

## TRS's "A Bully! Gala 2000" proves memorable

By Marilyn England

Though rain had been forecast, the day dawned bright and beautiful for the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary's second annual gala held at the Piping Rock Club in Locust Valley, Long Island. Over 200 people, including several members of the Roosevelt family, attended to renew old friendships, visit with sanctuary staff, and to cheer this year's recipients of the Theodore Roosevelt Legacy of Conservation Award. The award honors those who have made outstanding contributions to conservation and the community. This year's recipients were former sanctuary president Rebecca Stern, renowned conservationist Carter Bales, and Gerald Durell (in memoriam) for his efforts on behalf of endangered species.

On hand to help celebrate were: Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro, who presented the award to Mrs. Stern; N.J. Burkett, WABC Newscaster who served as master of ceremonies; Senator Carl Marcellino, who had prepared Senate Proclamations for the honorees; Dr. Carl Safina of Audubon's Living Oceans Program, who presented Mr. Bales's award; and several members of former Governor Hugh L. Carey's family. William and Ursula Niarakis,

directors of the Marion O. and Maximillian E. Hoffman Foundation, were joined in the honorary circle by last year's honorees, Frederick and Margaret Coudert, and Frances Storrs. Mr. and Mrs. Coudert had graciously hosted the Gala Kickoff Party in February at their home in Oyster Bay Cove.

Proceeds from the event will go to help meet the growing demand for the sanctuary's natural science education programs, which reach more than 100,000 children and adults on Long Island and throughout the New York metropolitan area each year. Also growing is the sanctuary's avian research program with such exciting projects as a grassland restoration, monitoring the productivity of federally endangered roseate terns, and a study of ospreys nesting in the Peconic Bay area. On the horizon is further integration with the National Audubon Society and our role as one of Audubon's model environmental education centers.

The forum provided by the gala helps the sanctuary to increase our sphere of influence in the critical work of educating both today's and tomorrow's environmental stewards, and to build the relationships that will ensure the sanctuary's voice for conservation remains strong long into the future. We are indebted to our

excellent gala committee, cochaired by Edward Mohlenhoff and Edward "Ted" Von Briesen, for their hard work and commitment to bringing this memorable night together. Our deepest appreciation to the many

individuals, corporations, and foundations that showed by their support that they believe in the work we do on behalf of the natural world. If Theodore Roosevelt were here, he would say "Bully!"



Photos by Christine Nielson, courtesy of the *Oyster Bay Guardian*.

Dr. Carl Safina and TRS instructor Patricia Paladines with a feathered friend.



From left are TRS President Thomas Lieber, his wife Sheila Lieber and N.J. Burkett.



State Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro is flanked by her husband, Dr. Peter Guida, and TRS Director Marilyn England.



From left are TRS Gala Co-Chair Edward Mohlenhoff, Sen. Carl Marcellino and TRS Director Marilyn England.

## Empire State Challenge prizes awarded to chapters

By Kristen Stram

The results of the Empire State Challenge are in. There were many highlights of this competition to increase sponsorship of Audubon Adventures classes. As of April 25, 2000, 25 of 32 chapters participated. And the winners are: first prize, **New York City Audubon Society**, a MacIntosh computer for use by the chapter; second prize, **Central Westchester Audubon Society**, sponsorship for one person to attend the Audubon Family Camp in Maine; and third prize, **Genesee Valley Audubon Society**, a John James Audubon lithograph. Honorable mention goes to Genesee Valley A.S. and Buffalo A.S. for sponsoring more than 100 classrooms each. Special thanks goes to Con Edison for sponsoring more than 200 classes.

Percent increases in sponsorships during the last year, along with Audubon Adventures coordinators for each chapter, are: New York City, Norman Stotz, 77 percent; Central Westchester, Susan Fried, 66 percent; Genesee Valley, Jean Barlow, 50 percent; Delaware Otsego, Debby Clough, 36 percent; Orange County, Claudia Perretti, 29 percent; Buffalo, Alice Brown, 28 percent; Hudson River, Carol Capobianco, 16 percent; and Rockland, Lorrie Pallant, 13 percent.

Also, *Audubon Adventures* was selected as a finalist in two categories for this year's "Distinguished Achievement Awards For Excellence in Educational Publishing." This award celebrates the best in educational publishing. The honors were from the 1999/00 children's newspaper titled "Wild Alaska" and the 1999/00 Classroom Resource Manual. The Association of Educational Publishers presents this national award.

Plans are already underway to assist chapters in promoting next year's Audubon Adventures program. Marcia Wagner (Buffalo A.S.) and Dian Mathews (Moriches Bay A.S.), members of the Council Education Committee, are putting their teaching experience to the test by aligning next year's Audubon Adventures program to New York state's performance standards. A new teacher evaluation designed by chapter leaders and teacher renewal materials are also available. For more information, call 800-813-5037 or e-mail education@audubon.org.