

Sunny Southeast Region Newsletter - September 2019

1 message

NAI Sunny Southeast Region <naimail@interpnet.com>

Tue, Sep 17, 2019 at 5:04 PM



Dear [REDACTED],

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

Photo: Sea jelly display at the NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island. Photo by Chelsea Miller.

**DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

Welcome to the stormy weather of Fall 2019, interpreters, as hurricane season gets into its stride!

We've also been having a lot of storms on the interpretive front, too-from issues with both national and regional climate change discussions, to the publicized pushback of tourists unhappy with programs at several historic sites which are putting the human cost of slavery-not to mention the stories of the humans themselves-into a more prominent place in their narratives, to the very question of which populations should or should not count as contributors to the "American Story."



**September 2019**

- DIRECTOR'S NOTE
- FEEDBACK NEEDED!
- SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT NAMED
- STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR NAI PEERS
- SEEKING PHOTOS!.
- NAI MEMBER SURVEY COMING SOON
- STATE BY COMMONWEALTH BY TERRITORY
- UPCOMING CIG TRAININGS IN OUR REGION

**Save the Date**

[NAI National Conference](#)  
November 12-16, 2019  
Denver, CO

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

NAI 2021 National Conference  
November 30 - December 4, 2021  
Palm Springs, CA

NAI 2022 National Conference  
November 28 - December 3, 2022  
Cleveland, OH

**Regional Officers**

Interpreters have a challenging combination of opportunity, training, resources, responsibility, and, in some agencies, restrictions related to incredibly complex and difficult subjects. We also tend to never know who's going to walk through that door or drive up to that site, so we must be prepared to tackle these challenges from every possible angle in the hopes of connecting with, well, everyone.

It's an understandable set of expectations to develop, but it's also a recipe for a great deal of stress and disappointment. Our jobs seem to require us to be all things to all people. We cannot be all things to all people. As much as you strive to reach every visitor, to make every piece of media informative and engaging, and to honor the urgent importance of your messages, try to remember to take a breath. We're all chipping away at ignorance and callousness-your emotional, mental, and physical wellbeing are vital parts of this massive, long-term team effort.

Let's make sure to take care of each other! The storms aren't going to stop any time soon and we likely won't see the results of our efforts as quickly or as often as we would like, but we are in this together. There are literally millions of people who value what we bring to the conversation. In our NAI region, in our focused sections, and with our national community, we are here to listen and support you through any weather.

All the best,  
Marisol Asselta Castro  
Sunny Southeast Regional Director

### FEEDBACK NEEDED!

Hello! As many of you have heard, the NAI National office approached the Sunny Southeast about the possibility of merging the national and regional conferences in 2020 as an experiment for future planning between regions and the national office in the future. This combining of conferences would primarily benefit regions which don't have the infrastructure to run their own workshops and would allow those members an opportunity to participate in a regional.

The national office wants to try the experiment with the Sunny Southeast as we are one of the stronger regions and we could, theoretically, support their efforts. They would provide us with the average amount of funds we'd have raised hosting our own workshop and auctions, so the financial benefit wouldn't be lost. One voiced concern is that we would miss having a Spring regional gathering as people find different value in a regional workshop versus a national conference.

In order to best decide how to serve our region, we are asking as many Sunny Southeast Members to fill out a very short survey telling us your preferences and restrictions when it comes to either or both conferences. Your input will be immediately used in our decision-making process, so please help us out by filling out and sharing it with as many regional members as you can. Thank you!

<https://forms.gle/eXoWGV5AMAqhvqZg9>

### SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT NAMED

Kate Mowbray is a Naturalist/Program Specialist from the Sandy Creek Nature Center where she has worked for 15 years (talk about dedication!). She served two terms as our Region

**Director**  
Marisol Asselta  
[Email](#)

**Deputy Director**  
Brian Mast  
[Email](#)

**Secretary**  
Christine Lawson  
[Email](#)

**Treasurer**  
Anjoli Reynolds  
[Email](#)

### National Officers

**Jay Miller**  
President  
[jmiller@interpnet.com](mailto:jmiller@interpnet.com)

Theresa Coble  
VP for Administration  
[Theresa.Coble@yandex.com](mailto:Theresa.Coble@yandex.com)

**Parker McMullen Bushman**  
VP for Programs  
[cparker McMullen@gmail.com](mailto:cparker McMullen@gmail.com)

**Vicki Basman**  
Treasurer  
[vmbasman@gmail.com](mailto:vmbasman@gmail.com)

**Tom Mullin**  
Secretary  
[tmullin@unity.edu](mailto:tmullin@unity.edu)

### Southern Exposure

**Next submission deadline:**  
November 15 for publication in December

**Editor**  
Rhana Paris  
[rhana.paris@ncaquariums.com](mailto:rhana.paris@ncaquariums.com)

**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

**Awards & Scholarships**  
Jessica Goodrich Watts  
[jessica.goodrich.cig@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.goodrich.cig@gmail.com)

**Webmaster/Blogmaster**  
Katie Hicks  
[kathryn.c.hicks@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.c.hicks@gmail.com)

**Finance**  
Kate Mowbray  
[Kate.Mowbray@athensclarkecounty.com](mailto:Kate.Mowbray@athensclarkecounty.com)

**Student Rep**  
Henry Thompson  
[henwthom@ut.utm.edu](mailto:henwthom@ut.utm.edu)

**Membership**  
Gretchen Greminger  
[ggreginger@jekyllisland.com](mailto:ggreginger@jekyllisland.com)

Treasurer and is currently the Georgia State Rep. Be sure to say hello to her if you see her in Denver-she hasn't been to a National Conference in 10 years! Thank you all for your generous support of the Scholarships program to keep our members connected and updated!

--submitted by Jessica Goodrich Watts, CIG, Awards and Scholarships Chair

### STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR NAI PEERS - HOST A STATE GATHERING!

Since we might not be holding a regional workshop in Spring 2020 to allow greater participation in the fall 2020 National Conference within our region, please consider hosting a state gathering in the winter/spring to stay connected! Gatherings can be simple brown bag lunches, field trips to interesting sites, mini-workshops with speakers, or roundtable discussions. Anyone can host a gathering, but be sure to speak with your state representative to ask for help. The region has budgeted for networking expenses up to \$100 per event. Contact Treasurer Joli Reynolds ([Anjoli.Reynolds@mecknc.gov](mailto:Anjoli.Reynolds@mecknc.gov)) for information on how to get reimbursed for networking event expenses.

--submitted by Joli Reynolds, Regional Treasurer

### SEEKING PHOTOS!

The NAI Sunny Southeast website needs photos to display the richness of our region and our members in action. These could be photos of your site, naturalist pictures, interpreters in action, programs, artifacts, animals-the sky's the limit! Be sure you have permission to use the photo, including relevant photo releases if children's faces are included. Upload your photos here: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/Tcgn9JBJ2o5GSMjt9> or email them to [respecttherat@gmail.com](mailto:respecttherat@gmail.com).

### NAI MEMBER SURVEY COMING SOON

Keep your eyes on your email in-box in the next few weeks for a major membership survey coming from NAI. As the organization looks to the future and works on its next strategic plan, this is your chance to help set NAI's path for years to come. The survey will address the needs of individual interpreters, the profession at large, and how we see interpretation's role in society.

### STATE BY TERRITORY BY COMMONWEALTH

#### GEORGIA

##### Georgia State Gathering

Saturday, October 5, 1:30-4:30pm.

Sandy Creek Nature Center, Athens

Join fellow NAIs for a fall gathering! Come early and enjoy a picnic lunch before we meet. No worries about football traffic because the game is out of town that day! We hope you can join us for the afternoon. If you would like to attend, please email Kate at [Kateemowbray@gmail.com](mailto:Kateemowbray@gmail.com). Out of state attendees are welcome to come too!

#### NORTH CAROLINA

##### Fall Bird Identification

Wednesday, October 2, 9a-1p

Merchant's Millpond State Park, Gatesville

Coastal North Carolina is home to many species of birds that are

Elections  
Chris Smith  
[christopher.t.smith@duke.edu](mailto:christopher.t.smith@duke.edu)

State Coordinators  
AL: Helena Uber  
[Helena.uberwamble@gmail.com](mailto:Helena.uberwamble@gmail.com)

FL: Allyson Gantt  
[allyson\\_gantt@nps.gov](mailto:allyson_gantt@nps.gov)

GA: Kate Mowbray  
[kateemowbray@gmail.com](mailto:kateemowbray@gmail.com)

KY: Wren Smith  
[wren@bernheim.org](mailto:wren@bernheim.org)

MS: Bob Brzuszek  
[RBrzuszek@ialc.msstate.edu](mailto:RBrzuszek@ialc.msstate.edu)

NC: Eli Strull  
[estrull@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:estrull@ashevillenc.gov)

PR & VI: Eliezer Nieves  
[rezeile@hotmail.com](mailto:rezeile@hotmail.com)

SC: Ashley Zalabak  
[azalabak@scaquarium.org](mailto:azalabak@scaquarium.org)

TN: Laura Franklin  
[Laura.Franklin@tn.gov](mailto:Laura.Franklin@tn.gov)



here year-round as well as species that migrate through this area on their way back to their wintering grounds further south. This workshop will consist of a hike through various habitats to identify these migrants, as well as resident birds. This workshop will satisfy requirements for Criteria II of the NC OEE Environmental Education Certification and will be held entirely outdoors with hiking over various terrain. Please wear comfortable walking shoes. There is no charge for this workshop, but pre-registration is required. For more information or contact [mike.campbell@ncwildlife.org](mailto:mike.campbell@ncwildlife.org)

### Project WET workshops

Oct 11 at Piedmont Environmental Center, Guilford County

Oct 22 at Great Smoky Mountain National Park, Swain Co

Nov 2 at NC Aquarium Fort Fisher, New Hanover Co

Project WET NC Offers a 6-hour workshop to provide K-12 teachers with an understanding of water resources in North Carolina. The curriculum offers a spectrum of activities from water quality topics to how our water resources are managed. Project WET is fun and hands-on! For more information, contact Lauren Daniel, North Carolina Project WET/Stream Watch Coordinator at 919-707-9009

### Habitat Adventure Trail Now Open

Medoc Mountain State Park

A new trail exemplifies creative reuse for interpretation! A decades-old Air Awareness Trail encouraged carpooling and public transit for better air quality. The signs were beyond repair and their message was never a great interpretive fit for a forest trail in a rural state park.

However, the accessible pavement and 4x4 signposts were the perfect framing for a new nature play trail to highlight the park's unique

geology and wildlife. Another creative reuse is a 6-ft diameter concrete hunk of highway construction trash, now repurposed as a toadstool mushroom table. You can grab a Carolina Wren menu at the Woodland Café and fill your plate with hand painted rocks depicting plump caterpillars, wiggly worms and assorted arthropods. Contact Sean Higgins, Interpretation & Education Program Manager for more information at 919-707-9348 or [sean.higgins@ncparks.gov](mailto:sean.higgins@ncparks.gov)



### Workshops at NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher

September 28: Sea Turtle Exploration

October 12: Project OWL

November 2: Project WET

November 9: Flying Wild

Feel free to contact Gail Lemiec with any questions you may have at 910-772-0546 or [gail.lemiec@ncaquariums.com](mailto:gail.lemiec@ncaquariums.com)

### PUERTO RICO

#### New CIGgers

NAI Puerto Rico coordinated two new CIG courses during the summer-welcome to the Sunny Southeast Region to San Juan Bay Estuary Program in Old San Juan and to US Fish and Wildlife Service in Cabo Rojo!

--submitted by Eliezer Nieves-Rodriguez, Territory Rep

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

### **State Meeting**

Wednesday, October 2, 10a-1p

South Carolina Aquarium, Charleston

Contact Ashley Zalabak for more information at 843-579-8531 or

[AZalabak@scaquarium.org](mailto:AZalabak@scaquarium.org)

### **UPCOMING CIG TRAININGS IN OUR REGION**

Visit [www.interpnet.com/certification](http://www.interpnet.com/certification) for information.

### **Certified Interpretive Guide Courses**

October 1-4, 2019

Birmingham, AL

Birmingham Zoo

October 21-24, 2019

Pensacola, FL

Florida Public Archaeology Network Center

November 5-8, 2019

Chattanooga, TN

Tennessee Aquarium

### **Certified Interpretive Host Course**

October 1-2, 2019

Chattanooga, TN

Tennessee Aquarium

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

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Sent by [naimail@interpnet.com](mailto:naimail@interpnet.com) in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!