

for materials and help by the Executive Committee.

Work conferences are being held in several states this fall as a part of the meetings of state teacher's associations, particularly in North Carolina and Indiana. As rapidly as state chairmen can be selected and plans completed other states will organize work conferences.

The first of four regional conferences is scheduled for Philadelphia as a part of the annual meeting of National Association of Biology Teachers on December 28 at Hotel Adelphia. Representatives from the New England, Middle Atlantic, and Eastern coastal states as far south as North Carolina will be particularly invited to this work conference, which will be held under the leadership of Dr. Richard L. Weaver and the regional chairmen for regions I, II, V. The experience of this work conference will help determine the plans for the others scheduled for the deep south, the far west and the central states.

The Conservation Project Committee is particularly anxious to enlist the help of all our members interested in conservation and any others, whether members or not, who can help do any of the following.

1. Compile as accurate an account as possible of the extent of conservation education in High School Biology programs in each state.
2. Prepare descriptions of special techniques used and of units of study for publication.
3. Develop the best set of criteria possible on good teaching practices in conservation education adapted to the various regions of the United States.

Submitted by  
 RICHARD L. WEAVER,  
*President, NABT*

## THE PHILADELPHIA MEETING

The annual meeting of THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BIOLOGY TEACHERS will be held December 27-30 at Hotel Adelphia in Philadelphia as a part of the AAAS Convention. National Association of Biology Teachers is cooperating with National Association of Science Teachers and the American Nature Study Society in sponsoring three joint sessions in the morning of December 27, 28 and 29.

Your President, Dick Weaver, is responsible for the planning of the first of these joint sessions which will be devoted to "Adapting Science Instruction to the Developmental Needs of Children." Dr. Rose Lammel of New York University will give a talk on this topic and then there will be discussion groups of 20-25 people led by various members of the three cooperating organizations.

Dick Westwood, Past President of American Nature Study Society is responsible for the second joint session on "Adapting Science Instruction to Community Needs." Teachers will describe how they have organized their work to do this.

Art Baker, President of National Science Teachers Association is arranging the third of the joint sessions on "Adapting Science to Meet National and International Needs."

Dr. Harvey Stork, President-Elect of National Association of Biology Teachers is arranging for two of the afternoon NABT programs on December 27 and 29. On December 28 there will be a workshop on conservation education directed by Dick Weaver and Dr. E. L. Palmer, to evaluate present programs of conservation education and to make plans for the preparation of some curriculum materials and in-service education programs. This will be the first of four regional conferences sponsored by NABT as a part of the new conservation project made possible by the grant of \$10,000 by the American Nature Association.

The Board of Directors will hold meetings December 27-28 and 29 from 8-10 A.M. to develop plans for 1952. The Membership Committee will meet December 28, 8-10

A.M. The Conservation Committee will meet December 29, 8-10 A.M.

The National Association of Biology Teachers will co-sponsor an all-day field trip with American Nature Study Society on Sunday, which is being arranged by James Fowler of the Philadelphia Academy of Science.

A joint dinner will be held by all three societies with square dancing as one of the features.

Dr. Lily A. Weirbach is serving as general chairman of the local committee as an NABT representative and Charles Knopf is serving as chairman of NABT luncheon arrangements. Dr. Weirbach has organized a strong local committee to help with the registration, promotion, physical arrangements, entertainment, dinners, field trips and exhibits.

Send in your reservations for rooms on the application blanks printed elsewhere in the magazine. Our headquarters will be Hotel Adelphia.

Plan now to attend and to bring some of your friends. It will be one of our best conventions.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Dr. Breukelman:

I should like to commend you for publishing the very excellent letter of Dr. Arthur W. Jones in the January issue of *The American Biology Teacher*.

. . . The perversion of Darwin's pioneer ideas has too long provided a convenient basic principle for shameful and disastrous behavior on the part of man towards man; currently it offers a ready-made philosophy for the perpetuation of such behavior on a grander scale. Dr. Jones has made a timely plea for consideration of evidence which contradicts this philosophy and has assembled facts to support his views.

Dr. Ashley Montagu, whom Dr. Jones mentions, has written a little book, *On Being Human* (Schuman, N. Y., 1950) . . . . The evidence he presents is worthy of attention. In contrast to the fatalistic consequences of adherence to Social Darwinism—the struggle

that can result only in extinction—he offers the refreshing hope that man may yet build a better society on the basic principle of cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

LELAND H. TAYLOR,  
*West Virginia University,*  
*Morgantown, W. Va.*

Dear Editor Breukelman:

A few minutes "breather" permits me to write concerning the letter of V. T. Dimitroff, Paul Smith's College, Paul Smiths, New York, printed in the January 1951 issue.

Mr. Dimitroff's forthright criticism is belied by the fact that he has supplied an important and interesting report of the National Conference on Premedical Education of October, 1950. This should be of value not only to those of college level but also to the secondary school biologists who are shaping vocational trends in formative years.

I must differ with Mr. Dimitroff. The journal and the organization are, for me, very excellent, fulfilling a need that should be met. The biologists of all levels must be made to see that there is mutual interest and interdependence. We are breaking down barriers, not erecting them in this day and age of community of purposes and aims.

Mr. Dimitroff works in marvelously beautiful country. Let him supply the rest of us with some of the biology inspired by living in the Adirondack environment. We could all benefit from it, high-schooler or college professor alike. Let's have some contributions from the rich resources of Paul Smith's.

Very sincerely yours,

CHARLES E. PACKARD,  
*Randolph-Macon College,*  
*Ashland, Virginia*

## NEW ASSISTANT EDITOR

It is with pleasure that *The American Biology Teacher* announces the appointment of B. Bernarr Vance as assistant editor. He is well known to all members of NABT and readers of ABT, both for his many services to the association and its journal and for his excellent work as