



THE CENTER

Summer 2010

Dear Naomi,

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

Nature Center Directors and Administrators Section Pre-Workshop Nature Center Road Show Grant 2010

If you are an interpreter who works in an interpretive facility or is aspiring to be in a managerial / supervisory position and a member of the NCDA Section you won't want to miss this opportunity! The NCDA Section is awarding a grant in the amount of the pre-workshop Nature Center Road Show in order for **two of our members** to attend this excellent training. Deadline is September 1, 2010.

The application and more information can be found at www.naisections.org/NCDA.

Nature Center Directors and Administrators Section National Workshop Attendance Grant 2010

Would you like to attend the next NAI National Workshop? NCDA Section members are invited to apply for a \$1,000 grant that can be used to cover costs to attend the next National Workshop. This year, the NCDA Section will offer **two grants**. Deadline is August 31, 2010.

The application and more information can be found at www.naisections.org/NCDA.

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NAI National Workshop
Las Vegas, Nevada
November 16-20, 2010
www.interpnet.com/workshop

Important Deadlines

Early Bird Registration
July 15, 2010

Regular Registration
October 14, 2010

2010 Nevada Road Show Preview

NAI's Nature Center Directors and Administrators Section is hitting the trail in Nevada and stopping at a wonderful selection of private, non-profit, county, state, and federal interpretive facilities. During this year's Road Show, we will visit the Springs Preserve, Wetlands Nature Preserve, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, and Red Rock Canyon. This professional development opportunity will include time to go behind the scenes at each of these locations and talk with staff to learn how they manage volunteers, programs, building and facility development, master planning, funding development, exhibits, and much more. In addition, participants will have the time to discuss "hot topics" selected by themselves during the group roundtable discussion. This Road Show will enable the participants to network and learn from their fellow NAI interpreters and administrators.

Springs Preserve

The Springs Preserve's exciting and interactive exhibits, trails, gardens, sustainable architecture and programs help to make it the premier cultural and educational destination in Southern Nevada. The Preserve is the site of the original springs which lured plants, animals and early humans to Southern Nevada and was the lifeblood of Native Americans such as the Southern Paiutes and early pioneers. Although the springs no longer flow at the site, the Springs Preserve is once again a place for the community to gather. With more than 120 ingenious hands-on permanent exhibits or more contemplative fine art exhibits, miles of walking trails and acres of botanical gardens the Preserve is a great place to explore any time of the year. The award-winning LEED Platinum-certified architecture is visually stunning and more sustainable than traditional construction. From breathtaking views of the storied Las Vegas skyline to up close and personal meetings with Mojave Desert wildlife, the Preserve is visited by more than 30,000 school children each year. Families and adults can take advantage of classes on gardening, natural history and more. Within the next few years the Springs Preserve will become the home of the new Nevada State Museum and will inaugurate its new Exploration Trail which will include the historically important Railroad Cottages saved from demolition by local preservationists. Experience the Springs Preserve!

Spring Mountain Ranch

Spring Mountain Ranch is located within the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, beneath the colorful cliffs of the magnificent Wilson Range. The many springs in these mountains provided water for Paiute Indians and later brought mountain men and early settlers to the area. This 520 acre oasis was developed into a combination working ranch and luxurious retreat by a string of owners who have given the area a long and colorful history. Past owners of the ranch included Chester Lauck of the comedy team "Lum & Abner," German actress Vera Krupp, and millionaire Howard Hughes. Spring Mountain Ranch has been a Nevada State Park since 1974 and serves as an important historical and natural

Member sites highlighted
[Cincinnati Nature Center](#)

[Parque Nacional Julio E. Monagas, Bayamon](#)

Do you want your Center or Park referenced here? Contact [Naomi](#).

The Center deadlines
Spring: March 1

Summer: July 1
(Roadshow PR)

Fall: September 1
(articles about member sites)

Winter: December 1
(NAI Workshop recap)

Did you know?

Past issues of The Center and highlights from past Interpreter's Roadshows can be found at the NCDA website
www.interpnet.com/about_nai/regions_sections.shtml

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:

resource for visitors each year. At 3,800 feet above sea level, the four plant communities on the property have a plethora of flora and fauna ranging from desert to woodland. Come behind the scenes of the Ranch as we discuss how we have developed and effectively use over 84 docent volunteers, master planning of interpretive areas and how we minimize the impact to our natural resources.

Clark County Wetlands Park

Imagine a green marshland chirping, splashing, and croaking only nine miles from the Las Vegas Strip. Hidden from easy view, just such an oasis thrives at the easternmost edge of the seemingly dry Las Vegas Valley. The desert's secret oasis is the 2,900-acre Clark County Wetlands Park. Trails along the water's edge, watchable birds and wildlife, shady rest areas, and beautiful vistas make the Park perfect for a "walk on the wild side."

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area

The Mojave Desert is filled with amazing beauty & fragile ecosystems. Red Rock Canyon NCA (Nevada's first National Conservation Area) is one of the most visited places in the Mojave. Red Rock Canyon encourages outdoor stewardship by offering outstanding recreational & educational opportunities. Accessible by a 13-mile scenic drive & offering some of the best hiking trails in Southern Nevada as well as: picnic areas, rock climbing, biking, and hundreds of animal and wild flower species and numerous historic sites. Our newly refurbished Visitor Center showcases exhibits and a gift store as well as providing space for interpretive programs that are free to the public. The BLM partners with Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association and Friends of Red Rock Canyon to protect & enrich the Conservation Area and Public Lands of Southern Nevada & to enhance the recreational, educational & interpretive programs offered.

We hope to see you all during the 2010 NCDA Road Show.

Eeny, Meeny, Miny...You're Hired!

By Jen Wright

Hiring is an art. It combines acute perception with skilled questioning to create a picture of someone who, in many cases, you may have just met. Over the course of my career, I have done a lot of hiring and although there were differences in job descriptions, applicant's resumes and end results, the process remained the same.

For me, interviewing is a combination of: asking direct, yet challenging questioning, allowing the applicant plenty of time to provide relevant information, setting the stage for our organization's culture and finally, trusting intuition. Creating a clear picture of the person's skills, personality and commitment is one piece, but combining those pieces with intuition about the candidate's likeliness of 'fitting in' with the rest of the staff and the culture that the

www.interpnet.com
for more information.



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organization has set is as much if not more important.

Some of the questions that I always ask in an interview are:

1. What does good customer service mean to you and how does it relate to the position?
2. What do you consider characteristics of a good supervisor?
3. How do you handle multiple responsibilities and do you internalize or externalize stress?

Some of the things that I listen for are:

1. Good customer service should be a part of everything that happens in the workplace and should include interactions with colleagues.
2. A good supervisor should be willing to listen, facilitate the growth of their staff without always looking over their shoulder and be a flexible yet committed leader.
3. Having a good method of organization is key in every positions that we hire and when an applicant can express how they deal with stress, whether internal or external, that shows a maturity level and often a well grounded individual.

There are many questions and types of interactions that you can have with an applicant depending on the position and what you are looking for in a candidate. The bottom line is to set high expectations, be prepared to ask clear and direct questions and finally follow your gut when determining who would be the best person to fit the position. With these tips you will avoid the "Eeny, Meeny, Miny, Moe" method and you'll be successful at finding the right person for the job! Happy Hiring!

National Workshop Conference Update

By Kate Sorom and Evelyn Brown

NAI National Workshop 2010

Las Vegas Nevada

An Interpretation Oasis!

November 16th - 20th, 2010

The Rivera Hotel and Conference Center

The 2010 committee is knee-deep in the planning process and it looks like Las Vegas is going to be an amazing conference. The off-site sessions are extremely varied and will offer a multi-faceted look at this desert mecca.

We have had a great response to the call for presentations, which means attendees should have a large selection of topics to explore. Our keynote speakers are secured and have been announced as anthropologist Jeremy Spoon, PhD and wildlife artist Sharon Schafer. The convenience of having our conference inside the Rivera Hotel will allow easy navigation of sessions and smooth set-

up and clean-up for presenters. And of course, the diverse and ever-changing city of Las Vegas will provide a fascinating background for the event and unending opportunities for interpreters to explore both the natural and cultural history of the area.

For up-to-date information on the conference, check out www.interpnet.com/workshop. If you are interested in getting an inside look at the conference, consider volunteering this year. It's a great way to network, get "inside" NAI and see what it takes to put on such a fabulous event. We couldn't do it without you! There is something for EVERYONE! Simply email Kate Sorom, the Volunteer Chair, at ksorom@blm.gov for more information.

Join us on Google Groups

You have to be invited to join the group by me as the administrator of the group page. Group home page: <http://groups.google.com/group/ncda-section>. Choose 'Sign in and apply for membership'.

You can also contact me at n.thompson@stonemountainpark.org. I can invite you to join the group.

We have already had some discussions and exhibit pieces are posted for sharing.

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