



Honoree Commissioner Castro poses with her mother Theresa Castro.



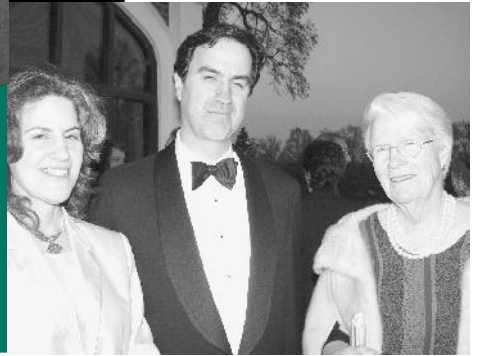
TRS development coordinator Devon Daniel & TRS board member and dinner chair Roger Bahnik.



(left to right) Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Suozzi, Roger and Lori Bahnik, and Pat and Sen. Carl Marcellino.



Helene Fortunoff



(left to right) Mr. and Mrs. Philip Roosevelt II and Elizabeth Roosevelt.

Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Center and Sanctuary Holds A Bully! Gala 2001



TRS bird per diem educator Roxanne Rosario converses with guest Jeffrey Thielen as TRS Barn Owl takes advantage of the photo op.

PHOTOS BY KIMBLEY L. RAY

By Marilyn England

On April 28th, Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Center and Sanctuary hosted over 300 members and friends at its third annual Gala dinner dance held at the Nassau Country Club in Glen Cove.

The theme of the celebration was "A Legacy of Conservation" in keeping with our history of helping people understand and appreciate the natural world around them. In addition to good food, good friends, and an opportunity to just have fun, the Gala provides a forum to acknowledge

individuals who have made outstanding contributions to conservation and the community. This year's recipients of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary Legacy of Conservation Award were New York State Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro, and John Williams, President of Friends of the Bay. Each honoree received a beautiful crystal rendition of an eagle in flight, generously donated by Lenox.

Audubon New York Executive Director, David Miller, presented the Legacy award to Commissioner Castro citing her outstanding accomplishments on behalf of the State Park system. "Bernadette holds unlimited passion and energy for our parks and natural resources. She is a true advocate for birds, wildlife and their habitats across New York State" said Miller. Under Commissioner Castro's leadership, and with Governor Pataki's strong support, New York has taken the lead nationwide in the protection of open space. Forging new partnerships, such as the one with Audubon that helped create the new Nissequogue River State Park on Long Island, has played a key role in this achievement. A national leader among State Park Directors, Commissioner Castro is a recipient of the President's Award of Merit, the John Burroughs Environmental Award, and the Environmental Conservation Award for the Establishment of Amherst State Park, among many other achievements. She is a long time friend and supporter of Audubon, sharing our mission to help people understand and appreciate the natural world.

Gala Co-Chair Roger Bahnik presented the award to John Williams, commending him on his commitment to preserving the natural values and rich history of Oyster Bay. Mr.

Williams has served as President of Friends of the Bay (FOB) for ten years, during which time FOB led the campaign to preserve the Western Waterfront as a natural resource for the Oyster Bay community. After years of negotiations, the site has been jointly purchased by New York State and Oyster Bay Town, and will ultimately include a marine education center. Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Center and Sanctuary has entered into a partnership with a newly created FOB affiliate, the Center for Marine Education and Recreation at Oyster Bay to help develop and deliver the Center's first education programs. An avid sailor, Mr. Williams commented that "Every time I return to Oyster Bay after a trip down the Sound, my admiration for the unique splendor of my home port is reinforced."

Proceeds from the event help to meet the growing demand for Theodore Roosevelt's natural science education programs and our role as one of Audubon's model environmental education centers. Also growing are our avian research program and our involvement in habitat restoration projects.

Taking a well-deserved break from months of planning and organizing, our talented Dinner Committee of friends and supporters from the community, led by Co-chairs Roger Bahnik and Marian Minkin, enjoyed the fruits of their labor. Judging by the smiles all around, their hard work was clearly appreciated! Our deepest gratitude to the many individuals, corporations, and foundations that showed by their generous support that they believe in the work we do on behalf of the natural world. With friends like these, we are well on our way to meeting the challenges before us in the coming year.