



Connect

Celebrating 3 Years!

June/Júní 2022

Iceland National Day June 17

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Connect newsletter welcomes your submissions!

Send your news, ideas, photos, and articles to:

info@inlus.org

Connect newsletter is published quarterly.

INLUS Welcomes New Board Members

The Icelandic National League of the United States (INLUS) is pleased to welcome two new members to its newly expanded Board of Directors. Lauren Fields, PhD and Rob Olason joined the board in May 2022. With a goal of providing Icelandic cultural programming that includes diverse interests, INLUS is excited about the new perspectives that the new Directors bring to the board.

Lauren Fields, PhD, lived in Iceland in 2019 as a Fulbright Ministry for Foreign Affairs Arctic Scholar where she researched Arctic fisheries and taught at the University of Akureyri. This was where she began learning Icelandic and has been pleased to continue learning through INLUS classes. She enjoys all things related to fish, scuba diving in cold water, hiking, and knitting.



Lauren Fields, PhD



Rob Olason

Rob Olason has been a member of the Blaine Icelandic Heritage Society since the 2010s. He has also served on the board of the INL of North America as the Membership Director. Sadly, he has only been to Iceland twice, once as a teenager and most recently as a senior citizen.

Rob and Lauren are joining the INLUS Board of Directors just as the INLUS kicks off an active summer of programming.

From Julie Hall-den Boer:

To all readers of the *INLUS Connect* newsletter, **thank you** for the opportunity to connect with Icelandic culture and to connect with you! I've enjoyed being the Editor of this newsletter for the past two-plus years, and I'm excited to announce that a new editor will be at the helm of this publication for the next edition.

I will always be connected to Icelandic culture and look forward to what's ahead. Until we reconnect, góða ferð!



Julie Hall-den Boer awaiting the start of a Sigur Rós concert experience in Dallas May 25

INLUS Kicks Off Active Summer

By INLUS President Dianne O'Konski

INLUS Member Club Presidents Meet

The Presidents of the INLUS member clubs were invited to participate in a second meeting of the group April 10. This meeting started a conversation about how to maintain and grow club membership. Two common threads intertwine across the clubs: current members are aging and difficulty bringing in younger members. The pandemic impacted clubs. While some continued meeting on Zoom, others did not meet for nearly two years. Several clubs have started up in-person events and others will be doing so this summer.

Suggestions were discussed for not only growing club membership but also for retaining the current membership. The clubs were reminded that the INLUS Zoom capabilities are available to member clubs. Clubs are also welcomed to post blogs and participate in webinars, and we encourage clubs to send in their upcoming events which will be posted on the INLUS calendar.

On May 22 the group met again to discuss how the clubs show appreciation to the members. Attendees shared the ways in which each club stays in contact with their members and what they would want if they could wave a magic wand. Club representatives also shared what activities were coming up over the summer. With clubs making an effort to get back to in-person events, INLUS is happy to post and share event information.

Snorri 2022 Is A "Go"!

After two years of cancellation, Snorri programs are happening this year! The INLUS is pleased to award each of the five US-based Snorri participants a \$500.00 scholarship. Sierra Jenson, Jessica Drake, Cass Heigaard, Grace Lenhart, and Erik Schoonover will be in Iceland June 12 – July 15. The Snorri program includes 2 weeks of culture and language education in Reykjavik, 2 weeks of home stay, and one week of touring the island.

The Snorri West program will be returning to North America in 2022. INLUS has provided a grant to the Snorri West program to help offset the costs of providing this educational cultural program in the United States.

Summer Activities

Gylfi Gylfisson, who has the *Just Iceland* YouTube channel, will give a presentation on the recent earthquake and volcanic activity on the Reykjanes Peninsula, including beautiful drone footage. Please join us on June 8 at 1:00 PM Eastern, Noon Central, 11:00 AM Mountain, 10:00 AM Pacific for this webinar hosted by Rob Olason.

The INLUS plans to participate in several events this summer. We had a table at the Manassas Viking Festival on May 14 in Manassas, VA. On June 18 the INLUS be at the Nordic Midsummer Fest in Burnsville, MN. A third appearance will be at August the Deuce parade and heritage program in Mountain, ND on July 30.

Upcoming Events and Activities

In-person or online—there's an Icelandic event on the calendar for you! Check out the [INLUS events calendar](#) and the events highlighted here.

INLUS Webinar: A Just Icelandic Volcanic Eruption

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 online ZOOM webinar
1pm EDT / 12pm CDT / 11am MDT / 10am PDT / 1700 GMT
Full details at [INLUS calendar posting](#)

Fargo-Moorhead Icelandic Klub Summer Picnic

Sunday, June 12 in Moorhead, MN
Contact info at [INLUS Fargo-Moorhead Icelandic Klub Page Link](#)

Icelandic Association of Utah Iceland Day

Friday, June 17 in Spanish Fork, UT
5:00-9:00 PM
Details on [Icelandic Association of Utah Facebook page](#)

Islendingamot – Icelandic National Celebration

Saturday, June 18 in Markerville, AB, Canada
1:00-5:00 PM
Full details at [INLUS calendar posting](#)

Nordic Midsummer Fest

Saturday, June 18 at Buck Hill in Burnsville, MN
9:00 AM- 9:00 PM
Full details at [Nordic Midsummer Fest website](#)

Annual Deuce of August Icelandic Celebration

Friday, July 29 through Sunday, July 31 in Mountain, ND
Events each day
Full details at [The Deuce website](#)

First 2022 INLUS In-Person Event

On Saturday, May 14th, INLUS Vice-President Doug Hanson kicked off spring events for 2022 by greeting attendees at the 3rd annual Manassas Viking Festival in northern Virginia. Doug reported meeting many interesting people and that there was a high level of interest in Iceland. This annual May event features Scandinavian organizations, Viking re-enactors, unique vendors and dancers and musicians from the greater Washington, DC and Mid-Atlantic region.



Doug Hanson

INLUS Membership: Join, Renew, or Gift!

Do you know someone who thinks all things Icelandic are cool?

Encourage them to join INLUS! Give membership as a gift!

To join, simply go to:
<https://www.inlus.org/about-us/membership/>

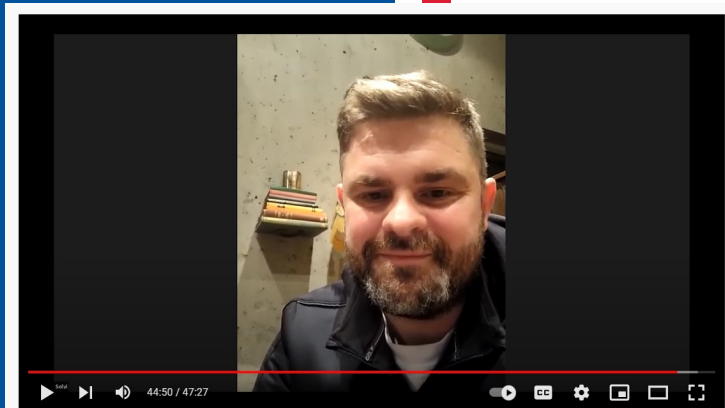
Travel with Hey Iceland

What do tourism and farms have in common in Iceland? Hey Iceland! Hey Iceland's Sandra Gunnarsdóttir and Icelandic Farm Holidays Association Chairman Sölvi Arnarsson joined INLUS for a webinar March 24 to share about Hey Iceland's history and current travel options available now that Iceland has eliminated COVID travel restrictions.



Sandra Gunnarsdóttir

An 18-year veteran of the travel and tourism industry, Gunnarsdóttir kicked off the webinar by sharing about the founding of the Hey Iceland travel agency. In 1965, five farms in Iceland were selected as places to rent out rooms to curious explorers and they organized to be called Icelandic Farm Holidays. Eventually more farms joined the association, and a full-service travel agency was established to organize and book travel to the Icelandic farms all over the island. The travel agency not only arranged accommodations, but also tours, activities, group travel, and more. Meanwhile, while many farmers faced challenges to stay profitable in farming, they focused more attention on the growing tourism business in Iceland. A variety of guesthouses, hobby farms, and rural accommodations became a part of the organization's membership. In 2016, the travel agency changed the name to Hey Iceland to reflect the broad spectrum of travel services and accommodations while honoring farms and welcoming international guests.



Sölvi Arnarsson

Arnarsson provided a first-hand look at Efstidalur II, one of the more than 140 farm locations available to tourists across Iceland. Efstidalur II is a family-owned farm located by the Golden Circle route featuring room accommodations and farm-to-table products.

The cows visitors see provide the milk used to make ice cream and Arnarsson's grandmother's skyr recipe onsite. The restaurant's menu is written on a blackboard as the menu features seasonal, locally-sourced ingredients.

Hey Iceland's website <https://www.heyiceland.is/> is the place to find out more about the accommodations, activities, and tours available. A business member of INLUS, Hey Iceland offered a discount code for INLUS members to use through the end of April. To view all of Hey Iceland's travel ideas, take a look at [the INLUS webinar recording](#).

Save Money, Time, and Stress with

100 Tips for Visiting Iceland

A chance encounter with a fellow traveler on an airline flight to Keflavík was part of the inspiration for author Eric Newman to write his new book *100 Tips for Visiting Iceland*. Newman joined INLUS host David Johnson for an Author's Corner event on May 2 to discuss his latest book and to share a few Iceland travel ideas.

Wanting to go somewhere adventurous with his wife and kids, Newman first decided to travel to Iceland in 2009 and was impressed with how safe and amazing the country is. He's returned several times since then and while there are many aspects that are familiar, he says he always discovers something new. To help families navigate traveling to Iceland, he wrote the book *Iceland With Kids*, launched a website, and started a travel planning service.



Eric Newman

People without kids discovered Newman's useful travel advice. Newman shared that one of the most popular posts on his website is about how to get a working cell phone in Iceland. He found that short

informational tips like the one he shared with the traveler on the airline flight and the tips on his website were just the kind of advice that any traveler needed to save money, time, and stress when traveling to Iceland. With this inspiration, *100 Tips for Visiting Iceland* was published in 2022 and is available in both electronic and paper form. For details and more tips, check out the INLUS business member [Iceland With Kids website](#).

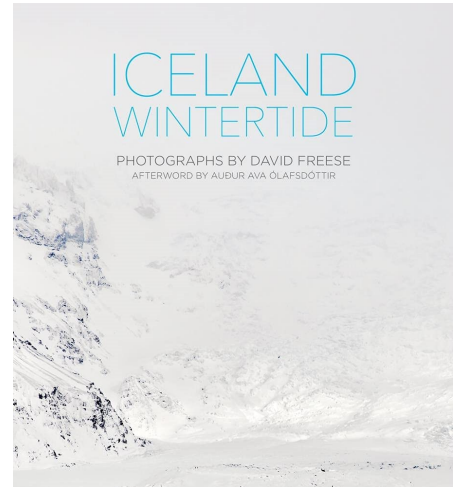
During the Author's Corner event, Newman did share one tip to save money, one tip to save time, and one tip to save stress. He also talked about some of his favorite places to visit and shared a few ideas for attendees about how to plan for a memorable Iceland travel experience for individuals with different cultural interests. Different geographic locations were also discussed. To get travel advice and ideas, check out *100 Tips for Visiting Iceland* and to hear the full conversation with Newman, see the [INLUS webpage for the Author's Corner recording](#).



Trilogy Coda: *Iceland Wintertide*

Award-winning photographer and writer David Freese joined INLUS for a March 14 Author's Corner event to discuss *Iceland Wintertide*. The new book is a coda to a trilogy of books centered on North American waters that served as a technical and artistic foundation to his latest work.

With his camera lens capturing stunning scenery, his books about the east coast, west coast, and Mississippi River watershed of the United States communicated themes of climate change and humankind's relationship to nature. Water and ice are prominent in his images, as it was explained that ice is a canary in the coal mine and a symbol of climate change. To get some unique angles, Freese photographed many of the images



in his first three books from airplanes and drones. He shot several images from the back seat of a single-engine Cessna airplane through the windows of the plane, which was beneficial preparation for his later travels.

Freese had no plan to make a book about Iceland when he and his wife booked a group van tour to travel clockwise around Iceland in the winter. In the weeks before the pandemic caused shutdowns, the intent was to just visit the country. From the seat in

the van he found himself pointing his lens out the window of the moving vehicle to capture images of Iceland's icy scenery. Practice shooting images from moving airplanes in previous work gave him the reaction skills to capture stunning images. About half of the images in *Iceland Wintertide* were shot from a moving vehicle, and half were shot outside the van.

A change in artistic choice in *Iceland Wintertide* was the choice to shoot all images in color, even though the subject matter was mostly monochromatic. The small bits of color punctuated images. The book is available in English and Icelandic, and includes an afterword written by Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir. To view the entire discussion with the artist, see the [INLUS webpage Author's Corner recording](#).



David Freese

Researching *Men of Terror*

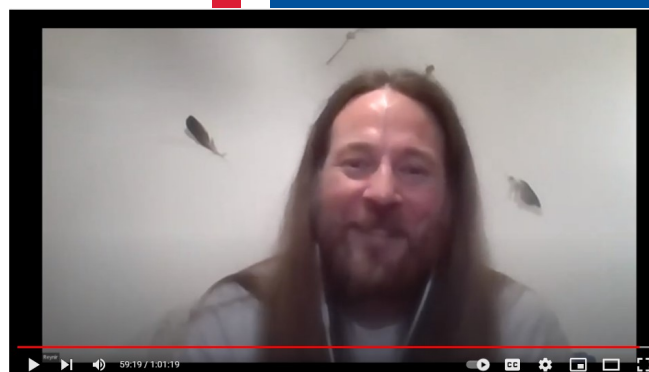
William Short and Reynir Óskarson began their April 11 Author's Corner event by asking the audience to leave preconceived notions about Vikings and Viking combat at the door. Both authors are a part of Hurstwic, a team that scientifically researches the combative methods of the Vikings. Short and Óskarson joined INLUS to share about the research that went into the publication of their latest book, *Men of Terror*.

Hurstwic's goals are integrity and truth, and as such they aggressively work to keep modern mindsets out of their research. They shared that to understand Viking society, one had to understand Viking combat. Conversely, an understanding of Viking combat helps one understand Viking society. Multiple layers of sources are sought in their research including pictures, literature, rune stones, etymology, echoes of the past, kinesiology, archaeology, bio archaeology, and experiment data. With multiple layers of sources, they examine the many layers for commonalities and critically analyze any layer that doesn't fit the commonalities of the other layers. A story Óskarson shared about a museum artifact highlighted their analysis methods.

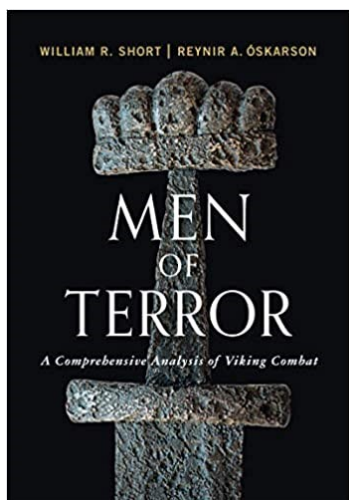
Short and Óskarson described three pillars of understanding Viking combative methods: mindset, empty-hand combat, and weapons preparedness. Trustworthiness was an overarching element to the mindset. As the only Viking sport that has survived to modern days, Iceland's national sport glíma is a tangible example of empty-hand combat. Weapons used by the Vikings were varied in sophistication, and as such required different strategies for use. Using these three pillars of understanding, Short and Óskarson described how Vikings would conduct certain combative missions.



William Short



Reynir Óskarson



The book title was inspired by a memorial rune stone for a man named Fradī, who was described as a man of terror. The words about Fradī carved into the stone are a tangible example of the concept of *ordstírr*—word glory, or what people say about you after you're gone. To hear more details and see photos and videos of Short and Óskarson's research, see the [INLUS webpage for the Author's Corner recording](#).

Icelandic Easter Eggs—Take 2!

INLUS webinar host Veronika Kolomichuk followed the instructions provided in the webinar given by Iris Oskarsdottir-Vail to make Icelandic Easter Eggs, and the photos show her results!

If you'd like to try this next year, check out the [INLUS website for the webinar recording](#).



www.INLUS.org

info@inlus.org

2843 27th St S

Fargo ND 58103

