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Nebraska Earth Systems Education Network Newsletter – Fall 1993

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Fall 1993 Newsletter

Issue Number 1

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SCIENCE ANNUAL MEETING

This year's NATS meeting will include the first NESEN-sponsored Share-a-thon. Many of you were contacted to solicit your participation in this event. The share-a-thon will be held on October 29, 1993 from 9:45 to 10:45. Please bring 50 copies of your earth science activity or project. The primary benefit that teachers, who provide materials to share, will receive are a packet of all other activities/projects and supplemental resource materials that will be suggested by NESEN scientists. If you would like more information about the share-a-thon please contact Ed Schafer at (402) 331-6954 (w) or (402) 895-3080 (h).

We are also planning an information/discussion meeting concerning NESEN and its activities. The purpose of this meeting will be to get input on future directions for NESEN. The time and location will be posted on the NESEN display, which will be adjacent to the Conservation and Survey Division booth.

K-12 EARTH SCIENCE TEACHER ACTIVITIES, NORTH CENTRAL/SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION, GSA MEETING, SPRING 1995

The NESEN planning committee is considering potential activities for the K-12 earth science teaching community at the meeting of the North Central and South Central sections of the Geological Society of America (GSA) to be held in Lincoln, NE in the spring of 1995. These activities can include workshops, field trips, and poster sessions focussing on K-12 educational materials or programs. Another possibility is to have a special symposium on K-12 earth science education emphasizing the teacher perspective. If you have ideas for this event or would like to participate in its planning, please contact Dave Gosselin at 402-472-8919.

GEOLOGY, GEOLOGIC TIME and NEBRASKA, NEW PUBLICATION FROM THE CONSERVATION AND SURVEY DIVISION (CSD), UNL

. By Dr. Marvin P. Carlson, CSD Research Geologist.

This publication provides an overview of the geologic framework and history of Nebraska. It is written for a wide range of readers from the perspective that the earth is a "book" under our feet. The story is "not told in words and sentences but by layers of rock" and the materials that they contain. It emphasizes that to wisely use the earth's natural resources we need to know why and how they formed. To order this publication (EC-10) call CSD Maps/Publications at 402-472-7523. Price per book is \$5.50. Please add \$1.50 for postage, and appropriate city and state sales tax.

NATIVE VEGETATION MAP OF NEBRASKA, AVAILABLE FROM CSD, UNL

. By Robert B. Kaul and Steven B. Rolfsmeier.

An updated, more detailed version of a popular map of Nebraska's native vegetation is now available from CSD. The popular 1975 map, "Vegetation in Nebraska, circa 1850," has been renamed for the updated version as well. It is now called "Native Vegetation of Nebraska," to emphasize the pre-settlement landscape being depicted. The new map is much more detailed than the 1975 version. The number of vegetation categories has increased from 13 to 16, and the explanatory text for each category has been greatly expanded. There is also a list of common and scientific names of native vegetation on the back. This map represents 28 years of data collection-- 10 years for the original map, and 18 years of updating. To order, call CSD at 402-472-7523. Price per map is \$3.50. Add \$1.50 fourth-class postage for a folded map or \$2.00 for an unfolded map in a tube; postage rates are double this for first-class. Please add appropriate city and state sales tax.

NEBRASKA EARTH SCIENCE VIDEO EXCHANGE

Interested in having your students actively investigating their local environment and making geology, meteorology, astronomy, and history more relevant to them? The Nebraska Earth Science Video Exchange could provide this opportunity. Enclosed is a proposal for establishing the exchange. If you have ideas or are willing to participate in developing the video exchange concept, please contact Bob Feurer at 402-652-3268(w) or 402-652-8208(h) or EMAIL to bfeurer@nde.unl.edu.

EARTH SCIENCE RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

References and instructional materials for earth science are available from a wide variety of organizations. Two lists are enclosed that provide information on the grade levels for which the materials are appropriate, a description of activities, and cost.

There are also a variety of earth science resources and programs available at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The Conservation and Survey Division has maps, field guides, and many other publications describing the geological, soil, and water resources of the state. The enclosed pamphlets describe the information, expertise, and services available at CSD. Please feel free to call the person with the expertise that you require. The University of Nebraska State Museum has many programs and resources from which teachers can benefit. A catalog of the museum's activities are enclosed.

NESEN PLANNING COMMITTEE

NESEN cannot succeed without the participation of its members, especially those working daily in the K-12 classroom. I would like to encourage all members to help make NESEN a success. This includes spreading the word about NESEN to your colleagues and administrators. NESEN has benefitted tremendously from the input of K-12 teachers. I would like to thank the following teachers for attending meetings: Bob Feurer (North Bend Central High School), Ed Schafer (Omaha Public Schools), Al Musson (O'Neill High School), Harley Hardison (Westside High School, Omaha), Susan Frack (Raymond Central High School), Marianne Bonnemier (Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary, Omaha), Mary Lou Alfieri (St. Thomas More Elementary, Omaha), Viki Hughes (Tekamah-Herman High School), and Lon Dubois (Winside). If you would like to take a more active role in NESEN, please contact Dave Gosselin at 402-472-8919.

THOUGHTS ON EARTH SCIENCE EDUCATION

"Our children must understand ideas from earth science and the ideas earth science shares with other scientific disciplines. Without that understanding, we cannot hope to increase scientific literacy or to safeguard the Earth. Nothing less than the survival of our children and our planet is at stake today." --*American Geological Institute*