

OUT OF THE ORDINARY

In what other academic class do the students spend almost one half of their time outdoors? The answer is Ed Soldo's Advanced Biology: Field Biology and Ecology class. Those students who are scared off because of it's name, may want to take another look at the course to see what it is really about.

Although Advanced Biology may sound like an extension of all that cell and plasma stuff, it is really quite different. Students enrolled in the class can expect to learn the identity of trees, wildflowers, microorganisms, bird and frog calls, and skulls. They can also expect to have a lot of fun with the other, less academic activities, such as nature art, making corn-cob jelly, and making voodoo dolls out of natural dyes.

"I had a lot of fun in the Advanced Biology class," said senior Jason Ullner. "I thought it was going to be more of the boring textbook material, but we didn't open our books once all year. In fact, it stayed under my bed the whole time. I learned to appreciate and more fully understand nature and the way it affects my life."

The course was written by Soldo himself. "When I came to Sycamore," he said, "I saw what it had to offer in the way of Biology and wanted to do something more. There needed to be a course on biology not fully structured for the student interested in the medical professions."

So in 1974, Soldo started

teaching Bio II which later evolved into Advanced Biology: Field Biology and Ecology. From then on the class has had no trouble filling the two periods allotted. "This class is different than I thought it would be," said sophomore Keith Casper. "I was expecting more of the Biology I stuff. Instead, we go outside and walk around. I really enjoy science now."

This is exactly what Soldo like to hear. When asked what he enjoys most about teaching the class he responded, "I like seeing teenagers get excited about the natural world and watching them interact with it and each other in a positive manner."

And students do. This class is arranged in such a way that they become so involved with and reliant upon each other that they become close to each other. "I came into this class not knowing anyone," said senior Shelley Tekulve. "Now I know everyone. You have to become close with the other students in the class because you rely on them so much."

"Mr. Soldo's class is a nice break from the typical boring academic schedule," said senior Amy Orringer. "The hands-on approach Mr. Soldo takes makes the class fun and unusual, but I still learned a lot! The class gave me more of an understanding and appreciation for the outdoors. I would recommend this class to any looking for another science credit or just an exciting class."

by Catie Fienning

"I like SCIENCE for one thing, the teachers make it interesting to learn and I hope to do something science related in the future."

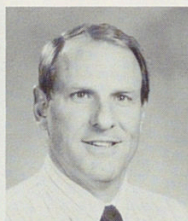
-Gina Shin,
Chemistry

"I like SCIENCE because I want to become a teacher, plus my teacher is the best."

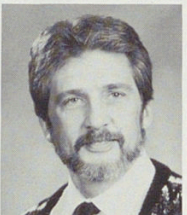
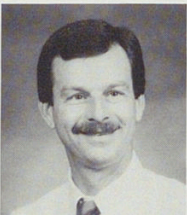
-Jennifer Wright,
Anatomy & Physiology

"I like SCIENCE because going outside for just one of your classes really gives you a break from the usual "sit down and work quietly" class."

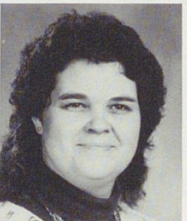
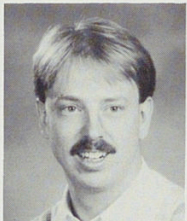
-Leslie Beil,
Field Biology



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