

Audubon

ADVOCATE

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Audubon's Hoyt Award Given to Next Generation

By Kimberley L. Ray

AS AUDUBON staff literally slid into Elmira New York from the east for the Spring Council meeting during an unexpected snow event, the owners of the Holiday Inn braced for impact. The weather however was not enough of a deterrent to keep away nearly 100 chapter representatives for the weekend, which proved a positive experience for all.

Narrowly escaping the clutches the "weather harbinger" might have brought, the meeting served as the conduit for the finalization of 37 resolutions, information workshops, chapter discussions and the backdrop for the presentation of the 10th Hoyt Award.

The most moving occurrence of the weekend was the presentation of the award to Assemblyman Sam Hoyt. The award, named 10 years ago after his now late father Assemblyman William Hoyt for his commitment to conservation, was presented at the Council dinner for Hoyt's ardent of support of the environment and legislature — such as a smart growth approach to fighting urban sprawl.

Although Assemblyman Hoyt said what "a daunting task it would be" to carry on the legacy of his father, he seems to have had no problem effecting change. Audubon New York Council chair Geoffrey Cobb Ryan and executive director David J. Miller also hailed Hoyt as a committed environmentalist



PHOTO BY ANDREW HAYES

"It wasn't that I became an environmentalist.... I was born that way." ASSEMBLYMAN SAM HOYT

who introduced policies to encourage the redevelopment of brownfields and funding reforestation programs.

"It wasn't that I became an environmentalist," claimed Hoyt while addressing Audubon New York's Council as the keynote speaker "I was born that way." Although credited with bringing many smart growth issues to the forefront of the legislature, Hoyt thanked Audubon for its efforts. "From the very beginning Audubon has been a leader in (rallying for Smart Growth solutions to sprawl.)" Hoyt delivered an engaging speech that brought the audience to its feet. Various media including the area's daily newspaper, the *Star Gazette* and the WABC news affiliate covered the dinner.

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(left to right)
Geoffrey Cobb-Ryan
(Audubon Council),
David J. Miller,
Assemblyman
Sam Hoyt,
Tony Wagner and
Bill McKeever of
Buffalo Audubon.

KIMBERLEY L. RAY



OFFICE OF SENATOR C. SCHUMER

SCHUMER Highlights Conservation Priorities

Audubon New York's executive director David J. Miller recently conducted the following interview with United States Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) during a visit to the Albany area.

MR. MILLER: What do you see as some of the critical environmental issues facing this new Congress?

SENATOR SCHUMER: I think the number one issue is basically how we deal with the energy shortage. First, we must reduce the demand for energy in the short term, as well as over the long term.

We have forgotten the conservation side. Ideas like energy efficient appliances could make a huge

difference. Conservation must be a critical element of our energy policy.

For example, if we were to simply say that all the SUVs and Mini Vans sold in America had to fit under the CAFE standards, which means they'd have to raise their fuel efficiency to match cars' we'd save 120 million barrels of oil per year. That's huge — that's like finding a huge oil reserve.

So, what about supply? Well, George Bush makes it seem like it's opening ANWR (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge) or nothing. I'm opposed to drilling in ANWR. It is not ANWR or nothing. You can increase supply by turning to new technologies. In New York State, we have

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Smart Growth Conference a success

Nearly 400 people attended the long awaited conference. See story on page 8.



NAF Festival

The 2001 National Arts Festival is set for August. See story on page 10.



Commissioner Castro honored at TRS Gala

The annual gala brought together nearly 200 guests and celebrities. See story on page 12.