



FALL 2016

Directors Note

Autumn is finally coming into its full glory in central Virginia! The red maples are blushing and the leaves that have not been blown from the stately tulip poplars are a stunning gold. For most of us in the field of interpretation, autumn is a very hectic time. We have autumn leaves walks, school children visiting our sites in droves, Halloween trails, family campouts, harvest festivals, and many other experiences which draw people in and leave them enriched. In the midst of it all, I hope you are able to soak in the sunshine, the earthy richness, and the joy of it all.

Thank you to all who attended and made our recent Chesapeake Region 2 Fall Workshop such a success. There were so many highlights. From dinner at Tari's and the great comraderie of evening singalongs, to special guests Steve Van Matre and Alyssum Pohl, we were inspired, entertained, and enticed to learn more. Three cheers to our ever capable workshop chair, Yvonne Johnson, and the awesome Workshop Committee.

Remember to stop and smell the fungi!



Linda Bailey
Director
NAI Chesapeake Region 2

In Memory of a Naturalist

Merry Breed, October 22, 1951 - July 15, 2016.

Merry with her granddaughter Betsey teaching about monarch butterflies at a festival in April 2016.

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 Reddrop
The Design Minds, Inc.
(703) 246-9241
ned@thedesigndminds.com
- **Treasurer**
Tania Gale
Naturalist
Battle Creek Nature Center
(410) 535-5327
galete@co.cal.md.us

Region 2 Leadership continued

Committee Chairs

- Awards Chair**

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

- Outreach Chair**

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

- Scholarship Chair**

Parker McMullen-Bushman
Education Director
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



In Memory of a Naturalist

by Dodie Lewis.

Merry Breed, Manager of Claude Moore Park in Sterling, Virginia was meant to be a naturalist. She grew up on the shores of Massachusetts, playing in tide pools and sailing small boats with her father. Merry learned the love of growing things when she accompanied her mother as she tended the nearby gardens of the Audubon Society. While attending college in Maine, Merry explored the wonders of the Appalachian Trail. Trained to be a teacher, Merry incorporated nature in her classes long before “nature preschools” came into fashion.

Merry wanted to share her love of nature with everyone, especially children. She was involved with Claude Moore Park since its beginnings. She helped open up the trails and explored the woods and meadows of the Park with Girl Scouts and Summer Campers. Merry taught preschool for 15 years at a nearby community center. Each year she brought her classes in the fall, winter and spring to see the amazing changes of the seasons. She was a member of the Friends of CMP as well.

In 2000 Merry was hired as the first Assistant Park Manager. She explored and inventoried every part of the Park. She took on the role of Park historian; by consulting experts, doing research and listening to the stories of the Lane family descendants Merry became an authority on the Park’s history which included the family’s home built in 1779. She was promoted to Park Manager in 2004.

Merry was an enthusiastic member of NAI. She attended regional workshops and Beltway Chapter events. After each program she bubbled over with enthusiasm, eager to try out the new ideas she learned. To help advertise the first NAI Workshop in Virginia Beach she created a seagull costume for a skit presented at the workshop the year before.

Merry knew that experiencing nature was the best way to know it, to learn to love it and to want to protect it. She was constantly coming up with new ways to share, like sewing incredible Monarch butterfly costumes to act out the lifecycle of the butterfly, creating an Animal Mystery camp for preschoolers, joining Plant NoVa Natives to encourage the use of native plants by area homeowners and much more. She was a good steward of the Park’s natural areas, obtaining grants and working with staff and volunteers to improve the habitats of the Park. On good days, warm or cold, she would suggest a walk in the Park to see what was blooming, what animals we could see or hear or just to enjoy the peacefulness of the woods. To Merry, mud on her pants was the sign of a good day spent in her favorite place—outside in the Park.



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**

Alice Eastman
Director, Schrader EE Center
Oglebay Institute
(304) 242-6855
aeastman@oionline.com



by Linda Bailey.

A group of eighteen participated in Steve Van Matre's interpretive design pre-workshop which was chock-full of interesting content. Steve's many years of experience came through in his colorful examples and metaphors. He frequently referred to our sites as our jewels and encouraged us to help people experience the "Dance of the Place." To do so, we are called to be coaches, always sharing the dance steps. Get grounded in your site, and add your own nuances to your personal dance.

Steve's experience interpreting Everglades National Park allowed him to share some very rich and specific examples. Again, he focused on helping visitors understand natural and cultural processes over merely identifying objects. Steve showed how his Interpretive Mapping Technique was used in the Everglades and how it can apply to our sites:

- FORCES – Consider the forces that molded and shaped your jewel. (Gave Everglades example of tree islands, rivers of grass, ponds or "alligator holes.")
- FEATURES – What are the features of your site you want to highlight?
- FACETS – What are the facets of your jewel? (Alligators are the main facet of the Everglades, just as the Mona Lisa is the thing folks come to see at the Louvre.)
- OBJECTS – How were the objects in your jewel produced?

Steve also encouraged us to consider the 4 H's, which must be in harmony with each other:

- HEAD - Interpretive Design begins and ends in the parking lot! What do visitors expect and what do you want them to take away?
- HEART – What want folks to FEEL?
- HANDS – What do you want your audience to take away physically? (Share a small, concrete item, or they may take something on their own...)
- HUNGER – How can you meet this important need? Better yet, how can you tie it into your site? (Example - Sawgrass tea)

These are just snippets of the many nuggets unearthed for us. Ultimately, interpretation is a Dance of Love, leading visitors to cherish our jewels and protect them. We are grateful Steve was able to join us not only for our Pre-Workshop but also for Wednesday's keynote address where his thoughtful takeaway for me was encouraging those "asteroids" we come in contact with (we all know them!) to become stars.



Workshop Highlights

An Interpretive Journey from the Mountains to the Stars

Cacapon Resort State Park, Berkeley Springs, WV

Our Region's most recent workshop featured a lot of fun and some great learning opportunities. Stay tuned for more from the workshop in our next edition when we share the recipes from the delicious Chili's served on Thursday night.

Photos by Linda Bailey

