

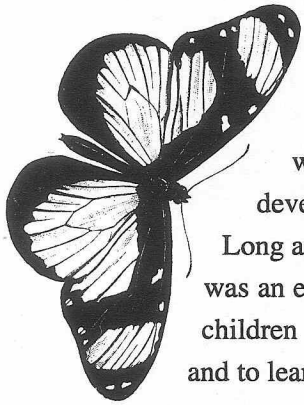


EEAC

SPRING/SUMMER 2002

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

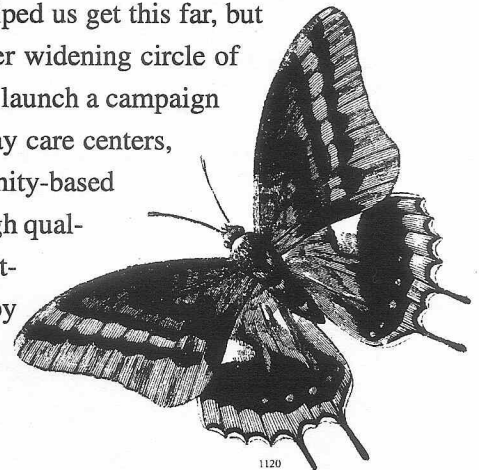


Spring is a time of renewal and hope! It is a wonderful time of the year to introduce students of all ages to the natural world around them. We all acknowledge that children have a sense of wonder about natural phenomena, yet we often fail to provide opportunities for children to develop that connection by including experiences that take place outside the classroom setting. Long after the ban on field trips was lifted this fall, schools continued to discourage field trips. There was an eerie silence in museum halls, along park trails, at zoos, and in botanic gardens. The voices of children were noticeably absent. The opportunity for young people to explore, to question, to wonder, and to learn, was greatly diminished.

As educators we have a responsibility to provide opportunities for children to experience nature and to learn about their local habitat. Our waterways, our city streets, our open spaces, schoolyards, and our buildings are all part of the urban landscape; a giant "textbook" waiting to be read. We cannot allow the tragic events of 9/11 to chart the course for environmental education in New York City. We have an obligation to engage children in real-world activities and field explorations including planting gardens, caring for trees, protecting rivers, maintaining woodland trails, monitoring air quality, conserving water, or other projects which help empower children. By helping restore and care for the land, children learn to think critically about the world around them and the consequences of human activity on ecological systems. Without these experiences, we cannot expect children to develop a sense of who they are, a sense of place, or an understanding of the interdependence of all living things.

For almost 30 years EEAC has worked to support the environmental education efforts of classroom teachers and environmental educators. We are saddened by the passing of former EEAC Chair, Eugene Ezersky and founding member, Hy Rosner. Their contributions to our organization have helped us get this far, but we have a long journey ahead of us. Your support helps us reach out to an ever widening circle of teachers and educators from a broad range of institutions. This year EEAC will launch a campaign to communicate with school administrators, parents and PTA organizations, day care centers, after-school programs, summer camps, universities, elected officials, and community-based organizations to insure that children have more opportunities to participate in high quality environmental education programs. Help us plant the seeds of change by getting involved and becoming an active member of EEAC. Wishing you a Happy Spring!

Mary J. Leou, Ed.D.



UPCOMING EEAC EVENTS.....

Steering Committee Meetings

EEAC Steering Committee meetings are always the third Wednesday of every month (except August) but this year the **November and December meetings will take place on the second Wednesday of the month due to holiday schedules.**

Upcoming Meeting Information:

Steering Committee meetings are held at New York University, Pless Building, 32 Washington Square Park East and Washington Place in the 5th floor Conference Room except for the November Annual Meeting, location to be announced. Upcoming meetings will be on May 15, June 19, and July 17.

Newsletter Deadlines

The Newsletter deadlines are the first Monday in April, July, October and January. If possible, please E-mail articles to joy.garland@verizon.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

Meg Domroese
Kim Estes-Fradis
Jay Holmes
Kenneth Kowald
Marcia Kaplan-Mann
Lenore Miller
Joy Garland, Newsletter Editor,
440 East 20 Street, Apt. 7F, New York, NY 10009
(212) 673-6732 or e-mail: joy.garland@verizon.net

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 **new DEP Web site at www.nyc.gov/dep or call the new phone number, (718) 595-3506.**



NOTE CHANGE OF CAROL'S E-MAIL

If you are a member of EEAC and want to be part of the information sharing and discussion on the EEAC Listserve contact:

Cfranke@nycboe.net

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

c/o Jay Holmes, Education Department, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024. EEAC Web site:
<http://members.aol.com/wleou/eeac.html>

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

Dr. Mary J. Leou, Chairperson
Terry Ippolito, Vice-Chair for Programs
Millard Clements, Ph.D., Secretary
Kim Estes-Fradis, Membership Secretary
Jay Holmes, Treasurer

STEERING COMMITTEE *

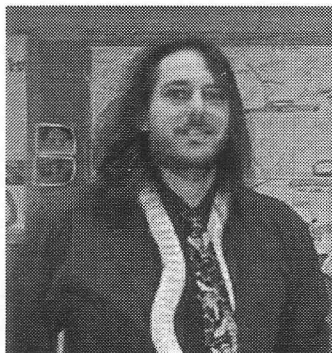
Susan Clark, Trust for Public Land
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Meg Domroese, AMNH, Center for Biodiversity
Kim Estes-Fradis, NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection
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Joy Garland, Stuyvesant Cove Park Association, Inc.
Ariff Hajee, Cornell Cooperative Extension
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Terry Ippolito, U.S.EPA
Pamela Ito, The Horticultural Society of New York
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Mary Leou, New York University
Barbara Miller, NYC Board of Education
Regina McCarthy, Gateway Environmental Study Center
John Pritchard, Grover Cleveland High School
Betty Smith, Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts
Mike Steffens, Friends of Marine Park-Gerritson
Claudia Toback, Independent Consultant/Mentor
Barry Weinbrom, Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment
Jill Weiss, Alley Pond Environmental Center

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Helen Ross Russell
Talbert Spence
Nancy A. Wolf
Michael Zamm, Council on the Environment of NYC

*Affiliations for identification purposes only.

PHILIP DICKLER WINS THE JOHN KOMINSKI OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR AWARD



The Kominski Memorial Committee, composed of Kim Estes-Fradis and Joy Garland from EEAC and Stanley Mandel and Marion Sloane from ESSA, selected Philip Dickler, a science teacher at the John Bowne High School in Flushing, Queens to receive the John Kominski Memorial Award for 2002.

Philip will receive a check for \$100 from Dr. Mary Leou of EEAC and a certificate of recognition from Gail David of ESSA at the May 15th Steering Committee meeting of EEAC. Philip will also receive a year's membership in EEAC and ESSA.

Below are excerpts from one of the two nominating letters on his behalf. It was written by Robert Soel, Assistant Principal of Science Supervision.

"Phil has taught classes in Biology, Environmental Science, Living Environment and Foundations of Science, in addition to his classes in the Agriculture department. He took an active role in training other biology teachers to develop new lessons aligned with the new state standards in the Living Environment Regents course. Phil's willingness to participate in city wide training for the new Living Environment course and his subsequent 'turn-key' leadership in our department, allowed us to be a successful pilot school for this new regents course.

Phil's classroom and lessons are unique. He teaches biology concepts within a living classroom he has developed himself. The students learn genetics by mating different varieties of corn snakes; they study animal development by raising trout from eggs; they learn about desert adaptations by caring for and maintaining a bearded dragon and a sulcata tortoise...Phil is also quick to share his lessons and even his specimens with other faculty in the school and in the district. Phil has run successful borough wide training for teachers who want to learn to incorporate animals into their teaching methods. Most impres-

sive is Phil's commitment to keeping his animals healthy and his determination in helping students develop a serious and genuine respect for all living things under their care.

Phil's sensitivity to environmental issues comes out in all his classes, but most significantly in the Environmental Science Course. He is currently one of four teachers now being trained in the GLOBE program. This program, called by some the most important advance in environmental education, is a global program which allows him to collect real environmental data with his students and post this data to the Internet for use by other schools and scientists. Again, Phil's participation is helping our school to be one of 11 pilot schools in the New York City Public Schools system to join this global network. He was also selected as one of four teachers to participate in our DOSHI program, a special interdisciplinary honors program for select students.

Outside of the classroom Phil has reached out to many students in personal and extracurricular ways. Phil has been a long standing advisor for our Science Club keeping students involved after the school day in fun activities such as owl pellet dissections and in serious competitions such as the Science Olympiad. He counsels students who are considering college and lifetime careers in zoology and environmental science. On a lighter note, he has been a school chaperone for the senior class trip and other school wide events..."

UPCOMING EVENTS



People and Nature in the 21st Century City June 6-7

NYU Vanderbilt Hall Auditorium
For information or registration,
visit the Ecological Cities Web site:
<http://www.umass.edu/ecologicalcities/events/nyc/html>

Project W.E.T. (Water Education for Teachers) June 15

Pier 26, The River Project
For more information contact
NYU Wallerstein Collaborative at 212 998-5436

EEAC News...

Environmental Links...

Upcoming events...

Visit our website

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

Dates and Places

Earth Celebrations will hold its 12th Annual **"Rites of Spring Procession to Save Our Gardens,"** on Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Here is a chance to visit more than 40 community gardens on the Lower East Side. For details, call (212) 777-7969.

"NYC Bike Week 2002," presented by Transportation Alternatives, will take place May 12-19. Information may be obtained by calling (212) 629-8080.

A conference on **"Sharing Our Success in Urban Science and Math Teaching"** will be held Wednesday through Friday, May 22-24, at New York University, sponsored by the Department of Teaching and Learning of the Steinhardt School of Education. It will "provide a forum for urban 7th-12th grade math and science teachers, school districts' personnel, and science and math university faculty to meet and share" their experiences. To learn more, call (212) 998-5608.

On Saturday, May 25, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, the Elementary School Science Association is sponsoring a **sail on the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater**, originating from Yonkers/City Pier. Our own Gail David, President of ESSA, can tell you about it if you call her at (718) 225-6420.

Two exhibitions dealing with the World Trade Center, at least in part, are on view. **"WTC: Monument"** will be at the New-York Historical Society, Central Park West and 77th Street, through May 5; call (212) 873-3400. **"Manhattan Skyline"** will be at the Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Avenue and 103rd Street, through June 2; call (212) 534-1672.

You have until at least May 31 to sign up for the **Teacher Institutes this Summer at the Bronx Zoo**. There are four of them, beginning July 29 and ending August 28 and they are designed for teachers from K-3 through 6-8 and in-between. To learn more, call (800) 937-5131.

On Sunday, June 2, **"The People's Flotilla"** is planning to sail from Battery Park to Governors Island, where, organizers say, they will stake a flag and New York's claim to the island. John Doswell is organizing this event, which, for non-boaters will feature music, entertainment, and what he calls "historic hoopla." The sail will take place between 11 a.m. and 12 noon. Mr. Doswell may be reached at (212) 757-1600.

Twenty teachers have an opportunity to learn about the connection between watershed forests and water quality, when the **Watershed Forestry Institute for Teachers** is held July 17-21 at the Frost YMCA Straus Center, in the Catskill Mountains. To find out about the Institute, call (845) 586-3054, or write to the Catskill Forest Association, P.O. Box 336, Arkville, NY 12406.

By the time you receive this Newsletter, registration materials should be in the mail for 23rd Annual Conference of the American Community Gardening Association, **"Gardeners Restore Our World,"** Thursday, July 25, through Sunday, July 28, with headquarters in Columbia University's Alfred Lerner Hall, Broadway and West 115th Street. Several hundred people are expected to attend and take part in more than 40 workshops and go on more than a dozen field trips to gardens in the five boroughs. If you are not on the mailing list but want to know about the conference, call Gerard Lordahl of the Council on the Environment of NYC, at (212) 788-7928.

Volunteers are being sought now for the **New York State Beach Cleanup** of the American Littoral Society, which will take place on Saturday, September 21. Activities are scheduled at beaches throughout the area. To volunteer or find out more, call the Northeast Chapter of the Society at (718) 634-6467.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is accepting proposals now (deadline is September 2) for projects that help organizations be effective co-stewards of America's natural resources within the National Wildlife Refuge System. For details, write to the Foundation, Suite 900, 1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D. C. 20036.

New York News

The newly renovated **Prospect Park Audubon Center** planned its opening for Friday, April 26.... Meanwhile, Audubon's **"New York's For the Birds!"** school program is in need of volunteers 18 years or older. Programs are offered during the school day or after school, and no teaching experience is necessary. For more information, call Lynn Tiede at (212) 979-3073.

Volunteers are also needed to help at **Gateway National Recreation Area**. To find out what is needed and how to assist, call Christine Kurtzke at the Fort Wadsworth Unit of Gateway, (718) 354-4544.

And, here is another volunteer opportunity: Michael Borriello, the gardener/facilities administrator of the 350-year old Wyckoff House Museum in Brooklyn, wants to revitalize and expand the **"kitchen garden farming"** area at Clarendon Road and Ralph Avenue. He's looking for a four-hour per week commitment. To learn more, call him at (718) 629-5400.

"The Search for Life...Are We Alone" is the new Hayden Planetarium space show at the Rose Center for Earth and Space of the American Museum of Natural History. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:45 p.m., every day except Friday, when the Rose Center is open until 8:45 p.m.

Trees New York has published *The New York City Street Tree Activity Book*, written by our own Susan Gooberman. To obtain copies, write to Trees New York, Suite 1412A, 51 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007, or telephone (212) 227-1887.

The Council on the Environment of NYC has published a curriculum monograph, for Grades 5-12, *Energy and Energy Conservation Education, Service and Action*, which is available for \$3 a copy, by calling (212)788-7900. The publication is funded through a grant from Con Edison and includes material on conservation, deregulation, alternative fuel sources, and other items.

Comment

It is very clear that, unless unprecedented rainfall occurs within the next few weeks, we are in for another season of drought conditions here—perhaps the worst in decades. This problem brings up the entire question of conservation. Whatever happened to conservation?

We are profligate with our water, our electricity, our natural gas, our gasoline, our food. We know it and we muse about it from time to time, but only when the monster starts eating the baby at the dinner table (for monster, substitute drought, shortages, etc.) do we wake up and—once again—start talking about conservation. We do that until the problem—seems—to be over, for the time being.

There is no lack of information and educational material about conservation, from official agencies, corporations and non-profits. Rather than wring our hands and use conservation measures “only when needed” (aren’t they needed all the time?), isn’t it about time that we—very seriously and continuously—make conservation part of all our lives, including most importantly the lives of the children we try to reach through education?



New York ReLeaf Conference—2002: “Reinventing NY’s Forest: Creating Greener Communities”

Exciting offerings have been planned for the July 11-14 NY ReLeaf Conference at the College of Mt. St. Vincent. This affordable conference will feature such workshops as Youth Education and Employment Opportunities: From the Roots Up: Community Building, Open Space and Urban Forestry and Public Health—Trees and Breathing. Friday tours will go to a forest restoration site at Inwood Hill Park or to the South Bronx re-greening and revitalization area; Saturday, there will be a special visit to New York Botanical Garden and Sunday’s optional subway tour will travel to Lower Manhattan and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. There will be a gala luncheon with exhibits at the College and splendid picnic/barbecue on the roof of Arsenal North. Look for a brochure in the mail in May or call/e-mail Nancy Wolf at (718) 834-4589 or jlnwolfinc@aol.com.”

The New York Botanical Garden’s Workshops

Prime Time Workshops and the Plant Science and Ecology Seminars. Prime Time Workshops are a series of one-day workshops that run 4-6 p.m. Each workshop costs \$10 and covers a different topic:

- May 3: How Plants Grow
- May 8: Pond Ecology
- May 17: Beginning Botany
- May 23: Flowers, Fruits, and Seeds

The Plant Science and Ecology Seminars are full- or half-day programs that allow a specific school or school district to register for advanced training in a specific science topic. Topics may include: Intro. to Plant Science, Rainforest Ecology, Desert Ecology, Deciduous Forest Ecology, Wetland and Pond Ecology, Plants and People, Soil Ecology, and Plant-Animal Interactions.

The New York Botanical Garden’s Teacher Training Program is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for the **2002 Sara Lee Schupf Summer Institutes** for Teachers. These programs are dynamic week-long intensive immersions in ecology and botanical science led by plant scientists and educators. Learn how to make science fun through hands-on, inquiry-based activities and create an exciting learning experience for your students.

- **The Seedlings Institute**, July 8-12, 2002, Teachers of Grades K-2
- **The Saplings Institute**, July 22-26, 2002, Teachers of Grades 3-5

Benefits:

- *New this year!* Earn three “G” in-service credits from the N.Y.C. Board of Education
- Earn 30 hours of New Teacher Credit from N.Y.C. Board of Education
- Two graduate education credits through C.U.N.Y. Lehman College (optional & additional fee required)
- Receive award-winning science book, posters, plant guidebooks and more
- Receive free passes to the Everett Children’s Adventure Garden
- Continental breakfast and lunch are included daily

Registration requirements:

- Registration fee of \$75 per week
- A completed application
- Letter of support from a school administrator
- Daily journaling of institute experiences
- Willingness to share acquired knowledge of the Garden and its program with peers

For more information, call Jamie Boyer, Teacher Enhancement Specialist at (718) 817-8177.

IN MEMORIAM

by Ruth Eilenberg

The environmental education community lost two of its pioneering giants this past winter, Hy Rosner in December and Dr. Eugene Ezersky in January. They established the bedrock foundation for much of what we do today. Each in his own way left a legacy for all of us. I was fortunate in working with both of them and they were not only exemplars, but friends. I offer the following tribute in loving memory.

HY ROSNER

Hy Rosner's life reads like a chronicle of concern for his fellow beings and for the world we inhabit. In the turbulent sixties his efforts at building a better society centered on providing equal opportunities for all. In addition to his job as a social worker, Hy served as an elected member and chairperson of a local school board in Queens. In a time of great strife he labored valiantly for the integration of neighborhood schools which were de facto segregated. According to his wife Joan, he was most proud of his school board involvement.

From the mid sixties until his death at age 87 on December 13, 2001, Hy dedicated his life to environmental causes. Together with Joan he was in the forefront of environmental education. Early on, the Rosners understood the importance of the involvement of concerned citizens in environmental protection. Hy's slogan was, "Help educate people to be informed, concerned, and responsibly involved." Those of us lucky enough to have been part of the early days remember a time of great excitement and commitment. An example follows:

When the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey proposed extending a runway from Kennedy Airport into the wetlands of Jamaica Bay, Hy and Joan organized a dramatic protest at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, the site of an early environmental education program. Hundreds of educators showed up, signed petitions, protested peacefully, and made their point. The Refuge was saved from the incursion of the runway extension.

This tremendous success and the early education efforts at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge contributed to the establishment of the Gateway Environmental Study Center by the National Park Service and the New York City Board of Education. Twenty-six years later, the Center still serves thousands of New York City students and teachers each year.

Watson Ecology Workshop for teachers and their families was another success story. It was founded and conducted by the Rosners from 1968 until 1985 and then run by the Sierra Club. Under Hy and Joan's direction this active group of educators generated the energy and initiative to establish Alley Pond Environmental Center, which is still flourishing in Queens.

Hy and Joan joined with other educators, program providers, and governmental agency representatives at the Mohonk Conference chaired by Dr. Eugene Ezersky. The very successful outcome was the Environmental Education Advisory Council, whose Newsletter you are reading.

Upon Hy and Joan's "retirement" in 1975, they moved to Albuquerque to be with their daughter, Lynn, an activist for the rights of women and children. Shortly after their arrival they became involved with community issues and brought diverse elements of their new community to reason together. One early outcome was *Albuquerque's Environmental Story* used in Albuquerque's schools and now in its fourth edition and available online (www.abq.gov/aes). Subsequent involvements reflected their interest in every aspect of the environment, from transportation to senior volunteerism. They helped found the New Mexico Conservation Coordinating Council and the New Mexico Association for Environmental Education.

Grief stricken at their daughter Lynn's death from cancer in 1996, they resettled in Miami to be near their remaining family, daughter Suzi, her husband Roger, and their two children. In earlier stays they had pursued their environmental interests in Florida which had led to the publication of *The Dade County Environmental Story*."

At one of the many farewell events honoring Hy and Joan when they left Albuquerque, the Director of the City's Environmental Health Department summed up Hy's ability to bridge the gaps that can destroy good intentions before they become good proposals. In describing Hy's talents she said, "It's the spirit of asking, 'Why not? How can I give something? What can we do?'"

That is the essence of what Hy Rosner was about—giving and doing. It is what drives change and improvements, and it is the motivation for what we all do.

IN MEMORIAM



DR. EUGENE EZERSKY

At funeral services held for Gene Ezersky, who died at age 75 on January 18, he was described as "an uncommonly good man of ideas and scholarship who made you feel important. He listened with a quiet, understated grace and he was first and foremost a teacher. He believed in the teachable moment and he used his skills to accomplish wonderful things."

In his career with the New York City Board of Education he rose to the position of Assistant Director of Outdoor Education and Camping in the Health and Physical Education Unit. He did two TV series on drug education and environmental education.

Gene expressed himself with grace, not only in the spoken word but also in his writing. He wrote curricula for the Educational Facilities Laboratory funded by the Ford Foundation in the early days of environmental education. His work brought him into contact with other visionaries and, working collaboratively, these dreamers created a new kind of education—"hands-on."

For 31 years Gene and his wife, Myrna, owned and operated an exemplary children's summer camp in Honesdale, Pennsylvania. He brought his knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm for outdoor education to his work. Gene had the dream of providing New York City school children and teachers with outdoor learning experiences. In the 1970's all the pieces began to fit together. Gateway National Recreation Area was established by Congress in 1972. Gene had worked with Sam Holmes of the National Park Service and they shared the dream of bringing the school population to the new 26,000 acre outdoor classroom. They made it happen, and Gene worked tirelessly to convince the NYC Board of Education to establish a presence at this new resource. Thus was the Gateway Environmental Study Center established in January, 1976. The dreamer was a doer.

Gene taught the first school camping course in order to train 40 teachers so they could bring their students to the Brooklyn campsite for an overnight tent stay. It was a noteworthy success. Children who had never before left their neighborhood hiked, cooked, slept in tents, and awoke to birdsong.

In 1974, Gene gathered educators, program providers, and governmental agency representatives to convene the Mohonk Conference. Gene chaired this landmark event which led to the establishment of the Environmental Education Advisory Council. Gene was elected the fledgling organization's first Chairperson and set our feet on the right paths during the years of his administration.

In 1977, Gene retired from the Board of Education to head the NYC Office of Cornell University Cooperative Extension. His mission was to encourage low income New Yorkers to grow food for themselves in community gardens. As director, he provided support for Grow Trucks, which lent garden tools and books to community groups. Nutrition classes rounded out the program.

Together with the National Park Service, the Board of Education, and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Gene helped craft the Operation Explore program, still in existence today. Students spend a day on a Gateway trail, enjoy a three day, two night residential experience, and visit an upstate farm.

The programs Gene created are his legacy to New York City. School camping continues at Gateway. Community gardens flourish in crowded urban neighborhoods. EEAC continues to promote and support environmental education in New York City schools. Gene has made an indelible mark on the quality of life in our city. We mourn his passing.

Hy Rosner and Gene Ezersky have enriched all of us. They have made a difference and we are inspired by their example.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2002

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt. _____ Zip Code _____

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 (2002) ☐ \$ 50 Sustaining Organization (2002) ☐ \$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 ☐ Newsletter ☐ Programs ☐ Technology ☐ EEAC Commemorative Fund
☐ TEEP (Teacher Environmental Education Preparation)

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

Jay Holmes, EEAC Treasurer, c/o Education Department, American Museum of Natural History,
Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Jay Holmes

c/o Education Department

American Museum of Natural History

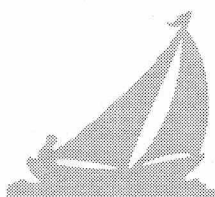
Central Park West at 79th Street

New York, NY 10024

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



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CELEBRATE WATER WEEK, MAY 5-11. CONSERVE WATER