



EEAC

FALL 1999/WINTER 2000

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

EEAC's 25th ANNIVERSARY YEAR



Dr. Mary Leou congratulates the Gala planners, Susan Clark and Terry Ippolito.

Chair's Message: A Note of Thanks

EEAC's silver anniversary was an exciting event that brought together members, friends, and honored guests from a wide range of non-profit organizations and government agencies. Bonnie Bellow from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presented EEAC with a certificate congratulating EEAC for providing "leadership, support, and inspiration to New York City environmental educators and their students" for the past 25 years. Commissioner Joel Miele of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and Commissioner Henry J. Stern of the New York City Parks Department were present to wish EEAC 25 more years of success. Both Commissioners acknowledged the importance of environmental education and hands-on learning.

Our heartfelt thanks to Susan Clark, our Anniversary Chairperson, and Terry Ippolito, Vice Chair of Programs, for their extraordinary work in making our celebration a memorable one. Special thanks to all the members of the Program Committee and all the individuals whose efforts contributed to the success of this event. We are also grateful to Olga Bloom for her generosity in donating the BargeMusic and to John Muir for leading a fantastic trip over the Brooklyn Bridge. What a wonderful way for EEAC to celebrate twenty-five years of teaching, learning, exploring, and doing!

On the eve of a new century, let us not forget that there is still much work to be done. Over the next twenty-five years EEAC must continue to provide leadership and increase environmental education opportunities for learners of all ages. In the year 2000, become a member of EEAC and help us make the next 25 years as exciting and meaningful as the first.

Mary J. Leou, Ed.D.



Former EEAC Chairs are honored.

UPCOMING EEAC EVENTS.....

Steering Committee Meetings

EEAC Steering Committee meetings are held from 4-6 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month (except August). Please arrive promptly at 4 p.m. !

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, Pless Building, 32 Washington Square Park East and Washington Place. Upcoming meetings will be on November 17, December 15, and January 19.

Newsletter Deadlines

The Newsletter deadlines are the first Monday in April, July, October and January. If possible, please E-mail articles to joygarland@banet.net and send longer articles as an attachment in Microsoft Word or on a floppy disc in MS Word. Typed articles should be sent to the Editor's address below.

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



JOIN EEAC!

If you are a member of EEAC and want to be part of the information sharing and discussion on the EEAC

Listserve contact:

Carol_Franken@fcl.nycenet.edu or

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

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

Dr. Mary J. Leou, Chairperson
Kenneth Kowald, Vice-Chair for Issues
Terry Ippolito, Vice-Chair for Programs
Millard Clements, Ph.D., Secretary
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Joanne Dittersdorf, Treasurer

STEERING COMMITTEE *

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Helen Ross Russell
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Nancy A. Wolf
Michael Zamm, Council on the Environment of NYC

*Affiliations for identification purposes only.

EEAC Members Rock and Roll at 25th Anniversary Gala

by Susan Clark

On October 1, friends gathered to reminisce, enjoy good food and wonderful music - and the place was rockin'! Well, the rockin' could be because EEAC's 25th Anniversary celebration was held on a boat. More than 75 members, friends and special guests gathered at BargeMusic at Fulton Ferry Landing for the event.

The social part of the celebration was preceded by an environmental lesson - what do you expect from a bunch of educators? Approximately 25 members put on their walking shoes and joined John Muir, past EEAC chairperson and Executive Director of the Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment, for a stroll of some significance. The group walked across the Brooklyn Bridge, stopping along the way to learn about the environmental impacts of the built environment, the construction of the bridge and more.

When the group arrived in Brooklyn *en masse*, they boarded the barge to enjoy an evening catching up with old friends and making new acquaintances. The evening's program quickly turned into another walk - this time down memory lane. The ten past chairpersons of EEAC were recognized for their dedication and also for their vision of what EEAC could and has become. Although he never served as chair, Kenneth Kowald, current Vice-Chair for Issues, was also acknowledged for his long time dedication and diligent work to support EEAC's mission. Throughout the evening, attendees swapped stories and passed around a book filled with EEAC's history and memories of members.

During its first 25 years, the Environmental Education Advisory Council recruited and maintained a membership of more than 200 individuals and organizations, organized conferences for students and educators, printed 10 publications on various environmental education topics, distributed quarterly newsletters to keep its network of educators informed, and touched the lives of tens of thousands of students. The next 25 years looks just as promising.

SAVE THE DATE EEAC'S ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

4-6PM at New York University

Program, ballot, and exact location will be mailed separately to members.

Dates and Events

The five programs in the “**Ecology Institute for Teachers & Educators**” of the City Parks Foundation are still available. Each institute is open to 20 teachers. All are on Saturdays, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and all are outdoors. On November 6, in Central Park, the theme is “**Birds and Their Habitats**”; on November 20, in Van Cortlandt Park, “**Introduction to Urban Forests**”; on December 11, in Inwood Hill Park, “**Geology of New York City**”; on April 20, in the Audubon Center, Greenwich, Connecticut, “**Ponds and Streams**”; and on May 6, at Orchard Beach, Pelham Bay Park, “**Coastal Ecology**.” To register, and for more information, call (212) 360-2746 or 360-2745. New teacher credits are available..

“**Protecting and Revitalizing Your Local Waterways**,” will be presented November 9 and 10 by the Cook College Continuing Professional Education Programs at Rutgers University, in New Brunswick. To find out more, call (732) 932-9271, or write to 102 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8519.

November 14 is the last day to see two exhibits at Wave Hill: “**Botanical Objects**” and “**Infinity of Traces**.” For more information, call (718) 549-3200.

The following day, November 15, will be the third annual **New York State/America Recycles Day**. There should be information around about this before you read this column, but, in case you need more, visit the web page of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at:

www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dshm/redrecy/recyllday.htm
or the national site at www.americarecyclesday.org/

The Hudson River Foundation’s Tuesday Seminar series on scientific issues related to the environmental quality and resource management of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary will continue on November 16, December 7 and January 11. To learn about topics and speakers, call (212) 924-8290. The Foundation is at 40 West 20th Street, 9th floor, in Manhattan.

On Friday, December 10, the **Elementary School Science Association (ESSA)** will visit the Science Museum of Long Island, from 4 to 6 p.m. To find out more, call Gail David at (718) 225-6420...Gail can also tell you about ESSA’s Martin Luther King Family Nature Weekend, at the Pocono Environmental Education Center, Friday, January 14 through Monday, January 17. This is a joint program with Educators for Gateway.

December 15 is the deadline for the **Home Depot Environmental Research/Education Grants** to further environmental research and education. The best place to find out about this is to visit your local Home Depot. No purchase is necessary!

Two exhibits end on January 2: “Concord: From Melting Pot to Millennium” about the Staten Island community, at the Staten Island Institute of Arts, (718) 727-1135, ext. 21, and an exhibit of artists who lived and worked in the City (including John J. Audubon, Asher B. Durand and Thomas Cole) at the New-York Historical Society, (212) 873-3400.

To obtain the schedule of the Fall/Winter “**Education Adventures**” in the Central Park, Prospect Park, and Queens Wildlife Centers, write to the Wildlife Conservation Society, 830 Fifth Avenue, New York NY 10021. The programs take you well into the new year.

“**Winter Wonders**” is scheduled for Saturday, January 29, at the Gateway Environmental Study Center. It is presented by the Center and Educators for Gateway. To find out about it, call Regina McCarthy at (718) 252-7307 or 8285. There are so many programs going on at the Old Stone House Interpretive Center in J. J. Byrne Park, Third Street at Fifth Avenue in Brooklyn, that your best bet for complete information is to call Marcia Kaplan-Mann and Michael Mann at (718) 941-9835.

Around New York and Elsewhere

The Staten Island Botanical Garden has opened its **Chinese Scholar’s Garden** in its Snug Harbor location at 1000 Richmond Terrace. To inquire further and for times it is open, call (718) 273-8200.

The Bronx Zoo has opened its **Congo Gorilla Forest**. For details and times, call (718) 367-1010.

Kidsider’s Hours is a new program of the New York Convention and Visitors Bureau, which offers tours of museums, zoos, etc., “geared to a child’s perspective.” For a complete list of participating institutions, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Bureau, 810 7th Avenue, New York, NY 10019.

Taking Root is published three times a year for friends of the New York State Urban and Community Forestry Program. To obtain copies, write to JLN Wolf, Inc., 87 State Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, or call (718) 834-4589. **The Neighborhood Open Space Coalition/Friends of Gateway** has moved to 356 7th Avenue (near 30th Street), New York, NY 10001. The telephone number remains the same: (212) 352-9330.

Much attention is being paid these days (not without reason) to the problem of "invasive plants." These are plants and trees introduced to the environment which are pushing out native species, sometimes to very bad effect. If you want to learn more about this problem in our state, call the Invasive Plant Council of New York at (518) 273-9408, ext. 221.

EACNYC is the new semi-annual publication of the Environmental Action Coalition. To receive copies, write to EAC at 625 Broadway, 9th floor, New York, NY 10012. As part of its celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the US Environmental Protection Agency is making an educational materials package on drinking water available to teachers, grade K-12. To order, call 1(800) 426-4791... You can visit EPA's Office of Environmental Education at <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed>.

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Market's **Guide to Farm Fresh Products** may be obtained, free of charge, by calling 1(800) 554-4501.

If you are concerned about **Y2K in New York City**, the City government has a toll-free hot line, (888) 469-2925 to provide information, or use the website: www.ci.nyc.ny.us/y2kinfo. And, there is even another telephone line: (212) 442-2031.

The Trust for Public Land has published a wonderful report, **The Economic Benefits of Parks and Open Space: How Land Conservation Helps Communities Grow Smart and Protect the Bottom Line**. To obtain a free copy, call 1(800) 714-LAND.

Clarification: Green Horizons IV, held on October 5 in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG), was facilitated by the Magnolia Tree Earth Center as part of its Urban and Community Forestry Program; it was co-sponsored by New York ReLeaf, EEAC, the New York City Board of Education, and BBG. Funding was supplied by Con Edison, with additional support from the Bartlett Tree Expert Company and the USDA Forest Service.



PROSPECT PARK EDUCATION EXPO

**Add 526 acres
to your school!**

Sunday, November 14, 1999

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Picnic House, Prospect Park, Brooklyn
(Enter at 3rd, 4th, or 5th Sts. And PPWest)

New Teacher Credit Available
To register call (718) 965-8984

*Teachers, science coordinators, and
administrators—come to the Expo
and learn about environmental
education resources in Prospect Park.
Indoor and outdoor activities will
include hands-on workshops, exhibits,
tours, and demonstrations.*

*Family members welcome.
Also open to the public.*

The Education Expo is a program of the Prospect Park Alliance's Committee and Park's Education Collaboratives Group whose members include the Prospect Park Alliance, the Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment, the City Parks Foundation, the Prospect Park Wildlife Center, the City of New York/Parks & Recreation Urban Park Rangers, and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The Education Expo is funded by the Keyspan Foundation, the New York City Council, and Councilmember Kenneth Fisher, with professional support from the Environmental Education Advisory Council. We are again seeking volunteers from EEAC to help with hands-on activities, registration, and as guides for the event.

If you can help, call Dr. Mary Leou at (212) 360-2745.

KOMINSKI FUND REPORT

At its meeting prior to the September Steering Committee meeting, the Kominski Fund Committee recommended continuation of the annual appeal for contributions to keep the Fund on a self-sustaining basis in order to continue current programs and support new ones. The Fund balance, as of this writing, is \$1,679.55, with annual expenditures of \$500 balanced by contributions of approximately the same amount. Participation in the teacher awards program with the Elementary School Science Association was noted and the Fund expects to support the proposed Kominski Meditation Garden at the Alley Pond Environmental Center, with which John was closely associated. It was good to hear that the Gateway Kominski Wildlife Garden is in good shape and was attracting—before the West Nile events—many Monarch butterflies. Three of the four Kominski campers who attended State Department of Environmental Conservation camps this summer responded to our letter requesting comments about their experiences. Below (edited) are some of the replies:

"I had a great time learning in a new fun way. I liked the games the best; the best game was bop-a-deer. I like that we did a lot of activities."

"I would say to them (other kids), go, because it's really fun. It is fun and it is a good learning experience. I would tell them to go have fun and meet new people."

"It was such a great experience there (Camp DeBruce); it changed the way I used to think about some things. I wish I could have another opportunity to go back. Camp was fun and I met a lot of people who accepted me as I was."

Contributions marked "Kominski Fund, EEAC," are deductible to the extent allowed by law and may be sent at any time to the EEAC Treasurer, Joanne Dittersdorf, P.O. Box 408, Cooper Staten, New York, NY 10276.

Suggestions and comments about the Fund may be sent to Ruth Eilenberg, 401 East 86th Street, New York NY 10028, or by e-mail to HERE52@aol.com.



Saturday Science and Kominski Memorial Award

The Elementary School Science Association's 22nd Annual Saturday Science, "The Blaustein Conference," will be held on Saturday, November 20th, in Francis Lewis High School, 58-20 Utopia Parkway, Flushing. There will be no plenary session and no walk-in registrations. As of this writing, presenters may still be needed. To find out, call Marian Berke-Sloan, at (718) 377-7999. Participants may attend three hand-on workshops and visit the vender's area for a look at new materials and books. New teacher credit is available. Registration, which includes a continental breakfast, must be received by November 8. It is \$6 for members, \$12 for non-members, and \$16 for registration plus membership. Checks should be made out to ESSA and sent to Stanley Leibowitz, 2534 Ridgemont Court, Toms River, NJ 08755.

Also, a reminder that ESSA and EEAC have announced the John Kominski Memorial Award to be given to a New York City public or private school teacher who has demonstrated leadership in effecting positive change in environmental education and practice with students and/or personnel within the school or community. Applications must be postmarked no later than January 31, 2000. For more details, see the Summer/Fall 1999 EEAC Newsletter, page 7, or call Joy Garland at (212) 673-6732.

EEAC News...

Environmental Links...

Upcoming events...

Visit our website

<http://members.aol.com/wleou/eeac.html>

Students to Investigate Lower Manhattan Green Spaces

The Green Map System (GMS) has received a grant from New York City Environmental Fund that will allow us to create a “close up” Green Map of Manhattan from approximately 23rd Street to Canal. It will be comprised of many maps charting various neighborhoods and themes, as seen by students, eco-groups and others who wish to share their view of NYC with the world. Some will cover just a few blocks, others will chart the places where nature and culture interconnect in a larger area. When completed (tentatively Earth Day 2000), this “close up” map will supplement our existing Green Apple Map (GAM) which has been successfully directing the attention of neighborhood residents and tourists to a wide variety of wonderful ecological and cultural sites that make our city so special. The GAM is an integral part of the award winning GMS, a global consortium of Green Mapmakers that has been honored by the President’s Council on Sustainable Development, EXPO 2000, and other global organizations. The online version of the GAM can be found on the web at www.greenmap.org/nyc.

To facilitate this exciting Lower Manhattan map project, we have already published a multi-lingual poster of GMS’s shared set of green site Icons (including a specially condensed set to inspire Youth Green Maps), and we have created a draft Youth Activity Guide and other materials to help integrate Green Mapmaking into the curriculum. We intend to gather together a small group of teachers (November 1999) who can assist us in planning/overseeing students’ investigations and interpretations of these ecologically and culturally rich Manhattan neighborhoods. Participating schools will receive all of our materials, confer regularly with GMS staff, and may be eligible for other assistance. We plan to document the students’ investigations and we will provide guidance, as needed, towards the creation of an exhibit that can be transported from one school to another.

Special mention of students and schools — as well as completed maps and narrative description of sites — will be made on a new page on our Lower Manhattan Web site (www.greenmap.org/grmaps/nycdt.html) which we have developed to “house” the results of the “close up” project. Visit the site and see the wonderful views of these neighborhoods that we have already collected! Through the web, there will be ample opportunity for participating schools and teachers to become directly linked to our growing global network of youth-oriented Green Map projects in settings from Adelaide to Calgary to Brooklyn.

As with our other youth-oriented projects, student investigations of Lower Manhattan are sure to reveal a wealth of resources related to ecological design, gardens and other community green spaces, healthy food sources, green businesses, alternative transportation options, historical and cultural sites, toxic hot spots and more. While they are conducting research for their own local maps, we will encourage young people to suggest new sites for our web-based Green Apple Map of New York City.

We welcome inquiries from all EEAC members, but especially from interested educators teaching within the areas to be covered by this map. Please feel free to contact GMS by phone (212-674-1631) or preferably by e-mail (info@greenmap.org) if you are interested in participating in this exciting mapmaking project.

*Wendy Brawer, director and Dr. Robert Zuber, education outreach
Students to Investigate Lower Manhattan Green Spaces*

U.S. EPA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANTS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces the 2000 Environmental Grants. Seed and start-up funding is available for environmental education projects focusing on teacher education in E.E., educating students, teachers and/or the public about environmental health threats, community-based environmental health education, building local capacity to deliver E.E. programming, environmental career education, and environmental justice. Most grants are for \$5,000 to \$25,000 from the EPA Region 2 office in New York City, grants are available in amounts up to \$250,000 from EPA’s headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Complete information and forms are available in the solicitation notice which is obtained from EPA’s Regional Office by calling (212) 637-3671. The solicitation notice can also be viewed on EPA’s grant information Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html>. Applications must be postmarked by November 22nd to be considered.

If you are an E.E. professional and are interested in learning more about grant applications (and are not planning to apply for the funding this year), call Terry Ippolito at (212) 637-3671.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

If sustaining Organization, Name of Contact Person _____

Business Phone () _____ Home Phone () _____

Affiliation (for categories other than Sustaining Organization): _____

Title/Position: _____

Address (for categories other than Sustaining Organization): _____

E-mail address: _____

Please check the appropriate calendar year membership category:

☐ \$ 20 Regular

☐ \$ 50 Sustaining Organization

☐ \$200 Life Membership

Please make checks payable to EEAC. Thank you! EEAC is a 501-C-3 organization.

I would like to become involved in a committee.

Please provide me with information about the following committees:

☐ Exhibits

☐ Issues

☐ Membership

☐ Newsletter

☐ Programs

☐ Youth

☐ Technology

☐ Kominski Fund

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

Joanne Dittersdorf, EEAC Treasurer, P.O. Box 408, Cooper Station. New York, NY 10276



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DON'T MISS EEAC'S ANNUAL MEETING, NOV. 17