



## Teacher Environmental Education Preparation (TEEP)

*Betsy Ukeritis, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation*



Since 1999, EEAC has been involved in a statewide initiative called Teacher Environmental Education Preparation (TEEP) with partner organizations Council on the Environment of New York City and the Wallerstein Collaborative for Urban Environmental Education at New York University. TEEP has hosted five symposia throughout New York State that focused on ways to increase environmental education in the preparation of new teachers. Two major strategies came out of these symposia:

- **The development of a statewide center for environmental education.**
- **The development of one or more innovations in the teacher certification structure to bring it in line with State Standards, such as a certification from the State Department of Education or cognate in environmental education at teacher preparation institutions.**



As a result of TEEP, the College of New Rochelle is working on creating a cognate (think of it as a minor or a series of courses in environmental education) in environmental education. Professors are creating the curriculum for the cognate this year. In addition, the National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education, initiated by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), created Guidelines for the Preparation and Professional Development of Environmental Educators.

Over the last five years, NAAEE has worked with these standards and with one of the main accreditation organizations for teacher preparation, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, to create standards for the Initial Preparation of Environmental Educators. These standards have been approved by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and any teacher education institution

accredited by NCATE will have to follow these standards for all of their environmental education classes. These standards apply to the entire university, not just the school of education. For example, if an environmental education course is offered through the school of natural resources, it must still meet these standards.

What do these new standards mean for TEEP? It is hoped, things will get easier! There are 47 NCATE-accredited teacher education institutions in the state of New York and almost half of them are in the New York metropolitan area! To view the new NCATE standards, visit [www.naaee.org](http://www.naaee.org) and search on "NCATE."

On February 29 and March 1, 2008, the sixth TEEP symposium will take place at the State University of New York - Brockport campus in Rochester. On the first day, Dr. Bora Simmons, the lead person for NAAEE on the

*Continued on page 7*

## UPCOMING EEAC EVENTS.....

### Steering Committee Meetings

EEAC Steering Committee members meet on the third Wednesday of every month (except August). Upcoming EEAC Steering Committee meetings are February 20, March 19, April 16 and May 21.

Steering Committee meetings are usually held at New York University, Pless Building, 32 Washington Square Park East and Washington Place in the 5th floor Conference Room. Steering Committee meetings are open to anyone interested in learning about environmental education in New York City and sharing information about special programs and projects.

Meetings are also occasionally held at New York City sites associated with our members. Please be sure to contact an EEAC Steering Committee member or visit the EEAC website at [www.eeac-nyc.org](http://www.eeac-nyc.org) to confirm meeting location and schedule.

### Newsletter Deadlines

If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter, please email it as a Microsoft Word attachment to [lmiller296@aol.com](mailto:lmiller296@aol.com). The newsletter deadlines are the first Monday in April, July, October and January. We would love your ideas!

### Newsletter Committee & Contributors

Meg Domroese  
Kim Estes-Fradis  
Michelle Fufaro  
Joy Garland  
Jane Jackson  
John Lancos  
Regina McCarthy  
Lenore Miller, Newsletter Editor  
Betsy Ukeritis  
Jill Weiss

### NEW MEMBERS

Welcome:  
Carolyn Nisinson  
Tina Glover  
Robin Dublin



The Environmental Education Advisory Council (EEAC) would like to acknowledge the support of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for helping to produce the EEAC newsletter. Visit the

DEP Web site at [www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep), email [educationoffice@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:educationoffice@dep.nyc.gov) or call (718) 595-3506 for information about DEP's education resources for students and teachers.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

c/o Teresa Ippolito  
Environmental Education Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2  
290 Broadway, 28<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007-1866

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 quality environmental education.

### EEAC Officers

Jill Weiss, Chairperson  
Barry Weinbrom, Vice-Chair for Programs  
Terry Ippolito, Membership Secretary  
Jay Holmes, Treasurer  
Betsy Ukeritis, Recording Secretary

### Steering Committee \*

Gail David, Elementary School Science Association  
Kim Estes-Fradis, NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection  
Michelle Fufaro, Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment  
Rochelle Gandour, Trout in the Classroom  
Joy Garland, Stuyvesant Cove Park Association, Inc.  
Jay Holmes, American Museum of Natural History  
Terry Ippolito, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Pamela Ito, The Horticultural Society of New York  
Jane Jackson, North Shore Land Alliance  
Marcia Kaplan-Mann, Environmental Quest/UFT  
John Lancos, National Park Service  
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Barbara Miller, NYC Department of Education  
Lenore Miller  
Regina McCarthy  
Claudia Toback, Science Council of New York City  
Betsy Ukeritis, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
Barry Weinbrom, After School Activity Programs  
Jill Weiss, Consultant

\*Affiliations for identification purposes only.

### GET CONNECTED!

If you are a member of EEAC and want to be part of information sharing and on-line discussion on the EEAC listserv, contact:

[Cfranken@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:Cfranken@schools.nyc.gov)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Happy 2008! Welcome to another terrific issue of the Environmental Education Advisory Council newsletter. As informative as ever, the newsletter is an excellent result of our organization's volunteers working together. Our membership has been very busy in other ways, too! Here are some highlights:

**Annual Meeting**—The annual meeting was a smashing success. Held at the American Museum of Natural History on November 7<sup>th</sup>, the meeting included a recap of EEAC's year, a preview of the WATER: H2O=LIFE Exhibit, and lots of socializing and networking. Fun! It was exciting to see so many new faces – many of whom we can now count as new members – Welcome! A special thanks to Jay Holmes and the Education Department of AMNH for generously hosting this event.

**Website**—By the end of this winter we will be launching our new website! The new site will feature an updated calendar feature and membership section as well as excerpts from our newsletter. Our URL is: [www.eeac-nyc.org](http://www.eeac-nyc.org). Keep checking back; the new site will be up soon! (A message will be posted on the listserv when we have a launch date.) Once the website is launched, I will be looking to our members to use this tool for promoting our work and our programs...get ready to tell a friend! A special thanks to Rochelle Gandour and Roland Rogers for their efforts.

**Programs**—Watch your in-box for invitations to some exciting programs in '08 about green initiatives in NYC. Additionally, we plan to hold a few of our steering committee meetings in some new venues – we encourage you to join us at these gatherings! Please contact us at [info@eeac-nyc.org](mailto:info@eeac-nyc.org) if you have ideas for programs or wish to help out!

**TEEP (Teacher Environmental Education Preparation)**—EEAC is an active partner in promoting environmental education for pre-service teachers across New York State. The 6<sup>th</sup> TEEP Symposium (February 28 – March 1, 2008) will bring stakeholders back to the table to discuss EE cognates for pre-service teachers, the adoption of NAAEE's (North American Association for Environmental Education) Guidelines for the Preparation and Professional Development of Environmental Educators by the accrediting body NCATE (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education), and the next steps to develop a statewide center for environmental education. Please read Betsy Ukeritis' article in this issue on the status of these initiatives.

As you can see, EEAC is on the move! Why not become an active member? Attend one of our new programs! Join a committee! Bring a friend to a steering committee meeting! We can't wait to see you at the table!

Very Best, *Jill Weiss*

## SCONYC 31st Annual Conference

In Cooperation with the NYC Dept. of Education

&

NYS Department of Education



Saturday, April 12th, 2008

8:15 AM – 3:30 PM

<http://www.sconyc-ny.org>



Save April 12, 2008 on your calendar now. Workshops, exhibition of science materials, keynote speaker and networking with colleagues are all part of this all-day conference. Each participant will receive a certificate of attendance at the conclusion of the conference.

**WANTED: Exhibitors and workshop presenters**

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## BOOK BUZZ

Regina McCarthy

At last, Leslie Day's long-awaited book, *Field Guide to the Natural World of New York City*, with illustrations by Mark A. Klingler, is here, with foreword by Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Along with Leslie's own lovely images, there are wonderful photos by Don Reipe, Mike Feller and others. Klingler's illustrations are breathtaking.

The format is clear and easy to use, especially for the plant and animal descriptions. For example, for each species, there is:

- Etymology of its name
- Description
- Common locations (where it can be found)
- Notes of interest
- Ecological role (I really liked this!!)
- Key points

Day highlights several parks in each borough. I loved that she even included the often forgotten Floyd Bennett Field! There are also a section on the **Forever Wild** program of City Parks and a map of their locations. The book features a geology section, too. Her acknowledgements in the front of the book show that she went to the "best" in New York City for her information; you will recognize many of the names listed.

This is not, however, a book where one can find every species that lives in NYC; this was not the author's intent. The more important species are covered. It is an inspiring book that will invite the beginning naturalist to want to learn more. The Index sometimes misses some listings, but careful examination and thumbing through the book can locate its content. The book is selling so well that the publisher is thinking of a second printing. Day is already correcting some of the minor errors of this first edition.

A seasoned naturalist will love this book because of its easy-to-find color coding at the bottom of the page. The illustrations are so lovely that I thought if I ever do the book I have in my head, Klingler would be my illustrator of choice!!

Day is a science educator that many know in the science/environmental world of New York City. She recently received her doctorate in science education from Columbia. She teaches at the Elizabeth Murrow School in NJ. Of course, the coolest thing about Day is she lives on a houseboat at 79th St. Can't get closer to the Hudson than that!!!

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN THE NEWS

John Lancos

### School Grounds as Learning Resources

In recent years, a growing movement among educators and school administrators has focused on the many educational and health benefits of using school grounds as part of schools' overall educational strategy. Studies have shown that these places can help students understand their place in the environment, aid in improving students' physical and mental health, and even curb bullying. Some efforts around the world include the following:

#### Learning Through Landscapes (U.K.)

The LTL program helps schools across the U.K. make the most out of their outdoor spaces for play and learning. They have a wealth of resources available, including support for member schools, publications, school grounds training and conferences. Visit them at [www.ltl.org.uk](http://www.ltl.org.uk).

#### Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds (Canada)

Created on Earth Day 1991, Canada's effort brings communities and nature together through several parallel programs for schools, communities and homeowners. Small grants are available for schools and day care centers for plantings and other projects, as well as a native plants database, a discussion forum and various events. Visit them at [www.evergreen.ca/en/lg/lg](http://www.evergreen.ca/en/lg/lg).

#### Wild School Sites (Project WILD)

Here at home, "Wild School Sites" is an extension program of Project WILD. A video, "Exploring School Nature Areas," discusses utilizing natural areas and school grounds to teach about the environment. This is a great action program for classes who want to develop natural elements to their outdoor school spaces. Go to [www.projectwild.org](http://www.projectwild.org) for further information.

Although most urban school grounds may seem anything but natural or wild, with some creativity and effort, many NYC schools have the potential for increasing student health and understanding of their natural world in interdisciplinary ways. The above programs may inspire teachers to investigate the possibilities.



*Have you ever had to come up with an icebreaker for a group that you knew was not going to be into the “touchy-feely” icebreakers we use a lot? Try this one—a people scavenger hunt – as a way to get people talking to each other!*

## **PEOPLE SCAVENGER HUNT**

**Adapted from a NY Project WILD Icebreaker**

**Try to have at least one person sign his or her name after every statement.**

**Each person can sign your list only once.**

1. Has heard the Baltimore Oriole’s (*Icterus galbula*) loud, fluty whistle. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Can identify 3 of New York City’s native plant species. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Has compost in their school, office, or home. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Has contacted a government official about a wildlife issue. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Has held a snake. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Can identify the call of an Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*). \_\_\_\_\_
7. Enjoys photography of city parks. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Has a special place in New York City parks. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Has attended a Project WILD workshop in a NYC Park. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Owns a piece of wildlife art. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Walks, rides their bike, or takes mass transit to work. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Has seen a live Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) in NYC. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Likes to pet toads. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Has seen a snowstorm of more than 2 feet in the past year. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Maintains a life bird list. \_\_\_\_\_
16. Has seen crows roosting over the winter in NYC. \_\_\_\_\_
17. Can identify animal tracks in New York City parks. \_\_\_\_\_
18. Has seen a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) nest. \_\_\_\_\_
19. Has been in an indoor rainforest. \_\_\_\_\_
20. Has sat underneath a tree in the past year. \_\_\_\_\_
21. Has held a bumblebee in the palm of their hand. \_\_\_\_\_
22. Can name the author of the Sense of Wonder. \_\_\_\_\_
23. Has howled at the moon. \_\_\_\_\_
24. Knows where in New York City Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) will bloom this spring and summer. \_\_\_\_\_
25. Has taken part in a 24-hour bio-blitz in a NYC park. \_\_\_\_\_



*Regina during her trip to Egypt for the July 2007 iEARN conference.*

a teacher, Ms. Maria Pollock, got the amazing opportunity to visit Egypt for six days. The iEARN conference was filled with workshops where YouthCaN participants shared their research and projects with others. Regina highly values her experience in Egypt and says it has inspired her dream to do more traveling when she gets older.

Regina hopes to have a career that involves working with people that also includes her love of science and traveling. She says she loves learning about other cultures and how other people live. Regina feels thankful she has had such inspiring people in her life such as Ms. Pollock and Jay Holmes from the Museum of Natural History, who coordinates the YouthCaN program in New York City.

## **STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: Regina Fojas**

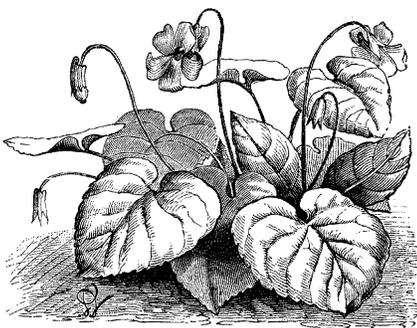
Regina Fojas is a role model for other young adults interested in making a difference in the world. Regina is a junior at Queens High School for the Sciences at York College. She is an extremely bright and passionate teen with an enthusiasm not just for the environment, but specifically environmental education.

Last year, Regina and a few of her classmates participated in YouthCaN, a global organization of youth who educate others about environmental issues. Every year, the American Museum of Natural History hosts a YouthCaN conference where participating groups present their projects to others. Regina and her peers presented results of their study on the water quality in Alley Pond Park. Regina was so inspired by the conference and the wonderful experience she had there that she began a YouthCaN club at her school. She is, of course, the president of the club.

iEARN (International Education and Resource Network) is one of the organizations that sponsors YouthCaN. Each summer, iEARN hosts an international conference to give students across the globe the opportunity to travel to another country to see what types of environmental research and projects are happening there. Regina applied for and was awarded a scholarship to participate in this conference. In July 2007, she and

### **City Garden Club of New York Scholarships Available**

*by Joy Garland*



The City Gardens Club of New York, an 87 year old non-profit organization, is providing a limited number of scholarships to activity-oriented summer workshops for New York City public school teachers at the following: NY Botanical Garden Seedlings Program K-5 in July; Brooklyn Botanic Garden - Pre K-8 in July; Maine Audubon Society in Hog Island, ME - teachers grades 6-8, July 13-19; The Nature Conservancy - Teachers grades 4-8, July 7-10. Inservice, new teacher credits, and graduate credits may be applicable.

All applications and the principal's letter of support are due back to the Scholarship Selection Committee, City Gardens Club of New York, 755 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021 by Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions regarding the application, you can email: [citygardensclub@aol.com](mailto:citygardensclub@aol.com). Phone messages left for the City Gardens

Club of New York at 212-737-0138 are answered only on Mondays. As a former recipient of a scholarship myself, I highly recommend the program.

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## Make Earth Day Everyday

*Michelle Fufaro*

A new term has recently been added to our eco-friendly vocabulary: “Locavore” or “localvore” was first coined in 2005 to describe a person whose diet consists of food harvested from an area within approximately a 100-mile radius from where he or she lives. One of the major reasons environmentalists support this approach is that it reduces the amount of energy used in transporting food over long distances. As a bonus, consumers get fresher food while supporting local agriculture.

Here are some foods and the farms they come from as listed on Local Fork’s website under the heading “Locavore’s Guide to New York City” (<http://www.localfork.com>):

- **Honey:** Berkshire Berries (0 miles--made from hives on NYC rooftops!). Available at Union Square and other Greenmarkets throughout the city.
- **Poultry & eggs:** Quattro Game Farm (61 Miles). Available at Union Square Green Market.
- **Flours & Grains:** Oak Grove Farm/The Blew Family (45 miles). Available at Union Square Green Market.
- **Assorted Dry Beans:** Cayuga Pure Organics (170 miles). Available through online ordering.
- **Seafood:** Pura Vida Fisheries (30 miles). Available at Union Square Green Market.
- **Dairy:** Ronnybrook (97 miles). Available at various NYC Greenmarkets and Natural by Nature (114 miles) Available at most supermarkets.

*Visit the website for more listings.*

*Happy eating locally!*

*Continued from page 1*

new NCATE environmental educator standards, will take participants through the new standards. After Dr. Simmons’s presentation, there will be a roundtable discussion about what these standards mean for teacher education faculty and what challenges they might face while incorporating these standards. A panel will feature several colleges and universities and the work that they are already doing to incorporate environmental education in teacher preparation.

The second day of the symposium will be dedicated to providing professional development in environmental education to participants. This will take the form of a half-day Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) workshop and focus on how to include environmental education in methods courses.

If you are interested in additional information about TEEP and the symposium, please contact: Kathleen Oliver, TEEP Coordinator, [kathleen.oliver@nyu.edu](mailto:kathleen.oliver@nyu.edu), (212) 992-9362.





# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2008

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       \$ 50 Sustaining Organization

\$200 Individual Life Membership

Please make checks payable to **EEAC**.

Thank you!

EEAC is a 501-c3 organization.

I would like to become involved in a committee.

Please provide me with information about the following committees:

Communications     Programs     Membership

TEEP (Teacher Environmental Education Preparation)

Mail completed form and check to:

Jay Holmes, Treasurer, EEAC, American Museum of Natural History, 79<sup>th</sup> Street and Central Park West, New York, N.Y. 10024



## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

c/o Teresa Ippolito  
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