

**Pawling Conservation Advisory Board
Turtle Crossing Sign Project
2000 Education Award**

The Pawling Conservation Advisory Board sponsored this project at the request of Dr. Michael Klemens of the Wildlife Conservation Society. Dr. Klemens had been working locally on a herpetological study of The Great Swamp. In 1996, a sample sign was donated by a local resident, and Highway Superintendent, John Slocum, agreed to donate the posts and erect the signs.

In 1998, the CAB obtained the cooperation of the County Highway Department. The County agreed to specific locations, provided that the Town Highway Department erect the signs. All signs are temporary, erected before the turtle nesting season and removed when it ends (May - August). This reduces the threat of theft.

This project is an excellent example of cooperation between a Conservation Board and a somewhat unlikely partner. Relatively inexpensive and requiring little effort on the part of the CB, it proved very popular with the public. It effectively drew attention to the plight of the endangered turtles, and other wildlife issues as well. It helped promote the highway department's image as well. Full credit was given to them in letters to the editor in the local newspaper.