



Conservation News

Protecting Open Space on Long Island's North Shore

NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

Volume 10, Issue 20



Humes Property, Mill Neck

Breaking News: Humes Property Opportunity

In late October, the North Shore Land Alliance made an offer on the 35-acre Humes property in Mill Neck, which included acquisition of the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden. As of now, we are working with the family to negotiate terms of a potential purchase. We hope to have a more definitive announcement in the weeks to come, but for now this is still a work in progress.

Whether we are successful or not, we think it is important to focus on large, environmentally significant properties such as the Humes parcel in our community conservation priorities. In 2014, the Land Alliance conducted an environmental assessment of local properties. The Humes property, with its connectivity to preserved lands, geographic features such as streams, ponds and wetlands and rare and endangered plants and animals, ranked the #1 most environmentally significant property in our community.

The Humes property is immediately adjacent to preserved land owned by Nassau County, which the Land Alliance helped conserve in 2007. The land includes the

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Conservation News - Fall/Winter 2014

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Dear Land Alliance Friends,

I drove by Upper Francis Pond this morning, a truly beautiful site. The brightly colored leaves reflected off the still water as if the pond were a mirror. Two lone swan floated on a sea of calm. This and nearby Mill Pond are sights I look forward to every fall. These places are cherished parts of my home, and that of my children and grandchildren. They are also perfect examples of the important areas the Land Alliance has been instrumental in protecting forever.

Emblematic places like Upper Francis Pond, the Banfi/Youngs Farm Fields and the DeForest Williams property (set majestically above Cold Spring Harbor) have great beauty. They are also unique to our community and integral in defining place. They provide ecosystem services like growing food, recharging our drinking water source, filtering harmful pollutants from our ponds, beaches and bays, providing habitat for plants and animals and creating recreational opportunities for community members, young and old.

I read a troubling statistic recently stating children ages eight to twelve are spending less and less time in nature, on average only 34 minutes per day. In contrast, these same children spend an average of more than seven hours a day on electronic devices. And, all of this occurs outside of hours spent in school. In a quote from *The Ecologist*, British play advocate Tim Gill says, “children are disappearing from the outdoors at a rate that would make them top of any conservationist’s list of endangered species if they were any other member of the animal kingdom.”

One of our most important goals at the North Shore Land Alliance is to connect people with nature. Expert after expert will say that a child’s earliest experiences in nature shape their feelings about nature for the rest of their lives, including their willingness to take steps to protect it.

In this issue, we are pleased to highlight several family-friendly programs such as our 2015 Walks in the Woods (p. 11 and 12). Our Walks are held at some of our community’s most beautiful places and guided by local experts who bring considerable knowledge to the experience. We are also pleased to announce the launch of our new school program which educates children, both in and out of the classroom, about the science of Long Island’s water hydrology and the impacts humans have on this precious resource.

In addition, we are working on a bid to purchase the environmentally significant Humes property in Mill Neck. If successful, this acquisition will expand the trail system accessible to the public from the adjacent Shu Swamp Preserve.

We are ever grateful to you who have joined us in our efforts to protect the character of our community. We wish you the very best for a happy holiday season, which we hope includes a walk or two outside in nature with your family and friends.

Yours in conservation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carter Bales".

Carter Bales
Chair



Humes Property Opportunity

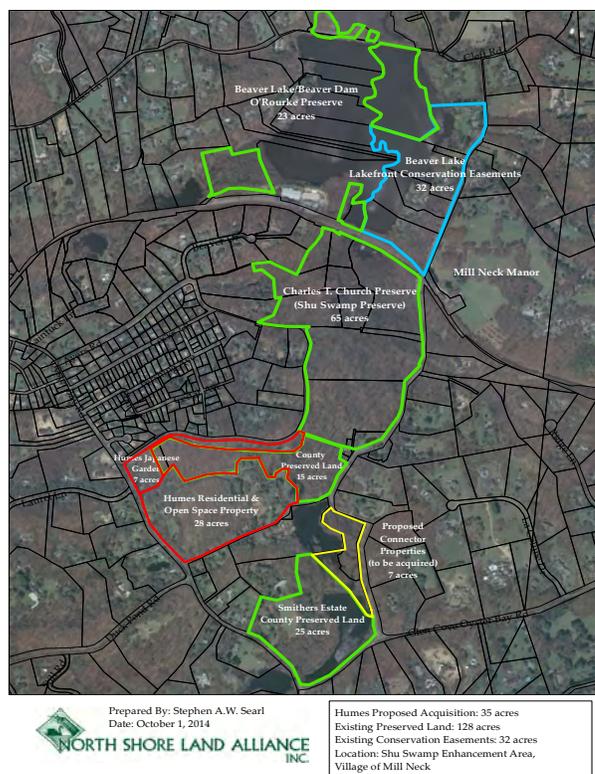
larger Shu Swamp Preserve and Francis Pond natural areas that consist of over 100 acres of preserved land. These conserved areas and surrounding lands are the headwaters to a series of rivers, lakes and waterways (both freshwater and tidal) that eventually reach the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the Long Island Sound. “Conservation of this property would help complete one of the most important wetland and open space corridors on the North Shore of Long Island and is the Land Alliance’s number one conservation priority,” said Carter Bales, Land Alliance Chair.

The Humes property is referenced as a priority parcel in the New York State’s 2009 Open Space Conservation Plan and the draft New York State 2014 Open Space Conservation Plan. That is because it contributes to preserving the Shu Swamp Natural Area, a Class I freshwater wetland area and is home to noteworthy brook trout, brook lamprey and river otter as well as regionally rare and unusual plant species. The property is also listed as a conservation priority in the Nassau County Planning Commission’s 2005 Site Nomination List of conservation priorities.

The conservation values for this property include the following:

1. Location within the Town of Oyster Bay’s Special Groundwater Protection Area
2. Contains NYSDEC designated Class I freshwater wetlands
3. Located within USGS designated watershed (HUC-12)
4. Headwaters of Shu Swamp Preserve, which drains to Beaver Dam Pond, Upper Mill Neck Basin, Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and eventually the Long Island Sound
5. Located within a FEMA 100 year flood zone
6. Contains meadow and woodland habitat

Humes Location Map



7. Consists of scenic viewsheds along Frost Mill Road and Locust Valley-Oyster Bay Road
8. Contains sloped land with a grade that exceeds 10%
9. Adjacent to already protected land owned by
10. Nassau County (part of the Shu Swamp Preserve and Francis Pond Natural Areas)

There are many factors to be considered when the Land Alliance decides to acquire a property, and conservation values such as these make the Humes property stand out.

If we are able to reach a deal with the family, we will immediately embark upon a fundraising campaign to ensure that the property’s conservation and open space values are preserved forever. Stay tuned for further developments and the potential kick-off to our fundraising campaign!

Coming Soon: The Wawapek Preserve in Cold Spring Harbor



DeForest Williams Property, Fall 2014

We are nearly finished with the acquisition and preservation of the 32-acre DeForest Williams property in Cold Spring Harbor. A long list of individuals, foundations, corporations, local governments, including Suffolk County and the Town of Huntington and conservation organizations such as The Nature Conservancy/Krusos Foundation have worked together to raise over \$8,000,000 toward this project during the past three years. Thank you again to all who have helped us preserve this important property. And a special thank you to The Conservation Fund, which will provide the bridge loan that will allow us to close as soon as year end or early in 2015. We are nearly there!

While we had hoped to close by the end of the summer, delays in the planning process to legally subdivide the existing residences from the conserved land have extended the time frame for closing. Specifically, existing water lines on the property that date back to the 1930s need to be abandoned and the abandonment process has proven to be a lengthy one. The water

line abandonment plan and subsequent subdivision approval has already involved the Suffolk County Water Authority and Suffolk County Department of Health, but it still needs approval from the Huntington Town Planning Board.

As we steadily work toward a closing for this property, we have also begun to plan for our eventual management and stewardship of the preserve. With the help of landscape architect Victoria Silverman from Main Street Nursery in Huntington, the Land Alliance has developed and designed a draft stewardship concept plan for the property that incorporates naming opportunities and ensures that the preserve is publicly accessible once we take ownership. We have met with our preservation partners (Town of Huntington and Suffolk County) to review the draft concept plans and anticipate meeting with neighbors and other community members in the months to come.

In order to close the \$315,000 funding gap that still

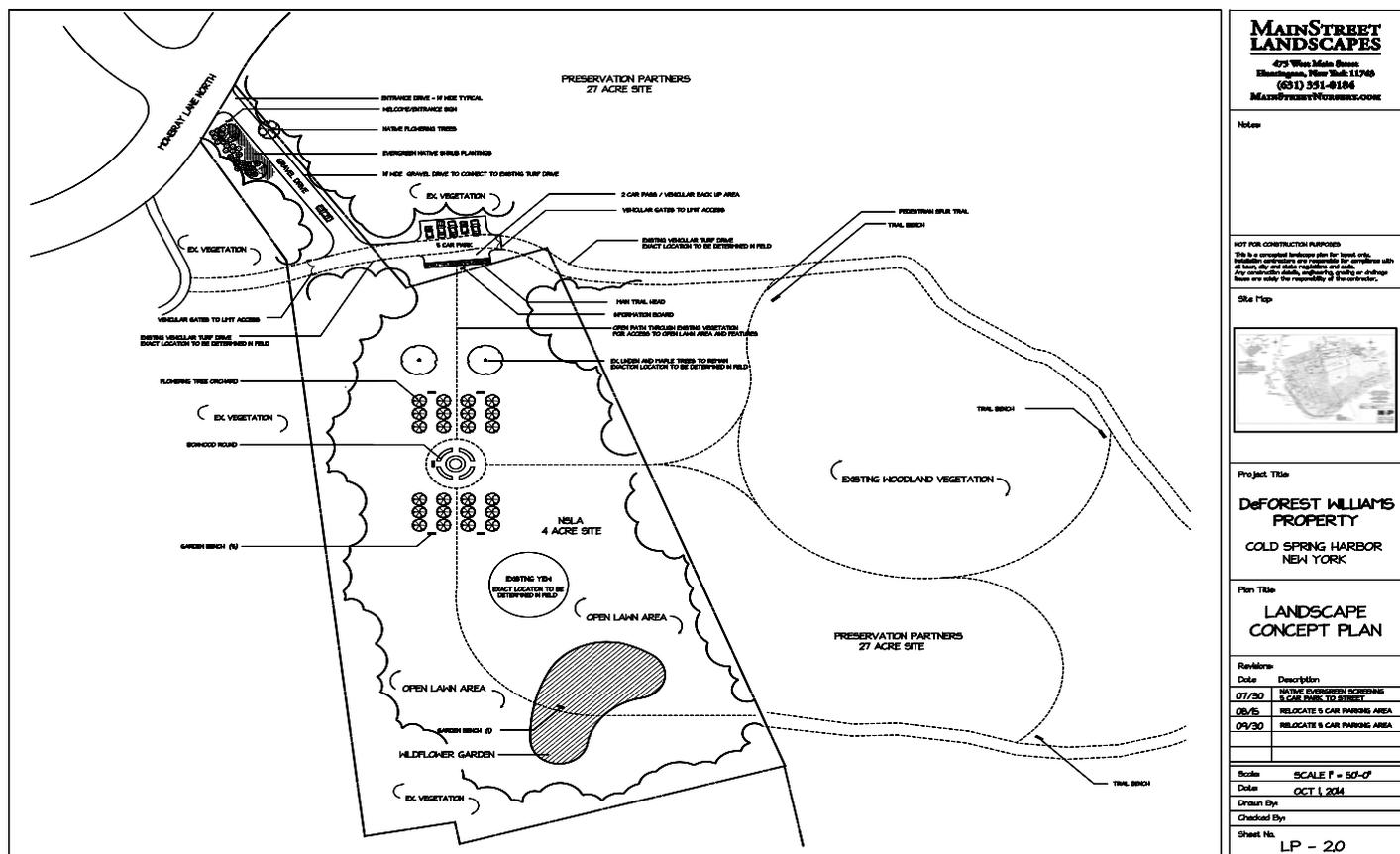
remains, naming opportunities for the preserve are still available. They can be used for the entrance area, parking area, spur trail, tree maintenance, native plant garden, trail benches or the installation of a small fruit orchard. In 2015, we plan to begin raising a stewardship endowment which will ensure that the preserve continues to be maintained as it has been in the past. A plaque listing all donors will be installed at the entrance. Please contact us at 516-626-0908 if you have any questions and/or are interested

in providing additional support for this project.

On a sad note, Doug Williams (who lived on this property for many years) died last month before the official closing could take place. He was very supportive of the preservation of this land and our condolences go out to his family, Page and David Dwyer.



The Preserve Concept Plan



The DeForest Williams Property will not only protect important woodland, wildlife habitat and open space but provide access to the community and have the potential to create Community Conservation Lands: Those lands and places that connect people to the land, connect people to people and help build a sense of community.

(Source: Saving Land, a Land Trust Alliance Publication)

A Landowner Perspective

Reflections on Selling a Land Trust Property

By Caroline S. DuBois

After nearly 60 years of quiet enjoyment, my family successfully marketed and sold our eight bedroom home in Oyster Bay Cove.... accepting an offer received...in less than two months on the market...for close to the asking price...as is...all cash.

Prior to listing, we were concerned that the conservation easement on our back field, which we had donated to the North Shore Land Alliance (NSLA), might complicate the sale. We were worried that our strong environmental restrictions would turn off potential buyers or delay the transaction.

Luckily, that was not the case! The new owners appreciated the natural beauty, privacy and sense of permanence they had acquired with the open space, and were greatly motivated by the significantly reduced taxes they inherited. Of course, they also appreciated our 1907 Tudor style house, with its ornamental murals and intricate carvings.

When we decided in 2005 to restrict development (i.e. no new structures) on the two acre parcel bordered by the 200 acre Tiffany Creek Preserve, with its historic 1740 Fleet's Mill Pond and old growth forest, we got advice from lawyers, accountants and real estate agents.

We were motivated by a desire to protect the environmental integrity of the property, which serves as a recharge for the adjacent deep water wells. We also were sentimentally attached to the views of tall trees, waving grasses and abundant wildlife.

Looking back, perhaps we should have allowed exceptions for a swimming pool and tennis court to be built on the field, although there is plenty of room in the front portion for those amenities, and our real estate agent has assured us it was not a big concern of potential buyers. The financial benefits we received

ourselves (which we could pass to the new owners) far outweighed those objections.

As a result of persistently grieving the taxes over the past eight years, our county property assessment was lowered by more than a million dollars. Our out-of-pocket annual taxes went down significantly, and we eventually even received refund checks from the Village of Oyster Bay Cove (but so far only have IOUs from Nassau County).

As part of establishing our new land trust, we had systematically tracked all the upfront costs (new survey, environmental inventory, property appraisal, title search, deed registration, attorney fees), documented all the players (several made follow-up visits) and listed the annual tax adjustments. We are confident that we benefitted financially from the deal.

While each case is different, I can report that for us, having the conservation easement on the family land has brought us substantial emotional and economic rewards, and was a strong selling point for our nature loving buyers. But, most importantly, we are happy there will never be a McMansion on the field where we played soccer when we were growing up.

This is the first of several future newsletter articles about and by property owners who have preserved their land with the Land Alliance. If you are interested in preserving your land or want to learn more please contact us at 516-626-0908.

“We come and go, but the land is always here. And the people who love it and understand it are the people who own it - for a little while.”

- Willa Cather

Conservationist Louis Bacon Receives National Land Trust Award



Charles Dowling, LTA Chair, Louis Bacon and Rand Wentworth, LTA President

Island. Mr. Wentworth said the President's Award "celebrates the land conservation movement and whose contributions encourage commitment and action throughout the land trust community and private landowner community. The President's Award is among the highest honors from the land trust community, and is only awarded on a special, selective basis. Mr. Bacon's bold actions are inspiring other landowners to protect and steward their lands, encouraging them to protect America's natural heritage to create a lasting legacy for generations to come."

On September 18th, Louis Bacon was awarded the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) President's Award for Conservation Leadership. The award was made in recognition of his lifelong passion for land conservation, his accomplishments with The Moore Charitable Foundation and his move to permanently protect more than 210,000 acres of his own land.

Rand Wentworth, LTA President, presented Mr. Bacon with this prestigious award at the LTA's annual conference in Providence, Rhode

Island. Mr. Wentworth said the President's Award "celebrates an individual whose leadership has enriched the

land conservation movement and whose contributions encourage commitment and action throughout the land

trust community and private landowner community. The President's Award is among the highest honors from the

land trust community, and is only awarded on a special, selective basis. Mr. Bacon's bold actions are inspiring other

landowners to protect and steward their lands, encouraging them to protect America's natural heritage to create a

lasting legacy for generations to come."

In accepting the award, Mr. Bacon said, "Increasing the pace of conservation in America is critical to protecting and preserving our country's great landscape, and I am proud to partner with the Land Trust Alliance." Mr. Bacon went on to make a challenge to America's largest landowners, boldly asking that they promise to protect at least 50% of their land in perpetuity in their lifetime.

From Mr. Bacon's first donation of a conservation easement on Robins Island in the Great Peconic Bay in 1997 to his agreement in 2012 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to place approximately 167,000 acres of the Trinchera Blanca Ranch in Colorado under perpetual conservation easements Mr. Bacon's conservation philanthropy has spanned the width of the country and helped protect thousands of acres of treasured landscape.

We are very proud that a member of our community has done so much to impact the protection of our natural world. Please join us in congratulating Mr. Bacon and The Moore Charitable Foundation on their extraordinarily important work.

About The Moore Charitable Foundation

Louis Bacon is the Chairman of The Moore Charitable Foundation, Inc., (MCF) and its affiliate foundations. Founded by Mr. Bacon in 1992, MCF supports conservation nonprofits that focus on protecting threatened landscapes, habitats and water bodies.

Conserving Land – What's Your Role?



Since our organization was founded in 2003, the North Shore Land Alliance has partnered with landowners, municipalities and private donors to conserve nearly 1,000 acres of land in Nassau County and western Suffolk County. There was a time when much of our work was done in concert with government bonds and other municipal funding sources. While we continue to impress upon our political leaders the importance of having funds for environmental protection, we do not anticipate an immediate resurgence in government spending in the foreseeable future.

As a result, our conservation work continues to be reliant on individual donors and conservation minded investors. This mirrors a national trend, where landowners, investors and other private parties, foundations and organizations are increasingly becoming active stakeholders in their community and working to preserve and protect the places they love for the enjoyment of future generations. If we are going to continue to be successful at conserving Long Island's natural resources, we all have a role to play.

If you are a landowner considering gifting property to conservation or donating a conservation easement, or a buyer or investor considering working with us to acquire and conserve threatened parcels that are on the market, qualified conservation easements and gifts of land may help. There are many benefits to land conservation including the following:

1. Conserve valuable resources and improve the quality of our soil, water and air
2. Combat climate change by preserving wetland areas, buffers and other natural areas that help mitigate sea level rise and other effects of climate change

3. Increase local property values while decreasing the need for development related services
4. Strengthen our communities by protecting land for wildlife habitat, food security, scenic viewsheds, cultural opportunities and recreational purposes
5. Benefit individuals financially. For example, gifts of conservation easements have the potential to qualify for a federal tax deduction and a New York State tax credit. And, in some circumstances, you can even reduce local property tax burdens.
6. Pass land on to the next generation and offer estate planning benefits

Working with us, your local land protection organization, offers many advantages: We are closely tied to the communities we work in; our status as a non-profit offers charitable tax incentives such as those discussed above; and as a private organization we have the ability to be flexible and creative and, when necessary, work quickly.

If you are not a landowner, please consider supporting our ongoing land conservation work. Don't hesitate to reach out to us if there are specific properties and special places you feel should be conserved. Everyone has a role to play in protecting our community and we still have a lot of work to do!

To learn more about conservation easements, gifts of land and other land conservation projects and opportunities please contact Stephen Searl, Director of Land Conservation, at stephen@northshorelandalliance.org or 516-626-0908.



2014 Accreditation Celebration



In late September, members of the Land Alliance staff attended the national Land Trust Alliance conference in Providence, Rhode Island. There were more than 1,900 attendees. The conference, traditionally called "Rally," featured more than 100 workshops, 16 seminars and 10 field trips. Land Alliance staff attended workshops and seminars on conservation finance, development strategies, conservation tax compliance, food system and foodshed conservation planning, preserve and easement management techniques and adapting to climate change. The conference is a terrific forum for education in all things conservation, but it's an equally important venue for networking with experts in the field of conservation and for connecting with other land trusts.

At the conference's Welcome Breakfast, 96 land trusts were recognized for being accredited in 2014 and we were one of them! Lisa Ott was on hand to proudly accept the Land Alliance's accreditation achievement award. We are so pleased to be one of 280 accredited land trusts in the country that protect over 75% of the land conserved by land trusts.

GOVERNMENT UPDATES



FEDERAL

This “Lame Duck” Session Matters for Conservation

The U.S. Senate is reconvening right after the November 4th election and it is our understanding that they intend to address more than 60 expired tax provisions before the end of the year. We believe that passage of the charitable giving incentives (of which the conservation easement provision is one) enjoys overwhelming support and is in the political interests of all involved especially at a time when Congress is vowing to reach across the aisle and get things done.

Legislation is pending in Congress that would restore the enhanced incentive for conservation easements and make it permanent. This provision passed the House of Representatives this summer in an overwhelming bipartisan vote. Expanded conservation easement tax incentives were enacted in 2006 but Congress allowed them to lapse at the end of 2013, leaving landowners in limbo. Many conservation deals are hanging in the balance.

If Congress fails to act, landowners may be forced to sell off treasured lands rather than keep them in the

family. Landowners need certainty and permanence in order to plan.

Permanent easement tax incentives would represent the most significant conservation victory of this century. We are closer than we have ever been before; Congress must not leave until it votes to enact permanent land conservation tax incentives. Please join us in encouraging Senator Schumer and Senator Gillibrand to vote in favor of making the tax incentive for private conservation easements permanent so more of our local land can be protected.



STATE

Ask Governor Cuomo to Increase the Environmental Protection Fund in the 2015/2016 Budget

Friends of New York's Environment, a coalition of more than 100 non-profit organizations across the state (of which the Land Alliance is a member), is asking Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature to increase the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) from the current \$162 Million to \$200 Million in the 2015/2016 budget. By further enhancing and restoring the EPF, we will generate economic activity and revenue, build green infrastructure, protect the environment and clean

water and create jobs in many sectors throughout the State. Achieving this goal in the coming state budget will put us on a path to restore the EPF fully to a sustainable level of \$300 million annually in the future, which will allow us to meet current demand and implement critical programs across our State.

A 2012 analysis by The Trust for Public Land found that for every \$1 of EPF funds invested in land and water protection, \$7 in economic benefits through natural goods and services is returned to the State. Many EPF programs provide communities the ability to use natural solutions to help reduce risk and plan growth in a way that improves sustainability and resilience in the face of more frequent extreme weather events.

Through the EPF New York is conserving and enhancing farms, forests, rivers, beaches, and lakes. The EPF is supporting community parks, recycling programs and zoos and botanical gardens.

Unfortunately, current demand for these programs far outpaces appropriations and spending. Delays and long waiting lists for EPF dollars continue to threaten opportunities to leverage millions of dollars from local, federal and private sources. Please join us in encouraging our state officials to invest in a healthier environment for New York.

A Record Year for Public Funding for Land Conservation

Voters across the nation decided by overwhelmingly majorities to set aside \$13 billion dollars for parks and preservation in what some environmentalists are calling one of the most significant elections for land conservation in American history.

The most money at stake was in Florida, California and New Jersey.

“These are highly developed and dense states, and they are watching the good natural places disappear,” said Will Rogers, president and CEO of The Trust for Public Land, which tracks and raises money for the ballot measures. “People know if they don’t step up and protect it, it will be gone.”

FLORIDA

Floridians voted on a constitutional amendment that would dedicate \$18 billion in existing real estate taxes to environmental protection over the next two decades. About half the revenue would go to buy nearly two million acres of swamplands, beaches and other pockets of wilderness in places like the Everglades that link key corridors of open space where wildlife can migrate naturally. IT PASSED BY A 75% TO 25% MAJORITY!

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey’s voters renewed part of a tax on corporations to pay for \$2.1 billion for open spaces and farmland. The measure creates a permanent funding source for the state to buy and preserve open space. The money comes from the state’s corporate business tax, moving the 4%

that’s already allocated for broader environmental programs toward the preservation of open space, and bumping that dedication up to 6% by 2019. THAT MEASURE PASSED WITH A 65% TO 35% MAJORITY!

CALIFORNIA

And drought-suffering Californians passed Proposition 1, a \$7.5 billion voter initiative to fund more dams on the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers to improve water supplies in the central part of the state, where most of the nation’s fruits and vegetables are grown. The same bond measure would set aside much less money - about \$1.5 billion - for land and watershed conservation. AND THAT MEASURE WON WITH A 67% TO 33% MAJORITY!

Other important measures included:

1. North Dakota - A proposed state constitutional amendment was defeated 21% to 79%. It would have dedicated 5% of the state’s oil extraction tax money to parks and conservation for the next 25 years, or about \$75 million annually.
2. Maine - Voters passed, 65% to 35%, a \$10 million bond



measure to help pay for infrastructure which would reduce threats to the state’s water resources and protect fisheries and habitat for waterfowl and other aquatic animals.

3. Portland, OR - A \$68 million bond to repair and maintain the city’s parks won 72% to 28%.
4. Missoula County, MT - Voters passed 54% to 46% a \$42 million bond to build out Fort Missoula Regional Park, expand trails throughout the county and build and repair neighborhood parks in Missoula.
5. Bernalillo County, NM - Voters in this county, which includes Albuquerque, gave 72% to 28% approval to a 15-year property tax for open space and natural areas.



Local Initiatives

Locally, only one open space-related measure was on the ballot. In Suffolk County Proposal 5 to protect and restore open space funding passed 66% to 34%.

The Suffolk County's Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP) was first established in 1987. It was expanded and extended as recently as 2007 to provide funding for environmental protection, water quality protection, land stewardship and restoration and wastewater treatment initiatives. Funding is generated through sales tax revenue and the DWPP was approved through 2030. Over the years, various administrations have borrowed as much as \$30 million from the DWPP to balance County budgets. Proposal 5 was developed by environmental leaders and Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone to settle an existing lawsuit over the repayment of DWPP funds. The new legislation, which passed on November 4th, not only restores funds to DWPP but ensures that funds are directed to portions of the DWPP that need the most financial support. It also sets a date for ending any future borrowing from the program with a mandatory repayment schedule. Perhaps most importantly, a mandatory referendum will be required prior to any future change in the program, guaranteeing that the public has control over how their money is spent.

Approval of this proposal represents a major step forward for environ-

mental protection and government accountability. Just as importantly, this victory demonstrates the public's continued support of clean water investment.

Results like this give us great hope that our elected officials will make land conservation a priority and give us another opportunity to protect the land that protects our water and create parks for public health and personal enjoyment.

TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN

44.3-acre Open Space Property in Mt. Sinai Preserved

In September, 2014, the Town of Brookhaven and Suffolk County announced the joint purchase of 44.3 acres of open space in Mount Sinai. The property, currently owned by the Society of St. Francis, is located in the sensitive Mount Sinai Harbor watershed area and is critical to ensuring protection of the coastal waterway as well as the underlying aquifer. The County is committed to 75% of the \$4.43M acquisition price and the Town is committed to 25%. The property is an important scenic viewshed and is dominated by an oak-beech forest, which was, at a time before rampant residential development, very common along the North Shore of Long Island. Moreover, the dramatic topography, which was created by a glacial moraine, will provide future hikers with wonderful views of Mount Sinai Harbor and the surrounding area.

6. Larimer County, CO - A 25-year sales tax extension to protect natural areas, open space and rivers won 81% to 19% approval by the voters of the county, which includes Fort Collins. It is expected to generate more than \$10.4 million annually with half to be shared with the county's eight municipalities.
7. Benton County, WA - A 10-year property tax, which was expected to generate one million dollars annually for open space, was defeated 45% to 55%.
8. Los Angeles County, CA - A proposed extension of an existing parcel tax measure to pay for county parks and recreation won 62% to 38% support from voters, but failed because it needed a 2/3 margin for enactment.

Details of local conservation ballots measures dating back to 1988 can be found at www.landvote.org.

An Update on the Habitat Restoration Project at 95 Shore Road in Cold Spring Harbor



Lucy Marshall



Rich Kopsco and Anne Codey

We never appreciated the importance of abundant water so much as we did this past summer when maintaining new plantings at the former ExxonMobil property. Eventually the newly-established grassland and wet meadow communities will not require watering, as the plants there are native to Long Island and accustomed to the local climate. But while they are settling in, they need water! Thanks to intermittent rain, occasional spraying from a big hose brought in by our planting contractor, Scenic Designs, access to faucets at neighboring Cold Spring Harbor and Eagle Dock Beach Clubs and a crew of dedicated volunteers and interns who formed a watering rotation, we got it done. Now, as we write this, it's been raining for two days and we haven't had to water for weeks. But memories of last fall's drought make us wary about putting away the sprinklers just yet!

If you visited or passed by the property this summer/fall, you may have noticed, in addition to the flourishing populations of Switchgrass, Indiangrass and Little Bluestem planted in spring 2011, a variety of wildflowers (many native but not all) seeded without us. You also may have noticed several hundred small flags marking plugs from the Long Island Native Plant Initiative and Pinelands Nursery. These locally-sourced

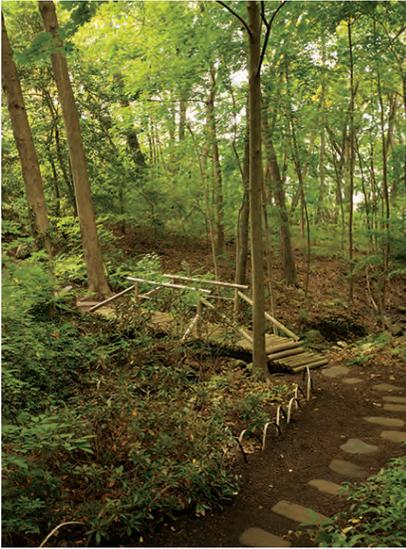
native plants were the beneficiaries of much of our maintenance effort. They, like the grasses that were planted in 2011, will take a bit of time to become established.

We've been busy this fall with ongoing weeding, mowing a new path, plant and bird surveys, the International Coastal Cleanup with Girl Scout Hicksville Troop #3362 and additional educational programming. (See *Launching a Water Education Program – Meet Karen Mossey*, p. 16.)

This year's planting was carried out with \$35,000 in support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal and state agencies through the Natural Resource Damage Assessment program. The Land Alliance was one of three restoration projects to be funded with monies from a 2003 settlement in a natural resources damage claim against a Superfund Site located in Glen Cove.

We send a big thank you to our many volunteers and supporters at the property this year. See *Volunteer Corner*, p. 18, to learn more about some of the individuals who have been making our work possible.

2015 Walks in the Woods Calendar Preview



1. **Jane Jackson & Sierra Club, Sunday, January 25th, 10:00 a.m. – Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve, Upper Brookville.** Join North Shore Land Alliance and the Sierra Club for an invigorating winter walk through this 42-acre gem. The Preserve abuts Planting Fields Arboretum and contains a historic field and a lovely pine forest. If it snows bring cross-country skis or snowshoes!
2. **Rich Kelly, Saturday, March 28th, 10:00 a.m. – Sunken Meadow State Park, Kings Park.** Be on the lookout with Long Island Botanical Society's Rich Kelly for late winter/early spring plants and birds in this beautiful state park by the Nissequogue River.
3. * **Dr. Russell Burke, Thursday, April 2nd, Time to be confirmed - Muttontown Preserve, Muttontown.** Russell describes his research in and around New York City as "urban ecology." For this program, he will lead a search for wood frogs and other amphibians as they emerge into spring.
4. * **Yvonne Berger, Saturday, April 18th, 10:00 a.m. - Sands Point Preserve, Port Washington.** Concurrent with the Friends of Sands Point Preserve's spring photo day for families, this program, under Yvonne's guidance, will provide instruction in composition and other features to sharpen your photography skills.
5. **Dan Kriesberg, Friday, April 24th, 7:00 p.m. – Bailey Arboretum, Lattingtown.** Come with us on an evening walk, when Dan will help guide us in honing our senses just like the nocturnal animals that share the woods.
6. **Peter Martin, Saturday, May 2nd, 8:00 a.m. – Meroke Preserve, Merrick.** Join Naturalist Peter Martin at Nassau County's Meroke Preserve, tucked away in southern Merrick, to observe spring migratory birds before the trees fully leaf out. If time allows, we will visit either County-owned Mill Pond or the Town of Hempstead's Twin Lakes to see what the waterfowl are up to.
7. **Chris Olsen, Sunday, May 17th, 12:00 p.m. – SUNY Old Westbury, Old Westbury.** SUNY's stunning 300-acre campus tucked away in Old Westbury hosts a variety of plant communities as well as a fascinating history. A resident naturalist, Chris will introduce us to some of its treasures when a lovely array of native plants is in bloom or when the foliage is at its peak.

8. **Ann Lotowycz, Saturday, June 6th, 10:00 a.m. – Humes Property, Mill Neck.** Ann’s knowledge of plants and familiarity with this property by the Japanese Stroll Garden will make for a highly educational walk.
9. **Virginia Dankel, Sunday, July 26th, 11:00 a.m. – Hoffman Center, Muttontown.** Explore the grounds of this beautiful 155-acre estate in the heat of the summer and learn about its many natural communities.
10. * **Dr. Andrew Greller and Polly Weigand, Saturday, September 26th, 10:00 a.m. – Sayville Grasslands, West Sayville.** This U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service property is a high-quality example of one of the world’s most threatened natural communities.
11. **John Turner, Saturday, October 17th, 11:00 a.m. - Dwarf Pine Plains, Westhampton.** Visit this stunning preserve when it is not only at its most colorful but also when Buck Moths can be seen during their mating flight. It’s a sight to behold!
12. * **Richard Weir, Sunday, November 22nd, 12:00 p.m. – Wawapek Preserve (aka DeForest Williams Property), Cold Spring Harbor.** Richard’s plant surveys of this property were instrumental in its protection. Visit after the leaves have fallen for a view of Cold Spring Harbor and learn about its special qualities.

* Date subject to change - please check our website for updates or give us a call to confirm.

Registration is required. To register, please visit us online at www.northshorelandalliance.org or contact Jane Jackson at 516-626-0908.



“I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order.”
-John Burroughs

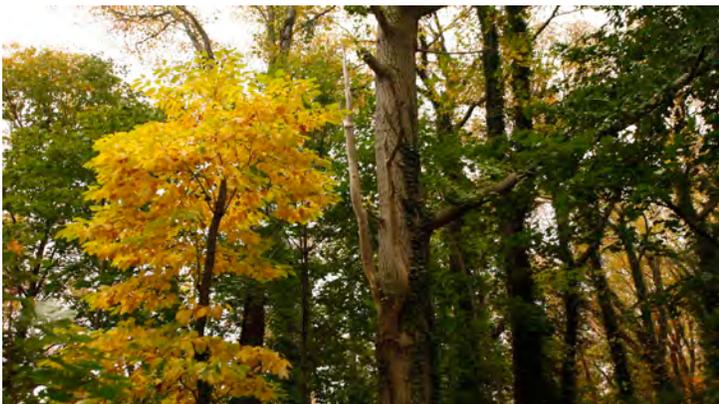
Land Alliance to Acquire Two More Nature Conservancy Preserves

In the winter of 2007, the Land Alliance and The Nature Conservancy on Long Island entered into a memorandum of agreement that set the stage for the Land Alliance's stewardship of 65 acres of land in northeastern Nassau County. Since that time, the Land Alliance has taken ownership of these four properties: Fox Hollow Preserve in Laurel Hollow, Cordelia H. Cushman Preserve in Oyster Bay Cove, Louis C. Clark Sanctuary in Old Brookville and Bertha & Reginald Rose Refuge in Upper Brookville. We continue to manage, with Conservancy input, 62 acres in Upper Brookville and Old Brookville at Hope Goddard Iselin and James Preserves, and expect to acquire them in the coming year.

Most recently, the Land Alliance has taken over stewardship of the 8-acre Davenport Sanctuary in Laurel Hollow and 4-acre Harbor Hill property in Lake Success from the Conservancy. In total the Land Alliance owns and is managing 135 acres in Nassau County.



In Laurel Hollow, **Davenport Sanctuary** is a moist woodland preserve, boasting a mix of native shrubs and hardwood trees (among them hickory, red maple, American Holly, Black Willow at the pond, Mountain Laurel and Spicebush), the most noteworthy of which are a number of old-growth Tulip Trees. Its eastern portion features a one-acre kettlehole pond. The site, once part of a 60-acre farm with a blacksmith and sawmill shed that still stands, was acquired by Charles Davenport about 1900, only a few years before its canopy of American Chestnut trees was done in by blight introduced in 1904.



In Lake Success, **Harbor Hill Sanctuary** is a tiny island of forest, surrounded by development, that is a haven for a multitude of birds and serves as a valuable stop for migrants. It was the site of a bird-banding operation more than a decade ago; some mist netting and the shed that housed operations remain on the property. There are a number of large trees dotting the steep slope. Our plans for the preserve include the restoration of a trail that existed at one time.

Launching a Water Education Program – Meet Karen Mossey



On a brilliant October morning, a class of 27 fourth graders, working in groups of three, was building an aquifer. They were shaping layers of sand, gravel and clay into cups and carefully adding water from a spray bottle to each layer, observing how water was absorbed (or not) at each level. The previous week our groundwater model had arrived – with a crack in it! Educator Karen Mossey nimbly substituted the construct-an-aquifer lesson for a demonstration of the model.

Our water education program is underway! In Karen's capable hands, it is currently reaching fourth and fifth graders at St. Patrick School in Huntington and James H. Vernon and St. Dominic Schools in Oyster Bay. Through a series of interactive lessons both in the classroom and outdoors, these youngsters are learning about the aquifer their drinking water comes from, its connection to cherished streams, bays and Long Island Sound and how their activities can affect the quality and quantity of this precious resource. Other partners in the 2014/15 school year will include the Cold Spring Harbor School Districts; the final list of schools is still in formation.

Karen was hired in August to develop lessons and implement the program and she has hit the ground running. She served as both an outdoor educator for BOCES for four years and an elementary school teacher for the Massapequa School District for eight, so her experience is an ideal match for our program. Her warmth, enthusiasm and professionalism round out her qualifications – we can't say enough great things about her!

Our 95 Shore Road (aka former ExxonMobil) property in Cold Spring Harbor was the location for the final St. Patrick program on October 28. 90 students visited to enhance their new understanding of how conservation and stewardship of our natural areas can help protect our water. Karen led the students in an exploration of the shoreline, where they learned about the plants and wildlife that depend on a healthy coastal community to thrive. A favorite activity was investigating Asian Shore Crabs and observing seagulls' attempts to devour them. In addition, each student took part in our grassland restoration by collecting soil samples (to measure pH and other parameters) and harvesting Switchgrass and Indiangrass seed that will be planted on the property in the future to augment existing populations. Students from the East Woods School also helped with soil sampling that day and planted grass seed they harvested on site.

We hope our students will become devoted stewards of Long Island's waters. If the St. Patrick classes are any indication, Long Island's water, under the stewardship of our students, will be in good hands!

Many thanks to our volunteers and stewards who assisted on October 28 (and then some!): Lisa Francois, Eileen Rossi, Eric Himelfarb, Joel Shaw, Rich Kopsco and Hiromi Uzu. Thanks also to our school partners, our generous donor and especially to our volunteer Anne Codey who, with Eileen Rossi, helped shape the program.

Volunteers Contribute to Our Land Conservation Efforts

As always, our volunteers in 2014 have made invaluable contributions to the work we do. At our preserves, they helped in every way imaginable, from trail maintenance, to removing invasive plants, to installing and managing native plantings, to conducting plant and bird surveys, to developing and leading educational programs.

Volunteers Participate in Invasive Species Awareness Week



In July 2014, the statewide Invasive Species Awareness Week was launched. Volunteers participated with us that week by pulling mile-a-minute at Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve in Upper Brookville. 15 participants removed 10 garbage bags full of the fast-growing vine. The pulled vines were then enclosed in a tarp to cook on site, and the bags re-used for other purposes.

While some of our volunteers joined us for a single session as part of a group, others spent many hours with us over the course of several weeks, a season or many years! We are especially grateful this year to Anne Codey, Patrick Crowley, Sarah Kang, Rich Kopsco, Ken Krumenacker, Sahil Massand, Karen and Parker Miller, Eileen Rossi, Joel Shaw, Pavel Tchigirinski and Vivian Zhong.

Volunteers Take Part in Summer Watering Rotation and Other Stewardship Activities at 95 Shore Road in Cold Spring Harbor

Throughout the summer, volunteers and interns could be found at 95 Shore Road planting, weeding and watering the restored grassland. Many were there weekly and sometimes even more frequently. Volunteers included Matthew DeGennaro, Gussy Donohue, Lucy Marshall, Elisabeth Muehlemann, Mike Schwartz and Will Sheeline.



Groups and organizations that donated their time and other resources include: Girl Scout Hicksville Troop #3362, Grenville Baker Boys and Girls Club, MSC Industrial Supply, Three Harbors Garden Club and the members of the Cold Spring Harbor and Eagle Dock Beach Clubs.

We are indebted to our Walks in the Woods leaders. In 2014 they were Philip Asaph, Yvonne Berger, Andy Greller, Peter Martin, Stella Miller, Don Niddrie, Glenn Richard, John Turner, Peter Warny and Richard Weir. And thank you to Jane Fasullo of the Sierra Club, a dedicated Walks partner.

Thank you to our many dedicated stewardship volunteers!

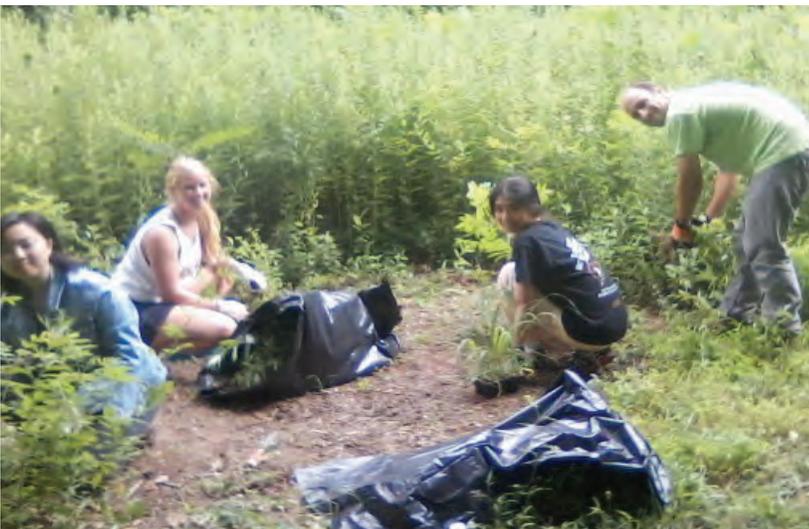
2014 Summer Interns



Sarah Kang and Vivian Zhong



Lucy Marshall



The team at work

Part-Time Stewards



Eric Himelfarb has been our right-hand man in the field for much of this year. While he has been particularly valuable in stewardship of our

habitat restoration at 95 Shore Road, his broad expertise, versatility and love of all our preserves have made him a tremendous asset in not only maintaining our properties but in connecting Long Islanders to these special places.



Jason Sikorski came to us as a part-time seasonal steward in Roosevelt Preserve some years ago. This year, we asked him to take on responsibility for maintaining native

planting areas at Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve. Thanks to his commitment, these areas have flourished!

How to Become a Land Alliance Volunteer

For more information about our **Volunteers for Open Space** program, please visit us online at www.northshorelandalliance.org or call 516.626.0908.

Where Have All the Farmers Gone?



According to the American Farmland Trust, nationally we have been losing more than an acre of agricultural land to development every minute of every day. Farmland in particular has been targeted because it is often easy to develop; it typically has flat terrain, is usually well drained and has been relatively affordable. Nowhere is this trend more evident than on Long Island. According to the US Census of Agriculture, in 1954 there were 329 farms in Nassau County and 192,000 acres of farmland in production. As of 2012, there were 55 farms (including horse farms), 2,682 acres in production and only 230 acres in food production crops. Suffolk County saw similar trends: In 1954 there were nearly 1,500 farms and 600,000 acres in production; by 2012, that number dwindled to just over 600 farms and 36,000 acres in production. Compare this with the populations for the two counties - 1.3 million in Nassau County and 1.5 million in Suffolk County - and our opportunities to enjoy fresh locally grown food diminish considerably.

In Nassau County, the Rottkamp Brothers are the largest growers with 48 acres under cultivation on McCouns Lane and 30 acres along Hegemans Lane in Old Brookville. Youngs Farm is growing on a little more than 30 acres on Hegemans Lane too. Then there is Crossroads Farm in Malverne, Meyer's Farm in Woodbury, Restoration Farm at Old Bethpage Restoration Village, Cornell Cooperative Extension's East Meadow Farm, a CSA or two and a handful of serious backyard growers – all in all less than 200 acres of land in food production to feed more than a million people. Thankfully, Nassau County is adjacent to Suffolk and not too far from the Hudson Valley, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Regardless, Nassau County was once a farming community with a rich agricultural heritage. While the number of acres in agricultural production have diminished, our love and appreciation for those who continue to farm has grown.

The good news is that more and more people are realizing the connection between locally grown food and healthy, strong and resilient communities. Farms are often some of the best managed, stewarded lands in the country and

they help improve our food security. Well managed farms also help protect our environment by maintaining the quality of our soil, air and water. Preserved farms help protect the quality of life in our communities, including our scenic viewsheds and cultural landscapes, and working farms offer financial stability for our local municipalities.

In order to ensure the existence of farms and farming on Long Island we must support our local farmers. We must do our part by helping our local communities plan for agriculture and by working with our local farmers to help them improve potential market opportunities and, when necessary, helping them develop transition and conservation plans that enable economic success while protecting natural resources. Please do your part by shopping at your local farm stands, spreading the word about the importance of locally grown food, getting to know your farmers and weighing in on locally and regionally important farming issues.

If you are a farmer looking to get started or in need of more land please contact us! Likewise, if you are a landowner interested in leasing your land for agricultural production and want to learn more about how you can help your local farmer while potentially qualifying for an agricultural assessment please let us know!



“I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery—air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, “This is what it is to be happy.” - Sylvia Plath, The Bell Jar

From Farm Summit to Food Conference in 2015 *Growing and Eating for a More Sustainable Future*

The North Shore Land Alliance, in partnership with Hofstra University, Long Island Group of the Sierra Club and other representatives and individuals, is in the midst of planning for the 3rd Long Island Food Conference. The Conference will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at Hofstra University. We expect nearly 1,000 educators, farmers, advocates, policy regulators, parents, students and concerned citizens to attend.

We are pleased to announce that one of the featured speakers will be Stephen Ritz, a South Bronx school teacher and administrator who has fostered personal and academic success through growing food. His classroom features an indoor wall of freshly grown vegetables and he acknowledges that by growing food in the classroom, schools can provide healthy student meals, enable workforce training, improve healthy eating habits and “harvest hope and cultivate minds” in our students. If you remember Stephen and his students from the Bronx High School of Science from the 2012 Farm Summit, you know his message will be both inspirational and motivational and will help instill the importance of growing and promoting a sustainable local food system.

By featuring speakers like Stephen Ritz and others, the Conference will focus on strengthening and increasing our local food system by (1) identifying innovative small scale growing techniques, (2) providing inspiring and educational workshops dedicated to promoting healthy and sustainable food choices and (3) discussing groundbreaking policies and programs that help incorporate sustainable and locally grown food into our communities.

The Land Alliance sponsored the 2011 and 2012 Farm Summits at SUNY Old Westbury College and Hofstra University, respectively. These conferences drew nearly 1,400 people and were very successful in bringing together a diversity of people dedicated to growing, promoting and consuming local food.

To learn more and to get involved, please contact North Shore Land Alliance at 516-626-0908 or visit the 2015 Long Island Food Conference website at www.lifoodconference.com.

Sponsorship and Exhibitor Opportunities

The Long Island Food Coalition is seeking sponsors and exhibitors for the 2015 Long Island Food Conference.

To learn more about the conference or to register as a sponsor/exhibitor, please visit us online at www.lifoodconference.com or email Andrea Millwood at andrea@north-shorelandalliance.org.



Water Quality Symposium for Elected Officials

The Nature Conservancy on Long Island, Long Island University (LIU), Friends of the Bay and North Shore Land Alliance hosted a Water Quality Symposium on October 7th, 2014 at the Tilles Center on the LIU Post Campus.

The purpose of this Symposium was to present current research findings regarding local water quality to municipal and county officials. New findings were presented on the state of surface waters along the north shore of Long Island in Oyster Bay, Huntington Bay and Northport Harbor by experts in their respective fields. The presenters were:

1. Dr. Christopher Gobler, SUNY Stony Brook, Department of Marine Sciences – Effects of Nitrogen Pollution on Our Bays and Harbors
2. Stephen Lloyd, Senior Analyst, The Nature Conservancy – Nitrogen Loading in Oyster Bay, Huntington Bay, and Northport Harbor
3. Chris Clapp, Marine Scientist, The Nature Conservancy – Alternative Technologies for Treating Residential Waste Water
4. Dr. Elizabeth Codner-Smith, Economist, The Nature Conservancy – Why Our Water Quality Matters – Economics and Public Perception

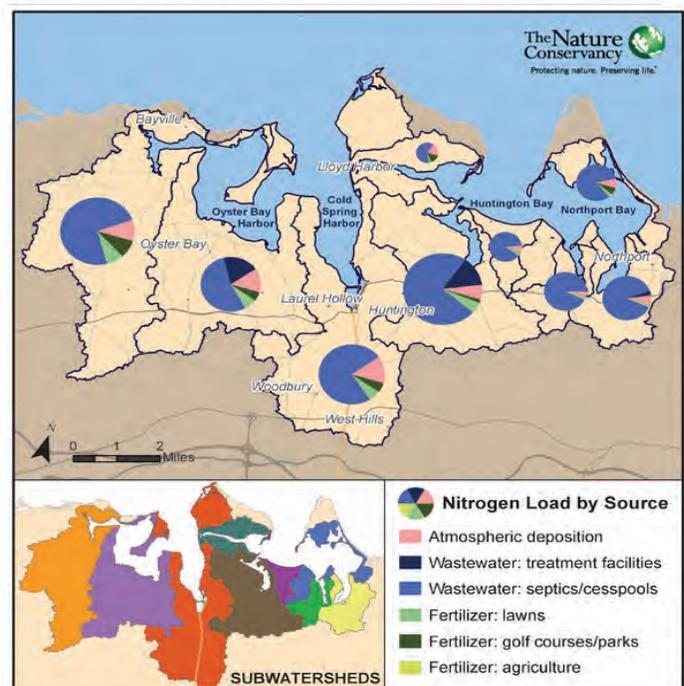
After the presentations, the audience broke into small groups to discuss the information that had been presented and to suggest and evaluate potential next steps that might contribute to clean water outcomes in the region.

Generally, participants were not aware of the growing levels of nitrogen that are polluting local water bodies, including our sole source aquifer. They were also not aware that steps currently taken to protect local waters are no longer adequate. Overwhelmingly, the group wanted to know more about what we as a com-

munity of citizens and appointed and elected officials can do to address this very serious problem. They also advocated for reconvening in the near future to plan a constructive process which will contribute to the restoration and protection of water quality in our bays, harbors and Long Island Sound.

We gratefully acknowledge New York Community Bank Foundation for helping to underwrite the costs associated with hosting this very worthwhile and productive meeting.

DRAFT NITROGEN LOADING MODEL: OYSTER BAY/HUNTINGTON



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North Shore Land Alliance Annual Members Meeting



On October 25, 2014 the North Shore Land Alliance held its Annual Member's Meeting at Coe Hall at Planting Fields Arboretum. Lisa Ott, Land Alliance President, welcomed nearly 30 members who had come to hear about the Land Alliance's progress in 2014 and elect trustees for the coming years.

Larry Schmidlapp, Co-Chair of the Committee on Trustees, conducted the vote to elect Frank Castagna, Leland Deane, Lynn Gray, D.R. Holmes, Warren Kraft, Tom McGrath and Hope Smith for three-year terms. Attending members voted unanimously to elect the previously named Trustees and Lisa Ott cast one "yea" vote on behalf of the 130 members who voted by proxy in the weeks leading up to the meeting. Larry also noted that Peter Bartley has moved from the Board of Trustees to the Advisory Board.

Lisa began the presentation with an organizational update. As of October 25th, the Land Alliance has 36 Trustees, 16 Advisory Board members, 2,627 members (an increase of 222 members from 2013) and six staff.

Our conservation efforts over the last ten years have resulted in 560 acres protected through public funding measures and 195 acres protected through 16 conser-

vation easements held by the Land Alliance. The Land Alliance owns in fee five preserves totaling 104 acres and manages 124 acres of preserves currently owned by The Nature Conservancy and two municipalities.

In 2014, the Land Alliance became a nationally accredited land trust. Of the 1,700 land trusts across the country only 280 have been accredited by the Land Trust Alliance. Also, in 2014 the Land Alliance launched a new website which can be found at www.northshorelandalliance.org and began active participation in social media including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

In April, the Land Alliance completed a new five-year Strategic Plan with the hope of taking our organization to the next level of effectiveness in protecting local lands. Four goals were set:

- 1) Protecting More Land in Our Catchment Area
- 2) Growing a Strong Financial Base for Conservation and Ensuring Organizational Sustainability
- 3) Building a Deep Conservation Ethic in Our Western Long Island Community
- 4) Expanding and Broadening Membership Base

Stephen Searl addressed the Land Alliance's conservation strategy and provided an update on our larger projects:

- 32-acre DeForest Williams property, Cold Spring Harbor (*article on p. 4*)
- 35-acre Humes property, Mill Neck (*article on p.1*)

Jane Jackson began her remarks by explaining land protection is a first step, but without stewardship, land is vulnerable to invasive plants and animals and other threats. Land Alliance staff and volunteers manage land to try to minimize these negative impacts. Highlights of her remarks included:

- Ownership of the 42-acre Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve, Upper Brookville, and 20-acre Darwin James Preserve, Old Brookville
- Management of two new preserves from The Nature Conservancy. Those preserves are Davenport Preserve, Laurel Hollow, and Harbor Hill, Lake Success (*article on p. 17*)
- Restoration of the 8-acre Shore Road Grassland (ExxonMobil), Cold Spring Harbor (*article on p. 6*)

Jane went on to thank our many volunteers who contribute so greatly to the stewardship of our preserves and overall operation of the Land Alliance.

Our 2014 educational efforts included the launch of a new water education program in local schools, more

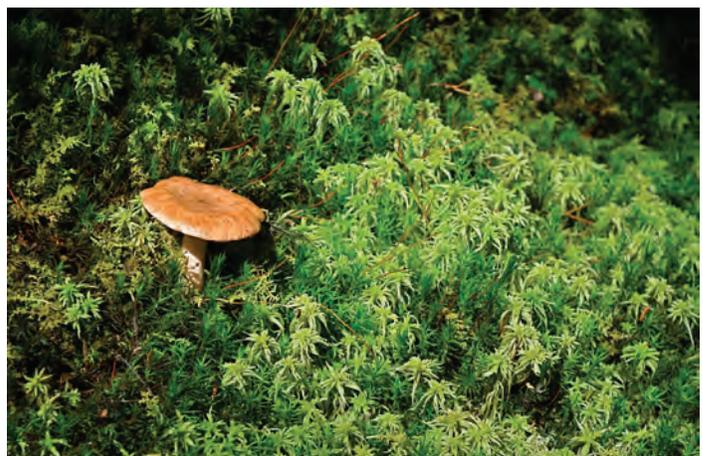
than a dozen expertly guided Walks in the Woods and a series of nature-oriented lectures and events. We continued to advocate for the extension of the tax-credit for conservation easements on a Federal level and an increase in the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) on the State level.

We hosted a series of events including the Explorer's Club Lecture, Heritage Committee Cocktail Party in Greenwich Village, Fore the Love of the Land Golf Outing, the Open Space Society Dinner and our Annual Wine Auction. We also launched a highly successful Red Truck Estate Sale in July with an emphasis on the concept of recycle, renew and reuse.

What was formerly called the Small Farm Summit will return in 2015 as the Long Island Food Conference with a more localized focus on growing food and healthy eating (*article on p. 23*).

Carter Bales, Land Alliance Chair, concluded the meeting with thoughtful insights about the future of conservation and how key it is to a healthy community. He also thanked our members for their long and generous support and reminded them of the very important role they play in the Land Alliance's conservation successes.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. and members were invited to tour the newly furnished rooms of Coe Hall.



What's New on the Land Alliance Website? – Opportunities to Get Outdoors

Earlier this year, we announced the launch of our improved website which has a sleek new design that offers more interactive features and valuable land conservation information. Since we're always trying to find ways to add value for our members, we've added a "Get Outdoors section" to the site, which features our "Walks in the Woods", "Visit A Preserve" and "Things to Do". These new sections are designed to give adults and children more opportunities to explore local open spaces and to learn about the various plant and animal wildlife that live within our communities.

Each year, North Shore Land Alliance organizes a series of free, guided tours of local parks and nature preserves throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties. These Walks in the Woods are designed to connect more people with the natural open spaces in our communities. They are led by knowledgeable leaders and are open to the public. Each walk normally lasts an hour or two. (*See page 14 for our 2015 Walks in the Woods calendar*)

We also have a listing of Nassau County parks and preserves which are open to the public for passive recreation with no admission fee other than, in some cases, seasonal and/or weekend parking charges. Check the individual descriptions for contact information (especially regarding parking access) and/or links to websites.

Finally, if you're looking for specific activities to do, please take a look at the "Things to Do" section of our website which provides visitors with ideas of activities they can do at home or locally.

We hope that you'll stop by our site to see what's new on the "Get Outdoors" section or to learn about our local conservation activities. If you have a question about the information posted on these pages, please contact the Land Alliance at 516-626-0908.



Look What's Blooming on Centre Island!



Four Centre Island acres at the property of Betsy and Hunt Lawrence are being converted to dynamic meadow habitats, designed by Larry Weaner Landscape Associates and under the direction of Landscape Architect CeCe Haydock. Property manager, Patrick Karcher, and his staff provide invaluable assistance implementing the planting. As the abundance and diversity of songbirds and insects observed there lately attest, build it and they will come!

Land Alliance Presents *Water Blues, Green Solutions* Documentary in Huntington



With Water for Long Island and Citizens Campaign for the Environment, the Land Alliance presented *Water Blues, Green Solutions* on August 27 at Cinema Arts Centre of Huntington. Directed by Frank Christopher and hosted by Urban Revitalization Strategist Majora Carter, this inspiring documentary tells stories from across the country of communities that are adopting new ways of thinking about how to protect, restore and preserve our rivers and sources of drinking water. The event, which also included a Q&A and a lively reception following the film, drew nearly 100 attendees.

“Fore the Love of the Land” Golf and Tennis Outing



A picture-perfect summer morning set the stage for a lively day of sporting activities on Monday, June 23rd, with more than 100 people in attendance at the annual “Fore the Love of the Land” Golf and Tennis Outing at the Piping Rock Club.

The golf tournament, chaired by Frank Segarra, featured a shotgun start for 85 golfers on one of the most highly regarded courses on the North Shore. The course, designed by Charles B. MacDonald, was in prime condition, lush from the temperate June weather.

The golfers began the day with a continental breakfast and ended with lunch and awards at 1:30pm. The low net winners with a score of 55 were Sam Evans, Bill Timpson III, Brian Hampton, Graham Uffelman and Timmy Lyons. The first place gross winners with a score of 65 were Ben Stokes, O'Donnell Lee, Tim DiPietro and Ben Bernstein.

Winner of the longest drive in the men's division was Ben Stokes and in the women's division Annie Rolih. Shepard Poole and Margaret Trautmann won closest to the pin for their respective divisions. The prize for the hole-in-one was a 24-month prepaid lease on a 2014 Range Rover Sport, though sadly there was no winner on hole #11, the target hole in this year's tournament.

While golfers enjoyed their outing, tennis Co-Chairs, Dawn Barnard and Mary Selover, hosted 20 tennis enthusiasts in a warm up with the pros followed by round robin play and courtside lunch. The winners received special prizes donated by Laurie Winkler and the Printery in Oyster Bay. Everyone who competed on this spectacular summer day enjoyed palying ont eh beautifully manicured grass courts. Some fothe few to remain on Long Island.

The Land Alliance prides itself in helping to connect people to the land we love. Along with raising funds to support land conservation, Fore the Love of the Land provides an opportunity for people to commune in Long Island's most beautiful recreational open spaces. Although only a few people walked away with a trophy that day, everyone who participated in the spirit of land conservation was a winner in our book! Thank you all for your support and participation!



Thank you to our generous sponsors:

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**Red Truck Estate Sale
Raises Over \$100,000 for Conservation**



On Saturday, July, 11th and Sunday, July 12th, the Land Alliance hosted its first ever Red Truck Estate Sale at the Green Vale School in Old Brookville. The sale raised over \$100,000 for conservation efforts and was a great community building event, bringing long time supporters of the Land Alliance together with new members in the spirit of "Reduce, Renew, Recycle."

The concept for the Red Truck sale came from Megan de Roulet who thought, wouldn't it be great to clear out our basements and attics while also raising money to support local land conservation? One man's trash is another man's treasure, as they say!

It didn't take long to realize how special this event was going to be. Hundreds of beautiful donations started coming in at a steady rate starting in March - all from generous Land Alliance friends and supporters. Everything from antique bedframes to beautifully upholstered couches and chairs, from mahogany writing desks to a collection of antique snuff boxes. There were donations of silver, jewelry, rare porcelain figurines, paintings, rugs, china, kitchenware and enough decorative accents to adorn an entire home.

Preparations for the event were painstaking and provided a great bonding opportunity for land conservation supporters. Event Manager Sealy Hopkinson, together with the Estate Sale Committee, worked long hours receiving, organizing, pricing and packing donations at the Groton Place barn.

After months of gathering local treasures and just a week before the main event, the set up at Green Vale began. Event Chairwomen Lynda Anderson-Busquet, Megan de Roulet and Julie Rinaldini worked with a group of dedicated volunteers to arrange the event space in a most pleasing fashion, highlighting the unique value of the tag sale items. It was a true labor of love and the result was an incredible display of taste, talent and collaboration.

The Red Truck Estate Sale weekend kicked off on Friday, July 10th, with a "Sneak Peek" Preview Party led by Debbie Doyle and Lisa Schiff. In the spirit of the Weekend's theme to "Reduce, Renew, Recycle" the Party Chairwomen used repurposed pallets to craft a unique bar. Over 200 Land Alliance supporters attended this fundraising party to support land conservation and to get first dibs on fabulous treasures from local homes and estates.

Overall, the first Red Truck Estate Sale was a memorable and fruitful triumph for the Land Alliance. Many thanks to all the sponsors, buyers, and volunteers who made the event the most exemplary, high-end estate sale in local history! Please start saving your gently used treasures for another sale in 2016!

Lead Sponsors:

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Luce * Main Street Huntington * Material Objects * Oxford Restoration * Post Wines & Spirits



2014 Open Space Society Dinner Celebrates the Importance of Saving Our Land and Water!

The lovely Centre Island home of Bridget and John Macaskill was the setting for this year's annual Open Space Society Dinner. More than 70 guests attended the event on June 21st, a beautiful summer evening, to enjoy the company of good friends, food and wine in celebration of the Land Alliance's efforts to preserve open space.

The waterfront setting was apropos of this event's theme, which focused on the importance of protecting our local watershed and coastal environments. Christopher J. Gobler, Ph.D. of the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook University, gave a special lecture on the "Challenges Facing Long Island's Coastal Ecosystem." His compelling presentation looked at the very real threat of increased nitrogen levels in our water and served as a reminder to all of the importance of protecting our wetlands, beaches, bays and ponds, as well as our open lands, which provide a natural infrastructure integral to the health of our waters.

We thank Bridget and John for being such wonderfully gracious hosts of yet another spectacular Open Space Society Dinner!

Thank you to our generous sponsors:

Rita and Frank Castagna * Cathy Chernoff * Sally Peters and Hal Davidson * Megan and Dan de Roulet
Botsy and Hoyle Jones * Betsy and Hunt Lawrence * Martha and Gar Miller * Elizabeth and Douglas Paul
Cynthia and James Stebbins * Missie and Zach Taylor



A Night of Wine, Dancing and Giving Raises More Than \$300,000 for Land Conservation Efforts



We are pleased that so many of our supporters were able to join us for our annual Wine Auction Dinner and Barn Dance on Saturday, October 18, 2014 at the Barn at Groton Place.

The Wine Auction is our largest and most important fundraiser and friendraiser of the year. And, thanks to our most generous supporters who donated their time, energy and resources, we raised more than \$300,000 to advance local conservation efforts. A special appeal held at the end of the auction raised nearly \$11,000 - enough money to buy our

stewardship director a truck to maintain easements and preserves and conduct educational programming.

Thanks to the creativity and inspiration of our 2014 Wine Auction Chairs and their Committee, this year's event was the most fun yet! It was definitely not your traditional Wine Auction. After enjoying a delicious family-style dinner prepared by Sterling Affair, guests lined the dance floor with their partners to do-si-do to live country music. A professional caller was there too who guided guests flawlessly through each and every step!

The live and silent auctions were filled with exclusive trips, special wines and other specialty items – all donated by our supporters. The silent auction featured premium wines from local cellars, gift certificates to restaurants, things to do outside like kayaking and mountain biking, fresh foods like locally grown apples, organic turkeys from Three Chicks Farm, Bee Haven Beer tasting and award-winning cheese from Spring Brook Farm. Insiders also had access to bidding on exclusive trips such as an elite golf excursion to New Zealand with stays at the luxurious



resorts of the Robertson Family; a week to ski and shop in Sun Valley, Idaho; a private trip to experience the treasures of Mount Desert Island in Maine; a journey through the ancient world of the Andes in the Sacred Valley of Peru; and a rich, cultural adventure in Budapest, Hungary.

Generous burlap goody bags were ready for guests as they made their way home. Contents included a one year membership to WineGlass, a new app created by Roddy and Alec Lindsay that allows you to research restaurant menus for the best tasting wine values, local apples from Richter's Orchard in East Northport and large containers of Horman's Original Half Sour Pickles from Glen Cove.

The Land Alliance is extraordinarily appreciative of the efforts made by Kristina and Harry Davison, Terry and Bob Lindsay and Amy and Hartley Rogers to step up and serve so ably and generously as our Wine Auction Chairs. Many thanks to Julie and Luis Rinaldini who so graciously invited the Land Alliance to host the event at their beautiful Groton Place again this year. We are also grateful to Joanna Wreidt for sharing her graphic design skills to create such beautiful posters and effective PowerPoint presentation. And last but certainly not least we thank our volunteers for working so hard to make this event a success. We couldn't have done it without you.

And, most of all, we are forever grateful for the support of our community!



The Land Alliance is grateful to the many sponsors and contributors of our 11th Annual Wine Auction and Barn Dance on Saturday, October 18, 2014 at the Barn at Groton Place

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Season's Greetings!



*Wishing you
and all those that you hold dear
a Happy and Joyous New Year
filled with many blessings,
health and prosperity.*

Mission Statement

The North Shore Land Alliance is a land trust formed to protect and preserve, in perpetuity, the green spaces, farmlands, wetlands, groundwater and historical sites of Long Island's north shore for the enhancement of quality of life and enjoyment and benefit of future generations.

SAVE THE DATE!

12th Annual Wine Auction & Dinner
Saturday, September 26, 2015

For more information, please contact the
Land Alliance at 516-626-0908.