

# Audubon New York Applauds

## Pataki/Whitman on PCB Decision

By Kimberley L. Ray

Audubon New York commends Governor George E. Pataki and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Christine Todd Whitman for their courageous decision to approve the \$460 million clean-up plan for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the Upper Hudson River.

For the last year government officials and conservationists have battled against General Electric for the support of the EPA regarding clean-up efforts. Like many area conservation-

based organizations, Audubon has long supported the comprehensive clean-up plan first introduced by the former EPA administrator, Carol Browner, now a member of the National Audubon Society Board of Directors. Amidst public commentary on both sides of the issue, New York State resolutely supported the clean up plan. "There is no doubt that Governor Pataki's support, perseverance and behind the scenes lobbying made the difference in the EPA's decision," said

Audubon New York's executive director, David J. Miller.

Audubon New York's commitment to clean up of the Hudson has manifested itself in various ways including participating in EPA public hearings and public process. The Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary in Garrison, New York also resounds the ideology as it continues to lend itself to education and research.

The plan will be phased into existence in monitored stages to ensure

maximum benefit to the river. Once completed it promises to help eliminate PCB-related health concerns, increase property values and revive commercial fishery, once the region's economic anchor. It is hoped that General Electric will take advantage of an opportunity to usher in a new era by cleaning up its past. Admittedly, the true winners of this controversy will be future generations.

### AUDUBON PILOT UPDATE

## Secretary of State Randy Daniels Addresses Smart Growth and Pilot Programs

By Alison Heaphy

In a recent interview with David J. Miller, executive director of Audubon New York (*see page one*) Secretary of State Randy Daniels said that smart growth was about better planning. He emphasized the importance of local input and the need for state government to partner with local governments. He also highlighted the need for the state to make an investment in planning on the front end, to avoid costly mistakes later on.

One of the ways the Department of State is looking to help local governments is to execute a series of pilot programs, according to Secretary Daniels, "to see how effectively we can target government resources into those communities to address specific problems in those communities." Examples of the types of projects they will be looking at include brownfields, open space preservation and addressing technological needs like Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

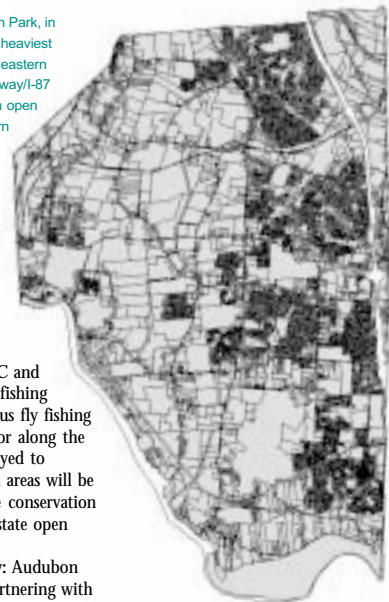
Secretary Daniel's remarks correspond with Audubon New York's focus on pilot projects as a means to help communities better determine their

future. A brief update on Audubon New York's pilot efforts follows:

**1) Town of Clifton Park:** Audubon New York and the Town of Clifton Park used the lazy summer months to continue inventorying and mapping town open space resources. Audubon's summer GIS interns created a "land cover map" for the town using aerial photographs. Additionally, the Town approved the hiring of Behan Planning Associates to work on several phases of the project including a fiscal impact study for the town. Audubon New York will be working with Behan to plan public participation sessions in the fall to start gathering input from citizens on their open space visions for the town.

**2) Beaverkill/Willowemoc/ Neversink Valleys:** Audubon New York staff worked with a community residents group to identify and map natural resources and open space features along the Beaverkill, Willowemoc and later the Neversink river valleys. The mapping and planning effort is intended to supplement work already progressing, jointly by State Department of Environmental

This land use map of Clifton Park, in Saratoga County, shows the heaviest suburban development in the eastern part of town, along the Northway/I-87 corridor, but there is still much open land in the central and western parts of town.



Conservation (DEC) and Trout Unlimited (TU,) as well as work being done by Open Space Institute, local land trusts and county planners in Sullivan County. The DEC and TU recently announced a fishing access plan for these famous fly fishing streams. A broader corridor along the river valleys is being surveyed to determine what additional areas will be considered for open space conservation in future revisions to the state open space conservation plan.

**3) Westchester County:** Audubon New York will soon be partnering with the Pace University Land Use Law Center to support the Quality Communities Grant project being undertaken by Rockland and Westchester Counties and the Land Use Law Center. Audubon New York will be working with John Nolon, director of the Land Use Law Center at Pace University School of Law to enhance the resources

available to the participating communities as this project progresses. The project is currently in the planning stages and the twenty-two communities met this past summer to establish a collaborative approach to joint planning issues based on community goals.

### Mariners' Historical Days

3:30 - 5:30PM, Mondays  
September 24<sup>th</sup> - October 15<sup>th</sup>  
Raynham Hall Museum

Students from eleven to sixteen years old can search historic records for facts about the pirates, sailors and spies who contributed to Oyster Bay's colorful maritime history, and create a journal about the hamlets colonial maritime industry. The program will culminate in a sail on the oyster sloop Christeen to harvest shellfish as it was done a hundred years ago. Cost is \$30 per student, and a minimum of ten students is required. For more information call (516/624-2221), fax (516/922-3970), or E-mail ([info@thewaterfrontcenter.org](mailto:info@thewaterfrontcenter.org)).

## New York State 2001 Waterfront Rediscovery Conference

Quality Coasts, Quality Communities - QC2  
October 2-3, 2001  
Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Albany, NY

Meet, rediscover and celebrate communities across New York State at this state-sponsored conference- QC2. Conference sessions support all New York State communities with ideas and examples to revitalize community centers, protect open spaces, harness new technologies and involve citizens in the process. QC2 is sponsored by over 15 New York State agencies and offices.

For more information visit <http://www.dos.state.ny.us/csl/watercon01.html>, email [coastal@dos.state.ny.us](mailto:coastal@dos.state.ny.us) or call (518) 474-6000.

### Smart Growth Working Group Update

This fall the Audubon Smart Growth Working Group will hold a retreat in Saratoga Springs, New York to plan an agenda focusing on the 2002 legislative session. After little progress on numerous smart growth bills in the 2001 legislative session, the Working Group will be renewing their efforts in a crucial election year.