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Nebraska Earth Systems Education Network Newsletter – Summer 1995

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Nebraska Earth Science Education Network

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Summer 1995 Newsletter

Issue Number 7

NEW MAPS FROM THE CONSERVATION AND SURVEY DIVISION

Two new maps are now available from the CSD Map/Publication Sales office. The first map is poster-sized and entitled **This Dynamic Planet: World Map of Volcanoes, Earthquakes, Impact Craters, and Plate Tectonics**. The map was compiled by T. Simkin, J. Unger, R. Tilling, P. Vogt and H. Spall. This map shows the Earth's physiographic features, current movements of major tectonic plates, and the location of volcanoes, earthquakes and impact craters. The map is intended as a teaching aid for classroom use and as a general reference for research. Cost is \$5.00 per map. The second map was created by the National Geophysical Data Center. This map depicts color views of the globe from computer-generated digital elevation data. Fourteen different views spaced every 90 degrees of longitude and 45 degrees of latitude are presented. **Views of the Globe: Hemisphere Color Relief Images**, is \$20.00. To order, call CSD Map Sales at 402-472-7523.

SUMMER WORKSHOP SUMMARY

We were pleased at the interest of teachers in our summer workshops. Three workshops were offered this summer. As part of the summer workshop activities, teachers will be developing activities from information presented. These activities will be available to teachers at the upcoming NATS conference.

What's In A Rock - Topics included: minerals, rock, and sedimentary processes. Field trips to Yankee Hill Brick Company, the Platte River, and Rock Lake Quarry complimented class material. Teachers in attendance: Kathy Hynes (St. Stanislaus Elem., Omaha), Becky Kadel (Burke H.S., Omaha), MaryLou Alfieri (St. Thomas More Elem., Omaha), Susan Frack (Raymond Central), John Niemoth (Niobrara), Bob Feurer (North Bend Central), Liz Snyder (Diller), George and Marian McNabb (rock and mineral collectors and educators).

Rural and Urban Applications of Soil Surveys - Included information on soil development, characteristics and mapping, and using soil surveys. A field trip around Lancaster County to view soil units and take soil probes reinforced presented material. Teachers in attendance: Kathy Hynes (St. Stanislaus Elem., Omaha), Al Musson (O'Neill), Becky Kadel (Burke H.S., Omaha), MaryLou Alfieri (St. Thomas More, Omaha), Greg Pavlik (Burke H.S., Omaha), Susan Frack (Raymond Central), Carmen Hood (Burke H.S., Omaha), John Niemoth (Niobrara) and Bob Feurer (North Bend Central).

Understanding The Earth in Four Dimensions - Examined material related to maps utilizing lat/long, topographic, and geologic information. Field trips to Lincoln area parks introduced teachers to basic mapping skills. Teachers in attendance: Kathy Hynes (St. Stanislaus Elem., Omaha), Al Musson (O'Neill), Becky Kadel (Burke H.S., Omaha), MaryLou Alfieri (St. Thomas More Elem., Omaha), Greg Pavlik (Burke H.S., Omaha), Susan Frack (Raymond Central), Carmen Hood (Burke H.S., Omaha), Corkie Neumann (St. Thomas More Elem., Omaha), George and Marian McNabb (rock and mineral collectors and educators).

NESEN SERVER STATUS

The NESEN server will be moving from the Computing Resource Center to CSD this August. The server will house the NESEN homepage and permit the creation of additional homepages as needed by NESEN. The address

is <http://nesen/nesen.html> . Each NESEN member has the opportunity to have an account on the server. If you are interested in an account, contact Duane Mohlman, Conservation and Survey Division, 113 Nebraska Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588-0517, Phone 402-472-7528, Fax 402-472-2410, e-mail dmohlman@unlinfo.unl.edu.

NESEN AT NATS 1995

The NATS fall conference is scheduled for October 26-28, 1995, at Camp Calvin Crest, near Fremont, Nebraska. NESEN will present a workshop, lesson share-a-thon, and session on Nebraska rivers. The Conservation and Survey Division will provide a display featuring material available from the division, The Earth Science Information Center (ECIS) and the U. S. Geological Survey.

EXCHANGE PROJECT ON PILOT SITES WEATHER DATA

In the autumn of 1995, NESEN plans to initiate the exchange of weather observations from schools throughout Nebraska. Students will use weather instruments to record their observations of temperature, rainfall, wind speed, humidity, and pressure. Data recorded by students will be available from the NESEN server and will be made available to all schools via the Internet and in hardcopy. All schools are invited to participate. To participate, contact Dave Gosselin.

WEATHER EXHIBIT AT PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER: LINCOLN, NE.

By the end of August, Pioneers Park Nature Center will have a new exhibit featuring Nebraska's weather. This exhibit will have four themes. One theme will feature weather instrumentation. A recording thermograph and barograph will be displayed and will allow students to track temperature and pressure trends over time. An anemometer (wind speed) and wind vane (wind direction) will also be displayed. A second theme will feature cloud identification. Students will learn how to predict weather based on cloud type and wind direction. A third theme will feature the influence of climate on Nebraska's native vegetation. The fourth theme will feature weather proverbs and folklore that relate weather events to plant and animal behavior. Many of the folklore examples can be observed by taking a walk through the nature center grounds.

INTERNET ACTIVITY GUIDE

Enclosed in this mailing you will find a notice from the NOAA Public Affairs Office. Stan Froseth and Barbara Poppe have developed a curriculum guide that introduces teachers and students to the Internet. The guide provides nine activities of varying difficulty using common Internet software tools. Copies of the guide can be obtained free by filling out the enclosed form and sending it to the NOAA Public Affairs Office.

VIDEO LENDING LIBRARY

Included in the NESEN teachers mailing you will find a description about our new video lending library. Videos from the Earth Revealed Series produced by the Anneberg School of Communication are available for your classroom use. Members can borrow tapes for up to two weeks.

JULIE DIAL, NESEN COORDINATOR, WILL BE MISSED

Julie Dial has decided to leave her position as NESEN coordinator, effective July 31, 1995. The daily commute from Omaha was taking its toll on her and the Dial family. Her enthusiasm, personality, and excellent rapport she developed with teachers will be missed. We wish her well in the future and hope that she will stay in touch.

The NESEN newsletter was written by Julie Dial, NESEN Coordinator; Duane Mohlman, Data Systems Coordinator & NESEN Steering Committee; with contributions from Steve Meyer, Department of Agricultural Meteorology, UNL.