

National Association for
Interpretation
Buffalo Bull: Heartland Region Newsletter

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Bob's Combinations

By Bob Carter, Heartland Region Director

So here we are with another winter solstice approaching. That is really the only thing that makes me certain I am writing this for the winter edition of the *Buffalo Bull*. You couldn't tell it from the weather around my neck of the woods. Sure, it is pretty cold now, but, according to the thermometer we went directly from summer to winter and then dropped back to fall, revisited summer for a couple of days, shot backwards again to spring, and now, upon my return from the NAI National Conference in New Orleans, where it was 80 degrees long enough to acclimate me to that environment, we are back at winter. Brrrr. So, I am relying on astronomy to tell me that we are a couple of weeks away from the beginning of winter as I don't trust the snow on my driveway right now.

Some time ago, the regional board decided we needed to update and streamline our regional displays for use at regional workshops, the national conference, and any other events where we might want a presence. So, we acquired a new table drape with the regional logo and created a table-top banner. These are both much more transportable than any of our previous display materials and will be available for any number of events. We will also add another table-top banner featuring the upcoming regional workshop. You will be able to see what they look like in March at our next regional in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Speaking of the Stevens Point regional, you may notice that the full registration package is already available, with not only all registration information but also a complete listing of the special events and even the concurrent sessions. Special attention is being given to accommodating college students. If you haven't been to the Stevens Point area before, this is a great time to go, and if you have been there before, you know why you need to go back.

Stay warm and dry and I'll see you in the Spring 2019 issue of the *Buffalo Bull*, and at Point for the 2019 Regional Workshop. And as always, if there is something you want to know or suggest regarding our region or NAI, let me know.

Bob Carter
Heartland Region Director

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Heartland Members Receive National Awards



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.

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
Fall Issue	September 1

Email:
education@winneshiekwild.com

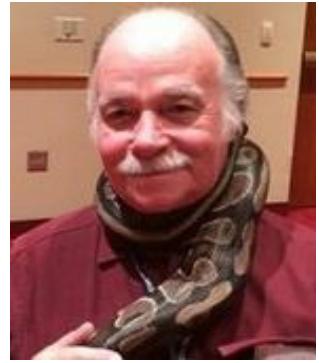
The Heartland Region was well-represented at the 2018 NAI National Conference as two of our members were presented with national awards!

- Bob Carter, Meritorious Service Award
- Steve Boyd-Smith, Master Interpretive Manager

Congratulations Bob and Steve! The Heartland Region is lucky to have you!

Bob Carter, Meritorious Service Award

Bob Carter, Heartland Region Director, was awarded the 2018 NAI Meritorious Service Award, presented to NAI members who have performed extensive and invaluable service to NAI, especially on the national level.



Bob has been the consummate "behind-the-scenes" presence, providing leadership to NAI on the national and regional level for decades. This includes service as two stints as Region Director and multiple committee positions. While in office he advocated for increased outreach to students in interpretation and fostering stronger relationships with Canadian interpreters. In addition to providing committee leadership, "Dr. Bob" is a perennial presenter at regional workshops and national conferences. He is always eager to share knowledge gleaned from 30 years of experience teaching interpretation. As a result, he has presented 15 conference sessions in as many years. As a talented, prolific, and always provocative writer, Bob has authored over 20 articles for Legacy magazine on topics ranging from the history of NAI to technology in interpretation, interpretive leadership, and championing the elimination of "informal education" as a label for interpretation.

Steve Boyd-Smith, Master Interpretive Manager

Steve Boyd-Smith, of the 106 Group of Minnesota, was awarded the 2018 Master Interpretive Manager Award, presented to an NAI member who has worked for five or more years in the profession and whose current duties are at least 60 percent supervisory and administrative



Steve has made a career of eliciting stories and producing meaningful ways for visitors to engage with them. As one colleague stated, Steve "thinks big from the beginning." This explains his success over 25 years in creating interpretive experiences for dozens of institutions around the world.

Steve's interpretive management and planning expertise has directly influenced visitors and stakeholders at such diverse sites as the Minnesota Zoo, multiple state and national parks, the Katmandu (Nepal) Science Museum, a Dakota village site, and a Mohawk homeland.

Steve is especially adept at navigating sensitive interpretive issues. He was instrumental in developing a community engagement process to craft the Thomas Jefferson Poplar Forest Master Interpretive Plan. By working in concert with local partners and input, Steve successfully built longstanding relationships in interpreting the story of an enslaved community, bringing it to life and sharing its relevance in the 21st Century.

2019 Heartland Regional Workshop

Sustainability on Point
March 20-23, 2019
Univ. of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Workshop Website



With only months to go, the Wisconsin Workshop Committee is hard at work making plans for an exciting experiential workshop for all of you! We have gathered presentations and off-sites that will explore the combination of interpretation and sustainable practices. A special off-site dinner Thursday night at Central Waters Brewing Company will feature the brewery's sustainable business practices.

Registration and Workshop Guide

Registration is now open!

Feel free to peruse the [registration guide](#) for information on the schedule, concurrent sessions, keynotes, hotels, and more!

Register by February 28 to receive the early-bird discount.

[Register online here](#), or use the paper form on the registration packet.

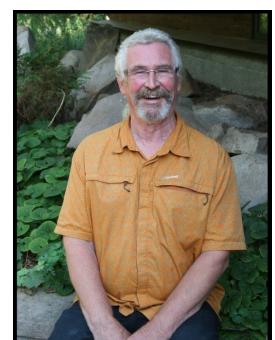
Keynote Presentations

The workshop will include keynote presentations by Stanley Temple and Ron Zimmerman. 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."



Stanley Temple

Zimmerman was hired as the first Director of Schmeeckle Reserve in 1979, a natural area on the UW-Stevens Point campus, where he helped to develop one of the largest college interpretive training programs in the country. He is co-author of the renowned Interpreter's Handbook Series and founded the Schmeeckle Reserve Interpreters consultant team. Ron retired as Director in 2015.



Ron Zimmerman

Field Trip Spotlight

With sustainability in mind, we would be remiss not to highlight noted conservationist Aldo Leopold. His land ethic has inspired many to care about the ecological health of their communities. During an off-site session, visit Leopold's Shack and the Aldo Leopold Foundation near Baraboo, Wisconsin, for a look at Leopold's conservation and sustainability ethic, as well as to experience the sustainable design of the LEED-certified center.

Looking for More Information?

Keep an eye out for updates! Also, feel free to check out our [website](#) or contact workshop chair Dr. Brenda Lackey at brenda.lackey@uwsp.edu. We look forward to seeing you in Stevens Point!



Regional Workshop Scholarships Available!

By Jenny Sazama, Scholarships Chair

Use one of your membership benefits by applying for a scholarship to attend the Heartland Regional Workshop!

Submit your application by January 30, 2019!

Several scholarships are available for both Professionals and Student members. **The scholarship will cover the early registration workshop fee, one night lodging at the lower rate, plus a little extra (\$370 Professional, \$297 Students).** Scholarships are 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 members of any Region and Province.
- 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. POINTS TO LIVE BY. Share with us your top five points to live by (in your profession or as a student looking to enter the profession).

If selected, your submission may appear in the *Buffalo Bull*. Selection criteria include grammar, organization and flow, following direction, relevance and universal appeal, career goals (for students) and contribution/involvement in NAI/interpretive field (for professionals).

All materials must be received or postmarked by January 30, 2019.
Recipients will be notified no later than February 15, 2019 (early registration fee ends February 28).

Recipient must:

1. Attend the entire workshop.
2. Volunteer in at least two areas for the workshop. Recipients are expected to volunteer at the live auction.
3. Caption a photo of yourself at the workshop and include one new thing you learned while there that you think would benefit others in this field.

[Download the application form on the Heartland Region website.](#)

Submit Materials to:

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

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Awards: Nominations Open and a New Category! By Jen Guest, Awards Chair

Do you know or work with someone deserving an award? So many individuals (and groups) in our Region are talented, dedicated, hardworking, and underappreciated. Please share how special they are by honoring them with an award recognizing their abilities and contributions to the field of interpretation.



Traditionally, there have been five regional award categories to choose from to fit your nominee: Master Front Line Interpreter, Master Interpretive Manager, Meritorious Service, Outstanding New Interpreter, and Excellence in Interpretive Support (non-members of NAI can qualify). **This year we are adding a new category: Outstanding Interpretive Volunteer.** All regional awards qualifications are now in-line with the NAI national awards standards.

Visit the [Heartland Region website](#) to download full award descriptions and a nomination form and contact Jen Guest if you have any questions: jguest@fpdw.org or call at 815-722-1648.

Nomination forms and letters of support must be received by January 16th, 2019.

The awards will be presented at the annual Heartland Region Workshop in Stevens Point, Wisconsin on March 22, 2019.

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NAI Heartland Region Mini-Grants By Debra Nowak, Mini-Grants Chair

NAI is proud to offer a mini-grant program to help members accomplish some great interpretive projects throughout the Heartland Region.

On an annual basis, the mini-grant committee will consider funding for interpretive projects and programs completed within the region.

The fund, up to \$500, may be used for things such as exhibit design and productions, workbooks, equipment, living history props, research, planning, and educational materials.

Projects are evaluated based on four different criteria areas:

- Preservation
- Interpretive Value
- Uniqueness
- Project Viability

Applications will be available January 1st. Start planning out your projects

now! Applications will be due February 28 and grants are awarded at the end of March. Applicants selected for funding will have until April 1 of the following year to complete the project and required project completion materials.

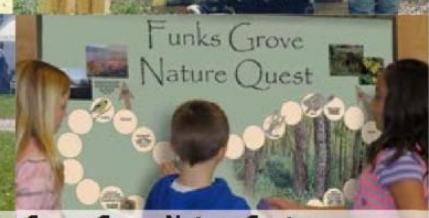
This is a great way to help achieve some of your 2019 interpretive goals! Check out past projects below and for more information, visit the [Heartland Region Website](#).



Forest Preserve District of Will County
Channahon, IL
River of Trash - 2016
An art piece that connects people to their impact on waterways.



Ushers Ferry Historic District
Cedar Rapids, IA
Living History Foodways Program - 2014
Replacing historic foldaways equipment that was damaged or destroyed by flood.



Sugar Grove Nature Center
McLean, IL
Large Format Board Game - 2013
Part exhibit, part game, participants learn local natural and historical facts while racing towards the finish.



First Division Museum at Cantigny
Wheaton, IL
First Division Educational Videos - 2015
The videos help tell the story of the First Infantry Division as it grows over time.



Announcing the 2020 Heartland Workshop!

By Sloan Cathcart

Welcome to Friendly Manitoba!

Discover what makes your heart beat in Manitoba as you reflect, engage, and inspire with interpreters in Brandon, Manitoba, the hub of western Manitoba.



The Westman region is home to some of Canada's most important military history. Reflect on the valour and sacrifices of our men and women at the Royal Canadian Artillery Museum and the Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum.

Engage with Manitoba's immersive culture. People from all corners and walks of life quickly become neighbours. We'll be celebrating 150 years of our history and will explore how interpreters have a key role in reconciliation of our relationships with Indigenous peoples. Did you know Louis Riel, Metis leader of the Red River Resistance, formed the first provisional government of Manitoba?

Manitoba's beauty is breathtaking, diverse, and vast--and we can't wait to showcase the Westman area of the province to you! Be inspired by our first naturalists: learn about Grey Owl, famed conservationist, at Riding Mountain National Park or follow in the footsteps of Ernest Thompson Seton in the sand hills of Spruce Woods Provincial Park. Did you know Seton was a grandfather of the U.S. Boy Scouts and Manitoba's first Chief Naturalist in 1892?

Not familiar with Canada's keystone province? [Check out our Manitoba Fact Sheet!](#)

Why should you visit Manitoba in 2020?

- We're celebrating our sesquicentennial: 150 years since Manitoba became a province!
- Lonely Planet lists us as a Top 10 Region on their Best in Travel list. [Check out this YouTube video.](#)
- It's the 100th anniversary of Enos Mills first using the term "interpretation." What better way to celebrate than at a workshop with other Interpreters!

In 2020, we hope you will join in the celebrations in Manitoba! We'll be revealing more details in Steven's Point; don't miss out!

For US citizens, be sure to know what documents you need to cross the border (and to get back home). A valid U.S. passport, passport card, or NEXUS card satisfies these requirements. [More details here.](#)

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Reflections on the 2019 National Conference
By Melissa Alexander, Scholarship Recipient



Experiencing the food, music, activities, and people of New Orleans was a pleasant reminder of how important it is to embrace our nation's diverse cultural backgrounds and traditions. From the roots of voodoo to the history of jazz to the stories preserved in above-ground cemeteries, this year's NAI conference allowed me to make a connection with this amazing place and those who call it home. Our conference theme (It's our time!) couldn't have been more appropriate for the world we live in today. Let's continue to help others make those same great connections we made in The Big Easy.

Photo Caption: Exploring the history and architecture of Layfette Cemetery.

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Reflections on the 2019 National Conference By Yvette Mendez, Scholarship Recipient

The National Conference in New Orleans was everything I had hoped it would be! The sessions and keynotes were informative and inspiring, and it was enchanting to be surrounded by the iconic culture of The Big Easy.

Thank you, Heartland Region, for the opportunity to attend the conference!



Photo Caption: Fulfilling my fascination at the LaLaurie Mansion during the America's Most Haunted City walking tour.

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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@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!

- **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

February 11-15, 2019

Brookfield, Illinois

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

North Dakota Heritage Center

February 19-22, 2019

Bismarck, North Dakota

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

Lincoln Park Zoo

March 4-8, 2019

Chicago, Illinois

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

Stutsman County Courthouse State Historic Site

March 14-17, 2019

Jamestown, North Dakota

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

Brookfield Zoo

August 12-16, 2019

Brookfield, Illinois

[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

Woodland Ecology (Online Course)

Beginning January 29, 2019

The Morton Arboretum

[More information here.](#)

The Future of Farming in the Age of Climate Change

February 2, 2019

Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center - Lanesboro, Minnesota

Featuring Dr. Mark Seeley

<http://www.eagle-bluff.org/top/dinners>

Basic Plant ID (Online Course)

Beginning February 13, 2019 or May, 29 2019

The Morton Arboretum

[More information here.](#)

Iowa Conservation Education Summit

February 21, 2019

Blank Park Zoo - Des Moines, Iowa

[More information here.](#)

2019 ICEC Winter Workshop: STEM and EE

February 22-23, 2019

Drake University - Des Moines, Iowa

[More information here.](#)

Iowa Association of Naturalists Spring 2019 Workshop

March 6-8, 2019

Jester Park Nature Center - Granger, Iowa

[More information here.](#)

2019 EEIA Conference: Rooted for Life

March 21-23, 2019

Mattoon, Illinois

[More information here.](#)

Talk Climate Institute

March 25-26, 2019

American Indian Community Housing Organization - Duluth, Minnesota

[More information here.](#)

Midwest Environmental Education Conference (MEEC)

October 3-5, 2019

Science Museum of Minnesota - St. Paul, Minnesota

<http://meeconference.org/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nebraska will be looking for a regional representative starting in January. Contact Jamie Vann (jvann@fontenelleforest.org) if you are interested!

The **Urbana Park District's Anita Purves Nature Center** will be celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2019. **40 and Flying--Connecting You with Nature** celebrates with the return of 40 programs and events from the past 40 years. Watch for details at <https://www.urbanaparks.org/>.

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 InterpNEWSs.](#)

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