

# Interpretive Trail Guiding

By David Powell

Certified Trail Guide at the Heard Natural Science Museum and  
Wildlife Sanctuary

Member of the Blackland Prairie Chapter of Texas Master  
Naturalist

- 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?

# What makes a interpretive guide?

- Attitude

# What makes a interpretive guide?

- Attitude
- Knowledge of area and environment

# What makes a interpretive guide?

- Attitude
- Knowledge of area and environment
- Willingness to share that knowledge

# What makes a interpretive guide?

- Attitude
- Knowledge of area and environment
- Willingness to share that knowledge
- Understanding of different learning styles

# What makes a interpretive guide?

- Attitude
- Knowledge of area and environment
- Willingness to share that knowledge
- Understanding of different learning styles
- Tools to enhance appreciation of visitor



# What makes a interpretive guide?

- Attitude
- Knowledge of area and environment
- Willingness to share that knowledge
- 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 (loops)

# Tools

- Hand magnifiers (loops)
- Mirrors (hand held)

# Tools

- Hand magnifiers (loops)
- 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