

ARKANSAS • KANSAS • LOUISIANA • MISSOURI • OKLAHOMA • TEXAS

## LIGHTHOUSES

Ted Cable, Horticulture, Forestry, and Recreation Resources, Kansas State University

*Lighthouse. n. : a tower or other structure located at some place dangerous or important with a powerful light that gives a signal for guiding travelers.*

Explorers and settlers referred to the Great Plains as an ocean – a sea of grass. The wide horizons and treeless expanses were as daunting to these travelers as the Atlantic Ocean was to those who had crossed it in earlier journeys. Settlers hesitated at the wooded shores of the forested regions before mustering the courage to set off across this ocean in their oxen-driven vessels. Some attached sails to their wagons and literally tried to sail across these seas.

Millions of travelers still sail among our region's wind-swept waves of grass and grain. Sailors in air-conditioned cars speed through unfamiliar spaces. Some travel aimlessly, oblivious to the environment around them. Some sail through our seas on maiden voyages; others have sailed these seas for years. Many of these visitors wash up on our shores, some by accident. Others, keen explorers longing to see new places, arrive by design.

To sailors everywhere, especially those sailing in strange seas, lighthouses are beacons of comfort and security, guidance and hope. Everyday people wash up on your shores regardless of where you are in Region Six. That is why it is so wonderful that lighthouses exist. Lighthouses, such as nature centers, zoos, museums, and historic sites that guide people through sandy pine forests, limestone glades, estuaries, reservoirs, cypress swamps, dry rocky steppe, and those oceans of grass called prairies. Interpretive centers light their surroundings and guide wandering people through unfamiliar places.



Interpreters are lighthouse keepers. They care for places that provide a sense of security, a sense of place, and a sense of belonging. Interpreters see to it that their lighthouses effectively illuminate their surroundings.

Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, lighthouses have had what are known as Fresnel lenses. These lenses increase the power of the light and focus it in one direction. According to a recent PBS documentary, a Fresnel lens is “an elaborate orchestration of an array of lenses and dozens of prisms. Each piece is molded, polished, and set precisely to redirect diffuse lamp light into a unified far-reaching beam.” Is that not what nature centers and other interpretive facilities seek to accomplish? Are not the best interpretive sites an elaborate orchestration of media and individuals molded, polished, and set precisely to direct unified far-reaching beacons of information and inspiration?

Individually each interpreter at an interpretive site is a single lens contributing to a beam of light that is far-reaching and focused. Each interpreter works with other lenses to project unified interpretive themes deep into the hearts and minds of people passing by.

We are all wayfarers on our own personal journeys. In light of that, I will extend this metaphor to say that each interpreter can be a lighthouse. To people in unfamiliar seas, seeking unknown destinations, and trying to navigate the rocky coasts in their lives, individual interpreters can personally provide comfort, security, and guidance. In times of trouble interpreters — like lighthouses—provide beacons of joy and hope to passersby. Each day it is our responsibility, privilege, and pleasure to light our worlds.

## Editors' Corner

Pam Tooley and Lisa Cole

You will notice this issue includes an application form for Region Six's Small Grants Program. We have \$1,000 to award to one or more recipients for a special project. Take some time, fill out the form, and submit it by February 15. We all have worthy projects that are lacking only the cash to get them going. Here's your chance!

Remember that anyone can submit articles for Visions. Feel free to contact the editors (see the back page for contact information)

with your essays, tips, book reviews, etc. Also remember to stay in touch with your state coordinator. We stir it all together, but the newsletter is only as good as the ingredients all of you contribute.

We're looking forward to a great get-together in Oklahoma City! See you in March!

## Outgoing Director's Report

Shea Lewis

The times are a-changing, again. In the last director's column, I wrote about how Region Six was going to be managed from my new home in Idaho. At the national board meeting, during the NIW in Virginia Beach, a plan was adopted to help solve some of our issues. A motion came before the National Board of Directors to create a policy to address region leadership moving out of the region. The national board was concerned that my move might set a precedent that could create problems in the future. The new policy states that when a region directorship is vacated that position is then automatically defaulted to the region deputy director. This new policy makes perfect sense and will allow for no confusion for any other directors who might move to Idaho. So, our new Region Six Director is Pat Silovsky in Junction City, Kansas! Pat has a great understanding of regional business and traditions and will do the region well.

Pat and I used the Region Six meeting at the NIW as the official changing of the guard as well as an

opportunity to discuss some region business. Some topics included:

- Region Six CD—to be unveiled at the Region Six Workshop in Oklahoma City
- Support of NCDA and IN Sections—Region Six plans on continuing financial assistance and support of these two budding sections
- National Website—the national office is taking ideas or suggestions for [interpnet.com](http://interpnet.com)

I want to say "thank you" to the membership for allowing me to work for Region Six. It has been a great honor and a privilege to serve in several capacities. I also want to say "thank you" to the Region Six Board of Directors for graciously supporting me this past year. I plan on keeping my region membership in Region Six, so I can keep up with everyone! If there is anything I can do to help any of you, don't hesitate to call.



Visions -- the newsletter of Region VI of the National Association for Interpretation -- is edited by Lisa Cole, Heard Natural Science Museum, McKinney, TX, and Pam Tooley, Environmental Education Specialist, Lucas, TX. Articles and other newsletter correspon-

dence should be sent to us at one of our addresses (see back page). We use a Macintosh system and will gladly accept submissions on 3.5 disks or by e-mail in a text-only format. Please send a hard copy as well. Printed on recycled paper.

# Director's Report

Pat Silovsky

Well, as Shea has already mentioned, I have been handed the Director's position due to his leaving this great region and moving to Idaho. It is not often that one simple action leads to a motion at the National Board meeting! Way to go, Shea! I know Shea was willing to stay committed to being a "sixer," but it was felt that we might be setting an unwise precedent for other regions (some much closer geographically than we are). So, the matter is decided, and I will fill out the remainder of Shea's term as Director.

I would like to thank Shea for his tireless efforts on behalf of our region and commend him on his progressive (albeit, brief) leadership of the region! While Shea may be saying "thank you" to us for letting him serve as the Director, I believe we need to be saying "thanks" to Shea for stepping up to the challenge of leading the region. I wish him the best in his new position in Idaho, and you can be sure I have his number on speed dial just in case!

My first duty as Director was to attend the Board Meeting in Virginia Beach. Wow, what a first day on the job! Anyway, some items of interest from the board meeting include:

Budget Approval for 2003, including an adjustment in staff salaries to Association/Nonprofit standards.

Creation of an Associate Director to take on a primary supervisory role of program staff. This is not a new position but a restructuring of an already existing position filled by Lisa Brochu.

Reinstatement of the Legacy Trust Fund, which you may have already seen on the web page if you didn't attend the NIW.

The Certified Interpretive Trainer program is growing at an exciting rate. It is the fastest growing segment of NAI. A new credential, the Certified Interpretive Host (CIH), is being developed (and supported by a \$5,000 grant from Texas Parks & Wildlife) and will be ready in January of 2003. It is exciting because it extends interpretive training to maintenance workers, rangers, cashiers, secretaries, campground hosts and other front-line workers at zoos, nature centers, museums, historic sites, etc.

The Region Workshop is fast approaching. I hope to see everyone at Oklahoma City in March. Included in this newsletter will be the application for the Region Six "Small Grants" program. So, for those folks who thought they had missed the application, relax! Thanks to those members who jogged my memory to get it out. It nearly slipped into the dreaded "crack!"

See you in Oklahoma City!

## Free NAI Memberships??

Help build NAI's membership while lowering your membership costs! Each new member you bring to NAI is worth cash off your membership when you renew. Just have the new member mention you on the application and the discount will apply.

Referral discount amounts:

Student	\$3
Professional	\$5
Family Professional	\$6
Senior Professional	\$3
Institutional	\$15
Commercial	\$20

For more information about the program or to request a supply of applications, please contact Heather Manier, NAI's membership manager, at:  
Phone (970) 484-8283  
Fax (970) 484-8179  
naimbrmgr@aol.com



## Corners of My Mind

Brad Holleman, Queen Wilhelmina State Park, Mena, AR

Standing in the center of Santa Elena Canyon in Big Bend National Park, I was struck by the immensity of geologic time. That the tiny Rio Grande could carve such a chasm seemed to defy logic and experience. But I haven't experienced much geologic time and won't get the chance to put much time into thinking about such imponderables. The stream had provided the force to cut through all this rock. Little pieces of rough grit from the mountains of New Mexico suspended in the water had worn away the rock like a belt sander. It is still working at the same rate today. You can hear the water slicing at stubborn rock as it has on previous days during the last few million years. Nothing is new in this idea. Charles Lyell thought this through years ago. He called it uniformitarianism. That constant tiny action could cause such monumental change led to an inspiration.

On this day I wasn't thinking about geology. No interpreter was stationed in the canyon to keep me on theme. I was free to wander aimlessly both physically and mentally through the canyon. I was worried. Would I be able to remember this moment, this scene, and this frame in time? I wanted to, but most moments have long since been washed away by the stream of my own consciousness. Will the grit of a thousand new moments, mostly inconsequential, slowly wear down and wash away this present? The slow erosion of memory is similar to the processes that formed the canyon before me. How would I create a memory resistant to the gradual dimming of time?

I can't possibly remember each thought and step of a two-mile trail into the canyon. I would be willing to settle for much less. Just the essence of the experience and a few images embedded on the hard drive of my brain would be satisfactory. I have several advantages. First, pictures of the canyon will help refresh the image. Second, canyons in the desert are outside my normal experience and the unusualness of it will set it apart. Third, I have remembered many less memorable things. Uniformitarianism for example - there is Dr. Calhoun at the front of the dingy, gray classroom, calmly lecturing. I don't remember his exact words, but I know I learned about uniformitarianism from him in that drab classroom some twenty years ago. What did he say that would cause something like that to stick in my mind? Would I even use the term "stream of consciousness" if I had not read *The Sound and the Fury* by William Faulkner? I won't soon forget the disturbing section of this novel seen through Benny's eyes. Something about these seemingly unrelated facts have lodged in my own stream of consciousness and surfaced again at this idyllic spot to create an unexpected but interesting idea.

Something causes us to remember some facts, sensory experiences, and ideas better than others. If an interpreter could understand this process better, it would be a great advantage. How do people select from the buzzing confusion

*...continues on the next page*

Check out Region Six on-line!

[www.nairegions.org/6/](http://www.nairegions.org/6/)



of competing stimuli and focus on anything? If every stimulus got equal billing we would be overwhelmed. Bill James has shed some light on this question. The brain instantly chooses among all stimuli and thoughts to select the one track. Whether that track is Mozart or the growling of one's own stomach depends on the situation. Mostly what is selected for attention is related to comfort and safety. No need to give a lecture on geology while an earthquake is shaking down the lecture hall. While not as dramatic, the rumbling stomachs of a hungry audience also would present a seismic challenge to the lecturer. Interest in uniformitarianism will rightly be low in both cases.

It takes so much just to get our attention. Why do we forget almost everything we have attended to? Why do we retain those few memories? How can interpreters tap into this process to gently help the visitor form a lasting memory?

Assume that we do not want to frighten, anger, or disappoint to make a memory. Those would probably be the best ways, although undesirable. This leaves us with joy, happiness, and satisfaction. The right topic, the right audience, at the right time would be a start.

A troop of young people top the next rise. Their twenty-year-old-legs are moving quickly down the hill. Two middle-aged men bring up the rear. Their middle-aged legs are not as quick and their lungs not as elastic.

"Look boys, a group of geology students," I explain to my sons who have stopped along the trail just ahead to let them pass.

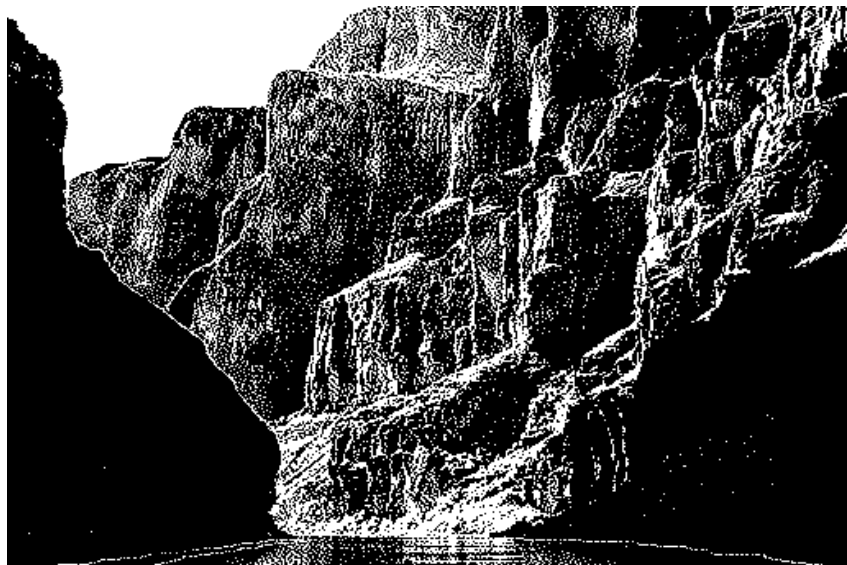
A tall student, who is now even with me asks, "How did you know?"

"You might as well have it stamped on your forehead," I fire back, sort of annoyed at

having to stop to let them pass first. Who else would carry clipboards through all these rocks? I never much cared for the neo-rock-hound look of geology majors anyway. Besides, I noticed the Wisconsin tags on the "institutional looking" vans back at the parking lot and figured someone was on a field trip. One of the best places for a field trip if you're interested in uniformitarianism. If I can remember the idea from the concrete tomb of McEver Hall, how can these kids forget?

The canyon was only slightly shallower when John Dewey wrote, "We always live at the time we live and not at some other time, and only by extracting at each present time the full meaning of each present experience are we prepared for doing the same thing in the future."

Somewhere over the horizon in any city or town, a man is clicking the remote button, systematically working his way through each channel. His hunter/gatherer instincts are fully active as he searches the vast wasteland for meaning. He is sure that the next click will bring him around the bend to something worth his time and attention. He pauses on Channel 2; maybe something has changed since he was here a few minutes ago. Meanwhile, the Rio Grande continues to wear away the eons of rock with machine-like precision.



### KANSAS

Schanée Anderson

Winters can be pretty WILD in Kansas.

#### Events and Programs

Celebrate the new year – to help celebrate 2003, the first person to e-mail Schanée Anderson at [Anderson@ci.manhattan.ks.us](mailto:Anderson@ci.manhattan.ks.us) with their name and address will receive a special gift from **Sunset Zoo**.

Garden Strolls and Cooking tips will keep **Botanica** busy throughout the winter. Visitors will get a chance to look at what is happening through the seasons and give **Deb Hiebert** a chance to sneak in a little botany, ecology, etc.! Deb is also starting “Cooking At Botanica,” a series of demonstration lectures and workshops utilizing herbs and produce in cooking and accessing local chefs and hobbyists.

#### Conference and Grants

- ❑ ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CERTIFIED INTERPRETIVE TRAINER WITH NAI but cannot afford to travel to exotic locations? **Sunset Zoo** is trying to get a group of interested people together to host a training session in Manhattan, Kansas. NAI would be interested if we had ten or more people committed to participating. It would tentatively be planned for sometime in March or April. Please contact **Schanée Anderson** at [anderson@ci.manhattan.ks.us](mailto:anderson@ci.manhattan.ks.us) or (785) 587-2737 for more information.
- ❑ Now is the time to apply for the NAI Region Six small grant. Applications are available in this issue of Visions or on the NAI Region Six web site. Region Six has up to \$1,000 to spend. Multiple small grants or one large grant will be awarded. No grant is too small.

#### New for the Winter

- ❑ 2003 has been named the International Year of Freshwater by the United Nations. What a perfect time to highlight many of the critical issues facing clean water. March 22 is World Water Day.
- ❑ **Rolling Hills Zoo**, Salina, Kansas is proud to announce a new book club for elementary students. Each registered student receives a book bag, stuffed animal book mark and age specific book list. Any students who meet the goal of reading eight books in four months receive free admission to the zoo with a paying adult. At the end of the year, all students meeting the goal are entered into a drawing for a free family membership to the zoo. If you would like more information on how to set up your own book club, contact **Jared Bixby** at [jared@rhwildlife.com](mailto:jared@rhwildlife.com).
- ❑ Just in time for Kansas's birthday, **Sunset Zoo** had developed a ZOO Case featuring artifacts, puppets, games, curriculum and much more. The kits are available to teachers at no cost.
- ❑ Graphics at the **Topeka Zoo** received a needed face lift – well let's say extreme makeover. Old, black and white graphics were replaced with color graphics featuring the species name in its native language.
- ❑ Extending Region Six Abroad – **Ted Cable**, Assistant Department Head in Horticulture, Recreation and Resources at **Kansas State University**, was a guest professor at Pascal University in Clairmont-Ferrand, France. He lectured on interpretation to students in Rural Tourism and Tour Guiding. Several of these students will continue their education by attending Kansas State University in the future.
- ❑ Thanks to the Manhattan Community Foundation, the **Sunset Zoo** education department will unveil its first new education department brochure in nearly ten years. The brochure is made as a poster of the maned wolf with vital preservation information and program ideas listed in stepped panels at the bottom.
- ❑ Construction will soon begin at the **Topeka Zoo** on a new Administrative/Education building. The building will house classroom space as well as a specific area for animals used in education programs.
- ❑ **Milford Nature Center** is currently building new bird of prey enclosures for their birds used in education programs.
- ❑ Sometimes it is the little things in life that are so exciting. **Sunset Zoo** is adding two new bathrooms to its facilities (making a total of six public restrooms). Even more exciting, these bathrooms are in a building specifically allocated for education programs.

#### Wonderful staff and volunteers

- ❑ **Sunset Zoo** is proud to add **Karen O'Donnell** and **Rachel Hendershot** as new Program Assistants. ■■



# State Report



## LOUISIANA

Kristina Hardwick

**Caddo Parish Parks and Recreation** was awarded a \$24,000 grant from the Recreational Trails Program administered by the Governor's Office of Rural Development to improve interpretive signage at **Walter Jacobs Nature Park**. The parish will provide a \$6,000 match to bring the total to \$30,000 in improvements.

On September 30, 2002, the U.S. Government selected **Chimp Haven, Inc.** to provide a model sanctuary system for chimpanzees retired from biomedical research facilities, or no longer needed for research or as pets. Chimp Haven weathered a rigorous government selection process to obtain the funding made available through the Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection Act of 2000. The first sanctuary, and Chimp Haven's headquarters, will be constructed on 200 acres donated by Caddo Parish and surrounded by **Eddie Jones Park**. Park staff have developed a close working relationship with the Chimp Haven board and both groups look forward to a synergistic relationship in the future. More information is available at the organization's website, [www.chimphaven.org](http://www.chimphaven.org).

I have taken a new job. I am now the Environmental Science Facilitator for **Oil City Environmental Magnet School**. The school serves preschool through sixth grade students. This new and experimental position allows for the integration of environmental science throughout all subject areas, the coordination of technology and environmental science resources and the further development of the outdoor classroom facilities and school nature trail. I have also accepted an appointment to the Louisiana Project Learning Tree Board.

On December 6, **Oil City Environmental Magnet School** welcomed visitors from Earth Force and General Motors. Earth Force was created in 1994 by the Pew Charitable Trusts. Earth Force provides training and support for youth to discover and implement lasting solutions to environmental issues in their community. **Alyssa Hawkins**, Watershed Education Manager, and **David Burroughs**, Environmental Supervisor for General Motors (a corporate sponsor) toured the school and studied the strong network and partnerships the school has formed with the community. They were accompanied by **Lee Jeter** from the Shreveport Green and Shrevecorps office.

The Office of State Parks broke ground December 5 for **Palmetto Island State Park** during ceremonies at the 1,299-acre site near Abbeville. When completed in 2005, the \$12.85 million park will provide 75 campsites, 15 cabins, a group camp, visitors center, nature center, swimming pool, four picnic pavilions, a picnic area, playground, boat launch, canoe launch and hiking trails. The park is located off LA-690 in Vermilion Parish. The Sellers Group of Lafayette completed the project design and will coordinate park development. Glenn Lege Construction of Abbeville was awarded the contract for building the internal park roadways as part of the initial construction site work.

Keep those reports coming! 

### NAI's Employment Opportunities Service

NAI-Jobs  
P.O. Box 2246  
Fort Collins, CO 80522  
888-900-8283  
Fax: 970-484-8179

Jobs in Interpretation  
a biweekly employment service for interpreters.  
Available in hard copy, fax, or e-mail.

Subscription Rates: \$7.00 per issue (hard copy) or \$4.00 per issue (e-mail). All NAI members receive 5 issues per year without charge by request; each additional issue is \$4.00 (hard copy) or \$2.00 (e-mail).



## State Report



### MISSOURI

John Miller

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Vulture Venture: February 22, 2003 12 to 6 p.m., **Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery**, Branson MO. Call 417-334-4865. This unique free event focuses on the amazing vultures and the role they play in nature. In addition to a live vulture, there will be activities, games, and viewing opportunities of the largest wintering vulture populations in the state. This is one of the few places in Missouri to see both turkey and black vultures at the same time.

#### INTERPRETIVE NEWS

The Association of Missouri Interpreters (AMI) conducted their annual conference August 26-28 in Jefferson City. In addition to outstanding presentations by **Dr. Ted Cable**, **Grady Manus**, **John Cuning**, and the **Runge Conservation Nature Center** staff, there was an exciting float trip down the Missouri River. The float trip gave interpreters not only the unique view of seeing the state capitol from the river, but also the feel of the Lewis and Clark experience. Staff from the Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri Department of Natural Resources provided living history presentations in period attire and two 30-foot dug-out canoes. The event made the front page of the local Jefferson City newspaper.

**Dr. Mark Morgan** has moved to Missouri. Mark, who was a professor at Kansas State University (Manhattan), is now teaching "Interpretive Methods and Environmental Education" (among other classes) as one of the newest professors in the School of Natural Resources Recreation Management at the University of Missouri-Columbia. You can contact Dr. Morgan at [MarkMorgan@missouri.edu](mailto:MarkMorgan@missouri.edu).

**Lynn Youngblood** (Blue Springs) reports that there are two new interpreters at **Burr Oak Woods Nature Center**. **Stephanie Acers** began October 16 as the newest naturalist. She was the Outdoor Education Specialist at the Kemper Outdoor Education Center (Jackson County Parks and Recreation) and had several years experience as a naturalist and supervising their outdoor camp. **Craig Hensley** began December 1 as the new Interpretive Programs Supervisor. Craig has a BS in Fish and Wildlife Management from Arkansas Tech and an MS in Zoology from the University of Arkansas. He has numerous years as a naturalist beginning at a County conservation Board in Iowa, and the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul, MN. He's spent the last 11 years at Fontenelle Forest Nature Center in Omaha, Nebraska as Director of Education and Master Naturalist. He brings a wealth of knowledge, talent, and experiences, including being a licensed bird bander with the USFWS. We welcome Craig and look forward to broadening the horizons at Burr Oak Woods.

**George Kastler** (Jefferson City) sadly reports that **Jamin Bray** resigned as Interpretive Resource Specialist III at **Montauk State Park** in November. According to George, "This very dear and special lady will be greatly missed by us in state parks." Her position is due to be filled soon.

**Cyndi Evans** (Liberal) reports that the Prairie Jubilee at **Prairie State Park** on September 28 was the biggest ever, with 1200 people attending. Activities included a workshop on prairie restoration and wildflower gardening, dulcimer music by **Woodsong**, storytelling by **Richard and Judy Dockrey Young**, a living history loop with trappers, pioneers, settlers, cowboys, and buffalo hunters, a bison chip throwing contest, wagon rides to view the bison, and a bison burger lunch.

**Coleen Scott** (Kirkwood) reports that **Pat Steudeman** is the newest temporary naturalist in St. Louis region. She began at **Powder Valley Nature Center** in September.

**Wanda Doolen** (Patterson) reports that the Visitor/Nature Center at **Sam A. Baker State Park** suffered lots of damage in the flooding that hit southeast sections of Missouri last May. The park reopened on August 1. Courtesy of flood insurance, there are new floor coverings. Some other repairs such as new heating systems, new exhibit counters, and flood wall protection are in the works. Wanda also reports two changes to the state park staff. Long time Sam A. Baker State Park seasonal naturalist, **Connie Merlotti**, decided to return to school this fall and pursue new career goals. We wish Connie good luck in all her future endeavors. **Dustin Webb**, seasonal naturalist at Sam A. Baker State Park, tied the knot on October 5 to **Hannah Crocker**. Before working there, Dustin and his family spent many wonderful vacations at the state park, where he frequently earned the Junior Naturalist Award at the Nature Center. Where did he meet Hannah? She is a waitress at the park's old CCC Dining Lodge! Congratulations to the newlyweds! ■



## State Report

### OKLAHOMA

Steve Black and Neil Garrison

**Luann Waters** is the women's regional coordinator for the National Wild Turkey Federation. **Leann Rogers** is the state park naturalist at **Lake Tenkiller** (Gore, OK). Leann and Luann were the duet that hosted the "Women in the Outdoors" workshop on November 2nd at Lake Tenkiller State Park. Components of the coursework included topics such as map & compass work, cooking with a Dutch oven and archery.

How do you measure the success of an educational program? Well, one way is to determine how large an audience was impacted by your presentation. Our state's largest newspaper sent a photographer out to the September 6-8 "How to Make a Stone Arrowhead" workshop that was held at **Lake Thunderbird State Park** (Norman, OK). The end result was a full page of color pictures published in a subsequent edition of that newspaper. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then this educational event garnered about 10,000 words of print. This program was a smashing success.

Have you visited **Fountainhead State Park**? No? Oops! Too late! As of November 1, that facility has a new name: **Lake Eufaula State Park**. Their new e-mail addy is: LESP@lakewebs.net

Amphi-Theater? What's an amphi-theater? **Loraine Richmond** explains that it is an amphibian habitat that is secluded away inside a greenhouse that is adjacent to a nature center's interpretive building. Loraine is the naturalist at **Lake Eufaula State Park's Deep Fork Nature Center** (Checotah, OK). Actually, the amphi-theater is the very germ of an idea inside Loraine's noggin. She has not actually started work on this construction project. Loraine is seeking feedback from NAI members on what does (& doesn't) work. You can get in touch with Loraine at naturecenter@lakewebs.net.

The Tulsa-area offices of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation are going to be relocated inside the brand-spanking-new **Oklahoma Aquarium** at Jenks, OK.

When the cat's away, the mice will play! **Bob Jennings** retired from his position as Director of Tulsa's **Oxley Nature Center**.....and now word comes that his former employees are brewing beer at that work site! Welllllllll....what they actually said was: "we made homemade root beer." (Ha!) Naturalist **Susie Ruby** reports that the November 9 class on Dutch oven cooking & wild edible plants & herbal teas had the event participants rolling home orwaddling home as best as they could.

The Dutch oven cooking class (Wednesday, November 13) at **Lake Thunderbird State Park** had a class enrollment of 23 persons. Quite an accomplishment for a middle-of-the-week educational program for adults!

**Brenda Knapp** taught a class on the topic of "field sketching" at Tulsa's **Oxley Nature Center** on October 12. The write-up for this event described "field sketching" as a "form of visual note taking—an invaluable tool for observing the world of nature."

The keynote speaker at the **Washita Battlefield National Historic Site's** (Cheyenne, OK) November 15-17 symposium was **Fr. Peter Powell**. He is an author and historian from the **St. Augustine Center for American Indians**, Chicago, IL. The Roger Mills Arts & Humanities Council co-hosted this educational event with the National Park Service's Washita Battlefield National Historic Site.

**Dennis Rich** has a new job. He is now a public school classroom teacher. Dennis used to be the naturalist at **McGee Creek State Park** (Atoka, OK).

An Austin, Texas nature tourism development company (**Fermata, Inc.**) was awarded a \$30,000.00 grant from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation in September of this year. Its goal will be to formulate a master plan for the creation of the Western Oklahoma Wildlife Heritage Trail. The trail will be a driving loop through our state's panhandle. ■



## State Report



TEXAS

Brian Barnette

Season's greetings, y'all, and best wishes for '03. Here at the **Dallas Museum of Natural History**, we're a bit busy this time of year. Our in-house exhibit "Texas' Scariest and Deadliest" is coming down to make way for the traveling exhibit "Animals as Architects;" our Origami Tree stands proudly in the lobby; our annual "Dinner in the Wild" fundraiser was a success; and we're running a storefront museum at a local mall through the holidays. But enough about me . . .

Let's start with news from our friends at the **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**. **Chris True** reports the addition of **Kevin Young** as an Exhibit Technician 3 Park Interpreter up at **Lake Ray Roberts SP**. Welcome, Kevin (are you a member of NAI? Well, you oughta be!). The RR staff has also been busy working with a variety of minority organizations in the DFW area developing outdoor skills, and working on a new bike/hike trail in the Isle du Bois Unit of the park...**Deanna Oberheu** and **Vicki Sybert** held a teacher workshop out at **Caprock Canyons SP** last April in conjunction with the Texas Rural Systemic Initiative (an agency, funded by the National Science Foundation, that helps rural teachers with training, technology, and classroom expertise). Old news, you say? Perhaps, but the project just received an "Exemplary Partnership Award" at the Governor's Conference on Excellence in Teaching Science, Technology, and Math in Austin on November 18. Way to go, Deanna and Vicki! . . . From **Heather Lanman** up at **Palo Duro Canyon SP** comes word that the TPWD Region VI (Panhandle-Plains) State Park Interpreters will have their annual regional meeting on February 5 - 6. They hope their new Regional Interpreter will be on board by then. Also, Heather and a number of other TPWD personnel, including the aforementioned Vicki Sybert, were involved in producing a live webcast from the park on November 15. Working in partnership with the **Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum**, they reached over 11,000 youth and teachers with a program about "Life on the Edge"--the challenges, conflicts, and successes encountered by those who have tried to make their home in the canyon...Just in time for spring, TPWD has a new poster available on the venomous snakes of Texas. Based on the book *The Poisonous Snakes of Texas*, the poster is 24 x 26 inches and has photos and info on the 11 venomous species in the state. The posters retail for \$2.50 (\$5.00 if mailed). For more information, check out <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/expltx/jrnat/poster.htm> . . . Finally, if for some reason you're not planning to be at the Regional Workshop in OK City in March, there's a Certified Interpretive Planner Workshop scheduled for March 3-7 at the **Dallas Zoo** (in Dallas, naturally). For more information, see the NAI website ([www.interpnet.com](http://www.interpnet.com)) or contact **Lisa Brochu**, NAI Program Director, at 866-326-4642.

In case you were planning on looking up **Sue Hansen** on your next trip to **Padre Island National Seashore**, you're too late. Sue has taken a new position (and a promotion) as the Chief of Education and Interpretation for the National Capitol Region of the National Park Service. Her successor as Padre's Chief of Interpretation is **Juan Rodriguez**. Congratulations, Sue and Juan!

And from the "private sector" . . . **Sue Davis** sends greetings from **River Bend Nature Works** in Wichita Falls. Seems they had plenty of that "holly jolly" spirit going out there, with "Electric Critters," 50 animals formed from 20,000 lights, and "A Pioneer Christmas," a look at lifestyles of prairie folk in the late 1800's. These special exhibits really drew in the crowds.

The **Houston Arboretum & Nature Center** is planning for their annual Arbor Day Celebration on January 18, which will include giving away trees in cooperation with the City of Houston's NeighborWoods project--5-gallon trees are given away to be planted in city rights-of-way. They are also looking for a weekend naturalist--full-time position. A link to the job announcement can be found on their home page--[www.HoustonNatureCenter.org](http://www.HoustonNatureCenter.org).

**Bob Valen**, Chief of Resources Education at **Big Thicket National Preserve**, Texas has made the move to retire from his 34-year public service career. Bob did not stake out a spot on a couch in front of a T.V. set though; he is now the Director of the **Edison Museum** in Beaumont, Texas. The Edison Museum was recently upgraded with new exhibits and Bob is charged with creating a stronger identity, building a viable school outreach program, and managing a large artifact collection. He hopes to make the museum a strong partner in the growing downtown area of Beaumont.

Well, that's it for this time. Y'all done good! As always, please let me know what's going on at your institution. E-mail is preferable, but a card or letter would be welcome. Hope to see you in Oklahoma! 🇺🇸

# National Association for Interpretation Region VI Mini Grants Application

Name Lisa Cole Phone 972-562-5566 ext. 233  
Agency Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary E-mail lcole@heardmuseum.org

Address One Nature Place

City McKinney State TX Zip 75069

Description of Project:

*see attached*

Benefits of Project:

*see attached*

Dollar Amount Requested *see attached*

Project Timeframe (i.e. amount of time needed to complete project)

*see attached*

Does this project have potential cost-sharing partners? Please provide details.

*see attached*

Submit by mail to: Pat Silovsky  
3115 Hatchery Dr.  
Junction City, KS 66441  
or email to [pats@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:pats@wp.state.ks.us) (electronic form at the NAI Region VI website)  
Call (785) 238-5323 with questions.

Region VI mini-grants program has a total of \$1,000 to award to one or more recipients. The number of awards and the value of each award will be determined by the mini grants committee.

POSTMARK DEADLINE is February 15, 2003



**PUBLICATION INFORMATION**

Articles submitted for publication in Visions should be sent to the editors at:

**Lisa Cole:** Heard Natural Science Museum, One Nature Place, McKinney, TX 75069, (972) 562-5566, fax: (972) 548-9119, Lcole@heardmuseum.org or

**Pam Tooley,** 29 Manor Lane, Lucas, TX 75002, (972) 727-4189, e-mail pmtool@worldnet.att.net

**INFORMATION CAN ALSO BE SENT TO ANY OF THE VISIONS STATE COORDINATORS:**

**Arkansas:** Jay Miller, Arkansas State Parks, Little Rock, AR, 501-682-2187 (work). InterpComm@aol.com

**Kansas:** Schanée Anderson, Sunset Zoo, Manhattan, KS, 785-587-2737, anderson@ci.manhattan.ks.us

**Louisiana:** Kristina Hardwick, Bossier Parish Community College, Shreveport, LA, 318-635-9323, khardwick@earthling.net

**Missouri:** John Miller, Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery Conservation Center, Branson, MO, 417-334-4865, shepherdvc@mdc.state.mo.us

**Oklahoma:** Co-Coordinator: Neil Garrison, Martin Park Nature Center, Oklahoma City, OK, 405-755-0676, atlatlgarrison@hotmail.com  
Stephen Black, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, Cheyenne, OK, 580-497-2742, stephen\_black@nps.gov

**Texas:** Brian Barnette, Dallas Museum of Natural History, Dallas, TX, 214-421-3466 x230, bbarnette@dmnhnet.org

**REGION VI OFFICERS**

**Pat Silovsky, Director:** Milford Nature Center, Junction City, KS, 785-238-5323, milnat@flinthills.com

**Sarah Keating, Treasurer:** Lake Dardanelle State Park, Russellville, AR, 501-967-5516, diamond\_digger@hotmail.com

**Shanna Raeker, Secretary:** August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area, St. Charles, MO, 636-441-4554 x327, raekes@mail.conservation.state.mo.us

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Scholarship:** Kelly Farrell, DeGray Lake Resort State Park, Bismarck, AR, 501-865-2801, Kelly.Farrell@mail.state.ar.us

**Awards:** Cyndi Evans, Prairie State Park, Liberal, MO, 417-843-6711, dspevanc2@mail.dnr.state.mo.us

**Elections:** Don Simons, Mt. Magazine State Park, Paris, AR, 501-963-8502 x203, mutantnnn@hotmail.com

**Membership:** Brian Stith, Missouri State Museum, Jefferson City, MO, 573-751-2854, nrstith@mail.dnr.state.mo.us

**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR INTERPRETATION**

P.O. Box 2246

Fort Collins, CO 80522

Phone: (970) 484-8283 Toll-free @ 888-900-8283

Fax: (970) 484-8179

**Region Six Web Master:**

Craig Johnson, Crater of Diamonds State Park, Murfreesboro, AR 71958, 870-285-3113, craig.johnson@mail.state.ar.us

**DEADLINES FOR VISIONS ARE:**

Spring 2003: February 20

Summer 2003: May 20

Fall 2003: August 20

Winter 2003: November 20

**IN THIS ISSUE**

<b>Lighthouses</b> — — — — —	<b>1</b>
<b>Outgoing Director's Report</b> — — —	<b>2</b>
<b>Director's Report</b> — — — — —	<b>3</b>
<b>Corners of My Mind</b> — — — — —	<b>4</b>
<b>State Reports</b>	
<b>Kansas</b> — — — — —	<b>6</b>
<b>Louisiana</b> — — — — —	<b>7</b>
<b>Missouri</b> — — — — —	<b>8</b>
<b>Oklahoma</b> — — — — —	<b>9</b>
<b>Texas</b> — — — — —	<b>10</b>
<b>Small Grants Application</b> — — — —	<b>11</b>

Visions  
NAI Region VI  
Heard Museum  
One Nature Place  
McKinney, TX 75069