



[NSTA Home](#) | [NSTA Communities](#) | [Member Benefits](#) | [Conferences](#) | [Journals](#) | [Science Store](#) | [Learning Center](#) | [Career Center](#)

**Week of June 22, 2009**

[NSTA Home](#) | [NSTA Communities](#) | [Member Benefits](#) | [Conferences](#) | [Journals](#) | [Science Store](#) | [Learning Center](#) | [Career Center](#)

Name: Patricia Wagner E-mail: [wagner\\_p@aps.edu](mailto:wagner_p@aps.edu) Member Status: NSTA Member, exp. 10/30/2009

**Week of June 22, 2009**

### Table of Contents

- [NSF Releases \*Science Nation\*, a Video Series on Breakthroughs and Discoveries That Impact Our Lives](#)
- [Build Your Content Knowledge Through the Learning Center](#)
- [Education Week's 2009 Spotlight on STEM in Schools](#)
- [From the NSTA Calendar: National Pollinator Week, June 22–28](#)
- [Fall Conference Planning for Science Educators](#)

### **NSF Releases *Science Nation*, a Video Series on Breakthroughs and Discoveries That Impact Our Lives**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has released the first in a series of video programs called [Science Nation](#), which examine breakthroughs and the possibilities for new discoveries about our planet, our universe and ourselves. The video series is being created for NSF by former senior science producers at CNN, including Peter Dykstra and Kate Tobin. Each program features a two-minute and five-minute version.

[\(back to top\)](#)

### **Build Your Content Knowledge Through the Learning Center**

If lazy days at the beach are scheduled for late summer, you might want to consider (before your vacation begins) a series of online learning experiences—10 sessions, each about an hour long—on topics you'll be teaching in the fall. Consider NSTA's [Solar System SciPack](#), which explores the solar system, how it was formed, and what we know about the planets, moons, and other bodies in the solar system. You'll be presented with problems, phenomena, demonstrations, and simulations utilizing inquiry-based learning. Other components include pedagogical implications addressing common misconceptions, teaching resources, and strand maps linking grade band appropriate content to standards. You'll get access to support via e-mail and a final assessment to certify mastery of the concepts. For more information on other SciPacks or to register for an account, visit the [NSTA Learning Center](#).

[\(back to top\)](#)

### **Education Week's 2009 Spotlight on STEM in Schools**

Education Week has put together an online package of articles about hot topics in the field and innovative approaches to STEM teaching and learning. "[Spotlight on STEM in Schools](#)" features a collection of articles hand-picked by *Education Week's* editors for their insights on:

- One public school's blending of the science, technology, engineering, and math disciplines
- Courses on renewable energy and "green" technology
- Learning science through informal experiences and educational television
- Playing games in the classroom to strengthen students' math skills
- Using unconventional textbooks and other materials to help struggling middle schoolers become "algebra-ready"
- Research on the qualities of effective math teaching
- Experiential approaches to STEM as a curriculum

In addition, *Education Week* has Spotlights available on other topics such as technology in the classroom, pay for performance, response to intervention, tips for new teachers, inclusion and assistive technology and more. For more information about the Spotlight on STEM in Schools, visit the [Education Week website](#).

[\(back to top\)](#)

### **From the NSTA Calendar: National Pollinator Week, June 22–28**

Officially declared by the US Senate and the US Department of Agriculture, this celebration helps spread the message that pollination is vital to our survival and the existence of nearly all ecosystems on Earth. Teachers will find [free materials online](#), including *Nature's Partners: Pollinators, Plants, and You*, an inquiry learning-based curriculum for grades 3–6 comprised of seven modules. Each module offers three or four activities designed to engage young people in active, investigative science following a learning cycle of

- exploration,
- concept introduction/development, and
- concept application.

The activities are appropriate for the formal classroom or for a nonformal education setting and can easily be adapted to fit the needs of the students and the teaching situation. The website also features podcasts, videos, and reports on pollinators.

- [Visit the NSTA Calendar](#)

[\(back to top\)](#)

### **Fall Conference Planning for Science Educators**

The first fall Conference on Science Education kicks off Oct. 29–31, 2009, in Minneapolis, the "City of Lakes." Science teachers and administrators can count on a list of events and speakers to move and inspire you.

- Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, and chairman of the Children & Nature Network, will speak about the transformation in the relationship between children and nature and how society is teaching young people to avoid direct experience in nature.
- William A. Sommers, PhD, of Austin, Texas, is currently a Leadership Coach and author of 6 books, will speak on PLC's and their implications. His presentation is titled *Newton, Einstein, and Friedman: Who's Next?*
- Page Keeley is the Senior Science Program Director at the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance and the 2008–2009 President of the National Science Teachers Association. Her presentation is titled *What Are They Thinking? Using Formative Assessment to Improve Opportunities to Learn*.

Special daylong programs devoted to Physical Science and Earth Science, Biology, and Chemistry will be offered. Workshops, sessions, field trips, and networking with your peers with a passion for science are some of the 20 reasons to attend an NSTA conference. For more information, visit [www.nsta.org/minneapolis](http://www.nsta.org/minneapolis).

[\(back to top\)](#)

### And Don't Forget...

Visit our **member services web page** to ensure that NSTA has your current [contact information](#). And when the time comes to renew—select the "Autorenew" option!

Visit the [NSTA Science Store](#) for an outstanding array of bestselling books and teaching resources. Receive 30% off the price of the June featured book, [Exemplary Science in Informal Education Settings: Standards-Based Success Stories](#)

---

## Professional development courses in your future?

*Online options give you a world of choice.*

Take a look at these groups offering [courses](#) for science educators!

---

[Sign Up / Opt Out](#) | [Member Services](#) | [Express Feedback](#) | [View in Browser](#) | [Archive](#) | [NSTA News Digest](#)

[Home](#) | [NSTA Communities](#) | [Member Benefits](#) | [Conferences](#) | [Journals](#) | [Science Store](#) | [Learning Center](#) | [Career Center](#)

Copyright © 2009 [National Science Teachers Association](#)

be forwarded or reproduced for educational purposes but must include the copyright notice above and the link to [NSTA](#).

#### THE FINE PRINT

This e-newsletter is brought to you by the  
National Science Teachers Association  
1840 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22201-3000  
Phone: 703-243-7100

If you **do not** want to receive *NSTA Express* by e-mail, please follow this link:  
[http://ecommerce.nsta.org/optout?email=wagner\\_p@aps.edu&source=nstaexpress](http://ecommerce.nsta.org/optout?email=wagner_p@aps.edu&source=nstaexpress)

e: [www.nsta.org/publications/archive-express.aspx](http://www.nsta.org/publications/archive-express.aspx)