

Kansas Association of Biology Teachers

NEWSLETTER

April 1990 - Volume 31, No. 2
Paul G. Jantzen, Editor
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KABT NOTES

It's April, spring's here and the school year is winding down. Are you as enthusiastic now as you were in the first week or are you counting down the days with the students? Is first hour hard to wake up much less motivate about the importance of ATP or DNA? Are you afraid to attempt a lab in fifth hour because last time they broke the balance and dropped test tubes of gastric juice? We all know that every lesson can't be successful and each student perfect so we need to try and be as positive and exciting as we can in these last few weeks of school.

If it's eager, excited students you want visit an elementary classroom. I had the opportunity to share the science of dinosaurs with my son's second grade class (four other classes requested later). Well, five classes and one hundred original thank you cards later, the pleasure was all mine. Where does this enthusiasm go from second grade to high school? Whether out of boredom, laziness or the allure of other pursuits, American students are fleeing the sciences in numbers. The recent Newsweek article "Not Just for Nerds" reports on the science-literacy crisis of adults as well as students. On achievement tests the U.S. biology students ranked last out of the countries that were tested. As the article states the best way for students to learn science is to have them do science. The problem with many secondary students is that they have lost their curiosity about science. This makes our job more challenging because we have to recultivate their qualities. Various groups have proposed plans that we all should be aware of or better yet help develop and put in place.

Don't forget to rejuvenate yourself this spring by sharing professionally with peers at the annual KABT field trip or at KATS camp. Several KABT members are presenting interesting topics this year. Pat Wakeman, KABT President

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Proposed K.A.B.T. Constitutional Amendment

In accordance with the K.A.B.T. constitution, Article IX, Section 2, the following proposed amendments are submitted to the Secretary for publication to the general membership, as directed by the Executive Council. The general membership will vote on these amendments at the Fall 1990 meeting.

Bob Rose, Administrative Secretary

Article III. The Executive Council

Proposed to Read (proposed change is underlined)

Section 1. The Executive Council shall consist of the President, President-elect, Past-president, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and six District Directors.

Article II. The Officers (proposed change is underlined)

Section 3. The terms of office for the President, President-elect, Past-president, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and six District Directors shall be for two years.

Section II. The Officers (Addition)

Section 3.a. The Past-President shall serve as a member of the Executive Council.

C A L E N D A R

Apr 22 90 Sun Twentieth Annual Earth Day

April 16-22 Earth Week

April 26 Thurs Kansas Junior Academy of Science State Meeting, Emporia
State University, Emporia

Apr 27-29 90 Fr-Su KATS Kamp, Rock Springs Ranch

May 4-6 90 Fr-Sa Kansas Herpetological Society, Hodgeman County

May 5-6 90 Sat-Sun Kansas Ornithological Society, Morton County

May 5 90 Sun 31st Annual Spring Field Trip Meeting, Chautauqua Hills

May 30 90 Wed Genetics Workshop and Update K-12, Salina Central H.S.
Contact Debbie Collins or John Wachholz for information.

June 3-4 90 Sun-Mon Prairie Festival, Land Institute, Salina

August 5-9 Sun-Thur 12th North American Prairie Conference, University of
Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls

October 13 90 Sat Kansas Mammalogist, Emporia State University, Emporia

October 18-20 Th-Su NSTA Regional Convention, Kansas City, MO

Oct 19 90 Fri 31st Annual Fall Meeting, Prairie Center, Olathe, KS

Nov 7-11 90 We-Su NABT Convention, Houston, TX

Nov 6-10 91 We-Su NABT Convention, Nashville, TN

Please mail or phone meeting dates of interest to biology teachers to: Paul G. Jantzen, Editor, 107 N. Madison, Hillsboro, KS 67063 (316) 947-5433.

News Briefs

Roscoe Waldorf send a nice note with his 1990 dues. He has gotten back to working in the area of biology, at least a little, as a tutor for biology students at the college. He said it has been slow up to this point, but maybe some of the students will find me gradually, and make the effort worthwhile. He said hello to all and that it would be exciting to see all of you again and have a chance to rub shoulders with a bunch of "brains" again.

Special Thanks For Teacher Exchange Day

A special thanks to the following individuals who made the day a success. Those individuals were Marc Linton, Paul Jantzen, Brad Williamson, Bob Rose, Gary Best, Ed Judd, Jerry Scheve, and Lloyd Holt. As a special treat plan to attend the presentation on "Ecological Interactions in the Prairie" by Paul at KATS Kamp.

"The finest investment of a lifetime is to become acquainted in one's years with the great thoughts of great minds." Albert Schweitzer

Cookie Recipe

At our exchange day held in Salina, students furnished cookies for our breaks. Many enjoyed one in particular and asked for the recipe. Here it is thanks to student Brain Covert who made them himself.

Biker's Oatmeal Cookies

Ingredients:

1/2 cup apple juice concentrate, unsweetened, slightly thawed - 1/3 cup brown sugar - 1/4 cup margarine - room temperature - 1/4 cup honey - 2 eggs - 1 teaspoon vanilla - 1 cup whole wheat pastry flour - 1 cup white flour - 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon - 2 teaspoons baking powder - 3 cups rolled oats - 1 1/2 cups raisins

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. In a large bowl beat together apple juice concentrate, brown sugar, margarine and honey. Add eggs and vanilla; mix until well combined. In a medium bowl, sift flours, cinnamon and baking powder. Add flour and oats alternatively to liquid ingredients, mixing after each addition until well-combined. Mix in the raisins.

Place heaping teaspoons of dough onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 10 minutes. Cool before storing.

Will make 49 cookies - 77 Calories per cookie and total Calories for recipe is 3780.

The Kansas Biology Teacher

A new journal, The Kansas Biology Teacher, will make its debut in January 1991. Send an article before October 1, 1990. Suitable topics include original or modified laboratory exercises, field investigations, or classroom activities, tricks of the trade, VCR reviews, current research updates, educational philosophy, controversial issues, etc. **The success of this journal depends on you!** See the article in this Newsletter for further details.

Ecology Experiments Needed

The Ecological Society of America wants "Experiments in Ecology." Send in your descriptions of those experiments which are cheap, short, can be used indoors, involve living organisms and require the scientific method. They will be reviewed, edited, and published. Contact Kathleen Peterson, College of Biological Sciences, 2233 Snyder Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Publishing Dates for the KABT Newsletter are:

the first day of September, November, February and April. Manuscripts must reach the editor by the 15th day of the previous month. The KABT Newsletter includes abbreviated minutes of the official meetings, announcements of future activities, brief news notes, and

other brief items of interest to biology teachers. Send your contributions to Paul G. Jantzen, Editor, 107 N. Madison, Hillsboro, KS 67063 (316) 947-5433.

Darwin and Peregrine Falcon Featured at KU Museum

"Charles Darwin: A Portrait Biography" will be featured on the fifth floor of the museum until June 17, 1990. The exhibition contains thirty-one rare photographs covering the years 1816-1881 and excerpts from Darwin's journals and letters. It is circulated by the College of Mount St. Joseph in Ohio.

"The View from the Top" opens March 3rd on the sixth floor of the museum and continues through June 17, 1990. This exhibition describes efforts to re-establish the Peregrine Falcon in the Midwest, begun in 1982 by University of Minnesota scientists from the James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History and The Raptor Center. Peregrine nest sites have been established in rural areas and on skyscrapers in seven Midwestern cities. The exhibition is on loan from the J.F. Bell Museum.

Contact Cathy Dwigans at (913) 864-4540

FREE--"Plant Nutrition Studies" from LaMotte Chemical Products Co., PO Box 329, Chestertown, MD 21620. Looking for teacher training video's? Write Teacher Video Production Corp., Route 2, Box 82, Danville, KY 40422

FREE--Single copy: "Why Scientists Believe in Evolution." AAAS Marketing Office, Dept. NC, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Newsletter Printed On Recycled Paper

This is our **first** newsletter to be printed on **100% recycled paper**. Hopefully this will begin to set an example of what needs to be done concerning environmental problems. We must be leaders and examples. A small impact but a start that might make all biology teachers think about the amount of paper we all use and waste.

Newsletter Information Needed

Articles are needed for the newsletter. Please forward them to Paul G. Jantzen, KABT Newsletter Editor, 107 North Madison, Hillsboro, KS., 67063.

CALL FOR PAPERS

As many of you know KABT will begin a journal next year. The journal will be titled THE KANSAS BIOLOGY TEACHER. It will be published once a year and is scheduled to make its debut January 1991. The format of the new publication is to be on standard 8 x 11 inch recycled paper and be printed using a laser printer. The journal is to provide a forum for the biology teachers of the state to share with others; ideas, methods and research pertinent to biology and teaching.

This past summer at a special meeting, the KABT board examined KABT's publishing responsibilities. At that meeting it was decided that publishing a true newsletter limited to 4-6 pages would satisfy KABT's constitutionally defined obligation. This is to come out 4 times a year and provide current information and scheduling of events to keep the membership informed of KABT activities. The board, however felt strongly that another publication was needed. This publication is to be the new KANSAS BIOLOGY TEACHER. Vern Gilliland introduced this new publication in the Sept. 1989 newsletter. We are now calling for papers for the new journal.

Suitable topics for articles include the following:

- * New or modified laboratories, field investigations, or successful classroom lessons/strategies.

These articles should reflect techniques that have been particularly successful for you in your classroom. Share these ideas with others. They don't have to be 100% original ideas. If you are using a technique or lab from some other source and have found it useful, let others know about those successes and any problems that you have encountered. Direct application for others will be facilitated if your student material is included.

- * Tips and techniques.

Many of you have developed little "tricks of the trade" that would be helpful for others. An example would be the agar plate pouring techniques that participants from the KSU GENE workshops learned. These techniques reduce the accumulation of vapor on the petri lids. Another example might be Stan Roth's solution to deficient bulletin board space--he's taped his posters to the suspended ceiling in his classroom! Other examples include culture techniques and equipment manufacture.

- * Reviews.

With the proliferation of VCR's, computers, and videodiscs a definite need exists for reviews from people that have either examined or currently use the products. The costs of these types of material makes random ordering prohibitive.

- * Update articles that summarize current research in biology or teaching techniques.

Research in molecular biology is advancing the fundamental knowledge of biology at a phenomenal pace. It's very difficult to keep up with such an information explosion. If you have been keeping up or have prepared summaries of current research for classes, share with other KABT'ers in an article.

- * Editorial comment.

Numerous controversial topics influence biology teaching. Controversial issues such as creation/evolution, abortion, genetic ethics, animal rights, etc. need to be discussed. Do we need more than one year of biology? What about the new NSTA curriculum proposals. Share your thoughts.

Format:

If you are careful with you article it will make things easier on the review board. Currently our executive board will serve also as reviewers. Please submit your articles double spaced on 8 x 11 inch paper. Be sure to include proper references at the end of your article. One thing that I find particularly odious is the proclivity that many teachers exhibit to not give proper credit for ideas that they received from others. Please give credit where credit is due. If you can't remember the source then indicate that at least it is not original. If you use a word processor such as Appleworks or MS-DOS Wordperfect, you can send a disk copy of your article to save our typing. Be sure to include illustrations, graphs or charts if they will bring clarity to your article.

These are rough, preliminary guidelines modeled somewhat after THE AMERICAN BIOLOGY TEACHER guidelines. As the journal evolves we may provide more detailed instructions.

The success of this publication is entirely dependant upon KABT members. Don't for one minute think that you have little to offer. I have been around teachers long enough to know that every time two or more teachers get together, they can't help but "talk shop." Put those thoughts down on paper and submit them for publication. If no one (or just a few) submit articles then the publication will not be of value. If many contribute then the journal stands to provide a positive contribution to biology teaching in Kansas.

Brad Williamson

Thoughts and Sayings

Life and Time are our only real possessions.

Life is like an onion -- you peel it one layer at a time, and sometimes, you weep.

May you always feel the warmth
of sunshine and friendship.
See the beautiful in nature and
in people.....
May you always find love by
carrying it with you,
and know happiness by bringing
it to others.

Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.

Aldous Huxley

"Suffering exists in order to make people think."

Ezra Pound

KABT SPRING MEET AT ELK CITY LAKE

The 31st annual KABT spring meeting will be held in the Chautauqua Hills of southeast Kansas on Sunday, 6 May 1990. We will meet at Elk City Lake just northwest of Independence. Many of you will drive in on Saturday the 5th, so lets plan to meet at the Squaw Creek, North campground. If you prefer there are several motels in Independence, only five miles away.

The field trips will be conducted by Stan Roth and will begin at 8:00 a.m. on the 6th. We will convoy to the southwest into Chautauqua County and visit marshy wooded sandstone ravines. Study emphasis will be on nonflowering plants. We will visit the only known Kansas sites of resurrection fern, lady fern, royal fern, and poison oak. Spring angiosperms will be in their prime in the region. Expect to find special arthropods