



Environmental Focus

Fall 2012

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

BCEQ's 2012 Environmental Education Awards

BCEQ held their annual Environmental Educational Awards ceremony and BBQ at 1st V.P.'s, Dr. Paul Mankiewicz's City Island home on Wednesday, June 13th.

The BCEQ Founder Helen C. Reel "Keeping it Reel" Formal Educator Award was presented to Professor Bernard Stein, Hunter College, CUNY School of Journalism for educating the students and community as founder of Hunts Point Express and Mott Haven Herald, staffed by J-School students, and as editor of the Riverdale Press, championing borough wide environmental causes.



Prof. Bernard Stein with Dr. Dena Robbins and President Joyce Hogi.

The Gouverneur Morris Non-formal/Community Educator Award was presented to Ocynthia Williams and Frances Tejada, United Parents of Highbridge of the Highbridge Community Life Center for organizing the community for a much needed Middle School -- one of the first in the Bronx focused on environmental science and sustainable energy, and built that way too!

The BCEQ Founder Theresa Lato Student Award was presented to Nathan Hunter, Manhattan College Student, leader in the College's sustainability committee and in student environmental organizations.



Frances Tejada with Chauncy Young, Dr. Dena Robbins and President Joyce Hogi.

These awards began in 1987 when one of the BCEQ's founders, Helen C. Reel, honored civic-minded Bronx educators who demonstrated concern for posterity through their efforts to preserve the excellent, enhance the good, and upgrade the mediocre in our beautiful borough. Special thanks to the BCEQ Education Committee for choosing our awardees and VP Paul for hosting once again. If you would like to get involved with BCEQ's education committee please send an email to education@bceq.org.

BCEQ's Annual Water Conference & Membership Meeting



Last March, the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality on the occasion of its 40th Annual Meeting presented its 11th Annual Water Conference: "A look at the Waterfront of the East Bronx 40 Years After the Clean Water Act: Access, Updates & Progress." Congressman Joseph Crowley (7th CD, Democrat) swore in the new class of Board Members at a meeting held at the new Soundview Park Field House (photo on left). Special thanks to our Corporate Sponsor, ConEdison, and to the Bronx Parks Department and staff at the Soundview Park Field House.

Updates were made from the East Bronx coastal communities by their leaders: Dorothea Poggi (Friends of Ferry Point Park) for Ferry Point Park and Pugsley Creek; Lucy Aponte (Friends of Soundview Park) with Carlos Martinez

(Partnerships Catalyst Coordinator) for Soundview Park; Dr. Eleanor Rae & Violet Smith (Hutchinson River Restoration Project) for the Hutchinson River Canoe & Kayak Launching Site Study; and Marianne Anderson, (NYCDPR Pelham Bay Admin), for Pelham Bay Park.

This was followed by Program Presentations on Eco-docks by the Metropolitan Water Alliance speaker, Becky Schneider; and the Eastchester Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) along the Hutchinson River, South Bronx Overall Economic Development Organization (SOBRO) by speaker, Shira Gidding-Shaul.



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 write to her at the address in the masthead below.

Dear Ivy,

My family loves fresh fruits and vegetables. My local supermarket doesn't have the best selection and we would love more variety. I know there are farmer's markets all over the Bronx. Are there locations close to me?

Veggie Lover in Van Nest

Dear Veggie Lover,

Great question! Who doesn't love fresh fruits and veggies? We are very lucky in the Bronx to have many farmer's markets and green markets happening all over our borough. Many accept EBT/Food stamps.

For information about Grow NYC Green Markets locations and hours please visit this link

<http://www.grownyc.org/ourmarkets>

For information about Harvest Home Farmers Markets locations and hours please visit this link

<http://www.harvesthomefm.org/index.php/locations>

Additional Bronx Markets include

Hunts Point Farmers' Market

Sponsor: Urban Health Plan Inc.

Location: Msgr. Raul del Valle Square, Southern Blvd and E 163rd St.

Times of Operation: Wednesday and Saturday, 8:30 AM to 5 PM

Season: Late June through Mid November

La Familia Verde Farmers' Market

Sponsor: Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center

Location: Tremont Park, Tremont & LaFontaine Aves.

Times of Operation: Tuesday, 8 AM – 2 PM

Season: July through Mid November

The Learning Tree Farmers' Market

Sponsor: The Learning Tree Prep School

Location: Barnes Ave. between Magenta & Bartholdi Sts.

Times of Operation: Wednesdays, 10 AM – 2 PM

Season: Early July – Mid November

MBD Community Park Farmers' Market

Sponsor: MBD Community Housing Corp.

Location: 1710 Southern Blvd., between East 173rd & East 174th Streets, Bronx

Times of Operation: Friday, 7 AM to 4 PM

Season: July through Mid November

Northeast Bronx Farmers' Market

Sponsor: Urbis Community Development Corp.

Location: Haffen Park, Hammersley & Wickham Aves.

Times of Operation: Saturday 8 AM to 6 PM

Season: July through Mid November

Phipps West Farmers' Market

Sponsor: Phipps Community Development Corp.

Location: Drew Gardens, just east of intersection of East Tremont Ave and Boston Rd.

Times of Operation: Wednesdays, 10 AM to 3 PM

Season: Mid July through Mid November

South Bronx Community Garden Farmers' Market

Sponsor: More Gardens!

Location: E. 138th St. between St. Ann's & Cypress Ave.

Times of operation: Wednesdays, 9 AM to 6 PM

Season: End of June through Mid November

Taqwa Community Farmstand

Location: 90 W. 164th St. at Ogden Avenue (in garden)

Times of Operation: Saturdays, 9 AM to 4 PM

Season: End of June through Mid November

South Bronx Community Garden Farmers' Market

Sponsor: Bissell Gardens/Green Institute

Location: Lafayette Ave. and Stickball Ave.

Times of operation: Fridays 12 to 5pm, Saturdays 9am to 1 pm

Season: End of June through Mid November

Bissell Gardens Farmers' Market

Sponsor: Bissell Gardens, Inc

Location: Baychester Ave. & 241st St.

Times of Operation: Saturdays 9 AM – 4:30 PM; Wednesdays 10 AM – 3 PM;

Sundays 10AM – 3PM

Season: July through Mid November

Bronx Council for Environmental Quality



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Thank you for your support.

Environmental Focus Reporters/Proofers: AskIvy, ML Ramirez, Christina Taylor, Jane Sokolow and Supervising Editor Karen Argenti

www.bceq.org

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**BCEQ Board meets on the
2nd 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

September 12th Friends of Van Cortlandt Office
Election of Officers

October 17th Harlem River Mini-Conference
Roberto Clemente State Park
More info to follow

November 14th Poggi Residence
5:30pm CSO Meeting,
BCEQ meeting to follow

December 12th Yankee Tavern
Annual Holiday Dinner
(cost per meal)

January 9th Pollan/Westphal
Residence

Harlem River Working Group Community Visioning and Festival



The Harlem River Working Group (HRWG), an initiative of the BCEQ, is a coalition of nearly 50 community groups, city, state and federal agencies, and elected officials focused on improving access to and along the Harlem River in the Bronx. The group's goals are to restore the Harlem River; reconnect the waterfront with the people; recreate the water's edge; and reinvigorate recreational and commercial activities in the water.

The HRWG has been advocating for the creation of a Harlem River Greenway. Inspired by the Bronx-wide system of Greenways, and the 40-year-old national goal of swimmable, fishable waters, the HRWG has been involved with the reopening of the historic High Bridge, partnered with the Trust for Public Land on the acquisition of Depot Place for parkland, worked with the city to plan for the Regatta Greenway, and creatively partnered with other groups to bring Bronx residents to the water. The group and its member organizations are using every opportunity to ensure that any and all investments along the river build toward the creation of the Greenway.

This past spring, the HRWG joined with the Trust for Public Land and students and staff from Pratt Institute and the Pratt Center for Community Development to engage the public in the creation of a vision for the Harlem River. Four community workshops were held in the Bronx during the spring of 2012, where participants used maps to show their connections to the water and talk about their ideas. The finished report, a vision melding ideas from over 30 years of existing plans, includes new ideas from residents and other stakeholders garnered during the process.

Throughout the process, themes both emerged and reinforced the priorities of HRWG for all Harlem River improvements: Improve overall health and mobility of Bronx residents; Improve water quality and restore the edge; Achieve safety by activating waterfront programs; Ensure that water/waterfront improvements create local jobs; Ensure that water/waterfront improvements improve connections between neighborhoods and the river, and among neighborhoods.

In addition to hosting community vision sessions the HRWG is planning their 3rd annual festival the **"2012 Harlem River Festival."** The festival will feature events on the land and in the water for the week of October 15th to October 20th and will be held at the facilities of the Bronx' own New York State Park: *Roberto Clemente State Park*, which has docks providing access onto the water.

Because of the strong restoration effort underway, spearheaded by local governments and community organizations, the Harlem River watershed was designated one of seven Urban Waters Federal Partnership pilot locations last year. Harlem River restoration is also a priority of the USEPA's NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program, and is highlighted in the America's Great Outdoors Initiative of the federal government.

The **2012 Harlem River Festival** includes three segments:

During the week, October 15 to 19, *the Wilderness Inquiry* programming will help make this our best event yet, enabling us to provide hundreds of school children a chance to get into a large (and supervised) canoe to learn firsthand about the river.

On the evening of Wednesday, October 17 from 6-8 p.m., the *Bronx Council for Environmental Quality* will sponsor its annual Mini-Water Conference and invite scientists from USGS, EPA, DEC and DEP to discuss the condition of the River.

The week long events will culminate on Saturday, October 20 when community residents will have a chance to attend and participate in what can only be described as a street fair on the land and in the water.

Visit www.bceq.org in the fall for more event information.

Upcoming Events

26th Annual International Coastal Cleanup

Saturday, September 15th
<http://www.alsnyc.org/>

Bronx River Alliance Upstream Soiree

Tuesday, October 2nd
<http://www.bronxriver.org/soiree>

Celebrate 20 years of the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park

Thursday, October 4th
www.vancortlandt.org

17th Annual Tour de Bronx

Sunday, October 14th
<http://www.tourdebronx.org/>

Harlem River Mini-Conference

Wednesday, October 17th
www.bceq.org

Fall It's My Park Day

Saturday, October 20th
<http://www.itsmypark.org/>

Harlem River Festival

Saturday, October 20th
www.bceq.org

BCEQ's Spring Movie Night

On April 18, 2012 BCEQ sponsored a showing of *Battle for Brooklyn* at Manhattan College. The film documents the epic journey of a handful of activists fighting to save their community and property from seizure by eminent domain in Brooklyn, N.Y. In the documentary, hundreds of Brooklyn residents and their community face the threat of wrecking balls, bulldozers and the ambitious plans of real estate developer and his company's \$2.5 billion Atlantic Yards project is set to bring the New Jersey Nets to Brooklyn, along with several massive residential towers and a mess of mixed-use buildings.

The film's loyalty lies with Brooklyn residents, but depicts an objective look at eminent domain abuse and its real-life effects on a community. The facts are not manipulated. *Battle for Brooklyn* is not only about eminent domain abuse and crony capitalism but also the failure of mainstream media. Throughout the film, it's clear that the developer's press releases routinely win out to any fair journalistic depiction of the struggle.

The showing of this film was the third environmental film sponsored by BCEQ and Manhattan College. Fort Independence Park Neighborhood Association (FIPNA.org) was also a sponsor.



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If you wish to save paper and get an electronic version, email enewsletter@bceq.org Thank you!