes the workshop in Ames as "a truly wonderful experience, where I got to meet many amazing people, and experience several wonderful and educational workshops." The president of EENA, Angie Matel, had this to say about the NAI conference in Denver: "The amount of networking I was able to do at this event was incredible! I enjoyed this conference immensely, and would encourage everyone possible to attend." On that note, EENA would like to thank NAI for hosting exciting conferences, and for allowing us to be a student chapter in their organization.

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Around the Region: **Workshops, Resources, and Announcements**

NAI CERTIFICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) Training Workshops

The Certified Interpretive Guide program is designed for anyone who delivers interpretive programs to the public. It combines both the theoretical foundations of the profession with practical skills in delivering quality interpretive programming to visitors.

Ellwood House Museum

July 6-27, 2015

509 N. 1st Street, Dekalb, Illinois 60115

For more information, visit the [Workshop Website](#) or contact Bob Carter at bobcarter.13@gmail.com or 815 289-7930.

Fontanelle Forest, Camp Brewster Lodge

August 17-20, 2015

131 Bellevue Blvd. N., Bellevue, NE 68005
For more information, visit the [Workshop Webpage](#) or contact Debra K. Beck at dbeck@fontanelleforest.org or 402-731-3140, ext 1017.

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](#).

2015 NAI National Conference

Virginia Beach, Virginia
November 10-14, 2015
More information and registration materials available at www.interpnet.com.

NAI Webinars

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

EXTERNAL WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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.

Building a Land Ethic: Teaching and Learning Across Boundaries

Aldo Leopold Foundation Conference
August 12-15, 2015
Baraboo, Wisconsin
More information available at www.aldoleopold.org.
Early bird registration deadline is June 15.

Project Underground Workshop

September 18-20, 2015
Jewel Cave National Monument
This workshop focuses on classroom activities and resource-based learning experiences related to cave and karst environments. Participants will learn new curriculum and experience Jewel Cave with some lively

handy on activities. Registration fees cover workshop materials, two nights lodging on site, and several meals. Reservations are required and space is limited to 15 participants. For more information, contact Bradley Block, Chief of Interpretation, at (605) 673-8330 or bradley_block@nps.gov.

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)

[MyCountyParks](#) (Iowa; seasonal and full-time)

Call for Articles: InterpNEWS

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 InterpNEWS.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The National Park Service has awarded Flex Base Funds to **Jewel Cave National Monument** for the development of a new interpretive film. Flex Base Funds are often used for accessibility projects. Since the cave is not necessarily accessible for all audiences, the park film will play a critical role in exposing the underground resource to the public. With planned footage of off-trail caving and numerous surface features, complemented by the thematic areas of exploration and discovery, the film will enhance the overall visitor experience. This is furthered by the development of a new theater and sound system near the visitor center, using an existing facility.

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Contact NAI Heartland Region Leadership

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

Nunavut: Vacant

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