

March EBLAST

Hi Everyone: Welcome to our March. BaP eblast! We appreciate that you are sharing this information with other teachers of science and math in your building, and as always, be sure to drop us an email if we can ever help you.

Upcoming events in Montana Math and Science include:

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March 6 – Hi-Line Fair- Havre

March 9 – 10 – MEEA Conference - Bozeman

March 14 – Great Falls Fair – Great Falls

March 18 – 20 – Montana Science Fair - Missoula

March 23 – 24 – Science Bowl and Research Expo - Billings

March 21 – 24 – NCTM National Conference – Atlanta, GE

March 29 – 31 – NSTA National Conference – St. Louis?

April 14 – Expanding Your Horizons – Bozeman

May 11 – Last day to submit an application to present at MEA-MFT

August 8 – 10 – Chemistry Workshop – Canyon Ferry

In this issue you'll find:

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1. Free NASA Presenters to come to Your Classroom

The Space Public Outreach Team at Montana State University brings presentations about current NASA missions FREE OF CHARGE to Montana K-12 classrooms and community groups. This year our shows include Mars 3D! and The Sun-Earth Connection. If you are interested in scheduling a free presentation for your school, please contact the SPOT office by phone (406-994-1677) or email (spot@spacegrant.montana.edu).

2. Please Fill out a Presentation Form for MEA next year.

MSTA and MEA-MFT are busy planning the 2007 Educators' Conference. It will be held in Belgrade, Montana on October 18-19, 2007.

The MEA-MFT website is now accepting "Applications To Present" at <http://mea-mft.net/>.

* All registration will be done online.

* You will need to register or login to access the form.

* Please submit your application by April 1 for the best selection of your preferred time to present.

* The final application deadline for the conference is May 11, 2007.

* There are no exceptions to the May 11 deadline.

* After submitting your application, you will receive a confirmation email within a couple weeks from MEA-MFT.

3. Are you attending the NSTA Conference in St. Louis?

If you are going to be at the conference, you'll want to plan to attend one (or better yet both) receptions for Montana teachers of science.

Our region XV reception is held from 4:30 – 5:30 on Thursday the 29th in the Soulard Rm of the Millennium Hotel. The second one is our Building a Presence Reception on Thurs – the 29th from 5 – 7 held at the Crystal Ballroom in the Renaissance Grand Hotel.

This is an opportunity for Key Leaders and Points of Contact to network with program participants from all 30 Building a Presence states. Come discuss issues, share ideas, and get acquainted.

Sponsored by Texas Instruments, this informal reception of heavy hors d'oeuvres provides BaP members an opportunity to meet and chat with colleagues within the BaP community. Bernie Zubrowski, Senior Scientist with Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), will discuss how simple engineering challenges can help students learn physical science concepts. For this reception they would like you to let them know you are coming which you can do at:

<http://ecommerce.nsta.org/bap/rsvp.asp>

We hope to see you at one of these, and if you can't make it, maybe you can plan for the next national conference in Boston of 08.

4. Series of free Web seminars about Mars

NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory is collaborating with NSTA to develop a series of free Web seminars for 5-12 science educators on the topic of Mars Exploration. Visit: <http://spacegrant.montana.edu/Text/WebSeminars.html>

5. Robotics and Space Exploration

The Texas Space Grant Consortium presents its annual LiftOff Program at Johnson Space Center. This year's topic is Robotics and Space Exploration. Visit: <http://spacegrant.montana.edu/Text/LiftOff.html>

6. Chemistry Teachers Summer Workshop!

When? August 8-10th, 2007

Where? Montana Learning Center, Canyon Ferry, MT

Who's eligible? Any Montana high school chemistry teacher

Why? To develop a better understanding of chemistry and teaching strategies

How much does it cost? NOTHING!

IT'S FREE!!

Come experience:

- Broader / deeper understanding of Acid/base chemistry and Equilibrium reactions!

- The methods and benefits of inquiry learning!

- A variety of assessment and evaluation strategies to use in your classes!

- How to use demos for effective teaching!

And.... receive OPI Renewal Units **

Food, lodging, and materials all provided via a grant from the ACS (American Chemistry Society)

** OPI Renewal credits pending

Note: Space is limited to 12 teachers

For more information, contact: Steve Eversoll, Chemistry teacher, Flathead High School,

Phone: 406-257-0888, E-mail: stevenev@centurytel.net

7. Dow AgroSciences-Lilly BioDreaming Posters

Encourage your students to showcase their artistic talent and their commitment to the public understanding of the benefits, promises and challenges of biotechnology by participating in the annual Dow AgroSciences-Lilly BioDreaming Poster Competition.

Who may apply?

All K-12 students in public and private schools and youth organizations are eligible.

*Immediate family members of Dow AgroSciences and Eli Lilly and Company employees are not eligible for this competition.

Design Theme

Posters should express a positive concept of the role that biotechnology plays in our lives, the community, and/or in the world thereby increasing student awareness of the importance of biotechnology in their lives today and in the future.

Winners

The first place winner in each category will receive \$500!

The top 12 winners receive an all expense paid trip to an awards celebration held in their honor in Indianapolis this June. They will also have their artwork displayed at the Institute's Annual Conference in Boston and at the 2007 Biotechnology Industry Organization's Conference in Boston, MA.

Winning posters in each category will be displayed on the Institute's web site:

www.biotechinstitute.org/programs/2006BioDreamingContestWinners.html.

One first place winner will appear in the Fall 2007 issue of Your World magazine.

Submission Deadline

March 16, 2007

For more information or to view previous winners visit:

<http://biotechinstitute.org/programs/biodreaming.html>

or contact Janelle Kawamoto at 703.248.8681

8. New Online Course on Evolution from the American Museum of Natural History!

Sign up today for an exciting, in-depth course on evolution with Seminars on Science, a member of the NSTA Institute for Professional Development. Designed by the American Museum of Natural History for K-12 educators, each award-winning six-week course from Seminars on Science is co-taught by a scientist and an educator and immerses participants in an area of contemporary research. 'Evolution' draws on the Museum's long-standing leadership in the fields of paleontology, geology, systematics and molecular biology to tell a modern story of evolution. Learn about the contributions of Darwin, the mechanisms of evolution, human evolution and modern applications in medicine, public health and conservation.

Graduate credit is available from several leading institutions. Courses may be used to meet your professional development needs, including degree, certification, NCLB and salary gradation requirements.

March courses include: Evolution; Earth: Inside and Out; The Ocean System; Genetics, Genomics, Genethics and Space, Time and Motion. Come away from your class with a deeper understanding of both the science and the tools of scientific inquiry. Courses are led by educators and Museum scientists and include rich web-based discussions.

Free sample resources for each course - including essays, videos and interactive simulations - are available online at learn.amnh.org.

Registration is now open for the six-week session that begins March 19 as well as two sessions for Summer 2007.

Courses are easy to use and flexible enough to fit into a teacher's busy schedule. Each participant receives a CD of course resources suitable for classroom use.

Registration closes March 5th. For more information and to register, go to learn.amnh.org or call 800-649-6715."

The MARE (Marine Activities Resources & Education) Summer Institute for Teacher Leaders, School Administrators and Informal Educators will be held at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Monterey from July 29 through August 6, 2007.

2007 Summer Institute Application

Join us for this exciting opportunity to participate in classroom and field experiences in a variety of marine habitats. Tidepooling at sunrise, exploring a salt marsh, and boating across the Monterey Bay Submarine Canyon in search of marine mammals are just some the experiences included in the Institute.??Daily instruction includes a fascinating array of ocean science content, hands-on activities from the MARE curriculum and leadership activities delivered by a talented group of educators, scientists, and storytellers. Instruction includes: inquiry-based science; leading effective field experiences for students; the MARE On-Line Support System; building comprehension and science content through reading; addressing the needs of English learners; and incorporating storytelling and art into your science program. Participants receive the MARE curriculum, an inquiry-driven grade-level specific, standards-based teacher's guide appropriate for all students, in addition to other high quality supplemental materials.??Participants are prepared to become leaders as they guide the implementation of the MARE program at their school or district. In this capacity,

they gain skills to help their school or district improve its overall science curriculum and instruction. K-6 teachers or those working with K-6 teachers are encouraged to apply; 7th-8th grade teachers are welcome to attend (curriculum easily adaptable). Call (510) 642-5008 for more information, or email weisse@berkeley.edu

9. Earth's Extremophiles: Implications for Life in the Solar System

This NASA-sponsored field-based workshop, 22 - 29 July 2007, is intended primarily for middle school science teachers (other educators are welcome).

At what extremes do we find life on Earth? What other planets or moons have - or had - conditions that could support life? How can we detect life (or its environments) at a distance? What are NASA's exploration plans for searching for life in our solar

system? Participants will spend a week with planetary scientists and astrobiologists in Yellowstone National Park investigating the geologic processes that result in extreme environmental conditions and the environments themselves.

We will explore the different types of organisms that live in these conditions, the adaptations that allow them to survive and thrive, and how we might detect the organisms and their environments from Earth or from spacecraft. We will build an understanding of how life has evolved on Earth, the possibility of past or present similar environmental conditions on other planets, and what this implies for finding life in our Solar System. The experience will be divided between the field and lab, where participants will work with classroom-tested, hands-on inquiry based activities and resources that can be used to enhance Earth, life, and space science teaching in the classroom. Participants receive lesson plans, supporting resources, and presentations. A limited number of grants are available to cover registration. Join us! Explore extreme environments on Earth and across the solar system with planetary scientists! Bring the excitement of Earth and planetary science into your classroom!

For more information, and to apply for the experience, please visit:

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/fieldtrips/2007/>

10. Two Science websites

Thanks to Sharla Dowding from WY for these two websites. The American Institute of Physics, Center for History of Physics, has launched a new web exhibit that tells with unprecedented depth, accuracy, and excitement how scientists have explored the structure of the universe. "Cosmic Journey: A History of Scientific Cosmology" <<http://www.aip.org/history/cosmology> offers more than 35,000 words and 380 striking illustrations. The site explains one of humanity's grandest stories of discovery: an epic of the labors of many lives, with a gradually dawning understanding of how vast and strange a place we inhabit. Visitors can explore pages on topics ranging from ancient Greek philosophers to the peculiar giant telescopes of the eighteenth century to recent discoveries about "dark matter." The text was written and checked for accuracy by leading historians of science.

Another website you might be interested in is:

<http://www.breathingearth.net/>

This site design instruction around the real-time births, deaths, and carbon dioxide emissions from countries across the globe with an interactive map.

11. Participate in National Environment Education Week

Sign up now to participate in National Environmental Education Week, April 15-22, 2007! Now in its third consecutive year, National EE Week (www.eeweek.org) seeks to enhance the educational impact of Earth Day (April 22nd) and provide recognition to American educators that are committed to implementing environmental education in their classrooms.

This year EE Week 2007 will focus on a special energy theme. Participants will have access to a wide variety of FREE environmental education resources, including:

- * A full week's worth of online environmental education preparation, curricula, and activities for K-12 classrooms, universities, nature centers, zoos, museums, and aquariums;
- * Monthly e-newsletter updates that highlight the latest EE curricula, programs, and funding opportunities;
- * The chance to apply for the Richard C. Bartlett Award for Environmental Education, which will recognize outstanding environmental education programs in both formal and non-formal settings with grants awarded to the winning organizations.

You can join National EE Week's efforts, promote environmental learning, and gain national exposure for your work by registering today at www.eeweek.org/register.htm.

Questions? Please email eeweek@neetf.org.