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Sunny Southeast Newsletter

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Summer 2021



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Change has been a constant factor in our lives since March of 2020, and it isn't going away any time soon. Vaccines are slowly but surely becoming more available across the world, meaning another big change is just around the corner for many of us: the return of in-person interpretation. It shouldn't feel so BIG but it does. After a year of essentially hiding from people, being asked to jump back into in-person anything feels like a big deal. We're still wearing PPE and social distancing, but we've been operating under a "no people" mind set for over a year now. That's bound to leave a scar, so to speak. This particular change will be easy for some interpreters (extroverts, I'm looking at you) and more than welcome. For others though, this may feel somewhat unsettling or even frightening. It is important that we acknowledge our own feelings with this turn of events so that we may, in turn, understand how some of our visitors and program participants are feeling. As the ancient Greeks said, "Know thyself"!

Some of you may have attended the Learning Series hosted by our Region the week of April 12-16. One of the major themes I noticed coming through in every single presentation was, naturally, change. Yes, everyone discussed the changes we made during the pandemic. However, we also discussed how we plan to continue to incorporate these changes in our interpretation, even as the world returns to normal. Virtual interpretation has taken a huge leap forward and many sites plan to continue offering at least some virtual programming content beyond what they offered prior to 2020. We've all had to stretch our interpretive muscles to find new ways of creating meaningful relationships between visitors and our sites when our sites weren't even open. I think I can safely say this has been a year of growth, however large or small, for interpreters everywhere.

Change is also affecting us on a Regional level. If you're looking for a way to get involved with the region, why not consider becoming an officer or state representative? The Deputy Director position and the Webmaster position are both open, and we are looking for interested candidates! We are also still searching for state reps for Alabama and Florida. If now isn't the right time for you to get involved, keep in mind that our officer positions do have term limits and in 2022, we will be searching for a new Treasurer and Regional Director. If you are interested in applying to fill any of these positions or simply want to know more, please contact our Elections Chair (Chris Smith) or any of the regional officers. Our information can always be found here, on the blog: <https://nairegion3.wordpress.com/contact-us/officers-and-state-coordinators/>.

We Want YOU!

Are you interested in joining the Southeast Region's leadership team? We are seeking nominations for the Deputy Director position as well as a volunteer for the Webmaster position. These officers play a vital part in managing our incredible region and we would like to fill the positions as soon as possible! If you are interested or would like more information, you can contact Chris Smith, our Elections Chair, at christopher.smith@naturalsciences.org.



Regional Workshop

ON THE ROAD AGAIN...

Do you want to be involved with the Region but can't commit long-term? Why not consider hosting the 2022 Regional Interpretive Workshop? We're looking for a host site and planning committee. This is a perfect opportunity to have the best conference in town right in your own back yard! If you are interested or would like more information, please contact your regional officers.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that our Regional Workshop was completely virtual this year? We had a great turnout for our first online conference; it was amazing to see everyone after such a long year! We were also able to record each session and post it on our YouTube channel! You can view the videos online; just look for NAI Sunny Southeast Region 3 and our playlist: 2021 Spring Learning Series.

National News



This year's National Conference: Shifting Sands of Interpretation is headed to The Golden State, hosted in Palm Springs, CA! The conference will be held November 30-December 4, 2021, with registration opening on July 1. NAI 2021's theme, "The Shifting Sands of Interpretation," addresses not just the distinct, beautiful landscape of Palm Springs, California, but the many changes happening in our profession and the world at large. Sessions will highlight how interpreters are navigating the shifting sands, and what the future holds on the other side.



The National Conference will be held in Palm Springs, CA and is scheduled for November/December. That is a loooong way away, and California isn't known for its affordability. Would \$1000 help???

The Sunny Southeast Region has a scholarship for \$1000 to get to you closer to the National Conference! Apply by sending the scholarship form to Jessica at jessica.goodrich.cig@gmail.com by July 11th. For the application and more information, check out [Jessica's post on our blog!](#)

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS IN THE FIELD

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Kentucky

Bernheim just completed it's second of six weeks of Camp Bernheim. In addition to a lot of opportunities to explore the natural world up close and personal, the participants of Camp Bernheim canoed, fished, and tromped around in the creek. It appears a great time was had by all!

Bernheim plans to offer a hybrid Bugfest this September, and we are calling it the Bernheim Bug-a-Palooza. Beginning on Monday, September 13th we will be hosting a variety of virtual programs on insect and their relatives. We will end with a day full of virtual and in person programing on Saturday, September 18th. If you love interpreting insects and their relatives and have some ideas you might wish to share with us or even if you would be interested in being involved virtually please let me know. I can be reached at wren@bernheim.org.

Puerto Rico

We would like to thank all Spanish speaking interpreters from Puerto Rico, EEUU and Latin America for joining the *Workshop Interpretando la Biodiversidad: Conectando gente, naturaleza y conservación* coordinated by the San Juan Bay Estuary Program.

Link for the Spanish version of the guide: *Interpretación de la Biodiversidad Manual para Educadores Ambientales en los Trópicos*
<https://www.amnh.org/content/download/35226/519379/file/Interpreting%20Biodiversity%20ESP.pdf>

Congratulations to the NAI Interpreters from the Cabachuelas Project from Morovis in their press visit (Telemundo PR) to their cave tour to promote their Natural Areas and programs.

We want to hear from you! Submit news, articles, career opportunities, and more.

Submit content to

Corinne.Rizzo@mecklenburgcountync.gov
for publication in our newsletter.



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