



# EEAC

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1997



## Chairman's Message

he local and regional environmental education community was stunned by the tragic accidental death of John Kominski in late August. John did seminal work in Environmental Education as the first Director of the Alley Pond Environmental Center, as one of the early Chairpersons of EEAC, as the first Project Director of the High School for Environmental Studies, and in several other key positions in environmental and science education over a 25 year period. His most important contributions though, from systemic point of view, were during his tenure at the NYC Board of Education, where he served as Assistant Director of Science, and for a time, as chief aide to Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Charlotte Frank.

— The memorable environmental education conferences New York Naturally, the rich and varied programs of the Gateway Environmental Studies Center, the infusion of environmental concepts into the Board of Education's Essential Learning Objectives and then the Curriculum Frameworks, The Chancellor's Environmental Education Task Force, the Science "STACS," the Urban Systemic Initiative and numerous other important environmental education and related educational endeavors, were all generated and/or supported by John during his extraordinary tenure at the Board. He was indeed in an informal sense, the Coordinator of Environmental Education we now formally seek.

John was a big man - physically, but he also loomed large educationally and politically, on the environmental education scene, especially during his environmental educational "ombudsman" years at the Board. He was the "big guy" always carrying the extra weight, be it a load of materials to help support some workshop somewhere in the regional galaxy of environmental education centers, or weighing in with the moguls at the Board to get a conference approved, or getting some document that was needed to support environmental education in 110 Livingston or Albany, photocopied, even if it meant doing it himself at 9 P.M. on a Friday night.

— Yes we will miss John - we'll miss the big guy bringing the material and political support from the central Board for so many environmental education efforts, and we'll miss the humor and wisdom which John always brought to the table.

It'll be up to us to commemorate John's life and work, yes, through some formal memorials, but also through actualizing the ideal he worked so hard for - a broad-based, multi-disciplinary environmental education that will serve all New Yorkers, now and in the future.

*Michael Zamm*

## 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 are: December 17, January 21, and February 18.

### 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 or 6.1 format.

### Newsletter Committee

Joy Garland  
Kenneth Kowald  
Mary Leou

Therese Braddick, Newsletter Editor  
City Parks Foundation  
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(212) 360-8292

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

### JOIN THE EEAC LISTSERVE!

If you are a member of EEAC and want to be part of the information sharing and discussion on the EEAC listserv, contact: Carol Franken

carol\_franken@fc1.nycenet.edu  
or  
(212) 828-3511

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

c/o Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment  
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(718) 788-8500

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

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Julie Beck, The Beacon School  
Therese Braddick, City Parks Foundation  
Millard Clements, New York University  
Joanne Dittersdorf  
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Ruth Eilenberg  
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Regina McCarthy, Gateway Environmental Study Center  
Gail Pasternack, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Barry Weinbrom, Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment  
Michael Zamm, Council on the Environment of NYC

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Samuel Holmes  
Bernard Kirschenbaum  
Michael Mann, Clearwater  
John C. Muir, Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment  
Helen Ross Russell  
Talbert Spence, National Audubon Society  
Nancy A. Wolf

\*Affiliations for identification purposes only.

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## JOHN W. KOMINSKI



n August 30, the education community in New York City—and especially those in environmental education—lost a dear friend and colleague, when John W. Kominski died of injuries he had sustained earlier in the week. John was injured when he was struck by a taxicab while he was crossing a street in midtown Manhattan in mid-day.

John was 52 years old, but in his all-too brief life he touched many people. He was a revered environmental and science educator. This list of his accomplishments is by no means complete:

- ☛ Founding Executive Director of the Alley Pond Environmental Center.
- ☛ Former Chair of the Environmental Education Advisory Council.
- ☛ Assistant Director, Science, New York City Board of Education.
- ☛ Coordinator, Outdoor and Environmental Studies, Gateway Environmental Study Center.
- ☛ Founding Project Director, High School for Environmental Studies.
- ☛ Former Director of Education, New York Hall of Science.
- ☛ Former Vice President, New York State Outdoor Education Association.
- ☛ Past Education Chair, American Nature Study Society.

John was an exceptionally creative and innovative workshop leader who shared his knowledge in so many places, through staff development efforts at the Watson Ecology Workshops, City College of New York, the New School for Social Research and other forums. At the time of his death, John was a school administrator for the Board of Education.

He is survived by his daughters, Laurie and Andrea, and his former wife, Elizabeth, a New York City special education teacher.

On September 14, several hundred friends and colleagues attended a memorial service for John at the Gateway Environmental Study Center. Many people shared their recollections of John and some sent their comments from thousands of miles away. On the program for the event, there was a quotation from Cicero's *De Oratore*: Memory is the treasury and guardian of all things."

This special tribute is in John's memory. It has been edited by Ruth Eilenberg and Kenneth Kowald.

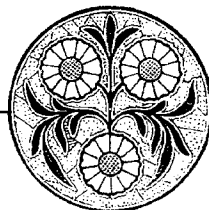
By the time you read this, EEAC will have voted on a suitable memorial to John's memory. In the meantime, at its September meeting, the Steering Committee voted to give John's Life Membership in EEAC to his daughter Andrea.

A tribute to John appeared in the Fall issue of the Newsletter of the Elementary School Science Association.

John's family has suggested that donations in John's memory be made to the following organizations:

- ☛ Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Boulevard, Douglaston, New York 11363-1890.
- ☛ Sacred Circle, Greenwich House, 27 Barrow Street, New York, New York 10014.
- ☛ Gateway Environmental Study Center (GESC), Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, New York 11234. GESC has named its gardens the John Kominski Wildlife Gardens. All donations to GESC will be used for tools and materials to maintain the memorial and teachers are encouraged to visit with their classes to help plant and maintain the Gardens throughout the year.

What follows are the comments of a number of people who knew John.





## From Andrea Kominski



here's always a fear, when you lose someone, of forgetting. So lately, in my heart and mind, I've been recalling memorable characteristics my father had.

As an environmentalist, he was unforgettable for a number of things—such as his worn, used clothing, black shoulder bags and backpacks full of bug boxes, nature guides, first aid items, magnifying glasses (and everything and anything else), his big necklaces of boxes, stones and wood—and his many hats.

As an educator, he reached out (as I watched him) to the youngest and oldest of teachers in a remarkable way. It was the same with students and my friends. I saw him amaze them with something new and interesting.

I'll never forget the walks on the beach, when my small legs and feet tried to keep up with this giant climbing the ocean rocks, or his big hands helping me leap across, or the moments of silence when we both gazed at the sea and thought. Then there were the walks through the forests and parks, where in every direction he could point something out and teach me something—or just find beauty from a distance.

I won't forget hiding my face when he would drag "this beauty" out of a dumpster. This giant would prove his gentleness when he would attempt to untangle my hair, being the expert knoter that he was. His appreciation and respect for all life was taught to me at such a early age—when I believed that all plants and animals I encountered should come home with me!

His gentleness also shone when we'd rescue a crow or a giant snapper in the road. His creativity never ended and was best expressed through his many forms of art.

Towards the end, I absorbed, or tried to absorb, all he taught me. I tried so hard to always make him proud. And, in the end, we switched roles.

One of my last experiences with my father was when we took a few nature hikes and I taught him. I'd tell which plant was what and why things were important. And he let me go on, even though I left out so much. I know he was proud.

I know that to see me at the Alley Pond Environmental Center, following his early footsteps, and for me to be his teacher and the teacher of so many others, put him at a proud peace.

Although my Renaissance Father won't be holding my hand to leap those rocks or pointing out beauty in all directions or creating art, I know he'll still be by my side.

I miss trying to keep up with his big legs and I miss the giant ducking his head and being so gentle.

I miss my father! I'd gladly walk through a dumpster with him any day now, just for another day.

I accept his EEAC Life Membership with honor and I thank all our friends for making this time so much easier for me and my family.



## From Ruth Eilenberg

**I** met John in the early days of environmental education—soon after the first Earth Day in 1970. Both of us were proteges of Joan and Hy Rosner. The John Kominski of those days was a long-haired, bearded, plaid-shirted rebel who led his junior high school students in campaigns of environmental concern and action through Project 2001.

From the beginning, I was impressed with John's gift for using language. Whether on the trail, helping you make discoveries wherever you walked with him, or at a new teacher workshop where he inspired with what he called a "sermonette," or at a meeting of Citywide science coordinators, or at an upstate environmental education conference, or at a divisional meeting of instructional leaders at the Board of Education, or at an EEAC Steering Committee meeting—when John spoke, the ideas were fresh and new and expressed with clarity and a wit that were perfectly suited to his audience and the points he was making.

But, on the Kominski magic of a one-on-one encounter, especially with a child! I remember an incident at Gateway: We were observing a camping group on a beach walk near the sea-plane ramp. One child lagged behind the group and was wandering aimlessly along the beach. We stopped near the boy and John picked up a horseshoe crab and started telling the story of this creature which has roamed the earth's waters for hundreds of millions of years. The child's eyes grew wide with amazement and when John delivered his punchline—his *coup de grace*, "And this animal's ancestors were around at the same time as the dinosaurs!" the child gasped in wonder and ran off to tell his friend

about the "dinosaurs" of Gateway. Talk about the teachable moment!

John was my supervisor in the GESC programs for eight years. He listened, we discussed and we developed solutions cooperatively. That was his style. Many times the problem was difficult and the solution unpleasant. John would offer to play the heavy: "Just tell them that your supervisor doesn't want you to do that." Just knowing that he was there to back me up, if necessary, enabled me to go ahead and do the unpleasant.

His humor was part of every discussion: When we decided that the Center should be an exemplar of environmentally sound practices, we vowed that there would be no more styrofoam cups and plastic coffee stirrers. I bought thousands of paper cups and wooden coffee stirrers and proudly showed these to John on his next visit. He examined my purchases carefully and with a twinkle in his eyes pointed out the origin of the wooden stirrers—Brazil! "I wonder," he said, "how many trees in the rainforest were cut down to make these stirrers?" He made his point: no environmental decision is simple.

But he used more than the spoken word to express the complexity of his ideas. John had a mastery of the written language, as well. He wrote with the precision of the scientist and the passion of the poet.

The best part of working with John was becoming his friend and a friend of his family as well. Elizabeth, Laurie and Andrea are very special people. We have shared many happy occasions and now, the saddest of times.

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## From Kim Estes-Fradis

John's inspiration, guidance and friendship helped me to feel comfortable in exploring the natural world. These drawings are a result of learning to look closely at the simplest things, to appreciate the beauty that always surrounds us. I hope some of these quotations will remind us of John.

There must be the ... generating force of love behind every effort destined to be successful.  
*Henry David Thoreau*

Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm...it is the genius of sincerity, and truth accomplished no victories without it.

*Edward George Earle Bulwer-Lytton*

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled, as to console,  
To be understood, as to understand,  
To be loved, as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning, that we are pardoned,  
It is in dying to self that we are born  
to eternal life.

*St. Francis of Assisi*

With beauty before me,  
May I walk.

With beauty behind me,  
May I walk.

With beauty above me,  
May I walk.

With beauty below me,  
May I walk.

With beauty all around me,  
May I walk.

Wandering on a trail of beauty  
Lively, I walk

*Navajo Indians*

A joy shared is a joy doubled.

*Goethe*



## From Kenneth Kowald



I guess I knew John for about a quarter of a century. It was a pleasure.

He knew science. He knew environmental education. He knew people. He understood and could use the Byzantine structure of the Board of Education. He knew how to get things done.

To me, 131 Livingston Street (not 110!) was what the Board of EDUCATION was all about. That's because that's where John and his colleagues really did the work that counted—in the Science Unit and in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction.

I remember him telling me about the plans for STACs in every borough. Well, there are two of them and they are wonderful.

I remember how dedicated he was to environmental education—at Gateway and everywhere.

I remember his open office at the High School for Environmental Studies, in that first wonderful, hectic year. There was John, not a Principal (heavens, no! The Board of Education designated him a Project Director), talking to students and faculty in a setting like someone's living room. The teachers and the students went with his flow and it was the flow of life.

I remember getting many rides home with him, from meetings and conferences and the talk was about everything you could imagine. He was interested, he was involved, he was dedicated to education. His tastes and his interests were truly catholic.

He did not suffer fools gladly and for that I honored him.

He also tried to keep the focus on what was real. How many times at EEAC meetings did he point out that what we were doing, had done or would do was just the right thing—we were acting as the Environmental Education ADVISORY Council—and he knew, because he was there at the creation.

He was witty and sharp and fun. He could, in Hamlet's words, tell a hawk from a handsaw and he did so on many occasions. But, as far as I know, his humor, which could be sharp, was never brutal. He was a gentleman, in the true sense of that word.

And, he cared. Although, unfortunately, in the last few years he was not fully active in the fields he knew so well, he still "kept his hand in." Several years ago, he led the Chancellor's Task Force on the Environment, which produced a wonderful report, which the Board of Education "accepted." That was some chancellors ago and nothing has been done to implement the report.

Recently, EEAC has begun to see if the proposals in that report could be made tangible and on September 27, Mike Zamm, Ruth Eilenberg and I met with a good friend and colleague at the Board to discuss the matter. John was to be there, too, but he was in St. Vincent's Hospital, as a result of the accident which would cause his death. But his daughter Andrea found the meeting listed on his calendar and she called around until she finally found us and let us know her father could not be with us that day.

It was the measure of the man and of his daughter.





## From Joan Rosner

"Big John," some people called him. He was a giant of a man with an awesome collection of skills, abilities and talents.

John was a superbly gifted teacher who combined fancy, creativity, humor, drama, daring and extravagance to gather his students into the palm of his hand and transport them to his pre-selected educational direction and beyond. He could also be counted on for the unusual, the fresh, imaginative, captivating approach. I remember him at Watson twilight sings—between songs—asking all in the group to face the valley and call out "Hello!" The resounding return greeting—"Lo!"—thrilled everyone there. We all knew about echoes, but this was so powerful no one present could forget it.

John was a poet at heart, gifted with the written and spoken word. Gold flowed from his lips and from his pen. When John spoke, everybody listened. He was a rebel, a no-nonsense guy. I never heard him speak a platitude or subjugate his integrity to meaningless rituals.

I picture him sitting on the lawn at Watson, waiting for the participants to arrive. He and his daughters each had a giant bubble-blowing wand in their hands. And these were not the tiny nickel-sized wands I was used to. The three of them were blowing bubbles as big as the clouds toward which they were traveling. I can't forget his child-like delight with this adventure!

Maybe most of all I remember when the Watson staff spent a few days at a drug rehab residence facility in the Catskills. Our assignment was to set up a nature room to motivate the young people, addicts who had just about reached the bottom. We believed they could get a "lift" from nature we all knew is there and that would help them.

John spent time on an afternoon nature walk with a 16-year old girl who had a background of horrors. They chased butterflies and enjoyed the beauty of their flight and their coloration. That

evening we showed a nature film and a Monarch butterfly appeared on the screen. The young girl called out, with absolute joy, "That's my butterfly!" I'll never forget the look on her face and the sound of her voice. Kominski had succeeded again.

If we could put together all the people—young and old—who found this kind of joy because of John, we would circle New York and very far beyond.

Thank you, John. Go in peace with our gratitude and our love.

## From Hy Rosner

His intellect, poetic soul  
With cleared eyed vision saw the whole.  
Earth and sky were his domain,  
Protecting them his life's campaign.

He taught with creativity,  
Beguiling, whimsically.  
Problem solving his forte  
Kept greed and ignorance at bay.

He was a man of many parts—  
Nature, music, lively arts.  
Rebelliously, when ruled by fools,  
He chafed—and sometimes bent the rules.

He graced with talents precious, rare  
Which opened eyes, made many care.  
John was a gift to the human race  
And his sudden loss, so hard to face.

Leaves memories and fertile seeds,  
Values, insights, conserving creeds,  
Which, germinating, taking root,  
Will yield enriched, sustaining fruit.

He's gone, but he will always be  
A shining light we'll always see.





## From Rose and Elliott Blaustein

John Kominski touched the lives of many children and educators. His love of the environment and of science in general was an inspiration to those who were fortunate to be involved with him.

During his career he worked as an administrator, staff developer and classroom teacher. His creative programs made science, particularly those areas concerned with the environment, exciting, interesting and meaningful. The field trips he conducted were wonderful experiences—they were unforgettable.

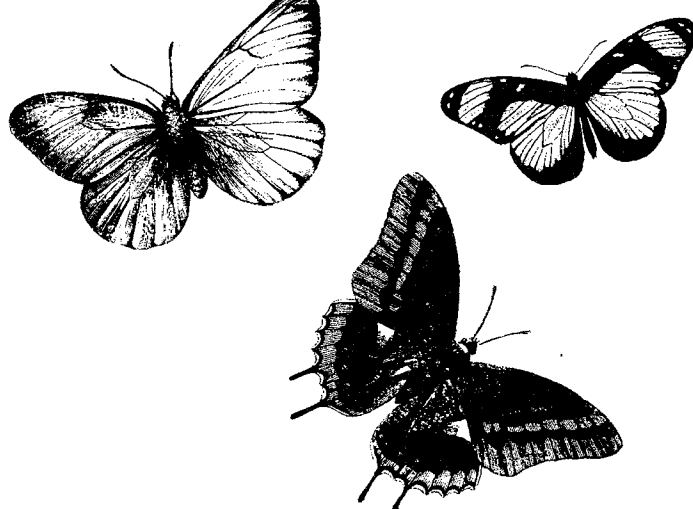
John helped to establish many innovative projects, including his pioneering work at the High School for Environmental Studies. He helped write and encourage the development of curricula in science and he gave full support to citywide science fairs and exhibitions. He wrote fine articles about science and science education.

He was an active member and officer of many organizations. His participation and presence helped these groups to grow and to make important contributions to science and environmental education.

But, most of all, he was a thoughtful and considerate person. He was an inspiration and mentor to many. His knowledge, interest and excitement about science enriched the lives of those who knew him.

John, thanks for all you did. You helped so many to appreciate the beauty of the world and to understand the need to protect it.

We shall miss you.



## From Sam Holmes

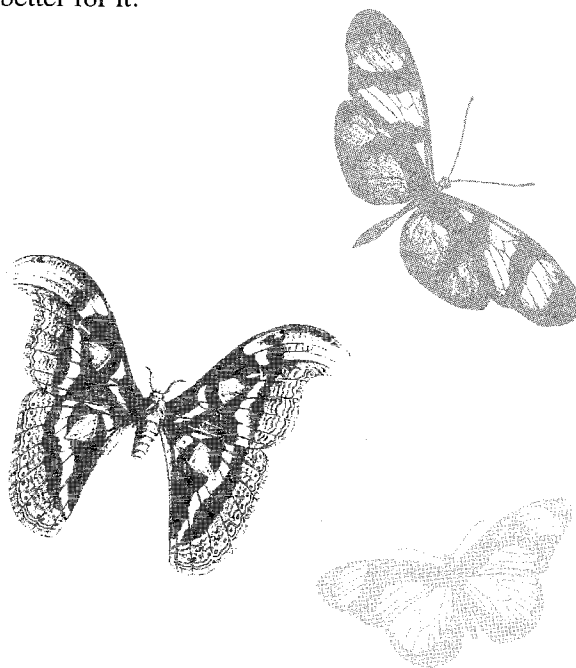
I knew and worked with John from about 1980 to about 1992. What I well remember about him is the freshness of his spirit.

He never seemed tired or discouraged. He took such pleasure in sharing his knowledge and love of the natural world; he made that world new and personal. In the effort to bring environmental education to the schools, he met the clutter and the tangle of the Board of Education as a challenge, and he was most often effective.

If I concentrate, I can hear his voice—not the words, but the tone, the crackle and the energy of it. And, I can hear his laughter.

We all take spirit from each other, sometimes for the better, sometimes for the worse.

Whenever I met with John, my spirit was the better for it.



## POTPOURRI

**"To Honor and Comfort: Native Quilting Traditions,"** is on view through January 4 in the National Museum of the American Indian, 1 Bowling Green. To find out more, call (212) 668-6624.

On five consecutive Fridays, beginning January 9, Cook College of Rutgers University is presenting a course on **"Urban Forestry."** For information, call (732) 932-9271.

Save April 23. That's the date of **Youth CAN '98** at the American Museum of Natural History. The theme is **"Help Our World Live"** (H.O.W.L.) To find out all about it, call Jay Holmes at (212) 769-5039, or ask Millard Clements about it at any Steering Committee meeting between now and then.

At the Central Park Wildlife Center, **"Wildlife Theater"** operates on weekends from October through April and then resumes a 7 day schedule. To learn more, call (212) 439-6539.

**The Museum of the City of New York**, at 1220 Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street, is full of especially good things right now, in celebration of the centennial of the consolidation of Greater New York as a city of five boroughs and of its own 75th anniversary. **"The New Metropolis: A Century of Greater New York, 1898-1998,"** is on view from January 3 through December 27; **"New York from Above: An Aerial View,"** opens on January 17 and closes on May 3, and **"Bridging New York"** opens on January 31 and closes on July 5. If that's not enough, **"New York Stories"** is a series that takes place in the Museum every Saturday at 1 p.m. To find out about all this, call (212) 534-1672.

At the **New-York Historical Society** from now through January 4, you can see **"Race for City Hall,"** which describes the first race to elect a mayor of modern grater New York. To find out about this and other current exhibitions call (212) 873-3400.

**The 1998 Institute Calendar of the Pocono Environmental Education Center** is available and, as usual with our friend and member Jack Padalino, it is full of good things. For a copy, write to R.R. 2, Box 1010, Dingmans Ferry, Pennsylvania 18328, or telephone (717) 828-2319.

The State Department of Environmental Conservation is offering free training workshops for New York City educators in **Project WET** (Water

Education for Teachers). We heard about it at a recent Steering Committee meeting from Robert Leiblein, who will tell you all about it if you call him at (718) 482-4912, or write to him at 47-40 21st Street, Long Island City 11101.

The Battery Park City Parks Corporation (Executive Director our good friend Tessa Huxley) has issued a handsome and useful guide, **"Keeping the Park in Battery Park City."** To obtain a copy, call (212) 267-9700.

Partnership for Parks, an initiative of the City Parks Foundation and the City of New York/Parks & Recreation, has two new packets, **"Establishing a Friends of the Park Group"** and **"Making Your Park Safer,"** both of which are free. To obtain copies, write to the Partnership, 830 Fifth Avenue, New York 10021, or call (212) 360-1330.

**Volunteers in Prospect Park** publishes a newsletter. To get on the mailing list, write to VIPP, Litchfield Village, 95 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn 11215.

As you should know by now, the hundreds (700? 800? More?) of community gardens in the City are in danger of losing their leases and going out of existence. This will not happen to all the gardens, but could happen to many of them. If you want to know how you can help to preserve them, call the **Green Guerillas** at (212) 674-8124, or write to the GGs at 625 Broadway, 9th floor, New York 10012.

INFORM has published a study, **"Spotlight on New York: A Decade of Progress in Alternative Transportation Fuels,"** which covers State as well as City programs. To find out how to get a copy, call (212) 361-2400.

The Hudson River Park Alliance has formed a **"New Yorkers for Hudson River Park"** network offering free membership to those interested. To become a member, write to the Alliance, c/o Environmental Defense Fund, 257 Park Avenue South, New York 10010, or call (212) 505-0606, ext. 377.

**The Open Space Network** in South Richmond, Staten Island, is a 672-acre system of open spaces which is intended to connect existing parks and natural areas to one another and to help protect many of the area's streams, ponds, wetlands, shorelines and woods. To find out more, call the Staten Island Borough Office of the City's Department of City Planning, (718) 727-8453.

Not long ago, we had a presentation at a Steering Committee meeting from representatives of **Waste Management of New York**. Now, the organization has assembled a kit of material which you may find of interest. To learn more, write or call Susan Clark, Manager of Community Relations, 123 Varick Street, Brooklyn 1127, (718) 533-5308.

### A SPECIAL EVENT

On October 24, Sam Holmes, past Chair of EEAC and an Honorary Member, was one of four "Founders" honored at a reception marking the 25th anniversary celebration of the passage of the Gateway National Recreation Area's enabling legislation. In typical manner, Sam, in his speech accepting a shining silver apple, said nothing about his own wonderful years at Gateway, but talked about dozens of others who had helped make Gateway important to all of us. Thank you, Sam, for your graciousness, your humor and your work for the environment and for environmental education in the past and today.



#### **Enhancing Environmental Interpretation in the Hudson Valley**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation along with the Hudson River Foundation, announce the project "Enhancing Environmental Interpretation" in the Hudson Valley. This project will study existing sites and needs, explore ways of creating a coordinated interpretive system, and develop a grants program for the future. The firm of Jane Clark Chermayeff Associates has been retained to coordinate the project.

As part of the study, Jane Clark Chermayeff Associates will be contacting organizations this winter to develop an inventory of facilities in the Hudson Valley involved in natural resource interpretation. For further information, please contact Jane Clark Chermayeff Associates at 140 East 81 Street, New York, NY 10028 or [jcchermayeff@iearn.org](mailto:jcchermayeff@iearn.org)

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Over the years, we in the environmental education community have had some opportunities to celebrate John's impact on all of us and on the larger community. One of those memorable occasions was the APEC dinner where John was honored as a Friend of the Environment. **Alma Greenbaum** wrote and delivered a moving tribute at that time. The last verses summarize the essence of John's contributions:

Rallied he the youth and leaders  
To the task that lay before them:  
Clear debris and stop the dumping,  
Stop the wasting of resources.

Clear the waters and the shallows,  
Save the wetlands and the marshes.  
Save the reeds and save the rushes.  
Save the sedges at the edges.

From the brow of John Kominski,  
Gone was every trace of sorrow.  
As the fog from off the water,  
As the mist from off the meadow,  
With a smile of joy and triumph  
With a look of exultation—  
As of one who in a vision  
Sees what is to be, but is not.

Sees the water, sees the shallows,  
Sees the wetlands and the marshes,  
Sees how human care enriches  
All the habitats and niches—  
In the reeds and in the rushes,  
In the sedges at the edges.

John helped us to see; he helped us to understand; he inspired us to act, and he encouraged us to be all that we could be. We will be forever grateful for the inspiration he offered. His leadership is a beacon for the future.



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

If sustaining Organization, Name of Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone (       ) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (       ) \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation (for categories other than Sustaining Organization): \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (for categories other than Sustaining Organization): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

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 love to become involved in a committee.

Please provide me with information about the following committees:

☐ Exhibits    ☐ Issues    ☐ Membership    ☐ Newsletter    ☐ Programs    ☐ Youth

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

Ruth Eilenberg, EEAC Treasurer, 401 East 86th Street, Apt. 4F, New York, NY 10028



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

**c/o Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment**

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