

## Volume 6, No. 3

February 13, 2008 - Building a Presence for Science: Ohio eBlast

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**Contest Winner: 2 Energy balls from Frey Scientific from the last eBlast**  
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### Calendar: Upcoming Events/Opportunities/Deadlines

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#### 1. The entire BaP Ohio community: Announcing BaP 3.0

<http://bap.nsta.org>

BaP 3.0 has been released, so now you can communicate and get BaP Ohio news more easily through the NSTA web site. Note the new URL (above), and change your bookmarks now so you can stay connected with the rest of us and take advantage of the support NSTA provides.

As you know, Building a Presence for Science is the largest networking initiative of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). This award winning program has been developed in support of NSTA's mission in promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning for all. Through e-networking, teachers of science become aware of professional development opportunities, which allow participants to expand and develop their expertise in teaching science for learning.

Building a Presence for Science has a direct audience of teachers in pre-K through 12th grade in 35 states and the District of Columbia. BaP in Ohio officially started in January 2005 and continues to grow. Please help us by encouraging teachers you meet and know to join as a Point of Contact: <http://bap.nsta.org/Content/Information/BecomeAContact/Default.aspx>

#### 2. K-16: You are invited to these receptions at the NSTA conference in Boston

Will you be in Boston for the NSTA National Conference on Science Education? If so, please join us for the following receptions:

**District X Reception** (for all attendees from Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan)

Thursday, March 27, 2008 3:30–5:00 PM at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel, Pacific D.  
No RSVP required. Sponsored by VWR Education and your NSTA District X Director, Mary Lightbody. Come one, come all! Bring a colleague. Prizes and great entertainment!

**Building a Presence for Science Reception**, sponsored by Texas Instruments.

Thursday, March 27, 2008 5:00-7:00 PM at the Seaport World Trade Center – Cityview I Room.  
RSVP to NSTA: <http://bap.nsta.org> <scroll down to the bottom of the page>

**3. From the Ohio Resource Center: A Look at the OGT**

<http://www.ohiorc.org>

Date: February 19, 2008

Time: 3:30-4:00 PM, EST

The Ohio Resource Center wraps up the professional development series Science Instructional Strategies: A Look at the OGT, with the final of five sets of materials designed to help teachers prepare students for the science portion of the OGT. Registration is now open for the February 19th webcast, “Nonfiction Reading and Science Instruction.” Register for this free webcast at <http://www.ohiorc.org/for/science/ogt/default.aspx>.

Please join us for an important and informative conversation about nonfiction reading and the importance of science vocabulary on the OGT. Webcast participants will have an opportunity to "chat with the experts" by submitting questions during the webcast.

There is no cost for participating in this webcast. Please RSVP by submitting your email address above. This allows us to send you advance information you will need to view the webcast. Panelists for this webcast will discuss nonfiction reading and the importance of science vocabulary on the OGT.

Audience: Middle and high school science teachers, curriculum directors, and other leaders in science education.

Benefits of participating include:

- \* Learning about strategies to help students become comfortable with science vocabulary
- \* Identifying writing strategies and formative assessments that help reinforce correct science vocabulary use
- \* Examining standards-based science vocabulary (e.g. heat/thermal energy)
- \* Receiving supplemental materials, including related articles, mini-collections of ORC resources, and video tutorials

Panelists:

- \* Carol Damian, Science Curriculum Specialist, Worthington City Schools
- \* Eugenia Johnson-Whitt, University of Akron
- \* Kathleen Swartz Crooks, STEM Project Coordinator, University of Akron

#### **4. Check out the 2008 SECO conference digital record**

<http://picasaweb.google.com/SECOconference> (for digital pictures)

<http://seco.podomatic.com> (for the “SECO Says” podcast)

Were you at the excellent 2008 SECO conference in Akron? Did the roving photographers stop by a session you attended or did they catch you in the exhibit hall talking to the vendors or in the hallway talking to other science educators? Or were you unable to join us this year, but want to see and hear what you missed? Check out the SECO website (<http://www.secoonline.org>) and the above URLs for some scenes of the action.

And make plans NOW to attend the NSTA Regional Conference in Cincinnati (December 4-6, 2008). There will be NO SECO conference in February 2009 because the SECO Board and members of the SECO conference committee are working with NSTA to pull off the regional conference in our fair city, Cincinnati. We hope to see you there. (And we expect the roving photographers to be there too, so you can be part of the “scene” next year if you plan it right!)

#### **5. Gr K-6: You should consider applying for the PAEMST Awards**

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/> <Teaching in Ohio> <Awards and Recognition> <PAEMST>

The Presidential Awards for Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) program was established in 1983 and is administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The program identifies outstanding mathematics and science teachers, kindergarten through Grade 12, in each state and four U.S. jurisdictions – Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, Department of Defense Schools and the U.S. Territories as a group. These teachers serve as models for their colleagues and will be leaders in the improvement of science and mathematics education.

The path to the Presidential Awards begins with an application and its review by committees at the state level (one committee for science and one committee for mathematics). These committees determine the state nominees.

Since 1983, more than 3,700 teachers have been selected as Presidential Awardees. The PAEMST awards recognize highly qualified K-12 teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession, and are the nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science.

Deadline to submit the application materials: May 1, 2008

#### **6. K-12: Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence**

<http://www.amgen.com/citizenship/aaste.html>

The Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence (AASTE) is an annual awards program that recognizes extraordinary contributions by K-12 educators across the United States and Canada who are elevating the level of science literacy through creativity in the classroom and motivation of students. An independent panel of judges selects the winners based on the following criteria: creativity of teaching methods; effectiveness in the classroom; plans for the use of grant money

to improve science education resources in their schools; submission of a science lesson plan showcasing innovative methods in the classroom; and a plan for dissemination/sharing the lesson plan with other teachers. 32 science teachers will be awarded an unrestricted cash grant of \$5,000, and their schools will receive a restricted grant of \$5,000 to be used to expand or enhance the school's science program, purchase new science resources, or further the professional development of their science teachers.

For more details and the application and guidelines, visit

Deadline Extended: February 19, 2008

### **7. K-12: Develop Your Content Knowledge Via Web Seminars**

<http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/webseminars.aspx>

Now open for registration, new web seminars offered for FREE cover 90-minutes of in depth information on topics such as coral ecosystems, mapping the Moon, penguins and polar bears, Mars exploration, microscopes, space exploration, energy, the International Polar Year, science careers, and food science. These programs, designed for K-12 educators, are sponsored by the National Science Digital Library (NSDL), NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), NASA Johnson Space Center, Sally Ride Science, the National Science Foundation, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Register today online at the NSTA Learning Center and become the best science teacher you can be.

### **8. K-12: Globe at Night Campaign**

Feb. 25 – March 8, 2008

<http://www.globe.gov/fsl/html/templ.cgi?glbatnt08&lang=en>

<http://www.globe.gov/fsl/html/templ.cgi?glbatnt08&lang=en>

2008 marks a monumental shift in human history when more than half the people on Earth are expected to be living in cities. Because of the ambient light of urban landscapes, many city dwellers have never seen a sky full of stars. GLOBE at Night is designed to aid teaching about the impact of artificial lighting on local environments and the ongoing loss of a dark night sky as a natural resource for much of the world's population.

Participation is free and does not require any special training or instruction. The GLOBE at Night Web site will provide all the information needed to participate, including instruction guides for teachers, students and parents.

### **9. K-12: Spend part of your summer at the Byrd Polar Research Center -- free**

<http://www.byrdpolar.org>

<http://bprc.osu.edu>

The Byrd Polar Research Center at The Ohio State University will host another 2-week teacher workshop about global climate change from 9:00 to noon, June 16-27, 2008--fully funded by the National Science Foundation's Science & Technology Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets

(CReSIS). General sessions each day will be followed by breakout sessions organized by grade band. Elementary, middle-level, and high school activities will be developed and shared.

The course is offered by Dr. Garry McKenzie (School of Earth Sciences).

Up to 20 scholarships for tuition, fees, and parking will be offered this summer, and PDUs and CEUs are also available. Please note: there is no allowance for housing and meals, so participants are expected to carpool/commute.

Please contact Dr. Garry McKenzie ([mckenzie.4@osu.edu](mailto:mckenzie.4@osu.edu)) for permission to enroll, or Carol E. Landis, Ph.D. ([landis.83@osu.edu](mailto:landis.83@osu.edu)) if you have any questions. Please indicate the grade(s) and/or subject(s) you teach, district and building, and if you plan to apply for a CReSIS scholarship, have a fee waiver, or wish to earn PDUs/CEUs.

### **10. K-12: Powerful Professional Learning in Science**

July 7-10, 2008, Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC

<http://www.nsela.org/calendar/calendar.html#reg#reg>

The technology of professional learning is changing. No longer are teachers participating in workshops as their primary means of learning. As educators learn more from research and practice about how students learn, they also come to understand more about how educators need to learn.

At this conference, participants will explore the differences between professional development and professional learning. They will experience several powerful designs themselves – deeply enough that they will be able to facilitate these designs with the educators with whom they work. They will evaluate current professional learning programs according to a variety of criteria. Then, using a Backmapping Model for planning, implementing, and evaluating professional learning, they will create a plan to remodel current professional learning approaches so that they more closely align with students' learning needs, meet National Staff Development Council's standards for staff development, and model the type of learning educators want their students to experience.

Participants will:

- Have a deep understanding about the differences between professional development and learning because they have experienced at least two professional learning designs.
- Summarize the components of powerful professional designs in their own words.
- Match the NSDC standards to the professional learning designs they have experienced.
- Be able to facilitate at least three powerful designs with their own staff members.
- Understand the connection between professional learning and student achievement by using the Backmapping Model to plan, implement, and evaluate professional learning
- Use a visual dialogue design to create indicators of the effect of professional learning

Presenters:

\*Dr. Lois Easton, recently retired as Director of Professional Development at Eagle Rock School and Professional Development Center, Estes Park, Colorado and author of Powerful Designs for Professional Development

\*Dr. Stevi Quate , Colorado Department of Education and Educational Consultant

Registration fees are:

Members \$350 until April 15 and \$375 after April 15

Non-Members \$395 until April 15 and \$420 after April 15

Powerful Designs for Professional Learning, an \$80+ value, will be given free of charge to participants preregistering by June 1.

The institute qualifies as NCLB, Title II – Part A, Professional Development. For additional information, contact Pat Shane (pshane@unc.edu), Karen Charles (kcharles@rti.org), or Susan Sprague ([susansprague@yahoo.com](mailto:susansprague@yahoo.com)).

### **11. Gr 5-8: The JASON Project Offers Grants for New Curriculum & PD**

<http://www.jason.org/>

The JASON Project is offering Ohio’s “early adopters” free access to its exciting new science curriculum, Operation: Monster Storms, and related professional development. This grant-funded opportunity through the Ohio Department of Education is available for a limited time!

For more information, e-mail Cheryl Glover ([cgllover@jason.org](mailto:cgllover@jason.org)) or call 800- 637- 8509.

#### **What is Operation: Monster Storms?**

Available in print and online editions, Operation: Monster Storms is a core weather science curriculum unit for grades 5-8 and can be easily adapted for higher or lower levels. Aligned to Ohio Academic Content Standards science benchmarks, it enables students to explore the mechanics of extreme weather while learning basic weather and science concepts with leading scientists from National Geographic Society, NASA and NOAA..

JASON’s core curriculum units address the leading topics in middle school science. They are flexible enough to be taught in up to five to nine weeks and offer interdisciplinary connections in mathematics, history & culture, geography and literature. This summer, look for JASON’s new ecology curriculum, Operation: Resilient Planet!

#### **What’s included in a Webinar?**

Through a combination of PowerPoint, Web site tour, and video, attendees will receive:

- Background information on JASON’s mission and education philosophy.
- A preview of JASON’s latest curriculum, Operation: Monster Storms
- An overview of professional development opportunities
- An opportunity for Q and A with a member of the JASON Staff.

JASON Webinars take place via Web Ex conferencing software. Attendees only need an Internet connection and a separate phone line. Registration is limited to 25 attendees per session, so make sure to register right away! Once the host approves your request, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the meeting. Additional sessions will be scheduled in February and March so check back with us at [www.jason.org!](http://www.jason.org/)

## **12. Gr 5-8: Argonaut Applications Available**

<http://www.jason.org> click on <Argonauts>

Are you interested in applying to become an Argonaut for the next JASON adventure? Learn more about the program and application requirements.

The JASON Project is seeking a diverse, creative, and adventurous group of students and teachers to venture into the field with JASON Host Researchers and Video Production Crews to perform cutting edge science explorations. The Argonauts will embark on a two-year journey starting this June, during which they will:

- \* Attend a five to seven day Boot Camp in late-June to prepare them for their field work.
- \* Work side by side with JASON Host Researchers for five to seven more days in the field, completing a JASON Mission Research Field Assignment around our next curriculum topic: Energy.
- \* After the Mission, help review and refine JASON videos, print curriculum, and Web site materials, which will feature the Argonauts and their JASON experiences.
- \* Serve as a mentor and role model for the JASON Community
- \* Regularly interact with the entire JASON community through speaking engagements, message board postings, web casts, pod casts, chats and more!

Over the two-year period, Student Argonauts will spend up to 15 days in the field and up to 20 hours engaged in non-field work. Teacher Argonauts will spend up to 15 days in the field and up to 50 hours in non-field work. JASON will pay for all travel, lodging, food (meals and snacks), and programming/equipment costs related to JASON Argonaut activities over this time. Argonauts are also covered by National Geographic Society insurance while engaged in JASON field activities.

Applications are being accepted now, with a deadline of Monday, March 3. Selection will be finalized by late April, 2008 with the Argonaut experience beginning in late June. Students should be aged 14-15 by June 1, 2008 to apply.

For more information or to apply, go to the JASON Mission Center (log in | register) and look for a feature titled "Argonaut Applications Now Online" to download complete application guidelines, instructions and forms. Additional questions regarding the JASON National Argonaut program can be sent to [argo@jason.org](mailto:argo@jason.org)

## **13. Gr 9-10: Engineers in Motion Workshop for High School Students**

<http://wie.eng.ohio-state.edu/EIM.htm>

The College of Engineering and the Ohio State-Honda Partnership are hosting the Engineers in Motion Workshop for high-ability high school students from Sunday (6/15)-Friday (6/20) on the Columbus campus. The workshop is open to high school students who are currently in the ninth or 10th grade. Interested students should apply online by Friday (3/14). There is a \$25 non-refundable application fee. Attendees will participate in hands-on demonstrations and experiments, and visit Honda of America in Marysville. Students will stay in campus dormitories, and housing and meals will be provided. Contact: 247-7936.

#### **14. Gr 9-12: IGES 2008 Thacher Scholars Award**

<http://www.strategies.org/ThacherScholars>

IGES Announces 2008 Thacher Scholars Award

\$3,500 in Prizes Available; Entries Must Be Received by April 4, 2008

Arlington, Va.-In an effort to engage the next generation of Earth scientists, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) is now accepting entries for the 2008 Thacher Scholars Award, to be given to secondary school students demonstrating the best use of geospatial tools or data to study our home planet.

Eligible tools and data include satellite remote sensing, aerial photography, geographic information systems (GIS), and the Global Positioning System (GPS). Entries can be submitted by individuals or teams, either by hard copy or by emailed PDF.

Entries must be received by April 4, 2008.

U.S. students in grades 9-12, including U.S. citizens attending schools in foreign countries, are eligible to receive cash awards in the amount of \$2,000 for first place, \$1,000 for second place and \$500 for third place. For each winning student or team, a teacher or designated adult "coach" will receive a \$200 gift card to Amazon.com.

Entries must not exceed 20 pages, and will be judged by IGES staff based on their scientific and technical accuracy; creativity and originality; quality of presentation; thoroughness of research, methods and procedures; and demonstration of knowledge gained.

Winners will be announced by May 9, 2008.

The Thacher Scholars Award was founded in honor of former IGES board member Peter S. Thacher, an internationally recognized leader in promoting the use of satellite remote sensing. During a distinguished career, he served as deputy director of the United Nations Environment Program, as an advisor to NASA and, at the time of his death in 1999, as president of the Earth Council Foundation-U.S.

Geospatial technologies have numerous uses in science research, ranging from climate prediction to archaeology. They can improve human understanding of the Earth system, including interactions among the atmosphere, biosphere, geosphere and hydrosphere. And they can improve quality of life by supporting weather prediction, natural hazards monitoring, transportation, land-use planning, agriculture, coastal management, public health and emergency response.

For more information on the Thacher Scholars Award, including contest rules, judging rubrics, questions to help guide student projects, and a list of related resources, please the URL above.

#### **CONTACT**

Dan Stillman, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, [dan\\_stillman@strategies.org](mailto:dan_stillman@strategies.org)

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**Contest Winner: 2 Energy balls from Frey Scientific: Congratulations to:**  
**PoC Ann Burkam, Buckeye Valley Middle School, Delaware, OH**  
 (Key Leader = Laura Chervenak)  
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**Calendar: Upcoming Events/Opportunities/Deadlines**  
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February 19, 2008: Online webcast from the Ohio Resource Center: A Look at the OGT  
<http://www.ohiorc.org>

February 19, 2008: Deadline to apply for the Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence  
<http://www.amgen.com/citizenship/aaste.html>

February 23, 2008, 9-3: Project WILD Workshop: FREE to formal and non-formal Educators!  
 Fort Island Primary, Fairlawn, Oh

February 25 – March 8: Globe at Night Campaign  
<http://www.globe.gov/fsl/html/templ.cgi?glbatnt08&lang=en>

March 2, 2008: Deadline to complete nomination for the 2008 AAAS Leadership in Science Education Prize  
[http://www.aaas.org/aboutaaas/awards/hs\\_scied\\_leadership/hs\\_scied\\_leadership.shtml](http://www.aaas.org/aboutaaas/awards/hs_scied_leadership/hs_scied_leadership.shtml)

March 3, 2008: Deadline to apply for the Jason Argonaut program  
<http://www.jason.org> click on <Argonauts>

March 7-8, 2008: Ohio Project WILD and Aquatic Project WILD facilitator training  
<http://www.wildohio.com>

March 12, 2008: The 2008 Wildlife Diversity Conference: Back in Black  
<http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife>

March 14, 2008: 24<sup>th</sup> Women in Science Day, at the Ohio State University, Columbus  
[diaz-sprague.1@osu.edu](mailto:diaz-sprague.1@osu.edu)

March 14, 2008: Deadline for entries to the new Earth Heroes contest  
<http://www.earth-heroes.org>

March 14, 2008: Deadline to apply for the Florida State summer research programs  
<http://www.ret.magnet.fsu.edu/education/ret/> (Magnet Lab)  
<http://bio.fsu.edu/osta/RET> (Coastal Marine Lab)

March 15, 2008: Ohio Amphibian Research and Conservation Conference

<http://www.ohioamphibians.com/meeting/>

March 17, 2008: Deadline for the 3rd Annual DNA Day Essay Contest

[http://genednet.org/pages/k12\\_dnaday08.shtml](http://genednet.org/pages/k12_dnaday08.shtml)

March 26, 2008: NSELA Professional Development Institute in Boston, MA

<http://www.nsela.org>

March 27-30, 2008: NSTA National Conference in Boston, MA

<http://www.nsta.org/conferences/>

March 27, 2008 3:30-5:00 pm: NSTA District X Reception sponsored by VWR Education Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel, Pacific D

March 27, 2008 5:00-7:00 pm: Building a Presence for Science Reception, sponsored by TI Thursday, March 27, 2008 5:00-7:00 PM at the Seaport World Trade Center – Cityview I Room

April 4, 2008: Deadline for entries for the 2008 Thacher Scholars Award

<http://www.strategies.org/ThacherScholars>

April 15, 2008: Early bird deadline to register for Powerful Professional Learning in Science

<http://www.nsela.org/calendar/calendar.html#reg#reg>

April 24 - 27, 2008: EECO Conference at Mohican State Park

<http://www.eeco-online.org>

May 1, 2008: Deadline to apply for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/> <Teaching in Ohio> <Awards and Recognition> <PAEMST>

July 1, 2008: Applications for the next group of Astronauts are due

<http://www.nasa.gov/astronauts/recruit.html>

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[Lightbody.1@osu.edu](mailto:Lightbody.1@osu.edu)