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South Carolina Earth Science Teachers Association Newsletter

Highlights from the Annual SCESTA Meeting at SC²

On November 4, 2005 we had our annual meeting at the SC² Conference held this year at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. Approximately a dozen members were in attendance. President Dina Ledford chaired the meeting.

Secretary/ Treasurer, Leslie Sanford was unable to attend for the first time in years. We missed ya, Leslie!

Members were reminded that next year will be an election year, as terms are filled for a two year period. Donna Petty apologized for failing to get out a fall edition of the newsletter and asked for someone else to take over for a couple of years while she finished her doctorate. There were no volunteers, so she promised to do the best she could with the time she had.

The Share-a-thon was discussed. Its popularity caused the members to run out of copies within the first hour. It was decided that next year we would book a 45 minute slot, as 90 minutes was too long for the 100 copies requested per participant to last. Vice President, Alan Weekes volunteered to coordinate arrangements for next year's Share-a-thon.

Linda Payne thanked us for the letters of support for the grant to fund the summers at S.C. State University collaboration between NASA and earth science teachers of S.C. The grant was funded for another year.

Next, the Outstanding Earth Science Teacher of the Year is announced – Ida Wideman.



Dr. John Wagner presents Ida Wideman with the Outstanding Earth Science Teacher of the Year Award plaque from the National Association of Geoscience Teachers.

See more about Ida below. Congratulations to this long-time servant of Earth Science Education in S.C.

The meeting ended with the

traditional disbursement of door prizes treasures garnered by Dr. Wagner. There were enough so that all attendees received at least one prize. Many thanks to Dr. Wagner and all who made the meeting a success!

Outstanding Earth Science Teacher of the Year Award

The winner of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award for 2005 is Ida D. Wideman, of St. Andrews Middle School in Columbia. In addition to receiving a plaque from the National Association of Geoscience Teachers, and a subscription to the Journal of Geoscience Education, Ida also received a set of decorative agate slices, a \$100 check from the Carolinas Section of the Society of Mining Engineers and a \$100 check from the Mining Association of South Carolina.



The following narrative about Ida will appear in the Winter/Spring issue of *A Matter of Facts* from the S.C. Science Council:

Ida D. Wideman has been a science teacher at St. Andrews Middle School for over 30 years. A recognized master teacher, she has demonstrated her creativity and resourcefulness in the classroom through a variety of grant projects and curriculum initiatives.

Her philosophy of "if students don't learn the way we teach them, then teach them the way that they learn" has piqued the scientific interest of thousands of students.

Ida has demonstrated a command of her subject as well as a caring and patient approach with both students and colleagues. As a veteran teacher, she is often called upon to lead workshops for new teachers, and has served as an Adjunct Professor at several local colleges and universities.

She also served on the Governor's Math and Science Advisory Board and is a former recipient of the Presidential Award for Science Teaching at the state level.

Nominations for the Outstanding Earth Science Teacher for 2006 are now being accepted. The nomination form can be accessed on the web at http://www.nagt.org/files/nagt/OES_T.pdf and will soon be posted on the SCESTA website. You can also request a nomination form from Dr. John Wagner at Clemson University jrwgnr@clemson.edu.

'Need to Contact Officers?

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Upcoming Teacher Awards & Grants

Toyota TAPESTRY Grants

<http://www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry/>
The Toyota TAPESTRY program awards 50 grants of up to \$10,000 each and a minimum of 20 "mini-grants" of \$2,500 each to K-12 science teachers. Interested teachers should propose innovative science projects that can be implemented in their school or school district over a one-year period. Toyota TAPESTRY projects demonstrate creativity, involve risk-taking, possess a visionary quality, and model a novel way of presenting science. If you have a great way to make science come alive, apply for a Toyota TAPESTRY grant.
Deadline for application is January 19, 2006.

NEA Foundation Grants

<http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/grantguides.htm>

The NEA Foundation makes \$2,000 and \$5,000 grants to practicing US public school teachers in grades K-12, public school education support professionals, and faculty and staff at US public higher education institutions. **Grant deadlines 2/1, 6/1, & 9/15**

American Honda Foundation

http://corporate.honda.com/images/banners/america/AHF_app.pdf (Application)

American Honda Foundation supports various programs within youth education. Projects that have been funded include a focus on job training, math, science and environmental education. Eligibility includes: nonprofits, including K-12 schools and school districts involved with curriculum development that encourage innovative education methods and techniques. **Honda's deadlines are Feb. 1, May 1, Aug. 1, and Nov. 1.** If the staff receives preliminary proposals a month before the deadline, they can provide feedback in time for applicants to make changes and still meet the deadline. For guidelines, send a SASE to: American Honda Foundation, PO Box 2205, Torrance, CA 90509.

RGK Foundation

<http://www.rgkfoundation.org/guidelines.php>

The Foundation's primary interests within education include programs that focus on formal K-12 education (particularly mathematics, science and reading), integrating technology into curriculum, teacher development, literacy, and higher education. The Foundation is also interested in programs that attract female and minority students into the fields of mathematics, science, and technology. **All applicants must complete an electronic Letter of Inquiry from the Web site as the first step. There is no deadline for submitting the Letter.** The Foundation reviews Letters on an ongoing basis. Within three weeks, the Foundation will send an e-mail message either declining your request or inviting you to submit a formal application packet for further consideration. Committee Review Dates are: March 3, 2006, June 2, 2006, and October 6, 2006.

Sony Corporation of America

<http://www.sony.com/SCA/philanthropy/guidelines.shtml>

Sony's company-wide philanthropic efforts reflect the diverse interests of our core businesses. While positive consideration is given to efforts that promote literacy and basic educational competency, the company also seeks to apply its financial, technological, and human resources to the encouragement of the creative, artistic, technical, and scientific skills required of tomorrow's workforce. In the area of Education, Sony is responsive to grant-seekers and institutions who bring commitment and innovation to the task of strengthening education at the primary and secondary school levels. The company welcomes requests for support throughout the year within the guidelines and program areas set forth. **This grant funder has rolling deadlines. There is no grant application form.**

Captain Planet Foundation

<http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/appProcess.html>

The Captain Planet Foundation provides grants for projects

promoting the understanding of environmental issues and focusing on hands-on experiences for students ages 6-18. Due to some recent changes the Captain Planet Foundation is temporarily limiting grant awards to \$500. **Complete the online form. Deadlines are Mar. 31, June 30, Sept. 30, and Dec. 31.**

Waste Management

<http://www.wm.com/WM/community/CGapp.doc> (Application)

Waste Management focuses its giving on the following priority areas: Environment, Education and Community Impact. A committee considers requests to the corporate office quarterly, usually during January, April, July and October.

NWA Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grants

<http://www.nwas.org/solhirsch.html>

National Weather Association. The \$500 grants are awarded annually to teachers in grades K-12 to help improve the education of their students in meteorology. The teachers selected will be able to use the funds to take an accredited course in atmospheric sciences, attend a relevant workshop or conference, or purchase scientific materials or equipment for the classroom. **Deadline for application is August 1 each year.**

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

<http://www.aiaa.org/content.cfm?pageid=216>

The Foundation has established a Classroom Grant program specifically for use by AIAA Educator Associates or those who will become one. If you are a K-12 teacher interested in the development or application of science, mathematics, and technology within your educational curriculum, you may qualify for a grant of up to \$200 per individual request to supplement your learning program. Each school is limited to up to \$1,000 per calendar year. Use your grant for classroom demonstration kits, classroom science supplies, or other materials to enhance the teaching-and learning-of science, mathematics,

and related technology. Submit your proposal for review at least 9 weeks before your intended purchase date and at least 30 days before their quarterly consideration of grant proposals in January, March, June, and September. They also have an [Educator Achievement Award](#) with a September deadline for nomination.

Student Opportunities

Toshiba America Foundation

<http://www.toshiba.com/tafstage/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp>

The Toshiba America Foundation encourages projects that can improve classroom teaching and learning of science, math, and technology. Proposals from individual teachers or groups of teachers, grades 7-12, will be considered for funding. Proposals are welcomed from public or private schools throughout the United States, but the foundation gives priority consideration to schools in Toshiba America company locations. Decisions about small grants are made monthly, except in March and September. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the foundation before or during the proposal preparation process.

Deadline February 1 or August 1

Teaching the Poetry of Rivers—Online

<http://www.riverofwords.org/contest/index.html>

The Colorado Foundation for Water Education offers online lesson plans that address the interdisciplinary study of watersheds and assist students with submissions to the River of Words Poetry Contest (deadline **Feb. 15th**).

Volunteer Newsletter Editor and Webmaster Needs Your Help

Any news? Do you have your own class website? Do you know of good links or other resources we can pass on? Please drop us a line! Both the website and the newsletter are only as good as you make them

by letting us know what is important to you. Together we can be a strong force for Earth Science education in South Carolina! Please send your news, as it happens, to:

dpetty@usit.net and/or

amie@clemson.edu Thanks!

Donna & Amy

SPECIAL NOTE: The SCESTA newsletter is now delivered electronically through e-mail. If we do not have your e-mail address on file, please notify the SCESTA Secretary/Treasurer. Only those members who have paid their \$5 dues will receive the newsletter. To receive a hard copy, you must request one from the newsletter editor (contact info on front page)

Upcoming Courses and Workshops of Interest to Earth Science Teachers

If you know of any courses or workshops we can post here, please send the info to dpetty@usit.net. We'd love to pass it on to teachers, etc.

Check with the following Colleges and University Geology Departments to find courses of interest to you!

[Charleston Southern University](#)

[The Citadel](#)

[Clemson University](#)

[Coastal Carolina University](#)

[Coker College](#)

[College of Charleston](#)

[Erskine College](#)

[Francis Marion University](#)

[Furman University](#)

[Lander University](#)

[Newberry College](#)

[Presbyterian College](#)

[South Carolina State University](#)

University of South Carolina

[Columbia campus](#)

[Aiken campus](#)

[Beaufort campus](#)

[Lancaster campus](#)

[Salkehatchie campus](#)

[Spartanburg campus](#)

[Winthrop University](#)

[Wofford College](#)

The SC MAPS and SC LIFE programs at Clemson University offer a series of discounted courses and workshops each semester. For information, check this web page <<http://www.clemson.edu/scmaps>>

Check Out These Sites for Freebies (or almost free stuff)!

A WORLD IN MOTION kits are provided free of charge to teachers in public, private, or parochial schools all over the U.S. and Canada. Using the A WORLD IN MOTION kits, teachers work in partnership with practicing engineer volunteers to provide students with fun, exciting, and relevant hands-on science and math experiences. To receive your kit, call SAE Foundation at 1-800-457-2946.

FREE SPACESUIT POSTER OFFER: NASA is offering a color poster which details information on the "intricacies of the spacesuit". To receive this poster and other information, write to:

Request Spacesuit, WED-109
NASA Educational Publications
Code FEP
Washington, D.C. 20546

FREE SPACE CD ROMS:
Call Center for Mars Exploration (415) 604-0421 or email cmex_cd@barsoom.arc.nasa.gov and ask for Viking 20th Anniv. Educ. CD-Rom (specify mac or windows format) Call Jet Propulsion Lab/Mars Outreach, Cathy Davis at (818) 354-6111 and ask for the Mars Navigator CD.

SKYMATH PROJECT
The 150-page SkyMath teaching unit is freely available from the SkyMath homepage <http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/staff/blynds/Skymath.html> NCEER Bibliography of Earthquake Education Materials by Katherine E-K. Ross. To request a copy, write on school letterhead to:
National Center for Earthquake Engineering Research State University of New York at Buffalo Red Jacket Quadrangle Buffalo, NY 14261.

Hey! Let us know if you've heard of any great freebies we don't have here or on the web site!

Web Sites for Teaching

Astronomy, Earth Science and Planetarium Guide, 2006-07 - This 68-page color catalog from MMI Corporation includes educational materials and equipment related to astronomy and Earth science. Free to educators, the catalog may be requested by calling 410-366-1222 or by visiting the company's website, www.mmicorporation.com, where a PDF version can be downloaded.

Windows to the Universe - This website includes images, movies, animations, and data sets that explore Earth and space sciences and the historical and cultural ties among science, exploration, and the human experience. Visit www.windows.ucar.edu. To register for the newsletter, select "Become a Member."

Resources for this Newsletter's Theme – Earthquakes

BBC: In Pictures: Jack London's 1906 Quake Journey
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/picture_gallery/06/americas_jack_london0s_1906_quake_journey/html/1.stm

Discovery Channel: Earthquake - Make a Quake
<http://dsc.discovery.com/guides/planetearth/earthquake/interactive/interactive.html>

S.C. Seismic Network
<http://scsn.seis.sc.edu>

USGS: Earthquake History of S.C.
http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/states/south_carolina/history.php

Virtual Earthquake: An Introduction
<http://www.sciencecourseware.org/VirtualEarthquake/VQuakeExecute.html>

On April 18th of this year, we will observe the 100th "birthday" of the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906.

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