

TRS program to help NY state's teachers make the grade

By Jay Teyan and Sue Napodano

How do you know if your child is really learning science? Truly meaningful science education teaches students not only to know and understand scientific facts and concepts, but also to reason scientifically, apply scientific knowledge outside the classroom and communicate effectively about science.

To ensure that these goals are met, the New York State Department of Education has adopted new standards, not only for science, but for math, technology, social studies and English language arts as well. By implementing standards-based curriculum, it is expected that all students in New York state will meet a higher level of knowledge and performance.

Most educators agree this is a positive step towards education reform. However, because the

curriculum is performance-driven (students must now take standardized tests in fourth and eighth grades), teachers are finding time at a premium. Whereas in the past teachers had more latitude and more time to explore other disciplines, they are now bound to a more rigorous schedule.

If it is to be successful, environmental education must be integrated with the new education paradigm. Rather than act as an add-on to existing curriculum, environmental education will instead help teachers and students meet the new standards.

Central to Audubon's commitment to a new education and centers initiative is redesigning environmental education to meet evolving education standards. Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary (TRS) has been at the forefront of this and began the process of revamping our already successful programs last spring.

‘ RATHER THAN ACT AS AN ADD-ON TO EXISTING CURRICULUM, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WILL INSTEAD HELP TEACHERS AND STUDENTS MEET THE NEW STANDARDS. ’

During this school year and the next, TRS programs will become increasingly interactive and interdisciplinary, incorporating creative activities, scientific inquiry and technology

How do you know if your child is really learning science? Successful science education will involve multiple disciplines, including quality environmental education and field experiences that are integrated with classroom lessons.

Audubon New York's education staff expands: two educators hired

Regan Clover hired as environmental educator

Staff Report

Regan Clover was hired in October as environmental educator for Audubon New York. Her primary duty is to be the lead teacher in our For The Birds! education program, working with volunteers, teachers and, of course, students. For the Birds! has expanded this year to two new schools in Harlem and the after-school version will pilot this February at CS 214 in the Bronx, in collaboration with Phipps Community Development Corporation. Other responsibilities will include teaching and designing programs for Audubon centers and center partners.

Regan grew up in New Hampshire and studied political science and environmental studies. She joined AmeriCorps last year and moved to New York City where she participated in a one year volunteer program for the Parks Council — a nonprofit organization that supports community gardens and green spaces. She educated students about plant life and provided hands-on gardening experience for children. As part of her AmeriCorps job, she worked as a volunteer assisting in the preparation and delivery of For the Birds! at PS 57 in Staten Island.



Regan Clover

“Before I started teaching environmental education in New York City, I thought it would be an almost impossible challenge for urban children to appreciate nature. If only I had known how many birds there are in New York. Now, I'm excited to use birds and their habitats as a means to educate children,” Clover said.

“Regan proved to be an invaluable asset as a For the Birds! volunteer last year. She's doing a terrific job of making the transition to lead teacher for the program. Everyone recognizes her talent for teaching, as well as her love for children and the natural world,” stated Chuck Remington, Audubon New York's education director.



Lynn Tiede in India

Lynn Tiede hired as education coordinator

Lynn Tiede has been hired by Audubon New York as our new statewide education coordinator. Her responsibilities include: working with the education director to strengthen our Audubon Centers — Theodore Roosevelt and Constitution Marsh — network in New York; working with education staff at the TR and CMS Audubon Centers to augment programs; working with Audubon and Prospect Park Alliance staff to launch the Boathouse exhibit and education components; and expanding For the Birds in New York City and other urban areas.

Lynn has a bachelor of arts degree in anthropology/sociology and a masters in environmental education. For the past eight years, she taught at Science and Humanities Middle School in East

Harlem, in New York City; and served as student advisor and dean. She developed a student-run recycling program, which was honored with first prize in the city's “Team Up to Clean Up” contest. She was named Teacher of the Year and was selected to be a Fulbright Scholar in 1998.

Lynn is a community activist in Harlem on environmental issues, serving on Community Board #11 and is a representative to the Manhattan Borough President's Solid Waste Advisory Board. “I am excited and honored to be part of the National Audubon Society. I will be working

hard to make sure that children in New York state receive environmental education, especially in the inner-city; and to connect people to Audubon's resources,” Tiede said.

Chuck Remington, education director for Audubon New York remarked, “Lynn has the expertise needed to help people understand and appreciate nature in schools, Audubon Centers and community settings. Her dedication thus far to the environment, at work and on her own time, shows a level of passion and commitment that I know will benefit our cause and goals.”

Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary plans Bully! Gala 2001

On Saturday, April 28, 2001, the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary will hold its third annual

Bully! Gala at the elegant Nassau Country Club, in Glen Cove, Long Island. This year's recipients of the Theodore Roosevelt Legacy of Conservation Award are New York State Park's Commissioner Bernadette Castro, and John Williams, president of Friends of the Bay, an advocacy group working on conservation issues affecting Oyster Bay.

Proceeds from the event go toward underwriting the sanctuary's education and avian research programs. Tickets are \$250 each. To purchase tickets, or to receive information on leadership packages, you may call Marilyn England or Devon Daniel at the sanctuary, (516) 922-3200.

We look forward to seeing you on the 28th.

Christine Nielson/Oyster Bay Guardian



Dr. Carl Safina and TRS instructor Patricia Paladines and a fine-feathered friend