

HISTORY OF “FRIENDS OF EARTH SCIENCE” RECEPTIONS

Sharon Stroud, NESTA President (1986-1988) asked David Mastie to help her in giving a party to thank those who had helped during her term, NESTA Officers, Share-a-thon presenters, and other Earth Scientists. She paid for the party room, her half of the suite, the food (chips), as NESTA itself had little or no money at that time. David Mastie donated the drinks, tended bar, and he and Jeff Callister rented the other half of the suite. Thus, the NESTA Reception at NSTA nationals was born. This was in Spring 1987 at the NSTA national in Washington, DC. NESTA’s presence at this conference set the tone and model for all those years to come and 1987 proved to be a very important year in NESTA history.

By the 1988 NSTA conference in St. Louis Wilene Rigsby, an Arkansas science teacher with a rockhounding hobby and a BSE and MSE in Home Economics, joined David Mastie in planning, shopping, preparing, and hosting the NESTA President’s Reception, as it was called at that time. Sharon Stroud was still picking up the tab, as previously mentioned. The Reception’s purpose by now was to provide a social setting to bring together those interested in promoting earth science education at whatever level. The menu was expanded to include fruit & vegetable dips and crackers & cheeses, as well as chips and drinks. Valuable contacts were made that exist to date and membership in the organization increased.

Recognizing that NESTA Receptions were of value to the organization and also recognizing that funding would be a problem, it was decided to use proceeds from NESTA Rock & Mineral Raffles to fund this function.

The standard was set for NESTA Receptions and with this method of funding, David Mastie, Wilene Rigsby, Kelly Rigsby, and Harold “Stoney” Stonehouse did the planning, shopping, and preparing the refreshments to stretch whatever funds were available. These and various other NESTA members set up and served. This went on for a number of years with ever increasing success and visibility.

As NESTA Receptions popularity grew, offers to share funding were made mostly through Frank Ireton, as NESTA Executive Advisor. Evidentially, some funding was accepted, but the same pattern of buying, preparing, and serving continued until in recent years it became fully sponsored.

Now called “” the Reception is catered by the hotel and fully sponsored. Its success continues to date.

Submitted by:

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January 27, 2009