

Creating A Culture Of Conservation



As the year 2000 draws to a close, the National Audubon Society of New York State can celebrate a highly successful year. Audubon was responsible for developing and expanding educational centers, designating new Bird Conservation Areas, passing new legislation, appropriating more dollars for conservation, educating more children in urban and rural communities and participating in more scientific research. It is a remarkable list.

The National Audubon Society of New York State has become a versatile, diversified and creative organization with comprehensive programs in education, science and advocacy. Less than five years ago, the state program was a northeast regional program and the list of accomplishments was much more limited. Now with a network of Audubon centers, an innovative education program, a model bird conservation initiative, conservation campaigns on wetlands, forests, estuaries and smart growth, and a strong grassroots network, as well as a distinguished state board of directors, Audubon is a major conservation force in New York state.

While the success of Audubon is based on its exceptional volunteer network, expanded list of supporters and experienced core staff, an additional factor has had a major impact. Audubon has a plan; a strategic action plan that focuses on birds, wildlife and their habitats through science, education and advocacy. By staying true to National Audubon's

strategic plan and creating a state version last spring, National Audubon Society of New York State is ready to take on the conservation challenges of the 21st century.

At a time when there are so many demands on conservation groups, a well-funded strategic action plan is critical to stay on course. Whether it is creating the Prospect Park Audubon Center at the Boathouse, the designation of new Bird Conservation Areas, protecting more open space around Long Island Sound or expanding our after-school environmental education efforts, Audubon is staying focused on the goals and objectives of our strategic action plan. By doing so, our conservation successes can only continue to blossom.

Audubon will not solve every conservation dilemma. However, when it comes to birds, their habitats and educating New Yorkers, our action plan will have us way out ahead. Good intentions help every cause, but a great plan takes you to your goals. I hope you will enjoy this issue of the Audubon Advocate, see the progress we are making and continue to support our conservation efforts.

The National Audubon Society of New York State



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 PATRICIA PELKOWSKI, Research Coordinator, TRS
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Public meetings scheduled by NYS DEC

The state DEC has scheduled a series of statewide public meetings in January 2001 to present information on Gov. Pataki's initiative in the Adirondack and Catskill parks to complete all the outstanding unit management plans in a five-year period. (For article, see page 6.) The dates and locations are as follows:

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| Buffalo Jan. 16:
5-9 p.m. | Cheektowaga Town Hall
3301 Broadway Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14227
(716) 686-3400 Exit 52 off the Thruway (contact: Rachel) |
| Rochester Jan. 17:
5-9 p.m. | Rochester Museum & Science Center
Eisenhower Auditorium
657 East Ave. Rochester, NY 14607
(716) 271-4320 (contact: Anita Joan 755-7997) |
| Syracuse Jan. 18:
5-9 p.m. | SUNY Environmental School of Forestry
Marshall Hall, Alumni Lounge
(Contact: Lucy Popkess) |
| New York City Jan. 23:
5-9 p.m. | Location to be arranged
(Contact Robert Engel 212-873-3400 ext. 247) |
| New Paltz Jan. 24:
5-9 p.m. | DEC Regional Office/New Paltz Rooms 2,3
21 S. Putt Corners Rd. New Platz, NY 12561
(914) 256-3000 (contact Fred Gerty)
Off Rt. 299, 2.5 miles west of Thruway Exit 18 |
| Albany Jan. 25:
5-9 p.m. | Guilderland Town Hall
5209 Route 20, Guilderland, NY
(518) 356-1980 (contact: Rick Georgeson) |

