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Environmental Education Advisory Council

A voluntary organization in support of Environmental Education for New York

JUNE 1978

RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AT PEEC IN THE POCONO MOUNTAINS

by John Padalino

Once a vacation resort, the 36 acre tract on the eastern escarpment of the Pocono Mountain Plateau, the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) is now used as a field center for environmental studies. The field center is operated by Keystone Junior College, La Plume, Pa., in cooperation with the U.S. Department of the Interior - National Park Service. PEEC has become a focus for a field studies approach to learning. At PEEC field studies are conducted out-of-doors on over 200,000 acres of public lands which include the National Park Service's administered Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests, and other public lands.

Available for school programs are 39 natural areas proximal to PEEC in Pike County that the Nature Conservancy designated suitable for preservation and study.

Local flora and fauna offer excellent opportunities for study. Readily available to school groups at PEEC are the banks of the Delaware River, lowlands, uplands, forests, old fields, cultivated fields, pastures, scrub oak barrens, slopes, ravines, cliffs, talus slopes, and acid bogs and their shores.

PEEC is within the pathway of the magnificent autumnal migrations of the diurnal birds of prey. It is also close to three distinct aquatic habitats - reservoir, upland lakes, and streams.

PEEC's program support facilities available to groups are audio-visual equipment, bus for field trips from the Center, 45 cottages with a total of 300 beds, a dining hall with capacity to feed 170 people at one sitting, several recreational sites, campus bookstore, interpretive areas, and a main lodge.

The main lodge at PEEC contains four large meeting rooms, natural history library, nature center, media center, dark room and environmental studies curriculum center where teachers plan and prepare for field experiences.

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EARTH CENTER HOSTS MEETING WITH D.E.C. REPRESENTATIVE

The Magnolia Tree Earth Center hosted a roundtable discussion session on May 19th for Linda Mazinsky, a Youth Conservation Corps staff person from the Department of Environmental Conservation's Albany office and representatives from several City agencies sponsoring YCC work/study programs.

Magnolia Tree Earth Center, Bronx River Restoration and Alley Pond Environmental Center received a 1977 YCC matching grant from the NYS Park and Recreation Commission which included funds for compilation of YCC program guidelines. Ms. Mazinsky is incorporating this information into a YCC training manual she is editing for statewide distribution.

PEEC (continued)

With its flexible, year-round schedule, PEEC is ideal for conferences, short-term institutes, workshops, and educational residential programs such as environmental education, outdoor education, school camping and environmental studies.

PEEC personnel are available to assist school groups develop an inter-disciplinary program to help people learn about the environment through direct experiences in the out-of-doors.

Organized groups of adults or school groups can arrange to study at PEEC, a fully winterized and equipped facility, by contacting: PEEC, R.D.#1, Box 268, Dingman's Ferry, Pa. 18328. The phone number is (717) 828-2319.

TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP FOR SUMMER INSTITUTE

The Queensboro Lung Association is offering a \$150 scholarship for a deserving person to attend the Environmental Conservation Institute from August 6-11.

The Institute, open to all secondary school teachers wishing to incorporate aspects of health, air pollution and

energy education into their curricula and may be taken on a non-credit or in-service basis or with university credit (the \$150 scholarship does not cover the cost of graduate credit).

Held at the Old Marble Mountain Ski Lodge near Whiteface Mountain (now the ASRC Whiteface Mountain Field Station), the theme of the Institute is Energy, Environment and Health. For additional information regarding the Institute and the scholarship offered by Queensboro Lung Association, contact Lillian Lesser (JA6-2557).

STAFF POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT APEC

The Alley Pond Environmental Center will be resuming full operation on September 1, 1978 and is now accepting resumes for Executive Director, Secretary/Receptionist and Custodian/Building Superintendent. Send resumes to: APEC, 228-06 Northern Blvd., Little Neck, New York 11363.

To contribute lead articles and news to this newsletter, contact Editor Joan Edwards at Magnolia Tree Earth Center (756-2233). We need your help!

Thanks to Con Edison for helping us produce this newsletter.

Environmental Education Advisory Council

Gateway Environmental Studies Center
New York City Board of Education

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