



EEAC

WINTER /SPRING 2001

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

THE VALUE OF COMPUTER TELECOMMUNICATION

by Millard Clements, Ph.D.

Computer telecommunication basically does three things for environmental education teachers:

- ONE:** IT PROVIDES EASY ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION THAT IN THE PAST WAS DIFFICULT TO GET, OR WAS IN FACT, UNAVAILABLE TO SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS.
- TWO:** IT PROVIDES CONNECTION WITH STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN NEW YORK, ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AND AROUND THE WORLD.
- THREE:** IT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN THAT INVOLVE STUDENTS IN MANY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, CITIES, AND REGIONS OF THE WORLD.

For almost any environmental issue, there are online resources that are more current than any textbook, and much more diverse in perspective than the commercial media. For some issues such as climate change, rainforests, population, sustainable development, toxic waste, the ozone layer or global warming, there are no better resources than those on line today. Information, communications, and community can now begin to be the basis of environmental education activities and daily life in schools and universities.

For environmental educators, two realities are significant: 1. There is freedom from standardized sources of information produced by nation states and corporations. 2. There is opportunity to develop environmental projects, educational projects, and research projects that cross national boundaries and form the basis of new communities of work and interest that are no longer based exclusively on propinquity, nationality, or culture.

A very important aspect of changing communications is that with the new telecommunications there can be few secrets; many governments are online. Computer records often become public. To some degree with telecommunications, governments and business become transparent. The study by school age-students of environmental issues, business, and the nations of the world can be based on direct access to credible information. Although information is not knowledge, nor is it wisdom, it can be the beginning of an awareness of global issues, and how governments, the United Nations, and business communities of the world operate. A more or less secret world is becoming public. That reality is changing the world in which we live. One might call this change a democratization of information. That democracy may aid our struggle for environmental restoration, sustainable development, and social justice in our environmentally damaged and deeply divided world.

The democratization of communications allows ordinary people, teachers, students, and parents to be producers of information about their own lives, activities, and local environmental circumstances. The owners of newspapers, television, and radio have considerable freedom of speech with these media. We are all free to give voice to our concerns and interests with the new technology. It is the significant communications event in our lifetime. Colleagues and friends may trivialize it, and some may seek to incorporate it into old educational and political paradigms. Computer telecommunications may be converted into one more commercial textbook, or political propaganda, advertisement for products and services, or "hate speech." But the new technologies also provide remarkable educational opportunities for those who learn how to use its resources.

UPCOMING EEAC EVENTS.....

Steering Committee Meetings

EEAC Steering Committee meetings are held from 4-6 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month (except August). Please arrive promptly at 4 p.m. !

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, Pless Building, 32 Washington Square Park East and Washington Place. Upcoming meetings will be on February 21, March 21, and April 25.

Newsletter Deadlines

The Newsletter deadlines are the first Monday in April, July, October and January. If possible, please E-mail articles to joygarland@banet.net and send longer articles as an attachment in Microsoft Word or on a floppy disc in MS Word. Typed articles should be sent to the Editor's address below.

Newsletter Committee

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The Environmental Education Advisory Council (EEAC) would like to thank the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for supporting the publication of this newsletter. For information about DEP's education resources for students and teachers, visit the DEP Web site at www.ci.nyc.ny.us/dep or call (718) 595-3483.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

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@fcl.nycenet.edu

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

c/o Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment
The Tennis House
Prospect Park
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215-9992

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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Dr. Mary J. Leou, Chairperson
Terry Ippolito, Vice-Chair for Programs
Millard Clements, Ph.D., Secretary
Kim Estes-Fradis, Membership Secretary
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Betty Smith, Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts
Mike Steffens, Friends of Marine Park-Gerritson
Claudia Toback
Barry Weinbrom, Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment
Jill Weiss, Alley Pond Environmental Center

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*Affiliations for identification purposes only.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

*Happy New Year
and Happy New Millennium to all!*

We begin the new year energized and ready to work on programs and projects that have come to distinguish EEAC as a unique organization working to promote ee in New York and beyond. Our program committee has put together a wonderful agenda of panel discussions, field trips, and workshops for this year. In February, our Member's Program will focus on the closing of New York City's landfill, bringing together a panel of experts to inform us about this vital environmental issue and the challenges that lie ahead. Later in the year, we will join the Gateway Environmental Study Center in celebrating its 25th anniversary, marking a long-standing and fruitful partnership between the NYC Board of Education and the National Park Service.

Our Teacher Environmental Education Preparation (TEEP) project has completed its first funded year, bringing together faculty from 18 schools of education and environmental educators from 10 informal science institutions. A very successful TEEP workshop was held Dec. 15th at Columbia's Teachers College. Three committees were formed and charged with developing a TEEP web site; a PowerPoint presentation to inform policymakers, school administrators, and the general public; and a menu of program models that feature partnerships between schools of education and informal science organizations. Kudos to Sherry Landsman, TEEP's project director, for nurturing TEEP through its first year of development. We look forward to continuing our work with the Council on the Environment and New York University on this important initiative.

We also welcome two new members to the Steering Committee this year: Betty Smith of the Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts, and Mike Steffens from The Friends of Marine Park – Gerritson. Both of them bring a wealth of experience and strong leadership skills to our organization. We look forward to working with them! On behalf of EEAC, I also want to take this opportunity to thank the New York City Department of Environmental Protection for supporting the printing of our newsletter. We appreciate their generosity and continued support.

I hope all of you will join us in making this year the best EEAC year ever! Participate in our programs, join our lively discussions on the listserv, volunteer on a committee, share your expertise, and please renew your membership for 2001! Every membership dollar helps keep EEAC on the move! Wishing all of you a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year!

Mary Leou, Ed.D.

New York University
School of Education

*Wallerstein Collaborative for Urban
Environmental Education*

City Parks Foundation

New York City
Department of Environmental Protection

present

**WATER POWER:
A CONFERENCE FOR EDUCATORS**
*Understanding and Teaching
About the New York City Watershed*

March 22, 2001

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

New York University, 4 Washington Place
New York, New York

Join the first upstate/downstate conference about the NYC watershed and water supply system. Become part of the region-wide network devoted to integrating water-related topics into the curriculum

Keynote: Rafe Martin,
noted author and storyteller

Workshops: outstanding watershed programs, curriculum connections, and K-12 activities that support standards-based teaching

Optional evening performance:
"City that Drinks the Mountain Sky"
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Registration material will be mailed shortly
Please register early — space is limited
For information call NYU Office of Special Programs 212-998-5090 or visit the conference
Web site: www.nycwatershed.net

Official NYC Professional Staff Development Day

Timely Matters



The **Seventh Annual Bronx Parks Speak Up** will take place on Sunday, February 25, from 1 to 5 p.m. This is a gathering of individuals and greening groups who care about improving Bronx parks, gardens, and open spaces. For more information, call Dart Westphal at (718) 920-6316.

Late February is the deadline for grant applications for the **Neighborhood Environmental Action Program**, which helps community groups with environmental problems in low-income neighborhoods, including protection of local open space. Grants range up to \$5,000. To learn more, call (212) 989-0909.

March 1 is the deadline for applications for **Chase Volunteer Greening Awards**. These are small grants for active volunteers who need money for tools, equipment, plants and materials necessary for greening projects in city parks. Call (212) 360-8166 for details.

Early March is the deadline for applications for the **Environmental Justice Small Grant Program**, which benefits grassroots organizations addressing problems of pollution in minority and low-income communities. For information, call (212) 637-3639.

March 18 is the last day to see "**A Portfolio of New York: 12 Views by Edwin Davis French**," in the Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street. The engravings, which are shown alongside the artist's hand-colored photographs, were made in 1894 and 1897 and depict such buildings as City Hall, St. Paul's Chapel, Hamilton Grange, and Fraunces Tavern. To learn more, call (212) 534-1672.

Each year, the Hitachi Foundation presents the **Yoshiyama Award for Exemplary Service in the Community** to 10 high school seniors from around the country on the basis of their community service activities. To learn more about the Award (the deadline for applications is April 1), call (202) 457-0588, or write the Hitachi Foundation, Inc., 1509 22nd Street NW, Washington, D. C. 20037.

This spring you will have another opportunity to see the outstanding performance "**City that Drinks the Mountain Sky**" by the Arm-of-the-Sea Theater. LaGuardia Performing Arts Center (Queens) will host performances on Wednesday and Thursday, April 18 and 19 at 10 and 11:30 a.m. and on Friday, April 20 at 10 a.m. Help to celebrate Earth Day by taking your students to this dazzling show where the landscape of the Catskill Mountains is brought to life while you trace the path of life's quintessential liquid from mountain top to city tap. Tickets are \$5 each. To order group tickets, call (718) 482-5151.

On April 26, the Prospect Park boathouse is schedule to reopen as the **Prospect Park Audubon Center**. The date is the joint birthday of John James Audubon (1785) and Frederick Law Olmsted (1822), who, along with Calvert Vaux, designed Prospect Park. It should be quite an event!

The Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education 2001 Conference will take place April 27-29 in Sonoma County, California. The theme is "Bringing It All Back Home: Environmental and Place-Based Education." Last we heard, they were still looking for presenters. The final application deadline is April 6. For application forms, go to: http://www.aecoc.org/conference/spr01/presenter_info.html.

YouthCan 2001 will be held on Monday, April 30, in the American Museum of Natural History. This is a youth run organization that uses technology to "inspire, connect and educate people worldwide about environmental issues." To learn more, call (212) 769-5039.

"**Healing Waters: Utopian Responses to Dirt, Disease and Disorder**" is a wonderful new exhibit now on view at the South Street Seaport Museum. "Healing Waters" explores the period from 1890-1940 and the role clean water played in creating a livable city. Themes include the New York City water supply, recreation, fire fighting, health/hygiene, and sanitation. "Healing Waters" is on display at the Melville Gallery, 213 Water Street until June. It is open daily, except Tuesdays during the winter, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. To have an educator conduct a class tour, call (212) 748-8590.

The Rutgers University-Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education is looking for "highly motivated, activity-oriented educators who have an interest in the natural environment and a passion for instructional innovations in environmental education." The College is organizing its first **Summer Environmental Institute**, to be held Monday through Friday, from July 9 through August 3, for students entering 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. Contact Megan Lipman via e-mail at: gis@aesop.rutgers.edu.

Other Matters

The Brooklyn Historical Society has published two of four guides to the borough's waterfront. The first in the series covers Williamsburg, and the second is devoted to Red Hook and Gowanus. A Greenpoint guide is due out this summer. The subject of the fourth is unknown at this writing. All are (and will be) available free of charge, by calling the Society at (718) 254-9830.



With the opening of the **Henry Luce III Center for the Study of American Culture**, on the fourth floor of its building at 2 West 77th Street, the New-York Historical Society now has on display nearly two-thirds of its holdings of fine art and decorative objects. There are nearly 40,000 such objects now on full public view. To learn more, call (212) 873-3400.

A consortium of organizations has published the first edition of *New York City Community Gardens Neighborhood Directory 2000*. It contains a sampling of the more than 800 community gardens in all five boroughs. Copies may be obtained free of charge by calling Tom Twente at the Council on the Environment of New York City, (212) 788-7925. The Council is a member of the consortium. The others are BANG (Brooklyn Alliance of Neighborhood Gardens), Neighborhood Open Space Coalition, NYC Parks Department GreenThumb Program, and the New York City Garden Coalition.

At EEAC's Annual Meeting in November, we heard presentations about the Asian Longhorned Beetle (see earlier issues of the Newsletter for news about this pest and what can be done about it) and the work of the **Trust for Public Land** in New York City. The latter's programs are extensive in the fields of children's gardening, teachers resource programs, community environmental education programs, community garden preservation, stewardship, and more. To find out, call (212) 677-7171 and ask about TPL's New York City Program, or write to TPL, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, 666 Broadway, 9th floor, New York, NY 10012.

The New York Tree Trust, a joint initiative of the City of New York/Parks & Recreation and the City Parks Foundation, has hired a full-time Stewardship Coordinator, Michael Hastings-Black. He is creating an adoption program for street trees and GreenStreets, the program that greens small triangles and squares. For information and resources, call him at (212) 360-TREE.

RCRA-C in New York State: Managing Hazardous Waste, a report that provides a comprehensive overview of the Department of Environmental Conservation's hazardous waste management program and illustrates DEC's accomplishments in protecting the State from hazardous waste, is now available. For a free copy, write to DEC, Division of Solid & Hazardous Materials, Bureau of Program Management, Room 488, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233-7250, or call (518) 457-3273.

The Healthy Schools Network works to reduce the indiscriminate use of pesticides. To find out what it does, to get a copy of the newsletter and to obtain a *Kick the Pesticide Habit Guide*, call (518) 462-0632.

LISTSERV AVAILABLE TO ASSIST SCIENCE EDUCATORS

by John Pritchard

The Oneonta Mentor Network Initiative (OMNI) is a group of Science Educators statewide who can provide help to educators needing assistance in teaching the new state mandated science courses. These listservs provide forums for discussion and professional support of science teachers engaged in teaching the new commencement level core curriculums and the intermediate (5-8) science core curriculum. There is also a listserv to provide support and mentoring for science teachers in the early stages of their careers and for pre-service science teachers.

To subscribe to these very active listservs, go to: www.oneonta.edu/~mentor and check off the list servs that you want to subscribe to. There are 6 to choose from—Earth Science, Chemistry, Physics, Living Environment (Biology), Intermediate, and New Teacher.

Please spread the word about these listservs and take an active part or just lurk in the background. It's very educational!

CONSERVATION GENETICS IN THE AGE OF GENOMICS

2001 Spring Symposium

4 - 6 April 2001

American Museum of Natural History
New York City

This international gathering of biologists, ecologists, geneticists, conservation resource managers, and students will convene to discuss the expanding role of molecular technology as current and proposed conservation management strategies are evaluated. Presenters will explore the increasing importance of genetics research to the conservation of biodiversity. Conservation Genetics In the Age of Genomics is being jointly sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History's *Center for Biodiversity and Conservation and the Bronx Zoo-based Wildlife Conservation Society*.

For registration information, please contact: American Museum of Natural History's Central Reservations at (212) 769-5200, or visit the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation web site at <http://research.amnh.org/biodiversity/conservation-genetics.html>

TEACHER FEATURE :SARAH RICHARDS

by Joy Garland



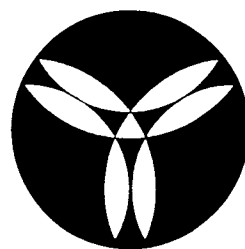
Teachers who are models of exceptional devotion to students and environmental education deserve recognition. Sarah Richards is one of those teachers. For the past thirteen years, Sarah has been teaching Science at St. Ann's School in Brooklyn. Over the years she has taught third, fourth, and fifth grade classes and especially enjoys teaching eighth grade Biology, and

High School electives in Oceanography and Marine Biology. She has also led the Friends of Fishes Environmental Education program for the past five years.

When Sarah was the Scientific Director for the Friends of Fishes Education Program, she developed a hands-on environmental education curriculum that focused on marine ecosystems. The free FOF Education Program is intended to reach young people from various backgrounds and expose them to a wide range of marine life experiences. In a short period of time, Sarah brought the Education Program to a motivating and exciting point. The number of young participants increased from a handful in 1995 to over fifty in 1999. These students came from schools throughout the city and were of various ethnic backgrounds. Sarah was successful in helping to bridge the communications gap between them and to develop a team spirit among them.

Sarah recounts that recruiting students from different schools was her biggest challenge in the beginning, but she persisted. Her first large scale program began in 1998 through grants given by the Citizen's Committee of New York City and the Lawson Valentine Foundation. Students learned water monitoring skills which they used to test water samples at various sites throughout the year. Last year, Sarah began taking a new group on field trips to the NY Aquarium, the Bronx Zoo Congo Exhibit, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and the Hall of Ocean Life at the American Museum of Natural History. With such wonderful resources right here in our urban environment, Sarah believes teachers can schedule fall and spring for outdoor field trips and save winter months for visiting museums and zoos.

Sarah received her B.A. in Psychology from Oberlin College and a M.S. degree in Science Education from Oregon State University. Her professional credits also include a course in Marine Studies in Jamaica through Hofstra University and an Oceanography course at the College of the Atlantic. She is an active member of the New York State Marine Educators Association. Sarah, her husband, Clive, and their young son, Thomas, reside in Brooklyn.



SCIENCE COUNCIL OF NYC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

For more than two decades, the Science Council of New York City has sponsored an all day workshop for metropolitan New York City science educators. This year's conference will be held at Stuyvesant High School, one of the country's premier secondary schools on Saturday, March 31, 2001.

SCONYC is privileged to have as its guest speaker one of the nation's leading geologists, Claus Jacob of the Lamont-Dougherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University. His talk about New York City's preparedness to meet the challenge of a major catastrophe will be both illuminating and engrossing.

The exhibit hall, one of the highlights of the conference, opens at 10:00 a.m. with a display of educational materials and services from both commercial and noncommercial vendors. Four workshop sessions attract hundreds of both pre-service and in-service teacher and science supervisors. They want to learn new and successful activities or methodologies. Many presenters are from New York City's public, private, and informal educational settings. Some have been associated with the conference from its inception, still bringing a new vitality to science instruction.

If you are interested in registering, presenting a workshop, or exhibiting at the conference, please contact: Claudia Toback, 10 Niles Place, Staten Island, NY 10314, e-mail: tsciencementor@aol.com or fax: (718)-761-8589.

EEAC News...

Environmental Links...

Upcoming events...

Visit our website

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

JOHN KOMINSKI OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR AWARD

The Environmental Education Advisory Council and the Elementary School Science Association would like to recognize an outstanding environmental educator by presenting the John Kominski Memorial Award to a K – 12 teacher.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The John Kominski Memorial Award will be given to a New York City public or private school teacher who has demonstrated leadership in effecting positive change in environmental education and practice with students and/or personnel within the school or the community.

Examples may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Organizing a new environmental project with students and/or staff
- Taking initiative to infuse EE across the curriculum
- Creating a new EE curriculum unit
- Organizing a student environmental club
- Organizing a school environmental task force to effect and monitor change
- With students and staff, organizing a community environmental event
- Creating an environmental newsletter for educational outreach
- Helping students to identify and solve an environmental problem in the school or community

Individuals may nominate themselves, or school personnel or students may nominate a teacher. The cover letter should include the name, address, phone, or e-mail of the individual, plus the school's address and phone. Indicate the subject and grade(s) taught by the nominee and the number of years the nominee has taught environmental education.

Attach a letter, not exceeding one typed page, with details of the nominee's achievements, including dates, goals, results, and who took part. Please include two letters of support, one from the nominee's principal/supervisor and another from someone who was affected by the nominee's work either in the school or community. Documentation in the form of photos and press clippings is welcome, but no tapes or videos should be sent. The Selection Committee may request further information. Stamped self-addressed envelopes should accompany any materials you wish to have returned.

The successful candidate will receive a check for \$100 from EEAC, a Certificate of Recognition, and be featured in the EEAC and ESSA Newsletters.

All materials should be sent in one package to Kim Estes-Fradis, NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection, 59-17 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY 11368. Materials must be postmarked no later than March 9, 2000.

Notification will be sent to the winner of the award by March 31, 2000.

YEAR AT A GLANCE - EEAC MEMBERS' MEETINGS

Life After Fresh Kills: A panel discussion

Wednesday, February 7, from 4-6 p.m.

The Horticulture Society of New York

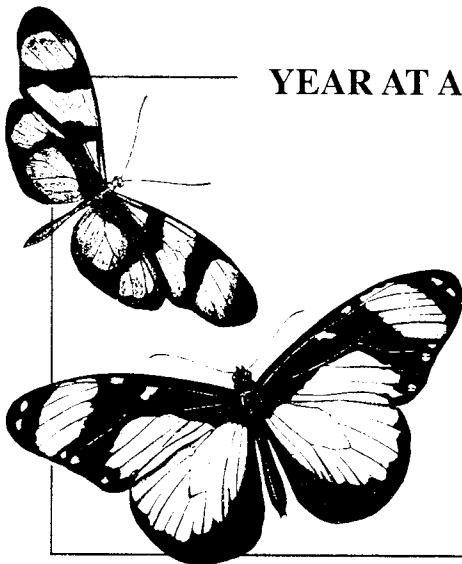
128 West 58th Street (between 6th and 7th Avenues)

March 31 – EEAC Presentations at SCONYC

May – Gateway Environmental Study Center 25th Anniversary Event

October – Hall of Science programs offered to educators

Watch the mail for details. Invite a colleague to join you.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip _____

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 like 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:

Joanne Dittersdorf, EEAC Treasurer, P.O. Box 408, Cooper Station, New York, NY 10276



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“Welcome Spring, March 20 & Earth Day, April 22”