



Science Teachers Association of New York State
Mohawk Valley Section

www.mvsta.org

THE VOICE

Spring 2011

OFFICERS

2010-2011

DIRECTOR

CHAIRPERSON

Lee Kowalsky-Proctor HS
lkowalsky@roadrunner.com

VICE CHAIRPERSON

Barbara Cavaretta
bcav78@aol.com

SECRETARY

Virginia Perino
gperino@windstream.net

TREASURER

Dr. Robert Jubenville-MVCC
rjubenville@mvcc.edu

MEMBERSHIP

Paul Perry

NEWSLETTER

Barbara Cavaretta

EVENTS

Sue Schafer

Subject Area Reps

ELEMENTARY

Duane Willsey-
Madison CSD Elementary
dwillsey@madisoncentralny.org

INTERMEDIATE

Cinnamon Marchione-
Adirondack CSD
cmarchione@adirondackcsd.org

COLLEGE

Jennifer Herzog-HCCC
herzogja@herkimer.edu

BIOLOGY

Sue Schafer-Proctor HS
sschafer@uticaschools.org

CHEMISTRY

Mary Ann Mazzola
mamazzola@uticaschools.org

EARTH SCIENCE

Paul Perry-VVS
PPerry@VVSschools.org

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

TBA

PHYSICS

TBA

RETIREES

Bernadette VanValkenburg
bernvan@twcny.rr.com

Our **Saturday Morning Science** workshop on April 9th at MVCC was a success this year. The presentation by Keith Scheibel and two students from Vernon-Verona- Sherrill High School on maple syrup production and the Future Farmers of America program was enjoyed by all in attendance. We even had the opportunity to sample maple syrup cotton candy (yum!). Considering the state-wide initiative to expand the industry, it was a very informative and timely presentation. I would like to thank the chairperson of the day, Sue Schafer, for inviting the speaker and presenters and Dr. Robert Jubenville for making all the arrangements at Mohawk Valley Community College. Board members, Pat Zuck, Barb Cavaretta, Ginnie Perino, Jennifer Herzog, and Bernadette VanValkenburg, kept the morning running smoothly. We also thank and recognize the presenters for volunteering their time on Saturday morning: Dr. Robert Jubenville and Donald Kelly in the Cadaver Lab, Paul Perry - Earth Science SAR, Duane Willsey - Elementary SAR, Elaine Hage - Potato Hill Farm Education Activities Director, Bob Field - Trout in the Classroom and Robert Decker and Dr. Celia Domser of MVCC. We look forward to seeing you next April!

Several MVSTA members will be visiting Colgate University's campus on Saturday, May 7th. We hope you received our e-mail about the visit and Colgate's new Viz Lab. This lab offers planetarium shows as well as other programs (Charles Darwin). We plan on touring the facility, viewing a presentation and visit the Geology Museum. If the day is a success, we may ask Duane Willsey (Elementary SAR) to plan another visit.

The STANYS Board of Directors met on April 29th – 30th in Albany. I was genuinely shocked to learn that we will be receiving the membership award for the largest increase in membership out of 16 sections. **THANK YOU NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWING MEMBERS FOR SUSTAINING OUR MVSTA MEMBERSHIP AND MAKING OUR SMALL SECTION SUCH A SUCCESS!** We have impressed the larger sections with our dedication to the STANYS organization. The board also has decided to hire professionals to build a new website with the potential to be a clearinghouse for all kinds of information. **STANYS is on Facebook now, so be a friend!** Another important highlight of the lengthy meeting is a new program, **Adopt a School** in need of improvement, and STANYS is going to fund the expenses for the science teachers to attend the conference. The school under consideration is the first school to be taken over by SED, Roosevelt High School on Long Island.

Elementary teachers watch for a **special edition** of the newsletter just for you which was initiated and written in part by Dr. William Banko. For us non-elementary teachers, you should expect an electronic version to come soon. We will also try to post the newsletters of the future on our website too.

Watch for emails about the upcoming fall dinner and a presentation on amber. **Thank you for supporting STANYS and sharing our news with your colleagues.**

Have a wonderful summer!

Lee Kowalsky, Chairperson and Director

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

May brings flowers and hopefully some needed sunshine, but also election of officers for Mohawk Valley Science Teachers Association. I will continue in my role as director to represent us on the state level and chairperson in our professional organization as well as promoting membership and professional development with our Subject Area Representatives.

I encourage you to join us during our monthly meetings, become active in our planning and learn about the leadership positions of the group. I thank the retirees for continuing as officers.

Chairperson and Director: Lee Kowalsky
Vice-Chairperson (Newsletter & Webpage): Barbara Cavaretta
Treasurer: Robert Jubenville
Secretary: Ginnie Perino

PLEASE MAIL THE POSTCARD BY MAY 15TH!

116th ANNUAL STANYS CONFERENCE

Saturday, November 5 – Tuesday, November 8, 2011
Rochester, NY

PREVIEW

Saturday:

Fieldtrips to Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum, Seneca Park Zoo and Genesee River Gorge

Saturday Night at Ward's Natural Science includes visit to microscope slide lab, live materials lab, geology production area, preserved materials lab and demo stations (technology in the classroom, professional development service, physical science station and chemistry and forensic station)

Sunday:

Keynote Speaker Michelle Thallor - astrophysicist, performer and education specialist at NASA

Monday:

Fellows Speaker Brian Mallow - comedic presentation to ignite interest in science

Invited Speakers:

Dr. Roland Kays - mammal curator of the New York State Museum

Dr. Rory Cottrell - research scientist in paleomagnetism from University of Rochester

Dr. Todd Krauss - nanoscale materials from University of Rochester

Dr. Alan Weatherwax - geophysics from Siena College

Conference Brochure will be online by **August 15th**. This year all science teachers will not be mailed a full brochure, but will instead receive a highlighting brochure on the conference to save on costs. Registration can be done online, and the fees have remained the same. It is my understanding that there will be no increase in hotel rates either.



BIOLOGY
Sue Schafer, SAR
T. R. Proctor High School, Utica, NY
sschafer@uticaschools.org

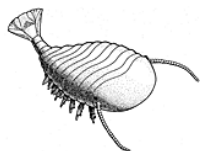
Greetings and welcome to spring, hopefully, spring-like weather in Upstate New York. On April 9th the MVSTA presented the second annual Science Saturday at MVCC. We had a good turnout of approximately 40 teachers participating in a variety of workshops. Our keynote speakers were Keith Schiebel and the students from the Future Farmer's Association of VVS High School. These students delivered a wonderfully informative presentation on Maple Syrup Production.

We would really appreciate your input on topics you would like for future workshops or the name of an interesting keynote speaker. My e-mail address is sschafer23@gmail.com. Hope the final few weeks of the school year is smooth and enjoyable.



CHEMISTRY
Mary Ann Mazzola
T. R. Proctor High School, Utica
mamazzola@uticaschools.org

Mary Ann Mazzola has agreed to fill Bernadette VanValkenburg's position with her retirement. Mary Ann has been teaching Chemistry and AP Chemistry in Utica for many years. She attended her first SAR planning meeting in Albany and is planning a workshop for the conference. We should be hearing from her in the future.



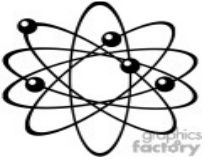
EARTH SCIENCE
Paul Perry, SAR
Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School, Vernon, NY
PPerry@VVSschools.org

Hello Earthies -

It was great to see many of you at Saturday Morning Science. I am working to develop an Earth Science field trip for this spring. It will be an environmental theme and if space allows, you may be able to invite some of your Living Environment colleagues for some cross-curricular experiences. We have secured Joe Moloughney the Director of Environmental Affairs for the New York State Canal Corporation who has been working on the Utica Harbor dredging and clean-up project. We will also have Bill Jones from National Grid, who is in charge of National Grid's clean up of the old gas light plant at the Utica Harbor. Continuing the "environmental theme" we will also spend some time at the Oneida County Sewage treatment plant and the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority. The field trip is scheduled for all day Thursday, May 12th which will allow us to watch active dredging in the Utica Harbor. Check your Email soon for a flyer with more specific details.

The Earth Science Regents Exam has been scheduled for the afternoon session on Friday, June 20th. I'm sure all of our students will be at their best taking a test on a Friday afternoon!! If you have ever questioned the way that the Regents Exam questions look, you may have an opportunity to change the test. NYSED is seeking High School teachers to participate in Rangefinding for the Earth Science (and other) exams in August 2011. You can find the application and more information here: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/osa/teacher/#hs>

Good luck getting your students ready for the end of the year!



PHYSICS
TBA

The MVSTA is looking for a Physic SAR starting in January 2012. If you are interested please contact Lee Kowalsky at lkowalsky@roadrunner.com. The position involves attending the annual conference and planning a workshop to present at the conference. STANYS does reimburse you for some of your cost to attend the conference in Rochester. Facilitating network meetings and presenting workshops to the local teachers will be part of the duties of this position.

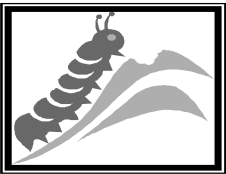


INTERMEDIATE
Cinnamon Marchione, SAR
Adirondack Central School, Boonville, NY
cmarchione@adirondackcsd.org

Happy Spring,

Well I have had a very educational spring. After attending two STANYS workshops, I am reenergized. What a great feeling for May! If you are available next April, I highly recommend MVSTA Saturday Morning Science. I learned tons at this workshop! I am also excited about being able to present next November at the STANYS conference.

The students and I are finishing the last chapter before we start the state test review. The students may not like it, but test taking strategy is almost as important as the curriculum. Good luck to all the 8th graders---AND their teachers!!!!



ELEMENTARY
Duane Willsey, SAR
Madison Central School District, Madison, NY
dwillsey@madisoncentralny.org

Do you ever feel so busy teaching math and ELA that science takes a back seat? Are you sort of glad, because science is really not your thing? Would you love to try something simple that works and the kids will enjoy? Does this guy ask a lot of questions or what? Well then, I have a great idea for you. I call it the "Best Practice E-Mail Chain". Now, before you say, "Oh no, not more e-mail!", hear me out. I am going to start a VOLUNTARY e-mail list of elementary teachers that do something unusual or outside the box and are willing to share it with others. I will be the clearinghouse and you can opt in or out at any time. Since this was my crazy idea, I'll go first.

I do something I call Sim Science or Science "Drama". It involves students playing the parts in a human simulation, sometimes set to a real world situation (e.g. the three parts of an atom as a "party" or the parts of a cell as a working factory). They are simple, easy to do, and can be done on almost any science topic in grades K-8. I have 12 - 15 already created and could easily help you create one of your own. If you are interested please e-mail. Now it's your turn. Send me your ideas or just jump on to ask about mine.

See you in cyberspace!