



# STANYS - CENTRAL SECTION NEWSLETTER

Volume: 2009-2010 Issue: February 2010

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**INSERT:** 2010 Spring Science Symposium brochure

## Letter from the Chair

By Darlene Devendorf

### SPRING SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM "Sharing Science"

**"Since there are so many demands on our time, let's blend professional development and time for family and friends!"**

This is the time of the year that we finalize plans for the Spring Science Symposium. As a result of our discussion we have decided to modify the venue to include teachers' families and friends. Through the generosity of the MOST, we will be able to use their facility for our symposium while providing a wonderful science experience for both children and adults.

While teachers are attending a workshop or listening to a guest speaker their families or friends will be able to check out the MOST exhibits. There have been great additions to the MOST's interactive exhibits collection: Flight & Space, Life Sciences, Discovery Cave, Science Playhouse, Technotown, the Telecommunications Lab. In addition, we may be able to get a sneak preview of the visiting Nanotechnology exhibit.

Everyone will be able to be together for an informal dinner (catered by the Brooklyn Pickle). In addition, as the topping on the evening, everyone will be able to experience an IMAX movie.

As a bonus, your registration will provide free parking in the "Trolley Lot", Lot #26, located behind the MOST.

***Please plan on providing supervision for any children accompanying you to the event.***

**CHECK OUT THE ENCLOSED SYMPOSIUM BROCHURE!!  
REGISTER EARLY SO WE CAN PROPERLY PLAN THE EVENT.**



**EMAIL: KEEPING OUR RECORDS UP TO DATE!**

We are checking our members e-mail addresses because we often email info or our newsletter.

**If you have not been receiving information via email - if you have changed your email address or have a new one** could you please take a moment to send it to Christine Walsleben at **[cwalsleben@cssd.org](mailto:cwalsleben@cssd.org)**

Email is never shared with other organizations or vendors.  
Thanks for your help –Membership chairperson, Christine



If you would prefer to receive your **CENTRAL STANYS NEWSLETTER** in hard copy form rather than electronically, please let me know. Include your preferred mailing address in your email.

# Help Wanted

As you read on you will see that we are in **need of connections to the worlds of Chemistry and Biology**. A teacher with experience in each of these areas is needed to advise on professional development and contribute to our section newsletter. It is time for some veteran teachers to step up to help us serve our profession and to take the place of retiring leadership (or to just give those that have carried the organization a break)!!!

**We currently have several openings on the Central STANYS Board: SAR for Chemistry, SAR for Biology, a NEWSLETTER person, and a WEBSITE person.**

If you are looking to play a greater role in Science Education by supporting your colleagues please make the moment to contact us.  
Thank you. Darlene Devendorf

## The Eastern-STANYS Lab Day

Brochure and Registration for March 6, 2010 is now available online for your convenience.

To view the brochure, please use the following link:  
<http://www.eastern-stanys.org/labday.php>

## BaP (Building A Presence) is now “Science Matters”

The network still requires a point of contact in each building to share information. Science Matters builds on the success of the Building a Presence for Science program, first launched in 1997 as an e-networking initiative to assist teachers of science with professional development opportunities. Building a Presence for Science” now Science Matters reaches readers in 34 states and the District of Columbia. Science Matters is an initiative by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) to bring content, news, and information that supports quality science education to teachers nationwide. This will work best if each school building has a “Science Matters” contact person to receive information.

## Greater Syracuse Science Fair

Volunteers are needed to judge projects at this year's science fair, which **will be held on Sunday, March 28, 2010 at Solvay High School in Syracuse.**

Students from Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga and Oswego counties will compete in two divisions, the junior fair for 5th-8th graders and the senior fair for 9th-12th graders.

To register go to: <http://www.most.org/gsssf/judgesinfo.cfm> or [gsssf@most.org](mailto:gsssf@most.org) by March 19th

## TACNY Junior Cafe Scientifique at the M.O.S.T. Saturday, February 20, 2010 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM



Celebrating Engineering Week!: Neil LaBrake and SU Graduate Students will present a talk entitled "**So You Want to Be An Engineer?**" for Middle School and High School students.

The program is sponsored by TACNY, the Technology Alliance of Central New York, and hosted at the MOST. Continental Breakfast before the presentation. Questions and a chance to explore the MOST following the presentation.

Please note: The target age for the TACNY Junior Cafe` Scientifique is Middle School & High School students, along with their parents or guardians. However, we ask that the question and answer period is for the students ONLY! Please RSVP to [jrcafe@tacny.org](mailto:jrcafe@tacny.org) or call 425-9068 x2121.

**To Register Contact:** [jrcafe@tacny.org](mailto:jrcafe@tacny.org)

## National Lab Day



Middle and high school teachers, do you need help with your science fair, lesson development, or someone to chaperone a field trip? What about advice on an after-school program or access to cool lab equipment? Wouldn't it be great to have a scientist or engineer share their work experiences with students in your classroom? You can join in and make it happen through National Lab Day (NLD).

**Visit the NLD website to learn more, sign up and submit your "project needs." Local community volunteers (university students, scientists, engineers, STEM professionals and other educators) who are participating in your NLD hub, are eager to respond. Check out "project requests" submitted by teachers who are already involved.**

National Lab Day ([www.NationalLabDay.org](http://www.NationalLabDay.org)) is a New York-based educational organization dedicated to improving science and math education across the country. More than 200 organizations representing 6.5 million professionals and educators have already pledged support for National Lab Day. These organizations have sent a letter to the President (available at the above web address) detailing their commitment. National Lab Day welcomes new partnerships and can be reached at [info@nationallabday.org](mailto:info@nationallabday.org).

## Nature Clubs for Families

<http://www.childrenandnature.org/movement/natureclubs>



Spending time outdoors improves the physical and mental well being of children and adults alike. The Children & Nature Network has developed a toolkit specifically for families interested in spending more time outdoors and starting a local Nature Club. It includes a Quick Start Guide with simple instructions on how to start a Nature Club, as well as activity ideas, tips and checklists for getting started. The kit is available online (PDF) in both English and Spanish.



## Team Research Experience for Teachers, Cornell Univ. June 28 - August 6, 2010



Team Research Experience for Teachers (Team-RET) is a **6-week summer program** that utilizes hands-on laboratory experience to familiarize high school and middle school teachers with the fundamentals of scientific research (hosted by Cornell Center for Materials Research (CCMR)).

Through first hand experiences with the people and technology at the forefront of materials research, teachers will be better equipped to view science in a more integrated way. Teachers will spend one week in each of five CCMR laboratory facilities working as a team to solve a scientific problem. As a group, the teachers will set out to understand the problem, develop a strategy to solve the problem, execute this developed process, and compile a report to present at the end of the week. Participating teachers will acquire valuable knowledge concerning laboratory procedures and experimental design that will have practical applications in their own classrooms

**Completed applications are due February 26, 2010.**

New York participants will receive a \$3,800 stipend and either campus housing or local travel expenses. Professional development hours are available.

## Environmental Science News

Rick Beal Ph.D., STANYS Environmental Science DAL and SAR



Here is a great new online resource **Globalis**: <http://globalis.qvu.unu.edu/>  
**Globalis** is an interactive data map where students can change data layers and extract statistics from an earth map. Map themes include statistics related to climate, agriculture/land use, economy, education, environment, gender equality, health, human development, population, technology, and water. Thanks to legendary meteorologist Dave Eichorn for the link!



**SUNY ESF** will be holding 3 college credit short courses for students this summer. These include Introduction to Green Entrepreneurship <http://www.esf.edu/outreach/green/>  
EFB 120 The Global Environment during the week of July 26 and a new renewable energy course (date TBD). <http://www.esf.edu/outreach/esfhs/default.htm#courses>

**SUNY ESF** will also be having our second Advanced Training Workshop in Alternative Energy for teachers the 1<sup>st</sup> week in August. <http://www.esf.edu/outreach/k12/solar/>

Contact me for more details (rebeal@esf.edu) – Dr. Rick Beal

## Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop

The Spirituality and Nature Center at Alverna Heights, in Fayetteville NY, is hosting a workshop on **Aquatic Invasive Species** on Tuesday, March 30, 2010.

A variety of speakers are offering presentations on Oneida Lake issues, invasive flora and fauna in New York State, prevention and management and restoration of aquatic habitats. There will be a keynote address on the affects of climate change on invasive species given by Holley Menninger, NY Invasive Species Research Institute (NYISRI),

The cost of the workshop is \$25 and lunch is included. For more information contact Sister Caryn Crook at Alverna Heights at 315-637-9334 or email her at caryncrook@yahoo.com.

## Butterflies in Space



In November, Painted Lady butterflies flew aboard the Shuttle Space Atlantis to the International Space Station. The butterflies spent several weeks in space as part of an exciting experiment to observe their life cycles and behaviors in microgravity. Photos and videos were transmitted back to Earth and are available online.

[http://www.bioedonline.org/space/STS\\_Mission\\_129.cfm](http://www.bioedonline.org/space/STS_Mission_129.cfm)



## CCMR Institute for Chemistry Teachers (CICT), Cornell Univ. July 19 - July 24, 2010



The CICT program is an intensive one-week lecture and laboratory course designed specifically for high school chemistry teachers to provide them with a deeper understanding of chemistry and to update them on recent advances in the field. This summer graduate-level program includes lectures by Cornell faculty, hands-on laboratories on topics in the NYS Chemistry Core Curriculum, and tours of research facilities.

The program runs from July 19 - July 24, 2010 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Participants will receive one Cornell graduate credit, and either campus housing or local travel expenses. Tuition and fees are paid by CICT. CICT is run by the Cornell Center for Materials Research (CCMR) and is funded by the National Science Foundation. Completed applications are due February 26, 2010.

Applications and additional information can be found at <http://www.ccmr.cornell.edu/cict> or by contacting Kevin Dilley at 607-254-8256 or [outreach@ccmr.cornell.edu](mailto:outreach@ccmr.cornell.edu).

## Physics News

### Central STANYS Physics SAR – Pat Madigan

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This is a reminder that we are hosting a **wind energy (blade) challenge** at Cicero-North Syracuse High school on **March 6th**. It is not too late to get in, not too complicated, and very affordable. There are free materials available for NYS schools. The web site is listed below for more information. I would also appreciate any of you forwarding this to any of your science and technology teachers, and those at the middle school too. There are two separate divisions being run. If there are more questions, you can e-mail me at [pmadigan@nscsd.org](mailto:pmadigan@nscsd.org). This is easy to get into, the participants will receive t-shirts, and snacks will be available.

[http://www.kidwind.org/workshops\\_events/challenge.php](http://www.kidwind.org/workshops_events/challenge.php)

## ITHACA - HIGHLAND FOREST - BEAVER LAKE

**Ithaca's Winter Recess:** Looking for something to do over Winter Recess? All your other teacher friends in Florida? Head down to **Ithaca** for their week long event! For more details go to <http://www.ithacalovesteachers.com/>

**Highland Forest** - Sleight rides 11am- 4 pm Sat and Sun

**Beaver Lake** - Feb. 13: Ice cutting 10 am

Feb 15- 20: Winters Wonder Week (ice cutting, build a snow cave, creature feature, and snowshoeing each day of the week)

**Fun Stuff**

## Intermediate Science News

Central STANYS Intermediate Science SAR – Jim Kuhl



### From the NSTA Calendar: Journey North Begins

Though it's February, you and your students should be on the lookout for any signs of spring. These signs can be observed through monitoring the northern migration of monarch butterflies, hummingbirds, whooping cranes, and other animals. **Journey North**, a free web-based program, allows students to explore wildlife migration, the blooming of plants, and seasonal changes in temperature and sunlight. K–12 teachers and students worldwide are invited to participate and take advantage of lessons, photos, video clips, interactive maps, and migration “stories,” among other resources. Go to <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/>

### Opportunity for Middle-Level Science Teachers

<http://snipr.com/dept-energy-grants>



Laura Mengel with the U.S. Department of Energy asked us to share info about a new three-year program for science teachers in the middle grades (5-9) that combines summer study and school-year activities with students. The program will engage teachers in ongoing research projects at Fermilab, the high-energy physics center in Illinois. Participants receive an \$800/wk stipend for the summer work, plus housing and travel if needed. You'll also be eligible for grants to support classroom equipment purchases and travel to professional development conferences. Follow the link above for details and application information.

## Professional Development Opportunities at the Finger Lakes Institute Climate Change and Its Impact on the Environment

The Finger Lakes Institute is hosting a conference at the Hobart and William Smith Colleges campus on the topic of Climate Change on Thursday, **March 25th, 2010**.

During the morning, there will be concurrent sessions offering ideas on how to incorporate the latest knowledge about climate change into science curriculum for both biology and geosciences. Chris Linder, a Research Associate at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, will provide an exciting keynote address. After lunch we conclude the conference with an assembly presentation by the Alliance for Climate Education, a non-profit organization dedicated to education on climate change, and a panel discussion on what school districts in the region are doing to reduce their carbon footprint.

To learn more and register visit the Climate Change Conference website or contact Sheila Myers, [smyers@hws.edu](mailto:smyers@hws.edu). This conference is co-sponsored by the Rochester Area Colleges Centers for Excellence in Math and Science.



**Science on Seneca** is an EPA award-winning educational outreach program of the Finger Lakes Institute and Hobart and William Smith Colleges. The next training date for teachers that are interested in participating in the SOS program is **April 17, 2010** from 8 am – 3 pm.

The day will begin at the Finger Lakes Institute on the Hobart and William Smith campus with a brief introduction to the program logistics. We will then head to the *WILLIAM SCANDLING* research vessel to explore the Seneca Lake environment using state limnological research equipment. After lunch we head back to the FLI for a one hour overview of the educational resources available for science educators on the Science on Seneca website.

Once teachers have completed the training they are able to participate in SOS for \$15.00/class. To register contact Barb Halfman, at [bhalfman@hws.edu](mailto:bhalfman@hws.edu).

**THE CENTRAL STANYS BOARD for 2009-10**  
[www.centralstanys.org](http://www.centralstanys.org)

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