

# CREATING A CULTURE OF CONSERVATION

THIS PAST FALL, the Audubon New York Board of Directors approved and adopted its new *Strategic Plan 2003: Connecting People with Nature*. In the three years since Audubon New York's first strategic plan was adopted in 2000, many of the objectives outlined in it have been achieved. This record of success is an incredible testament to the board, exceptional staff and chapter volunteers who maintained their focus on the shared vision and made it reality. The real conservation successes that resulted from that initial strategic plan are built upon and augmented in this new document.

The new strategic plan has two major sections: (1) Audubon Centers and Education and (2) Conservation Policy and Science Programs. Within the centers and education section, specific plans are outlined for existing Audubon Centers, Chapter-Run Audubon Centers, Centers Under Development and Future Centers. In addition, Audubon educational programs, whether through our *For the Birds!* program or specific programs designed for individual centers, continue to be cutting-edge. From Brooklyn to Oyster Bay to Constitution Marsh to Jamestown, Audubon New York continues to reach for excellence at all of the centers in its network.

The new plan further states that "Audubon's philosophy is that the highest quality programs for environmental education are the foundation for our Audubon centers and education vision, whether at our oldest, most established centers or in new communities where the hopes of a future Audubon Center are just being recognized." Audubon New York is making great strides in achieving the objectives of its Centers and Education program. This plan will take us to the next level of achievement.

In the conservation section, the plan outlines objectives for issues ranging from Long Island Sound to pesticide use to smart growth to protection of open space. Central to all of our conservation efforts has been and continues to be Audubon New York's Important Bird Areas (IBA) program. The IBA program began identifying the most significant bird habitats in New York in the mid-1990s and that work continues today with the second round of identifying IBAs now underway.



This process helps identify priority sites for protection as well as important conservation issues and policies on which we focus our attention. As the new strategic plan states, "IBAs have become the fundamental organizing principle for all of the conservation programs and efforts of Audubon New York."

Critical to the success of our conservation efforts is the combination of our strong grassroots advocacy network coupled with our reliance on sound science. The new plan outlines the importance of these components whether partnering with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology on bird conservation planning or mobilizing our chapter and grassroots network to pass legislative initiatives. With this winning combination, Audubon advocacy makes a difference, whether the issue is invasive plant species, pesticide use or more conservation funding like a new environmental bond act.

Audubon New York is at a great point in history and has developed a magnificent blueprint for action. This road map will lead to conservation successes and a better quality of life for all of us. I urge you all to join us in this mission and together we will continue to make a difference.

In conservation,

David J. Miller

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

### January – February 2004

Winter Wonderwalks at Rheinstrom Hill, Buttercup Farm and RamsHorn-Livingston. See article on page 12 for details.

### February 2004

**13-16** 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Backyard Bird Count, sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. To participate visit <http://www.birdsource.org> or email [citizenscience@audubon.org](mailto:citizenscience@audubon.org).

**14-22** Children's Film Festival in Prospect Park at the Prospect Park Audubon Center. Don't miss the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Children's Film Festival at The Con Edison Discover Nature Theater, featuring the latest and best nature films for families. Free. For more information, call (718) 287-3400.

### March 2004

**26-28** Audubon Council of New York Assembly, at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs, New York. For further details contact Daphne Lumpkin at Audubon New York at (518) 869-9731, [dlumpkin@audubon.org](mailto:dlumpkin@audubon.org).

### May 2004

**2** Knox Farm Audubon Festival, sponsored by Audubon New York and the Buffalo Audubon Society, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Andrew Mackie at 518-869-9731, email [amackie@audubon.org](mailto:amackie@audubon.org) or visit <http://ny.audubon.org/knox.htm> for more details.

**25-26** 2004 Quality Communities – Quality Coasts – Smart Growth Conference "QC<sup>2</sup> + SG<sup>2004</sup>" sponsored jointly by New York State and Audubon New York, will be held at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany, New York. For further details call Audubon New York at 518-869-9731.

### July 2004

**17-18** 2004 Nature Art Festival, Jamestown, NY, sponsored by the Jamestown Audubon Society. See article on page 13 for more details.

Visit [http://ny.audubon.org/complete\\_calendar.htm](http://ny.audubon.org/complete_calendar.htm) for a more complete listing of events, sponsored by Audubon New York, our centers, and New York's Audubon Chapters.

## Yes, Consider Me an Advocate for Birds, Wildlife and Their Habitats in New York State

Please clip and return to:

**Audubon New York  
200 Trillium Lane  
Albany, NY 12203**

Call for more information  
518-869-9731 or visit  
<http://ny.audubon.org>

- I am willing to write a letter, make a phone call or send a fax or email on behalf of birds, wildlife and their habitats in New York State.
- I would like to become an Audubon member. Enclosed is my check for \$20.
- Please send me information about including National Audubon in my Estate Plans.

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