

New England Section NAGT Annual Report 2011

Filed by Karen Kortz

Officers

President

resigned*

1st Vice President

Bruce Rueger, Colby College, Waterville, ME
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2nd Vice President

Tarin Weiss, Westfield State University, Westfield, MA
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Treasurer

Julia Daly, University of Maine, Farmington, ME
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Newsletter Editor

Richard Little, Easthampton, MA
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Past Presidents

Karen Kortz, Community College of Rhode Island, Lincoln, RI
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Christine Witkowski, Middlesex Community College, Middletown, CT
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Tom Vaughn

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* After minimal participation, the president resigned during her term. To fill the leadership vacuum created, the past president (Karen Kortz) will serve as acting president until our annual meeting in December when the 1st Vice President will take over, as usual. Karen Kortz will continue to serve as past president for another term.

Report on Activities in the Past Year

Annual Meeting 2010: Our annual meeting was held at the Weston Observatory in Boston College. We toured the observatory, and heard a talk by about earthquakes in New England by keynote speaker Dr. Alan Kafka, who runs the Boston College Educational Seismology Project (BC-ESP).

Teaching Workshop: We sponsored a day-long workshop presented by Karen M. Kortz and Jessica J. Smay at the Community College of Rhode Island entitled “Lecture Tutorials: Interactive Teaching in Geology.” The workshop was attended by approximately 25 educators, from K-12 schools, community colleges, and colleges/universities.

Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award: Karen Saul is the New England Section’s Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award (OESTA) winner for 2011. Karen teaches earth science at Ferri Middle School, Johnston, Rhode Island. The award will be presented at either our upcoming Annual meeting in December or our luncheon at the Northeastern section of the Geological Society of America meeting.

Activities Planned for the Upcoming Year

We are currently planning a big presence at the Northeastern section of the Geological Society of America meeting in March 2012. As sapphire-level meeting sponsors, we will host an NAGT booth where we plan to actively recruit new members. In addition, we are hosting a division luncheon, sponsoring two sessions (Inquiry-Based Activities: Examples and Effectiveness; and Technology Integration in K–16 Geoscience Education), supporting and leading a field trip (In the Footsteps of Dinosaurs: A Guided Tour of Dinosaur State Park for K–16 Educators), and sponsoring a workshop (Misconceptions in Introductory Geology Courses and Ways to Reduce Them with Active Learning Techniques). We have reached out to the Eastern Section of NAGT with whom we will cosponsor the field trip and luncheon. In addition, we are planning our annual meeting and field trip at Amherst College’s Museum of Natural History in December 2011. The meeting will feature a talk about Connecticut Valley trace fossils and the Triassic-Jurassic extinction by Patrick Getty, a PhD candidate at the University of Connecticut.

Financial Report

Treasurer Julia Daly reports that the New England Section remains financial viable with a total of \$3679.30 in the bank. The treasurer’s report with the balance and activities is given below.

Non-Profit Business Now account

Starting balance (9/2010): \$53.96

Interest rate: 0.100 %

Interest accrued: \$ 0.04

Ending balance (9/2011): \$106.12

One-to-One Business Savings account

Starting balance (9/2010): \$4960.94

Interest rate: 0.2000 %

Interest accrued: \$ 7.09

Ending balance (9/2011): \$3573.18

Total funds available: \$3679.30