

DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

Published by the Delaware Geographic Alliance
Address: Department of Geography, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716

Volume 4, No. 1

Fall 1992

CELEBRATE GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK NOVEMBER 15-21, 1992

This year's theme is *Geography: Reflections on Water* and emphasizes the importance of studying Geography as a way of integrating society and the environment. The particular focus of the week is on the need to conserve and preserve our supplies of fresh water. Our earth has plenty of water, which covers 70% of its surface. But 97% of that is salty. Of the remaining 3%, all but 2.6% is trapped in glaciers and the polar ice caps. That leaves just 0.4% for human use, and all but a fraction of that amount (one-thirtieth) is in ground-water rather than rivers.

In the United States, we are great users of water. Our industries and people use 571,200 gallons of water for each person in the country! In China, with a fifth of the world's population, each person uses only 20% of the water each American uses. But still, there's plenty of water, right? Wrong! In some parts of our country, water places limits on growth. Prices of grocery items are rising in our stores because California farmers have had water supplies cut off. In Tucson, which relies on well-water, urban expansion is stalled because new developments are denied water permits. In the Delaware Valley, low rainfall in 1991 produced restrictions on homeowners use of water for gardens and washing cars.

Water touches all our lives - and it makes up 65% of our bodies. To focus attention on water is to draw upon many aspects of social studies and science, reading and the arts. It's an ideal topic to teach.

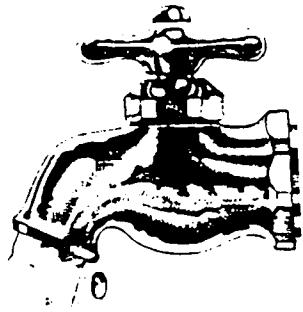
The Delaware Geographic Alliance has distributed 2,800 teaching packets to all schools in

the State. The packets, provided by the National Geographic Society, include lesson ideas for classes K-12 in a teacher handbook, an attractive poster, and poster diagrams on the Water Cycle, a household hazardous waste chart, and an outline map of the United States showing the major river watersheds. We urge you to use the packets both during Geography Awareness Week and throughout the year where they can be fitted in with your curriculum.

A few packets remain in our office. If you want one, please call us any time at 831-6783 and leave a message on our machine, and we will mail you a copy while our supplies last.

Other activities during the week include the following:

- *Wear a blue ribbon to celebrate water!*
Across the country, on Wednesday, November 18, 1992, students will wear blue ribbons to remind everyone of the importance of water in their lives. Ribbons have been distributed to many schools. Let us know if your's have not arrived.
- *4th Annual T-Shirt Wear-In*
Also on Wednesday, November 18 students are urged to join students and teachers at Redding Middle School who have organized their 4th Annual T-Shirt Wear-In. Students are asked to wear T-Shirts displaying a geographic location as well as a water site. Last year, over 40,000 students from across the country



How Do You Measure Up?

A Water Awareness Test

Every day we do (or avoid doing) things which affect the amount of water we use and the condition or 'quality' of the water we dispose. Here's an opportunity for you to consider what your contribution is, to the problem and to the solution. Take a few minutes to complete this checklist. Add up the numbers you circled as answers in each column to find your total. Then use the information on the back to see how you measure up.

Do You.....

	<u>Never</u>	<u>Some-</u> <u>times</u>	<u>Often</u>
1. leave the tap water running as you brush your teeth or shave?	1	2	3
2. turn the lawn sprinkler on during mid-day?	1	2	3
3. throw used containers of paint, solvents, or harsh cleansers into the trash?	1	2	3
4. empty leftover paint, solvents, or cleansers into the kitchen sink?	1	2	3
5. run the washing machine or dishwasher with small loads?	1	2	3
6. water your lawn frequently during the summer to achieve a lush cover?	1	2	3
7. use lots of fertilizers and lawn feeder to help the lawn recover from winter?	1	2	3
8. clean the driveway, sidewalk, or curb side by hosing it down with water?	1	2	3
9. leave the shower running to heat up the bathroom?	1	2	3
10. wait to repair a dripping faucet until it turns into a steady leak?	1	2	3
11. use the toilet to dispose of ordinary waste around the house?	1	2	3
12. wash the car every weekend in the summer?	1	2	3
13. change your oil in the street or use storm drains to dispose of used oil?	1	2	3
14. sweep lawn and garden trimmings into the curb or down storm drains?	1	2	3
15. use the garbage disposal to get rid of food scraps?	1	2	3
	<u>Yes</u>		<u>No</u>
16. attend public hearings on water issues?	1		3
17. consider the impact of land-use and zoning decisions on your water resources?	1		3
18. write to your public officials about obvious mismanagement or disregard for community water resources?	1		3
19. volunteer to help clean up a water body or promote water quality awareness in your community?	1		3
20. vote for programs or candidates that protect the environment?	1		3
21. know where your tap water comes from?	1		3
22. know where your waste water goes?	1		3
23. know who operates your water utilities?	1		3
24. know the name and location of your watershed?	1		3
25. know how much it costs for your water supply and wastewater treatment?	1		3

ADD + +

TOTAL SCORE = _____

How Did You Score?

If Your Total Score (from the other side) was:

30 or less

You are to be complimented on your knowledge of water resource issues, and your commitment to practicing sound conservation and pollution prevention measures.

31 to 55

You are generally aware of the need to conserve water, and to protect our surface and groundwater from pollution, but need to be more consistent in your habits. Remember, even small leaks result in huge losses, and small quantities of pollutants can contaminate large water bodies.

56 to 75

Unfortunately, like too many others, you could be contributing to severe water supply and pollution control problems in your community. You need to think about the many ways you can modify your habits to become part of the solution.

What More Can You Do?

30 or less

Keep it up!
Educate your friends and family to follow your example.
Join or start a volunteer monitoring program in your community.

31 to 55

Conduct a home water user survey with your friends and family. Try it out in class, or at the workplace, too.
Implement protection and conservation measures whenever you find problems.

56 to 75

Call local organizations or government agencies for more information.
Learn about and practice measures to save and protect water.
Join a local group committed to natural resources protection.

★ AMERICA'S ★
CLEAN WATER
FOUNDATION



*Celebration
of Commitment*

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

Join:

America's Clean Water Foundation

For further information, contact:

750 First Street, N.E.

Suite 911

Washington, D.C. 20002

(202) 898-0902



SUMMER ROUND-UP

1992 SUMMER GEOGRAPHY INSTITUTE

The third annual Summer Geography Institute was held July 5-22, 1992. Twenty-two new Teacher-Consultants graduated, and are now available to present workshops on ideas for teaching geography.

The first week was held at the Virden Center in Lewes, the second week and a half in Newark. An intensive mixture of presentations and field analyses were featured. Field excursions included a transect of Sussex County, an examination of coastal processes (including a tour of the Cape Henlopen pilot station), central Kent County (including the Dickenson plantation), the Piedmont district of New Castle County, the Port of Wilmington, and a two day tour of the Pennsylvania Anthracite region (including the Ashland Mine tour and a visit to Centralia, the near-abandoned town which sits atop a mine fire).

This year's Institute was directed by **Maggie Legates** (Milford Middle School) and **Bill Hutchison** (Dover Middle School) with staff members **Kris Knarr** (McIlvaine Elementary) and **MaryAnna Taylor** (Delaware Alliance), all of whom are graduates of the National Geographic Society's Institute in Washington, D.C. **Peter Rees** (UD Geography Dept.) presented material on academic Geography. Guest presenters included **Bernie Herman** (UD Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering); **Chet Zimolzak** (Glassboro Geography Dept.); **Charlie Postles** (Sussex County farmer); and TCs **Vita Obohoski** (Bayard Intermediate) and **Martha Claverie** (Burnett Elementary).

Congratulations to the following new Institute graduates: **Beverly Bullock** (Lakeview Elementary); **Patricia Cleary** (West Seaford Elementary); **Judith Drake** (Sussex Central High); **Deborah Heverin** (Redding Middle); **Thomas Hickey** (Kirk Middle); **Barbara Hudson** (Woodbridge High); **Barbara Jacobs** (Richardson Park Elementary); **Chuck Josephson** (Dover Central Middle); **Terry Kopple** (Lewes Middle); **Joseph Matriccino** (Woodbridge High); **Melissa Mattes** (Dover Central Middle); **Robert McCormick** (Redding Middle); **Jacqueline**

McNeil (Dover Central Middle); **Fred Noel** (Warner Elementary); **Fran O'Malley** (Talley Jr. High); **Gretchen Pasapane** (Mt. Pleasant High); **Judith Purcell** (Banneker Elementary); **Lori Saporosa** (Smyrna Elementary); **Janice Smith** (Simpson Elementary); **Edna Turner** (Woodbridge Jr. High); **Neil Webster** (William Penn High); and **Joan Zinman** (Harlan Elementary).

TCs TRAVEL

One of the advantages of becoming a graduate of the State Summer Geography Institute are the many opportunities to learn and travel, for which being an Institute graduate is a prerequisite. This summer was a bonanza for the Alliance.

Joel Glazier (Gunning Bedford Middle) and **Barbara Kime** (William Henry Middle) attended the four-week National Geographic Society Instructional Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C., and lobbied on Capitol Hill for Geography; **Dawn Willis** (Banneker Elementary) and **Jacqui Wilson** (Smyrna Middle) attended the two-week Educational Technology Leadership Institute in Atlanta, jointly sponsored by the National Geographic Society and I.B.M., and each returned as Alliance custodians of over \$18,000 worth of computer hardware and software.

Priscilla Wriston (Bayard Intermediate) and **Mary Koster** (Redding Middle) attended the two and a half-week Workshop on Water in Mammoth Lakes, California, sponsored jointly by the National Geographic Society and the Conservation Foundation. Priscilla and Mary received training as leaders of the Alliance's Geography Awareness Week effort. **Joel Glazier** (again!) and **Carole Bigelow** (Burnett Elementary) attended a pre-conference on International Geography Education in Boulder, Colorado as part of the International Geographical Union meeting held this August in Washington, D.C.

Patsy Warner (Redding Middle) and **Joan Callaghan** (Holy Spirit School) participated in a teachers' workshop at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. on the *Seeds of Change* exhibit; and finally, **Mary Alice Aguilar**

(Redding Middle) and **MaryAnna Taylor** (Delaware Alliance) presented a workshop on *Adelante, Cristoforo!*, a simulation game on the Columbus voyages, at the Annual Meeting of the National Council For Geographic Education in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

All TCs returned with added experience and skills, further strengthening the ability of the Alliance to offer help and support to Delaware's teachers in the effort to teach geography more widely in our schools.

Next summer's opportunities are still uncertain, but at this point we hope to send another two teacher-consultants to the Workshop on Water and two others to Russia. We also expect to support a number of teacher-consultants to attend the National Council for Geographic Education Annual Meeting, which next year will be held August 4-7 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

1992-93 ALLIANCE ORGANIZATION

The Alliance will again adopt a committee structure to aid its work. Alliance policy is set by a Steering Committee of teachers. This year's committee includes the following members: **Bill Hutchison** (Dover Central Middle) chairperson; **Dawn Willis** (Banneker Elementary) vice-chairperson; **Martha Claverie** (Burnett Elementary), **Joel Glazier** (Gunning Bedford Middle), **Barbara Kime** (William Henry Middle), **Kris Knarr** (McIlvaine Elementary), **Mary Koster** (Redding Middle), **Judy Purcell** (Banneker Elementary), **Jacqui Wilson** (Smyrna Middle); ex-officio: **Peter Rees** (UD Geography), **MaryAnna Taylor** (Delaware Alliance), and **Lewis Huffman** (DPI).

Other committees together with the names of the conveners are:

- 1993 Summer Institute Planning
- 1993 Advanced Summer Institute (**Peter Rees**)
- Geography Bee (**Lewis Huffman**)
- Publications (**Priscilla Wriston**)
- Workshops (**Carole Bigelow**)
- Geography and Technology (**Dawn Willis** and **Jacqui Wilson**)
- Geography Awareness Week '92 (**Priscilla Wriston** and **Mary Koster**)

- Fifth Annual Spring Meeting (**Kris Knarr**)
- Fund Raising (**Dawn Willis**)
- Sister Schools Project (**Darlene Parsons**)
- Geography Resources Survey (**Pat Korcia**)
- Parents Workshops/Geography Camp (**Barbara Kime**, **Dawn Willis**, **Martha Claverie**)
- Playground Maps Project (**Bill Hutchison**)
- Awards
- TC support

Anyone interested please contact the conveners.
We want your ideas and energy!

GEOGRAPHY AND NEW DIRECTIONS

A Social Studies, History, and Geography Commission has been appointed by Superintendent of Public Instruction Pat Forgione as part of *New Directions for Education in Delaware*. The Commission's purpose is to determine the broad outlines of what should be learned in the Social Studies, and what should be the means of assessing performance. The Commission is chaired by **Maggie Legates**, **Lewis Huffman**, and **Bill Stanley** (UD College of Education).

We hope Geography will have a more central place in the revised standards, and the Alliance is well-positioned to support such an outcome.

At the national level, the 1994 NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) *Geography Assessment Framework* has been published, together with *Exercise [Performance] Specifications*, which will be field-tested this school year. The National Council for Geographic Education has received a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop content standards for Geography K-12.

And the National Science Foundation is supporting the development of ARGUS (*Activities and Readings in the Geography of the United States*) geared towards middle and high school geography.

Internationally, the recently adopted United Kingdom geography curriculum offers a foreign standard against which to measure our efforts to invigorate and strengthen the teaching of geography. For more information on all these projects, contact the Alliance at 831-6783.

ANNOUNCEMENT

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE SPRING 1993 SEMESTER

GEOG 667-012/430 (3 CR. HRS.)

**SEMINAR: GEOGRAPHY, AN INTRODUCTION TO THE
DISCIPLINE FOR TEACHERS**

Designed for teachers who teach geographical concepts and subject matter in their classes, and who seek a broad introduction to the academic content of Geography as a context for their teaching. No previous experience of Geography is necessary; teachers of all subjects/grades are welcome. INSTRUCTOR: Peter Rees.

Section 012 will be held on Tuesdays from 5.00 p.m.-8.00 p.m. in Room 203, Newark Hall, Newark Campus. Maximum enrollment: 20

Section 430 will be held on Wednesdays from 5.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. at the Higher Education Building in Georgetown. Maximum enrollment: 20

Classes begin the week of February 9 and end the week of May 20. For more information, contact the Alliance Office at 831-6783.

Delaware Geographic Alliance
c/o Department of Geography
University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19716

PATRICIA TARGET
109A S. BRADFORD ST.
DOVER, DE 19901

