

Nature Center Directors and Administrators

Section Newsletter



Important dates

Submit newsletter articles
and information by:
February 14, 2008
May 15, 2008
July 17, 2008
September 18, 2008
December 4, 2008

NAI International Conference

May 11-15, 2008

Sokcho, South Korea

www.interpnet.com/ic

NAI National Workshop

November 11-15, 2008

Portland, Oregon

[www.interpnet.com/
workshop](http://www.interpnet.com/workshop)

Fundraising idea for your center!

Booming Bus Tours

By Joyce Lovins

Have you ever wanted to just sit back, enjoy and let someone else do all the work? This is one of the focal points of the Hamilton County Park District Adult Bus Tours. We want our participants to have a fun, relaxing day while having an educational experience.

Our target age group has been the "Baby Boomer" generation, a fast maturing age group with resources to spare and the willingness to do so in order to have a good time. By the comment cards received back from these tour programs, the main suggestion has been, more, More, MORE!

Our Naturalist Department does all of the planning, prepping and legwork that makes the day enjoyable for our guests. One of our main objectives for these tours is to entertain, educate, and surprise by giving them more than they expect. We started with a basic idea such as the "Glorious Gardens" tour. We considered the season and the particular areas of our park district that we wished to showcase. We included area agencies resembling our own to enhance the tour's nature experience. For instance, we visited Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum which was recently designated National Historic Landmark.

Each tour is a full day excursion of discovery. We begin their adventure in

one of our beautiful lodges with a hearty breakfast. There we outline the day for our guests and introduce our crew before boarding the luxury tour bus. The bus we use is from a charter service and can hold up to 55 people. The two front seats are held in reserve for the bus hostesses and prizes. On the bus we present teasers, tidbits and trivia about our next destination. At that destination, another park or "green" agency, we take a tour of their facilities and grounds with a docent. We board the bus and head back into one of our parks for the next leg of our journey. This stop not only includes a tour with a Naturalist but we also have a very unique lunch experience and an opportunity to spend time in one of our gift shops and bookstores. Then we travel to another location outside of our park district for a short tour and a snack before returning to our park of origin.

The price determination for each tour is calculated by the costs multiplied by the highest number of possible participants we can accommodate. Departments within our park district that have been involved are Naturalist, Marketing, Gift

One of our main objectives for these tours is to entertain, educate, and surprise by giving them more than they expect.

continued on inside page

NCDA Officers

Travis Williams, Director
Outdoor Discovery Center
A-4214 56th Street
Holland, MI 49423 616
-393-9453
twilliam@oaids.org

Amy Roell,
Deputy Director
Hamilton County Park
District
4760 Highbridge Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45238
513-521-7275
aroell@greatparks.org

Jon Brown, Treasurer
Arkansas State Parks
213 East 4th Street
Russellville, AR 72801
479-880-1710
jon.brown@arkansas.gov

Randy Smith, Secretary
Sandy Creek Nature
Center
390 Forest Heights Dr.
Athens, GA 30606
706-613-3615 x233
r-csmith@charter.net

Naomi Thompson,
Website/Newsletter Editor
Stone Mountain Memorial
Association
PO Box 689
Stone Mountain, GA
30086
770-498-5619
n.thompson@stonemount
ainpark.org

Booming Bus Tours Shops, and Food Service. Our first tour in May 2006, the "Glorious Gardens" bus tour, produced revenue of \$2,722.73. Participant purchases in our Nature's Niche Gift Shop added roughly an additional \$1,000, making the total revenue of the day to over \$3,700.

Overall this has been a very well received program. We have planned quite a few tours spanning a wide variety of topics. This past Spring we conducted three tours, "Echoes of the Past", "Great Outdoors Tour" and an encore of "Glorious Gardens". The "Great Outdoors" tour was done completely within our own park system. We visited Miami Whitewater Forest and Shawnee Lookout highlighting some of our least known treasures and it went over extremely well. To finish out the year we are planning two large Fall tours. September is a "Fall Edibles" tour and in October the Halloween themed tour called "Stories, Spirits and Stones". A future plan for this new series of programming is to do Inter-generational tours with grandparents, their children and grandchildren. Possible overnights have been suggested and considered as well. To learn more about these tours log on our website at GreatParks.org.

-Joyce Lovins is a Naturalist Coordinator with the Hamilton County Park District, Cincinnati, OH.

Make Legacy Magazine available to your Center's Membership Attention Center Directors!

Add a "membership benefit" to your offerings without having to do extra work! Send your members Legacy, the premiere magazine produced by the interpretive profession.

This beautiful, engaging, bi-monthly magazine will impress and enthrall your members and donors and give you an extra bonus for a very low cost.

Please contact Laura Diane at the National Association for Interpretation headquarters in Colorado for more information (888) 900-8283.

NCDA Section CIM Certification Grants 2008

Would you like to become an NAI Certified Interpretive Manager? NCDA Section CIM members are invited to apply for a grant that will pay for the cost of one certification packet (value \$125), per individual in the CIM category. The NCDA Section will offer **two grants** in 2008. Recipients will be chosen based on financial need, NAI involvement, and/or the desire to become certified.

Once the recipient receives the packet, he/she must complete the written certification test and provide evidences of performance to the NAI Certification Program as required. Certification is granted upon successful completion of the test and successful review of the required evidences of performance. (The NCDA Section is not responsible for evaluating or granting certification.)

Applicants must be individual NAI members and a member of the NCDA Section and must complete the form on the following page.

**NCDA Section CIM
Certification Grants
2008 Application**

Applicants must be individual NAI members and a member of the NCDA Section and must complete the following form:

Name _____
Member of NAI? _____ How long? _____
Member of NCDA? _____ How long? _____

Organization _____

Position _____

Contact Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work/School Phone _____

Certification Category/Packet is for the Certified Interpretive Manager only.

On a separate sheet of paper, provide the following information:

- Describe your role in the field of interpretation.**
- Describe your NAI involvement and NCDA Section involvement.**
- Explain how certification will benefit you and why you wish to be considered for this grant.**

I verify that I meet the education/employment requirements listed for the CIM category and those listed above.

Grant applications can be submitted at any time during the current (2008 post-mark) calendar year. Applications are evaluated as received and grants are awarded until the total dollars budgeted for the years are distributed. Applications submitted after certification grant funds for the year have been exhausted must be updated and resubmitted in the next calendar year.

Send applications to:

**Travis Williams
Outdoor Discovery Center
A-4214 56th Street
Holland, MI 49423
twilliam@oaisd.org
Ph. 616-393-9453**

NAI resources

Website Membership Area
This area is password protected for current NAI members. NAI hopes this member only area will become a valuable asset to your membership so check it out!
www.naimembers.com/memberarea/

Check the member area of NAI's website for help on how to post jobs.

www.naimembers.com/memberarea/jobs_advertising.shtml

NAI related web sites

The Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA)

www.natctr.org

Outdoor Education Research & Evaluation Center

www.wilderdom.com/research.php