

March, 1984

# eeac

**Environmental Education Advisory Council**

A voluntary organization in support of Environmental Education for New York



SENSITIVE FERN

## EEAC SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, May 5th  
10:00 A.M.  
at Clay Pit Ponds State Park  
Staten Island  
Business, Walks and More.  
Bring a brown-bag lunch.



SKUNK CABBAGE

EEAC conducts Steering Committee meetings. On the third Wednesday of each month, at 4:00 P.M., these meetings take place throughout the five boroughs and are open to the general membership. If you would like to attend, call Nancy Wolf at (212) 677-1601 for exact location.

\*At the statewide environmental education mini-conference, nearly forty representatives of New York State's foremost environmental organizations, centers of learning and skilled practitioners gathered to review the past, discuss what is going on in other states and most significantly, arrive at strategies for developing a statewide environmental education program in the schools. A strategy committee was formed to develop plans for presenting the following proposal to the Regents:

We, the undersigned, propose that the teaching of environmental education be mandated in all elementary and secondary schools in New York State

"... To instill within students an awareness, concern and an ability to evaluate the effects of their individual and society's actions on the environment; to have students develop the capacity to examine the causes of any given environmental problem and to evaluate it in a rational manner; to make students aware of the constraints which inhibit changes in either individual or collective actions given the different viewpoints and economic interests of the business and political community; and to develop student values toward action which result ultimately in constructive change in the environment." (From ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, A Statement of Policy and Proposed Action by the Regents of the University of the State of New York.)

We further propose the following to ensure implementation of this mandate:

1.1 That environmental education be infused into all syllabi and curricula, e.g., science, social studies and technology.

1.2 That significant environmental education questions be included on standardized tests, including the newly proposed prediploma Regents Competency Tests.

1.3 That environmental issues be a major subject for students fulfilling the interdisciplinary project requirements in the Regents Action Plan.

1.4 That approved text books in all subject areas incorporate environmental concepts.

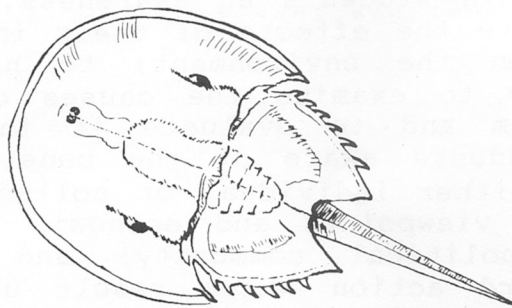
2.1 That environmental education be infused into teacher training.

2.2 That environmental education courses be a requirement for pre-service training and teacher certification.

2.3 That in-service training in environmental education should be provided for existing classroom teachers at all grade levels. Only an environmentally literate society can successfully resolve the critical issues facing us. An environmentally literate society can only be achieved through effective education beginning at the earliest grade level.

---

On January 17th, Nancy Wolf, EEAC Chairperson and Director, Environmental Action Coalition, Mike Zamm, Steering Committee member and Education Specialist, Council on the Environment and Lys McLaughlin, Exective Director, Council on the Environment, met with Regent Emlyn Griffith, Chairman of the Elementary and Secondary Education Committee, and the State Education staff. All agreed with EEAC's overall goals. Regent Griffith directed the State Education staff to implement the spirit of EEAC's proposals, and to set up advisory committees in each related subject area. It was also agreed that representatives of EEAC be included on these committees to help rewrite the syllabus.



We all agree that environmental interests should be part of our Presidential candidates' messages. Following is a list of candidates and committee chairpersons. Send letters, briefly describing the goals, history and programs of your organization and EEAC. Ask the candidates about their positions on environmental issues and encourage them to include environmental concerns in their platforms:

Americans with Hart: 225 4th Street NE, Washington, DC 20002; 202-675-9000; director-Oliver Henkel.  
John Glenn for President Committee: 444 North Capitol Street #407, Washington, DC 2001; 202-783-1984.  
Jackson for President: 2100 M Street NW, Suite 316, Washinton, DC 20036; 202-293-1289.  
McGovern for President: 1875 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20009; 202-332-2662; director-Mary McGovern.  
Mondale for President: 2201 Wisconsin Avenue NW #100, Washington, DC 20007; 202-625-1600; director-Robert Beckel.  
Ronald Reagan, President: 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006.  
Charles Manatt, Chairman, Democratic National Committee: 1625 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036.  
Richard Richards, Chairman, Republican National Committee: 310 1st Street NE, Washington, DC 20003; 202-484-6500.

---

John Kominski, Assistant Director of Science, New York City Board of Education, is EEAC's new Program Chairperson. John welcomes ideas for programs, program sites, speakers and issues you feel EEAC should address. Send your suggestions to: John Kominski, 131 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, attention Science Unit, Room 414.

---

EEAC members will soon be receiving membership renewal applications from Bernie Kirschenbaum, Treasurer. You will notice that the membership year is now the calendar year. We therefore suggest that you renew immediately. If you are not a member and would like to join, write to: Bernard Kirschenbaum, 12 Gregory Road, Springfield, New Jersey 07081. Please enclose your check for \$10.00, made out to EEAC. A membership card will be forwarded to you. We look forward to meeting you at our next membership meeting on Saturday morning, May 5th, at Clay Pit Ponds State Park, Staten Island.



Field Bindweed




ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION  
at Queens Botanical Gardens  
Friday, April 27th  
10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.



Live animal exhibits, tree planting,  
gardening information, local environmental  
organization displays. Open to all.

School classes must register in advance.  
Call 886-3800.



Arbor Day Workshops for Educators: co-sponsored by Environmental  
Action Coalition, New York State Department of Agriculture and  
Markets and New York State Department of Environmental  
Conservation.

BRONX--Wednesday, March 21st; 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M., New York  
Botanic Gardens.

QUEENS--Thursday, March 22nd; 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M., Queens Botanic  
Gardens

MANHATTAN--Monday, March 26th, 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M., Horticultural  
Society of New York.

BROOKLYN--Tuesday, March 27th, 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M., Brooklyn  
Public Library at Grand Army Plaza

STATEN ISLAND--Wednesday, March 28th, 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M., High  
Rock Conservation Center.

BROOKLYN/QUEENS--Thursday, March 29th, 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.,  
Gateway Environmental Study Center.

Workshop participants will receive free educational material and  
will be able to order a tree for planting at a reduced rate. For  
additional workshop information call the Environmental Action  
Coalition at 212-677-1601.



Arbor Day educational materials to help school children derive more meaning from Arbor Day observances are available from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Two publications, prepared in cooperation with the Environmental Action Coalition are offered.

The first, City Trees, County Trees, deals with the maintenance, characteristics and uses of trees. It is designed for a five-day period and has additional follow-up lessons and activities for interested teachers. Activities for students include mathematical and reading exercises, scientific experiments and independent creative projects relating to trees.

The second, Plant a Tree for Arbor Day, prepares children for planting and caring for their Arbor Day tree. The booklet is composed of three lessons covering planting site selection, tree planting and follow-up maintenance. Each lesson consists of several activities designed to integrate different subject areas with the lesson theme.

These free booklets are suitable for grades 4 through 8 and are limited to one set per request. To obtain them, please contact:

Tom Wolfe  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Bureau of Forest Resource Management  
50 Wolf Road, Room 406  
Albany, New York 12233-0001



Supplies are limited and requests should be made as soon as possible.

---

#### EARTHDAY 1984

#### PEACE BELL CEREMONY--UNITED NATIONS

Tuesday, March 20th, 5:00 A.M. to 6:00 A.M.

The Equinox Will Occur At 5:25 A.M. (EST)

The Peace Bell will be rung at the moment of the equinox, followed by two minutes of silent prayer or meditation to commemorate the fifteenth annual celebration of EARTHDAY and our progress towards peace and the care of Earth.

Individuals and groups who wish to celebrate Earth Day may come to the United Nations, or plan their own local celebration. Earth Day projects can begin one or two weeks before Earth Day. Reports during this time on the state of Earth in local communities are requested.

For information contact: Earth Society Foundation, 585 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017; 212-574-3059.



OF SPECIAL INTEREST



- \* ALLEY POND ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER, 228-06 Northern Boulevard, Douglaston, NY 11363, call 229-4000 Tuesday through Saturday, between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. On Saturday, April 7th, at 1:00 P.M., EEAC Steering Committee member, Dr. Helen Ross Russell will present a very special workshop on foraging for edible wild plants. Spend a relaxing afternoon on the trails of Alley Pond Park identifying species safe for human consumption and those that are not. Learn how the early Americans used these plants and sample a few of the edibles. Rain or shine. Pre-registration required.

Dr. Helen Ross Russell is editor of "Nature Study" and author of "Foraging for Dinner" and "Ten Minute Field Trips". She received her Ph.D. degree from Cornell University and is an Environmental Science Consultant. She has been eating wild foods since childhood and often shares this hobby with students and guests at her home in New Jersey.

- \* POCONO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER, RD1, Box 268, Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328; 717-828-2319. A Fish and Wildlife Education workshop will be held the weekend of April 13th to 15th at the Center. A cooperative effort between the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, the Lehigh Valley Conservancy and the American Nature Society, the workshop will bring together educators, interpreters and wildlife agency personnel to share educational material and curricula. Environmental and wildlife education material will be on display throughout the weekend. Some of the workshop sessions to be offered include, "Wildlife Wisdom", "Capturing Nature on Film" and "Teaching about Deer Antlers". Cost of the workshop is \$49.00 and includes program registration, meals and lodging.

"Plants of the Poconos", a weekend workshop emphasizing plant identification and uses, will be held from May 25th to May 28th. The fee is \$59.00 per person.

For further information and applications call PEEC or write to above address.

- \* THE NEW YORK STATE MARINE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION Annual Conference will be held at the Queens College Center for Environmental Teaching, Caumsett State Park, on Friday, May 11th and Saturday, May 12th. Salt marsh exploration, aqua culture, pond ecology, paleontology, literature and writing, seafood preparation and marine biology are a few of the field trips and workshops you can experience. For information and registration write to: Lorna Drew-Monterosso, 146-37 56th Road, Flushing, NY 11355.



\*THE 17th ANNUAL WATSON SUMMER ECOLOGY WORKSHOP IN NATURAL AND HUMAN ECOLOGY will be held at Watson Homestead in Painted Post, New York State, from August 13th to August 20th. There will also be a SPECIAL WATSON SUMMER ECOLOGY WORKSHOP at Maho Bay Camping Resort in St. John, United States Virgin Islands, from July 7th to July 15th. Both workshops combine environmental education workshop and family camp for formal and non-formal educators, environmentalists and nature lovers. The workshops are sponsored by Watson Ecology Workshop, Inc., a non-profit corporation. For information and applications write to: APEC, Inc., 228-06 Northern Boulevard, Douglaston, NY 11363.

\*NATURE SPECIALTY TRAINING CENTER, EEAC member, Lenore Miller, has started a new, all-inclusive, camp nature specialist service. Her philosophy is that every camp should provide a quality nature program for its campers. In the recent past, too many summer camps have phased out their nature programs, or made them minor priorities, because they were unable to obtain qualified personnel. For a brochure, call 761-3509, or write, 296 Arlene Street, Staten Island, NY 10314.

\*QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDENS: in addition to the school visitation program, the Gardens conduct a series of adult education programs. Call QBG at 886-3800 for a schedule.

\*URBAN PARK RANGERS: all programs are free, although many require pre-registration. Please dress appropriately.

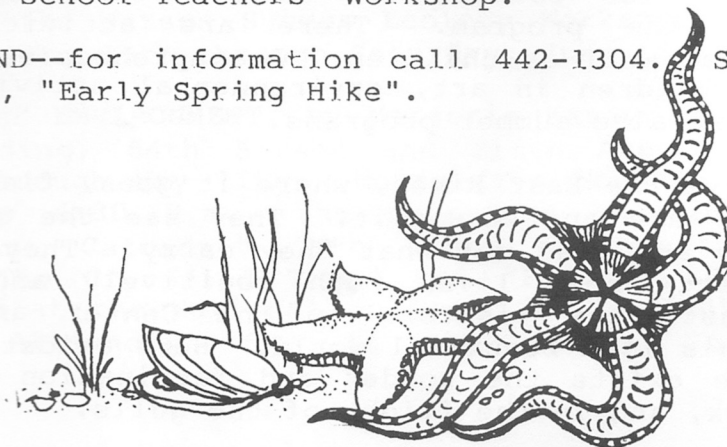
BRONX--for information call 589-0096 or 548-7880. Saturday, March 24th, 10:00 A.M., "Fishing in Crotona Park", Sunday, March 25th, 1:00 P.M., "Life, Leaves and Logs".

BROOKLYN--for information call 856-4210. Sunday, March 25th, 8:00 P.M., "Spring Astronomy on the Arch".

MANHATTAN--for information call 397-3091. Sunday, March 25th, 2:00 P.M., "Signs of Spring".

QUEENS--for information call 699-4294. Sunday, March 25th, 1:00 P.M., "Pre-School Teachers' Workshop."

STATEN ISLAND--for information call 442-1304. Sunday, March 25th, 10:00 A.M., "Early Spring Hike".





\* THE FIREBOAT HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER--

Rose Blaustein, Education Director, 130 East End Avenue, New York, NY 10028, 289-2137

In the midst of one of the largest and most crowded cities in the world has arisen the Fireboat House Environmental Center, dedicated to helping children understand their urban environment while they are learning basic science skills and concepts. The beauty of the surroundings is inspiring and conducive to learning. It is a wonderful place to discover the interrelationships that exist between people and their surroundings.

The Environmental Center is a two-story building which has recently been rebuilt from an unutilized and vandalized fireboat house and retrofitted with solar elements. It is situated on a pier extending into the area of the East River known as Hell Gate. From this point the characteristics of the East River, which is an estuary, can be studied.

A program has been developed in marine studies and in energy for students in grades four through nine which reinforces and enriches the science curriculum. Classes visit the center once a week in five-week cycles. The students are involved in first hand, discovery activities. Many visual aids, science tools and specimens are used. We try to utilize the immediate environment (the East River, the pier, etc.) as much as possible. The experiences are planned to involve critical thinking, stewardship and to create motivation for further exploration.

Each area (energy, marine plants) is taught in a room set up for that purpose. The displays are interesting and timely. They include aquaria, live materials, models, photovoltaic displays, solar energy collector displays, meter boards, weather instruments, maps of the area and greenhouse materials.

The rooms are set up as laboratories. There is equipment in each room that is suitable for the subject taught, e.g., thermometers, magnifying glasses, miniature solar collectors, photovoltaic cells. There is sufficient equipment so that each child can have first hand experiences with both equipment and live materials.

Workshops and inservice courses for teachers are additional and regular parts of the program. There are activities for the community, adults as well as children. A comprehensive after-school program involves children in art, environmental activities and sea scouting. There are also summer programs.

The students observe the East River, where it goes, find out what is in it, how people use and abuse it. They see the many kinds of ships that pass by and find out what they carry. They discover how industry can affect their lives both positively and negatively. Last but not least, the visitors to the Center are helped to understand that this is a beautiful world. Here amidst the concrete and asphalt, there exists the wonder and fascination of nature in the river, the park, and in the flight of the gulls.

The Fireboat House Environmental Center has received a New York State award in NSTA's 1983-84 Search for Excellence.

\* CONGRATULATIONS TO THE POCONO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER which has recently been selected a Pennsylvania State Finalist in the Search for Excellence in Science Education Program. PEEC is now eligible for selection by the National Science Teachers' Association as a National Exemplar. In the Non-School Setting Category, PEEC was chosen as an outstanding program, dedicated to the concept of science education as a lifelong, year-round process.



\* WATERBORNE--THE SHARING OF PHOTOGRAPHS, by Ray Pfortner; an exhibition, opening on Tuesday, May 15th at 7:30 P.M. at Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Boulevard, Douglaston. This collection of photographic images was assembled around the theme of reflections and water. Different scenes and objects are seen as floating illusions at the whim of the angle and intensity of the sun and even the slightest breeze. The images are found images, not created in the dark room. They were formed in nature and crafted solely in the camera. They are meant to surprise, to startle, to puzzle, to please. RAY PFORTNER, EEAC Steering Committee member, has been taking photos since 1968 in support of teaching as a naturalist with the state of New Jersey. Since then, he has done photography for the City of New York, National Park Service, American Nature Study Society and American Museum of Natural History. Ray serves as Project Manager with the US EPA and is on the staff of the Watson Summer Ecology Workshop. The exhibit runs from Tuesday, May 15th through Saturday, June 16th.

\* VISIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENT, by Marjorie Kanny; the Arsenal Gallery, Arsenal Building, 64th Street and Fifth Avenue in Central Park; April 17th through May 11th. Hours from Monday to Friday are from 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. The paintings on exhibit will include "Nature's Last Cascade," "The Urban Curtain," "Specter of the Blossoms," "The Crucified Tree" and "Pastoral Survival." MAJORIE KANNY studied at the National Academy, Art Students' League and the Educational Alliance. She is the founder of Visual Artists Coalition.

★ HELP WANTED

Prospect Park Environmental Center, 206 St. Johns Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217. Job title: Museum and Environmental Educator; salary \$14,700 per annum, with a generous benefit package. This person will have the principle responsibility for a historic house museum in a New York City public park. Primarily responsible for ongoing educational programs, for visiting school groups and the general public, she/he will also be teaching and scheduling. Included will be some general curatorial, administrative, operational and janitorial responsibility for the building. An annual position, five days per week includes weekends.

Qualifications:

1. Demonstrated excellence as a teacher, with at least two years in a historic house museum or other museum, park or environmental center, or in an urban school.
2. Advanced study in an appropriate field; masters degree preferred; teacher certified preferred; local resident preferred.

Effective: March, 1984.

Contact: John C. Muir, Executive Director; 636-1900.

★ Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Boulevard, Douglaston. Job Title: Summer Internships in Natural Resource Management. Salary: none. This program is designed for young men and women sixteen to twenty-five years of age, who want to gain practical experience in environmental conservation. Undergraduate college credit is available through St. John's University, Queens. ~~Interns participate in many different projects, including the~~ operation of APEC's Woodland Nature Center.

Effective: The program is currently scheduled for two consecutive sessions-late May to July 3rd and July 3rd to mid-August. Interns must apply for one or both sessions by May 5th.

Contact: For brochure and application write to William Nieter at the above address or call APEC, 229-4000, Tuesday through Sunday.

★ Council on the Environment of New York City, 51 Chambers Street, Room 228, New York, NY 10007. Job title: Environmental Educator. Salary: approximately \$16,000.00; excellent benefits and vacation policy. The Council on the Environment offers an opportunity to work with a multi-school network to train high school students in how to organize environmental improvement projects. Developing programs in schools, training students in the classroom, and organizing in the community are involved in this dynamic environmental education effort.

Qualifications: classroom experience preferred. An excellent opportunity for an environmental education professional with training in a related degree program.

Effective: immediately.

Contact: Michael Zamm, Environmental Education Specialist, 566-0990.



Special thanks to Consolidated Edison for printing our Newsletter.

Con Edison has put out a Catalogue of Free Programs, Exhibits and Literature. If you are interested, write to Con Edison, Consumer Education, 4 Irving Place, Room 1625-S, New York, NY 10003, and ask for the catalogue by name.

\* GATEWAY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY CENTER  
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIT  
Ruth Eilenberg, Coordinator  
Floyd Bennett Field, Building 272  
Brooklyn, NY 11234 Phone: 252-7307



Spring at Gateway Environmental Study Center is a time for trying new things. Bring music into your classroom by signing up for the Beginners' Guitar course starting on March 22. Sunny Ochs of the Hudson River Sloop Singers will have you singing and strumming in eight easy sessions.

From May 7-11 classes will be able to participate in Gateway's third annual Art and the Outdoors festival. Performances, arts workshops and environmental explorations will be part of this salute to the arts. After-school teacher workshops in the arts will be offered throughout the spring to help teachers enhance art instruction in the classroom.

EEAC steering committee members are scheduled to conduct spring workshops in a variety of topics. Don't miss John Muir's ART IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT on March 28, John Kominski's BEACH COMBING on May 21 and Alan Ascher's NEW MOON AT PLUMB BEACH on June 1. Call Gateway Environmental Study Center for further information on all spring programs.

---

Please send suggestions and completed typed articles for EEAC's newsletter to:

Kim Estes  
Alley Pond Environmental Center  
228-06 Northern Boulevard  
Douglaston, NY 11363

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COALITION  
417 LAFAYETTE STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10003



ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87110

Albuquerque, N.M. 87110