

LISTEN TO THE SOUND



2001 Sound Guardian Award recipient Congressman Sherwood Boehlert (left) with 1999 Sound Guardian Award recipient Westchester County Executive Andrew Spano.

Sound Guardian Award goes to Congressman Boehlert New York State Laborers Recognized for Coalition Leadership

Staff Report



(Left to right) Marianne Boehlert, Congressman Boehlert, David J. Miller and CIC's Ross Pepe admire an Audubon print presented to the Congressman.



(Left to right) Congressman Boehlert, Marianne Boehlert and Construction Industry Council's George Drapeau.

Photos by: Howard Hegman/Don Poland Photography



Gary Bashian (left) speaks with Congressman and Mrs. Boehlert.

Front Page photo: Dr. James Melius, David J. Miller, Congressman Sherwood Boehlert and Ross Pepe.



(Left to right) Assemblyman Alex Gromack, Dr. James Melius of the New York State Laborers (LECET), and Senator Thomas Morahan.



(Left to right) Lester Millman, Audubon's William Cooke and Len Luiso.



Jaina Jaeger (center) and David Callan (right) learn more about the Barn Owl from a Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Center educator.

Audubon New York and the Construction Industry Council of Westchester and the Hudson Valley presented Congressman Sherwood Boehlert with the fourth annual Sound Guardian Award on September 7, 2001 at the American Yacht Club in Rye, New York. As previous Chair of the House Water Resources Sub-Committee, Representative Boehlert was instrumental in the enactment of the Long Island Sound Restoration Act in 2000, which authorized hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funds for the clean-up of Long Island Sound. Boehlert has been a supporter of the groups' Clean Water/Jobs Coalition since its creation in 1992. "Congressman Boehlert's leadership has made the difference in making

Long Island Sound a national priority," said David J. Miller, executive director of Audubon New York. "Sherry's commitment to the Sound and conservation issues is unparalleled in Congress."

"Congressman Boehlert has been a national leader in providing funds for clean water infrastructure," added Ross Pepe, president of the Construction Industry Council. "He has always recognized the environmental and economic benefit of clean water programs."

Congressman Boehlert, in his remarks, recognized the groundbreaking work of the Clean Water/ Jobs Coalition and the incredible impact it has had in moving forward the Long Island Sound Restoration Program. In that spirit, the New York State Laborers received special recognition for their outstanding grass roots support for Clean Water/ Jobs Coalition Programs including state and federal funding initiatives. While presenting Dr. Jim Melius the certificate on behalf of the Laborers, Ross Pepe highlighted how their efforts were the foundation for Audubon New York's grass roots efforts.

The Sound Guardian Award is presented by the Construction Industry Council of Westchester and Hudson Valley and Audubon

New York each fall to benefit Audubon's Long Island Sound Program. Past recipients have included Governor George Pataki (1998), Westchester Count Executive Andrew Spano (1999), Congresswoman Nita Lowey and Congressman Christopher Shays (2000).

For further information on how you can support Audubon's Long Island Sound Program and the Clean Water/ Jobs Coalition efforts, please contact our state office at (518) 869-9731.

Long Island Sound Update

By William Cooke

Audubon New York has worked diligently on a comprehensive plan for the management and protection of the Sound. Recently, the states of New York and Connecticut funded the cleanup of Long Island Sound. During the last several years both states have focused on upgrading sewage treatment plants, nitrogen reduction, habitat restoration and protection, and public

education. Although funding on the state level has provided a necessary foundation for the restoration of the resource, federal funding—except for limited funds contributed from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for staffing of the EPA Long Island Sound office has been absent.

Last year Congress approved funding for the implementation of the Long Island Sound plan. Although authorized, the allocation of \$40 million a year for the next five years was never appropriated. Therefore, this year while New York State continues to provide \$50 million a year for the plan, Audubon New York will urge Congress

again to secure federal funds. It is hoped that the Long Island Sound program will receive enough money to continue its necessary work.

The next phase is to protect and better manage the upland areas along the shoreline in order to prevent non-point source pollution, and to maximize public access sites and recreational opportunities along the Sound. At the time of this publication, plans were underway for the Governors of New York and Connecticut and the Administrator of the EPA to sign an agreement that reaffirms their commitment to the Sound's restoration, sets new benchmarks to measure

remediation progress, and that will eventually include a reserve program around the Sound based in part on Audubon's Listen to the Sound 2000 program.

Eventually because of organizations such as Audubon New York and its many partners, the Sound will be clean enough to support a strong aquatic ecosystem, productive shellfish beds, a vibrant tourist economy, and a better quality of life for all the residents that live near the Sound. Together we will leave our children a cleaner Long Island Sound than the one we inherited.