

Foreword by David J. Miller

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I love the Sound. I grew up learning the magic of nature along its shores. Whether chasing fiddler or horseshoe crabs, fishing in its waters, marveling at a Great Egret or simply looking out on the water, Long Island Sound transformed me as a child. My experiences on the Sound created a love for water, wildlife and habitats. The simple fact that the estuary system is one of the most biologically productive ecosystems on earth was shown to me every time I traveled to the Sound.



Susan Woog Wagner

When I joined National Audubon in 1988, the issue of cleaning-up Long Island Sound was a concern of local chapter leaders throughout Connecticut and New York. Many Audubon chapters and other conservation groups had concerns and programs regarding the state of Long Island Sound. The Long Island Sound Task Force was a lead organization in making Long Island Sound one of the first sites selected under the National Estuary Program. However, there was still no universal movement (Sound-wide) to take action and to lead a coalition for the Sound. In 1990, the National Audubon Society launched the Listen to the Sound campaign to create a citizens' agenda for the restoration and stewardship of Long Island Sound. The Sound was dying and it was crying out through closed beaches, fish kills, loss of habitat and diminished living marine resources. It was time that the citizens of the Sound raised their voices for its future.

The theme was simple - Listen to the Sound through the voices of its citizens. It was a transforming process for me, seeing first hand the power of citizen action from the hearings to the report to the implementation of policy.

Now, ten years later, we are at it again. We celebrate the incredible progress of the Sound's restoration while providing new direction for the future. We have introduced the concept of a Long Island Sound Reserve Program for while we clean its waters, we must also save the fragile land where the Sound meets the shore. Along with Audubon, Save the Sound and Regional Plan Association have joined forces to make Listen to the Sound 2000 a resounding success and to create a compelling citizens agenda for all levels of government to follow.

Long Island Sound is a natural treasure and its open spaces and habitats are the crown jewels of the necklace we know as its coastline. Let's work together to implement the ideas from Listen to the Sound 2000 and the reserve concept...not only for today, but for the children of all future generations. I believe the vision of Listen to the Sound remains clear and, once again, we have a grassroots agenda before us to make it a reality.



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