



National Association for Interpretation

Buffalo Bull: Heartland Region
Newsletter

Spring 2018

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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 Illinois, Iowa, Manitoba, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Nunavut, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Bob's Combinations

By Bob Carter, Heartland Region Director

Our annual Heartland Region Workshop is now less than a month away and my thoughts are very much on Austin, Minnesota and the one and only face-to-face meeting your Regional Board conducts during the year.

With the addition of two states and a province to our regional family last year, new and continuing initiatives within the region aimed at enhancing and expanding our member services and benefits, and the search for members interested in being on the regional elections ballot this year, we have a lot to accomplish. The board will be meeting during the morning of Wednesday, April 4, from about 8:30 until we finish in the early afternoon. We generally wrap up somewhat before the registration table for the workshop is officially open. Regional board meetings are always open to the membership so if you are around that morning and not involved with workshop setup, drop in and say "hi!"

More important than dropping in on the board meeting is attending the Regional Membership Meeting and the State Meetings that will be taking place later in the workshop. These are a great opportunity to meet your regional and state leadership. Not everyone will be at the workshop, of course, but many will be. These meetings are also an opportunity to pose questions and concerns, and to offer suggestions to your regional leadership face-to-face rather than through e-mail or phone as is the case for most of the rest of the year.

If you are not going to be at this year's regional, keep in mind our future regionals, all listed on the regional web site for the next few years. If you enjoy the regionals like I do, you need to get yourself to one or more of them, and if you haven't yet been to a regional, you are

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

Quick Links

[National Association for Interpretation](#)

[NAI Heartland Region](#)

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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

really missing something special that the Heartland Region has to offer.

Hoping to see you down the road,
Bob Carter

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2018 Regional Workshop

From the Minnesota Workshop Committee

SPAM! Heartland Regional Workshop

April 4-7, 2018

Austin, Minnesota

Can you believe it - the workshop is less than a month away! We are excited to see all of you who have registered to come. Sessions are intriguing and diverse, the keynotes entertaining and thought-provoking, the auction will be a fun-filled time and after the banquet you can dance away the night to the music from Ventura Highway.



[Check out all the details in the workshop guide.](#)

Regular registration closes March 26.

See you in Austin!

Vicky Wachtler
Workshop Chair

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Email:

education@winneshiekwild.co
m

Announcing the 2019 Regional Workshop!

Sustainability on Point

March 20-23, 2019

University of Wisconsin-Stevens
Point

Save the date for the 2019
Heartland Region Workshop!

After this year's workshop in
Minnesota, the regional conference
moves next door to Wisconsin.

Stevens Point, a welcoming city of
about 26,000, is located in the heart of the state in central Wisconsin,
about two hours north of Madison.

UW-Stevens Point, a campus of 8,000 students, is known nationally
and internationally for its College of Natural Resources, including long-
running undergraduate and graduate programs in environmental
education and interpretation.

During the workshop you can explore Schmeeckle Reserve, a 280-
acre natural area on campus that features 5 miles of trails through a
variety of habitats. In Stevens Point you can visit numerous parks and
trails, tour local museums, stroll through the historic downtown and
along the Wisconsin River, sample local brews, and taste-test
Wisconsin's famous cheese!

Watch for the call for presenters coming out this spring. Other details
are coming together for keynote speakers, social opportunities, and off-
site sessions, and will be shared in future editions of the Buffalo Bull.

If you are interested in volunteering with workshop planning or need
more information, contact workshop chair Dr. Brenda Lackey at
brenda.lackey@uwsp.edu.



Membership Grants for Full-time Students

By Jenny Sazama, Scholarship Chair

NAI is a great organization full of opportunities for students who want to network, find employment and gain professional skills in the field of interpretation. The Heartland Region wants to encourage students to become members to take advantage of these opportunities and benefits like mini-grants for projects and scholarships to workshops by providing grants on a first-apply basis. Awardees will be selected by the Scholarship Committee through a lottery.

To be eligible for an NAI student membership grant the student must be at full-time status and must submit the following:

- A letter from a university/college faculty or staff verifying that the student is full-time
- A 200-word statement on why he/she wants to be a member of NAI

Submit these documents along with your contact information to:

Jenny Sazama
LCFPD-EE Services
1899 W. Winchester Road
Libertyville, IL 60048
jsazama@lcfpd.org.

Questions? Contact Jenny at 847-968-3482.

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Heartland Region Media

Find out more about workshops, scholarships, mini-grants, and the Heartland Region in general! Please note the sites below now reflect our embracing of "Heartland Region" in place of "Region 5" and update your records accordingly.

- **Website:** <http://naiheartlandregion.weebly.com/>
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/NAIHeartland>
- **Facebook:** 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.

Flathead Valley Community College

May 21-14, 2018

Kalispell, Montana

[Visit the workshop website for more information.](#)

The Morton Arboretum

August 20-23, 2018

Lisle, Illinois

[Visit the workshop website for more information.](#)

Lincoln Park Zoo

October 15-19, 2018

Chicago, Illinois

[Visit the workshop website for more information.](#)

Certified Interpretive Host (CIH) Training Workshop

This course is designed for staff or volunteers who have contact with the public, but do not necessarily lead interpretive programs. Anyone age 16 or over with a desire to increase their knowledge and skills related to customer service and interpretation may participate.

NAI Webinars

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

NAI Credits

Members can now earn credit toward conference registration fees, membership renewals, and re-certification fees in one of two ways: referring a new NAI member or serving as a peer reviewer for certain documents. If you have ever done either of those in the past, you may have credits available. A new section on your "My Account" page on the NAI website lists credits available on your account -- Please note that they do expire.

EXTERNAL WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Talk Climate Institute

March 12-13, 2018

Wilder Center, Saint Paul, Minnesota

[Visit the Institute website for more information.](#)

Iowa Association of Naturalists - Spring Workshop

March 14-16, 2018

Clinton County, Iowa

[More information found on the IAN website.](#)

Dragonfly Monitoring Network Trainings

Help build greater knowledge of the distribution and abundance of dragonflies and damselflies in the Chicago region, and eventually across Illinois and beyond.

- **Dupage County:** March 22, 5:30-7:30pm. FPDDC Headquarters, Wheaton. To register, contact Kathy Lech (klech@dupageforest.org) by March 16.
- **Nachusa Grasslands:** March 30, 9-11:30 am. Franklin Grove. To register, contact Cindy Crosby at phrelanzer@gmail.com.
- **Cook County:** April 5, 6-8 pm. Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago. To register, contact Lalainya Goldsberry at lgoldsberry@naturemuseum.org.
- **Lake County:** April 7, 9am-12pm. Ryerson Forest Preserve Welcome Center, Riverwoods. To register, contact Lalainya Goldsberry at lgoldsberry@naturemuseum.org.

NatureStart Professional Development Program

April 9-14, 2018

Brookfield Zoo; Brookfield, Illinois

[Visit the website for more information.](#)

NatureStart trains informal educators to develop and facilitate early childhood nature play programs, create play settings for nature-based early learning, and more. One-day workshops are also available.

Minnesota Master Naturalist courses are now available. [Visit the program website for more information.](#)

Inspiring Nature Play Conference: Innovations

May 2, 1018

9am - 3:30 pm

Chicago Botanical Garden

Featuring Keynote speaker David Sobel! Come away with practical and effective ideas for incorporating nature play into your early childhood programs and curriculum. Registration is \$52 (includes parking and lunch) and closes April 22. [Visit the workshop website for more information.](#)

Teaching in the Outdoor Classroom

June 25-28, 2018

Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

Fergus Falls, Minnesota

For all educators, formal and non-formal. [Visit the workshop website for more information.](#)

Project Underground

September 21-23, 2018

Jewel Cave National Monument

Custer, South Dakota

This workshop is geared for environmental educators, teachers, park rangers, or others who develop programs and activities related to caves and karst resources. Funded in part by the Monument's non-profit cooperative partner, the Black Hills Parks and Forests Association. For more information and to register, contact Bradley Block, Chief of Interpretation, at (605) 673-8330 or bradley_block@nps.gov.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All NAI Members are invited for a **hike at the Fontenelle Forest Wetlands Learning Center** in Bellevue, Nebraska, on Saturday, March 17 from 10:30-12. Bring a lunch and enjoy a picnic after. Dress for the weather and prepare for a lot of mud. Bring your binoculars for a chance to see some spring migration in action. If you will be attending, please let Jamie Vann know at jvann@fontenelleforest.org. This is also a great opportunity to bring any donations for the Nebraska basket for the Regional Workshop auction!

Minnesota State Representative **Jeff Boland** provided astronomical consulting to the Commonweal Theatre of Lanesboro, Minnesota, for their upcoming production of *Silent Sky*. The play tells the true story of Henrietta Leavitt, a pioneering female astronomer who helped make ground-breaking discoveries at the Harvard Observatory, despite not being allowed to touch a telescope.

RESOURCES

Find out about happenings in Environmental Education and jobs in Minnesota at the [SEEK \(Sharing Environmental Education Knowledge\)](#) website. Browse all [Minnesota Department of Natural Resource events here.](#)

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

[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. [Click here for more information on InterpNEWS.](#)

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