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### **ENVIRONMENTAL**

### **SCIENCE**

TBA

### **PHYSICS**

TBA

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# Science Teachers Association of New York State Mohawk Valley Section

[www.mvsta.org](http://www.mvsta.org)

## THE VOICE FALL 2011

Yet another school year begins and I wish I could say without changes and turmoil. We face new standards for evaluations and core curriculum as well as new leadership and the continued cuts in funds. We need to remind ourselves of our responsibility to teach young minds to appreciate and hopefully pursue their interests and careers in science.

If you want to continue your professional development, enrich your knowledge, recharge your batteries, and commiserate with other educators, please come to the annual STANYS Conference in Rochester on Saturday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>. I appreciate the difficulty when taking time away from your classroom, but please consider attending for a day. The drive is approximately 2.5 hours, and STANYS has registration for one day. You have already received a brief brochure in the mail, and a full list of workshops can be found on the STANYS website as well as descriptions of speakers and online registration ([www.stanys.org](http://www.stanys.org).)

Those from MVSTA attending the conference this year are Ginny Perino, our secretary, several of our SAR's who are presenting workshops (Duane Willsey, Cinnamon Marchione, Paul Perry, Sue Schafer, Mary Ann Mazzola and Bernadette Van Valkenburg), and myself. We will be happy to help anyone wishing to attend. Please contact us by our emails on this page.

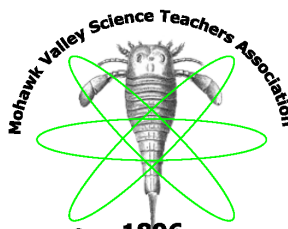
**We would like to meet you at the conference either on Sunday during the Hall of Sections in the Riverside Conference Center or Monday night for at our Social in the Hyatt ... look for the signs with the chartreuse 😊.**


For our long time members, I am saddened to write that a past president and life-long member of our section, passed away this summer. Keith Banner passed away during a visit with his family in Ilion. He was a science teacher for thirty years in Oneida. He is survived by his wife Marian.

Please check our website out for news and watch for our e-mails, since we may go paperless in the future. We are also looking for individuals interested in becoming Subject Area Reps. The term begins Jan 1, 2012 and includes financial assistance in attending the conference.


**Our Fall Dinner and Speaker will be on Wed. Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>. Please see the last page for details. We look forward to seeing you there!**

*Lee Kowalsky*  
Chairperson/Director  
[Lkowalsky@roadrunner.com](mailto:Lkowalsky@roadrunner.com)

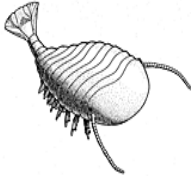


	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BIOLOGY</b>  Sue Schafer, SAR  Proctor High School, Utica, NY  <a href="mailto:sschafer@uticaschools.org">sschafer@uticaschools.org</a></p>
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As chairperson of Saturday Morning Science, I will be attending the annual conference with an eye on ideas and things to share in April. At the conference Mary Ann Mazzola and I are presenting a workshop on Forensics. Please watch for news about our Saturday Morning Science.

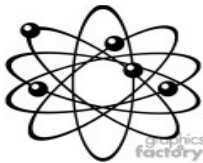
		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHEMISTRY</b>  Mary Ann Mazzola, SAR  Proctor High School, Utica, NY  <a href="mailto:amazzola@uticaschools.org">amazzola@uticaschools.org</a></p>
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I am excited to be attending the annual conference for the first time and presenting a workshop. The workshop (C-45) will focus on the analysis of physical evidence found at a crime scene with variety of techniques that can be used in the classroom. Connections will be made between the classroom and the real world of forensics. I look forward to sharing with everyone.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EARTH SCIENCE</b>  Paul Perry, SAR  Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School, Vernon, NY  <a href="mailto:PPerry@VVSschools.org">PPerry@VVSschools.org</a></p>
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Hey Earthies –

As hopefully everyone has heard, as part of its efforts to save \$8 million NYSED will no longer distribute any Reference Tables, including the ESRT. Districts are now responsible for copying the ESRT in-house. There were a few changes in the ESRT to make them easier to copy (elimination of the ruler for example). You may continue to use the 2010 edition reference tables already on hand in your classrooms. The address to see the memo from State Ed about the changes and to download the 2011 version is: [www.p12.nysed.gov/apda/reftable/](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/apda/reftable/) Be on the lookout for E-mails with information about upcoming events in our area. I hope to see many of you @ the STANYS conference in Rochester. Be sure to sign up for session D-52. Our Breakfast Speaker on Monday morning is Dr. Roberta Johnson, the Executive Director of the National Earth Science Teachers Association. The Rock Raffle will be returning with, among other things, some Eurypterids from the Langheinrich Fossil Preserve (Alan Lang's Quarry) in Ilion.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PHYSICS</b>  TBA</p>
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Currently, our Mohawk Valley Section has an opening in the position of Physics SAR. This area is, however, represented by many outstanding and generous Physics Teachers. New Physics Teachers and veterans wishing to network are welcome to contact me, Penny Mann at [pmann@oriskanycsd.org](mailto:pmann@oriskanycsd.org) any time. I am happy to share

any information and resources that I have. I am also happy to help others connect with many of my outstanding colleagues.


	<p style="text-align: center;">INTERMEDIATE Cinnamon Marchione, SAR Adirondack Central School, Boonville, NY <a href="mailto:cmarchione@adirondackcsd.org">cmarchione@adirondackcsd.org</a></p>
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Welcome back!

Do you all love the fresh start September brings? I know I do. I am sure this year will bring us successes and challenges. To help with the challenges try the STANYS conference. There are TONS of workshops to help you with many aspects of teaching.

Here is the info on my workshop on Monday G-45.


AVATAR---Delve into the world of Pandora. With its unique creatures and your students' creativity, you can change your hallways into your own Pandorian world. Check out this project that combines science concepts, creative thinking, technology, art and the new Common Core Standards.

	<p style="text-align: center;">ELEMENTARY Duane Willsey, SAR Madison Central School District, Madison, NY <a href="mailto:dwillsey@madisoncentralny.org">dwillsey@madisoncentralny.org</a></p>
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I hope everyone had a relaxing summer and is excited about starting the new school year. By now you should have gotten a sense of your students and have established that routine. As you start to dive into the meat of your curriculum please keep these two things in mind where science is concerned.

**1) Science is all about figuring things out. So, let your students explore and discover, the more hands on the better.**

**2) As the national standards will encourage, cover fewer topics, but go deeper with the ones you do cover.** Whatever you do, have fun. The more fun you have, the more fun the students will have. Speaking of fun, be sure to check out my session at the STANYS conference on Tuesday at 11:00 – Science Drama. You'll have a blast and hopefully take something home with you in the process.

	<p style="text-align: center;">COLLEGE Jennifer Herzog, SAR Herkimer County Community College, Herkimer, NY <a href="mailto:herzogja@herkimer.edu">herzogja@herkimer.edu</a></p>
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The new fall semester brings about many programs at our local colleges that you and your students may find useful and engaging. Please find a listing below of science lectures and college-related events:

**Hamilton College, Mondays, 4-5:30 PM, SCCT 3024 (Science Center)**

10/17: Dr Maria Garcia-Garcia, Cornell University "Uncovering how cells form an embryo through forward mutagenesis in the mouse"

11/7: Dr Thomas Melendy, U. of Buffalo "New approaches for attacking the DNA synthesis of the cancer-

causing Human Papillomavirus"

11/14: Dr Geoff Holm, Colgate University "A Matter of Life and (Cell) Death: The Role of Apoptosis in Viral Pathogenesis.

11/28: Dr. William E. Fry, Professor, Cornell University. "Will genomics finally contain the cause of the Irish potato famine?"

**Asa Gray Seminar Series, Utica College, Mondays, 4-5pm, Donahue Auditorium**

10/3: Melissa K. Fierke, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Forest Entomology "Girdling, Splitting and Rearing to Know: Insights into New York Invasive Forest Insects"

10/24: David Butler, Ph.D., Wadsworth Center, NYS Dept. of Health "Improving Bifunctional Intrabodies Against the Huntingtin Protein"

11/7: Steven D. Hanes, Ph.D., SUNY-Upstate Medical University "Use of Model Organisms to Study Gene Regulation"

11/28: Dr. Terri Provost, Ph.D., Utica College "Exposure to Polychlorinated Biphenyls Causes Alterations in Brain Serotonin Concentrations in Swiss-Webster Mice"

**MVCC:**

11/3: John Delano, Ph. D., Principal Investigator for NASA Astrobiology Program and Associate Director of NASA's New York Center for Astrobiology "NASA Astrobiology: Is There Life Out There?" will be presented @7 PM in the Information Technology Building (Utica Campus)

**SUNYIT:** 10/11: Mohawk Valley Counseling Association College Night, 6:30pm-8:30pm

	<p>RETIREES Bernadette Van Valkenburg <a href="mailto:bernv@twcnny.rr.com">bernv@twcnny.rr.com</a></p>
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"When a teacher retires after 30+ years of teaching science, he or she can continue to help their fellow teachers by presenting workshops at the annual STANYS conference in Rochester. I will be presenting a workshop called "Chemistry...It's Elementary" along with Bob Dayton, another retiree. The workshop consists of two parts: three simple demonstrations/activities that can be done to illustrate evidence of a chemical reaction, finding an element in breakfast cereal, and making silly putty polymer using materials that can be purchased in a grocery store and Bob will discuss the need for safety precautions in science. All lessons will be aligned with the Intermediate Core Curriculum for Science."

