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## CREATING A CULTURE OF CONSERVATION



David J. Miller

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

OPEN SPACE IS BOTH the sanctuary and fabric of our surroundings. Whether a city park or an Adirondack forever-wild wilderness, open space is intrinsically linked to our quality of life. It provides a fullness that all humans need and instinctively crave.

New York has a long history of open space protection. Governor Pataki has protected close to 400,000 acres over the past eight years and wants to leapfrog that number to one million acres by 2010. These numbers are on top of the millions of acres statewide that are already preserved. Open space projects have ranged from small urban parks to vast expanses of the Hudson Highlands, from Important Bird Area habitats to tens of thousands of acres of Forest Preserve in the Adirondacks and Catskills.

One of the most stunning open space victories of the past year was the KeySpan property on Long Island Sound. Over 520 acres and a mile of shoreline on Long Island Sound, just east of Riverhead, New York, this beautiful property will be a crown jewel in the State Park system, providing a link for people to the sound for all generations to come.

It was Audubon New York's number one open space priority last year — not only because of the access it provides people to the Sound, but also because of its incredible bird habitats. KeySpan's own Robert Catell, Governor Pataki, New York State Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro,

Audubon New York's Board Members and numerous other groups and elected officials involved deserve all the credit. It was a testament to many interests coming together for a common objective.

However, to continue to achieve our open space goals statewide, a new major influx of funding must occur. With no more Bond Act money for open space and limited funds in the state's Environmental Protection Fund, there are many more projects than resources to protect them. Federal dollars can help to a degree, but clearly not meet the needs of the state nor the Governor's million-acres goal.

Are local open space bonds and/or a statewide open space bond act the answer? Time will tell. One thing is certain — the amount we invest in open space today will determine the quality of life for us and the generations that follow. How does that saying go — "Land. Buy it now for they don't make it anymore." In the end, all of us will benefit with this type of investment.

In conservation,

David J. Miller

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

### March 2003

The Spring 2003 Audubon Council meeting will be held March 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Gideon Putnam Hotel and Conference Center in Saratoga Springs, NY. For further information contact Daphne Lumpkin at (518) 869-9731.

### April 2003

The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center will hold its annual Gala on April 26, at 7PM. For further information call Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center at (516) 922-3200.

### May 2003

Birdathon is scheduled during the first three weeks of May. There will be one in New York City and a staff birdathon in Albany. The dates are yet to be determined. For more information contact Shirley Hartman at (518) 869-9731.

### October 2003

The Fall 2003 Audubon Council meeting is going to be held October 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at the Ramada Inn in Kingston, New York. For further information contact Daphne Lumpkin at (518) 869-9731.