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<http://www.ces.clemson.edu/scesta/>

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South Carolina Earth Science Teachers Association Newsletter

Help With the Earth Science Teacher's Share-a-thon!

True to his word, Tom Littlejohn has signed us up to have a share-a-thon at the upcoming Science Conference. At our last annual meeting, all agreed we needed to help out elementary teachers (a) because many had little time to focus on science with so many subjects to cover, and (b) to help those students have a better base in later science courses. SCESTA members are to present activities at this session. **Please take a look at their standards and come up with some sort of activity for this – and e-mail this ASAP to Tom at teligrafix@aol.com.**

'Need to Contact an Officer?

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Nominations for the Outstanding Earth Science Teacher for 2002 are now being accepted.

The nomination form will soon be posted on the SCESTA website. In the meantime, you can get a nomination form from Dr. John Wagner at Clemson University
jrwgnr@clemson.edu.

Earth Science Week 2002

October 13 - 19, 2002

National Earth Science Week is Oct. 13-19 this year. Wonderful ideas and resources are available on their web site at:

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

This year's theme is "Water is All Around You". It seems this can easily be tied into the curriculum of any grade and still be addressing the standards. Host an exploration table for Parent's Open House!

Featured Resources

Space Weather keeps you up to date on "everything under the sun". It's advisable to sign up for their e-mail updates because there's always something going on in the sky!

<http://www.spaceweather.com/>

Upcoming Teacher Awards & Grants

Don't forget the **Mining Association of S.C.'s Award for Innovative Teaching**. Get details at: <http://www.scmines.com/>

[Shell Science Teaching Award](#) **(Deadline Nov. 15, 2002)**

This award recognizes one outstanding classroom science teacher who has had a positive impact on his or her students, school, and community through exemplary science teaching.

[Toyota TAPESTRY Grant Program](#)

(Deadline Jan. 16, 2003)
The 2003 Toyota TAPESTRY program will award 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.

Student Opportunities

Craftsman/NSTA Young Inventors Awards

<http://www.nsta.org/programs/craftsman/>

(Deadline March 4, 2003) The Craftsman/NSTA Young Inventors Awards Program challenges students to use creativity and imagination along with science, technology, and mechanical ability to invent or modify a tool.

[ExploraVision Awards](#)

<http://www.toshiba.com/tai/exploravision/>

(Deadline Feb. 4, 2003)

ExploraVision is a competition for students of all interest, skill, and ability levels in grades K-12. Entrants must be United States or Canadian citizens or legal residents, living within the United States, U.S. Territories, or Canada. The purpose of the competition is to encourage students to combine their imaginations with the tools of science to create and explore a vision of a future technology.

Share Your Best Practices!

Don't ya just despise seeing lessons or activities that sound like they would never work with your students? You have the voice of experience and we need your expertise. We'd like every member of SCESTA to share one of their favorite lessons, activities, or other tips through the newsletter. Please send anything – demos, tips, or full lessons to dpetty@usit.net.

Thanks !

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 and/or danielg@clermson.edu. We'd

love to pass it on to teachers, etc.
'Hope to see you all at SC²!

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
danielg@clermson.edu Thanks!

Donna & Tex

New Freebies (or almost free stuff)!

- **ENC Focus Magazine**
This magazine is always filled with the latest research and trends in Math and Science Education. The latest edition is: [Increasing Your Mathematics and Science Content Knowledge](#). 'Sounds like something we all could benefit from!
- **CITYgreen 5.0**
This computer software from American Forests calculates the amount of tree cover in an area and the economic and environmental benefits that trees provide in that area. Typical users of this technology are students, city planners, and conservationists. Download CITYgreen 5.0 and the sample data needed to evaluate the software on a trial basis at www.americanforests.org. For more information, call Rachel Brittin at 202-955-4500, ext. 234, or e-mail rbrittin@amfor.org.
- **Space Weather**
Want to teach your students about the inner workings of stars? This microdocumentary film discusses solar flares and space weather forecasting.

View it online at www.thefutureschannel.com/movie_pages/space_weather.htm.

- **2002 Catalog from The Groundwater Foundation**
This nonprofit organization is dedicated to informing the public about groundwater. Since 1985, its programs and publications for children and adults present the benefits everyone receives from groundwater and the risks that threaten groundwater quality. Its catalog contains a variety of educational materials. View the catalog online at www.groundwater.org, or contact The Groundwater Foundation, PO Box 22558, Lincoln, NE 68542-2558; 1-800-858-4844; fax 402-434-2742; e-mail info@groundwater.org.
- **Bright Ideas Online Publication**
Bright Ideas is for professionals in the fields of technology, science, and mathematics. The International Technology Education Association's quarterly publication is free to any teacher, supervisor, or teacher educator. To receive it, visit www.iteawww.org, and select *Bright Ideas*. You'll receive four issues each school year that include free activities, program spotlights, and other information.
- **Light and Energy Learning Unit**
This online curriculum module from GE Lighting can teach middle school students about saving energy. Designed to work as a stand-alone guide or a supplement to existing energy curriculum, the Light and Energy Learning Unit gives students the background knowledge and skills needed to make better decisions about light and energy use for their schools or homes. The module features content about the history, math, and science of light, along with practical experiments in understanding

lighting and vision. At the end of each lesson, teachers will find quiz and feedback options and detailed teachers notes.

After students complete the unit, they can conduct their own lighting audit, either as a class project or in their own homes, by using the new online GE Lighting Auditor. Access the interactive unit and the GELA at www.gelighting.com/na/home/gela/gelaform.html.

- **Dino Lab**
This online inquiry-based education program offers dinosaur-themed science lesson plans aligned to national science standards, interactive student activities, virtual field trips, and offline classroom extensions. The program was developed by a team from the Jurassic Park Institute that included dinosaur experts, university science educators, and classroom teachers. Check out Dino Lab at www.jpoinstitute.com, which also contains links to the Dinopedia, a web-based reference guide to hundreds of dinosaurs, and Dino News.
- **Rays Awareness educational materials for teachers of grades 3–5**
These sun safety materials include a set of cross-curricular lesson plans covering science, math, language arts, and social studies and a color sun safety poster. Contact Rays Awareness Curriculum, c/o The Weather Channel Education Dept., 300 Interstate North Pkwy., Atlanta, GA 30339; 1-800-471-5544.
- **Special issue of The Universe in the Classroom**
This newsletter on teaching astronomy in grades 3–12 is published by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (an NSTA Associated Group). The issue contains material for

teachers about how we know the age of the universe. In several U.S. states, demands have been made to exclude discussions of the Big Bang and the vast age of the cosmos from science curricula in K–12 classrooms. In response, the Astronomy Education Board of the American Astronomical Society has put together an article for teachers on how astronomers know that the universe is old and that it changes with time.

- A list of written and web resources is also included. The illustrated article has been posted at www.astrosociety.org/education/publications/tnl/56.

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

SCESTA Business Meeting at (SC)2

(election of officers)

The SCESTA business meeting will take place at 12:00 noon on Friday at SC2 (same time as most other affiliates). The exact room number will be announced later. Bring your lunch with you and also your ideas about how SCESTA can better serve the cause of earth science in South Carolina. We will present the Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award for 2002 and elect new officers (two-year terms). Yes, there will be door prizes - enough for all.

SCESTA will also have a display set up in the registration area. Stop by and say hello whenever you pass by. You can also pay your \$5 dues.

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