



# Conservation News

Protecting Open Space on Long Island's North Shore

## NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

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Credits: Archie Rinaldini

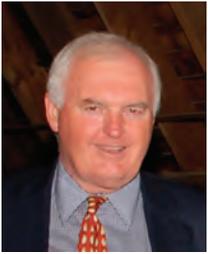
Smithers Property, Mill Neck

## The Importance of Connectivity: The Smithers Connector Parcel

In September, the North Shore Land Alliance acquired from the Smithers family two parcels totaling seven acres in the Village of Mill Neck. The Land Alliance has long been interested in acquiring and preserving this important area because it connects Nassau County's Upper Francis Pond preserve (formerly known as Smithers Pond) to the south with the North Shore Wildlife Sanctuary's Shu Swamp Preserve and the Land Alliance's Humes property to the north. The acquisition of this "connector" parcel adds a critical piece to a wildlife corridor of 150 contiguous acres in the middle of the highly significant Beaver Brook watershed.

The property begins at the spillway at Upper Francis Pond and runs along Beaverbrook Road past Lower Francis Pond and ends just across from the Shu Swamp Trail. From there water runs under the road, emerging as Beaver Brook, which transverses Shu Swamp Preserve and carries water to Beaver Dam Pond and, eventually, to the Long Island Sound. A trail runs from behind the main house at the Humes property alongside a pond fed by a tributary stream feeding into Beaver Brook and meets a Shu Swamp trail.

(Continued on p. 4)



Dear Friends,

Today, when I drive by an emblematic place like Youngs Farm or Smithers Pond, I take pleasure in knowing that through the work of the Land Alliance these special places will be protected forever. Many of us feel a deep connection to nature in our North Shore community and it is through that connection that the North Shore Land Alliance was formed.

In the fall of 2002, our founding members came together out of concern and hope: concern that those rural qualities that make the North Shore such a beautiful place to live were disappearing quickly, and hope that we could do something to prevent it before all our natural areas were lost to development. With the help of The Rauch Foundation and The Nature Conservancy, we set out to form a land trust, a conservation organization that could hold conservation easements and ensure that private conservation would be both permanent and beneficial to donors.

We soon learned that land on the North Shore was very expensive and that the local learning curve on private conservation tools like conservation easements was steep. We spent the first year inventorying conservation-worthy lands and demonstrated that there was more undeveloped land left to protect than most people believed, nearly 20,000 acres at that time. Strategically, we grouped our priority properties around already protected lands to begin to create connectivity or conservation corridors that became very useful in getting more land placed on Town, County and State open space plans.

We knew the clock was ticking and if we were to be successful, we needed to act quickly and on a large scale. We were familiar with the highly successful open space programs that were generating millions of dollars to protect land on Long Island's East End and wondered if such a program might work here. In 2004, with the help of The Nature Conservancy, the Trust for Public Land and others, we approached our County and Town officials, armed with positive public opinion polling, and asked that an open space ballot measure be placed on the November ballot. Thankfully, the stars were aligned for success. We had a good economy then, great partners, supportive local government and a community that shared our concern about protecting the land and water before it was too late.

Thanks to the work of many, a series of environmental bonds was passed with strong voter support from 2004 to 2009, raising \$255 million for open space purposes. We were fortunate to have been invited to play a leading role in identifying projects for acquisition, which included properties like the Pulling Fields in Oyster Bay Cove, the Farm at Oyster Bay and more than 400 additional acres. That set us on our way.

Today we have been instrumental in the protection of nearly 1,100 acres of local lands, including lands that we own and conservation easements we steward. We have educated thousands of citizens about the essential relationships among land and clean water and air, healthy local food and a sustainable future. We have grown our membership to more than 3,000 local households, our board to 40 engaged leaders, and our staff to ten dedicated professionals. We host monthly *Walks in the Woods* to get people into nature and sponsor the *Long Island Water Education Program* in local schools that helps young children understand the source of their drinking water and its connection to surface waters like Long Island Sound.

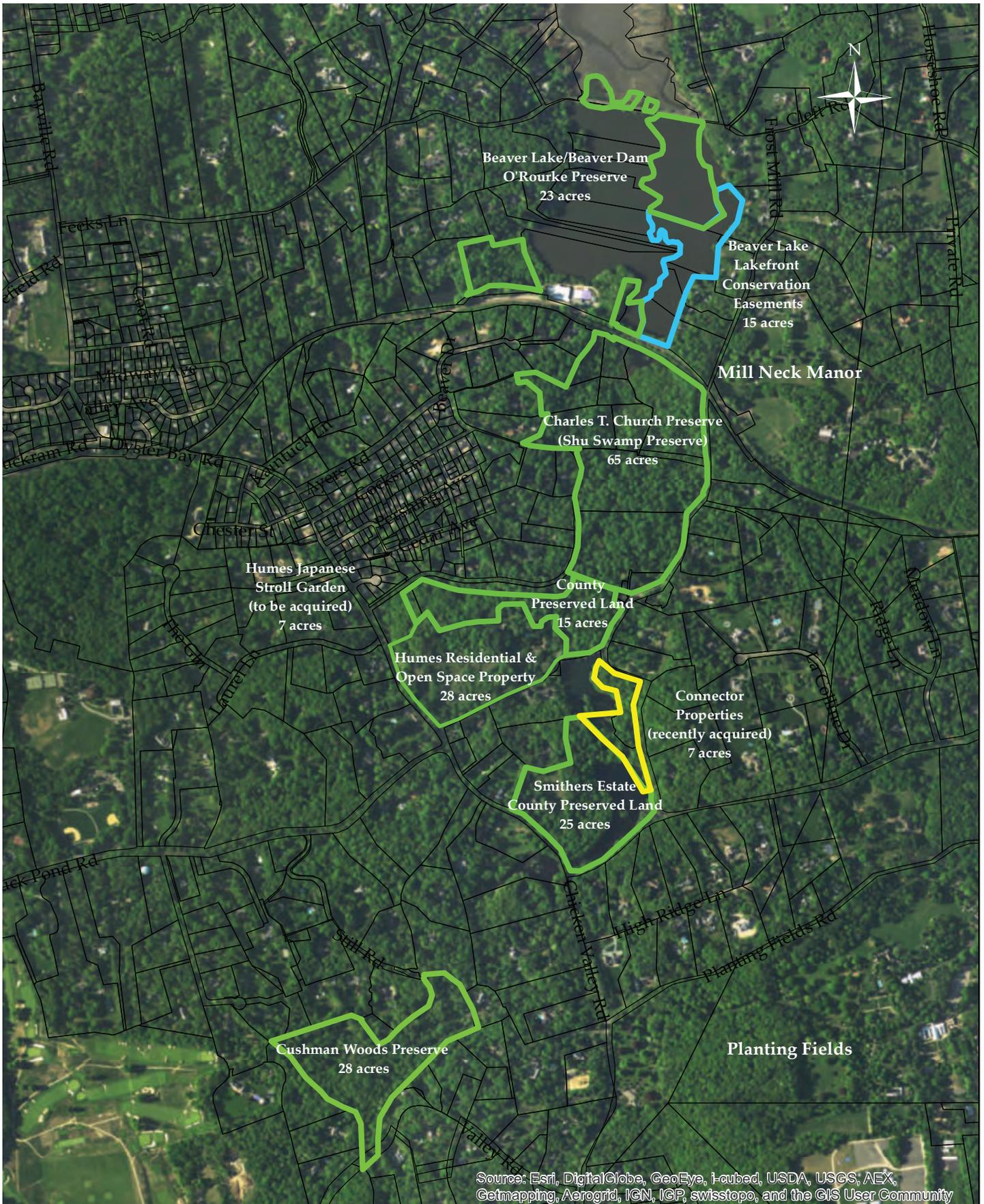
It is fitting that the theme of this newsletter is connectivity. It is important to connect lands for biodiversity and habitat, but equally important that humans are connected to the land too. The connections we have made with you, our members, our non-profit partners, local government officials and the community at large have made all of the difference and enabled the Land Alliance to grow and become the productive organization it is today.

With gratitude for your support and satisfaction in the results we have achieved together,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carter Bales". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Carter F. Bales, Board Chair

# Shu Swamp and Francis Pond Conservation Area



## The Importance of Connectivity

Connecting or linking parcels of land and developing networks and systems of protected areas is very important in protecting biodiversity and ecosystem functions (like maximizing water quality and plant productivity). When most people think of biodiversity, they think of verdant rainforests in the Amazon or vibrant coral reefs in tropical seas, but we have great biodiversity here too.

These parcels, because they have been relatively untouched for many years, have some of the greatest biodiversity in our community. They also have an abundance of different species. Plants like marsh marigold, turtlehead, dog and primrose violets as well as the state endangered American strawberry bush can be found there. Birds like the wood duck, ruby-throated hummingbird, great-horned owl and the winter wren are joined by harvester and appalachian brown butterflies in making this property their home. Brook trout breed in Beaver Brook and mammals like the river otter, american mink and muskrat can be spotted too. Noteworthy or rare plants of this area include spring beauty, squawroot, hops, dwarf ginseng, red trillium, pinesap, umbrella and sweet bay magnolia and the ancient tupelo.

While a portion of the land that has been protected in this area was protected with public money, most of the land was protected by private groups like the North Shore Wildlife Sanctuary and the Land Alliance, along with private individuals. Private conservation plays a critical role in increasing the area coverage of habitat preserved, and in many cases, increasing connectivity in the wider landscape. In doing so, private land conservation plays a vital role maintaining and restoring vital ecological processes.

Increasing and improving conservation of private lands, in alignment with set national and state level conservation goals is crucial. It will not only work to counteract the decline of biodiversity but also make private lands more resilient to climate change and capable of sustaining the ecosystem services on which both current and future Long Island residents will depend.

Another terrific example of how public and private land conservation can create great impact has occurred in the Village of Oyster Bay Cove. (See map on page 5.) Since 2002, 385 acres of land have been preserved in perpetuity through a combination of public acquisitions and private conservation easements. Nassau County purchased the 197-acre Tiffany Creek Preserve from the Schiff family in 2000. In 2005 and 2006, Nassau County purchased the 30-acre Red Cote Preserve from the Pulling family and also Held Pond, expanding the Tiffany Creek Preserve by an additional eight acres. In 2008, the Town of Oyster Bay bought the 25-acre Farm at Oyster Bay (formerly the Littauer property). Since 2001, the Land Alliance (and its predecessor the Oyster Bay Cove Land Trust) has taken ownership and/or placed conservation easements on 143 acres of land. And, many years earlier the Roosevelt family protected the 11-acre Theodore Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary as American's first songbird sanctuary.

As we continue to go about our work to increase the amount of habitat preserved and improve landscape connectivity, we are pleased to demonstrate that slowly but surely we are beginning to knit our landscape together in a very meaningful way.

# Tiffany Creek Preserve Conservation Area



Prepared By: Stephen A.W. Searl  
November 7, 2016  
**NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE**

Tiffany Creek Preserve Conservation Area	
Private Conservation Easements	
Preserved Land	



Great Horned Owl

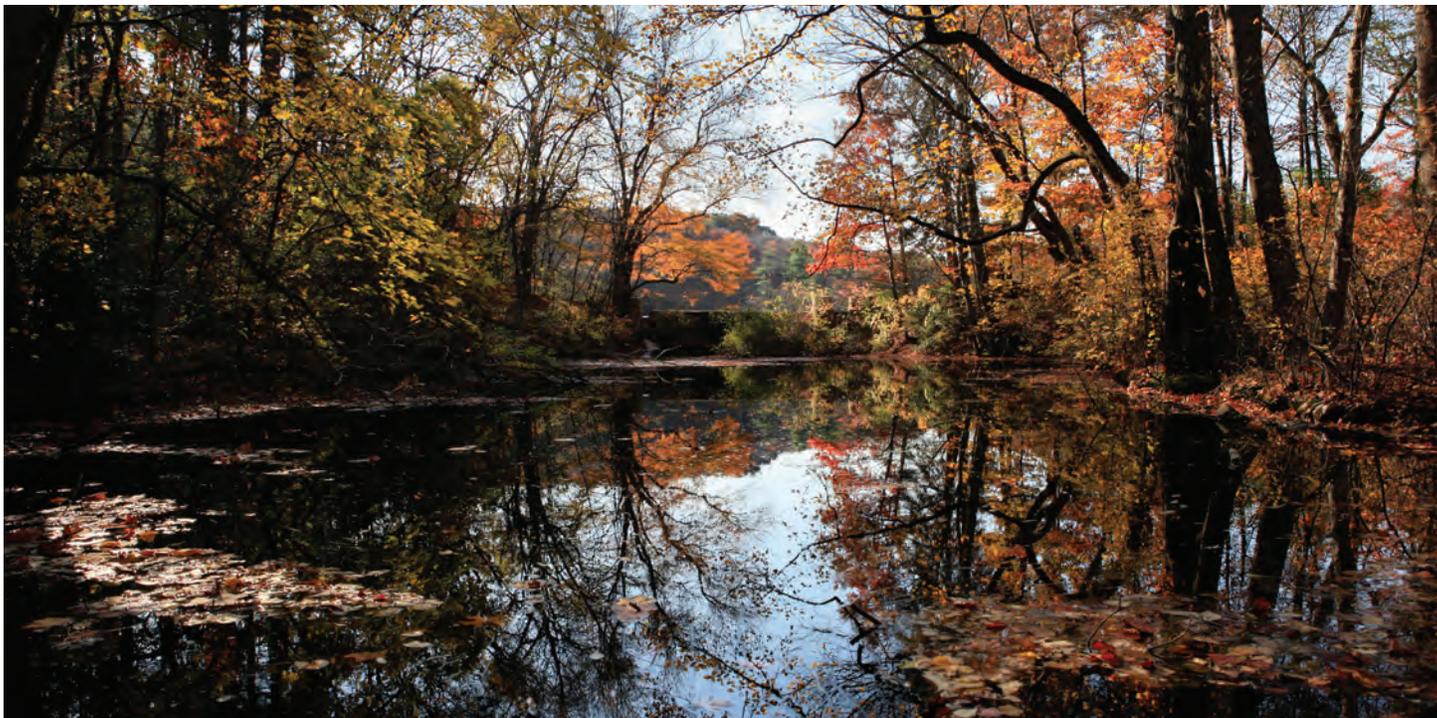


Local turtle crossing the road



Winter Wren

## Where is the Beaver Brook Watershed?



By following the flow of a river, it is possible to see how a watershed works. The rain water flows from our lawns and sidewalks all the way to Long Island Sound. For each of us, getting to know our local watershed is a way to connect to the environment; it provides context for how our choices impact the larger environment.

The Beaver Brook watershed spans part of Matinecock and much of Mill Neck. The brook starts as a trickle between Piping Rock Club and Planting Fields Arboretum. It flows northward, forming a small pond before it passes under Oyster Bay Road. There it becomes Upper Francis Pond. After narrowing to a creek below a dam for a few hundred feet, it forms Lower Francis Pond, where a pair of Osprey have nested for years. North of that it flows into the North Shore Land Alliance's Humes property, creating a quaint pond behind the historic main house. Continuing northward, the brook enters Shu Swamp Preserve, a pristine and diverse wetland habitat.

Finally, the water makes its way to Beaver Lake, Mill Neck Creek and the Long Island Sound.

Meandering creeks such as this one, interrupted by ponds, provide needed wildlife habitat and allow wetlands the chance to filter the water. The ability of wetlands to purify water is a huge economic benefit and at the same time creates high quality natural areas. These are services which channeled, fast-moving rivers do not provide as well.

The North Shore Land Alliance has been working hard to protect the land in this watershed. Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve, the Humes property and the newly acquired Cushman Woods all provide vital rainwater recharge for our underground aquifer. They also keep water contamination low as the brook makes its way north to Long Island Sound. Connecting and preserving these natural areas provide incredible ecological benefit to our community.

# Beaver Brook Watershed Map



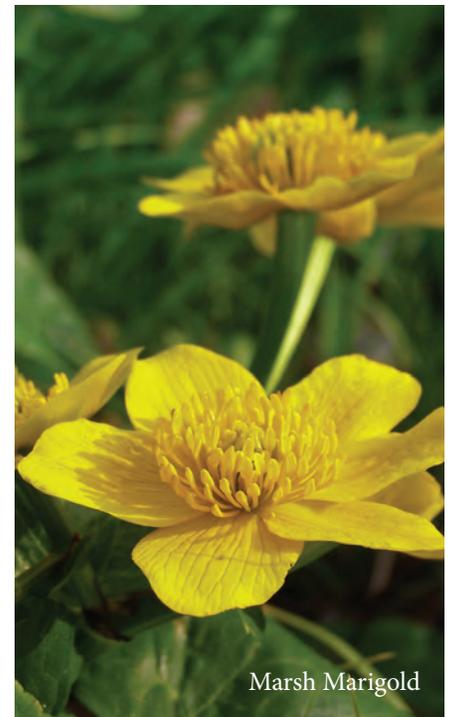
River Otter



Hummingbird



Muskrat



Marsh Marigold

## Land Alliance Enters Partnership to Purchase Golf Course



Today, there are 14 public golf courses and 38 private golf courses in Nassau County, encompassing 8,000+ acres of land. These lands constitute more than half of the remaining unprotected and undeveloped land in the Land Alliance's designated area.

Declining golf club membership attributed to austerity, an aging population and rising real estate prices have prompted the sale of several local country clubs over the past decade. At most of the area's private golf clubs, where annual dues and charges can exceed tens of thousands of dollars a year, the loss of a dozen or more members can mean a significant loss in annual revenue.

If golf courses on Long Island are not protected, many of them will likely be developed into housing over the coming several years. Development of golf courses into maximum density subdivisions would deplete the aquifer, challenge local school systems, increase road traffic, raise local property tax rates and have other deleterious effects on community character and quality of life on the North Shore.

Since 2009, two distressed local clubs were acquired by new owners who bought them at below market prices. The formerly bankrupt 107-acre Woodcrest Country Club in Muttontown sold for \$19 million

at auction. Woodcrest had lost dozens of members and was saddled with large debt from a multimillion-dollar renovation of its facilities. The North Shore Country Club in Glen Head was saved from declining membership and \$5 million in debt when a local developer, who grew up playing golf there, acquired it for \$12.5 million.

Long Islanders get their drinking water from a sole source aquifer. The quality and quantity of the water we drink depends on the land and its ability to absorb moisture from rain and snow. If adequate pervious surface does not remain, recharge cannot take place. When heavy rainfall produced by increasingly severe storms hits pavement, it carries harmful runoff into ponds, bays and beaches. Much of the Land Alliance's designated area is without sewer service and most homes are on individual septic systems. Over the years, the water quality in our coastal areas has declined with the increase of nitrogen from fertilizers and leaching from private septic systems. Golf courses, with their large expanses of undeveloped land and tree cover, provide important water purification and groundwater recharge benefits.

The impacts of climate change already exist on Long Island, ahead of most of the country. We are experiencing increasingly severe storms that threaten

coastal communities, drought that impairs our aquifer and diminishes food supply, contamination of our coastal areas due to harmful algal blooms and saltwater intrusion that is polluting our aquifers. By protecting and restoring forests and wetlands, and managing working lands more sustainably, we enable our landscapes to better avoid the worst effects of climate change.

## The Opportunity

In 2015, the 124.75-acre Cedar Brook Club in Old Brookville, which had been on and off the market for more than a decade, was officially put up for sale by its Great Neck-based founding families. The owners paid \$12.5 million for the property in 1987 and enjoyed its use as a private club for nearly 30 years. Cedar Brook was marketed as a development opportunity for home builders for nearly a decade. Located within the Village of Old Brookville, the club is zoned for single-family homes on three-acre lots, which could potentially yield between 30 and 34 homes.

Thanks to the work of a Land Alliance trustee, a partnership of green investors and the Land Alliance has been assembled to purchase Cedar Brook. A deposit has been made, an undisclosed amount has been agreed upon and closing is expected by year end. This opportunity is truly pathbreaking for the future of western Long Island. It could, if executed properly, create a sustainable model for future large property redevelopment on Long Island and elsewhere in the nation.

In the near term, until a comprehensive development plan can be agreed on, Cedar Brook may remain a golf course. Nationwide, as well as on Long Island, the newest golf courses are following healthier, more sustainable maintenance protocols – layouts that require less irrigation and less chemical use. Out-of-play areas have more woods and higher roughs. Fescue and wildflowers have been planted on many modern courses, creating a better habitat for birds. Heavily fertilized golf courses are a thing of the past.

In the longer term, the Land Alliance and its partners would like to see a place where conservation and environmental restoration occur alongside an environmentally-friendly community of unsurpassed beauty and distinction. This would be a place where big isn't necessarily better and people live in close harmony with nature, where privacy is ensured by sweeping scenic vistas that include farmland, grassland and trees and biodiversity that accompanies natural landscapes such as these.

Approximately 75% of the Cedar Brook property (100 acres) would be preserved and restored in a manner that improves the environmental quality of our community. Methods for achieving this end could include reforestation on 25% of the property to improve groundwater recharge and absorb harmful carbon emissions, establishment of grasslands on 25% of the property to improve habitat and increase biodiversity and sustainable agriculture on 25% of the property to increase local food supply.

Local schools could be engaged in the lessons involved in reclaiming land for nature. Natural areas could become outdoor classrooms where students can witness and participate in reforestation efforts as well as the establishment of native grasslands and the sustainable management of agricultural lands.

The remaining 25% of the land would be developed in a low impact, highly green conservation-type development. Development would allow investors to be repaid and fund the environmental restoration of the remaining 100 acres of land.

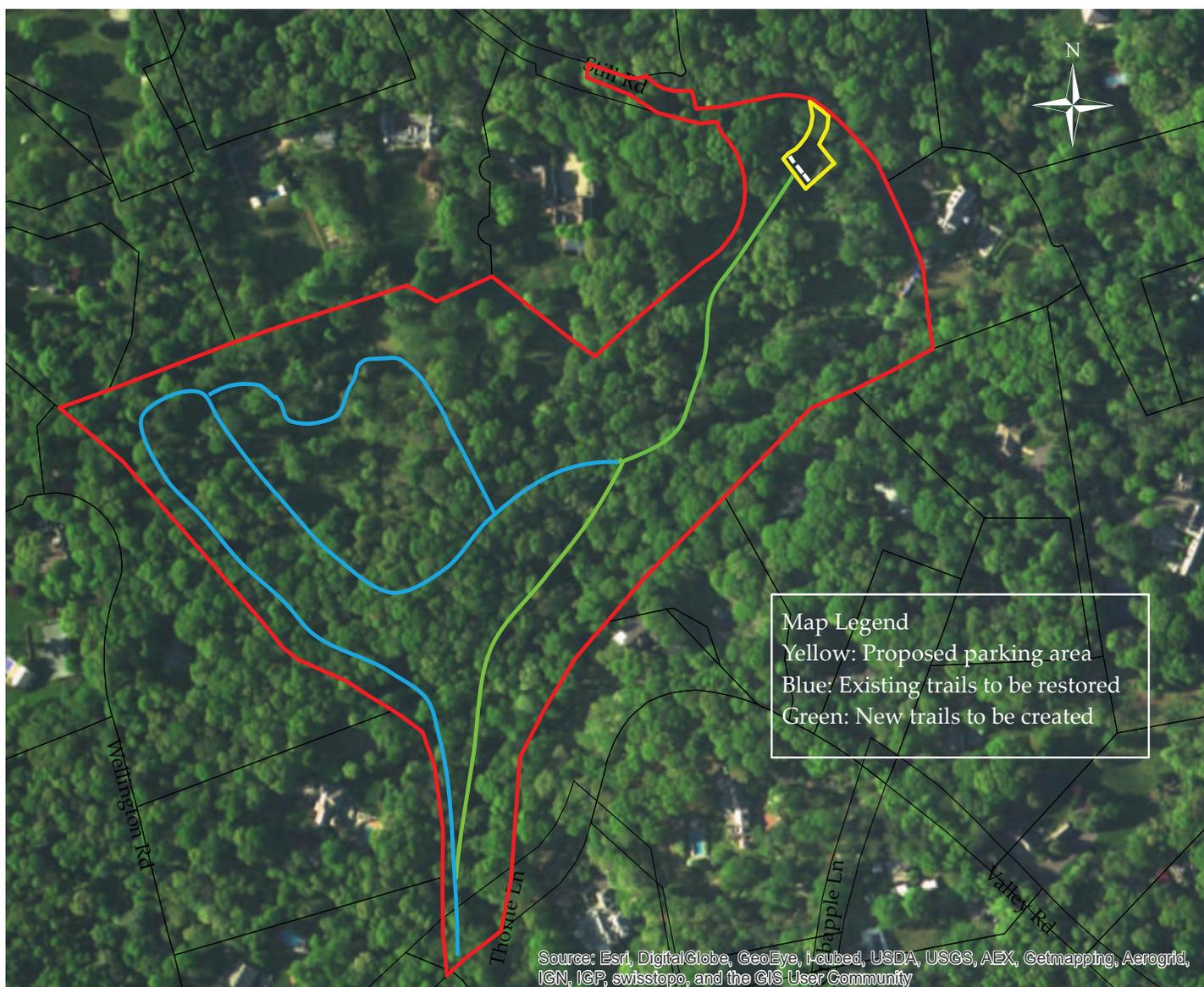
While planning has just begun, the Land Alliance is very excited about this opportunity. The redevelopment and reuse of Cedar Brook will not happen overnight. When it does, community conservation goals will be achieved and the environmental health of the North Shore will be improved for years to come. Many thanks to our anonymous trustee who has orchestrated this fantastic deal for conservation. Stay tuned....

## Cushman Woods Preserve Update

The Land Alliance closed on Cushman Woods, a 28-acre preserve located in the Village of Matinecock, in June of 2016. We are now in the process of working with the Village to open the property to the public. Our plans include installing a small parking area off Still Road, a private road that the Land Alliance uses to access the preserve. We also intend to restore the existing trails on the property and to create a new trail that connects the parking area to existing trails.

We are pleased to report that the money necessary for building the parking area, creating new and restoring old trails and installing appropriate signage was raised in a special appeal at this year's Wine Auction. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we can begin our stewardship work at Cushman Woods Preserve soon and, by the spring of 2017, open this preserve to the public.

### Cushman Woods Access Area and Trail System





## Thank you for supporting the Cushman Woods Stewardship Appeal

Suzy and Fred Bancroft  
Kim and Nick Berens  
Elizabeth and Rodney Berens  
Rosemary Bourne  
Naomi Black and John Bralower  
Rita and Frank Castagna  
Mary Elizabeth and Gabe Catala  
Maggie and Jonathan Connors  
Nancy and James Costopulo  
Jamie and David Deming  
Rebecca and Jesse Doherty  
Mary Beth and Joe Donohue  
Ashley and Brian Dooley  
Remsen and Tim Dooley  
Olga and Tony Duke  
Jeremiah Evarts  
Meris and David First

Susan and Jack Foley  
Stacy and Eric Fornell  
Kerry and Kelly Gaines  
Jess and Jonathan Green  
Milena and D.R. Holmes  
Paula and John Hornbostel  
Botsy and Hoyle Jones  
Adrienne and Hugh Jones  
Margaret and Richard Klemm  
Fifi Knott  
Laureen and Ragnar Knutsen  
Sheila and Tom Lieber  
Gillian and Eduardo Mestre  
Cora and Clarence Michalis  
Marian and Glenn Minkin  
Marlaine and Jonathan Moore  
Libby and Ryan Naumes

Cecilia and Kenney Oh  
Kimberly and John O’Kane  
Ashley and Frank O’Keefe  
Lisa and Gil Ott  
Candice Owen-Williams  
Helen and Robert Pilkington  
Hanna and Taylor Robinson  
Hollis Russell  
Karen and Barry Sharf  
Rebecca Hollander and  
James Smiros  
Jennifer and Rob Squire  
Asia and Ben Stokes  
Maggie and Charlie Towers  
Michelle and David Tuveson  
Julia and Eric Vaughn

## Humes Property Update

We are continuing to make progress at the Humes property in Mill Neck. In September, we demolished three highly distressed structures in the northeast corner of the property, including the former caretaker's house, a detached garage associated with the house and a former greenhouse. The caretaker's house and garage had been abandoned by the former owners and the greenhouse had collapsed. The house had been built around an enormous oak tree and we knew early on after acquiring the property that one of our goals should be to remove the house and keep the tree! We're pleased to report that this has been successfully completed and that additional land, immediately adjacent to Shu Swamp Preserve, has been restored to its natural state.

We are also busy making plans to open the Humes property to the public. To this end, we will be developing adequate access and parking, restoring the center of the property as a meadow habitat for passive use and installing a fitness trail along the paved roads that traverse the property. Not only do the existing roads have the potential to offer a variety of visitors safe and easy access to the property, but they are perfectly oriented for a course equipped with outdoor exercise equipment. The course is designed to promote physical fitness and good health. We're hoping that this property can be a model innovative stewardship project and encourage visitors of varying athletic ability to use the property.

The Humes property is not yet open to the public though we anticipate an official opening in 2017.



*“What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?”*

*- Henry David Thoreau -*

## Shore Road Sanctuary Update: Implementation of Shrubland Phase of Habitat Restoration Plan



Last year we carried out the installation of a permeable parking area and pollinator and rain garden plantings at the Shore Road Sanctuary (formally ExxonMobil) entrance. 2016 was the year for us to launch the shrubland enhancement phase of our habitat restoration plan. In October, we worked with Scenic Designs to install 150 shrubs in pockets along the edges of wet meadow areas surrounded by grassland. The moister areas were planted with marsh elder and groundsel bush. Successively dryer spots were planted with shining sumac, bayberry and pasture and Carolina roses. The shrubland will add plant diversity to the site, providing additional foraging and breeding habitat for birds and other wildlife species. (In future years we will remove existing invasive vegetation from just outside the grassland along the shoreline and install native shrubs there).

While a lengthy list of possible shrub species was considered, we selected shrubs we felt were most likely to do well in the Sanctuary's tough conditions, where organic matter and nutrient levels in the compact soil are very low. (Fortunately, these conditions are also

less inviting for invasive plants.) Indeed, marsh elder and a small number of groundsel bush were already at the site at planting time.

Apart from the nature path that winds through the grassland, the site has not been mowed since before seeding in 2014. This coming winter/early spring we will begin a rotational mowing regime, starting with mowing the western third (by the shoreline) of the grassland, which faces the greatest threat of impact from unwanted woody and invasive vegetation. Mowing will help to contain unwanted species, many of which emerge very early in the growing season and have an edge on grasses and other desirable species, while allowing natives to flourish.

The grassland looks particularly beautiful in the fall. Please take a detour by the site if you are in the area, and if time permits, take a short walk on the paths to the beach. You will be amazed at the many types of plants you will find growing on a former oil terminal site.

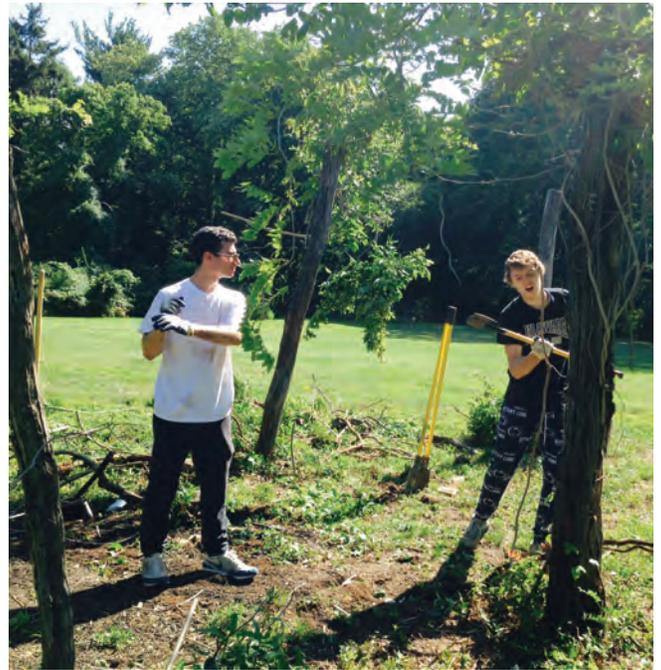
# Wawapek Update

## Hofstra Volunteers

In late August, Wawapek was visited by 32 incoming Hofstra students for a volunteer day. These students were participating in Hofstra University's Discovery Program, which is a week-long orientation for incoming freshmen designed to connect students to their community and teach them to steward their local environment. Joseph Murphy, one of the Joyce and William O'Neil Stewards, has been a Discovery Program leader for three years.



When the busload of eager students arrived at Wawapek they split into groups and spread out over the property, tackling a wide range of projects. Some aided in restoration of the wisteria arbor and others cleaned up invasive "mile-a-minute" vine in the field. Others went into the woods to pull aggressive ground cover and shrub species which were smothering native vegetation. A particularly ambitious group hacked away at vines and shrubs encroaching on the preserve entrance. We were thrilled to have so many helping hands and to develop our relationship with Hofstra University and its sustainability studies students.



## New Trail

Over the summer, a new trail was added in the forest of Wawapek. It connects the upper carriage road to the lower, creating a loop where there was previously a dead end. We are proud to officially open this rugged trail in the most pristine section of Wawapek woodland. Created by the Joyce and William O'Neil Stewards, the steep terrain required steps and switchbacks, providing an invigorating climb for hill-deprived Long Islanders.



## New Trees

Two redbud trees were generously donated by Milicent Pittis and planted at the entrance to the preserve. These beautiful trees, native to New York, are a favorite of pollinators and will be a nice addition to the existing trees along the entrance.



### Restoration of the Wisteria Arbor

The restoration of the wisteria arbor, generously funded by the Leventhal family, has moved along steadily. The old arbor had been removed and Land Alliance staff have scoured the region for suitable locust tree posts. The final design will have a rustic elegance, in keeping with the rest of the property.

### Restoration of the Round of Yew Hedge

In the late spring, the Land Alliance began restoring the huge yew round, which is a central feature of Wawapek. It has been neglected for decades, and it will likely take several years to fully restore. This year we successfully pruned out all of the dead wood and removed all of the invasives that were climbing through the yew round and stifling its growth. Over the coming years we will continue to maintain it with the hope of helping it become, once again, a thriving, healthy plant. This work was generously underwritten by Patricia and Colin Williams-Hawkes.



### And a New Teak Picnic Table!

Cathy Chernoff, longtime Land Alliance member and friend, purchased a picnic lunch for family and friends at Wawapek at last year's Wine Auction. Cathy enjoyed her afternoon party under the trees so much that she generously donated a beautiful teak picnic table so others may enjoy the same experience.

Many thanks to all of our generous friends who have been so helpful in our efforts to restore Wawapek and establish it as a lovely place to visit and enjoy nature.



## Walks in the Woods Program



The North Shore Land Alliance *Walks in the Woods* is a series of free, educational and interactive explorations. They are designed to guide visitors of all ages through Long Island parks and nature preserves, many of which are off the beaten path, for investigation while educating participants about the wildlife and plants that call the preserves home. Participants also gain an understanding and appreciation of local land conservation and its benefits to our food and water supplies and wildlife habitats and its connection to the strength and health of our communities.

### **Intro to Nature Journaling Exploring the Natural World through Art with Jan Porinchak**

**Sunday November 20, 2016 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
at Wawapek, Cold Spring Harbor**



Whether you're a casual nature lover, or a passionate outdoor adventurer, you'll enjoy this exploration of Long Island's natural world with artist, naturalist and educator Jan C. Porinchak. Jan will share his knowledge and enthusiasm for all aspects of nature. As part of the hands-on workshop, attendees will learn first-hand how to identify plants and animals, and understand their habits. In the first half of the program, Jan will teach simple, easy to master art techniques. Then participants will explore the beautiful grounds of Wawapek where they will use their new skills to record observations using an illustrated journal!

**\$10 per person**

**RSVP by Friday, November 18th by calling the Land Alliance at (516) 626-0908  
or e-mail Amanda Furcall at [amanda@northshorelandalliance.org](mailto:amanda@northshorelandalliance.org).**

## 2017 Calendar

**Saturday, January 7, 11:00 a.m., Jane Jackson and the Sierra Club, Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve, Upper Brookville** - Walk, ski or snowshoe along the lovely trails winding through a mix of habitats comprising Iselin Preserve's 42 acres.

**Friday, February 17, 7:00 p.m., Tom Carey, Wawapek Preserve, Cold Spring Harbor** - Tom, from the Custer Institute and SUNY Farmingdale, will lead us in an exploration of starry skies when Orion is supreme.

**Saturday, March 11, 10:00 a.m., Andy Greller, Belmont Lake State Park, West Babylon** - Ever been curious about that fungus/alga combination you see growing on trees and rocks? This walk will provide an introduction to the fascinating world of lichen.

**Sunday, April 23, 11:00 a.m., Rob Alvey, Garden City Bird Sanctuary, Garden City** - Rob will lead us through this fascinating old sump property, now a nature preserve, when lovely spring bulbs are in bloom.

**Saturday, May 6, 8:00 a.m., Peter Martin, Roosevelt Preserve, Roosevelt** - This hidden woodland gem surrounded by dense development provides important wildlife habitat and a buffer to Meadow Brook as it makes its journey to Merrick Bay. Come hear what Peter has to say as he guides us in a search for birds during spring migration.

**Saturday, June 10, 10:00 a.m., John Turner, Shoreham** - John will introduce us to a beautiful landscape that could soon be compromised if a proposed solar array is developed.

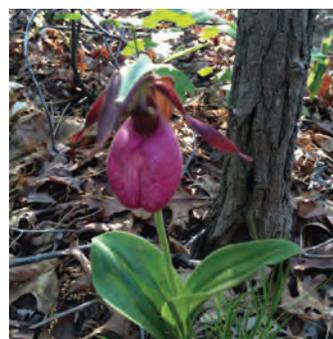
**Saturday, July 29, 9:00 a.m., Ken and Sue Feustel, Caumsett State Park, Lloyd Neck** - Sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) is one of our most enchanting native shrubs when aroma from its flowers fills the air. Its flowers are attractive not only to humans but also to butterflies and bees. Join us on this walk when flowering is at its peak.

**Saturday, September 30, 2:00 p.m., Peter Martin, Lido Preserve, Nickerson Beach and Point Lookout Loop, Lido Beach and Point Lookout** - Enjoy fall bird and insect migration and be on the lookout for shorebirds and wading birds after nesting.

**Saturday, October 14, 10:00 a.m., Amanda Furcall, Cushman Preserve, Oyster Bay Cove** - Join Amanda for a family friendly walk through the changing colors of the Preserve's serene forest where we will take the time to notice the details of life in autumn.

**Sunday, November 5, 11:00 a.m., Rich Kelly and Jean Henning, William Cullen Bryant Preserve, Roslyn** - Exploring this Nassau County Museum of Art property's blend of art and nature is a delight anytime, but its natural history during the fall foliage season is irresistible.

**Sunday, December 3, 10:00 a.m., Stella Miller and Brendan Fogarty, multiple North Shore locations** - Who could be better than these Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society experts to introduce us to the magic of the wintering waterfowl on Long Island's North Shore?



## Upcoming Community Visioning for the Hempstead Harbor Sand Pits

Large intact parcels of habitat are rare on Long Island. But tucked away in Port Washington, nestled among Harbor Links Golf Course, the Aerodrome and Hempstead Harbor's thriving ports lies 240 acres of natural space. This property, known as the Hempstead Harbor Sand Pits, was purchased by Nassau County with environmental bond money. Ownership was subsequently transferred to the town of North Hempstead in 2008-2009. This area was named for the sand mining conducted there from the 1870's to the 1980's. The sand extracted from the site was used to construct New York City skyscrapers, imbuing the lands with a rich cultural history.

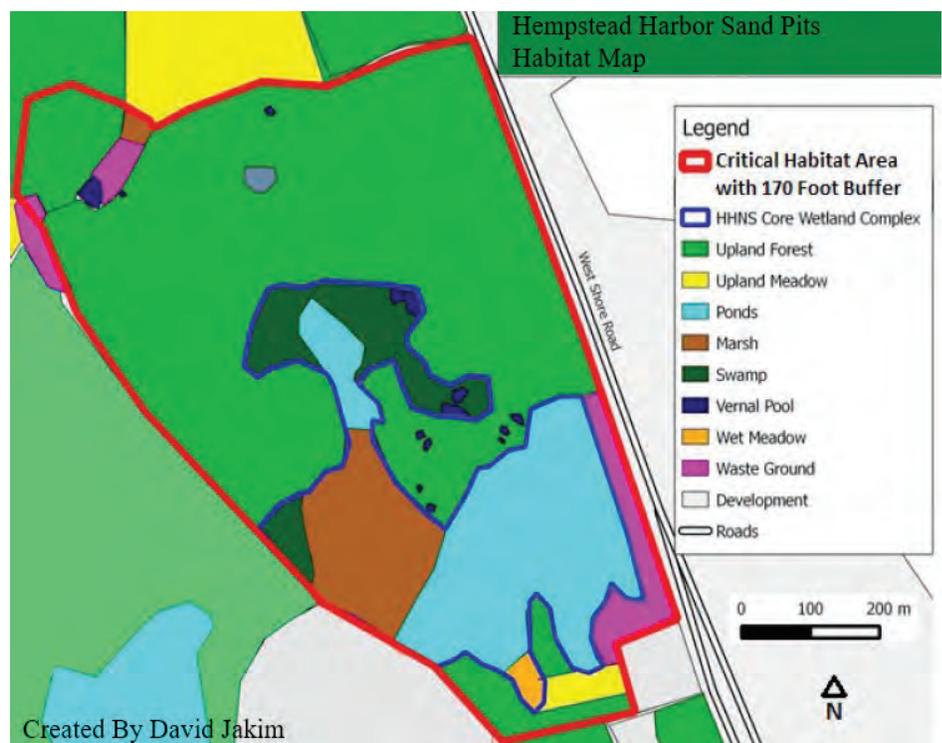
These sprawling lands host a variety of habitats, including forest, meadow, wet meadow, vernal pools and swamp. Large contiguous parcels like this one are of special conservation value because animals are able to sustain larger populations and are sheltered from human disturbance.

To date, over 300 species of flora and fauna have been identified on these lands by Queens College Professor and Port Washington resident David Jakim. Of the 29 tree species, one willow oak, is a species of conservation

concern. Other plant species at risk include two of the six ferns growing there. Box turtles find refuge in the meadows and forest. Dozens of bird species, including Osprey and other threatened species, live in this vibrant habitat. The Wood Duck, a bird once almost lost due to habitat destruction, is nesting in the wetlands of the Hempstead Harbor Sand Pits.

Glacial erratics (very large boulders) dot the landscape, leftovers from the glaciers which receded 20,000 years ago. Also of geologic interest are the many fossils and rock formations which can be found by simply walking the trails.

Beautiful, culturally and environmentally rich areas such as these are of incredible value. With that in mind the Town of North Hempstead is holding a series of visioning meetings for this property and nearby Hempstead Harbor locations. These 240 acres are a testament to the impact which environmental bond money has had on Long Island. Now the town is asking the community for its help in finding a proper public use for this precious habitat. The Land Alliance looks forward to working with a collective of local environmental groups to put forth a vision that further enhances our natural world. Stay tuned for official dates.



# Port Washington Sand Pits Aerial Map



# Climate Change and Its Impact on Bird Migration

## Fall Lecture and Walk with Scott Weidensaul



Credit: Chris DeSorbo



Credit: Sue Simon

Scott Weidensaul - world-renowned lecturer, bird author and photographer - gave a fascinating lecture, *Climate Change and Its Impact on Bird Migration*, the evening of Friday, October 7th at The Hoffman Center Nature Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary in East Norwich.

Weidensaul is an active field researcher whose work focuses on bird migration. He is also an avid natural history writer and the author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Bird Migration*. Weidensaul is truly a skilled presenter and one of the most sought-after speakers in the country on conservation and nature. The Land Alliance waited three years for Weidensaul to come to Long Island. As a guest commented, “he was well worth the wait!”

More than 100 people attended the free lecture, which was co-sponsored by The Hoffman Center, Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society, The North Shore Land Alliance, The Nature Conservancy on Long Island, Volunteers for Wildlife, North Country Garden Club and the Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Sanctuary. During his talk, Weidensaul discussed the

miracle and mechanics of bird migration and the loss of bird species due to climate change.

Every second of every day, birds are migrating somewhere in the world. Whether it is a short distance or an epic journey, every place where birds spend time is critical for the survival of their species. This includes their summer breeding grounds, their wintering areas, and all the stopovers in between. Weidensaul spoke about how one of the major effects of climate change is the loss of habitat. For example, coastal wetland areas are compromised by flooding due to rising sea levels. Without these stopover places, the birds have insufficient reserves to continue and have difficulties completing their journeys.

Weidensaul noted that if we could strip away the night sky, we would witness the greatest wildlife spectacle on the planet - the mass nighttime migration of millions of birds. Technological advancements have helped tremendously in the last several years to track migratory birds. Infrared technology helps with species identification and Doppler radar tracks tens of millions of birds at one time. Along with banding, radar has helped accurately monitor when birds migrate and their migratory path. It has also

confirmed that as the climate changes, so do the migratory patterns of birds.

While it was long believed that cold temperatures and winter storms initiate the migration south for the winter, and that all birds migrate to warmer climates, this is not the case. While harsh weather may trigger birds to start their fall migration, the real driving cause is the availability of food. As the temperature drops, food sources become scarce, which triggers the birds to migrate. In some cases, with warming winter trends birds are staying longer in their summer homes and when they do migrate, they are out of sync with the availability of food along their migratory path. Over time, migratory paths have changed or the number of species has declined.

Weidensaul concluded his talk with an overview of simple and effective ways we can help birds, from what we plant in our gardens to what coffee we pour into our morning cup.

- 1) Birds require pristine habitat at both their breeding and their wintering grounds, and they need a safe place to land and rest that has food and water. Protecting small spaces, including your back yard, is an important way to create habitats for migratory birds.
- 2) Landscape with nature in mind, using native wildflowers, berry-producing shrubs and trees.

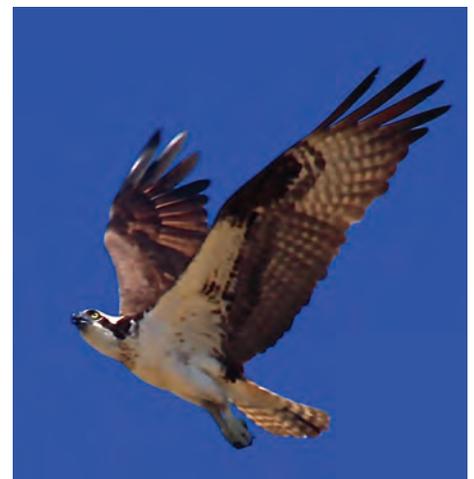


Photo Credit: Sue Simon

- 3) Healthy back yards that are pesticide free are better for birds, humans and our water. Moreover, buy organic at the store. It is healthier for you, the farmers and birds.
- 4) Keeping cats inside is important, as free-ranging cats kill more wild birds than any other single human-related cause, like windows or cars.
- 5) Use recycled paper, to protect the Canadian boreal forest, where hundreds of species of birds nest, and from which most U.S. paper products come.
- 6) Scott's final suggestion was a surprise to many. Daily, we could make an important impact on healthy bird habitat by choosing to drink shade-grown or "Bird Friendly" coffee. To learn more about Bird Friendly coffee, (see page 22.)

Scott confirmed that bird migration is a true natural miracle. Through their instincts alone, birds have mastered the skills needed either to survive bitter northern winters or to make vast journeys covering many thousands of miles. We should do everything we can to help these tiny creatures along their way.

## Did You Know the Coffee You Choose to Buy Impacts Bird Populations Worldwide?



While coffee is the second most widely traded commodity in the world, most of it is still grown on small traditional farms under a partial canopy of shade trees. A traditional coffee farm can look like another stand of forest with the bonus of being a thriving natural habitat for a variety of wildlife including birds!

With the pressure for higher yields, many coffee producers have begun to clear cut the land and plant coffee trees in rows like corn in Iowa or soybeans in Ohio. However, the yield benefits of increased production of “sun coffee” comes at an environmental cost. Pesticides replace the birds that ate the harmful insects on shade coffee trees. Commercial fertilizers replace the natural mulch from the tree canopy. Erosion, chemical runoff and other new problems begin to occur, which have a negative impact on a healthy ecosystem and, specifically, bird migration. The loss of habitat in Latin America has had a negative impact on bird populations, including some popular species that summer in North America such as the Baltimore Oriole.



The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center has developed the only 100% organic and shade-grown coffee certification available, which is appropriately called “Bird Friendly”. This means that every bean is produced organically and under high-quality shade. The Bird Friendly seal of approval ensures tropical “agroforests” are preserved and migratory birds find a healthy haven when they travel from your back yard to those faraway farms producing the beans for the coffee you enjoy each morning.



### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?** Buy and Brew “Bird Friendly” Coffee!

Ask your grocery store to stock Bird Friendly coffee.

For more information on where to find Bird Friendly coffee visit the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center at <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/migratorybirds/coffee/>

## Long Island Water Education Program Continues With Help from A Federal Grant

As of the close of the 2015/2016 school year, The North Shore Land Alliance *Long Island Water Education Program* in local schools has, in its two short years, reached 2,400 students at 17 local schools within nine school districts across Long Island.

Little did we dream when we launched the three-session program in fall of 2014 that it would so quickly become requested by so many teachers in so many schools. But word has spread in large part because of the talents of our educator and a crew of dedicated volunteers. Their assistance and leadership on field trips to our Shore Road Sanctuary this spring and fall have been invaluable.

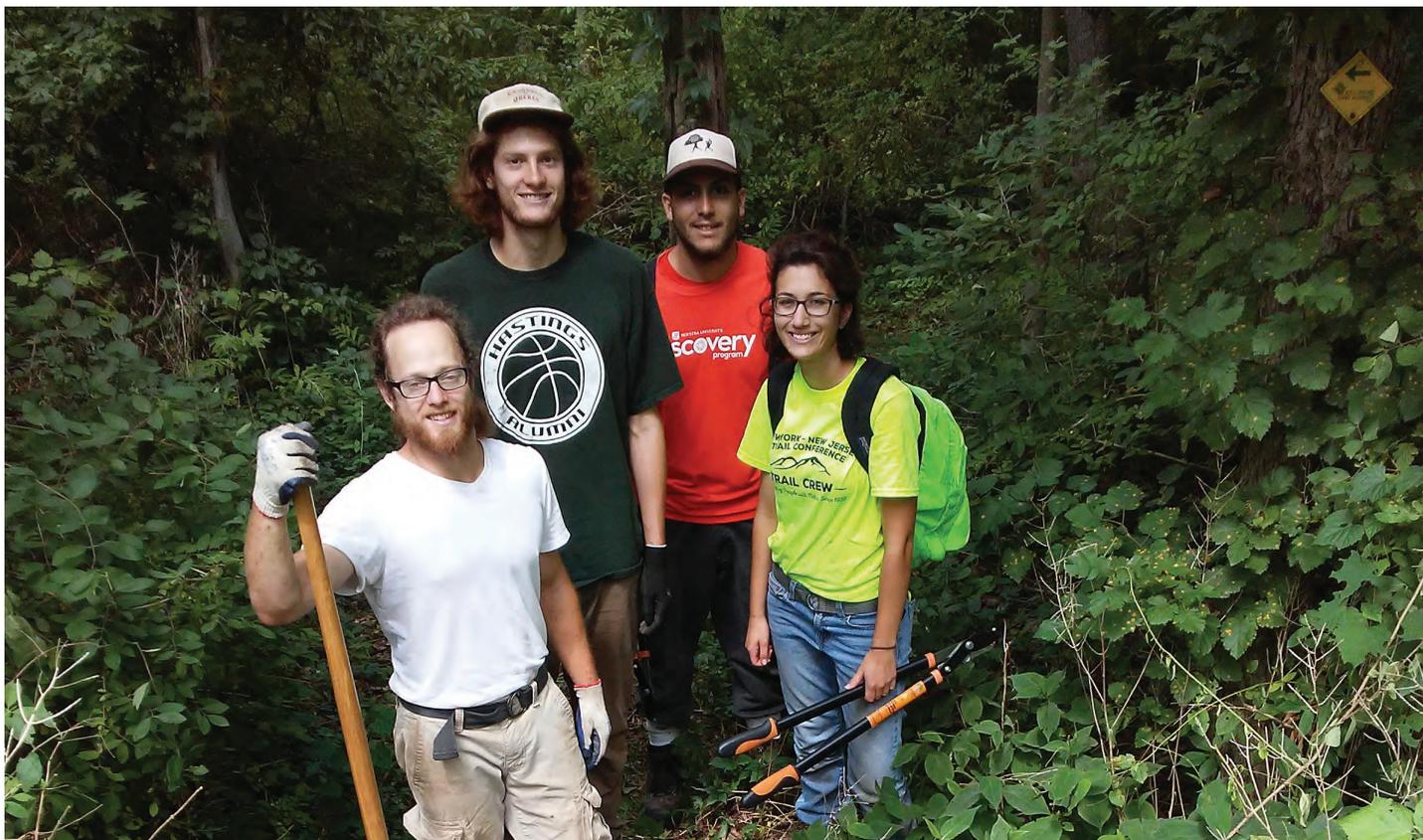
The success of the program can best be summed up by a quote from a parent (who's also a teacher) whose

son had recently participated in the Program. "My son Eamon is a 4th grader at St. Patrick's in Huntington and he came home two weeks or so ago and told me ALL about aquifers. He loved the follow up lesson yesterday, and this morning when I told him we'd be having a rainy week he said "Well Mom, that sure is good news for the aquifers!"

In September, the Land Alliance was awarded an additional \$30,500 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Long Island Sound Futures Fund, which will sustain the program for the 2016/2017 school year. This grant will allow us to offer busing for students in underserved schools and broaden the range of the program by offering it to more schools.



## The Inaugural Class of the O'Neil Stewards Program Deemed a Huge Success



As you may recall from previous newsletters, the program endowed for five years by the Joyce C. and William C. O'Neil Charitable Trust provides funding for four summer interns to help manage the Land Alliance's growing land holdings. Over the course of the program's first summer, four highly qualified college students familiarized themselves with Land Alliance preserves, expanded their knowledge of local ecosystems and aided in development efforts. Their dedication to the job and to being great environmental stewards made it possible to accomplish many tasks in one season. Each of them raved about the internship. They said that they had learned a lot and had fun doing it.

Land Alliance preserves have benefitted immeasurably from their efforts. On countless occasions, they tackled growing stands of invasives like a swarm of

locusts, knocking back the weedy plants and giving native species and the ecosystem a chance to thrive. The interns also installed new native plantings and experimented with various methods of invasive plant removal, protecting ecologically important areas. They then used GIS (Geographical Information System) to map these projects.

Existing trails were maintained and mapped at all preserves and two new trails were created. This was a favorite activity. After designing a trail for the Humes property, they cleared the path which winds through field and forest providing interesting and diverse views. At Wawapek, the four stewards created a woodland trail linking two existing carriage roads. This was a challenging project because of the slope; switchbacks and steps were required.

Rounding out their experience at the Land Alliance, the O'Neil Stewards helped at the Heritage fund-raising event and Invasive Species Awareness Week. They eagerly taught students in our *Long Island Water Education Program* about pollinators, open space, aquifer health and runoff.

Conducting environmental surveys was another beloved project. Interns led a forest inventory survey at Wawapek and analyzed results to assess forest health. They also studied the impact of mowing on native vs. invasive plants at the Humes property. At Clark Sanctuary, invertebrates were collected and their abundance used to assess water quality. These surveys featured in the three preserve management plans which they completed, provide the Land Alliance with cohesive documents detailing the conditions at and goals for our preserves.

As part of the program, the Land Alliance partnered

with Cornell Cooperative Extension "CCE" Nassau County and Friends of Hempstead Plains to provide the four interns with a diverse experience. With CCE, they learned about permaculture farm design, mushroom farming, tree planting and bluff restoration. At Hempstead Plains, a survey of pollinators was designed and implemented. They assisted in plains restoration and created a bloom calendar to guide visitors on their walk through the plains.

To cap off the summer interns, organized and presented at the first annual Open Space Stewardship Forum generously hosted by the Friends of Hempstead Plains. At the well-attended event they displayed what they had accomplished over the summer. Indeed, we all benefitted from the talents and dedication of these terrific young people and the generosity of the William C. and Joyce C. O'Neil Charitable Trust.



## Volunteers for Open Space Program

### Our 2016 Summer Stewardship Volunteers (of the Two-and Four-Footed Varieties)

We are very grateful to the many summer high school and college volunteers we had working at our preserves this year. They were kept busy with watering and weeding new planting areas, invasive plant management, trail maintenance and creating a guide for an interpretive trail. Some of them also joined another volunteer crew at the Humes property in Mill Neck, where we had 11 lovable goats grazing unwanted vegetation (and, in a few cases, some more desirable plants!). While the goats required little care, they did insist on fresh water each day. And, it was important for us to check and make sure they remained fenced in their designated work area. For four months our goat waterers stayed on top of meeting these demands. Initially the four goats (named Shirley, Doris, Addie and Beverly after the Shirelles – thank you, Len Jacobs), leased from Ann and Larry Cihanek's Green Goats farm in Rhinebeck, seemed overwhelmed by the amount they were expected to eat! A two-acre area of highly invasive porcelain-berry is no small task and it appeared for much of the summer that they weren't making a dent in the volume of this and other species. But another seven goats were added as the season continued and by the time the goats returned to Rhinebeck in late October the field looked substantially cleaner. We will miss the goats around this winter but hope to have them back on one of our preserves next year. If you are interested in helping us meet that goal with a contribution toward the cost of renting goats, or would like to volunteer as a goat waterer in the future, please let us know!

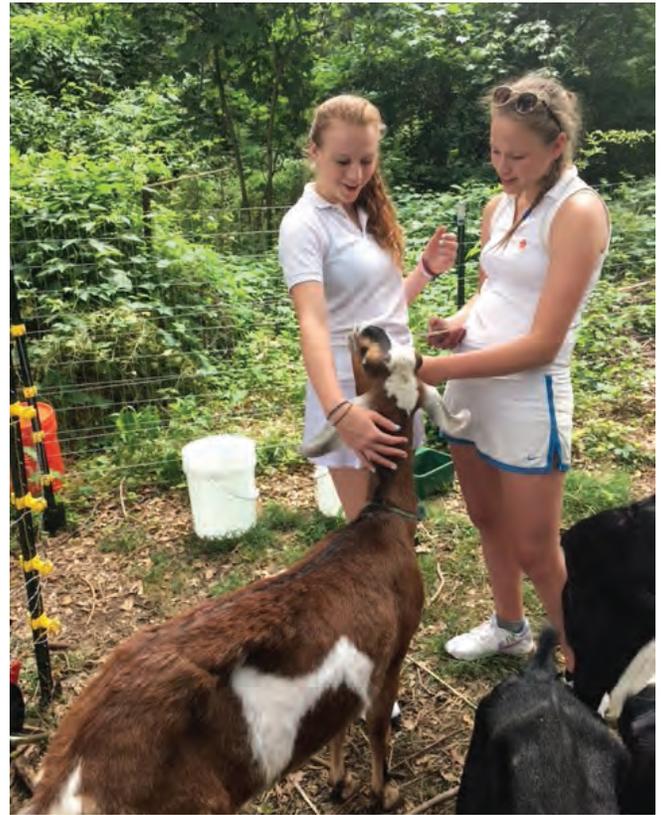


## We are indebted to our seasonal volunteers:

Sam Aranoff	Robert Merritt
Vickie Christie	Twinkle Orzel
Caitlin Cobb	Andrew Williams
Van Cushny	Kevin Williams
Peter Gollobin	
Paula Hornbostel	Addie
Summer Hornbostel	Beverly
Ronit Ital	Doris
Len Jacobs	Shirley
Kate Keller	and seven more fabulous
Ann Lotowycz	goats!

## And thank you to the many other volunteers who donated their time to help us this year!

Barbara Abromson	Matthew Magilavy
Shanna Anderson	Peter Martin
Joann Bo	Eileen McGuire
Jim Brown	Debbie Mirer
Doreen Buckman	MSC Industrial Supply
Philip Asaph	George Muller
Lorraine Cinetti	James Murphy
Anne Codey	Carolyn Poczatek
Susan Dembo	Michale Ponzio
Ken Feustel	Tom Powell
Sue Feustel	REI
Leslie Flynn	Roosevelt School District
Girl Scouts Troops	Eileen Rossi
#1196 and #3362	Suzanne Ruggles
Andy Greller	Marcia Skolnick
Kathy Hannigan	Bruce Serkes
Hofstra University's	Joel Shaw
Discovery Program	Will Shea
Suja Johnkutty	Sue Simon
Daniel Karpen	Eric Swenson
Rich Kelly	Harrison Tanchuck
Gigi Kish	Martin Tauss
Kristie Kish	Elina Thatcher
Rich Kopsco	John Turner
Dan Kriesberg	Michael Veracka
Ken Krumenacker	Richard Weir
Susan Lenoir	Marty Wenz
Lois Lindberg	Alfred Wirth



## Become a Volunteer

Volunteers contribute significantly to the Land Alliance's ability to protect and preserve our last remaining nature areas and wildlife habitats. Our *Volunteers for Open Space Program* offers individuals, businesses and groups an opportunity to get involved and make a real difference in their communities.

### Volunteer Opportunities:

- Educator/Naturalist
- Office Assistant
- Land Stewards
- Photographers
- Community Outreach Assistants

To learn more about our volunteer opportunities, please visit the North Shore Land Alliance website at [www.northshorelandalliance.org](http://www.northshorelandalliance.org). If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Jane Jackson or Andrea Millwood at 516-626-0908.

## Rottkamp Farm Update



The Land Alliance and the farm's devoted customers know that Rottkamp Brothers Farm is one of the best places on the North Shore of Long Island to get fresh vegetables. It is also a critical part of maintaining our community's bucolic setting and agricultural heritage. The Rottkamp brothers are fourth generation farmers that started farming in Old Brookville with their father in 1953. The home farm is 50 acres and includes their farm stand and accessory agricultural structures. They also lease another 30 acres along Hegemans Lane, that was preserved by the Land Alliance and Nassau County in 2009.

As many in the community have heard, the Rottkamp Brothers Farm has had ongoing issues with its neighbors over drainage. The Land Alliance has been very supportive of the farm throughout the ongoing dispute and has pledged to do whatever we can to help resolve the conflict. Aside from working closely with the family, we have urged the Village to support an expeditious resolution of the issues. We are hopeful that an agreeable resolution will be reached soon.

There are only three active, working food production farms left in Nassau County and Rottkamp Farm is by far the largest both in terms of acreage farmed and sales. They grow a wide range of vegetables, from potatoes and cauliflower to tomatoes and lettuces, but they also grow an assortment of ethnic vegetables such as callaloo, a Jamaican spinach, since about half of their produce is sold to wholesale markets in New York City. The other half of what they grow is sold at their farmstand located on McCouns Lane in Old Brookville.

The farm stand will be open until Thanksgiving, so do drop by and show them your support.

*"Good farmers, who take seriously their duties as stewards of Creation and of their land's inheritors, contribute to the welfare of society in more ways than society usually acknowledges, or even knows. These farmers produce valuable goods, of course; but they also conserve soil, they conserve water, they conserve wildlife, they conserve open space, they conserve scenery."*

- Wendell Berry -

## Roosevelt Community Garden Project



The Land Alliance has been working with Nassau County over the past year and a half to develop a plan for a vacant property in Roosevelt. In the spring of 2016, the Land Alliance applied for a grant from the Long Island Community Foundation to start a community garden at the Roosevelt property. We are now pleased to announce that the Long Island Community Foundation recently awarded us a \$20,000 grant to begin the project. In the coming weeks and months, we will start engaging the community and key stakeholders in the garden planning and design process. By facilitating participatory outreach forums and meetings this winter we hope to engage a core group of volunteers that will help us install a new community garden in Roosevelt by the spring of 2017.

Research has shown that the relatively simple concept of community gardens, a series of small garden plots that are collectively cultivated and maintained by residents who live in the surrounding community, have the potential to empower, enrich and improve communities. This research also shows that community gardens have the potential to improve physical and mental health, educate residents, build community, strengthen economic security including food security and create and sustain valuable green space in densely populated areas. We're hopeful that some of these benefits will come to fruition in Roosevelt through this community garden project.

Many thanks to the Long Island Community Foundation for their very generous support!

### BeeHaven Apiary Supports Local Land Conservation



The Eastman Family, owners and proprietors of BeeHaven Apiaries, have chosen to support The North Shore Land Alliance in an ongoing way by donating a percentage of their sales to our conservation efforts. When asked why they made this decision Lisa Eastman said, "We are so grateful to the North Shore Land Alliance for protecting our green open spaces so that our bees may happily buzz. To show our appreciation to the Land Alliance, BeeHaven Apiaries is donating a portion of the proceeds of the sale of our bees' honey to the Land Alliance. Our honey is sold at Curds & Whey in Locust Valley."

**Remember, no bees equal no food!**

# Open Space Society Dinner

## The Story of Northwood: 1904 to Present



On Friday, June 24th, more than one hundred guests attended the annual Open Space Society Dinner at the beautiful home of Lisa and Peter Schiff in support of the Land Alliance's local land conservation efforts. The highlight of the evening was Peter Schiff's outstanding presentation on the history of his family's land which, at one time, encompassed nearly 1,000 acres.

Peter's grandfather, Mortimer Schiff, came to Long Island just after the turn of the century looking to accumulate land and build his estate. At that time Oyster Bay was the location of President Teddy Roosevelt's summer White House. It also had electricity and local train service into the city which was important and not the norm at that time. Over the next 20 years, through a series of purchases of various farms and parcels of land, he amassed his large estate which would become Northwood.

Over the next several decades, the estate was passed down to family members who either sold off portions of the land or made donations to a variety of institutions. When Peter's father passed away in the late 1980s, the remaining 255 acres of land was left to the grandchildren, with Peter and his brother as executors. Faced with a fiduciary obligation of obtaining the most value for the land while balancing the implications of taxes, Peter and his brother quickly assembled a team of professionals to help them produce an outcome that included income and conservation. The result was the creation of Fieldstone on 15 acres, the sale of the main house on 60 acres and the sale of the adjoining 30-acre farm with limited development rights. The income derived from those transactions allowed the family to sell the remaining 126 acres, located in the Oyster Bay Special Groundwater Protection Area, to Nassau County for conservation purposes.

In addition to the Schiff property, the County purchased the 50-acre Garver Estate and the 21-acre Flagg Estate, which includes Held Pond. Per the press release published in April 1991 announcing these acquisitions, "Tiffany Creek Preserve would ensure the recharge of 150 million gallons of water annually into the aquifer."

Peter noted that these transactions showed a path for what could happen to large estates as they were forced to be

broken up. He added, we are fortunate that the Land Alliance is here today and has helped to preserve properties such as the 28-acre Humes property, the 35-acre DeForest-Williams property (which is now known as Wawapek) and the 28-acre Cushman Woods.

We thank Lisa and Peter Schiff for graciously hosting a truly exceptional Open Space Dinner. Their personal conservation story resonated with guests and made everyone there so grateful that the Schiff family took such care and made such responsible decisions about the future of their land. Oyster Bay Cove would not be the place it is today without their extraordinary efforts.



## Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors

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 Lisa and Peter Schiff  
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 Nancy B. Taylor  
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 Beth and John Werwaiss

# INTO THE WOODS

## 13th Annual Wine Auction & Dinner



The morning of September 24th was a beautiful day to kick-off the Land Alliance's annual fundraiser. The white, clear top tent filled with trees and the crisp blue sky at Groton Place was the perfect setting for our "Into the Woods" theme this year. The event raised more than \$220,000 for local land conservation efforts. Additionally, a special appeal to fund the improvements necessary to open Cushman Woods to the public exceeded our goal, raising more than \$25,000 to create a parking area, build new trails and establish a stewardship fund.

Many thanks to our terrific Wine Auction Co-chairs Susan and Jack Foley for their original ideas and diligent effort to make our event such a wonderful success. We would also like to thank our Junior Co-chairs Gina and Tim DiPietro for their enthusiastic support and willingness to bring their many friends.

Upon arriving, guests enjoyed the "timber rush", a bourbon and lemon infused signature cocktail prepared by Sterling Affair. Autumn salads started the dinner as Jeremiah Evarts from Sotheby's got the crowd going with lively bidding on Thanksgiving Day Parade tickets, Madison Square Garden Knicks and Ranger tickets, large native trees, trips abroad, fine wines and vintage Rye Whiskey. The Super Silent and Silent Auctions had their bidding wars too, with a round of golf at Fishers Island, the Ultimate Tesla Experience, theatre tickets, gift certificates and dining opportunities.

This year we were fortunate to have the knowledgeable guidance of Richard Weir to select trees for our Live and Silent Auction. Among the beautiful selection of trees native to Long Island were Beech, Shagbark Hickory, Tulip, Serviceberry and Oak trees. Our deepest thanks to Richard for his expert advice and assistance in selecting such wonderful specimens. Many guests bid on the trees and we, at the Land Alliance, are so pleased that our community will be filled with more native species in our backyards.

The Land Alliance is extremely appreciative for the efforts made by our loyal volunteers who helped create such a wonderful event. We are particularly grateful to Julie and Luis Rinaldini for sharing Groton Place with us again this year and are forever grateful for their generosity in providing a home for The North Shore Land Alliance for the last 13 years.

As this year ends, we count our blessings that we have been so fortunate to receive such generous support from our community. Whether we are foraging for pumpkins with our children, taking the dog for a walk, or enjoying a scenic drive to admire the fall foliage, we can take comfort in knowing that we all played a part in preserving and protecting this beautiful land and the many paths we have created together.

Thank you once again for your time and effort in making our organization better as we educate our peers and younger generations on how important it is that nature and humanity thrive together.

# Thank you to our Sponsors

## Grand Cru

Rita and Frank Castagna, Jack Foley and Stewart Title Insurance Company, Claudia and Gunnar Overstrom

## Gran Reserva

Botsy and Hoyle Jones, Joseph LoCicero on behalf of Volunteers for Wildlife

## Vintner's Reserve

Anton Community Newspapers, Angela Anton, The Bahnik Foundation & Lori and Roger Bahnik  
Carter Bales, Sally Peters and Hal Davidson, Lee and Patrick Mackay, Julie and Luis Rinaldini

## Grand Classique

Ann and Peter Cannell, Cathy Chernoff, Pat Petersen & Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty  
Debra and Claudio Del Vecchio, Augusta and Mark Donohue, Olga and Tony Duke, Lauren and Ragnar Knutsen  
Carol and Jim Large, Madison Square Garden, Elaine and John Postley, Herbert L. Smith III Family Fund

## Au Chateau

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 Rothmann's Steakhouse  
 Matthew Rossman  
 Heather and Andrew Rubinstein  
 Hollis Russell  
 Richard Sack  
 Sage Chevins Computer Solutions  
 Carol and Larry Schmidlapp  
 Nancy and Ray Schuville  
 Lisa and David Scully  
 Mary and Russell Selover  
 Anonymous Donor  
 Joan Shepard  
 Six Senses Hotel Group  
 Brian Shore  
 Barrie Curtis Spies  
 Spring Brook Farm  
 Cynthia and Jim Stebbins  
 Sterling Affair, Peter Fazio  
 Tao Downtown NYC  
 Nancy Taylor  
 Tesla  
 Jane and Roderick Thaler  
 Tiffany's  
 The Brass Rail  
 Treiber Family Foundation  
 Alexandra Troy, Culinary Architect  
 John Turner  
 H. Peter Van Ingen Jr.  
 Julia and Eric Vaughn  
 Shelly Ventresca  
 Village Sports of Locust Valley  
 Volunteers for Wildlife  
 Heather and Fifield Whitman  
 Phyllis Weekes  
 Craig and Allana Weiss  
 Carl Wermee  
 Wild Honey  
 Wild by Nature  
 Frances E. Wilder  
 Wolffer Vineyard  
 Youngs Farm  
 Kathy and Tom Zoller



## North Shore Land Alliance Is on the Move



*Our home for the past 13 years - Groton Place*



*Our new office - the Manor House*

On November 1, The North Shore Land Alliance moved to transitional office space at Planting Fields Arboretum. Our staff has grown from one to ten people over the last 13+ years and, thus, we have outgrown our barn office at the beautiful Groton Place in Old Westbury. Many thanks to the Rinaldini's who have so generously provided the Land Alliance with such an inspirational place to grow and develop into the Land Alliance of today.

“It is a bitter sweet feeling to be departing Groton Place”, said Lisa Ott, Land Alliance President and CEO. “Julie and Luis have been more than generous to us - keeping the staff warm in the winter, cool in the summer and happy all year long. Groton Place employees have been a joy to work with and we will miss them. Our relocation is a new chapter of growth and we are very fortunate to have such great friends at Planting Fields who have opened their doors and welcomed us into such a terrific space in the middle of incredible nature”. Many thanks to Hal Davidson, Land Alliance Trustee and Planting Fields Foundation Board Chair, for presenting us with this wonderful opportunity, and Chip Gorman and Vincent Simeone of New York State Parks for their generosity and willingness to make the move happen in a very short time period.

**Where is our new office space exactly?** Our new home will be in the Manor House also known as the Dower House on the property of Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park. The historic home is located in the heart of the park down the road from the M.O. & M.E. Hoffman Visitor Center (Hay Barn) within the 409-acres of land that is Planting Fields Arboretum. William Robertson Coe and his third wife, Caroline Graham Slaughter Coe, commissioned the Manor House in 1955. The house was designed by esteemed architect Eric Gugler, who was staff architect at the White House from 1934-1948. Mrs. Coe lived in this spacious home until her death in 1960.

We are eternally thankful for the support of our community, which has embraced the concept of saving land, creating parks and protecting natural resources and in so doing, allowed us to grow. Our goal is to, eventually, have our permanent offices located on a Land Alliance-owned property like the Humes Property in Mill Neck. Until then, please do drop by to say hello. We would love to see you!

## New Trustees and Staff

### Eric Fornell



Since February of 2012 Eric has worked at Wells Fargo Securities, part of Wells Fargo & Company (NYSE: WFC), as Vice Chairman in the energy and power sector of its Investment Banking and Capital Markets division. Prior to joining Wells Fargo, Eric was a managing director at Goldman Sachs and Co., where he managed power and pipeline clients.

Eric received his undergraduate degree from Amherst College and studied philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. Eric lives in Locust Valley with his wife Stacy where they raised their three children. Eric and Stacy have been longtime supporters of the Land Alliance. Their interest has strengthened with the recent acquisition of the Humes Property very near their home. Eric is very interested in the history of our community and the role land conservation plays in protecting community character.

### Eric Vaughn



Eric is a Vice President and Financial Advisor at J.P. Morgan Securities, the wealth management division of J.P. Morgan Chase and Co. Prior to his work at J.P. Morgan, Eric worked for Lehman Brothers and then Barclays Bank. He also worked in Washington, D.C. on the House Committee on Government Reform under former Virginia Congressman Tom Davis and as a paralegal at Cravath, Swaine and Moore.

Eric earned a dual B.A. degree, with honors, in both Political Science and History from Trinity College. He is married to Julia Deming and they live in Oyster Bay with their new baby girl, Louise Bennett Vaughn. Eric's interest in conservation stems from his early years growing up in northern Virginia where he watched rapid development transform the countryside. He is very interested in the Land Alliance's commitment to education and water quality and how land conservation is integral to both. He and Julia have been active members of the Land Alliance's youngest member group, the Heritage Committee.

### Lynn (Ely) Dixon



Lynn joined the Land Alliance team in November as our Director of Events and Development. Prior to the Land Alliance, Lynn served as the Manager of Events – Business Development at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, in New York, NY, and has worked in marketing, events and business development for a broad range of online and brick and mortar companies, including Dinex (Daniel Boulud), CBS MarketWatch, The Motley Fool and Young & Rubicam. She is a graduate of St. Lawrence University, having majored in History and Art History.

Lynn is a longtime member of the community, having grown up in Locust Valley and attended The Green Vale School. She now lives in the area with her husband, Brooke, two daughters, Susan and Emmett, and Boxer dog. Recently Lynn has served on event committees for The Green Vale School, The Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club and The Greenville Baker Boys and Girls Club and is now very much looking forward to being able to bring her passion and energy to the North Shore Land Alliance.

While she has little spare time, Lynn greatly enjoys spending time with her family, cooking for friends, playing a wide range of sports and getting outside.

## Jennifer Contino



Jennifer joined the North Shore Land Alliance in September as our Office Manager. She is a graduate of SUNY Old Westbury, Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in Psychology. Jennifer started her career as a preschool teacher and made a career change into the nonprofit world in 2010. She has worked in development and office management for non-profit organizations, including the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, Long Island Chapter and St. Johnland Nursing Center in Kings Park.

Jennifer lives in the incorporated village of Floral Park, a community with a strong connection and devotion to flowers and trees. Floral Park was started in 1874 when John Lewis Childs built his own seed and bulb business and bought the land where Floral Park is located today to promote his own business and the horticultural industry. Jennifer is a volunteer with the Girl Scouts of Nassau County as a Cadet troop leader and is active in community matters. She enjoys being at the beach, boating, hiking, gardening, and spending time with her family and her beloved rescue dog Frankie Carlo.

## Cindy Shelley



Cindy joined the Land Alliance this past August as the new Development Associate. After spending several years as an Operations Manager for Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs, she focused her attention on raising her two boys. Cindy has also been involved with many organizations on a volunteer basis including the Locust Valley Boys and Girls Club, Bailey Arboretum, Chaminade High School in addition to serving as an Ambassador for the Guide Dog Foundation and America's Vet Dogs.

Cindy graduated from Indiana University with a BS degree. She has also completed three years of master classes in floral design at New York Flower School and participated in study abroad programs in Holland, Belgium, and France. Cindy has recently relocated to Bayville where she enjoys the beauty of the Long Island Sound. She loves gardening and walks in the woods at Sagamore Hill with her two beloved golden retrievers.

## In Memorium



**Katusha Davison** (Mrs. Daniel P.), Land Alliance Advisory Board member, died peacefully in New York on October 29th. Katusha accomplished many things in her lifetime in both New York City and Long Island. She

was credited with founding the volunteer program at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, expanding the Morgan Library's retail store into a highly successful income source for the Library, serving as Board Chair of the Nassau County Museum of Art and much, much more. She was an incredibly gracious hostess who believed in getting people together around the table to enjoy good food and stimulating conversation, often in the surrounds of beautiful Peacock Point. She was devoted to her friends and family and is survived by three sons, their wives and seven grandchildren who will miss her greatly.



**John Taylor**, a dedicated Land Alliance volunteer, died during the wee hours of October 13th. John knew more about Long Island's birds and bird populations than just about anyone else we know, and for many years maintained a bird banding operation at the wooded Laurel Hollow home he shared with his wife, Joy, and their dog, Skalawag. Much of the Taylor family's extensive land holdings was permanently protected through land donations to The Nature Conservancy (Uplands Farm is an example), and include the Land Alliance's beautiful Fox Hollow Preserve in Laurel Hollow. He is survived by his wife Joy, sisters Susan and Joanna, sons Russell and Jack and grandson, Nathaniel.



# NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

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## Mission Statement



The North Shore Land Alliance is a 501(C) (3) 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 benefit of future generations.



### Our New Mailing Address

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Oyster Bay, NY 11771

*Season's  
Greetings!*



FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT  
THE NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE



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