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## Nebraska Earth Systems Education Network Newsletter – Fall 1996

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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

### **Fall 1996 Newsletter**

Issue Number 12

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#### **Plans Finalized for NESEN at NATS**

NESEN will hold its annual membership meeting and update as part of our participation in the annual Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science (NATS) Conference, Camp Calvin Crest near Fremont, October 24-26. The meeting will be held Thursday, Oct. 24, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and will feature:

- NESEN highlights, accomplishments and activities - Dave Gosselin
- Presentation on plate tectonics - Dave Gosselin and Marv Carlson
- Presentation on geology of Nebraska - Marv Carlson
- Presentation on using remote sensing in the classroom - Rick Perk

NESEN members also have several activities and presentations scheduled for NATS. Friday and Saturday earth science sessions will include:

- Everybody Always Talks About the Weather...But How is the Data Taken and How is it Used? - Steve Meyer, Mark Mesarch
- Observing the Weather: STEDII As It Goes - Mark Mesarch, Duane Mohlman
- Creating Change in a Larger Lecture Class in Geology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Sanford Kaplan
- Gourmet Soils: Are Your Soils Properly Seasoned? - Francis Belohlavy, Steve Hartung
- What's In a Rock? Focus on Nebraska - Dave Gosselin
- Nebraska: What a Relief and Fossils Too! - Sara Morris
- Hands-on Earth Science - Jan Wright, Cindy Mueller
- Project Data Streme - Ed Schafer
- Fourth Annual NESEN Share-a-Thon (Saturday) - Sue Frack

At breakfast Friday at 7:30 a.m., a NESEN Steering Committee meeting will be held in the dining area. Any member interested in participating is encouraged to attend. Teacher input and membership on the NESEN Steering Committee is especially encouraged and appreciated! Without teacher input, NESEN wouldn't be what it is today!

NESEN will also be sponsoring an information booth Thursday and Friday. The booth will feature many of the earth science resources available from NESEN and its sponsor, the Conservation and Survey Division of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The display will also include information about CSD's role as Nebraska's Earth Science Information Center (ESIC), and the progress NESEN has made in electronic information exchange. NESEN and CSD staff will be on hand to answer questions, so feel free to stop by!

## **NESEN Purchases Digital Camera**

Thanks to financial support from NASA, NESEN recently purchased a DC-50 digital camera for use in World Wide Web-related projects. Some of these projects will involve taking pictures of our pilot and STEDII schools, teachers and students, NESEN staff, geologically significant sites, publications and illustrations.

## **NESEN Home Page Overhauled; Improved**

The NESEN home page, <http://nesen.unl.edu/nesen.html>, has been redesigned through the use of three "frames." These frames will allow users to more easily navigate the NESEN web site. Please try it out and let us know what you think. Note: in order to run "frames," you will need at least version 2.x of NetScape. In fact, the current NetScape version 3.0 is available to educators for free from the NetScape home page. We strongly encourage all WWW users to upgrade to NetScape 3.0! Installation is EASY, and it's FREE!

We are also pleased to announce that the Students and Teachers Exchanging Data, Information and Ideas (STEDII) pages, as well as Ron Bonnstetter's UNL Secondary Science Education pages, have been updated and improved. Links are available from the NESEN home page (under the "Programs" button).

The number of "hits" on the NESEN home page continues to grow. The NESEN site had 185 visitors in July and 238 in August, with an even greater number expected in September. We anticipate this pattern will continue now that the state's schools are back in session for the fall semester.

## **NESEN Tidbits**

We have gained about 25 members since the last newsletter was mailed. NESEN's total membership is now approximately 325! Thanks to everyone who has helped spread the word.

Brian Lang, NESEN Coordinator, is generally in the office from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. He can be contacted at 402-472-0773, or by e-mail to [blang@unlinfo.unl.edu](mailto:blang@unlinfo.unl.edu). Since Brian is an undergraduate student at UNL, his hours vary each semester. We will try to keep our members aware of changes in his work schedule.

Since NESEN is a program of the Conservation and Survey Division (CSD), our members have complete access to the wealth of earth science information that CSD possesses. Remember that CSD is the state geological, water and soil survey for Nebraska, and has also been designated by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) as the state's official Earth Science Information Center (ESIC). So between NESEN and CSD, there is a tremendous amount of earth science information at your disposal. For details on how to get this information, phone CSD at 402-472-3471; or FAX us at 402-472-2410; or through the NESEN home page at <http://nesen.unl.edu/csd/index.html>.

FYI: On a lighter side, a brief lesson in "acronymia": NESEN, which includes STEDII, is a program of CSD and is also sponsored by NASA, with help from the former UNL CRC, now IS (Information Services). Likewise, CSD is a unit of IANR and UNL, and also includes ESIC, a program of the USGS, a unit of the U.S. DOI. Got that?

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*Newsletter was written by Duane Mohlman, Dave Gosselin and Brian Lang; and edited by Charles Flowerday and Jason Grotelueschen, Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. NESEN members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter. If you have something to submit for the Winter 1996-97 issue (tentative mailing date of January, 1997), please let us know. Thanks!*