



MCCB NEWS

SPRING 2009

February 15, 2009

MCCB Spring 2009 Conference: Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21
 The MCCB Lake Michigan College, South Haven Campus will host the 2009 Spring Conference this year. Although, it may still be cold and gray, the line-up of speakers and activities is sure to be interesting and engaging!

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Friday, March 20th:	
Registration at the Sarett Nature Center	5:00-6:00 pm
Dinner	6:00-6:45 pm
Presentation	6:45-8:00 pm
Saturday, March 21st:	
Executive Board Meeting	7:30-8:30 am
Registration	7:45-8:30 am
Continental Breakfast/Vendor Exhibits	8:00-8:30 am
<i>Affect of PCB's on Gene Expression</i>	8:30-9:45 am
Dr. Elizabeth LeHigh	
<i>Anatomy in Clay Workshop: A Hands-On Approach to Teaching Muscles</i>	8:30-9:45 am
Steve Kish	
<i>Experiences with Developmental Science: A Panel Discussion</i>	9:50-11:05 am
Mary Brown, Missy Howse-Willard, and Mark Robertson	
<i>Anatomy in Clay Workshop: A Hands-On Approach to Teaching Muscles</i>	8:30-9:45 am
Steve Kish	
Vendor Exhibits	11:00-11:30 am
Lunch and MCCB Meeting	1:30-12:55 pm
<i>Classroom Management</i>	1:00-2:15 pm
Joe Miles	
<i>Anatomy in Clay Workshop: A Hands-On Approach to Teaching Muscles</i>	1:00-2:15 pm
Steve Kish	
<i>Worms, Not just for Breakfast Anymore!</i>	2:20-3:35 pm
Dr. Bill Yamokowski	
<i>Anatomy in Clay Workshop: A Hands-On Approach to Teaching Muscles</i>	2:20-3:35 pm
Steve Kish	

Please note that registration for the conference must be received by 3/2/2009.

There is a conference registration form and membership form included in this newsletter. For more information concerning accommodations and directions, please visit the MCCB website: <http://www.mccb1.org/>



41,000 yr. old Neanderthal woman found at Tabun in Israel.

Building a Neanderthal

How were Neanderthals different from modern-day humans? What did they look like? How did they

behave? With the new reconstruction of the Neanderthal genome, scientists may be able to answer these questions more conclusively than ever before. In fact, they may actually be able to recreate a living Neanderthal.

A team of researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany is close to creating the first complete draft of the Neanderthal genome. Through the analysis of DNA from six Neanderthals, the team, led by Svante Pääbo, has revealed about

63 percent of the genome. Among this new knowledge is the discovery that Neanderthals had similar FOXP2 genes to humans, which could mean that they had the ability to speak.

Once the genome is complete, altered DNA could be inserted into a chimpanzee cell, which would then be implanted in the uterus of a chimp and grown into a fetus that would be similar or identical to a Neanderthal. Obviously, this raises numerous ethical quandaries, but the possibility does exist.

Whether or not a new Neanderthal is actually produced, this information is still valuable to the scientific community. It gives us previously undiscovered knowledge regarding our evolutionary heritage, and a new insight into the characteristics of our predecessors. It could also pave the way for further discoveries, which would broaden our understanding of the past and illuminate its links to the present.

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Morton Publishing Company

Dale Petty: “My Sustainable Sabbatical”

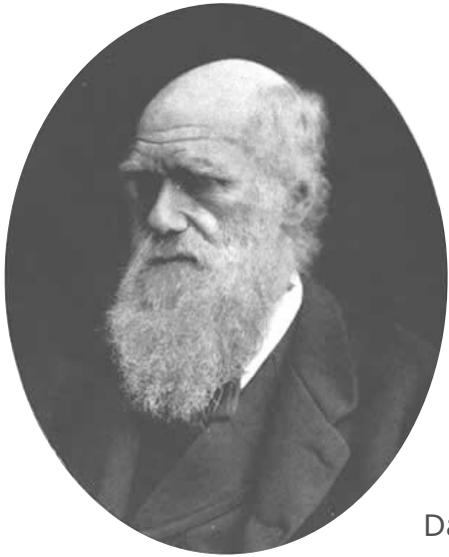
I got involved on a serious level with environmental activities at the college in January 2006. The Geology instructor who had led the Environmental Committee for years was about to retire and there seemed to be a void, so a few faculty and staff stepped up and got involved. I would love to be an expert in all things environmental and sustainable as well as an expert on organizational change, but mostly I am just a "concerned citizen" who deeply cares about the environment and am trying to make a difference through my work at the college. I am learning that I don't have to be an expert at everything, and that one of the keys to effective change is to get lots of people involved. So I have been pleased to find people from across the campus joining our Committee and supporting our efforts, from Facilities, Public Relations, Student Activities, the Vice President's Office, Human Resources, Finance and others.

Recently receiving a charge from the President of the college to guide the implementation of the American College and University President's Climate Commitment at Washtenaw Community College, is helping us focus our efforts. Last year I was feeling like I didn't have enough time to teach full time and really push the sustainability effort at WCC, so I applied for and was granted a sabbatical for the Fall of 2008 to work on campus sustainability. I spent the semester educating myself, having conversations with faculty and staff, giving talks to groups around campus, and putting more time into the Environmental Committee work. It really made a difference to be able to just focus on environmental work for a semester.



On the personal level, last year my wife and I were involved in a group of families that worked to determine their Carbon Footprint and lower it. My wife Jeannine Palms and I decided to try to become "carbon neutral". We found that electricity use, home heating and automobile use were the three things we could change that would have the biggest impact. We were already doing things like turning off light switches, replacing standard bulbs with CFLs for lights that were used a lot, taking short showers, minimizing dish and clothes washing hot water and minimizing car use. To tackle the electricity component, we hired John Wakeman of SUR Energy to install solar photovoltaic panels on our house. We put up twelve 186W panels for a total capacity of 2232 W. It is a grid-tied system so we don't have to fuss with batteries, but when DTW goes down our system has to shut itself off to protect the DTE workers. Once the "net-metering" regulations are finalized, we will get paid for the excess electricity we send to DTE at the same rate that we have to pay to receive it. In the summer, we produce more than we need. (We don't have air conditioning.) Overall for the year we expect to generate about 1/3 of the electricity we need. The system wasn't cheap and the payback period at today's energy rates is very long, but our goal was to impact our carbon footprint and it does that very significantly. Other things we are doing or planning to do soon are: try and ride bicycles or the bus everywhere we go in town, wash clothes in cold water and hang them to dry, replace an old, inefficient freezer, have our home super insulated to make it a "zero-net energy" home, add some solar hot air collection for winter home heating. My 90-year old father lives in Arizona and we visit him several times a year, so that is a significant carbon footprint that I'm not willing to give up. To offset our remaining carbon emissions, we have our own way of purchasing carbon offsets. We determined the amount of carbon offsets we would need to purchase using one of the carbon offset web sites. Instead of sending the money to a national organization however, we contribute that amount to local organizations that we feel are helping to avoid Climate Change.

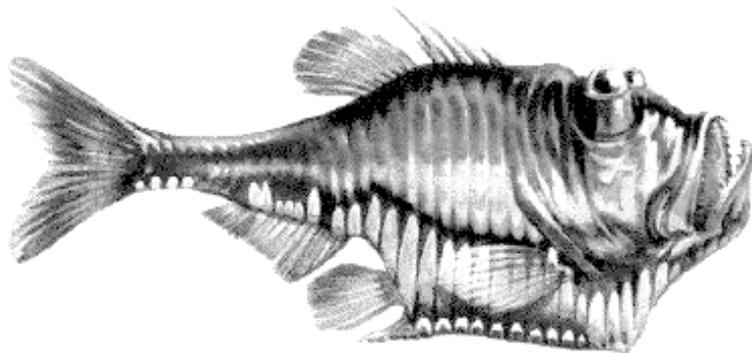
To learn more about Dale's work & to view Dale's incredibly, inclusive sustainability resource list, please visit: http://courses.wccnet.edu/~petty/index_files/Projects.htm



Happy Darwin Day !

February 12, 2009 marked the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin, eminent biologist and author of *The Origin Of Species*. “Darwin Day” is celebrated every year around the world and this year, being the bi-centennial anniversary of his birth, was observed by more than 700 individual events worldwide in 45 countries.

Darwin Day is an international celebration of science and humanity held on or around February 12, the day that Charles Darwin was born on in 1809. Specifically, it celebrates the discoveries and life of Charles Darwin -- the man who first described biological evolution via natural selection with scientific rigor. More generally, Darwin Day expresses gratitude for the enormous benefits that scientific knowledge, acquired through human curiosity and ingenuity, has contributed to the advancement of humanity. <http://www.darwinday.org>



Marine hatchet fish use a defense mechanism called counter illumination, in which light is produced by organs called photophores to camouflage the fish's silhouette from predators.

MCCB UPDATES

An Announcement:

Laura Thurlow from Jackson Community College wanted to share the following message:

JCC anticipates hiring Spring '09 for the Dungy Endowed Chair in the Life Sciences Position. This will be a tenure track, Environmental Science position.

Responsibilities will include: teaching and developing environmental science courses, building an environmental sciences certificate program, and acting as liaison with the Dungy family and community. This position hasn't been officially posted yet, but anyone interested can watch for an ad in the Chronicle and contact Laura Thurlow for further information at: ThurlowLauraM@jccmi.edu.

Future MCCB Conferences:

Fall 2009 - Henry Ford Community College
(Cindy Bida and Michael Palaski)

Spring 2010 - Schoolcraft Community College
(Nick Butkevich and Joel Watkins)

Fall 2010 - Grand Rapids Community College
(Leigh Kleinert, Tim Hoving, and Holly Hoare)

Upcoming Non-MCCB Events:

Michigan Branch of the American Society for Microbiology. Spring meeting at Delta College on March 27-28, 2009.

2009 ABLE Conference. The 31st Annual Association of Biology Laboratory Education Conference will be held at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware, June 9-13, 2009.

If any MCCB member knows about upcoming relevant conferences, seminars, or workshops being held in Michigan and throughout the U.S. please email information to Susan, sdentel@comcast.net and/or to Ralph Gorton, MCCB Webmaster, gorton@tds.net.

Thank you:

A special **Thank You to Susan Starr**. Susan served as editor of the MCCB newsletter over the last 9 years. Her dedication and hard work is very much appreciated and honored.

MCCB membership is open to all current and past community college biology instructors, as well as teachers from other institutions of higher education. Annual membership dues support the organization's many activities, including Fall and Spring conferences, special workshops, speakers, the MCCB newsletter and the MCCB website.

Annual dues are \$20 for full-time faculty members and \$10 for part-time (adjunct) and retired members. Institutional Memberships are \$100/year. Please note that Institutional membership does not cover the dues of any faculty at that institution. All individual members must pay their own dues.



A Statewide Network For Biology Educators

2009 Spring Conference Registration Form

Pre-registration is necessary!

Register and submit fees before March 2, 2009

In order to register for a conference, you must be a current member of MCCB. If you did not renew your membership prior to or at the Fall conference, please print and complete the membership registration form found at www.mccb1.org and mail payment with your conference registration. If you are unsure of your membership status, e-mail Susan Starr at biologysusie@yahoo. If your address or teaching status has changed, please submit an updated membership form.

The Spring 2009 Conference is being held at Sarett Nature Center on Friday, March 20th and at Lake Michigan College, South Haven Campus on Saturday, March 21st with Fran Miles serving as the conference coordinator. A schedule and conference details can be found in the Spring MCCB Newsletter and at the MCCB website, www.mccb1.org, under MCCB Conferences.

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Conference Fee \$40 x _____ (number attending) = \$_____

Please indicate which meals you will be eating:

Friday Dinner _____ (number attending)

Saturday Breakfast _____ (number attending)

Saturday Lunch _____ (number attending)

Please indicate any special dietary restrictions here: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$_____
Please make checks payable to MCCB.

Please register on or before March 2, 2009.

Send checks and registration form to: Fran Miles
Lake Michigan College
Natural Sciences Department
2755 East Napier Avenue
Benton harbor, MI 49022



www.mccb1.org

*The ONLY organization whose sole purpose is to support
Michigan Community College Biology Educators*

Membership Registration Form

In order to be eligible for membership, you must meet one of the following criteria:

- 1) Have or currently teach biology at a community college
- 2) Have taught or currently teach biology at an institution of higher education

The membership year runs from Fall conference to Fall conference. Your membership includes the MCCB Newsletter – published Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. You must be a member to participate in the Fall or Spring conferences.

Dues may be paid in advance by mail or at the Fall/Spring conference. **Annual dues are \$20 for full-time members / \$10 for part-time & retired members.** Please make checks payable to MCCB

NAME: _____ FT, PT, or Retired? _____

SCHOOL: _____

COURSES YOU TEACH/INTERESTS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL [print clearly]: _____

WORK PHONE: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

How did you first hear about our organization? _____

Would you be interested in helping out at conference? Yes No Maybe
Facilitating a Break-out session or giving at talk? Yes No Maybe
Would you like to be an officer or committee member (now or in the future)? Yes No Maybe

Submit this form and your dues to:

Susan Starr, MCCB Communications
8315 CJ Landing, Pinckney, MI 48169-9476

Mission of MCCB:

MCCB (Michigan Community College Biologists) serves as a state-wide forum for sharing instructional techniques and new ideas for teaching college-level biology. The organization fosters communication, friendship, and unity among the biologists of the twenty-nine community colleges in the State of Michigan. Two state-wide meetings are held annually

Founded in the early 1980's, MCCB began as an offshoot of COSIP (the College Science Improvement Program). Two COSIP groups were originally created in Michigan: a southern group of colleges (associated with the University of Michigan/Dearborn and directed by Dr. Hertzler) and a northern group of colleges (associated with Central Michigan University and directed by Dr. Carl Scheel). The initial meeting to form a statewide organization of community colleges occurred at Delta College in 1981. The first slate of officers was elected at that time, with Eldon Enger as President and Janet Dettloff as Vice-President.

- *To promote an interest in biology.*
 - *To improve the teaching of biology by providing opportunities to share and discuss instructional techniques and teaching methods.*
 - *To provide opportunities for updates on current topics and trends in biology.*
 - *To facilitate the exchange of ideas and foster communication, friendship and unity among the community college biologists in Michigan.*
-

MCCB News Editor

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