

Sunny Southeast Region Newsletter - February 2019

1 message

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Fri, Feb 22, 2019 at 12:02 PM



Dear [REDACTED],

Welcome to *Southern Exposure*, the newsletter of the National Association for Interpretation's Sunny Southeast Region.

Photo: Region members at the 2018 NAI National Conference in New Orleans.

GREETINGS ALL!

I wanted to take my first letter of the year to update as many people as possible on the exciting discussions and plans that occurred with Sunny Southeast during the NAI National Conference in New Orleans. We were wonderfully represented with 70 attendees total and about 30 showing up for our regional session. (Our region is up to 1,191 members, showing a steady increase that is on par with the other regions and with NAI.) Several of our states, along with Puerto Rico, were in attendance and a lively discussion ensued over two major subjects.



February 2019

- GREETINGS ALL!
- AWARDS TO OUTSTANDING FOLKS
- TUNING OUR INTERPRETIVE INSTRUMENTS
- STATE BY COMMONWEALTH BY TERRITORY
- UPCOMING CIG TRAININGS IN OUR REGION

Save the Date

[Sunny Southeast Regional Workshop](#)
April 2-5, 2019
Montgomery Bell State Park
Dickson, TN

[InterpTech](#)
April 29-May 2
Monterey, CA

[International Conference](#)
May 20-24
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

[National Conference](#)
Nov 12-16
Denver, CO

National Conference 2020
St Augustine, FL
November 10-14, 2020

Regional Officers

First, the national office requested that we participate in a pilot project to merge the national conference with the annual workshop of the region the national conference would be held in, in the hopes of benefiting some of the less active regions. After spending a great deal of time going over logistics and benefits versus possible negatives, we are tentatively a go for merging the 2020 Sunny Southeast Regional with the national workshop planned for St. Augustine, Florida. Our 2020 workshop was to be held in Alabama, but plans have fallen through as the coordinators accepted jobs out of state-2020 seems to be an ideal time to try the experiment! We also discussed the difficulties of not being able to afford a national conference or preferring the more intimate atmosphere of a regional-we will be dedicating one to two days before the national conference to hold a mini-workshop for Sunny Southeasterners. There will be some configuring of dates, as the national is in November, as opposed to our regional usually held in the Spring. The possibility of holding two shorter workshops has also been floated. We will keep you all updated as the options develop. FYI: National will cover the money that would have come from our scholarship auctions, field trips, etc. based on our previous workshops' incomes, and it is committed to making sure our region benefits from this experiment. Fortunately, we had a large contingent of Floridians in New Orleans who were able to give us some great starting ideas on the how's and what's of moving forward in the area, so we look forward to continued coordination with them.

Our second major discussion was Sunny Southeast's support of the NAI Journey Home project, in which the organization hopes to raise enough money to pay off the mortgage. Money usually spent on the mortgage could be repurposed to support members, provide advocacy for the interpretation profession, and fund an additional \$18,800 a year for scholarships. You can follow [this link](#) for additional information. The attending members voted to donate 10% of our current account toward this goal, for a total of approximately \$700. If you are interested in personally donating to this cause, you can download the NAI RoundUp app for your phone, iPad, computer or other device, which donates the change from your credit card purchases through secure encrypted technology.

More from the national conference: the Sunny Southeast was strongly represented at our Trade Show booth which we shared with the Four Corners Region to mutual benefit. We were well represented in the variety of sessions presented by our members. Many great ideas were shared, and several new folks stepped up to volunteer for everything from writing blog posts to taking on State Coordinator positions, so we have a lot to be proud of in our community. A giant thank you to all who made it, and all who kept the home fires burning in the meantime.

Regarding this year's Sunny Southeast workshop: if you haven't heard, it will be held in Central Tennessee at Montgomery Bell State Park, April 2-5, and is being coordinated through the dedicated efforts of Laura Franklin! See the information provided below.

Here's to a better 2019 for our community-let's keep looking out for each other as best we can! If you have any questions, ideas, or concerns about any of the above subjects, or anything else, please don't hesitate to contact me at masselta@janegoodall.org.

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Southern Exposure

Next submission deadline:
April 15 for publication in May

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Photos
Want to showcase your site or highlight a recent event? Send photos on jpg to Rhana when you submit your information! Your photos may be used as the masthead or within the body of your article. Remember: if children are recognizable, you will want to have a photo release from the parents or guardians.

Regional Chairpersons

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--submitted by Marisol Asselta, Regional Director

AWARDS TO OUTSTANDING FOLKS

The following interpreters will receive these awards at our upcoming regional meeting. Congrats to all!

Outstanding Service to the Sunny Southeast Region
Robert Bixler, Associate Professor at Clemson University

Outstanding New Interpreter
Corinne Rizzo, Environmental Educator at Latta Nature Center

Outstanding Interpreter Invitation
Olivia Belk, Education Assistant at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest

Outstanding Interpreter
Dan Pascucci, Youth and Family Programs Manager at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest

Outstanding Interpreter
Robert Bixler, Associate Professor at Clemson University

--submitted by Jessica Goodrich Watts, Awards and Scholarship Chair

"TUNING OUR INTERPRETIVE INSTRUMENTS"



NAI's Sunny Southeast Region invites you to Tennessee! Interpreters are the keepers of history, storytellers, entertainers, resource protectors, and we all need a tune up to keep these skills sharp. This workshop will give participants the opportunity to sharpened skills and experience to the natural and cultural beauty of Tennessee while learning and sharing with our interpretive colleagues.

IMPORTANT DATES

Now: Registration is open!
03/12 Last Day to Cancel
03/18 Last Day to Register

LOCATION

Montgomery Bell State Park is located seven miles east of Dickson in Dickson County and is approximately a 45-minute drive west of Nashville. Montgomery Bell State Park is equipped with a conference center and the onsite restaurant is open every

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day.

LODGING

The Park Inn offers 120 rooms and five suites (\$80-245). The park also has eight Environmentally friendly modern cabins (\$170-200) available. The Conference has a block of rooms reserved for the workshop. Call to book Cabins /Inn Rooms (800) 250-8613. Reference group code 9475.

CAMPING

The park's campground (\$15-45) can accommodate 60 ft. campers on most electrical sites. The campground has on-site sewer at 40 sites and can accommodate small pop-up campers and large RVs. There are 94 campsites available at the park.

SCHEDULE AT GLANCE

Monday, April 1

4-6p Pre-conference Arrivals/Check-in

6-7p Dinner on your own

7-8:30p Evening event

Tuesday, April 2

8-10a Pre-conference Arrivals/Check-in

9a-5p Pre-conference workshops

10a-5p Registration Open

6-9p Welcome & Interpretive Showcase

Wednesday, April 3rd

7-8a Morning Stretch, Yoga, Run, Breakfast on Your Own

8-8:45a Morning welcome & Plenary Session

9-9:45a Concurrent Sessions

9:45-10a BREAK

10-10:45a Region Membership & Business Meeting

10:45-11a BREAK

11-11:45a Concurrent Sessions

11:45a-1p Lunch on Your Own

1-1:30p Group Photo

1:30-8p The Nashville Experience (Transportation provided)

8-11p Explore Downtown Nashville (Transportation provided)

Thursday, April 4

7-8a Morning Stretch, Yoga, Run, Breakfast on Your Own

8a-4:30p Field Trips

5:30p Silent Auction Bidding Wars, Appetizers, Music from the Free Rangers

6:30p CCC Dinner & Awards Celebration

Friday, April 5

7-8a Breakfast on Your Own

7-8:30 Sunny Southeast 5K Fun Run/Walk

8:30-9:15a Concurrent Sessions

9:15-9:30a BREAK

9:30-10:15a Concurrent Sessions

10:15-10:45a BREAK & Check out

10:45-11:15a A Warm Farewell

Noon - Late Check-out

COSTS

Full Conference Registration:

NAI Member/Student \$125.00

Non-Member (includes one year membership) \$200.00

One Day Registration: Non-member (no dinner) \$75.00

Preconference

Living History \$25.00

Leopold \$15.00
Brewery Tour \$25.00

Field Trip
History \$20.00
Museums \$20.00
Nature Centers \$20.00
Wildlife \$20.00
Thursday Guest Dinner \$35.00
Fun Run 5K \$25.00

To register, [click here](#).

--submitted by the RIW committee

STATE BY COMMONWEALTH BY TERRITORY

NORTH CAROLINA

Kudos to Alice Chambers, Environmental Education Manager from Mecklenburg County Park and Rec! If you haven't read her MUSINGS FROM THE FIELD in the recent Inspiring Excellence email from the national office, look! It is entitled Basketball and Bluebirds: Once it's apparent that anything, including basketball, can be interpretive, it's a whole new ball game.

North Carolina State Parks held two training sessions in 2018 for park rangers resulting in the certification of 33 new CIG's. We will continue to offer two per year, one for new hires and one for veterans, to get all our field interpreters certified in the next few years. For more information, contact Brian Bockhahn, Regional Education Specialist with North Carolina State Parks, at 919-841-4060 or Brian.Bockhahn@ncparks.gov

There's a party at Biltmore-and you're invited! A Vanderbilt House Party - The Gilded Age opens February 8 and runs through May 27, 2019. This exhibition brings the grandeur of an early 1900s house party to life with re-creations of clothing worn in historic photographs displayed throughout the house; along with a custom exhibition audio guided tour, the exhibition immerses guests into a festive celebration as told by characters based on those who lived and worked at Biltmore.

The new Biltmore House Revealed Tour offers a glimpse into our legacy of preservation. This guided behind-the-scenes tour looks into our Archives and continues in unrestored rooms as we share stories about the people and projects that have made it possible to preserve the house and its collection. The guided tour starts February 8 and costs \$25 per person in addition to estate admission.

Project WET educator training
Saturday, March 2, 9a-3:30p
McDowell Nature Center, [15222 York Rd, Charlotte, NC 28278](#)
Cost: \$25; includes curriculum guide, take-home activity, snacks
Please bring a bagged lunch and refillable water bottle. Dress appropriately for the weather and the possibility for getting feet wet. Pre-Registration is required.
Please email either Rachel Smith or Ariel Lowery for more information and registration.
Email: rachel.smith@mecknc.gov or ariel.lowery@mecknc.gov

Earth's Treasures
Saturday, April 6, 10a-1p
Schiele Museum, Gastonia, NC
Through a series of self-paced "treasure hunts" discover how

together we are protecting North Carolina's water, minerals, animals, soil and air! Visit our community partners' booths to find out their conservation and sustainability success stories as part of our Smithsonian Earth Optimism celebration. Stop by this family event in honor of Earth Day and have fun while finding out how you can help protect Earth's treasures. Free with admission.

Certified Interpretive Guide Workshop

Late spring/early summer

Schiele Museum, Gastonia, NC

We are considering several formats and dates and are seeking input from those that may be interested in attending. The format options are 4 consecutive days (such as Tuesday-Friday) or 2 weeks of Tuesday/Thursday. Dates being considered are from May 20th through June 9th. Please contact Stephenie Berggrun if you are interested at stephenieb@cityofgastonia.com or 704-866-6915.

UPCOMING CIG TRAININGS IN OUR REGION

Visit www.interpnet.com/certification for information.

March 6-27

Mahlon Adams Pavlion

Charlotte, NC

March 22-25

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest

Clermont, KY

May 20-23

Durant and Horseshoe Farm Nature Preserve

Raleigh, NC

National Association for Interpretation, P.O. Box 2246, Fort Collins, CO 80522

Sent by naimail@interpnet.com in collaboration with

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