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Editor's Corner - Science Teachers Don't Retire, They . . .

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Science Teachers Don't Retire, They . . .

Do you enjoy indulging in activities of special interest on your own time schedule? You can, after retirement, plus you can learn, share and even get paid for some of those actions. As a science educator, you have accumulated many skills needed in our culture.

People trained in science are usually alert to the world around them, asking probing questions, and are trained in drawing conclusions from objective data. The mental and physical fitness that science educators generally maintain enables them to contribute and at the same time have a "blast" after retiring.

I would like to share with you twenty-five activities that have made my life physically and mentally challenging, profitable and fun since retirement four years ago.

I have traveled to 44 other states, five Canadian provinces and two other countries. I have consulted on natural resources for EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) projects.

I am writing monthly columns for wildlife periodicals and edit the newsletter Wood Duck Newsgram. I have been certified as a paramedic ski patroller and have skied in ten cross country ski races.

I have dug dinosaurs with the Science Museum of Minnesota and am a partner in a Wyoming Fossil Fish business. I have worked on the peregrine falcon restoration project, participated in endangered organism research for Minnesota and plan on assisting the Fish and Wildlife service on Alaskan oil spill problems.

I serve as chair of the Environmental Committee of the Silver Haired Legislature and also serve on the Metro Parks and Open Space Commission. I participate in eight national and state science organizations.

I have bow hunted for three species of big game, and have photographed over 100 hours of video and 5000 slides. I have also implemented the "Adopt a River" program in Anoka County, Minnesota.

I have completed several college courses, done some substitute teaching in colleges and secondary schools and put on school assemblies on cold survival and wildlife. I teach Arctic Ecology on Hudson Bay for the University of Montana and have taught many community school adult courses on several subjects. I've done numerous volunteer programs for 4H, Scouts, gifted and other youth programs.

With all of this, I still maintain my home and a fifteen acre wildlife refuge and even have time for bridge, poker, camping and T.V.

As retired science teachers, we have many years of life experiences to share with others. My only problem is our twenty-four-hour day is insufficient to cram in all the exciting activities that are happening.

After retirement, however, we have only ourselves to blame for over-scheduling.

My definition of retirement is: "a change of career where you dictate your own goals and time schedule." All retirees should consider sharing their expertise that can help others and be fun and profitable as well.

Retirement adds new vistas and versatility to our lives. We should stay active. Keep pushing science at all niches of our culture. Our community, state, nation and world need our input.

The editorial which you have just read was published in the Winter 1990 *Minnesota Science Teacher's Association Newsletter*. It was written by Lyle Bradley, who describes himself as "science teacher, etc." It seems appropriate to dedicate this editorial to Dave Fagle, who plans to join the ranks of the very actively retired at the end of the current year. Dave, who has contributed so much to Iowa science education, might well describe himself as "science teacher, etc."

Adding to the list of activities mentioned above, I would like to encourage our science education retirees to share their accumulated wisdom through the pages of the *Iowa Science Teachers Journal*. Now that you can "...dictate your own goals and time," write up those favorite activities that you were always too busy to put into print. The new teachers can benefit so much from your long years of experience.

I am sure that Dave is not the only science educator who is about to retire at the end of this year. I hope to let all of our readers know who the retirees are by publishing articles which they have generated in their new gift of time. Please share with us!

--C.W.B.

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