

Kansas Association of Biology Teachers

Volume 41 Number 3 - September 2000

Calendar & Activities

Please send meeting dates and other items of interest to biology teachers to: John Wachholz, 2311 Applewood Lane, Salina, Kansas 67401-3707, 913- 825-7742 - E-mail: jwachholz@midkan.net

Date	Event
September 16, 2000.....	Fall Meeting – Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita
	Special Guest
	At the KABT fall meeting, September 16, at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, our afternoon guest will be Wayne Carley, Executive Director of NABT. Mr. Carley will address present and future initiatives of NABT and will discuss specifically NABT actions as regards the science standards in Kansas. This is in addition to the wonderful program already planned for the day.
September 29-30.....	KS Herpetological Society Fall Field Trip—Chetopa
October 6-8, 2000	KS Ornithological Soc. Annual Meeting - Johnson County CC, Overland Park
October 7, 2000	KS Geol. Survey field trip: <i>Geol. of N.E. KS.</i> , 9a.-3p., KGS, Lawrence - (lbrosius@kgs.ukans.edu)
October 14, 2000.....	KS Academy of Science Fall Field Trip - ESU, Emporia
October 13-15, 2000.....	Central Plains Society of Mammalogists, ESU Emporia
October 21-22, 2000.....	KHS Fall Meeting—Adam’s Mark Hotel in Kansas City, MO
October 25-28, 2000.....	NABT National Convention – Orlando, Florida
April 6-7, 2000.....	KS Academy of Science Annual Meeting, KU, Lawrence
May 12, 2001.....	KABT Spring Field Trip - Northeast KS
September 15, 2001.....	KSU Manhattan



KABT Web Site - <http://kabt.org>
 Made Available by KanCRN - <http://kancrn.org>
 Send comments to: jwachholz@midkan.net
 NABT Web Site - <http://www.nabt.org>

Your membership **expiration date** can be found on your mailing label. All dues are now payable on September 1st of each year. The membership list was last updated on **May 1, 2000**. If you sent dues in after this date they were not recorded before the mailing list was printed.

Publishing Dates For Newsletter

The newsletter is published during the months 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 John Wachholz, Editor, 2311 Applewood Lane, Salina, KS 67401 785-825-7742. You may send you information to jwachholz@midkan.net.

Newsletter & Journal Articles

Articles are needed for the newsletter and journal. Send them via e-mail to jwachholz@midkan.net or on a disk. If you send it on a disk, any format is acceptable. Your help is appreciated.

Articles for the Kansas Biology Teacher should be sent to John Richard Schrock, editor KBT, Division of Biological Sciences, Box 50, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS 66801-5087. E-mail: [<ksnatur1@esumail.emporia.edu>](mailto:ksnatur1@esumail.emporia.edu)

Please remember to keep your dues up to date so you will continue to receive KABT publications.

Outstanding Biology Student Certificates

These are available for students who you feel have completed a biology course under you and have shown outstanding achievement. We have just updated our supply. Send your name and address to KABT Student Certificates, 2311 Applewood Lane, Salina, KS 67401-3707.

Please use these certificates as valuable awards for outstanding students.

NABT Contact Information

Address (New): . 12030 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 110
Reston, VA 20191-3409

Web Site:..... <http://www.nabt.org>

Phones: 703-471-1134 or 800-406-0775

Fax: 703-435-5582

E-mail: NABTer@aol.com

From the President

Let your KABT and NABT organizations give you that needed shot in the arm (my other job is in the hospital lab-the expression works for both places)! It's a great time of the year to attend workshops, especially those geared towards your students and their learning of biology and scientific thinking. KABT has scheduled the annual Fall Conference 2000 for Saturday, September 16, 2000, at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, KS. The morning session will begin at 9:30 a.m. with an opening presented by the director of the nature center, Mr. Bob

Gress. He will give us a preview of what the nature center holds, right at the time of the much anticipated grand opening! We will then be able to tour the exhibits, followed by a board meeting. We are holding elections this year; I have asked those members that are interested in holding a board member office to let me know. It is really a great experience; KABTer's make super colleagues! Following lunch on your own, the afternoon session will begin at 1:00 p.m. with a special presentation by NABT Executive Director, Mr. Wayne Carley. Wayne will be open to questions after he speaks. Then KCFS, Kansas Citizens for Science, members will form a panel discussion on the current science situation in Kansas. The afternoon session will be open to the public. KABT members will reconvene for a guided hike on the nature trails surrounding the nature center. Bring your sturdy shoes and be ready for the Kansas weather. It should prove to be a really fun day!

Last May, on a lovely spring day, I drove my son, mom and dad across Kansas to the town of Elkhart. Arriving at 1:00 a.m., we made our way to the Cimarron Grasslands camping area. Oh my, it can really get cold at night in western Kansas in the springtime! But upon awakening, I discovered lovely landscape so different than anything that we had driven through the day before! We met up with other KABTer's at the forestry office in Elkhart and our expert guides. The next surprise was that there was a sighting of a bear out in the country (farmland . . .). So off we went, driving one after another, to get a peek of the bear, which most likely followed the water and food to that area from its homeland in Colorado. Well, the whole town had heard the news, and still, long after we had seen the running bear and had moved on to the grasslands, kept confusing us for the "bear sighting group"! Quite a day! We also observed some of the wonderful flora and fauna of the grasslands. I find that many of us really like to try our hand at plant taxonomy of the native wildflowers. What fun!!! The only thing better than that is to find a fossil. Well, I did make a stop in Great Bend at a fossil shop and went shopping! All in all, it was another rewarding KABT spring field trip, filled with really great fellowship and friendship.

Lastly, in my final months as president, I again ask that we continue to keep KABT strong and able to reach out to the biology teachers of Kansas by renewing our memberships, seeking and encouraging colleagues to join and become new members. I'm always talking about KABT and have appreciated all of the good things that KABT has provided to me to enrich my teaching profession in biology! See you at the fall conference.

Biology Education News

"...There are an estimated 3 unrecorded tetrapod species, 34 unrecorded fish species, and 400 unrecorded invertebrate species for each professional taxonomist working on these taxa" according to an article by Oliver et al in the May 2000 Bioscience, page 441.

The math and science teacher shortage is so great in Chicago that they are recruiting overseas teachers (See January 19 Education Week). The strongest predictor of student improvement on the NAEP is the state's percentage of qualified teachers, according to Linda Darling-Hammond and published in the January 2000 Education Policy Analysis Archives (See January 19 Education Week). A survey published in the December 1999

Internet Research found 82 percent of professors surveyed agreed that the absence of student-to-instructor interaction makes internet courses less valuable to students, and 65 percent considered them merely correspondence courses. Survey of 1999-2000 college freshmen found 4.9% of men and 6.1% of women expected to major in biology; the same survey reported 88% of students had A or B averages in high school (See January 28, 2000 Chronicle of Higher Education). Despite 90 million years of evolutionary distance, the human and the cat have essentially the same gene order on the X and Y chromosomes, according to a study by researchers O'Brien and Murphy in the December issue of Genome Research; in contrast, the mouse has shuffled its genes on the X and Y. Teachers purchasing additional liability insurance went up 25% over the last five years, as more teachers fear involvement in lawsuits, according to an extensive discussion in the March 29 Education Week. California and Arizona are buying into teacher training by private sector companies, such as Sylvan Learning Systems; using distance learning and videos, the companies are alleging they can produce good teachers that meet the outcomes that Schools of Education have bought into as the only assessment indicators; college education departments nationwide are running scared of this alternative track to the classroom (See March 29 Education Week). "Labs from commercial manuals allowed students to address significantly more categories of science inquiry than labs from manuals generated by the institution" according to a study of Colorado community college biology labs in JBE, 34(2) page 80. While a rising percentage of students go to college, only one-fourth of 25-to-29-year-olds complete four years of college, a rate that has held steady for the last two decades, according to a study by the Educational Testing Service's Policy Information Center and summarized in the February 25, Education Week. While the College Board claims that two-thirds of AP students earn college credit, less than one-half of Advanced Placement test-takers actually receive college credit; the difference is due to the fact that some colleges do not accept the score of "3" according to Yale Prof. William Lichten who points out that some students may take the AP test because the College Board has overstated their odds of gaining college credit (see page A45 of July 14 Chron. Higher Education). Emporia State University Biology Department, the last Kansas hold-out against awarding automatic AP credit just approved accepting biology AP credit in Spring 2000. "...Selective colleges have become more dependent on SATs, because high school grade inflation has reduced the reliability of grades and class rank. Until very recently, high school grades have been better predictors than SATs of college grades" according to MIT professor Malcolm Sherman reviewing Nicholas Lemann's "The Big Test" in American Scientist, March/April 2000, pages 184-185.

Monarch Watch—Tagging Time Is Here!

Early reports are in and the Monarch butterflies are on the move. Monarch Watch is a cooperative network of students, teachers, volunteers and researchers dedicated to the study of the biology of the Monarch butterfly.

Each fall Monarch butterflies are tagged on their way to the wintering sites in Mexico. Last year (1999) 689 Monarch Watch tags were recovered in Mexico! The Digital Monarch Watch, <http://kancrn.org/monarch> is collaboration between the

KanCRN Collaborative Research Network and the Monarch Watch. This collaboration allows for electronic data submission that will enable the researchers to make queries and summarize the tagging data more efficiently. In addition, you can view your data and those of other taggers on the Web site. These data could be used in numerous classroom projects. You can record the data electronically as you tag your Monarchs or after the end of the tagging session. You can also download your data in Excel or other formats so that you have a hard copy for your records.

To use the Digital Monarch Watch, you must first register. Registration can be as a Citizen <<http://kancrn.org/citizen/registration>> or as a Classroom Teacher (if you are already a registered KanCRN teacher you do not need to register again) <<http://kancrn.org/teachers/registration>>

It is important that you register properly because this is how the system determines your latitude and longitude.

Tag data is entered at Data Submission (right side of the web page under Creating the Context http://kancrn.org/monarch/cdata_sub.cfm) On this page you fill in your assigned ID number (when you register you will get one) and the first tag number you were issued. A form with your tag numbers will appear for you to fill out. You can fill out any one tag or you can fill them all out at once if you like.

To get Monarch tags - <<http://monarchwatch.org/order/forms.htm>> The Tagging Kit (\$15) includes 25 self-adhesive tags with detailed instructions in a short Premigration Newsletter (sent in August), a Season Summary (sent in spring/summer), and an Adopt-A-Classroom Annual Report. Additional 100-tag sheets (\$5) are available to those who purchase either a Tagging Membership Kit or a Tagging Kit.

Ernie Brown

2000 Kansas Outstanding Biology Teacher

The National Association; of Biology Teachers, in conjunction with Prentice Hall, is pleased to present Ernie Brown with the 2000 Outstanding Biology Teacher Award. This honor, given annually since 1961, identifies a teacher from each of the United States, its possessions, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and Canada who has made valuable contributions to the profession and to his/her students. Criteria for the award include teaching ability, experience, inventiveness, initiative, inherent teaching strengths, and cooperativeness in the school and community.

Ernie Brown is a biology teacher at Trego Community High School in WaKeeney. A Kansas native, he received his Bachelors degree from Fort Hays State University and his Masters degrees from the University of South Dakota. Ernie's teaching career spans 35 years, including the last twenty-one years at Trego Community High School.

Ernie began teaching at Gorham Rural High School. His first teaching assignment included classes in biology, chemistry earth science, general science, advanced biology, and freshman physical education. He was also the assistant coach in football, basketball, track, baseball, and helped direct the Junior Class Play. Presently Ernie teaches biology, advanced biology, along with anatomy and physiology at Trego Community High School.

Ernie Brown is on the board of directors for the Kansas Association of Biology Teachers. He is a member of the Kansas As-

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KABT Regions

Cheyenne	Rawlins	Decatur	Norton	Phillips	Smith	Jewell	Republic	Washington	Marshall	Nemaha	Brown	Doniphan
Sherman	Thomas	Sheridan	Graham	Rooks	Osborne	Mitchell	Cloud	Clay	Riley	Pottawatomie	Jackson	Atchison
Wallace	Logan	Gove	Trego	Ellis	Russell	Lincoln	Ottawa	II	Geary	Wabaunsee	Lawrence	Woods
Greeley	Wichita	Scott	Lane	Ness	Rush	Barton	Ellsworth	Saline	Dickinson	Morris	Osage	Franklin
Hamilton	Kearny	IV	Finney	Hodgeman	Pawnee	Stanton	Reno	Harvey	McPherson	Marion	Chase	Lyon
Stanton	Grant	Haskell	Gray	Ford	Edwards	Pratt	Kingman	Sedgewick	V	Butler	Greenwood	Woodson
Morton	Stevens	Seward	Meade	Clark	Comanche	Barber	Harper	Sunmer	Cowley	Chautauque	Montgomery	Labette
												Cherokee

Plan on attending the Fall KABT Meeting September 16, 2000 Great Plains Nature Center

Northwest Corner of Woodlawn and 29th North
Wichita, Kansas

Our afternoon guest will be Wayne Carley, Executive Director of NABT. Mr. Carley will address present and future initiatives of NABT and will discuss specifically NABT actions as regards the science standards in Kansas.

Check Out The KABT Website <http://kabt.org>

Special Thanks to Steve Case and Tom Baker for all their good work!



KABT Membership Application - Renewal - Form

Name: _____
(Mr.-Mrs.-Ms.-Dr.-Miss) First Name Last Name

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____ - _____

School/Institution: _____

Position: _____

City: _____ State: __ Zip: _____ - _____

Phone: Work (____) _____ - _____ Home: (____) _____ - _____

FAX: (____) ____ - _____ Internet Address: _____@_____

Enclosed Dues For KABT **\$15** / Year
Life Membership Available For **\$300**

National Association of Biology Teacher Dues: **\$59.00** / Year

Yearly Due Date is September 1st - Make Check Payable To KABT - Tax ID #: 48-0945206

Send Dues & Information To:

Kansas Association of Biology Teachers
2311 Applewood Lane
Salina, KS 67401 - 3707