

# Mooselips



Fall 2008, Volume 17, Number 3

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## Sam Ham's Theme is "Themes"

Linda Strand

Sam Ham was the featured speaker at the COSA conference in Estes Park, September 15 – 17. NAI Region 7 sponsored Sam's appearance as a keynote speaker and also his two-hour session. Sam has been continuing his professional passion of looking at themes and their importance to successful interpretation. With due attribution to Tilden, Sam encouraged us to search for strong themes, themes that provoke us to think. The title of Sam's keynote, "The Endgame of Interpretation – Making a Difference by Making Meaning" challenged us to go beyond the presentation of facts, beyond "infotainment" to make a difference by provoking audiences to make their own meaning – create their own themes. This comes from "kick-ass themes" that contain a powerful dose of the "vitamin R" for relevance.

Some of Sam's "take away" messages from the workshop:

"Interpretation is not the same as traditional "instruction". Interpreters who try to "teach" their audiences in the academic sense will not be very successful. And whether visitors can later remember the interpreters' content has little to do with how much they might care about what was interpreted. Caring is what matters to most interpreters."

"Successful interpretation provokes people to think. Their thinking creates meanings in their own minds. These meanings form the basis for whatever degree of caring they are capable of doing."

"The human mind is an amazingly complex repository of all the themes we learn in a lifetime. It is our life-long storehouse of lessons learned, of morals, of conclusions drawn from experiences. Metaphorically, a person's mind is a big bowl of thematic spaghetti. If the new strand of pasta you add to the bowl is highly relevant to the audience, it is easily internalized and integrated with all the rest. That's how themes impact our point of view, and it's how interpretation can make a difference in what audiences think, feel and possibly behave with respect to the thing you are interpreting." -ML

## ELECTIONS – ELECTIONS – ELECTIONS

NOTICE to all Region 7 members. You will be receiving a ballot for the elected officers for Region 7 in October. Please complete and return the ballot according to the attached instructions. The new officers will be announced in Portland at the NIW – Region 7 meeting.

## REMEMBER TO VOTE!

## REGION 7 COMMUNICATION

Communication with Region 7 members was a topic of lengthy conversation at the Estes Park meeting. It will help us let you know what is going on if you will make sure you have selected Region 7 on your membership, and that you have selected the e-mail option. You need to "opt-in" to receive e-mail notices. Its our most efficient, cost effective and GREEN way to reach you.

Thanks and please "OPT-IN" for E-MAIL. -ML

**New Mexico State Parks 75th anniversary!**

To celebrate this historic year, we will be showcasing events at one of the various N.M. parks in each 2008 issue. Be sure to call the number below and visit or go to: <http://www.newmexico.org/index.php> to see the entire schedule!

**October****10/4 CAST for Kids, Elephant Butte Lake State Park, T or C:**

CAST for Kids helps take children out on a boating fishing trip. 505-744-5923

**10/18: Wolf Awareness Day: Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park, Carlsbad.** Special programs and activities about the endangered Mexican Gray Wolf. Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park currently houses six of these beautiful animals. 575-887-5516.

**Oct. 25: Sugarite Canyon State Park, Halloween Trail, Raton**

This event, geared toward kids from 4-10 years of age but open to everyone, features not-so-scary creatures who live in Sugarite Canyon State Park. Kids discover how to keep themselves and wild creatures safe on this hour-long walk around the park Visitor Center. They receive some small take-home activities, and enjoy popcorn and apple cider at trail's end. Suggested donation is \$5 per family to the Friends of Sugarite. Participants must register for assigned start times.

**November****11/11 Veteran's Day, Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park, Angel Fire**

At 11 a.m. on the 11th day of the 11th month, VVMSP holds its annual Veterans Day Ceremony. 505-377-6900

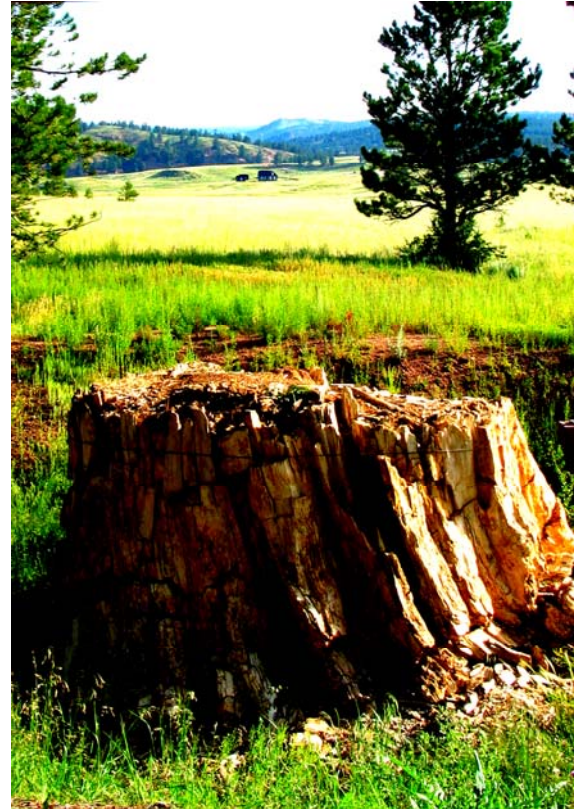
**December****12/13 Holiday Lights, Rockhound State Park, Deming**

1,000 luminarias light the visitor center and native gardens. Make this part of your holiday traditions. Coffee, hot cocoa, cider, Mexican cookies, caroling and conversation are part of the enchantment. 505-546-6182

**12/13 Holiday with the Animals, Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park, Carlsbad:** Kids make holiday cards and treats for their favorite Living Desert animals

**12/20 Christmas on the Chicorica, Sugarite State Park, Raton:** Stroll a candlelit trail, listen to Yuletide tunes and peek at the night sky through the park telescope. Enjoy the angelic glow of more than 2,000 farolitos gracing the Riverwalk Trail that follows Chicorica Creek. Sponsored by the Friends of Sugarite Regular fees are waived in lieu of donations to the Friends group 505-445-5601

*Thanks to Karen Brown for sending us the information!-ML*

**Site description:**

"Here visitors can see the petrified stumps of giant redwood trees - the most visible remains of an ancient ecosystem that existed nearly 35 million years ago. Since the 1870s, paleontologists have collected more than 50,000 fossilized plants, insects, fish and birds, making this one of the richest fossil deposits in the world. The name of this place means "flowering" in French, a testament to the beauty of this grassy mountain valley. Where in the Region are we?"

*Send your guess of this site's name to [p.reimer@comcast.net](mailto:p.reimer@comcast.net)! -ML*

## Reconnecting Children and Nature and Environmental Education: *Two Movements Working Together*

Katie Navin  
Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education

The children and nature movement was the result of a realization that the practice of childhood has changed drastically in the last 50 years as time spent in the outdoors has been dramatically reduced. This change had a cascading effect on healthy childhood development, creative and critical thinking skills, the ability to learn and focus attention, and the environmental sensitivity that creates a potential for environmental stewardship.

With the increase of childhood obesity, health issues, and attention deficit disorder, it is clear that these benefits need to be reclaimed. However, it is not enough just reclaim them – we must also move forward and address the pressing issues of our time. Our world is facing environmental problems and choices daily that were not recognized or present in the past. Research has shown that while time in nature increases the potential for future environmentally responsible behavior, it in no way guarantees it, and often does not actively encourage it. Only by merging the children and nature and environmental education movements can we reclaim lost benefits and move forward with all that we have learned in the last 50 years.

Louise Chawla, an environmental psychologist from the University of Colorado, found that among environmental leaders, the factors that were most frequently cited in influencing their commitment were (1) many hours spent outdoors in childhood and (2) an adult who taught them respect for nature. Richard Louv writes in *Last Child in the Woods*, that parents, guardians and family members cannot re-establish the child-nature connection on their own. With the decrease in discretionary time and income they need the help of educators, city planners, youth-nature program leaders, and environmentalists. Melding these two movements, reclaiming the child-nature connection, and preparing children to face the environmental issues of today and tomorrow will require increased access to both nature and environmental education. This can be accomplished through:

- A comprehensive analysis of the availability of (and ability to travel to) nature and educational programs with strategic placement of new access in areas that currently lack these resources.
- Access to nature on school property for use during the school day and outside of school hours by families, to encourage teachers to become one of the many adults in a child's life that sets the example for respect for nature and the environment both inside and outside the school building and allows parents to take advantage of a local nature resource.
- Training for teachers on how to implement environmental education on school grounds and nearby natural areas with an emphasis on empowering learners to be stewards of the natural areas they play and learn in.

- Currently existing natural areas, parks and other access points to nature need to be accessible by public transportation, foot, or bike.
- Environmental education providers need to develop programming with an emphasis on **sustained and long term relationships** with learners to ensure that learners without parents or families who understand the importance of nature experiences still have access to adults who can help them develop respect for nature.
- Environmental education providers in public areas need to develop programming with an emphasis on local and neighborhood participation that encourages families and learners to return to the area on a regular basis and empowers them to be stewards for the nature they visit and the natural resources they use at home.

Frequent, positive experiences in the outdoors (both unstructured and educational) will not only reclaim the health and learning benefits of nature but it will help develop stewards and lay the foundation for active responsible citizens who are prepared to face and make decisions about the environmental problems and issues of both today and the future. -ML

### It's HOT!!! How Nature Beats the Heat Joy Thompson Naturalist, City of Aurora Parks and Open Space Department

It's hot!

The dog days of summer are here, and on the eastern plains of the Denver Metro area the heat has kicked in. Day after day a merciless sun beats down from endless blue sky. Outdoor enthusiasts who praised the sun in June have retreated indoors to follow cooler pursuits as the August & September heat hits its peak. As one looks over the landscape, heat waves distort the vision. Throughout Aurora people have closed the windows and turned up the air conditioning, waiting anxiously for evening to arrive and a cool breeze to pick up. As we fan ourselves and drink cool lemonade, those of us who work and spend time in the natural world are prone to thinking, how does Mother Nature handle this extreme heat?

Good news! As with everything, Mother Nature has given her creatures the right tools to handle any situation, and hot temperatures are no different. Whether they take it lying down, sitting up, or disappearing altogether, the wild world of Aurora is ready to take on the heat!

#### Aestivate

What better way is there to beat the heat than to take a nap...a really long nap! Aestivation, or "summer sleep," is the summertime answer to hibernation. Animals such as turtles and salamanders take time off and sleep away the summer, experiencing many of the same physiological changes (decreased heart rate, breathing, etc.) that hibernating animals go through in the winter. As the cooler temperatures of fall approach, we can expect to see some of these residents again.

**Burrow**

It's a scientific fact that heat rises; fortunately, nature has the answer to this problem: If it's hot up above, get lower! Studies show that the interior of a prairie dog burrow can be as much as 30 degrees cooler than the surface temperature in the sun. Prairie dogs, pocket gophers and rattlesnakes all know that when the going gets tough, the tough go underground!

**Find some loose cottonwood bark**

As the afternoon heats up, many smaller animals find shelter under the loose bark of a cottonwood tree. Small birds, lizards and spiders take advantage of the cooler temperatures, and they'll tell you that the all-you-can-eat insect buffet isn't bad, either!

**Wear a light color**

Although black is very fashionable, it is most certainly NOT functional in the summer! Animals that stay active throughout summer days usually have lighter colored fur, feathers, skin and scales. Check out the pelage on animals such as kingbirds, cottontail rabbits and ground squirrels!

**Get into some water**

Ask your kids, even they'll tell you the best way to stay cool is to get wet! Wildlife use local ponds, streams and wetlands to stay cool. Look for frogs, painted turtles and ducks staying wet and cool!

**Come out at night**

When days get too hot, a little change in schedule is never out of the question, and many animals lie low during the day and make the most of evening and early morning hours. Snakes, some birds and many mammals, such as deer and coyotes, become more active in cooler evening hours.

**De-insulate**

Getting rid of excess fur, feathers and fat for the warm season can make a big difference between a comfortable summer and a miserable one. Deer lose thick, grey winter coats and replace them with lighter, red ones, and prairie dogs can lose up to 30% of their excess body weight.

**Find some shade**

Everyone knows just how lovely a patch of shade can be on a hot trail, and wildlife is no exception. Deer lay in cottonwood thickets, and cicadas buzz from underneath tree leaves. Even squirrels take a rest from their incessant seed search to chill on a shady branch!

**Install a swamp cooler**

Nothing quite like a built in swamp cooler to cool things down! Ask a jackrabbit or mule deer; their large ears are perfect for dissipating heat and sending it right out of their bodies!

**And, when all else fails, pee on your legs!**

You read that right! Turkey vultures do not possess counter current cooling mechanisms, as do most other birds, so when they get hot, a little dribble does the trick. Guess I'm glad I'm not a vulture!

So, when the heat starts getting you down, try a tried-and-true technique developed by nature herself... and be grateful that fall is just around the corner! -ML

## How A Case of Mistaken Dinosaur Identity

### Became the Story of A Brand New Dinosaur

by Melissa Walker  
Coordinator

North Cheyenne Cañon Park  
Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

*"Fossils are windows into past worlds. They tell us*

*stories that would otherwise go untold."*

Kirk Johnson, PhD

Denver Museum of Nature & Science

### Dinosaur Fossil Discovered, then Forgotten

In 1878, Professor James H. Kerr of Colorado College discovered a dinosaur skull "in one of the ridges east of the red rocks of the Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs, Colorado." A few years later, the famous dinosaur collector O.C. Marsh obtained the fossil skull, identified it as a *Camptosaurus* dinosaur, and shipped it to the Yale Museum in New Haven, Connecticut.

Then, somehow over the decades, knowledge of the 1878 dinosaur discovery became lost to the Colorado Springs community. While the dinosaur fossil safely rested in the Yale Museum, it was forgotten about locally - until 1995.

### Rediscovery - 117 years later

In 1995, Lenore Fleck and I (then City Park Interpreters at Garden of the Gods) were researching and writing many of the new exhibits for the Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center (then under construction) and were trying to find out what kind of dinosaurs may have lived in this area. Interviews with local geologists and perusal of local geology materials did not lead us to any information of a dinosaur fossil ever being found within the Garden of the Gods.

However, when Lenore and I contacted expert paleontologists Kirk Johnson and Ken Carpenter at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Ken Carpenter completely surprised us when he said, "I think I have an article in my files about a dinosaur fossil that was found in Garden of the Gods. If I find it, I'll send it to you."

Luckily, he found it! The article was written in 1891 and stated: *Camptosaurus amplius No. 1887, Yale Museum, consisting of portions of the skull and lower jaw. It was collected...from deposits in the Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs, Colorado. With this specimen was found the following note in Professor O.C. Marsh's handwriting "Part of this animal and various Sauropoda bones were taken out by Professor Kerr in 1878."*

This unexpected news set into motion an exciting chain of events. By taxi, subway and jet, Kirk Johnson hand-carried the dinosaur fossil from Yale to Denver so that Ken Carpenter could study the ancient dinosaur skull and make a cast (precise replica) of it. In 1997, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science gave a cast of the Camptosaurus skull to the City of Colorado Springs to be exhibited in the Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center. It was a rare gift, with an ancient and a modern story... but its surprise ending was yet to come.

### **A Case of Mistaken Identity Realized and a Brand New Dinosaur Species Revealed!**

When Ken Carpenter was making the cast of the Camptosaurus fossil in 1997, he noticed several irregularities in the skull's structure and decided to re-examine the fossil when his schedule permitted. Finally in 2006, Dr. Carpenter and his associate Kathleen Brill completed a thorough re-assessment of the Camptosaurus skull and noted that it differed from other Camptosaurus skulls in several significant ways, such as the narrower snout and mouth, the position of the nasal openings and the bony structures over the eyes.

Also, Dr. Carpenter made microscopic comparisons of the rock matrix clinging on the fossil to the rock formations in the park where the fossil was most likely found. He also researched archival maps and field notes. Dr. Carpenter's new investigations revealed that the fossil skull was actually found in the lower part of the Dakota Rock Formation, and not the Morrison Formation as originally thought. Therefore, the skull was from a dinosaur that lived during the Cretaceous Era, and couldn't be a Jurassic Era Camptosaurus.

**Dr. Carpenter determined that he was looking at a brand new species of dinosaur - the only one known to exist in the world!**

**Dr. Carpenter named the new species *Theiophytalia kerri*, which means "belonging to the Garden of the Gods" and for James H. Kerr, who first discovered it 130 years ago.**

On May 24, 2008, a new exhibit about our *Theiophytalia kerri* fossil was unveiled at the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center. The ancient fossil is our newest "window into past worlds."

***The Garden of the Gods Visitor Center and City Park Staff acknowledge and thank paleontologists Ken Carpenter, PhD, and Kirk Johnson, PhD, of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science for their expertise and generous assistance. Without them, the story of our dinosaur fossil would have remained untold.*** -ML

### **Region 7 – Business Meeting Monday, September 15, 2008 Estes Park, Colorado**

#### **AGENDA/Minutes**

The business meeting was attended by 13 members of NAI Region 7.

1. Minutes from Wichita NIW Meeting  
The minutes from the Wichita meeting as published in Mooselips were reviewed by the group.
2. Re-cap of year  
Updated Website – The Region 7 website was rebuilt and updated as discussed in Wichita.  
Renovated traveling tabletop display – The Region 7 traveling tabletop display was located and re-worked for display at the COSA Estes Park Meeting. We did not reserve a table space at the Portland Conference although it was discussed and the group felt we should do that at future NIW's even if it is not staffed.
3. Scholarships  
NIW Portland (3 - \$200 scholarships to be awarded.) Mary Ann Bonnell reported that the applications have been received for the scholarships and she will be forwarding the applications and scoring sheet to the evaluation committee for decision in the next week or so.
4. Workshops  
Front Line Graphics with Paul Caputo – Region 7 sponsored the Front Line Graphics workshop in May. The workshop was attended by 14 people.  
Estes Park/COSA Conference – Region 7 co-sponsored Sam Ham at the September conference in Estes Park. These minutes are from the business meeting associated with that conference.
5. Newsletter -  
Mooselips - 4 editions will be delivered in 2008. (Copy due date is 9/16 for Sept. edition.)  
NAI NOW - Information has been submitted to NAI NOW on monthly basis

Treasurer's Report - balance at Wichita was \$23,577.52  
Legacy Trust Fund – (-\$1500.00)  
Front Line Workshop - \$183.00  
Sam Ham Sponsorship – (-\$900.00)  
NIW Portland Scholarships – (-\$600.00)  
Regional Leadership Fund - \$400.00  
Newsletter Revenue –  
Newsletter Expenses  
Balance as of 9/15/08 – (unavailable at time of meeting)

6. Elections  
Karin Hostetter and Linda Strand emphasized the importance of coming up with nominees for the elected positions. Ken Soderberg has agreed to run again for Secretary. Bonnie Jakubos has said she will run for Treasurer in absence of other candidates. Karin has declined from running again for Region Director but is willing to serve as Treasurer. Linda has agreed to run for Director, leaving the Deputy Director position open for nomination. The primary job for the Deputy is a workshop. The primary focus of the discussions at the meeting was communication. Many people are not receiving the e-mails and tend to not read newsletters stating they are unaware of Region news, issues and events. A group was convened to work specifically on communicating with the Region 7 members, encouraging them to join the e-mail network as the primary means of communication. The group will be meeting to improve communications.

Concern was raised regarding the cost for NAI conferences and training opportunities with the emphasis on either providing full cost scholarships for NAI nation events or holding less expensive and more accessible regional events.

Minutes taken by Linda Strand. -ML



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**DO YOU LIVE IN UTAH or NEW MEXICO?**

Join the Region 7 Officers  
as the Utah or New Mexico State  
Representative

e-mail Karin Hostetter at: [interpret\\_this@hotmail.com](mailto:interpret_this@hotmail.com)

**REGION 7 – MARK YOUR CALENDARS and VOLUNTEER**

**Region 7 Newsletter Articles Due**

December 1

Send copy to [p.reimer@comcast.net](mailto:p.reimer@comcast.net)

**Region 7 Officer Elections**

Ballots sent to Region members in October

**YOUR VOTE COUNTS!**

**2008 NAI National Workshop**

November 11-15

Portland, Oregon

<http://www.interpnet.com/workshop/>

**NAI - REGION 7 – NEEDED!**

Utah State Representative

New Mexico State Representative

**Region 7 Newsletter Deadlines**

March 1

June 1

September 1

December 1