



THE STAFF

Richard Armacost, Paul Klinge, John Breukelman, Alfred Stockard, and the Director, Richard L. Weaver.

PREFACE

Ever since its organization in 1938, The National Association of Biology Teachers has kept as its foremost aim the improvement of biology teaching at all levels, particularly at the high school level. The membership of the organization consists of elementary, high school, and college biology teachers, as well as many others interested in the improvement of teaching. One of the first acts of the organizational meeting in 1938 was the establishment of an official journal, *The American Biology Teacher*. Ever since the first issue October 1938, this journal has been published through the school year, from October to May. Through its journal and through standing and special committees, NABT has contributed much, not only to teaching techniques and materials, but also to a better understanding among teachers at the various levels.

One outstanding special committee of the National Association of Biology Teachers was that on conservation education, which under the direction of Richard L. Weaver has completed a three-year nation-wide study of conservation teaching in the public schools, and recently has published a handbook on teaching conservation and resource-use.¹ This ac-

tivity was made possible by a \$10,000 grant from the American Nature Association.

In the spring of 1954, the National Science Foundation announced a grant of \$15,000 to finance a ten-day work conference, to be held at the University of Florida preceding the annual meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, of which NABT is a member. The report of this conference, under the joint direction of Richard L. Weaver and Samuel L. Meyer of Florida State University, was printed as the January, 1955, issue of *The American Biology Teacher*.

Last year the National Science Foundation awarded NABT a second \$15,000 grant to finance a conference to be held in Michigan preceding the 1955 meeting of AIBS in East Lansing. The planning committee for this conference, which met in Chicago in February, 1955, chose as the site of this meeting the University of Michigan Biological Station, Douglas Lake, Michigan. The committee decided to base the deliberations on the following five areas of applied biology: health and disease, human genetics, the food supply of

¹ *Handbook for Teaching of Conservation and Resource-Use*, The Interstate Printers and Publishers, Inc., Danville, Illinois, 1955, \$4.00.

man, plants and man, conservation. It was agreed that this emphasis on applied biology would encourage further exploration of the areas of basic biology studied in the Florida conference in 1954.

The planning committee chose Richard L. Weaver as director and John Breukelman as chairman of the steering committee. Other staff members were Richard Armacost and Paul Klinge, Co-editors of *The American Biology Teacher*, and Alfred H. Stockard, Director of the Michigan Biological Station. Much credit for the success of the conference goes to Dr. Stockard. The excellent facilities of the station, with all participants living on the campus and eating at the station cafeteria contributed greatly to effective group work.

In addition to the staff, other members of the steering committee were as follows: Brother H. Charles, F.S.C., President NABT;

Arthur Baker, Past President NABT; Muriel Beuschlein, Secretary, Steering Committee; George W. Jeffers, Longwood College, Farmville, Virginia; Irving C. Keene, Brookline High School, Brookline, Massachusetts; Howard M. Phillips, Dean, Graduate School, Emory University, Georgia; Harvey Stork, Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota; and Paul V. Webster, Secretary-Treasurer NABT.

The editorial committee responsible for the 1955 report consisted of ABT Co-editors Richard Armacost and Paul Klinge, Richard L. Weaver, and John Breukelman. Photographs for the report were taken by Richard L. Weaver.

Copies of the report can be secured from Paul Webster, Secretary-Treasurer NABT, Bryan City Schools, Bryan, Ohio.

John Breukelman
Chairman, Steering Committee

Introduction

Objectives of the Conference

Four objectives, very similar to those selected for the Southeastern Conference, were agreed upon for the North Central Conference. They were:

1. To study the contributions of biology to living, and to develop a set of basic principles and practical experiences which are essential for biology teachers and pupils.
The areas selected were:
conservation of natural resources; food supply of man; plants and man; human inheritance; and health and disease.
2. To analyze and select some of the most important problems of biology teaching at various levels of instruction and in State Departments of Public Instruction.
3. To develop a set of recommendations for the solution of the selected problems.
4. To formulate plans by state teams for implementing the recommendations.

It was recognized at the conference that not all readers of the North Central Conference Report would have access to copies of the report on the Southeastern Conference, so some

material from the first conference would have to be included in this report, particularly in the section on "Recommendations."

Selection of Participants

Teams of participants were selected from the ten North Central States by the Director and staff members from lists of people nominated by members of the Steering Committee, and by representatives of the State Departments of Public Instruction, state and national professional organizations such as the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the National Science Teachers Association, the American Nature Study Society, the Central Association of Science and Mathematics Teachers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the National Research Council.

Each team was composed of two or more high school teachers or teachers in training, two to four college teachers of biology and/or science education, and professional educators and/or public school administrators. In cases where it was not possible to fill state quotas or distribution patterns, substitutions were made from other states and other catego-