



# Environmental Focus

Fall 2009

"an aesthetic, unpolluted environment with a natural and historic heritage"

## B.C.E.Q.'s Keeping It Reel Awards



At our annual BBQ, on June 10<sup>th</sup>, B.C.E.Q. presented our "Keeping it Reel" Environmental Education Awards. The "Keeping it Reel" award is named after our co-founder Helen Reel, who worked tirelessly for the betterment of the Bronx's environment.

This year's awardees are

**Educator:**

Edwin Alexander, CUNY Prep H.S.

**Student Recipient:**

Sergio Ramirez, Millennium Academy H.S.

**Informal Educator:**

Damian Griffin, Bronx River Alliance

Left to Right: Evan Camp, BCEQ; Mitch Hutchins, nominator; Edwin Alexander, CUNY Prep H.S.; Anne-Marie Runfola, BCEQ Education Comm. Co-Chair; Dena Robbins, BCEQ.

## B.C.E.Q. Meeting Schedule for 2009-2010

BCEQ meets monthly (not in July and August) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, *except where noted in this calendar.*

September 9 <sup>th</sup>	Casa Poggi
October 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ranaqua – 1 Bronx River Parkway
November 4 <sup>th</sup> <i>(Note this is the 1st Wed.)</i>	Monroe College, 2426 Jerome Avenue, south of Fordham Rd Meet and Greet Your Neighbors
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	The Yankee Tavern (Holiday Party – charge for your meal)
January 13 <sup>h</sup>	The Pollan - Westphal's
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	TBD
March 17 <sup>th</sup> <i>(note this is the 3<sup>d</sup> Weds.)</i>	Manhattan College - Leo Engineering Building H <sub>2</sub> O conference 3 – 7pm, Annual Meeting 7 – 8pm
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	TBD
May 12 <sup>h</sup>	TBD
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	Chez Mankiewicz

### CALL FOR 2010 CALENDAR PHOTOGRAPHS

The theme for the upcoming BCEQ 2010 Calendar/Poster will be "Bronx Water." Possible photographs might include: rivers, ponds and lakes, water falls, storm water run-off, sprinklers and children in parks, water fountains, fire hydrants, gatehouses, the Old Croton Aqueduct and artifacts of the Croton Water system etc.

Visit [www.bceq.org](http://www.bceq.org) to submit your picture, or to RSVP your Calendar Poster order.

## Ask Ivy!

Ivy is a local environmental educator who is available to answer your questions about environmental topics. *Ask Ivy* is written for entertainment/informative purposes only and doesn't necessarily represent the views of BCEQ nor its editorial staff. If you have a question for Ivy email her at [askivy@bceq.org](mailto:askivy@bceq.org) or send it to: Ask Ivy, c/o BCEQ, P.O. Box 265, City Island Station, The Bronx, NY 10464.

### Dear Ivy,

I am an avid reader who wants to learn more about local environmental issues and read inspirational stories that will help motivate me to get more involved. Can you recommend some good books to help get me started?

**Eager to Learn in Pelham Parkway**

### Dear Ready to Read,

That is great! There are several inspiring and exciting books to recommend.

Let's start with the one that should be on everyone's must read list: *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. *Silent Spring* is required reading for most environmental majors in college and for a very good reason. This

book will motivate you to jump out of your reading chair and start to make a difference. Another motivational book is *The RIVERKEEPERS: Two Activists Fight to Reclaim Our Environment as a Basic Human Right* by John Cronin and Robert Kennedy which is a more recent inspirational story about how two people fought to save the Hudson River.

Here are a few recommendations of books that focus on environmental issues facing New York City:

*Liquid Assets: A History of New York City's Water System* by Diane Galusha

*Bronx Ecology: Blueprint For A New Environmentalism* by Allen Hershkowitz and Maya Lin

*Water for Gotham: A History* by Gerard T. Koepfel

*Water-Works: The Architecture and Engineering of the New York City Water Supply* by Kevin Bone, Gina Pollara, and Gerard Koepfel

*A Natural History of New York City* by John Kieran (As a side note— there is a trail in Van Cortlandt Park named after this author)

*Wild Nights: Nature Returns to the City* by Anne Matthews

*New York City Trees: A Field Guide for the Metropolitan Area* by Edward Sibley Barnard (A side note: use this field guide to go and see some of these beautiful trees which will motivate anyone)

Here are a few recommendations of children's books:

*The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss

*The Magic School Bus at the Waterworks* by Joanne Cole

*Where Does the Garbage Go?* By Paul Showers

*Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon

*Waylon's Wandering Waterdrop* by John L. Turner

Happy Reading!!!

Ivy

Founder Theresa Lato

President I.C. Levenberg-Engel

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Dr. Paul Mankiewicz

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Joyce Hogi

Treasurer Stephen Franciosa

Recording Secretary Evan Camp [www.bceq.org](http://www.bceq.org)

Corresponding Secretary Jorge Santiago



### Committee Chairs

Memberships/Events- ML Ramirez

Water- Dart Westphal and Karen Argenti

Education- Anne-Marie Runfola (Acting)

Parks/Open Space- Christina Taylor

Communications- Karen Argenti (Acting)

Grants/Funding- Stephen Franciosa

Recycling/ Solid Waste- Harry Bubbins (Acting)

Nominations- I.C. Levenberg-Engel & David Burg

Supervising Editor Karen Argenti;

Reporters: AskIvy, ML Ramirez, Christina Taylor

**The BCEQ Focus is made possible by the generous support of NYS Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, our donors, and BCEQ memberships.**

*Thank you for your support.*

**Join us for our Annual Fall Meet and Greet  
All Things Parks and Environmental**

***Meet your neighbors, Become a member of BCEQ or  
FVCP, Talk about Parks and Environmental Things***

**Wednesday, November 4th**

**6:30pm to 8:30pm**

**Monroe College**

**Annex Building**

**2426 Jerome Avenue**

1/2 block south of Fordham Road on the east side of the street,  
right next to the Subway restaurant.

Mass Transit - IRT, IND, local buses;  
Municipal Parking Garage - one block north of Fordham Rd.

***Appetizers & Finger Food***

***Unveiling new BCEQ Brochure***

***(funded by Partnerships for Parks Capacity Fund)***

***Networking & Invited Guest Speakers***

Check [www.bceq.org](http://www.bceq.org) for Guest Speaker updates.

***Co-sponsored with the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park (FVCP)***

**For more information, directions or to RSVP,**

Email: [Karen@bceq.org](mailto:Karen@bceq.org) or [Christina@vancortlandt.org](mailto:Christina@vancortlandt.org)  
or call 718-601-1460

Join us for our  
**Annual Holiday Party at  
The Yankee Tavern**

(corner of E161st Street & Gerard Ave)

Wed. December 9th  
6:30pm

Check [www.bceq.org](http://www.bceq.org) in November for  
more information, cost or to R.S.V.P.

**Harlem River Working Group (HRWG)**

The next meeting will take place on

**Wed. September 30th, from 6 pm to 8 pm**

CB7, 229A East 204th Street, btw Grand Conc. & Valentine Ave.

This newly formed group, which includes over 30 member organizations, recently applied to the National Park Service for Technical Assistance through the Rivers and Trails Program. The application included over 40 letters of support from Community Based Organizations, Community Boards and Federal, State and Local Elected Officials. For more information, call 646-462-4132 or email [harlemriver@bceq.org](mailto:harlemriver@bceq.org)



B.C.E.Q. President  
I.C. Levenberg-Engel

Wondering what's on my mind?

Visit me on my blog, listed on every page on the right side bar -

[www.bceq.org/presidents-blog/](http://www.bceq.org/presidents-blog/)

**Is your BCEQ membership up-to-date?**

If the date on your mailing label has expired please visit [www.bceq.org](http://www.bceq.org) to renew your membership. You don't want to miss an exciting issue of our Environmental Focus newsletter. Thank you!



BCEQ Board Members and Guests at our annual end-of-year B.B.Q. and "Keeping It Reel" Awards on City Island.



Post Office Box 265  
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The Bronx, NY 10464  
[www.bceq.org](http://www.bceq.org)  
*Printed on Recycled Paper!!*

Check inside for exciting events and meeting dates !!!