

In This Issue

- Director's Notes
- 2014 Regional Workshop
- Scholarships
- 2015 Regional Workshop
- UW Stevens Point
- Radical Rant
- BHSU News
- EEAI Conference
- Around Region 5
- Contact NAI



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.

Bob's Bombinations: Success Stories

By Bob Carter, Region 5 Director

In a recent column for the Bull I shared the fact that I do not have a favorite season of the year while simultaneously favoring each season for what I could be doing in it. One of my favorite winter past times is eagle watching. I did not get to stray very far from home this winter but in my brief forays to nearby eagle wintering habitats I have seen a large number of the birds, both mature and immature. The Christmas and mid-winter bird counts along the Mississippi River resulted in near record numbers of eagle sightings. For someone who remembers the DDT era and its aftermath with the near elimination of the species and the concomitant rarity of sightings this is, well, I really hate the word, but in this case it applies: AWESOME! Yeah, all upper case and with an exclamation point too.

As I sit down to write this column, one of the highlights of the winter/spring cusp has occurred: the laying of the first egg in the eagle's nest at the Decorah, Iowa fish hatchery. If you have not had the pleasure yet, go to www.ustream.tv/decoraheagles and enjoy the show, day or night. There are other eagle nest cams in Region 5 and around the country and there are cams on the nests of other species as well, but the birds in Decorah have been together for many years now and have a significant record of success in rearing their offspring.

As a university instructor constantly looking for ways to engage my student teachers, get them thinking about ways to engage with their own students some day, and capture their imaginations, this time of year is really special. The first day the female eagle is on the nest I have the live feed projected onto the large screen at the front of our classroom. A handful of my students know about this nest site. Another few are not sure where Decorah is, and I suspect a few do not even know exactly where the Mississippi River is. That's what happens when you live inside a cell phone and are never taught geography. But that is a rant for another day.

Each day of class my students are greeted with this large screen view of the nest and I use that as a reminder to them that there are incredible educational opportunities all around us. You just have to look. Over the years that these birds have been nesting at the fish hatchery I know I have created a fair number of eagle nest cam junkies among my students. And these are usually the folks who go on to enlighten and challenge their own students. Some become interpreters in their classrooms and others even venture from formal education into nonformal education and begin really interpreting. I love eagles.

[Return to Top](#)

Quick Links

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[NAI Region 5](#)

Buffalo Bull is published quarterly by Region 5 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 1
Summer Issue	June 1
Fall Issue	September 1

Email:
education@winneshiekwild.com

2014 Regional Workshop: Registration Deadline Approaching!

Timeless Interpretation

April 2-5, 2014

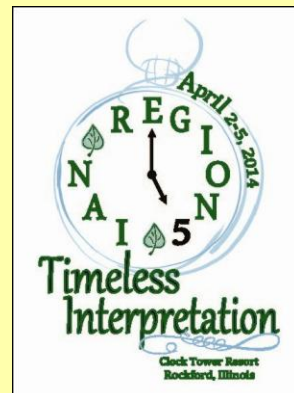
The Clock Tower Resort and Conference Center
Rockford, Illinois

There is still time to register for Timeless Interpretation, NAI Region 5's spring interpreters workshop! Visit our website to download the registration booklet. Mail your registration or register online. Don't forget to book your room at the Clocktower Resort and Conference Center; they are giving us a great rate (only \$77 per night!) but you need to make your reservations ahead of time.

See you in Rockford!

The registration packet, workshop committees, ride and room share information, and more can be found on the 2014 conference website: <http://nairegion5.weebly.com/2014-regional-workshop.html>.

[Return to Top](#)



2014 Regional Workshop Scholarships Announced

By Jenny Sazama

There were 22 applicants for the 5 available \$400 scholarships for the 2014 Regional Workshop. Congratulations to the following recipients!

Laura Kohn
Carly Swatek
Heather Hucka
Kate Gunsolus
Emily Herring

Applicants were asked to submit a statement on an example of interpretation they think is timeless. Below is the response given by scholarship recipient Laura Kohn:

Although there are many examples of timeless interpretation, I'm not going to focus on a technique, topic, place, or anything like that. I'm focusing on a serendipitous moment, a teachable moment. Every interpreter, and even those who don't proclaim to be an interpreter, has opportunities for teachable moments that result in a permanent bond with the outdoors or history. These moments add to the experience and can create a sense of place, instill stewardship, and bring out a need to share nature and history with others and through generations. That's the timeless aspect of the experience, telling someone else about the moment that nature or history surprised and connected with you. As interpreters, we all need to take advantage of teachable moment opportunities because sometimes those surprises make better connections and stories with nature or history than we could ever hope to create ourselves. Nature and history will always be important, whether we're talking about the way that it was, the way that it currently is, or the way that we will leave it. Opportunities for teachable moments will always abound.

[Return to Top](#)

Save the Date! 2015 Regional Workshop

Mark your calendars for the 2015 Regional Workshop: Cultivating Creativity!

Cultivating Creativity: 2015 NAI Region 5 Workshop
March 18-22, 2015
Quality Inn & Suites Starlight Village Conference Center
Ames, Iowa

More details will follow in future issues of the *Buffalo Bull*.

[Return to Top](#)

Professional Development Offerings at UW-Stevens Point By Becca Franzen

Put some spring in your step: Seek new learning opportunities that reinvigorate!

It's been an amazing winter with plenty of opportunities to get outside and enjoy it. Even so, many are ready for the rejuvenation that spring brings. Similarly, you may be having an amazing experience in your current position. Even so, you might be ready for the rejuvenation that additional professional development brings.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources offers graduate courses within four Master of Science Degree Programs for environmental education and interpretation professionals. Courses may be taken as part of these programs or as non-degree credit for your professional development. Some of the courses may also be taken for undergraduate credit.

The applied Master of Science Degree Programs include

1. Environmental Education for K-12 Teachers (online and face-to-face),
2. Environmental Education and Interpretation (online),
3. Natural Resources Leadership and Administration (online).
4. 2-year on-campus Master of Science program. On-campus graduate students are eligible for competitively awarded assistantships. Each graduate assistantship at UWSP provides a unique situation based on the university's needs, program funding, and overall objectives.

UWSP graduate students share their experiences:

"The opportunities at UWSP have provided me with experience in a variety of diverse settings related to environmental education, interpretation, and management. One of the greatest experiences has been working with undergraduate students to develop and evaluate their environmental education and interpretation programs. For some in Natural Resources 368: Oral Interpretation Methods, it may be their first time delivering an interpretive program, while others enrolled in Natural Resource 482: Interpretation Practicum are in their capstone program in the environmental education and interpretation major. The ability to mentor and assist students with learning so that they may be more prepared to produce quality educational programming in the 'real world' has by far been one of the most rewarding experiences in my master's program"

-Carly Swatek

"Last fall I was welcomed with open arms as the Wisconsin Center of Environmental Education's (WCEE) newest graduate assistant. As an assistant for the center I have worked to expand Wisconsin's environmental education network, increasing collaboration throughout the state, which has proven to be an extremely interesting experience. Prior to becoming a graduate assistant for the WCEE I had limited experience in regards to developing networks such as this, and over the last few months I have learned many skills that I know will help me in the future. Graduate school has been an incredible challenge but one that I have enjoyed so far, and I am looking forward to the rest of the journey."

-Joy Kacoroski

Rejuvenate. Enroll in a course today. There is still room this spring in:

- NRES 720 Sec 88 1: Public Relations in Natural Resources: Marketing for

Behavior Change. March 31-May 2

- NRES 703 Sec 88 1: Leadership Development -Group Facilitation Processes Face-to-Face April 25-27
- WLDL 740 Sec 88 1: Wildlife Issues Investigation. April 2-May 2.

For additional course offerings, visit: <http://www.uwsp.edu/regrec/Pages/timetable.aspx>.

For more information about graduate programs through the College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point, please visit: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/Pages/graduate.aspx>.

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Carly Swatek is a graduate assistant for Schmeekle Reserve and can be reached at Carly.Swatek@uwsp.edu.

Joy Kacoroski is a graduate assistant for the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education and can be reached at Joy.Kacoroski@uwsp.edu.

[Return to Top](#)

Radical Rant: Hardy Folks Are They **By Karen I. Shragg**

Naturalists are hardy folks and the best kind of people to hang around, especially during long, drawn out, sub-zero winters. I am not sure of what pronoun to use, THEY or WE, I think I will chose THEY.

If there were breeds of people like there are breeds of dogs, naturalists would be my favorite breed. They are adventure seekers and see winter as an opportunity for fun. They don't whine. Let me repeat THEY DON'T WHINE, or bark, like so many do, about the cold weather; they just put on another layer of long underwear and head for the door. Many even seek out extreme conditions. I love hearing their camping tales and stories of long canoe paddles across windy lakes. Some are rock climbers, others love racing sled dogs, some can be found climbing 'fourteeners' in the Rockies, while still others find adventure exploring coral reefs. Teaching children in all kinds of weather is all in a day's work and they have closets full of the right clothing and gear to make it pleasant.

The hardest naturalists take kids on overnights in all kinds of weather in hopes that their love of nature and the outdoors will rub off. It's not that naturalists don't appreciate sporting events or cultural activities; it's that they are most alive when they are in wilderness areas. They are so animated when they share their experiences of gorgeous mountain sunrises or rare dances of northern lights. They know that to get to these places will take some sacrifice and they are willing to pay the price to get there. Fancy things are not for them. Money is better spent on a better pair of binoculars or a plane ticket to unfamiliar biomes where birds can be added to their life lists.

One of the greatest things about naturalists is the blurred line between their job and their passion. I know many who spend their career and their vacations leading groups on nature tours. They love sharing their joy in wildlife and untrammelled landscapes which double as therapists. Nature photographer and naturalist, the late Les Blacklock called his special spot where he sorted out his troubles, "Old Doc Log." Maybe that's why naturalists are so much fun to be around, they get regular outdoor therapy sessions and don't carry around life's baggage for very long.

I am so proud to have so many friends and colleagues who are naturalists. They inspire me with their contagious positive attitude and their lust for unique adventures. My life is enriched by being around these hardy folks who make me feel like I am lucky to walk among them in the greatest, most rewarding profession of them all.

[Return to Top](#)

News from the BHSU Student NAI Chapter

By Christine McCart

The Black Hills State University student NAI chapter has been busy this academic year gaining hands-on experience in interpretation and outdoor education! Some of their activities include:



- Partnering with the SD Project Learning Tree Program to lead stations for two events: Kindergarten Nature Day in the Park and 5th Grade Science Day in the Canyon
- Assisting Custer State Park with their Annual Halloween Hike
- Leading over 50 faculty, staff, students, and community members on a Moonlight Nature Snowshoe. Students shared interpretive stations on winter night sky, sounds at night, and winter birds. It was great to see the community building and fun as folks ventured out of their "silos" and spent time in nature together!
- Touring some of our diverse regional interpretive facilities such as Wind Cave National Park, The Outdoor Campus-West educational facility sponsored by the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks department, the Nature Conservancy's Whitney Preserve and their new conservation retreat center, Custer State Park Peter Norbeck Visitor Center, and Bear Country USA.
- Participating in the following workshops supported by regional agency staff: Growing Up WILD led by Laurie Root of SD Game, Fish, and Parks; Project Learning Tree led by Dianne Miller, State Coordinator of PLT; Leopold Education Project and Project WET led by Anne Lewis of the SD Discovery Center.
- Leading after-school nature games utilizing Project WILD, Project Learning Tree, and the Leopold Nature Project trainings.



Like a biennial plant that only flowers in the second year, our student chapter won't be able to make the trip to the regional this year. However, next year we'll be flowering again and hope to grace you with our unique presence.



[Return to Top](#)

Off the Grid: 2014 EEAI Annual Meeting and Conference **Thursday, April 24 - Saturday, April 26**

Unplug and unwind with Mother Nature and the Environmental Education Association of Illinois at Kennekuk County Park. The conference includes local field trip options, a competitive fun run, and scavenger hunt with prizes on Thursday; concurrent sessions, keynote and silent auction, and nocturnal fun on Friday; and more concurrent sessions on Saturday. You won't want to miss this! Every participant will receive an amazing goody bag filled with environmental education gifts.



Early Bird Registration Fees: \$75 member; \$105 non-member (includes one-year membership); fees include dinner on Thursday and lunch and dinner on Friday. Early Bird Registration Deadline is March 28, 2014.

For more information and to register, visit www.eeai.net.

[Return to Top](#)

Around Region 5: **Workshops, Resources, and Announcements**

WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Certified Interpretive Host Train-the-Trainers

April 1-2, 2014

Rockford, IL

Linda K. White Center, Aldeen Park

Registration deadline: March 18. Contact Emily Jacobs at 970-420-1032 or ejacobs@interpnet.com with questions.

Natural Allies: Partners in Conservation

2014 Chicago Wilderness Congress

Thursday, April 3, 2014

The Chicago Wilderness Congress brings together over 700 professionals, volunteers, students, business leaders, and foundation representatives to share emerging knowledge and build new partnerships. For more information, visit

<http://www.chicagowilderness.org/what-you-can-do/attend-congress-2014/>.

Combined PLT Early Childhood and Growing Up WILD Training

Saturday, April 26, 2014

9:00 am-3:00 pm

Spring Valley Nature Center; Schaumburg, IL.

Registration: Contact Mary Rice at marice@parkfun.com or 847-985-2100

The State of Water Conference: Minnesotans Protecting Our Lakes and Rivers

May 1-2, 2014

Registration is now open, and the number of attendees will be limited so sign up early! To register or learn more, visit our Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/stateofwaterconferencemn> or the conference website at <http://www.conservationminnesota.org/state-of-water-conference/>.

More Tips and Tricks for Outdoor Instruction

Saturday, May 3, 2014

9:30-11:30

Bloomington Education and Visitor Center - Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Session 4 in the Environmental Education Cohort Series
Share what you know...and get some new ideas for leading students in the outdoors. Participants receive a Minnesota Weatherguide Environment Calendar. For more information, contact Laura at 952-361-4518 or register at www.surveymonkey.com/s/EECohort2014.

Growing Up WILD: Exploring Nature with Young Children

Saturday, May 10, 2014

9:00 am-12:00 pm

Washington Park District; Washington, IL

Registration: Phone (309)-444-9413 or online at www.washingtonparkdistrict.com
Reg. code 1-6911-14

Project Learning Tree PreK-12

Saturday, May 17, 2014

9:00 am-3:00 pm

Spring Valley Nature Center; Schaumburg, IL

Cost: \$50.00. Includes training, guide, snacks and resources (bring lunch)
Registration: Contact Mary Rice at marice@parkfun.com or 847-985-2100

Certified Interpretive Guide Workshop

June 16-19, 2014

9:00 am-5:00 pm

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

For more information contact Mara Koenig at mara_koenig@fws.gov.

RESOURCES

Online Tool for Evaluating EE Programs

My Environmental Education Evaluation Resource Assistant (MEEERA) is a free, online tool for educators to help evaluate their programs. For more information, visit <http://meera.snre.umich.edu/>.

Celebrate Urban Birds Mini-Grants

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has mini-grants from \$100-500 available to host a Celebrate Urban Birds event. For more information, visit <http://celebrateurbanbirds.org/community/minigrants/>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Looking for a job with the Minnesota DNR? Many seasonal positions are open. Do a search through <https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us>,

Region 5 has initiated The Quarterly Update, a reminder to members of professional development and regional leadership opportunities that fall outside of the timeframe of Buffalo Bull. All members are welcome to submit content to both the Buffalo Bull and The Quarterly Update. Deadlines for the Buffalo Bull are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1. Deadlines for The Quarterly Update are January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15. Submissions can be emailed to Lilly Jensen, newsletter editor, at education@winneshiekwild.com.

Congratulations to Valerie Sage for recently becoming a Certified Heritage Interpreter!

Job opportunities within Region V are posted on the [Region V website](#). Check often to see the latest openings. Several positions are currently listed.

[Return to Top](#)

Contact NAI Region 5 Leadership

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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

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Cheryl Vargo, cvargo@hfparks.com

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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

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[Return to Top](#)

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