

TGA News

The Newsletter of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance

Volume XVII, Issue 1, Fall 2002

Christopher Blackwell Wins the 2002 Geographic Bee

By: Brenda L. Whitsell,
State Geographic Bee Coordinator

The Tennessee Geographic Bee, sponsored by National Geographic Society, was completed Friday, April 5, 2002. The morning began with 96 students from all over the state competing in preliminary round competitions at Volunteer State Community College. The ten finalists from the preliminary rounds went on to the Nashville Public Television Studios where the final and championship rounds were taped for later release.

Christopher Blackwell from McCallie School in Chattanooga was the Tennessee winner and represented the state at the national finals in Washington, D.C. The winning question for Christopher was, "In July 2000, leaders of Russia, China and three Central Asian Republics met in the largest city in Tajikistan to discuss security and the danger of religious extremism. Using the map provided, give the number and name of this city." The answer was, "Number three and Dushanbe."

The second place winner was Graham Keen, Christ Presbyterian Academy, Nashville. Michael Stevens from Germantown Middle School took third place. Fourth place winner was Nick Grabenstein, Robertsville Middle School in Oak Ridge. Tied for fifth place were Jay Averitt from Richview Middle School in Clarksville and Dallas Simons from Bellevue Middle School in Nashville. Sam Herrmann of St. Ann School in Nashville placed sixth. Andrew Vinson from Northeast Middle School in Clarksville and Shaun Williams from Family Christian Academy in Lebanon placed seventh. Eighth place was taken by Eric Hagemeyer from Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville.

For additional information about the Tennessee Geographic Bee use the state coordinator's website (<http://www.whitsell.net>).

The National Geographic Bee - How to Involve Your School

The National Geographic Bee occurs in three stages, beginning at the school level. Schools that register for the Bee receive materials to hold their competitions. Each school winner takes a written test, and the top hundred scorers in each state and territory compete at the state level.

State-level Bees are held in the spring, and the winner of each state Bee proceeds to the national competition.

The 55 state and territory winners meet at National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C., for the national competition. The number of contestants is narrowed to ten finalists, who compete for a \$25,000 college scholarship. The second- and third-place winners receive \$15,000 and \$10,000 scholarships, respectively. *Jeopardy!* host Alex Trebek moderates the final competition.

How to Participate

Principals of U.S. schools with students in grades four through eight must register their schools to participate in the National Geographic Bee before the October 15 deadline. Principals may request registration by writing on school letterhead and enclosing a U.S. \$40 check made payable to the National Geographic Society. Send the letter to the address below. Materials for the school Bees are mailed to registered schools in November.

National Geographic Bee
National Geographic Society
1145 17th Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-4688

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Tennessee Geographic Alliance Fall Meetings

TO CONTACT or JOIN THE ALLIANCE

Want to join the Tennessee Geographic Alliance?
Want to get on our electronic email list service?
You can do it all on-line by visiting the Alliance website at <http://web.utk.edu/~tga/>. You can also contact:

Kurt Butefish
Tennessee Geographic Alliance
304 Burchfiel Geography Building
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-0925
(voice) 865-974-4841

Not all of the local chapters were able to get their meeting dates set by press-time. Be on the lookout for mailers announcing the chapter meeting in your area. Remember to BRING A FRIEND.

Murfreesboro Chapter Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 5, 2002

Time: 4:00-6:00 PM

Location: Erma Siegel Elementary School in Murfreesboro (135 West Thompson: If going south on Murfreesboro Rd., turn left at the light after International Paper.

Light complimentary supper, 4:00-4:30; Program, 4:30-6:00)

Program: Mark Abolins, Middle Tennessee State University - "Where Will All of the People Live? The Benefits and Challenges Accompanying Growth in the Nashville Area"

Contact: Carolyn Anderson at canderson@cityschools.net

Gallatin Chapter Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 19, 2002

Time: 4:00 – 7:00

Location: Sumner County Teachers' Center

Program: TBD

Contact: Susan Bunn (615) 264-6093

Email: susanbunn@comcast.net

Sonja Glaser (615) 294-6093

Email: glaserss@aol.com

N. E. Tennessee Chapter

Date: Monday, September 30, 2002

Time: 4:30 – 6:00

Location: Indian Trail Middle School
307 Carmol Drive

Johnson City, TN 37601

Kingsport Hwy (36) old highway

between Johnson City and Kingsport

Program: "The Nine Day Extravaganza" – A "real life" geography project that requires high school and middle school students to conduct research using traditional geography sources, community and Internet resources.

Contact: Cherie Chapman Phillips
hape1511@aol.com or 423-610-6000

Nashville Chapter Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Time: 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Location: Randalls Learning Center
3501 Byron Ave.

Nashville, TN 37205

Program: "Planning, Politics, and Participation: The Geography Connection"

Contact: Catherine Kelly at cgkelly@home.com or 615-333-9656

Chattanooga Chapter Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Time: 4:30-7:00 pm

Location: TBD

Program: Rick Farney "The Ukraine"

Contact: Craig Laing at Craig-Laing@utc.edu or (423) 755-4430

Free Food, door prizes and great teaching ideas!

Knoxville Chapter Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 3, 2002

Time: Registration at 4:15, Meeting at 4:45 pm

Location: Suites 226-227 UTK University Center

Program: "Science and the Geography Connection"

Contact: Kurt Butefish at kbutefis@utk.edu or 865-974-4841

Come for the breakout sessions, sandwich bar, in-service credit, and door prizes.

GEOFEST 2002

Date: Saturday, November 2, 2002

Time: Registration begins at 8:00 am.

Location: The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Program: "America's Backyard – Discovering Your Public Lands"

Contact: Kurt Butefish at kbutefis@utk.edu or 865-974-4841

The National Geographic Bee... continued

Important Dates

October 15, 2002

Register for the 2003 National Geographic Bee

November 25, 2002, through January 15, 2003

School-level Geographic Bees

April 4, 2003

State-level Geographic Bees

May 20-21, 2003

National Geographic Bee, Washington, D.C.



Announcing GEOFEST 2002

November 2, 2002

Please join us on Saturday, November 2 for this year's edition of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance's statewide meeting on the campus of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

The theme for Geofest is AMERICA'S BACKYARD – DISCOVERING YOUR PUBLIC LANDS.

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. in the third floor lobby of the Burchfiel Geography Building and the opening session is at 8:45 a.m. in Suite 226-227 of the University Center. This year's keynote speaker will be a guest from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Following the keynote, participants will choose from among many interesting sessions from 10:00 – 12:00. We will break for lunch, included with your registration, and then reconvene for final sessions from 1:15 – 2:00. Most sessions will be targeted for specific ranges of grade levels. There will also be a panel session on the impacts of the "Highly Qualified Teacher in Every Classroom by 2005/No Child Left Behind" endorsement and certification requirements.

At 2:30, those that would like will meet at the Volunteer Landing along the Tennessee River for a short walk down the Greenway that will include narration of Knoxville's waterfront history by author and columnist Jack Neely. Jack is especially qualified to lead the trip since he was the historical researcher for the Volunteer Landing project and compiled the text for the marble plaques placed along the walkway.

A registration form is included in this newsletter on page 5. Please also check out the "Call for Presentations for Geofest 2002" on page 4. We would appreciate your contributions to the program. We encourage presentations about how you incorporate public lands into your curriculum, but will certainly consider any presentation on a geographical topic.



Tennessee Solid Waste Education Project (TN SWEP)

Incorporating solid waste issues into the existing curriculum can be challenging for any busy teacher; but the Tennessee Solid Waste Education Project (TN SWEP) was created to help K-12 teachers in Tennessee do just that. TN SWEP consultants throughout the state provide free assistance to teachers on several levels. Consultants can provide curriculum workshops to help you incorporate hands-on activities on solid waste into your classroom, or create a specialized in-service program on solid waste management for your school. TN SWEP consultants can also come right into your classroom with exciting presentations on garbage, water quality, air pollution – whatever it is you want your students to learn that day! Lessons can be developed to fit into more than just science class; consultants can tailor solid waste lessons for mathematics or music! Most importantly, all TN SWEP services are FREE.

TN SWEP also has an extensive website with grade-appropriate activity guides, solid waste information, and a reuse guide for a more sustainable classroom. Science and curriculum frameworks and Tennessee information, as well as solid waste and environmental links make the site even more useful for teachers. The site address is <http://www.tnswep.ra.utk.edu> – look for improvements soon!

The TN SWEP program began in 1995 in response to the Tennessee Solid Waste Management Act of 1991. Re-authorized in 1996, this Act required solid waste education for K-12 students in Tennessee. TN SWEP is sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Division of Community Assistance and is co-directed by Catherine Wilt and Dr. Rosalyn McKeown of the Waste Management Research and Education Institute (WMREI) at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. TN SWEP aims to empower teachers and students by providing a hands-on approach to solid waste

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CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS FOR THE TENNESSEE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE'S STATEWIDE MEETING

GEOFEST 2002

Would you like to offer a presentation during Geofest ?

The theme for Geofest is **America's Backyard – Exploring Your Public Lands**. Public lands make up approximately one-third of the United States—that's nearly 600 million acres that belong to you! Yet, this national inheritance is unknown to millions of Americans. As the nation's urban areas expand, open spaces become ever more important to our quality of life. Public lands include national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges to urban parks and gardens. Included in this mix are greenways and riverways, as well as historic landmarks and landscapes. Share with your peers how you incorporate the exploration of public lands into your curriculum.

Presenters may also choose to present on any other geographical topic they wish. You might even consider teaming up with another teacher and doing a two-part presentation on related topics. All presentations will be considered.

Presentations must not exceed a maximum of 40 minutes. If you wish to present during Geofest, please complete and return the form below postmarked no later than October 4, 2002. Send it to the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, 304 Burchfiel Geography Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0925, ATTN: Kurt Butefish.

Personal Information

Your Name

Home Address

Street & Number

City

State

Zip

Home Phone _____ — _____ — _____

Work Phone _____ — _____ — _____

E-Mail Address

School _____

Paper Title or Subject Area:

Length of Presentation (in minutes):

Presentation Grade Level (K-4 / 5-8 / 9-12):

Equipment Needs:

Brief Abstract (attach another sheet if necessary):

Registration for the Tennessee Geofest 2002

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Saturday, November 2, 2002

Registration fees are as follows:

- Pre-registration (Includes Lunch Buffet) - \$20.00
- On-site registration - \$25.00

Saturday, November 2 (Detailed information will be in the meeting program)

8:00 - 8:45	—	Registration	—	3 rd Floor, Burchfiel Geography Building
8:45 - 9:45	—	Opening Session	—	University Center, Suite 226-227
Keynote address TBD				
10:00 - 10:55	—	Presentation Sessions		
11:10 - 12:00	—	Presentation Sessions		
12:00 - 1:00	—	Lunch	—	Hermitage Room, 3 rd Floor, University Center
1:15 - 2:00	—	Presentation Sessions		
2:30 - 4:00	—	Field Trip to Volunteer Landing with Guest Narrator, Author and Columnist Jack Neely		

Your Name _____

Home Address _____
Street & Number City State Zip

Home Phone _____ — _____ — _____ Work Phone _____ — _____ — _____

E-Mail Address _____

Name of School _____

Amount Enclosed

Advance Registration for Meeting — \$ 20.00 \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED — \$ _____

For advanced registration, this form and a check made out to the Tennessee Geographic Alliance must be received in the Alliance office no later than October 18, 2001. ***Programs will be mailed to advance registrants.***

Mail registration form and check to: Tennessee Geographic Alliance, Dept. 304 Burchfiel Geography Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0925, ATTN: Kurt Butefish. Direct E-Mail inquiries to kbutefis@utk.edu.

Free Teaching Materials. Renew Old Friendships. Make New Friends.

Seeing the World Through American Eyes

By KEITH M. BELL

I had just made the mistake I continually tell my students never to make. I made an assumption that was based purely on American thinking. I thought that life in another part of the world would somehow parallel our life experiences here in the States. I saw the world through American eyes and that's a big mistake when trying to understand how people approach life in other parts of the world.

I was having a discussion with our Ukrainian exchange student, Marta Tyslyak. I asked what the future held for her when she returned home. She said she had been looking into universities around Ukraine but doubted that she could get in for a year or so. I asked if she would get a job in the meantime (making an American error in the process). She replied that there were no jobs for uneducated people in her country. She said unemployment is very high and one must have an education to get even the most mundane of jobs.

What a systematic misunderstanding I had had. I thought, like an American, that she would just get a job somewhere to make a little money before heading off to college. It's nothing for our teens to get a summer or after-school job to pay for cars, dates, or college. How much for granted had I taken our way of life. I fell into that trap of assuming everything in the world works as it does here. How wrong I was, until I thought like a Ukrainian. It then made sense. Ukraine, like most of the former Soviet republics, is struggling in overcoming the economic shortcomings of its communist past. When the communists controlled the economic system there were plenty of jobs because the government could create them at its whimsy. Lots of countries that had centralized economies are finding out that it's not that simple since globalization has kicked into high gear.

Marta told me that bribery was a common occurrence in her country and a way to get things done. She said that even some of the teachers were corrupt. She remarked that they would purposely give students bad grades, then request a parent-teacher conference where fitting grades could be purchased for the child. The parents, for the most part, would pay these "fees" to position their child for university appointment. I thought that was a dastardly way for teachers to perform their duties. But then I recalled an October 3, 1998 article from *Newsweek*. The article stated that teachers in the southern Siberian town of Altai had not been paid in over seven months. The city government did not have the money to pay their salaries because

the Russian economy had crashed. That's when the city officials decided to pay the teachers in the only way that they could - by giving them a coffin and toilet paper in lieu of scarce rubles. Although the teachers held out for vodka (and its immense value on the black market), it's no wonder they had to generate money through such immoral means as Marta described. It seems hard to comprehend this kind of corruption considering our American standard, but then our teachers don't have to deal with not being paid for months.

I told Marta that our country has its own kind of corruption, but it's not one that is so prevalent that everyone knows about it or accepts it. I've seen that kind of corruption during my travels to Mexico, China, and India. It's not so bad for the Americans who travel there, but it is a truly burdensome weight for the locals who have to contend with corruption constantly. This is how it sometimes works in Latin America, South Africa, and many other places in the world, and our American mode of thinking must be revised for us to understand.

As I pondered deeply about the matter, other events concerning American's misunderstanding of the world came to mind. While my wife and I traveled in China, we traveled by bus in the major cities where we saw first-hand the traffic jams of a developing country. It wasn't anything like we had experienced before. Cars, bicycles, buses, and taxis all performed a hectic highway ballet that at best could be considered organized chaos. People turned against traffic, made their own driving lanes, and played endless games of chicken. However, they never drove excessive speeds while I was watching. I never witnessed ill tempers by drivers or pedestrians. Moreover, everyone seemed to get where they were going without delay. However, the Americans that traveled with our tour group were astonished at the "blatant disregard for the law". My wife and I simply accepted that this was the way things were done in this part of the world. Besides, whose law was being broken anyway? The others dismissed these Chinese tendencies as backward and primitive. Another American miscalculation.

In another example, American disconnect was rampant just after the September 11 terrorist attacks. Everyone was asking how Arab/Muslims could do such a thing, but few knew anything about where the terrorists came from or what they espoused. In fact, it seemed that lots of people wanted to learn more about Islam because bookstores had a hard time keeping titles about the subject on the shelves. Maps of the Middle East were also in short supply because everyone wanted to learn about Islamic peoples and lands. I felt it was time we take advantage of a bad situation and teach. I invited a local imam (an Islamic holy man) to speak on our campus so that students and

teachers alike could learn what made the Arab/ Islamic world tick. But because of my invitation a firestorm of discussion ensued among the educators at our institution. "Should he be here?" "The timing's not right." "Will the event be a safe one?" These were the questions and statements that floated about.

To my good fortune most people supported the event, and almost all came away with a positive image of Islam when it concluded. But others took time off from school so that they wouldn't have to deal with the imam's seemingly unsavory message (as if the problems of the world simply go away if one doesn't acknowledge them). These people viewed the event not only with passive ignorance, but they were actively opposed to learning anything about other peoples' ways of doing things. Knowledge is power and they refused it.

Like most Americans, I know that our country leads the world in most any category one wants to consider. However, I feel that we will do ourselves a great disservice if we do not consider the other 95 percent of people living on this planet. We may be the global leader in economic output, have the strongest military, and maintain the freest of democracies, but it will do us no good if we can't connect with our international neighbors. How can we expect to lead the world into the 21st century without knowing who we're leading, where they're located, and what direction they would like to go? In my time as a teacher I've learned to consider all these things before making assumptions about someone else's world. Well, at least most of the time.

BELL is an Assistant Professor of Geography at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin, Tennessee.



Dr. Charles Faulkner, professor of Anthropology at UTK, describes to participants of the Cultural Diversity of American South Institute how cultural artifacts were found this summer during a dig at Marble Springs, TN.

McClung Museum Hosts Exciting New Exhibits

The Frank H. McClung Museum at UT will open two new exhibits in fall 2002 that relate to earth science. The new permanent exhibit *Geology and Fossil History of Tennessee*, which replaces the old exhibit of the same name, will feature displays relating to physical geology, including minerals, plate tectonics and the rock cycle, as well as historical geology. Dioramas showing life in Tennessee at different periods of time, from the Cambrian to the Pleistocene, provide context for the finely detailed and excellent quality fossils on display. Featured fossils include animals from the Gray fossil site. Up-to-date earth science news is provided by the Earth Bulletin, a special continuous computer link to the American Museum of Natural History, New York

The Museum will also open a new temporary exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution entitled *The Burgess Shale: Evolution's Big Bang*. Featuring the wonderful Cambrian-age fossils, ca. 540 million years, of the Canadian formation called the Burgess Shale, the exhibition explains the explosion of diverse animal forms that occurred during the Cambrian, and the relationship of these forms to more familiar later ones. Concepts of scientific classification and paleontological methods are also major ideas of the exhibit.

Both exhibits open to the public August 30, 2002. The Burgess Shale: Evolution's Big Bang will run through December 1, 2002. For reservations or more information, please contact Debbie Woodiel, 865-974-2144, or email woodield@utk.edu.



Earth Science Fair at UTK

October 10, 2002

Earth science activities for middle and high school students from Knox and surrounding counties. See rocks from other worlds, pan for gold, create your own earthquake, and much much more.

As part of national Earth Science Week, the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Tennessee (Knoxville) will host the 3rd Annual Earth Science Fair for middle and high school students, teachers and parents. Volunteer faculty, students and staff will provide a variety of demonstrations, displays and hands-on activities. Topics will include: Geology and Fossil History of

Continued page 8...

Earth Science continued

Tennessee, Fossils of the Burgess Shale, The Moon, Mars and Meteorites, Geophysics, Geologic Time Trail, Physical Geography, Remote Sensing, Gold Panning, Earth Science Careers, and Groundwater Hydrology.

Participation is free. Enrollment is limited. Reservations are required and will be dealt with on a "first come, first served" basis. For registration forms and/or more information contact Barbara Burton (865-250-9405, bburton2@utk.edu).

Sponsoring organizations include: UT Department of Geological Sciences, UT Department of Geography, UT College of Arts and Sciences, UT Frank H. McClung Museum, Tennessee Division of Geology, Tennessee Geographic Alliance, East Tennessee Geological Society, East Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society, Tennessee Earth Science Teachers, and local businesses.



Alliance Involved in the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory

While some high school students took the summer off, 58 students from 8 southeastern states learned about scientific research through hands-on experience. The Tennessee Geographic Alliance teamed up with UT's Math and Science Regional Center (MSRC), the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI), the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and the North Carolina Geographic Alliance to give these young people an opportunity to do field research with scientists from the University's Geography Department, Discover Life in America, and the Park Service. The project was supported in part through a \$48,040 Grosvenor Grant for Building a Toolbox of Skills: Immersing Teachers and Students in Experiential Learning that the National Geographic Education Foundation awarded the Tennessee Geographic Alliance.

Using the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as a laboratory, students and scientific mentors actively participated in the ATBI. The goal of the ATBI is to produce a comprehensive inventory of all life forms in the Park. The students, who were participants in the MSRC six-week residential program, learned scientific methods for gathering data on plants and animals, including using global positioning satellite systems. On Saturday, July 13th, all 58 students, plus teachers, scientists, and volunteers met at Clingman's Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains to do a trail-based inventory of ferns and Turk's Cap lilies. All species found along the specifically designated trails were noted and the data recorded. Students then input the data into geographic information systems databases and produced distribution maps of the flora and fauna they

inventoried. As a result of their work, the young people took away an understanding of scientific and research processes and contributed directly to an important scientific program.

The National Geographic Society's Grosvenor Grant program is designed to inspire teachers and students to be lifelong learners with the world as their classroom. This year, the Foundation plans to award \$2 million in grants for projects that offer students direct learning experiences in environmental education or physical geography; professional development projects for teachers; programs that strengthen or expand mentoring among teachers; state curriculum and assessment tools for geography; and new teaching practices. The partnership between the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, MSRC and the ATBI is an exemplary project that links resources toward achieving the goal of experiential learning for students.

"National Geographic is proud of its role in restoring geography to the classroom. We believe today's students must have a sound knowledge of geography to prepare for their role as tomorrow's stewards of the planet," said Barbara Chow, executive director of the National Geographic Society Education Foundation. "The Grosvenor Grants are an ideal tool to help teachers bring geography into kids' daily lives."

The Math and Science Regional Center is funded through a Title IV, U.S. Department of Education grant. Participation is open to high school students in grades 9, 10 and 11 who meet the program eligibility guidelines. For more information, contact the center at (865) 974-4466. For information about the *Building a Toolbox for Success* program, contact Kurt Butefish at (865) 974-4841.

To learn more about Discover Life in America and the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory, visit www.discoverlife.org.

Would you like to get your students involved in the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory?

The Tennessee Geographic Alliance will be seeking funding to host a teacher professional development workshop focused on training teachers in ATBI data gathering, manipulation, and mapping during the summer of 2003. Our goal is to provide the ATBI with core groups of teachers and their students that can be called upon to participate when data collection opportunities arise in the Park.

Look for more information in the spring issue of the TGA newsletter.

Two Teams to Trek Across Nation on Public Lands

Two teams of adventures will embark on a first-of-its-kind trip across the nation's majestic parks and open lands on July 31 as part of a campaign to introduce Americans to their "larger backyard," the vast public lands throughout the country.

Including a New York City firefighter, National Geographic Alliance teachers, and a retired Marine, the teams will trek from the Canadian and Mexican borders through six western states by foot and horse, bike and canoe, ATV and boat some 3,000 miles to meet in Salt Lake City on September 28. Their entire route will be on public lands, national parks and forests, wildlife refuges and more, and their story will be told along the way by videophones and over the Internet.

Conceived and planned by the Public Lands Interpretive Association, the Public Lands Journey is being sponsored by a combination of public and private partners, including the Departments of Interior and Agriculture, National Geographic Society, American Honda, and others, in order to educate Americans about the importance and majesty of the nation's vast public lands and waters.

A kick-off media event celebrating the start of American Frontiers: A Public Lands Journey will be conducted at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., Wednesday, July 31, at 9 a.m. The event will feature Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, White House representatives, National Geographic Society President and CEO John Fahey and other partners.

Live satellite video feeds from the trek's two starting locations in Montana and New Mexico also will be featured.

"The purpose of the Public Lands Journey is to highlight the grandeur, uses and value of public lands, and the opportunities and responsibilities these lands present to American citizens," said Lisa Madsen, executive director of Public Lands Interpretive Association and chief architect of the program.

An important component of the trek will be to reach out to local communities and schools in order to educate all Americans, particularly the nation's youth, about our public lands legacy. In addition to a series of regional events along the trek route, both the public and the media will be able to follow the trek online via its website www.americanfrontiers.com. A wealth of information about public lands and ways the public can enjoy and help conserve public lands is

available at www.nationalgeographic.com/geographyaction.

"These lands provide important benefits to all of us, from wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation to minerals, food and fiber, as well as mental and spiritual renewal. Most importantly, they are available for all of us to enjoy, if we care for them properly as good stewards," Madsen added.

American Frontiers is a public awareness campaign designed to educate Americans about the history, value, relevancy and role of public lands through educational products and activities. American Frontiers will focus national attention on public lands through two programs: American Frontiers: A Public Lands Journey and Geography Action! 2002: America's Backyard, an educational program of the National Geographic Society.

Nancee Hunter, Program Manager
Education Foundation
The National Geographic Society
1145 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036-4688
202 / 775-6740

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/education>

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographyaction>



Tennessee Solid Waste...continued

education. An ultimate goal is to promote a basis for environmentally literate future citizens and leaders in Tennessee by supplying the knowledge necessary for more environmentally responsible behavior.

Are you interested in teaching your students about garbage, and never expected it to be this easy? Please contact the TN SWEP representative in your area: East Tennessee-Brenda Lee, 423-337-4081; Middle Tennessee - Karen Hargrove, 615-898-2660, khargrov@mtsu.com; Northwest Tennessee - Janelle Spratt, 731-587-7143, jspratt@utm.edu; West Tennessee - Sarah Hibbett, 901-989-5128, shibbett@aeneas.net. For further questions about TN SWEP, call the WMREI at 865-974-4251. And remember, all TN SWEP services are provided FREE to you.

Tennessee Electronic Atlas Update

By Geography Professor Dr. Bruce Ralston, UT Grad Students Dave Ralston and Kendrick Curtis

One challenge for teachers of geography is obtaining up-to-date maps and data. High quality maps can be expensive, time consuming to make, and data can be difficult to find and sort. Over the last two years, members of the Department of Geography at UT have pursued the idea of an Internet based atlas. The goal of the Tennessee Electronic Atlas (TEA) is to provide information on Tennessee in the form of high quality maps, downloadable reports, and interactive mapping. The Atlas has been on-line since Fall 2001, yet since this project is in constant transition, more elements are completed, tested, and added as more data becomes available. This site will be updated regularly.

The TEA web site provides data in various forms and on numerous subjects. The Thematic (Topic) Data pages provide two divisions of data: state topics and basic county information.

- The State Topics section is organized around various topics so the diverse data and images pertaining to a topic may be accessed easily. These topics presently include: Agriculture, Education, the Physical Landscape, Economics, and Society.
- The County Information section serves as a gateway to detailed information for all ninety-five counties

A powerful segment of the Atlas centers on the Web based Geographic Information System (GIS) section where you and your students may map and analyze pertinent Census 2000 data (as available) on a variety of topics and at different geographic levels. You may interact with and fit the data to your specific needs. Once you have selected some data and a level at which to map it, the map will be created on the Atlas server and sent to your web browser. The remainder of TEA is comprised of links to other data resources, information about the Atlas project, and white papers of how this technology is implemented. Some sections of TEA may not be implemented yet, but they are being worked on even as you read this.

The creators of TEA would like to encourage you to visit the site, make use of the available information, and provide any feedback about how the site might better serve you. Your opinions and suggestions about the kinds of data

found on the site would be helpful. Tutorials have been developed and placed on the site to assist you and your students in becoming proficient with the Atlas.

One goal of the software is to be intuitive and straight forward, however, should you encounter any difficulty, do not hesitate to contact TEA for support. Comments or suggestions can be e-mailed directly to TEA personnel by visiting the Guest Book on the site. To access the Atlas, point your browser to: <http://tnatlas.geog.utk.edu/tea/>

TEA would like to thank the following sponsors: the UT Department of Geography, the Community Technical Assistance Service (CTAS), and the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. Without their generous contributions and support, none of this would have been possible.

Odds and Ends from the Coordinator

by Kurt Butefish

The Alliance has survived the latest budget fiasco unscathed. There were a few bumps in the road during the shutdown, but we were ultimately deemed "essential" and forged ahead.

I would like to welcome Dr. Jeffrey Hawkins and Brian Fuller to the organization. Jeff has kindly agreed to serve as Regional Coordinator for the West Tennessee Region; he is Associate Professor of Instruction & Curriculum Leadership at The University of Memphis. Brian is Supervisor for the Department of Instruction for Shelby County Schools and is serving as the Memphis Chapter Coordinator until we can find a teacher to take over. Any volunteers out there?

June 10th – 14th Charlie McRorie and his excellent team of Susan Gratz, Marcia Whetsel, and Bradley Bays presented a one-week workshop on *Geography and Educational Technology* at Jefferson County High School in Dandridge. The workshop was a huge success. Twenty-one people applied and 20 attended. It was, by far, the most technologically advanced group they had worked with, and they commented to me that, as instructors, they were challenged themselves.

On June 16th we welcomed 24 teachers from all over the U.S. to the Knoxville campus for a four-week institute on *Cultural Diversity of the American South* funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities with additional support coming from the National Geographic Society Education Foundation. The teachers ranged from 1st grade to high school and came from as far away as Massachusetts, California, and Alaska.

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Announcing the Lottie and Alden Beverly Geography Teacher of the Year Award
AND
The Tom and Stella Mullane Geography Teacher of the Year Award

The second LOTTIE AND ALDEN BEVERLY GEOGRAPHY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD and TOM AND STELLA MULLANE GEOGRAPHY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD will be presented during the 2002 GEOFEST. The BEVERLY award is bestowed for superior achievement in the teaching of geography in grades K-6. The MULLANE award is bestowed for superior achievement in the teaching of geography in grades 7-12. These awards each carry a \$500 cash prize. Nominations are currently being accepted by the Tennessee Geographic Alliance*. Please submit your nomination on the attached form and send to: Kurt Butefish, 304 Burchfiel Geography Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0925. Nominations must be received in the Alliance office by September 30th, 2002.

This teacher is being nominated for (check one): _____ The BEVERLY award (Grades K-6)
_____ The MULLANE award (Grades 7-12)

Your Name _____

Home Address _____
Street and Number

_____ City State Zip

Your Phone Number _____ - _____ - _____
(in case we need to reach you with questions about your nominee)

Name of Person You Wish to Nominate _____

Nominee's School _____

Grade Level and Subjects Nominee Teaches _____

Reasons You Believe Nominee Deserves the BEVERLY or MULLANE GEOGRAPHY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Odds and Ends continued

While all of this was going on, we kicked off the first year of what we hope is a two-year program funded by the NGS. The title of the project is *Building a Toolkit of Skills: Immersing Teachers and Students in Experiential Learning*. We are working with the non-profit Discover Life in America, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, UTK's Math and Science Regional Center's Upward Bound Program and the North Carolina Geographic Alliance.

As a part of the project we had two teachers and three graduate students teaching geography and mentoring the Upward Bound students. Some of the students completed special research projects in the Park. All 58 students participated in a major research effort for the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) on July 13th. The students learned to use Global Positioning Satellite units to help gather data on certain plant species in the Park. They then input the data into a database for use by ArcInfo software to create distribution maps of the plant species.

It is my hope that, based on the success of this summer's work, we can obtain funding for next summer to train 25 teachers in Tennessee and 25 more in North Carolina so that they and their

students become resources on which the ATBI can draw when they are hosting data gathering activities in the Park.

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The Alliance also received funding from the National Geographic Society Education Foundation to sponsor two teachers in fieldwork with Dr. Carol Harden of the UTK Geography Department on *Water Resource Issues in the Andes*. Jane Luhn of Rocky Hill Elementary School in Knoxville, and Katy Couch of Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga spent three weeks in the Cuenca, Ecuador area examining the watersheds that provide drinking water to the city in light of regional hydrology and land use change. We should get a few reports from them in upcoming meetings and newsletters. The grant from the NGS came in honor of Sid Jumper's extraordinary vision and efforts to offer teachers international field experience with research scientists.

I encourage each of you to attend a chapter meeting this fall or the Geofest in October. Please remember to bring a friend.



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