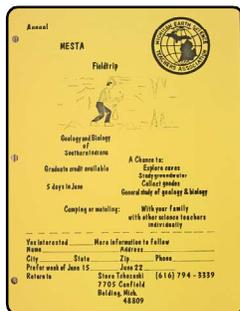
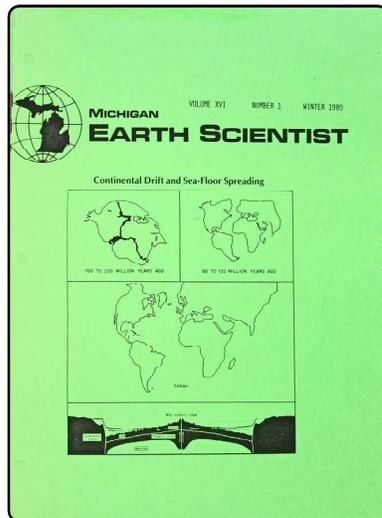




Chapter 4 Growing Influence 1980 - 1984

Keeping Up To Date

Plate tectonics was just becoming a hot topic for Earth Science classrooms and the entire 20 page 1980 Winter issue was dedicated to that topic. Actually the title on the cover was “Continental Drift and Sea-Floor Spreading,” terms more commonly used during that period. Steve Wessling, newly elected MESTA President, greeted members with a Letter From the President in this first issue of the *Michigan Earth Scientist* of the decade. That issue also announced the upcoming summer MESTA field trip to study the geology and biology of southern Indiana.



Flier announcing the Cave Trip

Cave exploration, geode collecting, and groundwater study will be featured. Glen Anders, Biology Professor at Grand Valley State Colleges will serve as guide and Steve Tchozeski will host the trip. Graduate credit through Michigan State University was available to those attending and family members are invited to participate - options for both

camping and motels were arranged.

By this time the newsletter had become well organized with the cover featuring the MESTA logo with photographs or graphics and the association organization detailed on the inside of the front cover. It had a three column layout inside with many illustrations and photographs along with teaching resources and other information of interest to MESTA members. Members were encouraged to submit items for publication, especially good classroom activities and many of these were featured. Preparation work for each issue was being shared by a number of members and spouses under the leadership of the editor, Steve Tchozeski.

One of the first regularly scheduled MESTA Executive Board meetings was held on January 12, 1980 in Lansing. Dick Munson reported on the Grand



Lansing Community College students assembling the *Michigan Earth Scientist*.

Canyon Rafting trip available to MESTA members – reservations were \$100. Glen Anders, Grand Valley State University, attended to present information on the MESTA summer field trip. Plans were made for showing a film on caving at the February 23 MSTA Conference to encourage participation in the trip. In addition, several sessions by MESTA members were also on the conference schedule along with the MESTA display board to encourage membership. The MESTA “freebies” table to provide mineral and rock specimens and classroom activities are also planned.

Other business included an offer by Dick Hawk



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to allow MESTA the right to publish his book, *A Guide to Rocks and Minerals in Michigan* under their name. He has been selling it for \$2.00. Arrangements and a contact person were completed for the 4th Annual Student Activities Day on May 10 at the University of Michigan. The association had been selling patches of the MESTA logo and another 100 were ordered. Nominations for the Best Earth Science Teacher (BEST) Award was encouraged and a potential community college curriculum for students interested in geology or geoscience was presented to the board. Delta College in Saginaw was selected for MESTAs annual fall conference.



MESTA Patch

Mt St. Helens

Mount St. Helens erupted on May 20, 1980 and the Fall Issue of the *Michigan Earth Scientist* cover featured a graphic illustrating the event and the lead article described how the volcano fit into the plate tectonic model. Samples from the eruption were made available to Earth Science teachers from the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources. They

also have a series of 35 mm slides to loan for teachers to duplicate and use in their classrooms.

An extremely successful MESTA Annual Student Day on May 10th was reviewed. One hundred twenty-five students attended – about double that of last year’s event. After a

welcoming address by Dr. William Kelly, Geology Department Chairman, students toured the department’s geology labs. Following lunch, students could select from three field trips, environmental ge-

ology, glacial geology or paleontology. A wealth of informational handouts were made available by the Michigan Geologic Survey, United States Geological Survey, and National Aeronautics Space Agency. Steve Tchozeski donated 25 fossils that were given to students as door prizes.

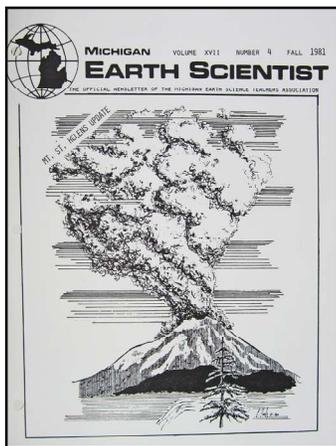
Board Meetings and Conferences

As regular MESTA Executive Board meeting became routine, details of their discussion were reported in the newsletter. Common items were planning for conferences (MESTA and MSTA), field trips, student activity days, MESTA slide program, themes for future newsletters, annual dues, and the Treasure’s report. At a 1980 fall board meeting the association had a balance of \$532.35 and dues for 1981 membership were set a \$5.00.

With the approach of the February 14, 1981 Annual MSTA Convention six session presentations were announced to be given by MESTA members. They ranged from astronomy to meteorology to volcanology and MESTAs Earth Science slides. In addition, the association will sponsor an exchange of free and inexpensive instructional materials to include maps, minerals, rocks, etc. This appears to be the first mention of what has since become a major association function – MESTA’s Free and Inexpensive.

Michigan Earth Science Teachers were invited to attend the East Central National Association of Geology Teachers May 15-17 meeting hosted by Grand Valley State Colleges. Workshops, presentations and field trips were offered. The college also announced the availability of members to speak to Earth Science classes on several geology topics. An announcement in the 1981 summer issue of the *Michigan Earth Scientist* reported that MESTA President, Steve Wessling, received the Newaygo Soil Conservation District’s Environmental Award. The second edition of Richard Hawke’s *A Guide to Rocks and Minerals of Michigan* was published and available to members by the association.

At the September 26, 1981 MESTA Board



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meeting the Annual Fall Conference arrangements were completed. A slate of officers nominated for the election to be held at the conference were finalized and will be included with registration materials sent to members. Several members indicated they will attend the Michigan Detroit Science Teachers Association Conference planned for November 14, perhaps the first contact between the two groups. MESTA will have a table to attract new members and provide freebie materials. Dick Munson reported that 27 people participated in the MESTA sponsored Grand Canyon raft trip during the summer. A review of MESTAs slide program concluded the meeting and Art Weinle agreed to prepare a draft of a policy on this aspect of the association's work for the board's consideration.

Free and Inexpensive

It is not clear when the Free and Inexpensive mineral and rock operation was formalized. Hints of free materials appear sporadically in the newsletter, but the actual name does not appear. Early notes requested donations of materials to use as "give aways" at conferences, mostly at MSTA Conventions initially. It became clear with the November 24, 1981 MESTA Annual Fall Conference at Lansing Community College that Steve Techozeski was in charge of the "raffle and freebie room." This activity was also called the "Free and Cheap" teaching materials, the "hit of the day" and no one can compete with his traveling show of give aways!

Dave Thomas prepared an evaluation for the conference at the suggestions of the MESTA Executive Board. Both the formal am presentations and the afternoon "hands-on" workshops were well received with comments like; excellent, interesting, very good, enjoyable, good presentation, etc. In addition, there were a number of good comments and suggestions for next years conference. New Executive Board officers elected at this conference were:

President: Dave Thomas, Washtenaw C. C.

Vice-President: Jeff Stevens

Secretary: Virginia Rybinski: Peck Elementary,
Detroit

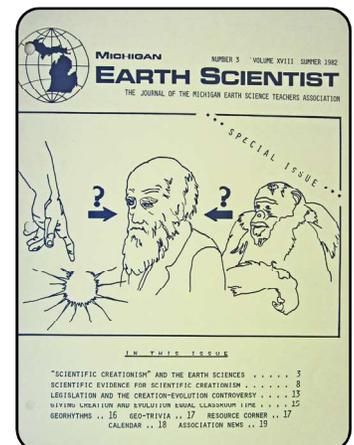
Treasurer: K R. Cranson, Lansing C. C.

MESTA Executive Board meetings had become routine and regularly scheduled by the late fall of 1981. At the December 5 gathering, held in Canton, the constitution and by-laws were reviewed and several revisions made – these were sent to membership for a vote. MESTA members had presentations planned for the National Science Teachers Association meeting in Chicago, MSTA and MDSTA meetings.

The 1982 summer MESTA summer field trip was planned for Bancroft, Ontario with 45 people already registered. Other suggestions for summer trips included another Grand Canyon raft trip, Cascade Volcanoes, and Glacier National Park. Art Weinle, Publications Chairman, presented a policy for consideration and proposals regarding how the slide sets are to be developed, purchased and distributed. Harold Stonehouse reported on the association's efforts to achieve non-profit status with the Internal Revenue Service. This appears to be the first formal Executive Board Minutes published in the newsletter.

In the early 1980s the subject of teaching creation science in schools became a topic of discussion. A Michigan group was formed under the name of the Michigan Committee of Correspondence on the Teaching of Evolution. Their goals were listed as:

1. Improving the quality of instruction with respect to scientific theories of evolution, and
2. Helping teachers, school administrators, high school board members, legislators and the general public to gain a better understanding of science and how scientific methodology and standards of evidence function. A new journal, *Creation-Evolution*, appeared to analyze and answer the scientific arguments of special creation-





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ists. MESTA responded to this situation with an entire issue (Summer, 1982) dedicated to the topic.

With the 1982 winter issue of the *Michigan Earth Scientist*, the newsletter moved to Lansing Community College with K R. Cranson serving as Editor. By this time it had taken on a consistent two column format with an abundance of pictures and graphics to enhance its appearance. Many of the regular columns were continued including, on the go, Dave Thomas' Resource Corner and Geo-Rhythms, was joined by the MESTA Profile, MESTA Mailbag, calendar of events, and Executive Board Minutes. It also included a short note from Art Weinle regarding MESTA publications outlining how materials can be contributed to the association. This appears to be the first formalization of policy of what is to become the MOM of later years.

The presence of Earth Science presentations at the February 13, 1982 MSTA Convention held in Lansing was the highlight of the meeting. Twenty percent of the 86 sessions featured Earth Science topics and most were presented by MESTA members. A number of teachers became new members at MESTA's booth to bring membership to more than a hundred. Steve Tchozeski's "Free and Inexpensive" materials were the high point of the day, and perhaps of the entire convention! MESTA's annual meeting was held in the afternoon to conduct association business.

NESTA Formed

By the February 13, 1982 Executive Board meeting the association Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,659.99, a significant improvement over previous reports. A grant of \$500 for a mailings to promote a National Earth Science Teachers



K R. Cranson & Harold Stonehouse at the NESTA Charter Meeting in Chicago.



Harold Stonehouse at the NESTA Charter Meeting in Chicago.

Association was approved. Information on the new organization will be available at the NSTA Convention planned for Chicago in April, 1983. This appears to be the first record of efforts by MESTA to start NESTA. Apparently the idea of a national group resulted earlier from a discussion between

Harold Stonehouse and K R. Cranson on a return trip to Lansing after attending an executive board meeting.

A number of other matters were addressed during this meeting, and another held on May 15, including: plans for the annual conference at Eastern Michigan University, non-profit forms being prepared for MESTA, new slide sets being planned, future summer field trips (Grand Canyon rafting at a cost of \$725) and a Glacial National Park trip for 1984. Also amendments to the constitution, BEST and MSTA Awards, paid advertisement for the *Michigan Earth Scientist*, summer camp being planned for students, and MSTA convention plans.

Two MESTA field trips were held during the summer of 1982. In a spring report at an Executive Board meeting, 80 people were planning to attend the June 18 to 20 trip to Bancroft, Ontario. It is being offered to acquaint teachers with the geology and geological processes of the area along with the opportunity to collect classroom rock and mineral specimens. The 3-day outing is being planned and lead by Jeff Stevens.

A second field trip opportunity to the northwestern lower peninsula was organized by Steve Tchozeski. It was a family oriented event with emphasis on the environmental problems and concerns of the Ludington, Traverse City and Charlevoix areas. Various mining operations, a petroleum field, a pump storage facility and fossil collecting were on the trip itiner-

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ary. It was scheduled for June 20 to 25, 1982.

There were no fees assessed for either of trip - participants were responsible for their own transportation and lodging. Over time, the organization's governing board

adopted a policy/philosophy that members involved in any MESTA activity would do so as a non-paid volunteer. This thinking was hotly debated at many board meetings, but has served us well and continues to the present time. It became the basis for MESTA's semi-official motto "Teachers Helping Teachers."

NW Michigan
TripTrip



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