

Chesapeake Chat

FALL 2017

Director's Note

Greetings and Goodbye from your Director!

For the past nine years I have served the Chesapeake Region, first as Deputy Director and then as Director. I came to this position kicking and screaming. Well, I exaggerate. As it turns out, I have thoroughly enjoyed this position, mainly because of all of YOU!

Not only have many of you been good friends, but you've been mentors, teachers, examples of what an incredible interpreter should be. You've kept the bar high, and now, instead of kicking, I'm leaping to reach that bar. And that's always a good thing!

Thanks to all of you, in the past six years as director, we've held some awesome events: 2012 – Winter workshop at Herrington Manor, MD; 2013 – Spring Mini-Workshop at Catoctin Mt, MD; 2014 – Spring Workshop at Westmoreland SP, VA; 2015 – Spring Mini-Workshop at Gettysburg NHP, PA; 2016 – Fall Workshop at Cacapon SP, WV; and coming up in March 2018 our Spring Workshop in Front Royal, VA! Toss in two national conferences in our backyard, and it's been a busy and memorable six years!

On the national level, things have changed dramatically. Executive Director, Margo Carlock, and her sidekick (aka Deputy Director), Paul Caputo, keep us in line with great humor and grace. They make NAI fun. In fact, I saw them at the national conference in Spokane, WA, where I got to see a few of you and represent our region.

I am still here, but come January, I will turn the reins over to my very capable Deputy Director, Yvonne Johnson whom you elected as your new Chesapeake Region Director. She is organized, approachable, and a phenomenal leader.

Keep the passion for what you do alive!

Linda Bailey
Director
NAI 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 Reddrop
The Design Minds, Inc.
(703) 246-9241
ned@thedesignminds.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
Manager
Claude Moore Park
(571) 258-3704
dodie.lewis@loudoun.gov
- **Outreach Chair**
Patricia Dietly
Green Spring Gardens
Alexandria, Virginia
(703) 624-0128
patricia.dietly@fairfaxcounty.gov
- **Scholarship Chair**
Christopher Kemmerer
DCNR-Bureau of State Parks
(717) 425-5330
chkemmerer@pa.gov

Media

- **Region 2 Webmaster**
Ned Reddrop
The Design Minds, Inc.
(703) 246-9241
ned@thedesignminds.com
- **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



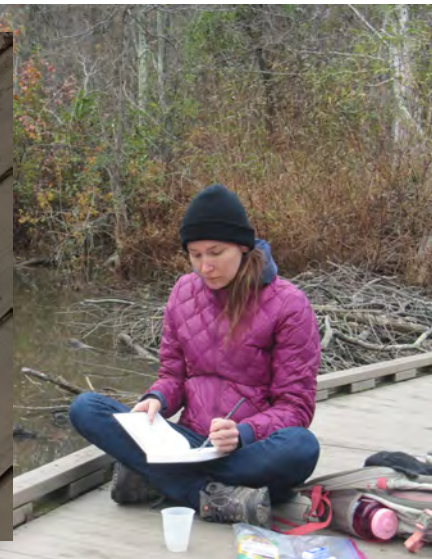
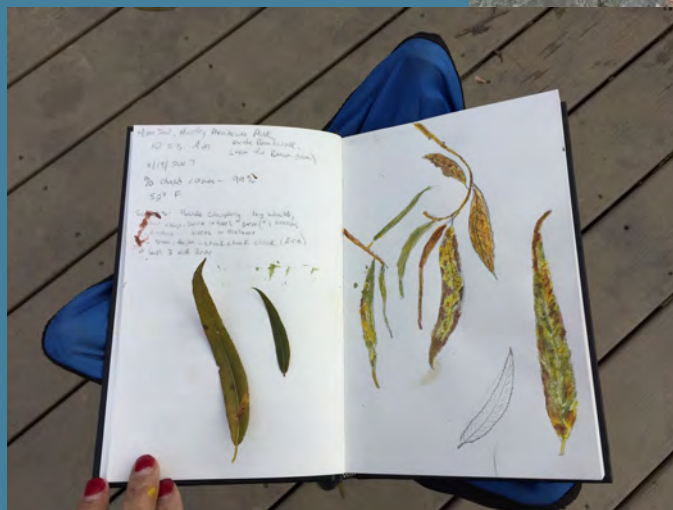
Drawing Nature

Use Sketch Art to Learn Science and Improve Observation.

On November 14, sixteen local interpreters gathered at Huntley Meadows Park in Alexandria, VA for the NAI Beltway Chapter session, "Drawing Nature." Guided by Margaret Wohler, artist and naturalist, we explored sketching and journaling.

Participant, Janis Jeffers, wrote the following:

Margaret Wohler shared her expertise teaching children and adults to draw and experience nature in a more profound way by drawing what they see outside. In her experience she finds that children confidently state they can draw and are good at the skill, whereas adults almost universally state they are unable to draw anything. So she wants to bridge that gap and get adults in touch with how fun drawing was when they were young and build their confidence. Drawing nature improves one's observation skills. Before photography was inexpensive, naturalists used drawing to accurately depict the natural world. Many naturalists were amazing artists although they didn't identify themselves as artists but as scientists. And some artists, such as Durer, were able to accurately depict the natural world though they were not scientists. John James Audubon exemplifies a scientist who artistically depicted birds in their natural habitat. James Prosek is a current fish biologist who paints beautiful portraits of his study subjects.



Region 2 Leadership continued

State Representatives

- **Delaware**
Kara Okonewski
(302) 535-1501
karaoko507@gmail.com
- **Maryland**
Amy Stahler Henry
Conservation Education Specialist
Maryland DNR
(410) 260-8828
amy.henry@maryland.gov
- **New Jersey**
Kathi Saxton Granato
(856) 697-9536
ksaxtongranato@hotmail.com
- **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**
Kate Reichert
(207) 522-4126
reichertkb@gmail.com
- **West Virginia**
Rich Wolffe
West Virginia University
(681)285-7628
rich.j.wolff@gmail.com



Drawing consists of five shapes: a circle, dot, line, angle, and curve. To start a drawing, capture the large shapes you see, then work on the details. Margaret likened this to packing one's backpack. You pack the larger items like your coat first, then pack the smaller things around it. She then demonstrated how to use one's pencil to determine the relative sizes of what the eye sees by holding it up in front of you and using it as a measure of objects. Foreground objects appear much larger than objects further away. Holding your pencil along angles can also help you get an angle correct in your drawing. Other observations she shared were that colors are brighter and sharper closer to you and paler and less sharp in the background. The sky is lighter along the horizon and deepens as you look up into the sky.

Margaret also touched on color theory by drawing a color wheel with the primary colors; red, yellow, and blue arranged around it and the secondary colors formed by them. Orange between red and yellow, green between yellow and green, and purple between blue and red. The colors located across from each other are complementary colors (red and green, blue and orange, purple and yellow) and are very lively and vivid when next to each other. They are often used by sports teams as so visually striking. When mixed together they produce gray.

She sets up her nature sketchbook by drawing on the right page but first always records certain information on the left page. She has adapted a form of the Grinnell method and records 1. Location, 2. Date, 3. Time, 4. % cloud cover, 5. Temperature using a thermometer for location accuracy, and 6. Sounds detected by listening for several minutes. Any other notes can be written on this page.

Margaret encouraged everyone to get outside and draw every day. She promised that one's skills improve by continuing to practice. Drawing improves one's observation skills and is fun.





Taking Advantage of a Long Weekend!

President's Day

Each February over the President's Day weekend, I lead a Birds of Prey van excursion, mostly around northern VA. Since many in the DMV region have President's Day Monday off, I offer a Saturday trip. We drive all over northern VA and sometimes the District & Maryland to get good views of winter visiting and resident raptors. The visiting raptors are usually short-eared owls and rough-legged hawks, and some years we get snowy owls. The trips have also yielded complete surprises like an osprey, who should have been in Costa Rica or FL, still fishing the mostly ice covered waters near National Airport, or this past year's trip giving us two Sandhill cranes in Lockett's VA. Using holidays as extra time available to patrons to explore new topics or dig deeper into favorites, is a great opportunity to take advantage of.

John Shafer, CIM
 Park Manager
 Ellanor C. Lawrence Park

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	Water: Wet Fun
Spring Newsletter	April 15	
Summer Newsletter	July 15	
Fall Newsletter	October 15	

NAI Chesapeake Region:

- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Maryland
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- Virginia
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

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**National Association for
 Interpretation Region 2
 Chesapeake**