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Nebraska Earth Systems Education Network Newsletter – Fall 1996

Nebraska Earth Science Education Network

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Third edition of the NESEN Resources Guide and Membership Directory coming soon!

Back by popular earth science teacher demand, the third edition of the NESEN Directory will be mailed by the end of the month. The Directory is divided into four sections: Part I contains background material and accomplishments; Part II contains curricul um support materials; Part III contains a variety of sources for earth science information; Part IV contains a list of current NESEN members and their addresses. In late-January 1996, each member was sent a membership update form. Those that did not ret urn these forms were sent a second form in mid-March. Approximately 70% of the membership returned one of these two update forms. For those who did not return either update form, a letter was sent in early-April asking if they still wished to be a membe r of NESEN. The 48 individuals who did not respond were placed on the NESEN inactive list.

NESEN Membership

As of April 19, 1996, there were 294 NESEN members. Of these 294, 175 are K-12 educators, 71 are post-secondary educators and 48 are inactive members. Most of the post-secondary membership is from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. We also have many m embers from the other universities and colleges in Nebraska. Additionally, there are a handful of K-12 and post-secondary educators from outside Nebraska.

NESEN Electronic Communication Update

- NESEN members with email accounts became a part of some combination of four new email lists. These lists include: nesenall@nesen.unl.edu (116 NESEN members); nesenk12@nesen.unl.edu (79 NESEN teachers); nesenpost@nesen.unl.edu (37 NESEN post-secondar y members); and nesensteer@nesen.unl.edu (23 NESEN Steering Committee members). If you have information that you would like to share with other NESEN members, feel free to use these email lists.

- Homepage counter added. Since March 1, 1996 the NESEN homepage has averaged 475 hits per week.

- To improve access to hundreds of earth science and other science lesson plans and activities through NESEN, they have been moved to the main homepage.

- An Earth Science Feature of the Month has been added. April's feature is Earthquakes in Nebraska, based upon an educational circular produced by Ray Burchett, Research Geologist, CSD. May's feature will be Landslides in Nebraska, based upon a public ation by Duane Eversoll, Research Geologist/Associate Director, CSD.

NESEN/CSD at Childrens Groundwater Festival - March 5, 1996 - Grand Island

Hundreds of students and dozens of teachers watched Dave Gosselin's and Ed Harvey's groundwater demonstration. Duane Mohlman and Bryan Penas chatted with teachers about NESEN and CSD earth science resources and a few more teachers joined NESEN. Jim Goek e and Sue Olafsen-Lackey, both from CSD, also presented A Walk Through Time, to several hundred students.

NESEN/CSD at Earth Wellness Day - March 22, 1996 - Lincoln

Dave Gosselin, Brian Lang and Mohan Khisty (Geology graduate student), presented Water, Rocks and other Cool Stuff at the Earth Wellness Festival at Southeast Community College in Lincoln. Hands-on activities illustrated how water occurs in geologic mate rials and why it is important to know about geology.

NESEN/CSD at Science Olympiad - Lincoln

Dave Gosselin and Steve Meyer, with assistance from Brian Lang, provided examination questions for the Earth Science Lab components of the Olympiad. The theme was Weather and Water in Nebraska.

NESEN Teacher Coordinates Expanded Lesson Plan Share-A-Thon at 1996 NATS Conference

Susan Frack, Raymond Central Secondary School, volunteered to facilitate and expand the NESEN-sponsored Lesson Plan Share-A-Thon activities at the 1996 Fall NATS Conference. Susan has either emailed or mailed information to all NESEN teacher members requ esting your participation and input. For further information, contact Susan Frack by email sfrack@nesen.unl.edu .

First STEDII Focused Measurement Period (FMP)

Mark Mesarch coordinatd the first FMP from April 22-29, 1996. STEDII teachers instructed students how to use weather instruments and enter the data. Accompanying lesson plans and activities are posted on the STEDII homepage (access from NESEN homepage). STEDII (Students and Teachers Exchanging Data, Information and Ideas) is a NESEN project emphasizing weather data collection and use in the classroom. If you would like to be involved contact Mark Mesarch.

Summer 1996 Workshop Schedule:

The following NESEN Workshops will be offered during the 1996 Summer. All three are at or near capacity.

1. Chili Today, Hot Tomale: Let's Look at Nebraska's Weather - July 8-9, 1996.
2. Nebraska's Dynamic Water System: A Geoscientist's Approach - July 10-11, 1996.
3. Digging Deeper, But Still Only Scratching the Surface - July 16-17, 1996.

Newsletter was written by Duane Mohlman, Dave Gosselin, and Brian Lang, Conservation and Survey Division, UNL. If you have information that you would like included in the next newsletter (tentatively scheduled for Summer 1996) please inform any of these individuals.