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Nebraska Earth Systems Education Network Newsletter – Spring 1997

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Nebraska Earth Science Education Network
9 Nebraska Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0517
Phone: 402-472-0773
Fax: 402-472-4608
Web site: http://nesen.unl.edu
Email: nesen 2@unl.edu

Spring 1997 Newsletter

Issue Number 14

NESEN at 1997 Fall Conference of Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science

The Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science (NATS) fall conference is just around the corner. NESEN staff and associates will be providing eight presentations or workshops that range from understanding acid rain to weather forecasting. Plan to attend the exciting 1997 NATS fall conference. These presentations and workshops include:

- *Acid Rain and You (ARAY)* - Mark A. Mesarch
- *Five Day Weather Forecast: Crystal Clear or Crystal Ball* - Steve Meyer and Mark A. Mesarch
- *The Maury Project Physical Oceanography* - Rick Perk and Brian Tolk
- *Rocks, Weather and Remote Sensing: Activities Developed from the 1997 NESEN Workshops* - Dave Gosselin, Rick Perk and Steve Meyer
- *Sixth Annual NESEN Workshop: Mapping Your Environment and Increasing the Use of Maps in the Classroom* - Dave Gosselin and others
- *Water + Geology = Groundwater* - Dave Gosselin
- *The Weather Around you is unSTEDII* - Duane Mohlman and Mark A. Mesarch
- We will also have a NESEN and CSD information booth.

1997 Summer Workshop Series

There are just a few spots available for this summer's workshops. If you are interested, please contact the NESEN office as soon as possible. College credit is available.

- *Journey to the Center of Geology Investigating Rocks & Minerals* - July 8-9, 1997
- *Chili Today, Hot Tamale: Let's Look at Nebraska's Weather* - July 14-15, 1997
- *Virtual Nebraska Putting Remotely Sensed Data to Work in the Classroom* (NEW!) - July 17-18, 1997

For additional information, contact Dave Gosselin at gosselin@unlinfo.unl.edu or 402-472-8919, or see the "summer workshop" information on the NESEN home page at http://nesen.unl.edu/nesen.html. You may register by phone, mail or via the NESEN page.

NESEN Working to Develop "NESEN Pods" in Nebraska

The NESEN Steering Committee is working on improving NESEN's responsiveness to its members, improving communication among members, promoting national and state visions for science education and developing additional educational resources. Our discussions at the last steering committee indicated that NESEN needs to: develop "pods" of members throughout Nebraska who can serve as NESEN representatives and liaisons with other groups, especially ESUs; take workshops on the road; develop means of efficient access to good resources from the Internet and elsewhere; pursue more STEDII-type projects; strive to reach all earth science teachers, especially those without electronic connectivity; and encourage use of and access to the Nebraska Earth Science Video Exchange. We would also like to encourage any members who have ideas concerning NESEN and its activities to contact any steering committee member or Dave Gosselin at 402-472-8919 or gosselin@unlinfo.unl.edu.

Spring STEDII Focused Measurement Period Completed

The spring Focused Measurement Period (FMP) was conducted from April 14 to 28, 1997. Seventeen schools participated during this FMP with a number conducting measurements throughout the weekends. This FMP began with the remains of the great blizzard of April 1997 and ended with great spring weather. Any person can access this data by going to our Web site at http://nesen.unl.edu/stedii/mmesarch/stediout.html. A summary of data collection is currently available for the winter and spring FMPs. A survey of the participating schools will be conducted on the use of weather data and related lesson plans in the classroom. To be come part of STEDII for the 1997-98 school year please contact Mark Mesarch, mmesarch@unlinfo.unl.edu, 402-472-5904; or Brian Lang, blang@unlinfo.unl.edu, 402-472-0773.

NESEN Featured at Nebraska Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting

On April 25, 1997, at the 107th annual meeting of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences (NAS), Duane Mohlman, Mark Mesarch and Dave Gosselin presented The Nebraska Earth Science Education Network (NESEN): Connecting University Resources and K-12 Earth Science Educators. This presentation, one of several during the afternoon earth science session, was attended by about 45 educators. Response to the presentation was positive, and we added a few new members.

NESEN Taking Nominations for the First Annual NESEN Earth Science Teacher of the Year Award

NESEN is currently taking nominations for its first annual NESEN Earth Science Teacher of the Year Award. You may nominate any K-12 earth science teacher that has made significant contributions to promoting earth science. The award will be presented at the 1997 NATS fall conference. Please send nominations to Duane Mohlman at dmohlman@unlinfo.unl.edu or 402-472-7528.

Feurer Offers Nebraska Earth Science Video Exchange

Editor's Notes: We would like to remind you about an innovative and special earth science activity designed by one of our NESEN Steering Committee teachers, Bob Feurer, of North Bend Central Junior/Senior High School. This is an excellent activi ty, and we hope that our earth science teacher membership will seriously consider doing this project. For more information, contact Bob Feurer at bfeurer@esu2.esu2.k12.ne.us or 402-652-8348.

Does your school or department have a video camera? Interested in letting the students investigate their own environments? Imagine your students researching and exploring the earth around them in their own county! The geology, meteorology, astronomy and history that exist right outside their back doors can be made more relevant

if they start to see through different eyes. Developing an instructional video of their geographic area to exchange with other classes in Nebraska (and who knows, maybe other states?) will stretch our students and us as teachers. It will challenge our creativity (and schedules) to start to see the subject of earth science as it relates to our part of the state.

Homepage Links - by Derek Geise

Derek Geise has been working on providing a more user friendly links page. He has made a table for each of the different links that will provide educators and students with a quick summary of the link. In addition, a full summary of each link is provided below the table. If you have any links you think should be added to the page, please e-mail Derek at dgeise@nesen.unl.edu.

NESEN Tidbits

- NESEN membership currently stands at 376.
- A search engine has been added to the NESEN and CSD home pages.
- During the summer, Brian Lang, NESEN Coordinator, will be working Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. You can contact Brian at 402-472-0773, or blang@unlinfo.unl.edu. Derek Geise, NESEN assistant, will be working: Monday through Friday, fr om 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. You can contact Derek at 402-472-0773, or dgeise@nesen.unl.edu.
- The Conservation and Survey Division, the primary sponsoring organization of NESEN, also has a home page that is packed with earth science information. Please have a look at http://nesen.unl.edu/csd/index.html.

Your Input for the NESEN Newsletter is Welcome

If you have information you would like included in the summer 1997 issue of the NESEN Newsletter, please contact Duane Mohlman at dmohlman@unlinfo.unl.edu or 402-472-7528. Your input, especially from K-12 teachers, is critical to NESEN's success.

Newsletter was written by Duane Mohlman, Dave Gosselin, Mark Mesarch and Brian Lang; and edited by Charles Flowerday, Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.