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Maine School Science Volunteers **Volunteer Training Program**

Following is the agenda used in the most recent volunteer training class. Other classes will be scheduled in the future as required. It is expected that the 2007 program will be similar to that below. The names of the presenters will probably change as will the dates.

MAINE SCHOOL SCIENCE VOLUNTEERS **AGENDA FOR 2006 VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM**

The new 2006 volunteers as well as all or the other MSSV volunteers and guests are invited. Anyone other than the 2006 volunteer class please e-mail to confirm your intention to attend at info@maine-ssv.org.

Following is the agenda for the 2006 volunteer training program:

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|--------|------------|---|------------------|
| Dates: | Session 1. | October 28 (Saturday) | 1:00 pm to 4:00 |
| | Session 2. | November 4 (Saturday) | 1:00 pm to 4:00 |
| | Session 3 | November 11 (Saturday) | 1:00 pm to 4:00 |
| | Session 4 | November 18 (Saturday) | 9:00 am to 12:00 |
| | Session 4. | Time and place to be announced, probably UNE campus in Portland | |

Content: The purpose of the training session is to equip the new volunteers with the knowledge and background that will facilitate their introduction to the classroom environment and clear up any misunderstanding they may have regarding their roll in assisting the teachers. We will not attempt to present the scientific material that we hope that they will support in the school. We assume that the volunteers bring that with them to the program. For those volunteers who may need technical assistance with content we have another mechanism that they can draw on for help. The long standing program of training based on classroom demonstrations drawn from the green "Source Book" is no longer the basis of the MSSV program, so classroom demonstrations will not be a major component of training syllabus. Nevertheless some time will be given to introducing the students to the concept because some variation of these demonstrations may be useful.

Session1: October 28
Introduction to the MSSV program
Edmond Pelta

History of the program in Maine. Origin of RE-SEED at Northeastern University. Why the program started. Activities in other states. New programs in which the



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organization at Northeastern is presently involved.

How the Maine organization is organized. Who does what, how we spend what little money we have and how we get that money.

Program Models, “Barking up every tree in the forest”

Toni Mercadante

Getting our volunteers accepted and integrated into the science classrooms has not been as easy as one would expect. We have tried lots of things that don't work and we have found some that seem to be well accepted. Toni will talk about her experiences in the classrooms and describe the working model which we now support. This model is based on flexibility and the willingness to do whatever the teacher needs and wants to do as long as it is consistent with the general goal of MSSV and the ability of the volunteers.

What some of the volunteers are doing this year

Edmond and Toni

Session 2: Nov. 4.

Annenberg DVD

The Annenberg foundation and Harvard -Smithsonian center have produced a DVD that illustrates some of the difficulties of teaching science in the middle and high schools, and explores why some concepts are not learned even though they are well presented. These programs have produced thoughtful discussion whenever they are presented and we plan on showing about one and a half hours of the 2 hour 10 minute DVD. We will allow time for discussion.

Learning theory

Frank Broadbent

Present theory about how middle school kids learn and what they are assumed to be capable of learning. How to structure material so the students are likely to understand it and even retain some of it.

Session 3: Nov. 11

Maine Learning Results

Anita Bernhardt, Maine, Dept of Education

This is very important to us because these programs explain a lot of the decisions about classroom science teaching. We will also tell volunteers where to find copies of the “results”. We hope to learn something about the assessment program as it is now practiced and how it is expected to evolve.



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Teacher's round table

We will try to get two teachers who have worked with MSSV volunteers to talk about their programs. What they think works well, what should be improved, and what doesn't work at all. We will also ask them to invent the program that they would like. The volunteers can question the teachers about the program.

Classroom discipline

John Page, Principal of Brunswick Middle School

Stuff happens sometimes. We should stay out of this and we would all like to, but sometimes things come up in a classroom and the volunteers can't avoid getting involved. John will tell how the teachers deal with discipline problems, what they would like the volunteers to do when something bad happens, what we should not do and what we might do if we are forced into a situation where we can't help getting involved. In the hundreds of hours spent in Maine classrooms most volunteers have not seen any problem that could not be handled by a few well chosen words from the teacher, but we should know what is expected if things get out of hand.

Session 4: Nov. 18

Classroom demonstrations

Rip Emerson, David Rolf

While the model that uses volunteers to present "in front of the class" demonstrations has limited relevance today, there are times when - due to limited equipment, difficulty of demonstrating, or safety - this is the only way to go. In most cases "hands on" demonstrations in which individual students or groups of students work on an experiment are more successful. They require more and better preparation and the teacher will benefit from the extra set of hands in the classroom. We will spend a whole class on presenting some demonstrations of both kinds in order to give the new volunteers some idea of what will work in the classroom. We will pick a few subjects and ask the volunteers to think up ways of demonstrating these concepts. We will also demonstrate some "front of the class" demonstrations that have worked well in the past.

Summary, "go fourth and multiply, or whatever"

Edmond Pelta, Deb Daggett