NABT Conference in Atlanta, Georgia

Save the Date
Nov. 28 - Dec. 1
NABT Professional Development Conference

Atlanta, the “big city with lots of Southern hospitality,” will be the site of NABT’s 2007 Professional Development Conference. We’d like to extend a warm “Southern Welcome” to visit Atlanta and attend this exciting event. Past Conference attendees know that an NABT Conference has it all: dynamic speakers, stimulating sessions and symposia, wonderful workshops, and exciting exhibits; covering everything from bird flu to bioterrorism, from forensics to fossils.

Atlanta, Georgia

Interact Explore
Three easy ways to register:

Online: www.nabt.org
Mail: NABT
P.O. Box 791048
Baltimore, MD 21279-7048
Fax: (703) 264-7778
Purchase orders and credit card only!

Questions?
Call us at (800) 406-0775

Transforming Life Science Education

Learn Interact Explore
Welcome to CTABT News

Welcome to CTABT News, the official newsletter published by the Connecticut Association of Biology Teachers (CTABT). An affiliate member group of the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT), the CTABT is a group of students and biology teachers at the high school, two-year college, and four-year college levels that seeks to increase the visibility and quality of science education in the state of Connecticut. CTABT News will provide useful information such as:

- Current CTABT happenings
- CTABT events such as the Life Sciences Professional Day (LSPD)
- NABT events such as the NABT Convention
- Other events that may be of interest to CTABT members
- Web sites of interest to biology teachers
- Articles about topics of interest to biology teachers
- The annual Outstanding Biology Teacher Award (OBTA)

CTABT News is published with the hopes of keeping you updated with the most current information about the CTABT, and will hopefully provide you with useful information about local and national biology education. Additional information about the CTABT can also be found at the CTABT Web site, located at the Web address www.ccsu.edu/CTABT.

The CTABT and CTABT News are, just like the science of biology, evolving and growing. If you have a suggestion for the newsletter, or if you would like to submit material to the newsletter, please contact Mary Ann Zabik, Newsletter Editor, by email at zabikm@ccsu.edu. Proper grammar and source citations (if needed) are required with any submission. Any submission to CTABT News can be done by email, with submissions being in Microsoft Word. Submissions by regular mail are also accepted and can be sent to me at:

Mary Ann Zabik
Department of Biology, NC332
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06050
zabikm@ccsu.edu

Any questions about the CTABT should be addressed to:

Eileen Roark
Science Department
Nathan Hale-Ray High School
East Haddam, CT
efroark@gmail.com

Information about the CTABT can be found on the Internet at the Web address www.ccsu.edu/CTABT.

CTABT News is published for the members and potential members of the Connecticut Association of Biology Teachers (CTABT).

Opinions expressed in articles and advertisements are not necessarily representative of the opinions of the policies of the CTABT or the leadership of the CTABT.

CTABT Officers for 2006-2007

President – Eileen Roark, Nathan Hale-Ray High School
President-Elect – Jon Morris, Manchester Community College
Treasurer—Phil Jones, Manchester Community College
Secretary – Elizabeth Cowles, Eastern Connecticut State University
Past President – Mary Ann Zabik, Central Connecticut State University
Events of Interest to CTABT Members

- June 9, 2007—Make plans to attend a CTABT field trip to **Outer Island**, Sandy Hook, CT. See Page 7 of this newsletter for more information.

- September 14, 2007—Dr. James Hughes will speak at our Annual OBTA Lecture/Reception which will take place at Manchester Community College. See page 5 for more information.

- October 10, 2007—Guest speaker Bob Ballard will be at ECSU. Go to www.easternct.edu for more information.

- November 28 — December 1, 2007 - The **NABT** invites you to attend its **2007 Conference & Exhibition**, Transforming Life Science Education, in Atlanta, Georgia. For information and Early Bird Registration, please visit NABT’s Web site www.nabt.org, call (800) 406-0775, or e-mail: office@nabt.org.

Letter from the Editor

**By Mary Ann Zabik**

**Hello!**

Now that the end of the school year is upon us, I hope you all enjoy the summer! Don’t forget to check your emails now and then, because I will continue to send you information on upcoming events. And if you have anything to share, I’ll be happy to forward information to our members.

In this newsletter, there are many important and interesting articles and events.

To begin with, don’t forget early bird registration for the NABT Convention! I put this on the front page for your information. As I mentioned before, I will be going, so if you have any questions, feel free to ask.

This wonderful spring weather must put you in the mood to be by the water; I know it does for me! So take advantage of our Outer Island field trip, and spend a few hours on a small beautiful island with pink granite, tide pools, and learn about the many opportunities for classes of all ages and sizes. I am currently taking reservations for this trip, so don’t miss out. See more about this on pages 6 and 7. Dr. Clayton Penniman, from Central CT State University will present the tour, and you will have plenty of time to explore on your own.

On pages 7 read about an opportunity to teach for four weeks in China. I have included a letter by Ray Flaherty of Nathan Hale-Ray High School, who spent the past two summers teaching there. There are also some wonderful photos that he took on page 8.

Dr. Eileen Roark, CTABT President, took photos at the lecture by Dr. Charles Gerba from the American Society for Microbiology. I hope you all had a chance to attend! See the photos on page 9 of this newsletter.

If you get a chance throughout the summer, please email me and let me know some of the interesting things you are doing. If you take a trip and see something you would like to share with other biology educators, please let me know. Photos are welcome! If you attend a conference, or present at one, share your experiences with us.

I hope to hear from you. But for now, **ENJOY!**

*Mary Ann*
One of our readers posed the following question:

… do you know where I could find data on how much time Connecticut schools give their AP Bio classes? Some schools provide 1 period per day and others might provide more. We will be moving off our 4x4 block schedule after next year and we have been fortunate to have 2 blocks available to all AP classes. We are trying to show that science classes need more than the equivalent 1 period per day because of the scope of the class + labs. Do you agree? Please let me know if and where I can get some data we can use to support our requests for additional time.

Thanx, Carl Cavrell, Haddam-Killingworth HS.

Please email your responses to zabikm@ccsu.edu

and we will forward the information. In our summer newsletter, we will print some of your responses.

Reach more biology teachers for answers to your questions.

Email: zabikm@ccsu.edu

CTABT will post your question to all of our members through our newsletter

New!!!!! QUESTION FOR BIOLOGY EDUCATORS — YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED...

The Mission of the CTABT

From the CTABT Constitution

The CTABT is an affiliate group of the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT). The CTABT was founded in that Fall of 2003 by high school, 2-year and 4-year college biology teachers. The CTABT traces its roots to the original committee that organized the first annual Life Sciences Professional Day (LSPD). The LSPD continues now as one of the CTABT’s flagship events.

The members of the CTABT strive to:

1. Promote the professional growth and development of biology teachers in Connecticut to enhance their effectiveness in the classroom and community.

2. Encourage and stimulate state and local activities that will keep teachers up-to-date in their knowledge of the biological sciences, aid them in developing and sharing ideas for better teaching and provide them with a forum for consideration of state and local issues that affect biological education.

3. Provide information, guidelines, programs, and activities that confront questions regarding science, society, and the future, and to stimulate teachers and students to deal responsibly with those often value-laden issues that derive from science and technology as they relate to individuals and collective needs and wants.
As Connecticut begins to assess science literacy on the state mastery tests science educators are being asked to re-inspire children to be engaged technocitizens and to pursue careers in science, after decades of lagging enthusiasm. Part of the problem has been a decline in Enlightenment belief that life and society would be improved by scientific progress. Many scientists and engineers have been inspired to some degree by the idea that science and technology would create a dramatically better life and world. From the first gentlemen scientists and physicians of the Enlightenment through the space program, war on cancer and sustainable technology movement of the twentieth century, science has been more than just another occupation, and lay public’s, knowledgeable or not, have held scientists in high esteem.

The belief that scientific advances will ensure a radically improved future is at a low ebb, however, and for some good reasons, such as growing awareness of environmental and public health threats from poorly regulated technologies, the frightening power of military technologies, and the mind-numbing scope and complexity of modern science. This lack of enthusiasm and optimism contributes to the lamentable lack of science literacy among children and adults in the U.S., and the declining percent of youth choosing science as a career.

In order to re-inspire young people to engage as scientifically informed citizens, and consider medicine, science and engineering as careers it is important that they understand the radical improvements in the human condition that science will make possible in this century, as well as the risks. Teachers of biology in particular can engage children around what their lives will be like if we are able to radically extend longevity, redesign the human brain and body, eliminate disabilities and create enhanced abilities, apply industrial nanobiology to heal our planet and protect species, and redesign animals to provide medicines or even to think and speak. The radical potentialities of emerging biotechnologies and medicine can be engaged in the classroom not only in terms of how they will impact children’s lives, careers and world, but how as citizens they have a responsibility to engage with the ethical and political issues they will raise. The emerging biopolitical struggles will certainly be as heated and momentous as the great ideological wars of the twentieth century.

So in this talk I will propose a number of emerging biotechnologies and their attendant biopolitical controversies that lend themselves to biology instruction, and perhaps to inspiring biology teachers as well as their pupils about bioscience-enhanced future.

Written by Dr. James Hughes
April 26, 2007

James Hughes is Associate Director, Institutional Research and Planning at Trinity College and Executive Director, of Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies, and Editor, of the Journal of Evolution and Technology.

CTABT TREASURER’S REPORT by Phil Jones, Treasurer

Beginning balance 3/29/2007 $1,775.74
Ending balance 5/9/2007 $1,922.82
The DNA EpiCenter is pleased to announce its 2007 Summer Camp Schedule!

We are offering the following camps:

- C.S.I. In Training
- DNA Detectives
- That's Life!
- Genetic Engineering
- LEGO Engineering I & II
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- Technology Explosion

Please click on the link below to view our brochure.


For more information or registration forms, visit our website at www.dnaepicenter.org and click on the Summer Camp link.

Register now for the field trip to

The Center for Education and Research at Outer Island in Stony Creek, Connecticut

June 9, 2007

email zabikm@ccsu.edu

see page 7 for details
An enchanting offer to teach in China

February 14, 2006

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing in hopes of discerning the level of interest in a potential overseas opportunity with the potential for both personal and professional expansion in the near term. As some of you may know, I have spent the previous two summers teaching English classes in China. This is potentially my last year as I am fast approaching 62 years old (young!).

Dr. Xinlong Weng is the gentleman from Bridgeport (a Special Assistant to the President at the University of Bridgeport) who has run this program for six or seven years now. We met in the fall and discussed expansion of the program in the future. We talked about potential teacher and student exchanges and a host of other matters. Out of these discussions I made a proposal that has been readily accepted by Dr. Weng.

We are offering a trip to China to teach in a particular school for a period of 4 weeks. The schedule would entail teaching four classes per day, two morning classes of 44 to 50 minutes a two hour break at mid-afternoon and two more afternoon classes. Teaching does not require formal English training—it is more akin to conversational English and explanation of some unique cultural practices/ideas. It would also require one evening per week to provide American games/entertainment. It is a six-day schedule and Sundays are for touring. You would also have two to three days in Shanghai upon arrival and a few days of touring after finishing. Dr. Weng has also offered to tailor some of the touring to our wishes!

The cost of all of this would be $990.00. This one charge includes all transportation fares, food, touring. The only things that would cost additional would be souvenirs and private entertainment. You would stay in a good hotel and eat in the teachers’ cafeteria or restaurants.

I have been to this school twice and can assure you that it is all that has been described. It is a high school in the city of Keqiao (ker-chow), which is a suburb of Shaoxing, a city about 2 hours southwest of Shanghai. There are many interesting places to visit and some of the most incredible street food you will ever eat. Keqiao is probably my favorite place to teach and visit in all of China. I have taught in both the high school and primary school, I know the administrators and teacher’s assistants—hell, I’ve even cooked in their kitchen! I will also be your coordinator for U.C.E. and you have my pledge that this is an outstanding, possibly a once in a lifetime, opportunity.

If you are interested, or know anyone else who would be, please let me know or give him or her my e-mail address and/or phone number. My e-mail is ersflah22@hotmail.com and home phone is (860) 873-1757. I would be happy to come to speak to any school staff throughout the area. I have my last class finished by 11:55 and could easily make after school staff meetings if invited.

P.s. Just ask me and I will show you my photos!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Ray Flaherty
Nathan Hale-Ray High School
15 School Drive
Moodus, C 06469

See Photos on Pages 8 and 9.

Outer Island Field Trip—June 9, 2007

The Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge at Outer Island in Stony Creek, CT, The Center for Education and Research at Outer Island (CEROI), hosts tours of Outer Island. During this field trip, participants will tour the island, collect and examine biological samples that exist on the island, and learn how the island can be used for educational experiences. Use of the island is appropriate for middle school, high school, or college level courses.

Join us for a visit to the Island and a tour by Clayton Penniman, Professor of Biology at Central Connecticut State University. The field trip will take place on June 9, 2007.** Guests will meet at Stony Creek at 11:00 a.m. The cost is $7.00/person for the water taxi. Reservations are required, and space is limited. Email Mary Ann Zabik at zabikm@ccsu.edu, or call at 860.832.2608 to re-
Photos from ...China  photos by Ray Flaherty
A lecture by Dr. Charles Gerba, American Society for Microbiology was sponsored by The Connecticut Valley Branch of the American Society for Microbiology and the CTABT on April 18, 2007 at Manchester Community College. Approximately 100 people attended “Hygiene in the 21st Century—Do we need it?” Dr. Gerba presented a review of hygiene from the 19th century to the 21st, along with its benefits. The lecture was enjoyed by all!

photos by Eileen Roark
National Association of Biology Teachers

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Complete and return to:
National Association of Biology Teachers
P.O. Box 791048
Baltimore, MD 21279-1048
FAX (703)264-7773

☐ YES, I want to join the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) and receive all member benefits, including:
• 9 issues of The American Biology Teacher
• weekly electronic issues of News & Views
• convention and publication discounts
• and more!

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Mailing Address __________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
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State ___________ Zip ____________
Province ____________ Country ____________________________
This is my ☐ home  ☐ business address.
E-mail Address __________________________________________
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Type of Membership
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Signature of faculty member required below:

☐ SPOUSE MEMBER $33/yr (when accompanied by an active membership)

☐ SUSTAINING MEMBER $750/yr

☐ ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER $149/yr


☐ RETIRED MEMBER $39/yr (Retired from teaching, 10 years as an NABT member)

*U.S. rates apply to citizens of Canada and Mexico.

Professional Information
Please complete the following to help NABT better serve your needs:

1. Professional Class
   ☐ Biology Teacher
   ☐ Department Head
   ☐ Supervisor/Administrator
   ☐ Teacher Educator
   ☐ Student
   ☐ Other ________________________________

2. Teaching Level
   ☐ Elementary
   ☐ Middle/Junior High
   ☐ High School
   ☐ Two-Year College
   ☐ Four-Year College/University
   ☐ Other ________________________________

3. Do not provide my name & address to other companies ☐

4. I would like to contribute to:
   ☐ New Directions Campaign $ ___
   ☐ Neil Campbell Fellowship Fund $ ___
   ☐ Christine Chantry Memorial Lecture Fund $ ___

Payment Method
NABT accepts checks drawn on U.S. banks and international money orders (payable to NABT), MasterCard, VISA, and Purchase Orders.

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If paying by credit card, please complete the information below:
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NOTE: $48 of membership dues goes toward a subscription to The American Biology Teacher, for each year joined, except spouse members, in which case only the sponsoring active member receives a subscription to be shared by the two persons.
Connecticut Association of Biology Teachers

Membership Form

The Connecticut Association of Biology Teachers (CTABT) is an affiliate of the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT). As a member of CTABT you will receive a newsletter, discounted registration to the Life Science Professional Day meetings, and the chance to network locally with other biology teachers. Learn more about CTABT at www.ccsu.edu/ctabt

Dues for CTABT membership are $20. You do not have to be a member of the NABT to belong but if you are interested, learn more about the NABT at www.nabt.org

If you would like to become a member of the Connecticut Association of Biology Teachers, please fill out the information below and mail this form to:

Phil Jones, Treasurer CTABT
MS#17
Manchester Community College
Great Path
Manchester, CT 06045-1046

_____ I want to join CTABT. I am enclosing a check for $20.00.
_____ Student membership $10.00
Make checks payable to “CTABT”
_____ I am a member of NABT.

Name: __________________________________________________________

Home Address: __________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Home telephone: ____________________ Work telephone: ______________

Work place/address: ______________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

__________________________________________ Email address: __________
Connecticut Association of Biology Teachers
Department of Biological Sciences, NC332
Central Connecticut State University
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06050