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Board Chair



**CONSTANTINE
SIDAMON-ERISTOFF**

AUDUBON NEW YORK'S mission is to protect birds, wildlife and their habitats. We do this through our educational efforts in schools and at our Audubon Centers. We do this through our ornithological research and science programs. We do this through our public policy campaigns and advocacy efforts with our grass roots chapters.

As New York State faces today's challenges, it is clear that more state resources are needed to achieve the Audubon mission. Since 1996, New York has had the benefit of a Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act to provide these resources. Now those funds are completely utilized or spoken for. We must plan for the next course of action.

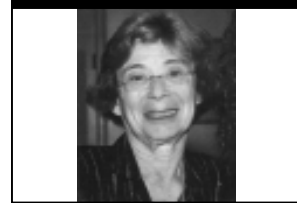
Thus, Audubon New York, utilizing all of its education, science policy and advocacy strengths, has proposed to the Governor a new Quality

"It is time that we give the opportunity to the citizens of New York to once again rally for clean water and open space as well as birds, wildlife and their habitats."

Communities/Smart Growth Bond Act whose single purpose would include the following types of categories: open space and farmland protection, clean water, parks infrastructure, nature and environmental education centers, waterfront revitalization, and smart growth urban and transportation projects, all of which will encourage development in sites where infrastructure and public transportation are available, away from the suburban and rural communities which are losing ground to sprawl at an alarming pace. Such a Bond Act would not only be good for the environment but would help further kick start the economy.

I believe we can build a coalition of diverse individuals and interests to support legislation authorizing a 2004 Bond Act to be placed on the November ballot. It is time that we give the opportunity to the citizens of New York to once again rally for clean water and open space as well as birds, wildlife and their habitats.

Council Chair



**GLADYS
GOLDMANN**

I'D LIKE TO introduce myself. I'm Gladys Goldman, your newly-elected Chair of the Audubon Council of New York. My previous experience was as chapter program chair, president, and, for the last four years, member of the Audubon Council Board of Directors.

But just like all of you, I've pitched in whenever needed—from fixing coffee, taking minutes to making phone calls. Things we all do because we believe in the Audubon mission and will help out wherever needed. Having worked at the grassroots level, and been faced with the same problems you have as a chapter leader, I look forward to helping you. All of us are having problems attracting and keeping board members. How do we get volunteers and retain them? How can we delegate responsibility in an organized manner and avoid just "dumping" projects on people without preparation? We work on these issues at our conferences and workshops.

Our next Audubon Council Conference is March 26-28 in Saratoga and is our annual Audubon Assembly, so mark your calendars. Each chapter should send at least one delegate. The costs for attending are a legitimate expense and should be in your chapter budget. What is more important than training new leaders? It is a wise investment.

When you receive your Assembly agenda, you will note that on Saturday morning a big "chunk" of time is devoted to the Conservation Policy Resolutions. At this time, we discuss the issues that you, our chapters, have identified. These issues take the form of resolutions that provide background information and recommendations on specific action that you want to see taken. Before this meeting, these resolutions are reviewed and approved by the conservation funding, bird and wildlife conservation, and habitat committees, which are made up of chapter members. At this conference, we consider adoption of the resolution, and it then becomes a legislative priority for the following year.

I am really looking forward to an exciting first year as Chair of the Audubon Council. Audubon New York has just finished its strategic plan, which is filled with many new ideas and opportunities for chapters to partner with Audubon. With the second round of IBA nominations to be completed this year, and as part of the strategic plan, Audubon is looking to have chapters be more involved with Citizen Science monitoring and education programs at IBAs. Not only at IBAs, but at Audubon Nature Centers throughout the State as well. Audubon New York is also looking to build chapter involvement with its bioregional campaigns on the Hudson River, Great Lakes, Adirondack Mountains, Long Island Sound, among others. Audubon New York's Smart Growth campaign is still going strong, and this May 25 and 26 Audubon will be partnering with the Department of State to put on another Smart Growth Conference.

In all, 2004 shaping up to be a fun year with many opportunities for Audubon Chapters and Audubon New York to build new relationships and strengthen the Audubon voice in New York State. I look forward to seeing you all at the Audubon Council Assembly this March.

MISSION

Audubon New York is dedicated to the protection of birds, other wildlife, and habitats through advocacy and education, serving as the state program of National Audubon Society.