

EEAC

SUMMER 1998

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As we move into the summer let's remember to stay involved with EEAC. While there's no steering committee meeting in August we do meet the third Wednesday in July—the 15th to be exact, from 4-6 p.m., in the Press Building on NYU's Washington Square campus, usually in the Anderson room on the second floor. All members are welcome.



The summer is a good time to reflect on which committee to join. At the time this is being written we are considering a new committee—a corporate/business environmental education support committee to generate and implement strategies to garner more business funding and technical assistance for environmental education. This was the central idea that emerged from the Earth Day symposium hosted by Con Ed on that very issue. We will also consider forming either as a subcommittee of the corporate committee, or as a separate entity, a working group to advise Con Ed on its environmental education initiatives. These and our other committees are open to all members.

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At the recent SCONYC conference, I ran into many folks that I've known and/or have worked with over the years. One was Harold McKenna, Professor of Education at City College. My discussion with Harold motivated me to remember all the key environmental education teachers that have come out of Harold's Master's Degree program at City over the past quarter century; Paul Speraaza at Lafayette High School, David Dixler at De Witt Clinton, Richard Plass at Styvesant (now Chairman of Science), John Kominski of so many environmental education endeavors, and many others. These educators have gone on to be the bastions of environmental education/science education at their schools and have been involved in many citywide and regional organizations. Harold's work is a wonderful illustration of the power of teaching—Harold's knowledge and teaching skills have generated a core of key environmental educators who have played a major role in establishing environmental education in the schools. Congratulations Harold! —Mike Zamm

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: June 17, July 15, and September 16.

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

Listserve contact:

Carol_Franken@fcl.nycenet.edu or
(212) 828-3511.

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.

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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Helen Ross Russell
Talbert Spence, National Audubon Society
Nancy A. Wolf

*Affiliations for identification purposes only.

Member's Program

Tour Newly Opened Hall of Biodiversity American Museum of Natural History

June 30th, 1998

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Meet in the Portrait Room (main entrance)

R.S.V.P. by June 25th, (212) 360-2745

Dear Members,

Our next member's program will take place on Tuesday, June 30th at the American Museum of Natural History. Join us for a guided tour of the newly opened Hall of Biodiversity, an 11,000 square foot exhibition devoted to the diversity of life on Earth and conservation. The exhibit features specimens, models, videos, and a 2,500 square-foot diorama recreating a section of the Dzanga-Ndoki Rainforest in the Central African Republic. This multi-sensory experience offers a closer look at the complexity of the relationship between humans and their environment, a relationship that has a profound impact on the future of all life. The hall provides a powerful collection of experiences, information, and resources to support teaching and learning about species, habitats, biodiversity, and ecology.

The tour will be hosted by Dr. Francesca Grifo, Director, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, along with members of her staff including Meg Domroese and Elizabeth Johnson. Members of the Metro Forest Council will also be invited to attend this special "joint" member's program.

Our EEAC programs this year have been well attended and feedback from many of you has been very positive. The programs have also attracted some new members which we welcome. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who attend and enrich our programs with your participation, as well as those of you who have hosted a wide range of excellent programming for us.

The program committee will hold a meeting in early June to plan next year's programs. The committee welcomes input from you about program ideas and issues. You can reach us via the EEAC listserv (open to all EEAC members) or contact me directly at maryleou@aol.com, or call at (212) 360-2745. I look forward to seeing many of you on June 30th for a most interesting program at the American Museum of Natural History.

Mary J. Leou, Ed.D.
Vice-Chair of Programs



New and Exciting

"Secret Places of Staten Island" is a 150-page **"Visitors Guide to Scenic and Historic Treasures of Staten Island,"** written by Bruce Kersner, in cooperation with the Protectors of the Pine Oak Woods. It is the kind of book which makes you wish that the author would do the same for all the boroughs. It has a Foreword by Henry J. Stern, Commissioner of Parks & Recreation. To learn more about the book, call former EEAC Steering Committee member Richard P. Buegler, at (718) 761-7496.

Dates and Places

"The Nature of Diamonds" exhibit in the American Museum of Natural History, due to close April 26, proved so popular it has been extended to August 30.

"Landmarks of New York," an exhibition of 157 photographs of some of the buildings, sculptures and interiors granted landmark status since 1965, and some of the City's 70 historic districts, is on view through July 7 in the New-York Historical Society, Central Park West and 77th Street. Call (212) 873-3400 to find out about the exhibition and free walking tours.

"New York: City of Five Boroughs," is an exhibit of documents, images, maps and photographs from the Municipal Archives, on view through October 1 in the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 445 West 59th Street. To learn more, call (212) 237-8698.

Now on view through December, in the Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Avenue and 103rd Street, is **"The New Metropolis: New York, 1898-1998,"** based on E. Idell Zeisloft's **"The New Metropolis,"** published in 1899. For information, call (212) 534-1672.

Also through December, the New York Transit Museum, corner of Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn, is showing **"The Age of Els: Centennial of the Five Borough City."** This is a three-part series of special presentations and related programs about the elevated trains, including scale models and vintage footage. To learn more, call (718) 243-8601.

New York ReLeaf Region II will hold its Fall Workshop on Friday, September 11, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The theme is "New York City's Urban Forest: Prescription for Recovery." For more information, call Naomi Zurcher, Chair, at (718) 522-1130. You may still be in time to attend the New York State ReLeaf Conference, to be held July 10 and 11 at Hofstra University,

Hempstead. Call Peter Frank, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Forestry Division, at (518) 457-7370.

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Parks & Recreation's GreenThumb will present the **1998 Harvest Fair** in the Garden on Saturday, September 12, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is the annual summer event that celebrates New York City gardeners and their horticultural achievements. For information about the Fair, call BBG at (718) 622-4433, ext. 202; for information about the vegetable, herb and flower contests, call GreenThumb at (212) 788-8059....Speaking of GreenThumb, when you make that call, you may want to ask for the latest issue of **"Resources for GreenThumb Gardeners,"** which is good for everyone and inquire about the newest publication, **"Inquiring Minds Want to Grow,"** subtitled **"The green scene for tots to teens."**

On June 20, the **New York Botanical Garden** will open the Snuff Mill Trail and the Forest Edge Trail. Earlier, on May 2, the new Everett Children's Adventure Garden was opened. The eight-acre garden is being hailed as the only facility of its kind in the United States.

New York Matters

If you missed the Winter meeting of EEAC, you missed some wonderful presentations by the staff of the Horticultural Society of New York, where the meeting was held. Among those presenting were EEAC Steering Committee members Joanne Dittersdorf and Pamela Ito. To find out how they can help in **"Greening Your Classroom,"** call them at (212) 757-0915.

The Teachers Clearing House for Science & Society Education has a new Clearinghouse Website: <http://www.freeinfo.org/tch/>. Hard copy is still available by subscription for \$5 a year. The address is 1 West 88th Street, New York 10024.

"Rooted in Community" is a report issued by the office of State Senator John Sampson of Brooklyn, which urges the preservation of community gardens in New York City in conformity with the recommendations in New York State's Open Space Plan. It may be obtained from your local State Senator or it may be received by "e-mailing" a request to <nys-rpt@treebranch.com>.

And did you know that the **City of New York/Parks & Recreation** is on the web? The place to find it is www.nycparks.org.

The Regional Plan Association is now located on the 7th floor of 4 Irving Place, New York 10003. The telephone number is (212) 253-2727. Recently, RPA and the Environmental Action Coalition issued an important report on the status of trees in New York City. It's worth getting.

Former EEAC Chair and Honorary **Member Michael Mann** is presenting a series of very interesting programs in the Old Stone House Historic Interpretive Center, located in J.J. Byrne Park, Third Street between Fourth and Fifth Avenues in Brooklyn. The voice mail number is (212) 726-8062.

The **City Parks Foundation** has issued a report of its work, covering the years 1996 and 1997. The production credits indicate that Therese Braddick, editor of this Newsletter, was one of two responsible for this fine publication. To get a copy, call (212) 360-1399.

Do you want to obtain **free organic compost**? You can get up to three bags full from the site operated by Parks & Recreation in Ferry Point Park, at the foot of the Bronx Whitestone Bridge, in the Bronx. The site is open Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. To find out more about it, call 1-800-201-PARK.

Partnership for Parks, an initiative of the City Parks Foundation and the City of New York Parks & Recreation, is offering a series of workshops on a variety of issues of interest to those involved with the City's parks. To obtain information about these free programs, call (212) 360-8186.

The Final Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan of the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program, including the Bight Restoration Plan, has been published and may be obtained from the Hudson River Foundation, Ninth Floor, 40 West 20th Street, New York 10011, or call (212) 924-8290. The Summary is more "user-friendly," but both may be obtained.

The General Services Administration of the Federal Government has published a **Use Study for Governors Island** and it comes with an Executive Summary. It may be obtained by writing to GSA, room 16-100, 26 Federal Plaza, New York 10278, or by calling (212) 264-3596.

The Central Park Conservancy offers a number of field and fitness programs which explore the park. They include "Woodland Discoveries," "City Birding," "Reading the Rocks," "Rock Climbing" and "The Central Park Challenge." To find out about them, call (212) 360-2720.



1998 Summer Institute

Ecology Program For Teachers

July 13 - 17

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Join the Education Staff of the Urban Forest & Education Program of City Parks Foundation for a week of habitat investigation.

Explore the city's woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife. Each day participants will explore different habitats including forests, ponds, meadows, marshes, and coastal areas. Meet with foresters, botanists, wetland ecologists, soil scientists, field ornithologists, and environmental educators. Learn field techniques and how to use natural areas as educational resources. Visit local environmental centers and learn about environmental education opportunities in New York City. Receive curriculum materials and field equipment for use with your students.

For more information or registration packet, call 212-360-2746

or e-mail: UFEC@aol.com

Space is limited to 20 teachers, so please contact us soon!

New teacher credit available.

Registration Fee: \$150.00

(Includes transportation and curriculum materials)



KOMINSKI FUND REPORT



As indicated in the last Newsletter, it was decided that the membership would receive reports of the status of the John W. Kominski Memorial Fund by way of the Newsletter. Here is the first one.

Two events occurred which indicated the high esteem in which John was held. On April 23, during the Environmental Quality Awards Ceremony of Region 2 of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, John was posthumously awarded an honor in the Environmental Education category. He was cited as "a true pioneer in the field of environmental education" and the award noted that "John's efforts have resulted in broad-based, multi-disciplinary environmental education that will serve students and residents of New York City for years to come." The award was accepted by John's daughter, Andrea, who has been given John's Life Membership in EEAC.

The next day, April 24, Arbor Day, during ceremonies attended by thousands of students and teachers, a Black Gum tree was planted in John's memory in the Queens Botanical Garden.

On June 25th at 9:00 a.m., a memorial plaque, honoring John, will be placed in the lobby of the High School for Environmental Studies, of which John was the founding Project Director. It will be the beginning of a Wall of Honor in HSES. EEAC members are welcome to attend.

On May 9, the Touchstone Center's annual workshop series, "Speaking with Nature: Looking and Seeing, Believing and Knowing," was held at Wave Hill. It was dedicated "to the memory of John Kominski, the

late educator and artist, whose teaching and advocacy was deeply concerned with maintaining a balance between our scientific and aesthetic observation and understanding of the natural world."

As we went to press, EEAC annual student environmental activism awards were scheduled to be presented on Wednesday, June 10, in John Bowne High School and at ceremonies this Spring in the High School of Environmental Studies. Boys and Girls High School will also present similar awards at their graduation ceremony on June 25th.

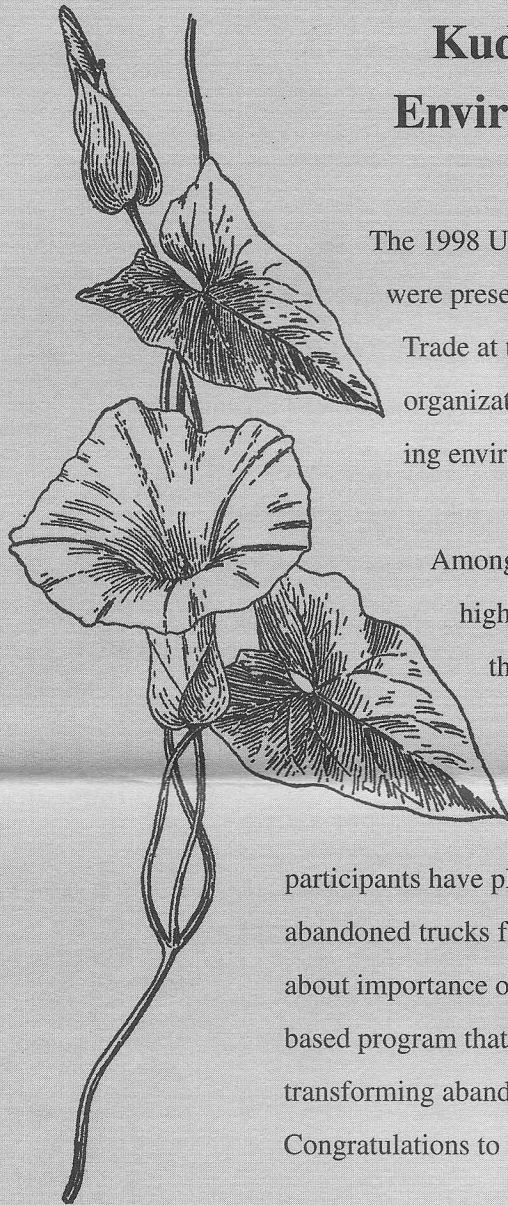
The Memorial Fund Committee has begun discussions about possible locations of a John Kominski Gallery of Environmental Art.

EEAC is providing two scholarships for students to attend a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation camp this Summer. The cost is \$200, plus transportation.

The Memorial Fund Committee has begun to discuss ways to enlarge the amount of the Fund's resources. As reported previously, EEAC set aside \$1,000 for the Fund. Contributions thus far are \$150. They may be sent to Ruth Eilenberg, Treasurer, Apartment 4F, 401 East 86th Street, New York 10028 and they are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The Kominski Memorial Fund Committee is chaired by Ruth Eilenberg. The members are Marcia Kaplan-Mann, Kenneth Kowald, Mary Leou, Michael Mann, Regina McCarthy and Barry Weinbrom. Ideas and suggestions for the Fund may be sent to any member.





Kudos to New York City's Environmental Organizations!

The 1998 United States EPA Region 2 Environmental Quality Awards were presented at a ceremony at the U.S. Courthouse of International Trade at the Federal Plaza on April 23, 1998. Several individuals and organizations were recognized for their accomplishments in improving environmental quality in Region 2.

Among the New York City organizations receiving the EPA's highest honor were the Urban Forest & Education Program of the City Parks Foundation, and Bronx Green Up of The New York Botanical Garden. The Urban Forest & Education Program was cited as the only comprehensive program of forest restoration and management. Through its efforts participants have planted over 150,000 native trees, removed hundreds of abandoned trucks from wooded areas, and educated thousands of New Yorkers about importance of urban forests. Bronx Green-Up was cited as a community-based program that empowers local citizens to revitalize their neighborhoods by transforming abandoned, rubbish-filled lots into fully functioning gardens. Congratulations to both for a job well done!

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

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 ☐ Kominski Fund

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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