



Chesapeake Chat

SPRING 2017

Dirctors Note

When Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson proposed a "national day for the environment" in 1969, he knew that environmental concerns needed to take front and center stage on the nation's agenda. Since that first Earth Day in 1970, we've seen many successes in our fight for cleaner air and water, and protection for endangered species. But we cannot get complacent, and must remember that in 1970 terms like "climate change," "hydraulic fracturing," and "ocean acidification," had not yet been coined.

The work we do as interpreters of "telling the stories" of our precious natural and cultural resources is more important now than ever. You make a difference every time you introduce a preschooler to a frog, share an 18th century home site with a visitor, or turn off the water when you are brushing your teeth! Never forget that the individual matters! Just ask Mr. Nelson.

Linda Bailey
Director
NAI Chesapeake Region 2

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Fredricksburg Earth Day Festival

by Linda Bailey, Fredricksburg Earth Day Festival Coordinator.

Clouds and rain didn't dampen the spirits of nearly 2,000 attendees of the 14th annual Earth Day Festival in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Over 90 exhibitors engaged people of all ages with hands-on activities to help them re-connect with the planet.

A local farmer brought her newly-shorn alpacas, and next to her the local spinners and weavers guild let people try their hand at creating yarn. A few booths down a bush craft expert had folks lighting tiny fires without matches, and our parks nature booth allowed kids of all ages to hold a corn snake and other critters. There were beekeepers with observation hives and homemade candles and honey for sale, wild edible plants to taste, "seed bombs" to create and take home and fishing flies to tie.

Kids had a blast on pony rides and a barrel train, and everyone enjoyed a chance to win a kayak, YMCA family water park pass, bird feeders, and many other goodies in our \$2 raffle. There were many booths that got the public thinking about important issues including the Sierra Club's outstanding display on fracking, and water conservation, and another on solar energy. You could even register to vote at the festival!

Now in its 14th year, this free community event is executed by the Fredericksburg Department of Parks, Recreation, and Events, and a planning team of representatives from a dozen local organizations, including the Sierra Club, Izaak Walton League, Virginia Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists, the Fred Food Co-Op, and more. The group meets for six months prior to the event and plans activities as well as vendors and sponsors to connect with.

In addition, coordinators rope in and assign tasks to over seventy-five volunteers—for everything from face painting to trash hauling, sign posting, and help with the pony and barrel rides. The most important aspect that makes this event successful is the requirement that each booth have a hands-on component. Groups are asked to engage their audience with an activity which may range from bird-house building to a fishing game. We have prizes for the best booths, live music playing throughout the day, and several excellent food vendors serving up kettle corn, ice cream, sandwiches, burgers, veggie wraps, tacos and more!

If you would like information on how we got started, give me a holler! 540-372-1086 x213. You may check out our event at: www.earthdayfred.com.

Beltway Chapter News



Region 2 Leadership continued

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Not only Surviving . . .

. . . but Thriving

by Catie Drew

On April 12, 2017, members of the Beltway Chapter gathered at Prince William Forest Park to learn about certain survival techniques. This hands-on bush craft course was presented by Dustin Chappell of Christian Warrior Adventure Camp (www.christianwarrioradventurecamp.com) who specializes in teaching people the basics of outdoor survival.

From learning how to gather fire-starting materials and start a fire WITHOUT a lighter, to the type of appropriate gear to bring along, the Beltway Chapter participants had an educational, yet fun-filled experience. In no time at all, we were gathering sticks, scraping bark, using the baton method to split wood, make shavings, and then combining our new-found knowledge to start a fire.

In addition to showing us how to use the relatively modern fire-starting stick (which we all got the opportunity to try out), Dustin showed us how to use the ancient method of flint and steel, using char cloths. Armed with the knowledge of being able to create fire and shelter, we can not only survive, but THRIVE!





Calendar of Events

Programs in the Region

Riding Bicycles to Experience Patuxent Refuge's North Tract

Saturday, June 3rd, 12:45-3:30pm; Ages 10+, registration required

Experience the beauty of this natural area on two wheels while discovering local wildlife, plants and historical sites. Learn the importance of reducing your footprint and leaving no trace on this 6.5-mile guided bicycle ride. Bring your own bike, energy bar/snack, water bottle and helmet. Ride is weather dependent.

An Evening with Our Friendly Bats

Saturday, June 10th, 7:30-9:00pm; All ages, registration required

Take an evening hike to see our resident bat population on North Tract

Raptors Reign

Saturday, June 24th, 1:00-3:00pm; All Ages, no reg.

Join special guest and licensed falconer, Rodney Stotter, as he shares the power of nature through discussions and up close encounters with birds of prey. This is a drop-in program. No registration required.

For additional information on these programs or to see other programs being offered contact Patuxent Research Reserve at 301-497-5887 or visit their website: www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent

Social Interpretation: Graphic Design and Social Media

This workshop is designed for interpreters who have little or no training in graphic design or social media, but find themselves responsible for creating nonpersonal media. Day one focuses on developing social media skills—understanding the technical and cultural differences among popular platforms. Day two focuses on visual communication, with specific emphasis on typography, color usage, image usage, layout, visual hierarchy, and catering messages to the appropriate medium.

http://www.interpnet.com/NAI/interp/Certification/Other_Training/Social_Interpretation/nai/_certification/Social_Interpretation.aspx?hkey=c34c994c-15a0-4086-ba3f-084a6ae4a73c

September 11-12, 2017

Frying Pan Farm Park, Herndon, VA

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:

	Deadline	Theme
Winter Newsletter	January 15	
Spring Newsletter	April 15	
Summer Newsletter	July 15	Major Night Sky Events/Programs
Fall Newsletter	October 15	Preview for the Spring Regional Workshop

NAI REGION 2:

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Maryland

New Jersey

Pennsylvania

Virginia

West Virginia

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Interpretation Region 2
Chesapeake**