The focus of ABLE is to improve the undergraduate biology laboratory experience by promoting the development and dissemination of interesting, innovative, and reliable laboratory exercises.

DISCOVER

New procedures

SOLVE

Laboratory problems

SHARE

Reliable methods

INTERACT

With biologists active in laboratory education

www.ableweb.org

GOALS OF ABLE

Since its inception in 1979, the primary purpose of the Association for Biology Laboratory Education has been to facilitate communication among biologists actively involved in undergraduate laboratory instruction. In an age of rapidly expanding scientific knowledge, the task of conveying biological processes and concepts becomes ever more demanding. Developing interesting and proven laboratory activities, identifying reliable suppliers of biological materials, maintaining and managing living laboratory organisms, training assistants for laboratory teaching, addressing animal use issues, and implementing safe laboratory practices are some of the challenges that the organization engages through its annual conference, website, and newsletter, *Labstracts*.

ANNUAL WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE

Every June, approximately 150 educators gather for three days to participate in "hands on" workshop presentations of reliable laboratory exercises. Each participant attends up to five 3-hour workshops and several shorter, "mini" workshops. Presenters provide all of the essential information and experiences necessary for participants to evaluate and adapt the exercises to their own program. Because the group is small, the meetings provide an opportunity for ongoing communication in pedagogy as well as the camaraderie of active biologists.

ABLE is now a partner in BEN (www.biosciednet.org/portal). BEN is an electronic portal allowing access to reviewed resources covering many aspects of biology

More about ABLE

Laboratory Education Grants

ABLE's commitment to quality laboratory education is evident in the two grants that are available annually. The Waiver of Registration Grant is designed to encourage attendance at the annual workshop and targeted at those individuals who could not normally attend for financial reasons. The Lab Teaching Initiatives Grant provides up to $2000 for the development of innovative lab teaching materials. These could include the improvement of existing exercises or the development of new exercises or multi-media tools. For more information about both these grants, please see the ABLE website.

Publications

The information from each conference is published annually in the proceedings, *Tested Studies for Laboratory Teaching*. The proceedings volumes provide workshop materials to ABLE members and other interested individuals who could not attend the annual conference. Chapter typically include all of the information needed to implement the lab exercise, including the student outline, preparatory notes for the instructor, where to purchase materials, and expected results.

ABLE's award-winning website contains detailed information about the organization and the annual conference. Included also are forms for membership, workshop registration, grant applications, and proceedings orders. Additionally, the association's newsletter (*Labstracts),* over 40 selected chapters from the conference proceedings, as well as author and subject indexes for all volumes, and a list of "Hot" biology links can also be accessed.

Visit ABLE on the web at:
www.ableweb.org

Examples Of Workshops From Recent Conferences

- Using Bromelain in Pineapple Juice to Investigate Enzyme Function, W.V. Glider (University of Nebraska, Lincoln) & M.S. Hargrove (Iowa State University)
- Experimental Evaluation of Community Structure in Aquatic Ecosystems, J.M. Bader (Case Western Reserve University)
- Mitochondrial DNA from *Lumbriculus variegatus*: Isolation and Restriction Digest Analysis, G. Oxford (Longwood College)
- Plant Vascular Systems, L.K. Tompson (Furman University)
- Why are reports of ant pollination rare? A field and lab exercise using the scientific method. M.N. Puterbaugh & M.B. Prince (University of Pittsburgh at Bradford)
- Introducing Students to Conservation Genetics Using Sturgeon Caviar, K. Nolan (St. Francis College), P. Dukakis, V. Birstein, R DeSalle (American Museum of Natural History)
- Effects of salinity on metabolic rate in black mollies, C. Beck (Emory University), L. Blumer (Morehouse College), & T. Brown (Morehouse College)

ABLE Membership Application

Annual membership (from July 1st of the current year to June 30) is **$35 US** ($15 graduate student) and includes the following: one volume of an ABLE proceedings, *two* issues of the newsletter, *Labstracts,* and reduced registration at the annual workshop/conference.

Name _____
(Last) (First)

Institution and street or PO address:

_____

_____

_____

Phone ____-____-_____

Email _____

Circle the proceedings volume you would like to receive with this membership:

7/8 14 16 21-27

Additional proceedings volumes are available for $20(US). Postage & handling is included; allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Circle additional volumes above.

Payment enclosed _____
(Make check or money orders payable to ABLE in US funds only. No purchase orders.)

Mail this form to:
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University of Alberta
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