



## **Alaska Earth Science Teacher of the Year for 2000**

### ***Bruce Rife***

It is the privilege of the Alaska Geological Society to present Bruce Rife, science teacher at Soldotna High School, with the Science Teacher of the Year in Alaska award, sponsored by the Pacific Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, from a field of candidates that includes teachers from grades K through 12 from all over the state of Alaska. Along with this honor Bruce will receive a certificate of award and a check for \$250 from AAPG. This check is intended to be a contribution toward the science program in Bruce's high school, and may be used for science equipment, training for him, or another teacher, or for his travel to a geoscience conference. It is intended by the AAPG for the expenditure of this money to be under the awardee's discretion.

This award also confers on Bruce Rife the Alaska Geological Society nomination for Teacher of the Year for the Pacific Section. His application and references have been forwarded to Paul Mock, Youth and Education Chair of the Pacific Section of the AAPG.

The Alaska Geological Society is proud to sponsor Bruce. In addition to his regular teaching responsibilities at Soldotna High School, Bruce has taken a leadership role in the POLARIS (Project On Leading Alaska Reform In Science) program over the last several years. He instructs at district inservices and designs science staff development courses for fellow teachers. He is instrumental in instituting geology studies in cooperation with the National Park Service at Denali. He has conducted earth science field studies and offered courses in Kachemak Bay, and is involved in the Kenai Watershed Project. As a teacher, he was one of the first to take whole classrooms of students to new computer labs and hook them into science instruction from NASA and NOAA, and other sites on the internet. He is deeply involved now with the Challenger Center in Kenai and the statewide teacher training necessary to get the center operational upon opening this year in April. He is a teacher whom other teachers respect and look to for guidance. The AGS board is impressed with his energy, and the depth and broad perspective of practical experience that his students receive from the biological and geological natural resources teaching units that he offers. Bruce Rife is clearly an exemplary and inspirational teacher.