



National Association of Geoscience Teachers

Central Section Newsletter

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

Spring 2009

President

Mark Francek
Central Michigan University
mark.francek@cmich.edu

1st Vice President

Carrie Wright
University of Southern IN
clwright@usi.edu

2nd Vice President

Allen Macfarlane, Kansas
Geological Survey
dowser@kgs.ku.edu

Secretary/Editor

Kathleen Bower
Eastern Illinois University
kbmower@eiu.edu

Treasurer

Michael Wolf
Augustana College
michaelwolf@augustana.edu

Web Master

John McDaris
Carleton College
jmcdaris@carleton.edu

OEST Chair

Kate Pound, St. Cloud State
University
kspound@stcloudstate.edu

Past President

Annabelle Foos
University of Akron
afoos@uakron.edu

State Representatives

IL-David Voorhees
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UPCOMING EVENTS!

North-Central GSA Meeting
Northern Illinois University
Rockford, IL
April 2-3, 2009

*Events sponsored by
NAGT Central Section*

Theme Sessions:

Issues in Geoscience Education.

(Kathleen Bower, Eastern Illinois University, kmbower@eiu.edu)
Session will present innovative ideas that promote K-16 geoscience education, in-service teacher training and public outreach.

K-16 Collaboration, Outreach, and Engagement

(Allen Macfarlane, Kansas Geological Survey, dowser@kgs.ku.edu; Annabelle Foos, University of Akron, afoos@uakron.edu) Session will present exemplary programs that incorporate collaboration between universities and community partners, public outreach activities of universities, government agencies, nonprofits and industry.

K-16 Geoscience Educator Workshop:

Backyard Field Trips: Inquiry-Based Activities within 100 Meters of Your Building.

(Mark Francek, Central Michigan University, mark.francek@cmich.edu)
Apr. 3, 1-5 p.m. Fee: \$10. Using the Rockford campus as field site; geology and meteorology, and astronomy will be explored. Examples will be provided for transforming a simple show and tell field trip into an inquiry based activity.

Business meeting & luncheon

Friday, April 3, 12 noon. Cost \$20
<http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/Northc/09mtg/events.htm>

SEE YOU THERE!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Almost a decade ago, I read an article from C.W. Domack called "Teaching Introductory Meteorology through an Observation-Oriented Term Project" in our very own Journal of Geoscience Education and it has been a positive influence on how I teach my introductory earth science courses. I would like to share briefly how a photo portfolio of local geologic, weather, water, or living phenomena can benefit your courses too.

Basically, this project requires students to make accurate first-hand observations of course content through digital photographs. One picture per page is required from each week of class with the picture representing a major concept covered during that week. There are then four sections to each page. The "Background" section contains the date/location of where the image was taken and the topic observed. The "Relation to Class" section is a summary of concepts discussed in class or observed in the field for that particular week. The "Research" section draws on related content from peer reviewed journals. Finally, the "Relation to My Life" section requires that students recall, in a realistic, creative manner, how an observed phenomenon has impacted his/her life.

(continued on p. 2)

Congratulations to OEST Awardees!

The 2008 OEST (Outstanding Earth Science Teacher) Awards, NAGT Central Section

Central Section Winner: Teresa Huckleberry, Indiana School for the Deaf, Indiana

Central Section First Runner-up: Chris Bolhuis, Hudsonville High School, Hudsonville, Michigan

Central Section Second Runner-up: Mike Bause, North Farmington High School, Michigan

Indiana State Winner: Teresa Huckleberry, Indiana School for the Deaf, Indianapolis, Indiana

Illinois State Winner: Kelda Hutson, Warren Township High School, Gurnee, Illinois

Michigan State Winner: Chris Bolhuis, Hudsonville High School, Hudsonville, Michigan

Michigan State Runner-up: Mike Bause, North Farmington High School, Michigan

Honorable Mentions:

Illinois Honorable Mention: Charles Simer, Woodlawn School, Woodlawn, Illinois

Minnesota Honorable Mention: Jim Rock, Wayzata High School, Plymouth, Minnesota

As you will all know, we have many excellent Middle- and High School Earth Science Teachers – this is reflected in the OEST nominations we receive in the Central Section. In 2008 the Central Section OEST Winner was Teresa Huckleberry. Teresa teaches at the Indiana School for the Deaf, where she has engaged her students in active, hands-on interdisciplinary learning, with a focus on field-based work or field simulations. Teresa has been involved in development of a multitude of teaching materials and a variety of programs at a national level, and is clearly also connected to her students, and her community. The Michigan State Winner was Chris Bolhuis. Chris' nominator was very clear about how strongly Chris "believes that geology must be experienced," and how Chris has designed and taught field geology courses; Chris works closely with students to help, challenge, and motivate them. Mike Bause of North Farmington High School is recognized as the Michigan State Runner-up; Mike is clearly connected to the kids learning and well-being, as well as a teacher that works with multiple-learning styles to engage the kids in geology, science and life in general. Kelda Hutson is the Illinois State Winner; she teaches Geology at Warren Township High School. Kelda uses student interest in the environment to engage her students, and help build a strong, empowered, sense of community – she has been innovative in

bringing new projects and approaches to geology learning, and has also focused on making sure that students have a good working understanding of the science process and methods. Jim Rock (Wayzata High School, Minnesota), and Charles Simer (Woodlawn School, Woodlawn, Illinois) both received Honorable Mentions.

It truly was an honor to read through all the nominations. The work that these teachers do with and for our kids is truly inspiring. Please spread the word about the OEST award – consider nominating an earth science teacher that is outstanding in some way – or encourage someone else to. This is one way we can promote and encourage innovation and support of earth science teaching in our Middle and High Schools. Please also make sure that the nomination materials do include some specific examples of the work that the teachers have done; this does not mean that the nomination should be filled with verbiage – it means that we need to have enough specific information to assess the nominees. Evaluation of the nominees is very difficult, and I am sure that many worthy nominees are looked over because their application materials lack supporting evidence. The deadline for 2009 OEST Award is May 12th. Nomination materials can be sent to Kate Pound, or submitted online at the NAGT website.

([president's message](#), continued from p. 1)

This project has many advantages, offering an alternative method of assessment both formative (through mileposts where students periodically submit their work) and summative. The project appeals to multiple intelligences as students often adorn their work with colorful and creative design schemes. It hones research skills (be ready to spend a lot of time introducing students to what a peer reviewed citation is all about). Most important, this project gets students out in the field and ties class concepts to their own lives. One drawback is that the projects require quite a bit of time to evaluate but I never tire of the personal, imaginative flair exhibited by students.

Please contact me at Mark.Francek@cmich.edu and I'll be happy to send you more details including rubrics.

Source: Domack, C.W. 1999. "Teaching Introductory Meteorology through an Observation-Oriented Term Project" *Journal of Geoscience Education*, 47, 260-265.

Upcoming Section Elections

At our business meeting in Rockford, we will be electing new officers. Our 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents are generally elected to move up to President and 1st Vice President respectively.

Current nominations for new officers

President: Carrie Wright

1st Vice President: Allen Macfarlane

2nd Vice President: Kevin Ray Evans,
Missouri State University

(<http://courses.missouristate.edu/KevinEvans/>)

We are actively seeking nominations for the **OEST chair** (to replace Kate Pound this spring) and for **Michigan State Representative** (to replace Chris De Wolf)

An Illinois host for the 2009 Tri-State Geological Field Conference is being sought

Contact James Walters (james.walters@uni.edu)

2009 Fall Field Conference Ancient Landscapes of the Shawnee Hills Southern Illinois GLS-SEPM Field Trip

Dr. Pius Weibel (weibel@isgs.illinois.edu) of the Illinois State Geologic Survey will host a 2009 Society for Sedimentary Geology-SEPM, Great Lakes Section field conference. Leon Follmer (ISGS) and Don Johnson (UI Geography) are co-organizers. The trip will be a roughly west to east traverse of the Shawnee Hills to examine evidence for relict and ancient landscapes. It will most likely start in the far southwestern part of the Shawnee Hills. Participants will be looking at the microcrystalline chert deposits and other deposits as they try to decipher a lengthy time period of mostly non-deposition. Hopefully, they will be able to assess features and evidence that appear best explained by a long, sub-aerially uninterrupted period of mechanical and chemical weathering that is believed to have started in the Cretaceous and continues to the present.

Your E-Mail Address

If you change your email address, please tell me – kmbower@eiu.edu. Thanks!

Report from NAGT Executive Committee Liaison

The Executive Committee of NAGT has just had its mid-year meeting in conjunction with the Southeast Section of GSA meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida. As a new member of the ExComm, I would like to report that this is a strong group of leaders, and together with Cathy Manduca as Executive Director, NAGT is in good hands. I have some very large shoes to fill as I move up the officer ladder.

The biggest undertaking at this point is our transition to the new editorship of and new electronic manuscript review system for our flagship product, The Journal of Geoscience Education. Julie Libarkin and Joe Elkins, our new co-editors, are moving through the inevitably steep learning curve as they continue with the former ways while setting up the new processes. We are grateful to have their high energy, fresh ideas, and hard work, as we add on-line functionality for JGE.

I would like to thank Carl Drummond, a Central Section member, for his many years of dedicated service to NAGT as editor of JGE. He increased the visibility of the journal. Thank you, Carl!

Like everyone and every organization, we are watching our budget closely and carefully evaluating revenue vs. expenses. NAGT is in a stable position at this time, but we encourage you to continue to support the association by renewing your membership and getting your colleagues, students, and area K-12 teachers to join as well.

At our mid-year meeting, we are finalizing an action agenda for ourselves for the next 2-3 years, with the overarching goal of supporting and giving “value added” to our members. One program we are initiating is to establish an NAGT on-line magazine or e-zine. Our President, David Steer, is chairing this effort and several other ExComm members, including me, will be working with (continued on next page)

him. If you have ideas or would like to be part of this effort, please contact me. We welcome your participation.

Other action items focus around better serving our members who are two-year college faculty and K-12 teachers. For them as for all our members, we intend to improve access to and grow our teaching resources available through the NAGT website. This includes field activities. If any of you have materials you have developed or used successfully that you would like to share, please contact Cathy Manduca (cmanduca@carleton.edu). We would also like to develop some opportunities for networking among two-year college faculty. We welcome your ideas on this too.

Finally I would like to report that the ExComm considers Central Section to be one of their most active sections and a model for other sections. Congratulations! Your program for the North-Central GSA meeting in Rockford is outstanding! I am proud of you. Keep up the good work.

Janis Treworgy
2nd Vice President, NAGT, Liaison to Central Section

2009 GSA in Portland, OR

Keynote Speaker: Heather Macdonald

A Lone Ranger?

Are you the only geologist at your institution?

You are not alone! Come share your experiences and network with others like you. Discuss facilities, course load, research opportunities, challenges, successes, and what keeps you there. Submit an abstract for:

Theme Session:

T110. Teaching and Research Challenges and Successes for Solitary Geologists in Academia.

(NAGT; GSA Geoscience Education Division; Council on Undergraduate Research. Janis D. Treworgy, Laura Guertin)

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).

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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Published by National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT)

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 (kspound@stcloudstate.edu)

Earth & Atmospheric Sciences
St. Cloud State University
St. Cloud, MN 56301