

Harbor Educators – Zoom Meeting, April 7, 2020

Attendees:

- Agata Poniowski, Billion Oyster Project, aponiowski@nyharbor.org
- Alana Gerus, NYSDOH Hudson River Fish Advisory Outreach, Alana.Gerus@health.ny.gov
- Ann Fraioli, BOP
- Anna Koskol, Hudson River Park Trust
- Annabel (she/her) with NY State Parks, Annabel.posimato@parks.ny.gov
- Annie Lederberg, BOP, alederberg@nyharbor.org
- Audrey Van Genenecten, NYS DOH, Hudson Fish Advisory, Audrey.vangenechten@health.ny.gov
- Bruce Nash, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, nash@cshl.edu
- Casey Schott, South Street Seaport Museum, cshott@seany.org, I am furloughed and most reachable via caseydschott@gmail.com
- Cathy Yuhas, High Tech High School at Hudson County Schools of Technology in NJ, ceyuhas@gmail.com
- Chris Bowser, NYSDEC educator, chris.bowser@dec.ny.gov
- Christina Tobitsch, Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy, christina.tobitsch@gmail.com (for immediate contact), ctobitsch@brooklynbridgepark.org (soon inaccessible due to furlough)
- Christine Petro, Gowanus Canal Conservancy
- Ciara Scully, Shirley Chisholm State Park
- Clay Hiles, Hudson River Foundation
- David Chuchuca, NYC H2O, david@nych2o.org
- Devin Gorsen, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
- Diana Fu (she/her), Billion Oyster Project, dfu@nyharbor.org
- Eli Caref, Sarah Lawrence College Center for the Urban River at Beczak (SLC CURB), ecaref@sarahlawrence.edu
- Emma McCauley, Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy
- Erik Fyfe, Clearwater
- Haley McClanahan, Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy, haleymc3586@gmail.com (Normally hmcclanahan@brooklynbridgepark.org but will be furloughed after this week)
- Hugh Carola, Hackensack Riverkeeper, hugh@hackensackriverkeeper.org call/text 201-403-1992
- Jake Madelone, Waterfront Alliance, jmadelone@waterfrontalliance.org
- Katie Lamboy
- Kellan Stanner (he/him), LES Ecology Center, kellan@lesecolgycenter.org
- Laurel Zaima, Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University, lzaima@ldeo.columbia.edu
- Lisa Bloodgood, Newtown Creek Alliance, lbloodgood@newtowncreekalliance.org
- Louise Bodt, Cold Spring Harbor Lab DNALC & Urban Barcode Project, bodt@cshl.edu
- Maggie Flanagan, Waterfront Alliance, mflanagan@waterfrontalliance.org
- Maija Niemisto, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
- Melissa Rex, River Project / Hudson River Park, melissa@riverprojectnyc.org

- Nancy Brous
- Nicole Czarnecki, New York State Parks, Nicole.czarnecki@parks.ny.gov
- Nicole Laible, Rockland County Soil & Water Conservation District/ Division of Environmental Resources, laiblen@co.rockland.ny.us
- Olivia Radick, Hudson River Park, oradick@hrpt.ny.gov
- River DiLeo (they/them pronouns), NYS DEC covering NYC (region 2), brittany.dileo@dec.ny.gov
- Rob Buchanan, Billion Oyster Project and Citizens Water Quality Testing Program, rbuchanan@nyharbor.org
- Rob Pirani, HEP/Hudson River Foundation, rob@hudsonriver.org
- Robina Taliaferrow, Billion Oyster Project, RTaliaferrow@nyharbor.org
- Rosana Da Silva, NY/NJ Harbor & Estuary Program, rosana@hudsonriver.org
- Sara Spoden, New York Restoration Project, sspoden@nyrp.org
- Sarah Maldonado, NY State Parks
- Shino Tanikawa, NYC Soil & Water Conservation District, SWIM Coalition, & HEP CAC
- Tina Walsh, Hudson River Park, twalsh@hrpt.ny.gov
- Toland Kister, Hudson River Park, tkister@hrpt.ny.gov

Resources Shared:

- Harbor Educators' Google Drive: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=13SSRnA9UtYWNGbBbxGX-o0qyYZKRdIRE>
- Eli Caref explaining their estuary model: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCKYg1NtBnI>
- Live streaming programs on DNA related topics: <https://dnalc.cshl.edu/resources/dnalc-live/>
- Billion Oyster Project Quarantine Content Remote learning https://www.billionoysterproject.org/remote-learning?mc_cid=09effebe24&mc_eid=723c2b6b31
- Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy at Home Learning: <https://www.brooklynbridgepark.org/pages/environmental-education-center-online-resources>
- Simple science projects you can do at home www.lesecologycenter.org/athome
- NYS DOH, NYS DEC, and Cary Institute's PCBs in Hudson River Fish lesson plans: <https://www.caryinstitute.org/eco-inquiry/teaching-materials/hudson-river-ecology/pcbshudson-river-fish>
- DEC has a catalog of vetted links for environmental education resources here: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/education/119886.html>
- 'Day in the Life of the Hudson River' Lesson Plans: <https://www.ideo.columbia.edu/edu/k12/snapshotday/LessonPlans.html>
- ANJEE Remote Portal: <http://anjee.org/remote-ee-hub.html>
- Duke Farms Distance Learning Portal: https://www.dukefarms.org/distancelearning?mc_cid=36899b52a5&mc_eid=8110db265b
- NY Community Trust has Covid support funds <https://www.nycommunitytrust.org/covid19/>

Topics for Consideration during this Meeting:

- Many schools and organizations are shifting to distance learning and virtual programs. What have your experiences been, including successes and challenges?

- With so many groups dependent on school-funded programs, does anyone have thoughts on their organization's planning they want to share or ask about?
 - With a lot of us are dealing with limiting staff, tightening budgets, etc. has anyone acquired any resources and creative solutions to handling financial struggles?
- How are some groups dealing with live animal care or release?
- How are groups moving forward in planning events and programs further in the season (summer and beyond)?
- What are some valuable professional development resources you plan to take advantage of in the coming weeks?
- Any professional development opportunities you've found useful including webinars, online courses, etc. I'm interested in setting up mock interviews for my interns as part of professional development.

Minutes from Meeting

Positive News

- Chris Bowser- This year – three sites are still being operated with tight protocol due to COVID 19. Caught our millionth eel yesterday.
- Lisa Bloodgood – Newtown Creek menhaden schools are passing through
- Hugh Carola – Adult bald eagles nesting in Carlstadt, NJ. Three total pairs now in lower Hackensack area!

How are we moving forward with planning events/programs in the upcoming seasons?

- Maggie Flanagan – City scheduled elections for June 23rd. Using that as a general time frame for when programs could resume
 - Working on outreach to teachers for virtual programs in order to translate to grant funding
 - As weather warms, how do we message public to go outside or not?
 - Waterfront Alliance – coastal science in your kitchen
 - One activity a week
 - Creating a Laymans cover sheet that is accessible for parents and then lesson plan with more technical details
- Tina – HRP is still continuing with SUBMERGE in September
- Bowser – Planning to move forward with Day in the Life. He sent out an email recently with information. October 23rd with tentative training schedules in August, September, October.
 - World Fish Migration Day postponed to October
 - Great Hudson River Fish Count is still scheduled tentatively for August
 - Marist College – told not to do Live webinars/lectures. Incorporating short audio lectures on each powerpoint slide for college students to follow along
- River - NYS DEC - As far as timing, we are being told to go by the Governor's addresses and updates - So, for now, I reached out to all teachers and said everything is "on pause" until at least April 29th.
- Christina Tobitsch – questions for World Fish Migration Day and Hudson River Fish Count. Likely canceled at BBP. Starting programs in either June, September or no programs at all

- Gave teachers a credit to rebook canceled programs in the future but also gave refunds if asked. Emailed those who paid for programs: consider donate or credit for future programs or full refund
 - Posted all pre/post lesson plans and provide direct consults to discuss what they're students are studying and give directives
- Shino Tanikawa – June programs canceled and through the end of the school year. Refrain from reaching out to NYC teachers this week. They are not able to use zoom for school and their spring break is canceled. Best to wait until May before contacting
- Hugh Carola – Big events canceled – Earth Festival in May, potentially postponed till October. River Festival in September is still scheduled. Paddling programs are still open in Teaneck. Hoping to open Hudson sites still.
- Laurel Zaima – Columbia will likely not have any summer programs. Some may start in late summer or in virtual format. Hoping to add Hudson River curriculum on website, virtual lessons live with teachers. Fall programs will continue with caution
 - Live skyping/hangout to run activities. Share curriculum in advance and go through a brief powerpoint
 - Hoping to reschedule invoiced programs for the fall
- Bruce Nash
 - People can book tentatively for future programs
 - Schools who canceled were refunded
 - Offering free online streaming instruction and offering custom programs
- Kellan Stanner – LES Ecology Center – encouraging people to engage in activities at home and submit their results and share with classmates. Windowsill bird feeders, Street map to log birds or insects on their block, bloom reports, Bio-Bus.
 - At-home modules
 - Consider a Town Hall format – live learning without too much on the screen. One moderator and people share ideas/questions in a chat. Resource for teachers
- Catherine Yuhas – HS teacher in NJ
 - Difficult to find online resources that match with school schedule for classes
 - Recorded field trips with hands on data collection and submittal is more useful
 - Told not to do two-way live video so meetings must be recorded for liability
- Lisa Bloodgood – use data collection worksheets (water quality, observations) and visit sites to collect data and fill it out for students to show the exercise. Considering to post on YouTube or make a live chat to discuss results and answer questions
- Rosana – Harbor Estuary Program – parents and teachers looking for resources – literature, support lessons, mock field trips etc. Creating a catalogue of the programs and post all online resources available for teachers and parents. If anyone is interested in working with me on it, please let me know. Willing to share the final catalogue to the group as a means to allow anyone else with similar web capabilities to repost:
 - Lisa Bloodgood, Cathy Yuhas, and Eli Caref offered to assist
 - River – DEC – collecting resources that are vetted and posted on website. Possibility of posting resources from this group.
 - Annie Lederberg- I agree that curation, organization, and thoughtful description are key to making these efforts maximally useful

Internships/Hiring for Summer

- Lisa Bloodgood – had a strong candidate for an environmental educator but now put on pause which could lead to potentially losing that candidate due to unknowns
- Casey Schott - Education Program South Street Seaport Museum – seasonal hires had to be put on pause. Laid off per diem staff and staying in touch with them in the hopes of bringing them back.
- Eli – one college intern to help with online resources. Spring positions are likely canceled. Two summer positions are still set to begin. Hiring will depend on whether programming will still happen.
- Haley McClanahan - BBP – all staff furloughed next week, programs are canceled.
 - Volunteer opportunities may be more needed and working with volunteer coordinator is helpful
 - Teen programs are unknown in summer, possible in fall
- Maggie Flanagan – economy, schools and timing could create difficulties when things open up again for funding. I'm concerned the worst financial crisis is yet to come for informal education programs supported by city and grant funding. For city funding, that cycle would be for school year 20-21, and that budget will be heavily impacted by the crisis.

Funding

- Lisa - Reaching out to councilmembers for support in funding – they are saying to make a reduced ask or wait until next year
 - Consider creating language to reach out to city and state funders about supporting our work. Make a collective impact/stats to share
- Bowser – collective impact and tracking for informal educators
 - Create simple metrics that we can submit as a group
 - Example: As a collective, informal community we reached _ number of people for _ number of contact hours in 2019
 - Rob Pirani – I like Chris's idea for compiling info and making a case for the importance for these programs. One possible touchpoint would be the metrics and HEP and Hudson River Estuary Program are collecting for the State of the Estuary reports
 - The following offered to work with Chris: Erick Fyfe, Shino Tanikawa, Casey Schott, Melissa Rex, Eli Caref, Maggie Flanagan, Lisa Bloodgood, Christine Petro, Jake Madeline, and Kellan Stanner
- Hugh Carola – “never ignore a chance to receive money.” Make small virtual events to collect funds. Don't stop asking; make sure your constituencies see that you ARE on the job. Try some fundraising activities like bird-a-thons, virtual galas, etc.
- Kellan – FY 21 will be about recovery and collective impact will be valuable. Informal educators can respond to informal education in this time of crisis.
 - Maintain importance of supporting the education system that is in crisis
- Rob Pirani – State of the Estuary/Hudson Report may be used to report our collective impact
- Annie Lederberg – be delicate about describing our work as essential/replace the work of schools.
- River – EEAC Chair – immediate need for funding for individuals without a job. Start a “go fund me” type of platform to fundraise for people who need funds some time this week.
 - Christina - NYSOEA is also thinking about doing something similar

- Ann Farioli – BOP – parents are looking for a wide variety of resources/activities to engage in at home. Frame language of funding from the point of view of parents' needs
- Melissa Rex - not sure if nonprofits fall into this pool, but they may. from Manhattan Borough Pres Gale Brewer's daily email update: If you're a small business owner with less than five employees, Columbia Law Professor Tim Wu has been putting together a team of Columbia law students to help owners like you apply for the \$349 billion in Paycheck Protection Program loans-- the employee retention loans created by the CARES Act passed by Congress. *IF* owners use these loans to pay workers rather than lay them off, the "loans" are forgiven. You may recall I mentioned Friday that applications have opened and that these loans are first-come, first serve. This is a terrific offer, and to keep them from being overwhelmed, please email me at gbrewer@manhattanbp.nyc.gov with "Columbia Law PPP" in the subject line

How to keep compassion in your circle?

- River – talks to each intern every week and start with emotional check in
 - Mutual Aid – neighborhood support network (google doc, FB)
 - NYS Mental Health Hotline COVID 19 - free service
 - Headspace App – New Yorkers can download for free
 - Can share PD's that SCA members are collecting/using
- Kellan - I'm really involved with notmeues.com, we've been using GiveButter and Venmo for mutual aid and disaster relief
- Shino Tanikawa - I heard Indiegogo is better than GoFundMe <https://www.indiegogo.com/>

Animal Release/Care

- Eli – one colleague has a car nearby and going three times a week to feed animals
- Hugh – nature centers in NJ are using animal care to fund raise
- Sarah NYS Parks – Museums and other centers have staff commuting to take care of animals. Seen as essential work
- Bruce Nash – what are we doing to protect animals from the virus?
- Animal care and shelters are listed as essential care by governor

COVID 19 in Wastewater

- Rosana can share resources about finding COVID19 in waste water and disinfecting wastewater
- Hugh - freshwater areas are possibly more at risk – found to live longer in freshwater
- Annie Lederberg – return of nature, remember people are part of the ecosystem as well during this pandemic
- Rob Pirani – remember to thank our wastewater treatment plant workers

Poll: Is it worth doing this meeting again? At what frequency? → monthly

Next steps:

- Create collective impact report based on metrics we already have – Chris Bowser, Erick Fyfe, Shino Tanikawa, Casey Schott, Melissa Rex, Eli Caref, Maggie Flanagan, Lisa Bloodgood, Christine Petro, Jake Madeline, and Kellan Stanner

- Create a shareable, digital catalogue for educators and parents – Rosana Da Silva, Lisa Bloodgood, Cathy Yuhas, and Eli Caref
- Create a doodle poll for the next monthly meeting – May