



# THE CENTER

December 2013

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



"So, now that it is winter, what do you do all day at work? Does anybody come to the park in the winter?" I am not sure if this is heard by our fellow interpreters down south, but I have it asked of me (by my own friends and family even!) too many times to count! Of course my answer is that, somehow we manage to keep busy. I'll recite the litany of holiday break programs, the Winter Hike Series, the annual Travel, Sports & Boat Show booth that we staff every year and operate our climbing wall at, the variety of riding lessons and farm activities that run all year long. It shouldn't, but it still surprises me that people don't realize that 'nature' is open every day of the year! And for some people the best time to be in the woods and fields is the winter. The sights, smells and sounds are different. It is great to mark the turning of the seasons by getting outside no matter the weather. It is a great time to reflect on what has happened this past year and plan what's to come in the next year.

## In This Issue

[Nature Center Issues and Solutions: A roundtable of ideas and answers](#)

[National Workshop and Interpreter's Road Show Scholarship Recipients](#)

[Section Meeting](#)

[Connecting all year long](#)

## Upcoming Events

[NAI National Workshop](#)  
November 19-22,  
2014  
Denver, Colorado

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

Looking back on 2013, I am happy to say that it has been a good year for the NCDA Section. We are 782 members strong! Naomi Thompson, Treasurer of NCDA and newsletter editor and former webmaster, has kept us all connected by providing the newsletter. Naomi has worked with Kate Navarro on developing a new webpage for NCDA. Visit our new site at [www.naincdasection.weebly.com](http://www.naincdasection.weebly.com). Kate has done a wonderful job already of keeping the site updated.

Through the leadership and diligent work of Brian Thill, the Deputy Director of NCDA, we had another successful Interpreter's Road Show on Nov. 5th and 6th. Photos and a description of each site's management and resources can be found on the Interpreter's Roadshow section of the website: <http://naincdasection.weebly.com/interpreters-roadshow.html>.



Randy Smith, Secretary for NCDA pulled together another great Round Table session ([link](#)) at the national workshop which hopefully will generate useful articles for our members throughout the year-both for the newsletter and the webpage. You may find the [session notes](#) useful now.

Here's your chance to get more out of your membership as well-we need help. We need someone who would be willing to take over as the newsletter editor. If you are interested, please contact Naomi. She can give you details, but essentially it requires you to solicit people to write articles on various topics of interest to a manager or future manager of a nature center. Compile those with an article on the past or future Road Show, Director's article and information on scholarship opportunities. Once you have that together, you e-mail it to Paul at the national office and he sends it out to the membership. Getting involved in the NCDA Section is a great way to meet people, network with others, learn from others and share your knowledge. All of these things can make you a better manager or help to prepare you for a management position. So, if you are interested, please give Naomi a call!

cultural interpretation as a profession. Visit: [www.interpnet.com](http://www.interpnet.com) for more information.

#### Section Officers

**Amy Roell**  
**Director**

10245 Winton Rd.  
Cincinnati, OH 45231  
513-521-7275  
[aroell@greatparks.org](mailto:aroell@greatparks.org)

**Brian Thill**  
**Deputy Director**

South Carolina Aquarium  
Charleston, SC 29401  
[bthill@scaquarium.org](mailto:bthill@scaquarium.org)

**Randy Smith**  
**Secretary**

Sandy Creek Nature  
Center  
390 Forest Heights Dr.  
Athens, GA 30606  
706-613-3615 x233  
[RandySmith@co.clarke.ga.us](mailto:RandySmith@co.clarke.ga.us)

**Naomi Thompson**  
**Treasurer and**  
**Website/Newsletter**  
**Editor**

Stone Mountain Memorial  
Association  
PO Box 689  
Stone Mountain, GA  
30086  
770-498-5619  
[n.thompson@stonemountainpark.org](mailto:n.thompson@stonemountainpark.org)

## National Workshop and Interpreter's Road Show Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to Allison Meador and Ray Novotny!

---

### Section Meeting

1. Discussion of changes and opportunities for sections/regions (to be known now as 'organizational units')
2. Roadshow recap
3. Budget discussion and upcoming decision by national on budget uses/restrictions by groups

We have \$9,908.46 in our account. This was before about \$4,125 comes out of the account for Roadshow costs (\$2000), scholarships (2 - \$1000 each), and a CIM scholarship (\$125), plus we the income we typically make on Roadshows (\$2000)

NAI asks that we budget correctly each year so we break even or only make a small profit that keeps benefitting our scholarship program. We will aim to keep \$5000 in our account to be sure we can cover Roadshow expenses and any travel expenses by the Director.

4. Discussion of new website and media available to section and NAI
  - many updates will soon be made to the CIT Instructor page
  - Register now for a [Volunteer Management Webinar](#) - January 21, 2014
5. Discussion of ways to post and discuss information on exhibits, resources, and concerns (we will use NAI's Facebook)



## **Connecting all year long**

Join us on [NAI's facebook page](#). Everyone at the NCDA section meeting thought this was easiest way to post and discuss information on exhibits, resources, and concerns. This way our question goes out everywhere so we are sure to have many more minds helping us. If you don't already have a page, sign up today.

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