



Science Teachers Association of New York State

## Mohawk Valley Section

mvsta.org

### OFFICERS

2008-2009

#### **DIRECTOR**

**Joan Taber**

[jtaber@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jtaber@twcny.rr.com)

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Lee Kowalsky

Proctor SHS, Utica, NY

[lkowalsky@roadrunner.com](mailto:lkowalsky@roadrunner.com)

#### **VICE CHAIRPERSON**

Barbara Cavaretta

[bcav78@aol.com](mailto:bcav78@aol.com)

#### **SECRETARY**

Virginia Perino

[gperino@windstream.net](mailto:gperino@windstream.net)

#### **TREASURER**

Dr. Robert Jubenville

Mohawk Valley CC

[rjubenville@mvcc.edu](mailto:rjubenville@mvcc.edu)

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

John Petzke

[jpetzke@hughes.net](mailto:jpetzke@hughes.net)

#### **WEBMASTER**

James Belcher

[jbelcher@nhart.org](mailto:jbelcher@nhart.org)

#### **NEWSLETTER**

Dave Perino

#### **EVENTS**

Marlene Williams

#### **Subject Area Rep**

#### **ELEMENTARY**

Pat Zuck

Oneida Madison BOCES

#### **INTERMEDIATE**

Dave Perino

#### **COLLEGE**

Dr. Robert Jubenville

Mohawk Valley CC

#### **BIOLOGY**

Sue Schafer

T. R. Proctor HS, Utica

#### **CHEMISTRY**

Bernadette VanValkenburg

VVS High School

#### **EARTH SCIENCE**

Jud Spanneut,

Perry Junior High, New Hartford

[jspanneu@nhart.org](mailto:jspanneu@nhart.org)

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

Sheila Bartlett

Stockbridge Valley HS

#### **PHYSICS**

Penny Mann

Oriskany High School

#### **RETIREES**

Bob Bond

[bobbond@frontiernet.net](mailto:bobbond@frontiernet.net)

# THE VOICE

## Spring 2009

We would like to invite all our members, their colleagues and spouses to another Dinner and a Speaker at Casa Too Mucha on Thurs May 7 to hear a geologist from Colgate University, Dr. Karen Harpp. She will speak about her research and experiences at the Galápagos Islands during the eruption of Sierra Negra. At that time we would also like to recognize with our Service Award, long-time member of the group, Marlene Williams., Marlene has served as a Chemistry SAR and provided assistance in organizing our dinners and speaker events. She is a retired Chemistry teacher from New Hartford and enjoys attending all our meetings.

The Subject Area Reps recently met with their counterparts in Endicott for a planning meeting to generate proposals for workshop sessions at the next annual conference in Rochester. They returned with many good ideas for future speakers and workshops. They also attended some workshops on alternative energy, Google Earth, use of smart boards, and other technology in the classroom. The board has also been planning for the conference with plans for a new display for Mohawk Valley and has reserved a suite for the Hospitality Room.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Bernadette VanValkenburg, Pat Zuck, teachers from VVS and Camden and I attended an afternoon of training at the Cornell University Biological Field Station at Shackleton Point on Oneida Lake. The purpose was to become familiar with the Oneida Lake Education Initiative and receive a Big Red Trunk containing about 20 preserved specimens from Oneida Lake as well as a binder of information. Teachers will develop lessons on habitat, global warming, climate change as reflected by these species, invasive plants and animals, changes in water chemistry, etc, utilizing the trunks as well as information available from the website, [oneidalakeinfo.org](http://oneidalakeinfo.org). Geology lessons for the lake are also being developed by a student at Hamilton College. It is our hope to bring workshops to the Utica area.

Members ... please be aware that you will receive the ballot for election of officers at the end of the month.

Lee Kowalsky

Mohawk Valley Section Chairperson

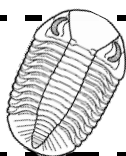
[lkowalsky@roadrunner.com](mailto:lkowalsky@roadrunner.com)

## BIOLOGY

Sue Schafer  
Proctor High School, Utica  
[sschafer@uticaschools.org](mailto:sschafer@uticaschools.org)

There was a joint workshop with Chemistry and Biology teachers on March 17th on biofuels and bioremediation by Jennifer Herzog, assistant professor of Biology at Herkimer County Community College. Throughout the powerpoint presentation, Jennifer made connections to websites for further research and activities for students on using microbial cells as energy sources. She also offered to send us her presentation on power point.

On March 14<sup>th</sup> SARS from the Mohawk Valley attended a conference in Endicott to discuss presentations at the STANYS conference in November. On the way home, we discussed ideas on ways to interest more teachers in the area to come to our workshops. One of our ideas was to have a Saturday workshop, the morning dedicated to a particular topic in one of these subjects, Chemistry, Biology, Earth Science or Physics and ask local college professors to speak. Topics could be anything of interest to you, and we welcome your ideas. Lunch would be served and the afternoon would include meetings with subject teachers discussing curriculum, labs, power points or whatever you would like to share. If anyone has thoughts or ideas on this proposal, please contact me.



## EARTH SCIENCE

Jud Spanneut  
[jspanneu@nhart.org](mailto:jspanneu@nhart.org)

A field trip has been planned for Fri. May 8<sup>th</sup> to the Herkimer Diamond Mine and Moss Island in Little Falls. Jud Spanneut, Bob Allers and Mike Hinman will give participants the opportunity to experience some of the glacial, structural, and economic geological features and stratigraphy of Mohawk Valley. Herkimer Diamonds are known worldwide for their beauty and rarity, not to mention clarity, and the potholes on Moss Island have been identified as one of New York's unique natural features. A guide book will be provided with maps, diagrams, literature and activities to use in the classroom. Everyone is encouraged to bring hammers, chisels and other equipment as well as a bag lunch (drinks will be provided). The group will meet that morning at 8:30 in parking lot of the Herkimer Diamond Mines (4601 State Route 28, Herkimer). There is no cost for the trip. Please register with Dandy D'Onoforio at [sdonofri@nhart.org](mailto:sdonofri@nhart.org) or call 738-9320. Please contact Jud about carpooling from Utica.

## CHEMISTRY

Bernadette VanValkenburg, SAR  
Vernon-Verona-Sherill High School  
[bernvan@twenvy.rr.com](mailto:bernvan@twenvy.rr.com)

Seventy students from Oneida and Madison counties will take the National Chemistry Olympiad Local Exam at VVS High School. The 8 top scoring students from the entire Syracuse area will be invited to participate at the next level which includes a written exam and lab practical. This will be held at Le Moyne College on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## ELEMENTARY

Pat Zuck

[pzuck@oneida-boces.org](mailto:pzuck@oneida-boces.org)

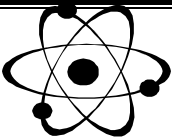
**Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H** of Oneida County will be offering a 3-day **Science Program** for youth ages **9-12**. The Science Program will be held **April 15-17** from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Cornell Cooperative Extension office at 121 Second St., Oriskany.

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, **Nano-technology** will be featured. Areas to be covered include Photolithograph, which is the process through which very small 3-D features can be produced and chromatography, which is used to figure out which ingredients are in a flavor or scent, analyze various components in pollutant and to find traces of drugs in urine. April 16<sup>th</sup> will focus on **Entomology, GIS** and **GPS**. In the morning, youth will learn how to start an insect collection. During the afternoon, basic information and hands-on activities will be shared related to GPS (Global Positioning Systems) and GIS (Geographic Information System). GPS is used as an aid for navigation and for the game geocaching. GIS is used in association with mapping. During the April 17<sup>th</sup> **Animal Science** session, student will learn about animal behavior, animal health and nutrition and the many uses of animals. Opportunities will be available to interact with dogs, goats, rabbits, horses, cattle and more. These sessions will be taught by faculty and staff of Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension staff and volunteers.

The cost per child is \$20 per day or \$55 for all 3 days for enrolled 4-H members and \$25 per day or \$70 for all 3 days for the public. Enrollment is limited to 25 youth per day. For more information and/or to register contact **Chris Weber Mangini at 736-3394 or 337-2531 ext. 103**.

## INTERMEDIATE

**Cornell Institute for Biology Teachers (CIBT)** is hosting a **Middle School Science Teacher Workshop** from **July 6-9**. They will provide teachers with housing in Cornell's dorms, some meals, and all materials. All activities, visits and lectures will be by Cornell scientists. Applicants may apply online or download a writeable PDF. For more information, please e-mail [cibt@cornell.edu](mailto:cibt@cornell.edu) or call 607 255-6129. Completed applications must be received by May 1, 2009. Accepted teachers will be notified by May 15, 2009. Schedule and more information can be found at our webpage <http://cibt.bio.cornell.edu>



## PHYSICS

**Penny Mann**

Oriskany High School

[pmann@](mailto:pmann@)

Our January Physics Network Meeting was quite successful. Participants shared materials for labs and activities to support the wave and modern physics units. Participants also demonstrated ways in which technology is integrated in their physics classrooms. OHM BOCES has also worked with a team of local physics teachers to create a technology enhanced, comprehensive physics curriculum. Physics teachers will be invited to attend presentation of this curriculum in April. The STANYS workshop planning meeting was inspiring. I expect to see several interesting workshops that will allow participants to walk away with hands-on activities that can be directly implemented in the classroom. I hope to see many of you there.

Science Teachers Association of New York State  
Mohawk Valley

www.mvsta.org



**Spring Dinner Meeting**  
**Thurs., May 7, 2009**  
***Casa Too Mucha***  
*13 Genesee St., New Hartford, NY*  
*733-2183*



## Volcanic Mysteries

**Karen Harpp**

**Associate Professor of Geology at Colgate University**

Dr. Harpp was at the Galápagos Islands on October 22nd, 2005 as Sierra Negra volcano erupted. The last time this volcano erupted was in 1979. Karen was there, and her research focused on determining the evolution of the Galápagos Islands and the Cocos and Carnegie Ridges, along with studying the evolution of mantle plumes via geochemical analysis of oceanic basalts, including high precision trace element analysis, isotopic analysis, and geochemical modeling.

**Time:** 5:30 Cash Bar with appetizers of spinach and cheese dip, quesadillas, mushroom caps & salsa with chips

6:30 Buffet: Chicken and Biscuits, Pasta in marinara sauce, Chimichangas with beef, Japanese Fried and Broiled Haddock with coleslaw & rice pilaf, Choice of strawberry shortcake or hot fudge sundae

7:15 Introductions and Subject Area Rep's Reports

7:30 Speaker

**Price:** \$ 13.00 members and \$15.00 non-members (Spouses invited.)

Please make checks to Mohawk Valley Science Teachers Assoc. (MVSTA)  
and return the reservation form by **Mon., May 4** to:

**Dr. Robert Jubenville**

*Life Science Dept., Mohawk Valley Community College*  
*1101 Sherman Dr., Utica, NY 13501*  
*rjubenville@mvcc.edu*

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Members \_\_\_\_\_ Non-members

School \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_