



Environmental Focus

Winter 2008

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

One of Our Own Honored



BCEQ Corresponding Secretary Jorge Santiago, pictured to the left with his paddle and Linda Cox, the Bronx River Alliance's Executive Director, was honored at its Annual Soiree on September 22nd.

When asked about the honor, Jorge said, "One of my biggest accomplishments for BCEQ was to have the Attorney General take action against the Bronx Zoo and Botanical Garden for Clean Water Act Violations."

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Membership Meeting and Water Conference

Wednesday, March 18, 2008

Manhattan College Leo Engineering Building,
3825 Corlear Avenue, Bronx, NY (north of 238th Street).

This years conference will involve the Harlem River Stakeholder's Roundtable and Discussions.

For more info, please contact water@bceq.org.

2008 Holiday Meeting and Dinner

On December 10th, BCEQ Board and friends gathered at the Yankee Tavern to celebrate all of our successes for 2008 and to plan for the coming year. As we walked home onto 161st Street, we could not help but notice the new Yankee Stadium all lit up. Fun was had by all.

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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 or send it to: Ask Ivy, c/o BCEQ, P.O. Box 265, City Island Station, The Bronx, NY 10464.

***Dear Ivy,
I've heard a rumor that the Department of Sanitation is not collecting leaves this year? Is this true? What am I supposed to do?
Drowning in leaves in City Island***

Dear Drowning in Leaves:
On September 22nd, 2008 the NYC Department of Sanitation announced that raked autumn leaves will be collected with regular household refuse on regularly scheduled days. So, while they will be collecting leaves, they will not be composting the leaves. Instead, leaves you rake up will join your household trash in a landfill. According to the

Department of Sanitation this change in policy is due to the current economic situation.

So, what is an environmentally-minded person to do? You have a few options. You can start your own backyard leaf composting. The how to process is too long for this article but if you do a internet search you will find loads of helpful tips. Another suggestion is to call around to organization's that have their own compost sites and they may be willing to accept your leaves. Or you can rake up your leaves, bag them and save them for the spring. Leaves make great (and free!!!) mulch for your garden.

Ivy

***Dear Ivy,
I would like to use a deicer that is safe for my children, dog and the environment. Any suggestions?***

Slipping and Sliding in Riverdale

Dear Slipping and Sliding:

Road Salt or Rock Salt is definitely not good to our beautiful environment. It has been found that road salt can kill trees, can change stream chemistry, and can even make amphibians refuse to cross a road which can separate them from their traditional breeding areas. And of course, it is not safe for your pets or children to ingest. It also breaks down and pits concrete sidewalks at a faster rate.

When purchasing a deicer you want to avoid Rock Salt or anything that contains Sodium Chloride. Ingredients to look for are Calcium Chloride or Magnesium Chloride -- both of which are relatively harmless to plants and animals, non-corrosive to metals and concrete. Unfortunately, these alternatives are too costly for widespread commercial applications so you won't see them being used on your local roads. But you can make a difference by using them on your walkways and sidewalks. Another way you can help is by using your shovel and only putting salt down when necessary to melt built-up ice after a storm has ended.

Ivy

The Bronx Council for Environmental Quality www.bceq.org

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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: Ask Ivy, ML Ramirez, Jane Sokolow, Christina Taylor, ICLE. Contact us by email at communicate@bceq.org

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Thank you for your support.

**CALL FOR 2010
CALENDAR PHOTOGRAPHS**

The upcoming BCEQ 2010 Calendar will have the theme “Bronx Water.” Possible photographs of Bronx Water 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. etc.

All photographs must be taken in the Bronx, have “a sense of place,” and be clearly labeled with the following information: where the photo was taken, the date, and a brief description. Participants can submit a total of 7 photographs and submissions will be accepted all year—from January-October 2009. Photographs do not have to be taken in 2009. Photographs taken this past fall and early winter can be submitted. If your photographs have people in them, a release and/or permission waiver is needed before it can be published. This is the responsibility of the photographer. No photograph will be eligible for submission and posting without the waiver.

All submissions will be posted on the BCEQ website and in September members will be asked to comment and vote on photographs for inclusion in the 2010 calendar. The concept of “sense of place” has many definitions. In this case, the photographs should somehow represent the intrinsic character of a place, or the meaning people give to it, or a mixture of both. Some places are distinctive through their physical appearance, like the High Bridge over the Harlem River; others are distinctive, but have usefulness attached to them, like children playing in City Park sprinklers.

To purchase our 2009 calendar, which includes pictures to the right, please visit our website www.bceq.org.

**Jerome Park Reservoir Court Case Update
and Mosholu Golf Course Parking Lot**

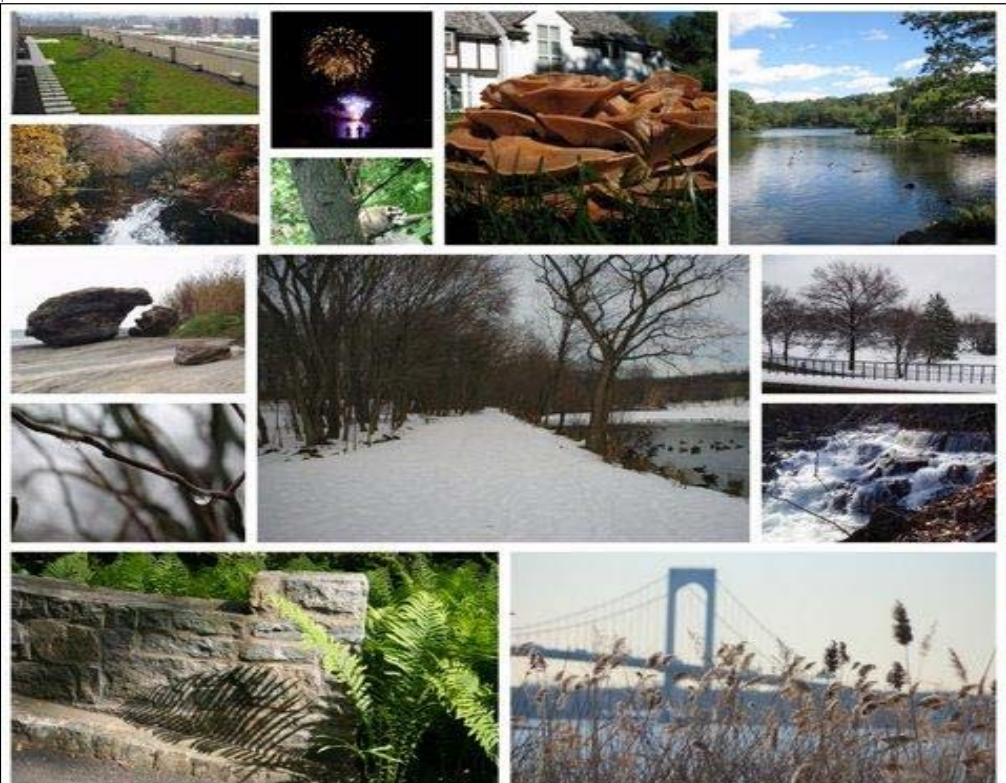
On September 13th our iFocus (the online internet Focus) reported that the final decision by Justice Betty Stinson on the Order to Show Cause that many community groups and individuals, lead by BCEQ, brought against the New York City Department of Environmental Protection for trying to go against a promise they made to the people in 2004.

The NYC DEP thought they could use blasting for work around the Jerome Park Reservoir across the street from the Bronx High School of Science, and down the block from De Witt Clinton High School, School of American Studies at Lehman College, and Lehman College.

In not so many words, the decision said that the issue of blasting was withdrawn by the agency two business days before they appeared in

the court on September 3rd. It also stated that since the DEP issued a study (also presented to the court two business days before the September 3rd appearance) that “hard look” satisfied the environmental law requirements. Looks like we made them do the right thing! Time will tell.

On another front, the DEP and DPR are proposing to build a parking lot for the golfers on land given back to the people at the southeast corner of Van Cortlandt Park, directly across the street from the Gun Hill Municipal Parking Garage. The Design Commission requested that the parking lot be redesigned to a smaller footprint or relocated further north. The Mosholu Golf Course has always prided itself as being the only municipal golf course located close to mass transit. Stay tuned.





**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/

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

If the date on your mailing label has expired please visit www.bceq.org to renew your membership. You don't want to miss an issue of our Environmental Focus

Save the Date!!

The 15th Annual Bronx Parks Speak Up
Parks, Environment and Politics

Saturday, February 28, 2009

11:30 am - registration and networking

12:30 pm- 5pm Program

Lehman College
Faculty Dining Room
Directions - Bx10 or Bx26 bus,
D or 4 train to Bedford Park Blvd.

If you would like to set up an information table, please send an email to speakuptabling@hotmail.com

For more information please send an email to bxspeakup@hotmail.com



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