

## **GIVING THANKS FOR LONG ISLAND'S ENVIRONMENT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thanksgiving came early for Long Island environmentalists this year when New York State recently announced the Keyspan property on the Long Island Sound in Jamesport. The deal, which was formally announced October 24, was just what Long Island environmentalists and local residents wanted for the Holidays. To honor and celebrate with all those who were involved, the Long Island Pine Barrens Society is hosting "A Celebration in Thanksgiving" at Tweed's Restaurant in Riverhead, 1:30 pm-Wednesday, November 27, 2002.

After years of battling less than environmentally sound projects at the 530 acre waterfront property, including LILCO's plans for up to eleven nuclear power plants and a sandmining operation, local residents calls have finally been answered. "We are thankful for this gift from the State this holiday season, we are thankful that the woodlands and Hallock Pond will be preserved, we are thankful that the valuable farmland at the site will still be farmed, and we are thankful that all Long Islander's will soon be able to enjoy the wonder of this unique waterfront property," said Richard Amper, Executive Director of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society.

David Manning, Sr. Vice President of KeySpan said, "KeySpan is happy to participate in this celebration with the Long Island Pine Barrens Society. The sale of the Jamesport property to New York State ensures that this pristine area will be preserved for future generations of Long Islanders to enjoy. This marks the culmination of a great effort involving State, Community, Environmental leaders and KeySpan."

Robert Yaro, President of the Regional Planning Association stated, "The permanent conservation of the Jamesport property is a real gift for the people of New York - a flagship for what we hope will be a region-shaping network of protected lands around Long Island Sound. The KeySpan Corporation and the Governor deserve our thanks for making this unique natural resource a top priority."

Joining in the revelry will be our feathered friend Tom, a turkey who will escape the dining room table this Thanksgiving. Tom is glad that the Keyspan property has been preserved, he said "I hope that once a management plan is created for the new State Park, some of my wild cousins will be allowed to live in the wooded areas of the Park. I know that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has been looking for large wooded parcels of land on Long Island to repopulate wild turkeys on, and I'm hoping the Parks department will evaluate the new Park for such a program."

Dozens of groups and individuals who worked to get the land preserved will be honored, including representatives from Keyspan Energy, local environmental, civic, and business groups and elected officials. Light food and beverages will be served.