



EEAC

SUMMER 2003

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Chair's Message

When will environmental education come into its own?

Some readers may react negatively to this question, but it is thought provoking. Let's explore it.

In a recent conversation with a colleague, he remarked that funding for environmental education was short lately. I was struck by the fact that EE is so dependent on support from public and private funding sources. Of course, I have been aware of this reality for more than a decade. And other educational programs also need the support of special funds. But, I thought, what if those funds go away? What would happen to environmental education?



One possibility is that it would still be part of the subject or classroom program of any educator committed to, proficient in, excited by or accustomed to integrating the environment into whatever the subject or grade level s/he teaches.

There would be reading teachers who, no matter what the characters or plot of a book or story, ask their students to compare the environment they are reading about with the environment they live in. What do you like about this environment? What makes this environment different from the one around our school? Around your home? How could one become like the other?

There would be teachers who introduce math skills by having students calculate the amount of pollutants, in tons or parts per million, generated or kept from the waste stream, by wasting or conserving resources or adding or removing a pollutant from the air.

There would be history teachers who explore the impact on the growth of New York City made possible by building the city's reservoir system. They would learn about the historical and social impact of the construction as well as the responsibility of city dwellers to conserve water.

Even so, will there be enough of those educators to carry on effective, long term, and cross-curricular EE?

When will environmental education come into its own? When teachers notice that books about the environment are not in their classrooms. When it is so much a part of their college pre-service programming and their student teaching that the reading, science, creative writing, math, art and social studies curriculum they implement in their classrooms is filled with environmental issues, context and examples.

We are not there yet, but we continue to make progress. The eventual broad and deep infusion of the environment into formal and non-formal education is becoming an integral part of curricula at every level of education.

There are still obstacles to overcome. Each budget brings a new challenge.

EEAC's mission is clear: we continue to focus on both promoting environmental education AND improving its quality.

Terry Ippolito, EEAC Chair

UPCOMING EEAC EVENTS.....

Steering Committee Meetings

EEAC Steering Committee meetings are always the third Wednesday of every month (except August).

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. Upcoming meetings will be on May 21, June 18 and July 16.

Newsletter Deadlines

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

Joy Garland

Jay Holmes

Kenneth Kowald

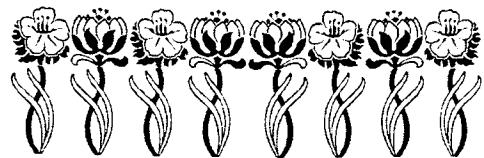
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The Environmental Education Advisory Council (EEAC) would like to thank the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for supporting the publication of this newsletter. For information about DEP's education resources for students and teachers, visit the new DEP Web site: www.nyc.gov/dep or call (718) 595-3506.



GET CONNECTED!

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: www.eeac-nyc.org

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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*Affiliations for identification purposes only.



Remembering Our Friends



Recently EEAC members received sad news about two losses in the extended environmental education community.

Amy Doucha, granddaughter of founding members Joan and Hy Rosner, was killed in a tragic automobile accident. In the Rosner tradition, Amy was an avid environmentalist and human rights activist. The family has listed the following organizations that were particularly important to Amy: Gables State Theatre, 1200 Anastasia Ave., Coral Gables, FL 33134 and Adopt a Pet, ATT: Roye Levin, 720 NE 69 St., Apt. 9S, Miami, FL 33138. Personal notes may be sent to Joan Rosner and Amy's parents, Roger and Susan Doucha c/o Rosner 7103 SW 53 Lane, South Miami, FL 33155.

Bernard Kirschenbaum, past chair of EEAC and Board of Education Supervisor of the Gateway Environmental Study Center program in its early days, passed away in Florida after an extended illness. Those of us who had the privilege of knowing Bernie will miss his jovial manner, ready wit and dedication to the cause of environmental education. His family has listed the Education Leadership Institute at Seton Hall University's College of Education c/o University Advancement, 457 Centre Street, South Orange, NJ 07079 for those who wish to memorialize Bernie. Personal notes should be addressed to Diana Kirschenbaum and family, 10054 Diamond Lake Rd., Boynton Beach, FL 33437-5519.

Several members of the EEAC community responded to the sad news with messages of condolence and remembrance. Thank you to all who shared your thoughts:

"For the many students and teachers who were the beneficiaries of Bernie Kirschenbaum's efforts and the current members of EEAC who carry on that legacy, there is sadness in his loss but also inspiration. His accomplishments live on in the hearts and minds of the teachers he reached. We are all better for his being involved in environmental education in general and Gateway Environmental Study Center in particular." *Terry Ippolito*

"The notes on Bernie and Amy touched me. Such sad news, when the world is swirling out of control." *Don Cook*

"It is very sad news, indeed. I did not know Joan's grandchild, but I remember Bernie with deep affection and respect. He was a very wonderful person and it was a pleasure to deal with him—he was smart, witty and someone you could count on to do the job he set out to do. I shall miss him and regret that distance meant I did not see much of him in recent years."

Kenneth Kowald

"Sad news indeed for EEAC at a time when we are immersed in so much loss of life." *Mary Leou*

"Such sad news from two of our stalwart EE families! When I was starting the long journey toward understanding the environment, the Rosners and Bernie were invaluable teachers."

Nancy Wolf

"It is very sad indeed that another one of our founders has passed. For me the greatest impact Bernie played in my life was the school camping program. He was my instructor in the Camping Techniques for Teachers course at Gateway when I took it in the early 80's... I have been blessed with a wonderful career and Bernie Kirschenbaum was responsible for much of that joy. He will be missed." *Regina McCarthy*

Teaching New York City History in K-12 Schools:

A Conference for Educators
Workshops, Panels, Presentations,
Technology and Exhibits Celebrating
New York's Past

May 9 & 10, 2003

The Gotham Center for New York History
The Graduate School The City University of New York
365 Fifth Avenue (at 34th Street)

This conference aims to help you integrate New York City history into your classroom. Teachers who have developed successful lessons will lead workshops, panels and discussions to demonstrate their projects. Cultural institutions (museums, historical societies, preservationists, television producers and newspapers) will share model programs, primary sources, cutting edge videos, websites, slide and PowerPoint presentations, and lesson plans that can be tailored to classroom curricula.

All presentations address the New York City and New York State mandated Learning Standards. The conference is free, but you must register.

Register for the conference at

<http://gothamcenter.org/k12/k12register2003.shtml>

See the conference schedule at

<http://gothamcenter.org/k12/k12schedule2003.shtml>

Read about the 2001 conference at

<http://gothamcenter.org/k12/conference.shtml>

For more information, contact the Gotham Education Department: (212) 817-8469

Dates and Places

The Center for Urban Restoration is a collaboration between Rutgers University and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and on May 29 and 30 it will present a conference at Rutgers on "Restoration of Native Meadows." There is a discount for registration before May 20. For information, call (732) 932-9271, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., or write to Registration Desk, Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 102 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick 08901-8519.

Joseph Varon, a long-time friend and former officer of EEAC, is a New York City teacher doing his sabbatical at the Alley Pond Environment Center. Since the fall, on Wednesday mornings beginning at 9:30, he has been leading walks between parts of the Doug MacKay Trail, parts of the Joe Michaels Memorial Mile and Oakland Lake. The last walks will be on all the Wednesdays in May. The walks are free. Reservations are requested, but not mandatory. To learn more, call (718) 229-4000. All walks start at APEC.

The Gateway National Recreation Area and the Gateway Environmental Study Center will present Project WILD, a free educator workshop on wildlife resources, on Sunday, June 22, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Study Center. To register, call (718) 252-7307. For more information, call our own John Lancos at (718) 354-4560.

July 17-19 are the dates for the **11th New York ReLeaf Statewide Urban and Community Forestry Conference**, to be held at the SUNY Institute of Technology in Utica/Rome. The theme is "From Brown to Green: Urban Forestry and Economic Development." For information, write to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Land and Forests, Bureau of Private Land Services, 5th floor, 625 Broadway, Albany 12233. Registration forms should be ready by the time you read this.

The 55th Annual Conservation Workshop sponsored by the New York State Conservation Council, Inc., will be held during two weeks in July (13-19 or 20-26) at the SUNY College at Cortland's Outdoor Education Center in Raquette Lake. For details, call (315) 894-3302.

The Center for Environmental Research and Conservation at Columbia University will hold a Science Teachers' Environmental Education Program for one month this Summer. To learn more, call (212) 854-8179.

The New York State Outdoor Education Association will hold its 36th Annual Conference, "The Nature of New York: A Natural History Celebration," October 23-26 in Callicoon. For information, call the Association at (518) 842-0501, or write to 418 Merry Road, Amsterdam, New York 12010.

Around New York

New maps of the Lower Hudson River, from Westchester to the Lower Bay, are available from the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance. The maps show what activities are available in the communities, how to get to them and who to contact. Various local officials and organizations should have copies of the maps. To get a complete list of them, call MWA at (800) 364-9943.

Trees New York has just published its "**Urban Leaf & Tree Handbook**," written by our own Susan Gooberman, with illustrations by Ginger Hagan. To obtain free copies, write to Suite 1412A, 51 Chambers Street, New York 10007, or telephone (212) 227-1887. While you're at it, ask for a list of the other TNY publications available free of charge.

Trees New York also runs the "**Asian Longhorned Beetle Hotline**" at (877) STOP ALB. According to the February, 2003 issue of Smithsonian magazine, this pest is responsible for the demise of almost 7,500 trees in and around New York City and Chicago—and 860,000 more trees, the magazine estimates, are in danger.

The Enterprise Foundation, in association with the Trust for Public Land and the Council on the Environment of New York City, has published "**Neighborhood Green: A Guide for Community-Based Organizations**," which contains a wealth of information about community gardens. To obtain copies, write or call the Foundation, 80 Fifth Avenue, New York 10011-8002, (212) 262-9575.

Sometime later this year, the City's Economic Development Corporation is expected to issue a **design for the old Flushing Airport in Queens**, which should restore to wetlands 33 acres of the old airstrip.

Transportation Alternatives and the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council have published a free booklet, "**Bicycle Parking Solutions**," which lists buildings that supply secure indoor parking, as well as suppliers of outdoor bike lockers and information for building owners on how to provide for secure indoor bicycle parking. To obtain copies of the booklet, call (212) 629-8080 or (718) 472-3046.

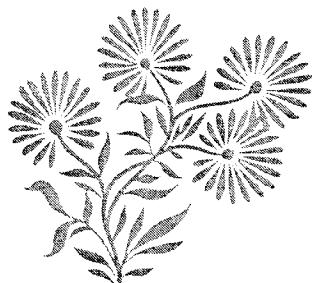
Items of Interest

Getting rid of some products such as batteries, hazardous materials and tires is not always easy, but now there is a way to find out how to do it properly. If you have access to the Internet, go to www.earth911.org, or you may telephone (800) CLEANUP.

Community and Environmental Defense Services (CEDS) offers materials, workshops and other assistance about how poorly-planned and environmentally-degrading projects can be opposed. To learn more, call (800) 733-4571, or log on to www.ceds.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

The New England Journal of Environmental Education, published twice a year, is seeking articles by environmental educators. The Journal is written for practicing environmental educators: teachers, naturalists, program developers and administrators. It takes what it calls an "informal, wide ranging approach" to environmental education. To find out about it, visit the website at www.neeee.org.



Paddlers Prepare!

The Great Hudson River Paddle (GHRP) is being held July 3-12 from Albany to New York City, for experienced paddlers. Day paddles and free demos for those with less experience or who can't paddle the entire ten days will be available with local outfitters. Public festivals will celebrate the Hudson River at each stop-over location and will include music, boat parades, theater, guided tours and other events with the participation of local waterfront communities, state agencies and Hudson River based organizations.

GHRP 2003 is being held to celebrate the Hudson River Greenway Water Trail, the improvement of public access to the Hudson River, and the diversity and heritage of the riverside communities of the Hudson River Valley. The event is being held under the auspices of the Hudson River Watertrail Association, the Hudson River Valley Greenway and several partners. For paddle registration and information about festival events:
www.hrwa.org/ghrp/index.html

Come See and Learn about New York City's Water Supply System!

The Watershed Forestry Institute provides teachers with the skills and knowledge to help students learn about the New York City water supply system and the connection between watershed forests and water quality. Enrollment is limited to 20 teachers from New York City and the local watershed communities. The program begins Tuesday afternoon, July 15, and ends Saturday afternoon, July 19. Teachers are provided with all materials and curriculum, as well as a \$100 travel reimbursement upon completion of the Institute. All meals and lodging are included. This program offers college credits for participants.

The Institute is located at the Frost Valley YMCA Straus Center in the heart of the Catskill Mountains and the New York City watershed. The Straus Center provides a wonderful setting for participants to learn about watershed forest issues. The presenters and staff include forestry and watershed specialists from government, private and non-profit organizations.

Facilitated discussions about New York City watershed issues help participants understand how forest management impacts both rural and urban citizens. Participants will measure and observe trees with conventional forestry equipment and learn how to help students make equipment for use in their own community. Teachers will "get their feet wet" while studying the aquatic life found in the East Branch of the Neversink River. Field trips include visits to a model forest, a NYC reservoir and an active harvest site. Fieldwork plays a major role in this four-day program, so be prepared for learning, a little hard work, and a lot of fun while in the company of your watershed/New York City education partners.

The Institute is a collaboration between the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Catskill Forest Association, United States Forest Service, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, SUNY- College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and the Watershed Forestry Program.

For more information and an application contact Kim Estes-Fradis, DEP, Director of Education, (718) 595-3506 or kestes-fradis@dep.nyc.gov. Or, write or call the Watershed Agricultural Council Watershed Forestry Program, 33195 State Highway 10, Walton 13856-9751, (607) 865-7790. The e-mail address is forest@catskill.net.

A Tribute to Theresa Lato

by Mike Zamm

Between 1979 and 1983, Lehman College students participating in The Council on the Environment of New York City's Training Student Organizers (TSO) Program organized a series of clean-ups and recycling days along Bedford Park Boulevard in the northwest Bronx. In addition to the Lehmanites, elementary school and high school students, storeowners and community residents participated. From the latter group there was one constant, unflagging representative - Theresa Lato. Founder and President of the Bronx Council on Environmental Quality (BCEQ), Theresa enthusiastically helped the Lehman students and CENYC staff mobilize others while removing litter, lugging bags of her own recyclables and encouraging all who would listen (and some who wouldn't) to pick up litter or bring their newspapers and aluminum cans to the events. Theresa, who was then in her early 70's, was still going strong at the end of each event while those far younger were ready to head for the local luncheonette for a repast and rest.

Theresa attended many of the TSO class sessions at Lehman and made many colorful and provocative statements that piqued the interest of the Lehman youth with respect to environmental issues and activism.

Her involvement with our classes and projects was only one of the myriad ways in which Theresa represented BCEQ in its quest to preserve and restore the environment of the Bronx. Theresa and her colleagues were present at practically every community board meeting, every hearing, every gathering of Bronx parks or environmental devotees advocating for a greener, healthier, better preserved and remembered Bronx.

Finally, well into her 80's, Theresa moved to Israel to live with her son and family. She is still active on environmental issues and frequently writes to members of EEAC, to the Council on the Environment Staff and to BCEQ'ers.

Here's to Theresa Lato - Thanks for everything!



In Memory of Bernard Kirschenbaum

by Ruth Eilenberg

Knowing Bernie Kirschenbaum and working with him in the early days of the Gateway Environmental Study Center in the 1970's and 80's was a transforming experience for me. Bernie was the Assistant Director of the Health and Physical Education Unit of the Division of Curriculum and Instruction of the Board of Education of the City of New York. When Dr. Eugene Ezersky left the Board, Bernie took on the additional responsibility of supervising the Gateway Environmental Study Center and its coordinator.

Bernie's environmental education philosophy was based on his love of the outdoors and his belief that we learn best by doing. One of his favorite expressions was "hands-on-education." He was dedicated to the idea that students and teachers should experience Gateway's 26,000 acres of beaches, tidal marsh and grassland. I remember a videotape we made in those early days in which the opening scene was shot right outside the Center and Bernie greeted viewers with the heartfelt words, "Welcome to my classroom."

Bernie was an expert problem solver and he encouraged teachers to follow that lead. He would say, "Don't bring me problems bring me solutions." He practiced leadership by example and I learned more administrative skills from his day-to-day practical advice than in many graduate administration courses. His supervisory style featured his quick wit and wry sense of humor. He made even the most difficult challenges manageable.

I marveled at the number of people he knew within the school system. In those days we visited schools to do staff development workshops and in virtually every school we entered there was someone he greeted with warmth, exuberance and affection. His enthusiasm was boundless.

Bernie was Treasurer and later Chairperson of EEAC and was respected and well regarded by his colleagues. He worked closely with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Cornell University Cooperative Extension and the National Park Service to craft the Operation Explore program, still successfully serving hundreds of New York City students each year.

In many ways Bernie's strengths were based on his early educational career as a coach. He was able to build relationships of trust with those he coached in team sports, environmental education, school camping and in his role as a supervisor. The force of his personality left no doubt that you could count on Bernie to do his best to help you do your best. He was a champion and we remember him with admiration and gratitude. Well done, coach!

Patricia Ryan Wins 2003 Outstanding Environmental Educator Award

by Joy Garland



Pat Ryan, 2003's Outstanding Environmental Educator

This year's winner of the Dr. Eugene Ezersky Outstanding Environmental Educator Award is Pat Ryan who teaches 4th graders at P.S.133Q in Bellerose, Queens. Here are some excerpts from the nomination material sent to the EEAC and ESSA award committee which we hope will inspire other teachers.

"Pat Ryan is an outstanding educator who has enriched the lives of her students immeasurably by incorporating environmental education into the regular curriculum. She doesn't teach it as a separate subject that is done one period a week. Rather, she cleverly weaves it into reading, math, art, and science. For the past three years Ms. Ryan's class has participated in Project WISE (Watershed Inspired Science Education). This project involved working with a school in the Catskill Watershed and helping both communities to understand the importance of the watershed and its stewardship.

In teaching literacy according to the NYC standards, Ms. Ryan had students write pen pal letters to their friends in the Catskills, write poetry based on a visit to Frost Valley and the Esopus Creek, read books about water, and do author studies such as one on Thomas Locker.

In addition to all the planning, commitment, and dedication that went into this program, Ms. Ryan went further. She presented both her own and her students' work at a conference at New York University so that others could replicate the program..."

Pat's principal, Kenneth Becker writes, "...Ms. Ryan has, for many years, been a leader in furthering our Science program at school. Initially, she received a grant to plant a food garden at school. Ms. Ryan, with her class, tends to the garden each spring and through the summer when she meets with students during summer vacation time. Each fall, the students reap the benefits of their harvest by picking vegetables and herbs and preparing a pizza lunch.

In addition to various local environmental trips and classroom study experiences, Ms. Ryan leads a three-day overnight adventure for her class to Frost Valley, an environmental study center and to the Asokan Reservoir in upstate New York. The benefits to our 4th graders are monumental. The trip is a true growth experience for our students and the attending parents. The students are led through a stream study, are given lectures by environmental experts and tours through the reservoir system. In addition, they are away from the comforts of home for three days in a rustic setting to care for themselves. What could build self-esteem more!"

Finally, a letter from parents Ruth and Harry Shafer. "We have been very fortunate to have had Ms. Ryan teach both our daughter, Jacqueline...and our son, Joseph. We believe Ms. Ryan's approach to science in the classroom has helped nurture an understanding and curiosity about the world in both of our children. This foundation continues to help them meet the challenges of education successfully. We feel this experience had a lasting effect on Joseph's view of the environment and our relationship with it. (Now he is always concerned about the need to not waste water)..."

Pat will be presented with the Dr. Eugene Ezersky Outstanding Environmental Educator Award at the April 30th meeting of the Environmental Education Advisory Committee Steering Committee. All are invited to attend.

Hooray... for Jay!

ESSA (Elementary School Science Association) is pleased to announce that our own Jay Holmes is the recipient of the 2003 George Barr Award. George Barr was a leader in the field of science education, author of children's books and science consultant for many textbooks. We will be honoring Jay at ESSA's Hail and Farewell Celebration on May 15th, 2003, 6:00 p.m. at Bourbon Street Restaurant in Bayside, Queens. If you would like to attend this event please contact Gail David at (718) 225-6420, or e-mail GIDavid@aci.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2003

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 (in categories other than Sustaining Organization): _____

E-mail address: _____

Please check the appropriate calendar year membership category:

\$20 Regular (2003) \$50 Sustaining Organization (2003) \$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



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