

John Fava Wins The Margery Sachs Service Award

The thirteenth annual Margery Sachs Service Award was presented to John Fava, Chairman of the Town of North Castle Conservation Board and member of the Board of Directors of NYSACC. This Award is given in memory of Margery Sachs, one of NYSACC'S original directors, and is conferred on an individual for "Life-long Environmental Concern and Service."



After graduation from high school in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1948, John enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and trained as an X-ray Technician. He was stationed at Shemya Air Force Base, Aleutian Island chain, Alaska (1600 mi. from Anchorage) for a two year period. The Korean War began and all were extended for an additional year.

After discharge from the Air Force, John studied Landscape Architecture at the University of Massachusetts where he met his wife Karolyn. He later attended Pratt Institute where he studied urban planning. John spent his career as a landscape architect with the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. He retired in 1991.

John was appointed to the North Castle Conservation Board (one of the oldest in the State) in 1975 and became Chair in 2001. Known for his enthusiasm, dedication, ready smile, and for wonderful stories of growing and harvesting cranberries in his native state of Massachusetts, Under his direction, North Castle has received several awards for projects undertaken.

The North Castle Conservation Board publication, The State of the Environment in North Castle - 2001, received a NYSACC Education Award in 2002. It reflects the history of the North Castle Conservation Board and identifies its valuable contribution to the protection of natural resources in the Town of North Castle. The report was distributed to all the residents of the Town. It begins with

the origin of land acquisition for valuable parkland and open space in the 1960s and goes on to encompass more recent concerns with intensive development and the need to protect precious surface waters and groundwater aquifers. It describes the creation of the Conservation Advisory Council in 1970 and the establishment of the Conservation Board in 1975, identifies major projects that have been reviewed, and lists the various studies and reports that have been

commissioned over the past 25 years. Presently, these studies and reports form the basis for important recommendations to the Town Board. The report concludes with suggestions to residents regarding the steps that can be taken to protect the Town's natural setting from deterioration and help preserve the quality of life that has drawn people to North Castle.

During the past years the North Castle Conservation Board has developed and distributed town-wide several newsletters and brochures. They consist of "Messages" from the Conservation Board and brochures on Septic Systems and Lawn Care and Pesticides. All of the publications were sent to each resident household with a town-wide mailing. These are but a few of the projects directed by John. The Board is presently reviewing wetland permit review procedures to reduce time and expense for applicants wherever feasible.

As a community leader, John Fava exemplifies all the qualities that the Margery Sachs Award symbolizes.

Save the Date!

**2011 Conference on
the
Environment
to be held
October 21 -23
Albany, New York**

Eve Fertig Student Scholarship Winners

Eve Fertig, Chairperson of the Alden Environmental Conservation Commission, is a nationally renowned wildlife rehabilitator and founder of the Enchanted Forest Wildlife Sanctuary. At NYSACC conferences held in past years, Eve could always be found surrounded by groups of young people, regaling them with stories of Shana, the wolf who later saved her life and the life of her now deceased husband Norman, and Baby, the lion who she raised and who slept next to Eve's bed with her thumb in his mouth. So it seemed perfectly appropriate to name NYSACC's student scholarship program in her honor.

It has become a tradition for NYSACC to award student scholarships to the yearly Conference on the Environment. These scholarships are awarded to students who have exhibited a concern for the environment and an interest in working to preserve it. The scholarships cover the cost of food and lodging. Conference attendance fees are waived. It is hoped that through facilitating their attendance at the Conference, NYSACC is developing environmental leaders of the future, and perhaps new CAC members.

Taylor Prince is pursuing a sustainability minor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He participates in the Vasudua Research Experience, a Rensselaer program that combines living with other environmentally minded students with classes and research projects that hopefully get enacted. The signature themes of the program are a focus on independent thought, critical thinking and an early introduction to undergraduate research experience. Taylor is also an active member of the Student Sustainability Task Force.

After the Conference, Taylor stated that he "found it very exciting that so many different groups and individuals came together to collaborate and report on sustainable projects throughout the State. I took more notes that weekend than I probably have my whole life, and with good reason."

Robyn Mery is a senior environmental studies major at Pace University. She is an officer of NATURE, Pace's environmental club, and volunteers at the Clearwater Environmental Festival, an annual music and environmental festival, held on the banks of the Hudson River at Croton On Hudson and at the Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, a working crop farm and environmental educational center located in Yorktown Heights.



Student Scholarship winners Valerie Ammirato, Taylor Prince, Kelly Caggiano and Robyn Mery

Robyn noted, "I really had a great time at the Conference. Even though I didn't know what to expect, I had set high expectations - and they were definitely met (if not surpassed!) I cannot wait to meet with my advisor and tell him all about it."

Kelly Caggiano is attending Fordham University, where she is pursuing a degree in environmental policy and a degree in communications with a concentration in journalism. Upon graduation she will commission into the United States Air Force as an officer. While in the Air Force she hopes to help further the pursuit of "greening" the military. After serving in the Air Force, Kelly plans to combine her two passions for writing and protecting the environment by writing for an environmental publication.

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Kelly said, "The Conference was an amazing opportunity and I'm thrilled that I had the privilege to participate. I learned about the initiatives taking place in New York State, and was able to network with people who are actively involved in protecting the environment. I also gained valuable knowledge that will help me with my Senior Thesis. After attending this Conference, I am even more determined to become actively involved in making the Air Force a greener place."

Valerie Ammirato attends Iona College. She has been Secretary of the college's Environmental Club for the past two years. Valerie has led many events, both on and off campus, which have spread environmental awareness and promoted recycling and sustainability. She is actively working with the school's food service provider to encourage campus meals that have been harvested sustainably.

NYSACC News

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For additional copies of NYSACC News and address changes, contact the Newsletter office.

The NYSACC Awards

City of Kingston Conservation Advisory Council Climate Smart and Green Jobs Pledge Action Award



Julie Noble, Chair, Kingston Conservation Advisory Council, and Steve Noble, Ulster County EMC Chair and NYSACC Director

This award was given to the Kingston Conservation Advisory Council for their Climate Smart and Green Jobs Pledge, developed using NYSDEC's Climate Smart Communities Pledge Mode and the Local Government Green Jobs Pledge.. A Community Taskforce developed a plan for the City of Kingston which addressed the following areas:

1. Pledge to combat climate change by becoming a Climate Smart Community
2. Set goals, inventory emissions, move to action
3. Decrease energy demand for government operations
4. Foster renewable energy for government operations
5. Realize benefits of recycling and other Climate Smart solid waste management practices
6. Promote climate protection through land use planning
7. Plan for adaptation to unavoidable climate change
- 8 Green innovation strategy
9. Inform and inspire the public
10. Commit to an evolving process

For further information, contact Julie Noble, Chair, at julie1noble@kingston-ny.gov

On a more personal level, Matthew Thomas Noble, our youngest environmentalist was born in December.

Town of LaGrange Conservation Advisory Council Dissemination of Environmental Information Special Projects Award

This award was presented to the LaGrange Conservation Advisory Council for its use of a novel method of disseminating environmental information. At the annual LaGrange Community Day held each June, the CAC uses a magnetic fishing game to attract children (and their parents) to a table manned by CAC members. While the children were being entertained, their parents were given information concerning stormwater discharge, mile-a-minute vine, rain gardens, hazardous waste disposal,



Maung Htoo, chair of the LaGrange Conservation Advisory Council, accepts the Award from Joy Squires

biodiversity and energy conservation. This program resulted in a tenfold increase in information dissemination without use of any tax dollars.

For further information, contact Dr. Maung Htoo, Chair, at m2htoo@aol.com

Arlene Kaufman NYSACC Office Manager NYSACC News CAC/CB Outreach Special Projects Award

Arlene Kaufman is the quiet backbone of NYSACC. Without her, many things would crumble or be excruciatingly painful. For one specific reason NYSACC awarded her an Environmental Project Award for Special Projects, but more about that later.

Arlene is the editor of our newsletter. She does all the corrections and communication for our website. Our webmaster, Kevin Holland, does not have to deal with several people telling him what to do. We communicate with Arlene and she communicates with Kevin, resulting in, what I believe to be an excellent website.

Arlene collects our annual dues. NYSACC exists solely on our member dues. We have no other source of income. She answers email questions, produces clear minutes, puts us in contact with one another, and does all that for remuneration consistent with that of a volunteer job.

For 35 years Arlene was a superb elementary school teacher and then computer teacher in a small school district located on Long Island. When the President of NYSACC and the Chair of the Huntington Conservation Board (me), could not find an office manager for NYSACC or a secretary for the Conservation Board, she volunteered to help a friend. She stated, "It's not what I do, but if I can help, I will." Several years later, neither NYSACC or the Town of Huntington could manage without her.

Now, about the award. NYSACC, and in fact, the NYSDEC, has a difficult time locating and identifying conservation commissions throughout New York State. These organizations are labeled CBs, CACs, EACs, etc. There is no central registry. So Arlene tracks them down. She searches the internet; she calls municipalities. She gets excited when she discovers an unknown group. The NYSACC website lists every known CAC/CB in New York State. This year Arlene linked every commission to its website or its Town/Village website. This project was truly worthy of an award and NYSACC presented her with one. Now you can contact any CAC. Here's how -

- Go to NYSACC's website - www.nysaccny.org
- Click on NYS CACs/CBs
- Click on a region
- Click on an organization

So here's to Arlene Kaufman, NYSACC's office manager par excellence, and my very good friend for many years.

Joy Squires

President's Message

Spring comes and everybody is an environmentalist. This is the time everyone thinks about issues that members of conservation commissions consider all year. We are accustomed to thinking "What can we do to help the world?" specifically, "our little piece of the world." What can we do to lighten the overwhelming expectations that come with spring? I propose devoting one meeting to a game, a "wave your magic wand" game.

My Conservation Board members are brilliant, dedicated, enthusiastic, hard working, diverse and surprisingly funny. We are eight, one opening to fill, with our secretary, Arlene, described on page three, and our liaison from the Planning Department, who was once a Conservation Board member. We work hard, two meetings per month, 7:30 to 10:00 PM, with field-work as necessary.

One evening we took a break and imagined what would happen if each of us could wave a magic wand, Harry Potter's or Tinker Bell's, to create environmental change on a national/international, state, or local level. What would we do to save the world?

Imagined change could encompass issues that we cannot resolve and those we might be able to resolve if we had unlimited funds. I tried to limit discussion because we could have brainstormed all night.



Following are a few issues we thought of:

International and National

- Solution of water distribution problems
- Conservation of wildlife habitat
- Control of population growth
- Management of natural resources
- Solution of energy problems
- Maintenance of biodiversity
- Promotion of environmental education
- Resolution of climate change
- Elimination of invasive species
- Legislation for clean water, clean air and cap and trade
- Improvement of technology to reduce toxins
- Reduction in level of greenhouse gases
- Promotion of globalism as opposed to nationalism

State

- Restoration of EPF funding
- Reinstatement of adequate funding for NYSDEC
- Creation of a comprehensive transportation system
- Reinstatement of adequate funding for state parks
- Use of high-speed rails for the eastern corridor

Local

- Revitalization of downtowns by extension of sewers
- Acquisition of open space
- Encouragement of smart growth communities

The list was much longer. It's an interesting exercise – one worth doing.

Joy Squires