

Judith A. McKee

Judith A. McKee, M.A., is currently a science consultant who has spent most of her adult life as an elementary school teacher fascinated with how children learn. As an award-winning educator, she has specialized in science education and in differentiating curriculum for students with special needs from gifted to other challenges. She has taught emergent literacy courses at DePaul University and science courses for National-Louis University. She is now affiliated with the University of Northern Iowa working in the Out-of-State and International Student Teaching Program.

Judy has presented workshops on science and integrated curriculum at conferences throughout the U.S and she has helped in staff development in numerous school districts. She recently traveled several times to Latin America to work with teachers in the Association of American Schools of Latin American. She has also participated in teacher exchange programs visiting schools in New Zealand and Australia.

She has written for several professional journals including *Science and Children* and has contributed to CESI Sourcebooks and other publications. A book she co-authored with Dr. Donna Ogle entitled *Integrating Instruction: Literacy and Science* published by Guilford Press in 2005 generated an excellent review from “NSTA Recommends.”

Judy was past chair of the NSTA Retired Advisory Board. She now serves on the Pre-school and Elementary Teachers Standing Committee of NSTA and she writes a column for *NSTA Reports* called “What’s Next....”

Steve Anthony Rich, NBCT

Steve Anthony Rich, holds a B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Georgia (1984), M.C. from Georgia State University (1990), Masters’ Teacher Certification from Georgia Southern (1992) and Elementary Education (2004) from the University of West Georgia and is Nationally Board Certified in Early Adolescence Science. Currently he is a science specialist for the Georgia Department of Education. He taught in the fifth grade in Douglas County School System in Georgia (1993-2005) and Savannah Chatham County System.

He served as the NSTA District V Director (2004-2007), National Conference presenter since 1996, Committee for Elementary Science, National Science Congress Delegate & Planning Committee, Member of the Audit, published in *Science Scope* and has a book in *NSTA Recommends*. He served on the selection panel for the National Science Foundation for Presidential Awards from 2005-2009. He was president of the Georgia Science Teachers Association from 2005-2006, Conference Chair in 2007, and has served the GSTA in other ways (Program Chair, Vice President, Middle School Representative, District Director, Membership Committee chair, and board member since 1999).

For the **Society of Presidential Awardees** he has served as President Elect, Science Representative and presenter at Share-a-thons as well as a newsletter contributor. He

assisted the state science coordinator in writing new performance-based curriculum for the **Georgia Performance Standards – Science Writing Team** (2003-2005) and served on the Advisory Board for the State Science Supervisor (2006) for the Georgia Department of Education. He is a member of the Council of State Science Supervisors, Phi Delta Kappa and the Professional Association of Georgia Educators.

He was awarded the 2003 NSTA Award for Innovations in Science Teaching, the 2002 NSTA Award for Exemplary Science Teaching and the **2001 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science & Mathematics Teaching**. In 1999 and 2003, he was awarded the National Youth Gardening Awards by the National Gardening Association. In addition, he has won many state and local awards including the 2003 innovative Teacher of the Year – Phi Delta Kappa.

His publications include: *Outdoor Science: A Practical Guide* (March 2010, NSTA Press), *Just the Facts: Life Science* (January 2007, Carson-Dellosa Publishing), *Outdoor Science Classroom* (January 2005, Carson-Dellosa Publishing), *The Georgia Science Teacher* (2001-Present, Editor and Chief Contributor), Science Book Series Consultant (September, 2003, Curriculum Visions), *The Migration of Monty Stevens* (February 2001, Science-based novel condensed in *Cycles Integrated Science Book*), *The Dirt on Outdoor Classrooms* (May, 2000) and *From Science Teacher to Scientist*, (May 1998, *Science Scope*).

Chris Stark

Chris Stark holds a Master in Teaching from Seattle University (1993) and B.S. in molecular biology from the University of Washington (1988). Stark is the current president of the Washington State Teachers Association (WSTA), was the Chair of the Washington State Teacher Association (WSTA) 2005 state-wide science conference and served as regional representative for WSTA for six years (North Central Washington).

He is currently the coordinator for K-8 science for 21 regional school districts in his position as a NCW LASER Alliance Director/Science Specialist in Washington State where he coordinates an electrical safety and energy curriculum to over 70 elementary schools and regional Science Olympiad contests in the North Central Region. In addition, he served on the Washington State Standard Setting Committee for the 8th and 9th grade.

He has been a co-leader of a team of teachers from around Washington State to conduct workshops on using the learning cycle approach to teach the Essential Academic Learning Requirements, sponsored by WSTA. For the past nine years he has been very active in contributing to the development of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) science scenarios, including item writing, content review, range finding, and data review.