



EEAC

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1993

MESSAGE from Chairman Michael Zamm

I have been encouraged by my first meetings as Chairperson with the Executive and Steering Committees. There is a spirit of participation and renewal. Under the leadership of Membership Secretary Kim Estes-Fradis, EEAC will undertake to reorganize and upgrade its efforts to attract members and to make the mailings necessary to ensure that all members are paid up for each calendar year.

Vice Chairperson for Programs Dorothy Siminski is actively trying to organize two or three membership meetings for this Spring and we will report on them in this newsletter as they develop. Therese Braddick will continue to do the wonderful job she has been doing in producing the newsletter. She is, by the way, looking for another person to help on the newsletter committee. Ken Kowald, Vice Chairperson, Issues, Ruth Eilenberg, Treasurer, and Millard Clements, Secretary have all started performing their functions. At the January Steering Committee meeting following a comment I made concerning the importance of Steering Committee member participation on committees, it was suggested that I send out a notice to all Steering Committee members asking that they either chair or become a member of an EEAC committee. I will follow up on this shortly.

Two recent college graduates, after contacting Youth Committee Chair Ruth Eilenberg, attended the January meeting and made valuable contacts. Let us hope we can motivate more young people to participate in EEAC.

There is a positive feeling emanating from the new administration in Washington - the second highest elected official in the land is actually a committed environmentalist and his boss, at least at this point, seems to support him. The various cabinet appointments have been somewhat mixed but there's promise there too. Hopefully, environmental education is or will become part of the administration's environment team agenda. Meanwhile here in New York, functioning in what has ironically become a more conservative environmental education situation in New York State, we need to be open to whatever initiatives come from the Federal Government while working actively to strengthen environmental education on the local level. I am encouraged that EEAC, as it has in the past, can and should play an important role in that endeavor.



EEAC is a voluntary organization in support of Environmental Education for New York

UPCOMING EEAC EVENTS.....

Steering Committee Meetings

EEAC Steering Committee meetings are held from 3:45pm to 5:45pm 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 March 17
Wednesday April 21
Wednesday May 19

Membership Meetings

See Page 3 for details.

Newsletter Deadlines

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

Newsletter Committee

David Cohen
Kenneth Kowald
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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

c/o Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment
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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
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Sidney Horenstein, American Museum of Natural History
Marcia Kaplan-Mann, Environmental Quest/UFT
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John W. Kominski, High School for Environmental Studies
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Ray Pfortner, Peter Arnold, Inc.
Laurel Remus, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
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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.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Vice Chairperson for Programs

Dorothy Siminski

In keeping with EEAC's tradition of bringing you exciting programs on both legislative issues and hands-on environmental education, two Spring programs are planned.

City Councilman Stanley Michels, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee has graciously accepted our invitation to speak on April 3rd at 11:00. If you have questions about the Environmental Protection Committee or issues related to the City Council, now is the time to ask! The Central Park Conservancy will host our meeting at 1234 Fifth Avenue (at 104 Street) in their 2nd floor conference room. We'll explore the wooded north end of Central Park; a truly enlightening experience is planned, perhaps even a sneak preview of their soon to open environmental education center.

It may look like a 21st century cathedral, but it's home to a 170,000 square foot science museum! The Liberty Science Center, which opened January 24th, will be the destination of our second program. We'll be guests at "the Estuary" where we will see living plant and animal species of the Hudson River. For many, it may also be a first time visit to Liberty State Park. Independent trips to Ellis or Liberty Islands afterward are also a possibility. Further details to follow.

In order for us to best meet your needs, we need to hear from you. Suggestions received to date include: more information on school recycling and community gardens, a potpourri of speakers on legislative issues, and environmental programs at the Museum of Natural History. Please call me with your ideas at (212) 360-2774 or speak to committee members Freida Feldman and Judy Pantano.



The Environmental Education Advisory Council is a special group of educators whose common aim is to encourage environmental education within the New York metropolitan region. Through us, members share ideas and knowledge, speak with a single voice to influence educational policy and participate in many pleasurable activities.

The main goal of EEAC's coming together is the education of our youth. We desire that young people develop an appreciation of both the natural world and the urban environment and an understanding of the relationships between the two.

Please take a few moments to complete and mail the membership application on the back page of this newsletter.

We look forward to meeting you.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

by Kenneth Kowald

Green Thoughts for Spring

- "The Natural Areas of New York City Parks" is a new publication of the Department of Parks & Recreation and City Parks Foundation. The map is designed to accompany "Woodlands, Wetlands & Wildlife: A Guide to the Natural Areas of New York City Parks." To obtain both, call (212) 360-2744.
- The International Society of Arboriculture has a series of informational leaflets. To obtain free copies, write to ISA, P.O. Box 908, Urbana, Illinois 61801. Ask for the material presented in cooperation with the America the Beautiful and Urban and Community Forestry Programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.
- The Center for Plant Conservation has updated "the only comprehensive listing of over 500 professionals and offices involved in conserving U.S. native plants, and a summary of state plant conservation laws." For a copy of The 1992 Plant Conservation Directory, send \$15 to the Center for Plant Conservation, Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis 63166.
- Operation GreenThumb of the City's Department of General Services is expanding its outreach to schools. To find out more, call (212) 233-2926, or write to GreenThumb, room 1020, 49 Chambers Street, New York 10007.
- Did you know it's illegal to ride dirt bikes or ATVs anywhere in New York City, except on private property? If you know of transgressions in the City's parks, call the Park Enforcement Police (PEP) 24-hour hotline: 1-800-834-3832.

More from EPA

- The Federal Environmental Protection Agency recently started WET WAY (Water Employees Together with America's Youth) in which classroom visits are made to demonstrate the link between education and professional careers. To learn more, call Linda Zarrow at (202) 260-6221.
- EPA and the Federal Trade Commission have issued a brochure "Green Advertising Claims," which lists tips on how consumers can identify the validity of products that are labeled with "green" claims, such as environmentally safe, recyclable, biodegradable or ozone friendly. For a free copy, call 1-800-424-9346. While you're at it, ask for EPA's own "Consumer's Guide to Radon Reduction."
- EPA also has a 20-page brochure on "Healthy Lawn, Healthy Environment--Caring for Your Lawn in an Environmentally Friendly Way." Get it free by writing to the Public Information Center (PM-211B), US EPA, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington 20460.
- EPA also publishes "The Consumer's Handbook for Reducing Solid Waste." Call the Waste Hotline at 1-800-424-9346 for a free copy.



The New York Turtle and Tortoise Society is a non-profit organization, dedicated to the conservation and preservation of habitat and to the promotion and proper husbandry and captive propagation of turtles and tortoises. To find out more, write to the Society, Suite 365, 163 Amsterdam Avenue, New York 10023, or call (212) 459-4803.

Save the Rainforest, an international student-teacher organization founded in 1988, offers bibliographies of educational materials and contact with high school students and teachers who have worked on this issue. To learn more, write to Bruce Calhoun, Save the Rainforest, 604 Jamie Street, Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533, or call (608) 935-3307.

The National Gardening Association publishes (three times annually) "Growing Ideas," by the developers of GrowLab. For free copies, write to the Association, 180 Flynn Avenue, Burlington, Vermont 05401.

For a free copy of "Update Project 2061: Education for a Changing Future," write to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington 20005.

"Tweety's Global Patrol," a joint effort of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Alliance for Environmental Education and Warner Bros., stresses the "three R's"--Reduce! Reuse! Recycle! at home and in school. To find out more, write to AEE, P.O. Box 368, 51 Main Street, The Plains, Virginia 22171.

Do you know about the work and programs of the North Wind Undersea Institute? To find out, call (718) 885-0701, or write to 610 City Island Avenue, City Island, Bronx 10464.

And, how about the work and programs of the Queens County Farm Museum? To find out more, call (718) 347-FARM, or write to

73-50 Little Neck Parkway, Floral Park 11004.

"Humane Education News," the newsletter of the United Federation of Teachers Humane Education Committee, is full of interesting news and resources on this subject. Write to the Committee at the UFT, 260 Park Avenue South, New York 10010, or call (212) 410-3095.



The New York Hall of Science has just completed its Fifth Anniversary Celebration and has available a colorful and information-filled reprint on its story from New York's Avenue magazine. To obtain it, call (718) 699-0005, or write to 47-01 111th Street, Flushing Meadows Corona Park 11368.

Did you know that a Graffiti Hotline has been established to help you report acts of graffiti vandalism in New York City? Call (212) 374-5914 or 5917 and give the location of the graffiti and a description of the vandals, if possible. There is no need to identify yourself.

"Earth Science Resources for Teachers" is available free of charge from the National Center for Earth Science Education, 4220 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22302. It lists 53 institutes, associations and laboratories, governmental and private, related to earth science.

"All Trashed Out", an "Activity Guide to Solid Waste Management for Grades K-6," is available from the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources, Office of Recycling and Waste Reduction, 1-800-252-8955.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

continued

The Plastic Bag Information Clearinghouse is an industry-sponsored group which has a packet of information on the subject of plastics. For a free copy, write to the Clearinghouse, 1201 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 300, Washington 20036, or call (202) 223-2214.

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 (201) 662-1229.

Teachers and informal educators who are interested in learning how to plan and carry out successful water quality monitoring programs may be interested in the Northeast Watershed Monitoring Workshop sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension. It will be held April 27-29, 1993, at the Casowasco Conference Center in Moravia, New York. For information write to or call: Watershed Monitoring Workshop, 110 Fernow Hall, Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853-3001, att: Deb Grover, (607) 255-2114.

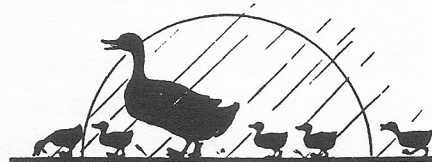
The Institute on Science, Computing, and the Environment (ISCE), a project of the Cornell University Department of Education and the Center for the Environment, is offering a summer program for high school science teachers during two one-week sessions (July 25-30 and August 8-13). ISCE will bring teams of science teachers from New York State schools to Ithaca to study water quality and land use issues. Teams will include teachers from different school sciences. For more information, call William Carlsen at (607) 255-9257 or Nancy Trautmann at (607) 255-9943.

In case you haven't heard, the Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment (BCUE) received notice, with great pride, that they have been awarded \$24,980 under the new Environmental Education Program of the US Environmental Protection Agency. This highly competitive grant program was the first to provide federal funds exclusively earmarked for environmental education since the Carter administration, and BCUE's was the largest grant awarded in New York State. The grant will allow BCUE to expand its teacher training programs, providing workshops for public school teachers that will deal with water and water quality in the school curriculum. The workshops will prepare elementary and middle school teachers to stimulate students to become knowledgeable environmental caretakers and preservationists of the future. Congratulations BCUE!

The Children's Museum of Manhattan is offering a Spring seminar and workshop series on Environmental Arts and Issues. The series is geared for teachers, parents, and concerned professionals. For further information, call Valerie Winkler or Helen Kwon at (212) 721-1223, ext. 225.

Mark your calendars!

On Sunday, April 4, the Alley Pond Environmental Center (APEC) will present an Environmental Symposium beginning at 1pm. Entitled "Flying Up from Rio: Destination APEC," the program will feature Hy and Joan Rosner, two of the founders of EEAC. John Kominski will moderate a panel discussion on local environmental issues. The afternoon will conclude with a reception and celebration honoring APEC's 20th Anniversary.



OPINIONS

Speak Up, Kids!

by Kenneth Kowald

Even though I am what some might consider an "incurable optimist," there have been times during the past two plus decades that I have despaired about how effective environmental education has been. After all, if 25 years is a generation, we are awfully close to completing one generation of environmental education and can we really believe--all the time--that we have made a difference?

My optimism was renewed on January 10 (and even since--most of the time!) when, in the special Education Supplement, The New York Times got around to reporting that in October, 1992 (The Times, after all, is a "newspaper of record," not of the moment, necessarily) Environmental Research Associates of Princeton, the town, not the university, had published "The Power of Children," a study which showed that many children have persuaded their parents to make choices as consumers that tend to protect the environment. "Children," The Times notes, "are more concerned about the environment than their parents are."

But, hold on! These were children ages 6 to 17. Assume that their parents are in the 25 to 40 year bracket. That means that parents, during the past 23 years (if we trace the environmental "movement" from the first Earth Day in 1970) were 2 to 17 years old at that time! What happened to all the "environmental education" they got--or we think they got?

It's all too much for me to ponder and I certainly don't know what to make of the study's report that girls are "slightly more likely" than boys to try to influence their parents, and that children between ages 11 and 17 are more likely than younger children to do so.

I do know, however, that I am happy to read about the study and it does help--but only on occasion--when I see a young child littering or otherwise despoiling the landscape that we all share.

So, let the kids speak up! We who are long in the tooth and their parents who are 30 plus need to hear the voices of environmental concern, even when the voices don't always match the action.

But, enough skepticism! If a little child doesn't lead us, who will?

It's the ENVIRONMENT, Stupid!

by Theresa Lato

The ancient Greeks defined an "economist as a manager of the Earth, ecologist as student of the Earth", virtually identical twins.

The economy depends on a sustainable planet. If we continue to plunder it of its natural wealth, it will be bankrupt.

Two thousand years ago, Ethiopia was the bread basket of the Roman Empire. Myopic land mismanagement left it devastated.

Coastal cultures had once depended on fish for sustenance. Mindless dumping has so polluted our waters that fish have become a high risk food.

Dirt is something in the wrong place. What can replenish our dwindling top soil now pollutes our waters.

We owe it to posterity to reduce our national debt. Even more importantly, we owe our children the legacy of a livable planet. We must replenish it, not plunder it like barbarians.

That is our Constitutional mandate. That must be incorporated in our educational and political curricula.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Affiliation: _____

Title/Position: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____ Date: _____

Select either a \$15 dues payment to cover the cost of membership in EEAC for a calendar year, OR, a \$150 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



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