

Audubon

ADVOCATE

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Audubon's 2003 Keesee Award Honors Sam Pryor

By Kate Downey

AUDUBON NEW YORK held its third annual Thomas W. Keesee, Jr. Conservation Award luncheon on Thursday, November 13, 2003 at the Yale Club of New York City. Over 100 guests attended to honor Samuel F. Pryor, III in recognition of his conservation leadership and role as a founding member of the Audubon New York Board of Directors. The Keesee Award memorializes Thomas W. Keesee, Jr., a

founding member of the Audubon New York Stewardship Committee and past National Audubon Society Board Chair.

The Thomas W. Keesee, Jr. Conservation Award is presented each year to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in advancing the mission of Audubon New York. Sam's dedication spans decades. Since the Audubon New York program was launched in the mid-1990's, Sam has been one of its most effective leaders. He served on the Audubon New York Board from 1999-



John Flicker, National Audubon Society President, Samuel F. Pryor III and Donal C. O'Brien, 2001 Keesee Award recipient and past National Audubon Society Board Chairman

2002 and is still an active member of the Stewardship Committee. In addition, his love of mountains, forests and the great outdoors has helped shape organizational missions from Audubon to the Appalachian Mountain Club to his local land trust.

In recognition of his outstanding dedication to environmental conservation and Audubon New York, Sam

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(L to R) John Flicker, National Audubon Society President, Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff, Audubon New York Board Chairman, Honoree Samuel F. Pryor III, Mrs. Patricia Keesee, and David J. Miller, Audubon New York Executive Director.

2003 Fall Audubon Council of New York State Conference Held In Kingston

By Richard Haley

NEARLY 80 DELEGATES from National Audubon Society chapters across the state gathered on October 17-19 in Kingston for the Fall 2003 Audubon Council of New York Meeting. The twice-yearly Council Meetings invite representatives of all 30 chapters in New York to work on issues of common interest, move forward on projects in partnership with the Audubon State Office, and exchange information.

On the first evening, council representatives were treated to a sampler of program activities from Audubon New York's Centers and Education staff. Eric Lind, Director of the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary in Cold Spring, challenged the group to identify fish from the Hudson River. Kim Keirnan and Haley Main from the Manhattan-based *For The Birds!* program took the group through a game tracing bird

migration routes. Karl Brummert, Director of Education for the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center in Oyster Bay wowed the crowd with three live non-releasable birds of prey. And James Lee, Director of Education from the Prospect Park Audubon Center in Brooklyn, demonstrated how exhibits at the center are used both to educate casual visitors and to enrich school programs.

In the business portions of the meeting, representatives exchanged information on the activities of chapters from Long Island to Buffalo, from the Southern Tier to the High Peaks of the Adirondacks. Considerable discussion was devoted to issues concerning the relationship between chapters and the National Audubon office. Chapter delegates were also introduced to Audubon New York's newly-completed Strategic Plan, as well as receiving updates on all of the state



The Audubon Council of New York with keynote speaker, Dr. Ward Stone. (L to R) John Moyle, Gladys Goldmann, Council President, Geoffrey Cobb Ryan, President Emeritus, Dr. Ward Stone, Bill Ostrand, Alice DelBosco, David J. Miller, and Dee Rod.

offices major initiatives.

Delegates took a break on Saturday afternoon for field trips. One group traveled to Minnewaska State Park Preserve on the Shawangunk Ridge. Led by Park Manager Tom Cobb, the group hiked trails that overlook fragile

habitats threatened by development. The other group visited Audubon's Buttercup Farm Sanctuary in Stanfordsville. Tours of the forest, grasslands, and wetlands of Buttercup

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