

# DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

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## CELEBRATE GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK NOVEMBER 14-20, 1993

Once again, this year's theme is about water: *Water Matters: Every Day, Everywhere, Every Way*. For two years in a row now, National Geography Awareness Week proclaimed by the U.S. Congress and this year by Delaware's Governor Carper, has focussed on the importance of fresh water in our lives. Why the emphasis? At first glance we have plenty of water - it makes up 65% of our bodies and 70% of our world's surface. But most water is not available to us. Only 3% of the world's supplies are fresh water, and all but 13% of that is locked up in glaciers and the polar ice caps.

Most of our fresh water comes from surface streams or is pumped from groundwater. To maintain health, we need about 2 1/2 quarts a day. In Delaware, 67% of our population depends on groundwater pumped from wells which are dug into aquifers - "spongy" lenses of water-holding rock beneath the surface. One aquifer, the Piney Point, supplies 80% of Kent County's industrial and municipal water needs. If hazardous wastes are spilt on the surface, they can percolate down and contaminate aquifers, and damage our water supply or health.

Aquifers can also be contaminated from leakage from landfills, septic systems, underground storage tanks, wastewater spray irrigation, agricultural fertilizer and pesticides, and salt water intrusion from over-pumping.

So, and here's the *geography* of it all, where we locate our human activities on the surface has a lot to do with the ultimate quality of our water supply.

Where we put paved streets and housing developments also influences the supply of water. Aquifers get their water in the first place from rainfall which falls on the surface and percolates down through soil and rock. If we pave over those special surfaces, called *aquifer recharge areas*, we limit the amount of water an aquifer can provide. Eventually, the water table drops and wells run dry.

All these facts, and many others about water and wetlands in Delaware and across the world have been collected together by Patsy Warner (Redding Middle School: 378-5030) and Terry Kopple (Lewes Middle School: 645-6288), the co-chairs of the Alliance's Geography Awareness Week committee. Patsy and Terry have assembled a 130-page booklet they can share with you which contains hundreds of water facts and information, and many teaching ideas for K-12 classes. Some of their ideas for focussing on the geography of water theme during GAW are listed below.

In addition, the Delaware Geographic Alliance has distributed 3,000 teaching packets to all schools in the State. These packets, provided by the National Geographic Society, include a teacher handbook with ready-to-go teaching lessons K-12, an attractive poster, and other useful materials. We urge you to look out for this packet which was delivered to your school via State Mail, and to use the ideas it contains 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 while our supplies last, please call 831-6783.

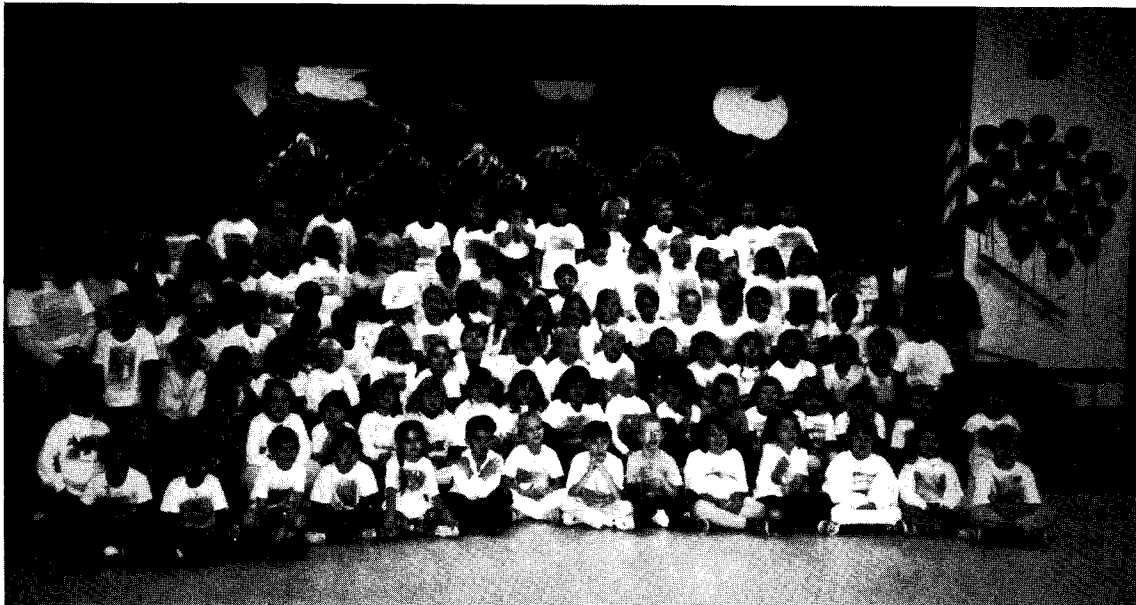
Other activities in which many teachers across the State will be involved during the week include:

- *Honor Fresh Water: Teach a Water Lesson* on Monday, November 15
- *Clean Water Drop Day*, reflecting the GAW poster, encourage students to wear an item of blue clothing on Tuesday, November 16
- *Fifth Annual T-shirt Wear-in*. On Wednesday, November 17, students in your school are encouraged to join the students and teachers of Redding Middle School who are organizing their 5th Annual T-shirt Wear-in.



## **WHERE IN THE U.S.A. IS THE WEAR-IN?**

**LOCATION:** 39° 30' N; 75° 45' W  
**PLACE:** REDDING MIDDLE SCHOOL  
**INTERACTION:** SCHOOLS ACROSS THE NATION  
**REGION:** DELAWARE



BLACKWELL ELEMENTARY  
MARIETTA, GA

**Join us for the 5th Annual National Geography WEAR-IN DAY**

**Invite all the students and staff in your school to wear a "Geography T-Shirt" on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1993. (A Geography T-Shirt is one that has a place on it that can be found on a map, any map.)**

**Please let us know of your participation by sending a card to Mary Alice Aguilar, Delaware Geographic Alliance, % Department of Geography, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716, and indicate how many students and staff in your school participated.**

## SUMMER ROUND-UP

Summer is one of the Alliance's busiest times. This past summer, we put on two summer institutes and TCs (teacher-consultants) travelled to exotic locales - all in the interest of furthering geographic education.

### 1993 SUMMER GEOGRAPHY INSTITUTE

The fourth annual Summer Geography Institute was held June 19-July 2, 1993. Twenty-three new teacher-consultants (TCs) graduated after an intensive two-week immersion in geographic content, field observation and analysis, classroom geography units, and guided practice in making workshop presentations to fellow teachers. Participants each received textbooks and geography teaching materials valued at over \$400 as well as meals, accommodations, and transportation. All they had to give was 12 to 14 hours a day of study, inquiry, and doing geography.

The first week was held at the Virden Center in Lewes and allowed a close look at coastal processes from land and sea, as well as a detailed transect of Sussex County. TCs Edna Turner, Terry Kopple, and Judy Purcell, all Sussex countians, led the group into the nooks and crannies of the area from the Great Cyprus Swamp to Bethel. A transition field trip to Kent County was organized by TCs Chuck Josephson, Barbara Kime, and Missey Mathes, and ranged from the Abbots Mill Nature Center to historic Dover.

The second week was held in Newark, at the University of Delaware's Geography Department. Field trips examined the Piedmont/Coastal Plain interface, the problems of constructing Delaware's border, and how not to plan suburban developments. The ultimate field trip was an overnight transect of the Pennsylvania Anthracite coal region, led by Professor Chet Zimolzak of the Department of Geography, Rowan University, N.J. Institute participants scrambled over Hawk Mountain to observe the folded ridges and valleys (anticlines and synclines to those in the know), travelled inside a coal mine at Ashland, observed the mine fire in Centralia, and puzzled over the ethnic mosaic within the tight mining town of Shenandoah.

This year's Institute was staffed principally by TCs. The director was Bill Hutchison (Dover Central Middle School); full-time staff members were Kris Knarr (McIlvaine Elementary School), Joel Glazier (Gunning Bedford Middle School), and MaryAnna Taylor (Delaware Geographic Alliance). Guest presenters included TCs Barbara Kime (William Henry Middle School), Maggie Legates (Milford Middle School),

Mary Koster (Redding Middle School), and Mike Brelick (Delcastle High School). The academic content was provided by Peter Rees (UD Geography Department) with guest presentations by Professors Tom Meierding (UD Geography) and Kris Kraft (UD Geology).

Congratulations go to the following new Institute graduates who now join the ranks of the Alliance's TCs: Darleen Amobi (Stanton Middle School), Dianne Beck (Dover High School), Beth Bryson (Baltz Elementary School), Patricia Fisher (Richardson Park Elementary School), Suzanne Gracia (Woodbridge Jr/Sr High School), Flossie Greene (Milford Middle School), Claudia Hughes (Baltz Elementary School), Ken Hutchins (Chipman Middle School), Barbara Lacy (Richardson Park Elementary School), Sharon Lardear (Padua Academy), Susan Lore (Cape Henlopen High School), Myrna Newman (Seaford Middle School), Carroll Posatko (Ursuline Academy), Randy Reynolds (Woodbridge Jr High School), Gary Riley (Caesar Rodney High School), Arleen Spielman (Talley Jr High School), Barbara Starkey (Talley Jr High School), John Syphard (Laurel Middle School), Stephen Topal (Dover Central Middle School), Ann Whitman (Banneker Elementary School), Anita Wood (Harlan Elementary School), Eileen Wilkinson (St. Mark's High School), and Robert Murray (St. Anthony's Middle School). Look out for these new TCs; they are your contacts for information on geography teaching ideas and materials. They will be giving workshops around the state during the school year, drawing on their experience in the Institute as well as being an integral part of a national network of teachers in geographic alliances in every state across the country.

### 1993 ADVANCED GEOGRAPHY INSTITUTE

For the first time, the Alliance organized an advanced summer institute from July 19-August 9 for graduates of our previous institutes. The focus of the advanced institute was the concept of the region; how different parts of the world can be considered to have sufficient similarity to be designated a distinct region, how one can identify regions and determine regional boundaries. The example used was Eastern Canada.

The first week was held in Newark, and involved intensive research in the University of Delaware library. Participants chose different aspects of the physical and human geography of Quebec and the Maritime Provinces and presented papers on their

findings in a symposium held at the end of the week. Key findings and supporting maps were then bound into a field notebook which was used throughout the field analysis phase of the institute.

The following two and a half weeks were spent travelling through the region, interpreting urban and rural landscapes, the product of both English and French cultures in the region. Packed into two vans linked by CB radios, the institute became a moving seminar, stopping in Montreal, travelling through the Eastern Townships (Estrie) to Trois Rivieres, thence via the St. Lawrence Lowlands to Quebec City. From Quebec, the route followed the south shore of the St. Lawrence into Gaspé, crossing the Peninsula to New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton, and finally to Halifax, Nova Scotia where participants attended the annual meeting of the National Council for Geographic Education. The return route crossed Nova Scotia and the Bay of Fundy to Maine, before reaching Newark. Participants are now preparing a teacher's guide on the Geography of Eastern Canada, with geography lessons developed from materials collected during the field trip. We hope to have the volume available early next year.

The institute was led by Peter Rees (UD Geography Department). Participating were: Carole Bigelow, Patricia Fisher, Barbara Hudson, Barbara Jacobs, Barbara Kime, Kelli Martin, Joseph Matriccino, Melissa Mattes, Gretchen Pasapane, Judy Purcell, Janice Smith, MaryAnna Taylor, Patsy Warner, and Jacqui Wilson.

### TCs TRAVEL

The many advantages of becoming a TC include becoming the Alliance representative to various workshops and institutes outside the state...sometimes way outside! This past summer, and no cost to them, the following TCs ventured to California, Missouri, Alaska, and Russia. Patsy Warner and Terry Kopple were our representatives to the Workshop on Water, held for two weeks (June 26-July 8) in San Francisco, and organized by the National Geographic Society to train each Alliance's Geography Awareness Week coordinators. Tom Neubauer attended a weeklong Institute at the University of Missouri (July 17-23), which trained TCs in the new High School geography materials collectively known as ARGUS (Activities and Readings in the Geography of the United States). Anyone interested in geography activities which fit well with U.S. History or Economics classes should contact Tom at Middletown High School. Tom sloshed through the great Mid-west floods to attend this

institute.

Joel Glazier applied for one of the six positions held for TCs across the nation by Earthwatch, an environmental organization which conducts scientific work in various parts of the world. August found Joel in the high arctic of Alaska, learning about permafrost and pingoes. This school year, Joel has a sabbatical leave and is spending much of it in Israel...doing geography, we hope.

Bill Hutchison and Maggie Legates were our representatives to attend a summer geography institute (August 2-13) with Russian teachers in Russia, at Oka, just outside Moscow. The institute was sponsored by the N.S.F.-funded ARGUS project and was organized by the Association of American Geographers and the National Geographic Society. Extracts from Maggie's report follow:

"Formal instruction within the institute consisted of lectures and structured discussion sessions presented by the staff of the institute, Professors Alexi Naumov, Alexi Novikov, and Sergei Rogachev. We received instruction on the basic background on Russia, the central region where we were located, and the Russian approach to world geography. I learned a good deal of factual material during these lectures, but I also came to see that the Russian approach to geography is quite different from our own. The Russians see geography as a pure science like physics and chemistry. Their explanations for cultural differences and variations in economic activity all emphasize a correlation with natural phenomena. In one example, the Russians attempted to determine which isotherm formed the "natural" southern boundary of Russia. Many areas of American geography seemed missing from their perspective, such as a close examination of urban geography. In general, the Russians preferred to look at the larger picture and make generalizations. In contrast, I think we tend to examine things on a smaller scale. We have much we could learn from each other.

Leonid Smernygin, chair of Moscow State University's geography department and a close advisor to Boris Yeltsin, joined us for three days. He described how geographers are helping the new country by providing the best information base for decision-making. They are using the election results from the last three plebiscites to analyze the political regions of the country. They are using the limited economic, statistical information at their disposal to predict possible areas of support or resistance to reforms. They are looking at American industrial location theory to see if they can provide meaningful advice as central

planning gives way to privatization. And they are seeking a workable scheme for distributing and surveying land holdings of communal farms.

A final important aspect of the institute was the exchange of information and ideas with nineteen Russian classroom teachers who attended the meetings and roomed with us. They were trained as geography specialists and came from all over Russia. They explained that in Russia, geography teachers meet individual classes for varying amounts of time each week, depending on the emphasis on geography at different grade levels. For example, primary students have geography only twice a week, while middle grades may have three classes per week. Student retention is usually maintained by students having the same geography teacher through a number of grades. Teachers showed us specially developed atlases for each grade level, and also textbooks for the geography of the local area which they had authored. These teachers saw themselves as geographers and were proud of their expertise. They did complain about the demands of the many lesson plans required by school administrators, problems with student motivation, lack of parental support, and financial pressures. During many informal evening sessions, we found that Russian and American teachers face many common problems.

The institute gave me many new contacts and perspectives. We will be connected with our newfound teacher colleagues through our receipt of *Geography News*, a newspaper for geography teachers produced by Moscow State University, and I was asked to submit an article to the newspaper on American School Reform, to published this fall. Hopefully, in the near future, we will see Russian geography teachers visiting schools in Delaware."

### HOW TCs CAN HELP YOU

Our summer institute graduates now number nearly 100, and are found in many Delaware schools. They represent the Alliance's outreach effort to help fellow teachers with a need for geographic information and sources. Here's an example. Christina Voelker, Redding Middle School's vocal teacher, was concerned that her vocal students could not grasp the difference between Austria and Australia. She was teaching about Mozart and Haydn, but was constantly given the incorrect response as to their country of origin. She discussed the problem with TC Patsy Warner who remembered seeing a lesson plan in *Exploring Geography* by the Texas Alliance, entitled "Australia or Austria?" Patsy copied the plan available from the Alliance Center in Newark and supplied Christina with two maps. She taught the geography lesson in her next

vocal class and was very happy to report that there was no longer a mix-up between Australia and Austria. This year, Patsy reports that Christina requested a map of Hungary, to avoid any problems with Franz Liszt!

### WILSON TEAMS WITH OPTILEARN

Optilearn Inc. is a major producer of videodiscs and publishes the videodisc *Our Environment*. Users of the videodisc can also receive a newsletter *Our Environment Network*, where, in the Fall 1993 issue, they will find an article by TC Jacqui Wilson (Smyrna Middle School) titled "Biome-Mania" which describes a lesson using the videodisc for grades 6-9. You may contact Optilearn at 715-344-6060; sorry, no 800 number.

Jacqui, and Dawn Willis (Banneker Elementary School), are the Alliance's experts on Geography Educational Technology and are familiar with many geography computer learning materials at all grades. Feel free to contact either of them if you need information on this topic.

### ALLIANCE ELECTS 1993-94 STEERING COMMITTEE

After a mail ballot of TCs this August, the following members have been elected to the 1993-94 Steering Committee of the Delaware Geographic Alliance: Dawn Willis, chairperson (Banneker Elementary School), Joel Glazier (Gunning Bedford Middle School), Barbara Kime (William Henry Middle School), Mary Koster (Redding Middle School), Maggie Legates (DPI), Judy Purcell (Banneker Elementary School), Jacqui Wilson (Smyrna Middle School), Kelli Martin (Cedar Lane Elementary School), Tom Neubauer (Middletown High School), and John Syphard (Laurel Middle School). Alliance co-coordinators Peter Rees (UD Geography) and Lewis Huffman (DPI), together with MaryAnna Taylor (Delaware Geographic Alliance), remain ex-officio members.

The Steering Committee sets the general policies for the Alliance and each year appoints committees of volunteers to carry out the Alliance's activities and projects. This year's committees include: 1994 Summer Institute Planning, Geography Bee, Publications, Workshops, Educational Technology, 1993 Geography Awareness Week, Sixth Annual Spring Meeting, Parents Geography Workshops, Playground Maps, TC Support, and State Standards Project. If you would like to help, or need additional information about any of these projects, call the Alliance office at 831-6783.

## GEARING UP FOR THE GEOGRAPHY BEE

Hopefully, your school will be participating in the National Geography Bee, whose winner receives a \$25,000 college scholarship. Last year, the Statewide winner from Delaware was Michael Hendrickson, an eighth grade student from Seaford Middle School.

Michael's success in competition with winners from some sixty schools across the state earned him an all-expense paid trip to participate in the national finals held May 25-26 at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C. While Michael didn't win the grand prize, we are proud of his success and the way he represented Delaware with distinction.

This year's competition begins with the selection of school winners during the period December 13 - January 14. The State Final will be held April 8 (location to be announced later), and the national finals will be held in Washington, D.C. May 24-25.

The deadline for schools to register for the first time was October 15, however, if you would like to organize the Bee in your school for the 1994-95 competition, call National Geographic at 202-828-5469.

Questions about this year's geography bee can be directed to the Geography Bee coordinator, Lewis Huffman, at 739-4885.

## GEOGRAPHY CELEBRATED AT THE AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

Should you visit the National Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C. during Geography Awareness Week November 14-20, you will find geography celebrated daily.

Geogames will spark children's interest in the world around them with tests of global geographic knowledge; a show, *Geography from Space*, uses satellite images and photos to quiz contestants; and on Friday, November 19 at 7.00 p.m., Pierce Lewis will present a lecture "Geography is Everywhere," designed to stimulate your enthusiasm for a closer look at your own neighborhood.

## TRY THE BOC CHALLENGE!

The fourth running of The BOC Challenge around the world yacht race will start on September 17, 1994 from Charleston, S.C. The solo skippers are expected to complete the 27,000-mile (42,000-kilometer) voyage in early May 1995.

Throughout the school year, students will share the sailors' experiences through a daily computer link and regular news bulletins mailed to subscribing schools.

If you want to know more details, contact Mame Reynolds, Student Ocean Challenge, P.O. Box 631, Jamestown RI 02835, or call 401-423-2877; fax 401-423-2877.

## DISCOUNTS ON NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ED TECHNOLOGY

Take another look at the list of Summer Institute graduates, especially if you are in the same school or district. National Geographic has made available to institute graduates deeply discounted rates for some of their most popular educational software, including Kids Network units (*Hello!, Too Much Trash, Acid Rain, Weather in Action, Solar energy, What Are We Eating, or What's in Our Water*); GTV (*Geographic Perspective on American History, Planetary Manager, The American People*); and CD-ROMS (*Mammals, The Presidents, Picture Atlas of the World*). Each graduate can purchase one copy of these products, or pass on that privilege to a fellow teacher in the school or district where they work.

This offer is good only until December 31, 1993 and requires that some paperwork be processed through the Coordinator's office. If you are interested, please call the Alliance at 831-6783, or one of the institute graduates listed above.

## NEW U.S. POLITICAL ATLAS

For those interested in the changing pattern of U.S. politics, a fine new atlas has just been published: *The Historical Atlas of State Power in Congress, 1790-1990* by Kenneth C. Martis and Gregory A. Elmes (Congressional Quarterly Books, 1993) \$56.95.

Thirty-three maps show how population shifts affect every apportionment change in U.S. history. Answers questions such as which state gained power after each census. It's a fine example of using a geographical approach to address political and historical themes. Call 800-638-1710, for more information and a brochure.

## AMEX GEOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Once again, American Express will award \$100,000 in travel prizes to teams of students and teachers grades 6-12 who produce a written report (minimum 8 pages) in answer to a question of problem concerning one of three themes: the Environment, Travel and Trade, and Cultural Diversity. Judges look for the geographic basis of the project, creativity, originality, and clarity of presentation. Deadline for project submission is February 28, 1994. For information and examples of past winners, call 800-395-GLOBE or the Alliance office at 831-6783.

**DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE  
1993-94 CALENDAR**

<b>November 14 - 20</b>	<b>Geography Awareness Week</b>
<b>February 28</b>	<b>Deadline for American Express Competition</b>
<b>April 8</b>	<b>State Competition of Geography Bee</b>
<b>June 19 - July 2</b>	<b>Alliance Summer Geography Institute</b>

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