



Environmental
Education
Advisory
Council of
New York City

EEAC

Spring 2016

CONNECTIONS, NATURALLY!

By Brittany
DiLeo

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's environmental education staff offers a number of programs throughout New York City. The four overarching programs are Conservation Clubs, NYC Camps Diversity Program, professional development workshops for educators, and public outreach presentations on a variety of environmental topics. Our goal is to increase environmental awareness in order to foster more informed decision-making and get New Yorkers outside, enjoying and learning about their local environment.

Conservation Club is a partnership among United Neighborhood Houses, ExpandedED Schools, individual after-school sites, and the DEC. There are three curricula designed for established after-school programs to help expose their students in grades 3-5 to the wonder of nature in NYC. The mission of the Conservation Club program is to bring environmental education to, and foster a sense of, stewardship in inner-city elementary-aged children.

Conservation Club runs in the spring, fall, and summer. Each season includes lessons that are led by trained after-school site staff and programs that are led by DEC staff that come to the site and bring the necessary materials for more in-depth topics. In the fall, students study general ecology and conservation topics and in the spring they focus on aquatic topics such as fishing and how humans impact the aquatic ecosystems around New York City. Some of the DEC-led visits include Urban Gardening, Worm Composting, Birdwatching 101, Fish Casting and Native Plants and Pollinators.



Conservation Club students "measure" the circumference of a neighborhood tree

NYC Camps Diversity Program was established to provide the opportunity for youth ages 11-17 to attend a DEC summer camp for free. The DEC operates four residential summer camps across New York State where youth explore New York's diverse habitats, and learn how human activities affect the environment. Campers solve challenges, learn environmental concepts, practice outdoor skills and spend the week immersed in nature. All of the camps offer sportsman education classes, including hunting and archery.

Parents interested in applying for a scholarship so their child can go to camp for free can contact the regional environmental educator using the information below. There are a limited number of spots available and the short application is due in mid-March. Transportation to and from camp is provided as well as a series of free pre and post-camp activities including fishing and hiking at local parks.



Diversity camper and DEC intern work together to practice pitching a tent in Central Park

In-class and public programs are available for pre-K through adult groups on a variety of topics. One of the most popular programs is NYC Mammal Match

where students compare skulls and furs from some of our mammalian residents to learn about adaptations that help these animals survive. Another popular program for all ages is the Nature in Your Neighborhood lesson that introduces students to the animals and habitats that are all around, even in very urban environments. While these lessons are most often requested by classroom teachers, they are also available for scout and civic groups, community organizations, after-school programs or any group looking to learn more about our natural resources. DEC staff also bring hands-on activities to table at festivals, Earth Day celebrations, science nights, and career fairs in all five boroughs.

(Continued on page 7)

EEAC NEWS

Steering Committee Meetings

Please visit the EEAC website at www.eeac-nyc.org for meeting locations or contact an EEAC Steering Committee member. 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.

Newsletter Deadlines

If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter, please email it as a Microsoft Word attachment to KimE@dep.nyc.gov.

The newsletter deadline is the first Monday of Feb., May, and September. We would love your ideas!

Newsletter Committee

Lynn Cole

Kim Estes-Fradis

Joy Garland

Lenore Miller, Newsletter Editor

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The Environmental Education Advisory Council of New York City, EEAC-NYC, is the only nonprofit organization with the sole purpose of promoting and supporting outstanding environmental education in New York City Schools and other centers for learning.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Judith Hutton

The New York Botanical Garden

Teacher Training

2900 Southern Boulevard

Bronx, NY 10458

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 quality environmental education.

EEAC OFFICERS

Judith Hutton, Chairperson

Brittany DiLeo, Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Shig Matsukawa, Secretary

Jacqueline Pilati, Program Chairperson

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Jessica Brunacini, PoLAR Climate Change
Education Partnership

Lynn Cole, Children's Library Discovery Center

Gail David, Elementary School Science Association

Brittany DiLeo, NYS Dept. of Environmental
Conservation

Kim Estes-Fradis, NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection

Joy Garland, Stuyvesant Cove Park Association

Judith Hutton, New York Botanical Garden

Mary Leou, New York University

Shig Matsukawa, Food Waste Recycler

Jacqueline Pilati, Teachers College, Columbia University

Mike Zamm, GrowNYC

* affiliation for identification purposes only

STAY IN TOUCH!

Members, keep up with the latest EEAC news on EEAC-NYC@googlegroups.com

If you would like to join the listserv contact

Carol Franken at carolfranken@gmail.com



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

As I sit down to write this message, I am amazed at how EEAC has impacted my career and professional development for 15 years! Similarly, the organization has been impacted and shaped by those who donate their time to “run the show” behind the scenes of our programs and services.

In this issue we'll introduce you to new Steering Committee members while we bid a fond farewell to our Membership Secretary, Laura Chantri and Treasurer, John Pritchard. Laura will be bringing her talents to new opportunities in California. John continues to enjoy his retirement. He advocated for environmental education for many years, serving as an administrator in the NYC Department of Education and volunteering his time leading educational programs for youth. We thank John and Laura for their service to EEAC and wish them all the best.

EEAC provides opportunities and networking for newcomers and seasoned professionals. My hope is that EEAC members will continue to foster leadership, creativity and innovation in the field of environmental education. If you want to get involved please contact us or come to a Steering Committee meeting, held on the third Wednesday of every month at NYU!

Judith Hutton

Join us

for an evening of networking and discussion

about One New York: The Plan for a Strong and Just City to learn about its sustainability and resiliency initiatives and how this influences our work as educators.

March 23, 5:30–7:30pm
Questions?

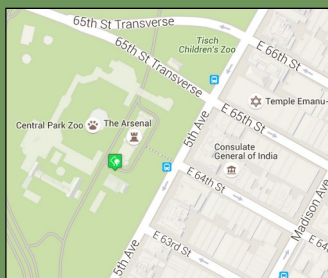
info@eeac-nyc.org
www.eeac-nyc.org

Register here

Eventbrite

goo.gl/Tx0BXI

The Arsenal, East side of
Central Park at Fifth Avenue
and 64th Street



Environmental Education Advisory
Council of New York City

Guest speakers

Morgan Monaco, Mayor's Office of Operations

Gwen Litvak, Chief of Staff for the Mayor's Office of Sustainability

Meredith McDermott, NYC DOE Director of Sustainability

Light snacks and beverages will be served.



We Like Mike!

From his colleagues at GrowNYC

Our Valentine this year is Mike Zamm, a die-hard environmental educator, whose enthusiastic and ambitious attitude launched GrowNYC's first environmental education program.

After 40 years of dedicated work, Mike Zamm has decided to retire. For decades, he has avidly taught and inspired tens of thousands of the city's young people. We are eternally grateful for the solid foundation he built from which all GrowNYC

education programs have grown.

Mike completed his bachelors degree in Psychology at City College and received his masters degree in Public Administration, with a concentration in Urban Planning from New York University. Utilizing his degrees, Mike became a teacher in a NYC public school for seven years. During that time, Mike was active in program organization, planning, and research.

Moving to the Council on the Environment (predecessor of GrowNYC), in 1972, he created and implemented his first educational program, Training Student Organizers (TSO). Mike worked with nearly 43,000 students from elementary schools and universities within the five boroughs and its upstate watershed to organize over 1,000 environmental improvement projects.

Many student participants have been inspired to organize neighborhood environmental improvement projects, participate in their community associations, and even pursue environmental and social service careers. Most importantly, a majority of these students have integrated environmental concerns and practices into their everyday lives.

In 1990, TSO won the well deserved National Environmental Achievement Award in Environmental Education by Renew America. The Christadora Community recognized Mike's accomplishments in 1998 with a lifetime achievement award for "outstanding service and dedication to the children and the environment of NYC."

Mike is also the principal author of "A Concept Paper for A High School for Environmental Studies in NYC," which led to the opening of the High School for Environmental Studies, the city's first environmental high school.

So, Mike, this Valentine's Day, GrowNYC declares you to be our Valentine. You will be greatly missed and we will continue to be grateful for all you have taught us and the young people of New York City.



Mike with former students



A sampling of impressive career stats, with students:

Planting/mulching nearly 24,000 trees and shrubs in parks and watersheds

55,000+ trees, shrubs and other plants planted/mulched by NYC students

16,000 plants placed in NYC's upstate watersheds to preserve water quality

Students removed nearly 16 tons of litter from the city.

Students wrote 7,000 letters on environmental issues to public officials.

Passages: Ken Kowald

by Mike Zamm and Nancy Wolf

EEAC mourned the passing of Ken Kowald in August of 2015, while at the same time celebrating his profound contributions to environmental education in NYC.

Ken was involved with environmental matters long before EEAC was founded. A graduate of Fordham University Law School, he worked with the American Lung Association on clean air issues in the late 1950s and the 1960s. When he started at Consolidated Edison Company of New York in the late 60s/early 70s he began to craft what was at the time a unique relationship between a corporation and the NYC environmental education movement.

Ken participated in the process emanating from the 1974 Mohonk conference, which called for the founding of an environmental education advisory council. I remember a key meeting that took place in late 1975 at the then Council on the Environment of NYC (now GrowNYC) in which Ken, Gene Ezersky of the NYC Board of Education, Barry Samuel, then Executive Director of the Council on the Environment and Ray Pfortner of US EPA, met to discuss the development of EEAC in the wake of Mohonk. Gene had been the first Chairperson of EEAC but at the meeting Ray agreed to be the leader of EEAC for the next few years.

With Ray as Chair, Ken became a member of the EEAC steering committee. He was present at virtually every meeting for the next 30 years, both as Con Ed's representative and after he retired. Ken was a supreme-



ly hands-on member, helping EEAC to develop its policies, structures and programs while directing Con Ed's corporate support in totally appropriate ways to the growth of those initiatives.

Ken played an essential role in helping EEAC organize the five dynamic conferences in the 1980s (two New York Naturally conferences, one Nature in the City gathering and two others) that helped galvanize the environmental education movement in the twenty years after Mohonk.

Outside of EEAC Ken also established productive relationships between Con Ed as a corporate philanthropic entity and many non-profit, grassroots and community based environmental education organizations in the City of New York. Continuing his hands-on approach, he was proactive with numerous programs and helped to secure funding and material support for long term ventures and programs

such as the Green Guerillas, the Environmental Action Coalition, the Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment, Trees NY, GrowNYC's Training Student Organizers Program, the Queens Botanical Garden, the High School for Environmental Studies and many, many more.

Ken was particularly enthusiastic about Green Horizons, a collaborative career day that was established by EEAC and New York ReLeaf and supported by Con Edison. For years he was part of the planning and attended to help with registration, welcoming students and their teachers.

Ken adopted a warm, personal approach. I remember that when I gave an evening talk at the American Museum of Natural History on GrowNYC's environmental education initiatives, Ken attended and was a reassuring presence in the audience.

Ken was also a columnist and blogger for the Times Ledger, which the local Queens paper noted in its front page obituary of August 13, 2015. He contributed columns for 15 years and they won first place in the New York Times Press Association's annual contest a few years ago. He wrote about environmental issues as well as many other topics. Ken directed all the fees he received for his column to Queens conservation organizations such as the Queens Botanical Garden and the Alley Pond Environmental Center.

Ken Kowald helped forge a new relationship between corporations and the environmental movement, especially in the non-profit sector.

TWENTY YEARS ON THE HORIZON

Part 1 of 2,
(continued next issue)

By Marc Breslav



Green Horizons, which grew from an EEAC board meeting, is the only, annual citywide environmental career event for school children. It celebrated its 20th anniversary in October at Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Representing all five boroughs, up to 200 middle-school students from both public and parochial schools attend each year. Schools send, without charge, up to 15 students accompanied by a guidance counselor or science teacher. Every student selects two of some 20, mostly outdoor stations led by experts. Instead of sitting and listening to someone talk about jobs and careers, the students participate in hands-on activities that allow them to experience what it is like to be part of environmental work.

Station subjects include soil science, entomology, arboriculture, landscape architecture, atmospheric science, engineering, freshwater ecology and urban farming. Activities include using a rope and harness to climb and prune trees, building a solar car, planting trees, catching insects, preparing baby plants for growth, and learning to do compost.

The stations are staffed by experts from over 20 government agencies, businesses and nonprofit organizations. A cadre of some 30 volunteer environmental educators assists them.

Green Horizons serves middle school students Citywide from 6th to 8th grade. The aim is to nurture their interest in the environmental field before they enter high school and other

advanced studies so that they can better choose the courses to pursue a green career. Their teachers and counselors receive a list of the surprising number of high schools in the City that offer environment themes or course concentrations, some 20 total.

To facilitate access, Green Horizons is held in a different borough each year on a rotating basis. The first year, 1995, it was held at Brooklyn Botanic Garden where it returned, fittingly, for the anniversary.

This year the event is scheduled for October 20 in Manhattan in northern Central Park.

The chief organizer of Green Horizons to this day is Nancy A. Wolf, former chairperson of EEAC, and a cofounder of the event.

Green Horizons has hosted over 3000 students from more than 100 schools Citywide since its inception. It remains a huge collaborative effort with many experts and volunteers who have participated for all 20 years.

Con Edison, Bartlett Tree Expert Company, Magnolia Tree, and Davey Tree Expert Company have funded Green Horizons.

For further information visit www.eeac-nyc.org/projects.asp?id=1

GREEN HORIZONS 2016
will take place October 20th at the
northern tip of Central Park.

Since 1983, Marc Breslav has managed an environmental public relations and marketing practice based in Cold Spring, NY. He is a long-standing member of EEAC.

Your thoughts,
Please!

We are engaging in a little market research. We'd like to connect with the wider Environmental Education community. What do you envision for the future of EEAC? Contribute your ideas!

<http://bit.ly/EEAC-survey>

The survey will take less than 10 minutes and will provide us with important feedback on member benefits, programs, communications, and networking.

Be sure to share your e-mail address with us to be eligible to win a Patagonia bag!

☒ Yes
☐ No

(Continued from page 1)

Professional Development Workshops are offered throughout NYC and are appropriate for teachers of grades pre-K -12 including informal and after-school educators. These workshops provide staff with hands-on, environmental activities using the internationally recognized programs Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, and Project WET. During the workshop, educators experience the lessons first-hand so they can picture how it would work with their students. Workshops are free and each participant receives an activity guide filled with the lesson plans as well as additional resources to help teachers easily incorporate these topics and activities to their students.

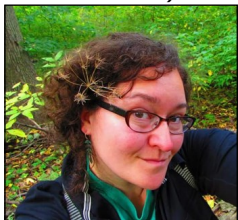
If a school is interested in hosting a workshop, DEC staff can hold the workshop at a location and time that work



best for the school as long as at least eight teachers will be attending the workshop. Staff are also available on an ongoing basis to help educators add environmental topics into their curriculum by providing resources for background information or working with educators to create lesson plans on specific topics.

The DEC is a great resource for New Yorkers to connect to nature through programs that target youth, adults, teachers, and families. For more information about these services, contact Brittany DiLeo at (718) 482-6404 or Brittany.dileo@dec.ny.gov.

Meet Brittany



I grew up in Buffalo, where I discovered my love for nature on and in the very urban Niagara River, swimming, volunteering, and learning to SCUBA dive. I attended the University at Buffalo earning a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and master's in Urban Planning. During college I worked for NYS Parks, Erie County, Buffalo Museum of Science and the Buffalo Zoo. I served as an AmeriCorps member for two years at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve outside Buffalo, as an environmental educator and invasive species coordinator. I fell in love with the field, imparting my sense of wonder and excitement about nature to students of all ages. I learned about the natural world and especially mushrooms! In 2014, I accepted a position as Regional Environmental Educator for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in NYC. When not working, I'm exploring a park, photographing mushrooms and anything else that doesn't move around too much. I'm excited to join the Steering Committee as Treasurer and Membership Secretary and put my passion to work for EEAC.

A few coming events



SCONYC
Science Council of New York City



SCONYC 38TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Saturday, April 16, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Stuyvesant High School, 345 Chambers St., NYC

Looking for new ideas to jazz up your professional skills? The Science Council of New York City (SCONYC) is holding its 39th annual conference. There will be workshops and representatives from professional organizations, non-profit groups, and informal education centers. A light breakfast will be served; lunch is available for purchase. Teachers and EEAC members are invited to present a workshop and to network with science teachers from the New York City area.

For further information follow SCONYC on Facebook or visit the SCONYC website at www.sconyc.org/conferences



2ND ANNUAL EARTH "DAY" CELEBRATION

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY DISCOVERY CENTER

Queens Central Library, 8911 Merrick Blvd. Jamaica, Queens, convenient to the F train, 169th St. stop

Kids are out of school for spring recess. We are in at the library. Programs Monday to Friday afternoons from 2:00-4:00PM, first come first serve.

Family Earth Day Festival

Saturday, April 30th, 12:00-3:00PM

Programs and activities for families, presented by the Library's own Discovery Team and several local environmental organizations.

All Queens Library programs and events are Free!

www.queenslibrary.org

scole@queenslibrary.org

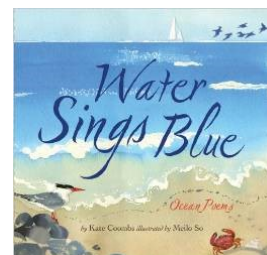


Book Buzz

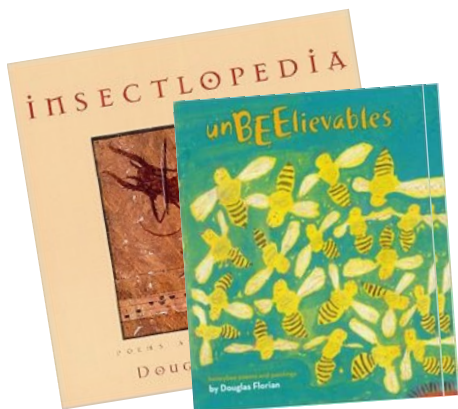
These poetry books for children are an exuberant celebration of the natural world; words paint images of earthly wonders, made ever more lively with beautiful illustrations. These books verify the power of adding the A for Art to STEM to make STEAM. For teaching poetry, inspiring classroom poets, and celebrating the land and our fellow earthlings - a few exemplary offerings:

Review by Lynn Cole

[Water Sings Blue](#) is a trip to the beach in verse by Kate Coombs. The illustrator, Meilo So, depicts the beach and environs so perfectly on the page, you're sure to hear the whoosh of the surf and gulls fussing above. Sometimes, we forget that NYC's nearest neighbors are ocean and river. As a reminder, this book of poems for preschool to 3rd grade, provides an artistic guide to the sandy buffer between us and the deep blue.



[A World of Wonders: Geographic Travels in Verse and Rhyme](#), poems by J. Patrick Lewis, and illustrations by Alison Jay, has a nineteen-fifties feel. This fanciful excursion around the globe employs riddles and humor to impart geographical particulars. "Of longitude and latitude, which has more 'flatitude!'" Young travelers, 5 years and up, meet past explorers, Mistery Columbus and Magellan, and learn that the Dead Sea is true to its name - "It's no one's fault . . . just too much salt."



Artist, poet and New York City native, Douglas Florian's lively books are vibrant with his whimsical paintings and playful use of words. In [Insectlopedia](#) he introduces a menagerie of spineless little critters, skittering, hopping or flying about the pages. The lines of poetry dip and swirl as much as the creatures they describe. Florian's 2012 book, [UnBEElievable](#), illustrates the lives of our food partners, honey bees. Florian's telling of bee doings presents an endearing and non-threatening peek into the hive. His books are rated for young children up to grade 3, but don't let that stop you from enjoying them.

Melville Award for Mary Leou

In November, The City Gardens Club of New York City honored Mary Leou with the Melville Award for her contributions to EEAC and to environmental education.

The Melville Award is given to an individual or individuals who have demonstrated excellence in science and/or environmental education. Dr. Leou, former chair of EEAC, has over 27 years of experience in urban environmental education developing programs for teachers and K-12 students, and curricula for formal and non-formal education settings and serves on numerous boards and state-wide committees. EEAC's prominence is a reflection of her outstanding leadership throughout the years.

Dr. Leou is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning and Director of the Environmental Conservation Education graduate program and the Wallerstein Collaborative for Urban Environmental Education at New York University.



Catherine C. Crane,
President, The City
Gardens Club of
NYC

Mary Leou, New
York University

Susan
Gooberman

Five Senses Poet-Tree

Grade: 3-8

Time: Two 45-minute class periods

Subject Area: Language Arts, Environmental Education

MATERIALS AND PREP

Smell - small containers with cotton balls soaked in extracts of tree-based scents (lemon, almond, banana, chocolate, orange, root beer...)

Touch - Paper lunch bags, tree objects for each (acorns, twigs, pinecones, seeds, leaves, bark, sweetgum balls, London planetree fluff...)

Hear - Play sounds of a windstorm, thunderstorm, forest birds... Available on YouTube and also on the Project Learning Tree Early Childhood CD.

Taste - (Contingent on students' allergies,) provide a variety of tree-based tastings: Maple syrup, bananas, dark chocolate, lemon, apple, birch beer, olives, cherries...

Sight - (If you don't have a window overlooking a tree) Field guides, picture books, paintings of trees, pictures you've printed of old trees, seedlings, dead trees...

Objective: Students experience trees through the five senses and write descriptive words they will use to compose a poem about trees.

PROCEDURE

1) Divide students into five groups. Explain that they will be rotating through stations to explore trees using their five senses. At each station they should write down as many descriptive words as they can about what they are experiencing. (Younger students may need a worksheet with prompting, open-ended prompts to spur creativity. Ex: Hearing Station - Sitting under a tree during a rainstorm, I would feel...) The goal is to gather as many descriptive words and phrases together as you can and then use them to compose poems.

2) Go through each station and describe what students are expected to do at each. Tell students their time limits at each station and behavioral expectations.

Smell - Students at this station will smell each scent in the smell jars and write descriptive words for the smells. Students will want to identify the smell if they know it, which is fine, but encourage them to describe the smell beyond just identifying it. This may be difficult for younger students.

Taste - If possible, provide students with a variety of small tastes of tree-based foods. Students will describe the tastes.

Touch - Mystery Bags: paper bags with tree objects that students will feel and write about the textures of the different objects. Students can try to identify what is in the bags and look at the objects after they've written their descriptions.

Sight - Ideally set up near a window where students can observe trees outside. If this is not available, provide students with pictures of a variety of trees. Some examples are picture books, field guides, paintings. Students can imagine themselves sitting under the tree, what would they see?

Hear - Recordings of thunderstorms, wind storms, forest birds, etc. Encourage students to think about all the animals that may live in and around a tree. Describe the sound of the wind in the branches and the animals that live there.

After students have rotated through the five stations, they should work on composing poems using the descriptive words and phrases they wrote down at each station. You may want to give the students very little direction and just let them write what they want. Alternately, you can use any of the following prompts/directions to guide their writing.

Give students examples of different forms of poems including haiku, quatrain, couplet and free form. Students can write a poem in each form. Students can

- try to write their poem in the shape of a tree. (Display a Forest of Poems!)
- write a poem for each season from the perspective of a tree.
- write a poem from the perspective of an animal that lives on or in a tree.

After students have completed their poems, they can read or display them in the classroom.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



☐ New member ☐ Renewal Date _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

☐ \$30 Individual ☐ \$75 Organization

☐ \$250 Individual Life Membership

Please make checks payable to "EEAC."

Mail completed form and check to:
Attn: Judith Hutton
The New York Botanical Garden
Teacher Training
2900 Southern Boulevard
Bronx, NY 10458

Members are welcome at EEAC Steering Committee meetings, held every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Check our website for these and other events.

www.eeac-nyc.org

EEAC is a 501-(c)3 organization.

Name _____

Title _____

Organizational Affiliation _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Organization Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____

Business phone _____

Email _____



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