



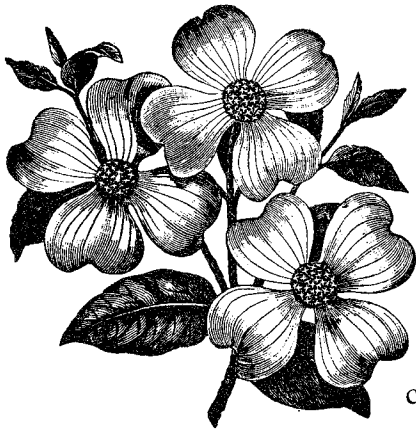
EEAC

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1996

Youth Committee Update

by Ruth Eilenberg
Youth Chair



Our newly expanded Youth Committee is off to a good start. Eight students from John Bowne H.S., John Dewey H. S. and the Brooklyn School for Global Studies met with five members of the Steering Committee at Consolidated Edison on February 21 to exchange ideas on how EEAC can best meet the needs of students involved in environmental education.

The discussion focused on establishing better lines of communication between the adult environmental education community and the students, an environmental “parenting.” In addition, participants felt that there should be outreach to more schools, ongoing contact with faculty Coordinators of Student Affairs (COSAS), continuing information exchange, possible citywide events or activities and EEAC support for specific student projects.

After the committee meeting, two of the students, Andrea Kominski of John Bowne H.S. and Michael Tsan of John Dewey H.S. joined us at the Steering Committee meeting. They had an opportunity to be part of a very full agenda and added their special grass-roots perspective.

We plan to expand the youth committee by inviting a wider representation to attend the next meeting on Friday, April 12 at 10am at Consolidated Edison. Please call Ruth Eilenberg at (718) 229-5277 or leave a message at (718) 225-6997 with any recommendations for student participants or to volunteer to join us on April 12. All are welcome, but we will need to know in advance who will be attending so that Consolidated Edison can be advised.

Thanks to the students who attended, Darlene Alleyne, Krystine Yun Chen, Danielle Giordano, Jason Hochman, Andrea Kominski, Michael Tsan, Joshua Wood, Xiao Qiao Zhong and to Steering Committee members Dennis Bader, Kenneth Kowald, Regina McCarthy and Barry Weinbrom. Join us in this exciting expansion of EEAC’s role. Together we can make sure that youth can make it happen.

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:

Steering committee meetings are held at New York University, Press Building, 32 Washington Square Park East in the Anderson Room. Upcoming dates and locations are: March 20, April 17, May 15, and June 19.

Newsletter Deadlines

Material should be submitted to the Editor on the first Monday of May, August, November and February. If possible, please submit on a floppy disc in WordPerfect 5.1 format.

Newsletter Committee

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Kenneth Kowald
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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

c/o Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment
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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.

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Kenneth Kowald, Vice-Chair for Issues
Mary Leou, Vice-Chair for Programs
Millard Clements, Secretary
Kim Estes-Fradis, Membership Secretary
Ruth Eilenberg, Treasurer

STEERING COMMITTEE *

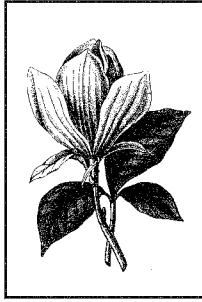
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*Affiliations for identification purposes only.

Chairman's Message



Whither EEAC? That was the topic of conversation when the Executive Committee, officially comprised of the six officers of EEAC, but in practice also including the chairpersons of the nominating and newsletter committees, met on January 22nd of this year.

In brief, we felt that the main functions of EEAC are going well: the steering committee meetings are interesting and generally well attended; the membership meetings have regained previous levels of attendance and the newsletter is top notch; overall membership holds steady at a manageable 125-150; we are performing our advisory function well; the treasury is still in relatively good shape although there are some potential "potholes" on the road ahead; and many bright, talented environmental educators have been recruited into the organization over the past three years.

However, improvement in some areas is needed. EEAC, while purporting to represent environmental education in New York, does not adequately reflect the City's citizenry. Of course, there is long term concern nationally over adequate representation of all socio-economic groups in the environmental movement. While the environmental movement has ameliorated this situation, more needs to be done. Our nomination committee will search diligently for qualified minorities to serve on the steering committee in the future. All EEAC'ers should help in this effort and in enlisting members as well.

The size of EEAC and the extent to which we should promote larger and/or long term efforts, such as the advocacy campaign for the infusion of environmental concepts into the State curriculum we conducted for several years, was also discussed. We agreed that numerical growth would be arithmetic rather than logarithmic.

With respect to more ambitious projects, recent efforts such as the "course" to educate New Yorkers about the City's environmental systems and the mega-program known as "Commencement 2000," floundered for one reason or another. However the sequel to C-2000, the Green Careers Conference, is a very worthwhile, do-able venture. We agreed to analyze such possibilities on a situation by situation basis.

These and other items were presented to the Steering Committee at the February meeting. All seemed ready to keep moving EEAC forward.

Mike Zamm

Inquiring Minds Want to Grow

by Linda Huntington
Operation GreenThumb

In November 1995, GreenThumb's (GT) Education in the Gardens (EIG) introduced **Project ReSeed** for teachers and community gardeners who work intensively with children. Through Project ReSeed, eleven public school teachers and one community gardener are turning GT gardens into *Urban Environmental Study Sites*.

The program includes ten weekly 3-hour workshops, followed by monthly support meetings and special request workshops. It offers the training necessary for participants to implement and utilize their sites. Every session combines scientific information with hands-on experiments and activities that can be used in the garden with students. Some ReSeed topics include ecology, botany, soil composition and improvement, properties of water, and gardening to preserve water and attract wildlife. Participants also receive extra plants, educational instruments, and materials for their study sites.

One cannot generalize about *ReSeeders* other than to say that they are creative teachers who believe in the interdisciplinary approach to education. Members teach such diverse subjects as Computer, ESL, English, and Art. Others work as horticulture therapists with severely emotionally disturbed youngsters. For some, this is their first experience teaching hands-on science. The varied professional experiences of the group promote stimulating interactions and exchanges.

Although weather still precludes outdoor gardening activities, *ReSeeders* are integrating newly-acquired knowledge into classroom activities. Computer instructor Dina Schlesinger's students are researching and writing about their Urban Environmental Study Site on the World Wide Web and they will make a presentation about student gardens around the world at Youth CaN on Earth Day. Lynn Simpson's Special Ed students are improving literacy skills as they communicate about their gardening successes on the Internet. Terri Anthony, art teacher, discussed "adaptation" with her students and asked them to design/draw plants that could survive the rigors of life in a playground/raised bed garden. Some very fierce looking but vigorous plants "evolved." Mary Ellen Lewis' City-as-School High School students are working in their prototype, compost-heated greenhouse.

To receive more information about Project ReSeed and other EIG programs, Contact Linda Huntington at (212) 788-8073.

Project ReSeed was funded by the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF) and Charles Hayden Foundation.

Environmental Resources

by *Kenneth Kowald*

An Event and Other Things

The annual Spring workshop of New York ReLeaf (Region II) will be held on Friday, April 12, at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The theme is "**Our Professional Urban Tree Partnership: Policy, Planning and Planting.**" To receive a registration form, call Naomi Zurcher at Trees New York, (212) 227-1887, or John Graham at Region II, State Department of Environmental Conservation, (718) 482-6480.

The Natural Resources Defense Council has published "**New York City's Environmental Vital Signs: Twenty-Five Year Check-Up.**" which may be obtained by writing or calling 40 West 20th Street, New York 10011, (212) 727-2700. It is an excellent job.

The Environmental Defense Fund has issued a 246-page report, with 22 recommendations for minimizing the environmental impact of paper use by corporations and others. Duke University, Johnson & Johnson, the McDonald's Corporation, the Prudential Insurance Company of America and Time Warner, Inc., participated in the production of the report. A full copy costs \$25, with a summary going for \$5. It may be obtained from EDF, 257 Park Avenue South, New York 10010.

Thanks to the "NYC Environmental Bulletin" of the Council on the Environment of New York City, we learn of two publications available from the New Jersey Institute of Technology: "**The Reporter's Environmental Handbook**," containing 27 briefings on environmental hazards and a 35-page resource section, and a "**Teacher's Supplement**," offering lesson plans and activities. To learn more, write or call Gerard F. McKenna, Director of Technology Transfer & Training, NJIT, 138 Warren Street, Newark 07102, (201) 596-5882....And, if you would like to receive the "**NYC Environmental Bulletin**," write or call the Editor, Julie A. Walsh, Room 228, 51 Chambers Street, New York 10007, (212) 788-7900.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has released "**The Probability of Sea Level Rise**," a report which may be obtained, free of charge, by writing to the National Center for Environmental Publications and Information, P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati 45242.

About Places

The New York City program of the **Trust for Public Land** was established in 1978 and has helped create neighborhood parks, gardens and playgrounds, through grass-roots organizations, public schools and housing groups. Each week, more than 2,000 students participate in TPL's school gardening program. To find out more, write to or call TPL's Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, 666 Broadway, New York 10012, (212) 677-7171.

Work is now underway at the Bronx Zoo for the **Congo Gorilla Forest**, the most extensive exhibit ever mounted there. But you'll have to wait awhile to see it: the opening is scheduled for 1999, to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Bronx Zoo.

If all goes well, you won't have to wait that long for the opening of the **Museum of the Skyscraper**. The museum is set to open this summer, but at this writing the site had not been announced. The curator-to-be is Carol Willis, an architectural historian and professor at Columbia University. Financing is coming from the J.M. Kaplan Fund.

Right now, and through 1997, at the **Children's Museum of Manhattan** is an exhibition about sounds, called "Soundsfun," covering 3,100 square feet. The Museum is located at 212 West 83rd Street. For more information, call (212) 721-1234.

Now in the planning stages in Washington, D.C. is the **Heinz Center for Science, Economics and the Environment**, named in memory of the late Senator H. John Heinz 3rd. A staff is already at work. Look for more announcements about the location and work of the Heinz Center.



About Many Things

"**Training Student Organizers**" is one of the environmental education programs of the Council on the Environment of New York City. It "gives young people the skills they need to take positive action to solve environmental problems in their homes, schools and communities." To learn more, write to the Council, Room 228, 51 Chambers Street, New York 10007, or call Mike Zamm (yes, he's the EEAC Chair!) at (212) 788-7900.

At a recent EEAC Steering Committee meeting, there was a presentation about the **Harlem River Restoration Project**. To find out what you missed, write to Suite 2E, 25 Indian Road, New York 10034, or call (212) 567-3694.

And, if you missed one of EEAC's membership meetings this past Fall, in the National Audubon Society's environmentally correct headquarters building, you can learn what Audubon did to the structure by writing to 700 Broadway, New York 10003, and asking for the **Fact Sheet on Audubon House**.

Unfortunately, the **drought conditions of 1995** are not a "sometime thing." Check today's newspaper to find out what the reservoir levels are and, chances are, they will be below "normal," as they were throughout almost all of last year. So, information about water conservation is always in order and there is no better place to get it than from the New York City Department of Environmental Conservation, Bureau of Public Affairs, Community Services and Environmental Education, 59-17 Junction Boulevard, Corona 11368-5107....And remember, to report leaks and water waste, call (718) DEP-HELP.

Earth Force, a nonprofit organization "dedicated to enabling young people everywhere to act on behalf of the Earth," is participating in this year's New York City Arbor Day programs. Arbor Day is Friday, April 26, and workshops are being held throughout the City in March. To learn more about Earth Force, write to 1501 Wilson Boulevard, 12th Floor, Arlington, Virginia 22209.

Elizabeth A. Cooke is the new Executive Director of the **Parks Council**, succeeding Linda Davidoff, who is working for the mayoral campaign of Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger.

Beth Castallon is not only an Assistant Gardener in charge of the care and development of the Begonia Collection of the New York Botanical Garden, she is also in charge of the **American Begonia Society** seed exchange. Write to her at the NYBG Propagation Range, Bronx 10458-5126 and she will send you seeds and instructions.

THE FOREST WEB OF LIFE:

A SATURDAY SERIES FOR TEACHERS

MARCH 23

Urban Wildlife: Then and Now

APRIL 27

Learning to Bird

MAY 4

Project Learning Tree

MAY 11

Parklands Partnership

This series is approved for 16.5 hours of new teacher credit.

Light breakfast will be provided.

REGISTRATION:

All workshops limited to 25 participants, please register early!

WORKSHOP FEES:

\$10.00 each (non-refundable)

LOCATION:

Urban Forest Ecology Center,
Van Cortlandt Park

REMINDER:

All workshops have an outdoor component. Please dress appropriately.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact: JoVeda Hornedo, Center Manager
212-360-2746

e-mail: joveda.hornedo@treebranch.com

UFT Outdoor Environmental Education Committee Visits the High School for Environmental Studies

by David L. Cohen

As the 1995 school year ended, a group of teachers from the UFT Outdoor-Environmental Education Committee and the Innovations Committee visited the High School for Environmental Studies (HSES). Now in its third year, the school offers a sound academic program provided by a talented and motivated staff to an eager group of New York City high school students.

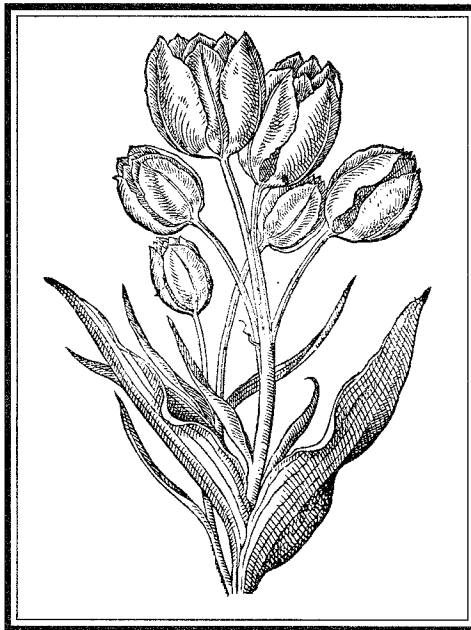
The school provides a rigorous academic program for all its students while helping them to appreciate the relationships among human activities, the built environment, and the natural environment. HSES staff are squarely facing the challenges of a school that wishes to keep the best of traditional education and offer the benefits of innovation and small size.

Our group of UFT members appeared at the door of the school as the students were arriving. We did not need the staff to tell us how happy they were to see the students or how happy the students were to be in a learning environment that is safe, clean, orderly and stimulating. As we toured the school, from the roof top garden to the carved gilt-walled foyer of the entrance, we saw what happens at the High School of Environmental Studies.

The principal, Alexander Corbluth, and the UFT Chapter Leader, Phil Rosen, were candid about what they liked about the school and what issues were in need of resolution. What does integration of theme mean? What does interdisciplinary education mean? How does a high school with an emphasis on active learning reconcile the demands this puts on time with the need to meet traditional requirements for a diploma?

The enrollment, smaller than traditional New York City high schools, offers many advantages; but it creates other challenges in assembling that critical mass of

students needed to offer certain courses. There is a healthy dialogue going on at the school on these and other topics. These ongoing conversations will help the school community to shape its own character.



The school is rich in technology and other resources. There is a weight room, a dance studio and a huge gym (formerly the practice gym for the Knicks). One computer lab is installed and two more are on the way. Science rooms and labs are state of the art. There is a media studio and a photo lab. The school will soon have an instrumental music program to add to the fine arts program already in existence.

The school will, in its operation, become a model for efficient use of resources, energy and recycling. The kitchen will cook its own food and use non-disposable dishes and utensils.

This will reduce the production of solid waste. The building itself is the recycled Darryl Zanuck movie studio and retains many of the rich appointments of its first incarnation.

The school began with an idea from Edward Skloot of the SURDNA Foundation. He approached then Chancellor Joseph Fernandez with the idea for a High School for Environmental Studies. Chancellor Fernandez gave Mr. Skloot and SURDNA the green light and he approached Council on the Environment, a quasi-public environmental organization, to study the idea and suggest a design. Mike Zamm, the Education Director of the Council on the Environment, played a key role in the start-up of the school. (Mr. Zamm has, for many years, been a key figure in integrating outdoor-environmental education into the curriculum at state and city levels and is Chair of the Environmental Education Advisory Council, a networking and advisory group whose members work for

or belong to private and public environmental and environmental education related organizations.)

The school is linked to the environmental education community in the City and State, and to several institutions of higher learning including Brown University, New York University, College of the Atlantic, Long Island University, and Southampton College. There is a "Friends" group that supports and advises the school. It is comprised of members of the environmental education community. The school has been successful in winning grants for special projects, many in staff development. The Friends of HSES are pursuing its own 501 (3)(c) so it can undertake fundraising activities as a tax exempt organization.

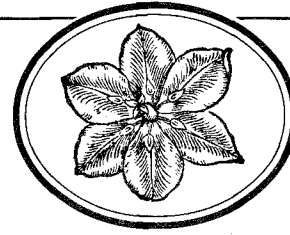
It is hoped that the High School for Environmental Studies will become a resource for other New York City schools and educators. This may mean developing courses and programs that other schools might emulate. It might entail offering staff development for teachers who wish to integrate environmental studies with specific subject areas. Under a grant, the staff has developed Curricular Frameworks for the infusion of environmental concepts into all academic subject areas. The Environmental Frameworks offer a guide, lesson plans, and enrichment activities to be used in the Regents courses.

The program is already interesting. It will become more so. Students are required to take an environmental sequence as well as a full Regents academic program. This includes advanced placement courses as well as an internship program for all tenth grade students. The internships are served with environment-related organizations throughout the city.

The High School for Environmental Studies is turning out a well educated student body that is equipped to think intelligently about environmental issues. Whether the students decide to find careers in the environmental community, or simply move on to other occupations and professions, they will understand the issues and know what questions to ask.

Conducting the tour for the UFT members was Martin Blumenkranz. Many thanks to HSES staff for hosting us.

(This article was taken from the Fall/Winter 1995 issue of the United Federation of Teachers Outdoor-Environmental Education Committee Newsletter.)



Project Learning Tree Workshop

Classroom teachers, grades K-8, from New York City and from communities within the New York City Watershed are invited to participate in a 2-day Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshop to be held June 27-28, 1996. The Catskill Forest Association, a non-profit forest education organization, is sponsoring this special PLT workshop at Williams Lake Resort, located just south of Kingston. All teachers will be trained in the use of the PLT materials. Additionally, this workshop will pair a teacher from the City with a teacher from the watershed to develop a working and learning relationship between them and their classes for the 1996-97 school year. Workshop expenses, including lodging, meals and the New York PLT workshop fee will be covered for all participating teachers. All participants will receive the PLT Pre-K-8 Activity Guide and supplementary materials.

Space in this workshop is limited to 35 teachers from New York City. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis from teachers who are willing to make a commitment to the partnership.

For an application or for more information on this workshop, please contact:

Donna Rogler
Director of Education
Catskill Forest Association
P.O. Box 336
Arkville, NY 12406

(914) 586-3054 (office)
(914) 586-3547 (home)

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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