



THE CENTER

March 2011

Leadership

"Only about 2% of people can work entirely without supervision. We call these people "leaders." This is the kind of person you are meant to be." -Brian Tracy

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

Feature Article: Top 10 Leadership Lessons of Effective Women Leaders

- Be self-aware
- Be competent
- Be curious
- Be kind
- Be purposeful
- Be resilient
- Be optimistic
- Be connected
- Be present
- Be passionate.

The leadership lessons here apply to both men and women in many kinds of work. Read the [entire article](#) to learn more about being an effective, successful leader.

Katy Simon. "Top 10 Leadership Lessons of Effective Women Leaders" Public Management. January/February 2011: pages 12-15.

Books for your Leadership Library

Just think---no successful organization is without strong leadership, management, or a controlled budget. Read Bruce Dearstyne's [book recommendations](#) that can help you become and continue to be a leader at work.

Bruce W. Dearstyne. "Lead, Manage and Innovate: Ten Books worth reading" Archival Outlook. March/April 2010: pages 8-9.

The key ingredient

Are you careful to consider your visitor's basic needs when they travel to your Nature Center or attend a program? What about when you are being a leader to your staff at your nature center?

"It is important to understand that the key ingredient in leadership is not power, but influence. People are most influenced by those who connect with their needs. Psychologists tell us that each of us has a deep-rooted need to be understood, to feel welcome, to feel comfortable and to believe that our lives matter. Meet often with the people in your department to discover those needs individually, as well as collectively. The personal touch makes the difference. Get out of the office and circulate, using contacts with others as an opportunity to build personal credibility."

Eppler, Mark. *Management Mess-Ups*. New Jersey: Career Press, 1997.

As a manager, try to create stars, not be one

Managers in the workplace are not just responsible for time and attendance of their employees. Managers have a responsibility to help their staff grow, expand their skill set and increase their depth of knowledge in their chosen career. Feedback to employees concerning their work duties, whether positive or negative, helps managers develop a competent workforce for greater effectiveness and productivity.

Managers should also be open to open, two-way communication with employees. This often fosters high employee morale and positive motivation. One should not underestimate the role of managers and supervisors. Managers' role seemingly has the greatest influence on an organization's workforce.

Georgia Statement. "What is the Manager's role in the workplace?" Georgia Statement. February 2011 online issue.

Newsletter deadlines and focus

July 1, 2011, Focus: Fundraising and Business Plans

September 1, 2011, Focus: Teambuilding and Volunteers

December 1, 2011, Focus: NIW meeting and Roadshow recap

Interpretive Roundtable Workshop

Supervisors and managers face a myriad of issues from employee related issues to economic limitations. Join us for an Interpretive Round-table discussion with other supervisors and managers to see what others are facing and how they are dealing with situations that you yourself might be forced to deal with.

This session is designed to help lead supervisors and managers to solutions to issues

that we all have in common. It will also give input to those situations that are unique to the individual. The session will consist of two sections with a lunch served between.

Those interested in registering for this session can contact:

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E-mail: kevin.arnold@metroparks.com

Registration forms can be [downloaded from the NAI Region IV website](#).

Date: March 31, 2011
Time: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Location: Kensington Farm Learning Center
Fee: \$30 NAI member / \$40 non NAI member

2011 Interpreters Roadshow

This year's Road Show came together so quickly! It should be a good mix of different types of interpretation and private, non-profit, county and federal properties!

The Rapids Lake Education & Visitor Center is part of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

http://www.fws.gov/midwest/minnesotavalley/visitor_center_rapids_lake.html

The Landing was once known as Historic Murphy's Landing and is a large living history site run by the Three Rivers Park District, which is a county agency.

<http://www.threeriversparks.org/parks/the-landing.aspx>

The Kroening Interpretive Center is part of an interesting partnership. The land is owned by the city Minneapolis Park and recreation Board while the programming is handled by The Three Rivers Park District.

<http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=88&parkid=430>

Dodge Nature Center has a nature-based preschool on site, a farm and more traditional nature center offerings. <http://www.dodgenaturecenter.org/>

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