CTABT News

Volume 3, Issue 1  
Spring/Summer 2006

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...and much more!

DARWIN DAY

By Mary Ann Zabik

The Connecticut Association of Biology Teachers (CTABT) began planning Darwin Day in the summer of 2005. The event was held on February 11, 2006, one day before Charles Darwin's 197th birthday. Thankfully, the snow held off until nighttime, and the celebration was a great success. Over 100 people attended; some came from New York, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. There were teachers from middle schools, high schools, two and four-year colleges, as well as high school and college students. We could not have had such a successful event without help from our sponsors: Benjamin Cummings, Prentice Hall, and Manchester Community College. Take a look on pages 6 and 7 for photos (by Eileen Roark) that were taken during the conference.

The keynote speaker of our Darwin Day Celebration was Dr. Kenneth R. Miller, Professor of Biology at Brown University. Dr. Brown talk, titled “Time to Abandon Darwin? Evolution and the Battle for America’s Soul,” was enjoyed by all. Dr. Brown is dedicated to educating the public about evolution, and about how to separate religion from science. He is an extremely great speaker, and helps teachers as well as the public accept that they can have their religious beliefs and accept evolution as well. After his speech, Dr. Brown was happy to answer questions in the Rotunda of the Manchester Community College.
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. Every quarter, 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 E-mail 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 E-mail, with submissions being in Microsoft Word. Also, submissions by regular mail are also accepted as well. Submissions to the CTABT News by regular mail should be sent to the following address:

Mary Ann Zabik
Editor, CTABT News
Central Connecticut State University
NC332
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06050
zabikm@ccsu.edu

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 2005-2007

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
Message from the Editor

By Craig Fenn

I am writing this message to notify the CTABT membership that this issue of CTABT News will be the last issue with me as the editor. I am going to be moving to Pennsylvania in July, and will begin studies toward a PhD in Cellular and Molecular Biology at the Penn State University College of Medicine.

I have served as Editor of the CTABT News since mid-2004, and have been a member of the CTABT since its beginnings back in 2003, when it began as an outgrowth of the Life Sciences Professional Day (LSPD) Committee. There have been many great moments in the short time the CTABT has been in existence. Some of the more standout things in the last couple of years were: The first trip to Outer Island, Eileen Roark receiving the first OBTA, the sometimes bumpy ride to ratification of the CTABT By-Laws, and, of course, Darwin Day (I wish I could have been there!)

On a more personal note, I remember having dinner in Chicago with Eileen, Mary Ann Zabik, and Liz Cowles at the NABT Convention. The LSPD at Nathan Hale-Ray High School where I overdressed and was more than happy to sit back and take pictures of the “critter collecting”. Going to Outer Island with my fiancé (now wife) and learning that she was interested in “doing biology” more than I was! And probably the most significant event for me was what led to my becoming involved in the CTABT in the first place, driving through the ice storm to present at the 2003 LSPD in Manchester.

I am happy to have been a part of this organization—it is very fulfilling to know you were at the ground floor of something that is continuing to grow. I wish I was able to attend more meetings in the past year, but I am currently at a point where my time has been stretched much too thin for my own good.

So, to wrap up this farewell message, I wish only the best for the CTABT in the future. The CTABT started and grew under Mary Ann’s leadership, and I am certain that current President Eileen Roark and President-Elect Jon Morris, along with all of the CTABT’s members, will take the CTABT to great places.

CONGRATULATIONS CRAIG, THANK YOU and GOOD LUCK!!

The Mission of the CTABT

From the CTABT Constitution

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 effect 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.

Does a Hooey Stick have magical powers or is there a scientific explanation?

During the Massachusetts Association of Biology Teachers (MABT) conference, which was held at Clark University, Worcester, MA on April 1, 2006, John Banister-Marx stood up during lunch with The Incredible Magic Hooey Stick and offered to teach a lesson. Instructors demonstrate, and then the students use this interesting tool to learn about the difference between scientific and supernatural explanations. They think about why some cultures accept supernatural explanations over scientific ones, try to find scientific evidence as to how the Hooey Stick works, and discuss whether or not there is evidence that the Hooey Stick supports supernatural explanations.

To learn more about this, take a look at the following web sites:

Evolution and the Nature of Science Institutes website: http://www.indiana.edu/~ensiweb/home.html
For the Nature of Science Lessons: http://www.indiana.edu/~ensiweb/natsc.fs.html
Hooey Stick lesson: http://www.indiana.edu/~ensiweb/lessons/mhs.html
Calendar of Interesting Events

Here are some events of interest in the near future for the CTABT and CTABT members:

• The next CTABT meeting will be on January 6, 2006 at CCSU at 3:30. Email zabikm@ccsu.edu for information.
• October 11-14, 2006 - The NABT invites you to attend its 2006 National Professional Development Conference & Exhibition, Transforming Life Science Education, at the Albuquerque Convention Center. For further information, please visit NABT’s Web site www.nabt.org, call (800) 406-0775, or e-mail: office@nabt.org.
• Eastern Connecticut State University:
  * September 24—Lecture by James Earl Jones
  * November 13-17—Science, Evolution, and Society Week. There will be many open classrooms and events. The capstone is Bill Nye, the Science guy, who will be there on Thursday, November 16
  * April 2007—Lecture by Dr. Mae Jemison
• September 15, 2006—Annual Lecture/Reception at MCC in honor of CT’s 2006 OBTA recipient. See P. 8 for more information.
• September 16, 2006—Join us on a trip to Outer Island. Space is limited, so sign up by emailing Mary Ann Zabik at zabikm@ccsu.edu. See the article below.

Watch for more information in our next newsletter.

CTABT NEEDS YOU!!!
Do you have anything you would like to share with your fellow biology teachers? We are looking for the following to include in our newsletters
* Book Reviews
* Interesting/helpful websites
* Articles on workshops you may

The CTABT is Going to Outer Island

By Mary Ann Zabik

CTABT members will be visiting 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 visit, CTABT members 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.

Join us for a visit to the Island and a tour by Clayton Penniman, Professor of Biology at Central Connecticut State University. The next tour will be on September 16, 2006. Guests will meet at Stony Creek at noon and leave the island at 3:00 p.m. the cost is $6.00 per 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 reserve a space or to receive more information.

CTABT members Joanne Russell, Wes Klein, and Phil Jones examine a specimen at Outer Island during the CTABT’s Outer Island visit last July (Photograph by Eileen Roark).
**Summer Camp at the DNA EpiCenter**

33 Gallows Lane  
New London, CT  06320  
860-442-0391  phone  
860-442-5008  fax

**Our Mission:**

“To promote the understanding of the science of life to people of all ages.”

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

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### Camp Calendar

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Program times are from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

Each program is $350 per child per week and includes materials and snacks.

DNA EpiCenter Members receive a 10% discount off each program.

All programs require a minimum of 10 students and allows a maximum of 20 students.

For additional information and registration forms, please visit our website.
The day began with opening speaker, Dr. Tiffany Doan’s enlightening presentation titled “Evolutionary Medicine: How Can Evolutionary Biology Combat Human Epidemics such as AIDS?” “You are a virus,” said Dr. Doan, “just pick one, you could be the common cold, or you could be HIV. Think about what you need to do to survive.” Dr. Doan talked about how viruses evolve to become more virulent, and how evolutionary medicine could combat virulence.

Charles Darwin himself, played by Donald Bockler, a retired teacher from Arlington High School in MA, showed up during lunch with his wife Emma, played by Mary Ann Zabik, from CCSU. The crowd sang Happy Birthday as a birthday cake was presented, then the couple mingled as photos were taken and people could ask Charles questions about his life. Charles talked about his life, his family, and his research on stage as Emma sat quietly and dutifully supporting her husband.
Dr. Eileen Roark teaches biology at Nathan Hale Ray High School in East Haddam, CT. She presented her experiences during a trip she took to the Galapagos Islands. She is currently planning a trip to the Galapagos in 2007.

A very heart felt THANKS to our sponsors

We could not have had such a successful event without help from our sponsors:
Benjamin Cummings,
Prentice Hall, and
Manchester Community College.

THE CROWD at
Manchester Community College

All photos were taken by Eileen Roark
Useful Web Sites for Biology Teachers

By Craig Fenn

This edition of Web Sites has a distinct evolution flavor in this issue of CTABT News.

http://auth.mhhe.com/biosci/genbio/review_area/NMBioReview
McGraw Hill Biology Animation Review Area—A small selection of animations and video clips of topic in biology such as DNA replication, cytoplasmic streaming, and cell cycle control. This is a review site for teachers, and may change from time to time.

http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/projects/cases/case.html
National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science—This site, hosted by the University of Buffalo, is a valuable resource to teachers who wish to use case studies and problem-based learning in their courses. There is also a collection of case studies and links to other Web sites related to case study teaching.

http://www.science.education.nih.gov/customers.nsf/Supplements
The NIH Curriculum Supplement Series—Two-week lessons on topics in science and health are provided for teachers at the high school, middle school, and elementary school levels. Topics covered in these lessons include: Cell Biology and Cancer, Human Genetic Variation, Emerging Infectious Diseases, The Science of Mental Illness, and The Process of Scientific Inquiry. Each lesson integrates basic science along with cutting-edge research into interactive assignments.

The NCBI Bookshelf—This Web Site, also hosted by the NIH, is a collection of books in biology and the biomedical sciences. Each book is searchable by keyword-just type in the topic you are searching for and you will find each place where that term is mentioned in the book. Among the books listed are Developmental Biology by Scott Gilbert, Molecular Biology of the Cell by Bruce Alberts, and Molecular Cell Biology by Lodish.

http://www.sciencemag.org/
Science/AAAS—The online home of the famous research journal Science and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, this Web site has many research articles and news stories available for viewing online. While a good deal of the material on the Web site is only open to subscribers, the Magazine, News, and Careers sections contain a large amount of freely available material. A must for anyone doing research or for anyone who is just looking to know the latest happenings in the scientific world.

http://biotech.icmb.utexas.edu/search/dict-search.html
BioTech's Life Science Dictionary—A searchable dictionary containing terms in biology and the life sciences, with a heavy emphasis on biotechnology. A very useful Web site for those who may need clarification on a potentially confusing term in biotechnology.

Know of a Web site that may be useful to other biology teachers? E-mail the address of the Web site and a short description of the Web site to Mary Ann Zabik, Editor of CTABT News, at zabikm@ccsu.edu.

Kenneth Fusco, from Plainville High School is CT’s OBTA for 2006

Kenneth M. Fusco, Biology Teacher and Science Department Chair at Plainville High School in Plainville, CT, is this year’s recipient of Connecticut’s Outstanding Biology Teacher Award. Ken received a BS in Marine Biology and an AS in Management at Roger Williams College, his teaching certification in Biology at Southern Connecticut State University, and his MS in Biology at Central Connecticut State University. He has been teaching biology at Plainville since 2001, and has been the department chair since 2003. Ken has taught general, academic, and Honors biology, marine biology, entomology and genetics, botany, and environmental science. He is also a certified SCUBA instructor with over 30 years of diving experience, and has been teaching diving since 1988 through the National Association of Underwater Instructors and Scuba Schools International. Ken is the advisor for the Plainville High School Scuba Club, and has taught about 30 Plainville students to dive. He is the coach of the Plainville H.S. National Ocean Science Bowl Team who have won awards in the National Ocean Science Bowl which is held in Rhode Island each year. In 2003, Ken was a finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching.

SAVE THE DATE – September 15, 2006 – for the Annual Lecture/Reception in honor of this year’s Outstanding Biology Teacher Award recipient!

Each year the National Association of Biology Teachers awards one high school teacher from each state with the Outstanding Biology Teacher Award. The recipient is presented with the award at an Annual Lecture/Reception which is held at the Manchester Community College Fireside Commons. This year’s recipient is Kenneth M. Fusco, biology teacher at Plainville High School. The reception will be held on September 15, 2006. Abby L. Demars, Executive Director of the DNA EpiCenter will be the special guest lecturer for this event. This event is free, and open to all. Join us as we honor Ken Fusco for his excellence in teaching.
2006 NABT Professional Conference Registration Form

Wednesday, October 11 – Saturday, October 14 • Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico

A separate form must be completed by each person attending the Conference, including guests. Please photocopy this form for additional registrants. Registration forms for each person must accompany a purchase order. Please print legibly using a ballpoint pen. Items marked with (*) will appear on your Conference badge.

SECTION I

PERSONAL INFORMATION (All Conference information will be sent to the address below.)

Name* ________________________________ ________________________________

School/Organization* ________________________________ ________________________________

Mailing Address* This is my [ ] home [ ] work address

City State/Province Country Zip

Work City/State/Province* ________________________________ ________________________________

Work Phone ( ) Home Phone ( ) Fax ( ) E-Mail ________________________________

Please mark all that apply:

Position: [ ] teacher/prof [ ] admin [ ] supv/coordinator [ ] student [ ] other

Level: [ ] elementary [ ] jr high/mid sch [ ] senior high [ ] two-year college [ ] four-yr col/univ [ ] other

Courses taught: [ ] bio/life sci [ ] AP bio [ ] gen sci [ ] chem [ ] env sci [ ] scl ed [ ] other

Years teaching: [ ] 1-3 [ ] 4-7 [ ] 8-12 [ ] 13-17 [ ] 18-20 [ ] 21+

This is my first NABT Conference: [ ] Yes [ ] No

[ ] I require special assistance during the meeting in order to fully participate. I will need: ________________________________

(Attach an additional sheet if necessary.)

SECTION II

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

For Advance registration savings, your registration must be postmarked by the date shown. Registration is required for admission to all sessions and exhibits.

Full Registration

- Early Bird by 5/31: ________________________________
- Advance by 9/11: ________________________________
- On-Site 10/11-14: ________________________________

- Full/Spouse Member Member ID # (on mailing label)
- Nonmember: ________________________________
- Nonmember Opportunity (Register & Join NABT): ________________________________
- Retired Member: ________________________________
- Fulltime Student: ________________________________
- Nonteaching Spouse/Family/Guest: ________________________________

Daily Registration

- Wednesday (no exhibits): ________________________________
- Thursday: ________________________________
- Friday: ________________________________
- Saturday: ________________________________

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION TOTAL: $ ________________________________

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PER YEAR

Comprehensive Member $109; Full Member $79; Student/Retired Member $39; Spouse Member $33

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TOTAL: $ ________________________________

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $ ________________________________

SECTION III

PAYMENT METHOD

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

- Check [ ] MasterCard [ ] VISA [ ] P.O. (please attach)

If you are using a credit card, complete this section:

Name (as it appears on the card. Please print)

/ / /

Credit Card #

Exp. Date Signature

Important: Total amount or purchase order must be received before this form can be processed. After September 11, you will have to register on-site at regular Conference prices.

If registering by purchase order, please notify your business office of deadlines and rates.

Registration forms postmarked after September 11 will be returned.

If you must cancel for any reason, please notify NABT in writing by September 11. A $10 handling fee will be assessed for all refunds. No refunds will be made after September 11. Registration fees for program participants are not refundable at any time.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

WEB 06

□ Check ________________________________ □ Charge ________________________________

□ School Check # ________________________________ □ P.O. # ________________________________

Amount Received: $ ________________________________ Date: ________________________________

IF YOU REQUIRE ASSISTANCE ... to complete this form, or if you have questions, call the National Association of Biology Teachers at (703) 264-9696 or toll-free at (800) 406-0775. E-mail us at office@nabt.org.
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!

Dr./M ________________________________
School/Organization ______________________
Mailing Address __________________________
________________________________________
City ________________________________
State __________ Zip ______________
Province _______ Country ________________
This is my ☐ home ☐ business address.
E-mail Address __________________________
Fax ______________________________

Type of Membership
☐ FULL MEMBER $75/yr
☐ COMPREHENSIVE MEMBER $109/yr (includes two books during each year of membership)
☐ FOREIGN MEMBER* $119/yr (U.S. check or international money order only)
☐ STUDENT MEMBER $39/yr (open to regularly matriculated students not in full-time employment)
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.

☐ Check ☐ Purchase Order # ___________ (please attach)

☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA
If paying by credit card, please complete the information below:
Acct. # ______________________________________
Expiration date ____________________________
Card holder __________________________________
Signature ___________________________________

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 a new affiliate member group of the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT). As a member of CTABT you will receive a newsletter, discounted registration to the annual Life Science Professional Day meeting, and the chance to network locally with other biology teachers.

Yearly dues for CTABT membership are $20.00. You do not have to be a member of the NABT to belong, but if you are interested, the membership for the NABT is also enclosed. 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 of 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
(For all memberships, make checks payable to "CTABT.")
_____ I am currently a member of NABT.

Name: ________________________________________________________
Home Address: _________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
Home telephone: _________________________
Work telephone: _________________________
Work place/address: _____________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
Email address: __________________________________________________