

Fifth Annual Muckrace

Slated To Fly September 8

Staff report

The Muckrace, the only fall event of its kind held in the Northeast, is a "big day" birding competition to raise money for bird conservation efforts at the Montezuma Wetlands Complex.

AUDUBON NEW YORK and Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex announced that the fifth annual Montezuma Muckrace will be held on September 8 this year. The Muckrace, the only fall event of its kind held in the Northeast, is a "big day" birding competition to raise money for bird conservation efforts at the Montezuma Wetlands Complex, a premier 47,000 acre site at the north end of Cayuga Lake that was designated as a globally significant Important Bird Area in 1997 and a portion of which was designated as a state Bird Conservation Area in 2000.

Teams of birders will try to identify as many species of birds as possible within the boundaries of the Complex from midnight to 9:00 PM on race day. In addition to daring participants who operate under sleep deprivation and the pressure of competition, the Muckrace presents special challenges unique to fall birding, like testing one's knowledge of immature and fall-plumaged warblers and shorebirds. Says Bill Grow, member of the Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex, "Once you've competed in the

Muckrace, it gets under your skin and you can't wait to get out there and see how many different kinds of birds it's possible to find."

Teams consist of three or more individuals who bird together throughout the day. A registration fee of \$100 for a competitive team or \$50 for a non-competitive team, is required and for the third consecutive year, there will be a youth category. Winners of the overall and youth categories will receive their pick of many valuable prizes, including gift certificates, memberships, bird guides, bird prints, and more. All participants will receive event T-shirts.

Last year more than 80 of the state's top amateur and professional bird experts competed in the event and raised more than \$2000 to support research at the Complex. This year's event promises to be even bigger and better, yielding even more money to promote the conservation cause. To register your team or to find out more about the Muckrace, contact Michael Burger, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850; (607) 254-2441; mburger@audubon.org.

Partners for conservation:

(L to R) The Nature Conservancy's Jim Howe, Audubon New York's David Miller, Ducks Unlimited's Sheila Sleggs, National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) manager Tom Jasikoff, Congressman Tom Reynolds, and Congressman Jim Walsh.



MONTEZUMA

Representatives of environmental organizations join Montezuma NWR manager Tom Jasikoff in thanking United States Congressmen Tom Reynolds and Jim Walsh for their support of \$2.5 million in Lands and Water Conservation Funds to be used for habitat acquisition and restoration within the wetlands complex.

Let Your Voice Be Heard

Join the Audubon Advocate E-list

When you are needed to make a difference in Congress, we'll e-mail you a sample letter that you can tailor as you see fit. After your alterations, print the letter, and send directly to your member of Congress. Your voice will join thousands of others calling on Congress to support conservation issues. The network is completely free and will not cost you anything.

YES! Please sign me up for the *Audubon Advocate* E-list.

Clip and mail to Audubon NY, 200 Trillium Lane, Albany, NY 12203.

Name: _____
 Organization: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail Address: _____

Areas of Interest:

Advocacy Volunteering Conservation & Science Education (Centers, Teaching etc.)

bequest (bi-kwest'), *n.*
 1. A disposition of assets by will 2. A legacy
 3. A gift in your will to protect birds, wildlife, and habitat.

As an Audubon member, you have helped define the environmental movement with your past support.

Now, help define the future by including a gift to Audubon New York in your will.

Sample Language for Your Attorney

I bequeath to Audubon New York, a not-for-profit corporation chartered under the laws of New York state, with its principal offices located at 200 Trillium Lane, Albany, NY 12203, the sum of \$ _____ (or _____% of my estate). This gift is to be applied to the permanent endowment of Audubon New York.

For further information contact:

Shirley Hartman at (518) 869-9731
 or shartman@audubon.org