



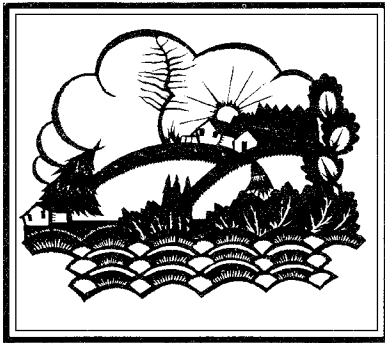
EEAC

SPRING 1998

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

EEAC Chairman's Message

The Environment and Poverty



Poverty and the environment - what is the connection? For years many commentators felt that bettering impoverished conditions was somehow contrary to environmental improvement. Growth led to economic expansion and the accompanying extensive use of natural resources, which in turn resulted in an inevitable deterioration in the environment. This view still prevails in many quarters.

Fortunately observers from a wide spectrum of environmental concerns, from Professor Millard Clements within the EEAC community, to environmental justice activists across the nation, to sustainability theorists all over the world, have pointed to the connection between poverty and environmental degradation and the need to improve conditions across both areas in tandem.

Poor environmental health and poverty go hand in hand. It is the poorest countries who do not have the capital base to invest in the environmental infrastructure that can protect public health, e.g. sewage treatment plants, advanced water supply systems. Therein lies one of the basic reasons for the lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality, and generally lower quality of life prevalent in many developing nations. The lack of a clean and plentiful water supply in many of these poor countries for example, is, more than any other factor, the reason for an ongoing public health crisis.

Yet even when such countries adapt an intense resource use, non-sustainable economic expansion model, they often do not develop the capital base and/or the planning mechanisms to relieve environmentally based public health problems. Thus the economy "booms" but the quality of life for many remains unchanged.

Economic expansion, first the betterment of living conditions, eventually the eradication of poverty, should be integrated with an improvement in environmental services - water, energy, transportation, waste management - while at the same time sustaining the natural resource base. It remains to be seen whether the world's current dominant development strategy, market based private enterprise, can accom

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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 are: April 15, May 20, and June 17.

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

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

JOIN 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 Frankin
carol_franken@fc1.nycenet.edu or
(212) 828-3511

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL

c/o Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment
The Tennis House
Prospect Park
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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
Mary Leou, Vice-Chair for Programs
Millard Clements, Secretary
Kim Estes-Fradis, Membership Secretary
Ruth Eilenberg, Treasurer

STEERING COMMITTEE *

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Julie Beck, The Beacon School
Therese Braddick, City Parks Foundation
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Barbara Miller, NYC Board of Education
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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Michael Mann, Clearwater
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John Padalino, Pocono Environmental Education Center
Helen Ross Russell
Talbert Spence, National Audubon Society
Nancy A. Wolf

*Affiliations for identification purposes only.

EEAC ESTABLISHES KOMINSKI MEMORIAL FUND

In September, following the tragic death of our colleague and friend, John Kominski (see the last Newsletter), Chairman Michael Zamm appointed an ad hoc committee to explore ways in which EEAC could honor John's memory. Ruth Eilenberg, EEAC Treasurer, was appointed Chair of the Committee.

At the Annual Meeting in November, Ruth reported on the Committee's recommendations and asked for comments. She said that a final report would be made at the Steering Committee meeting in December.

At that meeting, the Steering Committee unanimously approved the establishment of the EEAC John Kominski Memorial Fund and made the Fund Committee a permanent committee of the organization.

The report of the Committee recommended two approaches to honor John: one is to support programs of organizations and the other is EEAC-generated programs.

EEAC will support organizations' efforts to honor John, when appropriate, by advising EEAC members, providing a memorial plaque and providing advice. Some proposals suggested follow:

1. Name a school or an academy within a school. Barry Weinbrom has proposed the naming of a John Kominski environmental house within John Jay High School.
2. Place a memorial plaque in the High School for Environmental Studies, honoring John as the founding project director, at a special commemorative event in the school.
3. Name a trail or the windmill at the Alley Pond Environmental Center.
4. Establish a garden at the Gateway Environmental Study Center (already initiated by Regina McCarthy).
5. Dedicate Touchstone Center's "Speaking With Nature Workshop" at Wave Hill in May, 1998 (already planned by Richard Lewis)

With respect to the activities of other groups, EEAC will provide advice and financial aid, not to exceed \$100 per project, with the approval of the Steering Committee.

The following are EEAC-generated projects:

1. Present annual student environmental activism awards in high schools John was particularly interested or involved in: High School for Environmental Studies, John Bowne High School,

Boys and Girls High School. To this end, \$1,000 has been set aside from the EEAC treasury as seed money for awards of \$100 at each school. This initial amount will be supplemented by contributions from EEAC members and friends of John. EEAC will assist in establishing criteria with the administrations of the schools and selection will be made by the schools.

2. Annual EEAC recognition of an outstanding environmental educator who shows promise of future leadership. EEAC will set up a screening committee to evaluate nominations and present a certificate at the Annual Meeting or other EEAC event.

3. Explore the possibility of establishing a John Kominski Gallery of Environmental Art at an appropriate location. This would be administered by the host organization.

4. Dedicate "New York Naturally III" to John, with EEAC as co-sponsor, with commemorative program notes and a dedication ceremony.

5. Seek industry funding for a special annual event for environmental educators to develop cohesive Citywide environmental education efforts.

6. EEAC will provide a student with a scholarship to attend a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation camp in the Summer of 1998. The cost of this will be \$200, plus transportation.

7. Provide honorary memberships in EEAC for high school students.

8. Use the "Newsletter" to make periodic reports on Kominski memorial events and ideas.

The Kominski Memorial Fund Committee is chaired by Ruth Eilenberg. The other members are Marcia Kaplan-Mann, Kenneth Kowald, Mary Leou, Michael Mann, Regina McCarthy and Barry Weinbrom.

Contributions to the Kominski Memorial Fund, specified as such, may be sent to Ruth Eilenberg, Treasurer, Apartment 4F, 401 East 86th Street, New York 10028. Comments and ideas should be sent to Ruth. A contribution to the Fund is deductible to the extent allowed by law.

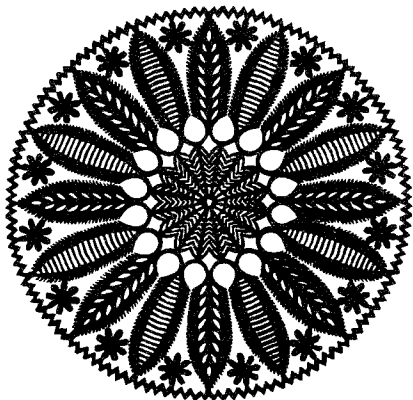
As the "Newsletter" went to press, at least \$125 had been received in contributions to the Fund.

ALL ABOUT NEW YORK

Green Horizons III will be held this year on Tuesday, October 6, in the Queens Botanical Garden. This event, co-sponsored by EEAC and New York ReLeaf Region II, is the City's free conference on careers in natural resources for middle school students and their guidance counselors. Once again, Nancy Wolf, a past Chair of EEAC and an Honorary Member, will be coordinating the event for the Environmental Action Coalition. The first Green Horizons conference was held in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in 1996; the second was held in Arsenal North and the Northern area of Central Park in 1997. Once again, EEAC will be recruiting the environmental educators to assist the professionals serving the more than two dozen hands-on "stations" throughout QBG. So, mark those calendars.

EEAC is also one of the environmental organizations involved in the **Green-Ed Coalition**, which held its first Green-Ed Institute for more than 60 teachers, on Election Day. The event will be held again on Election Day, 1998. In the meantime, the Green-Ed Coalition is planning an exhibition highlighting school gardens, to be on view in the Hall of the Board of Education, 110 Livingston Street, beginning April 21 and lasting for (we hope!) at least a week. Again, details as the day approaches will be on the EEAC listserv and at the Steering Committee meetings.

If you missed the presentation at the Annual Meeting about the **Watershed Agricultural Council Forestry Program**, you can find out about it by writing to P.O. Box 280, Grahamsville, New York 12740, or calling (914) 985-0328, or send an e-mail to asw10@cornell.edu.



Steering Committee member Meg Domroese is Program Officer for the Center for Biodiversity Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History and she is also Editor of the Center's new "Newsletter." This Spring, AMNH will open a major permanent exhibit devoted to **biodiversity and conservation**. To find out more, write to Meg at AMNH, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York 10024-5192; call her at (212) 769-5742, or send her e-mail: biodiversity@amnh.org....And, don't forget, "The Nature of Diamonds," a huge show at AMNH, closes April 26. To find out more, call (212) 769-5100.

New York University has published "**Six Heritage Tours of the Lower East Side**," by Ruth Limmer, which contains walking tours of the area which was a gateway to America for many immigrants.

You may still have a chance to catch some of the programs in a series being held by the **Museum of the City of New York**, Fifth Avenue and 103rd Street, on the issues facing each of the five boroughs and their relationship to the City as a whole. Queens is scheduled for April 23 and Staten Island for May 14. Find out more by calling (212) 534-1672....And, through June 28, the Museum is the site of "Bridging New York," an exhibition which celebrates the more than 2,000 bridges in this town.

On Saturday, April 18, there will be a Staten Island "**March for Parks**," a 10-mile urban "greenway" hike along the Staten Island waterfront. To find out more, call the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition/Friends of Gateway at (212) 352-9330

The Hudson River Foundation is holding a series of Tuesday Seminars on scientific issues related to the environmental quality and resource management of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary. The remaining dates are April 7, May 5 and June 2. The Foundation is located at 40 West 20th Street, Manhattan. For details, call (212) 924-8290.

Something to look forward to: By the year 2000 there will be a new **Plant Studies Center at the New York Botanical Garden**, a new wing on the Museum Building, which was built in 1900. The facility will house the Garden's Herbarium, the largest collection of preserved

plant specimens in the Western Hemisphere. Linda Davidoff, former Executive Director of the Parks Council, is now Executive Director of the New York League of Conservation Voters. To reach her, write to Suite 801, 130 William Street, New York 10038, or call (212) 766-0014

Public sculpture is very much a part of the environment and an exhibition about the making of public sculpture, from commissioning through installation, is on view through May 8 in the National Academy Museum, 1083 Fifth Avenue, at 89th Street. For more information, call (212) 369-4880.

New York City 100 is a not-for-profit group that is working on a whole year's schedule of events marking 1998 as the centennial of the Consolidation of the City of New York. A calendar of monthly events appears in an advertisement in The New York Times on the first Monday of each month throughout the year. To find out about programming by New York City 100, call (212) 877-6326; for Centennial Weekends, call (212) 794-3534, and for all information, write to Greater New York Centennial Celebration, c/o New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West, New York 10024.

"A Central Park for the World: New York's Adirondack Park," is on view, free, through April 3, in the Paine Webber Art Gallery, 1285 Avenue of the Americas at 51st Street, Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Thanks to letter-writing and calls from concerned citizens, the offices of the **New York State Department of Conservation, Region 2**, will remain in Long Island City and the Region is in the process of hiring 35 to 50 more staff members. However, that means more space will be needed in the Long Island City area and those who wrote or called before to help are being urged to do so again. The Governor and DEC Commissioner John P. Cahill should be told how you feel. If you need more information, call William F. Hewitt at (718) 482-4949.

Correction: In the last issue, reference was made to a meeting at the Board of Education, which John Kominski was planning to attend. The meeting was held on August 27, not September 27.

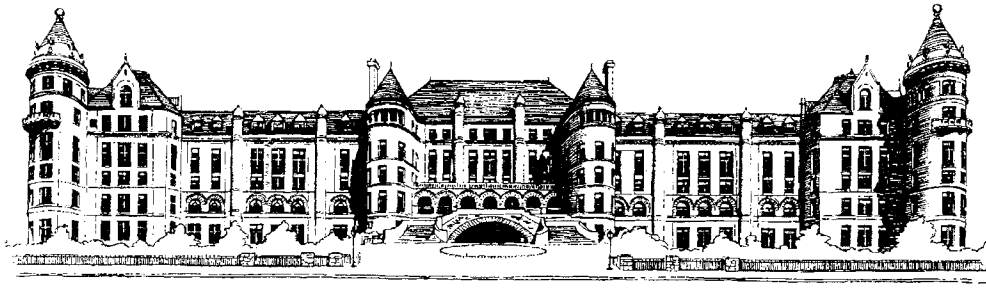


Wave Hill, a public garden and cultural institution located in the Northwest section of the Bronx, is looking for enthusiastic and motivated minority women scientists willing to participate in their 1998 Environmental Summer Camp program. Initiated in 1995, the Summer Camp was formed to promote science among young women. This summer, it will provide outdoor-based science enrichment for 30 girls entering the eighth grade. An honorarium is offered for scientist's participation and time.

For more information, please contact Gigi Beaumont at (718) 549-3200, ext. 246.

Visit our website

<http://members.aol.com/wleou/eeac.html>



Center for Environmental Research and Conservation Certificate Program in Conservation Biology

The Morningside Institute Program in Conservation Biology offers a two-semester sequence of four evening courses in the science, techniques, and policy of conservation biology. It provides a solid overview of the theoretical bases as well as practice in the tools of conservation science. The sequence seeks to introduce many topics for further training, provide examples of careers in conservation, and expand participants' understanding of the field of conservation. It is designed for those needing additional background in conservation science in anticipation of a career change, secondary school science teachers, and people already working in the conservation field who have not had the benefit of formal academic course work.

The Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC) is a consortium of Columbia University, the American Museum of Natural History, The New York Botanical Garden, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and Wildlife Preservation Trust International. Participants will take courses at the Columbia University's Morningside campus. In this dynamic academic setting, participants will be taught by premier instructors from Columbia and CERC's affiliate institutions, and benefit from the atmosphere of engaged science at CERC.

In addition, participants will take several Saturday field trips to our affiliate sites in the New York area. There will be occasions for participants to meet and discuss career opportunities with professionals in a variety of conservation-related fields.

The program runs from September through May. Tuition is \$6,000 for all four courses. Staff of CERC's affiliate institutions will receive a 50% reduction in tuition. Financial aid may be available for a limited number of teachers and non-U.S. students. For a free brochure and application, call CERC at 212-854-8179 or send an e-mail message to Joanna Grand, Program Coordinator at jg376@columbia.edu.

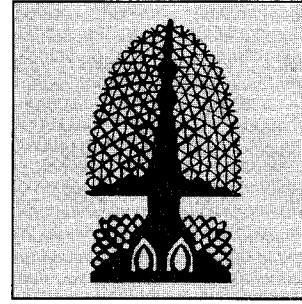
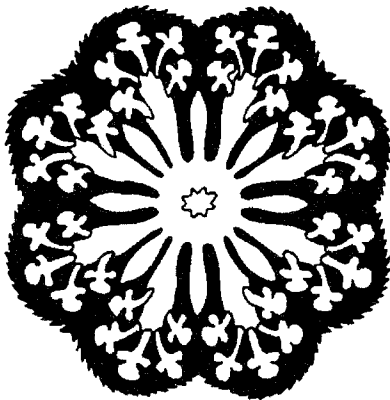
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plish this. Currently those countries, for example China, which are undergoing a dramatic economic expansion, are sending out mixed messages about whether sustainable, environmentally friendly development will be part of the package.

It is unclear too, whether many developing countries are committed to an equitable distribution of wealth as their countries expand economically. In some, such as that economic "miracle" of the 80's Brazil, economic boom benefited the extremely wealthy, spawned the growth of a relatively small to moderate size middle class and did little for the impoverished majority, who live in the ongoing environmental conditions briefly described above. Thrown into the environment and poverty mix then, is a need to sustain natural resources, develop proper environmental services and share those resources and services equitably so that life improves for all.

Ultimately it appears that it is the mixed "capitalism with a human face" type economies, which, albeit with much pain and struggle, tend to offer the best hope of slowly moving towards sustainable economic growth, an equitable delivery of environmental services, and a reduction and eventual elimination of poverty and its strangulating conditions. Global structures, like the recent Kyoto Summit on Climate Change, will be needed to support this evolution. As educators we should be aware of trends related to this issue and help our students understand the environment - poverty connection in all its aspects.

Michael Zamm



City Parks Foundation
presents
Project Learning Tree

a workshop for educators
Saturday, April 25, 1998
8:30AM - 3:00PM

Gateway Environmental Study Center
Floyd Bennett Field, BLDG 272, Brooklyn, NY

FREE!!

Limited to 30 educators.

PLT, an award winning environmental education program uses the forest as a "window" into the natural world. Learn about native trees and how they contribute to the health of the forest. Activities will include hands-on lessons about tree growth, tree rings, and the importance of trees in our city. Teachers will receive a PROJECT LEARNING TREE curriculum guide and other freebies. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. New Teacher Credit available.

REGISTRATION:

To reserve a spot in this workshop, you must send in a deposit of \$20.00, made payable to City Parks Foundation at 1234 Fifth Ave. Rm 232, NY, NY 10029 by April 10, 1998. Your deposit will be returned to you at the workshop. For more information call (212) 360 2746. For travel directions call (718) 252-7307.

This workshop is made possible with generous support from the National Hardwood Lumber Association.

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 Technology

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



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