



National Association for  
Interpretation

*Buffalo Bull*: Heartland Region Newsletter

Summer 2016

Volume 28, Number 2

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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.

### Quick Links

[National Association for Interpretation](#)

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## **Bob's Bombinations**

**By Bob Carter, Heartland Region Director**

So, here we go again. Another Regional Conference completed, spring disappearing in the rear view mirror, and summer looming. I am having serious déjà vu here. My first order of business this time around is to send a shout-out to all of the crew who put on the North Dakota Regional. It was a great conference and their hard work shone through in every way. South Dakota has their work cut out for them, but starting with a location like Deadwood puts them ahead of the game. Of course, I can't wait.

As we all set about getting ready for our interpretive summers I want to send another shout-out. A fixture in Iowa interpretation is retiring from his 38-year career due to what I consider more of the administrative myopia (I am being diplomatic here) that is all too abundant in our field. Wayne Buchholz, Park Ranger at the Mines of Spain Recreation Area in Dubuque, Iowa recently had his job duties changed to law enforcement rather than interpretation and resource management. So Wayne is retiring from the Iowa DNR, but not from interpretation or NAI. More about that at the end of this column. At this point, I want to plug in some of Wayne's words from his recent e-mail which he has kindly consented to let me share with you.

From the closing of Wayne's e-mail: "I cannot close without mentioning again, how proud I have been to be a member of NAI since 2009. You all have taught me something along the way and [I] have carried a lot back from workshops and conferences. I also have to give a BIG THANK YOU to Region V and the National office for the two awards that were given to the Friends of the Mines of Spain for their work on creating the new EB Lyons Interpretive Center in 2010/11. Since then, Friends of Mines of Spain has successfully fundraised to add 52 acres to the park and added an ADA trail, shelter, restroom, prairies, and the new America's State Tree Woodland Walk which features trees planted for each State and their State Trees."

The Iowa DNR's loss is the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium's gain. That is where Wayne is planning to spend his "retirement" so if you want to express your best wishes to him, drop by there. The NMRMA is also in Dubuque, Iowa and if you haven't been there, shame, shame. Whether you have been there or not already, a visit is a great excuse for a road trip. Maybe I'll see you there.

Happy Summer,

Bob Carter  
Heartland Region Director

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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

## Scholarship available for 2016 National Workshop!

Thinking of going to the NAI  
National Conference in Corpus  
Christi, Texas November 8-12?



Take advantage of your  
membership benefits by  
applying for a scholarship.

Submit your application electronically or via mail by **July 23, 2016**.

The Heartland Region has one \$800 scholarship available. It is issued as a reimbursement. Recipients receive a check after requirements are fulfilled.

Eligibility:

- All applicants must be current NAI members. This scholarship opportunity is open to Heartland members only.
- Students should be enrolled at least part time in a college or university.
- Professionals should be working in the field of interpretation.
- Members of the Scholarship Committee, their employees, and immediate family are not eligible.

To apply, each applicant must submit:

1. A completed application form
2. A letter of support from a professor, supervisor or colleague
3. Tell us how you would benefit from attending the conference and share one interesting thing about Corpus Christi you'd want to interpret or create a program about. 500 word maximum

Selection criteria include grammar, organization and flow, following direction, relevance and universal appeal, and creativity. All materials must be received or postmarked by July 23, 2016. Recipient notified by early August.

Recipient must:

1. Attend the entire workshop.
2. Volunteer in at least one area for the workshop.
3. Write a summary of your National Conference experience for submission in the Winter *Buffalo Bull* that includes a picture of you at the conference.

Request Application Form & Submit Materials to:

Jenny Sazama  
LCFPD-EE Services  
1899 W. Winchester Road  
Libertyville, IL 60048  
jsazama@lcpd.org  
847/968-3482

Scholarship materials and applications are available on the Heartland  
Region website:

<http://naiheartlandregion.weebly.com/>.

## 2016 Mini-Grant Recipients Announced

The Heartland Region Mini-grant Committee is pleased to announce the

recipients of the 2016 mini-grants. Of the 14 grant applications received (a record number!), 3 projects were funded based on ranking criteria used by the mini-grants committee. A total of \$1000 was granted. Recipients are:

#### **Forest Preserve District of Will County - Channahon, Illinois**

To support the creation of a "River of Trash" stand-alone art piece and educational exhibit. The goal of this piece is to make people aware of their impact on waterways. It will link three major events at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center.

#### **Linn County Conservation Board**

##### **Wickiup Hill Learning Center - Toddville, Iowa**

To fund *Prehistoric Farming Tools* and *People of the Land*, two interpretive signs that will be located within the *Three Sisters Garden* mural. The exhibits showcase watersheds, nature exploration, and Native American culture.

#### **Story County Conservation - Ames, Iowa**

To support the cost of interpretive signage to be permanently installed for their "Planting the Seeds" project, which involves elementary schools in project-based learning that addresses a pressing conservation issue on a local scale. Students will take ownership of a schoolyard pollinator habitat as they assist in design and planning, growing prairie plants from seed for the garden, and observing the benefits to pollinators.

Each year we receive funding requests for so many great projects being planned and implemented in the Heartland Region, and with ever tightening budgets, we are very happy to offer financial support to some of these organizations. Mini-grant committee members are Becca Franzen, Tracey Koenig, Tom Miller, Debra Nowak (chair), and Elizabeth Waage. 2017 mini-grant applications will be available in January 2017 and all NAI Heartland Region members are encouraged to apply.

Are you interested in serving on the mini grant committee? Contact Debra Nowak at [debra-thousandisland@new.rr.com](mailto:debra-thousandisland@new.rr.com) for more information.

Watch for the project posters from the 2015 grant cycle coming soon to the NAI Heartland Region website!

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## **Heartland Region Media Updates**

Please update your records to include the new website and social media contact info for the region, reflecting our embracing of "Heartland Region" in place of "Region 5."

- **Website:** <http://naiheartlandregion.weebly.com/>
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/NAIHeartland>
- **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/NAIHeartlandRegion](http://www.facebook.com/NAIHeartlandRegion)

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## ***Around the Region:***

### **Workshops, Resources, and Announcements**

#### **NAI CERTIFICATION and CONFERENCE 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.

**Fullersburg Woods**

Oak Brook, Illinois

August 15-19, 2016

For more information, visit the [workshop website](#) or contact Andre Copeland at [andre.copeland@czs.org](mailto:andre.copeland@czs.org) or (708) 688-8845.

### **Fontenelle Forest, Camp Brewster Lodge**

Bellevue, Nebraska

August 22-25, 2016

For more information, visit the [workshop website](#) or contact Debra K. Beck at [dbeck@fontenelleforest.org](mailto:dbeck@fontenelleforest.org) or (402) 731-3140, ext. 1017.

### **Sugar Grove Nature Center, Funks Grove**

McLean, Illinois

September 8-29, 2016

For more information visit the [workshop website](#) or contact Bob Carter at [bob@interpworld.com](mailto:bob@interpworld.com) or (815) 238-7930.

### **Lincoln Park Zoo**

Chicago, Illinois

October 17-21, 2016

For more information visit the [workshop website](#) or contact Becky Brazzale at [bbrazzale@lpzoo.org](mailto:bbrazzale@lpzoo.org) or (312) 742-2061.

### **Certified Interpretive Host Train-the-Trainers Workshop**

Looking for training that combines non-formal interpretation skills with customer service? Do you want to train/certify staff and others on behalf of NAI? If so, this is the course for you!

### **NAI Webinars**

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

## **EXTERNAL WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **24th North American Prairie Conference**

*From Cemetery Prairies to National Tallgrass Prairies*

July 17-20, 2016

Illinois State University, Bone Student Center

Normal, Illinois

Registration and further information: <http://nap2016.illinoisstate.edu/>.

Join us for invited sessions on landscape-scale restoration, the status of grassland birds, and much more! There will be more than 70 oral papers on many aspects of prairie ecology, restoration, management, and some innovative ideas on working lands.

### **Project Underground Workshop**

Jewel Cave National Monument, South Dakota

September 9-11, 2016

Registration now open.

Education/professional development credits available.

Participants learn how to map caves, create cave features, and simply immerse themselves into the world of cave and karst environments. For more information visit the [workshop website](#).

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 2016! These workshops include hands-on activities, lessons, and supplemental resources. For more information, dates, and to register visit <https://www.enticeworkshops.com/>.

Save the Date:

### **Midwest Environmental Education Conference**

October 14-17, 2017

Q Center  
St. Charles, Illinois

From climate change and local/regional environmental advocacy, to grant writing, NGSS, and the facts about GMOs...MEEC 2017 will provide an all-inclusive experience of local to global EE!

## RESOURCES

Do you have a project that would educate your community about an environmental issue? Do you have a curriculum that would engage your participants in learning about an ecological concept? Can you provide an experience that will help students increase their understanding of the natural world? **EEAI mini-grants** are awarded each year for up to \$350 per proposal. Application deadline is October 31. For more information, visit [www.eeai.net/mini-grants.html](http://www.eeai.net/mini-grants.html).

**The Kaufman Field Guide to Nature of the Midwest** (2015) was written by Kenn and Kimberly Kaufman and Jeff Sayre. The guide covers a broad range of flora and fauna across much of the Great Lakes region and beyond, with great organization and superb color photos.

**Chicago Botanic Gardens - Teacher Programs:** Enhance your knowledge, enrich your teaching techniques, and enliven your classrooms while earning professional development and graduate credit. Join us for our teacher workshops offered year-round. More information available at [http://www.chicagobotanic.org/education/teacher\\_programs](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/education/teacher_programs).

Does your area have **Green Drinks chapter**? These lively mixtures of like-minded folks get together monthly to network, share ideas, and be inspired. They are informal, organic, self-organizing networks. Learn more and see if there's one near you, or start one yourself! <http://www.greendrinks.org/>.

The mission of the **University of Illinois Extension: Master Naturalist Program** is to provide science-based educational opportunities that connect people with nature and help them become engaged environmental stewards. The training will prepare volunteer Master Naturalists to more effectively participate in local environmental stewardship. Find more information at <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/mn/who.cfm>.

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

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

[NAI Heartland Region Job Board](#)

[SEEK](#) (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](mailto:jvainterp@aol.com). [Click here for more information on InterpNEWS.](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jewel Cave National Monument recently hired Riley Hays as its GS9 Park Ranger / Centennial Coordinator for 2016. Riley joins the Interpretive Division and will be working on the special events and activities of the Monument throughout the NPS Centennial. Riley's background and experiences in the interpretive field are varied, and she brings a wealth of programming ideas and energy to the third longest cave in the world. The Monument would like to welcome her to the beautiful Black Hills. And, we encourage others to also send her warm NAI Region 5 greetings at [riley\\_hays@nps.gov](mailto:riley_hays@nps.gov) after mid-June.

## Contact NAI Heartland Region 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

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