



## NAI Interpretive Naturalist Section Thomas Say Awards Program

NAI INTERPRETIVE  
NATURALIST SECTION

### Thomas Say Naturalist Award of Excellence

Being an American naturalist during the eighteenth and nineteenth century required skill, intelligence, determination, support, and some luck. Self-taught naturalist Thomas Say (1787-1834), who identified more than 1,500 species of insects and animals unique to North America (including the coyote), was one of these brave naturalists who helped blaze a trail for future naturalists. This award program is named in his honor, as are numerous species such as Say's phoebe, *Sayornis saya*. He represents innovation, commitment, and a passion to contribute to science.

The recipient of the Thomas Say Naturalist Award of Excellence consists of a commemorative plaque for the recipient to keep. The award will be presented during the awards banquet during the IN Section workshop at Mount Magazine State Park near Paris, Arkansas. If the recipient is unable to attend, the award will be mailed. If the recipient is able to attend, he/she agrees to write a follow-up article for the section newsletter, *The Naturalist*.

To be eligible, nominees must be a member of the Interpretive Naturalist Section and must have worked or volunteered consistently as a naturalist for a minimum of two years (though the nominee's job title need not be 'naturalist,' as naturalists often perform other duties as assigned). This award is intended for a recipient who is deemed to have contributed significantly as a naturalist, be it outstanding front-line interpretation, innovation of projects/programs, publication of books and/or articles related to subjects in natural history, and has served as a mentor for future generations of naturalists.

#### For each nomination, please submit the following information:

- Describe nominee's involvement and achievements as a naturalist
- List key projects/programs/books/articles developed by the nominee
- List activity in NAI at sectional, regional, and national level. List other professional memberships.
- List awards, recognitions, and honors from NAI and other organizations.
- Attach up to three letters of support from nominee's coworkers, supervisor, and program participants; anyone who has knowledge of the skills, abilities, and contributions. Newspaper clippings or other evidence of achievement may be included. **Nomination must not exceed seven pages**, including letters of support. **A cover page must be included with nomination and include how the name should appear on the plaque if selected.**

#### Selection Process and Timetable:

- |                                                                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Nominations postmarked or emailed to Award Chair,<br>INS Director Lori Spencer | no later than July 1, 2016    |
| • Nominations Reviewed by Awards Committee                                       | mid-July, 2016                |
| • Recipient notified                                                             | mid-August 2016               |
| • Award presented                                                                | During conference in November |

#### Inquiries and Contact Information

Inquiries and nominations should be sent to:

Lori Spencer, Director and Award Chair

(479) 963-8870

16878 State Highway 309

email: [bflyspencer8@gmail.com](mailto:bflyspencer8@gmail.com)

Paris, AR 72855

Put INS award in the subject line