



eeaac

NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The environmental field has come into its own in the 90s. People are realizing that if they don't start to heal our planet rather than over use it there will be little left to save. Most people have learned and accepted the three "R"s (reduce, reuse, and recycle). Unfortunately, this has not been a universal acceptance. There is a whole segment of the population that is unaware of the pressing needs of our environment. This disenfranchised group is too caught up in their families' day to day survival to be interested in what is for them a long range goal.

Although it is not impossible to change some of their priorities such as when their families' health is involved (i.e. incinerators make plants, dump sites and PCBs to name a few), these people just don't have the time or energy to be involved in retooling their governments or their own life processes. Environmental education should start with the children. Environmental education works and knows no race, creed, color or financial status. Children can be taught to make conservation and good environmental practices part of their lifestyle.

We have already started this re-education process. We have been working with the New York State Board of Regents to infuse environmental education into the state curriculum. We have been involved with teacher training and environmental conferences for educators and group leaders. Some of our members are involved with the outdoor education and camping programs at Pouch Boy Scout Camp. This brings inner city, handicapped, coed school children as well as "hotel children" to an outdoor setting where they can learn about the natural as well as the man-made environment. Our biggest victory of environmental education is the planned conversion of the old Stuyvesant High School building into the High School for Environmental Studies.

Michael Mann



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
A voluntary organization in support of Environmental Education for New York

Summer 1992

UPCOMING EEAC EVENTS.....

Steering Committee Meetings

EEAC Steering Committee meetings are held at 4:15 on the third Wednesday of every month. All EEAC members are invited to attend and participate in the discussion. For the location of meetings, contact Millard Clements at (212) 998-5495. Upcoming dates are:

Wednesday June 17th

Wednesday Aug. 19th

Wednesday Sept. 16th

Membership Meetings and Events

Our next membership meeting will be held in two locations. You are invited to join the Urban Park Rangers' PARKLANDS PARTNERSHIP on Saturday, June 13, 1992 for a day of forest restoration ecology. We will be working in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, and Inwood Hill Park, Manhattan. The activities will run from 10am to 3pm.

You will learn how thousands of New York City students have been investigating the forests of their local parklands this year, and how they have been making a positive change in the health of the ecosystem through replanting.

For further information and reservations, please call (212) 360-2771.

Newsletter Deadlines

The dates for submission of materials to the Editor are: August 3, and November 2, 1992, and February 1, 1993.

Newsletter Committee

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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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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. This newsletter is available free upon request.

EEAC OFFICERS

Michael Mann, Chairperson
 Kenneth Kowald & Michael Zamm, Vice Chairpersons
 Millard Clements, Secretary
 Gina McCarthy, Membership Secretary
 Bernard Kirschenbaum, Treasurer

STEERING COMMITTEE *

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 Ruth Eilenberg
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 Barry Weinbrom, Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment
 Nancy A. Wolf, Environmental Action Coalition
 Michael Zamm, Council on the Environment of NYC

*Affiliations for identification purposes only.

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

SAVE THIS IMPORTANT DATE
Spring 1993 Conference For Teachers



Don't say you weren't warned!

On Saturday, March 27th, 1993 (yes, 1993!), EEAC and five other co-sponsors will hold an all-day conference on the theme, "**Nature in New York City: Using Parks and Open Spaces as Teaching Resources.**"

The venue will be the American Museum of Natural History and Central Park. Hands-on workshops (about 10 in number with two sessions each) will take place in the park, rain or shine. The other sponsors are the American Museum of Natural History, the Central Park Conservancy, the City Parks Foundation, Educators for Gateway, and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

Planning for the event has been going on for several months and it is hoped that the program will be in final form before the end of this school year. Because we are limiting attendance to 200 people, we hope to have the brochures (with registration form) in the mail late in December or early January. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis and all registrants will be asked to list their workshop choices in order of preference.

There will be a registration fee of \$10.00, payable with the registration form. Participants will receive many materials and there will be coffee and tea during sign in. It will be a bring your own lunch event, with beverages available in the Museum (although some workshop participants may wish to eat "in the field").

So, mark the date and watch for the brochure and then get the registration in as quickly as possible. Remember, you've been warned!



The **Environmental Education Advisory Council (EEAC)** invites you to join our organization (or renew your membership) and participate in exciting membership events and monthly meetings.

EEAC is a special group of educators whose common aim is to encourage environmental education within the New York metropolitan region. We are an organization that works on "synergy." Through us, members share ideas and knowledge, speak with a single voice to influence educational policy and participate in many pleasurable activities.

The main goal of EEAC's coming together is the education of our youth. We desire that young people develop an appreciation of their natural world and the richness of their urban world. They must learn about the beauty of a flower as well as environmental problems they can help to solve.

By exchanging knowledge, we at EEAC make each other better educators. Please join us by becoming a member (a form is on the last page of the newsletter). We look forward to meeting you.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

by *Kenneth Kowald*



Deadlines and Datelines

- Early May saw the launching of the Clean Streets/Clean Beaches campaign, an activity of the United States, New York, New Jersey and New York City governments, together with the New York Water Pollution Control Association and We Care About New York. The goal is to call attention to the connection between litter on the streets that washes down the storm drains and litter that washes up on the beaches. For information about this on-going effort, call Emory Jackson at We Care About New York, (212) 686-1001.
- During the weekend of September 19/20, New York state will be participant again in the annual documented Beach Clean Up, which is now international in scope. Last year, 2,700 volunteers cleaned 142 miles of New York State shoreline. Coordinator of the Beach Clean Up is Marian Roet, at (914) 332-3394.
- The New York State Conservation Council, Inc., together with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, is sponsoring Conservation Education Workshops at SUNY College of Cortland's Outdoor Education Center at Raquette Lake, July 12-18 and 19-25. Applications may be had from NYSCC, 8 East Main Street, Ilion 13357, or by calling (315) 894-3302.
- This year's City Gardeners Harvest Fair, a venture of several Federal, State and City agencies, together with Cornell University Cooperative Extension, will be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 15-16, at Brooklyn's Floyd Bennett Field. For information about this 16th annual event, call Jane Weissman, Director, Operation GreenThumb, (212) 233-2926.
- The 25th anniversary conference of the New York State Outdoor Education Association will be held October 1-4 at the Roaring Brook Conference Center, Lake George. For information write to Andy Angstrom, NYSOEA Conference '92, 477 Beaverkill Road, Kingston 12401.
- The National Science Teachers Association is holding a regional convention in New York City, November 19-21. For information, write to Harold Miller, Convention Co-Chairperson, #20B, Building A, 2449 Union Boulevard, Islip 11751. As a prelude, the Elementary School Science Association will hold its annual Saturday Science program on Saturday, October 24. For ESSA information, contact the President, Marian Berke, (718) 998-3545.



Want to know about trees? "Trees for the City" is available from the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, any borough office. The Green Guerillas' "Trees for New York City" flyer may be obtained from the GG's, (212) 674-8124.

The Trust for Public Land has issued a report on nonprofit management of public lands and has updated its 1987 report, "Buffer the Bay: A Survey of Jamaica Bay's Unprotected Shoreline and Uplands." For information about both, call or write the New York City Land Project of TPL, (212) 677-7171, 666 Broadway, New York 10012-2317.

More material from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection: "Protecting Your Kids From Lead Poisoning," and two fact sheets on the 150th anniversary of New York City's water supply system. Write to the Department at 59-17 Junction Boulevard, Elmhurst 11373-5107, or call (718) 595-6579.

You ought to know about the New York/New Jersey Estuary Program. For information, call or write the Hudson River Foundation, (212) 924-8290, 9th floor, 40 West 20th Street, New York 10011.

For information about the New York Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, write to 33 Central Avenue, Albany 12210, or call (518) 426-8246.

The City Parks Foundation was created in 1989 to increase private support for all of New York City's Parks and Recreation Centers. To learn more, write or call the Foundation, The Arsenal, Central Park, New York 10021, (212) 360-8220.

The Health Effects Institute issues a newsletter on asbestos research. For information about HEI-AR, write to the Institute, 1441 Portland Street, Suite 7100, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139.

The Parks Council has issued a major study, "Preserving Sunlight in New York City's Parks: A Zoning Proposal." For more information, call or write the Council, (212) 838-9410, c/o The Urban Center, 457 Madison Avenue, New York 10022.

"Beat The Heat: The CO2 Challenge" is a recent supplement to Scholastic, Inc. To find out more, write to the Children's Earth Fund, Box 2335, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York 10010.

For a free glossary of environmental terms, call 1-800-327-4386.

Ailanthus, a computer conferencing system for communication on environmental issues in New York City, has been developed by the Masters Program in Environmental Conservation Education at New York University. For information, call Scott Martin at (212) 998-5643. There is no cost involved.

Did you know there is a National Tree Planting Initiative? To find out, write to The National Tree Trust, 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 1201-South, Washington, D.C. 20004, or call (202) 628-TREE.

In time for Earth Day this year, the Children's Museum of Manhattan opened the Urban Tree House at its Sussman Environmental Center, 212 West 83rd Street. Call (212) 721-1223 for information.

If you would like to volunteer some weekend to help in the ecological restoration of one of the City's Parks, the Brooklyn Urban Park Ranger's series of POWER workshops offers that opportunity. Call a Ranger office near you, or the Brooklyn office, (718) 287-3400.

The Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment is offering Hands-on-Science, an after-school recreational science program. For information, call Barry Weinbrom, Coordinator, After-School Programs, BCUE, (718) 965-9814, or (718) 788-8500.

The New York City Audubon Society is publishing a seasonal newsletter, specifically for New York City children. To find out about "Look Around," write or call the Society at 71 West 23rd Street, New York 10010, (212) 691-7483.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES continued

Staten Island Earth Day Environmental Futures Forum for Youth

by Lenore Miller

On Monday, April 13, 1992, 120+ students, primarily juniors and seniors, and their teachers from 15 of the borough's public, private and parochial high schools, gathered at the Staten Island campus of St. John's University where they spent the day discussing, in depth, the major environmental issues of our borough and the world. This was the 2nd year for the all-day Forum since last year's event was so well received. It was co-sponsored by SISTA (Staten Island Science Teachers' Association), the S.I. Continuum of Education and St. John's University.

During the morning sessions, the students listened to presentations by a mix of environmental experts in panel sessions. The panelists represented a wide variety of our local community, and some came from off the island (including our own Ken Kowald) as well. Many governmental agencies, including the State and City Environmental Departments, Sanitation, Transit Authority and Parks participated. Environmental activist groups provided expert panelists and there were also several representatives of the business community.

The lunch break had a unique approach: **THE 1-GARBAGE BAG CHALLENGE!** All those gathered, about 200 people, attempted to use less than 1 plastic bag for the garbage they generated. It meant that each person had to be conscious of the packaging, recyclability, consumption of no waste, and thus show by their actions, concern for the issues they were discussing. The students signed a pledge to that effect, accepting the challenge and they met it!

The afternoon was devoted to presentations by the students of papers they had researched and prepared. Thus, the Forum was the culmination of several weeks of involvement with selected environmental topics.

Several prominent speakers addressed the students in total assemblies. The speakers were: Borough President Guy Molinari, Councilman Fred Cerullo, and Barbara Warren-Chinitz, one of Staten Island's leading activists. However, the most inspiring and moving speech was one made by a student, Brendan Menuey. Evaluations filled in by students showed his to be the most effective.

All of those who attended were witness to an event that brought together many of the outstanding students of our borough in an exciting and inspiring day.





High School for Environmental Studies

by John Kominski

Over five hundred eighth grade students from all five boroughs have applied for admission to the new High School for Environmental Studies, which will open in September 1992. They hope to be among the one hundred and fifty ninth graders who will be selected to pioneer a new program at the old Stuyvesant High School site on Fifteenth Street and Second Avenue in Manhattan. Stuyvesant's students and staff will move into their new, state of the art building on the shore of the Hudson River at West and Chamber Streets this summer.

The High School for Environmental Studies will offer an innovative and challenging curriculum that will emphasize the relationship between the natural and the built environment. It will include science and inter-disciplinary environmental courses that allow students to explore their interest in preserving and improving our natural and human designed resources. The curriculum will relate traditional subject areas to the analysis, understanding and appreciation of the many local, regional and global ecological concerns that young people have. It will enable them to learn more about how they can become important forces in improving, protecting and enjoying the environment.

Since the environmental area is projected to be a growth area for employment, these students will be encouraged to consider careers in the field. The young environmentalists will have opportunities to explore exciting careers in environmental research, recreation, technology, education, conservation, environmental policy, air and water testing, architecture, journalism and other related fields. Internships, individual and group research, community improvement projects and related outdoor experiences (e.g., visits to historic preservation areas, camping) will be integrated into the curriculum.

It is clear that Schools Chancellor Joseph Fernandez considers this school, which is one of ten small, thematic high schools scheduled to open in 1992-93, to be one of the most important and most exciting projects on the drawing board. The High School for Environmental Studies has also quickly attracted the attention and support of governmental and private environmental agencies and organizations. Interest among foundations devoted to improving education and the environment are also indicating their willingness to lend support to this effort.

The High School for Environmental Studies grew out of a concept paper developed by the Council on the Environment of New York City, supported by funding from the Surdna Foundation. Over the past several months Mike Zamm and others from the Council interviewed dozens of leaders in the field of urban environmental education and protection. Several EEAC members were among those interviewed. Ed Skloot and Lys McLaughlin, Executive Directors respectively of the Surdna Foundation and the Council are to be congratulated for their on-going efforts and vision in the evolution of this school from an idea to a real program. For more information on the High School for Environmental Studies, contact John Kominski, Project Director, at (718) 935-3432 or write to him at New York City Public Schools, Room 809, 110 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

SPOTLIGHTS continued

New Exhibition at the American Museum of Natural History

Global Warming - Understanding the Forecast

by Mary Leou

One of the largest public education exhibitions examining the threat of global warming opened on May 15th at the American Museum of Natural History. The exhibition, entitled "Global Warming: Understanding the Forecast" was developed collaboratively by the Environmental Defense Fund, and the American Museum of Natural History. It is sponsored by Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc.

The American Museum of Natural History has integrated the use of fossils, artifacts, computers, videos, and interactive multimedia exhibits to demonstrate and explain the effects of climate change on the planet. The exhibition examines both climatic changes in the past and climate projections for the future. By examining an ice core from Greenland, tree rings from a 2,000-year-old Tasmanian tree, or deep sea cores from the Arctic Ocean, visitors can see evidence of past climate change. Computer simulations and models, enable visitors to manipulate variables to learn about factors that contribute to global warming, and create computerized forecasts of future climates.

The purpose of the exhibition is to increase public awareness and understanding regarding the potential consequences of global warming so that individuals and communities can make informed choices about environmental issues.

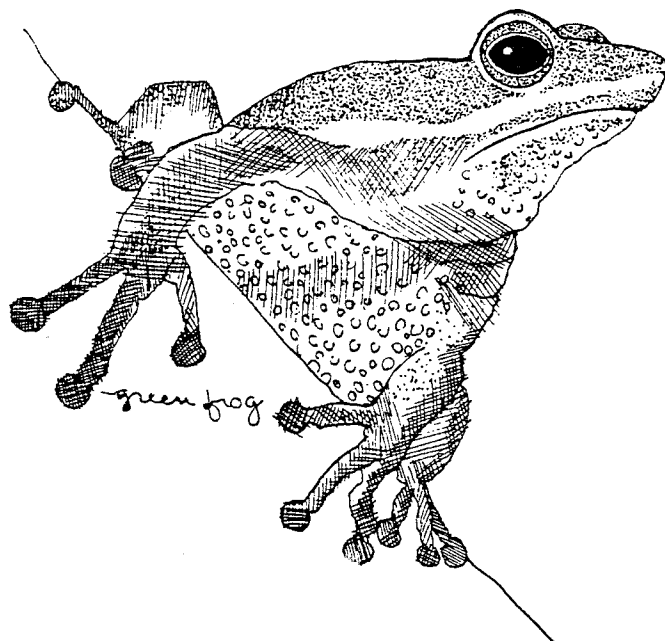
Education programs will be conducted for interested school groups. Additional education resources include teacher training workshops, a Teacher's Guide, and a resource center containing a

computerized database with scientific information keyed to specific exhibits and career information. A companion book entitled "Global Warming - Understanding the Forecast," by Andrew Revkin has been published by Abeville Press and a public symposium on global warming has been scheduled for October 1992. For more information call (212) 769-5100. After eight months at the AMNH, the exhibition will travel to other sites across the United States. An exhibition not to be missed!

Parklands Partnership Recognized by National Association for Interpretation

Regular readers are familiar with the Urban Park Rangers' PARKLANDS PARTNERSHIP program, which last July began bringing students into the woodlands of New York City's parklands. The program was chosen as an "Outstanding Interpretive Program" by Region I of the National Association for Interpretation in early April 1992. The award is the first of its kind to be presented, in what is expected to become an annual ceremony.

If you are interested in learning more about this program, you can attend the June EEAC membership meeting, or call (212) 369-2771.



The Promise of Residential Outdoor Education Programs

*By David L. Cohen, Teacher, PS 163, Q.,
And Executive VP, Educators for Gateway*

It was shortly after the two students had been shot to death in the halls of Brooklyn's Thomas Jefferson High School. I was in the Poconos with a group of thirty students, one colleague, and three fathers. It was my first trip as a group leader to the Pocono Environmental Education Center. It was our second evening and we were in the swimming pool.

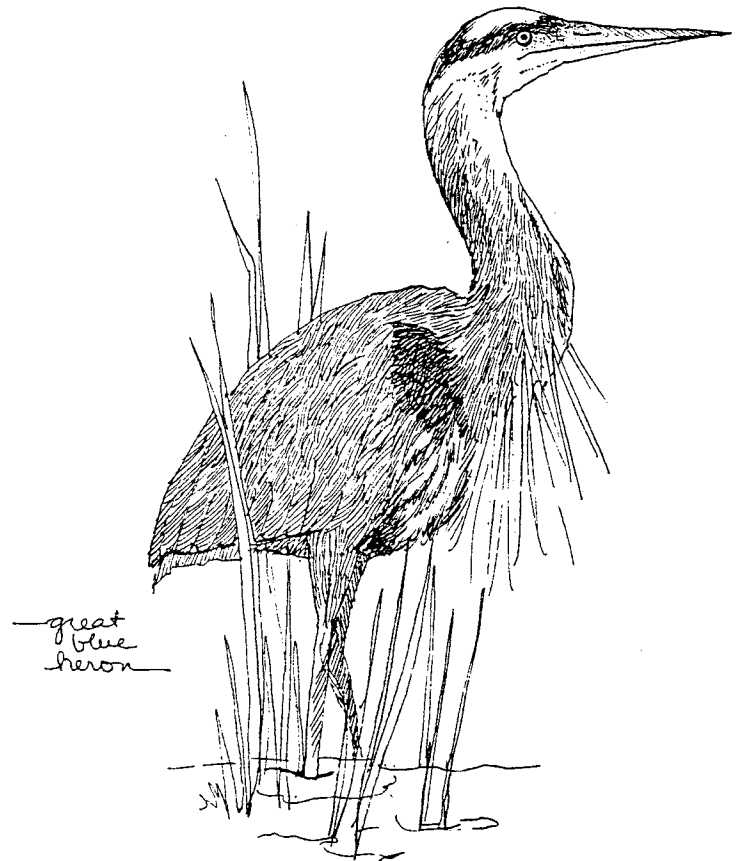
The adults on the trip could trace their lineage to Asia, Latin America, The Middle East, and Europe. Factor in the children, and our hyphens took us to every earthly continent but Australia and Antarctica.

This too is the New York City School System I thought, as I took a break from our water volley ball game. Too bad this doesn't make the headlines. In a month I'd be away with another, similar sized group to the Taconic Outdoor Education Center on a similar program called Operation Explore. In May, I'd do my third trip this school year, this time tent camping at Ecology Village at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn.

School camping and residential environmental education programs are not magic. They cannot take asocial children, and teachers who have run out of steam, or perhaps never had much to begin with, and turn them into dynamic learning teams. Yet, such programs do have the potential to help most children and adults discover what learning and teaching can be.

As a beginning teacher some twenty five years ago, I taught as I had been taught. Chalk and talk best described my style.

How little had I learned this way. How little were my students learning. I was also not satisfied with the affective environment in my classroom. Discipline was poor and the students were just mean to each other.



In my fourth year of teaching, a guidance counselor who saw my potential reached out to me with ongoing help with academics and classroom management. Later, I was to see how closely related the two were.

I became the science cluster and moved into full time hands-on instruction. In my tenth year of teaching my principal handed me an announcement about a camping leadership course at the Gateway Environmental Study Center at Floyd Bennett Field. He knew I liked to take children on nature walks to nearby Forest Park and saw this as a logical extension. Boy, was it!

AN OPINION continued

In 1976, or maybe 1977, I became a camping teacher. Camping at Ecology Village at Floyd Bennett is different from the PEEC or TACONIC experiences. The logistics are up to the teacher and the class. We do our own shopping and cooking, sleep in tents, are outdoors in Brooklyn along a bay and are completely self-sufficient.

My first experience hooked me. My students became people to me. I became a person to them. The need to cooperate simply to eat and stay warm provided a social studies microcosm that no amount of classroom talking or role playing or reading could approximate.

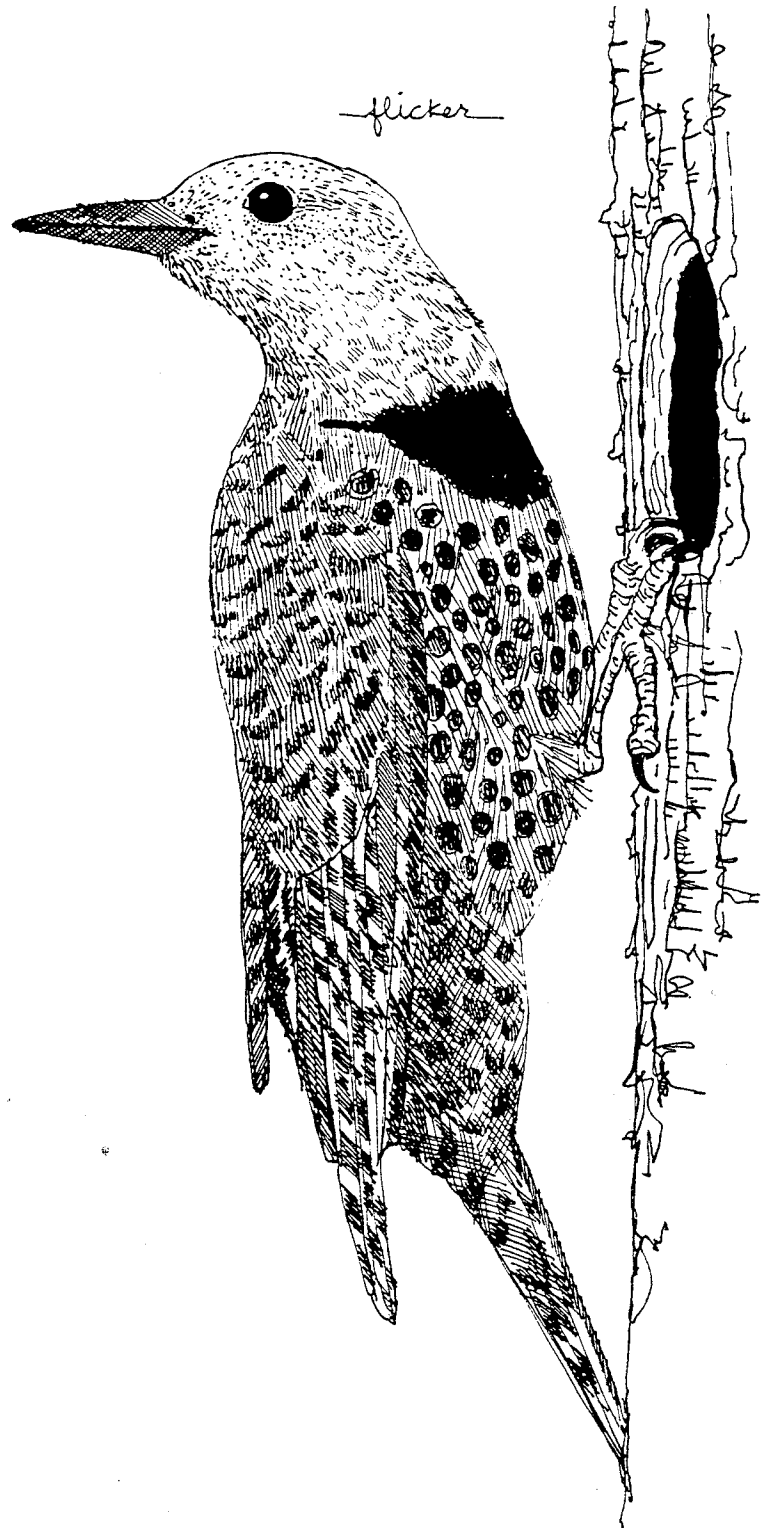
We found that there is life without television or records. We found out what a National Park is. We found out who was good at tending a fire, who cooks well, who could push heavy loads without complaining, and that trees can make a big difference in comfort on a windy day.

We found out why Jamaica Bay is important, what combined sewage outflow is, and what that has to do with why we can't yet eat the fish in the Bay. We found out what it means to walk a mile, and even three miles. We found out how much energy we have to invest in cutting enough wood for a campfire that would keep us warm till bed time. We found out who snores.

After such a trip, the relationships are different. We've shared something that has brought us closer to each other. We've had experiences that will enable us to deal with the bigots who want us to believe that "those people" are all lazy or stupid or selfish. School camping destroys all kinds of stereotypes.

The water volleyball game ends. We hit the showers. Racism is not a New York City or

an American invention. Read history. Read the papers. Where there are people, there is racism. Perhaps there was some competitive advantage to being able to subdue and make your neighbor subservient. Today, cooperation is our only hope. School camping and residential programs are not panaceas, but they do much good for everyone, students, teachers, parents, the school, and society.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Anyone interested in submitting job notices should mail them directly to the Editor at the address listed on the inside cover.

Position: Environmental Educator
Organization: Central Park Conservancy
Location: New York City
Job Description: Responsible for developing, leading and evaluating year round outdoor programs in Central Park for small groups of K-8th graders from NYC schools.

Qualifications: College degree in natural science, environmental studies, education, recreation or equivalent in work experience. Demonstrated ability to work as a team member leading experimental programs for children in the out-of-doors. Knowledge and/or fluency in Spanish is a plus.

Salary: Open

Interested staff should call (212) 628-1036 or send resume along with cover letter to: Kathleen Dooley, Director of Human Resources, Central Park Conservancy, Central Park/The Arsenal, 830 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10021.

Position: Outward Bound House Project Manager
Organization: New York City Outward Bound Center
Location: George Washington High School
Job Description: Project Manager is responsible for developing and implementing an Outward Bound "House" for 150 students and their academic teaching staff as it moves into its second year. Program integrates field-based adventure and service/learning activities with classroom-based curricula. Also responsible for organizing teacher development, student service/leadership, and parent involvement activities.

Qualifications: A master's degree in education, plus three or more years of classroom teaching experience in a public school setting preferably in New York City. Thorough understanding of the needs of urban youth. Experience in training staff and writing curriculum. Ability to speak, read and write in Spanish preferred. Familiarity with the history, philosophy and pedagogy of Outward Bound and/or other experience-based educational approaches.

Salary: \$31,000 - \$40,000, depending upon experience and education.

Please send a cover letter and resume to: New York City Outward Bound Center, 140 West Street, Suite 2626, New York, NY 10007, Att: GWHS Project Manager.

Position: Urban Park Ranger
Organization: NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
Location: New York City
Job Description: Provide visitor services, educational programs, and emergency services to the patrons of New York City's 26,000 acres of parklands.

Qualifications: Bachelor's or Master's degree desirable in: forestry, environmental science/education, botany or related fields. Excellent oral and written communications skills. Knowledge of northeast forest ecology desirable.

Salary: Annual starting salary is \$23,350.

Mail resume, cover letter, and writing sample ASAP to Dorothy Siminski, Director, Urban Park Rangers, 1234 Fifth Avenue, Room 114, New York, NY 10029, (212) 360-2774.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Affiliation: _____

Title/Position: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Select either a \$15.00 dues payment to cover the cost of membership in EEAC for a calendar year, OR, a \$150.00 Life Membership. A membership entitles you to receive EEAC newsletters, program information mailings, and conference announcements.

Membership dues are tax deductible. Make all checks payable to EEAC.

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

Bernard Kirschenbaum
12 Gregory Road
Springfield, NJ 07081

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