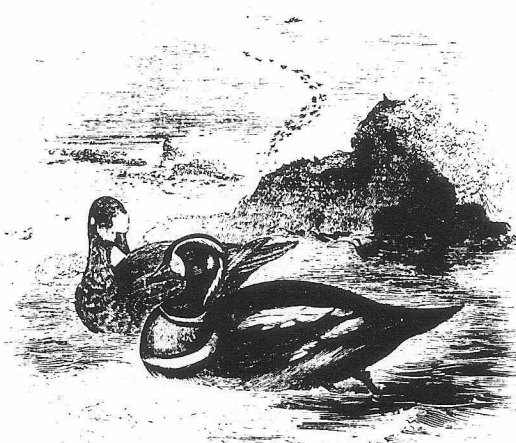


EEAC

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

FALL 1994

WOODLANDS, WETLANDS & WILDLIFE



The Urban Forest & Education Program celebrates New York City's natural resources with its first publication, **WOODLANDS, WETLANDS & WILDLIFE—A GUIDE TO THE NATURAL AREAS OF NEW YORK CITY PARKS**. This 64-page, full-color book, and accompanying map, invites readers to explore more than 8,000 acres of forests, meadows, and marshes found in city parks in all five boroughs.

Three years in the making, the guide will help increase public awareness of our natural heritage and encourage educators to make more effective use of our natural resources. As a city, we have much to be proud of.

Staten Island is home to the largest colonial water bird rookery in New York State. Northern Manhattan offers tulip trees as tall as those in the Great Smokey Mountains. In the Bronx, one can hike the southern tip of the rocky New England coastline that extends all the way to Maine. More than 30 species of warblers can be spotted in the woodlands of Queens during spring migration, and Brooklyn is site to the last remnants of a forest that once covered more than 80 square miles. These are just a few of the natural surprises to be found in the urban wilderness not far from the homes of more than 7 million New York City residents.

The guide was produced by the Urban Forest & Education Program, a cooperative project of the City of New York Department of Parks & Recreation and City Parks Foundation, sponsored by a \$6.4 million grant from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund. Other components of this 5-year project are the planting of more than 150,000 trees in forests citywide and the operation of New York City's first nature center devoted solely to the topic of local forest ecology which opened in October 1993 in Van Cortlandt Park, the Bronx.

The guide is being distributed to schools, libraries and environmental organizations across the city. Complimentary copies have also been sent to all EEAC members, and educators who attended the "Nature in the City" conference. Individuals may obtain copies of **WOODLANDS, WETLANDS & WILDLIFE** by sending a \$5 check per copy to: GUIDE, City Parks Foundation, 1234 5th Avenue, Room 232, New York, NY 10029. Checks should be made payable to CITY PARKS FOUNDATION.

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 4-6pm on the third Wednesday of every month. Please arrive promptly at 4pm!

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:

The next steering committee meeting will be held September 21st at New York University, Press Building, 32 Washington Square Park East.

Annual Meeting

Our next annual meeting will be held on November 16th at New York University from 4-6 pm in the Main Building, 100 Washington Square East, room 901. Please save the date!

Newsletter Deadlines

Material should be submitted to the Editor on the first Monday of May, August, November and February.

Newsletter Committee

Kenneth Kowald
Mary Leou

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City Parks Foundation
The Arsenal, 830 Fifth Avenue
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Special THANKS to Con Edison for supporting the publication of this newsletter.

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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.

EEAC OFFICERS

Michael Zamm, Chairperson
Kenneth Kowald, Vice-Chair for Issues
Dorothy Siminski, Vice-Chair for Programs
Millard Clements, Secretary
Kim Estes-Fradis, Membership Secretary
Ruth Eilenberg, Treasurer

STEERING COMMITTEE *

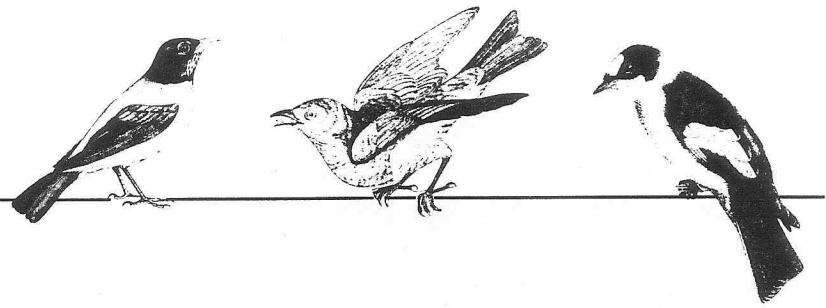
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*Affiliations for identification purposes only.

Chairman's Message



Recently, I had the opportunity to review a handbook on how to promote environmental education. The book was assembled by the K-12 Environmental Initiatives Project and coordinated by Dr. Rick Wilke and his assistant Abby Rusky, at the University of Wisconsin. The manual is extraordinary, a verifiable organizers guide on how to develop comprehensive, statewide environmental education programs. When it is published in the next six months or so, the handbook will be the only one of its kind. One of the features of the compendium is the section on case studies of successful environmental education programs in various states. My mouth watered as I read of some of the statewide efforts in Wisconsin, Arizona, Florida, etc. I thought to myself, and said, Why not New York?

Of course we have made great strides in New York State. There's the oft mentioned Regents Goal #7 ("Each student will acquire knowledge of the ecological consequences of choices in the use of the environment and natural resources"), the Governor's Task Force on environmental education which still has a chance to do something meaningful, the New York City Chancellor's Task Force which seems to have evaporated but may have had an effect on the Board of Education's new curriculum frameworks which are chock full of environmental education content, and all that wonderful, pulsating grassroots, non-profit individual educator, cultural institution activity out there. Many of the states mentioned in the Wisconsin handbook had an environmental infusion component with respect to the curriculum and some of that may have been inspired by our original, somewhat pioneering but unfortunately truncated infusion effort here in New York.

So, we've got plenty going in the Empire State but we haven't been able to accomplish the formal support across the board here that has been accomplished in some other states. The infusion is a mix and match type situation, there's no formal teacher training required, either in-

service or pre-service, there's no statewide environmental education board or committee, there's no legislation establishing state support for environmental education, etc. For Wisconsin, the Land of LaFollette, and progressivism, they have all of these and more. So why not New York?

The answers are pretty complex. Good ole' New York has never been as forward thinking as we'd like to imagine. In America's two great struggles for survival, the American Revolution and the Civil War, New York had a mixed record. The New York 44th helped hold the left flank at Gettysburg's Little Round Top but there were those nasty draft riots in New York too. We produced some of the landmark social/labor legislation in the early 20th century, but have never been quite up to, well, Wisconsin, or for that matter, Minnesota or Massachusetts. And implementing reform in New York has always been difficult because of the proliferation of interest groups and the entrenched bureaucracy.

Still, even Wisconsin, that environmental education Valhalla, has a mixed record when it comes to social reform-they produced Joe McCarthy as well.

Perhaps we need to look at New York's State Education Department when considering why environmental education hasn't garnered statewide support. We know the kind of mixed response we received from the Department during the infusion effort, and we know the resistance encountered whenever another strategy for environmental education growth was mentioned at that time. One can only harken back to the Department's performance at the joint State Assembly/Senate hearing on environmental education a few years ago when it was obvious that the Department felt that a moderate infusion was sufficient and that they wouldn't support required pre-service teacher training or many other measures.

Of course the Department works for the Regents, and while the latter promulgated Goal #7 they also did not

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Environmental Resources

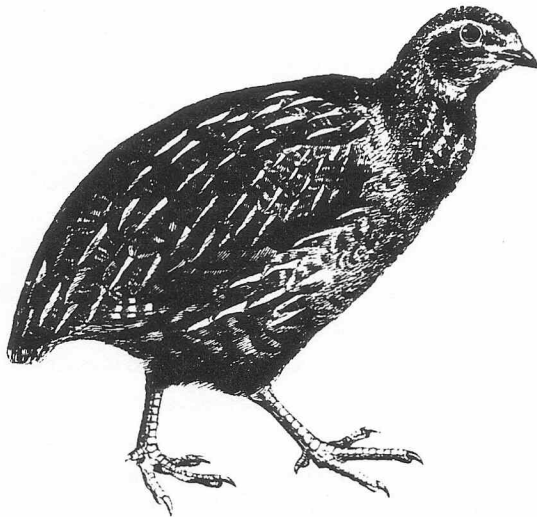
by Kenneth Kowald

About Places

The **Lila Acheson Wallace Wing of Mammals and Their Extinct Relatives** opened in May at the American Museum of Natural History. According to the Museum, "the new halls display the most extensive and scientifically important array of fossil mammals ever assembled, featuring more real specimens than can be seen anywhere else in the world." For information, call (212) 769-5100.

Also open since May is the **Sony Wonder Technology Lab**, a hands-on showcase of technological innovation, geared mainly to children. Admission is free. Closed on Mondays, the Lab's opening hours are: Tuesdays and Fridays, 10am to 9pm; Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10am to 6pm, and Sundays, 12 Noon to 6pm. The exhibition is reached by an elevator at the north end of the Sony Plaza atrium, on East 56th Street, off Madison Avenue.

Science City has no hours. It is open all the time, at least through May 1995. This all-weather exhibit, created by the New York Hall of Science, stretches above the sidewalk on East 34th Street, between Fifth and Sixth Avenues and into the park at the north end of Herald Square. It tells you, in delightful, see-it-yourself fashion, everything you want to know about what goes on in the city, on the street and below. It is designed to give New Yorkers a better sense of "what makes the city work."



About Almost Everything Else

Speaking about "what makes the city work," if you missed the June meeting of EEAC in the **New York City Transit Museum**, you can learn about it and its education programs by calling Tori Eggherman, at (718) 330-8601. The Museum is located in an authentic, decommissioned IND station (Court Street, in downtown Brooklyn), right around the corner (and in the same square block) from the headquarters of the New York City Board of Education. And, programs are not just about the subways, or buses or transportation—but, find out for yourself. Call Tori.

In spite of horrendous budget cutbacks, the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation continues to do outstanding education work. For information about **Urban Park Ranger programs** and how to make arrangements for special programs, call 24 hours a day, 1-800-201-PARK. But, the cutbacks mean that the Rangers can use volunteer help with their mailings of Walks and Workshops programs. If you have a few spare hours every other month, please call the Ranger administrative office at (212) 360-2774.

If you are looking for a brief full-color booklet that is a concise statement of the electric power industry's position on electric vehicles, write to the Electric Power Research Institute, 3412 Hillview Avenue, PO Box 10412, Palo Alto, California 94303, and ask for "**Electric Vehicles and the Environment**." It's free.

Also free is "**Renewable Energy Fact Sheets**," available from the Solar Energy Industries Association, 777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 805, Washington, D.C. 20002.

Global Relief for Cool Communities is a program that offers all of us information on how to plan and plant for energy savings. For information, write to Jeff Beattie, American Forests, PO Box 2000, Washington, D.C., 20013-2000. While you're writing, ask about the National Urban Forestry Medals and about the Geo Award for Environmental Excellence. You may be too late for doing something about this year but it's good to plan ahead.

The United States Department of Energy has a toll free number for its **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse**. Call 800-523-2929.

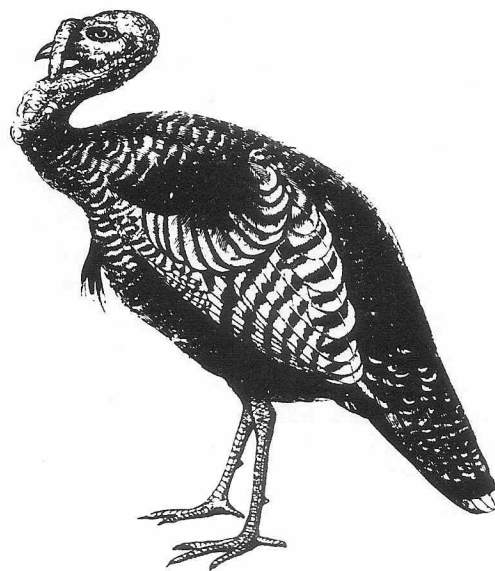
Here's another toll free number of a special sort: **The Citizens' Environmental Coalition** has set up a new hotline to help environmental activists and professionals "who feel overwhelmed by the seriousness of the problems they face or are burned out by the amount of work they must tackle." The hotline is available at the following times: Tuesdays, 9am to 12 noon, call Nancy at (914) 623-2298; Wednesdays, 9am to 12 noon, call Roe at (914) 623-6636; and Wednesdays, 7 to 10pm, call Youth Peer Advocate Nancy S. at (914) 624-4119. The Citizens' Environmental Coalition is located at 33 Central Avenue, Albany 11210.

At one of last spring's EEAC Steering Committee meetings (which are open to all members and friends—but let us know you're coming, please!) we learned about the **Coastal Ecology Learning Program**, which offers shipboard and shore side marine science programs. To learn more, write to PO Box 473, Huntington 11743-0473, or call (516) 385-CELP.

The Liberty Science Center is now offering a "**Science-By-Mail**" program. To find out more, write to the Center, Liberty State Park, 251 Phillip Street, Jersey City 07305-4699, or call (201) 451-0006, extension 211.

Trees New York is now offering a "**Young Citizen Pruner Program**" for secondary school students, consisting of a tree-focused curriculum within an environmental context. To find out more, call (212) 227-1997, or write to Suite 432, 280 Broadway, New York 10007.

"**Planting Trees for Communities: Checklists for Success**," is a publication of the United States Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Northeastern Area. For a free copy, write to Box 6430, Durham, New Hampshire 03824.



The United States Environmental Protection Agency has designed a **Wetlands Information Hotline** on the subject. It is in operation Monday through Friday from 9am to 5:30pm, at 800-832-7828. If you need further information, call Kevin Perry at (202) 260-6833.

"**Twinleaf**" is the annual newsletter of the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants. To obtain a copy, write to the Center, Monticello, PO Box 316, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

The National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior has a number—1-800-365-CAMP—which you can call to make camping reservations. At the same time, you can find out how to become a volunteer in one of the parks and ask for a copy of "Snoopy Presents Parks as Classrooms," sponsored by the National Park Foundation.

The Children's Earth Fund offers information and opportunities to take coordinated environmental action that can be measured. For information and teacher's guides on existing programs, call (212) 727-4505.

"**Green Guide: An Educator's Guide to Free and Inexpensive Environmental Material**," is available from the Sierra Club, Dept. SA, PO Box 7959, San Francisco 94120, or call (415) 923-5660.

New York Academy of Sciences Teacher Resource Directory

Under grants from the Greenwall Foundation and the New York City Board of Education, the New York Academy of Sciences is producing a resource directory of programs in the sciences for teachers. This project aims to gather information about the wide variety of professional development opportunities for teachers in the sciences and mathematics offered by business and industry, professional associations, colleges and universities, hospitals, and other institutions in the Greater New York Metropolitan Area. Information will be made available to teachers both on-line through NYCENET and in printed form.

If you know of any learning opportunities for science teachers in the New York region, please contact Kelly Borden, Coordinator of the Teacher Resource Directory, at (212) 838-0230, ext. 129.



New York City Arbor Day Committee Workshops

The New York City Arbor Day Committee is scheduling six workshops for teachers in New York City public, private and parochial schools. New York City youth group leaders are also welcome. These workshops are scheduled from October 11 through 20 from 4 to 5:30pm in each borough. Participants will learn how to select a site, and plant and care for a tree. They will receive free materials to provide a year's worth of activities leading up to the official celebration of Arbor Day in April. Workshop participants will be eligible to order a low-cost tree; those without a suitable planting site are encouraged to adopt a tree in their neighborhoods.

For further information, call John Graham, Region 2 Forester, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at (718) 482-6480.

Chairman's Message Continued from page 3

micro-manage its implementation. "Lo and behold" some 10 years later, they've jumped from the "tougher requirements" bandwagon to the "New Compact for Learning" which calls for implementation of all their goals (including #7) but through local initiative and curriculum development. They're even giving signs that they'll back off those high and mighty Regents Examinations and allow school districts and schools to opt for alternative assessment through a variety of techniques approved through variance procedures. While this latter development is a good one, how local variance plans will implement the environmental concepts in the syllabi is anybody's guess.

So, why not New York? Well, there is hope out there. The Governor's Task Force is still operating. If the Governor's Office listens to Task Force Steering Committee Chair Ed Zero, a knowledgeable and savvy environmental education advocate if there ever was one, Albany will give the group the kind of support recently requested (like expense money for trips to Albany to do the work), and necessary to develop a true Statewide plan. The schools I'm involved with and/or am aware of seem to be incorporating environmental education into their Regents Exam variance applications and it may just be that the environmental education content in the syllabi will be taken more seriously on the grassroots level than by the Albany testmakers. Here in New York City, the curriculum frameworks worked on by John Kominski and others offer hope that in over half the state, environmental education will be taken very seriously in all subject areas. In the not too distant future EEAC will approach Chancellor Cortines, ask for a consultative meeting, and see whether we can establish an ongoing dialogue over environmental education. He is evidently open to such a relationship with a number of groups.

And then there are all those interested teachers and kids out there.....

So, why not New York?

By "Wildman Steve Brill"

I applaud Mayor Giuliani's decision to abolish the Board of Education, an organization I've experienced to be self-serving, and an obstruction to learning. I conduct highly-acclaimed hands-on environmental tours and classroom presentations for schools, organized and funded by individual schools' parents' associations, teachers, and principals. In 1992, after a decade of indifference, the Board of Education's Citywide subdivision finally engaged me to conduct 25 sessions with severely emotionally-disturbed kids, as well as severely disabled and retarded children.

On field walks, the children had so much fun collecting specimens, discovering nature, and understanding the science behind what they were finding, you'd hardly know they were "problem children." The teachers and principals were as elated with the program as the kids. Re-enter the Board of Education: Through a middle-level bureaucrat who couldn't even be bothered to attend a single session, the program was scuttled. Citywide's upper echelons at the Board of Education refused to respond to my phone calls and letters, or letters from the children they're supposed to serve. Other innovative, effective programs have fared just as poorly.

Empowering principals and providing direct funds to schools will certainly improve learning in those schools that have caring and competent personnel. Of course, effective oversight will be necessary to forestall indifferent management and corruption. Perhaps student councils can play a role in evaluating their schools-an educational activity in itself. Are teachers and principals inspiring curiosity, creativity, and individual talents? Or are individuals lumped together, shoved down the "curriculum" assembly line, and taught that education is "learning for the test?" Re-inventing a new system to educate millions of children is a great challenge, but it's better than keeping an ineffective, bloated bureaucracy.

By fighting for meaningful educational reform, the Mayor is addressing one of the root causes of our social and environmental ills. I wish him well in his efforts, and I urge everyone who cares about our children, and our future, to support this undertaking.

Note: The views of our writers are not necessarily those of the Environmental Education Advisory Council.

BALLOT

The by-laws of EEAC provide for elections at the Annual Meeting of a new three year "class" of members of the steering committee, which functions as the EEAC Board of Trustees. The Nominating Committee has prepared the following slate:

VOTE FOR EACH OFFICER:

☐ Chairperson	Mike Zamm
☐ Vice-Chair for Issues	Kenneth Kowald
☐ Vice-Chair for Programs	Dorothy Siminski
☐ Secretary	Millard Clements
☐ Membership Secretary	Kim Estes-Fradis
☐ Treasurer	Ruth Eilenberg

VOTE FOR 6:

Class of '97

☐ Don Cook
☐ Patricia Campbell
☐ Carol Franken
☐ Marcia Kaplan-Mann
☐ Barbara Miller
☐ John Padalino

VOTE FOR 1:

Replacements: Class of '95

☐ Gail Pasternack
--

VOTE FOR 2:

Replacements: Class of '96

☐ Jeff Frank
☐ Ingrid Hopkins

Please use the space below to write in the ballot for candidates of your choice.

On November 16, we will hold our Annual meeting at New York University from 4-6pm in the Main Building, 100 Washington Square East, room 901. If you plan to attend, you will have the opportunity to meet the candidates and submit your ballot. If you cannot attend, please vote by mailing your ballot by November 10 to Mike Zamm, Council on the Environment, 51 Chambers Street, room 228, New York 10007.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Affiliation: _____

Title/Position: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____ Date: _____

Select either a \$15 dues payment to cover the cost of membership in EEAC for a calendar year, OR, a \$150 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:

Ruth Eilenberg
Treasurer
196-32 53rd Avenue
Flushing, New York 11365

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