



Iowa Science Teaching Section

Iowa Academy of Science

November 15, 2008

Nadine Weirather, Editor

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Calling for Presenters!

Why not register right away to be a presenter at next year's ISTS Fall Conference?

Registrations are open. Perhaps you've been thinking of a topic. Instead of forgetting about it, go ahead and sign up now. Have it out of the way! Whether you are presenting alone or with a partner, don't wait... **The ISTS Fall Conference will be in Des Moines on Wednesday, October 28, 2009!** Proposal deadline: June 1, 2009.

Find the proposal form at

<http://ists.pls.uni.edu/forms/fall-conf/present/>

A Message From the ISTS Chair, Morgan Masters:

Wow, what a great Fall Conference for Iowa Educators. I certainly hope you were able to attend the conference this past October 22-23. More than 400 science educators found their way to Des Moines to experience a great Wednesday evening at the Science Center of Iowa, followed by a full day of presentations and sharing of experiences. The exhibitor hall was full of booths offering new ideas, materials and even free information. There were more than 70 presentations made by science educators from across Iowa.

I made a list of what I had the opportunity to experience in this short period of time. Among the highlights were a “Mashed Potato Martini”, an IMAX presentation, listening to Dr. Goldstein talk about distances in space, Dr. John Dunkhase discussing Dr. Seuss, Storm Chaser tales, storyteller Charles Darwin (almost in person), a new approach to learning about the Periodic Table of Elements (and I thought I knew a lot about this), a session on research opportunities for students, and best of all -- conversations with science colleagues new and old from around the State of Iowa. There were also a number of other presentations I wanted to attend but you can only fit so much into the short amount of time we have at the conference.

I guess the moral to this story is: **we as ISTS members have a great many opportunities to learn and share positive and effective science education strategies and experiences.** When you leave a great conference you are rejuvenated and fired up. You are ready to put all the new ideas into your curriculum. Students in your class also recognize a little additional spring in your step and a positive approach in your discussions and lessons. I believe it is one of the best methods of improving your effectiveness in the classroom.

I encourage all of you, as members, to get more involved in ISTS. Volunteer to work on a committee, help out at the conference (we need lots of that), or run for an ISTS office. One of the very best things you can do as a member is to invite your non-member colleagues to join and tell them about all of the available opportunities. Lastly, pick out one of your favorite lessons or teaching strategies and plan to present at next Fall Conference.

I'll save you a seat down front at the luncheon!

Morgan Masters, ISTS Chair 2008

From the Fall Conference Chair, Traci Maxted:

THANKS!

Danke schön, Merci beaucoup, Efcharisto, Kiitoksia, Vinaka, Thank you, Dank u wel, Dêkuji, A dupe, Spasibo, Guneshcheesh, Tack så mycket, Muchas gracias, Domo arigato, Grazie

From: <http://www.elite.net/~runner/jennifers/thankyou.htm>

There are hundreds of ways to say thank-you and all of them seem inadequate to express my appreciation for all the outstanding work done by so many volunteers. The featured speakers; coordinators for facilities, registration, exhibitors, corporate sponsors, awards, evening activities, and breakfasts; the registration and bookstore workers; many of the exhibitors and all of the presenters were volunteers! Think about that! All of these many people have jobs, families, parent teacher conferences, grading, family activities and illnesses, lessons to plan and houses to maintain. And they still made the time to put together a terrific conference for the teachers of Iowa. These are folks that really believe in the mission of the Iowa Academy of Science to promote science and science education in the state.

I know I am leaving out many, many helpful people by naming the coordinators and I mean no disrespect. There are many hands that make this type of event possible and not one of them is insignificant. A very sincere thank you to everyone that helped or attended.

The Conference Committee (listed alphabetically by last name)

Many of these wonderful people helped in several capacities!

Sara Coleman (Chemistry Breakfast Coordinator)

Tom Ervin (Awards Coordinator and Conference Photographer)

Lorie Hazlett (Elementary Breakfast Coordinator)

Barb Jacobsen (Exhibit Hall Coordinator)

Robert Kleinow (Bookstore)

Kathy Lockard (ISTS Secretary)

Jason Martin-Hiner (Bookstore)

Morgan Masters (ISTS Chair and Publicity)

Jeanne Rogis (ISTS Treasurer, Publicity and Middle School Breakfast Coordinator)

Alicia Schiller (Life Science Breakfast Coordinator)

Ernie and Cheryl Schiller (Decorations)

Allison Schmitt (Facilities Coordinator)

Aaron Spurr (Registration Coordinator)

De Anna Tibben (ISTS Vice Chair, , Wednesday Workshop Coordinator)

Gale Vermeulen (Past ISTS Chair and 2007 Conference Chair)

Bob Veselis (Bookstore)
Rick Wells (Corporate Sponsor Coordinator)
Nadine Weirather (Newsletter Editor, Publicity)
Teri Wiese (Earth Science Breakfast Coordinator)
The ISTS Regional Directors Conference Support:
Hope Brown, Jim Kollman, Kim Wise, Mike Goudy
Craig Johnson, Marcy Seavey, and Toni Arends at the Iowa Academy of Science

Thanks,

Traci Maxted (Fall Conference Chair and Program Coordinator)

Messages from your Vice Chair, De Anna Tibben:

Earth Science Breakfast was a “Cy-clonic” Hit!

What do scrambled eggs and storm chasing have in common? At the 2008 ISTS Fall Conference Earth Science Breakfast session, participants were treated to a “twisting” tale of storm chasing adventures given by Dr. Bill Gallus, ISU Professor of Meteorology. From downed power lines, to the newest film technologies, participants gained content knowledge of how tornadoes move, and they were provided resources to bring to their classrooms. A big thank you goes to Dr. Gallus for sharing his stories and experiences with the participants! And a big thank you to all who attended!

Did you miss this year’s Earth Science breakfast session? Be sure to attend next year! You’ll not only have a satisfying breakfast to start your ISTS Fall Conference experience, but you’ll come away from the Earth Science breakfast session as a trained storm spotter! More details coming in later newsletters! I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Teri Wiese for stepping up and accepting the Earth Science Interest Area Chair position. Are you interested in becoming more involved in ISTS? Did you know that you’re a member of the largest branch of the Iowa Academy of Science? There are *many* opportunities for YOU in ISTS! Please contact Morgan Masters (ISTS Chair) at scihawk@aol.com or myself, ditbben@ames.k12.ia.us, if you have questions or interest in being more involved in ISTS!

2008 ISTS Fall Conference SCI Science Soiree a HUGE Success!

I would like to say *thank you* to all who attended the Science Soiree Event at the Science Center of Iowa on Wednesday, October 22, 2008. It was a wonderful event because of all of you who attended! I would also like to say a very BIG thank you to Cindy Anderson and her team at SCI. They provided Iowa teachers with an evening of professional opportunities with a very personal touch.

Special thanks also goes to John Weis (NASA) and Aileen Mahood Sullivan (Ames High School) for their contributions to the event.

From soaring with IMAX to the calm of the planetarium, from NASA to the robotics, everyone in attendance had a very exciting evening! After all, its not every night you can dine on mashed potato martinis, listen to a string quartet and have the entire Science Center to play like a kid! If you missed this year's SCI event, I encourage you to attend our event in 2009. Look for further details in later newsletters.

Best wishes,
De Anna Tibben
ISTS Chair-elect

Announcements

• 20 Ways You Can Get More Involved as an Active Member of ISTS:

1 – Volunteer to present your favorite lesson or teaching strategy at the ISTS Fall Conference (Tuesday Evening, October 27th and all day Wednesday 28th in Des Moines).

2 – Write an article for the *Iowa Science Teaching Journal*.

3 – Volunteer to be a regional director or assist the current regional director.

4 – Host or make a presentation at one of the Interest Area Breakfasts at the ISTS Fall Conference. (Next year it's Tuesday evening, October 27th and all day Wednesday, October 28th.)

Interest Areas Include; Chemistry Education, Earth Science Teaching, Elementary Teaching, and Biology Teaching.

5 - Write an article for the ISTS Newsletter. *The editor would like this, too!*

6 – Volunteer to help work at the ISTS Fall Conference Bookstore. We usually need 10-12 individuals working an hour each during the day.

7 – Volunteer to help with publicity and spreading ISTS news to colleagues.

8 – Help recruit new ISTS members. (Ask the science colleagues in your building to join ISTS).

9 – Support activities and events sponsored by ISTS and the Iowa Academy of Science.

10 – Volunteer to help out at the registration desk the morning of the Fall Conference.

11 – Contact your AEA science consultant and ask how you can help with communicating ISTS and IAS events and information.

12 – Talk with a colleague about presenting as a team at next year’s Fall Conference (Tuesday Evening, October 27th and all day Wednesday 28th in Des Moines).

13 – Do you know someone who uses a great teaching strategy or special project? Encourage them to sign up to present at next year’s Fall Conference.

14 – Share some of your best student responses or student projects in the ISTS journal.

15 – Check the ISTS/IAS website periodically to see what’s going on with our organization. <http://ists.pls.uni.edu/>

16 – Volunteer to help set up decorations and help our talented exhibitor coordinator on Tuesday afternoon October 27th before the conference next year.

17 – Send in your ideas and comments about last year’s conference so we can make next year’s conference even better.

18 – Join your colleagues at one of the Interest Area Breakfasts, the morning of the Fall Conference next year, (Wednesday, October 28th).

19 – Join us at the Science Center of Iowa Tuesday evening the 27th of October for one of the best science educator experiences available.

20 – Start talking to your principal this Fall and Winter about next year’s Fall Conference and the opportunities it provides not only you but your school and all students.

- **Countdown to Year of Science: 2009**

SARASOTA, FL - Momentum continues to build for the Year of Science 2009 as plans for the year-long celebration, led by participants in the Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS), take shape.

Participants in COPUS are supporting Year of Science 2009 in a variety of ways. Judy Scotchmoor, of the COPUS Steering Committee reflects-- "By simply registering your organization, adding a Year of Science logo to your Web site and promotional materials, and spreading the word about YoS09 to your colleagues, you are supporting this initiative - it is that simple!"

Find out much more information about how you can help support 2009 as the Year of Science by visiting the website: <<http://www.yearofscience2009.org/>>).

About COPUS

Support for COPUS planning workshops was provided by the National Science Foundation under Grant Nos. EAR-0606600 and EAR-0628790 to the University of California Museum of Paleontology. The cognizant fiduciary body for COPUS and the Year of Science 2009 project is the American Institute of Biological Sciences Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which is providing staffing support, IT, and other resources. The Geological Society of America, the University of California Museum of Paleontology, and the National Science Teachers Association are also contributing funds for COPUS and Year of Science 2009. The Steering Committee welcomes support from additional scientific organizations and is also pursuing funding from federal agencies and private foundations.

- **Amazing Photos & Video Clips:**

<http://www.sciencemag.org/vis2008/show/>

Science as Art

In a world in which images and videos are primary means of communication, new ways of conveying scientific data are essential -- not only for increasing public understanding of science and engineering, but also for improving communication across scientific disciplines. In a special section of the 26 Sep 2008, *Science*, in partnership with the National Science Foundation, presented the winners and honorable mentions in the sixth annual International Science & Engineering Visualization Challenge. This year's contest drew 181 entries from 20 U.S. states and the District of Columbia and 20 countries. The winners -- in categories including photography, illustration, informational graphics, and multimedia -- captured the crystalline beauty of diatoms, the expanse of the human circulatory system, a fairy tale tea party re-invented, and the dynamic lives of plant cells. An online slide presentation showcased the honorees, and a related podcast interview with finalist judge Alisa Machalek discussed what makes a winning scientific image.

Opportunities

- **Louv to Speak at Winter Solstice Workshop**

**No Child Left Inside
Featuring Keynote Speaker Richard Louv**

The Iowa Conservation Education Coalition's annual Environmental Education Workshop, Winter Solstice, will be held on **January 23-25, 2009**. The workshop title is **No Child Left Inside**. For the first time, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is co-sponsoring the workshop.

Winter Solstice will be held at the Honey Creek State Park Resort on Lake Rathbun. This new resort features motel rooms, a restaurant, an indoor water park, and most important for ICEC, a wonderful conference center.

We are happy to announce that our keynote speakers include: Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, Connie Mutel, author of *The Emerald Horizon: The History of Nature in Iowa*; and Jim Pease and Susan O'Brien author of *Environmental Literacy in Iowa*.

For questions about the workshop, please contact Gail Barels at gail.barels@linncounty.org or Heather Niec at adminicec@hotmail.com. ICEC looks forward to seeing you at this exciting conference!

- **Minds of Tomorrow Grants Available**

Minds of Tomorrow (MoT) is a student organization at Iowa State University which aims to help improve K-12 education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), and to get kids excited about engineering careers. MoT works with corporate sponsors and private donors to award \$15,000 to \$30,000 in grant money to K-12 schools every year. Any regional school can apply for a grant of up to \$5,000 to buy equipment and resources to improve their STEM programs. Recently, MoT was named the Best Regional Outreach Group by the National Association of Engineering Student Councils.

MoT is currently accepting grant applications to be awarded during the spring 2009 semester. To apply, please visit www.eng.iastate.edu/MOT, fill out the brief application, and submit it to our selection committee. Apply early to receive priority consideration!

Once a school has been selected, MoT presents the formal check at an all school assembly which introduces kids to engineering careers through the use of exciting demos. Minds of Tomorrow student Outreach Leaders and Ambassadors continue to work with the schools by going into classrooms and performing

outreach activities. During these outreach events, Iowa State engineering students work with kids on small hands-on projects that expose kids to STEM. MoT also attends various regional science/engineering outreach events offering booth activities for kids to explore engineering.

Grants Awarded in the Last Year:

Mahtomedi High School: \$5,000 to implement Project Lead the Way engineering courses

Center Point Urbana Middle School: \$5,000 to implement Gateway to Technology pre-engineering courses

West Delaware High School: \$5,000 to purchase TI-Inspire calculators for math

Bellevue Elementary School: \$2,090 to sponsor an after school K'nex Roller Coaster building program

Missouri Valley High School: \$4906.58 to purchase graphing calculators and scientific equipment

Maqoketa Valley Middle School: \$3,727.14 to purchase Lego Mindstorms NXT kits for technology curriculum.

• **Essay Contest from National Academy of Engineering**

Every year the National Academy of Engineering sponsors an engineering essay contest on the EngineerGirl website for students across the nation. The contest for this year, entitled "Imagine That! Engineering Innovation", has just been posted. Students in grades 3-12 can compete for cash prizes, and we would like to get the word out to as many students as possible, especially in areas outside of Washington, DC where the contest may be less well-known. If you know of any alternate emails or mailing lists where it would be appropriate for us to send an announcement, please let us know. You can contact us by sending an email to EngineerGirl@nae.edu. You can find the guidelines and related information about the contest on the EngineerGirl website: <http://www.engineergirl.org/CMS/Contest.aspx>

The deadline for this year is March 1, 2009. Feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. We look forward to reading some exciting and creative essays this year, and we hope you will help us to spread the word.

• **Coleopterists Society Student Research Grants**

Youth Incentive Award

The Coleopterists Society, an international organization of professionals and hobbyists interested in the study of beetles, has established a program to recognize young people studying beetles. The Society has pledged to provide

up to \$300 each year for the Youth Incentive Award Program. In addition to monetary grants of \$150, award recipients will receive up to \$200 (Junior Award) and \$400 (Senior Award) of equipment credit from the [BioQuip Products](#) catalog. In addition to monetary grants of \$150, award recipients will receive a one year subscription to the society journal, *The Coleopterists Bulletin*
This is for children of grades 7-12 only.

The objectives of the Youth Incentive Award are to:

- * provide encouragement and assistance to young beetle enthusiasts.
- * promote the study of beetles, the most diverse group of insects, as a rewarding lifelong avocation or career.
- * provide opportunities for young people to develop important life skills such as leadership, cooperation, communication, planning and conducting a scientific study, grant writing and managing funds.
- * provide some financial support to enrich activities or projects.

A Youth Incentive Award Committee from the Coleopterists Society will evaluate the applications and will select up to two winners annually; one each in **junior (grades 7-9)** and **senior (grades 10-12)** categories. The selection committee invites proposals for topics such as field collecting trips to conduct beetle species inventories or diversity studies, attending workshops or visiting entomology or natural history museums for special training and projects on beetles, studying aspects of beetle biology, etc. The proposed activities or projects will be evaluated on their degree of creativity, educational benefit to the applicant, scientific merit, feasibility and budgetary planning. This Award is for proposals by individuals only. Each applicant is strongly encouraged to find an adult advisor (teacher, youth group leader, parent, etc.) to provide guidance in proposal development, but the proposal **MUST** be written by the applicant. The Coleopterists Society would also be happy to assist in establishing contacts between youth and professional Coleopterists.

Additional details and application forms for **The Coleopterists Society Youth Incentive Award Program** can be obtained from: Dr. David G. Furth; Entomology, NHB, MRC 165; P.O. Box 37012; Smithsonian Institution; Washington, D. C. 20013-7012 (phone: 202-633-0990, FAX: 202-786-2894, email: furthd@si.edu). Also check The Coleopterists Society WebPage: http://www.coleopsoc.org/default.asp?Action=Show_SocietyInfo&ID=Youth
h Applications for this year must be submitted by **15 December 2008**.

- **[We Can Change the World!](#)**

NSTA has partnered with the Siemens Foundation and Discovery Communications for an exciting new competition for middle school students and

teachers.

Middle school students across the United States are being encouraged to "go green" and team up for the **Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge**, the first and only national K–12 sustainability education initiative aligned to education standards and uniquely tailored to match students' growing comprehension abilities throughout their school-aged years.

Student teams of two to three students from sixth through eighth grade, under the mentorship of a teacher or adult supervisor, can register for the Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge at www.wecanchange.com. Participating teams will identify an environmental issue in their community, research the issue using scientific investigation, and create a replicable green solution using web-based curriculum tools powered by Discovery Education. All student teams entering the Middle School Challenge will receive prizes for their participation and top-performing teams, as judged by a panel of environmental experts and science educators, will earn cash, teacher education materials, and unique Discovery Experience trips.

• [ISU Summer Research for Biology Teachers](#)

Summer Research Experiences for Teachers in Molecular Biology, Biotechnology and Genomics

Iowa State University, with support from the National Science Foundation, is offering 7-12 grade pre-service and in-service biology teachers a hands-on research opportunity under the mentorship of a distinguished group of faculty in the areas of molecular biotechnology and genomics.

Program Highlights

Stipend: \$5,600 (in-service)/\$3,000 (pre-service) for a seven-week program (applicable taxes will be deducted)

Travel: Up to \$500 for round trip travel from distances greater than 10 miles from Ames, Iowa.

Housing: Participants who live 40 miles distance from Ames IA will be provided furnished housing at University Village.

Eligibility: In-service and pre-service 7-12 grade biology teachers who are US citizens or permanent residents.

Application Deadline: January 15, 2009

Notification of acceptance: February 15, 2009.

Program Dates: June 8–July 24, 2009

For more information and application form please go to:

<http://www.eeob.iastate.edu/plantgenomeoutreach/7-12teachers.htm> or contact program director Dr. Adah Leshem-Ackerman <adah@iastate.edu>

515.294.8453

- **Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards**

The Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards program, one of the world's largest K –12 science and technology competitions, is now accepting entries for its 2009 competition. ExploraVision, sponsored by Toshiba and administered by NSTA, challenges teams of two to four students in the United States and Canada to research scientific principles and current technologies as the basis for designing innovative technologies that could exist in 20 years. A popular learning and motivational tool, many teachers use it as part of their science and technology curriculum.

Up to \$240,000 in savings bonds will be awarded this year to student winners whose innovative ideas combine imagination with the tools of science. Toshiba laptop computers for schools and other prizes for students, teachers, and mentors will also be presented. Up to 32 winning students, their families, teachers and mentors will also receive a 5-day expenses paid trip to Washington, DC for a gala awards event. The deadline for the 2009 competition is January 28, 2009. For more information or an application for 2009, visit www.cags.exploravision.org or e-mail exploravision@nsta.org.
Email: info@polartrec.com Phone: 907-474-1600

- **Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers**

Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. and NSTA are pleased to announce the 19th annual Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers program. This year Toyota will award \$550,000 in grants to K-12 teachers of science. A total of 50 large grants of up to \$10,000 each, along with 20-30 mini-grants of up to \$2,500 each will be awarded. Categories include environmental science, integrating literacy and science and physical science. Toyota has awarded 986 grants totaling over \$8 million in this premiere nationwide grant program.

For further information and to begin the application process online, please visit <http://www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry>. The online applications are now available! The deadline for submission of online entries is January 21, 2009.

- **Einstein Fellowship Reminder:**

The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship is a paid fellowship for K-12 math, science, and technology teachers. Einstein Fellows spend a school year in Washington, DC serving in a federal agency or on Capitol Hill. To be

considered for an Einstein Fellowship for the 2009-2010 school year, apply and submit three letters of recommendation online by January 13, 2009.

Apply online at <https://applicationlink.labworks.org/applicationlink/default.htm>

For more information about the Einstein Fellows program visit www.trianglecoalition.org/ein.htm or contact Liz Burck at burckl@triangle-coalition.org.

- **NSTA Awards and Recognitions**

Apply for NSTA's Teacher Awards and Recognitions

NSTA and its sponsors recognize and reward exemplary teachers (preK-College), principals (middle level and high school), and students (K-12) with cash, trips, workshops, science program materials, and more. These awards offer opportunities to receive professional and personal recognition and to share your school's science education success stories.

Don't miss the application deadline for NSTA's Awards: November 30th. Applications for the SeaWorld Outstanding Environmental Educator Award has a November 28 deadline.

For more details about the awards or to download an application form, consult www.nsta.org/awards

- **ISU Professional Development: Physics/Astronomy**

Are you curious about some of the latest developments in physics and astronomy? Would you like to know more so you can incorporate this information into your class? If you answered yes to any of these questions then please join the Department of Physics & Astronomy at ISU in Ames for an event that will explore the frontiers of physics with a focus on providing you with information you can use in the classroom! Join us for a series of non-technical talks and demonstrations given by experts. All talks will contain concrete examples that you will be able to use. Topics include: Superconductivity, Biophysics, The Extreme Universe, Science at CERN, Dark Matter, and New Materials.

When? Monday, February 16, 2009 10 am – 4 m (lunch provided)

Register online at www.physics.iastate.edu/PresidentDay2009/Flyer.htm

News

- **Spotlight: US Schools' Science Labs**

Reprinted from *NSTA Express*, 11/3/08

The October issue of *District Administration* magazine includes a lengthy article on science labs and the financial and spatial challenges many schools face in updating old labs or constructing new ones.

“The real world is made up of science, and how we behave in and manage our environment—from natural resources to rainforests—is critical,” adds former NSTA President LeMoine Motz, who directs science education for Oakland County (Mich.) Schools and consults nationally on designing modern science labs. “So we’re trying to design labs that will invite all kids into science.” With that goal in mind, Motz recently coauthored a revision of the *NSTA Guide to Planning School Science Facilities*. “The guide really tries to fix the image that science is an area where students do a lab just once in a while,” he explains. “A lot of people felt, ‘Science isn’t important in our curriculum, so why should we improve our lab?’ That attitude is changing.”

District Administration is the only education magazine to reach every superintendent in the country, along with assistant superintendents, technology directors, school board presidents, federal funds administrators, and others. The magazine covers current trends and pressing issues in the K–12 education industry along with strong coverage of emerging technologies and leadership issues for district-level administrators. See the full article:

<http://www.districtadministration.com/viewarticle.aspx?articleid=1742>

- **News from The Space Place at NASA**

1. NASA’s latest plans to return to the Moon are a lot more ambitious in many ways than was the Apollo Program in the 1960s and 70s. This time, we plan to stay a while. NASA wants to learn how to keep the astronauts alive in a hostile environment for months at a time, so we will someday be able to send humans to Mars and beyond! Designing a lunar habitat is part of the challenge. Kids can help to create a lunar outpost by building their own Moon Habitat, or even a whole village of them! This fun activity that can involve the whole family can be found at NASA’s website for kids, The Space Place, <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/exploration/habitat>.

2. Find answers to hard questions at the SciJinks Weather Laboratory. The SciJinks Weather Laboratory at <http://scijinks.gov> is a website for middle school-

age children, sponsored by both NASA and NOAA. Skyjacks presents weather and other Earth science topics via games, stories, and fun facts, as well as simple, concise answer to often-asked 'how and why' questions. For example, answers will be found to 'Why is the sky blue?,' 'How does a hurricane form?' and 'Why do we have seasons?'

Two new 'how & whys' have recently been added:

- * How did earth's atmosphere form?
- * Why doesn't the atmosphere just float off into space?

Other how and why topics are listed at <http://scijinks.gov/weather/howwhy>.

Additional weather-related resources for teachers are available at <http://scijinks.gov/en/educators>.

Your ISTS Leadership:

Iowa Academy of Science Mission:

- **Promote scientific research and its dissemination**
- **Improve instruction in the sciences**
- **Promote public understanding of science**
- **Recognize excellence in science and science teaching**

Check out past issues of the ISTS newsletter at:

<http://ists.pls.uni.edu/newsletters/index.html>.

Your ISTS Leadership Team can be found at:

<http://ists.pls.uni.edu/officers.html>.

(We are always looking for good people. Send an e-mail to scihawk@aol.com if you wish to be more involved.)

Invitation to improve/contribute to this newsletter:

How best can this newsletter serve you? Do you have something to contribute for the good of the ISTS membership? Zing a line at nweirather@central-lee.k12.ia.us or scihawk@aol.com.