



# Environmental Focus

Fall 2010

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

## ***BCEQ is hosting our first ever Environmental Movie Night!***



Join us on  
Wednesday, October 13th  
6:30pm  
Manhattan College, Leo Engineering Building  
3825 Corlear Ave @ W238th Street  
(#1 train or Bx9 to W238th Street)

***DIRT! The Movie***--directed and produced by Bill Benenson and Gene Rosow--takes you inside the wonders of the soil. It tells the story of Earth's most valuable and underappreciated source of fertility--from its miraculous beginning to its crippling degradation.

***DIRT! the Movie*** is simply a movie about dirt. The real change lies in our notion of what dirt is. The

movie teaches us: "When humans arrived 2 million years ago, everything changed for dirt. And from that moment on, the fate of dirt and humans has been intimately linked." But more than the film and the lessons that it teaches, ***DIRT! the Movie*** is a call to action. Come learn all about ***Dirt*** and how you can get involved in BCEQ. For more info please email [membership@bceq.org](mailto:membership@bceq.org)



### ***DIRT! The Movie shown this Summer in the South Bronx at St. Simon Stock***



This summer, BCEQ Board Member Karen Argenti, showed "***Dirt! The Movie***" to the St. Simon Stock (SSS) Bible Studies class of 37 students, ages 7-12. Karen, a graduate of SSS High School, worked (along with the Gaia Institute and BCEQ) to create the Bronx's first Green Roof Garden on SSS in 2005. She used the movie and the Green Roof Garden to illustrate how to protect our dirt.

The children watched everyday problems from around the world, as well as from right here in the Bronx



as examples. Majora Carter of Sustainable South Bronx discussed green roofs, sustainability and local green job creation.

The children of SSS parish really enjoyed the movie, especially watching the other school children prepare and eat a home made soup from the vegetables grown in their farm/garden. Karen gave each child a house plant to take home.

If you would like to show ***Dirt! The Movie*** to a school group please reach out to [education@bceq.org](mailto:education@bceq.org)

## 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 write to her at the address in the masthead below.

Dear Ivy:

This summer has been especially hot and dry and I am concerned about the trees in my building courtyard and the street trees around my block. Is there anything I can do to help them through this weather?

*Hot and Dry in Throggs Neck*

Dear Hot and Dry in Throggs Neck:

It is nice to know that there are citizens who take the time to notice and care about street trees. The answer to your question is water, water, water! Trees are thirsty and require 15-20 gallons of water a week. The most effective way to water is at ground level to make sure the water is seeping into the ground at the base of the tree where the roots are. Water that runs off or is sprayed on the leaves can not get absorbed by the roots and therefore can not be utilized by the tree.

Make it a group effort. Street vendors can empty their coolers of ice the base of the tree in the afternoon and building maintenance can water, even just a few minutes, each day. If you place a trash can or bucket with holes in the bottom at the base of the tree then community members like you can take time once or twice a week to fill them with water your trees will spring back to life in no time.

To help conserve water you can spread fallen leaves or wood chips on the soil around the tree. This will shade the ground preventing water from evaporating in the heat and keep it in the soil where the tree needs it. Remember not to pile the woodchips against the tree trunk though but spread them evenly over the soil.

I am encouraged to know that people appreciate the many benefits of our street trees and care enough to want to help them thrive through these hot summer months. Please visit some of our suggested links below for more information about caring for or adopting your local street trees.

*Ivy*

### Bronx Council for Environmental Quality



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*Thank you for your support.*

Environmental Focus Volunteer Reporters/Proofers: AskIvy, ML Ramirez, Sara Kempton, Jane E.S. Sokolow, IC Levenberg-Engel and Supervising Editor Karen Argenti.

[www.bceq.org](http://www.bceq.org)

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**SIGN UP FOR UPDATES TO THE BCEQ WEB PAGE BY CLICKING ON THE RSS FEED BOX**

**To learn more about Street Tree Care**  
 Please visit suggested links below

#### Million Trees

[http://www.milliontreesnyc.org/html/planting/tree\\_planting\\_and\\_care.shtml](http://www.milliontreesnyc.org/html/planting/tree_planting_and_care.shtml)

#### Arbor Day Foundation

<http://www.arborday.org/trees/tips/>

#### Native Species Planting Guide

[http://www.nycgovparks.org/sub\\_about/parks\\_divisions/nrg/documents/Native\\_Species\\_Planting\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.nycgovparks.org/sub_about/parks_divisions/nrg/documents/Native_Species_Planting_Guide.pdf)

#### Trees New York

<http://www.treesny.com/>

#### Bronx Green Up

[http://www.nybg.org/green\\_up/](http://www.nybg.org/green_up/)



## **Harlem River Celebration!**

**Saturday, September 25, 2010**

**11:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Mill Pond Park

East 153<sup>rd</sup> St. & Exterior St., on the Harlem River  
across from Gateway Center

**Rowing Demos, Urban Wildlife Education,  
Tennis Lessons, Arts & Crafts, Music, Food & more....**

For more info, please visit [www.bceq.org](http://www.bceq.org)  
or email [harlemriver@bceq.org](mailto:harlemriver@bceq.org) or call **646-719-0034**



Bike Ride from Randall's Island to Mill Pond  
For more info, please contact [dartwestphal@yahoo.com](mailto:dartwestphal@yahoo.com)

Walk from Bronx Highbridge Park to Mill Pond  
For more info, please contact [chauncyyoung@gmail.com](mailto:chauncyyoung@gmail.com)



Sponsored by the Harlem River Working Group

## Upcoming Events

### Bronx River Alliance Upstream Soiree

Thursday, September 16th

[http://www.bronxriver.org/?](http://www.bronxriver.org/?pg=content&p=getinvolved&m1=57&m2=77)

[pg=content&p=getinvolved&m1=57&m2=77](http://www.bronxriver.org/?pg=content&p=getinvolved&m1=57&m2=77)

### 25th Annual International Coastal Cleanup

Saturday, September 25th

<http://www.alsnyc.org/nycsites.htm>

### Fall It's My Park Day

Saturday, October 23rd

<http://www.itsmypark.org/>

### Million Trees Planting Day

Saturday, October 24th

<http://www.milliontreesnyc.org/html/home/home.shtml>

### 16th Annual Tour de Bronx

Sunday, October 24th

<http://www.tourdebronx.org/>

**BCEQ Board** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, except for July and August, from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

For more info, to request a spot on our agenda or for directions please email: [volunteer@bceq.org](mailto:volunteer@bceq.org)

September 15th*	Casa Franciosa Election of Officers
October 13th	Manhattan College BCEQ Environmental Movie Night
November 10th	Ranaqua
December 8th	Yankee Tavern Annual Holiday Dinner (cost per meal)
January 12th	Pollan/Westphal Residence

\*moved forward 1 week due to Jewish Holiday



Post Office Box 265  
City Island Station  
The Bronx, NY 10464  
[www.bceq.org](http://www.bceq.org)

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**TIME  
SENSITIVE  
MATERIAL**

### 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.

If you wish to save paper and get an electronic version, email [enewsletter@bceq.org](mailto:enewsletter@bceq.org) Thank you!