

Audubon

ADVOCATE

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New Boardwalk an Entrée to Sanctuary's Treasures

By Eric Lind

"This magnificent boardwalk will teach generation after generation of children and adults alike the magic and wonder of the Hudson River Ecosystem."

On May 18, 2001 under a misting rain, more than 150 guests joined New York State Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro as she formally opened the new boardwalk at Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary (CMACS). "Jim's Walk," as christened by Governor George E. Pataki, was built as a standing legacy to the lifework of the late James P. Rod, the long-time sanctuary warden and devoted steward of the Hudson River. Dee and Doug Rod, Assemblyman Willis Stephens and Audubon New York executive director David J. Miller joined the Commissioner for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

"Constitution Marsh Sanctuary is one of those unspoiled places that must be protected because it will provide future generations of New Yorkers with a special place to learn about nature," said Governor George E. Pataki. "Jim's Walk is a fitting tribute to Jim Rod, who was renowned for his knowledge of the environment and his ability to teach children and adults alike the importance of nature."

"Audubon New York applauds Governor Pataki for the inspiration behind the creation of Jim's Walk," said David J. Miller, executive director of



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Audubon New York. "This magnificent boardwalk will teach generation after generation of children and adults alike the magic and wonder of the Hudson River Ecosystem."

The original boardwalk, built nearly twenty years ago by the hands of Jim and his friends, served the sanctuary well as an open invitation to get to know the Hudson River. The new walk replaces the original boardwalk damaged from unrelenting forces of ice and tide.

Audubon partnered with New York

(Left to right) Assemblyman Willis Stephens, New York State Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro, Eric Lind CMACS director, executive director David J. Miller, Dee and Doug Rod, wife and brother of James P. Rod.

State Parks to plan and build the new structure. The design, which follows much of the path of the old walk thereby limiting disturbance to the marsh, was extended and revamped to form a loop. Most of the walk was built with a "sustainably-harvested tropical

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TIMOTHY BRAB



An Audubon Advocate Interview with Secretary of State **RANDY DANIELS**

Audubon New York executive director David J. Miller recently conducted the following interview with New York Secretary of State Randy A. Daniels, who was appointed by Governor George E. Pataki and unanimously confirmed by the state's senate on April 24, 2001.

MR. MILLER: Talk a little bit about your interest in environmental issues.

SECRETARY DANIELS: The office of Secretary of State has a significant role in preserving and protecting our environment. I come to it however, as an individual. I like to start with the premise that all New Yorkers are students of the environment; all New Yorkers have a vested interest in preserving and protecting the environment, and that we have an obligation to ensure we hand to our children and to our grandchildren an environment that is cleaner

and safer than the environment which we inherited. This is a credo that we have to establish in this State, that it's not something that is simply the preserve of government or the preserve of those who are knowledgeable or interested in or active in environmental causes. It's everybody's responsibility.

One of the most important things we've done is Governor Pataki's Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act because it put resources with the rhetoric, and \$1.75 billion of commitment to cleaning up our water, protecting our air, protecting our open spaces and when coupled with the resources of the Environmental Protection Fund, it is clear we are committing significant dollars to critical environmental

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Audubon New York Board Members land in Eagle Nest to contemplate Audubon's future. (See story page 11)



Fundraising Bliss

Audubon New York staff and volunteers survey the state during annual birdathon. (See story page 13)