

Minutes

Harbor Educator Seminar

New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program

Hudson River Park Trust

Hudson River Estuary Program and Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve

December 4, 2019 10:00 AM –1:00 PM

Location: Hudson River Foundation

17 Battery Place, Suite 915

New York, NY

Fishing For Evaluations -Teacher's recommendations for future seminars:

- The ratio of activity time to feedback time should be close to 1:1. That makes the feedback discussion a professional development opportunity for all participants (not just the presenter), because people can respond to one another's observations, suggestions, and questions about the activity, and they can bring their own teaching contexts into the conversation explicitly
- I would love an organized way to follow up with people. For instance, one person said he loved the activity but found himself very limited by aligning his work with learning targets from standards. That's something I've thought a lot about, and although we have each other's contact info and expressed a desire to continue the conversation, I can easily imagine that we won't make the time. So what if during the same seminar, we have a final session for follow-up. Each presenter can choose a theme that they want to discuss further, and participants can then choose which presenter to go back and talk to some more. I probably would have chosen something like: how this activity fits into a larger curriculum with standards alignment, and that would have been interesting for me with or without that specific person. And if he did come back, we could really get our conversation off the ground!
- Let's experiment with giving homework - things to read in advance of the sessions. Of course not every presentation has to give homework, but let's try making that an option. Because of the short period of time for the activity, I had almost no choice about what to present: images only. But I spent months researching and crafting text to go with those images, and I would really have loved getting feedback on that, too! Maybe this worked better in the end with pictures only, but it would be great to have more options.
- I would like a wrap-up session with the full group, where each presentation is discussed. First, we should offer public praise. In this line of work people get so little recognition! Let's take this opportunity to provide some. Then, the presenter should report back on what they noticed during the activity, what they found most useful in the feedback conversation, and what kind of help they are interested in getting in the future and/or what topics they want to discuss further in a follow-up session (referring to my second suggestion, above)
- As a group then we should reflect on the skills and content presented, share resources, and provide some comparing-and-contrasting of different approaches to similar skills or content. Perhaps you two can compile people's submissions in one place, make them available prior to the next seminar, and allow some time for at least one breakout group at the following seminar to continue the conversation comparing and contrasting approaches to one skill or one point of content

- I thought the format of the lessons went pretty well, and I appreciated that you kept the timing even though the presentations went over a little bit. It would have been helpful to have the groups a little more evenly split, but I'm glad a bunch of people still came to my sessions. Also, I would have loved to see some of the other presenters, but hopefully there will be time for that in future sessions. Ultimately I thought it went really well and I look forward to more of these in the future.

Planning Forward: 2020 Meetings

- Loved the focus on one theme – the presentations and its connection to the lessons allowed for ideas to generate and provide feedback was great
- Originally was skeptical of the group – great another meeting! – but the focus of Harbor educators is lacking and found today to be very helpful and make a direct change into my program (one of the educators of the day)
- It would be helpful to see sites in the future
- Where is there overlap to collaborate and host meetings
- Partnerships with NYC Environmental Education Advisory Council and/or Department of Education or EEAC on future meetings or conferences
- Loved today's activity, in the past seminars, we also learned about new tools to make presentations. It would be good to have a seminar focus on how to develop materials and showcasing new tools like esri storymap and others that guide design
- Topics of interest:
 - Water quality
 - Coastal land use
 - Restoration – existing projects and ongoing efforts
 - Addressing data
 - Research on Climate Change for the NY Harbor
 - Environmental Justice – making the connection to the environment
 - Discussion on how to move youth from interest into programs into careers – how to diversity STEM careers
 - Bronx River Alliance is working on a pipeline effort to create more opportunities for local volunteers to be able to conduct research that they care for with some support, but really foster autonomy to explore environmental issues
 - Best practices - how to engage students in a classroom setting
- Could we work on a contact list of specialists? The two presenters were fantastic, how can we get them in a classroom?
- A meeting on Amplify science would be helpful. What is it? How long will it stay around? Could we ask DOE to present? It was noted that 30% of NYC schools have purchased the curriculum, but it is not required. The K-5 Planning and Implementation Plan is available online for free.
- Link to the Google Drive – where it is again?
- Dates for 2020: May 16-ish World Gish Migratory Day