

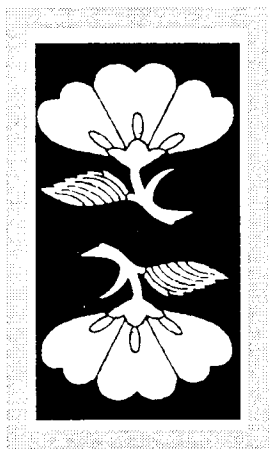


EEAC

SPRING/SUMMER 2000

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

EEAC RECEIVES A GREEN STAR!



This spring EEAC was awarded a “Green Star” from the Environmental Action Coalition (EAC) for its leadership in environmental education. On behalf of EEAC, I’d like to thank the Environmental Action Coalition for acknowledging our efforts which span a quarter of a century. We also congratulate EAC for its 30 years of environmental excellence in education and advocacy! Their pioneering efforts in recycling, environmental education, and urban forestry have forged the way for increased environmental education opportunities in New York City. We wish EAC many more years of success and growth in the 21st century.

Collectively, organizations such as EAC have helped advance environmental education city-wide. However, there is still a great deal of work to be done, especially in the area of teacher education. This can only be achieved if we continue to work together and forge strong partnerships around common goals. EEAC is currently working in collaboration with the Council on the Environment of New York City, New York University, and the faculty of several colleges and universities in an effort to infuse environmental education in pre-service teacher preparation programs in New York State. Supported by the Tides Foundation and spearheaded by Mike Zamm from the Council, and Millard Clements of NYU, the project will include three symposia to be held this year.

Realizing the importance of classroom teachers in environmental education, EEAC has begun to consider ways in which we can support and highlight their work. In this issue, and in upcoming issues, we will dedicate a portion of our newsletter to classroom teachers and share their success stories with you. Our first John Kominski Memorial Award goes to Roy Arezzo, a middle school teacher from IS 318 in Brooklyn, New York. As a classroom teacher, Roy has demonstrated the ability to effect positive change in environmental education and practice with students and school personnel. In years to come, we look forward to acknowledging the environmental education efforts of many other classroom teachers.

With your help we can continue to provide leadership, build and sustain collaborations that further environmental education, support classroom teachers in their efforts, and work collectively to bring about systemic environmental education reform. If you have not already done so, I hope you will consider joining our organization and supporting the work that we do. We can’t do it without you!

Mary J. Leou, Ed.D.

EEAC is a voluntary organization in support of Environmental Education for New York

UPCOMING EEAC EVENTS.....

Steering Committee Meetings

EEAC Steering Committee meetings are held from 4-6 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month (except August). 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 May 17, June 21, and July 19.

Newsletter Deadlines

The Newsletter deadlines are 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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Kenneth Kowald
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The Environmental Education Advisory Council (EEAC) would like to thank the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for supporting the publication of this newsletter. For information about DEP's education resources for students and teachers, visit the DEP Web site at www.ci.nyc.ny.us/dep or call (718) 595-3483.

JOIN EEAC!

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

Listserve contact:

Carol_Franken@fcl.nycenet.edu

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

c/o Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment
The Tennis House
Prospect Park
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215-9992

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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Dr. Mary J. Leou, Chairperson
Terry Ippolito, Vice-Chair for Programs
Millard Clements, Ph.D., Secretary
Kim Estes-Fradis, Membership Secretary
Joanne Dittersdorf, Treasurer

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Joanne Dittersdorf, Citizen's Committee for New York City
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Barry Weinbrom, Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment
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*Affiliations for identification purposes only.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

by Joan Stoliar

Few school experiences are more dramatic than 200 brown trout hatching from their eggs in a classroom aquarium... particularly on Open School Night. This happened at South Kortright school. The timing was fortuitous, and though hatching at any time fills a whole school with instant parents, that night began a steady flow of grown-up parents back into school for weeks afterward, inquiring after the babies. So runs Trout in the Classroom, an environmental education program that teaches about the need for clean water, and the difficulty of maintaining it.

Trout in the Classroom was developed in California, as a tool for teaching school children about their water resources, and is conducted in many individual schools in that state. Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, Inc. a New York organization of conservation-minded anglers adapted the concept, however, to focus on New York City and its Watersheds, creating a dramatically successful program in New York City and its Watershed schools. The club sponsors classes at both ends of the water tunnel in a common project, and connects the distant students by Internet and stream-side contact. Beginning only two years ago with four schools, the program entered this, its third year, with nineteen schools— seven in NYC, and six each in the Catskill and Croton Watersheds. Classes run from Kindergarten through High School, and this year included the Freshman Science Course of Syracuse University.

TGF provides funds to each participating teacher, to set up a small, chilled classroom aquarium suitable for the difficult task of raising the fragile trout. With grants from the Norcross Foundation, they provide a chiller to maintain the 50 degree temperatures trout need. The NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation provides trout eggs in October, which are then hatched and raised by the students for the next six months. In Spring, the City students meet with their Upstate counterparts, of which many are by then pen pals, and together they release their by-then-beloved fingerlings into upstate waters with DEC permits, and many farewell tears. But the pain is somewhat assuaged by turning over rocks to learn first-hand what they have been discussing in class, that other fragile life exists in the river—and what the fingerlings will be eating when the students are no longer there to feed them. (A source of some distress in weeks before).

Participating teachers find their own way of using this program. Most have not only applied the science which includes daily testing and observation, but math, writing, English, poetry and art. The trout experience was the perfect theme for early lessons

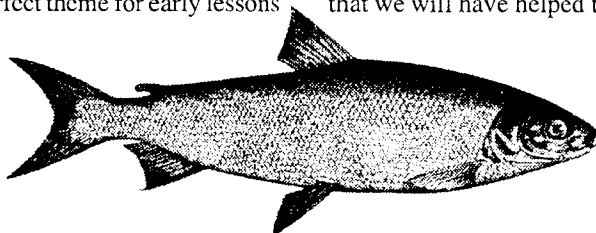
in essay writing at the third grade level. Older classes joined with the other disciplines, all using the trout as the focus. The haiku and painting are impressive. Since this program is running in 21 classes, from Kindergarten through High School, the results vary with the age level.

In 1998, TGF, with grants, installed a large-scale model trout stream, at I.S.318, because unlike upstate, schools in the City do not have streams in their back yard. 8 feet long, holding 250 gallons at 50 degrees, it has a capability of maintaining many trout and a macro invertebrate population as well. Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders maintain this habitat throughout the year and over the summer. The intent is to study the trout growth beyond the fingerling stage and to maintain, as much as possible, real stream conditions.

A visit to the Web site < troutintheclassroom.org > will not only describe how the program works, but you will have an opportunity to visit individual school pages. Be sure to check out I.S. 318 in Brooklyn. It contains reports and wonderful photos of their work. The TIC web site is not only the vehicle of reporting, but also the avenue by which we hope to keep the current students and graduates connected far into the future. Already, some return via the net with advice and inquiries for their younger teams, and some have already returned as interns.

Agency support is critical to the program. NYC Department of Environmental Protection often suggests schools which might fit well into the program. Early in the school year, lecturers from DEP come to class with materials and activities that establish understanding of where the watersheds are and their relationship to the City. A teacher of Liberty, NY 4th graders wrote, "When my children discovered where New York City gets its water from, they looked around and said, 'We have to take care of our Sullivan County water'."

As the year progresses, the students do daily testing of the tank waters—checking pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, etc., and often have to deal with the sometimes fatal results of imbalances. These are the lessons of nature. When third graders arrived on Monday and found their fish lying at the bottom of the tank, they quickly discovered that the nylon stocking which had been put over the filter had become clogged with uneaten food. An hour after removing it, their fish were up and swimming. Just imagine the discussions on life and death among those eight year olds. "By the time these students are old enough to be stewards of our water resources, we hope that we will have helped them be good ones."



Timely Events

May is the month for completion of **Seedling Request forms** and application for the 2000-2001 Growing Together forms from the National Tree Trust. To find out about these programs, call (800) 846-8733.

Transportation Alternatives is also gearing up for **Bike Week**, May 14-21. Call TA at (212) 629-8080.

"**Full Moon at Plum Beach**" will explore the beach for mating horseshoe crabs on Thursday, May 18, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., led by Alan Ascher, Science Chairman, South Shore High School. It's sponsored by the Gateway Environmental Study Center, and for reservations and directions, call the Center at (718) 252-7307. In July, Alan is also the instructor for two summer professional development courses there.

On Saturday, May 20, Region 2 of New York ReLeaf will present "**Battling the Beetle: How to Stop Your Neighborhood Tree Terminator**," an all day (8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) conference on the Asian Longhorned Beetle "for Green Professionals and Citizens." If you have not received a brochure for the event by the time you read this, call NYC ReLeaf Chairperson, Naomi Zurcher, at (718) 522-1130, or Region 2 Department of Environmental Conservation Forester, James McDonald at (718) 482-4942.

By the way, May 20 is also "**It's My Park!**" Day in New York City. To find out more, call 888-NY-PARKS.

Between now and the beginning of June, the City's four botanical gardens will be giving **free compost** and selling compost bins for \$20 to all who show up. For dates, times, and places, call: in the Bronx, (718) 817-8543; in Brooklyn, (718) 623-7290; in Queens, (718) 539-5296; in Staten Island, (718) 273-0629.

There is a deadline of June 1 for Brooklyn high school students to apply for a limited number of paid **internships at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden**. The interns will work four hours a day, four days a week, for four weeks beginning July 5. To learn more, call Ms. Ellis Anon at BBG, (718) 623-7308. She is also the one to call if you want to find out about the two four-week sessions on professional development for New York City high school teachers this summer, July 5-July 28 and July 31 to August 26. That deadline is also June 1.

By the time you read this, the **Brooklyn Historical Society** should have installed a new exhibit in the lobby of 2 MetroTech Center. It describes the nearly four centuries of physical and cultural development of the site now occupied by MetroTech. While the Society's 1881 National Historic Landmark headquarters is undergoing extensive renovation, the group is located in Suite 4200 of 2 MetroTech Center, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Call (718) 254-9830 about this exhibit and other Society events, which continue despite the renovations.

A photographic exhibit, "**Firecrackers: Chinatown Today**" is on display through June 1 in the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, 90 Orchard Street, corner of Broome. It is on view Sundays at 2 p.m. and by appointment. To learn more, call (212) 431-0233, ext. 555.

June 16 is the deadline for applications for the **Sara Lee Schupf Summer Institutes for Teachers** at the New York Botanical Garden. Registration is limited to 20 for each workshop: the Seedlings Institute for teachers of grades K-2 will be July 10-14, and the Saplings Institute for teachers grades 3-5 will be July 24-28. To find out more, call (718) 817-8175. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is offering a limited number of paid internships for Brooklyn high school students this summer for four weeks beginning July 5. The interns will work four hours a day, four days a week. For more information, call Ms. Elyssa Arnone at BBG, (718) 623-7308.

Planning ahead: The Elementary School Science Association's annual "**Saturday Science: The Blaustein Conference**," will be held on Saturday, December 2, in Francis Lewis High School, Queens. Flyers about the event, including registration forms, should be in the mail soon after school resumes in the fall.

Other Happenings

John Muir at the Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment (and a former EEAC Chair) has been in the forefront of those telling us to look at the built environment as well as the natural one. Part of New York City's built environment is in the tiled spaces made in so many places during the last 100 years by the Gustavino family, including the Registry Room on Ellis Island, the Oyster Bar in Grand Central Terminal, the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine. Now you can obtain a free map of 233 Manhattan buildings on which the Gustavinos worked, by sending a self-addressed business-size envelope, with 55 cents postage to: Department of Drawings and Archives, Avery Architectural Library, 1172 Amsterdam Avenue, MC 0301, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027.

If you need information about **wildlife rehabilitator referrals**, call the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 2, at (718) 482-4900.

The American Museum of Natural History is looking for people who "are motivated and enthusiastic about teaching children and working with the public," to become **Teaching Volunteers**. No previous teaching experience is required. If interested, call (212) 769-5171.

Speaking of AMNH, by now everyone must know that the new \$210 million **Frederick Phineas and Sandra Priest Rose Center for Earth and Space** has opened there, containing two major spaces: the new Hayden Planetarium and the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Hall of the Universe. The center's third hall, the David S. and Ruth L. Gottesman Hall of Planet Earth, opened last June. To find out about hours and fees for the new center, call (212) 769-5100.

Taking Root is published three times a year for friends of the New York State Urban and Community Forest Program by the New York State Urban and Community Forestry Council. For information, call the Editor, Nancy Wolf, another past Chair of EEAC, at (718) 834-8297.

The Neighborhood Open Space Coalition/Friends of Gateway offers a number of things through e-mail, free of charge: *Urban Outdoors* is a monthly e-mail newsletter covering the world of New York City parks and public space; to subscribe, write: "subscribe outdoors" to nosc@treebranch.com. Cyberpark is a discussion space about parks, community gardens and public space; write "subscribe" in the subject header to: cyberpark@treebranch.com. Cyberharbor is about the New York/New Jersey harbor and is a joint project of NOSC/FoG and the Waterfront Project; to tune in, write "subscribe" in the subject header to: cyberharbor@treebranch.com. Jamaica Bay is a meeting room on Jamaica Bay issues; write "subscribe" in the subject header to: jamaicabay@treebranch.com.... By the way, NOSC/FoG is looking for volunteers to create and lead environmental walks. The contact is Toby Brandt at (212) 352-9330.

The Green Guerillas is organizing a non-partisan voter registration and voter education campaign to help community gardeners and supporters of the gardens. It's called **Plant the Vote**. To learn more about what is being done to save 600 neighborhood gardens, call 888-SAVE-GDN.

The first third of a 194-acre area of rolling meadows leading to red bluffs overlooking the Raritan Bay on Staten Island has been purchased by New York State from the Archdiocese of New York and is scheduled to be open to the public this spring. The remaining property will be purchased, via negotiations by the Trust for Public Land, during the next two years. Look for more information in the media.

Once on the verge of extinction, American Chestnut trees are being restored to the forests, and New York State children can help. A limited number of curriculum kits, written by teachers and guided by state standards, are available for use in grades 3-5. To learn more, call the **American Chestnut Foundation's** New York Chapter at (716) 825-7760.

The Bronx Zoo Education Department 2000 Summer Workshop For Teachers

June 29 - July 1

Pablo Python Looks At Animals, Grades K - 3

August 14 - 18

Habitat Ecology Learning Program, Grades 4 - 6

August 21 - 25

Habitat Ecology Learning Program, Grades 4 - 6

July 3 - 7

Voyage From The Sun, Grades 4 - 9

July 10 - 14

Diversity of Lifestyles, Grades 6 - 8

July 31 - August 4

Survival Strategies, Grades 7 - 12

August 28 - 30

Pablo Python Looks At Animals, Grades K - 3

Registration and Materials Fee: \$225

- Each workshop includes an in-depth training in the curriculum by participating in activities to facilitate the implementation of the program into your classroom. Participating educators also will go behind-the-scenes at the Zoo, and meet (small) live animals through classroom demonstrations.

- Extensive curriculum materials for your classroom, activities for field trips to informal science institutions and life science information.

- Free breakfast and lunch every day.

- Optional graduate credit (additional cost).

Need more information? Call Ann Robinson, Assistant Director for National Programs at (800) 937-5131 or 718-220-6856 or visit our website at : www.wcs.org/education

Environmental education is "a process aimed at developing a world population that is aware of and concerned about, the total environment and its associated problems, which has the knowledge, attitudes, skills, motivation, and commitment to work individually and collectively toward solutions of current problems and the prevention of new ones."

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – United Nations Environment Programme, 1978. The Tbilisi Declaration. Connect 3(1):1-7

Kominski Fund Update

by Ruth Eilenberg

Along with the advent of Daylight Savings Time and flowering bulbs and budding trees, spring also means planning for the events honoring the memory of our dear friend and colleague, John Kominski.

The Kominski Fund will once again underwrite transportation expenses for two or more camperships for deserving 12-14 year old students at the Department of Environmental Conservation Camp DeBruce in the Catskills. The activities and workshops at the camp are a blend of learning and recreation and are conducted with the goal of providing campers with direct hands-on contact with their environment. Applications are available from Barry Weinbrom at (718) 965-9814.

Plans are also being made for the annual awards presented to six graduating seniors who have demonstrated qualities of environmental leadership. The three schools involved in this program are John Bowne High School, the High School for Environmental Studies, and Boys and Girls High School. The Fund has also initiated the Kominski Memorial Award for Teachers, which was granted for the first time this year at the May 5th members meeting of the Elementary School Science Association. Candidates must have demonstrated leadership in effecting positive change in environmental education and practice. The winner, Roy Arezzo, will be profiled in the next issue of the EEAC Newsletter.

A special event this spring is the dedication of the Kominski Meditation Garden at Alley Pond Environmental Center where John was the first Executive Director. The Fund has contributed to this meaningful reminder of John, and EEAC members are invited to the commemorative event, which is scheduled for Sunday, May 21 from 4-6 p.m. Joan and Hy Rosner, founders of APEC and founding members of EEAC, will welcome guests at a tea from 2 to 4 p.m. Kindly call APEC at (718) 229-4000 to RSVP by May 15th. Travel directions are on the Web site: www.alleypond.com.

The continued support of EEAC members and friends of John Kominski enables EEAC to commemorate John's important work in environmental education. Contributions marked "Kominski Fund, EEAC" are welcomed at any time and should be sent to EEAC Treasurer, Joanne Dittersdorf, POB 408, Cooper Station, New York, NY 10276. Thanks to all who have contributed.

EEAC News...

Environmental Links...

Upcoming events...

Visit our website

<http://members.aol.com/wleou/eeac.html>



Jack Padalino, Terry Ippolito, and friends smile for the camera

Everyone attending the March 30th Members Meeting at the Bronx Zoo were treated to an afternoon of fun and learning at the new Congo Classroom where they toured the lower level to get a close up look at our primate cousins, the Gorillas, and then participated in a workshop led by Alison Ormsby and Ann Robinson. After being treated to delicious refreshments, EEACers went home with valuable print materials suitable for classroom use. Thanks for arranging this, Terry! You too, can go to the Zoo's Summer Workshops. Just call (718) 220-6856 for information on how to apply.

Schumacher College in Devon, south-west England, invites you to spend an exciting study holiday from which you will return feeling refreshed, reinvigorated, focussed and with an enhanced sense of purpose.

The college brings together international groups to study ecological issues for periods of time from February through October.

May 21 – June 9

Ecological Design: Context, Theory and Practice

with John Todd and Nancy Jack Todd

June 18 – 30

Nature, Spirit and Creativity

with Thomas Moore and Joan Hanley

October 1 – 20

Community, Globalization and Sustainability

with Wendell Berry, Vandana Shiva
and Helena Norberg-Hodge

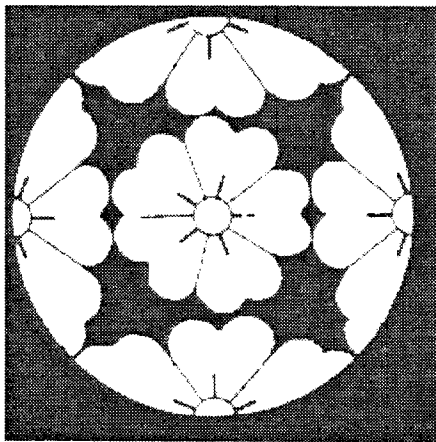
Visit our Web site at : www.gn.apc.org/schumachercollege or e-mail us at schumcoll@gn.apc.org

TEACHERS ON ICE

Would you like to spend a sabbatical doing research in Antarctica? If so, the program call TEA, Teachers Experiencing Antarctica, might be just right for you. This program is sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Elke Bergholz, last year's speaker at the EEAC Annual Meeting, was chosen along with six other teachers to be trained in the summer of 1998 at the Climate Monitoring and Diagnostic Laboratory of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration in Boulder, Colorado. Elke had proposed to do ozone research and was collaborating with Dr. Dave Hoffman, Director of the Lab.

Before she left to spend January and February 1999, summer time at the South Pole, working with a team of scientists, Elke was involved in outreach to teachers and students at several schools so she could connect with them via e-mail and live video conferences while she was doing her on-site research. When Elke sent out her ozone data via the internet, students participated in evaluating it in their home classrooms and responded interactively with her. Now that she's back teaching high school biology at the United Nations International School, she wants to make herself available to classes of students, grades 1-12, and also to meetings of interested organizations and conventions in order to increase awareness of environmental issues affecting Antarctica.

If this sounds like something you'd be interested in for yourself, check out the internet Web site: <http://tea.rice.edu>. If you'd like Elke to present her slides of the South Pole Station, without charge, to your class or organization, Elke can be reached at (212) 569-7947 or by e-mail: ebergholz@unis.com.



A FRIEND IN NEED IS A FRIEND IN DEED

by Joy Garland

John Bianci has been a true friend to EEAC over the years. John teaches science at Bishop Kearney High School, and his wife is also a teacher. After John puts in a full day at school, he heads to his camping store, Thunderbird Tepee, located at 3008 Avenue L off Nostrand Avenue in Brooklyn. After the EEAC Newsletter leaves the printer, it is delivered to John's store, and then John personally delivers the 1000 copies to Marcia Kaplan Mann and Mike Mann who mail it out. Once, when the Newsletters were misdelivered to the store next to his, and the orthodox owner closed on Friday afternoon and Saturday for the Sabbath, John made a special trip in on Sunday to bring the shipment to Marcia and Mike so no time would be lost in getting your copy to you.

Besides being on the Newsletter Committee, Marcia and Mike bring our EEAC exhibit to major environmental events. Recently when the exhibit needed a new home, John offered to house it in his store. John is presently recovering from a broken ankle. He was able to get to school, but not to work. Marcia and Mike want to recommend his store to you should you need to purchase tents, backpacks, compasses, and clothing for camping and hiking. Thunderbird Tepee's usual hours are Monday to Friday from 3:30 to 6 p.m., plus Saturdays. It is best to first call (718) 252-9048 to be sure John is there.

*The Pocono Environmental Education Center
in Dingman's Ferry, Pennsylvania, is the setting for*

The Mystery behind the Man- Christopher Columbus

*With Mike Mann and Marcia- Kaplan Mann
of Environmental Quest*

This is an interactive, interdisciplinary, multi-media, hands-on workshop dedicated to the most significant explorer of the 1400's. Participants will construct devices used by Columbus on this sail and prepare for Columbus Day of the new millennium. Marcia Kaplan-Mann is a lecturer and educator at the Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment Michael G. Mann, a former Chair of EEAC, is a surveyor and member of the New York State Forestry Practices Board.

September 22-24, 2000

Projected In-Service Credit Available for Teachers
through Pennsylvania IU#20

Projected Graduate Credit Available
through New Jersey City University

The fee of \$124 is per person and includes program,
meals, and lodging. Call: (570) 828-2319

Email: peec@ptd.net Fax: (570) 828-9695

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: _____

Please check the appropriate calendar year membership 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



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

c/o Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment

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