

QC² & SG₂₀₀₄



SEAN MUIR

By Al Caccese

THE QUALITY COMMUNITIES Quality Coasts and Smart Growth Conference also known as QC² & SG₂₀₀₄, was held on May 25th and 26th, 2004 at the Empire State Plaza in Albany, New York, and was a terrific success.

In an historic format, the conference was co-sponsored by the New York Department of State and Audubon New York, in cooperation with the Smart Growth Working Group, a diverse coalition of conservation, agriculture, municipal, academic and business organizations committed to finding

common ground for the application of Smart Growth principles.

The first day was programmed by the Department of State and was largely dedicated to sharing information on success stories, as well as the pilot projects that received grants from the Department to pursue Smart Growth initiatives. After welcoming remarks by Secretary of State Randy Daniels, and Audubon New York's Executive Director, David J. Miller, Donovan Rypkema delivered the first day's keynote address and stressed that in the 21st Century municipalities that

want to be economically competitive, will need to adopt the Smart Growth principles and become quality communities.

Lt. Governor Mary O. Donohue presented the Governor's Quality Communities Awards during the day and the department announced the Governor's Waterfront Rediscovery Awards at the evening reception following a full day of meetings.

The second Day was programmed by Audubon New York and concentrated on the "Where Do We Go From Here" aspects of Smart Growth. Audubon New York's Chairman of the Board of Directors, Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff, Esq. Moderated an important panel consisting of the Commissioner of the New York State Departments of Transportation, Agriculture and Markets, Environmental Conservation, Housing and Community Renewal and the Adirondack Park Agency. The participation of so many cabinet level state officials provided testimony to the Pataki administration's commitment to Smart Growth and made the point that although Smart Growth must be worked from the bottom up, it still needs to be lead by the top.

The State Comptrollers office presented a panel on Smart Growth and Economic Development and Fred Lebrun; the thoughtful columnist from the Albany Times Union moderated a group, which explored the next steps for Smart Growth. David Miller of Audubon New York was joined by Ed Farrell of the Conference of Mayors, Pat Hooker of the New York State Farm Bureau and Ken Pokalsky of the Business Council in a lively discussion about where we are heading.

Bob Perciasepe, the Chief Operating Officer of the National Audubon Society provided the second day's keynote address. Bob called upon his 25 years of extensive experience at the state and national levels to share his considerable expertise on Smart Growth issues.

More than 500 people participated in the two-day conference and the response from them was overwhelmingly positive. A conference proceedings book is being published and will be available in early 2005. Another joint conference is being considered for 2006.

(L to R) Ross Whaley (Chairman, Adirondack Park Agency), Bob Perciasepe, Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff, Judith Calogero (Commissioner, Division of Housing and Community Renewal), Erin Crotty (Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation), Nathan Rudgers (Commissioner, Department of Agriculture & Markets), David J. Miller, Joseph Boardman (Commissioner, Department of Transportation), Al Caccese



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Bob Perciasepe, the Chief Operating Officer of the National Audubon Society, presents keynote address.



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Lt. Governor Mary O. Donohue presents the Governor's Quality Communities Awards