

Chesapeake Chat

FALL 2015

Director's Note

Autumn seems to be here early this year. Usually the leaves are not so glorious in mid-October in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and we often don't see this kind of color until Halloween. Maybe this year nature's palette will stretch on and on, as it does sometimes. Perhaps there will even be a few reds and oranges left on the trees when we descend on Virginia Beach in a few short weeks.

I hope to have the pleasure of seeing many of you at the national conference in our Tidewater area. Nothing can quite compare to the networking, sessions for sharpening our interpretive skills, and just having a great time together! Our national staff in Colorado along with the stellar planning committee, headed by Chair Angela Yau, have worked tirelessly to bring us the best professional development opportunity around.

See you on the Beach!

Linda Bailey
Director - Chesapeake Region 2

Region 2 Leadership: Executive Committee

- **Director**
Linda Bailey
Nature Education Coordinator
Fredericksburg Parks & Recreation
(540) 372-1086 ext. 213
lbailey@fredericksburgva.gov
- **Deputy Director**
Yvonne Johnson
Manager
Frying Pan Farm Park
(703) 473-9101
Yvonne.Johnson@fairfaxcounty.gov
- **Secretary**
Ned Reddop
The Design Minds, Inc.
(703) 246-9241
ned@thedesigminds.com
- **Treasurer**
Tania Gale
Naturalist
Battle Creek Nature Center
(410) 535-5327
galete@co.cal.md.us

Introducing Patricia Dietly

Region 2's New Membership Chair.

Patricia moved with her husband, David, from Erie, Pennsylvania to McLean, Virginia in 2008 for him to expand a career and for her to change one. Her experience as a Field Biologist and Senior Manager for environmental projects was based on a strong background in biology and botany (native plants in particular). Certified in Secondary Science (PA) and with five years as Education Specialist at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens (Vienna, VA), Patricia is a strong advocate for NAI. As Region 2 Membership Chair, she hopes to extend the support of our organization to others who share common interests and goals.



Region 2 Leadership continued

Committee Chairs

• Awards Chair

Dodie Lewis
Assistant Manager
Claude Moore Park
(571) 258-3704

• Membership Chair

Patricia Dietly
Green Spring Gardens
Alexandria, Virginia
(703) 624-0128
patricia.dietly@fairfaxcounty.gov

• Scholarship Chair

Parker McMullen-Bushman
Adult & Family Education Coordinator
Chincoteague Bay Field Station
(757) 824-5636
parker@cbfieldstation.org

Media

• Region 2 Webmaster

Parker McMullen-Bushman
(757) 824-5636
parker@cbfieldstation.org

• Newsletter Editor

Cynthia Rabbers
(814) 360-0763

Chapter Representatives

• Beltway Chapter Co-Chairs

Mona Enquist-Johnston
Retired Manager
Fairfax County Park Authority
mogar@cox.net

Alonso Abugattas
Natural Resources Manager
Long Branch Nature Center
AAbugattas@arlingtonva.us



Tidewater

Where stories ebb and flow

NAI 2015 *Virginia Beach*

Facilitated Dialogue

Teaser

During this 2 hour session and the day-long field study, dialogue and discussion will take place describing the personal challenges with interpreting our shared heritage and reaching out to new and diverse audiences. Come prepared to brainstorm, think deeply and build new interpretive experiences for the audiences of tomorrow.

Kimble Talley.

Facilitated Dialogue 101

Participants are introduced to the basics of facilitated dialogue by going through at least two different programs. This session will break down the different parts of facilitated dialogue by modeling different techniques and answering participant questions.

Friday November 13, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Interpreting the African American Experience Through Facilitated Dialogue.

This day-long field study will allow participants the opportunity to build their skills in facilitated dialogue and explore how this cutting edge interpretive technique can help bring power to interpreting the African American experience. The session will start with an one-hour facilitated dialogue primer, including an example program and helpful tools for the budding facilitators. The group will travel to sites that hold power for the African American experience and work collectively to examine how facilitated dialogue might "look and feel" within those resources. Workshopping facilitated experiences with peers is a crucial step to success for facilitators, and the model used during this day-long experience will transfer easily to participants' home park or site.

Offsite Session: Saturday November 14, 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Working with Scout Audiences.

Come and learn about the scout audience their motivations, limitations and opportunities from a naturalist who has also been a leader in two different scout organizations. This session will cover information to help you create effective scout programming at natural and cultural heritage sites. Instruction will cover understanding the different types of scout i.e. how they are similar and different and how to advertise to them. With recent complete rewrite of the Cub scout program in June of 2015, and recent growth of Faith based scouting groups it is important to know your resources and keep up with program changes as they don't just effect the topic you cover but also the logistics of your programs.

Wednesday November 11, 10:00-11:00 a.m.



Region 2 Leadership continued

State Representatives

- **Delaware**

Vacant

- **Maryland**

Amy Stahler Henry
Conservation Education Specialist
Maryland DNR
(410) 260-8828
ahenry@dnr.state.md.us

- **New Jersey**

Vacant

- **Pennsylvania**

Christopher Kemmerer
DCNR-Bureau of State Parks
(717) 425-5330
chkemmerer@pa.gov

- **Virginia**

Catie Drew
Education Coordinator
DEA Museum & Visitors Center
(202) 353-1362
catie.drew@deamuseum.org

- **Washington DC**

Vacant

- **West Virginia**

Vacant

To volunteer for a vacant position contact

Linda Bailey

(lbailey@fredericksburgva.gov)

Basket Drawing at National Conference - Items Still Needed???

We will be having a fundraiser at our Region 2 Booth at Virginia Beach. We'll have three baskets filled with goodies which you may purchase tickets for a chance to win! We have a ton of items promised for our "History" and "Wine and Picnic Basket," however we still need a number of items for our "Seaside Basket," These could include the following:

- Anything Crab related: mugs, stationery, Old Bay, dish towels, etc.

- Beach Ball, Kite
- A Basket for all of

the goodies!

Use your imagination and let Linda Bailey know what you plan to donate:

lbailey@fredericksburgva.gov.

Thank you!



Saving Lives and Providing a Guiding Light!

The United States Life-Saving Service was formed in 1871 and by 1889 there were 265 life-saving stations across the US.

A keeper and a crew of surfmen, patrolled the beach, maintained watch for distressed vessels, and operated each life-saving station. The Old Coast Guard Museum is housed in one of the five stations that were located on this coast. We will meet museum director, Kathryn Fisher, who will enlighten us about lifesaving techniques, notable Virginia Beach shipwrecks, and heroic tales of surfmen to the rescue. The visit will include a "behind the scenes" look at developing their Shipwrecks & Ghost Lore program – an "edutainment" history- sharing program.

From there our group will travel to Cape Henry Lighthouse, another maritime fixture of Virginia Beach. The original lighthouse, dating from 1792, was the first light authorized by the U.S. government.

Following a lightning strike that caused large cracks in it, a new, taller, lighthouse was constructed nearby in 1881 but the older one left in place. The operational lighthouse was fully automated in 1983 and remains in use today.

We will learn the fascinating history of this light and enjoy a fine view from its observation platform. Because the lighthouses are located within the boundaries of a Navy base, off-site participants will need to bring personal IDs to enter the facility.

Offsite Session: Saturday November 14, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Where in the Region?

This month's featured site is the Elk Country Visitor Center in Benazette, PA.

The Elk Country Visitor Center is located in the heart of the PA Wilds Region of Pennsylvania and is committed to sustaining Pennsylvania's majestic elk habitat, as part of the overall preservation and enhancement of our state's natural resources.

Photo courtesy of Chris Kemmerer

Book Review:

Sharing Nature by Joseph Cornell A Treasure for All Ages

Reviewed by Linda Bailey

One of the first nature activities I ever got a group of kids to participate in was "Meet a Tree." Many of us have used this experience where children lead blindfolded partners tripping over logs and limbs to touch an unseen tree trunk. While very engaging, it builds sensory awareness and is just plain fun. In his book *Sharing Nature With Children*, activity creator Joseph Cornell includes "Meet a Tree" in his collection of activities designed to "Offer Direct Experience."

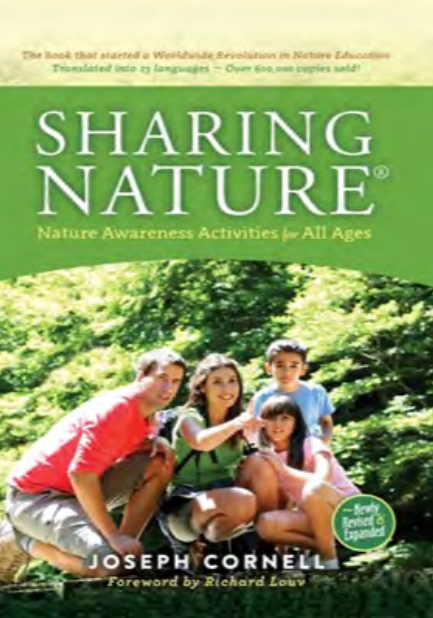
Little did I know back in 1987 that this activity was part of a unique teaching system called Flow Learning which Cornell states "engages both the mind and the heart." This system was brought to vivid life in his book outlining dozens of games and activities, many of which became classics in nature education. Since first published in 1979, Cornell has tweaked and added to these activities, offering us a revised 35th Anniversary edition, *Sharing Nature: Nature Awareness Activities for All Ages*.

Many of us in Region 2 had the pleasure of meeting Joseph Cornell in 2010 at Cacapon Resort State Park near Berkley Springs, West Virginia, where he was a guest at our fall workshop. In a one-day pre-workshop, Cornell gently guided our small group through Flow Learning, taking us through the process outlined in *Sharing Nature*. The first step, *Awaken Enthusiasm*, hopes to reawaken childlike joy and camaraderie and includes many games I have used over the years. Our group of twenty-five adults had a raucous time simulating a giant tree cross-section in "Build a Tree," a go-to activity I have used dozens of times. Every participant has a role to play from taproot to outer bark, with associated movements or noises. Once everyone's part is established, the tree is put into motion. It is quite a scene and most definitely awakens more than enthusiasm!

The second step to Flow Learning, *Focus Attention*, has activities designed to help us become keener observers of nature. The activity our group enjoyed at Cacapon was "How Close," which had us blindfolded once again, this time pacing off long distances on a field. Thankfully we had a sighted partner at our side! The idea was to see how challenging it was to walk in a straight line and hit a target with just the senses of hearing, touch, and smell to guide us. This was a fascinating experience and one I later tried with a group of teenagers, who were also enthralled.

Becoming fully immersed in the natural world is the aim of Flow Learning's third step, where activities like "Meet a Tree" come into play. The final step, *Share Inspiration*, is designed to encourage a celebration of shared experiences through song, story, and art. I particularly enjoy the "Folding Poem" which I use each year in my Interpretation talk with our Virginia Master Naturalist chapter. The first person in a small group writes one line of an inspirational poem and passes it along. The second person writes a second line, then folds the paper so that only his or her line can be seen as passes it along. So on down the line until a poem is created. Some of the creations are quite astounding!

If you're not familiar with *Sharing Nature*, get a copy today and begin to incorporate these phenomenal activities into your nature education repertoire. If you know this little gem, you'll want to read it again for the gentle guidance and incredible insight it offers. And if you're like me, you'll realize there are many games, old and new, you have never tried. Designed to be an engaging read, it is expertly laid out to be easy to use on the fly and is small enough to stash in a day pack and whip out when you need just the right connection with kids of every age. Like its author, this book is a treasure!



Calendar of Events

NAI National Workshop

November 10-14

Virginia Beach, VA

NAI Region 2 Workshop

Fall 2016

TBA

BELTWAY GANG

December 8, 2015

DEA Museum

See more info on last page



Photo courtesy of Brian Balik

Trail cameras have been an important tool in wildlife research and surveys. At the October 2015 Beltway Chapter session, Brian Balik, naturalist and avid camera-trapper, shared his experiences with using trail cameras to confirm the presence of animals. Deer, bears, foxes, coyotes, and many more animals have been confirmed in this way, without having to touch or disturb a single animal. Brian also discussed his use of trail cameras as a tool for interpretive programs.



Photo courtesy of Brian Balik

Beltway Chapter Session

Impacting the Future with Interpretation

Tuesday, December 8 from 10:15am to 12:15pm

Drug Enforcement Administration Museum and Visitors Center, Arlington, VA

If you work at a nature center or historic site, you may wonder what you have in common with the DEA Museum and Visitor Center. Although the focus of the sites may differ, the common factor is interpretation. Delve into the processes used to create this unique site's exhibits, displays and interactive stations with Catie Drew, Education Coordinator at the DEA Museum and Visitors Center. Degrees in Environmental Biology and Museum Education plus interpretive skills, have enabled Catie to fill positions with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, the National Park Service and the DEA Museum.

Catie, interpreter extraordinaire and 25+ year veteran in the field, will give a brief tour of the museum's exhibits. She'll highlight the process used at her museum to create new exhibits and renovate others. You'll learn about their exhibit planning process plus find out how they handle obstacles. Catie says one of the pleasures of working at a small museum is you get to do everything. You'll find out how all staffers are engaged with exhibits from idea sharing, to planning, design and writing. Bring your questions about exhibits, the museum and Catie's fascinating career path.

Meet at the museum entrance on Hayes Street (across Hayes Street from Macy's). Allow time for the security check in the lobby. To register for this free session, please contact Mona Enquist-Johnston, Beltway Chapter Co-Chair, at mogar@cox.net

After the session, stay to further explore the site's exhibits or walk across the street to the Pentagon Memorial. Lunch options are available at the Pentagon City Mall.

The DEA Museum and Visitors Center is located at 700 Army Navy Drive in Arlington, VA 22202. It is across the street from the Pentagon City Mall at the corner of Army Navy Drive and Hayes Street. The museum entrance is on Hayes Street. Drive or take Metro to the Pentagon Citystop. For directions and travel options: https://www.deamuseum.org/museum_location.html

NAI REGION 2:

Delaware

District of Columbia

Maryland

New Jersey

Pennsylvania

Virginia

West Virginia

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**National Association for
Interpretation Region 2
Chesapeake**

Submission Guidelines

Each edition will be theme-based so if you have something to contribute short or long refer to the table below for upcoming deadlines and themes. Submissions for other sections can be sent at any time but if it fits in with a particular theme send it by that edition's deadline otherwise it will be used for a future edition.

Recommended lengths for submissions: 500-600 words for articles
100 words for each tip or trick

Pictures should be submitted as an attachment to your email. Other materials may be sent in the body of your email or as an attachment.

If you have any suggestions for a theme for future newsletters, please send your suggestions or requests. Themes can be anything related to interpretation that would be of interest to the region.

Newsletter submissions including calendar items should be sent to:
ChesapeakeChat@gmail.com

	Deadline	Theme
Winter Newsletter	January 15	Nighttime Interpretation
Spring Newsletter	April 15	Using Live Animals in Presentations
Summer Newsletter	July 15	Water & A Sneak Peek at the Fall Workshop
Fall Newsletter	October 15	Roving Interpretation/On The Trail