

NAI Region 4 Business Meeting

Committee Highlights for 2006

What to Watch for in 2007

Pokagon State Park, Angola, IN

April 17, 2007

Archives

Chair: Haley Samuelson-Couchman (IN); [cityvactor @excite.com](mailto:cityvactor@excite.com)

Committee Members: Diantha Martin (MI), Tim Krynak (OH)

2006 Highlights:

- We have been working with Ball State to get all of our materials available for NAI members on the web
- Ball State student workers will spend one hour on research should members request it. They will mail or scan up to twenty pages for free and will send it to you
- Over 130 items were donated at the last RIW and throughout 2006. Keep up the good work!

Coming in 2007:

- We will start to see our archives posted on the web
- An updated documentation format to make dated material easier to look for and acquire
- We are seeking a new committee member from Indiana

How You Can Help:

- Volunteer for the committee. We are looking for more members from IN, OH and MI
 - Clean out your AIN-NAI files and send them to Haley for the archives
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Awards

Chair: Dorothy McLeer(MI); natrlist@umd.umich.edu

Committee Members: Vivian Wagner(OH), Nora Sindelar(OH), Mary Warren(OH), Kevin Arnold(MI)

2006 Highlights:

- Awards included Sandy McBeath Outstanding Part-Time/Seasonal Interpreter: Mirian Osredkar and Brad Bumgardner; Outstanding Interpretive Program: Geauga Park District/Dan Best; Outstanding Interpretive Volunteer: Don Howell; Master Front-line Interpreter: Tim Krynak; Master Interpretive Manager: Marvin McNew; Senior/Retired Interpreter: Bert Szabo. No Distinguished Professional Interpreter or Meritorious Service Awards were given.
- NAI Region 4 National Award Winners included Wil Reding, Master Front-Line Interpreter and Cathy Meyer, Meritorious Service Award. Pete Stobie won a writing award from The Interpreter Magazine for an article he contributed.

Coming in 2007:

- Awards are presented at RIW at Pokagon State Park in Angola, IN
- New Awards Chair following 2007 RIW: Pete Stobie (PStobie@naturecenter.org)

How You Can Help:

- Congratulate this year's award winners!
 - Nominate a R4 member for a national award *by Tuesday, May 31, 2007*
 - Join the Awards Committee – at least one IN committee member is needed; one ON representative needed, too!
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Interpretive Project Grants

Chair: Rich Niccum (OH); rich@lickingparkdistrict.com

Committee Members: Tobi Kiesewalter(ON), Carla Striegel(IN), Mike George(MI), Mike Sanders(MI),

2006 Highlights:

- Four grants were awarded to the City of Dublin, OH; Mill Creek MetroParks, OH; Maybury State Park, MI; Ohio Nature Education, OH

Coming in 2007:

- Another \$2500 will be awarded
- Deadline for applications is September 1; Application form will appear in *FourThought*

How You Can Help:

- We are always cycling in new committee members (3 year assignment)

Membership

Chair: Tanya Brock (IN); tbrock@minnetrista.net

Committee Members: Marilyn Beecroft(ON)

2006 Highlights:

- Complimentary memberships awarded to Guy Denny and Lacy Allen
- Five PinCentive pins awarded

Coming in 2007:

- Telephone membership survey through Northern Michigan University students
- “50 at 50” New Member Recruitment Program
- On-going new member recruitment list for related agencies, universities, etc.

How You Can Help:

- New committee chair, new committee members needed for Ohio, Indiana and Michigan!
 - Nominate deserving individuals for our two complimentary memberships
 - Submit information for organizations, universities, related groups who should be contacted about membership in NAI
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Nominations

Chair: Sarah Reding(MI); sreding@naturecenter.org

Committee Members: Vicki Basman (IN), Foster Brown (OH), Maria Peacock (IN)

2006 Highlights:

- Developed job descriptions for regional officers

Coming in 2007:

- Committee will be developing slate of officers for 2007
- Elections for Director, Deputy Director, Treasurer and Secretary. Ballots will be sent electronically to all who have email – watch for them and respond. Paper ballots will be sent to any members who do not have email addresses.

How You Can Help:

- Provide the committee with names of individuals who are interested in running for elected offices
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Partnerships & Advertising

Chair: Marvin McNew (IN); mmcnew@dnr.IN.gov

Committee Members: Bobbie Sue Grenerth(OH), Frances Boyens(OH), Niki Schmutte (IN)

2006 Highlights:

- Working on a partnership brochure

Coming in 2007:

- Partnership brochure
- Target to find a sponsor for one issue of *FourThought*
- Seeking sponsors for NAI 4 Booth Costs at NAI National Workshop

How You Can Help:

- Volunteer to serve on this committee – MI and ON representatives needed
 - Provide the committee with names of companies or individuals who might partner with us to sponsor *FourThought*, workshop events, mini-workshops, etc.
 - New chair will be needed beginning in 2008
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Publications/Newsletter

Chair: Debbie Nofzinger (OH); dnofzinger@wcparks.org

Committee Members: Fred Wooley(IN), Mary Beth Sills(OH), Dorothy McLeer(MI), Frances Boyens(OH), Jeanne Henderson(MI), Debra Shankland(OH), Bob Dispenza(IN), Susan Williams(IN), Kati Adams, Jill Vance (IN), Carly Martin (OH)

2006 Highlights:

- “New look” for *FourThought* with different colors and page design
- Interpretive Booklet: Wetland Wonders (now available for sale through Ways and Means Committee)

Coming in 2007:

- Great articles and resources.....provided by YOU!
- Interpretive Booklet Tips for the Trail in Winter 2007 issue (sent out in January, 2007)
- Opportunity to receive *FourThought* electronically

How You Can Help:

- *FourThought* reporters aren’t the only ones who can submit an article. If YOU would like to submit an article, contact one of your regional reporters or Deb Nofzinger.

Scholarships and Grants

Chair: Susan Williams(IN); millweaver@aol.com

Committee Members: Jules Erwin (IN), Skitz Evrard (IN), Carol Ward (OH)

2006 Highlights:

- Certification Grants awarded to Gregory Wright and Susan Williams.
- Over \$2700 raised at 2006 Scholarship Auction; a total of \$3274 when Bird-a-thon dollars are added in.
- \$1,000.00 Academic Scholarship to Rachel Hadlock of Hocking College. There were no applicants for the second academic scholarship.
- Three full-workshop grants for RIW 2007 to Mary Cutler, Tippecanoe Co. Parks (IN), Tobi Kieseewalter, Murphy's Point Provincial Park (ON) and Katherine Evans, Univ. of Michigan – Dearborn (MI)
- Two grants to NAI National Workshop awarded to Leslie Witkowski and Pete Stobie.

Coming in 2007:

- One certification grant has been awarded to Jamie Krupka. More certification grant funding is available!
- National workshop grants available!
- New Scholarships and Grants Chair following the 2007 RIW: Andrea Haslage (Haslage@metroparks.net)

How You Can Help:

- We need new committee members from MI and ON – join us to review applications and help with the auction.
- Help out with the scholarship auction at the regional workshops – there's still room for your help this year!

Student Involvement

Chair: Wil Reding(MI) sarahrarnwil@att.net

Committee Members: Eileen Sawyer (OH), Amy Gregg (IN) and Kenneth Bowald, (OH)

2006 Highlights:

- Addition of one university professor to committee (Kenneth Bowald of Hocking College)
- New Student Chapter organized at Indiana University by Cem Basman and students.

Coming in 2007:

- Student survey
- Update the existing NAI overview PowerPoint presentation and distribute to members for use
- Evaluate the process for promoting and awarding student scholarships and grants.
- Evaluate complimentary membership program and consider adding more for students
- Develop an RIW session for NAI student members to practice and receive feedback on their presentation skills, for the 2008 workshop.

How You Can Help:

- Volunteer to lead a regional workshop session designed specifically for students
- Provide us with names of colleges with biology & natural resources programs – and give us a contact name so we can let them know about workshops, scholarships, grants, etc.
- If a student, please fill our the survey.
- If student, become a committee member!

Training and Member Services

Chair: Robin Dungan (OH); RDungan@mail.cosi.org

Committee Members: Kim Baker(OH), C. Michael George (MI), Angie Manuel (IN)

2006 Highlights:

- Region 4 offered 6 1-day workshops. Healthy Water, Healthy People, The Buzz on Entomology, Animal Soup, Bryophytes, Partnering with Schools and Maple Sugaring with Kids. The only workshop with attendees was Animal Soup. We appreciate the work of ALL hosts in preparing for the miniworkshops.

Coming in 2007:

- Maple Sugaring with Kids –March 8, 2007 at Goshen College, Goshen, IN. (cancelled)
- Salamanders – April 3, 2007 at West Woods Nature Center (Geauga Park District), Novelty, Ohio. (18 attended)
- Watch for these workshops later this year: OH: Interpreting the History, Architecture and Nature of Urban Neighborhoods, Monarch Butterflies in Programming. MI: Educational Raptors - Care and Handling

How You Can Help:

- Volunteer to host a miniworkshop! (Especially in Indiana or Michigan!)

Ways & Means

Chair: Susie Edwards (OH); seedwards@greatparks.org

Committee Members: Thomas Enright(MI), Sarah Hendricks(IN), Chris Gajewicz(OH)

2006 Highlights:

- Selling \$1029 in booklets to Acorn Naturalists
- Collecting over \$1000 in Bird-A-Thon pledges
- Updating and reprinting of BUGS, Nature at Night and Scat/Tracks for sale to Acorn Naturalists
- Sale of History DVDs produced a profit for us of between \$800-\$1000
- Net profit generated through Ways and Means Projects for 2006: \$2766.74.

Coming in 2007:

- History of Interpretation DVD is still for sale for \$20 plus shipping/handling.
- Make your Bird-A-Thon pledge for 2007!
- Look for the new Tips for the Trail booklet in the Spring FourThought
- Check out our newly revamped Regional Exhibit – thanks Sharon Hosko!

How You Can Help:

- New committee members needed now from all states and Ontario; current committee members “retire” at the end of 2006!

Website

Chair: Frances Boyens (IN) frances_boyens@hotmail.com

Committee Members:

2006 Highlights:

- Keeping web information current

Coming in 2007:

- Updates to regional workshop, procedures manuals, action plans, etc. as they become available

How You Can Help:

- Volunteer to help review the website on a monthly basis and look for needed updates/changes

Note: We hope we have all our committee members listed; if we've missed your name we apologize!

Did you Know.....

- That our national workshop will no longer be called the NIW? It is now called the NAI National Workshop to provide a clear connection with NAI.
- That if you submit your membership form and check the box that says “don’t share my email with anyone,” it means you won’t get NAI Region 4 e-mail updates? You can contact the national office and have that changed if you want.
- That NAI Region 4 committee members generally serve for 3 years. We owe all of those who rotated off at the end of 2006 a big thank you. Archives: Tim Krynak, Gerry Wykes; IPG-Lise Schools (Chair), Mike George, Rich Niccum (took over as Chair); Membership-Marquita Manley (chair), Tanya Brock (took over as chair), Shawna Hanes; Publications- Jennifer Malinoski, Lise Schools, Andrea Haslage; Julie Robinson; Student Involvement-Doug Knapp; Training & Member Services-Susan Boggs (Chair), Robin Dungan (took over as Chair); Ways and Means-Chris Gazewicz, Sarah Schenk, Thomas Enright. Several members will be rotating off after this Regional Workshop, including Awards-Dorothy McLeer (Chair), Vivian Wagner, Nora Sindelar, Kevin Arnold, Mary Warren; Scholarships and Grants-Susan Williams (Chair), Bob Wild, Rick Stronks, Leslie Krebs



NAI Region 4 Officers

Director: Ginger Murphy (IN) gmurphy@dnr.IN.gov

Deputy Director: Julie Champion (MI); Julie.champion@metroparks.com

Secretary: Leslie Witkowski (IN); interpnaturalist@datacruz.com

Treasurer: Amy Roell (OH); aroell@GreatParks.org

Inspiring leadership and excellence to advance heritage interpretation as a profession.

NAI Website: www.interpnet.com

NAI Region 4 Website: www.nairegions.org/4/