

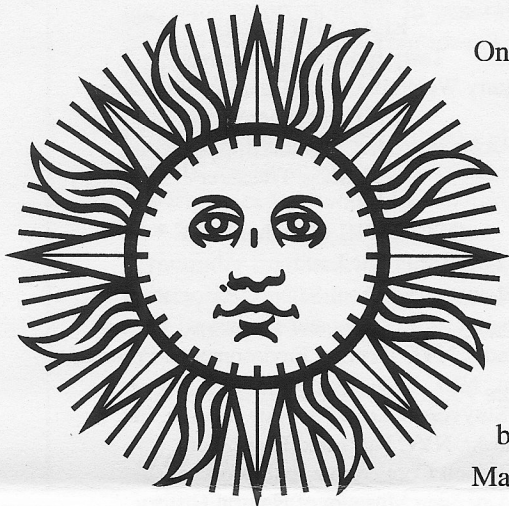
EEAC

SUMMER 2004

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMES ALIVE IN SOLAR ONE

by John Garvie



On warm, sunny days in Stuyvesant Cove Park you can see students racing their newly-built solar-powered cars on the colorful labyrinth, or groups of students swarming around the native plants like the honeybees and birds that they are learning about. These are just some of the programs that the Community Environmental Center (CEC) is providing for children free of charge in Stuyvesant Cove Park.

CEC's new solar-powered classroom, lovingly called Solar 1, has become a beacon for environmental education. Teachers and children in the neighborhoods surrounding the park have been flocking to the classroom since March to learn about topics ranging from global warming to solar-powered buildings. CEC's mission in building the learning center is to inspire students to become environmentally responsible urban residents. We at CEC believe that environmental science education helps students develop a sense of stewardship for New York City, its boroughs, and individual neighborhoods.

Spearheading classroom instruction is CEC Stuy Cove, Inc., established by CEC to focus on the park and environmental education for the residents of New York City, especially for schools in Region 9. Participants have included Baruch High School, The High School for Environmental Studies, UNIS, The Children's Workshop School, East Side Community High School, MS 45, and the Bank Street School.

CEC and its educators opt for a collaborative approach to instruction, working with teachers to help sculpt individual lessons around subjects that students are currently learning. This approach allows for a more in-depth relationship between schools and the learning center, and allows students to make a greater connection with material being taught in the park because it corresponds with lessons taught in the classroom.

CEC's programs provide students with outlets to participate in hands-on scientific protocols that spark interest about the city's urban environment and provide experience with the scientific method. Although the lessons are informative, they are also a chance for participants to learn about subjects that are normally (and unfortunately) left out in many public schools' curriculum. CEC has developed a curriculum that not only corresponds to middle and high school standards, but also incorporates lessons dealing specifically with issues that New Yorkers can relate to such as waste reduction and issues of air quality.

UPCOMING EEAC EVENTS.....

Steering Committee Meetings

EEAC Steering Committee meetings are always the third Wednesday of every month (except August).

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. Upcoming meetings will be on Sept. 15, Oct. 20 and Nov. 17.

Newsletter Deadlines

The Newsletter deadlines are the first Monday in April, July, October and January. If possible, please E-mail articles to solocoot@verizon.net and send longer articles as an attachment in Microsoft Word or on a floppy disc in MS Word. Contact the editor at the number below for mailing address for materials.

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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 DEP Web site: www.nyc.gov/dep or call (718) 595-3506.

GET CONNECTED!

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

Cfranken@nycboe.net

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

c/o Jay Holmes
Education Department
American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th Street
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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.

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Summer is upon us, and this newsletter will reach you during your summer in the city or while you take a respite from the daily routines of work.

My hope is that you are reading this when you have some time to ponder your plans for autumn.

Along those lines, I am keeping this message brief and ask you to think about three things:

The Steering Committee is about to start discussing ways in which we can "get out there" at events and programs to promote EE in general and EEAC in particular. This is one aspect of the Strategic Plan we adopted two years ago. Your ideas and your assistance are most welcome and needed. Want to get involved? Call me at (212) 637-3671.

EEAC's Annual Meeting will take place on November 17. It may sound like a long way off, but it approaches quickly. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. If you have ideas about what kind of presentations or opportunities you would like to have on the meeting's agenda, please let me know, (212) 637-3671.

A reminder that Steering Committee meetings are open and **members and ideas are welcome**. Check the information inside the front cover of the newsletter. If you cannot be at a meeting, feel free to offer a topic on the Listserv for members to consider.

With wishes for a safe and happy summer,

Terry Ippolito

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR WATER CONSERVATION

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) is an international environmental award presented to an individual for the world's most outstanding water-related student science project. Its mission is to encourage and support the interest of future leaders in water environment issues. The competition is open to projects that will improve the quality of life through improvement of water quality, water or wastewater treatment, water resources management or water protection.

It is administered globally by the Stockholm International Water Institute with support from Water Environment Federation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Coca-Cola Company and ITT Industries.

The international competition will take place in Stockholm, Sweden, during World Water Week, August 2004, where students will exhibit their projects at the Stockholm Water Symposium. The international winner will receive \$5,000 from

Princess Victoria of Sweden in a royal ceremony. For more information about the competition, visit the website www.stockholmjuniorwaterprize.org.

Khaivchandra Ramjeawan, a senior at Uniondale High School in Long Island, was recently recognized as the 2004 New York State winner for her project titled, "The Elimination of Arsenic from Soil and Water: The Use of Hyperaccumulators to Phytoremediate Arsenic Salts." Her project was nominated by the New York Water Environment Association. Public Education judges stated that Khaivchandra's project identified a world challenge within the water environment. The judges thought that the student's subject knowledge and her project creativity were fantastic. Miss Ramjeawan represented New York State at the National Competition on June 10-12, 2004, in Denver, Colorado. We wish her the best of luck in continued competition!

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

by *Kenneth Kowald*

Through Saturday, September 25, for the first time in many years, you will be able to tour a one-mile area of **Governors Island** along the Western and Northern edges. In addition, twice daily through September 3, Tuesdays through Fridays, the National Parks Service will conduct tours of the Governors Island Landmark District. Ferry tickets and passes for these events are available at the South Street Seaport Museum booths. More information may be obtained by checking out www.nps.gov/gois. The future of Governors Island is still to be determined.

Sunday, September 12 is the day of the **NYC Century Bike Tour**, on which you can ride for 15, 35, 55, 75 or 100 miles, depending on your stamina. To learn more, check out NYCcentury.org, or call (212) 629-8080.

Once again this year the **Northeast Chapter of the American Littoral Society** is sponsoring the New York State Beach Cleanup, this time on Saturday, September 18. To volunteer, call Barbara Cohen at (718) 471-2166, or e-mail her at alsbeach@aol.com.

"New York's Flowing Waters: Connecting People, Places & Time" is the theme of the 37th Annual Conference of the New York State Outdoor Education Association, to be held November 4-7 at the Montauk Yacht Club Resort and Marina on Long Island. To find out about it, e-mail Sue McGuire at samcquire@hotmail.com or Elaine Drazin Young at Elaine114@aol.com. The website for the conference is www.nysoea.org.

The **Elementary School Science Association's annual Saturday Science: The Blaustein Conference** will be held on November 20 in Francis Lewis High School in Queens. Mailings about it should be reaching you not long after you read this newsletter.

If you were on the great **Horseshoe Crab walk** Alan Ascher led for EEAC and ESSA in May, you received a fine "Selected Resources" paper, which you may obtain from Alan by writing to him at akanascher@aol.com. Alan would like to know if you come across new resources that he can add to the list. And there is a Horseshoe Crab Network, headed by Dr. John T. Tanacredi of Dowling College, which is conducting an inventory of the horseshoe crab population and needs the help of anyone spotting the creatures. The HSC Hotline is (631) 244-3394.

New York State, through the Department of Environmental Conservation and the office of the Secretary of State has published a **"Local Open Space Planning Guide,"** a 64-page compendium of much information about this important subject. It was issued in March and is available free of charge by calling (518) 473-3355, or by making a request via e-mail at QC@dos.state.ny.us.

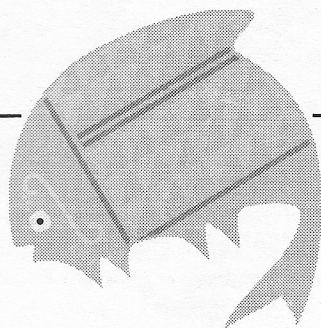
America in Bloom is a non-profit organization that promotes beautification programs and personal and community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, trees and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements. The group provides educational programs and resources and encourages what it calls a friendly competition between participating communities across the country. Information about America in Bloom may be obtained by calling (614) 487-1117. You can learn more about the group from its website, www.AmericaInBloom.org.

I have recently been made aware of two Department of Education centers in Brooklyn that focus on environmental matters. One, the **Honorable Anthony J. Genovesi Environmental Study Center** is located in Region Six, at 7151 Avenue T. At this Center, students are immersed in scientific research, including observing, recording and reporting their findings. All activities incorporate reading, writing, listening, speaking and math skills. The Center is home to more than 30 live animal exhibits. There is a greenhouse, four laboratory classrooms and access to an outdoor pond, and vegetable and flower gardens. The Center, "Dedicated to Creating Environmentally Responsible Citizens Able to Live Harmoniously with Nature," may be reached at (718) 444-6560. Alexis Weinstein is Director of the Center. I am indebted to the folks at Region Six for this information.

I had also hoped to write about another Center that is no longer called (I hear) the **Gateway Environmental Study Center (GESC)**. Since late last year I have attempted to get updated information regarding what used to be GESC. But despite efforts from the Department of Education itself, regrettably nothing has been forthcoming. I normally don't use this space for editorial comments (except to praise someone), but I would be obtuse not to point out that a public institution—which I assume GESC (or whatever new name it has) is—has an obligation to make information about itself known to the public. This is especially disturbing when that public, in the form of EEAC and the EE community at large, has been in the forefront of keeping that institution alive. Access to information is critical. After all, you can't support something you know nothing about, can you?

EEAC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of EEAC is twofold: To advocate for excellence in formal and informal environmental education in New York City and beyond, and to provide an ongoing network and various forums for all committed to environmental education to grow professionally and to share ideas and information.



NYSMEA CONFERENCE UPDATE

By Gail David

NYSMEA, the New York State Marine Educator's Association, had a very successful conference at Southampton College, June 4-6. Set on the lovely campus, right on the L.I. Sound, the program for the weekend was fabulous. We had wonderful workshops and field trips, sails on the sound, early morning treks to view horseshoe crabs and terrific keynote speakers.

Our first evening we had a yummy lobsterfest and a talk by Dr. Diana Reiss from the Brooklyn Aquarium. We then saw the film "Gotham Fish Tales" about the intrepid fishermen who ply the waters of our own New York City. Robert Maas was there to discuss the film. It was funny and inspiring. The waters of New York City have made a dramatic recovery.

The following day was devoted to trips and workshops, and in the evening we visited the Atlantis Aquarium in Riverhead, Long Island for a sail on their research vessel, followed by a cocktail hour and behind-the-scenes tour of the aquarium. The evening festivities included a talk by John Walman on his book, *Heartbeats in the Muck*, a dramatic look at the history, sea life, and environment of New York Harbor.

Each year NYSMEA presents awards for various categories, and this year Gail David received the 2004 Kingham Award for service to the organization!

Other key note speakers were Sidney Horenstein of the American Museum of Natural History, and Dr. Peter Rona who filmed the IMAX film, "Volcanoes of the Deep." Our own Terry Ippolito and Betsy Ukeritis gave great workshops. In all it was a great event. NYSMEA will be hosting the National Marine Educators Conference in July of 2006 at LIU, Brooklyn. So if you are interested in presenting or attending, please contact them at, NYSMEA@aol.com.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMES ALIVE IN SOLAR ONE

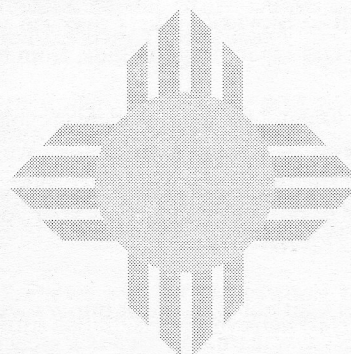
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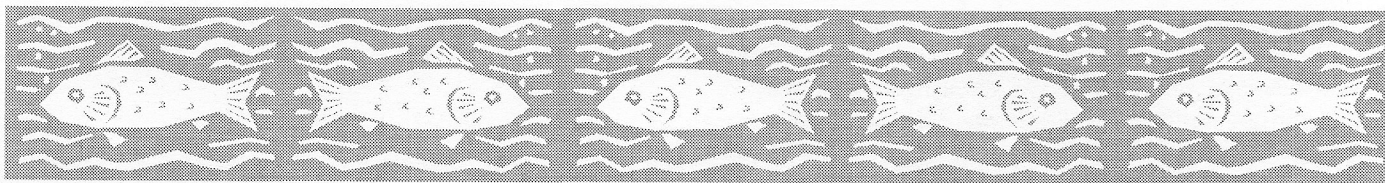
With activities that include building solar-powered cars and wind turbines, as well as guest lectures and workshops from groups such as the Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment, NYCDEP and the Clearwater, the students experience an all-inclusive program, which is both fun and educational.

These programs offer unique opportunities for children to learn about the urban environment in an ideal park setting where models of sustainable urban living are demonstrated in their truest forms—Stuyvesant Cove Park and Solar 1. CEC's outreach is scheduled to increase significantly in the coming months to include other schools in the City.

Groups who would like to take advantage of these free programs offered by the Community Environmental Center for the summer or the fall should call: John Garvie, Programming Associate of CEC at Solar One, at (212) 505-6050 or (718) 784-1444 ext. 140.

Stuyvesant Cove Park is located along the East River in Manhattan from East 23rd to East 18th Street where it joins the East River Park. The M23 crosstown bus stops right there at FDR Drive and East 23rd Street, and connects to all the subway lines for a free transfer. The park, which is only three years old, won an international competition for a waterfront park and a design award from Governor Pataki last August. Our own Joy Garland was given NYC's Audubon's Major Achievement Award in June for her efforts in developing the park as the Executive Director of the Stuyvesant Cove Park Association, Inc.





THE YOUTH TAKE THE PODIUM!

By Jay Holmes

YouthCaN, Youth Communicating and Networking, is a student directed collaborative project facilitated largely by volunteer work from students and teachers from around the world and staff at the American Museum of Natural History and the International Education and Resource Network (iEARN). This year opens a dialog between students from Australia to Uzbekistan about their worlds, sharing explorations of their environments and environmental concerns.

As I write this on July 12, 2004, three students and a teacher from the New York YouthCaN team are in Slovakia at an international conference meeting students and teachers from Lebanon, the United Kingdom, Egypt, Japan, other parts of the United States and the world. Some of these folks are friends who have been creating YouthCaN on-line projects for years, some are people involved in other action oriented projects through the iEARN network. iEARN, the American Museum of Natural History, Millard Clements from New York University and many others have been working together for over 12 years to provide students with a way to share their environmental projects. During the year students work in web-based forums, through e-mail or newsgroups to develop and share environmental projects ranging from migratory birds to water pollution, from habitat restoration to solid waste management. They explore their environment on hikes and share these explorations with YouthCaNers in other countries in the forums through writings, photographs and art.

The students also plan gatherings where young people are the teachers, sharing their projects with each other and students who have not been involved in the on-line side of the program. Last year there were three conferences, one each in Miami, Lebanon and New York. During these conferences students from Lebanon, New York, Australia and the UK communicated live via video conference connection, and in New York we hosted students from Texas, Florida, and Delaware as well as hundreds of New Yorkers.

The New York side of this project is coordinated by a small team of about 10 high school students. There are meetings every one to two weeks where this Planning Committee develops their personal group activities:

- overnight hikes on the Appalachian Trail,
- assisting the National Park Service at Breezy Point with the protection of the Piping Plovers,
- exploring the natural wonders of New York City.

The Planning Committee also coordinates the conference hosted by the American Museum of Natural History (next year's conference will be April 11, 2005). They select a theme, create and select the logo, develop the opening and closing ceremonies, arrange the layout of the conference workshops, create all of the print materials, all the aspects of creating a conference that has ranged from 600 to 1500 participants over the years. Then on the big day it is all students! Up on the stage speaking in front of 1000 people, in workshops teaching other students about water testing, energy issues, endangered habitats, brownfields from the UK to Brooklyn. For students, by students, that is what YouthCaN is about. And today there are three New York teens taking it to Slovakia, others over the years have presented in Spain, China, Tennessee, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Russia, Greece and Japan. Regular kids, from New York, just like the kids in your schools.

We are looking for more students to join our planning team—students with an interest in their world, an interest in exploring, an interest in making a difference. We are here year round, gathering in the Discovery Room at the American Museum of Natural History. If you would like more information about the Planning Committee, about how your student groups and classes can join us on-line or about how your youth might present at next year's conference, just send an e-mail to holmes@amnh.org or call 212-769-5039.

You can visit our web site at <http://www.youthcanworld.org> to see what we were up to last year. The iEARN group has a site at <http://www.earn.org>. This is a great site where most of the sharing takes place!

BOOK BUZZ

by Regina McCarthy

One of the ways that we can link literacy to environmental education and science, or any other subject for that matter, is through poetry. When I teach teachers in professional development sessions or college classrooms, I often start my classes with a poem. Unfortunately, many of my old time favorites are out of print. I encourage teachers to begin collecting poetry books to use in the classroom to motivate and enrich their lessons. It is hard to imagine poetry without the richness of natural images. These images are based in personal experiences of the world in which we live.

We are fortunate to have a homegrown poet, Walt Whitman, who lived most of his life in our city. His poetry often reflects the busy life of historical New York. "Crossing on Brooklyn Ferry" has new meaning as the waterfront has begun to take on new life in our city (thank goodness) with the renewal of ferry transportation. It also reflects an area that has begun to thrive again around the old Fulton Ferry landing in Brooklyn (DUMBO). Of course for me it is not only the historical but natural world that Whitman praises in some of his best songs. *Leaves of Grass*... what can I say? only that this one-time Editor of the *Brooklyn Eagle* has touched my heart like no other. (Well, maybe Rilke...)

Tomie dePaola's *Book of Poems* contains poems by some of our best children's poetry writers: Aileen Fisher, Robert Louis Stevenson, Dorothy Aldis, and Eve Merriam along with some new writers like Byrd Baylor. Each poem is accompanied with the colorful visuals that dePaola is known for in his other books. This book is a wonderful addition to any elementary school library.

On the middle and high school level, *Reflections on a Gift of Watermelon Pickle...and other Modern Verse*, is a classic. I do not think it is still in print, but it should be. I'm sure one can find it used at Amazon or Barnes and Noble. My brown-paged soft cover book is from Scholastic Press. The poems are reflective of the natural world and urban life, and are a good choice for any NYC classroom. It is the only book in which I have been able to find a decent poem on salt marshes. The poets are modern: Theodore Rothke, Gregory Corso, Donald Hall, John Ciardi, e.e. cummings, and many more.

The Earth is Painted Green: A Garden of Poems about Our Planet, edited by Barbara Brenner and illustrated by S.D. Schindler, is a fantastic collection of poems for the earth. Ms. Brenner, the author of more than fifty books, has done a wonderful job in selecting these poems and the illustrator brings them to life. I would suggest this for any elementary classroom, although for a little older audience than dePaola's book.

Writing haiku with children and adults is always a positive experience. Children love that they have the ability to create something so simple yet meaningful. I recently stumbled on

an English translation of a Japanese book called *Haiku Picture Book for Children* by Kesuke Nishimoto and illustrated by Kozo Shimizu. It was a bit hard to find, but worth the effort. It gives a brief history of famous haiku writers and each haiku is accompanied by both English and Japanese text. (The isbn # is 0-89346-916-5, published by Heian.) Again, search the used books in Amazon and Barnes and Noble. Another hard one to find, but worth it, is a picture book of city life with accompanying Haiku. The photos are mostly of NYC. It is called *Stone Bench in an Empty Park*, selected by Paul B. Janeczko with photos by Henri Silberman, Orchard Books (isbn 0-531-30259-8).

A discussion on poetry would not be complete without mentioning one of my heroes, Richard Lewis. I have Sam Holmes to thank for bringing him to Gateway and John Kominski for saying to me, "You have to hear this guy!" If you can attend one of his workshops out of his Touchstone Center, (<http://www.touchstonecenter.net>) you are in for a treat. I have to warn you: if you're solidly entrenched in your left brain, you may not appreciate him! He does wonderful work opening up children's imaginations. My favorite experience with him was when I was science coordinator in CSD 27. I brought him in to an old school in the Rockaways standing on a lonely beach plain once filled with summer bungalows. It was a cold, foggy dreary day. The school stands ominous less than a block from the beach. Richard opened his hand and held an imaginary shell and began to spin tales. In the back of the room a 5th grade boy protested loudly, "There ain't nothin' there!" several times. Richard invited him up and within a short time the boy was spinning his own tale about the shell! Now some may say, is this science? My answer is that anything that enchants children and makes them look at the world around them supports science. Two books of his are *All of You Was Singing*, illustrated by Art Young and *In the Space of the Sky* illustrated by Debra Fraiser. He has written some recent ones that I have not seen but are listed on the website.

Space limits me from describing more books of poetry, so I'll just list some of my favorites:

Sing a Song of Popcorn: Every Child's Book of Poems, illustrated by nine Caldecott Medal Artist, including Maurice Sendack. Scholastic hardcover. (Elementary).

Earth Songs, Myra Cohen Livingston, poet and Leonard Everett Fisher, painter, Scholastic. (Elementary).

I See A Song by Eric Carle, Scholastic. No words, just glorious pictures, let the kids do the rest! (Elementary).

What on Earth...?: Poems with a Conservation Theme, edited by Judith Nicholls and illustrated by Alan Baker. (Middle through high school).

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2004-05

☐ 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 (2004-05) ☐ \$ 50 Sustaining Organization (2004-05) ☐ \$200 Individual 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

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EEAC Web site: www.eeac-nyc.org