

Hudson River Valley Environmental Education Institute
Beczak Environmental Education Center
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HIGH RES PHOTOS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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Hudson River Valley Environmental Education Institute
new name for Beczak Environmental Education Center

*Local grassroots Hudson River environmental education center focuses on
new initiatives and collaborations*

Yonkers, N.Y. (January 20, 2012). Beczak Environmental Education Center announced today they have changed their name to Hudson River Valley Environmental Education Institute. This new name reflects a strategic plan that calls for collaborations and partnerships to help advance its environmental education mission.

The work of Beczak Environmental Education Center will continue in its historic riverfront building in Yonkers, NY. But already under this new name, educators with the Hudson River Valley Environmental Education Institute are providing hands on nature and arts programs at the Kathryn W. Davis RiverWalk Center in Sleepy Hollow.

“Since I came to Beczak Environmental Education Center four years ago, the Board has looked for ways to advance our mission beyond this Center at Hudson River Mile 18,” said Cliff Schneider, Executive Director. “This new name allows us opportunity for a more robust collaboration among private sector, university and public interests.”

“Beczak Environmental Education Center is a focal point of environmental programs, community outreach and river advocacy. They have contributed to the ongoing revitalization of Yonkers’ riverfront district,” said Ned Sullivan, President of Scenic Hudson. “We look forward to our continued partnership with Hudson River Valley Environmental Education Institute.”

**HUDSON RIVER VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION INSTITUTE
(HRVEEI)**

Hudson River Valley Environmental Education Institute, with classrooms and beach access in Yonkers, NY, and Sleepy Hollow, NY, is the lower Hudson's hub for river education. It offers many programs that involve all ages in learning about nature and enjoying the outdoors. *Where you learn to love your river!*

HRVEEI staff work with approximately 20,000 children and families each year through river-based programming for students during the week and weekend public programs including *River Explorers* and *Fish Tales* for children, *RiverTalks* lectures and *Urban H₂O* concerts for adults, *Lunchtime Learning* for seniors, *Summer Adventures* camp, and professional development for educators.

Beczak Environmental Education Center

HRVEEI's flagship site is Beczak Environmental Education Center, located on the banks of the Hudson in the City of Yonkers. It celebrated its 20th anniversary of incorporation in 2010. This spacious interpretive center, named after Yonkers environmentalist Joe Beczak, is an adaptive reuse of the former social club for Habirshaw Cable & Wire Co. Its two-acre park features a welcoming riverfront lawn, an easily accessible tidal marsh and a beach used for river exploration.

Kathryn W. Davis RiverWalk Center

HRVEEI offers river education at the Kathryn W. Davis RiverWalk Center in Sleepy Hollow, NY, which opened in 2011. Scenic Hudson spearheaded the renovation of the historic 1926 Kingsland Point Park bathhouse into a center for river-based education and recreation, named for philanthropist Kathryn W. Davis. This facility features a sandy beach used for river exploration and indoor/outdoor classroom space.

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