

**Alley Pond Environmental Center, Inc.**  
**2008-2009**  
**Annual Report**

**228-06 Northern Boulevard, Douglaston, NY 11362**  
**718-229-4000    www.alleypond.com**

**APEC ANNUAL REPORT**

**July 2008 - June 2009**

Alley Pond Environmental Center Inc., a private, non-profit organization, sited in a New York City Park, offers lessons in the diverse ecosystems of Alley Pond Park to children in every school district in New York City and Nassau as well as to adults.

Children and adults enjoy bird walks, nature hikes, craft sessions, and workshops related to wetlands, endangered species, and animal care. Our live animal room affords the opportunity to observe native and non-native species. More than 56,000 children and adults attended programs at our Center in the past year.

***Mission Statement***

The Alley Pond Environmental Center (APEC), a nonprofit environmental education organization, is dedicated to **educating** children and adults in the New York metropolitan area, **protecting and preserving** Alley Pond Park, open spaces and waterbodies, and **advocating** for sustainable environmental policies and practices.

**HISTORY AND FEATURES:**

APEC was founded in 1972 and incorporated in 1976. Our landlord is the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. We have a license agreement to operate our building and maintain the local grounds. Our main building features a Gift Shop, live Animal Room, Pre-School Rooms and two large classrooms (which can be opened up into one large room). The grounds feature nature trails, an observation deck overlooking Alley Creek, a memorial garden, windmill pond, Douglaston Estate Windmill and our Outdoor classroom (The Padavan Pavilion).

APEC is open seven days a week from September through June and six days a week (Mon-Sat) during July and August.

***MANAGEMENT***

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** APEC's governing body is a group of dedicated volunteers who meet monthly September through June to set policy and oversee the organization. Board members as of September 1, 2009 include:

Rita Sherman - President  
Richard Blum - Vice President  
William Nieter - Treasurer  
Barbara Friedman - Secretary  
Mary Bandziukas

Dr. John Charos

Theresa Bonovolanta

Patricia Costello  
Gloria Kuhn  
Nicole Repetti

Fran Filloramo  
Shari Lewis-Veltre  
Seena Sweet

Mary Ann Gallagher  
Allison Koffler-Wise

The Hon. Adrian Benepe, Commissioner, NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation,  
represented by Janice Melnick

*APEC Current Life Members:*

Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Abularrage	Hon. Gary L. Ackerman	Mike & Elaine Alberts
Carole Ann & Leonard Antonucci	Eneas Sloman Arkawy	Hon. Tony Avella
Ernestine Bender	Hyman B. Birnbaum	Bloch Family
Norman & Joan Bluestone	Gloria Kemper Bodie	Walter J. Bodie
John Charos, DVM	Marilyn Check	Community School Board #26
Martin Dehler	Paul DiBenedetto	Eric Edelman
AnneMarie & Delvis Estrada	The Euler Family	Jeffrey Fearon
Marjorie Dycke Ferrigno	Fran Filloramo	Madeline & Frank Filloramo
Mr & Mrs William Finck	Dolores Frank	David & Barbara Friedman
Gallo family	Joan Garippa	The Gretchen Gaudelli
Arlene Gilbert	Pamela & William Gillespie	Richard Giordano
Hon. Al Gore	Ruth Gloger	Jeanette Graf
Avram Gropper	Dr. Melissa Haidary	Frank Hark
Theresa Harris	Maureen Healy	Mr & Mrs Higgins
Karen Hutson	Alice & Larry Kasten	Yasuko Kawamoto
Elizabeth Kellerman	Dr. Leo Kellerman	Teresa Kiernan
Gloria Kuhn	Sheldon Lewis, DVM	William Malloy
Donald Maines	Katherine Maines	Jason D. Mark & Ying Chan
David M. Morris	Anne B. Morse	William Nieter
Sinibaldo Nisco	Rod O'Connell	Hon Frank Padavan
Beverly & Jim Pion	Ed Pressman	Dorothy Reid
Reiter Family	Ian Resnick	Joe Rhoades
Liz Rhoades	Brian Rock & Jessie Rochford	Randy & Lydia Rock
Seth H. Rogovin	Gary E. Rosenberg	Denise & Gary Rosenberg
Michael Saladino	Susan Saladino	Nancy Salerno
Irene F. Scheid	Florence M. Schneider	Jacqueline Shannon
Charles Shapiro, MD	Philip R. Sillman	Cynthia Strauss
Jill Tulchin	Matt Van Den Hengle	Joseph M. Varon
Shari Lewis Veltre	Donald Wade & Eileen Pentel	Christine & Edward Wehle
Hon. Mark S. Weprin	Walter Wientge Jr.	Bea Zamist

**FINANCE:** We are grateful to each of you, our members and friends, and to our local elected officials for your continued interest, faith and support.

**BUDGET:** APEC'S 2008-2009 Operating Budget of \$ 972,000.00 is supported by:

NYC Department of Parks:	\$ 55,500.00	donated facilities
NYC Appropriations	\$ 156,800.00	
NYC Capital Appropriations	\$ 4,500,000.	

NYS Appropriations	\$162,000.00
NYS Capital Appropriations	\$ 1,000,000.0
Donations & Private Support	\$ 202,015.00
Earned Income	\$ 390,426.00

### **2008 Holiday Card & 2009 Annual Campaign**

Thank you to all for your help in getting us through the past year. Our faithful supporters allow us to continue to provide the fine environmental education programs for all. Please continue the efforts by letting all know the value of our center towards environmental education and our need for continued financial support.

#### **2008 Holiday Card Donors include:**

##### **\$1 - \$49 Holiday Contributions**

Sidney & Anita Blank, Carol Ann Caccioppoli, Terese Cavanagh, Marilyn Check, Jack Davis, Nicholas Day, Panzy & Henry DeHart, Joanne Dorniak, Edward Doster, Tanja Feige, Robert Fogel, Matthew Frisch, Mary & David Gillen, Helen Goulimis & Paul Landaw, Michael Guntner, Lucy Jara, Lore Kaplan, Fred & Doris Keller, Nancy Kennedy, Dr. Sheldon Lewis, Frances Louis, Thomas Maroti, Joseph McCabe, John Mendez, Sue & Lloyd Miller, Ida Myers, Fran Penner, Betsy Pilling, Marcia & Paul Roth, Michael & Kathryn Saban, Robert & Penny Smith, Marsha Stone & Susan Roberts, Seymour Trager, Linda Trump, Herb & Irene Wald, Helen Welenc, Gabriel Wiesenthal, Judith Woessner

##### **\$50 - \$99**

Elizabeth Ankersen, Irene Bareis, Bebe & Owen Bernstein, Madeline Braisted & Ruth Kraiem, Lawrence Cohen, Paul & Ann DeBenedittis, the Filorimo family, Maines family, Carol & William Nash, Dr. Allen Newman, Greta Newman, James & Beverly Pion, Barret Schleicher, Bernice Siegal, Max Weintraub, Bayside Gables Civic Association

##### **\$100 +**

Myron & Elaine Alberts, Rosemarie Brennan, Sandra & Louis Cuoco, Jane Salchli, Russell Vollner, Avonelle Walker, Irene Yu

Special Thanks to Lydia & Randy Rock and Dorothy Szalay for their generous Holiday gift

### **Annual Campaign Donors 2009**

Thanks to all who helped the make our Campaign a success.

##### **\$1 - \$49:**

Patricia Bagnasco, Ernestine Bender, Virginia Benzinger, Anita & Sid Blank, Eleanor & George Bollag, Lawrence & Ruth Borger, Joseph & Janne Bronars, Carolee Brooks, Harriet Burg, Christopher & Suzanne Campese, Lisa Cannon, George & Kate Colby, Gail David, John Davis, Bernice Derdarian, Tim & Susan Derum, Lore Deutsch, Ed & Elaine Doster, D.Patt Dougherty, Evangeline Duffy, Frances Falon, Leonora Fein, Selma & Sidney Feldman, Dr. Robert Felsher, Thomas Ferraiuolo, Margaret Franco, Andrea & David Franke, David & Janet Gillen, Larry & Gira Freiberg, A & J Gibbons, Joan & Michael Golden, Tom Greany, Benard & Sheila Haber,

Maria Haralambou, Joan Hartin, Gerald Heitmann, Lorraine & Semour Jetter, Lore W. Kaplan, Ivana Kardum, Barbara & Bruce Kemp, Nancy Kennedy, William Kirk, Len & Becky Kotler, Gloria Kuhn, Susan Lenhart, Sidney & Roselyn Lipman, Tom & Barbara Maroti, Jamie Mastromaero, Joseph McCabe, James McCann, Helen McDaniel, John Milioti, Ida Myers, Linda Murphy & Matthew Kall, Mary O'Byrne, Lydia Pagan, Carol Hayden Perowne, Edward & Margaret Riconda, Robert Romano, Isabel Salaman, Justine Scarinzi, Florence Schneider, Irma Schubert, Lucie Shannon, Dr. Karen Siegel, Sonia Sifneos, Mr.&Mrs. Joseph Sollano, Robert Sparrow, Gerda Spiekermann, Arnold Tepfer, Anthony Trimboli, Linda Trump, Patricia Tweedy, Jerry & Norma Weintraub, Helen Welenc, Louise & Fred Winhusen, Judith Woessner, Gerlind Wuest, N. Wykes

**\$50 - \$99:**

Mark & Maureen Barrett, Walter & Matilda Belley, Bryan Byrne, Kathy Carew & Jim Carriero, Ann DeInnocentiis, Carol Gilio, Martin Hershberg, Peter & Lucy Jara, Hoi-Chen Jou, Alberta Kanya, Arnold Kleinstein, Ken & Elaine Kowald, Bob Lelle, Dr. Sheldon Lewis, Matthew Mackey, Harold & Pat McLaughlin, Edward Meilman, Sue & Lloyd Miller, Dr. Myles Mittleman, Walter Mugdan & Vivienne Lenk, William Nash, Linda Pierce, Betsy Pilling, Martha Robinson, Natalia Rodriguez, Anne Ronan, Marcia & Paul Roth, Teresa Salles, Lisa Schenone, Susan Seinfeld, Shepard family, Seena Sweet, Max Weintraub, Sal's Little Neck Pizza

**\$100 - \$199:**

Elizabeth Ankersen, Rosemarie Brennan, Sandra & Louis Cuoco, Fran Filloramo, Madeline & Frank Filloramo, Barbara & David Friedman, Mary Ann Gallagher, Alfred Koch, Maines family, Barbara Nieter, William O'Gorman, Bridget Olivieri, Beverly & Jim Pion, Jane Salchli, Irene Scheid, Rita Sherman, Gregory Vairo

**\$200+**

Eneas Arkaway, Dr. Leo & Elizabeth Kellerman, Bill & Vicki Nieter, Dorothy Szalay, Walter Wientge Jr., Local #3 I.B.E.W. & Douglaston Garden Club

**2008-09 Corporate, Foundation & Government Support:**

Alley Pond Environmental Center is housed in a building owned by the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation and its operation is made possible, in part, with public and private funding provided by:

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**CAPITAL MONIES:**

\$1.0 Million NYS Senator Frank Padavan  
\$1.5 Million Queens City Council delegation  
\$2.0 Million Queens Borough President Helen Marshall  
\$1.0 Million Council member Tony Avella

**GENERAL OPERATING MONIES:**

\$118,500	NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs
\$115,000	NYS Dept of Parks & Historic Preservation (Hon. Frank Padavan-NYS Senator)
\$36,999	NYS NHT Zoos, Botanical Gardens & Aquariums
\$25,000	Carnegie Corporation of New York, Councilman Hon. Jim Gennaro
\$15,000	Consolidated Edison of New York, Hon. Tony Avella-NYC and Hon. David Weprin
\$7,500	Hudson River Foundation
\$10,000	Hon. Mark Weprin & Hon. Ann- Margaret Carrozza - NYS Assembly Members
\$5,000	Cornell University, The Estate of Victor Seymour, The Estate of Alice Lloyd
\$2,000+	Aviva /Spring Foundation (Max Weintraub), Tulchin Foundation, Fran Filloramo, Whole Foods Market
\$1,000+	North Fork Foundation, Advantage Testing ,Joseph & Bernice Tanenbaum Foundation, John Charos, Pat Costello, Community Church of Douglaston, Mr & Mrs A Scuderi, Central Veterinary Associates, NY Community Bank, Keil Bros. Nursery, Euler-Revaz Family Foundation, MSC Industrial Direct, JHS 190 Russell School, Mary Elaine & David Morris, PS 23@ Hillside
\$500+	Astoria Federal Savings Bank, Euler Family Foundation, Frank & Madeline Filloramo, Ink-It Printing, Patrick St. John, Richard & Susan Blum, Thomas J. Levy, William & Vicki Nieter, Rita & Carl Sherman, New York City Trout Unlimited Inc, Dr. & Mrs. L. Kellerman, David & Barbara Friedman, P.S. 321 William Penn, PS 197, Abby Goldstein, Take-A-Kid Fishing, Gloria & Harry Kuhn, Lisa Brogan
\$300+	Commerce Bank, Quebec-Labrador Foundation, D. Kalish, Dorothy Szalay, Thomas Van Arsdale of Local Union #3 - I.B.E.W, PS 131, PS 16Q, PS208, PS 119, PS 176, PS 115, Gillen Brewer School
\$250+	JHS 52 Inwood, PS 155, PS 268, PS 81, PS138, Annemarie Macari

### ***ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT***

Welcome to all the new LIFE members who joined during the past year including:

Dr & Mrs Joseph Abularrge  
Ernestine Bender  
Norman & Joan Bluestone  
Paul DiBenedetto  
Ian Resnick

We are working hard to keep 1,000 memberships. We continue to reach out into the local neighborhoods introducing ourselves and asking for support. We also have been providing special membership promotions at our events. Several individuals, senior citizens, and families have taken up the challenge and joined us.

We would like to encourage our members to make donations in honor of special events happening to their family members and friends.

In the past year we have received several gifts in memory of loved former supporters.

Join us and introduce your neighbors and friends to the satisfaction of contributing to the environmental education of the young people of Queens, Nassau and beyond.

*APEC Staff* as of September 1, 2009

**Full-Time Staff:**

Irene V. Scheid, Executive Director  
Dr. Aline Euler, Education Director  
Dyan Freiberg, Educator, Upper Grades Program  
Rosemarie Favuzza-Papachristou, Educator, Outreach Coordinator  
Kimesha Reid-Grant, Educator  
Hilda Bloch, Fiscal Manager  
Liz McGlinchey, Front Office Coordinator  
Carlos Martinez, Maintenance/Grounds/Animal Care

**Part-Time Staff:**

ADMINISTRATION:

Geraldine Carlucci, Weekend Registrar  
Linda Gochna, Membership/Development Associate  
Judy Scuderi, Office Assistant  
Cathy Lavvas-Kartsonis, Registrar

EDUCATION:

Christine Schnurr, Educator, Coordinator of Early Childhood Programs  
Cynthia Chiesa-Beckstead    Jessica Cimini    Vicki Gleicher  
Joan Golden                    Venus Hall                    Jozie (Monica) Kuhn  
Ashley Lemma                Kathy Listner                Grace Magee  
Winnie Manatrizio        AnnaKarina Marinos        Shannon McNulty  
Jennifer Molach            Marie Nardi                    Remya Nathan  
Ahmed Nazaar                Karen Pierro                    Marlene Rubins  
Jessica Rybak                Lara Spencer                    AnneMarie Vargas

MAINTENANCE/GROUNDS/ANIMAL ASSISTANTS:

Brian Tierney    Eric Zorrilla

***WE THANK THEM ALL FOR ALL THEY DO TO ALLOW APEC TO KEEP CONDUCTING OUR FINE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS!***

***EDUCATION AT ALLEY POND ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER***

***The education staff consists of 4 full time educators and 28 part time instructors led by a full time Education Director. The programs developed and implemented by the staff meet state standards and are focused on inquiry based learning in the life sciences and ecology of the ecosystems of Alley Pond Park. There has been a steady growth in the development of the Education Department both in staff and financial resources generated by the department.***

<i>Year</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Income</i>
<i>84/85</i>	<i>15,746</i>	<i>\$22,347</i>
<i>89/90</i>	<i>18,268</i>	<i>\$62,442</i>
<i>94/95</i>	<i>22,774</i>	<i>\$148,246</i>

<i>99/00</i>	<i>30,717</i>	<i>\$239,332</i>
<i>00/01</i>	<i>39,616</i>	<i>\$262,449</i>
<i>01/02</i>	<i>46,750</i>	<i>\$311,603</i>
<i>02/03</i>	<i>45,442</i>	<i>\$312,280</i>
<i>03/04</i>	<i>46,865</i>	<i>\$312,541</i>
<i>04/05</i>	<i>44,109</i>	<i>\$302,752</i>
<i>05/06</i>	<i>50,943</i>	<i>\$334,747</i>
<i>06/07</i>	<i>55,541</i>	<i>\$353,926</i>
<i>07/08</i>	<i>56,848</i>	<i>\$394,330</i>
<i>08/09</i>	<i>57,180</i>	<i>\$390,426</i>

### ***CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS***

Alley Pond Environmental Center visits and receives classes from **public and private schools** in Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan, the Bronx and Nassau County. A total of 19,363 school children attended programs at APEC in the 2008-2009 school year. Another 11,630 children were serviced through our ever-growing **Outreach programs**. Unfortunately over 10,000 children remained on the waiting list unable to get into our popular school visitation programs.

While we service children in all boroughs of NYC and Nassau County, in Queens the schoolchildren served came from the following school districts:

District 24	5,634 children
District 25	10,575 children
District 26	11,255 children
District 27	3,683 children
District 28	3,001 children
District 29	4,680 children
Districts 30	2,938 children

150 **special education students** attended a class visit at APEC through grants from the Sunday School of the Community Church of Douglaston.

APEC also serves as an **occupational training** worksite for children and adults with special needs. Program participants at the Lexington School for the Deaf and others have been helping several days per week to maintain and care for APEC's live animal collection, do program preparation and improve our grounds.

The education department is assisted by college interns from N.Y. University, Queens College, St. John's University and LaGuardia Community College. During the 2008-2009 year APEC's corps of **youth volunteers** averaged 40 students per season. These volunteers assisted staff with program preparation, animal care, grounds care and special events.

The **Middle-High School program** teaches general ecology, water and land use workshops to various Queens High Schools and several environmental science classes from neighboring St. John's University. These programs utilize our outdoor classroom area; an appropriate setting for young adults to experience field science first hand.

This year we continued the popular **High School Field Biology Internship**. Students from around New York City and Long Island were invited to partake in this free program. Classes took place on Saturday mornings over the course of 18 weeks and topics ranged from wildlife conservation to environmental chemistry to plant and animal identification and everything in between. Support from Hudson River Foundation for Science and Environmental Research, Inc. allowed APEC to offer this program free to

participants.

**Pre-School** individuals and schools, play groups and day care centers attended fun-filled programs that combine nature education with basic early childhood concepts and provide extra enrichment in the sciences. 5,115 children from ages 18 months to 12 years were served by this department.

**Weekend programs** serve children ages 3 through 12. These programs use games, crafts, stories, songs, cooking, live animals and nature hikes to foster an understanding of and appreciation for environmental concepts. A total of 1,408 children enrolled for a variety of topics, such as, Nancy Tafuri Fan Club, Nature Detective Series, Animal Care Trainee, APEC Safari, Little Chefs, Mad Scientist and Junior Nature Kids.

This past year we provided services for boys and girls in the **Scouting program**. Programs include hands-on activities to align with specific badge requirements. We oversee several Eagle Scout Projects each year mainly to rid the park of the invasive porcelain berry.

**Birthdays** are a popular celebration here at APEC. 3,538 youngsters attending these parties found them to be fun and educational at the same time. Participants are given the opportunity to appreciate nature first-hand through live animals, nature crafts and trail walks. A total of 50,955 children were served this year.

### ***ADULT AND FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAMS***

APEC conducts education courses on ecological topics, as well as, personal enhancement topics (such as our Watercolor Painting Class) for adult students at various times throughout the year. 3,338 adults attended programs at APEC.

Throughout the year, Larry Plotnick, a Queens County Bird Club member, volunteers to lead **bird walks** both in Alley Pond Park and other parks in Queens for APEC, while Mark Freilich conducts monthly astronomy programs and Diane Lieberman conducts Watercolor Workshops.

APEC also conducts workshops for **professional staff development** for the New York City Department of Education funded through the Title II Eisenhower Professional Development Program and in conjunction with K-12 non-public schools. Funding sources such as NYCEF and the State Office of Bilingual Educations have helped the education department expand these services to serve several hundred teachers yearly. Relationships with NYC Department of Education - Bureau of Non-Public Teacher Services, the NYC Teachers Consortium, St. John's University, Queens College and ESSA will help us continue this trend.

APEC thanks our many wonderful **adult volunteers** who contribute their time and talents to help us fulfill our mission of environmental education. We are grateful for the enthusiasm, skills, expertise and community spirit of our volunteers. Our Adult Volunteer Corps assist with managing the APEC Gift Shop, office work, animal care and grounds maintenance.

### ***SPECIAL EVENTS***

On Sunday, August 8, 2008 we held our **Penny Social Fund Raiser**. 125 people attended raising \$2,500.00 for APEC on this fun summer afternoon.

On Saturday, September 27, 2008 APEC held **National Estuaries Day – “Little Neck Bay Festival”**.

Hundreds of community people attended this fun festival that included trolley rides and canoeing. Many community groups participated with tables surrounding the Center, all in an effort to increase the awareness of how important estuaries are.

On Sunday, October 19, APEC held its **Annual Membership Day**. This year we had “A BEE TEA”

On Saturday, September 27 and again on April 4 our **Family Square Dance** was held with over 50 guests each time. All ages were represented from 7 year olds to our Senior members.

**Teeny Tiny Trick or Treaters** for early childhood age was held on October 28, 2008.

At APEC’s **Green Gala** on November 13, 2008, we honored **Hon. Helen Marshall**, Borough President of Queens for her dedication to our organization by presenting him with “APEC Green Leadership Award. **The New York City of Long Term Planning & Sustainability** was presented with the APEC Friend of the Environment Award.. **Thomas Santiago**, Managing Director of Citi Realty Services received APEC’s Green Living Award. A wonderful evening was had by all at the Douglaston Manor.

300 people attended our 30<sup>th</sup> Annual **Arline Thomas Urban Wild Birds Art Contest** Award Ceremony for the school children of District 26. This event honors a local bird rehabilitator, Arline Thomas, who helped sick and injured wild birds in the city.

In April 2009 the APEC Board of Directors held APEC’s second **Focus the Nation** – a community event to jumpstart people thinking about how they could begin helping the environment that very night.

Our annual **Arbor Day Ceremony** on April 25<sup>th</sup> which traditionally APEC holds in conjunction with Earth Day, continues to draw scout groups and others to clean and plant for the benefit of wildlife in Alley Pond Park.

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, a Walk 4 APEC was held with over 83 walkers raising \$ 2,620.00.

June 17<sup>th</sup> was the date for this year’s **Annual Membership Barbecue** once again hosted by board member Bill Nieter in the picnic area directly behind APEC’s building. Everyone enjoyed the camaraderie of the evening.

APEC’s headquarters provide a meeting place for the **Queens County Bird Club**. More than fifteen bird lovers meet here for monthly meetings from September through June. In addition, the **Big Apple Guppy Club** and **East Coast Guppy Club** now also use APEC as their monthly meeting sites.

APEC was host to a **Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)** group where 80-100 people weekly pick up fresh vegetables (and fruit) from a Long Island farmer at APEC.

### ***EXHIBITS***

The education staff has been busy improving APEC's indoor learning environment with **interactive displays**. Bulletin boards address topics such as native animals, seasonal hazards, predator/prey differences, and locally protected species.

Students and staff will continue to research our outdoor wildlife and indoor animal collection to keep the public informed about the “kingdom” we share.

**Please feel free to visit APEC often,**

**participate in a program and  
watch us as we grow!**