



National Association for Interpretation

Buffalo Bull: Heartland Region

Newsletter

Summer 2018

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The National Association for Interpretation Heartland Region membership consists of interpreters from state parks, county agencies,

Bob's Bombinations

By Bob Carter, Heartland Region Director

As we move into what seems to be an inordinately early summer I hope this issue of the *Buffalo Bull* finds you well, not too busy, and not too wet or too hot.

One year ago, the expansion of the Heartland Region was a possibility under discussion. This year it is a reality and your regional board has been actively engaged in integrating our new states and province into the regional family. I am pleased to see the energy that they are bringing to an already active and innovative region.

Speaking of innovation, at the spring board meeting during the Austin regional the board approved a new leadership position: "Property Manager." Former Deputy Director Laura Jones has consented to fill that position as it is developed and refined. Those of you who attended the regional had the opportunity to hear some of her ideas for the position and the rest of you will be hearing from her as things develop over the next few months. The board also discussed and approved a new regional award that aligns with the national awards so be sure to visit the regional website to learn more about that as well as other changes and updates within the region. And nominate somebody for something! There is a lot of excellent work going on in our region and if you know someone who should be singled out for their work, please submit a nomination. Our regional awards process is designed so that winners of those awards can be automatically nominated for the national award in the same category in the next national award cycle.

Another very important part of Heartland Region summers is planning for the regional elections. This year the Treasurer and Director

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.

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

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!

positions are up. Anyone wishing to run for either position must have a nomination statement and photo to Elections Chair Lydia Austin no later than August 1 so that she can process it and forward it on to the National Elections Chair. If you feel it is time to step up, or, if you know someone who you think would "fill the bill," let Lydia know. As with everything else regional, it is all on the website. If a major role in the region is not your pint of ale (I don't drink tea.) consider contacting a committee chair or state or provincial representative to see if they can use a little help with something. Our region succeeds because so many people pitch in to help make it so.

My last bit of news is that this year NAI is spotlighting three Regional Shining Stars from each region as part of the NAI 30th anniversary celebration which will culminate at the national conference in New Orleans at the end of November. Our three stars are now up on the national web site for you to read about. Congratulations to them all!

Keep the sunscreen and bug spray near, hike and bike when you can, and try to find a little time to enjoy the summer. And as always, if you have any comments, questions, or concerns, let me or the rest of the board, or the regional leadership know.

Cheers,
Bob Carter

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2019 Heartland Regional Workshop

Sustainability on Point

March 20-23, 2019

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

As temperatures warm, we daydream of kayaking, barbeques, and... potential snow??? That's right! The Wisconsin planning committee is working hard to provide the Heartland Region an enjoyable 2019 Workshop whether there be sun, rain, or snow! We have a few updates to share with you all!



Call for Presenters!

As interpreters and educators, we are always looking for new ideas and influences. Help inspire your fellow interpreters by sharing your projects

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

and knowledge in a one- or two-hour session. [Complete an application here!](#) Deadline for proposals is September 1, 2018.

Do you yourself need inspiration? You may find some from keynote speaker Stanley Temple. Temple is a Senior Fellow at the Aldo Leopold Foundation and was Professor in Conservation in the Department of Wildlife Ecology at UW-Madison, a position first held by Aldo Leopold. He says he continues to be inspired by and indebted to Leopold and will continue striving to convince people to tackle what he called "the oldest task in human history: to live on a piece of land without spoiling it."

Enjoy a diverse selection of off-site sessions. Some participants will enjoy a day in Wausau at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum and Monk Botanical Gardens. The [Woodson Art Museum](#) is known internationally for its fall exhibit [Birds in Art](#). The museum's frequently changing exhibits are generally inspired by "the marriage of art and nature." Explore the beautiful 21-acre property of [Monk Botanical Gardens](#). The land was transformed into a place of relaxation and learning! Get a view from above in the Treehouse, relax in the Meditation Garden, or explore Kitchen Garden.

Look to future editions of Buffalo Bull for information on lodging, other keynote speakers, off-site sessions, and more!

If you need more information, contact workshop chair Dr. Brenda Lackey at brenda.lackey@uwsp.edu.

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2018 Heartland Region Award Winners

By Jen Guest, Awards Chair



Congratulations to the 2018 Regional Award recipients!

Excellence in Interpretive Support

Story County Conservation

Story County, Iowa

Master Frontline Interpreter

Howard Aprill of Wehr Nature Center

Milwaukee County Parks, Wisconsin

Master Interpretive Manager

Steve Boyd-Smith of the 106 group

St. Paul Minnesota

The Awards were presented at our annual workshop awards banquet on April 6th in Austin, Minnesota. Thank you to everyone who has served on the awards committee and thank you to all who have nominated someone for an award. Only six months until next year's nomination deadline! Please start thinking about who you are going to nominate next!

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From the 2018 Region Planning Committee

On behalf of the Heartland Region Workshop Planning Committee a big **Thank You!** to all who attended and presented!



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National Conference Scholarships Available! By Jenny Sazama, Scholarship Chair

It's Our Time! is the theme for the National Conference in New Orleans, Nov 27-Dec 1. The Scholarship Committee thinks It's Your Time! to take advantage of your membership benefits by applying for a scholarship.

The Heartland Region has \$1,000 in financial assistance available. Dependent upon the number of qualified applicants it may be split into two \$500 scholarships, which should cover the registration fee with a little remaining to put towards lodging or transportation. It is issued as a reimbursement. Recipient(s) 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, including a statement on how you would benefit from attending the conference.
2. A letter of support from a professor, supervisor or colleague.
3. The written assignment: New Orleans is known for its food and music. Share a time when you used food or music to enhance the multi-sensory interpretive experience of a program or event. If you've not used food or music in your interpretive work, then describe when you've experienced the use of food or music at a program or event and how it affected your experience (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 Monday, July 30, 2018. Recipient(s) will be notified by mid-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

The application form will also be available on the Heartland Region website <http://naiheartlandregion.weebly.com/>.

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Heartland Region Mini Grants: Working for You!

By Debra Nowak, Mini Grant Chair

With ever-tightening budgets and a growing need to reach our audiences in new and innovative ways, the Heartland Region Mini Grant program is here to help you meet your needs. We have just awarded our new cycle of grants and we are very excited to see their finished products. Our 2018 Mini Grant recipients are:

Heckrodt Wetland Reserve from Menasha, Wisconsin for the purchase of microscopes for school environmental education programs.

McHenry County Conservation District from Crystal Lake, Illinois for the purchase of a discovery table and shelving/storage unit.

We also have received the completion reports from the 2017 grant cycle, where Heckrodt Wetland Reserve used their grant funds to help create a unique and innovative way to get moving like the animals do! To learn more about their project, check out this video on their [Facebook page](#).

Keep the Heartland Region's Mini Grant program in mind for future projects that need funding within the region. More information can be found on the [region website](#) .

Mini Grant Cycle Timeline:

January 1 - Applications Available

February 28 - Application Due to Committee Chair

March 30 - Mini Grants Awarded

April 1 of the following year - Completion Reports Due

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Reflections on the Regional Workshop

By Alyssa Cahoon

The NAI Regional Workshop in Austin, Minnesota was the first interpretive workshop I have attended. Needless to say, NAI granted me a new experience which developed my view of interpretation not just in the workplace, but in all manners of communication.

I was pleasantly surprised when arriving for the Wednesday night social by the hours of appetizers, trivia, and smiles. The warm atmosphere set the stage for the entire weekend, where people were eager to lend a hand and welcome one another. I attended four sessions during the conference, each with its own unique information and use towards a diverse range of interpretive abilities. I volunteered within two of the four sessions: the first with Joseph Alexander in a presentation of Nature Engagement and Human Wellness, the second with Adam Collicutt in Applying Theater to Interpretation. At each session, I learned ways to apply broad ideas to interpretation.

On Friday, April 6th I joined the ranks of many to brave the Eagle Bluff High Ropes course. For someone who enjoys new activities, this opportunity was a perfect way to gain inspiration for other children and adult programs. I took several photos from this high time, as well as photos of my volunteering during the state basket raffle and live auction. The live auction, dinner, and dance continued the opportunities of new, fun ways to express our connection as interpreters.



I deeply appreciate the opportunity NAI has granted me to attend the Regional Convention. I was honored to represent the Red River Zoo in Fargo, North Dakota. Thank you for this wonderful experience, I look forward to next year's activities.

--

Alyssa Cahoon is Education Specialist and Volunteer Coordinator with Red River Zoo in Fargo, North Dakota.

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Spamtastic Times at the Regional Workshop **By Victoria DeVos**

I had a SPAMtastic time at the regional workshop in Austin!

Sessions I attended were all about SPAM.

Social Media and STEM,

Picking my Yard and eating it,

Adult programming and adult beverages,

Multigenerational events.

The quality of the sessions I attended were AWESOME!!! I was able to take away some great ideas that I can immediately incorporate into programming I already do as well as some new ideas that I could develop over time. The thing I love about the sessions I attended is that I really feel like I could contact any of the presenters and ask them questions or details about what they had presented on.

Programming in the evening

Trivia night and auction night were a lot of fun!!!! Thank you to everyone who was able to buy auction items, play the raffles, and participate in any fundraising. Because of your contributions, future scholarships will be available to the membership to attend these workshops, for people like me and the others working the auction. Thank you to those that have contributed in the past. You helped me get to Austin and I am grateful for that.

I was a little sad there were not more people attending the awards banquet. Being recognized for going above and beyond is a big deal. Maybe there were more people there than I thought but it seemed a little sparse.

Accommodations

The food... well it wasn't SPAM, surprisingly. The food was great. I may even go so far as to say it was the BEST conference food I have ever had. A little sad we didn't have SPAM sandwiches but I enjoyed the food none the less.

The hotel was great and so was the staff!!!!

Minnesota Workshop Planning Committee

These folks did an awesome job. For having what appeared to be a skeleton crew, the attendees were never lacking for things to do. We had wonderful sessions to choose from, great entertainment, neat offsite sessions, and again, good food. I know how much work goes into planning a successful workshop and I think these Minnesotans deserve a pat on the back for a job well done. Vicky, Teresa, Mara, Jeff, Tony and Becky (honorary Minnesotan) you put on one spamtastic, spameric, spamazing, spamperb, spamnificent spring workshop. Thank you!!!

--

Victoria DeVos is a Naturalist with Plymouth County Conservation in Iowa.

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Student Air Rifle Program Expands to Iowa

By Lewis Major

Air rifles, when used properly, are safe, universal, and fun, making them the go-to tool to introduce youth and adults to the sport of target shooting. Target shooting is known as a lifelong sport and can be practiced for most at an early age and continue through adulthood. Until recently, there was no official training available in Iowa for professional educators to become certified air rifle instructors, making it difficult to offer target shooting as part of their programming.

In response to this need, Polk County Conservation wrote and received a Resource Enhancement and Protection-Conservation Education Program (REAP-CEP) grant to coordinate and offer the Student Air Rifle Program (SAR) to professional educators allowing them the opportunity to become trained, confident and competent air rifle instructors.



Eighteen individuals from across the state trained as SAR Basic Air Riflery Instructors (BARI) during the workshop. Two of the 18 became Basic Air Riflery Instructor Trainers (BARIT) allowing for more staff to train as BARI in the future. The 18 BARI staff members, mainly from County Conservation Boards across IA, represent Cerro Gordo, Jackson, Linn, O'Brien, Polk, Poweshiek, Story, Tama, and Webster counties. In addition, local staff from the Veterans Affairs in Central Iowa were also trained.

The REAP-CEP grant provided funding and support to bring SAR trainers from Missouri to Iowa to provide the SAR BARI training. The grant also provided funding for two official standardized SAR equipment kits to be shared among County Conservation BARI's. The equipment kits are comprised of air rifles, lead-free pellets, lockable storage cases, rifle racks, target holders, pellet net, and safety glasses.

"We are delighted with the opportunity to partner with passionate individuals in Iowa to offer SAR to even more students", mentioned Jake Hindman, President and CEO of SAR.

SAR, developed by the Missouri Youth Sport Shooting Alliance (MYSSA™), is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. SAR uses school aligned units of

study, teacher training, universal whistle commands, positive language, and standardized equipment to facilitate an introduction to the lifetime sport of target shooting to school-aged youth in grades 4 through 12.

To start SAR in your county, email Patrice Petersen-Keys: patrice.petersen-keys@polkcountyiowa.gov.

For more information about the Student Air Rifle Program (SAR), visit: www.studentairrifleprogram.org.

--

Lewis Major is a naturalist with Polk County Conservation in Polk County, Iowa.

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Comment Period Open for Interpretive Standards

The NAI draft interpretive standards are now open for public comment. Feedback on practices related to interpretive media, training, walks/talks, dialogic encounters, and more will be accepted until August 31 and will then be synthesized with the new standards to be released at the National Conference in New Orleans.

[You may explore the website, ask questions, and provide commentary here.](#)

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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@lcpd.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.

Brookfield Zoo

August 6-10, 2018

Brookfield, Illinois

[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.](#)

National Great Rivers Museum

November 5-8, 2018

Alton, Illinois

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

Brookfield Zoo

February 11-15, 2019

Brookfield, Illinois

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

Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) Train-the-Trainers

Montana Wild

October 15-19, 2018

Helena, Montana

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

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

Minnesota Master Naturalist courses are now available.

[Visit the program 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.](#)

Summer Institute for Climate Change Education

June 26-28, 2018

St. John's University

Collegeville, Minnesota

[Click here for more information.](#)

Minnesota Association for Environmental Education

Annual Conference

August 11, 2018

McColl Pond ELC

Savage, Minnesota

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.

Minnesota Naturalists Association Annual Conference

November 9-11, 2018

Eagle Bluff ELC

Lanesboro, Minnesota

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Illinois NAI members took a field trip to the Shedd Aquarium at the end of April. Big thanks to Beth Kosiba and the full guest engagement team for hosting us! NAI members networked with staff, saw the Land and Water presentation, and discussed activities for educating visitors about trash and plastics in our waterways.



Throughout the day we were also guided through the new "Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea" exhibit. Exhibit creator Angela Haseltine Pozzi turned plastic beach trash into colorful animal sculptures. The art is beautiful but also holds an important message on what ends up in our waterways. The Shedd Aquarium is hosting 16 sculptures that are both outdoors and indoors until September 2018. Here is [An Interview with Washed Ashore Artist Angela Haseltine Pozzi: The Medium is the Message](#) for more details on the artist, her inspiration, and the amazing process turning trash into sculptures.

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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