



You will **“Plant The Seeds Of Interpretation”** by joining us for the 2023 Association of Missouri Interpreters Conference September 10th – 14th, 2023 in Macon, MO. Macon, a small community of 5,485 residents and county seat, is nestled in the rolling hills of northern Missouri. Although smaller than many of our previous conference locations, Macon sits at the intersection of Highway 63 & Highway 36 making for easy access to many amazing northern Missouri attractions.

Conference Registration

Full Registration: \$120

Lifetime Member Registration: \$105

Student Registration: \$60

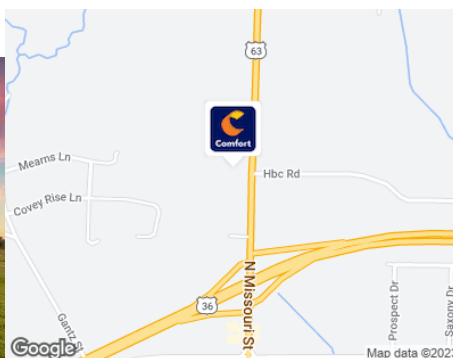
One Day Registration: \$30 (does not include AMI Dues)

Conference Locations & Lodging:

Comfort Inn - Macon

1821 N. Missouri St.

Macon, MO 63552



The Comfort Inn is located at the intersection of Highways 63 & 36 in Macon, MO. The hotel features 62 rooms, 40 of which we currently have in our conference block, meeting space, heated indoor pool, exercise facilities, and free hot breakfast each morning from 6:30 am – 10:00 am. The hotel also offers grab-n-go breakfast items as well.

ROOM RATE: \$125/day

To Reserve Your Room:

Online - Go to <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/RD54J7>

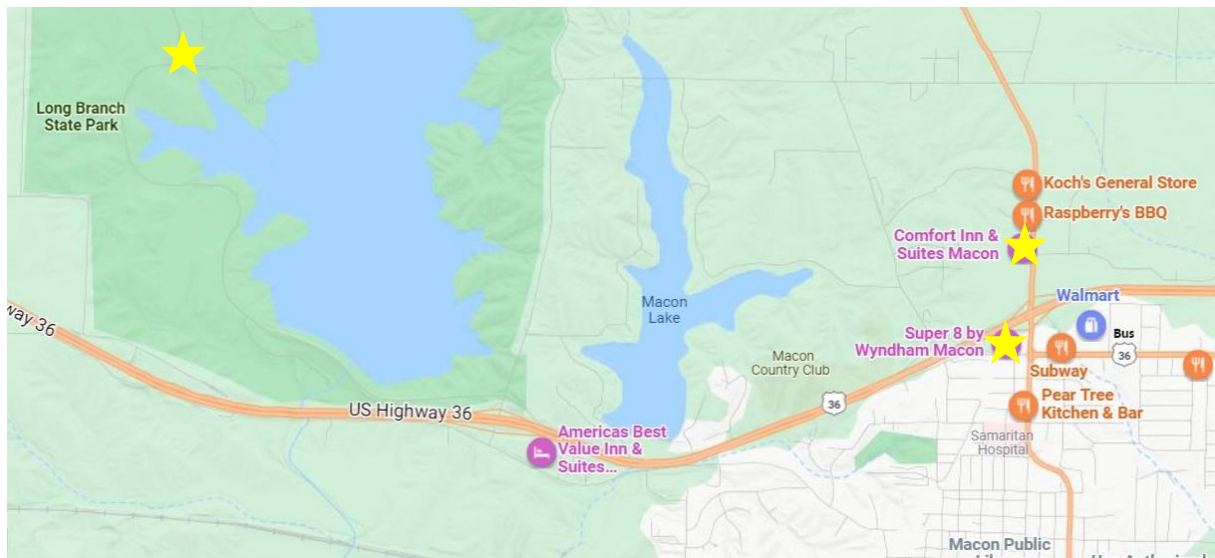
By Phone – Call (660) 395-8000 and make your reservation under the “AMI Conference” block of rooms.

Other Lodging Options:

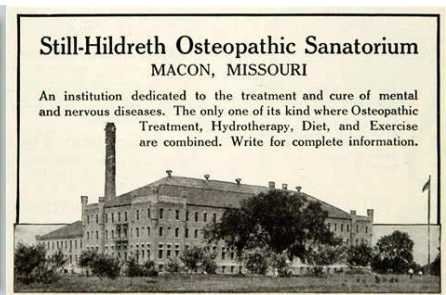
The following options are not included in our group rate but may be available if you choose not to stay at the Comfort Inn.

Super 8 Motel – 203 East Briggs Road, Macon, MO 63552, (660) 262-4241

Camping – Long Branch State Park, 62 campsites with basic and electric options. [Camping | Missouri State Parks \(mostateparks.com\)](http://mostateparks.com)



Lakeview Towers



Blees Military Academy was founded in September 1899 by Colonel Frederick W. V. Blees. Blees was a Prussian immigrant who arrived in Macon in 1889 to take over as headmaster of St. James Academy, an Episcopal military school for boys. In 1896, Blees inherited his father's coal and iron mining interests in Germany, and he used his newfound wealth to benefit the City of Macon. In 1898–1899, Blees took on the project that he hoped would be his legacy - the construction of the Blees Military Academy. As originally constructed, the Academy was provided with 400 acres (1.6 km²) surrounding on which were located orchards, a working farm, extensive gardens, and a dairy. The Academy listed Graduates in the Macon paper up through the spring of 1913. In 1915 Dr. Arthur G. Hildreth and Charles E. and Harry M. Still, sons of Andrew Taylor Still, the founder of the profession of osteopathic medicine, established a sanatorium devoted to the treatment and care of all types of nervous and mental disorders. The sanatorium remained in operation until 1968. Today, the old Academic Hall and Gymnasium of Blees Academy are on the National Register of Historic Places and serve as low income housing for the citizens of Macon.

Maples Repertory Theater – Reception Hall



The Historic Royal Theatre in downtown Macon is a grand old building with a long history of live theatre and vaudeville. Built in 1889, it opened as the Jobson Opera House. Later known as the Logan Theatre, the Blee Theatre and the Royal Theatre, it was called the Macon Theatre and converted to “movies only” in 1959. Throughout the decade of the 90’s the theatre underwent renovation inside and out preparing it to better serve the needs of modern theatre artists and patrons, installing electricity, water, central air, and a top-of-the-line performance space. The Royal Theatre is a wonderful place to perform and to watch a show. Its 300 seats are on the gently sloping main floor and sweeping arch-shaped balcony. There are truly no “bad seats” in the house as everyone is close to the action. Come take a look. After 129 years, the Royal Theatre still provides “Distinctive Attractions.”

The Celebration Room



Rural Missourians are nothing if not resourceful. This former church turned event space will be one of our locations for AMI 2023!



Pre-Conference Field Sessions

Arrive early and have more fun! All field trips will leave from the Comfort Inn. Dinner is on your own after the trips conclude, but the hospitality room will be open in the evening. Most pre-conference field trips will require you to travel on your own or carpool.

Museum of Anthropology: Behind-the-Scenes Tour

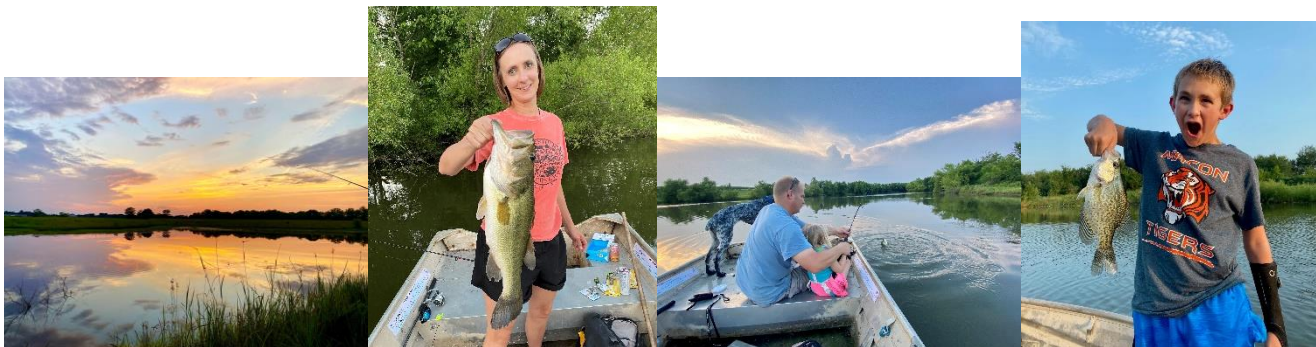


Museum Support Center, University of Missouri-Columbia

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Museum Director Candace Sall and Research Associate John Cunning (yes, the John Cunning who retired from State Parks a few years ago) look forward to hosting you on this behind-the-scenes field trip. The Museum Support Center is a major research facility for the study of American Archaeology. The Center also serves as the repository of both archaeological collections from across Missouri, and ethnographic collections from around the world. This field trip may provide inspiration for your next exhibit or program. And, if you have read “Blue Highways” by William Least Heat Moon, we have a special treat for you!

Farm Pond Fishing



Experience one of the quintessential parts of living in rural northern Missouri! We will spend our afternoon and early evening fishing for crappie, bluegill, bass, and catfish. Then watch the sunset across the rolling hills of northern Missouri while enjoying a fish fry of the day's catch. Bring your own rod and tackle or we can provide one. No fishing license necessary!

- Leave at 2:30 pm (can arrive later to fish, just let us know!)
- Dinner provided.
- No cost

Truman State University Observatory



Join us at the Truman State University Observatory in Kirksville, Missouri for an evening of stargazing. We will meet with Truman faculty to discuss the night sky, why it is important, and ways to interpret it. We will view the Milky Way, and deep sky objects that include star clusters (M13 -- the great globular cluster in Hercules), nebulae (M16 -- The Eagle Nebula) and galaxies (M51 -- the Whirlpool galaxy), among other things. The Observatory is part of the Truman State Farm and has parking available (scroll to the bottom of the page for driving and parking directions:

<https://observatory.truman.edu/>) . We will arrive in Kirksville at 6:00 pm for dinner, then head over to the University.

- Leaves at 5:30 pm, Return at 10:00 pm
- Dinner on own – downtown Kirksville
- No Cost

Keynote Speaker



Nicole Evelina

USA Today Bestselling Author

Stories of strong women from history & today

Suffrage in the Show-Me State

USA Today Bestselling author and St. Louisan Nicole Evelina will take you through 54 years of Missouri history, showing how the battle for the franchise began in the Gateway to the West in 1865 and spread out across the state over the next 30 years before finally being ratified in 1919, making Missouri the 11th state to grant full suffrage to women.

Along the way, you'll meet inspiring figures from Kansas City, Hannibal, Joplin, and St. Louis such as:

- Virginia and Francis Minor, the only people to argue the issue of women's suffrage before the Supreme Court.
- Phoebe Couzins, Washington University graduate and one of the first female lawyers in the US.
- Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the League of Women Voters, which began in St. Louis.
- Edna Gelhorn, women's rights advocate, right-hand woman of Eleanor Roosevelt, and suffrage leader.
- Emily Newell Blair, suffragist who came up with the idea of the Golden Lane silent protest in 1916 along with Edna Gellhorn.

In addition to profiling these women and their accomplishments, Nicole will explain the many groups of women formed to band together over 55 years to raise their voices in demand of the vote.

Concurrent Sessions-

Bumble Bee Atlas: Regional Collaboration to Conserve Pollinators using Community Science

Genevieve Pugesek

This Presentation will provide an overview of the Bumble Bee Atlas, detailing project inception and design, effort to date, and resulting products.

Crafting with Leftovers: Reaching the Next Generation of R3 Users

Ginger Miller & TJ Peacher

There are many useful parts of harvested game besides just meat and a trophy wall ornament. Participants will be inspired and challenged to think of uses for the non-meat portions of harvested game. A variety of unique and fun uses for fur, feathers, scales, fat, and bones will be discussed and displayed. These next level skills recruit new users and reactivate lapsed users. The idea of less waste from harvested game is appealing to new audiences.

Genealogy's Hidden Secrets

Mellissa Blank

The world of genealogy can unveil the secrets hidden in your site's past. Learn some of the tips and tricks that can add to your interpretation!

The GenZ Project: Connecting with the Generation that will Save the World

Jamin Bray

Let's explore GenZ characteristics and why it is so important for us as interpreters to understand how to effectively reach out to and collaborate with this age group. An introduction to this generation's place in the timeline of history will

be followed by an engaging interpretive program and educational lesson examples that will include take-aways to use at your own sites.

Inspiring Connections with the Unknown

Courtney Green

Do you know everything about your site? Perhaps you are new to interpretation or your site, that's okay too. This program will be a hands-on opportunity to develop an interpretative skill to help your audience make connections. We will be creative by bringing our own experiences to the moment. Learn to inspire meaningful connections between your audience and your resource.

Just the Facts Ma'am

Jim Two Crows Wallen

Make history come alive by telling the personal side of an historic event or interpretive site. Dramatic plots make stories compelling, but it's the details that help listeners see, smell, taste, hear, and touch the action.

Let there be Night

Vayujeet Gokhale

At any given moment, half of the Earth's surface is experiencing night. Electrification and industrialization have altered the nature of the night. Today more than 80% of the world's population and 99% of North Americans, live under light polluted skies. Excessive and misdirected outdoor lighting disturbs the ecological balance in the environment by adversely affecting insects and bees, and by disrupting the migratory patterns of birds. Bad lighting affects humans by disrupting the circadian rhythm and by causing glare that is harmful for pedestrians and drivers. In this workshop (train-the-trainer), participants will be provided training and access to resources so they can provide programs to the public about the value of protecting Missouri's natural night sky.

Lunchbox Investigation

Chris Edmondson

Someone has left their lunchbox behind and it's your job to find out who it was! Grab your investigation tools to experience this program demonstration followed by discussion and resource sharing.

Ours & Theirs: Conflicting Historical Narratives

John Hagermann

There is an old saying "History is written by the victors!" That is true, but does it mean that history written by victors is false by default? Not necessarily. Historical accounts should be scrutinized for accuracy by analyzing them from "different" perspectives. Let's challenge history as we know it and look at it from other sides.

Conference Field Sessions

There is a lot to see in this corner of Northern Missouri! These field trips include a natural and cultural element to round out our path to better interpretation. All field trips will leave from Comfort Inn. Dinner is on your own after the trips conclude, but lunch is either provided or an eating location has been designated for the group at which the cost of the lunch is on your own.

Of Mice and Men



This field session will begin at the Walt Disney Hometown Museum, which houses a collection of memorabilia from the Disney family's farm where they lived from 1905 to 1909 along with Walt Disney's return to the town in 1946. The original museum was built on the personal collection of Ruth Disney Beecher, Walt's sister. Ruth maintained a close relationship with her brothers Walt & Roy and knew the admiration they all shared toward their hometown. The museum is over 10,000 square feet and contains 4000 artifacts. After touring the museum, participants will travel to General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home State Historic Site to learn about the experiences that molded a Laclede country boy into one of the nation's legendary generals. The final stop on this field experience will be to Locust Creek Covered Bridge State Historic Site, for a roundtable discussion on a unique problem: how does (or should?) an agency move an entire National Landmark to save it?

- Leaves at 8:30 am
- Lunch on own
- \$10 per person

Prairies, Bumblebees, and Citizen Science



This field trip pairs nicely with the Monday concurrent session about the Missouri Bumblebee Atlas that will be presented by the Xerces Society. This field session will visit Runge Prairie and Morris Prairie Conservation Area, and participants will participate in a field training session for the Missouri Bumblebee Atlas, which is a statewide community science project aimed at tracking and conserving Missouri's native bumble bees. Led by the Xerces Society, participants will learn field collection and identification techniques. While on site at Morris Prairie, you will learn about the habitat restoration efforts being done in Morris Prairie Natural Area from the regional Natural History Biologist.

- Leaves at 8:30am
- Box lunch provided.
- \$12

Birding the Golden Triangle



This trip will feature 3 birding hotspots in northern Missouri, referred to as “The Golden Triangle”. Participants will visit Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Fountain Grove Conservation Area, and Pershing State Park during the height of the fall migration for both neotropical migrants and waterfowl. All three sites have managed wetland complexes as well as woodland and wet prairies.

- Leaves at 7:00 am
- Lunch on own
- No cost

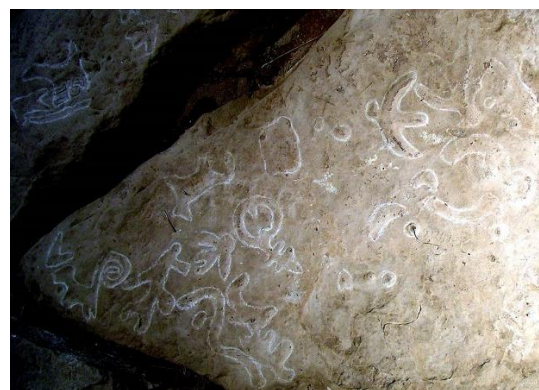
Historic Arrow Rock and Annie and Able Van Meter State Park



Annie and Abel Van Meter State Park features remnants of the Missouri Indian village that sat at the Great Bend of the Missouri River, marked on a map by Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet in 1673. A hand-dug earthwork -- Old Fort -- and several burial mounds lie within the park's boundaries. The state's American Indian history is interpreted in displays and exhibits at the park's Missouri's American Indian Cultural Center. Afterwards, you will travel to the once-bustling river town that's now the serene village of Arrow Rock. At Arrow Rock State Historic Site, you may wander into the historic J. Huston Tavern, which dates to 1834 and provides a dining experience in the oldest continuously operating restaurant west of the Mississippi River. View displays of historic furnishings in the old kitchen and upstairs bedrooms. You can visit other historic buildings, such as the Old Courthouse and George Caleb Bingham's house. You can learn about the history of Arrow Rock and the "Boone's Lick Country" through exhibits and audio-visual presentations in the visitor center. The historic site is part of the larger Village of Arrow Rock, which features quaint stores and several antique shops.

- Leaves at 8:00 am
- Lunch on own – J. Hutson Tavern
- No cost

Cemeteries, Medicine, Rock Art, and Space



Enjoy a day exploring the unique museums, history, and experiences Kirksville has to offer. We'll begin the morning with ATSU's Museum Director who will meet us in downtown Kirksville, discuss how the town came to be, take us on a tour

of the historic Forest- Llewellyn Cemetery, and to the Museum of Osteopathic Medicine. There will be a lot of walking in the morning. Lunch will be on your own at one of the restaurants on Kirksville's square. After lunch, we will head to Thousand Hills State Park to tour their petroglyphs and talk to park staff about their work on the way to becoming an Urban Dark Sky Place. We will end our day with a trip to the Truman Planetarium where we will tour the cosmos, learn how they can detect life on earth from space, and have time to ask planetarium staff questions.

- Leaves 8:00 am
- Lunch on own – downtown Kirksville
- Cost: \$5

AMI Scholarship and Professional Development Auction



To host another successful auction, we need YOUR help! Please bring new and gently used items, like the ones listed here. To speed up registration check-in at the conference, please print off the auction forms and fill-out ahead before you arrive. They can be found at the AMI website or at the end of this registration packet! Questions about the auction? Contact:

Jesze Doleh

Jessica.doleh@dnr.mo.gov

Cyndi Cogbill

cyndi@pawpawpatchproductions.com

Amber Edwards

EdwardsAmb@missouri.edu

To Register for the Conference:

- Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VVKR3ZY> or scan QR Code to register.
- The registration form does NOT include a payment option. Payment information will be provided in your registration confirmation.
- Registration Deadline: **September 1, 2023**
- Questions? Contact Kendra Swee at kendraswee@maramecspringpark.org



Association of Missouri Interpreters Auction Form

Donation Form for 1 item only

Name & Organization _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Item _____

Value _____

Description _____

Restrictions or special care _____

Your donation may be grouped with other items and be placed in the silent or live auction as needed.

Silent Auction only, add your name and bid. Add additional bids on the back.

1 _____ 9 _____

2 _____ 10 _____

3 _____ 11 _____

4 _____ 12 _____

5 _____ 13 _____

6 _____ 14 _____

7 _____ 15 _____

8 _____ 16 _____

Please print on 8.5 by 11-inch paper and bring with you to the conference.