



CTABT NEWS

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WINTER 2007

Inside This Issue...

Welcome	2
Events of Interest	3
Letter from the Editor	3
Trumbull Nature & Arts Center	4
Useful Web Sites	6
NABT Membership Application	8
CTABT Application	9
...and much more!	

Stay current with
CTABT
happenings at the
CTABT Web site!

www.ccsu.edu/CTABT

NABT Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico

By Ken Fusco; Photos by Ken and Linda Fusco

I'll never forget the call I received from Connecticut's OBTA Director, MaryAnn Zabik telling me that I was chosen as Connecticut's OBTA recipient for 2006. I was amazed because I have seen many teachers who exemplified what I considered to be outstanding biology teachers. I was humbled and honored ... and speechless. Mary Ann asked if I could attend the NABT conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico that Fall, and I told her I would be thrilled to.

The conference was one of the most memorable experiences of my life. As soon as we made arrangements, I went online and downloaded the program. The only problem was choosing between the varieties of options for seminars. All of them looked so promising. On Tuesday, October 10th, 2006 my wife and I left for Albuquerque, and the conference began on Wednesday, October 11. We arrived and settled in at the Hyatt Regency on Tuesday. First, we walked around to familiarize ourselves with the layout. It wasn't too difficult to find where the conference was. It was just across the street. We registered on Wednesday morning and already began to meet colleagues from all over



Many attended the Balloon Festival, which took place the same week as the conference, and filled the skies with many colorful balloons.

the country. You could identify conference attendees by badges that we wore around our necks. It was amazing to walk down the street and see all the other attendees. Everybody was friendly and helpful.

Continued—Page 6

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 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.

CTABT News is published by the Connecticut Association of Biology Teachers (CTABT), an affiliate group of the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT).

Any questions, article submissions, or error reports should be addressed to:

Mary Ann Zabik
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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.

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
Central CT State University
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06050

Thank you and I hope you enjoy this issue of CTABT News.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann
Editor, CTABT News

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

- Feb. 15, 2007—This is the last day to nominate an outstanding high school biology teacher for the **OBTA**. See page for more information.
- March 24, 2007— **MABT Annual Conference**
Fantastic Forensics, Framingham State College
Keynote: Dr. Ann Marie Mires- Forensic Anthropologist
Collect and analyze evidence from a crime scene
Learn how to fit Forensics into your Curriculum
And Much, Much, More!!
Look for registration forms in late February
- April 12, 2007—Guest lecturer Mae Jemison will be at ECSU. Go to www.easternct.edu/ for more information.
- May 3-6: Attend the 2007 National Biotechnology Teacher-Leader Program . See Page 7 for more information.
- 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—Our Annual OBTA Lecture/ Reception will take place at Manchester Community College. More information to come.
- 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!

It is my pleasure to be the new editor of the CTABT Newsletter. I have been part of the CTABT for the past three years. About four years ago I became involved with a group of biology teachers from various schools and colleges who, for several years, had planned and presented the Life Science Professional Day (LSPD) which many of you have attended at Manchester Community College. We decided to expand the LSPD group to become an affiliate of the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT). After a lot of meetings, planning, drafting and redrafting of our Constitution and Bylaws, we submitted our application package, and became an official NABT affiliate in May 2006.

Our first newsletter editor, Craig Fenn, recently left Connecticut to attend Penn State College of Medicine. You can read more about the program that Craig is in at <http://www.hmc.psu.edu/cellbiology/>.

I attended the NABT Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico in October 2006 along with other CTABT members, Eileen Roark, Liz Cowles, Jon Morris, Phil Jones, and CT's 2006 OBTA recipient Ken Fusco and his wife Linda. . It was a great experience. Because I am Connecticut's Director of the Outstanding Biology Teacher Award Selection Committee, I am privileged to accompany each year's OBTA recipient to the Honor's Luncheon. Learn more about the conference from Ken Fusco, who teaches at Plainville High School. Ken has written an article for this newsletter about his first experiences at an NABT Convention. This article begins on the front page of this newsletter. See more photos on page 5.

Also included in this newsletter is an article by Paula Meachen. Paula is CT's OBTA recipient from 2005. She has since retired from New Canaan High School, but has continued spreading the word about biology. Paula is now the Director of Nature and Art Programs for the Trumbull Nature Commission. Read Paula's article about the Trumbull Nature and Arts Center on page 4..

To learn more about Ken, Paula, and other OBTA recipients, go to



our web site at www.ccsu.edu/CTABT and click on OBTA Information.

As editor of this newsletter, I would like to begin a question and answer, or discussion section for the newsletter. For example, if you are working on a particular laboratory exercise, and have a question, email me, I will pose the question to our readers, and ask for responses that I will print in the next edition. If you have a unique idea that you would like to share, or a discussion topic, please, email me as well. Please be sure to reference—when necessary. Look for the first topic or question in our next issue.

Don't forget to register for the NABT Conference that will take place from November 26 through December 1, 2007 in Atlanta, Georgia. Early bird registration ends on May 31, 2007 . You can also find out more about the conference at www.NABT.org. Also, don't forget to make hotel reservations early! CTABT President and Regional Coordinator, Eileen Roark and I have attended the past three NABT conferences, along with some other CTABT members. We would be happy to answer any questions you might have about the conferences. Feel free to contact us by email, or telephone. You can find our contact information on this newsletter or at our web-site.

I hope to hear from you! Enjoy!

Mary Ann

New Nature and Arts Center Opens in Trumbull

By Paula Meachen, Director of Nature and Art Programs,
Trumbull Nature Commission

If you have visited Trumbull lately, you might have seen families making bird feeders from pine cones, planting and growing the largest sunflowers, fishing in the pond, or hearing Native American stories around a campfire. All this fun marked the first season of the Nature and Arts Center, newly opened at the former Wagner Tree Farm, 9.4 acres including a pond, located at 7115 Main Street. This property, purchased by the town of Trumbull as open space, is being developed to maintain and encourage natural habitats for plants and animals for the purposes of environmental awareness and education. A walking path is being created to establish safe and easy access to various points of interest along the landscape, which will include a pond observation deck, natural wildlife habitats, a restored meadow, a butterfly garden, and outdoor classrooms.

In September 2005, the Trumbull Town Council established the Nature Commission with the task to establish a center where a community could actively learn to participate in, appreciate, and respect nature through the exploration of art and the environment. This led to the opening of the Center, whose mission is to promote sound environmental stewardship and enhance community life through participation in nature and art activities.

The Nature and Arts Center's first season activities were highlighted by the Sunflower Harvest Festival in late September. There will be many more opportunities for children, teens, adults, and families to learn about nature and art. In winter and spring 2007, the center will offer classes in animal tracking, maple sugaring, fishing, wildflowers, and butterfly gardens. In the summer, the center will hold classes about life in streams and ponds, looking for shapes in nature, Native American crafts, and paper mache bugs.

In the future, the center plans to offer adult nature walks and lectures, as well as in-school visits. The center will also be a destination for school field trips, scouting badge programs, independent study opportunities, and community service opportunities for students. For more information on becoming a member and becoming involved as a volunteer, visit our website at

trumbullnaturecenter.com.



The (above) photos were taken at the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center by photographer Anne Eigen.

More Photos from Albuquerque . . .

**THE BALLOON FESTIVAL
in
ALBUQUERQUE, NM**



Sunrise in Albuquerque, New Mexico in October.



Ken (center) and Linda Fusco were two of the early risers who attended the Balloon Festival in Albuquerque..

**THE HONORS LUNCHEON
at the
NABT CONVENTION**



Ken received his OBTA award and gifts from NABT President, Toby Horn, and Kenneth Miller

**Photos (page 5) taken
by Linda and Kenneth Fusco.**

Useful Web Sites for Biology Teachers

By Mary Ann Zabik

<http://www.rpc.msoe.edu/cbm/> The Milwaukee School Of Engineering (MSOE) —The Center for BioMolecular Modeling is a lending library of molecular structures. I became aware of this site at the NABT Conference Exhibit Hall this past October, where we could try out these extraordinary 3-D models. Examples are a DNA Discovery Kit, an Introduction to Protein structure, and a Water Kit Collection. At this web site, you will find the list of available models and instructions on how to use the MSOE Model Lending Library for short-term loans.

www.bioedonline.org/ presented by the Bayer College of Medicine. At this site you will find a wealth of teacher resources including Ready-to-go-Lessons and Instructional Materials. There are free downloads, slide-sets, teaching strategies, and lab techniques on topics such as Classification, Stem Cells, and many others. This site features materials for all age groups.

www.NABT.org

GLOBAL WARMING
INTELLIGENT DESIGN vs EVOLUTION
STEM CELL RESEARCH

Register for the
NABT Conference
that will take place in
Atlanta, Georgia
November 28 to December 1, 2007

Early bird registration ends May 31, 2007

Do you 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 to me at zabikm@ccsu.edu.

Continued from Page 1—NABT Conference by Ken Fusco

The NABT conference lasted a wonderful three and a half days. The grand opening was Wednesday at 4:00 PM. We went and walked all around the exhibits, and I entered the drawing for the day. When we checked, I didn't win, but that didn't deter me from entering again on Thursday. Imagine my surprise when my name was on the board that evening, and I had won a CD from BIO-ZONE about Health and Diseases.

I attended the "First Timer's Breakfast" and was rewarded with the opportunity to meet the NABT officers, other first timers, and to hear several talks about evolution. I also received a plethora of information about the seminars, the layout, and who to talk to for information. The conference was a non-stop event that featured seminars on topics such as genetics, marine biology, forensics, epidemiology, anatomy, and teaching.

A typical schedule for the three days involved getting up between 6:30 and 7:00 each morning and then attending exhibits or seminars by 7:15 or 8:30 a.m. I attended various seminars, lectures, or workshops until 4:00 p.m., and between seminars I went to the Exhibit Hall. It was a whirlwind of information. There was so many "goodies" to take home to my classroom that I had to buy two new suitcases the night before we left to house all my treasures.

On Friday at noon all OBTA recipients attended the Honors Luncheon. It was as uplifting an experience as I could have had. Like the other OBTA recipients, I was thrilled to listen to several notable speakers, including Kenneth Miller and representatives from Leica Microscopes and Ken-A-Vision (nope, it wasn't named

after me, but it is a nice thought) present us with our awards. The food was great, but the networking was even better.

The seminars were outstanding, but I would be negligent if I did not mention the Saturday morning Hot Air Balloon Fiesta. I met the New Jersey OBTA recipient and she had a relative who was a balloon pilot and involved in the Fiesta. There were supposed to be 800 hot air balloons going up at once. That morning we left the hotel at 5:30 a.m. The morning air was chilly and threatened rain. When we arrived at the field, it was still dark. The "dawn patrol" was firing up the burners on their balloons. Their job was to check the conditions. We went out onto the field and got to see how they prepared and launched the balloons. It was an awe inspiring morning even though it did rain. They closed the field, but not until we got to see about 200 balloons go up.

The flight home was bitter-sweet. Although I missed my students and colleagues at Plainville High School, it was still tough to leave Albuquerque. The balloon fiesta was still in full swing when we left. The hot air balloons were all up in the air. We could see them from the airport windows and then again when the plane took off.

The conference was a remarkable learning experience that too few teachers take advantage of. After all the energy and enthusiasm, I'm sure we were all eager to get back and put into practice the concepts we had learned. The passion for subject and students was rekindled through our synergistic associations with others. Any time a teacher is presented the opportunity to advance his or her teaching; we owe it to our students and ourselves to be the best we can be. This is definitely one way to grow whether as a first year teacher or a seasoned veteran; it is an opportunity not to be missed.

2007 National Biotechnology Teacher-Leader Program May 3-6

Looking For a Few Good Biotechnology Teachers

The Biotechnology Institute is now accepting applications for its 2007 National Biotechnology Teacher-Leader Program.

The Institute's National Biotechnology Teacher-Leader Program is building a national cadre of teachers who are a network of dedicated advisors, or "Teacher-Leaders," committed to teaching biotechnology to students and serve as a resource for other teachers. Through professional development, resources and other support materials, the Teacher-Leader Program provides teachers with the skills, strategies and knowledge to spread awareness of biotechnology to their students and educate their peers to do the same. Teacher-Leaders are expected to conduct professional development sessions for other teachers at the local, state or national level based on information obtained during Institute sessions.

Educators from around the world will participate in the 2007 Teacher-Leader Program through the annual Biotechnology Institute Education Conference to be held May 3 to 6 in Boston, Massachusetts. The program includes hands-on professional development sessions linked to education and skills standards, teaching strategies, and tours of leading biotechnology sites in the area. The program opens with an international one-day share-a-thon of best practices and continues with a discussion about relevant issues and how to best address the needs within biotechnology education. Participants also will have the option of attending the subsequent Biotechnology Industry Organization's (BIO) International Convention, to be held in Boston, May 6 to 9, at no cost.

The program provides for Wednesday through Saturday night lodging, meals, materials and handouts, and field trip expenses. Travel expenses to and from Boston are not included. There is an application fee of \$250 to defray expenses once applicants have been accepted. In return, participants are asked to conduct an outreach professional development session at the local, state, or national level based on the Teacher-Leader Program model. Each Teacher-Leader completing the outreach session will receive \$200. Participants are responsible for all expenses during the BIO convention to include housing, transportation, and meals.

The application deadline for the 2007 National Biotechnology Teacher-Leader Program is February 2. For information and to apply online, visit the Biotechnology Institute website at

http://www.biotechinstitute.org/events/egroup_detail.php?group_id=102

or call 703-248-8681.

Jon Morris, Co-Chair, Science Department at Manchester Community College says " We ... encourage as many bio teachers as possible to attend these workshops in Boston. It is a great opportunity to go to great workshops and to attend the largest conference of the Biotechnology industry in the world. It is an amazing event."

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 learned 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 reserve a space or to receive more information.

** Rain date: June 10, 2007



CTABT members Joanne Russell, Wes Klein, and Phil Jones examine a specimen at Outer Island during the CTABT's Outer Island in July 2004 (Photograph by Eileen Roark).

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Complete and return to:

National Association of Biology Teachers
P.O. Box 791048
Baltimore, MD 21279-1048
FAX (703)264-7778

- 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** \$79/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
- LIFE MEMBER** (one payment): Ages 21-29: \$1250; 30-39: \$1000; 40-49: \$850; 50-59: \$600; 60+: \$400
- 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: _____



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

