



EEAC

SPRING/SUMMER 1999

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

EEAC's 25th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

S is for standards. In 1997, the NYC Board of Education accepted the Chancellor's plan to develop New York City editions of the *New Standards Performance Standards*TM. These editions will "calibrate" the New Standards with national, state, and local standards and will include examples of student work illustrating conceptual development across grade levels.

The Science Standards Calibration Task Force includes science coordinators, administrators, classroom teachers, representatives from science-rich institutions, and higher education. The task force has been reviewing student work and developing commentary to illustrate how the performance descriptions are reflected in the work sample. As a member of the task force, I have found the process both tedious and enlightening. Hopefully, this process will clarify the standards issue and help put everyone on the "same page" with regard to educational goals and objectives.

This initiative is being facilitated by the New York City Urban Systemic Initiative, which is a program funded by the National Science Foundation and supported by a collaboration of the Board of Education, the City University of New York, and the 40 school districts in New York City. Since 1991, the program has been spearheading school reform and serves as a catalyst for standards-based curricula to promote improved mathematics, science, and technology (MST) teaching and learning throughout the school system.

With all this emphasis on standards, it is important not to lose sight of environmental education and how it supports the New Standards. During the task force meetings, I have emphasized the need to include examples of student work which demonstrate the value of field-based learning and collaboration with science-rich institutions. Currently over 200 science-rich institutions provide an array of school programs and educational services to NYC schools and have played an important role in the New York City Urban Systemic Initiative. Much of what they offer is already in line with standards-based math and science curriculum, but more needs to be done.

Increasingly, organizations and institutions that interface with the NYC Board of Education will be challenged to provide programs and professional development opportunities that are in alignment with the New Standards. This is an opportunity for EEAC to take a leadership role in refining our environmental education agenda to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. Now more than ever, we need your support and involvement in EEAC – there is much to do.

Continued on page 7



UPCOMING EEAC EVENTS.....

Steering Committee Meetings

EEAC Steering Committee meetings are held from 4-6 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month. Please arrive promptly at 4 p.m. !

All EEAC members are invited to attend and participate in the discussion. For information on the location of the meetings, contact Millard Clements at (212) 998-5495.

Upcoming Meeting Information:

Steering Committee meetings are held at New York University, Pless Building, 32 Washington Square Park East and Washington Place. Upcoming meetings will be on April 21, May 19, June 16, and July 21.

Newsletter Deadlines

THE NEWSLETTER DEADLINES ARE CHANGED TO THE FIRST MONDAY IN APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER AND JANUARY. If possible, please E-mail articles to joygarland@banet.net and send longer articles as an attachment in Microsoft Word or on a floppy disc in MS Word. Typed articles should be sent to the Editor's address below.

Newsletter Committee

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Special THANKS to Con Edison for supporting the publication of this newsletter.



JOIN EEAC!

If you are a member of EEAC and want to be part of the information sharing and discussion on the EEAC

Listserves contact:

Carol_Franken@fcl.nycenet.edu or
(212) 828-3511.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

c/o Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment
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This newsletter is a publication of the Environmental Education Advisory Council (EEAC), a voluntary organization of educators, classroom teachers, administrators and other professionals in active support of environmental education. It is available free upon request.

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Millard Clements, Ph.D., Secretary
Kim Estes-Fradis, Membership Secretary
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*Affiliations for identification purposes only.

'TIS A GIFT TO BE SIMPLE.....by Roland Rogers

There seems to be a lot of public attention being given to living simply recently. Not long ago, PBS aired a program documenting the lives of families and individuals who opted to lead a simpler life (some by choice and others by necessity). This revolt against consumerism also manifested itself as the cover story of the July/August 1998 edition of Audubon magazine, which is entitled "Simplify Your Life; And Save The World". Finally, after the media hype of the 250 million dollar Powerball jackpot, NBC ran a news story which profiled some of America's other millionaires — those who actually earn money and who know how to save it by leading simpler lives!

In this vein we offer a list of suggested ways to reduce and reuse items that would otherwise create solid waste and cost money. So take these first few steps to becoming a self made millionaire as well as a protector of our natural resources!

Suggestions for Conserving At Work:

- Use a durable coffee mug and/or travel mug instead of paper cups for coffee and/or water.
- Buy re-sealable containers or durable insulated lunch bags to carry food from home rather than sandwich wrap and paper bags.
- When purchasing food and beverages at a deli, request no bag, utensils, napkins, straws, etc., (unless you really need them).
- Use the back side of paper before recycling: create and use message pads with one-sided wastepaper or insert one-sided waste paper in copy machines and printers when making draft copies.
- Use half sheets or scrap paper for short memos, to-do lists, or phone messages.
- Proofread documents on the computer screen prior to printing them.
- Read e-mail on the computer and save important messages to disk if needed for later reference. Only print when necessary.

- E-mail documents instead of faxing them, whenever possible.
- E-mail, post, or rout materials, memos, and meeting notices.
- Make two-sided photocopies instead of two single sided and stapled pages.
- Use paper made from recycled materials.

Stop junk mail. Contact the Direct Marketing Association (Mail Preference Service, 11 West 42nd Street, PO Box 3861, New York, NY 10163-3861) and senders of junk mail and ask to be taken off mailing lists (this can be done for home addresses, too).

Future issues of the newsletter may carry additional tips and suggestions for conserving natural resources and reducing solid waste. Thanks to Gail Pasternack for this initial list.

(Roland Rogers is School Partnerships Manager at Wave Hill.)

Kominski Fund Report

As we went to press, the Committee was preparing to process applications for two free scholarships to summer camps run by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. One student, age 12-14, will go to Camp DeBruce in the Catskills and the other, age 15-17, will be selected to attend the Teenage Ecology Workshop at Pack Forest in Adirondack Park. The Kominski Fund will provide for bus transportation. Each camp lasts a week. Barry Weinbrom is coordinating the campership program.

For the second year, we expect to be presenting awards in June for outstanding environmental studies to two students in each of the following high schools with which John Kominski was closely associated: John Bowne High School, High School for Environmental Studies, and Boys and Girls High School.

Joy Garland is serving as the Kominski Fund liaison with the Elementary School Science Association which will establish an annual award to honor an outstanding environmental educator. It is hoped that the first such award may be presented this Fall at ESSA's Saturday Science event.

With all expenses paid, the Kominski Fund had a balance of \$1,768.15 at the time of the EEAC March Steering Committee meeting. This includes the \$1,000 EEAC set aside to establish the Fund. An appeal for contributions is expected to be sent to members and friends this spring, but in the meantime, those who wish to contribute may send their checks, marked to the Kominski Fund, to the EEAC Treasurer, Joanne Dittersdorf (see address on Page 8). Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Suggestions and comments about the Kominski Fund may be sent to the Chair, Ruth Eilenberg, at 401 East 86th Street, Apt. 4F, New York 10028.

Dates and Deadlines

Trees New York is offering its tree care course in all five boroughs, from early April to late May. Completion of the 12-hour classroom and hands-on course certifies the student as a **Citizen Pruner** by NYC Parks and Recreation. To learn more, call (212) 227-1887....While you're at it, ask about the fine Trees New York publication, *Street Trees, A Field Handbook*. It is large and very comprehensive.

Arbor Day is Friday, April 30, and while the New York City Arbor Day Committee has been somewhat dormant, there are signs of renewal. All teachers who have been trained during the years since the early 80s when the event was resurrected in New York City will be able to obtain trees for planting from the Grow-Out Station at John Bowne High School. Also the NYS Urban and Community Forestry Council expects to take a lead role in Arbor Day events in the future, with help from the National Tree Trust.

Meanwhile, the Queens Botanical Garden will have its Arbor Day event on the 30th, and between 2,000 and 3,000 students and teachers are expected to attend. The spring session of the Children's Garden at the Queens Botanical Garden will begin on Saturday, April 24, and run through June 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. For information, call (718) 886-3800.

You are invited to join the Prospect Park Alliance and Urban Park Rangers for a "**Behind the Fences Tour**" of the newly restored Prospect Park Ravine, Saturdays and Sundays, beginning April 17. Tours are at 1 and 3 p.m. and may be reached by entering the park at 9th Street and Prospect Park West and proceeding down the path until you come to the fence. Rain cancels the tours.

The Regional Plan Association and the General Services Administration are resuming **free walking tours of Governors Island** and its National Historic Landmark District on Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to noon, May 5, June 16, July 14, August 11, and September 15. Pre-registration is required by calling (212) 253-2727, ext. 393.

The Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History is hosting "**Biodiversity and Climate Change: Conservation in the Face of Uncertainty**" on Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1. To register, call (212) 769-5200.

A Soil Quality Workshop will be held in Central Park from May 17 through 21. To find out about it, call Kalid Alamarie, New York City Department of Environmental Protection, (718) 595-3638.

"**Play and Nature in Childhood Development: Foundations for the Future**," sponsored by the Enid A. Haupt Glass Garden, will be held on Wednesday, May 19, at the Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine of the New York University Medical Center, 400 East 34th Street, Manhattan. To learn more, call Nancy Chambers at (212) 263-6058.

New York ReLeaf Region 2 (New York City) will hold its next workshop on Tuesday, May 25, at 6:15 p.m. in the Con Edison auditorium at East 14th Street and Irving Place. The New York ReLeaf Statewide Urban and Community Forest Conference, "**Recreating Forests and Cities**," will be held July 9 and 10 in Buffalo. For information about both of these events, call the Region 2 Chair, Naomi Zurcher, at (718) 522-1130.

"**Full Moon at Plumb Beach**," a spring field trip for teachers to explore this salt marsh and observe the annual horseshoe crab mating, will take place from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 27, led by Alan Ascher, Science Chairman, South Shore High School. The annual event is sponsored by the Gateway Environmental Study Center, which has more information at (718) 252-7307.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's annual sale of tree and shrub seedlings will continue through May. To find out what's available and how to get it, call Saratoga Nursery, weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at (518) 587-1120.

This summer, **six of Brooklyn's cultural institutions**—Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn Children's Museum, Brooklyn Public Library, Prospect Park Alliance, and Prospect Park Wildlife Center—will offer a program weaving connections between art, science, culture and the environment. Three two-week sessions, open to children ages 10 to 12, will run between June 23 and August 6, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. To learn more, call (718) 622-4433, ext. 216 or 276.

Mike Mann and Marcia Kaplan-Mann are going to host **National Trails Day at Gateway Recreation Area/Floyd Bennett Field** on Saturday, June 5, from noon to 2 p.m. There will be exhibits, entertainment, and a ribbon cutting of the 35 mile Brooklyn Historic Quest Trail that Mike and Marcia have created. The event is free. In case of rain, it will be held inside the Ryan Control Tower.

The Museum of the City of New York is featuring through June 27, "**Landscapes of Hope: Rebuilding New York City's Neighborhoods**," a photographic exhibit which shows parts of Manhattan, the Bronx, and Brooklyn that have risen from urban decay to become models of urban renewal. For information about hours, call (212) 534-1672.

The Hudson River Foundation, 9th floor, 40 West 20th Street, is giving a series of Tuesday Seminars on scientific issues related to the environmental quality and resource management of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary. These are given once a month, through June, and begin at 10:30 a.m. RSVP by calling (212) 924-8290, since seating is limited...While you're at it, ask about the six different "**Help the Harbor!**" flyers the Foundation publishes. They are attractive and informative.

In Memory of Bob Ortner

Bob Ortner was a former environmental educator at the Queens College Environmental Education Center at Caumsett State Park and a trainer in the Council on the Environment of New York City's Training Student Organizers (TSO) Program. Bob, who suffered from chronic progressive multiple sclerosis for nearly 10 years, was 41 when he passed away in February 1999.

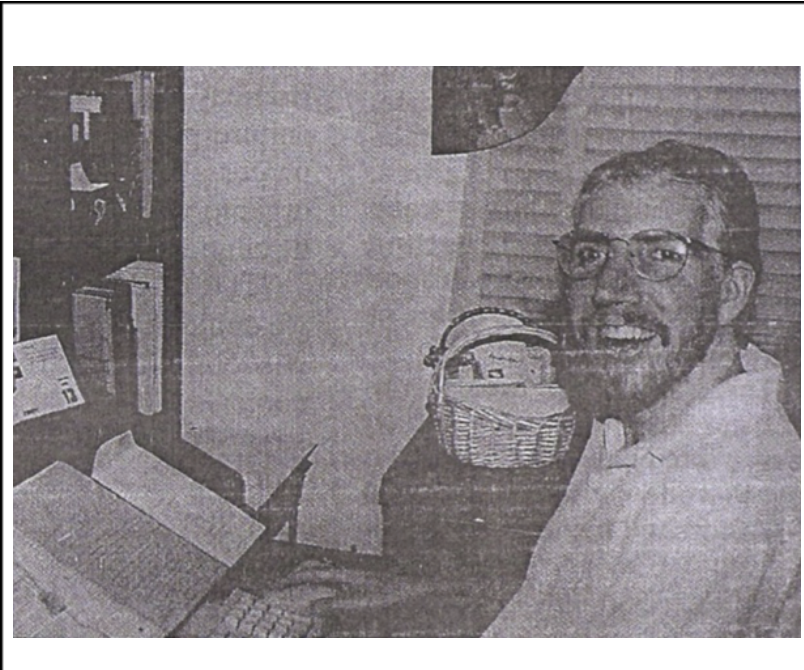
Bob was a sensitive, reflective, humorous person. He published a number of articles in the EEAC newsletter which reflected those qualities. He was an extremely knowledgeable and effective environmental educator. At Caumsett, Bob led scores of groups on interpretive walks, including an EEAC members meeting. With the Council on the Environment, he trained approximately 1,000 youths from urban high schools such as George Washington, Martin Luther King Jr. and Walton, to organize environmental improvement projects in their neighborhoods, schools and homes. He also motivated elementary school kids to organize paper recycling projects in their schools and trained students from Lehman College to coordinate a set of coastal improvement activities in the Northeast Bronx, even as he was becoming beset with MS.

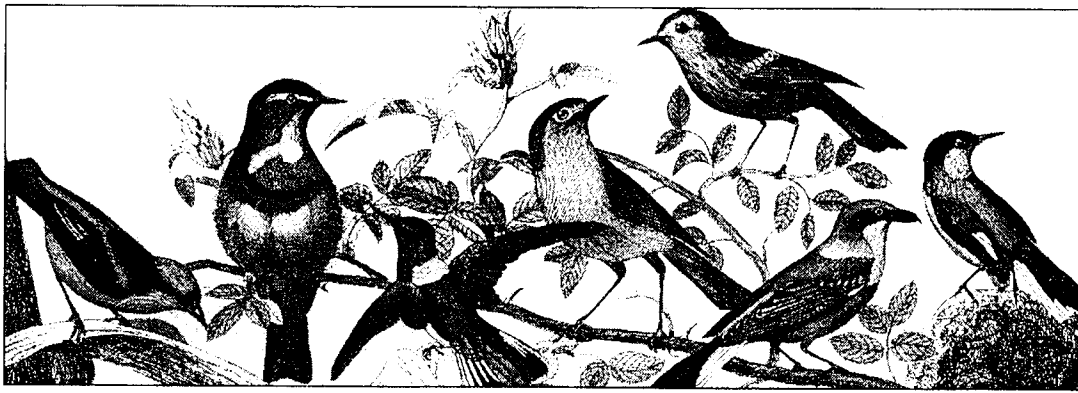
Bob was a wonderful teacher. He worked well with young people of all temperaments. He was warm, gracious, knowledgeable; he knew how to set limits in an effective, positive manner. Students enjoyed his affable humor. They responded to him by organizing important environmental service projects for their neighborhoods and schools.

After his disease had progressed significantly, but before it had besieged him to the extent that he had to spend his last years in a nursing home for persons with severe neurological illness, Bob prepared a series of introductory units on environmental issues for young people and for all those new to the environment. The three completed ones - on drinking water, the marine environment and solid waste, are among the best such pieces I've ever read or used in the classroom.

Bob waged a courageous struggle with MS - he maintained his humor, wisdom and dignity throughout. He will be remembered by family, friends, and colleagues for all his fine qualities and for the important work he accomplished.

by Michael Zamm





Audubon Adventures by Joy Garland

Birdwatchers everywhere are eagerly awaiting the annual spring migration, which reaches its peak in late April and early May. Both the New York City Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society have marvelous opportunities, not only to increase your birdwatching skills, but to learn more about the ecological aspects of environment and have great fun doing it and teaching what you learn to others.

The NYC Audubon Society is offering Beginning Birding Classes with Starr Saphir consisting of two evening meetings at the NYCAS office, either Mondays, May 3 and May 10 or Tuesdays, May 4 and May 11 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., followed by two weekend field trips to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and Central Park. For more information about this and other trips, write to NYCAS, 71 W.23 St., Rm. 606. NY NY 10010 or phone (212) 924-3870.

For the absolutely best vacation combining nature and learning, treat yourself to one of National Audubon's Summer Camps. You can choose Maine, Connecticut, Vermont, Wisconsin, Minnesota, or Wyoming. I've been once to the Maine camp in Muscongus Bay near Damariscotta, and I've signed up again for this year. Previously, I had the privilege of attending the Greenwich, Connecticut camp on a scholarship from the City Gardens Club of New York City. Although it may be too late to apply for this round, each year, the Gardens Club has given generous scholarships to New York City public school teachers to attend one of the five, week long sessions at Greenwich, which run from July 11 to August 14. It is also possible to earn college credit for a very reasonable fee. Write Audubon Ecology Camps, 613 Riversville Road, Greenwich, CT 06831, or call (203) 860-2017, or e-mail: aew@audubon.org.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES is an environmental education program that teachers may want to introduce to their 4th to 6th grade students. It comes as a classroom kit serving 32 students or as an individual kit for 1 student. Designed to help students achieve science and environmental literacy, it reflects the current science standards set forth by the National Academy of Sciences: which "emphasizes inquiry as a way of

achieving knowledge; actively involves students in the scientific process, engaging them not only on paper, but in practice; provides opportunities for students to develop their own hypotheses and test them against current scientific knowledge; encourages students to share their findings with local and global communities." Classroom kits are \$35 plus postage.

Audubon Adventures newspapers can be ordered in class sets of 35 for \$7. Each issue features a special topic from "Amphibians" to "Zoos". To order these and other items such as habitat and bird posters, contact National Audubon Society Educational Materials, 700 Broadway, NY NY 10003 or call (212) 979-3183, or e-mail: education@audubon.org

If you would like to use "birds" as a theme for a unit on the Internet and the WWW as one teacher did, you might try these sites which were provided by Roland Rogers of Wave Hill: <http://www.audubon.org>—<http://birdsource.cornell.edu/>—and <http://www.birder.com>—

Happy birding!



SPRING ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Roland Rogers and his wife, Catherine, on the birth of their daughter, Sophia, on Monday, March 29. Baby, mother, and father are doing well!

Continued from page 1

Come help us celebrate our 25 years of achievement on October 1st. We are planning several activities which will culminate with a reception on the Bargemusic, located at the Fulton Ferry in downtown Brooklyn. The festivities will bring together EEAC founders, members, families, and friends of EEAC. Look for more information in our next "anniversary" issue.

Mary J. Leou, Ed.D.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Member

Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

If sustaining Organization, Name of Contact Person _____

Business Phone () _____ Home Phone () _____

Affiliation (for categories other than Sustaining Organization): _____

Title/Position: _____

Address (for categories other than Sustaining Organization) _____

E-mail address: _____

ARCHIVE

Please check the appropriate category

\$ 20 Regular \$ 50 Sustaining Organization \$200 Life Membership

Please make checks payable to EEAC. Thank you! EEAC is a 501-C-3 organization.

I would like to become involved in a committee.

Please provide me with information about the following committees:

- Exhibits
- Issues
- Membership
- Newsletter
- Programs
- Youth
- Technology
- Kominski Fund

Please complete the application and mail it, with your payment, to:

Joanne Dittersdorf, EEAC Treasurer, P.O. Box 408, Cooper Station, New York, NY 10276



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Celebrate Water Week, May 2nd to 8th