



Sunny Southeast Region Newsletter - May 2019

1 message

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Dear [REDACTED]

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

Photo: New NAI members and Certified Interpretive Guides from Puerto Rico. (See the story below.)

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Happy Verge-of-Summer, Interpreters! Sure, we still have over a month to go before the official summer but, as Southeasterners, we know that May is a roller-derby of weather as Spring and Summer jostle for dominance almost every day of the month. We've got an explosion of greenery and wildlife (and heat, and humidity) happening here in the Raleigh area of North Carolina but our recent regional workshop in the beautiful forests of Montgomery Bell State Park gave us the opportunity to experience the springtime awakening in western Tennessee, with crisp nights full of Nashville region



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Save the Date

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

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

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exploration after days full of interpretive discussions and engaging educational activities among our peers.

The Tennessee State Park crew, with Laura Franklin taking point as Workshop Chair, did an outstanding job welcoming us all to their world. From live raptor encounters, to butter-making lessons, to historic reenactments of everything from pioneer days to WWI, to learning how to fire a Civil War cannon, I have rarely had the chance to feel so utterly immersed in the treasures interpreters bring to the table every day. We celebrated the working history of the Civilian Conservation Corps, complete with a wonderful (and comfortable!) flannel- and denim-intensive awards dinner and live auction with the award-winning Dan Pascucci keeping us on our toes with his inimitable auctioneer antics.

Congratulations go out to our regional award winners, who received gorgeous commemorative plates created from storm-damaged trees from the state park itself. Congratulations again to Outstanding New Interpreter Corrine Rizzo, Outstanding Interpreters (we had a tie!) Dan Pascucci and Robert Bixler, and Outstanding Service Recipient Robert Bixler!

The week flew by and all too soon we scattered to the wind, heading back to our own spots of the Southeast, comforted with the reminder that we are part of a larger community that shares our goals, challenges, and devoted fascination for the world around us and who are always there when we need them. Thank you all for being a part of this community, no matter if you've been able to attend a workshop or gathering or not-you're a part of our world and you strengthen us all just by your presence.

All the best,
Marisol

--submitted by Marisol Asselta, Regional Director

CIG WORKSHOP REFLECTIONS

This year's NAI's Sunny Southeast Regions Workshop was entitled "Tuning Our Interpretive Instruments" and was held at Montgomery Bell State Park in Tennessee. As interpreters, we want to help the visitors to our parks and nature centers have a meaningful experience through the sharing of natural, historical or cultural resources of the site. Over time, we all need to take a step back and take time-out to have those skills re-sharpened and learn some new skills!

Over the past couple of years, I had always hoped to attend an NAI Conference, but they were always too far away from my home in Vero Beach, Florida. The logistics and costs were just impossible to achieve. This year, as a scholarship recipient, I had the opportunity to attend my first NAI Conference. Being a native Floridian, I was excited to be going somewhere new to explore that wasn't flat. I learned that Montgomery Bell State Park is in the area that was the center of the iron industry in the 1800s. The park was originally developed during the Great Depression as Montgomery Bell Recreation Demonstration Area and was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s and early 1940s. I found this interesting as many of my favorite parks in Florida were also developed by the CCC & WPA.

At a pre-conference outing, I went on a hike led by Tennessee State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath to learn about the wildflowers

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Southern Exposure

Next submission deadline:
July 15 for publication in August

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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.

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of Tennessee. My favorite parts of the hike were seeing bluebells and stopping by a cemetery dating from the 1800s. That evening the Conference Welcome & Interpretive Showcase was hosted by Conference Host Committee and Tennessee State Parks Staff. There were so many interesting and informative displays from cooking to woodworking to women's baseball.

As a volunteer guide, my goal at the conference was to learn as much as possible from those who are professional interpreters. I was not disappointed by the many varied topics and field trips that were offered during the conference. It was rather difficult to choose which ones to attend! My Wednesday morning started off with "Tuning Your Instrument" led by Leslie Anne Rawlings. What a wonderful way to start the day with the theatrical warm ups we did, including chipmunk cheeks and fish lips! I found it encouraging to learn that other interpreters, even professional ones, sometimes are not feeling 'up to par' when doing presentations. With these exercises, we can get tuned up in a jiffy!

I volunteer as a canoe guide at my nature center, so I was excited to sign up for 'Paddling the Harpeth River' on Thursday. We managed to dodge the rain and had a wonderful time learning about the history of the area and visiting Mound Bottom State Archeological Area.

Friday morning started with the Sunny Southeast 5K/Virtual Run/Walk. I believe most of the participants chose to participate in the 'Virtual Run/Walk, and not the 'Real Run/Walk' as there were only seven participants at the starting line. It was a nice opportunity to chat with other participants and to see the park up close. I enjoyed the Friday morning session on Women's Suffrage lead by Hannah Rexrode-it was very informative. It's still hard to believe that just over 100 years ago, women could not vote. I wish I lived closer to attend some of the upcoming events that Tennessee has planned to mark the occasion.

I was so thankful to be able to attend the conference. The facilitators and participants all were so eager to share their love of interpreting, and I came home with so many new ideas that I am looking forward to implementing in my role as a volunteer nature guide.

Submitted by Gayle Lafferty

WHAT IS THE BUGKET LIST?

After spending 30 years trying to understand how people become/fail to become interested in nature and the environment, I have concluded that insects and other small invertebrates are both the main barrier to outdoor participation and are a relatively accessible and inexpensive untapped resource for working with children in local natural areas. The BUGket List is a list of 70 common but little-known insects selected by a panel of field naturalists as the most interesting bugs in eastern North America. Approximately 30 people have contributed to creating the BUGket List.

The BUGket List was strategically designed to create a sense of adventure in children (and adults) to get outside repeatedly over a couple of years looking for these specific bugs. The packet contains the list of 70 bugs, instructions on where to find them, and why they are intriguing. Two hundred photographs are available for use with the BUGket List. Instructions on ways to

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use the BUGket List materials and how it might be modified are also included.

This is a grassroots project. The materials are free to programmers. The success of the project depends on all of us sharing the materials with other programmers in nature centers, summer camps, and natural history museums. Please forward this email to at least three people who you know are doing outdoor nature programming. The final design of the project is left up to each programmer implementing it.

The materials may be found here-start with the instruction sheet or the article "An Unconventional Approach to Entomological Literacy".

<https://clemsun.box.com/s/6ln5mbp9c1iwjn7w21elrq1vx27y0p6>

Submitted by Rob Bixler, Recent winner of the Outstanding Interpreter and the Outstanding Service Awards

REGIONAL BUDGET REVIEW

We had 49 participants for the 2019 RIW.

Revenue:

- Registration, field trips, etc - \$6360
- Auction, donations, 5K - \$1705

Expenses: \$8,273

For the adjusted fiscal year (Jan-Jun 2019) we are pretty much break-even at \$62!

Going into the current fiscal year, we had a surplus of \$44,317.52. The region donated 10% of that (\$4,432) to the NAI National Journey Home campaign. Our current surplus is \$39,947.

Submitted by Joli Reynolds, Regional Treasurer

STATE BY COMMONWEALTH BY TERRITORY

PUERTO RICO

1. "Best Nature Tour Guide" and Interpreter from Puerto Rico: Ray David Rodriguez Colon, CIG from Puerto Rico al Sur, INC won the "Best Nature Tour Guide" Award for 2019 from [EcoTripMatch](#).



2. New NAI members and CIG's from The Northeast Ecological Corridor Ecotourism and Community Guides Project lead by the University of Puerto Rico, Humacao Campus (ITIAS), Sierra Club Puerto Rico Chapter, The Department of Geography of the UPR at Rio Piedras campus and the "Coalicion Pro Corredor Ecologico del Noreste"

UPCOMING CIG TRAININGS IN OUR REGION

Visit www.interpnet.com/certification for information.

June 4-7, 2019
Gastonia, NC
Schiele Museum

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

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