



National Association of Geoscience Teachers

Central Section Newsletter

<http://www.nagt.org/nagt/organization/central/index.html>

Spring 2008

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MN-Kate Pound
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OH-William Slattery
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WI-Kerry Keen

UPCOMING EVENTS!

North-Central GSA Meeting
University of Southern Indiana
Evansville, IN
April 24-25, 2008

Early Registration Deadline:
March 24th

*Events sponsored by
NAGT Central Section*

Theme Session:

**Inquiry-based, hands-on, class
and lab demonstrations**

(Mark Francek, Central Michigan Univ.) Session features engaging, easy to set up, inexpensive, and safe demonstrations.

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2008NC/finalprogram/session_20878.htm

K-16 Geoscience Educator Workshop:

**Cheap and Easy Hands-On Earth
Science Investigations**

(Carrie Wright, University of Southern Indiana, clwright@usi.edu, Debbie Vannatter, Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation
davanna@evsc.k12.in.us)

24 April, 4pm-6pm Cost: US \$15
<http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/Nothc/08mtg/events.htm>

Field Trip:

**Building Stones and Cultural
Geology of Evansville**

(Joe Hannibal, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, hannibal@cmnh.org, Sabina Thomas, Baldwin-Wallace College)

<http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/Nothc/08mtg/fieldTrips.htm>

Business meeting & luncheon

Friday, 25 April, 12 noon
Cost \$25
<http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/Nothc/08mtg/events.htm>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The North Central Section GSA Conference is April 24-25 in Evansville, Indiana this year. The Central Section of NAGT is co-sponsoring numerous events this year which you will want to attend. Our business luncheon is scheduled for Friday at noon. On Wednesday, we are co-sponsoring a field trip titled **Building Stones and Cultural Geology of Evansville**. On Thursday we are co-sponsoring a workshop titled **Cheap and Easy Hands-On Earth Science Investigations** for K-16 geoscience educators. Our section is also co-sponsoring two theme sessions, **Inquiry-Based, Hands-On, Class and Lab Demonstrations** and **Geoscience Education**. See you in April!

I teach the introductory geology; a general education course at Eastern Illinois University. I also teach upper division geology courses for the geology majors. What the courses have in common is that I am teaching geologic principles to people who will later be using the material to make decisions in their lives and in their communities.

A geology program at a university is much more than a set of courses to turn out professional geologists. Yes, we are teaching mineral and rock identification, volcanology, paleontology, environmental geology, field methods, structural geology, and everything else that a professional geologist needs to know. We, in the geoscience departments at the undergraduate level, may also be developing the geoscience K-12 educators. But, hopefully, we see ourselves as doing much more.

We have a responsibility to extend our knowledge to the general education citizens of tomorrow's communities. Our general education students today will be the decision makers of our communities tomorrow. Therefore, they are an

(cont. p. 3 President's Message)

Congratulations to OEST Awardees!

The OESTA winners for 2007 have been selected! It is with great pleasure that we are able to present two honorable mentions, three state winners, and our section winner.

2007 OEST Central Section Awardees:

Honorable Mention: Sue Merrill

Ms. Sue Merrill of Howell, Michigan has been teaching for over thirty years. Sue is known for her love of earth science and is highly respected by students, colleagues, and the Michigan education community. She was instrumental in forming the Michigan Earth Science Teachers' Association and remains an active member.

Honorable Mention: Cheryl Sill

Ms. Cheryl Sill of Zimmerman, Minnesota is a dedicated Earth science teacher at Coon Rapids Middle School in Coon Rapids, Minnesota. Cheryl has been teaching for over twenty years and is dedicated to her students. She actively encourages student participation in STEM Science Fairs and is a member of MESTA.

State Winners:

Iowa: Amanda Rae Schiller

Ms. Amanda Schiller of Donnellson, Iowa is highly respected by her colleagues, students, and community. Amanda is described as a "supportive and encouraging" teacher who "takes lessons to the next level, involving the hands on excellence in her classroom, resulting in an open-ended research based opportunity for students to formulate their own scientific ideas." She has taught earth science for the four years and is known for her adaptability and cooperative spirit. Amanda is also known for her ability to motivate student learning. "She hooks them into learning about earth science and then feeds the immense curiosity about science." She contributes to her community through a number of volunteer activities and has participated in a number of professional development opportunities.

Ohio: Chantelle M. Rose

Mrs. Chantelle M. Rose of St. Paris, Ohio has been teaching for eleven years and is very active in professional development, curriculum development, and bringing "real science" to life for her students. Chantelle is considered "a dedicated, student centered, creative teacher" by her colleagues, students, and community. She encourages and empowers her students to participate in scientific research through her professional development contacts. Chantelle is a creative and innovative teacher who works with all students to achieve in science. She created a science course, "Science in Ohio", to motivate students to understand and appreciate the science in their state. Chantelle's professional service is exemplary and she is known

from bringing science from her classroom into the community and beyond.

Wisconsin State

and Section Winner: Paul Varsho

Mr. Paul Varsho is the 2007 Central Section recipient of NAGT's Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award. Paul graduated in 1977 from the University of Wisconsin – Madison with a B.A. in Secondary Education. In 1983, he received a Master degree in Professional Development from the University of Wisconsin – Stout.

Paul is an outstanding example of dedication, knowledge, ingenuity, and professionalism in an educator. A teacher at Menomonie Middle School for 27 years, Paul embodies the philosophy that "each child should develop a love of learning and of the natural world, to question why and how things occur, and to develop the thinking skills needed to be literate, contributing citizens in modern society." He uses creative hands-on classroom activities and home and community based assignments to engage his students, bringing earth science to home to them. Paul is known for his enthusiasm which "is backed up by a solid understanding of how to affect student learning, and the ability to reach the whole range of students from the most gifted to the most challenged."

Paul has been a Science Olympiad coach since 1987, going to National six times. He is currently involved in development of the Harvard-based SPARCS teaching reform assessment initiative. He has been selected to participate in a UCAR workshop of Modeling in the geosciences, by NASA to evaluate Centennial of Flight Engineering Design Challenges, by Fullbright to go to Japan to observe their educational system, and by the JASON project to go on the Hawaii expedition and be in the JASON VI project broadcasts. Paul has also been involved with the Boy Scouts of America, is active in the Wisconsin Central Education Association, and a member of the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers.

His accomplishments include a Fullbright Memorial Fund Teacher Award in 2002, JASON VI Teacher Argonaut Selection in 1995, the Wisconsin State Science Teachers Regional Award for Excellence in Science Education in 1990, and receiving National Board Certification in the Area of Adolescent/Young Adulthood Science in 2002.

Congratulations to all of our winners. The awardees will receive their awards this fall or next spring. If you know one of the awardees and wish to present the award, please contact me. We encourage all of you to submit or solicit nominations for the 2008 award. For further information contact Kate Pound at kpound@stcloudstate.edu. Please submit your nominations by June 30, 2008.

**2008 Fall Field Conference
Combined Tri-State - GLS-SEPM Field Trip
October 17-19, 2008**

Dr. John Groves of the University of Northern Iowa Department of Earth Science will host a combined 2008 Tri-State Geological Field Conference and Society for Sedimentary Geology-SEPM, Great Lakes Section field conference October 17-19, 2008. The main focus will be an examination of the Devonian Lithograph City Formation. We will run a north-to-south transect beginning at Osage, Iowa, and ending just northwest of Cedar Falls. The Saturday night banquet will feature a speaker who uses lithographic limestone from Floyd County in his lithographic artwork. Sunday's trip will be run by Dr. James Walters and include additional stops within the upper Cedar Valley group. This will focus on Upper Devonian carbonate platform evolution and history with a close look at the Early to late Frasnian deposits of the Lithograph City, Shell Rock and Lime Creek formations.

(President's Message from p. 1)

important part of our geology program today. It is important that they understand what causes natural hazards and what they and their communities can (and cannot) do to minimize the damage from the natural hazards. It is important that they understand the costs and benefits of removing geologic resources today from the earth. It is important that they plan to live sustainably. What they learn in their geology programs can assist them the rest of their lives.

We also must involve the general education students in interdisciplinary research. Scientists complain that most citizens do not understand or appreciate the nature of science. It is our own fault when we treat science as exclusively for scientists. Involving non-geology majors in our research gives them an appreciation of the scientific method, an appreciation of the benefits and limitations of science, and the thrill of the pursuit of knowledge. It also can show them the applicability of scientific knowledge to human lives.

I cringe when I hear undergraduate geoscience professors limit their attentions to only geology majors. Let us all broaden our perspective. We are, first and foremost, teachers. Let us apply that teaching ability to the benefit of all.

Kathy Bower, President

Your E-Mail Address

If you change your email address, please tell me – janis.treworgy@prin.edu. Thanks!

Appreciation for Hard Work

The Central Section of NAGT thrives because of the many volunteers who do the work involved in running the organization. This year the section has had three wonderful volunteers who are stepping down. We greatly appreciate their hard work over the years.

Jim Meyers, retired from Winona State University, Minnesota, has been one of the Minnesota State Representatives. **Sallie Greenberg** of the Illinois State Geologic Survey has organized OESTA for the K-12 teachers in the Central Section since 2004.

Ed Hansen of Hope College, Michigan has been the Treasurer for the Central Section since it combined with the old East Central Section. It is due to their commitment and the commitments of others that the central Section of NAGT is such a great organization to work with. The Central Section thanks Ed, Sallie, and Jim and all our many volunteers.

Upcoming Section Elections

At our business meeting in Evansville, we will be electing new officers. Our 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents move up to President and 1st Vice President respectively. Kathy Bower, current President, has been nominated to replace Janis Treworgy as Secretary and Editor of the newsletter. Janis has been nominated to serve as second vice president of the NAGT Executive Committee. Michael Wolf of Augustana College has been nominated to replace Ed Hansen as Treasurer. Kate Pound, current state representative for Minnesota, has been nominated to replace Sallie Greenberg as Chair of OESTA program.

Nominations for new officers

President: Mark Francek

1st Vice President: Carrie Wright

Secretary/Editor: Kathy Bower

Treasurer: Michael Wolf

OESTA Chair: Kate Pound

Fall 2007 Tri-State Field Conference Report

By Kerry Keen

The 68th Annual Tri-State Geological Field Conference was hosted by the geology faculty at the University of Wisconsin River Falls on October 5-7, 2007. The event began on Friday night with a mixer in the new University Center, and tours of its green building design, and although lightning was dancing around River Falls that evening by Saturday morning the skies cleared and held throughout the conference. A good mix of geology professionals and students from Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin, as well as some geoscientists infiltrating across the border from Minnesota comprised the 80+ participants. Saturday's field stops featured a range of topics from an unusual Quaternary unconformity / supercrop fill,

(cont. p. 4 2007 Field Trip Report)

National NAGT News Update

By Karen Havholm, Past President

The Journal for Geoscience Education is very healthy. The current editor, Carl Drummond will step down at the end of 2008. The search for the new editor is in progress. The plan is to shift the production of the journal to a professional organization, allowing the editor to focus on editorial aspects. A plan to develop a Best Paper award is in progress.

Programs and Awards

The Teacher in the Park program, a partnership with the National Park Service modeled on Geoscientist in the Park program, has operated for 2 years at Mammoth Caves. Teachers are involved in research in the park during the summer, and share their experiences and enthusiasm for science with their students and with other teachers in the region. NPS is looking for a second park for us to partner with.

The Distinguished Speakers program was reviewed this year. The program supports the strategic goals of NAGT and generally runs smoothly. The DS Committee will be following up on some suggestions for improvement that were made.

The USGS/NAGT internship and Field Camp Scholarship programs continue to provide students with practical experience. The Association of Women Geoscientists continues to partner with NAGT to provide additional Field Camp Scholarships to two women each year.

The number of Outstanding Earth Science Teacher (OEST) nominations and awards was up significantly this year and the Dottie Stout awards went to K-12 and Community College teachers this year.

NAGT is working with AGI and Prentice-Hall to review and publish an Environmental Textbook.

NAGT continues to sponsor a number of projects.

These are listed on the website and include:

- On the Cutting Edge: Professional Development for Geoscience Faculty
- Starting Point: Teaching Entry Level Geoscience
- EET: Earth Exploration Toolkit
- Building Strong Geoscience Departments
- DWEL: Digital Water Education Library.
- Earth Learning Idea
- Workshop on Atmospheric Science and Climate Literacy

<http://www.nagt.org/>

Outstanding Earth Science Teacher (OEST) Award – Call for Nominations

Nominations for the OEST award are still being accepted. Please take the time to nominate a deserving teacher in your state or encourage them to nominate themselves. If you have any questions or need additional information, contact Kate Pound (kspound@stcloudstate.edu).

(2007 Field Trip Report from p. 3)

to interesting features and stratigraphy of the Platteville and Oneota formations, to old glacial deposits southwest of River Falls. We ate well - with lunch provided by the YMCA at their camp near Hudson, Wisconsin (overlooking the scenic St. Croix River valley) and closed our activities Saturday evening with a buffet at the University Center. Tony Runkel, Chief Geologist at the Minnesota Geological Survey, presented the keynote address - a fantastic overview of how sequence stratigraphy works in the lower Paleozoic rocks of the upper Mississippi Valley region.

On Sunday morning Dr. Bill Cordua, UW-River Falls, led a long caravan of participants southeast from River Falls to the Rock Elm disturbance, an ancient meteorite impact site. We saw evidence on a large and small scale of the impact, and then visited new roadcuts through the unusual sedimentary units that filled in the impact basin.

Please note that some guidebooks remain (only \$13 plus shipping). Please contact either of the co-chairs: Kerry Keen (kerry.l.keen@uwrf.edu) or Mike Middleton (michael.d.middleton@uwrf.edu) for a guidebook or for other questions regarding this conference.

ANNOUNCING
Dorothy LaLonde Stout
**NAGT PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**



In honor of Dottie Stout's outstanding work and lifelong dedication to Earth science Education, NAGT will award three grants in support of the following activities:

- Participation in Earth science classes or workshops
- Attendance at professional scientific or science education meetings
- Participation in Earth science field trips
- Purchase of Earth science materials for classroom use

**One grant of \$500 will be awarded to a
Community College Faculty**

**One grant of \$500 will be awarded to a
Community College Student**

**One grant of \$500 will be awarded to a K-12
Educator**

Eligibility: Community College Faculty and K-12 teachers who teach one or more Earth science courses and Community College students actively pursuing a career in the Earth sciences are encouraged to apply for these awards.

Application Process: Interested applicants are asked to submit a 1-2 page proposal describing how the grant will be used to support their professional growth in, or classroom teaching of Earth science.

Applications must be received by April 1 with awards being made by April 15th. Please include your name, address, telephone, and email along with your proposal and send all materials to:

Dottie Stout Professional Development Grants
The National Association of Geoscience Teachers
P.O. Box 5443
Bellingham, Washington 98227-5443

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NAGT Membership Application or Renewal Form / JGE Subscription Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____ Postal Code: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____
(email address is required to receive newsletters)

____ College/University Professor @ _____

____ Precollege Teacher @ _____

____ Other @ _____

Checks, MasterCard, or VISA (US funds only) are payable to:

National Association of Geoscience Teachers

Mail to: NAGT, PO Box 5443, Bellingham, WA 98227-5443

☐ Check

☐ Credit card: MC/VISA (circle one) Card #: _____

Signature: _____ Exp. Date _____

Membership Rates (US funds)

Regular \$45 _____

Outside USA \$57 _____

Student* \$20 _____

Student* outside USA \$35 _____

Retired NAGT member \$30 _____

Library Subscriptions

Regular \$135 _____

Outside \$174 _____

_____ New _____ Renewal

The membership year runs from January through December, and members receive five issues of JGE per year. Subscriptions received after June 1 will begin receiving the *Journal* in January of the following year. Back issues are available for \$15 (foreign \$18) each.

*To qualify for student rate, indicate and obtain verification from a NAGT member: ____ Undergraduate ____ Graduate

Signature of NAGT member

School



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEOSCIENCE TEACHERS

OUTSTANDING EARTH SCIENCE TEACHER

Nomination Form

Name of Nominee _____ Years Teaching _____

Home Address (street, city, zip) _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Work) _____ E-Mail _____

College/University Attended _____

Degrees _____ College Major _____ Minor _____

Annual percentage class time devoted to teaching earth science _____ Grades _____

Name of School _____ Telephone _____

School Address _____

Name and Address of School Superintendent _____

Name and Address of Local Newspaper _____

Respond to the following, using no more than one (1) typewritten page per item. Include supporting documentation in the form of letters, products, or publications as appropriate.

1. Teaching ability: What techniques does the nominee/applicant employ? What is his/her teaching philosophy? Are his/her courses challenging and comprehensive? Do students enjoy his/her classes?
2. Inventiveness: What new ideas, materials, software, instructional strategies, or techniques has the nominee/applicant developed?
3. Initiative: How does the nominee/applicant handle new situations and accommodate students of various abilities? Be specific.
4. Cooperativeness: How does the nominee/applicant cooperate in the total school program and in other academic areas?
5. Strengths: What are the principal strengths of the nominee/applicant?
6. Community involvement: How is the nominee/applicant involved in community and/or youth activities?
7. Other activities: List other professional activities and noteworthy accomplishments.

Name of Recommending Person (Nominator) _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

Nominator's Signature _____

Send all forms, materials, and supporting documentation in one package to:

Please feel free to copy this form for nomination purposes.

Kate S. Pound (kspond@stcloudstate.edu)

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