

MESTA - More Growth

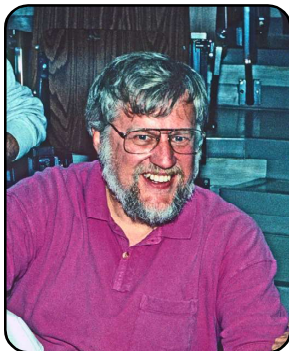


Chapter 3 More Growth 1975 -1979

Honors

The first issue of the Michigan Earth Scientist in 1975 included a brief report on the minutes from the MESTA Business Meeting held at the 1974 Annual Fall Conference. Members approved the slate of officers and the new MESTA Constitution. The Treasurer reported that the association had \$292.06.

MESTA member Steve Wessling, 9th grade Earth Science teacher in Fremont received the Michigan Best Earth Science Teacher Award (BEST) and will be a nominee for the BEST in NAGTs East Central Section. On the state scene, Jane Bricker, MESTA Secretary and 8th grade Earth Science teacher in Mason, was chosen the Best Michigan Science Teacher at the MSTA Annual Convention.



Steve Wessling

Sue Kaschner, MESTA Editor, prepared an assessment survey for the Michigan Earth Scientist and included it with the 1975 Summer issue. All regular columns and many of the past articles were listed for evaluation by members - do they like them, find them useful, or suggest deletion. A November 1, 1975 was set for the MESTA Annual Fall Conference at Michigan State University. The theme was Energy.

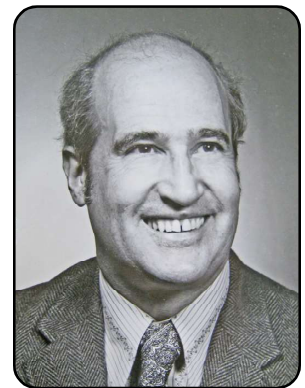
The November 1, 1975 Annual MESTA Fall Conference was the main topic of the April 12 Executive Committee meeting. With a theme of "Energy Futures" James Fisher, faculty member teaching petroleum geology at MSU, will serve as the keynote speaker. Consumers Power Company will do a "vi-

sual" presentation, materials from the Atomic Energy Commission will be available, and laser fusion will also be presented.

MESTA members were encouraged to submit articles on Energy for publication in the journal. The Committee also approved that advertisers in the Michigan Earth Scientist would have access to the MESTA mailing list. Slide sets were being produced for distribution and consideration of adding the "MINERAL" game to the inventory of science materials available to members.

conference presentations were available for \$4.00.

The Treasurer reported a current balance of \$480.05 with all bills paid



James Fisher

A slate of officers for MESTA were presented during the Annual Business Meeting and the following members were elected:

President: R. June Smith, Jackson Park Jr. High School

Vice-President: Steve Tchozeski, Belding Middle School

Secretary: Sue Merrill, Hartland Middle School

Treasurer: K R. Cranson, Lansing Community College

Editor: Sue Kaschner, Holly Oaks Middle School

Editorial Board: Jane Bricker, Dick Passero, Harold Stonehouse



MESTA - A History

Membership: Clare Albee
Publications/Sales: Dean Breadwell,
Potterville High School
NAGT Representative: Dick Munson
Regional Representatives: Jim Schmidt,
Steve Wessling, John Krohn and Mary
Beth Scheffel

Harold Stonehouse, member of the Editorial Board, attended a National Association of Geology Teachers Executive Committee meeting in Salt Lake City. NAGT requested that MESTA provide a “Blue Print” of how to organize state Earth Science Teacher Associations. The MESTA Executive Committee planned a meeting in February, 1975, to explore this matter and examine the history of our association - members were asked to provide ideas or information.

June Smith, President of the Michigan Earth Science Teachers Association, reported a meeting of the MESTA Executive Board with the President and Executive Board of the North-Central Section of the National Association of Geology Teachers. A main topic of discussion was the implications of the Michigan group affiliating with the NAGT, especially the suggested “Blue Print” being developed. Other topics included; better communications, exchange of board members, future field trip arrangements, and identification of Earth Science teachers within NAGT's North-Central section. June's report opened the 1976 Spring issue of the *Michigan Earth Scientist (MES)*. That

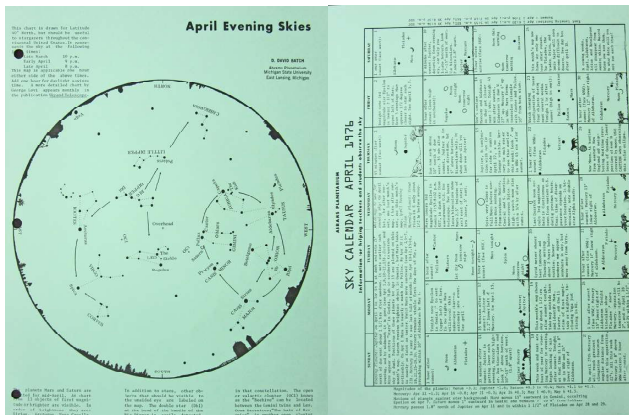
issue appeared to be the first time that *Abrams Planetarium Sky Calendars* were included as an insert.



Arts & Science Building at Lansing Community College - site of the 1976 MESTA Conference.

The 1976 Summer issue of the journal was huge - 22 pages. It featured many articles on national parks with many MESTA members contributing. MESTA members were also encouraged to submit material for the October 16 Annual Fall Conference. The theme selected was “Teaching Michigan Geology - Do It Yourself,” to be held at Lansing Community College. The 1976 Fall issue of the *MES* was also planned to include articles on Michigan geologic topics.

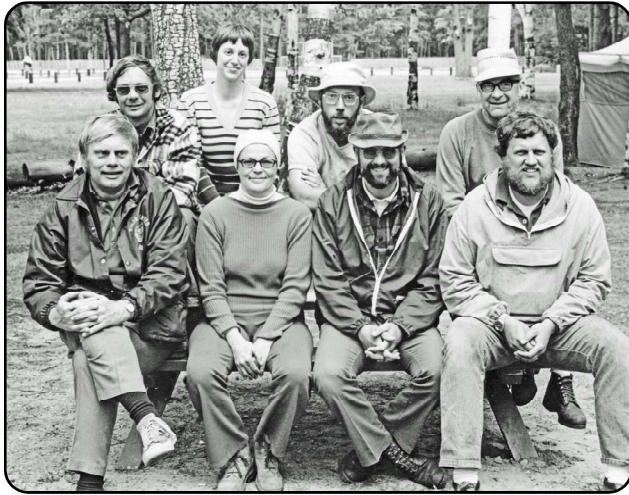
Donald Eschman was announced as the keynote speaker for MESTA's Annual Fall Conference. He was a prominent Pleistocene geologist with the University of Michigan and co-author of *The Geology of Michigan*. It was no surprise that “The Geology of Michigan” was to be the title of his talk. Other conference highlights included; a special planetarium program, Lansing Community College's Audio-Visual-Tutorial Centers for basic science courses, exhibits of minerals and rocks by the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society, books and materials available from the Michigan Geological Survey, and commercial books. There was also FREEBIES that teachers could use in their classrooms. The conference cost \$8.00 including lunch and 1977 MESTA dues.



Abrams Planetarium Sky Calendar

In mid-June a small group of association mem-

MESTA - More Growth



1976 June MESTA Northern Michigan Extended Field Trip. FR: Doug Allen, Jan Lucot, Rod Cranson, Steve Wessling. BR: Steve Tchozeski, Carol Dalebout, Art Weinhle, Woody Wilson.

bers gathered in Lansing for the first extended field trip sponsored by MESTA. There were eight MESTA members plus family members bringing the total to 20 participants. The group departed on June 12, 1976 for the northeastern lower peninsula area on the way to Michigan's UP. Fossil collecting in the Devonian limestones and a visit to the Karst terrain near Alpena was followed by a stop at the huge Rogers City U.S. Steel limestone quarry.

An afternoon was dedicated to a walking and biking tour of Mackinac Island. A stop at Castle Rock was made before heading for Sault Ste. Marie and the Soo Locks. Stops at Tahquamenon Falls and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore were on the schedule before arriving at Marquette. The balance of the trip concentrated on the Precambrian geology in the iron range and the Keweenaw Copper Country. This week-long field trip set the mold for future MESTA excursions to many parts of Michigan and the entire country.

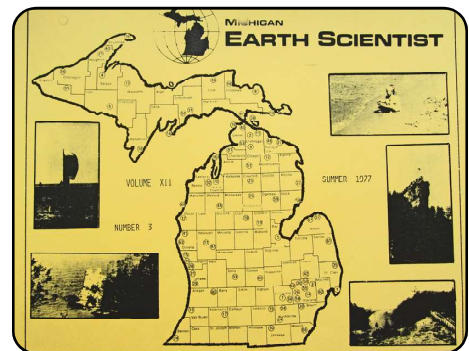
The first issue of the *MES* in 1977 carried a theme of meteorology and included a nice colored insert provided by Mott Community College. Entitled "Be Your Own Weather Prophet," this four-page pamphlet described how clouds could be used to forecast weather. That issue also introduced the first MESTA Student

Activity Day where Earth Science students could meet other students from different schools.

The day began with a couple short presentations at Michigan State University who hosted the gathering. After lunch, an afternoon field study at the Grand Ledge outcrop area was conducted. The spring issue of the journal was dedicated to Earth Science Vocations with 28 pages of articles featuring a complete range of job opportunities in the Geosciences. It provided an excellent overview of careers that Earth Science teachers could use in promoting their courses.

The 1977 summer issue of the *Michigan Earth Scientist* reviewed Michigan's State Parks emphasizing how they might be used for field activities. Also, a new cartoon feature was introduced, "The Adventures of Geo-Guy," created by Steve Vealy, focused on fun with Earth Science concepts. In keeping with the MESTAs dedication to provide useful information

for Earth Science teachers, the fall issue included articles on Michigan's mineral industries. Also that issue announced



1977 Summer issue of the *Michigan Earth Scientist*

MESTA was co-sponsored a conference entitled "Broadening Horizons in Science and Engineering." This meeting was designed to help minority high school students along with their teachers and counselors to learn about opportunities in the science and engineering.

The MESTA Annual Fall Conference was held at Western Michigan University on October 22, 1977. Environmental problems in Michigan and the continuing energy crisis were featured in the presentations. Publications and Sales Coordinator, Dean Bredwell announced that tape cassettes of the 1975 and 1977 presentations are available for use in classrooms. Another MESTA sponsored field trip, similar to the 1976



MESTA - A History

event, was announced for the summer of 1978. New MESTA officers were elected at the conference:

- President: Steve Tchozeski, Belding Middle School
- Vice-President: Steve Wessling, Fremont Jr. School
- Secretary: R. June Smith, Rogers High School, Wyoming
- Treasurer: K R. Cranson, Lansing Community College
- Editor: open
- Editorial Board: Dick Passero, Harold Stonehouse
- Publications/Sales: Dean Breadwell, Potterville High School
- MSTA Liasion: Art Brewer
- NAGT Liasion: Dick Munson
- Regional Representatives: Mike Jurgensen, Sue Merrill, David Thomas, Art Weinle



Steve Tchozeski
3rd. MESTA President

Michigan Water was the theme of the Spring, 1978, issue of the *Michigan Earth Scientist*. It was a rich storehouse of information on the state's water resources. It also featured a letter to President Steve Tchozeski from Robert Ridky, Vice President of the National Association of Geology

Teachers, congratulated the association on the quality of the journal. He writes The *Michigan Earth Scientist* is a fine example of what can be accomplished through "grass roots involvement." It cost \$0.14 to mail that issue.

Starting with the 1978 Winter issue of the *Michigan Earth Scientist* there was no Editor listed in the MESTA Organization list. Harold Stonehouse prepared the copy for each issue and Rod Cranson provided the images and did the layout for printing. This situation continued throughout the balance of the 1970

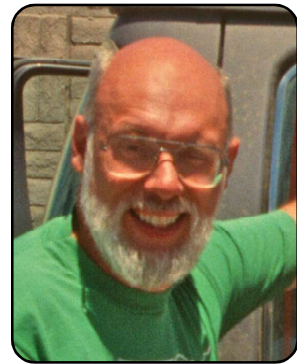
decade. As an aside, the 1979 Spring issue may have been the longest issue ever published - it was 36 pages!

Art Weinle reported on the "Geology of Northern Michigan" field trip being planned in the 1978 Winter issue of the *Michigan Earth Scientist*. It was sponsored by MESTA in June, 1978 with Steve Wessling serving as co-leader with Art and a dozen participants. This second extended field trip was based on the first trip held by the association in 1976.

Art logged that first trip and prepared a road route that he made available to MESTA and MSTA members with over 100 requesting the 27 page highway and stop log. As with the first trip, Doug Allen served as guide on the Mackinac Island portion of the trip. Harold Stonehouse led the group on several stops in the Marquette area during one afternoon. And, one of the highlights of the trip was the Champion Mine stop for collecting of magnetite, specular hematite, tourmaline, chlorite, garnet and many other minerals.

On November 3, 1978, thirteen MESTA members participated in a tour of the Canadian Rock Salt Mine in Ojibway, Ontario, Canada. They descended nearly 400 feet (300 meters) in an elevator to the decompression area and then were transported through a portion of the 240 kilometers of passages to the working face. The entire mining process; undercutting, drilling of blast holes, loading, transport of the salt, and eventually carried it to the surface were studied. A highlight of the mine tour was an opportunity to collect specimens of rock salt.

The trip concluded with a tour of the surface processing facility where the raw salt is converted into a variety of products for use on roads and in water softeners. Arrangements



Art Weinle



Canadian Rock Salt Mine

MESTA - More Growth



Examples of moon rocks that teachers could borrow for use in their classrooms.

for this special trip was arranged by Dave Thomas, Earth Science teacher at Ann Arbor High School.

Cranbrook Institute of Science was the site for the 1978

MESTA Annual Fall Conference. Jane Dianich, Earth Science teacher at Cranbrook, arranged this meeting that featured a session in their planetarium. Harold Stonehouse was the main speaker and a series of afternoon workshops were scheduled. Andy Mozola wrapped up the day with a program on surface and subsurface water. A neat bonus was offered that would allow attendees to obtain a Special Moon Rock Use Certificate given by NASA. Cost for the November 4th gathering was \$7.00 that included lunch or \$10.00 for the conference, lunch and 1979 MESTA membership.

The 1979 Winter issue of the *Michigan Earth Scientist* featured the first installment of Dick Hawk's "Rocks and Mineral Trails of Michigan." Dick, long time MESTA member, had done extensive field work in the Precambrian of Michigan's UP and published much his work in a book entitled *Guide to Rocks and Minerals of Michigan*. The three part series was a summary of his book. The reference included sketch maps showing the location of collecting outcrops for specific minerals and rocks. Parts II and III were presented as articles in the 1979 Spring and Summer issues of the journal.

MESTA sponsored a trip to the NASA Lewis Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio on April 7, 1979. The space program was going strong and this trip provided a great opportunity to visit one of the best air and space museums in the country. In addition, arrangements were made for participating teachers to acquire copies of NASA slide/cassette programs, video cassettes and 16 mm sound movies. Art Weinle made the arrangements for this event.

A second MESTA Student Activities Day was planned for May 5, 1979 at Grand Valley State Colleges in Allendale. Like the first Student Activity Day, the morning was dedicated to a series of presentations followed by lunch and a choice of field trips. The AM talks featured glimpses of the geologic past in western Michigan. Afternoon trips included; Lake Michigan coastal processes, a gypsum mine in Grand Rapids, glacial history of western Michigan, walking trails on the GVSC campus and Indian mounds along the Grand River.

The final MESTA Annual Fall Conference of the 1970s was held at the Michigan Space and Science Center located at Jackson Community College on November 3, 1979. As might be expected,



Michigan Space and Science Center - it closed in 2003.

recent space exploration was the theme. The day began with latest images and information on Jupiter from the Voyager mission was provided by Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Next, NASA's Pioneers missions featured images and information on Venus and Saturn. These two presentations were delivered by direct link-up with the two national space agencies.

The afternoon sessions included workshops that help bring space activities into Earth Science classroom, including rocketry. A bonus for those attending was the opportunity to be certified for the Lunar Sample Education Project. As had become a regular custom, free classroom materials were available. Cost for the meeting, including lunch and 1980 dues, was \$12.00

President Steve Tchozeski from Robert Ridky, Vice President of the National Association of Geology Teachers, congratulated the association on the quality of the journal. He writes *The Michigan Earth Scientist* is a fine example of what can be accomplished through "grass roots involvement." It cost \$0.14 to mail that issue.



MESTA - A History

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