

Baker Wins Prestigious Extension Award



NYSG's Dale Baker (center) received the William Q. Wick Award. He is congratulated by Dr. Leon Cammen (right), director of the National Sea Grant College Program and Jim Murray (left), Deputy Director of the NSGCP.

Photo by Barbara A. Branca

At the September meeting of the National Sea Grant Extension and Communications Leaders in Seattle, Washington, New York Sea Grant Associate Director and Extension Leader **Dale Baker** (center) received the William Q. Wick Award for Visionary Career Leadership. The award is the highest honor given to a Sea Grant Extension leader and is named for one of the founders of Sea Grant Extension. Baker, who has been NYSG's extension leader since October 1995, began his Sea Grant career in the early 1970s working as an agent first at New York Sea Grant and then Minnesota Sea Grant. Baker plans to retire at the end of 2008.

— **Barbara A. Branca**

New York State Steps Up Battle Against Invasive Species

In response to the problem of invasive species, NY established an *Invasive Species Task Force* to explore how the State could best address this growing issue. In late 2005, the Task Force submitted its 146-page report to the Governor and Legislature containing a number of recommendations, including:

- Establish state leadership structure to coordinate invasive species efforts
- Produce a comprehensive invasive species management plan
- Allocate resources for invasive species efforts
- Establish a comprehensive invasive species education and outreach effort
- Integrate invasive species databases and information clearinghouses
- Establish a center for invasive species research
- Recognize and fund invasive species demonstration projects.

protect native species and prevent the spread of invasive plants and animals. The Council will continue the work begun by the Task Force and will ensure that the recommendations are implemented. The Council will enhance the State's ability to fight the invasive threat to NY's biodiversity, food supply, recreation, and human health. The law also created the *NY Invasive Species Advisory Committee* to advise the Council.

Since 2006, more than \$11 million has been added to the *NYS Environmental Protection Fund* for invasive species programs, including grants to eradicate invasive species, the creation of an *Invasive Species Research Institute* at Cornell University, a *NY Invasive Species Clearinghouse* (co-located with *NY Sea Grant's National Aquatic Nuisance Species Clearinghouse*), and statewide public outreach efforts through Cornell Cooperative Extension. Most exciting is the development of *Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management* (PRISMs) to involve a wide range of public and private stakeholders to work together to combat invasive species locally and regionally.

— **Chuck O'Neill**



... for more on **Chuck O'Neill's** testimony before Congress related to NYSG's invasive species

In 2007 legislation, the *New York Invasive Species Council* was created and charged with implementing initiatives to