

TESTA News...

November
2017

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- **CAST 2017
Plans**
- **CAST Dinner
Meeting**
- **Earth Science
Strand**
- **Teacher of the
Year**
- **Spring
Conference**
- **Grant**



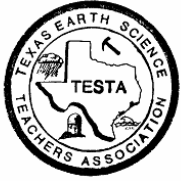
CAST 2017 – 60th Anniversary!

Promoting Advocacy, Professional Development, and Networking

Plans are underway for another fantastic CAST in Houston this November. TESTA has put together a strand of presentations that consists of three short courses and 13 workshops, along with our annual Rock Raffle, Friday Night Dinner Meeting and Share-a-Thon during the conference. Details will be in the next issue of the Tailings!

Also, check out in this issue information on the TESTA Spring Conference scheduled for this February in Johnson City, Texas.

Please be sure to stop by the booth and renew your membership at CAST or visit our website (<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/TESTA/>) and print out a renewal form and send it in. See you next week!



Texas Earth Science Teachers Association

CAST Dinner



Friday - November 10th

7:30 PM

Spaghetti Western Italian Cafe

1608 Shepherd Drive – Houston, TX. 713 – 861 - 1313



- Italian Nachos Appetizer
- Caesar and/or Garden Salad
- Spaghetti Western "Formal Wear" – bowtie pasta, grilled chicken, mushrooms, and sundried tomatoes with a roasted garlic cream sauce.

- Grilled salmon topped with artichokes, capers, and spinach with a lemon butter sauce on angel hair pasta.
- Grilled pork chop with a kiwi-jalapeno glaze.
- Selection of mini - desserts
- Tea, Soft Drinks, coffee

\$28.00 per person (tax and tip included)

*** Menu will be served "family style".**

Join us for our annual meeting, awards, and fellowship. Kelly Drinnen, Education and Outreach Specialist, NOAA Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary is our guest speaker.

Reservations and pre-payment needs to be done by Friday, November 10th!
Text or call 281-460-2026 to reserve your spot today - space is limited!

TESTA Teacher of the Year — Julie Pierce!

Every year at CAST, we honor our TESTA Teacher of the Year. This year, Julie Pierce of Sugar Land Middle School in Fort Bend ISD was selected as our Teacher of the Year. Julie has taught science for 23 years, with taking 10 years off in the middle to be with her family before returning to teaching middle school science to 6th through 8th graders. Julie graduated from Sam Houston University with a BA in Education and a minor in Earth Science and Life Science.

Here is some information about Julie's philosophy of teaching science -

Science is how we learn about the world around us. Since the state did away with earth science as a course, I have worked hard to incorporate as much of the content that I can into the state's mandated curriculum. Not only because it is my passion (it is), but because students will be better prepared to make decisions in all aspects of their life by studying earth science.

The Earth affects us in so many ways; we live on it, we fall victim to its processes such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and global warming and we use its resources for homes, energy and opulence. The causes and effects of earthquakes, types of volcanoes, orogeny, mineral identification, and rock formation are included in the plate tectonics unit. Students are encouraged to actively participate in debates on topics such as the advantages and dis-advantages of various energy resources as well as list items in their lives that come directly from the earth.

I sponsor the school's science club and incorporate geology into several of our activities - fossils being a favorite among the students. I participated in a month long EarthWatch expedition, excavating fossils in Natural Trap Cave, Wyoming. Students love stories, especially the one about a coworker and I finding a mammoth tooth while a National Geographic reporter was visiting the site. I was sure that I would be in the magazine! The tooth and the principal investigator made it into the magazine's newsletter, but neither I nor any of the other workers were mentioned – there went my 15 minutes of fame! My adventures and misadventures (we had no electricity, no running water and our bathroom consisted of an out-house and a cow trough) teach my students about the good, bad and the ugly world of science discovery.

A few years ago, I taught an elective called Interdisciplinary Studies. I designed it as a true inter-discipline class where each topic was related to math, science, and social studies. Each month we examined a different topic. One included role playing of catastrophic events - predicting an earthquake, a hurricane and a super-volcanic eruption then discussing the issue from a scientist's viewpoint, a politician's, a businessman's and a homeowner's. How can we expect informed, intelligent, socially and environmentally competent citizens if they do not understand the dynamics of the Earth?

Julie will be recognized during the TESTA dinner to be held on Friday, November 10th at the Spaghetti Western Italian Café during CAST with an engraved plaque, \$300.00 award check, and complementary tickets to the dinner

TESTA Strand of Presentations:

DATE	Start	End	Presentation/Activity	Location
11/9/2017	9:00	12:00	TESTA Presents: CER--Baby Steps for Teachers and Students	Hilton Room - 337 B
11/9/2017	3:00	4:00	TESTA Presents: Earth and Moon: Cycles and Patterns	GRB Space - 351 CF
11/9/2017	9:00	12:00	TESTA Presents: Impacts of Human Activity on Groundwater and Surface Water	Hilton Room - 339 B
11/9/2017	8:00	9:00	TESTA Presents: It's Just a Rock, or Is It?	GRB Space - 342 AD
11/9/2017	4:30	5:30	TESTA Presents: Little Blue Dot: Earth Science	GRB Space - 342 AD
11/9/2017	3:00	4:00	TESTA Presents: Science Under Pressure	GRB Space - 342 AD
11/9/2017	8:00	9:00	TESTA Presents: Science, on What Budget?	GRB Space - 351 AD
11/9/2017	11:30	12:30	TESTA Presents: Science, on What Budget?	GRB Space - 351 CF
11/9/2017	8:00	9:00	TESTA Presents: Solar System Models With McDonald Observatory	GRB Space - 351 CF
11/9/2017	1:30	2:30	TESTA Presents: Still at Work: The Secret Agents of Earth's Changing Surface	GRB Space - 351 CF
11/9/2017	1:30	2:30	TESTA Presents: Taking the Pulse of Earth and Environmental Issues	GRB Space - 342 AD
11/10/2017	9:30	10:30	TESTA Presents: Action Science: Get Up and Do Something	GRB Space - 351 CF
11/10/2017	11:00	12:00	TESTA Presents: Don't Limp Into Class With a Lame Excuse--Modify!	GRB Space - 342 AD
11/10/2017	8:00	9:00	TESTA Presents: Exploring Exoplanets in the Classroom	GRB Space - 351 CF
11/10/2017	8:00	9:00	TESTA Presents: How to Use Earthdate.org to Engage Students in Earth Science Topics	GRB Space - 342 AD
11/10/2017	9:30	10:30	TESTA Presents: Imagine The Universe	GRB Space - 342 AD
11/10/2017	9:00	12:00	TESTA Presents: Topography Is Back--Let's Look at the Maps	Hilton Room - 336 A
11/10/2017	3:00	5:00	TESTA Presents: Charles Swift Memorial Rock Raffle	Food Court
11/10/2017	7:30	10:00	TESTA Dinner & Annual Meeting - Spaghetti Western Italian Cafe	Off-Site
11/11/2017	9:30	10:30	TESTA Presents: Share-a-Thon	GRB Space - 342 AD
11/11/2017	11:00	12:00	TESTA Presents: The Night's Biggest Mystery	GRB Space - 351 CF

Don't Miss the Rock Raffle!

(Friday - 3:00 - Exhibit Hall Food Court - preview and ticket sales, raffle afterwards)

This event is always great fun and is one of the highlights at every CAST. want to miss it so grab your friends and be there! Please remember that present to win since we haul it in but you have to haul it out. ☺



Get Involved:

- Please bring all donations for the rock raffle to the booth on Thursday or Friday morning!
- If at all possible, please place items in a zip-lock bag with the identity and collection location (it).
- Please volunteer to help with set-up the raffle, help during the raffle, and clean-up.

*TESTA Share-A-Thon Presenters
Are still needed! Please Volunteer - we really need
you! (I am begging here... 😊)*



Come and be a part of CAST instead of just attending! This a great way for our members to contribute to the professional development offered by TESTA at CAST. This is a great opportunity for seasoned presenters and for people who would like to "get their feet wet" in presenting to fellow teachers. If you have a great lesson or demonstration that you have created and are willing to share it with your fellow teachers, then bring your copies and show up early at the Share-A-Thon. We need to have between 15 and 20 presenters for this fun and informative session. We like to describe a share-a-thon

as a "come and grab it, get it and go" as you round-robin around the room viewing and listening to quick explanations on how to do a classroom designed and proven lesson or activity. Each presenter will get a packet of all of the items that are being presented during the session.

TESTA is also in need of some members to help run the Share-a-Thon during the session. We need someone to monitor the door and run the counter as attendees enter the session. We also need a couple of volunteers to put together the material packets for all of the presenters and our volunteers. A great big Thank You to everyone who have already contacted me about presenting at the Share-a-Thon. I look forward to meeting everyone on Saturday!

TESTA Share-A-Thon – Saturday – 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM – GRB Space 342 AD

TESTA members all presenting different lessons/labs/activities at once in a marathon session! Come and grab it, get it and go! Open to all CAST attendees!

TESTA Spring Conference 2018

Where: **SELAH ~ Bamberger Ranch – Johnson City, Texas**

When: Friday – February 16, 2018 to Sunday – February 18, 2018

Cost: \$175.00 - Includes two nights housing, ranch tour, entrance fees, book, and meals/snacks except for Saturday night dinner in Llano, which is on your own.

Agenda:

Friday – February 16th

1:00 - Science Mill Museum – 101 South Lady Bird Lane, Johnson City, TX. 78636

- Registration & Check in (<http://www.science-mill.org>)
- Get your Avatar and then spend the afternoon exploring this 47 station hands-on, interactive discovery museum that covers chemistry, physics, biology, and earth science K-12 TEKS.

4:30 – Dinner at the Lady Bird Lane Café after the closing of the museum. (Dinner provided)

~ 5:30 – Depart for Selah, Bamberger Ranch – (will caravan together since it is difficult to find)

- Meet and greet everyone as you claim your bunk and settle in.
- Light snacks provided for evening “munchies” along with an evening program.



Saturday – February 17th (8 hours Professional Development time)

7:00 AM - Breakfast and pack your picnic lunch to enjoy at Longhorn Caverns State Park. (Carpool)

8:00 AM - Depart for off ranch activities –

9:00 AM - Longhorn Caverns State Park – geology workshop/tour into one of Texas’s only river formed caverns and surrounding area of Ink’s Lake and Kingsland. After the tour, enjoy your picnic lunch in the park and check out the gift shop.

2:15 PM Depart for Canyon of the Eagles – Colorado River Scenic Wilderness Tour Cruise through Colorado River Canyon (3:00 to 5:00). A 22 -mile round trip cruise to view the geology and ecology of the Colorado River and Lake Buchanan.

5:15 PM Depart for Llano, TX – stop and view the Llano River Falls and then dinner (**on your own**) at Cooper’s Old Time Pit BBQ, a nationally acclaimed BBQ place!

Depart for ranch after dinner (45 miles) for rest, relaxation, and desert.

9:00 PM Silent Auction & Visiting around the giant fireplace.

Sunday – February 18th (5 hours Professional Development time)

8:00 AM - Breakfast and pack up bedding/load cars.

9:00 AM - Selah Ranch Activities – Tour, Dinosaur Tracks, Water Management, Conservation, and fossil collecting.

2:00 PM - Conference evaluation, clean – up, and departure - (lunch on your own when you get to a town).

What to bring: Bedding for bunk house (twin beds - sheets, sleeping bag, favorite pillow), coat/jacket, shower supplies (soap, towels, etc.), zip – lock bags for fossil hunting, sharpie, hat, sun glasses, sunscreen, comfortable walking/hiking shoes, specimens/item for silent auction.

Please note: The Bamberger Ranch is a 5,500-acre working ranch located in the beautiful Texas Hill Country. It may be very cold at night and very warm during the day, please be prepared for any type of the usual Texas weather! Any of the activities may change on Saturday due to adverse weather conditions. Also, please

remember that most cell phones do not work on the ranch. Transportation on Saturday will be by carpooling with willing drivers!

**TESTA Spring Conference – 2018
Registration Form**

- **Registration is limited due to accommodations: 22 male and 22 female participants.**
- **Full payment MUST accompany registration to hold your place since we must confirm and pre-pay many of the venues that will be visited. (\$175.00 per person)**
- **Registration deadline is Saturday – February 10, 2018.**
- **Confirmation letter and map to ranch will be sent out via email.**
- **No cancellations after February 11 (substitutions will be allowed provided space is available in the bunkrooms).**
- **TESTA reserves the right to make agenda changes if needed due to circumstances beyond our control – weather conditions (there is two low water crossings on ranch).**

** Please make a copy of this form, complete and mail with **full payment** to:

TESTA Spring Conference
10535 Long River Dr.

Kathryn Barclay
Sugar Land, TX. 77498

Questions? Contact Kathryn Barclay at 281-460-2026 or via email – kathrynbarclay65@aol.com

PLEASE PRINT:

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

School Name _____

District Name _____

Email Address _____

Current Teaching Assignment _____

**** Please make all checks payable to TESTA or indicate credit card information below: ****

Card type: _____

Number: _____

Expiration: _____



TEXAS EARTH SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please fill out as completely as possible.

Date _____

First Name _____ M.I. _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

ESC Region _____ School/Campus _____

District/Business _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Fax _____

School/Business Email _____

Home Email _____

Job Description (all that apply)

- Student Teacher
- Teacher
- Department Head
- Supervisor/Consultant
- Principal/Administrator
- College/University Professor
- Science Specialist
- Student
- Business
- Museum
- Nontraditional
- Retired
- Other _____

Grades/ Subject (all that apply)

- Elementary Science
- Integrated Science (K-8)
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Biology
- Integrated Physics & Chemistry
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Geology/Meteorology/Oceanography
- Aquatic/Marine Science
- Environmental Science
- Advanced Placement; Intl. Baccalaureate
- Informal Science Education
- Teacher Education

Please make checks payable to **TESTA** in the amount of \$10.00.

Please mail to:

Kathryn Barclay
10535 Long River Dr.
Sugar Land, TX. 77498

Memberships run from CAST to CAST.

Would you be interested in serving on a committee? ____
Which one? _____

TESTA Grant!

Got a great idea for an Earth Day project or lesson for your students? Need money to implement your idea? Check out the TESTA Grant for up to \$500.00 in funding for non- consumable materials that are needed!

To apply for a grant, simply submit a short proposal of your plan and explain how the funds will be used to teach Earth Science based lessons to your students

Please note: TESTA grant funds are not to be used for field trips, consumables, travel or professional development. However, other sources of funding are acceptable for that portion of the activity. Preference will be given to proposals that will have a large student impact over multiple years.