Interpretive Trail Guiding

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• Interpretation is an information service...a guiding service...an educational service...an entertainment service...a propaganda service...an inspiration service. Interpretation aims at giving people new understanding, new insights, new enthusiasm, new interests. A good interpreter is a sort of Pied Piper, leading people easily into new and fascinating worlds that their senses never really penetrated before.

• From Edwards, in G,W, Sharpe’s, Interpreting the Environment
What makes a interpretive guide?
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• Attitude
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• Knowledge of area and environment
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• Willingness to share that knowledge
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• Understanding of different learning styles
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• Understanding of different learning styles
• Tools to enhance appreciation of visitor
• Invite visitors to return
• Do not try to satisfy your vanity by teaching a great many things. Awaken people’s curiosity, it is enough to open minds; do not overburden them. Put there just a spark. If there is some flammable stuff, it will catch fire.

• -Anatole France
Example
Tools you might use on the trail.
Tools

• Hand magnifiers (loupes)
Tools

- Hand magnifiers (loupes)
- Mirrors (hand held)
Tools

- Hand magnifiers (loupes)
- Mirrors (hand held)
- Paint samples (from hardware store)
Questions?
I would like to go outside and demonstrate what I have been sharing with you, so please join me for a little fun outside.