

## Environmental Citizen of the Year

Photo by D. Gervase

In fall of 2002, NYSG coastal education specialist **Helen Domske** was presented with the **2002 Paul MacClennan Environmental Citizen of the Year Award** by The Center for Great Lakes Environmental Education, the Erie County Environmental Education Institute, and the Great Lakes Center at Buffalo State College. The honor is named for Paul MacClennan, an award-winning environmental reporter for the *Buffalo News* who was known for his uncompromising efforts to protect the environment and inform citizens.

Helen has more than 20 years experience as an aquatic science educator and has worked with tens of thousands of students, teachers, scout and youth group leaders, and her peers with such agencies as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Helen is also Associate Director of the Great Lakes Program at the University of Buffalo, editor of the *Great Lakes Research Review*, and author of numerous teaching materials and a book on Western New York's freshwater ecology.



**Environmental Citizen of the year Helen Domske with NYSG Director Jack Mattice the day of the award presentation.**

In recognition of this prestigious award, Domske also received a Citation from the NYS Assembly, which states in part: "Whereas, it is the practice of the Assembled Body to recognize individuals who strive to benefit the communities of the State of NY." In conjunction with her award, Domske was the recipient of an Executive Chamber proclamation from Erie County Executive **Joel Giambra**, and a resolution from the Legislature of Erie County.

## Receiving Teachers Award

Photo by Matthew Graff



**NYSG's Kimberly Zimmer receives her plaque from NYSMEA Director Bob Abrams.**

New York Sea Grant co-sponsored the New York State Marine Education Association (NYSMEA) conference at Southampton College on May 30-June 1, 2003. Over 130 participants viewed the exhibits, attended numerous workshops, visited the local aquarium, and enjoyed boat tours and field trips exploring the habitats of the area. Additional co-sponsors included the American Museum of Natural History, the Wildlife

Conservation Society, the New York Aquarium, and Atlantis Marine World. Dr. Melanie L.J. Stiassny, Curator for the Department of Ichthyology at the American Museum of Natural History presented the ideas behind the science of the New Hall of Ocean Life. And the Central Park Zoo/Wildlife Theater Players entertained educators with "The Mystery of the Great Blue Heron Marsh."

At a ceremony during the three-day event, **Kimberly Zimmer**, NYSG Extension Support Specialist received the **Kinghan Service Award** named for NYSMEA's first president, Gene Kinghan, a dedicated east-end science teacher. As the retiring NYSMEA Treasurer, Zimmer has developed unique pecuniary procedures that have maintained the financial stability of the Association. This recognition reflects the deep appreciation of the organization's Executive Board and the membership for a job well done.