



EEAC

SUMMER/FALL 2000

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

New Initiative To Include E.E. in Teacher Pre-service Preparation

by Sherry Landsman, Project Director, TEEP

The sun shone brightly on May 4, a beautiful spring day at Pace University's Pleasantville campus where Angelo Spillo, Director of the Environmental Center, graciously hosted our first Teacher Environmental Education Preparation (TEEP) symposium. Twenty-three participants, representing ten New York State colleges and universities, attended. EEAC is working on this project in cooperation with the Council on the Environment of New York City and the Environmental Conservation Education Program at New York University.



*Some of the participants
in the TEEP symposium
at Pace University*

The project is supported by a grant from the A'ina Fund for Environmental Education of the Tides Foundation.

It was roll up your sleeves weather as participants immersed themselves in a process of discovery and exploration, building a network of people and academic institutions who will work together to include environmental education in New York State's teacher preparation programs.

Following a warm welcome by Dr. Carol Rhoder, Chair of Pace University's Education Department, we were treated to a model programs panel presentation by Dr. Robert Chapman from Pace University, Dr. Eleanor Miele from Brooklyn College, Dr. Glenn Phillips of Columbia's Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC) program, and Professor Don Cook from Bank Street College. Then the hard work began as we broke out into three work groups to grapple with

the issues of the role of environmental education (e.e.) in meeting NYS learning standards; the role of the State Education Department/Board of Regents; and the formation of partnerships and networks to promote e.e.

Substantial results presented during a plenary session included: the critical importance of e.e. curriculum in meeting the new standards due to its intrinsic interdisciplinary, hands-on, collaborative nature; suggestions for establishing a Web site and a peer-reviewed journal; and distance learning courses of field studies supervised by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. We determined that since the State Education Department has provided the structure for e.e. by including standards that require students to have a grasp of ecological concepts, what was needed now were creative strategies to get e.e. into existing programs.

We had high hopes for the outcome of the synergy of such dedicated, creative, and concerned participants, and we were rewarded with the range and scope of significant new ideas that were generated. Heartfelt thanks to all for your contributions! We now have a solid base for building on our accomplishments and we're looking forward with great anticipation to our Fall symposium at SUNY Cortland. If you're interested in additional information about this initiative or the upcoming symposium, e-mail slandsman@tuna.net.

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 September 20, October 18, and November 15.

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.

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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 THE CONVERSATION!

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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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

New York City parks, gardens, waterways, environmental centers, museums, and cultural institutions provide us with boundless opportunities for environmental education. During my recent visit to Staten Island, and Brooklyn I was impressed with the wonderful new facilities and programs currently underway that will bring even more resources to our city!

The National Park Service is preparing to open the Gateway Education Center at Fort Wadsworth in Staten Island next year. The 20,000 square foot Center will house several interactive learning spaces and will connect programs with the newly constructed Great Kills Field Station scheduled to open this fall. By making national park resources more accessible to the general public, this initiative will connect people with their environment and their national heritage. Utilizing the latest technology and opportunities for hands-on learning, the center promises to be an exciting place for learning and discovery.

The stunning Salt Marsh Nature Center at Marine Park in Brooklyn opened its doors to the public this summer. The Center will feature a lecture series this summer entitled "Urban Conservation: Spaces and Species." The terrace immediately outside the Center, overlooks the salt marsh and provides visitors with breathtaking views and an opportunity to explore a mile-long trail that winds along Gerritsen Creek. It will no doubt provide hundreds of visitors and thousands of school children with ample opportunities to gain new knowledge and respect for our diminishing wetlands.

National Audubon is partnering with the Prospect Park Alliance to develop an Environmental Center at the Boat House which will open up in Prospect Park next spring. This partnership will enhance park programs and open up new doors for collaboration and learning.

Additionally, the Gateway Environmental Study Center at Floyd Bennett Field, the only environmental facility that is an official Board of Education site, is gearing up for celebrating its 25th anniversary next year. The Center, under the direction of Regina McCarthy, is planning a year-long celebration that will include professional development opportunities for New York City teachers and field-based learning activities for our city's youth. The National Park Service, Educators for Gateway, and EEAC will work with the Board of Education to support the Center's environmental education initiatives.

EEAC will be working to bring you the latest information and developments about these exciting new initiatives through our newsletter, listserve, Web site, and member's programs. Enjoy your summer and explore the bountiful resources of our city.

Mary Leou, Ed.D.



On April 25, EEAC was the honored recipient of a Green Star Award from the Environmental Action Coalition. The award recognized EEAC's quarter of a century of commitment to improving the environment through education. At the Russian Tea Room with Dr. Mary Leou, EEAC Chair, are Jeanne M. Fox, Regional Administrator of U.S. EPA, and Marilyn Gelber, Co-Chair of EAC.

ALB alert!

ALB is the **Asian Longhorned Beetle**. Since it was spotted in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, in August of 1996, it is conservatively estimated that more than 2,800 infested trees have been removed from public and private property in New York City. Last Fall, the United States Department of Agriculture estimated that the toll in the Metropolitan area was in excess of 4,200 trees. The figure is, undoubtedly, closer to 5,000 now. The ALB "season" is June to December. What can we do about it? Unfortunately, ALB has no known natural enemies and manufactured controls are non-existent, though being sought. So, all that can be done is to find infested trees, chop them down and burn them.

But, the public can help, by becoming "**Beetle Busters**." There is a *Citizen's Guide to Beetle Busting*, produced by New York ReLeaf and developed in cooperation with the Vermont Asian Longhorned Beetle Public Awareness Program of the University of Vermont. To obtain copies, call New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region 2 at (518) 482-6480 or New York ReLeaf New York City Planning Committee at (718) 522-1130. We have lost enough trees and we cannot afford to lose more! Please help!

Dates and Places

The Staten Island Children's Museum has two exhibits of interest: "**Pigtails and Hardhats**," which uses story book characters to teach about the construction industry; it closes August 28. "**Animals as Architects**," which closes September 3, shows that animals are concerned about energy efficiency and comfort. The Museum is in the Snug Harbor Cultural Center, 1000 Richmond Terrace. To find out more, call (718) 273-2060.

The Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment is the perfect place for an exhibition on an icon of the urban environment—the manhole cover. On weekends, through September 3, you can see photographs of extinct and endangered manhole covers in BCUE's headquarters, the Tennis House in Prospect Park. For information, call (718) 788-8500.

The American Littoral Society is looking for volunteers for the 14th Annual International Coastal Cleanup on Saturday, September 16. They will document and remove debris from shores and waterways. For more information, call 1-800-449-0790.

"**Reptiles: Real and Robotic**" is on view in the New York Hall of Science, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, through September 17. For information, call (718) 699-0005.

Saturday, October 7, the Friends of Marine Park-Gerritsen Creek and the Brooklyn Urban Park Rangers will hold an all-day conference on "**Pollution Solutions: A Litter Blueprint for 2001**," in the Marine Park Nature Center, Avenue U between Burnett Street and East 32 Street. The event is free. To learn more, call (917) 761-4316 or e-mail: ecocreek@aol.com or fompgc@aol.com.

Other News

New York City Parks & Recreation is hoping to have **historic signs** in every park space by the end of 2001. It is looking for adults and students who would like to research the history of a neighborhood park and write about it. For further information, call Kate Clark at (212) 360-8240.

Parks and Recreation has published a 48-page guide, *Great Trees of New York City*, which lists the most important trees and groves that tell the story of the City. The work is dedicated to the memory of a dear friend and colleague of many environmental educators, Gordon Helman, who died in 1996. He had put together a handmade booklet that dealt with the subject and included historical facts and literary asides. To obtain a copy, write to Parks & Recreation, The Arsenal, Central Park, New York, NY 10021.

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden has created a multi-disciplinary educational outreach program that is coordinated with the New York Metropolitan Flora Project, an on-going research project in its Science Department. Paid apprenticeships for high school students in Brooklyn public schools and professional fellowships for high school science teachers are being offered. Apprenticeships begin in September, February, and June. Fellowships, also paid, consist of two sessions each

summer. To learn more, contact Elyssa Arnone, NYMF Education Outreach Coordinator at BBG, 1000 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225-1099, (718) 623-7308.

Also at BBG, the **Japanese Hill-and-Pond Garden**, designed in 1915 and the first Japanese garden in America, has reopened after a \$3 million yearlong renovation. The Garden is open every day except Monday. For more information, call (718) 623-7200.

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection has issued its **1999 Drinking Water Supply and Quality Report**. To obtain a free copy, write to DEP at 59-17 Junction Boulevard, Corona, NY 11368-5107, or call (718) DEP-HELP.

The Trust for Public Land always has interesting and informative publications. The latest are **Inside City Parks**, published jointly with the Urban Land Institute, and **Our Land, Our Selves: Readings on People and Place**. To find out how to obtain them, write to the Mid Atlantic Office of TPL, at 666 Broadway, New York, NY 10012, or call (212) 677-7171.

The Hawthorne Valley Farm in Ghent, New York, is a 400 acre biodynamic place, which has a Visiting Students Program. This brings together students and teachers from public and private schools to spend a week on the farm. There are other programs, as well. For information about the Farm and VSP, write to 327 Route 21C, Ghent, NY 12075. The Farm telephone number is (518) 672-4465 and the VSP number is (518) 672-4790.



2001 U.S. EPA Environmental Education Grants

U.S. EPA announces the 2001 round of grants awarded under the National Environmental Education Act. Contact Josephine Lageda of EPA via phone (212) 637-3674, or e-mail: ippolito.teresa@epa.gov. Request the solicitation notice containing necessary information and forms for the environmental education grants. Go to www.epa.gov/enviroed and <http://www.epa.gov/region02/ee/enviroed.htm#grantinfo> for more information.

Most grants are made at the \$5,000 level by the regional office; the upper limit of award amounts is \$250,000 from EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC. The solicitation notice is the same for both the regional and national competitions and is expected out in August. Applications are likely to be due in mid-November.

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



IN MEMORIAM

DAVID MANSON

David Manson passed away in May. Dave was the quintessential urban park ranger. One of the first rangers hired when the City initially ran the program in the early 1970's, Dave started a model park-based environmental education program at Inwood Hill Park in Northern Manhattan. The program was cut during the budget crisis of 1975, but Dave was the first ranger hired back when the City started the "modern" version of the Urban Park Rangers in the late 70's. Dave was placed in the Central Park Dairy, where, Ranger Rick type hat and all, he sensitized hundreds of youngsters to the park. Dave remained a Ranger until ill health forced him to leave his post.

Dave was a wonderful educator with all sorts of people, but he was especially adroit at teaching young children (ages 4-7). They loved his big, round, red face; his engaging smile; his Ranger uniform; and his way of involving them in fun. Dave thought of all kinds of intriguing ways to focus the interest of youngsters on the world around them and to teach them important information and skills.

Dave worked with me as a consultant in an energy conservation education program I coordinated at the Council on the Environment in the late 1970's, before he donned his Ranger hat again. Whenever we went into a classroom full of young kids, he would become very animated and excited, pull out some little gadget he had put together that illustrated some aspect of energy, and simply "light" the place up with enthusiasm and interest. He added so much to our program during those sessions.

Whenever Dave plied his trade as an environmental educator, he always "lit" up the crowd, especially the young kids, with the same enthusiasm. He was a credit to the Rangers and to environmental education as a whole.

Submitted by Mike Zamm

JOAN STOLIAR

Joan Stoliar, whose article appeared in the last issue of the EEAC Newsletter, passed away on June 18, 2000, due to complications of ovarian cancer. Joan worked on the Trout in the Classroom Project. Our heartfelt condolences to Joan's husband, Arthur, and her family and friends. She will be missed.

Submitted by Kim Estes-Fradis

GREEN HORIZONS 5 IN OCTOBER

by Nancy Wolfe

Green Horizons 5 will take place on Thursday, October 5th at the Staten Island Botanical Garden in Snug Harbor. This lovely site will make it possible for a saltwater marsh "station" to be added to the regular mix. The day's schedule is being slightly adjusted to make it easier for students and their guidance counselors to attend from all boroughs. Following two morning stations, lunch will be held on a tented platform with the now-famous flower arranging for all. The City Parks Department will run a shuttle bus to meet three morning ferries and return riders to the ferry in the early afternoon. Those who have not participated in Green Horizons in the past and want to be in the "mix" should call Orville Edwards, the new Facilitator, at Magnolia Tree Earth Center, (718) 387-2116.

As always, EEAC and New York ReLeaf Region 2 Planning Committee are the co-conveners of Green Horizons. The Consolidated Edison Company and the Bartlett Tree Expert Company have provided continued funding along with additional sponsorship from the USDA Forest Service. This wonderful event would not be possible without the incredible professional in-kind support from host facilities and the leaders/educators who give their time so willingly.

As of spring 2000, 98 guidance counselors, 110 leaders/educators and over 600 students have participated in Green Horizons. Nine scholarships have been offered to former student participants by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for summer 2000 – seven went to Pack Forest in the Adirondacks and two to DeBruce in the Catskills. We hope you will save the date and join us this year.

EEAC News...

Environmental Links...

Upcoming events...

Visit our website

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

KOMINSKI MEMORIAL AWARD GOES TO ROY ARREZZO

by Susan Clark



Roy Arrezzo is anything but a textbook science teacher. In fact, he does everything he can to create opportunities for his students at IS 318 in Brooklyn to go beyond book learning to gain skills and knowledge from real life situations. This spring, EEAC and ESSA were proud to acknowledge Roy's commitment to environmental education and his tremendous success engaging students in learning about the environment, by presenting him with

the first John Kominski Memorial Award. During his life, John was dedicated to environmental education, and was a past Chair of EEAC. In his memory, it is fitting that we honor another educator who is dedicated to students, education, and the environment, Roy Arrezzo.

Gardening, composting, fishing expeditions, and camping trips are just a few of the activities that Roy uses to engage his students and teach them important environmental and life lessons. From a desire to clean up an unsightly vacant lot across the street from his school, Roy worked with students as well as faculty, staff, and community volunteers, to transform the lot into a community garden and learning center. Today, the

site contains an outdoor classroom/amphitheater and raised planting beds where different classes tend trees, bushes, and plants of every kind. Roy and his students also built compost bins and established a system for collecting the school's food waste. That material, along with organic materials from the garden, becomes a nutrient-rich fertilizer that is used to support future plant growth.

Another program that has been under Roy's direction started with a 250-gallon trout tank in the classroom and culminated with a trip upstate to release the fish that students have raised from eggs. Trout In The Classroom links students in New York City with others within the city's watershed and teaches all involved valuable lessons about habitat and balances in nature. In addition to learning about the importance of protecting our drinking water, students also have fun learning how to be fly fishermen and women.

Roy teaches students about the world we live in—both the immediate community and the greater whole. With that knowledge and the skills they acquire, his students are ready, willing, and able to have a positive impact on the environment. Perhaps most inspiring is Roy's dedication to his students and to the environment, which is at the heart of his teaching. Congratulations, Roy!

EEAC MEMBERS MEETING EVENT HOLD THE DATE!



Saturday, October 14, Morning - Early afternoon

- Explore the Staten Island Green Belt at High Rock,
- Picnic and tour Richmondtown's interpretive center that recreates Pre-Industrial Revolution Staten Island.

Come to Staten Island in the fall.

Watch your mail for the postcard with details.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Member

Renewal

Name: _____

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If sustaining Organization, Name of Contact Person _____

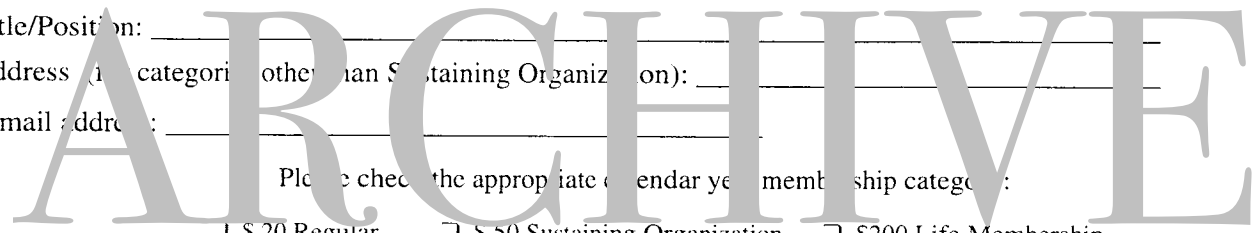
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Please check the appropriate calendar year membership category:

\$ 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



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LET'S GREEN THE BIG APPLE!