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Geological Sciences
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South Carolina Earth Science Teachers Association Newsletter

Highlights from the Annual SCESTA Meeting at SC²

On November 8, 2002 we had our annual meeting at the SC² Conference at Myrtle Beach Convention Center. Twenty-three members were in attendance.

Treasurer Leslie Sanford reported that we have \$1014.14 in our account.

Nancy Parson agreed to update the SCESTA brochure and send it to Clemson for printing and distribution.

New Officers Elected

We had elections for officers. We bid a fond farewell to Sandra Watts, who faithfully served as President for the past two years. Carla Keasler was elected president after serving two years as Vice-President. Nominations were received for a new Vice-President and a vote was held. Our new Vice-President will be Dina Ledford. Both Leslie and Donna agreed to continue to serve in their present positions and were re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer and Newsletter Editor respectively. Here is the contact information for these people who will serve the next two years as officers:

President: Carla Keasler

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119 Jones Court
Central, SC 29670
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ckeasler@anderson4.k12.sc.us

Vice President:

Dina Ledford
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Secretary/Treasurer:

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Donna M. Petty
(Dent Middle School)
111 Darian Dr.
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S.C. Mining Association Awards

Randy Wallett from the S.C. Mining Association gave us a re-cap of the The Mining Association of South Carolina Award for Innovative Teaching of The South Carolina Earth Science Curriculum Standards.

The Grand Awardee was Michelle Jewett of Centerville Elementary School in Anderson, SC.

The Mining Association of South Carolina annually presents an

Innovative Earth Science Teacher Award in recognition of a teacher who has significantly advanced the teaching of earth sciences in South Carolina. To be eligible for the \$5000.00 award, a teacher must design a lesson, a module, or another teaching instrument that addresses instruction in geology, mining, minerals, rock, soils, or related environmental issues in a creative and effective manner. The materials can be an original design or an innovative revision or creative modification of existing teaching materials.

The basic structure of Ms. Jewett's course was designed to embed many other educational skills into the learning process. In the Earth Science unit students were asked to write, read, develop a musical instrument, use the Internet, use a balance scale and ruler, and complete a Venn Diagram. The program allowed students with different learning styles to relate to the science content more easily. The unit was also designed to ensure students had daily contact with rocks or soil allowing Earth Science to become a real experience.

Honorable mentions (awarded \$250) winners were our own Dr. Alan F. Weekes, Pickens Middle School in Pickens and Donna M. Petty, Dent Middle School in Columbia, along with Cynthia Gardner, White Knoll High School in Lexington.

Outstanding Earth Science Teacher of the Year Award



The winner of the Outstanding Earth Science

Teacher Award for 2002 is Virginia Fralick, an 8th grade teacher at Oakbrook Middle School in Dorchester II, Summerville, SC.

Nominated by her principal, Garland Crump, she says that she's also been encouraged so many times by people like former SCESTA President Sally Shive. Virginia's Words of Wisdom: "As my principal says, "You've really got to love it!" It is so rewarding to work through a lesson, and see that light of understanding click on when a student catches on to a concept and see their enthusiasm spreading." 'Sounds like she knows about the real "teacher pay"'. Great Job, Virginia! She received a plaque from the National Association of Geoscience Teachers (the group that sponsors the award), \$100 and a set of beautiful bookends (made of polished rock – of course) from the Carolinas Section of the Society of Mining Engineers, \$100 from the Mining Association of South Carolina, and a pick from SCESTA to use on her next rockhounding adventure.

Nominations for the Outstanding Earth Science Teacher for 2003 are now being accepted. The nomination form can be accessed on the web at <<http://www.nagt.org>> 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.

Share-a-Thon a Huge Success

Almost two hundred teachers benefited from the activities, lessons and other resources offered by approximately a dozen of our teacher members at our SCESTA Share-A-Thon on Friday at the Convention. Everyone agreed we need to do this again next year! Donna asked everyone to send a copy of their handout to Tex for the web site. Many thanks to Tom Littlejohn for coordinating this effort.

Our Favorite Way to Adjourn the Meeting – Door Prizes!

It was evident that Dr. Wagner worked hard again to get us some great door prizes, which was a wonderful end to our annual meeting. Thanks a bunch Dr. Wagner! And special thanks to Emmie Thirlwell for providing the 'grand prize'.

Upcoming Teacher Awards & Grants

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/explora/>

(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 !

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@clemson.edu Thanks!
Donna & Tex

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 and/or danielg@clemson.edu . 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)!

- **Fuel Cells: Driving the Future**
www.gm.com/company/gmability/environment (select Education). The program, developed by Weekly Reader, is an entirely self-contained curriculum package with a teachers guide, student activities, and posters.
- **The Office of Surface Mining – U.S. Dept. of the Interior** has a poster and teacher packet available at

<http://www.osmre.gov/order1.htm>

- **Kit & Kaboodle** - a free software program for grades 3-5 to use technology in the classroom to teach problem solving skills through a variety of units. The most recent of these is *Next Stop Spaceville*. <http://www.kitkaboodle.org/web/about>
- **300 Free Science Quizzes** – provides quiz software with light, astronomy, and periodic table quizzes.

• <http://www.engr.ncsu.edu/mrl/freestuff.html>

• http://www.tufts.edu/as/wright_center/svl/posters/posts.html

• <http://www.flinnsci.com/homepage/free/freeform.html>

• <http://www.mii.org/posterpackets.php>

• <http://topex-www.jpl.nasa.gov/education/poster.html>

• <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/CVisco/free.htm>

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

Call for Papers – Get Published!

The NSTA is looking for Earth Science teaching or lesson articles for their magazines. Please send your submission to:
Janet Gerking, NSTA Editor
443 Valley Stream Dr.
Geneva, FI 32732
Phone: (407)349-9093
Fax: (407)349-9094
jgerking@nsta.org

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