



TEXAS EARTH SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The TESTA Tailings...

September 2014



TESTA is turning 30!

CAST this year marks the beginning of TESTA's 30th Anniversary. Come to CAST and get involved with TESTA's various events and help us continue for the next 30 years of helping to promote the Earth Sciences in Texas. Join us in celebrating on Friday night at the TESTA dinner.

TESTA CAST Award – Do you know of a TESTA member teacher with less than 5 years of experience who deserves to go to CAST but needs some financial help? Could this person be YOU? TESTA has a memorial fund that is to be used to pay for CAST registration for a deserving teacher so they can attend. This is a \$175.00 value! To apply for this fund, please contact TESTA by email as soon as possible since CAST registration is underway.



This fund was set up to memorialize TESTA members and/or their spouses who have passed away to accept donations in lieu of flowers. Please consider this fund when making your end-of-life plans.

TESTA Presents...

We would like to give a great big thank you to everyone who has volunteered to present a workshop or short course as part of the TESTA Strand at CAST 2014! This will be our largest selection of presentations that we have had to date. **When we get closer to CAST I will send out a final list of the various workshops and short courses that will be presented under the TESTA Strand.**

For the strand, TESTA will have two or three rooms dedicated for earth science hour long workshops, and short courses that are either 3 or 6 hours in length. These presentations will also be featured on our Affiliate Page and will be flagged in the program as being part of the TESTA Strand to identify those that are specifically endorsed by our organization in the CAST program.

Share - A - Thon Presenters still needed!

In addition to the strand of workshops and short courses, we will also conduct our Share-a-Thon on Saturday morning of CAST. This is a great way to present that favorite lesson or activity that you have developed and want to share with others without doing a full hour long presentation. For the Share-a-thon, we try to have from 15 to 20 TESTA members each at a table along the walls of a large room. During the session, participants will come in and circulate around the tables within the room stopping at tables to see the activity, lesson or student models. As the presenter you will continuously talk to small groups of teachers.



If you would like to present at the Share-a-Thon please be sure to contact me as soon as possible.

TESTA Dinner & Annual Meeting –

This year, instead of the usual luncheon on Saturday, TESTA will be hosting a dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse on Friday, November 21st at 7:30 PM. Dinner will be served “family-style” to each table and will include servings of two appetizers, three entrees, salad, bread, dessert bar, and tea or soda. Alcoholic drinks will be on your own. **Dinner tickets are \$30.00 per person and it includes all taxes, gratuities,**



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Incredible 15-Layer Lasagne

etc. The Spaghetti Warehouse will be running their shuttle from the local hotels to the restaurants or it is about a mile from the Anatole if you prefer to walk. We have reserved their banquet room so this is a great way to lock in dinner plans and not fight the crowds elsewhere.

The dinner will feature TESTA member and supporter, Linda Ruiz McCall, Information Geologist and Resource Center Manager at Bureau of Economic Geology, The University of Texas at Austin as our guest speaker. She is also the former Program Manager and Education Specialist at the Texas Water Development Board. We are excited and honored to have her as our speaker during the dinner.

In addition to listening to a great speaker, we will also be honoring our Teacher of the Year - MaryJean Tykoski and our Friend of TESTA recipient - Katy Rock Shop. This is also the time that we will have a short annual business meeting for the organization and we will end our gathering with door prizes! Tickets are still available through the CAST website; please register for tickets through the website so we will have an accurate reservation count.

Mark Your Calendars!



Earth Science Week!

Since October 1998, the American Geosciences Institute has organized this national and international event to help the public gain a better understanding and appreciation for the Earth Sciences and to encourage stewardship of the Earth. This year's Earth Science Week will be held from **October 12-18** and will celebrate the theme "Earth's Connected Systems."

For more information on all of the activities associated with Earth Science week, go to <http://www.earthsciweek.org/>

NASA Invites Public to Send Names on an Asteroid Mission

NASA is inviting people around the world to submit their names to be etched on a microchip aboard a spacecraft headed to the asteroid Bennu in 2016.

The "Messages to Bennu!" microchip will travel to the asteroid aboard the agency's Origins Spectral Interpretation Resource Identification Security Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) spacecraft. The robotic mission will spend more than two years at the 1,760-foot (500-meter)-wide asteroid. The spacecraft will collect a sample of Bennu's surface and return it to Earth in a sample return capsule.

"We're thrilled to be able to share the OSIRIS-REx adventure with people across the Earth, to Bennu and back," said Dante Lauretta, principal investigator of the OSIRIS-REx mission from the University of Arizona in Tucson. "It's a great opportunity for people to get engaged with the mission early and join us as we prepare for launch."

Those wishing to participate in "Messages to Bennu!" should submit their name online no later than Sept. 30 at: <http://planetary.org/bennu>

After a person submits their name, they will be able to download and print a certificate documenting their participation in the OSIRIS-REx mission. "You'll be part of humankind's exploration of the solar system - How cool is that?" said Bill Nye, chief executive officer of The Planetary Society, the organization collecting and processing the entries.

Date/Time:

Tuesday, September 30, 2014 - 5:00pm

<http://planetary.org/bennu>

[How to contact us?](#)

While the web page is a "work in progress", TESTA has a new email address! You can contact one of us listed below or the following email address:

texasearthscienceteachers@aol.com

Alexia Bienek - TESTA President - hueskea@uhd.edu

Kathryn Barclay - TESTA Vice-President - kathrynbarclay65@aol.com

Lisa Stone - TESTA Treasurer - lisa.stone@fortbend.k12.tx.us

Lale Bilir - TESTA Membership - lale.bilir@fortbend.k12.tx.us
