



# EEAC

SUMMER/FALL 2002

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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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## A NETWORK FOR DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

*by Claudia Toback*

### ***Science Teachers Association of New York State to Partner with State Education Organizations, National Science Teachers Association and ExxonMobil Foundation***

This was a byline of a recent article that appeared in some regional newspapers. It didn't make headlines in New York State, but the effect will definitely be felt throughout each and every school building within the state.

Building a Presence for Science (BaP) will offer New York State teachers of science professional development opportunities and link them with science education organizations in an electronic learning network. To do this, New York will identify a cadre of 200 educators to serve as Key Leaders who will establish a network of some 5,000 Points of Contact in all of the state's public and nonpublic K-12 schools. The Points of Contact will provide their school colleagues with information and resources to help them become more knowledgeable about state and national standards-based science teaching and learning.

The mission of Building a Presence for Science is to end the isolation of classroom science teachers and to provide them with professional development opportunities and science teaching resources.

The goals of the program are to:

- Identify a Point of Contact for standards-based science teaching and learning in every school;
- Establish an electronic network of science educators;
- Create an infrastructure of national and state partners who are advocates for effective science teaching and learning.

***How does the program benefit teachers?*** Building a Presence for Science is creating a network for increasing the quantity and quality of professional communications among science teachers. Professional development information and materials provided by the program emphasize standards-based science teaching and learning.

***How does the program benefit schools?*** Information distributed to school buildings combined with the professional development opportunities of the Building a Presence network help schools to become active participants in science education reform. In addition, teachers of all disciplines have an immediate resource for science (the Point of Contact) to help integrate the entire school instructional program.

***How will this program benefit EEAC?*** Council members are involved in many facets of environmental education and in many different settings. Most of their activities are directed to the needs of classroom teachers. BaP will be the means to help in the dissemination of the programs that EEAC members offer to schools. No longer will EEAC members depend upon the hit/miss approach that is practiced in today's educational community. Points of Contact will receive the material electronically and distribute hard copies to every relevant person within the school building.

Find more information about BaP at the following website: [www.nsta.org/BaP](http://www.nsta.org/BaP). Interested in becoming a Point of Contact?

e-mail: Claudia Toback; [cmtoback@ix.netcom.com](mailto:cmtoback@ix.netcom.com) for NYC public schools

Sister Mary Ita O'Donnell; [MaryItaO@aol.com](mailto:MaryItaO@aol.com) for NYC nonpublic schools

## 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 September 18, October 16, and November 13.

### 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](mailto: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

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](mailto: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's Web site: [www.nyc.gov/dep](http://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](mailto: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

Millard Clements, New York University

Joanne Dittersdorf, Waterways and Trailways

Meg Domroese, AMNH, Center for Biodiversity

Kim Estes-Fradis, NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection

Carol Franken, Community School District 2

Joy Garland, Stuyvesant Cove Park Association, Inc.

Ariff Hajee, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Jay Holmes, American Museum of Natural History

Terry Ippolito, U.S.EPA

Pamela Ito, The Horticultural Society of New York

Marcia Kaplan-Mann, Environmental Quest/UFT

John Lancos, National Park Service

Rob Lieblein, Wave Hill

Mary Leou, New York University

Barbara Miller, NYC Board of Education

Regina McCarthy, Gateway Environmental Study Center

John Pritchard, Grover Cleveland High School

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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Bernard Kirschenbaum

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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.

## Chair's Message

A few weeks ago, I watched a pair of mocking birds build a nest in my neighbor's garden. What a treat to sit in my own backyard and monitor the comings and goings of this happy pair who were carefully laying the foundation for the new members of their family!

Likewise, the committees of EEAC have been busy laying the foundation for EEAC's future by developing new programs, membership activities, and upgrading strategies for more effective communication, education, and outreach. One important way to achieve this is to actively build collaborations and partnerships with local and regional organizations.

I am, therefore, delighted to inform you that as of May 2002, EEAC has joined forces with the Science Council Of New York City (SCONYC) as an associate member. This new collaboration affirms the long and fruitful relationship we have had over the years, and will strengthen environmental education initiatives locally as well as on a statewide level. I would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing SCONYC President, Darylle Brent, and EEAC Steering Committee member, Claudia Toback, for their efforts in making this partnership a reality.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer!

Mary J. Leou, Ed.D.

**The Elementary School Science  
Association (ESSA) is sponsoring a  
PROJECT WET workshop**

**Saturday, November 2, 2002.  
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Gateway National Recreation Center**  
Floyd Bennett Field, Ecology Village, Building 70  
For further information Call Gail David@ 718-225-6420

EEAC News...

Environmental Links...

Upcoming events...

**Visit our website**

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



**Project Learning Tree** is an award-winning environmental education program that teaches how to think, not what to think about the environment.

### **Upcoming Project Learning Tree Workshops in New York City:**

**Saturday, September 28, 2002**

Queens Botanical Garden  
43-50 Main Street, Flushing  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Saturday, October 26, 2002**

Wave Hill Environmental Study Center  
675 West 252nd Street, Bronx  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Saturday, November 16, 2002**

Van Cortlandt Park Golf House  
Bronx  
Time to be announced

Registration fee is \$15.00 per person.

Pre-registration is appreciated.

For more information, please contact  
John Graham (800) 388-8244 extension 221  
or [jjgraham@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:jjgraham@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

## Calendar

**Free tidal wetlands workshops** will be offered at the New York Aquarium on Saturday, August 17 and at the Staten Island Zoo on Saturday, August 25th. For information and reservations call (718) 265-3448.

October 31 is the deadline for written proposals for **grants from the Georgia Pacific Foundations** for programs to improve the quality of life, focusing on education and the environment. To find out about it, call (404) 652-4182, or write to Curley M. Dossman, Jr., President, Georgia Pacific Foundations, 133 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30303.

The Elementary School Science Association's "**Saturday Science: The Blaustein Conference**" will be held on November 23 in Francis Lewis High School in Flushing, Queens. Registration materials should be available in October.

The Fifth International Public Market Conference of Project for Public Spaces, "**Great Markets, Great Cities**," will be held Saturday-Monday, November 9-11, in the "W Hotel," 541 Lexington Avenue, Manhattan. To find out about it, contact Harriet Festing, (212) 620-5660.

## Around New York

To learn about school programs at the Prospect Park Audubon Center at the Boathouse (and to receive a classroom poster), call (718) 287-3400 for a catalog.

*The Beneficial Effects of Urban Forestry on Air Quality & Climate: Teacher's Activity Guide for Grades 6-12* has been prepared by the Council on the Environment of New York City in cooperation with the City Department of Environmental Protection. To learn about it, call our own Mike Zamm at (212) 788-7900.

Battery Park City Parks Conservancy has a **school gardening program for second through fifth graders**. Details about it may be obtained from the Conservancy, at (212) 267-9700.

On another end of the age scale, the Queens Botanical Garden is looking for individuals 55 and older who enjoy working outdoors and are in good health, to join the **Senior Garden program**, which meets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon. For details, call (718) 866-3800, ext. 230.

Also in Queens, the Alley Pond Environmental Center is looking for **weekday and weekend part-time instructors** for class visits, nature programs, and birthday parties for children ages 3-11. It is also seeking adult volunteers for a variety of tasks. To learn about both needs, call (718) 229-4000.

Neighborhood Open Space Coalition/Friends of Gateway has published its *Urban Outdoors* report of its activities in 2001. To obtain a copy, write to NOSC/FoG at 356 7th Avenue, New York, NY 10001, or call (212) 352-9330.

The **New York Old Growth Forest Association** is looking for volunteers to assist its work. Detailed information may be obtained by calling David Yarrow at (518) 477-6100, or Fred Breglia at (518) 875-6935.

If you want to know about the **Sustainability Education Center of the American Forum for Global Education**, call (212) 645-9930. The address of the Center is Suite 1201, 307 7th Avenue, New York 10001.

The Brooklyn Hall of Science at Brooklyn College has four showcased museum exhibits which display **New York State fossil and mineral collections** from before, during and after the Dinosaur Age. To find out about it, call (718) 951-5416, or write to the Department of Geology, 2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210-2889.

The **United Federation of Teachers Outdoor Environmental Education Committee** has a single sheet, which may be reproduced for classroom use, on how to save water. It may be obtained by writing to the Committee, 260 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010. (Note: Unless things have changed dramatically, the drought situation in this area will still be a problem by the time you read this Newsletter.)

After a \$100,000,000 renovation, the New York Botanical Garden has opened its expanded and **restored International Plant Science Center**. The garden has a new herbarium, with nearly 7,000,000 specimens and an enlarged and updated library with 775,000 items in 30 languages. For information about the new Center and the Garden, call (718) 817-8700.

The **New York City Fire Department** has opened an interactive educational center at 34 West 51st Street, in Rockefeller Center. For information about days and times of opening, call (212) 698-4520.

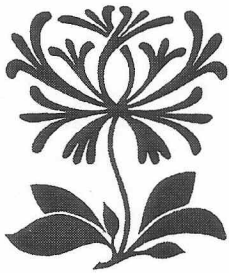
*The New York City 2001 Drinking Water Supply and Quality Report* has been issued by the City's Department of Environmental Protection. Copies may be obtained by writing to DEP at 59-17 Junction Boulevard, Corona, NY 11373-5108.

The spring 2002 newsletter of the Green Guerillas, *Vitis Vine* is devoted (with full texts in both English and Spanish) to "**Latinos in NYC: Growing in Number, Gaining Power.**" To obtain a copy, call (212) 594-2155, or write to the GGs at 151 West 30th Street, New York, NY 10001.

The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance publishes "**East River Rising**," with information and dates of events about that body of water. To obtain a free copy of the publication, call (800) 364-9943.

### COMMEMORATIVE FUND

*by Ruth Eilenberg*



On three dates in June, EEAC Commemorative Fund committee members had the pleasure of presenting the John W. Kominski Environmental Leadership Awards to five outstanding students. Andrea Kominski did the honors at her alma mater, John Bowne High School, recognizing the achievements of graduating seniors Svetlana Katanova and Snehal Katre. In the biographical material submitted by Snehal, she cited good advice given to her, "Plan your work and work your plan." Wise words indeed.

Kim Estes-Fradis presented the award to sixth grader Alvin Chen at PS 163Q. Kim reports that the recently appointed Principal, Mrs. Krupski, is eager to try new environmental initiatives this year. Any interested EEAC member should contact Kim at [Kimestes@nysnet.net](mailto:Kimestes@nysnet.net). At the High School for Environmental Studies, graduates Robert Yin Hsueh and Michelle Yang were the honorees given their awards by Kenneth Kowald. Michelle and Robert are both environmental activists. Recently, Robert led a group of middle school students in the construction of a nature trail that will be accessible to the blind at Alley Pond Environmental Center where John Kominski was the first Executive Director. Congratulations to the awardees and kudos to the presenters.

Other programs supported by the Commemorative Fund include participation in the campership program at the Frost Valley YMCA Camp Wawayanda. In memory of Michael Mann, we arranged to sponsor a first time camper in the One for One program. The Kominski Garden is flourishing at Gateway Environmental Study Center, as is the Meditation Garden at Alley Pond Environmental Center. The Dr. Eugene Ezersky Teaching Award, jointly sponsored by EEAC and the Elementary School Science Association, was presented to exemplary teacher Philip Dickler at the EEAC Steering Committee meeting in May. His impressive accomplishments were featured in the EEAC Spring/Summer 2002 Newsletter.

The Commemorative Grove of native trees at Alley Pond Environmental Center will be dedicated at a planting ceremony in memory of Hy Rosner on Sunday afternoon, October 20, from 4-6 p.m. at APEC, 228-06 Northern Boulevard, Douglaston, NY 11363. All are invited. Call (718) 229-4000 for more information and directions after September 1st.

The continued support of EEAC members and friends is necessary to maintain and expand our efforts to honor the memory of those who contributed so much to environmental education. Please send your tax-deductible contribution made out to the EEAC Commemorative Fund to Jay Holmes, EEAC Treasurer, c/o Education Department, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024. Your participation in the Fund is greatly appreciated.



### SAVE THE DATE FOR GREEN HORIZONS 7

- an all day event on Wednesday, October 2, in Central Park. Registration and any indoor sessions will be in Arsenal North, with all outdoor activities across the street in the north section of the park. Registration materials should be in the mail shortly after you receive this newsletter.

### SAVING THE WATER THAT CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Make sure that the fire hydrants used for summertime play have spray caps. Your local firehouse can open and close hydrants and supply spray caps to a responsible adult for use at safe locations. Report illegally opened and broken fire hydrants to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's 24-hour Help Center at (718) DEP-HELP OR (718) 337-4357.

Remind your family, friends and neighbors to prevent water waste from hydrants and to conserve water at home, school and work. We still face the possibility of drought conditions in the hottest summer months.

## PARTNERS IN COMMUNICATION

*by Terry Ippolito*

Information overload is a fact of life today. We all find strategies to deal with it. It can be coping with the "immunity to communication" that develops when too much e-mail comes your way. Or it may be seen in the news media you choose to use and those you do not. No matter how you deal with it, communication is a vital source of news, knowledge, and opinion and is the basis for the fruitful exchanges that are typical in the ever-changing world of environmental education (EE).

We EEers share new ideas and strategies, good news and bad, information and insights. If you are an educator, you are a professional communicator. I sometimes wonder if educators in other disciplines have to stay on top of as many issues and concerns about both education and the subject that they teach. For those of us who spend our days and nights involved in environmental education, this is an ongoing process and challenge.

The participants in EE are as varied as the programs they carry out, the audiences whose needs they seek to meet, and the partners with whom they join. EE's partners include, and are not limited to, professional organizations, federal, state and local governments, schools, colleges, universities, national educational organizations, state-wide EE organizations and local ones (like EEAC), teachers, the kids running a project in a school, corporate sponsors, and not-for-profit organizations.

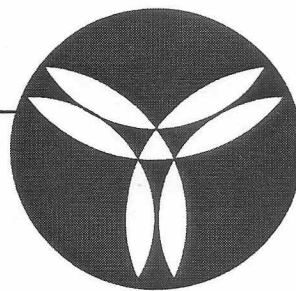
I shudder to think what my job at EPA would be like without EEAC. I know that across the country, the other nine people who sit in EPA offices and perform the duties of EE Coordinator have a special relationship with the cities and states in which those offices are situated. Rarely have I heard of an urban organization for EE that is as well put together as EEAC. Here in New York City we have, thanks to the vision of people who founded EEAC, a network and organization that makes it easier to be connected with NYC's EE community. Let me highlight some of the ways EEAC fosters communication.

The newsletter is so packed with ideas and information that I know many of us carry it around for reference. Our Web site is out there for members and non-members who want to find what we are about. Then there is the EEAC listserv and the ability it gives us to observe or participate in discussions that impact EE in the city and beyond. The listserv is a multi-directional highway. It provides access to information and lets participants spread the word about job offerings, teacher workshop announcements, or grant opportunities.

EEAC also connects us with one another by providing a network which can encourage those one on one conversations

via phone or in person that provide perspective and shared experience. It is also Steering Committee meetings at which discussion topics are just as often current issues in EE as the latest committee report of EEAC.

Overall, EEAC provides the collegiality that is so important for supporting personal and professional growth in EE. EE advances as we learn from one another. The exchange of ideas is exciting. It is a partnership. And what great partners EEAC brings together!



## A COLLABORATION HAS BEGUN

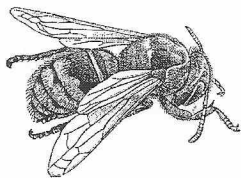
*by Claudia Toback*

One of the outcomes of the recent EEAC Strategic Planning session was to identify means to broaden collaboration with other organizations that have similar goals as that of EEAC. This has resulted in the establishment of the partnership between EEAC and the Science Council of New York City (SCONYC).

Over the years, many EEAC members have been involved in some way with SCONYC, either as member association representatives, board members and/or presenters at the annual conference. President Mary Leou has formally requested associated membership in SCONYC. So begins the collaboration of two dynamic councils.

Looking closely at the New York State MST (Math/Science/Technology Education) Learning Standards, it is understandable why these two councils chose to work together. Embedded within the seven Learning Standards are environmental concepts. By affiliating, the two Councils will strive to improve the quality of both science and environmental instruction within metropolitan New York City in both the formal and informal educational communities.

*(Claudia Toback is a member of the EEAC Steering Committee and Past President of SCONYC)*



## **GREENING YOUR LESSONS: A SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS**

Presented by the Education Department of City Parks Foundation and made possible through the generous support of the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation

Greening Your Lessons is a series of outdoor workshops designed to help you use local parks as outdoor classrooms for all subject areas. Join us as we visit parks around NYC for hands-on sessions in math, language arts, social studies, science and the creative arts. Take home curricula, field materials, and great ideas for future lessons. Learn how to enhance your curriculum by taking it outside and teach awareness at the same time!

### **SCIENCE**

Monday, August 12, Alley Pond Park, Queens

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Tuesday, August 13, Marcus Garvey Park, Manhattan

### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

Wednesday, August 14, Prospect Park, Brooklyn

### **MATH**

Thursday, August 15, Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx

### **CREATIVE ARTS**

Friday, August 16, Central Park, Manhattan

Sign up for one, a few, or all workshops.

Each workshop runs from 9:30a.m. until 2:30p.m.

Fees are \$15 for individual sessions or \$50 for the entire series. Scholarships are available.

Breakfast will be provided; bring your lunch.

New teacher credit is available.

Directions to the various parks will be mailed with registration confirmation.

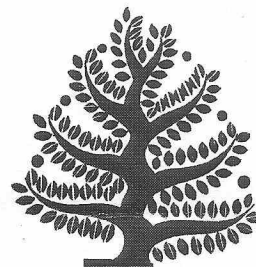
Register with a check payable to City Parks Foundation, 1234 Fifth Avenue, Rm. 232, New York, NY 10029. You may also register over the phone by calling Senta Korb (212) 360-1485 or by e-mailing the Director of Education at: [julia.bator@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:julia.bator@parks.nyc.gov), fax: (212) 360-2798, or cell phone: (917) 859-2749.

## **PLANNING FOR YOUTHCAN 2003**

YouthCaN, a youth-run organization that uses technology to inspire, connect, and educate people worldwide about environmental issues, will begin in full force again in September. Through a network of conferences, activities, and events we unite environmentally active youth to exchange ideas about the environment and empower others to make a difference in their own communities.

Visit the YouthCaN web site at its new address: <http://www.youthcanworld.org> for details on fall activities such as hikes and planning committee projects and meetings.

Jay Holmes, Resource Room Coordinator, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024, phone: (212) 769-5039, fax: (212) 769-5329; e-mail: [jholmes@igc.org](mailto:jholmes@igc.org).



## **WATERSHED FORESTRY BUS TOUR GRANTS AVAILABLE**

The Watershed Forestry Program of the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) is offering one-time-only Watershed Forestry Bus Tour matching grants to New York City environmental groups and other downstate organizations to visit the New York City water supply watersheds in the Catskill Mountains, learn about the importance of sustainable forestry and stewardship, and tour some interesting projects of the Watershed Forestry Program.

A maximum grant award of \$5,000 per applicant is available during the period June 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003. These competitive grants are being offered on a first-come, first-served basis, and they require a 50-50 non-federal match on behalf of the applicant. In most cases, in-kind services are used for matching funds. There is no application deadline. All grant awards will be made on a rolling, competitive basis. You will be notified of your funding status as soon as possible after your application has been reviewed. For more information go to: [www.nycwatershed.org](http://www.nycwatershed.org), or call Kim Estes-Fradis at (718) 595-3506.

**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 Individual 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

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