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1973 is here and as is usual with the advent of a new year we always assess our situation and sometimes come up with a number of resolutions. So far as individuals are concerned, I dare say that very few of these goals are ever attained. However, that should not deter us from setting them.

Organizations too, set goals and they should continue to do so if they want to progress and to achieve any degree of success. But we don't have to wait for a New Year to do this. In setting goals, it is first essential that we assess our present status. What is it? How about our principal objectives, membership strength, dedication and cooperation of all officers, appointees and volunteers? I am not going to even suggest what our weaknesses or faults have been. Those of us who have tried to be active or worked in any way, know what these shortcomings are. Faced with these facts, let us all resolve to try to correct these mistakes, live up to our obligations and strive for new heights in 1973.

As we look to the future, all conservationists and Federation members in particular are greatly encouraged in the light of the overwhelming passage of the Environmental Quality Bond Act of 1972. And there are a few bright spots on the national scene. Let us hope and pray that these highlights are but the beginning of a trend in conservation legislation throughout the country. Equally important is the need to follow this up with positive action and implementation. In New York State, it is to be hoped that the Legislature will act without delay in purchasing and safeguarding the remaining wetlands. (One third of the tidal wetlands are already lost and upstate they are disappearing at the rate of 5% a year.) I singled out the wetlands issue because those of us in the Southern New York region are vitally and selfishly interested in the preservation of the Basherkill area, a real gem of Nature. Other equally if not more important problems to be solved, are those concerning all types of pollution, sewage treatment facilities and disposal or recycling of solid wastes.

As we continue to look to the future and especially as our environment is concerned, let us not be merely protestors or advocates, but more importantly, let us become leaders and men of action. Let us put an end to our passive objection or resistance to the destruction of our environment and become personally involved in the fight to live. If we follow Bob Arbib's recommendations, in his award winning book, there will be fewer disasters such as befell "The Lord's Woods." For some really fascinating reading, I recommend this book very highly.

*Kenneth D. Niven*