

1973

Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp

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approaches in science education to meet the needs of society, we cannot afford any reduction in the educational budget of the National Science Foundation. On the contrary, the National Science Teachers Association strongly recommends that the budget component for the pre-college education in science be substantially increased.

Considering the needs to develop new curricula and to strengthen programs for the pre-service and in-service preparation of teachers, we strongly believe that the education budget for fiscal year 1974 should be higher than it was for fiscal year 1970. We believe that there should be a 30% increase in support for course-content improvement projects, a 20% increase in the cooperative college-school science programs and a 50% increase in support for in-service institutes.

IOWA TEACHERS CONSERVATION CAMP

Sherman Lundy
Des Moines County ECEC (Chairman)
Burlington, Iowa

A little over a year ago in the spring of 1972, the Des Moines County Environmental Conservation Education Committee (ECEC) conducted a conservation education needs assessment of teachers in Des Moines County. From several discussions, it was decided a workshop in conservation education would be of great benefit to the area teachers. Two one-week workshop proposals were written and sent to the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). Professor Ben Clausen of UNI's Iowa Teacher's Conservation Camp assisted in the preparation of the proposal to the UNI officials; the extension officials at UNI, offered a counter proposal which the Des Moines County ECEC, felt did not meet the apparent needs of teachers. Another approach was taken in the Fall of 1972, by the Des Moines County ECEC and Professor Clausen; the suggestion was made that the ITCC course be offered on a regional basis throughout the various regions in Iowa alternating from year to year the area in which the course would be given. The logic behind this was the feeling that while the old ITCC program at Springbrook was good, teachers could derive more benefit from familiarization and utilization of local resource sites and personnel, in addition to developing environmental education materials.

University of Northern Iowa officials approved the idea of offering the ITCC course on a regional basis and two locations, Cedar Falls and Burlington, were selected for the summer session of 1973.

In Burlington, the Des Moines County ECEC began the task of liaison, securing a place for the class, scholarship monies for partial payment of tuition costs, and local resource personnel to assist in the teaching of the course. The Burlington Community School District officials provided the ITCC with room space and lab facilities in the new high school building. Ralph Dewey, of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Office, contacted all the soil districts (counties) in southeastern Iowa and sent letters to all Des Moines County school districts informing them of the proposed course and encouraging their participation. Sherman Lundy of the ECEC followed with a visit to several of the school districts in the area; information about the course for posting on bulletin boards and application blanks were provided for each school. In addition, the State Department of Public Instruction also contacted the school districts in this area in regards to the ITCC course. Other members of the council including Ruth Martens, Cale Carlson, and Byron Baumgartner encouraged teachers of their school districts to participate. Ralph Dewey and Sherman Lundy then conducted a fund raising and outdoor education campaign by visiting civic and conservation organizations.

Through the gracious efforts of the Soil District Commissioners in four counties, especially Des Moines County, Long Creek Conservation Club, Burlington Kiwanis Club, Burlington Pollution Control Council, and the Burlington High School Ecology Club, over \$1400 for partial scholarships was raised and divided among the teachers who took the course. The few teachers who were from other states or regions of Iowa had either partial or full scholarships from their districts.

The Department of Public Instruction became involved in the program through the offices of Duane Toomsen, Environmental Educational Consultant. UNI provided professors Ben Clausen and David McCalley who with Duane Toomsen, were the instructors for the 32 teachers who completed the course. The area participants of the ITCC in Burlington, were particularly fortunate to have Ralph Dewey of the Des Moines County SCS Office, who is an enthusiastic supporter of

Environmental or Conservation Education in the community and assisted the three instructors along with other fine resource personnel from many state agencies.

The success of this project was due largely to the enthusiasm, interest, and concern of the Des Moines County ECEC, UNI officials, along with the cooperation of many organizations and school districts.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NSTA NAMED

President of the National Science Teachers Association, Elaine W. Ledbetter, announced the appointment of Robert L. Silber as executive director designate of NSTA at the 1973 NSTA Annual Convention in Detroit in March. He will succeed NSTA Executive Secretary Robert H. Carleton. Mr. Silber, presently Assistant to the Director, Membership Division, American Chemical Society, will join the NSTA headquarters staff at the end of the summer when Mr. Carleton leaves the post after 25 years as executive secretary.

As executive director of the National Science Teachers Association, Mr. Silber is expected to head a staff of 26 co-workers at the NSTA headquarters office and oversee professional activities and projects, publications endeavors, and managerial and fiscal affairs.

His professional experience consists of eight years of high school science teaching in Illinois and Indiana, and 13 years with the American Chemical Society in Washington, D.C. Prior to his present post with ACS, he served the society as education secretary; in membership and field (affiliate) relations; and in conference planning, including international conferences here and abroad.

The National Science Teachers Association is an associated organization of the National Education Association and an affiliate of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. It is the world's largest organization dedicated to the improvement of all areas of science education at all grade levels. Its 40,000 members and subscribers include classroom science teachers, college professors, and others interested in the advancement of science teaching.

ISTJ CALENDAR

October 11-14, 1973: National convention of the National Association of Biology Teachers, St. Louis, Missouri. Contact: Clarence Lang, NABT National Convention Chairman, Clayton High School, #1 Mark Twain Circle, Clayton, Missouri, 63105.

October 12 and 13, 1973: Southwest Iowa Environmental Education Conference in Crescent, Iowa at the YMCA.

October 19 and 20, 1973: Iowa State Education Association Convention at Des Moines.

November 1-2, 1973: UNI Science Symposium for high school students. University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa. Contact: Dr. Robert Goss, Director, Department of Biology, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613.

November 8-10, 1973: National convention of School Science and Mathematics Association, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Dr. Lynn Glass, SSMA National Convention Chairman, College of Education, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50010.

February 15, 1974: Winter meeting of the State Science Supervisors at Des Moines.

February 25-March 2, 1974: AAAS Convention, San Francisco, California.

March 1 and 2, 1974: Science teacher short course at Ames, Iowa.

March 15-19, 1974: National convention of the National Science Teachers Association, Chicago, Illinois. Contact: Ms. Alicia McKelvie, National Convention Coordinator, NSTA Headquarters, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

April 18, 1974: Spring meeting of the State Science Supervisors at Upper Iowa College, Fayette, Iowa.

April 19-20, 1974: Iowa Academy of Science, 86th Session, Upper Iowa College, Fayette, Iowa.