



THE CENTER

December 2010

Welcome to *The Center*, the newsletter of the Nature Center Directors and Administrators Section of the National Association for Interpretation.

Section Meeting, November 18, 2010

Our section currently has 275 members and \$12,565.91. This amount will increase soon because of the Roadshow funds. We have the Director, Deputy Director, and Treasurer up for reelection. You should be receiving your ballots this week with the candidates.

NCEA gave out three scholarships for members to attend the National Workshop. Congratulations to Jaime Krupka, Jenn Wright, and Robin Schaut.

The 2011 Roadshow in St Paul, MN is already being planned closely with one of our own members, Jim Fitzpatrick. There are so many great places there that it will be hard to pick.

Newsletter deadlines:

March 1, 2011 - Focus: Leadership

July 1, 2011 - Focus: Fundraising and Business Plans

September 1, 2011 - Focus: Teambuilding and Volunteers

December 1, 2011 - Focus: NIW meeting and Roadshowrecap

Will submit a proposal for NCEA to do a Directors and Administrators Roundtable session at the 2011 NAI Workshop.

Look for the 2011 Call for Proposals!

We had a plea during the meeting to encourage NCEA Section members to submit proposals for next year's Workshop. Of particular need are higher level sessions and those focusing on management that could really benefit members of our Section. The call for proposals should be sent out very soon.



2010 Interpreters' Road Show: Las Vegas

Susan Meyers

Stone Mountain Memorial Association

Stone Mountain, GA

When you hear the words Las Vegas, what comes to mind? The cha-ching of slot machines, the melodious sound of "Love Me Tender" or the glitz and glamour of the Strip with its night clubs and shows? Yes, it's all that but so much more!

What more could there be? Thanks to Amy Roell from Hamilton County Park District in Cincinnati, Ohio for introducing us to more during the delightfully diverse and interesting 2010 Interpreters' Road Show!

Day 1:

Just minutes from Las Vegas Boulevard sits **Springs Preserve**, the location of the original spring that drew settlers to the Las Vegas (Spanish for *The Meadows*) valley in the 1800s. Although the spring no longer flows, you can meander through the lush 8-acres of botanical gardens, partake in a flash flood inside the Origen Experience or immerse yourself in the sustainability gallery of the Desert Living Center.

Travel westward about 14 miles and discover the 2,900-acre **Clark County Wetlands Park**. Within the Park, 12 miles of the Las Vegas Wash carries the valley's excess water - an average of 150 million gallons a day - to Lake Mead. You may wonder in this desert environment that has an average yearly rainfall of only 4 inches, where does all of this water come from? Reclaimed water, shallow groundwater, urban runoff and stormwater are the four key components.

A 100-acre Nature Preserve at the west end of the Park is under development to enhance and restore wetlands habitat, and provide recreation and educational opportunities for the Las Vegas area. The bird watching and peaceful riparian settings along the trails are reason enough to visit.

Day 2:

Once owned by such celebrities as German actress Vera Krupp and millionaire

Howard Hughes, **Spring Mountain Ranch State Park** has a colorful history as a working ranch and luxurious retreat. Who would have guessed that chinchillas were once bred there for the Hollywood stars or that Ms. Krupp had a secret room where she performed lapidary?

Walking the property, you will notice that several plant communities are represented but our guide Mandy pointed out one of particular interest, the Creosote Bush is characteristic of North America's deserts. Have you ever breathed onto its waxy leaves, simulating rain, and inhaled their distinctly pungent odor? Native Americans used to steam the leaves and breathe in to relieve congestion. Ah!

The entrance road to **Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area** is a short drive from the Ranch. Its newly constructed LEED-certified Visitor's Center is the first stop on the 13-mile scenic drive which offers spectacular overlooks, access to more than 30 miles of hiking trails, rock climbing, horseback riding, mountain biking, road biking, picnic areas, and nature observing.

You may even spot a burro or two roaming freely in the canyon. These well-adapted desert dwellers originally from Africa are a living reminder of the Nevada silver rush days of the 1800s.

See our website soon for pictures that show how much more there was to the Las Vegas Roadshow.

Hello fellow NAI members.

Hello fellow NAI members. My name is Jeff Miller. I work for California State Parks as a Tour Guide at Hearst Castle. I am a NAI member in both Regions 8 and 9, and of the IT Section (Interpretation & Tourism). I also currently serve as Region 8 Treasurer and am the spokesperson for the NAI Enos Mills Fund Campaign.

This week you should receive from NAI an email with voting instructions and candidate statements for the upcoming elections. I am running for the National Treasurer position. I am highly qualified for this position and I hope you will take the time to read my candidate statement and consider voting for me. I look forward to representing our NAI members on the National Board.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. My email address is HearstCastleJeff@aol.com.

Thanks for your support of NAI and of the Regional, Sectional and National election process.

Did you know?

Past issues of The Center and highlights from past Interpreter's Roadshows can be found at the NCDA website <http://www.naisections.org/NCDA/>.

The Center is published quarterly by the Nature Center Directors and Administrators section of the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). The NAI mission is to inspire leadership and excellence to advance natural and cultural interpretation as a profession. Visit: www.interpnet.com for more information.

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NCDA Mission: To provide leadership and inspire excellence in nature center administration