

Audubon New York Announces the Creation of the Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff Conservation Policy Internship Program

Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff, who passed away in 2011, was the founding Chair of Audubon New York and served on the Board of the National Audubon Society with commitment and energy. He was a model for not only his fellow members of the Audubon Society, but to anyone passionate about environmental conservation. Connie, as he was known to his many friends and colleagues, was a giant within and beyond the world of conservation, the likes of which we are not likely to see again anytime soon. He had a particular love for Audubon and brought a unique and unparalleled set of skills to the conservation movement in this State, and throughout the Nation. As a consensus builder, he knew how to help people and organizations find common ground but, as a tenacious defender of the environment, he knew when to use the law and regulation to appropriate and maximum effect.

From his role at Audubon, to his leadership as Administrator of Region 2 of the Environmental Protection Agency, Connie left a legacy that impacted hundreds of thousands of acres and millions of people – and birds – every day. He was a hard working, determined and persistent individual, who was loved and respected because his motives were always unselfish and transparent, and he strove to find a balance between protecting the environment and the economy. Every day, he lived his life-long commitment to creating a healthy planet for wildlife and for generations of people to come, and Audubon is eternally grateful for his dedication to conservation. To help inspire the next generation of conservationists we have established a memorial internship program in his honor.

The Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff Conservation Policy Intern Program will provide a well-rounded, first-hand experience of how environmental policy is formed on the state and federal levels to students in the conservation field. Specifically, this position will assist in the implementation of the legislative priorities and Conservation Policy Resolutions of Audubon New York and the Audubon Council of New York State. It will also seek to promote professional growth and provide valuable knowledge in how to work within government to advance conservation goals while allowing students to network and develop relations with leading environmental organizations, agencies and elected officials.

[Click here for more information about our inaugural Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff Policy Intern](#)

We are proud to announce that Samantha Hoff, a graduate of the Siena College Environmental Studies program and a former Audubon New York intern, is our first Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff Conservation Policy Intern. She is currently a master's candidate at the State University at Albany in the Biodiversity, Conservation and Policy program and will be employing the invaluable skills and knowledge gained through this internship to write her thesis. Growing up on a farm in downstate New York, not far from where Connie lived, she enjoyed playing outside with nature's creations rather than inside with plastic toys and video games, which fueled her passion for the environment at a young age. Her conservation interests include planning for a healthy climate in the future

and creating management practices for landowners to preserve our natural resources. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, traveling, and hiking with her mini dachshund.