



# EEAC

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1997

## Environment Education: The Why?

(reprinted from the Winter Solstice 1995 issue of PEEC Seasons)

by Jack Padalino

A quarter of a century ago Rene Dubos in *Reason Awake* noted that "A people without a future- has no need to seek wisdom, has no need to change its behavior, has no need to maintain the health of the environment." Recent initiatives supporting education about sustainability and the environment call for a human concept of the environment beyond the biological concept of earth, the physical concept of planet, or the cultural concept of world. According to the late Paul Brandwein, what humankind needs is a larger mind to encompass this new concept of environment and the cultivation of this larger mind is the function of education.

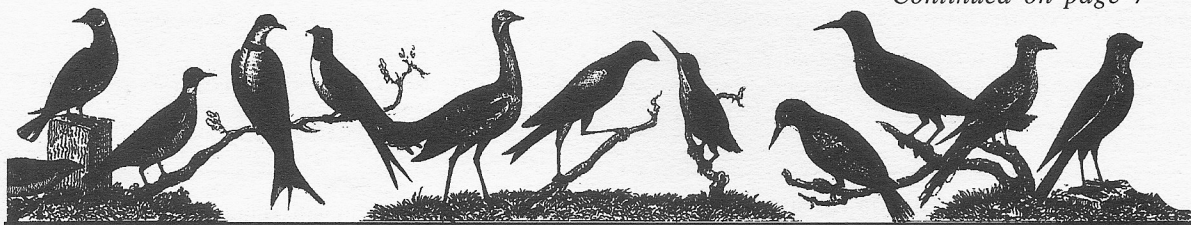
Much of the current fervor focused on education, standards, and systemic reform has been driven by the notion that we must prepare the young and the work force to compete effectively in the global economy. According to David Orr in *Earth in Mind*, "...that done, all will be well, or so it is assumed." Orr claims that there are better reasons to reform education which have to do with the rapid decline in the habitability of the earth.

Paul Brandwein referred to education as an art-science concerned with the acquisition of knowledge and with the ability to consolidate knowledge which is yet to be discovered. At one of Paul's Human Habitat seminars, I remember he said that "To increase knowledge and to encompass the understanding and wisdom necessary for the wise conduct of life are both the aim and the content of education." Proximal to the time that PEEC was launched, Paul proposed the use of the term *ekistics* to describe a field of study, that area of knowledge and those concepts and values through which humans recognize their interdependence with the environment as well as their responsibility for maintaining a culture that will sustain a healthful and healing environment. Incorporating these notions in their broadest context cast today's environment education as multi-dimensional and complex.

Concerning PEEC and education, some of what we do is to provide hands-on experience in nature at a critical time in a young person's life. This PEEC activity is an attempt at what E.O. Wilson referred to in his autobiography as what counts in the making of a naturalist. "Better to be an untutored savage for a while, not to know the names or anatomical detail. Better to spend long stretches of time just searching and dreaming." In his autobiography, *Naturalist*, Wilson writes, "Most children have a bug period, I never grew out of mine." His youthful fascination with nature blossomed into a calling that recognizes him as one of the more important thinkers of the twentieth century.

Through PEEC, children visit a National Park to experience nature first hand. David Orr

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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 4-6pm on the third Wednesday of every month.

Please arrive promptly at 4pm!

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 meeting information:

Steering committee meetings are held at New York University, Press Building, 32 Washington Square Park East in the Anderson Room. Upcoming dates are: March 19, April 16 and May 21.

### Newsletter Deadlines

Material should be submitted to the Editor on the first Monday of May, August, November and February. If possible, please submit on a floppy disc in WordPerfect.

### Newsletter Committee

Joy Garland  
Kenneth Kowald  
Mary Leou

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

### Notes From the Editor

Our next issue will be devoted to the topic of environmental justice. Please mail your articles by May 5.

Elizabeth Guthrie, long time environmentalist and educator, recently died at the age of 88. Joan Rosner will coordinate a memorial section that will be dedicated to Elizabeth in a future issue of the EEAC newsletter. Please send comments, memorabilia, etc. on Elizabeth's long and productive career, by April 1 to: Joan Rosner, 4300 Sunningdale, NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110.

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

## 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.

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Mary Leou, Vice-Chair for Programs  
Millard Clements, Secretary  
Kim Estes-Fradis, Membership Secretary  
Ruth Eilenberg, Treasurer

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\*Affiliations for identification purposes only.



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

**I** return to a topic that has been discussed many times in this space - the unwillingness of governments and allied institutions to fully incorporate environmental protection and environmental education (ee) into their policies, programs and overall functioning. While this issue has been dealt with here before within the context of the various (now defunct) task forces and committees that we've all been a part of in an effort to support ee, the most recent trigger for this message was the introductory chapter of the Worldwatch Institute's State of the World - 1997 report. Researched and written by Lester Brown and the Institute's extraordinary staff, this yearly classic has been one of the informational foundations of the modern environmental movement. In Chapter 1 - "The Legacy of Rio"- Christopher Flavin describes the after effects of the 1992 U.N. Conference on Environment and Development - The Earth Summit. Flavin states that the world is falling well short of achieving the central goal of the conference - an environmentally sustainable global economy.

According to Flavin, in the past 5 years world population has continued to explode, emissions of carbon have reached new highs, more of the earth's biological riches have been irreversibly diminished, and environmental conditions are as bad or worse in the many areas of extreme poverty that still exist in the world. Flavin states that the failure to reverse in only five years trends that have been ongoing for decades is not surprising, but few governments have begun to integrate into their functioning the policies that will lead the world onto a sustainable path. For example, most governments continue to subsidize in one way or another, rather than tax, the clear-cutting of forests, inefficient energy and water use, and mining. While there have been specific success stories, e.g., the global effort to protect the ozone layer by reducing the emission of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), Flavin states that "the world has so far failed to meet the challenge of integrating environmental strategies into economic policy."

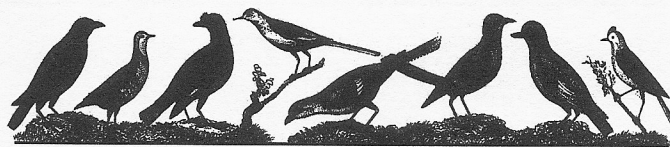
If we move from the macro to the micro, and from the environment to environmental education, we find the same lack of systemic thought and action here in New York and in many other localities as well. Yes, we've had our successes, but we're still searching for overall support for environmental education.

This is not to say that wonderful things aren't happening. We all know the pulsating, vibrant level of activity in environmental education out there on the urban hustings; and just as incrementalism may be the name of the game on the bureaucratic level, so may ee be destined to actualize itself on the grassroots level without securing long term institutional supports nationally. Still, we also know about the statewide ee success stories - Wisconsin being the one discussed most often. There, required pre-service teacher training, curriculum infusion, and statewide support committees have led to a truly broad-based ee program.

We have been discussing at steering committee meetings the idea of establishing a committee to examine and perhaps advocate for the inclusion of environmental education courses in the preparation of school administrators (K-12). It is at the school building and school district administrator level that environmental education often does not get the broad support needed to help willing teachers and students. This relates, too, to the perceptions of Christopher Flavin of the Worldwatch Institute. Governmental administrators and policy makers often don't incorporate sound environmental policies into their programs in a systemic manner. Perhaps public policy and administration degree programs on an undergraduate and graduate level - in this country and others - need to include more environmental education in their course offerings as well. There is an organization - Second Nature - which is currently attempting to convince American colleges, universities, medical schools, etc. to infuse ee into all areas of the postsecondary curriculum. Thus all administrator training, whether for school-based personnel, for other human service areas, or for public policy makers, should incorporate some ee content.

Focusing our local efforts on school administrator training is a logical outgrowth of this approach and may impact on the problem of integrating environmental education into programming. We welcome all EEAC members who wish to participate in this endeavor.

*Michael Zamm*



## Around Here

Through June 8, the Museum of the City of New York, at Fifth Avenue and 102nd Street, will be showing **"The Streets and Beyond,"** an exhibition of photographs of the people and streets of New York throughout the century. To find out more, call (212) 534-1672.

On March 27 the Bronx Zoo will open the **Aitken Aviary**, replacing the DeJur Aviary, which collapsed during a snowstorm in 1995. The **children's zoo** re-opens on March 29 and will remain open through October, weather permitting. In May, the zoo will open a **new exhibition of large birds**, including ostriches, emus and cassowaries. Call (718) 367-1010 for information.

William Hewitt, Director of Public Affairs for Region 2 of the State Department of Environmental Conservation, has three items of interest, available free of charge: **"Guide to DEC," "Guide to Meditation Services"** and a **rolodex card for DEC** with the primary contacts in each of the State's nine regions, as well as some useful 800 numbers. To obtain any or all, call him at (718) 482-4949, or write to him at 47-40 21st Street, Long Island City 11101-5407.

The **New York Aquarium** celebrated its 100th anniversary in December. It was located in Battery Park when it opened in 1896. Since 1957 it has been in Coney Island and is bigger and better than ever. Call (718) 265-3400 for information.

The New York Botanical Garden's **Enid A. Haupt Conservatory** is scheduled to open on May 3, as **"A World of Plants,"** in which visitors will be able to learn first-hand how species that grow in the tropics, subtropics and deserts have adapted to their environments. To learn more, call (818) 220-8700.

As this is written, we are awaiting the final results of the **New York Tree Census**, begun in the Summer of 1995 and completed in September, 1996. It is estimated that there are more than 500,000 street trees in the City. To find out about the census, call (212) 360-TREE.

The United Federation of Teachers Outdoor-Environmental Education Committee has a two-page list that can be useful: **"What Are You Doing for Earth Day? 50 Earth Day Ideas from Educators for Gateway—For Starters."** It may be obtained by writing to the Committee at 260 Park Avenue South, New York 10010.

**Urban Resources Partnership/NYC** is a Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cornell Cooperative Extension New York City Programs, U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. To find out about what the group has been doing and plans to do, write to URP at 8th floor, 16 East 34th Street, New York 10016, or call (212) 340-2948.

**"From Lean to Green: A Guide to Rehabilitation of Inner City Forests"** is a publication of the City of New York/Parks & Recreation's Urban Park Rangers. It was discussed at the Annual Meeting of EEAC in November. Copies are in short supply, but you may be able to obtain one by calling (212) 360-2771 or 2.

**Safe disposal of dangerous materials** is something to be concerned about. The New York City Department of Sanitation Action Center at (212) 219-8090 can be helpful, as can the City's Department of Environmental Protection, (718) DEP-HELP.

A recent issue of **"Restoration & Management Notes"**, published for the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum, contains an interesting story on **"Natural Areas Restoration in New York City: a Bite of the Apple"**, by Marc A. Matsil and Michael J. Feller of the Natural Resources Group of the City of New York/Parks & Recreation. For a free copy write to them at 1234 Fifth Avenue, New York 10029, or call (212) 360-1417.



**Do you know about any big trees?** New York has a Statewide Big Tree Program, in the Department of Environmental Conservation. To find out more, write to Room 424, 50 Wolf Road, Albany 12233-4253... "Environment" is published quarterly by DEC. Write for a free subscription to Room 535 at the address above.

**The New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program** has published its Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. For a copy of the Summary, call Seth Ausubel at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (212) 637-3793.

**The Center for Environmental Education** is now located at 400 Columbus Avenue, Valhalla, New York 10595. At a recent EEAC Steering Committee Meeting, Robert Zuber, The Executive Director, told us about the organization. Its publication, "Grapevine," is available upon request. The telephone number is (914) 747-8200.

**"Environmental Focus"** is the publication of Waste Management of New York. Will Flower of the group spoke last year at an EEAC Steering Committee. For copies of this and other material, write to him at 123 Varick Avenue, Brooklyn 11237, or call (718) 386-7900.

## Elsewhere

The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, Connecticut, has a great deal of information about Long Island Sound, including a **"Long Island Sound Activity Book"**. Find out what's available by writing to 10 N. Water Street, Norwalk 06854, or calling (203) 852-0700, ext. 206.

The National Association of Conservation Districts is sponsoring a **"Get Growin"** program, in which students are raising money for projects and trips by selling trees, shrubs, bulb packages, flowering shrubs and other living products. To learn more, contact NACD, P.O. Box 855, League City, Texas 77574, or call 800-825-5547, ext.26.

**"Green Sense: Financing Parks and Conservation"** is a publication of the Trust for Public Land. To obtain a free subscription, write to the National Office, 4th floor, 116 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco 94105.

If there is a problem with odors from a dry cleaning establishment, not only will local authorities respond, but the **Neighborhood Cleaners Association** want to know about it, too. To report a cleaner whose environmental awareness is re-miss, call (800) 468-5582.

The **Queens Botanical Garden** will be celebrating **Arbor Day** on Thursday, May 1, 1997 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Join in the fun as more than 2,500 area schoolchildren enjoy environmental and nature exhibits, plant seeds, and gain valuable hands-on experience during the Garden's annual celebration. A banner parade, music, and tree-planting ceremony are all part of the activities planned. Call the Garden's Education Department at (718) 886-3800, ext. 24, for more information.



*T*he New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is proud to kick-off its Eleventh Annual Water Conservation Art & Poetry Contest. The contest is an opportunity for New York City's fifth and sixth graders to express creatively their knowledge and excitement about water conservation and the City's unique water supply system.

Contact Kim Estes-Fradis, DEP's Director of Education, at (718) 595-3506 or Doreen Bader, Research Scientist/Environmental Educator, at (718) 595-3523 if you have any questions or would like copies of their program brochure.

## EXPERIENCE THE GREEN APPLE A WHOLE NEW WAY!

*The Green Map System & Modern World Design*

By Wendy Brawer, Director

**B**ack in 1992, Modern World Design created the first Green Apple Map with the goal of illuminating the ecologically significant places in NYC's five boroughs. We wanted to put the whole city into people's hands, and encourage them to discover and explore the places where nature and the built environment interconnect. Using a map as the medium turned out to be a good method of communicating the big picture as it is the most resource-efficient, universally understood way of giving people a detailed yet fresh perspective of our home.

Five years later, the third edition has been published. With the whole city drawn in proportion, this folding map features nearly 700 green sites, nearly half of which have their address and phone number listed! There's also over 100 other on-line/by phone/in print eco-resources included on this jam-packed yet easily navigable map. The Green Map Icons are used to symbolize the different kinds of eco-sites, ensuring it will be readily understood by visitors as well as New Yorkers.

This iconography is being used by Green Map makers around the world who are independently creating their own city's map, encouraged by the Green Map System. This common "language" and a web site link all the Green Maps together, thus promoting the eco-resources of each town to a global audience. See some of the pioneering Green Maps and reports on the maps-in-progress in the first 20 cities at <http://www.greenmap.com>. You can also find out about participating in this global-to-local environmental social project, which was sparked by the response to the earlier editions of the Green Apple Map.

The third edition of the Green Apple Map is a collaboration between Modern World Design and *Metropolis*, the cities and design magazine. It will be included with the March 1997 issue of *Metropolis* sent to subscribers. Thanks to Interface, Inc., Green Apple Maps will be available free (while they last) at the Greenmarket (either Union Square or Grand Army Plaza, or at the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum (91st & Fifth Ave.), or EEAC members can send a self-addressed #10-business size envelope with 2 stamps to: Tobe Korsgren, City Parks Foundation, 1234 5th Ave., room 232, New York, NY 10029.

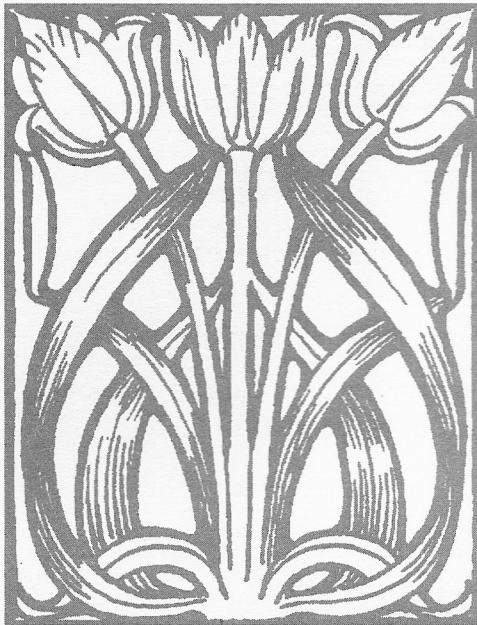
E-mail [apple@greenmap.com](mailto:apple@greenmap.com) with your suggestions and green sites for the next edition.



### Summer Design Institute

New York City teachers are invited to a workshop on making neighborhood scale Green Maps during Design Education in Action: Models for Change, a week-long Summer Design Institute at the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum. SDI takes place July 7-11 at the Museum at 91st and Fifth Avenue. It is free with advance registration, and comes with 2D credits from the Board of Education. Please call the Museum at 212-860-6977 for more information.





## ARTWORKS '97

Presenters wanted for the 17th annual Art Education Conference. Theme: Art Education and the Environment.

**Tuesday, November 11, 1997**

**8:00 am - 4:30 pm**

**Fiorello LaGuardia High School**

**Proposal Deadline: April 15, 1997**

### Guest Speaker:

Alan Gussow, internationally recognized artist concerned with environmental issues and author of "A SENSE of PLACE: The Artist and the American Land."

For workshop guidelines please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Joan Davidson, Conference Coordinator, 219 West 81st Street, New York, NY 10024.

The conference is sponsored by the New York City Art Teachers Association/UFT, in cooperation with the UFT Environmental Committee, The New York State Outdoor Education Association Inc., and the Environmental Education Advisory Council.

*Continued from page 1*

also looks to Carson's *The Sense of Wonder*, "it is not half so important to *know* as to *feel*."

According to Carson, feelings begin early in life in the exploration of nature, generally with the companionship of an adult. The sense of wonder is rooted in the trust that the world is, on balance, a friendly place full of interesting life "beyond the boundaries of human existence." Orr notes that the sense of wonder Carson describes is not equivalent to a good science education, although in principle he sees no reason why the two cannot be made compatible, nor does he believe that wonder be taught. He states, "If Carson is right, it can only be felt, and those early feelings must be encouraged, supported and legitimized by a caring and knowledgeable adult." Mike Weilbacher says it another way, "Eight-year-olds should not be asked to become warriors or worriers. Children have much more important work to do: Watch ants. Grow flowers. Dance between the raindrops. This is sacred work, and childhood needs to be preserved just as much as rain forests and wetlands."

Paul Brandwein's legacy is reflected in the wisdom of his words: "In time, then, we will see that what seems to remain true longest in the human scheme is that the young keep coming. And, in time, one or more of the young— always together with one or more of the old— will discover to do what seems to escape us only to the time of its discovery. As long as the young keep coming, a surer conception of talent is foretold. As long as the young keep coming, so does the permanent agenda to search for super ordinate ecologies of achievement." I feel that a glimpse of Paul's wisdom is captured by Walt Whitman in *Leaves of Grass*:

*There was a child went forth every day,  
And the first object he looked upon, that object he  
became,  
And that object became a part of him for a day or a  
certain part of the day,  
Or for many years or stretching cycles of years.*



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member      \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (        ) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Select one:

- ☐ \$ 20 Individual Membership  
☐ \$ 50 Supporting Organization Membership  
☐ \$200 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  
EEAC Treasurer  
401 East 86th Street, Apt. 4F  
New York, NY 10028



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