

By Aimee Arandia Østensen,  
Manhattan Country School  
Farm Curriculum & Farm  
Outreach Coordinator

On

a sunny day in late April, over 85 youth and teachers from 14 schools circled up on the lawn to play a community-building game and to consider the question: "What did I learn about climate change and taking climate action during this retreat?"

"The summit was incredibly motivational" began one youth leader, "I learned a lot to lead climate change initiatives in my school."

The students hailed from across the New York City and Catskill and Delaware Watersheds, and converged at the Frost Valley YMCA in Claryville, NY for the 2017 Catskills Youth Leadership Climate Summit. This event is the second of its kind intended to bring upstate and downstate students together to learn about climate change and how to make a

## Empowering Youth to Lead

### The 2017 Catskills Youth Leadership Climate Summit



positive impact on our local and global environments. The 2016 Youth Climate Summit, which took place at the Delaware Academy in Delhi, NY, focused primarily on informing students about the science of climate change and inspiring them to connect more deeply with natural and human dynamics through awareness and school-based projects. This year's Leadership Summit shifted the focus slightly to nourish a core group of student climate leaders, giving them the knowledge base and skill set to return to their schools ready to organize their peers to take collective climate action.

At Frost Valley this April, youth were the center of attention. Youth

activists from the Wild Center's Adirondack Youth Climate Program kicked off the 2-day retreat. These youth taught us about the science behind climate change, as well as its natural and social impacts through the Climate Reality presentation, which is a part of the Climate Reality Project. Later that evening and into the next day, these high school students also facilitated sessions on Communicating Climate Change at your School, Starting and Sustaining Environmental Clubs, and Organizing and Planning School Climate Action. Frost Valley YMCA educators offered additional programming on water quality and stream management, understanding weather patterns, sustainability

(Continued on page 5)

Students said . . .

*"The summit was  
empowering nonstop;  
It made me want to make  
a change."*



*"I really loved the  
conference, it showed me the  
different ways one school could  
improve their  
environment."*

## EEAC NEWS

### Steering Committee Meetings

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. Please visit the EEAC website at [www.eeac-nyc.org](http://www.eeac-nyc.org) for meeting locations or contact an EEAC Steering Committee member.

### 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](mailto:KimE@dep.nyc.gov).

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

### Newsletter Committee

Layout/design: Lynn Cole      Kim Estes-Fradis  
Joy Garland                      Editor: Mary Most

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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](http://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

### STEERING COMMITTEE

Jessica Brunacini, PoLAR Climate Change Education Partnership

Lynn Cole, Children's Library Discovery Center

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

Mary Most, NYC Dept. of Sanitation

Mike Zamm, Teacher Environmental Education Preparation T.E.E.P.

### STAY IN TOUCH!

Members, keep up with the latest EEAC news on [EEAC-NYC@googlegroups.com](mailto:EEAC-NYC@googlegroups.com)

If you would like to join the listserv contact Carol Franken at [carolfranken@gmail.com](mailto:carolfranken@gmail.com)



EEAC NYC



@eeacnyc



## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

As summer progresses toward autumn, enjoy the multitude of outdoor experiences that NYC provides this time of year! EEAC ended the spring season with a tour of the Governors Island Teaching Garden with GrowNYC and Grow to Learn. Check out our fall tours for more opportunities to explore nature in NYC! EEAC continues to highlight the amazing work of environmentally focused member organizations throughout the city. Please reach out if you want to promote your work in the EEAC newsletter or propose a program!

We anticipate several openings on the EEAC Steering Committee as we approach our fall elections. If you are interested in joining the Steering Committee please come to a business meeting held on the third Wednesday of every month at New York University. Updates to our schedule can be found on the EEAC NYC website. EEAC will share information about the nominating process as we near our Annual Meeting scheduled for Friday, November 3 at the Central Park Zoo. Mark your calendars!

Jacqueline Pilati-Rodriguez and Jessica Brunacini have decided to step down from the Steering Committee. They have both made significant contributions to the field of Environmental and Sustainability Education in NYC. Both Jackie and Jessica are graduates of the Environmental Conservation Education program at New York University.

Jessica has supported programming at the Center for the Urban Environment, United Nations Populations Fund, City Parks Foundation, Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy, Solar One, and most recently the Columbia Climate Center at the Earth Institute. She plans on pursuing further graduate education.

Jackie has worked for the NYC Department of Education in multiple positions in support of science education. She has also worked with Audubon New York, the Wallerstein Collaborative for Urban Environmental Education, City Parks Foundation, City Science, the New York Botanical Garden and most recently Columbia University. She has decided to focus on her growing family. We wish both Jackie and Jessica good luck in their future endeavors!

*Judith Hutton*

## Call for Nominations to the Steering Committee

EEAC is seeking three qualified and enthusiastic nominees for Steering Committee positions for a new class to serve during the years 2018 - 2021.

EEAC is a volunteer, nonprofit organization led by members elected to represent our diverse field. For this new class of Steering Committee members, EEAC invites current EEAC members to submit nominations for colleagues, who must be members in good standing of EEAC for the full, current calendar year, representing all career levels, from diverse academic, professional, and cultural backgrounds. You may also self-nominate.



See additional information about Steering Committee responsibilities and about EEAC on the following page.





## APPLICATION MATERIALS

Please review the information below, and submit a completed [nomination form](https://goo.gl/BmA5EA) (goo.gl/BmA5EA) by Tuesday, September 5, 2017. Nominations will be reviewed by the EEAC Nomination Committee and a slate of potential new members will be presented to the EEAC Steering Committee for approval one month prior to the November election. The EEAC Nomination Committee will notify selected nominees by the end of September.

### Duties of EEAC Steering Committee Members

Steering Committee members help to manage the organization and have the full power, by majority vote, to adopt rules and regulations governing the action of the organization. Steering Committee members serve for a term of three years and are voted in during the Annual meeting in November. The EEAC Steering Committee consists of current EEAC members serving in non-salaried positions. The Steering Committee consists of four officers and Steering Committee members elected to three-year terms. The officers are:

Chairperson

Vice-Chairperson (also serving as the Program Chairperson)

Treasurer (also serving as the Membership Secretary)

Secretary

### Additional EEAC Steering Committee Commitments

All EEAC Steering Committee members are expected to make the following commitments:

- \* **Environmental Education:** Steering Committee members must be interested in working collaboratively to develop and enhance the field of environmental education.
- \* **Monthly Meetings:** Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month (except for August) from approximately 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm. The location may vary but is generally in the area of New York University in Manhattan. It is considered excessive to miss more than two meetings annually.
- \* **Committees:** Steering Committee members shall serve on one or more committees over the course of their tenure. Committees include Membership, Newsletter, Programs, Teacher Environmental Education Preparation, and Social Media/Website.
- \* **Ad-Hoc Committees:** Members may also serve on ad-hoc committees that support the management and long term growth of EEAC.

## About EEAC

The mission of EEAC is twofold: To advocate for excellence in formal and informal environmental education in New York City and beyond and to provide an ongoing network and various forums for all committed to environmental education to grow professionally and to share ideas and information. EEAC members are committed to promoting the implementation of formal and non-formal environmental education for learners of all ages in New York City.

EEAC provides a network that supports communication and professional development enabling members to develop and implement effective methods and curricula in environmental education. EEAC members, from the public and private sectors, formal and non-formal settings, support excellence in environmental education. EEAC is particularly dedicated to helping classroom teachers incorporate environmental teaching into their curricula, as well as supporting the outreach and education efforts of environmental organizations. Environmental education is an important component of excellence in education.

EEAC's support for environmental education is manifest in communication with educators throughout NYC, on pertinent environmental issues, challenges, and opportunities specific to the urban environment. EEAC provides a platform for educators to learn from and network with other educators, environmental science, and educational experts.

For additional information and current EEAC news, visit [www.eeac-nyc.org](http://www.eeac-nyc.org) or email EEAC at [info@eeac-nyc.org](mailto:info@eeac-nyc.org).

*(Student Summit continued from page 1)*

initiatives at Frost Valley, and how to help others foster a care for the environment.

At the end of the 2017 Catskills Youth Leadership Climate Summit, students reflected on the climate actions they were most inspired to take on at their schools. Answers ranged from personal to school-wide change, with some students committing to begin composting at home or use a reusable water bottle at school. Others were enthusiastic about engaging their peers in climate action by organizing environmental clubs, talking with younger students about environmental responsibility, and leading school-wide assemblies aimed at improving the school's sustainability and climate awareness. A few teams of students set their sights on the administrators at their schools, aiming to improve their school's commitment to climate action or convince leadership to invest in on-campus renewable energy systems.

These two youth summits and the 2015 Climate Change Exchange for teachers were organized by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County with an advisory committee consisting of students and educators from seven regional schools and nonprofit organizations (Margaretville Central School, Delaware Academy, South Kortright Central School, Manhattan Country School Farm, The Wild Center) with funders the Catskill Watershed Corporation in partnership with NYC Department of Environmental Protection, and the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Teachers, students, and event organizers alike left the 2-day retreat energized and eager to return for the 2018 Catskills Youth Leadership Climate Summit! The 2018 advisory committee hopes that the youth activists from this year's summit take the lead in creating a youth summit that truly stems from the voices, needs, hopes, and ambitions of our New York State youth.



A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO, I attended the 2017 Youth Leadership Climate Summit. This summit was much different than others I attended before; I was able to share my knowledge and connect with more young adults like myself who want to engage in climate and environmental action in and out of school. Even though I already knew a lot of the science behind climate change and its effects, I wanted to hear what other students in my state have been doing to reduce or eliminate waste in their schools.

By Mariana Vargas,  
Student, High School  
for Environmental  
Studies, Manhattan



Thanks to what I learned at the Summit, my peers and I developed a plan to improve the way we educate our fellow students about environmental and climate action we can take inside and outside our school.

During my junior year, I was a fellow at the Alliance for Climate Education (ACE) where we discussed the intersectionality of climate change with other issues such as gender equality, and learned about the science of climate change. We attended events at the United Nations. I had the privilege of speaking on a panel at the Youth Summit on Gender Equality. We worked on an ambitious campaign to have Governor Andrew Cuomo include the Climate Community Protection Act (A8270/S6617) in the 2017 annual budget.

This past year, our school started a Rooftop Garden Club so students can learn to grow their own crops and how to compost. As a team, we came up with environmentally friendly ways to develop an irrigation system, and to make our school less dependent on electricity through installing solar panels in the future. The Envirothon club helped place recycling bins throughout the school and organics bins in the cafeteria. I am excited to continue working toward our vision of truly being an environmental school.



## EEAC Visits GrowNYC's Governors Islands Teaching Garden

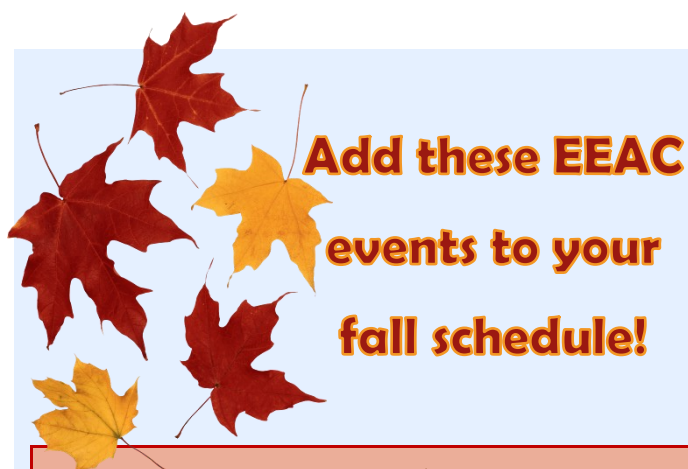
A short ferry ride from Battery Park brings you to Governors Island and if you're lucky, you might stumble upon GrowNYC's Teaching Garden. On June 3, GrowNYC's Shawn Connell led a tour in partnership with EEAC where we explored their raised bed gardens, small-scale farm, and aquaponics system.

Shawn explained that during the school year, classes come to learn about a variety of topics including Health and Nutrition, the Five Senses, and Ethnobotany. We explored the parts of the garden that related

to each of these topics. Our sense of taste was indulged as we snacked on Nasturtium blooms from the edible flower bed. We felt the intense heat of an impressive solar oven that was built using mirrors attached to an old bed frame. Corn, beans, and squash were just getting started in the Three Sisters' Garden: a form of companion planting that was developed by Native Americans in the northeast.

We all found the "Weed Library" remarkable -- this is a simple wood pallet repurposed to hold small pots where common urban weeds are planted and identified. This easily replicable display is a great way to showcase the plants all around us that are often overlooked.

The garden is open to the public on weekends from May to October. Educators interested in booking a tour for their class can visit [www.grownyc.org/gardens/manhattan/governors-island-teaching-garden](http://www.grownyc.org/gardens/manhattan/governors-island-teaching-garden). Thank you to GrowNYC and Shawn Connell for this great event!



**Add these EEAC  
events to your  
fall schedule!**

**Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> @ 9:00am**

### FALL MIGRATION BIRDING

#### Prospect Park

Shorter days signal migrations that bring an array of birds to our area. Bring your binoculars to this guided bird walk where we'll cover some basic bird ID techniques and see who is visiting the park.

**Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00am**

### FUNGI WITH A FUN GAL

#### Prospect Park

September is National Mushroom Month. Heading into the woods to find and identify different species of mushrooms is the perfect way to celebrate.

**Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am**

### URBAN ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

#### Central Park

As winter approaches, and we retreat indoors for warmth, explore the adaptations of local wildlife and learn how they are able to survive freezing temperatures.





## Judith Hutton Receives Award

The Bronx Council on Environmental Quality (BCEQ) awarded EEAC Chair Judith Hutton their annual Gouverneur Morris Non-Formal Environmental Educator Award.

Judith has been a leader in the Environmental/Sustainability Education (ESE) community for many years. As EEAC Chairperson she has played a major role in the organization's rebirth and ongoing revitalization. She has and continues to have a distinguished career in ESE, first as an Environmental Educator and School Partnerships Manager at Wave Hill and for several years now as the Manager of Teacher Professional Development for the New York Botanical Garden. She is widely respected in the ESE field and richly deserves the recognition from BCEQ.

For further information call Mike Zamm at 917-582-6259 or email [cenyctso@hotmail.com](mailto:cenyctso@hotmail.com)



## Book Buzz

Review by  
Mary Blieka,  
Children's Librarian,  
Children's Library  
Discovery Center,  
Jamaica, NY

## Follow

along as a young child details her journey with her grandmother through the seasons, beginning with winter: "Up in the garden, I stand and plan - my hands full of seeds and my head full of dreams." Waiting patiently for the spring thaw, they prepare their garden. Then comes planting time, followed by spring, summer, and harvest; then back to winter again with all the animals hunkering down, "hiding...biding their time."

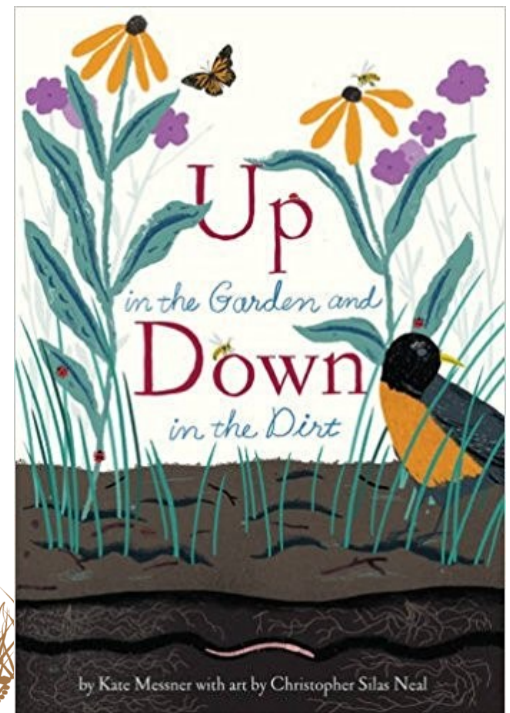
While she and her grandmother labor above, the child asks: "What's down there?" Ecosystems come into focus with "earthworms and insects digging and building, stirring up the soil," and a world of pill bugs, hornworms, honey bees, wasps, spiders, moths, ladybugs, crickets, beetles, mosquitoes, praying mantises, "frantic ants", grubs and slugs busy at their work. Bats and skunks

"work the night shift...a snake crunches on

supper." Finally, "frost draws lace on leftover leaves where secret egg sacs hang waiting for the warm to return...but the long ripe days of summer still rest in the garden beds."

Kate Messner, author of award-winning *Over and Under the Snow*, and *Over and Under the Pond*, continues to enchant young nature lovers. Once again, Messner collaborates with illustrator Christopher Silas Neal to create a delightful blend of science and art.

Botanical sketches of vegetables and flowering plants adorn the inside covers; muted earthy tones are used to portray the intricate splendor of the natural world; and lyrical prose depicts the tender relationship between child and grandparent. These elements combine beautifully to engage preschoolers with the wonders they can find outside.



# WATERSHED MOMENTS

Connecting to Our Natural World

October 26-29, 2017

Green Chimneys Clearpool Campus

## 2017

## New York State Outdoor Education Association ANNUAL CONFERENCE



### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mark Morey: "A Connected Leader"

### WORKSHOP PROGRAM STRANDS

- The Water That Connects Us
- Nature Tech
- The Outdoors is for Everyone
- Classroom Connections
- Ecosystem Explorations

EEAC members register at NYSOEA member rate

Register here: [nysoea.org/conference/](http://nysoea.org/conference/)

Register by September 15 and receive a reduced rate!



## INSPIRE...ENGAGE...CONNECT

- Dynamic workshops, keynote speaker, and networking opportunities.
- Make a take-home craft or lead a crafting activity of your own at our Sunday morning *Make and Take Fair*.

### CONVENIENT LOCATION

Green Chimneys Clearpool Campus is located in Carmel, New York an hour north of NYC.

Shuttle pickups available from Metro North station in Southeast

Rideshare options available.

NYSOEA is collaborating with EEAC-NYC to boost participation in the Metro region.





# Educational Green Roofs Conference

Wednesday, November 15th, 2017

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

PS 41, 116 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10011



Photo: Jessica Bruah

## An informal Session on How to Create and Use Green Roofs on Schools as Outdoor Classrooms

Learn from elected officials, industry and educational leaders:

- The benefits of green roofs
- Case studies of educational green roofs
- Budgets, fundraising and project development
- Construction and maintenance
- Engaging different constituencies

The conference will include a question & answer session and networking with industry professionals.

*Light refreshments and snacks provided.*

To register for this *free* event visit: <http://tinyurl.com/y9nxo83s>



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



☐ New member    ☐ Renewal    Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organizational Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Business phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### 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](http://www.eeac-nyc.org)

EEAC is a 501-(c)3 organization.



### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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