



EEAC

WINTER/SPRING 2002

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

REFLECTIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

by Regina McCarthy

Over the last several years I have become increasingly aware of some serious issues that involve environmental education. Working with teachers, particularly elementary teachers, I have found that there is a high interest in environmental education. This has been noted in verbal conversations and needs assessments that I have done. It is also what I have discovered in working with parents. We live in a world that is plagued with environmental issues. It has even become part of our 'pop culture' with celebrities lending their support to certain issues. (Oh, have I prayed for someone to find his or her way out to Gateway!)

Some questions I have are, "How is this translated into schools? Is it age appropriate, and is there really true understanding? Are the issues fully addressed or is it with a particular bias on the part of the educator?" (I confess, I've been guilty here myself sometimes.) I remember many beautiful displays on solid waste and wonderful re-cycled puppets and birdfeeders. Were the students aware that it still remained there? Where did it go after the display went down? Are we really changing our practices in terms of 'stuff'? Do we think about this at the supermarket when we buy? When the teacher talks about plastics, does she present another point of view? Do the children have the ability to make these decisions at the age these issues are being introduced?

Here is an even bigger question, are our children scientifically literate? Can we be responsible environmental educators without first dealing with this issue? Sadly, the struggle to attain scientific literacy has been moving forward at a snail's pace. It is hard to believe, sometimes, that we are 40 years past the wake up call our country had (Sputnik) in 1957, that our country is far behind in science education. It is my belief that students cannot approach many of the environmental issues without a full understanding of the basics. We need to have programs that reinforce good science. What is good science education? Here we are lucky. There has been some wonderful work done here by the National Resource Council (*National Science Education Standards*) and AAAS (*Benchmarks*). These documents lay down blueprints for action. The best of scientists, science educators, school administrators, teachers, and developmental psychologists created these documents.

What also concerns me, and brings import to these issues, is that we are on under attack. We all know of Stossel's ABC report that so viciously attacked environmental education. As biased and manipulative as it was, we have to remember that it happened. We have to be very careful here. We lay ourselves open to attack and lose our credibility in education circles when we present environmental issues that are not developmentally appropriate. Recently we (EEAC) were approached by an organization that was going to create a K-12 curriculum on an environmental issue. It was an issue that was far beyond the comprehension of any average child below 6th grade. When questioned, the person insisted that this could be taught to young children. This is just the kind of situation where our credibility as educators is going to be challenged and rightfully so. The documents are there to guide us. Both *Benchmarks* and the *National Science Standards* carefully delineate what is appropriate for children at different developmental levels.

We need to bring children to an awareness level of the world around them. Let them experience the world's beauty and show them how we need to care for it. I think environmental educators have ~~a~~ done a good job here, but we have a responsibility to teach our students how that world works and the importance of real inquiry and decision making. In the whole thinking process that good education supports whether it is math, social studies, environmental education or whatever, we need to be teaching our children to see evidence, weigh their truth, eliminate what is not, and then move forward to make informed decisions. This is the challenge that awaits us.

UPCOMING EEAC EVENTS.....

Steering Committee Meetings

EEAC Steering Committee meetings are always the third Wednesday of every month (except August) but this year the November and December meetings will take place on the second Wednesday of the month due to holiday schedules.

Upcoming Meeting Information:

Steering Committee meetings are held at New York University, Pless Building, 32 Washington Square Park East and Washington Place in the 5th floor Conference Room except for the November Annual Meeting, location to be announced. Upcoming meetings will be on February 20, March 20, and April 17.

Newsletter Deadlines

The Newsletter deadlines for 2002 are **Monday, March 25** and the first Monday in July, October and January. If possible, please E-mail articles to joy.garland@verizon.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.

Newsletter Committee

Kim Estes-Fradis

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440 East 20 Street, Apt. 7F, New York, NY 10009

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The Environmental Education Advisory Council (EEAC) would like to thank the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for supporting the publication of this newsletter. For information about DEP's education resources for students and teachers, visit the new DEP Web site at www.nyc.gov/dep or call the new phone number, (718) 595-3506.



NOTE CHANGE OF CAROL'S E-MAIL

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

Cfranke@nycboe.net

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

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

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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Dr. Mary J. Leou, Chairperson
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Michael Zamm, Council on the Environment of NYC

*Affiliations for identification purposes only.



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Dear EEAC Members and Friends,

I'd like to extend my heartfelt wishes to all of you for a happy and healthy new year 2002! Last fall EEAC began a strategic planning process to develop a plan for the next three years. I am pleased to inform you that our hard work has resulted in a vision that will enhance EEAC's opportunities for growth and development well into the next decade and beyond! As part of our vision we will develop strategies for reaching a larger and broader audience in the metropolitan area including teachers, students, community groups, and policymakers. Our programs this year will focus on urban environmental issues to help educate our members and the public.

As an organization, our goal has always been to support excellence in environmental education and to foster a strong network of environmental education professionals in New York City. I hope all of you will consider taking a more active role in EEAC this year and help us work toward achieving our goals. With your support we can begin to move forward on many exciting new initiatives.

It has been wonderful to see so many new faces at our monthly steering committee meetings and at our annual meeting this past fall. I hope that many more new faces join us at EEAC's meetings and events this year. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Jay Holmes as EEAC's new treasurer and thank Joanne Dittersdorf for serving as treasurer these past three years.

With best wishes and peace on earth!

Mary J. Leou, Ed.D.

EEAC News...

Environmental Links...

Upcoming events...

Visit our website

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

NYC DEP ANNOUNCES SIXTEENTH ANNUAL WATER CONSERVATION ART & POETRY CONTEST

For the past sixteen years, fifth and sixth graders from all over New York City have been participating in the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's Water Conservation Art & Poetry Contest. These students have been learning about New York City's water supply system and water conservation and now have a chance to express this knowledge creatively. Some of their work has been used in a new poetry booklet, a *New York City's Watersaver's Workbook* and other educational materials for NYC students. If you think your students will find this to be a fun learning experience, don't hesitate.....participate.

This annual event has proven to be a wonderful experience for the students, their families and their teachers. For complete contest guidelines and further information regarding DEP's educational resources, please call (718) 595-3506.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2002 NY RELEAF CONFERENCE—HERE IN NEW YORK CITY!

On July 12-14, the Conference will be held at the College of Mt. St. Vincent in Riverdale, Bronx. The 2002 Conference Committee, co-chaired by Douglas Still of NYC Parks, Hugh Hogan of NYC Environmental Justice Alliance and Majora Carter of Sustainable South Bronx, is making plans for an exciting meeting. This is the first time the NY ReLeaf Conference will be held in New York City. More details will be furnished in the near future.

Timely Matters

You may still have time to apply for a **grant from the Catskill Watershed Corporation** which is looking for proposals to help increase public awareness of the human and natural history of the New York City West-of-Hudson Watershed and the New York City Water Supply system. Proposals may come from schools and non-profit organizations serving Pre-K-12th grade audiences within the area. To find out more, call Diane Galusha, Education Coordinator of the Corporation at 877-WAT-SHED (a free call) or send an e-mail to galusha@cwconline.org.

This Winter, **West Harlem Environmental Action and Audubon New York** have been offering teacher workshops on environmental issues for middle and high school teachers in Upper Manhattan. Topics include Wildlife & Nature, Green Space, Air Quality, Disease and Environmental Health, Waste Management, Green Products, and Lifestyle. Remaining workshops are on February 13 and 27 and March 6, 13, and 20. For information, e-mail Lynn Tiede, Education Manager, Audubon New York, at ltiede@audubon.org.

An international competition to transform **Fresh Kills**, the 2,200 acre landfill on Staten Island, is approaching its end. Proposals of the six teams chosen in August to prepare a conceptual design are on display through March 5 at the Urban Center Galleries, 457 Madison Avenue at East 51st Street.

The Hudson River Foundation has resumed its "**Tuesday Seminars**" on scientific issues related to the environmental quality and resource management of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary. All events begin at 10:30 a.m. in the offices of the Foundation, 9th floor, 40 West 20th Street, Manhattan. The remaining dates are February 19, March 5, April 2, and May 14. The events are free, but reservations are requested. Call (212) 924-8290 for information.

The venue of this year's conference of the **Science Council of New York City** will be South Shore High School in Brooklyn. The date is Saturday, March 23. Notices should be in the mail about the time you receive this Newsletter.

This year's **YouthCan** event at the American Museum of Natural History will be held on Monday, April 29. To find out more, call or write to our own Jay Holmes, (212) 769-5329, Education Department, AMNH, 79 Street and Central Park West, New York, NY 10024-5192.

The **Elementary School Science Association** is holding a number of workshops at which staff development credit is available for new teachers and new supervisors. On Saturday, March 9, there will be a program in the Congo Gorilla Rainforest of the Wildlife Conservation Society/Bronx Zoo. Friday, April 9, the workshop will be in the American Museum of Natural History, with a visit to the Pearl exhibition. On Saturday, May 4, ESSA will sponsor Project Wild and Wild Aquatic, at the Ecol-

ogy Village of the Gateway National Recreation Area. For information, call the ESSA President, Gail David, at (718) 225-6420.

Plan Ahead: On Thursday and Friday, June 6-7, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy will sponsor "**The Humane Metropolis: People and Nature in the 21st Century City**," a symposium to commemorate William H. Whyte. It will be held in the Vanderbilt Hall Auditorium of New York University, 40 Washington Square South. Information may be obtained from the Web site: <http://www.umass.edu/ecological/cities/>

And more planning ahead: This year's conference of the **American Community Gardening Association** will be held July 25 through 28 in New York City. The venue is Columbia University. Details may be obtained from the Association, 5th floor, 100 N. 20th Street, Philadelphia 19103-1495, or New York City Operation GreenThumb, Room 1020, 49 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007.

New York City News

Downtown New York is sponsoring free **90-minute guided walks through the Wall Street area** every Thursday and Saturday at Noon, starting from the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, at One Bowling Green (the old U.S. Customs House building). The tour covers the history, architecture, and people of the area. For more information about the tour, call (212) 606-4064. For more information about Downtown New York, call (800) 377-1083.

The New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program has published "**A Teacher's Guide to Water Education Resources in the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Region**." It is free of charge. To find out about it, call Laura Bartovics, HEP Outreach Coordinator, at (212) 637-3816.

Friends of Van Cortlandt Park "**Educational Adventures**" offers free educational programs for school groups and low-cost teacher workshops. To learn about it, call (718) 601-1553, or write to the Friends, c/o Van Cortlandt Park Golf House, Bronx, NY 10471.

The **New York City Department of Environmental Protection** is continuing its pilot project to provide public school gardens with native plants and shrubs, to help teachers and students enhance the beauty of their schools and neighborhoods. DEP helps determine the tree and shrub species best suited for each site, will deliver the plants, and even help plant the trees and shrubs, if necessary. For an application, write to our own Kim Estes-Fradis, NYC DEP, 5917 Junction Boulevard, Corona, NY 11373.

The **Pocono Environmental Education Center**, known to New York City teachers for many years as a source of learning and inspiration, has a new initiative: Professional Development for New York City Teachers in a National Park. To find out about it, contact Flo Mauro, Director of Education, PEEC, RR 2,

Box 1010, Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328, or call her at (570) 828-2319....Our own **John (Jack) Padalino** has retired after 25 years as Executive Director of PEEC. He is now President of the Paul F. Brandwein Institute and may be reached at P.O. Box 13, Unionville, NY 10988, or by calling (845) 856-8230. The new PEEC Executive Director is James (Jim) Reinhardt, most recently Director of Education, Recreation, and Community Outreach at the Gateway National Recreation Area.

Our own **John C. Muir**, founder of the Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment (which was known as the Prospect Park Environmental Center in its early days) has retired and the new Executive Director is Sandi D. Franklin, Ph.D., who has worked for, among others, the American Management Association and Fresh Start, Inc.

Jane M. Kenny is the new Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, which covers New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Her office is in Manhattan. Miss Kenny comes to EPA from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, where she served as Commissioner, working on such issues as brownfields redevelopment, urban revitalization, and sustainability.

At the Parks Council the new Executive Director is **Richard Dadey**, who succeeds Elizabeth Cooke. Dadey was most recently with the New York City office of M&R Strategic Planning, a national government affairs and public relations firm.

And, at the Parks Foundation, the new Executive Director is **David Rivel**, who most recently was President of the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music.

As a result of a grant from the Youth Community Gardens and the Urban Environment Initiative of the Philanthropic Collaborative, Inc., **maps of community gardens** by City Council District are now available. They are being distributed by the Council on the Environment of New York City. To learn more, call Meredith Olson at (212) 788-7923, or write to her at the Council, Room 228, 51 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007.

Everywhere Else

In memory of the victims who died on September 11, the America the Beautiful Fund is providing flower, vegetable, and herb seeds to plant "**Freedom Gardens**" anywhere in the country. Anyone who wants to start a "Freedom Garden" in a school or community, may receive a grant of 100 to 1,000 free seed packets (there is a small fee for postage and handling). To learn more, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to America the Beautiful Fund, Dept. 911, Suite 1002, 11730 K Street, N. W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Healthy Schools/Healthy Kids has new information guides on sanitizers and disinfectants, better lighting and ergonomics. To order any of these publications, call the Healthy Schools Network, Inc., at (518) 462-0632.

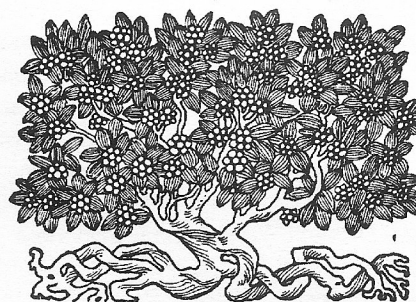


KOMINSKI FUND BECOMES THE EEAC COMMEMORATIVE FUND

At its December meeting the EEAC Steering Committee voted to broaden the scope of the Kominski Fund to become the EEAC Commemorative Fund. This will enable EEAC to acknowledge and memorialize the contributions of others who have added so much to EEAC's success. Ongoing support of the Fund by EEAC members and friends will enable the Fund to continue its efforts of recognizing environmental educational leadership of students and teachers in New York City. Tax deductible donations to the EEAC Commemorative Fund may be sent to Jay Holmes, EEAC Treasurer, Department of Education, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West and 79th Street, New York, NY 10024.

Ongoing support of the Fund by EEAC members and friends will enable the Fund to continue its efforts of recognizing environmental educational leadership of students and teachers in New York City.

IN MEMORIAM



Hy Rosner, who with his wife, Joan, was one of the founders of the Alley Pond Environmental Center and the Environmental Education Advisory Council, died at home on December 13th, 2001. Letters of condolence may be sent to Hy's wife, Joan Rosner, at 7103 S.W. 53rd Lane, Miami, FL 33155.

Contributions in Hy's name may be sent to the Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Blvd., Douglaston, NY 11363 or to the EEAC Commemorative Fund. There will be a memorial service at the Alley Pond Environmental Center, which Joan Rosner is expected to attend, on Sunday, April 7 in the afternoon. Call APEC Director Irene Scheid at (718) 229-4000 for information.

FREE BOOK COVERS TEACH WATER CONSERVATION

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is pleased to announce the availability of colorful new bookcovers for use by students to protect text books and other school books. DEP's bookcovers, available at no charge in class sets, feature the ever popular design, "New York City Water Is..., Gives... and Needs..." highlighting the importance of water and why it should be conserved. The reverse side of the bookcover describes in fun, simple terms, a variety of ways that water can be saved at home, both indoors and outside.

DEP declared a Drought Watch in December for the City's water supply system. A Drought Watch is declared when there is less than a fifty percent chance that either the Delaware System or the Catskill System reservoirs will be full by June 1, the start of the water year when reservoirs are normally full. That determination is reached through the careful analyses of the historic records of reservoir levels and precipitation.

Currently, the City's reservoirs are at 44% of capacity, 32 percentage points below the normal level of 76.4% for this date. The low water levels are attributed to below average rainfall in the City's nearly 2,000-square-mile watershed over the last several months. Additionally, this summer the City released a record amount of water — 110 billion gallons — to maintain flow in the Delaware River.

In recent years, daily water use in the City has been averaging about 1.2 billion gallons of water per day, well below the 1.45 billion gallons consumed in 1991. The dramatic reduction in consumption is attributable to several comprehensive water conservation measures implemented in the City and by DEP over the last ten years, including the installation of water meters and of nearly 1.7 million low-flow toilets and other plumbing fixtures. Without those conservation measures, the City would have declared a Drought Watch several weeks ago.

DEP Commissioner Joel A. Miele Sr., P.E. is urging residents and businesses to practice voluntary water conservation measures to help extend the current water supply. Simple tips for conserving water can be found on DEP's new bookcovers and on other free educational materials for students and teachers. In addition, report illegally opened hydrants to DEP's 24-hour helpline, (718)DEP-HELP and learn more about the NYC water supply system and water conservation online at: www.nyc.gov/dep.

To order bookcovers and other educational material call (718) 595-3506 or email: kimestes@nysnet.net.



CITY GARDENS CLUB OF NYC OFFERS AUDUBON SCHOLARSHIPS

This year the City Gardens Club of New York is offering to NYC public school educators and classroom teachers a limited number of scholarships to the Maine Audubon Camp in Hog Island near Damriscotta. The "Connecting With Nature" ecology workshop for teachers takes place from June 30 to July 6, and the total cost including program, materials, room and meals is \$600. The scholarship award is \$500, and upon notification of the award, the recipient pays a non-refundable fee of \$100 to the Maine Audubon Camp. To request an application call Mary-Ann Selassie at (212) 289-0318 from M - F, between 12 and 4 PM. Applications must be sent to Scholarship Selection Committee, City Gardens Club of New York, 755 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021 by the March 1st deadline. Those selected will be notified by March 15, 2002.

Another award presented by the City Gardens Club of New York is the Melville Award. The recipient for this award for "excellence in environmental education" went to Joy Garland of EEAC. Joy participated in the Maine Audubon Camp over two summers and recommends the experience highly. "Besides renewing me after a busy year of teaching, it gave me many practical ideas and materials for my classes in the fall."



**NYC AUDUBON PROGRAMS
AT THE LIGHTHOUSE,**

59th Street and Lexington Avenue - All Invited

Thursday, March 14th: "Wildlife & People of Kenya, Africa" by Mickey Cohen and Don Riepe. Join us for a special slide presentation on the recent NYC Audubon Society trip to Africa. From Nairobi to Mount Kenya National Park and the vast Masai Mara Serengetti plains, the group enjoyed closeup views of over 250 species of birds as well as lions, leopards, cheetahs, hyenas, jackals, wart hogs, hippos, rhinos, plus many species of antelope and other mammals. They also visited Masai villages and Lake Nakuru National Park where several hundred thousand flamingos congregate.

Thursday, April 11th: "17th Annual Chapter Awards Ceremony" by Marcia Fowle, President. NYC Audubon Society presents its awards for distinguished service to the environment. Awards include: Major Achievement and Grassroots Activist. A brief program will follow by Don Riepe on "NYC Audubon Society Field Trips Here & Abroad." From Central Park to Costa Rica, Montauk Point to Morocco, NYC Audubon's active field trip program focuses on birds, natural history, and culture.

**"SUSTAINING SEASCAPES:
THE SCIENCE AND POLICY OF MARINE
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT"**

Thursday and Friday, March 7 and 8, 2002,
American Museum of Natural History

The Center for Biodiversity and Conservation's Seventh Annual Biodiversity Symposium will explore the conservation of marine biodiversity and fisheries through the integrated design of marine protected areas (MPAs), MPA networks, and other complementary coastal management frameworks. Speakers will examine the large-scale conservation of marine ecosystems - considering novel approaches to the sustainable management of biodiversity and fisheries.

Address questions or comments about the symposium's content to the CBC's Marine Program Manager, Dan Brumbaugh, at brumba@amnh.org.

FOR SYMPOSIUM UPDATES, visit the CBC's website: <http://research.amnh.org/biodiversity/symposia/seascapes/> or contact biodiversity@amnh.org to receive email updates.

TO REGISTER, contact:

Central Reservations, American Museum of Natural History,
Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024 (USA),
212-769-5200 (phone), 212-769-5272 (fax), or tickets@amnh.org.

Registration Fees (after Friday, 26 January):
\$125 Non-members, \$100 Members/Seniors,
\$60 Students

All members, seniors, and students should be prepared to show ID at registration.

STATEN ISLAND, NATURALLY *A Spring Workshop for Teachers*



Saturday, April 20, 2002

9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

**at Blue Heron Park
and Nature Center
222 Poillon Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10312**

**Meet and learn from
OUTSTANDING LOCAL
NATURALISTS
About Plants, Birds,
Language Arts, Trees,
Pond Life, Seasons, Insects**

Bring back to your classroom a PACKET, crammed full of activities to enliven your curriculum. Join your colleagues in a beautiful place, close to home, when trees and flowers will be in bloom.

New Teacher credit will be available. Information: (718) 967-3542

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2002

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt. _____ Zip Code _____

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 (2002) ☐ \$ 50 Sustaining Organization (2002) ☐ \$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 ☐ Newsletter ☐ Programs ☐ Technology ☐ EEAC Commemorative Fund
☐ TEEP (Teacher Environmental Education Preparation)

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

Jay Holmes, EEAC Treasurer, c/o Education Department, American Museum of Natural History,
Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

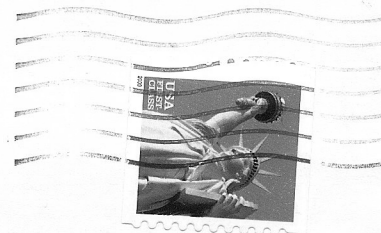
c/o Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment

The Tennis House

Prospect Park

Brooklyn, New York 11215

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



LET'S MAKE EARTH DAY, EVERY DAY!