



mountain. It was important to him to share his experiences with other people.”

Cara Lee (above left), Shawangunk Ridge Program Director, introduced the many people who have been such an important part of this project, including various donors, benefactors, architects, landscapers, artists, and others who contributed to the culmination of this endeavor.



“The Huckleberry Song,” written by teacher Bill Fiore (above right), was sung by students from Poughkeepsie Day School. Then, half the tent crowd went off to see the mural unveiled, while the other half stayed to sample “A Taste of the Gunks,” as several local food establishments offered a variety of their wares, including two cakes prepared in the form of **Sam’s Point (below)**!.



Artist Linda Thomas (photo, top right) prepared the huge Habitat mural on large wallpaper-like sections in her home studio, after much research on the native flora and fauna. Many of the animals and plants are woven into the picture’s landscape, and a numbered chart is at the base (and on printed handouts) so one can locate dozens of species, many unique to the Ridge. A life-size sculpture of a turkey vulture by Roger Baker hovers in front of the left half of the mural (second photo, right), which is simply too large to be taken in from one location only. There are also hologram-like 3-D displays that show the cycles of



life following a fire on the mountain (above, left), and how the ice caves were geologically formed (below, left).




Congressman Maurice Hinchey arrived at 3:00 for a tour of the Center; other activities (including a hike to **Sam’s Point** and the **Ice Caves**) were scheduled. 🌿

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