

EEAC

FALL 2004

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

A Tribute to Mrs. "K" EEAC Honors an Outstanding Educator

This year, the EEAC Commemorative Committee awarded the Dr. Eugene Ezersky Award to Julie Koustoubardis posthumously. Her untimely and unexpected death last October left a void in our family, and in our community. Julie recently began her career as an art teacher after a 20 year career with TWA. She returned to school to complete her degree in Art Education at the School of Visual Arts in 1996, and quickly transitioned into teaching bringing her spirit for travel, exploration, and inquiry into the classroom. From Fulton Ferry Landing to Orient Point, she kept her students and colleagues on the go.

As a young student at Packer Collegiate, she would often be seen walking down Montague Street with a camera slung over her shoulder — intrigued by nature, the city, and its people, she was always ready to capture the moment. Her keen sense of observation, curiosity, and her tremendous sense of humor were traits that carried her on her journey from student to teacher.

In her first teaching position with Soterios Ellenas Greek Orthodox School she taught kindergarten and also developed an after school art program to introduce students to iconography. She also spent a summer teaching at the Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment in Prospect Park.

In 1998, she began teaching at Edward B. Shallow, Intermediate School 227, in Brooklyn, where she combined her love for children, nature, and the arts. Mrs. "K" as she was fondly called by her students, taught art in two of the school's academies: the School of Environmental Studies and the School of the American Experience. In her first year she created a small garden on the school grounds, which she named "Garden of Harmony" spending many hours with her students planting, drawing, and writing.

She also served as the Project Arts Liaison and began a collaboration with City Parks Foundation to develop a year-round program integrating art and the environment into her school. This partnership launched a program that eventually incorporated numerous cultural institutions into the curriculum including the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Urban Forest Ecology Center in Van Cortlandt Park, The Old Stone House, the Van Cortlandt House Museum, Wave Hill, and Orient State Park, just to name a few. Each year, with journals and cameras in hand, Shallow students would begin their year-long study of history and nature in the city and beyond.

Nature inspired her curriculum, and the great outdoors was the classroom she loved the best. She had the ability to "see the world in a grain of sand, and heaven in a wildflower" and she shared that gift with all her students. But nothing gave her more pleasure or pride than to share the accomplishments of her students with others. Her work became the focus of her thesis at Pratt where she refined her ideas about art and the environment. She received her M.A. from Pratt in the spring of 2003.

As a teacher she had a gift for bringing out the best in everyone. Perhaps this is best symbolized in the *Hall of Seasons*, two murals made possible with funding from Project Arts. Each season was created by the graduating class of 2002 and 2003 respectively. The graduating class of 2004 dedicated their graduation and yearbook in her memory and her colleagues at Shallow established *The Julie Koustoubardis Memorial Award*. This year's recipient was Ms. Iryna Grechtchouk, who also received the monetary award from EEAC's Dr. Eugene Ezersky Award.

This fall friends and family will gather at Shallow to plant an Elizabethan Magnolia tree in her memory donated by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Our family is honored for the tribute EEAC and BBG has bestowed upon her. We hope that her legacy will continue to inspire students and teachers alike for generations to come.

To view student work, visit the school's website at: <http://schools.nycenet.edu/Region7/is227/>

Mary J. Leou

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 EEAC Steering Committee meetings are December 15, January 19, and February 16.

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.

Newsletter Committee

Meg Domroese
Kim Estes-Fradis
Joy Garland
Jay Holmes
Kenneth Kowald
Lenore Miller

Robert Lieblein, Newsletter Editor
(845) 831-4880 or email solocoot@verizon.net

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 Listserve 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
New York, NY 10024
EEAC Web site: www.eeac-nyc.org

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

There are so many slogans for consumer products pitched to us in the media telling us to "do it" or "be there" or, "go for it."

I am about to pitch a message.

The "it" I am going to pitch is: environmental education and staying connected to EEAC.

Why?

Because environmental education continues to need people who support it and renew it and bring it into the formal and non-formal educational settings of New York City.

Because if we do not champion environmental education, we allow it to become something others may not provide in the lives of today's students.

Because when environmental education programming is threatened, EEAC can speak as the voice of many.

Because when we all get together, ideas and strategies become real.

Because the "we" includes and needs **YOU**.

A prime example of a benefit EEAC provides was the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 17. Despite various near catastrophes (our scheduled speaker cancelled and the building in which we were supposed to hold the meeting was closed due to structural damage) the Annual Meeting was an exciting and worthwhile event.

Why?

Because Joy Garland and Barry Weinbrom stepped up to the plate and arranged for an alternate meeting location and two speakers.

Because of the audience: more than 30 members attended and we saw friends and colleagues we had not seen for a long time.

Because Pamela Peeters shared her experiences developing environmental publications and programs.

And **because**, for the first time, a Director at the New York City Department of Education, Dr. Julia Rankin, attended the meeting and discussed current initiatives in science and environmental education in New York City. Dr. Rankin is seeking ways in which New York City organizations can work with the Department of Education to improve professional development and student performance in science. EEAC has been making a case for the significant role environmental education can play in that process.

Stay tuned and stay connected to participate in what promises to be an important time for environmental education in New York.

Terry Ippolito

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES *by Kenneth Kowald*

The deadline for submission of applications for the **2005 Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence** is Monday, December 13. The award is given biennially, to one Gold Medal Winner and four Silver Medal winners. Bridgemarket in Manhattan and the Red Hook Community Justice Center in Brooklyn were Silver Medal winners in 2003. To find out about the Award, call (617) 492-8401, ext. 184, or go to the website, www.brunerfoundation.org.

"The Subway at 100: General William Barclay Parsons and the Birth of the NYC Subway," is on display through December 31 at the Science, Industry and Business Library, 188 Madison Avenue, at East 34th Street (the old B. Altman building), in Manhattan. For times, call (212) 869-8089.

The Watershed Forestry Program of the Watershed Agricultural Council has funding available through the United States Department of Agriculture for one-time-only bus tours of the Catskill and Delaware Watersheds. A maximum grant of \$3,000 per applicant is available through December 31. For more information, contact Jessica Sweeney at The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Route 28, Arkville, New York 12406, or by phone at (845) 586-2611 or by e-mail at jsweeney@catskillcenter.org. A copy of the most recent Annual Report of the Watershed Agricultural Council may be obtained by writing to 33195 State Highway 10, Walton, New York 13856-9751, or by telephoning (607) 865-7790.

Beginning in early 2005, **Citizen Steward Certification Trainings** will be offered in Inwood Hill Park, Manhattan, and Marine Park, Brooklyn. The course is team-taught by the Partnership for Parks, the Natural Resources Group of NYC Parks & Recreation, the New York City Soil and Water Conservation District and the Urban Park Rangers. For information, call the Partnership's Technical Assistance Hotline at (212) 360-8180.

The New York City Cycling Map has been designed by in-agency staff at the New York City Department of City Planning and the Department of Transportation Bicycle Program. It covers all five boroughs and has a wealth of information. For copies, call the City's information hotline at 311.

The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance has published **"H2O Access: The East and Harlem Rivers,"** a map which also contains much interesting information. For a copy, call the Alliance at (800)364-9943 or go to the website: <http://www.waterwire.net>.

Girls for Planet Earth is a program developed by the Wildlife Conservation Society with funding from the National Science Foundation. It provides information on careers in conservation and environmental issues, as well as an interactive guide to designing and implementing community projects. To learn more, call the Bronx Zoo Education Department at (718) 496-6033.

The Pieter Claesen Wyckoff House, built about 1652, is the oldest structure in the City and is part of the Wyckoff House Farm Museum, located at 5816 Clarendon Road at Ralph Avenue in East Flatbush, Brooklyn. The Museum offers year-round school and public programs. For information, call (718) 629-5400. The Museum is a member of the Historic House Trust of New York City.

At last, the **Skyscraper Museum** has found what appears to be a permanent home. It is at 39 Battery Place in Manhattan. The Museum is open Wednesdays through Sundays from Noon to 6 p.m. Learn more by calling (212) 968-1961.

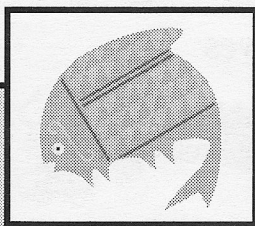
Three of the four buildings in **Weeksville**, one of the first self-sustaining African-American communities in the country, have been restored and are open to the public, under the aegis of the Society for the Preservation of Weeksville and Bedford-Stuyvesant History, located at 1698-1708 Bergen Street in Brooklyn. For information, call (718) 623-0600.

Heart of Brooklyn is a cultural partnership of the **Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn Children's Museum, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn Public Library, Prospect Park and Prospect Park Zoo**. If you are visiting any of these places on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, you may use a free trolley which runs every hour on the hour from 12 Noon to 6 p.m., beginning at the Wollman Rink in Prospect Park.



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.



Watershed Education Grant Applications Available

The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) is accepting Watershed Education Grant proposals from schools and non-profit organizations serving Pre-K through 12th grade audiences in the New York City West-of-Hudson (WOH) Watershed and/or within New York City. This program is offered in partnership with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection.

Proposals must be postmarked by February 4, 2005.

Proposals must be for education projects and programs that help increase awareness of the human and natural history of the WOH Watershed and the New York City water supply system. Proposals may focus on the critical role of communities in caring for water quality in the watershed, the importance of water conservation, the history and contemporary use and operation of the vast water system, or the cultural and biological diversity of the city's WOH Watershed. (Projects for East-of-Hudson Watershed audiences are ineligible for funding.)

Applications and information are available at

www.cwconline.org,

or

www.WatershedEducators.org

or, you may call

toll-free 877-WAT-SHED

to obtain an application packet.

Questions may also be directed to

galusha@cwconline.org

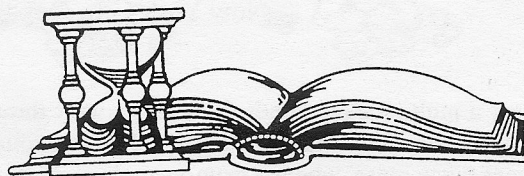
and to

Kim Estes- Fradis,

NYC Department of Environmental Protection

at 718-595-3506

or kestes-fradis@dep.nyc.gov.



BOOK BUZZ

by Regina McCarthy

Looking for a little more reading to accompany the shorter, colder days ahead? Here's a quick look at a few books I've recently come across:

Louisa May and Mr. Thoreau's Flute, by Julie Dunlap and Marybeth Lorbiecki, illustrated by Mary Azarian (great woodcuts!) Dial Books for Young Readers.

This fictionalized tale is based on true facts taken from the journals, letters, and other writings of Henry David Thoreau, Louisa May Alcott, and assorted family and friends. It is a story about what Louisa discovered on woodland outings with other village children and Thoreau... about woods, about writing and about herself. Here's a great passage:

Sometimes neighbors visited, and they often whispered about Mr. Thoreau. One reported, "He's studying fish under pond ice and chasing foxes through the snow!" Mr. Alcott scoffed, "Has he nothing better to do?" Louisa couldn't imagine there was anything better.

This book is probably best suited for grades three and up, and would be particularly good in writing activities. Much of the story is about Louisa finding her "voice as an author."

Another find, by one of my favorite illustrators, Thomas Locker, is *Walking With Henry: based on the life and works of Henry David Thoreau* (Fulcrum Publishing).

Locker's breathtaking illustrations are accompanied by a lyrical text about Henry's ventures into the woods and the wonders of the natural world he found. At a time when we become more and more disconnected from the natural world, books like this can bring us back to the writers who created so much because of their strong connections to that natural world.



Sound & Noise In Our Lives

By Jiong Dong & Doreen J. Bader, M.S.
New York City Department of Environmental Protection

We hear a multitude of sounds daily as we walk through our neighborhoods, commute to work and go to school. We don't always pay attention to the different sounds bombarding us because they have become part of our daily routine. However, there are times when noise, whether from a car alarm, barking dog or musical neighbor (to name a few sources), teeters beyond the edge of our tolerance. Fortunately, there is some good news.

In June 2004, Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced plans to amend the New York City Noise Control Code, which was originally introduced in 1972. This will be the first comprehensive revision in over 30 years. "The proposed changes to the Noise Code will reflect the new standards defining unreasonable noise and will accommodate more effective enforcement of violations." Mayor Bloomberg expects the changes to the Noise Code will help to maintain the City's vibrancy by balancing the need for construction, development and an exciting nightlife with New Yorkers' right to a peaceful environment.

However, before the amended Noise Code can become law, it must be introduced to and approved by the New York City Council. The City Council is the main legislative body of the City of New York and is composed of 51 members from 51 different Council Districts throughout the five boroughs. The Mayor and the Council are partners in the governing duties of New York City.

The revised Noise Control Code bill has been introduced to the City Council, and hearings were expected in September. Such meetings include public testimony and committee discussions on the proposed revisions. If the bill is passed by a majority of Council Members, it is then sent to the Mayor for final approval. After the Mayor signs the bill, it officially becomes a local law and is entered into the City's Charter or Administrative Code.

Why is noise regulation such a high priority for New York City? It is because noise at high levels can seriously harm our quality of life. Excessive levels of noise have been linked to hearing loss, increased blood pressure, headaches, and loss of sleep, among other things. How can you control what you hear?

The Noise Control Code states clearly what constitutes a noise violation and what actions the government can take to remedy such situations. To control and reduce noise violations, the City has set standards based on decibel levels (standard unit of sound-level measurement) and other criteria by which it can determine which noises are unreasonable and should be prohibited. New York City's ultimate goal is to maintain a certain level of peace and quiet in the city that never sleeps.

DEP's Office of Education conducts workshops on various environmental topics, including noise. Educators teach the difference between sound and noise in the environment through hands-on activities. (See the lesson plan included in this newsletter!) Students in grades K-12 conduct fieldwork to take real-time sound and noise measurements with sound level meters and analyze the results. If you are interested in finding out more about DEP's sound and noise education programs, call DEP's Office of Education at (718) 595-3506, dial 311, or visit DEP's website at www.nyc.gov/dep. For a City Council hearing schedule, visit www.nycouncil.info.

It's All Happening at the Zoo...

The Queens Zoo is offering exciting interactive tours for schools and other organized groups that are free with the price of admission. For more information about specific tours or to plan a visit call the Registrar at (718) 271-7361 or contact Tom Hurtubise, Curator of Education at thurtubise@wcs.org.

Additionally, we offer outreach programs for community organizations in Queens. Questions regarding the zoo staff presenting an outreach program for afterschool or weekend programs should be directed to Lauraine Merlini, Outreach Coordinator at (718) 271-1500 x135 or lmerlini@wcs.org.

Lesson Plan - Discovering Sound and Noise

Activity 1:Distinguishing Between Sound and Noise in the Environment

Description: Through several activities, students will be able to distinguish between sound and noise in their environment by performing active listening. They will also define the differences between each term.

These activities address the following New York City Department of Education Performance Standards for Science:

Elementary: S1b, S4c, S5b, S5d, S5f, S6a

Middle School: S1c, S4c, S5b, S5d, S5f, S6a, S8b

High School: S1d, S4c, S5b, S5e, S5f, S6a, S8b

Objectives:

To distinguish between the concepts of sound and noise in the environment.

To explain and demonstrate how sound and noise are produced.

To discuss the health effects of noise in the environment.

Materials:

Tuning fork

Cup of water

Whistle

Blackboard and chalk

Background Information:

Noise is unwanted sound.

People may perceive sounds differently.

Noise can cause many health-related and psychological disturbances in your body.

Procedure:

Ask the students to define the word sound. Ask for examples of sound in the environment (ones that they hear on a daily basis). Write this list on the blackboard.

Ask the students how they think sound is produced. When they answer vibrations, tell them that you want to demonstrate this to them. Have everyone put two fingers on their Adam's apple.

At the count of 3, have everyone hum and then stop. Question the students on what they felt (vibrations, buzzing). This demonstrates that sound is produced by vibrations.

Tell the students that they are all going to participate in an experiment. For this experiment, a cup of water and a tuning fork will be needed. Tell them that you are going to hit the tuning fork and then put it in the cup of water. What do they think will happen? Do the demonstration. Ask them what happened and why?

Now ask the students to define the word noise. Have them give examples of noise they hear every day and write this list next to the sound list they came up with earlier.

Tell the students that you are going to blow a whistle in two ways and their job is to tell you which way is a sound (blow lightly) and which way is a noise (blow strongly). Why?

Discussion:

Discuss the ways noise hurts us. Have the students formulate ideas of how they can reduce their exposure to noise in the environment.

Ask the class to tell you three things that they learned today.

Read a book about sound and noise. Refer to DEP's publication, *Great Books and Websites About Sound and Noise for Children*.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2005

☐ 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 (2005) ☐ \$ 50 Sustaining Organization (2005) ☐ \$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

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