

Ann Brandt Wins The 2005 Margery Sachs Service Award

The ninth annual Margery Sachs Service Award was presented to Ann Brandt, Treasurer of NYSACC and long time member and former chairman of the Town of Woodstock Environmental Commission. The award was presented at the 2005 Conference on the Environment held in Hamilton.

The award is given in memory of Margery Sachs, one of NYSACC's original Directors, and is presented to an individual for "Life-long Environmental Concern and Service".

Ann is a SUNY graduate and retired IBM Senior Executive Administrative Professional. She has been a member of her Town's Environmental Commission since 1987. Originally asked by the Town Supervisor to join the Commission, during her first meeting she was appointed Chairman to fill out the term of a retiring chair.

In addition, Ann is the Woodstock representative on the Ulster County Environmental Management Council, a member of its Oversight Committee working on updating the Ulster County Open Spaces and Parks Plan, a municipal representative to the Sawkill Watershed Alliance, a Region 3 Director of NYSACC, Treasurer of NYSACC, a frequent contributor to NYSACC News and Treasurer for the 2005 Conference on the Environment.

Throughout her tenure on the Commission, Ann has initiated environmental projects for the Town, including development of a Woodstock Environmental Quality Review Law which lowers the triggering thresholds for the designation of Type I actions under the NYS SEQRA law; development of the Town's Aerial Spraying Law regulating the spraying of pesticides; serving as Project Manager of Woodstock's EPA Grant to delineate the well head protection area of the Town. These projects were recipients of NYSACC awards.

Ann has authored the Best Management Practices brochure for wellhead protection, is the local coordinator of the NYCDEP Land Acquisition and Stewardship Program for Woodstock, works with NYS Energy Research and Development Authority and organizes Earth Day exhibits.



To balance her environmental activities, Ann is a member of the Board of Directors of the Catskill Ballet Theatre and was a committee member for the Vision First Night celebrations in the Town.

Ann will tell you that environmental awareness is a Conservation Commission's most daunting task. She feels that the interaction that occurs with any disruption to nature, be it a change to a stream, removal of tracts of trees, impermeable cover to an area on one property, destruction of areas

through poor planning and construction, affects the surrounding lands. Ann vehemently states, "Educating the public to this environmental awareness is my primary goal."

To all of us who know Ann, she is a fierce fighter for the causes she believes in.

SAVE THE DATE

2006 Conference on the Environment

October 13 - 15

Athenaeum Hotel

Chautauqua, NY

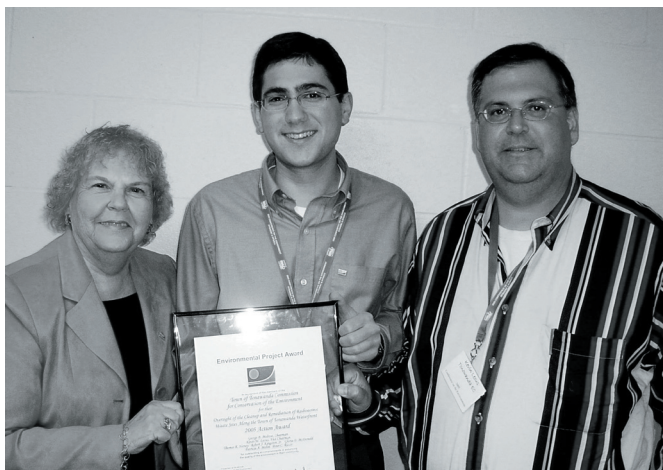
Every year NYSACC honors those CACs that have found creative ways to enhance the quality of the environment in their community. Presenting these awards provides NYSACC with an opportunity not only to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of member organizations, but also to show by example the kinds of projects that improve environmental awareness and contribute to the quality of life in our communities. These projects can be replicated by contacting the chair of the CAC.

Next year's award winning projects are happening right now. Don't forget to nominate those in your community whose work is deserving of this special recognition.

**Town of Tonawanda Commission for
Conservation of the Environment
Oversight of the Cleanup and Remediation
of Radioactive Waste Sites Along
the Town of Tonawanda Waterfront
2005 Action Award**

Since the late 1970s, the Town of Tonawanda Commission for Conservation of the Environment has overseen the intense cleanup and removal of over 400,000 tons of radioactive waste left from the Town's role in the Manhattan Project. Meeting regularly with officials from the US Army Corps of Engineers, Tonawanda's Environment Commissioners work directly to ensure that all cleanup efforts within the community are completed promptly and in total. This continued involvement and oversight permits information to be relayed to Town and County officials and citizens with respect to all cleanup efforts. Most recently, the Town of Tonawanda Environment Commission worked on efforts to secure the cleanup of the municipality's final radioactive waste site along the Niagara River. All costs associated with cleanup efforts have come through the Federal Government's FUSRAP (Formerly Utilized Site Remedial Action Program) project.

For information contact Peter Rizzo, at 173 Puritan Road, Tonawanda, NY 14150, e-mail at pcrizzo@buffalo.edu



Pictured are Peter Rizzo, Commission member and NYSACC Director, Kevin Leous, member and Joy Squires, NYSACC President.

**LaGrange Conservation Advisory Council
Wappinger Creek Greenway Trail
2005 Action Award**

Wappinger Creek is an important New York State Hudson River Estuary which flows through several towns in Dutchess County including LaGrange. The Conservation Advisory Council initiated a project in the early nineties to preserve the creek bank as an open space and a walking nature trail for recreational use. Members of the CAC approached the landowners with the idea for the project, stressing the value for the community; approached Boy Scout groups about the potential for Eagle Scout projects; and ultimately supervised the trail's construction with the approval of the Town Board.



Dr. Maung Htoo, LaGrange CAC Chairman and NYSACC Director, accepts the award from

The Town Parks and Recreation Department and Highway Department helped with removing trash that had been dumped near the creek and clearing vegetation. The Town Planning Department helped with the legal aspects of the many property easements. Two different boy scout troops built parts of the trail and the bridge.

Money from the Iroquois Pipeline settlement was used to cover costs for the first part of the trail and bridge. Other contributors were Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation and Trout Unlimited.

The walking nature trail is a scenic 2.25 miles available to all members of the public. The first part was completed in 1996 and the final half mile extension in November, 2003.

The project is an example of successful collaboration of land owners, boy scouts, town government and the private sector under the leadership and supervision of the Town of LaGrange Conservation Advisory Council. The project took more than a decade to complete and was able to proceed with continuity in spite of changes in the Town Board and five chairs of the CAC during that time.

For information contact Dr. Maung Htoo, at 10 Rabbit Trail Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, e-mail at mhtoo@aol.com

**Town of Smithtown Conservation Board
Acquisition and Management of the Harned
Sawmill Preserve
2005 Special Project Award**

The historic Harned Sawmill, originally constructed in 1840, is the only operational circular-saw sawmill on Long Island. The 7.7 acre site was acquired by the Town of Smithtown in 2001 through a donation by PJ Venture Land Developers, as part of a transfer of development rights agreement. The Town of Smithtown Conservation Board took on the role of management of the preserve subsequent to the donation.

The Conservation Board is charged with protecting and restoring the historic character of the site, preserving

the open space values of the property and managing the preserve on a self-supporting basis. In order to accomplish this, the existing house on the property is currently rented to a private resident. The rental fees are placed in an account, managed by the Conservation Board, and dedicated to any needed repairs or preserva-



Charles Eggleton, Conservation Board Chairman accepts the award from Joy Squires, NYSACC President.

tion work. Any such work is subject to approval by, and done under the supervision of, the Conservation Board. In February 2004 the asphalt shingle roof on the Harned House was replaced with a more historically correct cedar shingle roof. Most recently, the roofs on two sheds were also replaced with cedar shingles to match the existing house roof. These two projects were completed under the supervision of the Conservation Board and were funded solely by rental fees at a cost of \$22,000.

Quarterly inspections of the Harned Sawmill Preserve are conducted by the Town of Smithtown Department of Environment and Waterways to ensure that all existing structures are in good condition. These inspection reports are reviewed by the Conservation Board at their regular meetings. The entire property is photographed once a year regardless of any identified issues or problems.

This project resulted in the preservation of a historic property and allowed for the continued usage of the property as an operational sawmill. Doug Harned currently operates the mill and will retain the right to do so for the rest of his lifetime. Subsequently, the operation of the mill will become the responsibility of the Town of Smithtown under the continued supervision of the Conservation Board.

For further information contact Charles Eggleton, CB Chair, at Smithtown Conservation Board, 124 West Main Street, Smithtown, NY 11787.

**Elbridge Commission on the Environment
Skaneateles Creek Gorge Cleanup
2005 Special Project Award**

The Elbridge Commission on the Environment organized a project involving an intensive cleanup of property in the Skaneateles Creek Gorge as a first step toward creating a public park. Ownership of this neglected private property was transferred to the Town of Elbridge after its highway access was condemned by the NYSDOT. The Commission applied for and received a CNY Community Foundation Green Space grant to be the lead agency for removal of debris strewn across an otherwise rare natural site.

Commission members visited the site numerous times over the last year and made plans for all aspects of the cleanup. Leaders of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts were contacted for involvement by their troops. Area businesses were canvassed for supplies they might be willing to donate. A week prior to public participation, Commission members used a power winch on a Cayuga Tree Service truck owned by member Chris Sandstrom to drag the largest items up the steep riverbank. On Saturday, April 30, 2005, over 100 people of all ages showed up on a very drizzly day to "blitz" the seemingly endless assortment of garbage that seemed to be everywhere. Incredibly, the area was scoured and essentially completed in a mere three hours. Over four tons of debris were cabled, roped, bucketed, or hand carried up a steep hillside and tossed into dumpsters. The grandeur of Skaneateles Creek Gorge was restored to a degree not seen for many decades.

For further information contact Dr. Stephen Schwab, Chair, at Town of Elbridge, Route 31, Jordan, NY 13080, e-mail at ksc_kschwab@twcny.rr.com



Pictured are Elbridge Commission members Jim Young, Don Duger, Steve Schwab, chair, Mike Frood and Joy Squires, NYSACC President.

Grand Island Commission for the Conservation of the Environment Enhanced Environment Overlay Districts 2005 Research Award

In the mid-80s, there was concern among residents that Grand Island's rural aspect would be compromised as the pace of island development accelerated. Formed at this time, Quality Quest Coalition (QQC) worked for provisions in the Comprehensive Master Plan Update (CMP) that would protect the isle's environment.

QQC invited DEC Region 9 Senior Biologist, Kenneth Roblee to speak in February 1993 regarding the six ecosystems he'd identified on Grand Island. The delineation of the "six" became a part of the CMP when Conservation Commission Chairman Gary Roesch requested their inclusion at a public hearing.

Andy Zepp of The Nature Conservancy informed Dorothy Westhofer, Chair, Grand Island Commission for the Conservation of the Environment, that Perinton used Limited Development District (LDD) zoning to protect natural infrastructure. Perinton Conservation Board Chairman Doug Stinson came to speak at Grand Island. In January 1996, Grand Island town officials and QQC representatives visited Perinton and learned that LDD zoning had survived court challenges.

A second trip in March 2002 by Conservation Commission members and QQC representatives was crucial - Grand Island was updating its zoning code, the "teeth" for the CMP which would protect future ecosystem compromise. The Conservation Commission worked on the new zoning with assistance from town attorneys and, in July 2004, the updated zoning code with its Enhanced Environment Overlay Districts was in place.

For further information contact Dorothy Westhafer, CAC Chair, at Grand Island Town Hall, 2255 Baseline Road, Grand Island, NY 14042, e-mail at DWesthafer@juno.com

NYSACC News

Arlene Kaufman, Editor
Joy Squires, NYSACC President

Newsletter Office
3 Andover Drive
Port Jefferson Sta.
NY 11776
631-928-3277
631-331-4526 fax

NYSACC Office
P.O. Box 1732
Huntington, NY
11743
631-368-6949
631-368-4796 fax

NYSACC News is published three times a year. CACs are encouraged to submit press releases, articles, artwork or photography to the editor. For additional copies of NYSACC News and address changes, contact the Newsletter office.

Town of Bedford Conservation Board White Papers 2005 Education Award

The Town of Bedford project is an on-going series of "white papers" pertaining to environmental issues of interest to our Town government and residents. Presently, two papers have been completed: "Lyme Disease: A Primer for Town of Bedford Boards and Commissions" and "Wildlife Conservation Corridors: An Overview and a Model Ordinance."

The first topic, Lyme Disease, initially caught the attention of the Conservation Board when they saw how little its dynamics with the environment were known by town boards. The Board was particularly interested in seeing if town planning could have an impact on the containment of the disease.



Simon Skolnik, Bedford Conservation Board Chairman and NYSACC Director, accepts the award from Joy Squires, NYSACC President.

Later papers will be on topics developed during recent Town Master Plan revisions. The Master Plan had specifically requested that the Conservation Board develop certain town-wide topics of interest. Future papers will cover: (1) Ridgeline Protection; (2) Stonewall Maintenance and Protection; (3) Trail Development; and (4) The State of our Town's Small Lakes and Ponds.

Approximately thirty hours of volunteer time was spent on producing the two "white papers." The only cost was reproducing the reports, which amounted to \$100 for printing.

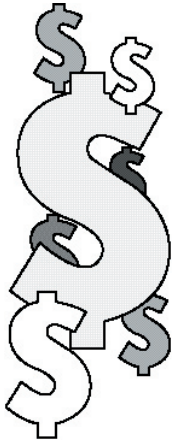
The Bedford Conservation Board has been in existence, first as a commission established in 1969, and then as a board in 1975, for the sole purpose of assisting the Town of Bedford in protecting its natural resources. During these years, the Board has been an active contributor to the Town, well-respected by its boards, and sought out for information by its citizens.

For further information contact Simon Skolnik, CAC Chair, at Town House, 321 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507, e-mail at simon@lasbergconstruction.com

Grant Opportunities

A variety of grants are available to help local organizations achieve their community revitalization goals. Grants are available for the Parks, Historic Preservation and Heritage

Areas, Local Waterfront Revitalization, Hudson River Estuary and Environmental Restoration, and Quality Communities programs. Websites provide information and links to many federal and State agencies, as well as foundations and non-profit organizations that provide a wide array of programs.



The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation provides a number of grant programs. Regional Grants Officers are available in the Agency's Regional offices to offer assistance with applications and program details.

Available NYS funded programs include:

- **Parks Program** - A matching grant program for the acquisition or development of parks.
- **Acquisition Program** - A matching grant program for the acquisition of a permanent easement or fee title to lands, waters or structures for park, recreation, conservation or preservation purposes.
- **Heritage Areas Program** - a matching grant program for projects to preserve, rehabilitate, or restore lands, waters or structures.

The deadline for application is May 26, 2006. Further information is available at www.nysparks.com/grants/

This year the Hudson River Estuary Grant program is focusing on preparation for the Hudson/Fulton/Champlain Quadricentennial celebration in 2009. The goals of the program are:

- Provide every community with at least one new or improved access points to the River
- Improve the health of the River

The deadline for application is May 26, 2006. For information go to www.dec.state.ny.us/website/hudson/grant.html

Eastman Kodak, The Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society provide small grants for the planning and design of greenways throughout America. The program accepts nominations of individuals, organizations, corporations and public agencies that should be recognized for outstanding achievement related to the creation of greenways, blueways, trails and open space systems.

For further information go to The Conservation Fund's website at <http://www.conservationfund.org/?article=2106>

Websites of Note

The following websites may be helpful in the search for project funding.



- <http://www.mott.org/programs/environment.asp>
Website of the Charles Steward Mott Foundation which provides grants for the conservation and restoration of freshwater ecosystems with emphasis on the Great Lakes.
- <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/grants.htm>
Website of the US Environmental Protection Agency listing grants and fellowship information. Includes links to numerous sources of information concerning grants.
- http://www.patagonia.com/enviro/grants_app.shtml
Website of Patagonia, a company specializing in clothing and equipment for climbing and surfing. Patagonia offers grants of three to eight thousand dollars for small environmental projects.
- <http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/2env.htm>
Includes a compilation of web pages and books of potential interest to nonprofit organizations seeking funding opportunities related to the environment.
- <http://www.fundsnetserives.com/envol.htm>
Lists sources of grants and gives information on grant writing.
- <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dpac/grants.html>
Website of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation listing DEC information on grant opportunities.



kevin holland

Print and website design services that help create brand awareness and identity.

- > Websites
- > Logos
- > Print Materials
- > Programming
- > Consulting

For more information, visit:

<http://www.kevinholland.net>

or send an email to:

kevinholland@gmail.com

***Designer of the NYSACC website**



President's Message

As volunteers, we all have goals for our organizations. We have short-term goals, which are often realized, and long-term goals, which are frequently delayed. For a long time, NYSACC's Board of Directors has discussed the need for a website. We made some efforts in the past that led nowhere. Finally everything has fallen into place. We have a website that I am absolutely delighted with. Let me tell you how it evolved.

We knew the website had to be easily accessible and valuable to NYSACC members and to potential members. We chose to explain our organization and its history. We chose to show CACs throughout the state, by DEC region, highlighting and starring NYSACC members. We chose to include a map so everyone can see where CACs are concentrated. We chose to include information on how to form and to run a CAC. We chose to include our Board of Directors so that if people in a region need help, they can go to an available source. We chose to show our newsletter on line. We chose to highlight award-winning projects so others can replicate them. We chose to list all the ways to reach me as President and to reach our Office Manager, Arlene Kaufman.

How did we do it? We heard about Kevin Holland while he was still a student at Syracuse University. Kevin graduated last spring with majors in both Marketing and Finance. He currently works in the mar-



keting communications field, focusing on promotion, advertising and market research for Cxtec. He started designing websites in high school and now offers print and web design services. A musician, boater, skier, Kevin brought just what we needed to achieve our goal of a website.

Rather than overwhelm Kevin with too many voices, all contact was through Arlene Kaufman. She and Kevin consulted and then we all decided together. He had us look at other websites to decide what we like and disliked in both text and visual presentation. Whatever Arlene suggested, Kevin replied, "No problem."

We hope this will be a living, breathing website. It is not yet complete. That will happen with feedback. If we have made mistakes, let us know, especially if our CAC listings are inaccurate. If you have a particular document which would be helpful to others, let us know. If you have an organization or Town website which you would like linked to our site, we would be happy to do this. If you have suggestions for improvement, let us know.

Most importantly, run to your computer and enter www.nysaccny.org



Kevin Holland

Joy Squires

NYSACC *news*
3 Andover Drive
Port Jefferson Station, NY
11776

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

SYRACUSE, N.Y.
PERMIT NO. 1362