

eeac

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE from New Chairman Michael Zamm

EEAC is at a crossroads. We can feel justly proud of our past accomplishments: the district workshops, citywide conferences, statewide infusion initiatives, exciting membership meetings, wonderful newsletters, etc., etc. We have indeed been an advisory council -- formally in terms of our many communications with the New York City Board of Education and our long term effort to convince the State Education Department to incorporate environmental education concepts into the syllabus -- and informally with respect to the role many EEAC'ers play on various environmental education bodies such as the Chancellor's and Governor's Task Forces on Environmental Education and local, state, and national environmental education organizations.

However, there has been a sense of uneasiness that has developed over the past several years in and around EEAC. As our more active long time members have become more involved in their careers and families it has become difficult for them to make the "heroic" individual efforts upon which many of EEAC's past successes were based. We have not done a good job of recruiting younger environmental educators into our organization and when we have, we haven't given them significant roles to play. We need to structure realistic roles for the membership in general, and especially for the steering committee.

We have been plagued by mechanical and functional problems, most notably a mailing list that seems to defy correction and a failure to mail out yearly dues renewal notices to our members. We should be grateful for outgoing Chairman Mike Mann's offer to finally get the list in shape and help coordinate mailings over the next year.

Over the next few weeks and months the new executive committee and steering committee will be meeting to address these and other problems so we can establish an effective agenda. I welcome the participation of all members in this process and in future communications.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
A voluntary organization in support of Environmental Education for New York

Winter 1992/93

UPCOMING EEAC EVENTS.....

Steering Committee Meetings

EEAC Steering Committee meetings are held from 3:45 to 5:45 on the third Wednesday of every month. All EEAC members are invited to attend and participate in the discussion. For information on the location of the meetings, contact Millard Clements at (212) 998-5495.

Upcoming dates:

Wednesday Jan. 20th
Wednesday Feb. 17th
Wednesday March 17th

Newsletter Deadlines

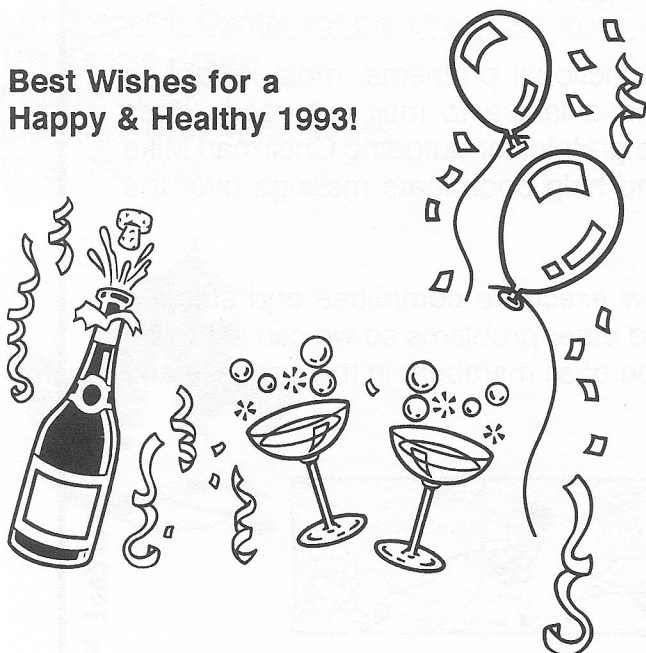
The dates for submission of materials to the Editor are: February 1, May 3, August 2 and November 1, 1993.

Newsletter Committee

David Cohen Kenneth Kowald
Kim Estes-Fradis Mary Leou

Therese Braddick, Newsletter Editor
City Parks Foundation
The Arsenal, 830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021
(212) 360-8292

**Best Wishes for a
Happy & Healthy 1993!**



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

c/o Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment
The Tennis House
Prospect Park
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215-9992.
(718) 788-8500

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

EEAC OFFICERS

Michael Zamm, Chairperson
Kenneth Kowald, Vice-Chair for Issues
Dorothy Siminski, Vice-Chair for Programs
Millard Clements, Secretary
Kim Estes-Fradis, Membership Secretary
Ruth Eilenberg, Treasurer

STEERING COMMITTEE *

Cheryl Best, Central Park Conservancy
Rose Blaustein, Community School District 2
Therese Braddick, City Parks Foundation
Patricia Campbell, Bx. Council on Env. Quality
Millard Clements, New York University
David Cohen, Educators for Gateway
Don Cook
Ruth Eilenberg
Kim Estes-Fradis, NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection
Dr. Eugene Ezersky
Carol Franken, Community School District 4
Samuel Holmes
Sidney Horenstein, American Museum of Natural History
Marcia Kaplan-Mann, Environmental Quest/UFT
Bernard Kirschenbaum
John W. Kominski, High School for Environmental Studies
Kenneth Kowald
Mary Leou, UFEP, City Parks Foundation
Michael Mann, Clearwater
Barbara Miller, NYC Board of Education
Lenore Miller
Gina McCarthy, Community School District 27
John C. Muir, Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment
John Padalino, Pocono Environmental Education Center
Wendy Pantoja
Ray Pfortner, Peter Arnold, Inc.
Laurel Remus, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Helen Ross Russell
Dorothy Siminski, NYC Urban Park Rangers
Talbert Spence, American Museum of Natural History
Barry Weinbrom, Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment
Nancy A. Wolf, Environmental Action Coalition
Michael Zamm, Council on the Environment of NYC

*Affiliations for identification purposes only.

Special **THANKS** to Con Edison for
supporting the publication of this newsletter

A MESSAGE from Outgoing Chairman Michael Mann

To all the leaders in the environmental field who are struggling to turn around our destructive tendencies toward the environment, who are trying to educate this generation and, more importantly, the next generation, I dedicate the following poem. As Al Appleton would say, "Remember you are doing God's work".

Anyway!

People are unreasonable,
illogical and self centered.
Love them anyway!



If you do good, people will
accuse you of selfish ulterior
motives. *Do good anyway!*

If you are successful, you will
win false friends and true
enemies. *Succeed anyway!*

The good you do today will be
forgotten tomorrow.
Do good anyway!



Honesty and frankness makes
you vulnerable. *Be honest
and frank anyway!*

The biggest men with the
biggest ideas can be shot
down by the smallest men
with the smallest minds.
Think big anyway!



People favor underdogs but
follow only top dogs. *Fight
for some underdogs anyway!*

What you spend years build-
ing may be destroyed overnight.
Build anyway!

People really need help but
may attack you if you help
them. *Help people anyway!*

Give the world the best you
have and you'll get kicked
in the teeth. *Give the world
the best you've got anyway!*

KARMA

New Slate of Officers and Committee Members

The by-laws of EEAC provide for elections at the Annual Meeting held each November. At the Annual Meeting, both Steering Committee members and Officers are elected for three and two-year terms respectively. The Steering Committee of EEAC functions as the Board of Trustees.

The Nomination Committee is proud to announce the unanimous election of the following slate:

Officers

<i>Chairperson</i>	Mike Zamm
<i>Vice-Chair for Issues</i>	Kenneth Kowald
<i>Vice-Chair for Programs</i>	Dorothy Siminski
<i>Secretary</i>	Millard Clements
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Kim Estes-Fradis
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ruth Eilenberg

Steering Committee Members

Class of '95

Cheryl Best
David Cohen
Bernard Kirschenbaum
John Kominski
Lenore Miller
Barry Weinbrom

Replacements: Class of '94

Don Cook
Regina McCarthy

Replacements: Class of '93

Wendy Pantoja

REMINDER: Steering Committee Meetings will still be held on the third Wednesday of the month, however, the time has been changed to **3:45 - 5:45 pm.**



ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

by Kenneth Kowald

It may be too late for this year (the deadline is December 30, 1992), but you should be aware of the Rudy Bruner Award for Excellence in the Urban Environment. For an application (never too soon for next year!), write or call The Bruner Foundation, 560 Broadway, New York 10012, (212) 334-9844.

Now that New York City has really launched a waste disposal policy, you can learn all about it from the City's Department of Sanitation, 125 Worth Street, New York 10013.

Speaking of the Department of Sanitation, it also issues a good booklet--developed by the Community Composting Project of Seattle, Washington--on "Home Composting." The address for this publication is the Department of Sanitation at 253 Broadway, New York 10007.

While on the subject of waste, the Federal Environmental Protection Administration has issued "The Consumer's Handbook for Reducing Solid Waste," which outlines steps to be taken to reduce the amount and toxicity of everyday trash and garbage. For a copy, call EPA's Waste Hotline at 800-424-9346.



Do you have any questions about gardening problems of any kind? The New York Botanical Garden has a Plant Information Service you can call, Mondays through Fridays from 11am to Noon and from 2 to 4pm. The number is (212) 220-8681.

The Federal EPA has issued an "Air Quality Atlas," which presents colorful maps showing the nation's air quality monitoring network and how air quality varies across the country. Examples of maps found in this publication include those showing ozone air quality concentrations for 1990 (the latest date for data) and vehicle miles traveled by state. It's free. Write to Data Analysis Section (MD-14), US EPA, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711. Ask for EPA publication 400-K-92-002.

"For Spacious Skies" is a tax-exempt, non-profit educational organization dedicated to fostering awareness of the beauty and wonder of our skies. For more information, write to: For Spacious Skies, 54 Web Street, Lexington, Massachusetts 02173.

You may obtain a free calendar showing key dates for the year relating to stars, planets, space exploration and air travel by writing to: NASA, Hero Space Education Services Project, NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio 44135.

To find out about public and private organizations which offer free or inexpensive materials dealing with energy matters, write to the Energy Information Administration, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1F-048, EI-231, Washington, D. C. 20585 and ask for "Energy Education Resources: Kindergarten through 12th Grade." It's free.

The New York City Butterfly Club has published "Endangered and Threatened Butterflies of the New York City Region." To learn more about the Club and this list, write to Jeff Glassberg, 39 Highland Avenue, Chappaqua, New York 10514, or call (914) 238-6102.

Did you know that with 26,000 acres of parkland--the largest municipal park system in the country--New York City spends less on parks as a percentage of municipal spending than any other major American city? For more information and to find out what you can do about this, write the Parks Council, at the Urban Center, 457 Madison Avenue, New York 10022.

The plans for the development of what is being called Riverside South on the West Side of Manhattan have been very much in the news for many months--and will continue to be. To find out what is planned and why, write to the Riverside South Planning Corporation, 1330 Avenue of the Americas, New York 10019.

The new Queens Zoo was officially opened a few months ago. The address is 53-51 111th Street, in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. To find out about hours and tours, call (212) 861-6030.

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection has put together a press kit called "The Beginning of a New Era: The Environmentally Beneficial Use of Sludge," to mark the end of the City's decades-old practice of dumping sewage sludge in the Atlantic Ocean. You may obtain it by writing to or calling DEP's Office of Public Affairs, 59-17 Junction Boulevard, Corona 11368-5107, (718) 595-3483.

The Hudson Waterfront Museum offers both classroom programs and school tours of the historic Lehigh Valley Railroad Barge #79 currently moored in Liberty State Park, NJ. Learn about the harbor's history, the



preservation project, and be entertained by the captain's "Serious Foolishness". For information on tours or classroom visits, call David Sharps at (212) 662-1229.

Clear March 16, 1993 on your calendar to learn what water utilities and local governments can do to help conserve water. Sponsors of this day long symposium to be held at Westchester Community College include: the Southeast New York Intergovernmental Water Supply Advisory Council, the New York State chapters of the American Water Works Association and the American Water Resources Association, the New York Rural Water Association, and the Southeastern New York's regional water conferences. For more information, contact William S. Nechamen, NYS DEC, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, 12233-3504, (518) 457-8681.

Columbia University is inviting New York City High School and Intermediate School science teachers into it's community of scientific researchers. The Summer Research Program for Science Teachers, now in it's fourth year, is designed to foster a permanent educational partnership between secondary school science teachers and the University's science faculty. Applications and information can be obtained from Ms. Gail Cairns, Program Coordinator, Columbia Summer Research Program, Columbia University, P&S Room 11-511, 630 West 168th St., NY 10032, 212-305-3546. The deadline for applications is February 15, 1993.

by Mary Leou

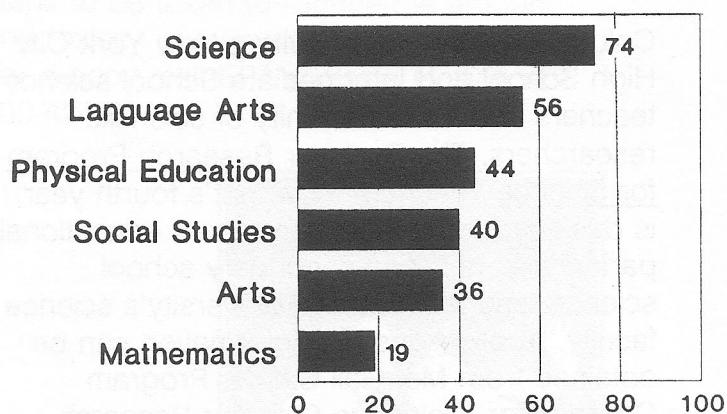
Teacher Survey: How New York City Teachers View the Educational Value of City Parks

In the spring of 1992, the Urban Forest & Education Program, a project of City Parks Foundation and City of New York Parks & Recreation, administered a survey to 534 New York City teachers. The purpose of the survey was to find out how teachers use the existing educational resources of parks, and how the Parks Department can improve services and develop educational resources which would increase the effective use of parks by classroom teachers. Four basic areas of inquiry formed the framework for the survey:

- a. teachers' current use city parks
- b. teachers' needs for curriculum materials related to city parks
- c. field trips to city parks
- d. environmental education in the classroom

The teachers participating in this study are members of IMPACT II, a program under the Division of Instruction and Professional Development of New York City Public Schools. These teachers are recognized by IMPACT II for their creativity and innovation in the classroom. Teachers in this study were recent IMPACT II grant recipients with an average of 15 years teaching experience in public schools. Of the 534 teachers surveyed, 235 or 44% returned surveys.

Percentages of Teachers Using City Parks for Instruction



Sixty-five percent of the respondents have used parks for educational and recreational purposes with their classes. Teachers use parks for educational purposes to teach concepts across the curriculum. However, they use parks for science and language arts instruction more than they do for other subject areas. Surprisingly, more teachers use parks independently rather than with the assistance of park rangers (38%) or staff from other organizations (29%). However, 71% indicated that they would prefer to use parks both independently and as part of a Parks' program.

Teachers were asked to assess the helpfulness of several types of curriculum materials and resources that would enable them to utilize parks more effectively. Ninety-three percent of the teachers indicated that resource materials for teacher use would be very helpful and 85% felt that lesson plans on key concepts would also be helpful. Teacher workshops on using parks were viewed as very helpful by 76% of the respondents. Teachers also cited the need for information on other resource materials (58%), as well as access to a computer network containing information on parks and related instructional resources (43%).

When asked about the usefulness of several types of formats for self-guided instructional materials, teachers cited pre- and post-trip materials (84%), video tapes (81%), and reading materials on grade level (79%), as the three most useful formats.

Teachers reported that field-trips have an important function in student learning and motivation. Ninety-five percent of the teachers responding, indicated that field trips foster a positive attitude toward the environment and 93% reported that field trips provide students with the opportunity to apply concepts learned in the classroom to real-world situations. However, teachers felt that it was important to have direct access to materials and knowledgeable park staff in preparing more effective field trips.

Teachers were also asked to respond to questions regarding barriers which discourage them from taking field trips to parks. The number one barrier to field trips was transportation (61%) and the cost of transportation (55%). Student safety was also a concern for 31% of the respondents. However, only 21% of the teachers reported that the extra work involved was a barrier, and 18% cited lack of support from school administration as an important barrier to taking field trips.

The results of this survey permit an initial examination of the needs of NYC teachers for resources which will enhance the instructional use of city parks. The development of additional educational materials and resources, including park guides, lesson plans, curriculum materials, teacher workshops, and programs on a variety of topics would vastly improve the educational value of city parks for urban school children. The Urban Forest & Education Program will utilize findings from this study to develop resources and materials which will support the use of parks by classroom teachers.



This project was a collaborative effort between: the Urban Forest & Education Program, a project of City Parks Foundation, and IMPACT II, a program under the Division of Instruction and Professional Development, NYC Public Schools. For a copy of the report or more information please contact:

Mary J. Leou, Environmental Education Coordinator
Urban Forest & Education Program
1234 5th Avenue
New York, New York 10029
(212) 360-2745

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Affiliation: _____

Title/Position: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Select either a \$15.00 dues payment to cover the cost of membership in EEAC for a calendar year, OR, a \$150.00 Life Membership. A membership entitles you to receive EEAC newsletters, program information mailings, and conference announcements.

Membership dues are tax deductible. Make all checks payable to EEAC.

Please complete the application and mail it, with your payment, to:

Ruth Eilenberg
196-32 53rd Avenue
Flushing, New York 11365

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

c/o Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment

The Tennis House

Prospect Park

Brooklyn, New York 11215

(718) 788-8500

