1938 – 2013
Celebrating 75 Years
Honoring the Past & Building the Future

NABT
National Association of Biology Teachers
1938 • 2013

Edited by William F. McComas, Ph.D.
Our Mission

The National Association of Biology Teachers empowers educators to provide the best possible biology and life science education for all students.

Our Values

As the recognized leader in life science education, the National Association of Biology Teachers represents and supports teachers, students, scientists, and allied professional organizations to enhance and improve biological literacy for all.

WE BELIEVE THAT…

...biological science education at all levels is essential and fundamental for all in a global society.

...teachers are professionals entitled to respect, recognition and opportunities for growth in discipline knowledge and pedagogical excellence.

...teachers are the best advocates for their students, colleagues and the profession.

...the science of biology and the practice of pedagogy are dynamic and linked.

...all biology learning experiences should be engaging, meaningful, holistic, and immerse students in the nature and practices of science particularly with application to other sciences, society and world issues.
A Message from the Editor

Since the founding of NABT three quarters of a century ago, there have been huge changes in society, in technology, and, of course, in science. NABT was born during this period of change, following the Darwinian revolution that allowed biology to move beyond natural history. NABT matured during the dramatic discoveries in molecular biology that gave biology its theoretical soul and has come of age in the current genomic revolution. Throughout our long history we have been partners with the science of biology and the biologists who add to our storehouse of knowledge about the natural world. We provide advocacy for the inclusion of biology in the school curriculum, we help translate cutting-edge science into classroom practice, and, above all, we support teachers individually and collectively by providing a nurturing and dynamic professional home for all those who care about the science of biology and biology as teaching practice. In celebrating our 75th Anniversary, it is instructive to look back with interest to see where we have been, examine ideas that have been tried in the past, and consider where we are going in the years ahead. As we celebrate our past and anticipate our future, it is clear that our core mission—advocacy and support for the science of biology and for those who bring it to life in the hearts and minds of students in classrooms across the nation and beyond—will not waver.

The brief retrospective presented here would have been impossible without the efforts of NABT Past President (1940–41) George W. Jeffers, who in 1964 wrote NABT: its First Quarter Century. This was followed by the heroic contributions of Jerry P. Lightner, who was inspired by distinguished Past President Arnold Grobman to locate the Jeffers manuscript and update it, resulting in his 2001 manuscript As I Remember It. Another very useful source of information was the NABT 50th Anniversary brochure.

Of course, our story continued for another quarter century after the publication of the brochure, so it remained the task of the members of the NABT History Committee, led by the indefatigable Pat Waller and wonderful people like Bunny Jaskot, Dee Millard, Betty Carvallas, Ann Lumsden, Kathy Frame, Bob McGuire, Maura Flannery, Dot Reardon, and others to bring us to the present. My task was to use the available materials and share the story of the remarkable history of NABT’s first 75 years. I have drawn freely from Lightner’s book and from overviews written by members of the NABT History Committee, some of which have appeared in the pages of The American Biology Teacher in this, our anniversary year. I have chosen to write in a narrative form rather than a scholarly one and trust that I can be forgiven for the lack of references and for the decision not to use most academic titles (except where they appear in direct quotes); the story simply felt more intimate in their absence. I also hope that I can be forgiven for occasionally borrowing the words and phrases of those who contributed to what appears in the following pages, a romp through our first 75 years. Of course, I alone take responsibility for the editorial decisions made and for any misinterpretations, misattributions, or mistakes that may have crept into this account. The goal has been to inform, entertain, and perhaps even surprise. I will leave it to the reader to determine if I have succeeded.

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NABT Beginnings

As Jerry Lightner tells us, the origin of NABT can be traced to the 1936 meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), which featured a speech by Oscar Riddle of the Carnegie Institution. In this talk, Riddle questioned why, in spite of the many discoveries of biology, many people knew little about it, and why the quality of biology instruction and even the number of students studying biology in the schools had decreased.

Riddle later recalled that in the audience was the president of the Union of American Biological Societies. Riddle is quoted as saying “Within minutes he asked me whether I would care to form a committee that would operate under auspices of the Union and perhaps find something to do about the teaching of biology.”

Riddle accepted this challenge, and by June 1936 he had formed the Committee on Biological Science Teaching with members E. V. Cowdry, F. L. Fitzpatrick, H. Bentley Glass, B. C. Gruenberg, and E. W. Sinnott. Their work would be to enhance secondary school instruction and to form a society “primarily of and for high school teachers of biology.” The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching provided $10,000 in 1937 to support this vision. What happened next demonstrates the power of a few individuals with a bold idea and the will to make it happen. As Lightner tells us, on the morning of July 1, 1938, “eighteen enthusiastic biologists came together in New York City with the avowed purpose of setting up a national association.”

Announcements regarding this new organization appeared in an article in The Teaching Biologist, the official publication of the New York Biology Teachers Association, which was sent to about 10,000 biologists and biology teachers. The New York Times announced the formation of what would become NABT with the following short article on July 2, 1938:

National Teachers’ Group Will Publish a Journal. Formation of a national association of biologists was announced yesterday by Dr. Oscar Riddle of Carnegie Institute. Representatives of thirty-four State societies developed the program at the Hotel New Yorker Friday and yesterday. The purpose of the biology association … is to encourage scientific thinking and the utilization of the scientific method through the teaching of biology, provide a national journal, facilitate the dissemination of the biological knowledge which is “most vitalizing and useful to the public in everyday life” and aid biology teachers generally. Dr. M. C. Lichtenwalter of Chicago was elected president.

Alex Herskowitz agreed to become the acting editor of NABT’s new journal, The American Biology Teacher (ABT), and the nascent organization was off and running.
The Carnegie money may have started the organization, but soon NABT needed to secure a more continuous source of funding, particularly because the initial issue of *ABT* was to be released in the fall of 1938. President Myrl Lichtenwalter and Secretary-Treasurer P. K. Houdek worked to set up business procedures, with dues pegged at $1.00 per year. *The American Biology Teacher* volume 1, issue 1 was released on schedule, with an even bolder plan to contribute to the 1938 meeting of AAAS in Richmond, Virginia.

Undaunted, the new leaders of NABT designed a one-day program, held executive board meetings, and, with the Union of American Biological Societies, hosted a banquet. In his after-dinner remarks, Oscar Riddle stated that

> The officers and members of this association [have] added the larger part of a thousand to its membership, founded a journal (with three issues printed), obtained a place of joint responsibility in the Union of American Biological Societies, affiliated with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, planned and consummated a first national meeting – all within just 180 days from the time your delegates met in New York to give form and substance to this new organism.

By June of 1939, NABT had 1,600 members and $300 in the bank. The war years were as hard for NABT as they were for other associations, owing to fiscal reasons, transportation problems, loss of members, and even paper shortages. In addition, an NABT president had to resign after he was called up for war duty. Third president George W. Jeffers later said that “If I had to single out the one individual who has endured most for NABT I would unhesitatingly choose Merle A. Russell of Highland Park, Michigan who assumed the presidency on 1 July 1942.” Russell held the organization together and is the only person to serve two terms as president. At this time the editorship of *ABT* shifted to John Breukelman, a member of the Kansas Association of Biology Teachers. During this period, a “significant” dues increase occurred, from $1.00 to $1.50, while the number of pages of *ABT* was reduced to save money.

As the war ended, the membership committee met with success in recruiting new members and maintaining the rolls at about 1,600, an increase of 45% over the previous year. Helen Trowbridge, who had made many contributions to NABT since its inception, was elected president in 1944, becoming the first woman to serve in that office. The relationship between NABT and AAAS was formalized in 1945 when NABT was named an affiliated society. As 1946 drew to a close, NABT passed the 2,000 mark in memberships with money in the bank. Perhaps because of pent-up demand, 1946 also saw two “annual” conferences, one in March in St. Louis and another at the end of the year in Boston. Dues crept from $2.75 to $3.75, just under the $4 rate charged by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA; an organization recently formed by a merger of the American Science Teachers Association, publishers of *The Science Teacher*, and the American Council on Science Teaching, a department of the National Education Association). As Lightner points out, “there was no stampede to join with NSTA; the longstanding Education Section of the American Chemical Society, and the American Association of Physics Teachers, did not immediately affiliate with NSTA nor did the relatively young NABT.”
After 11 years as editor of ABT, John Breukelman bowed out with the completion of the May 1953 issue, succeeded briefly by B. Bernarr Vance, who had been the assistant editor. During this period, many in the NABT leadership were interested in the subject of conservation, thus giving the association a unifying theme and the possibility of publishing a 500-page handbook on the subject.

The financial and programmatic stability of NABT remained a concern, and the association looked closely at the possibility of becoming a member society of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS). There were advantages to the affiliation, like AIBS’s maintenance of the mailing list for ABT, but concerns were raised about the annual cost to NABT levied by AIBS for membership. This union did come to pass, but not with a unanimous vote on the part of the NABT leadership.

The challenge of who should be the next editor was neatly solved in 1954 when Richard Armacost agreed to serve as co-editor with Paul Klinge. When Brother H. Charles of St. Mary’s College in Winona, Minnesota, became president in 1955, NABT received some criticism from the members regarding the growing domination of the organization by “college people” when “the founders wanted it to be the other way around.” However, even as this issue remained unresolved, the membership committee at the time worked so effectively that in five years NABT membership had doubled.

Brother Charles also advanced NABT in another way by personally preparing and editing a newsletter that Ward’s Natural Science Establishment agreed to mail along with its own Bulletin. This newsletter evolved into NABT News & Views. In March of 1956, NABT was incorporated as a nonprofit entity in the State of Illinois, and ABT enlarged from 24 to 32 pages per issue. In addition, a new $2.00/year category of “student membership” was inaugurated in response to a similar plan from NSTA.

The new union with AIBS and the traditional link to AAAS proved interesting for NABT, which met with AAAS at Christmas while planning to play a role in the next AIBS conference. In 1958, as in the previous decade, NABT presented programs, one at the August meeting of AIBS at Indiana University with 75 members present and another at the annual Christmas meeting of AAAS in Washington, DC, where there was an anniversary luncheon celebrating NABT’s twentieth year. As the 1950s ended and the 1960s began, NABT had grown to the point that treasurer Paul Webster, in his retirement note, proposed that NABT seek funding to hire a full-time executive secretary, thus signaling a true coming of age for the association.
In 1959, *ABT* Editor Paul Klinge assumed the presidency of NABT. Just a few weeks later, his co-editor Richard Armacost died unexpectedly. Now working as both association president and *ABT* editor, Paul moved to update the design and features of the journal, increase membership, increase advertising and subscription rates, improve services resulting from AIBS affiliation, and address a possible administrative reorganization.

The journal changed dramatically, increasing to 64 pages per issue and using color for the first time on the cover and in some advertising copy. News items moved to *NABT News & Views*, freeing up journal space for more content. The Conservation Committee published a *Manual for Outdoor Laboratories*. The Association of Microbiologists (ASM) produced a series of articles that appeared in a June 1960 special issue that eventually resulted in the production of 50,000 copies, with multiple reprints requested by the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS) and National Science Foundation (NSF) Institutes. The annual AAAS Christmas convention in Chicago, with NABT sessions, featured a talk from Nobel Laureate Herman J. Muller on life beyond Earth. Also in 1959, a motion was passed to select regional chairmen (later renamed “regional directors” and then “coordinators”) to assist in NABT activities in their respective states.

One of the highlights in 1960 was the development of the Outstanding Teacher Award Program, which evolved into the Outstanding Biology Teacher Award (OBTA) program. NABT had grown to 6,000 members, with attendance at the NABT sessions at the AIBS and AAAS meetings having grown so large that the association was now being asked to offer concurrent sessions. Concern was again voiced that NABT should have a dedicated executive secretary and that the affiliate dues to AIBS were excessive.

The December 1961 AAAS conference in Denver featured a talk by H. Bentley Glass, who was involved with the founding of NABT and, 10 years in the future, would become its president. The increased growth of the association was putting pressure on the volunteers responsible for member services, and Jerry P. Lightner, a teacher at Great Falls (Montana) High School, was asked to become acting secretary-treasurer. Within days, the files, office machines, and other equipment were shipped to Montana to reside in a series of ever-expanding offices in Lightner’s home.

In a board meeting at year’s end, a discussion was held on a possible “foundation for excellence in biological education”: “It was agreed that this is to be a private foundation with charter in Washington, D.C. Contributions will be solicited from individuals and industry to support the foundation … [it] would be the best way to get gifts for the OBTA program and … for any other projects of NABT.” Although the idea of a foundation remained alive
for a few years, it never gained necessary support and was eventually abandoned.

President Muriel Beuschlein’s administration drew to a close with the NABT meeting held in conjunction with the 1962 AAAS convention in Philadelphia. The NABT Board met a record five times between Christmas and New Year’s to explore changes to the constitution. Under the direction of Robert Yager of the University of Iowa, the OBTA program selected nine regional winners.

NABT also met with AIBS in August in Amherst, Massachusetts. The year-end national conference in Cleveland was a celebration of the association’s 25th Anniversary, featuring NABT founder Oscar Riddle, who made the case for a two-year sequence of biology in the high school curriculum. At this time a series of special mailings was instituted to give extra value to members. One of these mailings was the monumental 562-page book titled *Ideas in Modern Biology*, edited by John A. Moore. The book consisted of 18 articles on genetic continuity, cell biology, development, evolution, phylogeny, and behavior; 6,000 copies were made available for complimentary distribution to all active NABT members.

The association had grown to 8,000 memberships and subscriptions, and in 1964 the Executive Committee responded to a report from Jerry Lightner by directing that a temporary office for NABT be established in Great Falls, Montana, that Lightner be contracted to serve as executive secretary full time, and that the office be moved to Washington, DC, in the following year. Lightner soon rented space for the temporary office, where he and his assistant Marilyn Coelho – the first full-time employee of NABT – set up business operations.

This coincided with a plan from NSF that NABT establish a series of regional seminars, although NSF did not wish to mix college and high school biology instructors; it preferred a proposal aimed directly at high school teachers. NABT continued its practice of contributing to multiple meetings; in 1965, it met with AIBS at the University of Illinois and with AAAS at the University of California.

Arnold B. Grobman became NABT president in 1966. During March 25–26, the NABT Western Regional Conference took place at the Statler Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles. Across the country, Stanley Weinberg and his New York colleagues vowed to match the success enjoyed by their western counterparts. During October 14–16, the Eastern Regional Conference was held at the Americana Hotel in New York City with 1,200 registrants.

In July of 1966, NABT opened its executive headquarters in Washington, DC, at 1420 N. Street Northwest and almost immediately received word from NSF that it would fund the proposed series of nine Regional Seminars in Biology for Teachers. In August, NABT met with AIBS at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Grobman was succeeded as president by William V. Mayer. In an interesting twist, both men would lead BSCS during their professional lives. The Regional Seminars, which included topics such as “Recent Developments in Embryology,” “Aspects of Animal Behavior,” and “Microbial Genetics,” were a great success, with their strategic use of field and laboratory work and time for interaction between the guest scientist and participants. At the Board of Directors meeting, debate ensued about whether the affiliation with AIBS should continue, but no decision was made.

Perhaps as an indication of things to come, the board decided that it was time for NABT to hold its first independent national convention, at the Anaheim Convention Center near Disneyland, at the end of February 1968. There, Jack Fishleder, a staff member of SCIS at the University of California, Berkeley, was elected President. The conference was a huge success, with more than 2,800 people attending. Mercury astronaut Scott Carpenter’s talk was titled “From Inner Space to Outer Space.” Independent conferences became the norm in the years that followed, extending to 2013, our 75th Anniversary year, which will be celebrated in Atlanta.
It was 1969 and Burton E. Voss, a professor of science education at the University of Michigan, would serve as NABT president, with President-elect Robert E. Yager, Secretary-Treasurer Ivo E. Lindauer, and Executive Director Jerry P. Lightner. When the association met in Philadelphia in October, it was evident that NABT had continued to mature, with a structure that included a number of permanent committees, some involving as many as 50 members. Longtime ABT Editor Paul Klinge stepped down, Jack Carter stepped up to the editorship, and Arnold Grobman was tapped to edit a publication titled *Social Implications of Biological Education*. The financial health of NABT was strong; dues for active membership were raised from $8 to $10 per year, taking 30 years to rise to double digits! Conference-goers in Philadelphia would long remember a strike at the hotel site of the conference.

Bob Yager became president in 1970 and presided over the annual conference at the Denver Hilton. There was standing-room-only for 1,000 biology teachers who crowded the hall to hear Barry Commoner. One of the founding fathers of the association, H. Bentley Glass, assumed the presidency in 1971, and the conference took place in Chicago in October.

The California Science Framework adopted by the State Board of Education two years previously stated that a dualism on the origin of life existed, encompassing evolution and creation. Textbooks based on the Framework were to be selected in 1972, and the willingness of NABT to become actively involved in the California Science Framework situation marked a turning point. Articles on academic freedom appeared in *ABT*; presentations were made on the creationists’ threat to proper biology teaching, and the association established a committee to address biology and society. Thus began the long involvement of NABT with the threat of creationism.

Addison E. Lee succeeded Claude Welch as President in 1973 and quickly learned that the Tennessee General Assembly had amended its state code to require that biology textbooks provide “an equal amount of emphasis on the origins and creation of man … as recorded in … the Genesis account in the Bible.” Consequently, at a meeting on June 15, 1973, President Lee chaired a session at which the NABT Board of Directors unanimously moved to assume the role of plaintiff against the State of Tennessee.

NABT’s 1974 president was Barbara K. Hooper, who happened to teach in one of the states most affected by the efforts of creationists. The editorship of *ABT* was transferred to Joan Creager, and Executive Director Lightner explored the possibility of purchasing a headquarters office to avoid the high cost of rent. Soon
after, NABT took ownership of a condominium unit on Roger Bacon Drive in Reston, Virginia. As the year ended, the association held its annual conference at the Americana Hotel in New York City. The legal action of which NABT was a part was resolved in 1975, when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth District ruled that the Tennessee law unconstitutionally established a preference for the teaching of the Biblical account of creation over the theory of evolution. The NABT Fund for Freedom in Science Teaching raised and spent almost $30,000, with at least one victory in the ongoing battle regarding this important issue.

At President Thomas Cleaver’s first Executive Committee meeting, the frequently discussed question of NABT affiliation with the American Institute of Biological Sciences again surfaced. The minutes of that meeting indicate that well over an hour of discussion ensued and, in the end, the committee voted to continue adherent society membership in AIBS, subject to annual review.

Haven Kolb served as association president in 1976. As a biology teacher at Hereford High School in Parkton, Maryland, Kolb was the first high school teacher in 12 years to lead the NABT. The conference took place in Denver. Jack L. Carter, former editor of ABT and professor of biology at Colorado College, became NABT president for 1977, and the Executive Committee decided on special dues consideration for retired members. As the fourth decade of the association’s existence was drawing to a close, Glen E. Peterson, a professor of biology at Memphis State University, became president for 1978 and longtime Executive Director Jerry Lightner submitted his resignation, marking the end of an era.
In 1979, Wayne Moyer was named NABT’s second executive director and the association entered its fifth decade. During the early 1980s, NABT experienced significant challenges with declining funds and a declining membership. With its staunch membership support, a change in staff leadership led to financial soundness, while addressing the varying needs of its membership to teach biology effectively. Special-interest sections were formed within the organization, and content-rich monographs were published to support the growing needs of biology educators.

A Nation at Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform was released in 1983 and described “the rising tide of mediocrity” within the educational system of the United States, especially in science. Edward J. Kormondy, the 1981 NABT president, stated that “if teachers of science, math, and technology, as well as all other subjects, do not regard themselves as professionals imbued with knowledge, experiences and skill, the enterprise will crumble.” In response, NABT began to develop special publications such as New Directions in Biology Teaching. This series of monographs provided teachers with useful classroom exercises and laboratories as supplements to their existing curricula.

NABT partnered with the American Society of Zoologists to distribute their book series, Science as a Way of Knowing, reminiscent of a similar initiative in the mid-1960s. The updating of biology content was the key to attracting, increasing, and supporting NABT’s membership. Other examples of NABT’s growth as the frontrunner in life science education occurred during the 1984 national conference. With computers increasing in use in the classroom, Purdue University sponsored several sessions on the use of technology in classrooms – a first for NABT.

The creation–evolution battle continued, and NABT stood firmly on the side of science as the creationism issue was extensively promoted by anti-evolutionists. As 1983 NABT President Jane Butler Kahle reminds us, “NABT was thoroughly embroiled in the battle to prove that creationism is not a science. Fortunately for life science educators, Judge William R. Overton, United States District Judge in Arkansas (McLean v. Arkansas in 1982) delivered a thoughtful and comprehensive decision that overturned a state law that required teaching the creationist as well as the biological explanation of evolution. His ruling was reprinted in the ABT in March 1982.” In response to the creationism issue, NABT initiated a bimonthly newsletter, Scientific Integrity, that dealt not only with the anti-evolutionists, but also with other attacks on science and the growing public interest in pseudoscience.

The early 1980s were a time of significant change for NABT. Jane Butler Kahle, who would later become the 1983 NABT president, describes this as a “turbulent period for biology teaching and for NABT. For biology teachers nationwide, the creationist controversy was in full swing, NABT had attempted a different type of convention and the...
With new leadership, there was a reversal in the six-year membership decline, and the roster once again began to grow. The finances were positive. In 1987, the first education director, Rosalina Hairston, was hired. Don Emmeluth tells us that her work involved “grant development and procurement and bringing an increased awareness of educational process and materials to the membership.” By 1989, President John Penick found NABT with a growing membership, a surplus in the bank, no major expenses, and a conference in San Diego entitled “Biology Education: Moving toward the 21st Century.”

The 1988 national conference was held in Chicago to celebrate NABT’s 50th year. Chicago was a fitting site for this celebration, given that NABT was incorporated in Illinois. A 50th Anniversary Club was initiated for those contributing $50 or more that included many past and future NABT Presidents. News & Views listed all the members since 1963 as “25-year members,” including some very familiar names in biology education: Paul Brandwein, Jack Carter, Paul Hummer, Paul DeHart Hurd, Manert Kennedy, Jerry Lightner, Ivo Lindauer, L. S. McClung, Joseph Novak, Stanley Roth, Burton Ross, Albert Towlie, and Robert Yager, among others. The NABT Distinguished Service Award was also established to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the association.

Jane Abbott became NABT president in 1988 and reflected on the first 50 years of NABT by saying that “We are cognizant that the real strength of NABT is invested in its membership. All of you have contributed as authors, reviewers, committee members, convention participants, and leaders. The sine qua non of a strong organization is the involvement of the membership, and I’m looking forward to seeing what the next 50 years will bring.”
In 1992, the Long Range Planning Committee adopted a new mission statement: “NABT is dedicated to leadership for biology education.” This statement was revised in 1998 to become “The National Association of Biology Teachers empowers educators to provide the best possible biology and life science education for all students.”

In the final decade of the 20th century and NABT’s sixth decade, the nation’s biology teachers were able to stay on top of three of the big issues, as revealed by a review of the articles within ABT: the National Science Education Standards, the teaching of evolution, and animal rights.

Members were informed about progress on the new National Science Education Standards well before their 1996 release. Not only did NABT establish a task force to review materials and identify how and where they would meet the standards, they prepared educational materials that met the expectations of the new standards and had an “instrument” on the Web for evaluating alignment of curricula, programs, and materials.

The second major issue of the decade continues still – the evolution/creationism debate. Numerous ABT editorials addressed the issue throughout the 1990s, and NABT released a position statement on “The Teaching of Evolution.” In addition to numerous programs at the national conventions and articles during the period, ABT editor Randy Moore wrote an eight-part series of articles about the legal history of the evolution/creationism controversy.

One of ABT’s letters to the editor during this time came from Don Aguillard, lead plaintiff in Aguillard v. Louisiana, the case that eventually produced the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling Edwards v. Aguillard, 1987, finding that the teaching of creationism in public-school science classes is unconstitutional. Aguillard wrote, “The biology profession owes you a debt of gratitude for reminding us that we all have an obligation to fight against what we know is wrong.”

Throughout the decade, biology teachers faced numerous challenges from animal rights groups. In 1992, NABT produced a monograph, Responsible Use of Animals in the Classroom, followed by three regional workshops of the same name. A position statement, “The Use of Animals in Biology Education,” followed. For the remainder of that year, and throughout much of the decade, the journal published several articles related to animal welfare, the use of animals in research, and dissection. Among the many letters to the editor was one from an actress, Alicia Silverstone, who felt that teachers should inform students of the option not to dissect.

NABT continued its own evolution in this decade. During Pat McWethy’s tenure as part-time executive director (1984–94), the NABT staff increased from 4 to 17, and membership doubled. Alton Biggs, 1992 president, started the “First Timers Breakfast” to encourage membership. His strong ties with the Texas affiliates were also vital to the success of the association at this time. In 1992, the Long Range Planning Committee adopted a new mission statement: “NABT is dedicated to leadership for biology education.” This statement was revised in 1998 to become “The National Association of Biology Teachers empowers educators to provide the best possible biology and life science education for all students.”
Teachers empower educators to provide the best possible biology and life science education for all students.

When Pat McWethy left, Lu Bukovsky took over as interim director and biologist Wayne Carley was hired as NABT’s first full-time executive director. The important mix of high school and two- and four-year members is as important now as it was starting to be in the early 1990s. The Four-Year and Two-Year College Sections were independent of each other at this time, but both were active and productive. The Four-Year College Section began to bloom during the 1990s, with poster sessions, the Four-Year College reception, and presentations at the annual convention. They also recognized that university faculty members were often hired for their research and not for their teaching skills, and that this was a problem for many large universities. The Four-Year College Section stressed good teaching and established the Four-Year College Teaching Award. In 1992, Ann S. Lumsden, biology faculty member at Florida State University, was the first recipient.

In 1993, the conference in Boston saw the largest attendance to date, serving 2,500 teachers! The Distinguished Service Award recipient and banquet speaker, Nancy Wexler of Columbia University, wowed the audience with her fascinating talk and her humanity. Access Excellence, an award program for high school biology teachers sponsored by Genentech, became a partner with NABT, bringing countless new members to the association. Actress and comedian Lily Tomlin opened the 1996 banquet during the conference in Charlotte, followed by Francis Collins, who was then director of the Human Genome Project.

The journal reflected other themes of the decade. Biotechnology, for example, was a relatively new field in the high school curriculum, so NABT responded with “Biotechnology in the High School Biology Curriculum: The Future Is Here” in the November 1994 issue of ABT. Although it seems commonplace now to do biotechnology lab activities in our classrooms, in the 1990s it was relatively new, and the equipment needed to bring those labs to high school students was well beyond the budgets of most districts. Kathy Frame, with support from NSF, MediaSeek, Genentech, Access Excellence, Gibco BRL (Life Technologies), and the Monsanto Fund, worked through partnerships among high school and two-year college instructors and industry to develop lab exercises to accompany Shoestring Biotechnology: Budget-oriented, High-quality Biotechnology Laboratories for Two-year and High-school. The cutting-edge laboratory activities were accompanied by a national training program for dissemination. They were extremely well received and are used even today in classrooms throughout the country.

In another successful partnership, NABT and the Society for Neuroscience provided neuroscience lab manuals free to all members in response to the 1990s being declared the “Decade of the Brain.”

The journal changed as well. In 1997, it added an extra issue, moving from eight to nine issues per year. For several issues, Neil Campbell wrote a fascinating column, “A conversation with…,” where he reported his interviews with noted scientists such as evolutionary biologist, taxonomist, ornithologist, and science historian Ernst Mayr. The practical column “How To Do It” grew from a few columns in each issue to an average of six to eight per issue by the end of the decade. Clearly, the Internet had not yet taken over as a primary source of good resources.
The words of Charles Dickens, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,” describes NABT at the beginning of 21st century, but in reverse. NABT began the new millennium with the anticipation of growing the organization, but world events reduced the financial stability of the association. However, as we will see, NABT rose to meet the challenges of biology educators in the new century.

The attacks of September 11, 2001, and the recession of the 2000s had a significant impact on NABT. The association’s fortunes waxed and waned with the changing availability of funding for teachers to support their conference attendance. The century began with NABT’s first international conference scheduled for Montreal in 2001, but international travel became difficult. Conference attendance was low, and NABT had to dig into its savings to meet the contractual obligations of the conference. Stress on the budget continued at the 2004 conference in Chicago because of unexpected labor costs from service charges at the holiday rate. The 2006 Albuquerque conference incurred an unexpected expense with the need to rent more LCD projectors than anticipated. The financial cushion, established through the sale of NABT’s two office condominiums in 1999, was severely depleted.

In 2007, the executive director resigned and the Board of Directors assumed the leadership of NABT, with President Pat Waller assisting the staff in the day-to-day operation of the Reston headquarters. To bolster finances, a director of development, Jaclyn Reeves-Pepin, was hired in late 2007. Efforts were focused on increasing membership and generating a successful conference in Atlanta.

NABT’s 2008 president, Todd Carter, reported that the association generated a positive cash balance in 2007 for the first time in a number of years, but it was not yet in a position to hire an executive director, and a number of cost cutting measures were put in place. Carter then became the interim executive director, assisted by incoming President John Moore, and a professional management company, Burk and Associates, was contracted to provide financial advice and some executive support. NABT left its Reston office and AIBS, a longtime NABT supporter and partner, housed the association.

The next few presidents, Bunny Jaskot, Dan Ward, and Don French, worked with the NABT Board and the membership to hold a series of successful conferences. In 2011, Jaclyn Reeves-Pepin was promoted to serve as executive director; her experience, vision, and dedication to the association have been extraordinarily important.

Even during this trying time, the association grew in services to its members and the biology education community. In 2002, in partnership with the Biotechnology Institute, NABT published Shoestring Biotechnology: Budget-oriented, High-quality Biotechnology Laboratories for Two-Year College and High School. In 2004, President Betsy Ott encouraged NABT to become more digital in its communications, and News & Views went online in 2005 as part of an increased Web presence.

The formation of the AP Biology Section in 2005 provided teachers with support for the ongoing changes in the AP Biology program. In 2008, the NABT BioClub was established with the support of Carolina Biological Supply Company. In 2012, with a renewed focus on the AP Biology
Curriculum, NABT and BSCS developed the “AP Biology Leadership Academy” to support teachers with the new curriculum framework, another example of the innovative responses to needs and trends that successful professional organizations provide.

The Biology Educator Leadership Scholarship Program (BELS) was established in 2008 with the support of PASCO scientific “to encourage and support teachers who want to further their education in the life sciences or life science education.” Another new section, the Outreach Coordinator and Informal Educator Section, held its first meeting at the 2009 national conference, established to promote “the public understanding of biology and the life sciences by supporting outreach coordinators, informal educators and others involved in biology education outside the traditional classroom setting.”

College biology educators were also supported through NABT programming. NABT was highlighted during the NSF/AAAS working conference “Transforming Undergraduate Education in Biology: Mobilizing the Community for Change” as the society that can help mobilize the community because its focus is on the community of biology educators. NABT was challenged to develop a conference that would highlight undergraduate biology instruction, and the 2009 national conference in Denver became the conference on undergraduate biology education. With over 100 sessions that emphasized two-year and four-year approaches, as well as several special sessions, including the “Stem Cell Education Summit,” NABT fulfilled its challenge to provide a conference focused on teaching and learning biology in the undergraduate arena.

Of course, some things never change, and the evolution issue remained a dominant one. Brad Williamson, 2002 NABT president, was appointed NABT evolution spokesman along with the executive director. The 2005 Kitzmiller v. Dover Pennsylvania Area School District case was resolved with the verdict that requiring a statement of equal treatment for intelligent design and evolution in public school biology classrooms was unconstitutional. The presiding judge in the trial, John E. Jones III, discussed the verdict with those attending the 2008 national conference in Memphis. Teachers from the Dover Area High School, Jennifer Miller and Robert Eshbach, spoke about their experiences in the school and during the trial.

During the first decade of the new century, ABT saw longtime editor Randy Moore turn over the editorship to Ann Haley MacKenzie, who took the reins from 2004 to 2008 and was very capably followed by William Leonard. Under Leonard’s leadership, special-topic issues resumed, with the February issues of the ABT devoted to evolution. To better enter the digital age, NABT joined with University of California Press to publish ABT and provide a stronger link to the digital scholarship world.

The association continues to face changes and challenges, from the Common Core State Standards of 2010 and the Next Generation Science Standards, released in 2013, both designed to transform K–12 teaching, to the Vision and Change report and the appearance of the generally free MOOCs (massive open online courses) and other online teaching plans that are influencing science instruction in higher education.

However, there is one thing of which we are sure: NABT will be there—as it has for 75 years—to serve biology teachers and the cause of life science education. We are confident that at our 100th Anniversary in 2038, NABT will continue to be the “leader in life science education.”
Distinguished Service Award Recipients

2013 Rita Colwell, University of Maryland College Park and Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health
2012 Michael Pollan, UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, Berkeley, CA
2011 Neil Shubin, Ph.D., University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2009 Mario Capecchi, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT
2008 Ken Miller, Brown University, Providence, RI
2007 Sean Carroll, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Madison, WI
2006 Shirley Malcom, AAAS, Washington DC
2005 James A. Thompson, V.M.D., University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, WI; and Nina Leopold Bradley, Aldo Leopold Foundation, Baraboo, WI
2004 Barbara Bancroft, RN, MSN, PNP, CPP Associates, Inc., Chicago, IL
2003 Roberta Pagon, M.D., Children's Hospital & Regional Medical Center, Seattle, WA
2001 E.O. Wilson, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
2000 Roger and Deborah Fouts, Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute, Ellensburg, WA
1999 Jack Horner, Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, MT
1998 Dr. Leroy Hood, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
1997 Neal Lane, Director, National Science Foundation, Washington, DC; and Donald Kennedy, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA
1996 Dr. Francis Collins, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD
1995 Carl Djerassi, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA
1994 Bruce Alberts, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC
1993 Nancy S. Wexler, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, New York State Psychiatric Institute, New York, NY
1992 Paul R. Ehrlich, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA
1991 Stephen Jay Gould, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
1990 Peter Raven, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO
1989 Stanley Cohen, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA
1988 Lynn Margulis, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA; and James D. Watson, Cold Spring Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY
1987 Floyd Nordland
1986 Donald S. Dean
1985 Stanley Weinberg
1984 Jack Carter
1983 Manert Kennedy

Honorary Members

1982 Harold “Sandy” Wiper
1981 Sophie Wolfe
1980 Sister M. Gabrielle
1979 Ted E. Andrews
1978 Sister Marian Catherine McGrann
1977 Addison E. Lee
1976 Paul DeHart Hurd
1975 Garrett Hardin
1974 Stanley E. Williamson
1973 William V. Mayer
1972 Chester A. Lawson
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1969 Arnold B. Grobman
1968 NOT AWARDED
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1965 John Breukelman
1964 E. Laurence Palmer
1963 Hermann J. Muller
1962 Roger Tory Peterson
1961 Oscar Riddle
1960 Helen Irene Battle
1959 Brother H. Charles Severin
1958 George W. Beadle
1957 Stanley E. Williamson
1956 Garrett Hardin
1955 H. Seymour Fowler
1954 H. Bentley Glass
1953 William V. Mayer
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Past Presidents

2012 — Donald French
2011 — Daniel Ward
2010 — Marion “Bunny” Jaskot
2009 — John H. Moore
2008 — Todd Carter
2007 — Patricia Waller
2006 — Toby Horn
2005 — Rebecca E. Ross
2004 — Betsy Ott
2003 — Catherine Ueckert
2002 — Brad Williamson
2001 — Ann S. Lumsden
2000 — Phil McCrea
1999 — Richard D. Storey
1998 — ViviannLee Ward
1997 — Alan McCormack
1996 — Elizabeth Carvellas
1995 — Gordon E. Uno
1994 — Barbara Schulz
1993 — Ivo E. Lindauer
1992 — Alton L. Biggs
1991 — Joseph D. McBurney
1990 — Nancy V. Ridenour
1989 — John Penick
1988 — Jane Abbott
1987 — Donald S. Emmeluth
1986 — George S. Zahrobsky
1985 — Thomas R. Mertens
1984 — Marjorie King
1983 — Jane Butler Kahle
1982 — Jerry Resnick
1981 — Edward J. Kormondy
1980 — Stanley D. Roth
1979 — Manert Kennedy
1978 — Glen E. Peterson
1977 — Jack L. Carter
1976 — Haven Kolb
1975 — Thomas J. Cleaver
1974 — Barbara K. Hopper
1973 — Addison E. Lee
1972 — Claude A. Welch
1971 — H. Bentley Glass
1970 — Robert E. Yager
1969 — Burton E. Voss
1968 — Jack Fishleder
1967 — William V. Mayer
1966 — Arnold B. Grobman
1965 — L.S. McClung
1964 — Ted F. Andrews
1963 — Philip R. Fordyce
1962 — Muriel Beuschlein
1961 — Paul V. Webster
1960 — Howard E. Weaver
1959 — Paul Klinge
1958 — Irene Hollenbeck
1957 — John Breukelman
1956 — John P. Harrold
1955 — Brother H. Charles Severin
1954 — Arthur J. Baker
1953 — Leo F. Hadsall
1952 — Harvey E. Stork
1951 — Richard L. Weaver
1950 — Betty L. Wheeler
1949 — Ruth A. Dodge
1948 — Howard A. Michaud
1947 — El. Laurence Palmer
1946 — Prevo L. Whitaker
1945 — Helen Trowbridge
1944 — Merle A. Russell
1943 — Merle A. Russell
1942 — Homer A. Stephens
1941 — George W. Jeffers
1940 — Malcolm D. Campbell
1939 — Myrl C. Lichtenwalter

PLATINUM LEVEL MEMBERS:
- Froguts .................................. www.froguts.com
- HHMI .................................. www.hhmi.org/biointeractive

GOLD LEVEL MEMBERS:
- Carolina Biological Supply Company .... www.carolina.com
- Flinn Scientific, Inc. ................. www.flinnsci.com
- Nasco .................................. www.enasco.com
- Vernier Software & Technology .... www.vernier.com

SILVER LEVEL MEMBER:
- BSCS ................................. www.bscs.org

BRONZE LEVEL MEMBERS:
- PASCO scientific ..................... www.pasco.com
- Ward’s Science ....................... www.wardsci.com

NABT Affiliates

- Biology Teachers Association of New Jersey (BTANJ)
- Cleveland Regional Association of Biologists (CRABS)
- Colorado Biology Teachers Association (CBTA)
- Connecticut Association of Biology Teachers (CTABT)
- Delaware Association of Biology Teachers (DABT)
- Empire State Association of Two-Year College Biologists (ESATYCB)
- Hong Kong Association of Biology Teachers (HKABT)
- Illinois Association of Biology Teachers (IABT)
- Illinois Association of Community College Biologists (IACCB)
- Indiana Association of Biology Teachers (IABT)
- Kansas Association of Biology Teachers (KABT)
- Louisiana Association of Biology Teachers (LABT)
- Massachusetts Association of Biology Teachers (MABT)
- Michigan Association of Biology Teachers (MABT)
- Mississippi Association of Biology Educators (MSABE)
- New York Biology Teachers Association (NYBTA)
- South Carolina Association of Biology Teachers (SCABT)
- Texas Association of Biology Teachers (TABT)
- Virginia Association of Biology Teachers (VABT)

NABT Sustaining Members
To better address the unique challenges posed by different educational & classroom settings, NABT has created sections, communities where members can interact and learn from colleagues from similar disciplines or with similar professional interests, who are at similar educational institutions, and outreach or informal educational organizations. The development of community is important in science, education and learning.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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The birth of NABT occurred on July 1, 1938 in New York City.

* partnered with AAAS
** partnered with AIBS