

Audubon NEW YORK

New York State Office

David J. Miller, *Executive Director*
 Michael Burger PhD, *Director of Bird Conservation*
 Kimberley L. Ray, *Director of Communications*
 Shirley Hartman, *Director of Development*
 Carole Nemore, *Director of Conservation*
 Chuck Remington, *Director of Education*
 William Cooke, *Director of Government Relations*
 Richard Merritt, *Director of Operations*
 Sandra Doring, *Director of Annual Fund*
 Daphne Lumpkin, *Administrative Assistant*
 Lynn Tiede, *Education Coordinator*
 Regan Clover, *Environmental Educator*
 Donna Gaetano, *Executive Assistant*
 Mitschka Hartley, *Forest Ecologist*
 Graham Cox, *Forest/Wetlands Coordinator*
 Jillian Butler, *IBA Coordinator*
 Linda Coleman, *Webmaster*
 David Church, *Catskill Planning Consultant*
 Robert Budliger, *Breeding Bird Atlas Consultant*

Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary

Eric Lind, *Director*
 Richard Anderson, *Assistant Director*
 Connie Mayer, *Program Director*

Prospect Park Audubon Center and Boathouse

Cheryl Bartholow, *Director*
 Glen Phillips, *Director of Education*

Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Center and Sanctuary

Marilyn England, *Director*
 Karl Brummert, *Director of Education*
 Joan Seaman, *Education Secretary*
 Lisa Eigner, *Educator*
 Theresa Perez, *Program Coordinator*
 Devon Daniel, *Development Officer*
 Madeline Brown, *Financial Secretary*
 Patricia Pelkowski, *Research Coordinator*

Rheinstrom/Buttercup Audubon Center and Sanctuary

David Wheeler, *Warden*
 Larry Federman, *Assistant Warden/Educator*

National Audubon Society of New York State

Board of Directors
 Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff, *Chairman*
 Geoffrey Cobb Ryan, *Vice Chairman*
 Oakes Ames, *Vice Chairman*
 Ginny Fields, *Secretary*
 Diane Baker, *Treasurer*

John Bierwirth / William Davis / Alice DelBosco / Gladys Goldmann / Marian Heiskell / David J. Miller / Gerhard Neumaier / Samuel F. Pryor, III / Norman Shapiro / Virginia K. Stowe / Ross Whaley / Alexander Zagoreos /

The Stewardship Committee

Marian Heiskell - *Chair*
 John and Patricia Adams / Oakes Ames / Edward A. Ames & Jane Sokolow / Diane Baker / John Beinecke / Peter Berle / John Bierwirth / Robert Boyle / Polly Bruckmann / Walter Corcoran / Mr. William E. Davis / Alice DelBosco / Margot Ernst / William Everts / Ginny Fields / Michael Finnegan / John Fitzpatrick / Andy Gershon / Gladys Goldmann / Eileen Kelliher / Jean Read Knox / Gerhard J. Neumaier / Donal O'Brien / Ralph Odell / Ross J. Pepe / Samuel F. Pryor, III / Charles & Sarah Radcliffe / Geoffrey Cobb Ryan / Robert Schumann / Norman Shapiro / Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff / Virginia K. Stowe / Lucy Waletzky, M.D. / Emily Wettlaufer / Ross S. Whaley / John and Mia Wilkinson / Alexander Zagoreos

Audubon Council of New York State

Geoffrey Cobb Ryan, *Chairman*
 Ginny Fields, *Vice Chairwoman*
 Rock Termini, *Secretary*
 Alice DelBosco, *Treasurer*

Jaclyn Arvantis / Michael Bochnik / Marion Cole / Diane Cooper / Gladys Goldmann / Frank "Terry" Jewett / Norman Shapiro

Send comments about the *Audubon Advocate* to Kimberley L. Ray, director of communications, Audubon New York, 200 Trillium Lane, Albany, NY 12203 or call (518) 869-9731. Visit our website at <http://ny.audubon.org>

CREATING A CULTURE OF CONSERVATION

AS I WALKED ON THE WOODED TRAIL and came over the ridge at Constitution Marsh, a sudden sense of awe came over me. I have often been inspired by this view of Storm King Mountain, but on this day that view was augmented by the completion of Jim Rod's boardwalk. Jim's Walk, a 750-foot boardwalk jutting out into the marsh from its coastal rocks and deciduous trees, stretched into the Hudson's environment with subtle grandeur. It combined the feel of openness with a precise boundary defined by the marsh grasses. The design of railings in traditional boardwalks provided places where groups could congregate. At each stop there were beautiful panels with information about the birds of the marsh, the ecology of the Hudson River, and the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary.

I traversed the steep trail to the marsh's edge to arrive at the entrance to the boardwalk, which was an enticing invitation to explore the habitats of the estuary. I heard a faint exclamation from our own Governor George E. Pataki as we stepped out onto its planks. Planks, by the way, that were made from



ALISON HEAPHY

Rainforest Alliance and World Wildlife Fund certified tropical hardwoods that should withstand even the most frozen and rugged Hudson Highlands winters. These wooden planks were grown on farms in Central and South America to provide an alternative market to the logging of the rainforest. It seemed as though every aspect of the boardwalk had an environmental message or ethic attached to it.

The first 150-200 foot leg of the boardwalk put you in the open air with nothing to keep you from entering the marsh but careful footing and tall grasses. Marsh Wrens were screaming out to us and the Red-Winged Blackbirds provided their familiar shrill off in the distance. From behind, the calls of Wood Thrushes faded as we traveled further from the shore. The Governor, Commissioner Bernadette Castro, the Rod family and Auduboners paused on the boardwalk trail to read its dedication and reflect on the purpose of the boardwalk.

You see... Jim's Walk is in memory of one of the greatest conservationists I ever knew. A modest yet moving plaque contained an inscription that dedicated the boardwalk to the life of James P. Rod. Earlier in the day, close to 150 people stood on the boardwalk for the first time during a ribbon cutting ceremony led by Jim's wife, Dee. Jim's love for the Hudson and his passion for teaching children about nature made the day's tribute a truly special event.

Jim was a true friend of so many of us and his spirit was felt as we looked out at Storm King Mountain and back into the heart of the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary. It was as if we were looking at the same view a Hudson River explorer would have enjoyed 300 years ago. I looked over to my wife and four children and realized I could not have picked a better day to have them join me for a day at the office.

Jim Rod, Jim's Walk and Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary all represent what is magnificent about the National Audubon Society. It is about people, places and the protection of conservation values for generations to come. I will never forget this day nor the values and memory of my dear friend and hero Jim Rod. I looked back at the group gathered and felt the emotion attached to the silence as they too reflected on this great day.

Help us continue this tradition with your time and support.

In Conservation,

David J. Miller



David J. Miller

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

UPCOMING EVENTS!

October 2001

2-3 New York State Waterfront Rediscovery Conference 2001 - Quality Coasts, Quality Communities - QC2 will occur at Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Albany, NY. For more information visit <http://www.dos.state.ny.us/cstl/waterconf01.html>, email coastal@dos.state.ny.us or call (518) 474-6000.

3-4 Audubon New York's board meeting will occur in Buffalo, New York. A cocktail reception is planned for October 3rd at Knox Farm. For further information please call (518) 869-9731.

12-14 The Audubon New York Council meeting will occur in Pawling, New York. For more information call (518) 869-9731.

December 2001

6 The Thomas Keeseee Award Luncheon will occur from 11:30 am - 2:00 pm at the Yale Club in New York City. Tickets \$250. For more information call (518) 869-9731.

6-9 The National Audubon Society board meeting is scheduled in New York City. For more information call (518) 869-9731.

<http://ny.audubon.org>