

"Besides its historic significance as the Knox family residence the Knox Farm State Park offers excellent grassland and woodland habitat. We know that Audubon's expertise in birds and science will add exceptional value to wildlife observation and environmental education activities at the site.

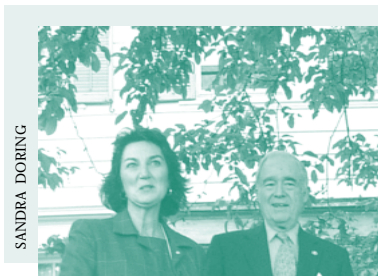
On behalf of Governor Pataki, I look forward to the formal opening of the park, where the nature center will be an important addition to the activities and amenities available at Knox Farm for Western New Yorkers and visitors to the region," said New York State Park Commissioner Bernadette Castro.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by over fifty guests, including Audubon New York's Board of Directors, members of the Board of Directors of the Buffalo Audubon Society, community leaders from East Aurora and staff from the New York State office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation during a reception hosted by Jean Read Knox.

In keeping with National Audubon's aggressive plan to build Audubon centers Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff, chairman of the board of directors for Audubon New York remarked, "This is an outstanding step towards Audubon's vision for the year 2020. All of us at Audubon applaud the leaders of State Parks for their commitment to conserving the environment and to promoting education about wildlife and habitat."

"We look forward to a long, healthy and productive partnership with State

Parks, the Buffalo Audubon Society and the community to advance our common missions and goals," remarked Sidamon-Eristoff.



SANDRA DORING

HSBC senior vice president Margaret A. Moog and board president Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff.



SANDRA DORING

Audubon New York board member and president and CEO of Niagara Mohawk, Bill Davis.



SANDRA DORING

Board members Diane P. Baker, Geoffrey Cobb Ryan and Alex Zagoreos discuss the creation of an Audubon Center at Knox Farm.

RETURN A GIFT TO WILDLIFE

As a New York taxpayer you can provide additional support to fish and wildlife protection and habitat conservation projects when you file your 2001 state income tax return.

By contributing to the Return A Gift To Wildlife (**RAGTW**) fund, you provide additional dollars to fish and wildlife programs run by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. This voluntary, simple tax check-off program was established by the legislature in 1982. Any whole dollar amount may be contributed whether taxes are owed or a refund is due, and all contributions are tax-deductible on the following year's return.

RAGTW is currently helping to fund the following projects:

1. Erected a computerized **master habitat databank**.
2. Funded a **New York Natural Heritage Program**.
3. Completed **biodiversity inventories of DEC Wild life Management Areas**.
4. Helped stranded **marine mammal and sea turtles**.
5. Provided teachers with **instruction materials** through project wildlife.
6. Developed an **atlas of reptiles and amphibians**.

Continue to support these important fish and wildlife programs by filling in a whole dollar amount to contribute to **RAGTW** on their 2001 New York State tax return. For more information go to <http://www.tax.state.ny.us/> or make direct contributions to **RAGTW**, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources, Rm. 552, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233.

HSBC Funds Audubon New York Citizen Science Education Program

Staff Report

HSBC IN THE COMMUNITY (USA) Inc. has agreed to fund Audubon New York's successful Important Bird Area citizen science education program.

The program, known as the IBACSEP program, takes a hand-on approach to teaching people of all ages about science and the environment using birds and bird conservation as the focus and aims to reach people of different ethnicities, cultures and economic levels.

The program has been developed with the collaboration of science teachers, naturalists and scientists, to be run as weekend workshops, special community events, exhibits and guided tours. Courses aimed at children will be delivered primarily through school field trips, after-school activities and summer camps. Teacher training workshops and volunteer training programs will be held at Audubon New York education centers.

"Both Audubon New York and

HSBC share the common interest of impacting and educating the community on important environment issues which effect us all," according to Audubon New York executive director David J. Miller. "With the support of HSBC we feel that great strides can be made to that end."

With 127 IBAs in every region of New York State — urban, rural and suburban — the potential for IBACSEP to have an extensive, statewide reach appealed greatly to HSBC in the Community, according to Kristen Alvanson, assistant vice president for public affairs for the HSBC Group. HSBC is an international banking organization.

The New York IBACSEP curriculum handbook will be the primary tool to expand the program. This handbook, as well as site-specific teacher training guides, pre- and post-visit materials, IBA specific checklists and student activity booklets will acknowledge HSBC's contribution to the program.

Everyone Won at the Annual Staff Retreat

By Kimberley L. Ray

NEARLY THE ENTIRE STAFF of Audubon New York ventured across the state into the Adirondacks for the annual staff retreat. Although temperatures were low, spirits were high after several ice-breaking, staff bonding activities that brought out the best (and the worst) in attendees. The weekend culminated with meetings during which the strategic plan was updated, annual report copy was extracted, development and other housekeeping issues were discussed.

Staff now enthusiastically looks to future events and projects with the notion that all that happened in the Adirondacks at the retreat stays with the attendees!



KIMBERLEY L. RAY

Staff members hop along during the obstacle race.