

# NEWSLETTER

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## Free Environmental Education Book

The non-profit teachers' magazine Green Teacher is willing to send a free copy of the 240 page book *Teaching Green - The Middle Years* to any NAPOMLE member who will be teaching courses for in-service or pre-service teachers during the next year and who has an interest in environmental education. It is our hope that recipients will find the book sufficiently worthy to introduce the book to their students and allow those interested to take advantage of our volume discounts by ordering as a group. While we hope that this provides a means of getting these books into the hands of as many educators as possible, our main interest is in having teachers learn what the books have to offer them and provide them with a way to obtain copies more cheaply.

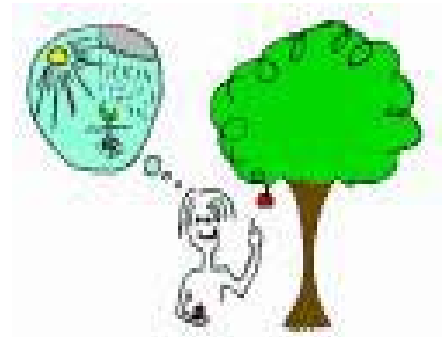
To learn more about the book and view the table of contents, please visit [www.greenteacher.com](http://www.greenteacher.com).

If you decide to take advantage of this offer, send an email to Co-editor Tim Grant at [tim@greenteacher.com](mailto:tim@greenteacher.com) (or send a fax to 416-925-3575) that includes the following information:

- 1) Name
- 2) Institution
- 3) Institutional address
- 4) Course name and number, and when you teach this course each year (i.e. summer or fall semesters, etc)
- 5) Phone number and email address

6) Whether the above course(s) are taught to pre-service or in-service teachers

Those who have questions are welcome to call our toll-free number: (888) 804-1486.



## New Feature on NAPOMLE Web Site!

Please submit your position announcements for posting on the NAPOMLE web site ([www.napomle.org](http://www.napomle.org)). You may email any position announcement that would be of interest to NAPOMLE members to webmaster Lynn Stallings ([lstalling@kennesaw.edu](mailto:lstalling@kennesaw.edu)). Consider including a link to your institution and an email contact. Postings will be removed each May unless otherwise indicated.



## Message from the President: Barbara Blackburn

*"Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." - Henry Ford*

During a recent internet surf, I ran across this quote by Henry Ford, and found it applies to many situations. I see this regularly with the graduate cohorts I teach, especially as I try to help them reach higher levels of learning and leadership. As I and my colleagues work with new faculty members, I am reminded of this cycle. And this is also true for NAPOMLE. As a relatively small group within the National Middle School Association, we've made progress simply by keeping together. However, within the last two years, we've focused on working together around several projects, which will hopefully lead us to higher levels of success. One tangible expression of our efforts is the work-in-progress database of state information about middle level education. The design calls for a clickable map on our website. If you chose a

particular state, it would lead you to links about the state association, state department, colleges and universities with middle level programs, and middle level certification. We've been gathering this information, and Lynn Stallings at Kennesaw State is posting a prototype with limited information so you can "see" what it will look like. If you are willing to help with information from your state, please contact your Regional Directors.

Our sessions at the National Middle School Conference in Philadelphia were productive and well-attended. Betty Dore addresses the Best Practices Session elsewhere in this newsletter, but suffice it to say that providing an opportunity for professors to share and learn about effective practices in middle level teacher education has become one of the best efforts of our association. During the business meeting, we discussed general items and elected officers. See NAPOMLE Board of Directors list on page 4 of this newsletter for complete list.

Our colleagues at Kennesaw State University shared information about the new format of the journal and the website. If you haven't visited the site ([www.napomle.org](http://www.napomle.org)), please do so. They are doing a great job! Our visibility at the conference was higher than in the past, enhanced in part by the NAPOMLE ribbons provided to everyone to attach

to their nametags. Although we also ordered lapel pins for the association, due to a slight mix-up with the vendor, they were not delivered. He agreed to mail them individually to those who attended the conference, and those should be in your mailbox by the time you receive this newsletter. In another slight delay, since John Myers (pictured below) was not at the NMSA conference, we were not able to present him a plaque for his outstanding service as editor of *Current Issues in Middle Level Education*. We have forwarded it to him, and he sent us a picture <insert where the picture is>.

As always, I hope this newsletter finds you doing well. You're probably feeling too busy; and it seems there is never enough time to focus on the big picture! But small steps add up to a journey, so take a moment today to encourage a colleague, or write a letter to the editor about something positive with middle level education, or something else that makes you feel like you are making a difference. After all, you are making a difference everyday.



**John Myers**

## **NAPOMLE BEST PRACTICES**

Just received the good news that our session focusing on Quality Teaching Strategies has been accepted by the National Middle School Association for the Fall Conference in Nashville, TN, November 2-4. Now we will be looking for all your great ideas and examples of how you use best practices to teach middle school students all over the nation and the world. Keep an eye out for the RFP as it will be coming along soon.

Additionally, February 9-10, 2007, at the NMSA Middle School Symposium, which will be held in Destin, Florida at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Resort, NAPOMLE will be hosting a gallery walk, again highlighting all your best practices for other Symposium participants to see and learn from. RFPs for this session will be coming along soon as well – so keep an eye out.

Be sure to sharpen your pencils and get those proposals in as soon as possible (I know, as soon as I get the information out to you). Certainly look forward to seeing you all in Nashville. Should be a fantastic conference.

## **NAPOMLE YOUR VOICE IN MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION**

Have there been times when you feel you are all alone in your ivory tower of higher education? What are all the new strategies and resources available to you? How are the new standards and laws affecting how you work with pre-service interns in the local middle schools? What is involved in becoming a Professional Development School Partnership? Classroom management strategies? Issues with bullying?

If you are a professor of middle level education, your support organization is the National Association of Middle Level Educators (NAPOMLE). We provide an on-line journal, a comprehensive web sit which is currently under construction to provide opportunities to share course syllabi and certification information, as well as networking and collaboration opportunities.

We meet annually at the NMSA Conference. For only \$25 you can be a member too. Make your check payable to NAPOMLE and mail it to: Jay Hertzog, Treasurer, College of Education, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, Slippery Rock, PA 16057.

## **North Carolina & South Carolina Professors of Middle Level Education Sponsor Symposium**

The South Carolina and North Carolina Professors of Middle Level Education (POMLE) organizations are sponsoring a middle level teacher education symposium in Charleston, SC May 17-19, 2006. . The goals for the symposium are to share successful practices in middle level teacher education; to enhance networking opportunities among stakeholders; and to promote advocacy strategies for middle level education. Featured speakers include Sue Swaim, John Lounsbury, and Ken McEwin, as well as SC Deputy Superintendent Janice Poda. The symposium will include "A Showcase of Best Practices" session that will feature roundtable presentations of best practices in higher education at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

For general questions about the symposium contact the co-chairs,

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