



2008 BCEQ "Keeping It Reel" Environmental Education Awards

At our annual BBQ meeting, on June 11th, BCEQ presented our "Keeping it Reel" Environmental Education Awards. This award is named after our co-founder Helen Reel, who worked tirelessly for the betterment of the Bronx environment. This year's awardees are:

Educator: Bethany Spence of Millennium Art Academy (top left corner, with Stephen Ritz, co-chair Education Comm.), this first year teacher inherited a program mid-year and has transformed a school and science program often generating attendance of 60+ kids for Saturday voluntary science class.

Student Recipients: The Green Institute in Soundview at Stevenson High School Campus (top right corner, with Stephen Ritz, co-chair Education Comm.), this consortium of students - elementary, middle, and high school has inventoried flora and fauna in the Soundview area and features four academic components. They also build gardens at local elementary schools.

Informal Educator: Mike Zamm of the NYC Council on the Environment (bottom right corner, with Mark Stern, co-chair Education Comm.). Mike has worked for over 20 years on the Training Student Organizer program at DeWitt Clinton High School and other schools, educating students about environmental issues and taking them on field trips. On a recent field trip students removed invasive species from the Bronx River. 🌳



Photo Contest!

Do you want to see your park, community garden, waterfront or natural area featured in BCEQ's 2009 Calendar?

Submit your photos on our BCEQ web page, under PHOTOS. Please include your name (and name of photographer if not you), contact info, title of picture, name of park, garden, etc. and when and where it was taken. Photos must be digitally uploaded, not email. You can also email us (photos@bceq.org) any important dates you would like featured in the 2009 calendar.

Please submit your photos by September 30, 2008. If your photo is chosen, you will receive one of our lovely Calendars, and the photo may be featured on the BCEQ web page. Calendars will also be available for purchase on our website.

For more information, please visit www.bceq.org/photos



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 that there are plans for blasting at Jerome Park Reservoir, even though the DEP originally promised that there wouldn't be. Is this true? What is being done to stop this?

~A Concerned Resident from Scott Tower

Dear Concerned Resident from Scott Tower:

BCEQ has been at the forefront advocating for Jerome Park Reservoir, Van Cortlandt Park and the surrounding communities. We recently decided to take DEP to court to stop the blasting at the Reservoir. Below is information about the court case.

FACT: The 2004 Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) stated on page 184 of Section 8.2, submitted as one of the Exhibits: "There would be no surface drilling or blasting in relation to work at the Reservoir."

FACT: June and July 2008, the DEP announced that they would like to blast at the Jerome Park Reservoir (JPR), and may start as early as August 1, 2008. They compared blasting with drilling even though neither of these alternatives were approved in the FSEIS.

Complainants: BCEQ is a borough wide environmental organization formed in 1971, and the Fort Independence Park Neighborhood Association (FIPNA) is a local neighborhood organization whose members primarily live in or around the JPR; both organizations have been engaged in the effort to protect and preserve community life and minimize disruption around JPR for several years. BCEQ President Ira Charles Levenberg and FIPNA President Philip McDonnell signed, as did local Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz and Council Member G. Oliver Koppell. Damian McShane and Father Richard Gorman are the Chairpersons of Community Boards 8 and 12 respectively --each of whom passed resolutions requesting the submission of an EIS by the DEP before blasting at Jerome Park Reservoir begins. Anthony Perez Cassino is the former Chairperson of Community Board 8 and Saul Scheinbach is the Environmental Committee Chairperson of CB8. Frances Al Chapman heads up the Kingsbridge Heights Neighborhood Improvement Association; and Lynn Schwarz is VP of FIPNA. Mario Benitez, Michael Gary, and Morris Palevsky live in Amalgamated Houses. Sonia Lappin from Scott Tower and Carolyn Smith from Tracey Towers live just one small block away from the potential site where the DEP plans to blast.

THE BRONX COUNCIL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (BCEQ), et. al v. THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP), et. al, (Index # 260287 of 2008) will be heard on September 3, 2008.

Check for updates at www.bceq.org.



~ Ivy



**The Bronx
Council for
Environmental Quality
www.bceq.org**

Founder Theresa Lato
President I.C. Levenberg-Engel
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2nd Vice President Joyce Hogi
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Recording Secretary Evan Camp
Corresponding Secretary Jorge Santiago

Committee Chairs

Memberships/Events- Maria Luisa Cipriano
Water- Dart Westphal and Karen Argenti
Education- Mark Stern and Steve Ritz (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, Maria Luisa Cipriano, Joyce Hogi, Christina Taylor, ICLE..

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

The Mets – the Blue and Orange are going Green!

Last spring the New York Mets boasted that the construction of their new stadium, Citi Field, is on time, on budget, and green! The Mets are using “green improvements,” suggesting public transportation routes, encouraging community participation, and hiring union workers. At a press conference last March, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2 Administrator Alan Steinberg stated, “This memorandum of understanding the EPA has signed with the Mets underscores innovation and a comprehensive commitment toward sustainable development.”

To reduce their carbon footprint, the \$800 million stadium is built with 95 percent recycled steel, 2 million pounds of recycled coal combustion products (saving 800 tons of carbon dioxide), and using low-sulfur and ultra low sulfur diesel construction vehicles to reduce air emissions such as CO2 and particulates.

To reduce water consumption, the new stadium will save 4 million gallons per year using low-flow plumbing features such as hands-free faucets, toilet flushometers, and waterless urinals. More water will be saved by installing an on-site well for irrigation, as well as capturing stormwater in a 3,700-square-foot drainage bed, swales and permeable porous pavement to control the flow in the bus parking lot. Finally, a 15,000-square-foot “green roof” will adorn the



team's administration building (absorbing 80% stormwater runoff).

To reduce both energy use and the waste stream, the Mets joined the EPA Energy Star program, which encourages energy efficiency, as well as a food and beverage recycling program with Mets' partner, ARAMARK.


To encourage the use of mass transit, the Mets are continuing to work with the MTA and Long Island Rail Road, including adding additional train and bus service added for home games.

At Citi Field, 850 talented construction workers are union, local, minority and/or woman owned business enterprises (LBE/MBE/WBE). Working with an ad-

visory committee of community leaders chaired by Borough President Helen Marshall and co-chaired by Councilman Leroy Comrie, the Mets have ensured the involvement of minority- and women-owned businesses in Queens and the immediate area.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said. "They've taken the initiative to be bold, innovative and environmentally responsible. Citi Field will be one of the most environmentally friendly stadiums ever built any place."

Thank you to the Mets for saving our earth and setting an example!

See this article on www.bceq.org 

Links of interest:

Citi - the world's leading financial services company - is a proud partner of the Mets at Citi Field, opening in 2009.
http://newyork.mets.mlb.com/nym/ballpark/citifield_update.jsp

For more information about the construction of Citi Field, visit www.huntbovisnyballpark.com.

http://mlb.mlb.com/news/article.jsp?ymd=20080313&content_id=2424288&vkey=spt2008news&fext=.jsp&c_id=nym

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d10ed0d99d826b068525735900400c2a/d87469e9e29de0238525740b004fc02c?OpenDocument>

For information about the new Yankee Stadium please visit, http://newyork.yankees.mlb.com/nyy/ballpark/new_stadium.jsp

Monthly Meetings

BCEQ meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, except for July and August, from 6:30pm – 8:30pm

September 10th	Casa Franciosa
October 8th	Ranaqua 1 Bronx River Parkway, Bx, NY 10462
November 12th	Meet and Greet— TBA
December 10 th	The Yankee Tavern (161 st Street & Gerard Avenue) (Holiday Party – charge for your meal)

For up to the date meeting info and locations please visit
www.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/

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 newsletter. Thank you!

The Bronx Council for Environmental Quality

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