



# THE CENTER

Spring 2016

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

## Director's note

Just a note.....



The winter doldrums have finally settled in on me this last week of January. We missed the copious amounts of snow that fell this past weekend on the east coast and points south of Cincinnati (Bummer, I would love to be snow shoeing right now!). It has been mostly cold and cloudy here, which is typical of our winters. It is times like these that I find the most challenging to get motivated. My enthusiasm is draining for a couple of new projects started at the end of 2015 because we are running into seemingly insurmountable roadblocks. How can I pull myself out of this funk and get back to work?

## Upcoming Events

### [NAI National Conference](#)

November 8-12, 2016  
Corpus Christi, Texas

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](http://www.interpnet.com) for more information.

## NCDCA Section

[www.interpnet.com/ncda](http://www.interpnet.com/ncda)

### Amy Roell

#### Director

Great Parks of Hamilton County  
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.



The answer literally came today in an article in the most recent edition of Legacy. Thanks Bob Carter, I needed your Tired? Sluggish? Take Some Interp and See Me in the Morning article! The cure for what ails me--- I need a dose of front line interpretation! I need the exhilaration of preparing for a program and the interaction with visitors to get my creative juices flowing again. I know that is a sure thing to eliminate the seemingly formidable roadblocks on my other projects. Isn't it funny how we forget that we often have the answers right in front of us?

## Reflection on the 2015 NAI National Conference

Jessica Rosier, Director at the Barker Mansion in Michigan City (Indiana)



With the generous help of the Nature Center Directors and Administrators section, I was able to participate in the Interpreter's Roadshow during the NAI National Workshop in Virginia Beach in November 2015. Getting this hands-on, in-the-field perspective was invaluable to me and I remember it as the best part of the entire week.

Athens, GA 30606  
706-613-3615 x233  
[RandySmith@co.clarke.ga.us](mailto:RandySmith@co.clarke.ga.us)

### Naomi Thompson

#### Treasurer

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

### Mark McMullen Bushman Newsletter Editor

Ward Museum  
909 S. Schumaker Dr.  
Salisbury, MD 21804  
410-742-4988  
[mmbushman@salisbury.edu](mailto:mmbushman@salisbury.edu)

The Roadshow is a pre-conference activity and is well-worth obtaining the extra time off from work and extra funds (unless you are lucky enough to get a scholarship, like me!). We woke up early Monday morning and boarded a bus to embark on our two-day journey. On day one we visited the Portsmouth Children's Museum and Brock Environmental Center. I will focus my reflections on day two, however.



The second day of the Roadshow brought a visit to the Virginia Aquarium where we had the chance to explore the property and hear from several department heads. Of greatest interest to me was learning about the volunteer management system, as they have over 900 volunteers. I am just beginning to build a volunteer program at my place of work and have only a dozen active volunteers. Learning how a large volunteer program functions, from recruitment and retention to incentives and prizes to training was great. It gives me goals to strive for, though I am positive I will never reach 900 volunteers!

The last stop of the Roadshow was Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, where they have a great programming partnership with the adjacent False Cape State Park. Seeing how well the two organizations work together to serve the public was inspiring. It makes me think about how I can partner with other museums and properties in my area to team up on interpretive programming and perhaps offer a two-part program, one at their site and one at mine.



I encourage everyone to apply for a scholarship through the Nature Center Directors and Administrators section for the 2016 workshop in Corpus Christie. Having attended the Roadshow for the first time in 2015, I am now hooked and will be saving my money so I can attend in 2016.

Thank you, again, Nature Center Directors and Administrators section for an amazing opportunity!

## NAI 2016 Call for Presentations

Deadline: April 17



#NAI2016

*Nature Protection*  
Cultural Connection

NAI National Conference  
Corpus Christi, Texas, November 8-12, 2016  
[www.interpnet.com/conference](http://www.interpnet.com/conference)

**Call for Presentations**  
*Deadline: April 17, 2016*  
Share your experience and expertise  
by presenting a session at NAI 2016!

NAI2016  
CORPUS CHRISTI

## Section Scholarships

[Click here for more information.](#)



### Interpreter's Road Show Attendance Scholarship

NCDA Section members are invited to apply for a \$500 scholarship that can be used to cover costs (Road Show registration and lump sum amount for meals) to attend the Corpus Christi Interpreter's Road Show in November, 2016. This year, the NCDA Section will offer two \$500 scholarships.

The Interpreters Road Show provides an intensive behind-the-scenes, two-day tour to a variety of nature centers, visitor centers and other interpretive facilities.

[Read about the 2015 Roadshow.](#)

- Recipients will be chosen based on involvement in NAI and the interpretive field.
- Applicants must be individual NAI members and a member of the NCDA Section.
- Grant applications must be received by May 31.
- Applications will be evaluated and recipients will be notified of their award soon after.
- Recipients are automatically registered for the Road Show. NCDA will pay the Road Show fee and the remaining amount will be sent to the recipient for use to cover other meals during the pre-Conference time.

[Roadshow Scholarship Online Application form](#)  
[Roadshow Homepage](#)

### CIM Certification Scholarship 2016

NCDA Section members are invited to apply for a scholarship that will pay for the cost of one certification packet (value \$125), per individual in the CIM category. This year, the NCDA Section will offer one scholarship. Recipients will be chosen based on financial need, NAI involvement, and/or the desire to become certified.

Once the recipient receives the packet, he/she must complete the written certification test and provide evidences of performance to the NAI Certification Program as required. Certification is granted upon successful completion of the test and successful review of the required evidences of performance. (The NCDA Section is not responsible for evaluating or granting certification.)

Applicants must be individual NAI members and a member of the NCDA Section. Certification Category/Packet is for the Certified Interpretive Manager only.

[CIM Online Application form](#)

## NAI NCDA Section on Facebook

[Like us on Facebook!](#)



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