

THEODORE ROOSEVELT  SANCTUARY & Audubon
CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Audubon Returns to Victorian Roots—One Night Only!

Audubon to honor Long Island native at 10th Annual Legacy of Conservation Gala – May 15, 2010
Laura Savini of WLIW-21 to Emcee

Oyster Bay—May 3, 2010 —Get out your big hats and gloves. The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center will host the 2010 Legacy of Conservation Gala on Saturday May 15 starting at 6 o'clock in the evening. The Gala Reception and Dinner will take place at Planting Fields Arboretum in its newly restored Hay Barn. **Laura Savini of WLIW-21**, a WNET.ORG company, will serve as Emcee for the benefit. Music and a silent auction add to the evening; guests are invited to dress in Victorian style.

Another highlight will be the presentation of the *2010 Legacy of Conservation Award*, Theodore Roosevelt & Audubon Center's highest award for environmental leadership, to East Norwich native **Edward Mohlenhoff**. In addition, area high school students **Brent Bomkamp** (Northport HS), **Brendan Fogarty** (Waldorf School, Garden City) and **Vincent Pellegrino** (Northport HS) of the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society's Youth Outreach Committee will receive the *2010 Community Service Award*.

- **Edward Mohlenhoff:** A resident of Oyster Bay Cove, this area native is an ardent supporter of the environment, serving not only on the TRSAC Board as Vice President, but also on numerous local and state organizations. In particular, Mr. Mohlenhoff is a long-time supporter of TRSAC's environmental education programs that serve schoolchildren through Nassau and Suffolk counties.

TRSAC Advisory Board President **Ralph Fumante** was quoted as saying: "As president of the Advisory Board and a friend of Ed's I am so proud that we are recognizing him for the many years of support and encouragement he has given to the Sanctuary. Ed has served the Sanctuary admirably in numerous roles over the years, but most of all as one of its biggest advocates. He truly believes in its mission of "connecting people to nature."

- **Brent Bomkamp, Brendan Fogarty & Vincent Pellegrino:** As members of the Youth Outreach Committee of the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society (Audubon New York's local chapter), these three dedicated area high school students have done extensive volunteer work to engage the next generation of conservationists through workshops, field trips, and presentations.

Regarding the award, Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society Chapter President **Stella Miller** said: "Brent, Brendan, and Vinny not only care about conservation, but they also understand the importance of getting others to care, through education and awareness. These are exceptional young men and I am proud to have them serving on the Huntington-Oyster Bay Youth Outreach Committee. They are the next generation of conservationists and they give me hope that the torch will be carried on."

Past recipients of the *Legacy of Conservation Award* include: Honorable Thomas R. Suozzi (2009), The Roosevelt Family (2008), Robert Catell • Thomas P. DiNapoli • Carl L. Marcellino (2006), Dr. James Watson (2005), Marilyn England • Jane S. Greenleaf • Edward F. von Briesen (2004), Jamie Deming • The Krusos Foundation (2003), Nancy R. Douzinas • Sheila & Thomas Lieber • John “Jock” Miller (2002), and Bernadette Castro • John M. Williams (2001). In addition, in 2009 Winters Bros./IESI received the Corporate Stewardship Award and area veterinarian Ellen Leonhardt the Wildlife Humanitarian Award.

Laura Savini, VP marketing and communications for WLIW21, a WNET.ORG company, will serve as emcee of the event. Ms. Savini is a familiar face as the host of the on-air fundraising campaigns for WLIW21 and for PBS nationally. This fall she will be a contributor on MetroFocus, a magazine-style program that will air on WLIW and thirteen. In addition, Ms. Savini develops new programs for national distribution. She is married to multiple Grammy Award-winning composer, Jimmy Webb.

Gala Benefit Committee Conservation Chairs are **Ursula and William Niarakis** of the Hoffman Center. Business Co-Chairs are **Andy Cangemi** of Herman, Katz, Cangemi and Clyne, and **Michael Martone** of Koeppel Martone Leistman. **Periwinkles Catering** (Patricia Spafford) is catering the event. The Committee is also made up of nearly 100 members, including the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center Advisory Board, led by President **Ralph Fumante**, and Acting Center Director **Pamela Musk**.

Those expected to attend include **Albert E. Caccese**, Executive Director of Audubon New York, and area political leaders, including Nassau County Legislators **Judi Bosworth** and **Judy Jacobs**, and Oyster Bay Town Supervisor **John Venditto**.

Please join us for this festive spring evening to benefit the programming and conservation work of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center and to honor these worthy community members.

The Gala will take place in the Hay Barn at Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay, with a reception at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$250-\$2,500 for an individual ticket and \$5,000-25,000 for a table of 10. For more information, please call 212-979-3177.

SPECIAL LIVE AUCTION:

In addition to the Gala's annual Silent Auction, including an array of donations from area businesses, the 2010 Gala will feature the Live Auction of a trip to the Galapagos Islands, generously offered through Audubon's partner **Lindblad Expeditions**.

Join Lindblad's experienced team of top-notch naturalists as they explore these enchanted islands, a region teeming with unusual and remarkable wildlife. Swim and snorkel with playful sea lions, walk among seemingly ancient giant tortoises and watch as blue-footed boobies perform courtship dances. Satisfy the explorer, science-fan and animal-lover in you in one immersive, engaging and environmentally respectful adventure — all while supporting the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center!

ABOUT THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY & AUDUBON CENTER

Located in Oyster Bay, Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center (TRSAC) was established in 1923 as the first Audubon Songbird Sanctuary in the nation. Today, it is a vibrant resource acting as a home to injured and non-releasable birds of prey and reptiles, a center for environmental education programming, and a resource for the community on a variety of environmental issues. A part of Audubon New York, the state office of the National Audubon Society, TRSAC's mission is to connect people with nature while promoting a sense of environmental stewardship through environmental education. For more information, please go to: http://ny.audubon.org/CentersEdu_TRoosevelt.html.

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