

Conference

SMART GROWTH PHOTOS TAKEN BY NANA GOLDMAN/AUDUBON NEW YORK



Philip LaRocque, executive vice president of New York State Builders Association.



State Senator Mary Lou Rath, New York State Department of Transportation, Commissioner Joseph Boardman, and Audubon New York Board member Ross Whaley.



Ron Stein of Vision Huntington and Patrick Duggan of Sustainable Long Island compare notes between speeches.

(R-C, Williamsville), Assemblyman Thomas DiNapoli (D-Great Neck), Irene Elia, mayor of Niagara Falls, and Patricia Salkin, associate dean and director of the Government Law Center at Albany Law School. Following this plenary session, five more-detailed working groups met to discuss ideas on implementation strategies for five major sections of the report.

The lunchtime keynote speaker was Tony Nelessen, president of A. Nelessen Associates, an expert in planning, architecture, urban design and community visioning. He is author of 'Visions for a New American Dream', a text which outlines a set of principles for communities to envision their future in specific architectural and design terms.

"You cannot take a single approach to every place because each one is unique, despite the mass franchising of so many products and commercial enterprises," Nelessen said. "People have to feel comfortable in a place."

Two afternoon panels discussed collaborative community planning and how regional planning fits in the implementation of smart growth ideas in the state.

In the concluding wrap-up discussion panel moderated by Albany *Times Union* columnist Fred LeBrun, members of our Smart Growth Working Group focused

on the next steps to implement the quality communities task force recommendations. They discussed short and long term actions ranging from this year's state budget to future inter-municipal cooperative programs.

Alison Heaphy, land use director of Audubon New York, called the conference a great success, "We are in this for the long haul because we are dealing with complex issues that will not go away. The commitment of our Smart Growth Working Group partners is strong and we will continue to work towards a common goal."

"From natural resource stewardship to urban revitalization, a broad coalition has united to pursue quality communities and smart growth principles," said Phil LaRocque, executive vice president of the New York State Builders Association. "This conference clearly shows that New York is taking a leadership role and we are forging a unique partnership that will last for many years to come."

For more information about this conference contact the Audubon New York office in Albany at (518) 869-9731. Copies of the proceedings from past conferences are available from the Audubon New York office.

"We must be sure that the visions that we have for the future of this state are realistic and sustainable."

LT. GOV. MARY O. DONOHUE

PILOT UPDATE

Major Victory for Clifton Park Open Space

GOVERNOR GEORGE E. PATAKI with Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno recently announced a \$70,000 grant to the Town of Clifton Park for acquisition of the Round Lake Reservoir. This award is a major victory for Clifton Park's Open Space Committee, which was recently created to develop conservation strategies for increased parkland and stewardship of community resources and is a pilot program of Audubon New York.

Audubon New York's executive director, David J. Miller said, "Governor Pataki's grant to the Town of Clifton Park, in the fastest growing county in the state, will help the quality of life of its residents while protecting critical habitat."

Clifton Park Supervisor Phil Barrett added that, "the Town is grateful to the state for making the acquisition of Round Lake possible and would like to thank



(left to right) Audubon's executive director David J. Miller, Governor George E. Pataki and Clifton Park Supervisor Phil Barrett.

Audubon New York for their hard work in securing the funds." The Town will purchase the land and drinking water reservoir from the neighboring Village of Round Lake. The funds will allow for development of passive recreation facilities on the property, in addition to preserving open space and wildlife habitat.

The announcement by the governor was one of more than \$2.5 million in Clean Water/Clean Air Bank Act and Environmental Protection Fund awards to conserve open space, enhance recreational opportunities and preserve historic resources in the Capital Region.

FOR THE BIRDS



**If You Like Children and Nature,
You'll Love FOR THE BIRDS**

Audubon New York is looking for volunteers (age 18 and up) for school-day and after-school environmental education programs in New York City. Beginning in September 2001, you can lend a hand teaching or assisting with fun classroom lessons, bird walks and habitat improvement projects at inner city schools. You'll be helping students to learn science and develop an appreciation for nature. A knowledge of birds is helpful, but not required. For more information, please contact:

Lynn Tiede, Audubon New York Education Coordinator
700 Broadway, New York, New York 10003
(212) 979 3073 ltiede@audubon.org