



Region 9 of the National Association for Interpretation
Northern Nevada, Northern California, Hawaii and Guam

Summer 2010

**Now Accepting Applications: Sky Rangers Outdoor
Astronomy Interpretation Workshop
Yosemite National Park
October 7 – 11, 2010**

This four-day workshop in beautiful Yosemite National Park will cover hands-on astronomy activities for outdoor settings, sky navigation and telescope operation. Participants will receive ten hours of hands-on telescope experience (weather permitting), learn about the science behind the various astronomical objects viewed through the telescopes, hear from experienced rangers on how to organize astronomy events and interpret the sky for visitors and develop their own observing lists and constellation tours.

The workshop is intended for beginners in astronomy, but will also appeal to those with more experience. Participants will receive a free toolkit of materials for outdoor astronomy activities, participate in short, online follow-up sessions that cover seasonal skies and become members of the *Astronomy from the Ground Up* online community of over 600 informal astronomy educators and interpreters around the U.S.

There is no workshop or materials fee, and lodging and some meals will be provided. Participants are responsible for transportation to the workshop site.

Applications are due by June 30, and can be submitted online; go to www.afguonline.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=1857.

Sky Rangers workshops and materials are developed and delivered by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP), in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS), the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) and the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC). This material is based upon work supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under Grant/Contract/Agreement No. NNX09AD48G issued through the Science Mission Directorate.

Scenic Byways Challenge

I'm throwing down the driving gloves to all those who want to start bagging scenic byways (ooh, how's that for mixed metaphors?!). Come tour Kings Canyon Scenic Byway on Thursday July 8, 2010. At 9 a.m. we will meet at the steam donkey in front of the Hume Lake Ranger Station (35860 Kings Canyon Road in Dunlap, CA). This byway is not for the vertigo-prone, as we'll ascend from 2000 to 6000 feet elevation between the start and Grant Grove village, and then descend on cliff-hugging curves into the river and glacially-carved Kings Canyon.

You can see Giant Sequoias, unique rock formations, wildlife, tour Boyden Cavern, hike Zumwaldt Meadow and even stand at a vista point where you can see from 1000 feet up to 13,000 feet elevation.

Please RSVP to Marianne Emmendorfer, R9 Treasurer (559-338-2251, ext313 or mmemmendorfer@fs.fed.us) by July 1.

p.s. There are places to camp on the Forest, or—if you can stand teens, dogs and cats—a few of you could camp in my yard or on a couch...*Marianne*

News from the California National Historic Trail Interpretive Center

The California National Historic Trail Interpretive Center (BLM) in Elko, NV, is gearing up to open its doors to the public for its first summer season at the end of May 2010. Although the exhibits in the Trail Center are not yet complete, staff will offer tours of the facility and walking trails, and the trail center will host a series of contra dances and talks about California Trail history throughout the summer. The seventh annual "Trail Days" event at the end of May will kick off the summer with two days of living history interpretation, an emigrant wagon camp, historical presentations, Chautauqua and activities for all ages.

For more information about Trail Days, visit www.elkotraildays.com, and to receive the California Trail Center newsletter, contact David Low at DAVDLOW@gmail.com or David_Low@blm.gov.

Westwinds is published four times a year by Region 9 of the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). All members of NAI in Northern Nevada, Northern California, Hawaii and Guam receive this newsletter as part of their membership.

Please send all changes of address to the National Office:

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Region 9 Treasurer's Update

Not much has changed from the balance reported in the last issue of *Westwinds* (approximately \$21,000 in our account).

Everyone should have received their reimbursements for the regional workshop that was cancelled. If you haven't, please let me know as soon as possible so we can get that taken care of.

Respectfully submitted by Marianne Emmendorfer, R9 Treasurer

Region 9 Scholarship Updates

Sara Howlett, Scholarship Chair

Hello again, Region 9! I was sad to see the Ely, NV, Spring Workshop get cancelled, but don't forget about the National Workshop this November in Las Vegas! We will be offering two scholarships for this workshop up to \$1000 each. These scholarships are available to cover registration fees, hotel costs and transportation to the workshop. Applications will be on the Region 9 website by the first week of June and will also go out as an email to Region 9 members when the application becomes available.

Remember, scholarships are not just for students! Any member can apply for this scholarship as long as they can express a financial need. Our goal is to increase the availability of conferences and workshops to our regional members. If you have any scholarship questions, please feel free to contact me (showlett@parks.ca.gov).

Also be on the lookout for our new scholarship application coming soon to cover full or partial registration for an NAI Certification training course. This scholarship will be available starting with next year's training calendar.

I hope to see you all at our *Interpretation Oasis* in Las Vegas!

A Note from our Student Chair

Nicole Gange, CSU Humboldt

Two years ago, I was sitting in a cubicle with a nice job. I thought I had my career and future figured out. Now I'm 22 and a student majoring in Natural Resource Planning and Interpretation at Humboldt State. I did not ever see myself where I am today, but I couldn't be happier.

Last year, I went to the Spring Workshop that Region 9 held and it confirmed the fact that I want to be an interpreter after I graduate this upcoming December. Since that workshop, I've been more motivated than ever to encourage and inspire college students to get more involved with NAI. I tell them that every encounter I have had with a member of NAI is like talking to someone I've known for years. NAI is so welcoming and like a big family. I feel very fortunate to have figured out how I would like to spend my future at such a young age. Not only for my NAI experiences, but I've also met some incredible people who have had so much to share and have helped me grow as an interpreter and as an individual.

Since these experiences with NAI, I've taken the things I've learned back to the classroom and to the Redwood Chapter of Interpreters, a student-run chapter of NAI on the Humboldt campus. This has gotten other students motivated and interested in NAI. We are working towards getting to know more members within the Region, and we hope to meet many of you at upcoming workshops and conferences.

My Interpretation classmates are amazing, and I know that when the time comes, our generation will step up and inspire the public like so many before us. Thank you to everyone who takes the time to say "Hello" and plant the seed of inspiration in a student. The conversations you have with us are greatly appreciated and more of an encouragement than you may realize.

Asking the Right Questions

Speaking Tip # 61 by Ethan Rotman

Imagine this scenario:

You have agreed to make a presentation at a staff meeting. You take time to outline your talk, prepare your handouts and create effective visual aids. You practice. You confidently walk into the room wearing jeans and a button-down, expecting to see a table with 6-8 people. As you enter the room, though, you find there are close to 80 people sitting in an auditorium. They are dressed in business attire. There is a lectern on the podium with a microphone and a large screen behind. The paradigm of your presentation suddenly changed. It requires different preparations, more handouts and an entirely different presentation strategy. In an instant, you go from feeling confident and prepared to scared.

Your mind flashes back to when you were invited to speak. You wonder what you were told, what you heard, and suddenly wish you had asked a lot more questions.

The very first part of preparing for a presentation is to define the parameters.

Think about how the situation described above could have been different if the following questions were asked:

- How many people will I be addressing?
- How will the room be set up?
- Who will be in the audience and what is their background?
- What do you hope to accomplish by having me present to your group?
- Is the audience a group of strangers or do they know each other?
- What other speakers are on the agenda and when will I speak in relation to them?
- What type of AV equipment and software do you have?
- Will there be technical assistance available?
- What is the appropriate dress for this occasion?

Some additional questions that may be of help include:

- Will alcohol be served? (This is to gauge the audience, not for you to drink!)
- What is an emergency number I can call the day of the talk in case I have a problem?

Don't assume you understand the parameters of a presentation. Make sure you ask the right questions. Find out as much about the situation as possible before you begin preparing. The more you know about what to expect, the better prepared you will be. Your confidence and credibility will soar.

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Sharing Nature with High school Students

By Greg Traymar

This year I've been teaching a class at Ananda's Living Wisdom Highschool entitled, "Sharing Nature Leadership Training." The [Sharing Nature with Children](#) book series was written by Ananda Village member Joseph (Bharat) Cornell and is used in virtually every part of the world. Joseph wrote the Sharing Nature activities to give inspiring nature experiences and to bring participants (both young and old) to a place of stillness within themselves. For as Henry David Thoreau said, "one cannot perceive beauty but with a serene mind."

The most challenging and ultimately most rewarding part of working with these students is learning how to work with their energy and enthusiasm, or lack thereof. No matter how well prepared I am going into a class, I almost always have to tweak or sometimes even completely let go of my personal goals and work with their level of energy at the moment.

To help in this process I use a technique developed by Joseph Cornell called Flow Learning™ Flow Learning is a technique of working with energy to calm the mind so learning can take place much more effectively and peace be felt much more deeply. It has four stages:

1. Awaken Enthusiasm
2. Focus Attention
3. Experience Directly
4. Share Inspiration

Let me demonstrate the process of Flow Learning:

1. Flow Learning first starts with a lively activity to awaken their energy and enthusiasm by having fun. In this activity, "Animals! Animals!" the girls act out a Dragon Fly (see picture).



2. Next you take that newly awakened energy and bring it to a calm focus. In one such activity, "Duplication," students are given 15 seconds to memorize natural objects before they are covered up. They then go and search for those objects.

3. Now that their energy is focused and their mind is calm, it is easier for them to experience nature deeply.

4. Finally the students gather to share their experiences. Sharing helps to extract meaning more immediately from an experience.

So far the boys and girls have had a wonderful time working with and teaching Sharing Nature activities. They've taught to mostly all of the younger students at Living Wisdom School and the girls recently got back from their trip to Hawaii where they taught a class of 7th graders. In May we will be Traveling to Ashland, Portland and Seattle to do a series of workshops and next year we will be taking Sharing Nature into the schools in Nevada County. Maybe you'd like us to lead your family or group in Sharing Nature activities? You'll be sure to have a joyful time!

Collaboration Across the Border

By Amber Neilson, Sequoia Park Zoo Education Coordinator, Eureka, CA

This past year, Fisheries and Oceans Canada contributed resources to the Sequoia Park Zoo's *Everything Travels Downstream* exhibit, which was provided by the California Coastal Commission's Whale Tail grant program. The *Everything Travels Downstream* exhibit is comprised of three interpretive stations.

The first exhibit, *Salmonids in Our Streams*, helps the visitor learn about the different species of trout and salmon that live in and depend on Humboldt Bay's freshwater and oceanic systems. As most readers are aware, all four of the fish species featured in this exhibit begin their lives in freshwater, travel to saltwater to spend their adulthood, and return to their freshwater stream of birth to lay their eggs. It is a heroic journey for these fish that depend on our local community to keep our freshwater streams healthy and pollution free. At this exhibit, visitors can identify the four species by looking at the clues on the sign and matching them to the giant salmon panels "floating" above. Answers are found underneath the flapping door.

The second exhibit includes a hands-on microscope station where visitors explore both the microscopic and macroscopic organisms that live in our local freshwater streams. The microscope consists of 5 slides representing plants and animals that make the basis for our freshwater stream food chains, on which salmon depend. Next to the microscope, we have a hand lens station with insect larva, which are also found in our streams and, in turn, depend on the microscopic organisms as food sources. Finally, we also have a hand lens station that enables the visitor to explore the early stages of a Coho salmon's life that depends on both the micro- and macroscopic life that lives in streams in our backyards.

Finally, our third sign, "Everything Travels Downstream", depicts *Super Salmon's* journey down a polluted stream. *Super Salmon* is our icon who educates people about the ways we can support healthy salmon populations by being a "Salmon Saver". The artist for this sign is local favorite Gary Bloomfield. We have also created temporary tattoos of *Super Salmon* for on-going promotion of this campaign. These tattoos are available, for free, right next to the sign.

The success of this project was due to a collaboration of scientists, artists, educators and community members. Thank you to the *California Coastal Commission Whale Tail grant* and *Fisheries and Oceans Canada* for contributing to this amazing exhibit.



(For more pictures of this exhibit, check out the Region 9 website!)

**Deadlines for submission to the next issue
of
Westwinds:
August 1st!**

Please send all materials you would like to share with your fellow Region 9
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