



John
WEIS ECOLOGY CENTER

150 SNAKE DEN ROAD/RINGWOOD, N.J. 07456/(201) 835-2160

ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION

August 25, 1982

Dear Members of the Executive Committee:

We regret to inform you that we are resigning our positions at Weis Ecology Center, effective September 15, 1982. This is an extremely painful decision for us as we strongly believe in the great potential that the Weis Ecology Center has to be a place where ecological interest and concern can blossom and grow; and as a place where the potential for outdoor recreation is vast.

We feel a strong environmental commitment and focus in our lives and in our work, and as such, are departing with a feeling of accomplishment because of the energies and efforts we placed into the Center in a positive and personal attempt to instill organization and professionalism into the management of the facilities, staff and constituents.

We have an opportunity now to enter into positions that can give us career security and potential for creativity and growth in a location that is close to our original home and family setting.

We would like to extend our thanks to the Board, and to May H. Weis, Bill Grant, and Manny Stern in particular, for their guidance and assistance. We sincerely hope that the Center continues to progress towards being a viable and dynamic ecology center. Based on our experiences here we would like to offer some suggestions which may prove helpful in the planning and development of the organization:

1. Staff is the best investment that the Center can have. They should be treated with respect and compensated in a generous manner and encouraged for their efforts. What the staff here really has to do isn't actually apparent to Board Members.
2. The Center needs to continue to grow and to streamline its focus. Weis can be dynamic and offer a broad range of activities, but - it cannot be all things to all people.
3. Cabin rentals actually offer the smallest financial and ecological return, considering the strain that they place on staff time, facilities use, natural resources capacity, and interaction with other actual and potential site users. i.e.: campers, day visitors, program participants.
4. Greater concern and energy should be directed towards Environmental Education and for improving facilities, staffing, and curriculum development in order to provide first-rate environmental programs.

5. Development of facilities must occur in an orderly, professional and permanent fashion. Projects initiated should be completed to the last detail before a new project is begun.
6. Control of entrance to a facility that charges admission and has substantial assets must be maintained. Access must be limited and adequate staffing provided to collect fees, and to secure the grounds during all daylight hours.

We strongly believe that the Weis Ecology Center can be a top-notch organization and facility for environmental education and recreation, and we offer our sincere wishes for the Center's development towards this end in the next several years.

Sincerely,

Terence M. O'Leary

Terence M. O'Leary
Director

Catherine A. Reres
Catherine A. Reres
Operations Manager