

EEAC

WINTER 2003

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Sun Shines on Green Horizons 8

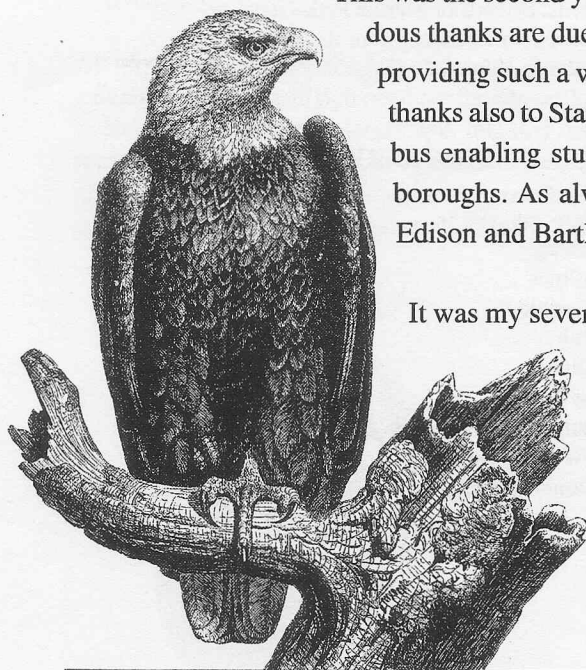
By Rob Lieblein

On October 2, for the eighth consecutive year, students from all five boroughs came together for a day of hands-on exploration with professionals in fields ranging from entomology to meteorology and many things in between.

This year's conference, held at the Queens Botanical Garden, introduced about 130 kids from 20 New York City middle schools to the great variety of career paths in the environment and natural resources. Each student took part in two sessions (among the 20-plus offered) that engaged them in a field experience relevant to each professional's daily work. It was also an opportunity to hear from people working in "green" careers what attracted them to their positions, the school work and training involved, and what students can begin to do at an early age to investigate such careers in greater detail.

Although attendance was somewhat lighter than previous years, Nancy Wolf, a founder of the program, noted that she was extremely "pleased that students and leaders were able to come despite all the changes going on in the school system this year." The turnout amidst such flux and uncertainty was indeed a reflection of the hard work and persistence of Nancy, Arthur Shepard of Magnolia Tree Earth Center, and others on the Green Horizons planning committee.

This was the second year that Queens Botanical Garden has hosted the event, and tremendous thanks are due to Executive Director Susan Lacerte and all staff at the Garden for providing such a wonderful setting (as well as a beautiful, sunny autumn day!). Many thanks also to Staten Island Parks Commissioner Thomas Paulo who provided a Parks bus enabling students from IS 24 to attend and round out representation from all boroughs. As always, we are grateful to long-time Green Horizons sponsors Con Edison and Bartlett Tree Expert Company.



It was my seventh year participating in the event, and each year I enjoy the opportunity to try something new and share my own experiences with a new group of students. I also find myself recharged with enthusiasm for the job I have. It's my hope that we can continue sharing our own enthusiasm with New York City's students and keep coming back to how fortunate we are to do what we do for many years to come.

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 November 19, December 17, and January 21.

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. Contact the editor at the number below for mailing address for materials.

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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: 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:

Cfranken@nycboe.net

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

c/o Jay Holmes
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This newsletter is a publication of the Environmental Education Advisory Council (EEAC), a voluntary organization of educators, classroom teachers, administrators and other professionals in active support of environmental education. It is available free upon request.

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EEAC Members Enjoy Staten Island's Natural Treasures

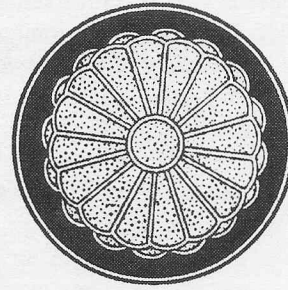
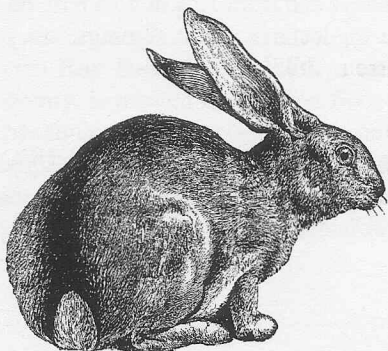
*Adapted from accounts provided
by Regina McCarthy and Barry Weinbrom*

On Saturday, October 4, EEAC members gathered for a meeting at the Gateway Education Center located at Ft. Wadsworth on Staten Island. By all accounts it was a fabulous day for the 11 attendees and hosts Patti Reilly and Jeanette Parker.

Patti and Jeannette have worked incredibly hard over the past six years to turn the 20,000 square-foot facility into a model education center, idea factory, living laboratory and community center. With theme-specific rooms focusing on water, sustainability, technology and mapping (attendees found New York City laid out on the floor), Regina McCarthy noted that the Center "reflects the National Park Service at its best." "This will truly be a state-of-the-art educational facility that will be available to all communities," added Barry Weinbrom. Though still in the development and piloting stages with many of their programs, they are working with colleges and scientists from other parts of the country to fulfill this vision.

Attendees were also captivated by Staten Island's natural environment. Prior to the meeting, several members had the opportunity to do some birding among the diverse habitats in the area. Barry described a distinct feeling of "being out of the City." "What I love is the mix of geological and biological resources mixed in with the historical buildings," remarked Regina. "It's magical. We don't know this from record, but I like to think Thoreau explored these ruins when he lived in SI."

All of this underscored the importance of Staten Island as a valuable partner in and rich resource for Environmental Education. With its amazing landscape, talented resident environmental educators and school teachers, strong advocacy groups and, of course, significant environmental issues, there is a wealth of opportunity for us all to learn and to teach.



Join Us Under the Whale and Online!

YouthCaN (Youth Communicating and Networking), an international student-led online project and conference, is getting rolling for 2004!

Are you working with youth on an environmental project? Would you like to share that project with students around the world? Would you like to join students in another part of the world on their project? Do you know someone who would like to join YouthCaN's student planning committee?

Find out more by visiting our web site at www.youthcanworld.org, or e-mail Jay Holmes at holmes@amnh.org.

A Victorian house at 149-19 38th Avenue in Flushing is now the **Voelker-Orth Museum, Bird Sanctuary and Victorian Garden**, under the auspices of the Queens Botanical Garden, Queens Historical Society and Theodore Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary. The house was left to the three groups by the last surviving resident, Elizabetha Orth, who died in 1996. It is open to the public and has programs for children and adults on the history and culture of Queens and Long Island, workshops, private parties, weddings, Victorian teas and dining, a conference room, a music room and exhibit rooms. Call (718) 359-6227 for more information.

The Alley Pond Environmental Center has published a new teachers' guide, "**Salt Marshes and Estuaries: Wetlands in Danger**," written by APEC's Education Director, Dr. Aline Euler, and illustrated by Adeline Wuttke Jahelka. The cost is \$8. For information and to order a copy, call (718) 229-4000.

The Asian Long-horned Beetle is continuing its slow but seemingly relentless attack on many trees in New York City and Long Island. Unfortunately, as of this writing, it would appear that Federal funds to attack the insidious ALB in our city are going to fall short of need. But, there is a new citizen-oriented resource, "**Living and Working in an ALB Quarantine Zone**" which offers the kind of information you need to know. Our own Naomi Zurcher can be contacted to learn about this new brochure, which is available with other much-needed anti-ALB material. Call her at (718) 522-1130.

The Science Council of New York City, of which EEAC is an associated member, will hold its annual conference on Saturday, March 20, in South Shore High School, Brooklyn. Announcements should be out early in the new year.

The Milstein Family Hall of Ocean Life has reopened at the American Museum of Natural History after a \$25 million renovation. To learn about it, call (212) 769-5100.

You have until February 15 to see "**America's Cornucopia: A Collector's View of American Botany and Horticulture**," on view in the Mertz Library of the New York Botanical Garden. The exhibition includes a collection of gold-embossed books and a humorous collection of advertising cards featuring personified vegetables.

The Hudson River Foundation's new address is Suite 915, 17 Battery Place, New York 10004. The telephone number is (212) 483-7667.

You may recall that recently, nearly 80% of the breeding population of Monarch butterflies froze to death while hibernating in central Mexico. Milkweed is the only food Monarch caterpillars will eat and there is an organization that can give information and supply free seeds. Contact **LiveMonarch.org**.

For children who are interested in science, conservation and how things work, **Con Edison** has established a new web site. It is www.coned/kids.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority offers useful information, including tips about making homes more energy-efficient. Call 1-877-NY-SMART for details.

The Sustainability Education Center has a number of curricula which may be of interest. To find out about them, write to Suite 1201, 307 7th Avenue, New York 10001, or call (212) 645-9930.

The Neighborhood Open Space Coalition/Friends of Gateway, has issued its "**Urban Outdoors**" Report for 2002. To obtain a copy, write to 356 Seventh Avenue, New York 10001, or call (212) 352-9330.

If all goes according to plan, Hanover Square, now a brick-paved triangular park in the financial district, will be transformed, by next summer into the **British Memorial Garden**. The Garden will honor the friendship between the United States and Britain and memorialize the 67 Britons killed in the World Trade Center attack as well as British subjects who died alongside Americans in various wars. The Garden is expected to include the kinds of plantings typical in the British Isles.

Wall Street Rising has opened a 1,800 square-foot information center at 25 Broad Street, which is providing information of all kinds about Lower Manhattan. It is open from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends. There is space for lectures, book signings, storytelling and scavenger hunts for children.

The City Parks Foundation has a newly designed website, which is worth visiting for a variety of information. It is www.cityparksfoundation.org.

You may receive this Newsletter in time to attend the last two of four lectures on "**Planning for New York City's Waterfront**," presented by the Municipal Art Society and Hunter College. On November 11, the topic is "Industrial and Maritime Waterfronts" and on November 18, the topic is "The Redeveloping Waterfront." To learn more, call Susan Robinson at (212) 772-5517.

The Brooklyn Children's Museum at 145 Brooklyn Avenue (at St. Mark's Avenue) has free special programs every first Thursday, including **Tales for Tots** and **Animal Architects**, which encourages children to examine the Museum's collection of unusual animal dwellings and construct their own. For details, call (718) 735-4400. The Museum is using a grant from the National Science Foundation to build a permanent exhibit of life-size environments representing 12 habitats that can be found in New York City, such as a salt marsh, a meadow and a tidal pool. It hopes to open the exhibit in 2006.

The new **Peter Jay Sharp Volunteer House** has opened near 107th Street in Riverside Park. The first floor of the thoroughly renovated old tool shed is being used for plant propagation. The second floor is for volunteers to meet, train and exchange ideas. The House is expected to be a center for new programs about the park and the environment.

The National Parks of New York Harbor is an entity-in-the-making, to link all 22 National Park Service sites under one umbrella. A single information center for the new organization is expected to be in Federal Hall on Wall Street. Ferry service among various locations suitable for such transportation is expected to be enhanced from the occasional service now available.

The Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont Street, has opened what is called a semi-permanent exhibit, "**Brooklyn Works: 400 Years of Making a Living in Brooklyn**," which features interactive simulated environments. The Society building has been renovated recently. To find out about the Society and its exhibits, call (718) 222-4111.

The Jamaica Bay Resources Library, a non-circulating reference library, is located on the first floor of the Jamaica Bay Unit headquarters of the Gateway National Recreation Area at Floyd Bennett Field. It has about 2,000 articles, maps, books, management plans, study results and a slide collection. To learn more, call Kathleen Williams at (718) 338-3340.

Endangered Subject: Elementary Science Education

by Barry Weinbrom

At this year's National Science Teacher Association (NSTA) annual conference in Philadelphia, former NSTA President JoAnne Vasquez made an urgent call for greater attention to science education in the elementary school classroom. "We are displacing science with a push toward learning reading, writing, and arithmetic," she said, adding "We have to be able to educate the whole child."

Ms. Vasquez believes that integrated science instruction is crucial to educating the whole child, and as a science teacher of 35 years, EEAC Steering Committee member, and Director of the After School Activity Program (ASAP), I have to agree. That is the inspiration behind ASAP's new program, **SCIENCE** (Science Community Involvement in an Educational Network for Children's Enrichment).

This eight-week, 90-minute program is designed to stimulate "science in your life" awareness. Four classes of 11 students each (Pre-K, K/1, 2/3 and 4-6) explore, experiment, play games, sing and construct age-appropriate projects in Anatomy (fall), Chemistry (winter) and Earth Science (spring).

SCIENCE aims to:

- get elementary age children excited about science;
- develop the important skills of observation, thinking, hypothesizing and problem solving;
- help children realize they are scientists;
- foster teamwork between parents, students, teachers and the larger community;
- bring schools into the community and the community into the schools.

A number of science practitioners including dentists, veterinarians, chiropractors and podiatrists have become involved with the fall Anatomy program by providing scholarships to their local schools in addition to becoming **SCIENCE** members.

ASAP would love to bring **SCIENCE** into your school and community. For more information call (718) 965-9814 or e-mail baw441@aol.com.

Trout in the Classroom: 2003-04 Season

Arthur P. Stoliar, Director

This is the eighth school year that Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, Inc. (TGF) is running its environmental educational program - Trout in the Classroom (TIC). It started as an experiment in four schools to connect New York City children and children of the upstate watersheds and develop in them an understanding of their shared water resources. It is now operating in over 70 classrooms in the watersheds and in the City.

It still gives us a wonderful feeling as new classes come on board - setting up the equipment, receiving the eggs and watching the eggs hatch. It still is poignant when we visit participating schools and the children ask, "Remember me?" then excitedly chatter about what's happening in their tank. They point out fish they have named "Godzilla" or "Tiger Woods" and cry when it's time to release them.

Of course there are always "fires" to put out - unwanted algae growth, water turbidity, equipment failures, high water temperature, chemical spills - but somehow we find an answer via our e-mail network of "experts," understanding and solving problems are the best way of learning. These are the same kind of problems we face in the real world. Joan Stoliar, the program's originator, was fond of pointing out that these students are being prepared to be the future stewards of the watershed.

The program's success is reflected in the stories that participants tell us. Brian Hugick, the Earth Science Teacher at Somers High School, writes: "I have one student who would frequently cut class. I put him in charge of the morning feedings. He hasn't missed class since and he wants to assist in releasing the trout. Your program is truly a program that helps ALL students, helps relate the classroom to the real world." Natasha Walkowitz, teacher at Harlem Day Charter School, writes that even "our K's and first graders are writing observations." Ken Haaland, a Second Grade teacher at West Hurley Elementary School, always seems to have larger trout than anyone else; same eggs, same food - who knows!

The children quickly understand the importance of the quality of water - that mysterious, precious resource - to trout survival. On field trips they learn that water that supports mayflies, caddisflies and stoneflies provides a good habitat for trout and an indication of good water quality.

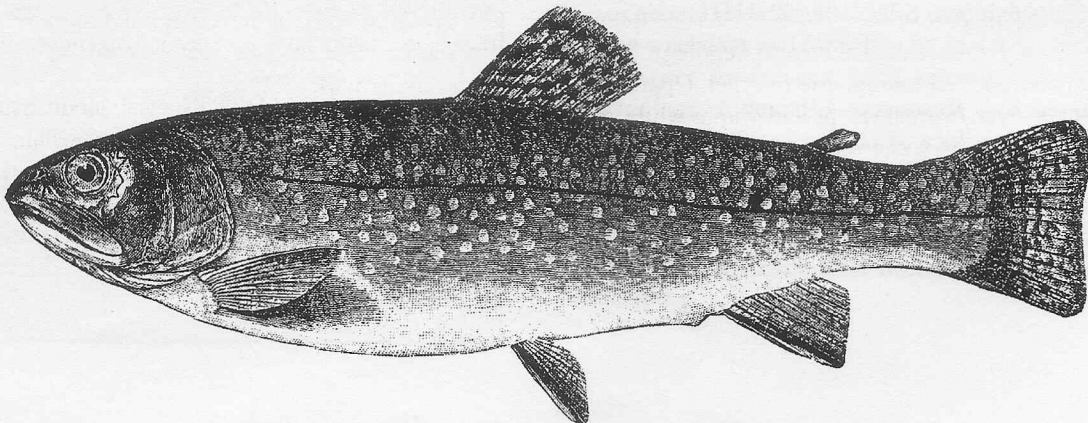
The program also includes two one-day teacher-training meetings each year at SUNY New Paltz. Experts in water related issues as well as panel discussions provide opportunities for teachers to speak about their own experiences. We always learn something new in these informal sessions.

The Internet is crucial to the functioning of this program. Our web site, www.troutintheclassroom.com, includes background material, instructions, technical information, a bulletin board, a database, etc. Our e-mail network allows us to respond rapidly to questions and problems. Needless to say we also publish a newsletter.

This year we began an experiment whereby some classes went to the hatchery at Cold Spring Harbor and participated in stripping brook trout for eggs that they took back to their classroom. This added another dimension to the program.

The Catskill Watershed Corporation, Con Edison and the NYC Environmental Fund helped to support the program. We also work closely and pleasurably with NYS DEC and NYC DEP. We are indebted to the many organizations that help us and have provided support in the past.

As always, we must recognize the teachers who eagerly undertake the difficult task of raising trout in their classroom. They do it because they know it captures the students' attention and then they can teach them about their environment and just about anything else. It is to these teachers that we owe our success and to whom we are most grateful.



Web Wonders

by Regina McCarthy

When the Internet first came into use in classrooms I thought, "so what?" Nothing could replace books or real life experiences. I have lived to be *very* wrong on that one. Programs like **Globe** and **Journey North** offer students a wide range of quality experiential learning. Recently I found an old favorite collection of nature facts, not widely published but now available through the **Roger Tory Peterson Institute** at www.rtpi.org.

The Electronic Naturalist (www.enaturalist.org) posts environmental information from John Weissinger—an illustrator/educator who has made his information available in the past through mailings and small books. When Roger Tory Peterson started the Institute shortly before his death, his intention was to bring to children the love of nature that had been awakened in him as a child. Although the Institute has branched out into a wider range of environmental programs, the Electronic Naturalist would have made Peterson proud.

Other Web Sites of Note:

Journey North (www.learner.org/jnorth)

This web site offers a wide range of Earth-based activities including animal and plant life cycles, latitude and longitude, migration conservation. Classes can go as far as they want in terms of what they do. You can track monarch and eagle migration as well as the reintroduction of whooping cranes to their eastern migratory route, to name some of my favorites. Classes can plant tulip bulbs and be part of their International Plant Study, another favorite of mine. Teachers' guides are downloadable. Internet access in the classroom is great, but not necessary. Every season of the year something is happening. Teachers can do activities indoors and out.

GLOBE (www.globe.gov)

This program offers students opportunities to take scientific measurements in fields of atmosphere, hydrology, soils, and land cover/phenology. These data are reported through the Internet. Opportunities are given to create maps and graphs while analyzing data. They can collaborate with scientists and other GLOBE students around the world. For teachers, GLOBE provides assistance through training at professional development workshops. Teacher guides and videos are available.

Mark your calendars and spread the word:

**the AMNH Center for Biodiversity
and Conservation's ninth annual
Spring Symposium...**

EXPANDING THE ARK:
*The Emerging Science and Practice
of Invertebrate Conservation*

American Museum of Natural History

March 25 and 26, 2004

[http://research.amnh.org/biodiversity/symposia/
expandingthearc](http://research.amnh.org/biodiversity/symposia/expandingthearc)

One of the greatest challenges facing the conservation community today lies in identifying, managing, and conserving invertebrate biodiversity. In direct contrast to their vast numbers, rich diversity, and vital role in terrestrial, marine, and freshwater ecosystems, many invertebrate species and groups remain undescribed and underrepresented in conservation planning, management, and policy strategies.

The American Museum of Natural History's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, in collaboration with Conservation International, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Xerces Society, is convening a two-day symposium to examine the status of invertebrate biodiversity. Speakers from around the world will consider a range of perspectives on how best to advance an invertebrate conservation agenda. "Expanding the Ark" will provide a venue to engage the scientific community, conservation practitioners, and the public in a dialogue on the fate of invertebrate biodiversity, and to map concrete approaches for future action.

CALL FOR POSTERS: A limited number of posters will be accepted for presentation. Poster subjects must relate to the symposium's themes (invertebrate science, policy, management, and restoration) but are not limited geographically. Case studies are encouraged. Submission guidelines are available at <http://research.amnh.org/biodiversity/symposia/expandingthearc>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, email biodiversity@amnh.org to request updates, and bookmark the symposium website, <http://research.amnh.org/biodiversity/symposia/expandingthearc>, which will post speaker lists, abstracts, agenda, etc., as information becomes available. To download a symposium flier, go to [http://research.amnh.org/biodiversity/symposia/expandingthearc/
date.html](http://research.amnh.org/biodiversity/symposia/expandingthearc/date.html)

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 (for 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**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

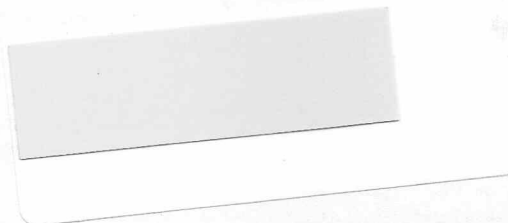
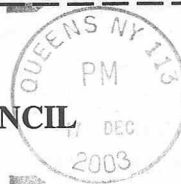
Jay Holmes

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