



Conservation News

Protecting Open Space on Long Island's North Shore

NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

Volume 8, Issue 16

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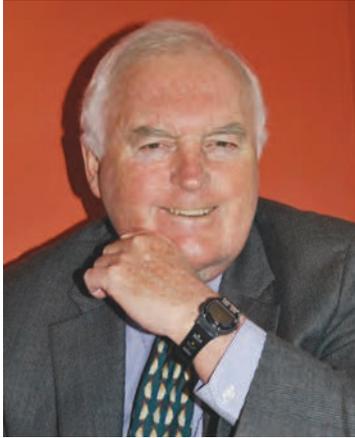


ExxonMobil Donates Cold Spring Harbor Terminal Site to the Land Alliance

We are pleased to announce that ExxonMobil has chosen to donate the remediated Cold Spring Harbor terminal site to the North Shore Land Alliance for conservation purposes. ExxonMobil is to be commended for choosing conservation as an innovative means of disposing of this inactive surplus property rather than the more intense alternative of selling for development. The Land Alliance plans to restore the property to its natural state as a native grassland and bird habitat. Our intent, over the next few years, is to work with the local community, the Town of Huntington and the Department of Environmental Conservation to come up with a plan that enhances quality of life in this fragile coastal area.

This property transfer may be the first of its kind in New York State and the first of what it is hoped will be many across the country. ExxonMobil has used this transaction as the prototype for a new method of property disposition for large corporate property owners. It is their hope that other corporations will follow their lead.

(Continued on pg. 3)



Dear Neighbors and Friends,

As Superstorm Sandy recovery efforts continue across Long Island, our thoughts are with all of you who have suffered significant losses.

Sandy's battering of the Northeast provided a preview of what could be a scary future for U.S. coastal communities and particularly for Long Island—a future increasingly marred by frequent storms, fierce winds, massive flooding, shore erosion, and extensive physical damage to our homes and to our livelihoods.

According to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world's oceans have risen on average by about 7 inches since 1900. The rise has been even higher along the East Coast: a report by the New York State Sea Level Rise Task Force said sea levels along New York's coast have increased between 9 and 11 inches over the past century. Earlier this year, the U.S. Geological Survey predicted the world's oceans would rise between 2.0 and 5.9 feet by 2100, plus another 4.9 feet during violent storms.

Why is this important? Kathryn Hayhoe, a professor at Texas Tech University, cited three reasons why climate change exacerbated superstorm Sandy:

- Higher sea surface temperatures from warming provided more energy for Sandy—with about 15 percent of the temperature increase attributed to climate change.
- Record loss of sea ice in the Arctic this year may have steered Sandy toward the coast.
- Higher sea levels made the storm surge more severe.

Is this the “new normal” many are referring to? Whether it is or not, it is an issue that has already impacted every resident of the North Shore. And it is an issue that deserves our serious attention to consider and support an effective solution based on sound science.

Our friends at The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, the Open Space Institute and others agree that land conservation is an important part of the solution. Here are three significant actions that would help to protect our community:

1. **We must make wetlands protection a priority.** Wetlands can slow waves, slow erosion and reduce storm surges to protect upland areas from erosion and flooding.
2. **We must protect healthy trees** and standing forests. Forests help reduce flooding by slowing water as it runs down to lower points and into over-burdened storm water systems.
3. **We must use science to inform decisions about solutions** and encourage policy makers to ensure that natural systems and other “soft” solutions are as much a part of future plans as the “built” infrastructure.

If there is anything positive from Superstorm Sandy, it is a call to action for Long Island residents, elected officials and our community of intelligent, informed not-for-profit organizations to come together around a set of actions that can help protect us against the fury of future storms. The future of Long Island depends on it. You should know that the North Shore Land Alliance intends to be a positive, contributing part of that solution.

With best wishes to you and your family for a joyous holiday season.

Carter F. Bales

ExxonMobil Donation



(Continued from pg.1)

The Cold Spring Harbor site, which was the former Mobil Oil fuel terminal, provides significant conservation values to not only the natural upland habitat but also to Cold Spring Harbor, a New York State Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat. These habitats are known to provide maritime beach bird nesting habitat and waterfowl wintering areas as well as highly productive nursery and feeding areas for marine finfish and shellfish.

The Land Alliance has been closely monitoring the remediation work, beginning with the tanks coming down in 2004. During this time we witnessed the completion of the remediation work for years, the required monitoring stage to evaluate the effectiveness of prior efforts and the start of site preparation for environmental restoration. You may have noticed, if you've driven by the site along Shore Road recently, that some of the tall native grasses planted by ExxonMobil have begun to take hold.

While the Land Alliance has been in discussion with ExxonMobil for several years, it was during the remediation time period and following the issuance of a 'no further action' letter by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in 2011 that ExxonMobil made their final decision to donate the property to the Land Alliance for conservation purposes. Prior to accepting the property, the Land Alliance hired

environmental experts to conduct further testing and review Exxon's findings. Our experts confirmed that, indeed, a full remediation had taken place. On Friday, November 9, 2012 the final documents were signed and the transfer of the property became official.

As a further layer of protection, ExxonMobil donated a conservation easement over the entire property to the Peconic Land Trust. ExxonMobil felt that this double layer of protection is ideal for achieving its conservation purposes in perpetuity.

The importance of permanent conservation of shoreline properties, like this Cold Spring Harbor site, couldn't be more evident in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. The Northeast's over-developed coastal communities suffered catastrophic results because there was no natural barrier left between them and this powerful super storm. The upcoming restoration of the ExxonMobil site will be a valuable example of how preservation of undeveloped natural areas can alleviate impacts of sea level rise. Such preservation is critical along with the increasing turbulence and number of storms climate change is delivering and their resulting toll on our shorelines.



Purple Lovegrass is one of the species suggested for planting at the site.

Conceptual Plan - with Parking for Limited Public Access North Shore Land Alliance - ExxonMobil Site



In order to demonstrate to ExxonMobil our intended use for the site, the Land Alliance hired local environmental consultants, EEA Inc. (now GEI Consultants) to develop a draft restoration plan. The plan, nearly complete, includes a variety of local natural communities that are, in some cases, showing a degree of rarity or peril. Maritime grassland will cover approximately half of the five terrestrial acres and feature a variety of native grasses and other plants. Tall grassland and wet meadow communities will round out the upper part of the property, while maritime shrubland and red cedar will buffer the beach and restored salt marsh at the water's edge. These communities will attract a variety of birds, butterflies and other wildlife, including a number of rare or protected species. A nature trail will meander through the preserve, which may also feature a bird blind from which to quietly observe birds at the wet meadow and an osprey platform on the spit that forms a tiny inlet alongside the mainland. Interpretive signage will inform visitors about Long Island natural history, sea level rise and other topics.

The Land Alliance will begin to organize meetings with the local community in the Spring of 2013 to ask for input on the draft restoration plan. While consultants will be needed for much of the restoration, we will also be relying on volunteers to help with some aspects of the project including planting, removing and monitoring for invasive plants and conducting biological surveys.

We hope you will take part! Watch our Walks in the Woods calendar for upcoming programs onsite, including our community celebration on April 27, 2013 at 1:00 pm.

Williams Property Update

A Community Comes Together to Purchase Option to Protect Important 31-acre Property

The North Shore Land Alliance is proud to announce that after swift community action and support we were able to purchase an option to buy 31 acres of property from the Estate of Priscilla DeForest Williams! This property, prominently located on Shore Road, Cold Spring Harbor, is emblematic on the North Shore of Long Island.

The option, signed August 3, 2012, provides time for the Town and the County to finalize their processes and negotiations with the owner, while assuring that the property will remain off the market for at least one year. The option payment also will be applied to the purchase price.

This time provided for by the option is important. Prior to allocating funds for acquisition of a property through its Drinking Water Program, which is the source of the funds for the Williams property, the County must complete the proper due diligence and review. These duties include site visits, appraisals, appraisal review, environmental review and title review, among other things. The project must also be vetted through the Real Estate Department, the Environmental Committee, ETRB and, of course, the Suffolk County Legislature. Our latest update is that the property owners are finalizing appraisal review with the County. Once this stage is completed, we will move into the contract stage. That includes environmental review, title searches and approval by the County Legislature. The time we acquired by purchasing the option allows the County to go through this arduous but necessary process, while keeping the property off the open market.

With the help of a grant from the 1772 Foundation, a contribution from the Land Alliance's Conservation Action Fund and community reach-outs (including fundraising dinner parties and neighborhood meetings) the Land Alliance raised the \$625,000 to purchase the option in only six weeks! Clearly this property is an important part of Cold Spring Harbor and the community is prepared to step up and play a role in its preservation.

The historic estate is an environmentally important parcel, situated in the visually prominent gateway to Cold Spring Harbor. Its development would not only be detrimental to the community character of Cold Spring Harbor, but the harmful impacts to the harbor and surrounding wildlife would be irreversible. We commend the community for not only recognizing the importance of this property but also taking an active role toward assuring its permanent preservation.

The Land Alliance and community will still need to raise approximately an additional \$1.3 million over the next three years to purchase the property. We will keep you updated as to where the Town and County are during their processes as your continued support is necessary!



Many thanks to community leaders who helped to organize informational meetings, hosted cocktail parties and went "door to door" to ask their neighbors to contribute to the DeForest Williams Option Campaign.

Kelly and Mark DeGennaro
Gussy and Mark Donohue
Nancy and Kostas Douzinas
Regina and Warren Kraft
Judy and Mike Murray

Hydie and Clayton Prugh
Cindy and Brad Samuels
Nancy and Ray Schuville
SPLIA and Robert Mackay
Helen and David Weinstein

Thank you to the individuals and businesses who made the successful purchase of the Deforest Williams Option possible.

Champions

1772 Foundation | Mr. and Mrs. Norris Darrell | Gerry Charitable Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Lessing | Mr. and Mrs. John R. Miller | North Shore Land Alliance | The Nature Conservancy
U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management | Dr. and Mrs. James Watson | Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wigler

Community Leaders

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Baudo | Mrs. Mary Lenore Blair | Mr. and Mrs. James Burger | Mr. and Mrs. Frank Chau
Cold Spring Harbor Beach Club, Inc. | Mr. and Mrs. Richard Cunniff | Mr. Richard Cunniff Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel C. de Roulet | Mr. and Mrs. Mark DeGennaro | Mr. and Mrs. Mark Donohue
Mr. and Mrs. George Eberle | Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gregory | Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Hammond
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Open Space Ballot Measure Report

Election Report: 81% of Conservation Ballot Measures Win Big
46 of 57 ballot measures for parks and open space passed across the country from Alabama to Texas to Colorado, creating \$2 billion in new conservation funding.

On Election Day, voters of all political leanings across the nation showed their overwhelming support for public funding for land and water protection.

Of the 57 measures on local and statewide ballots, 46 passed, an approval rate of 81%. These measures on the ballots in 21 states will provide more than \$2 billion overall, including \$767 million in new money to support protection of water quality, new parks and natural areas and working farms and ranches. Complete results can be found on The Trust for Public Land's LandVote website www.LandVote.org.

In the Town of Bedford New York, voters approved a 1% special tax levy to protect open space and water quality just one week after the town was hit hard by Hurricane Sandy, with many residents still without power and dealing with the aftermath on Election Day. The measure, titled Bedford Citizens for Clean Water and Open Space, was sponsored by the Conservation Campaign. That is the same organization that advised the Land Alliance on our successful ballot measures in 2004-2009.

Other notable measures across the country were:

- **Alabama** - Alabama voters statewide passed a 20-year renewal of the state's successful Forever Wild land conservation program by 75%, which will mean \$300 million for conservation.
- **Bozeman, Montana** - By a 73-27 margin, voters passed a \$15 million land conservation bond.
- **Houston, Texas** - Houston voters overwhelmingly approved a \$166 million park bond to complete the city's bayou greenways network. It passed with 68% approval.
- **Bend and Springfield, Oregon** - These two Oregon communities approved park district measures, which will mean \$49 million for parks and natural areas.
- **Somerville, Massachusetts** - Voters approved a 1.5% property-tax surcharge under the Community Preservation Act by a wide margin, with 76% voting yes.

Land Alliance 2013/2014 Priority

Virtually none of the \$255 million raised over the last 10 years in our community for open space protection, parks creation, stormwater remediation and brownfield redevelopment remains. Hurricane Sandy has demonstrated how important the protections provided by wetlands are to Long Island. One of the Land Alliance's major priorities for 2013/2014 is to revive interest in protecting the lands that protect our water.

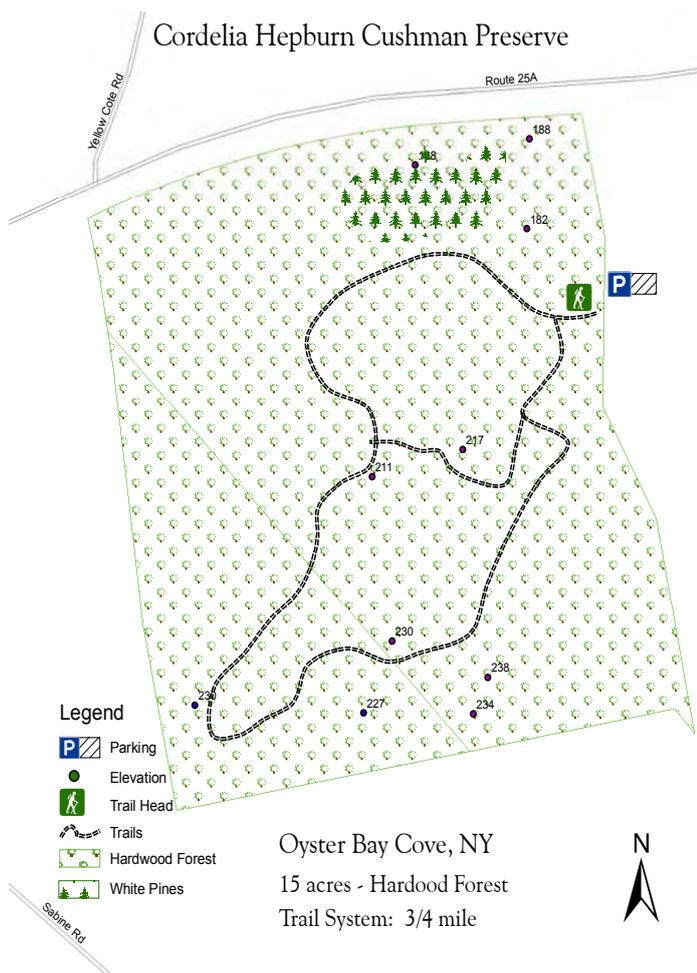


TWO ADDITIONAL NATURE CONSERVANCY

We are happy to announce that ownership of two additional preserves, Louis C. Clark Sanctuary in Old Brookville and Cordelia Hepburn Cushman Preserve in Oyster Bay Cove, was transferred in late September. (The Bertha & Reginald Rose Refuge in Upper Brookville will be transferred before the year is out.) These two parcels, each at 15 acres, add 30 acres to our holdings. They are both open to the public and each has a small parking area, so we hope you will visit once the damage from Hurricane Sandy has been addressed. Please join us in getting to know these local treasures as a visitor or a volunteer in stewarding these preserves. For more information, please call 516-626-0908.

Cordelia Hepburn Cushman Preserve*

Nassau County
15 Acres Hardwood Forest
Oyster Bay Cove



This preserve is a mature hardwood forest. It has a dominant canopy of chestnut and white oak with some maple and beech. The terrain is rugged and ranges from a high of 260 feet near the southern boundary to about 180 feet at the north. The preserve has an understory of mountain laurel and a good variety of woodland plants including several species which are protected by New York State. Among the woodland plants are pink lady's slipper, dwarf rattlesnake plantain, ground pine and spotted wintergreen. There also are a large stand of New York fern and stands of hayscented, sensitive, cinnamon and spinulose woodfern. There is a good variety of woodland birds, particularly during migration.

HISTORY: There is no record of the preserves ever having been cleared. At one time the general area of the preserve was used for raising race horses. The property was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cushman in the 1930's and donated to The Nature Conservancy by Roderick Cushman in 1973. Mr. Cushman was very much interested in the potential use of the preserve for educational purposes.

ADMISSION: This preserve is open to the public for passive recreation. Please contact The Land Alliance for directions.

PRESERVES TRANSFERRED TO THE LAND ALLIANCE

Louis C. Clark Sanctuary*

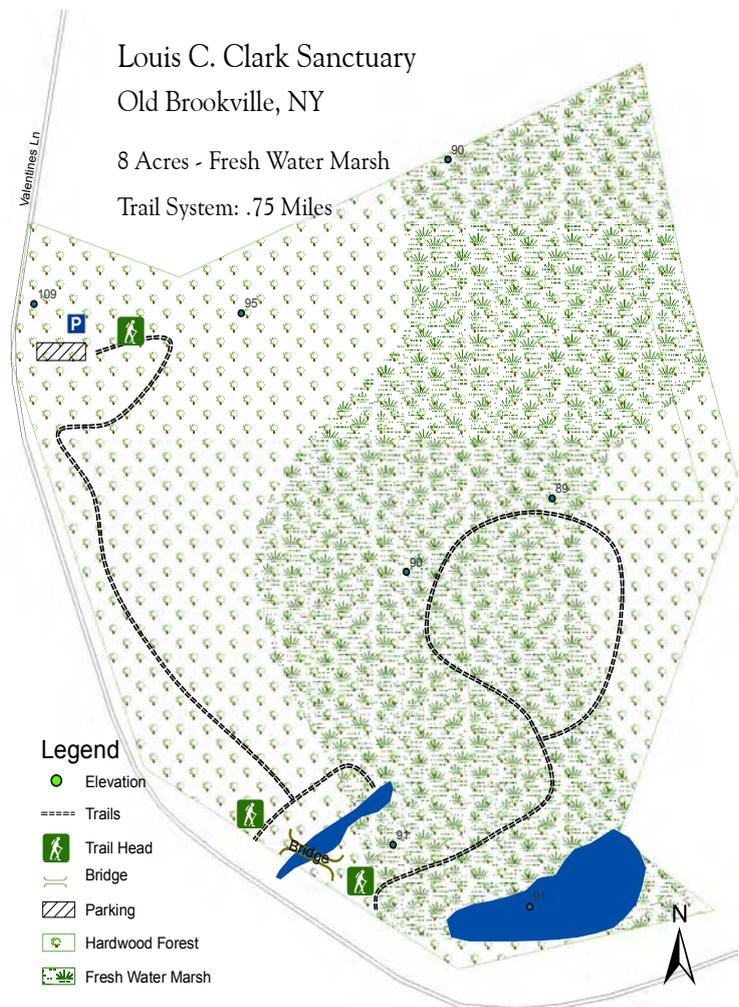
Nassau County
8 Acres Freshwater Marsh
Old Brookville

This preserve is characterized by a parcel of cattail, buttonwood and red maple/tupelo swamp. The James Preserve is across Valentine's Lane to the west and south. Both preserves are a part of the Cedar Swamp Creek watershed flowing generally from the north. The stream, which flows into the preserve from the southwest, maintains the water level of the swamp and supplies water to a small pond. The pond terminates the swamp area in the southern portion of the preserve. There is a great variety of plant life in these two preserves, with some 150 wildflower species which have been identified. Over 25 species of shrubs and vines have been observed. Because of the great variety of shrubs, vines and wildflowers, there are also many species of butterflies and moths. Throughout the year, well over 100 different species of birds may be observed, many of which nest within these two preserves.

HISTORY: The preserve, part of a larger tract known as Valentine Farm, was acquired by Frances S. Weeks in 1931 and donated to The Nature Conservancy in 1965 in memory of her son, Louis C. Clark. In 1980, David C. Clark donated a one-half interest in an additional 1.6 acres, and Mrs. Frances Ellen Paul sold the remaining one-half interest to the Conservancy.

ADMISSION: This preserve is open to the public for passive recreation. Please contact the Land Alliance for directions.

* Information courtesy of The Nature Conservancy Long Island Chapter.



There are rich counsels in the trees.

- Herbert P. Horne

Government Updates



FEDERAL

Success in December's Lame Duck Session is Critical for Land Conservation.

Two items in particular will impact conservation success for the decade to come.

1) Renew the Expanded Conservation Easement Tax Incentive

The Senate Finance Committee included an extension of the enhanced incentive for easement donations through 2013 in its slimmed-down tax extenders bill. But the House Ways & Means Committee hasn't yet taken up extenders. We must convey urgency to every Member of Congress so our extender isn't forgotten as the House and Senate deal with the much bigger issue of the fiscal cliff. Failure to get the incentive back on the books by December 31 would cost us an entire year of conservation and put us in a weak position as Congress debates comprehensive tax reform in 2013.

2) Pass the Farm Bill to Secure \$1.58 billion for Easements

The House and Senate approached the 2012 Farm Bill with enormous pressure to eliminate programs, and they're poised to cut as much as \$35 billion overall. Thanks to the coordinated efforts of the land trust community, however, they've increased the funding for land trusts to buy easements. House leaders have promised to "deal with" the Farm Bill after the election, but we'll need continued pressure to actually get the five-year Farm Bill enacted. A short-term extension or other delay into 2013 could cost us \$500 million in easement funding.



STATE

Environmental Protection Fund Poised to Grow in 2013/2014

Earlier this year, both the Senate and Assembly passed legislation which would require a portion of the revenues the state collects from unclaimed Bottle Bill deposits to go to the State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). Under this measure, the money would be phased into the EPF starting with \$10 million in next year's budget and eventually growing to \$56 million over the next five years. Currently the state is collecting about \$115 million a year from Bottle Bill revenue. The bill (A10519/S7525) went to the Governor's desk to be signed.

To date, Governor Cuomo has not signed the legislation to enhance the EPF with Bottle Bill revenue. If Governor Cuomo does agree to sign this bill into law, this will be the first time (after more than 25 years of advocacy, dating back to when Mario Cuomo was Governor) that revenue from the Bottle Bill will go to support environmental programs in New York. This is where environmental groups - and the public - have thought the money should go all along.

Friends of New York's Environment, a coalition of more than 100 environmental groups, including the Land Alliance, will ask the Governor to increase the EPF appropriation to \$164 million for SFY13-14. We will also request that the administration provide environmental agencies that administer the EPF adequate resources to do so.

Thank you Nassau County for the installation of new parking lots at both the Red Cote Preserve, Yellow Cote Road, Oyster Bay Cove and the Upper Frances Pond Preserve, Chicken Valley Road, Locust Valley.

Walkers welcome!

Government Updates



NASSAU/SUFFOLK COUNTY

Joint County Hearings on Threats to Long Island's Drinking Water Hosted by Nassau County Legislator Judi Bosworth and Suffolk County Legislator William Spencer



Nassau County Legislator Judi Bosworth (D-Great Neck) and Suffolk County Legislator William R. Spencer (D-Huntington) recently hosted the first two in a series of public hearings designed to stimulate conversation about real threats to Long Island's water supply. The series, entitled *Water Security: Bringing Long Island Together to Protect Our Aquifers & Drinking Water*, were extremely well attended. Elected officials, environmentalists, water experts, scientists, business groups and members of the public all came.

The first hearing, held at the William H. Rogers Building in Hauppauge on August 29, 2012, showcased a series of interesting presenters including the North Shore Land Alliance's advisory board member Dr. Sarah Meyland. The other presenters were Adrienne Esposito, the Executive Director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Steve Colabuffo, the Head Hydrogeologist for Suffolk County Water Authority and Frank Koch, the Chairman of the Long Island Water Conference.

Also attending the hearing were Nassau County Legislators Judy Jacobs (D-Woodbury) and Wayne Wink (D-Roslyn) and Suffolk County Legislators Wayne Horsley (D-Babylon), DuWayne Gregory (D-Amityville) and Kara Hahn (D-Setauket).

Legislator Spencer opened the meeting by stating "It is important now more than ever for Long Island to come together to find a solution to this concerning issue." He further stated that "saltwater intrusion, pollution and other factors are contaminating the water we obtain from the aquifer every day and we cannot let any more time pass. Action must be taken now to establish a serious management plan to ensure the future of this essential natural resource." Members of the public were also invited to speak at the hearing. The public comments varied from pharmaceutical contamination to USGS monitoring to properly addressing existing plumes. Dorothy Cappadona, representing the Lloyd Harbor Conservation Board voiced her organization's concerns regarding private companies selling Long Island's precious, water public resources for a profit.

The second hearing, held at the Town of North Hempstead Clinton G. Martin facility on October 2, 2012, also began

with a welcome by Legislator Judi Bosworth and Legislator William Spencer. Legislator Bosworth noted that we are the largest area in New York State without comprehensive water management and we need to come to some consensus on the best way to manage and protect our water supply. There were also remarks by invited presenters. The presenters at this hearing included Robert Graziano, Deputy Chairperson of the Great Neck Water Authority, Fred Strumm, PhD. from the United States Geological Survey and NYS Assemblyman Harvey Weisenberg (D-Long Island).

Also in attendance at the hearing were NYS Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel (D-New York), NYS Senator Jack Martens (R-New York), Nassau County Legislator Judy Jacobs (D-Woodbury), Nassau County Legislator Denise Ford (R-Long Beach), Nassau County Legislator David Denenberg (D-Merrick) and a representative from U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's (D-New York) office.

The public was encouraged to speak at this public hearing as well. One of the biggest concerns raised by a number of citizens was the plumes such as the Grumman Plume, an approximately 4.5 mile long by 3.5 mile wide underground pool of toxic chemicals emanating from the former Grumman Aerospace Corporation in Bethpage. According to commentators, some of the plumes have rendered many wells useless and they are continually moving and contaminating more areas. Many people stressed the need for these plumes to be properly addressed. Robert Bernstein, the former mayor of Lake Success, voiced his concerns regarding the Sperry Rand plume. He is specifically concerned about NYC pumping from the Jamaica wells again. He stated that if they start up the Jamaica wells again the plume will accelerate and we'll lose millions of dollars. Other topics concerning the public include pesticides and salt water intrusion.

We want to thank Legislators Spencer and Bosworth for organizing these hearings and allowing the public to come together over such an important issue.

A third public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, December 5, 2012, from 6 to 8 pm at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.

Plum Island May Still be Threatened by Development

Environmental Impact Statement Under Review

For 58 years, the 840-acre Plum Island, less than a mile off Orient Point, has been the location of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, a federal research facility dedicated to the study of animal diseases.

Settled in Gardiners Bay, Plum Island, which is 80% undeveloped, provides habitat for an astonishing diversity of plants, birds, insects, marine mammals and other wildlife, including scores of at-risk species. It serves as a stopover for migrating birds and supports 65 breeding bird species. A biodiversity study by the New York Natural Heritage Program documented, among other findings, 420 plant species on its 840 acres. Compare this to 290 species in West Hills's land area of 850 acres or 411 species on Fire Island's 5500 acres.

In 2008 Congress passed legislation approving the sale of the Island. The General Services Administration, the federal government's acquisition and procurement agency, developed a draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for its public sale, as required pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

On October 18 a well-attended public hearing on the DEIS was held in Greenport. Many attendees spoke eloquently about the site's tremendous natural resources and the DEIS's failure to take them into account. On behalf of the Preserve Plum Island Coalition, made up of over 50 organizations that include the Land Alliance, Spokesperson John Turner submitted comments in late October

expressing concerns that the document fails to "meet its mandate pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)" and, in particular, "fails to adequately catalog and characterize the natural and cultural resources of the Island and thus fails to reasonably assess and evaluate" the impacts proposed development would have on the site. The Coalition strongly endorses the preservation of all or most of the Island as a National Wildlife Refuge overseen by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Connecticut's Attorney General, George Jepsen, has joined the opposition to this sale. We are hoping that the New York State Attorney General, Eric T. Schneiderman, will also join the opposition to this sale.

A final Environmental Impact Statement will be released this winter. To review the DEIS or the Coalition comments or to sign a petition in support of preserving the Island as a National Wildlife Refuge, please visit the Coalition website: www.preserveplumisland.org.

BRIEF HISTORY OF PLUM ISLAND



Located in Gardiners Bay in the Town of Southold and named after the abundance of beach plum shrubs covering the Island, Plum Island was first claimed by the federal government in 1826 when it purchased 13 acres to build the Plum Island Lighthouse. In 1897 the federal government acquired another 150 acres to construct Fort Terry, a fortification used during the Spanish American War. Finally, by 1901, the federal government had acquired the remainder of the 840-acre island.

Fort Terry was decommissioned and the Island was declared surplus property in 1948. The US Department of Agriculture established the Plum Island Animal Disease Center in 1954 with the goal of protecting America's livestock from animal diseases. Specifically, the facility's research program included developing diagnostic tools and biologicals (vaccines) for foot-and-mouth disease and other diseases of livestock. During the Cold War a secret biological weapons program targeting livestock was conducted at the site. This program remains the subject of much controversy and mystery.

The island was opened to news media for the first time in 1992. In 1995, the Department of Agriculture was issued an \$111,000 fine for storing hazardous chemicals there.

Long Island activists in 2000 prevented the Center from expanding to include diseases that affect humans, which would have required a Biosafety Level 4 designation. In 2002, Congress again considered the plan.

The Wall Street Journal reported in January 2002 that many scientists and government officials wanted the lab to close, believing that the threat of foot-and-mouth disease was so remote that the Center did not merit its \$16.5 million annual budget. In 2002, the Center was transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

On September 11, 2008, the DHS announced that the Plum Island Animal Disease Research Center will be replaced by a new federal facility and that

the Island should be sold. The location of the new high-security animal disease lab, to be called the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, has been recommended to be built in Manhattan, Kansas. This plan, however, has been called into question by a recent GAO (US Government Accountability Office) study which states that claims by the DHS that the work performed on Plum Island can be performed safely on the mainland is not supported by evidence.

In 2011, the federal government prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to determine whether the impact of 60 years of animal testing on the island constitutes a threat to public health that could preclude the sale. A final impact statement is expected in early 2013.

2013 Small Farm Initiative and the 2014 Small Farm Summit



Both the 2011 and 2012 Small Farm Summits were huge successes. More than 1,100 people came together in support of growing the local food system and creating a more sustainable Long Island.

The North Shore Land Alliance initiated the Small Farm Summit effort to determine if, indeed, people really cared about eating locally, growing locally and protecting the lands that make that possible. The response was overwhelmingly strong and a core group of active and dedicated participants evolved into the Small Farm Initiative.

The steering committee for the Initiative met recently to determine how to move this growing and active community forward. The committee has decided to host a series of smaller events in 2013 including lectures, workshops and field trips beginning with a garlic planting on December 1, 2012 at Fox Hollow Farm. Details to follow by e-mail.

Plans for a bigger, better two-day Summit in 2014 will begin soon. Please let us know if you would like to be involved.

Land Alliance Receives \$10,000 LIISMA Grant to Assist with Meadow Restoration

How's that? It's pronounced "lizma" and the acronym stands for Long Island Invasive Species Management Area. LIISMA is one of seven PRISMs (Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management) across New York State. Each PRISM is made up of a number of member organizations and individuals working together to address invasive species in their areas.

The Land Alliance has been working to restore meadows at The Nature Conservancy's Hope Goddard Iselin and James Preserves, in Upper Brookville and Old Brookville, respectively, since it started managing them several years ago. This work has included annual mowing, a small amount of tree work (mostly donated) and invasive plant removal with volunteers. The grant, which covers work from June 2012 through February 2013 and whose funding source is the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), is allowing us to do a lot more than we normally would in one year, namely:

- 1) Sponsoring invasive species management activities, including volunteer events to remove invasive plants and educate participants about the problems with invasives
- 2) Conducting wildlife and botanical surveys
- 3) Installing educational signage describing research at demonstration areas and providing further information about the value of meadow habitat and native plants
- 4) Engaging consultant services for mowing and invasive vine and tree removal that is beyond the capacity of volunteers.

Wildflower meadows and grasslands are our most diverse yet most threatened habitats. They are rich in wildlife, landscape character, folklore and history, and have been the inspiration for many of our greatest artists, writers and composers. Our meadows and grasslands are as much a part of our heritage as the works of Shakespeare.

- Only 2% of the meadows and grasslands that existed in the 1930s remain
- More than 7 million acres have been lost

So we've been busy!

Our mile-a-minute pulls, including monitoring for new sites and regrowth, and educational nature walks that followed the pulls have attracted over 80 volunteers. These events were also supported by REI (Recreational Equipment, Inc.).

Eagle Scout candidate Andrew Farrell of Boy Scouts of America Troop 201 has established seven demonstration areas where he and dozens of fellow Scouts have removed invasive vegetation. At mugwort-covered sites they installed clear or black plastic to heat up the soil underneath, in an attempt to kill its seeds, before planting native grasses, wildflowers and grass seed. The areas will be monitored to see how well the native plants compete with mugwort.

University of Maryland student Gabrielle Rovegno (who also volunteered this summer with the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District and Restoration Farm at Old Bethpage) cleared a larger demonstration area of all vegetation (most of which was invasive) and planted an assortment of native meadow plants, installing a rain barrel and hay matting to retain/add moisture to the soil.

Experts Dave Kunstler, Mary Normandia and Rob Katz conducted butterfly, breeding bird and plant surveys throughout the spring and summer to secure baseline data during early phases of restoration.

We installed educational signage describing grant activities and the preserves' natural history; please review them next time you're at Iselin!





We plan to install a screech owl box after most of the Iselin field is mowed in early December. Eastern Screech Owls were detected by Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society President Stella Miller. (She'll lead an owl prowl at the site as part of our 2013 Walks in the Woods series.) The field at James will not be mowed until late winter/early spring because we will not be active there this winter and birds may forage on vegetation there throughout the season.

Our tree work at Iselin this winter will include the removal of dozens of invasive Norway maple trees from one corner of the meadow, clearing designated "thicket" areas of abundant invasive vines and shrubs and removing unhealthy trees from a densely-populated part of the meadow. These activities will enhance the habitat features that meadows provide for wildlife and inform decisions about future restoration goals.

We are delighted to have had this opportunity, thanks to the DEC/Environmental Protection Fund, to advance restoration efforts at James and Iselin. We also thank the scores of volunteers who have tackled invasive plants, donated their expertise and provided tree services at a generous discount as part of this project.

We list here those who have been making multiple visits to the sites for this project:

- Bill Aitken and Davey Trees
- Taylor Alletto
- Anne Codey
- Andrew Farrell and Troop 201
- Melody Heath, REI
- Rob Katz
- Rich Kopsco
- Stella Miller, Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society
- Mary Normandia
- Rebecca Ngu
- Gabrielle, Donna and Joseph Rovegno
- Joel Shaw
- Pavel Tchigirinski

Many thanks also to The Nature Conservancy for keeping the paths around the field mowed throughout the growing season.

"Planting trees, I myself thought for a long time, was a feel-good thing, a nice but feeble response to our litany of modern-day environmental problems. In the last few years, though, as I have read many dozens of articles and books and interviewed scientists here and abroad, my thinking on the issue has changed. Planting trees may be the single most important ecotechnology that we have to put the broken pieces of our planet back together."

- Jim Robbins, *The Man Who Planted Trees: Lost Groves, Champion Trees and an Urgent Plan to Save the Planet*

Superstorm Sandy Has Transformed Our Preserves



Louis C. Clark Sanctuary, Old Brookville



Cordelia H. Cushman Preserve, Oyster Bay Cove

Our community has witnessed and endured unprecedented devastation in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. We feel for those whose lives have been scarred by the loss of a home or, worse, a loved one.

Throughout the North Shore Land Alliance's nearly 10 years, nothing has so damaged the nature preserves we steward as this event. All the preserves are currently, partially or fully closed for safety reasons. In addition to fallen trees everywhere, there are limbs hanging or leaning over trails or at property boundaries. The damage is beyond the scope of what Land Alliance staff and volunteers can manage without hiring professional arborists to safely remove trees from our trails.

If your own property has been restored and that of your neighbors, we could use your help. If you have a chain saw and/or other technical equipment, are qualified to use it safely and would like to donate your time, or if you can assist with the cost of hiring a professional crew, please contact us at 516-626-0908. We look forward to reopening the preserves as soon as possible, so you can once again enjoy these precious places. THANK YOU!

Thank you to Matinecock Neighborhood Association!

Our post-Sandy preserve cleanup is not as extensive as it might have been because of a generous donation from the Matinecock Neighborhood Association earlier this year. The donation was for debris removal along the Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve boundary at Chicken Valley Road in Upper Brookville. The Association approached us in the spring about doing the work, then hired M&A Organics Landscape Service to clear dead and fallen debris, including invasive vines and portions of tree trunks downed by Tropical Storm Irene. Many thanks to the Matinecock Neighborhood Association for making this improvement possible.

2013 Walks In The Woods Series Preview

Sunday, February 10, 10:00 a.m., Clark Sanctuary and James Preserve, Old Brookville

If you've attended our walks in the past, you know they don't always move very quickly! This one is different. Meet two of our preserves with the Land Alliance's Stewardship Director Jane Jackson and the Sierra Club, who will collaborate to lead you on a power walk through and around the fields, woodlands and wetlands these sites feature. If it snows, bring cross-country skis or snowshoes. We will meet at the parking area behind Bar Frites at Wheatley Plaza in Greenvale and carpool from there.

Sunday, March 24, 1:00 p.m., Kings Point Park, Great Neck

Great Neck Park District Naturalist Virginia Dankel will lead an exploration of the forest of this serene 175-acre park which is owned by the Village of Kings Point and boasts five acres of nature trails.

Saturday, April 6, 9:30 a.m., William Cullen Bryant Preserve at the Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor

This is the time to be on the lookout for early flowering spring wildflowers. Botanist Andrew Greller and Nassau County Museum of Art Senior Educator Jean Henning will lead a search on this tour of the Ravine Trail and the Pinetum.

Saturday, April 27, 9:00 a.m., Uplands Farm, Cold Spring Harbor

Krusos Foundation Vice President and Treasurer Marty Wenz and The Nature Conservancy's Preserves Manager Derek Rogers will introduce us to bluebirds and other residents of this 97-acre home of The Nature Conservancy on Long Island.

Saturday, April 27, 1:00 p.m., ExxonMobil, Cold Spring Harbor

After a morning at Uplands Farm, spend the afternoon at our community celebration at our recently-acquired ExxonMobil property. View our habitat restoration plan for the site and meet the people who made this wonderful property transfer happen.

Saturday, May 4, 8:30 a.m., ExxonMobil and a site nearby, Cold Spring Harbor

Veteran birders Peter Martin and Stella Miller, Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society President, will co-lead a spring migration program at these two special parcels overlooking the eastern shore of Cold Spring Harbor. You will also learn about habitat restoration plans for the ExxonMobil site.

Thursday, June 6, 6:00 p.m., Centre Island Beach, Bayville

Naturalist and Friends of Academy science teacher Dan Kriesberg will lead an exploration of the beach and Oyster Bay at this dreamy spot. Hurricane Sandy left its mark on this Village and its shoreline; we'll take a look at their recovery.

Saturday, June 8, 8:00 a.m., Tiffany Creek Preserve, Oyster Bay Cove

What better way to spend a spring morning than scouting out songbird nests with legendary local birder, naturalist and author John Turner? John's latest book is *Exploring the Other Island: a seasonal guide to nature on Long Island*.

Thursday, June 27, 6:00 p.m., Fox Hollow Preserve, Laurel Hollow

Our first edible and medicinal plants walk will take place on a summer's eve. We'll be in the capable hands of Natural Nurse, Ellen Kamhi.

Friday, July 26, 8:00 p.m., Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve, Upper Brookville

If you've ever heard Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society President Stella Miller mimic bird vocalizations, you'll know this owl prowl is not to be missed!

Be on the lookout this winter for our full 2013 calendar!

Earth and sky, woods and fields, lakes and rivers, the mountain and the sea, are excellent school masters, and teach us more than we can ever learn from books.

- John Lubbock

Volunteers for Open Space Program

Environmental Law and Stewardship Day at Fox Hollow Preserve



On September 29th the Land Alliance treated Hofstra University's Energy and Environmental Law Society to a tour of the beautiful Fox Hollow Preserve. With majestic American Beech and White Pine trees as a backdrop, the Land Alliance's Associate Director of Stewardship, Jane Jackson, and Legal Intern, Frank Piccininni, discussed the interplay between the local ecology and environmental law.

The Energy and Environmental Law Society were led through diverse habitats, learned to identify unique plant species, listened to the magnificent call of songbirds, and unearthed fascinating woodland salamanders. Along the way, the students discussed ubiquitous legal issues impacting the conservation of our planet and natural landscapes. For example, there was a lively debate as to whether the protection provided by the Clean Water Act extends to a drainage ditch in the heart of the preserve.

Participants also learned about the on-the-ground challenges of managing a small preserve in suburban Long Island. One such challenge, requiring careful monitoring and management, is the spread of introduced plants such as English Ivy and Wisteria. Accordingly, the Energy and Environmental Law Society volunteered to help free the native vegetation from the clutches of invasive plants by weeding and filling 7 large contractor bags!

Many thanks to the Hofstra University's Student Bar Association for providing the funding for a delicious meal for the hungry group of volunteers!

Stewardship Volunteers

Dynamic Duo: Rich Kopsco and Joel Shaw

Rich Kopsco and Joel Shaw, both veterans of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, came together to the Land Alliance by way of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), for whom they volunteered at preserves for many years. Their expertise and familiarity with these properties has been invaluable to the Land Alliance. They have become year-round regulars at the preserves, doing whatever needs to get done, from clearing fallen branches and trees from trails, to building and marking new trails, to pulling mile-a-minute and other invasive plants, to annual boundary checks. They have also demonstrated support for the Land Alliance through membership



and participating in our programs, such as Walks in the Woods and our annual meeting.

The two met at TNC when Rich decided to join a volunteer day at its David Weld Sanctuary. Joel had already been volunteering on its speakers' bureau and at events. Joel was always interested in land preservation and came to appreciate how challenging it can be during his years working in urban planning in Rockland and Orange Counties. Rich, in addition to stewarding Land Alliance preserves, volunteers at Brookside Preserve in Freeport

as part of his work with South Shore Audubon. Asked why they volunteer, Rich responded, "It's a joy to work on these trails to make the preserves available to the public." Joel says he likes "working for an organization that protects landscapes and open space." He's especially appreciative since he doesn't have a back yard!

Many thanks to Joel and Rich for their many contributions to our preserves and their support of the Land Alliance.

Many Thanks to our Walks in the Woods Leaders

We had some great walks in 2012. For those of you who were not able to join us we'd love to tell you about them in the event you would like to visit these places on your own or would like to join us in 2013!

March 11 - 45 people joined Al and Lois Lindberg, naturalists extraordinaire, in an early spring walk through Welwyn Preserve in Glen Cove. One of our lengthier walks, this one covered a range of habitats, from beach to upland forest, as well as a bit of estate history.

May 19 - The Nature Conservancy's Derek Rogers led us on a search for migrating birds at Stillwell Woods

Preserve, though most of the time we were at the grassland periphery. We encountered more than 20 species, among them a willow flycatcher. Derek shed light on the habitat value and increasing rarity of these majestic grassland communities.

July 26 - An impending thunderstorm was no deterrent to 10 hardy visitors to the Clark Botanic Garden, who were rewarded by a tour of the Garden and its many wondrous plantings by Assistant Horticulturist Nancy Warny and her husband, Peter, who delivered tadpoles and snapping turtles from the pond. Just as the skies opened upon us we were ushered inside for a composting

workshop, at which Nancy described the Town of North Hempstead's innovative program for distributing composters to residents.

September 15 - The skies couldn't have been bluer for this Fire Island "hawk watch" led by Mary Normandia and friends. While we did not encounter the variety of hawks we'd expected from a northwest wind the night before, we did observe merlins and kestrels, along with lots of red-breasted nuthatches and a deluge of migrating monarch butterflies. The program was topped off by a visit to the Fire Island Lighthouse.



Volunteer Earns National Environmental Education Award

Every fall the North American Association for Environmental Education hosts its annual conference. This year's 41st was held in Oakland, CA and attended by 1000 participants from across the country including Leslie Pieters, Interim Director of Health, Physical Education & Athletics for the Roosevelt Union Free School District in Roosevelt, NY. Leslie was honored with this year's award for Outstanding Service to Environmental Education by an Individual on the Local Level, for which North Shore Land Alliance nominated her.

The Land Alliance has been working with Nassau County and other partners since 2008 to develop environmental education and stewardship programs at the County's 73-acre Roosevelt Preserve. Leslie has been a dedicated leader in these activities. She has spent years actively connecting community members to this nature preserve in their back yards. Having known about Leslie's dedication and hard work, we were delighted when she applied for, and accepted, the seasonal educator position we offered in 2010 and 2011. Leslie has in the process stimulated interest in stewardship in this important natural area, which is characterized by intensive residential development; indeed, Roosevelt Preserve is one of the few sizable undeveloped parcels in the area.

This year's May Day event (featured in our 2012 Spring/Summer Conservation News) is just one example of dozens of programs that Leslie has held at Roosevelt Preserve. While not all of them have engaged large groups, they have put the Preserve on the map for a number of community members. Many residents who joined in activities (even those who lived only a block or two from the Preserve) had previously been unaware of its existence or had not thought of it as a safe or desirable place to spend time. In part because there are few (if any) other open space areas this large in this community, it was important for community members to take back the Preserve. And, some of these individuals and families are already returning to the site on their own.

Leslie, through her various programs, has helped instill a new appreciation of nature in the back yards of this Roosevelt community. The success of her work may also enable the Preserve to serve as a launching pad for improvements in and increased public access to the entire Meadowbrook Parkway Corridor (800 acres of woodland surrounding and including Roosevelt's 73).

Connecting urban residents to natural areas will be particularly critical in coming years, because, as the 2010 census shows us, more and more people are living in urban areas. If these Long Islanders and those in coming generations do not experience nature, they will not love it, and therefore have no interest in protecting it.



Congratulations to Leslie. The Land Alliance is pleased to have been a part of her good works.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

For more information about the Land Alliance volunteer opportunities, please visit our website at www.northshorelandalliance.org or contact our volunteer coordinator, Andrea Millwood at 516-626-0908.

Accreditation Update

On May 15, 2012, the Land Alliance officially registered for the Spring 2013 application round for accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Six years ago, the Land Trust Accreditation Commission was created as an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. In 2011, it gained more ground than ever by accrediting 22 land trusts including The Nature Conservancy, bringing the total number of accredited land trusts to 158 as of February 2012, and the total number of acres protected by those land trusts to 4,427,355. According to the Commission, this was an unprecedented registration being fully subscribed within moments of opening. Luckily, after a number of computer glitches, we successfully registered!

The accreditation seal is a mark of distinction among the more than 1,700 land trusts that operate across America. It recognizes organizations for meeting national standards for excellence, upholding the public trust and ensuring that conservation efforts are permanent. Accreditation is an investment in the North Shore Land Alliance's operations. When successfully completed, it will put us among an elite group of land trusts across the country.

Our next stage in the application process is to prepare and submit the pre-application. It is during this portion of the application process that the public and other important stakeholders will have the opportunity, at their discretion, to provide comments regarding the North Shore Land Alliance.

Stay tuned as we continue our journey towards accreditation and thank you for providing us with the support that has allowed us to be in this position!



Notice of Comment Period for North Shore Land Alliance Accreditation

To demonstrate our commitment to you and the conservation of open space in the North Shore of Long Island, we are currently working towards accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. The commission invites public input in the form of comments on pending applications that address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. Please visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org to learn more about the accreditation program or to submit a comment. Comments can also be e-mailed to info@landtrustaccreditation.org, faxed to (518)-587-3183, or mailed to 112 Spring Street, Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. For faxed or mailed comments, label the cover page or envelope; Att: Public Comments. Please note that comments on the North Shore Land Alliance's application will be most useful by March 5, 2013.

Heritage Committee Kick-Off Event

We are pleased to announce the formation of the North Shore Land Alliance Heritage Committee, a group of young professionals and students (age 21-39) who share a love of nature, a concern for the environment and a belief that their involvement will make a difference in the protection of local lands. Their goal is to ensure that the next generation of Long Islanders learn about and participate in conservation activities and instill among their peers a sense of responsibility for the health of land and resources in their community. They kicked off their activities on September 8th by hosting a tent at the Harriman Cup Polo Match.

The Harriman Cup is a benefit polo match between the University of Virginia and Yale University dedicated to promoting the sport of polo and supporting the collegiate polo programs at Yale and UVA. The Harriman Cup Polo Match is a very popular quarter -century old fundraiser and social event commemorating the life of diplomat, polo player, and former New York governor W. Averell Harriman.

The event was held at the Meadowbrook Polo Fields in Old Westbury. The crowd was sparse when the gates opened at 10:00 am with the bicycle polo exhibition. The benefit polo game began at 12:00 pm and by 1:00 pm, there were more than 1,000 young professionals walking and talking and thoroughly enjoying an afternoon in the wide open spaces.

Committee Chairs D.R. Holmes, Gina and Tim DiPietro, Max Stenbeck, Dave Knott and Malcolm Dorson are to be commended for their efforts. They organized food, hospitality, friends and a very successful raffle in support of the Land Alliance's land conservation mission. Through their personal outreach, more than 200 names of potential new committee members were gathered.

We would also like to thank Lily Colley, Isabel Vandevender and Gib Ott for their work throughout the day.

Additional activities including a Heritage Committee Cocktail Party in New York City are planned for 2013. More information to follow.

Ecologists are in as much need for the future of our health as medical researchers. As we toy with the issues of fossil fuels, as we fiddle with fate of our environment, as the planet continues to suffer from overexploitation and gradual degradation, we need the youth of today to focus, focus, focus on the fate of natural history!

-S. Dillon Ripley



Land Alliance Welcomes Two New Trustees



Matthew Bruderman

Matthew J. Bruderman is the Chairman of Bruderman Asset Management Company. He is also Chairman/CEO of Bruderman Brothers, a registered broker-dealer, and the Chairman of Bruderman Enterprises, a business consulting firm and the merchant banking arm of Bruderman Brothers. Matt has been in the financial services industry for nearly 20 years, and represents the third generation of the Bruderman family in the industry. Early in his career, Matt held positions in sales, investment and merchant banking, financial planning, and investment management with firms including T.R. Winston & Company, Shearson Lehman, and Merrill Lynch.

Matt lives in Matinecock with his wife, Kerri Beth, a physician who donates her time providing medical care to the poor in addition to raising their three children, all of whom attend Green Vale School. Matt is an avid lover of sports and water, spending much of his free time at Beaver Dam, Meadow Brook Hunt Club, and Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club.

Matt not only lives and works locally, but he also supports local as well as national, philanthropic and political organizations. He is a board member of the Matinecock Neighborhood Association, a member of the Locust Valley Chamber of Commerce, and a supporter of local hospitals, fire and police departments, and the Locust Valley Library.

Matt's residency and property ownership in the North Shore aligns him directly with the ideals and goals promulgated by the North Shore Land Alliance.



Peri Krusos Wenz

Peri joins the North Shore Land Alliance with a myriad of business and philanthropic experience. Peri is a graduate of Smith College where she received a bachelor degree in Political Science and Economics with a minor in Art History. She then went on to earn her law degree from St. John's University in New York. Art remains a passion for Peri and she continues to collect 18th, 19th, and 20th century American Art.

Peri is President and Founder of the Krusos Foundation. The foundation is a non-profit family-run Foundation focusing on the environment, the arts, and the medical industry. Much research and many articles have been published as a result of the generous funding received from the Foundation. Examples are a Smith College 3-year multi-scale analysis of Piping Plover productivity on the Barrier Island of NY; "Saving a Reef for the Fish and the People of Belize" and "Bluebirds Return to Uplands Farm" for The Nature Conservancy.

Peri has played an active role in many organizations including Hecksher Museum of Art (Board Member), Glen Cove Boys and Girls Club, Grenville Baker Boys and Girls Club, Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art, Old Westbury Gardens, Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities and The Nature Conservancy to name a few. In 1993 she received the "Teddy Roosevelt Sanctuary Legacy of Conservation Award."

Peri and her husband Martin live in Lloyd Neck and have been staunch supporters of the Land Alliance since 2004. Welcome Peri!

LAND ALLIANCE BENEFICIARY OF VEHICLE DONATION

We would like to thank Gary and Donna Marcus for the generous donation of their 2001 Toyota Highlander to the North Shore Land Alliance. We've never had a vehicle dedicated to preserve stewardship, but this gift has gone a long way in helping us meet our needs in the field!

If you are interested in donating a vehicle or other equipment that is in reasonably good working condition, please contact Jane Jackson at 516-626-0908. Some other items that would be useful include:

- Pickup truck or other vehicle
- Loppers/hand pruners/other hand tools
- Wheelbarrow
- Pitchfork
- Bolt cutter
- Printer or other office equipment

Land Alliance Hosts Most Successful Wine Auction Ever for Land Conservation Efforts

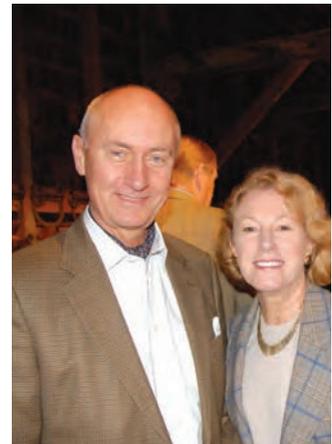
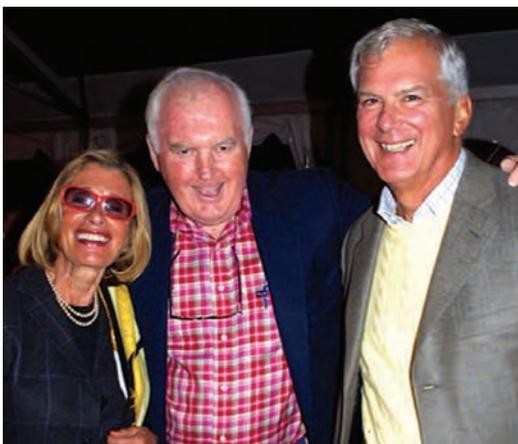


North Shore Land Alliance hosted their 9th annual Wine Auction and Dinner, Celebrating the Harvest Moon, on Saturday, September 29, 2012 at Youngs Farm in Old Brookville. This year's event was supported by 360 individuals, who helped raise approximately \$370,000 for the Land Alliance to continue its work to protect the most critical lands in our communities - the lands that protect our water, enhance our quality of life and ensure a healthier future for our children.

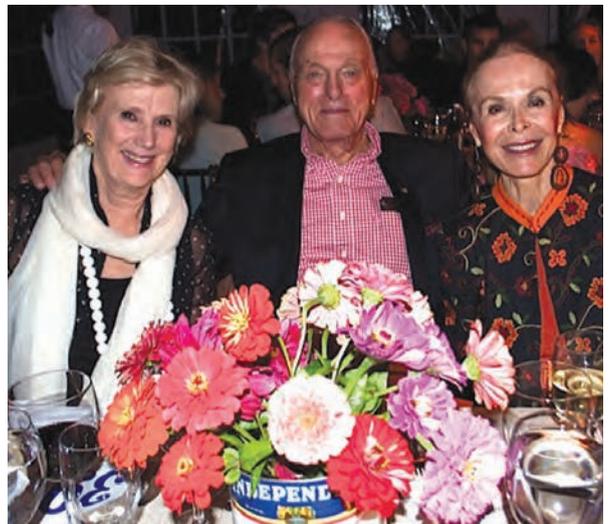
Supporters had the opportunity to bid on one-of-a-kind travel and food experiences such as dinner for 12 with French celebrity sommelier Oliver Magny, a very special long weekend in Louisville, Kentucky at the 21c Hotel, a week in New Zealand at three different luxury resorts - Cape Kidnappers, Kauri Cliffs and Matakauri Lodge, a five day stay at the HF Bar Ranch, Saddlestring, WY and a week's stay at a large, gracious home in Nantucket's Estates section. There was also cool art from both Peter Tunney and Hunt Slonem, a luxury shopping spree at Americana Manhasset and a conceptual design plan for a 2-acre property courtesy of Paul's Nursery. All items were donated to the Land Alliance compliments of local businesses and members.

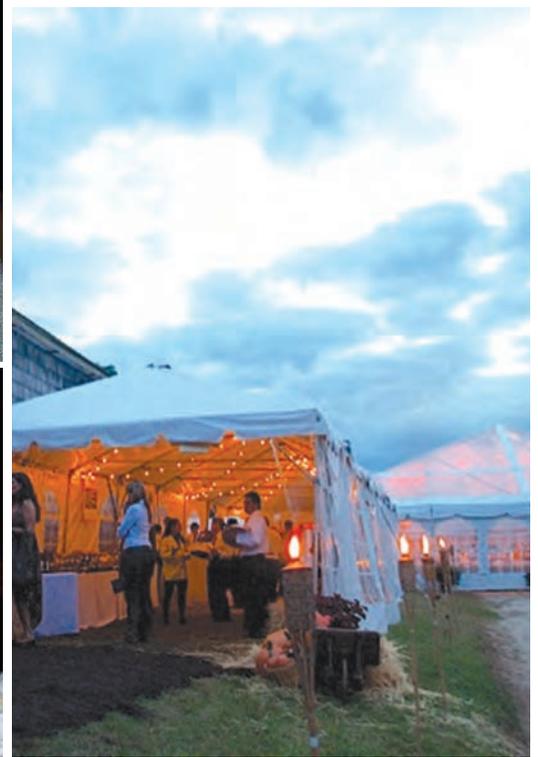
Trustees and staff are grateful to co-chairs Anne Goodwin, Helen Bonebrake, Meredyth Smith, and Beth Tunney-Wagner who worked extremely hard to make the event a success! And a very special thank you to the Youngs Farm Family -Paula and Richard Weir, P.J. Gooth and their children for their tremendous help in hosting this wonderful event.

Once again, we are thankful to all of our loyal supporters who put forth this kind of investment, especially in such challenging times. Your support shows your commitment to the cause.



Pictures courtesy of Lily Colley and Van Cushny





The Land Alliance is grateful to the many contributors and supporters of our 9th Annual Wine Auction and Dinner on September 29, 2012 at Youngs Farm, Old Brookville.



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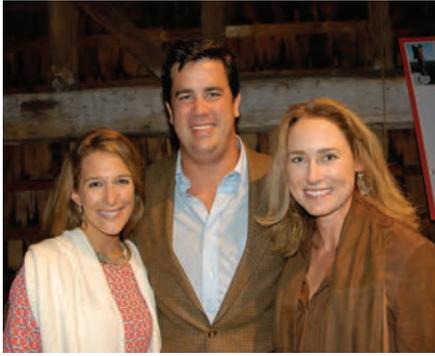
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Rosemary Bourne
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Jane Choate
Robert de Rothschild
Megan and Dan de Roulet
Barbara and Tom Dooley and Family
Eastern Mountain Sports
Aimee and George Eberle
Fiduciary Trust Company
The Ford Plantation
Stacy and Eric Fornell
Irene and Richard Gachot
Anne and Charlie Goodwin
Lynn and Frank Gundersen
HF Bar Ranch
Hugh Hildesley and Sotheby's
Indagare Travel

Jill Johnson Photography
Botsy and Hoyle Jones
Laureen and Ragnar Knutsen
Philippe Laffont
Lieber Brothers Wine
Lee and Patrick Mackay
Olivier Magny
Ferrell and Chi McClean
Cora and Clarence Michalis
Moore Charitable Foundation
Avantika Nehru and Juno Madan
Deirdre Costa Major
Barry Osborn
Paul's Nursery
and the Aureliano Family
Palm Bay Importers
Carol and Nicholas Paumgarten
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Posta del Norte
Barbara Prey
The Julian Robertson Family
Amy and Hartley Rogers
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Hunt Slonem
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Meredyth and Brooks Smith
Cornelia and Rob Spring
Max Stenbeck
Sterling Affair and Peter Fazio
Zach Taylor
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*Special Thanks to Barbara Hoover
and Julie Rinaldini for their
extra efforts.*

Land Alliance Annual Members Meeting

The North Shore Land Alliance held its annual Membership Meeting on October 27, 2012 at The Farm in Oyster Bay. Located on Split Rock Road in Oyster Bay Cove, the site of the former Littauer Estate, the Farm proved once again to be a perfect location to hold this very important annual meeting.

Lisa Ott, the organization's president, opened the meeting by welcoming all the members and by providing a brief history of The Farm at Oyster Bay. She commended the Town of Oyster Bay for all the hard work done on the property this year, including renovating the barn. She also noted that the Girl Scouts were able to harvest 1,500 lbs. of vegetables for the Island Harvest Food Pantry this year. Way to go ladies!

Following Lisa's introduction, Chairmen of the Committee on Trustees, Hal Davidson and Larry Schmidlapp, were called up to lead the group in a vote that would reelect the following trustees to another 3-year term: Carter Bales, Rosemary Bourne, John Bralower, Nancy Douzinas, Hoyle Jones, Nancy Kelley, Clarence Michalis, Jonathan Moore, Patsy Randolph, Julie and Luis Rinaldini, Larry Schmidlapp and Tom Zoller.

Reelection of and Introduction to New Trustees:

Members were asked to vote on the re-election of Trustees. The group was unanimously approved by the members to continue the Land Alliance's mission.

Lisa Ott then introduced the Land

Alliance's chair, Carter Bales. Carter provided the audience with a brief overview of how the organization was created in 2003 and noted that The Farm at Oyster Bay was the Land Alliance's first project. He reiterated the organization's goal of preserving 1,000 acres on the North Shore.

Carter also introduced the four new trustees, George Eberle, Gussy Donohue, Matthew Bruderman and Peri Wenz, noting that we are now up to 34 Trustees, 10 advisory Board members, 2,146 members and 6 full/part time staff.



Conservation Highlights:

Carter reviewed the Land Alliance's conservation highlights for the 2011-2012 year, specifically pointing out the acquisition of the former ExxonMobil terminal site, which is 8 acres in Cold Spring Harbor. After extensively monitoring the clean-up process over the last 5 years, ExxonMobil decided to donate this property to the North Shore Land Alliance as part of an innovative program where Exxon donates

surplus properties for conservation purposes. Also located in Cold Spring Harbor and illustrating the Land Alliance's reach into Suffolk County, the North Shore Land Alliance was also successful in purchasing a one-year option from the owners of the DeForest Williams property on Shore Road. This option was vital in allowing the estate to maintain the property while keeping the property off the market for potential developers. Meanwhile, the Land Alliance's future partners, the Town of Huntington and the County of Suffolk, can finalize their acquisition procedures. He noted

that the community stepped up to raise over \$625,000 in less than 6 weeks!

The Land Alliance also acquired an 8 acre easement in Oyster Bay Cove right before the end of the year in 2011.

Farm Summit Update:

At the 2012 Small Farm Summit, the Land Alliance hosted 700 attendees. The keynote speakers this year



included Will Allen and Chef Ann Cooper (aka The Renegade Lunch Lady). Will Allen is the founder/CEO of Growing Power, a national nonprofit organization and land trust supporting people from diverse backgrounds, and the environments in which they live, by helping to provide equal access to healthy, high-quality, safe and affordable food for people in all communities. Chef Ann Cooper life's work is to transform how we feed our children in school each day, from highly processed to highly nourishing food.

Introduction to Heritage Committee:

Finally, Carter was excited to announce that the Land Alliance has established a young members group. The Heritage Society is a group of conservation minded young people (between the ages of 21-39) who are the next generation of the North Shore Land Alliance. Their first event was a tabling event at the Harriman Cup, an annual polo match between University of Virginia and Yale University.

Land Alliance Applies for Accreditation:

Beth Baldwin, the Land Alliance's Associate Director and Counsel, discussed that the Land Alliance

is applying for Accreditation. She explained the history of accrediting land trusts and why it is important for a land trust to be accredited. Specifically, she noted accredited land trusts provide public confidence that the organization is operating fiscally responsibly and in a manner which protects its holdings in perpetuity. She was happy to announce that the Land Alliance registered for accreditation on May 15, 2012 and will submit its final application in 2013.

Advocacy:

Lisa explained the Land Alliance's role in advocacy on all levels of government. On the federal level, the enhanced conservation easement tax incentive expired on December 31, 2011. The land trust community is diligently trying to get Congress to make this important incentive permanent. On the state level, the Environmental Protection Fund will remain at \$134 million with the hopes of future funding coming from the highly successful tax on plastic water bottles. Created in 1993, the New York State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) provides mechanisms for open space conservation and land acquisition. On the local level, Lisa provided an update as to the status of the

nearby bond initiatives highlighting the recent purchase of the Brooklyn Water Works property by Nassau County and the partnership with the Town of Huntington, the County of Suffolk and the North Shore Land Alliance to purchase the DeForest Williams property in Cold Spring Harbor.

Grant Update:

Jane Jackson, Associate Director of Stewardship, provided an update as to the organization's grant work. Specifically, the Land Alliance was awarded two big grants. The first was a transaction grant from the Land Trust Alliance. This grant provides for closing costs for transferring the four Nature Conservancy preserves to the North Shore Land Alliance. The money will be used to reimburse survey, title and other costs associated with the transfer. The second grant is the LIISMA grant, which was funded by the NYS DEC and is an invasive species management grant. LIISMA is the Long Island Invasive Species Management Area and is a voluntary association of public and private land managers working together to prevent the spread of human-introduced invasive species.

Community Outreach and Education:

Jane also noted community outreach and education events throughout the 2011/2012 season. Some events include BOCES Conservation Education Day and Boy Scout conservation projects. Speaking engagements include Brightwaters Garden Club and East Meadow Middle School.

Another event occurred at the Roosevelt Preserve, a 73-acre property along the Meadowbrook



Parkway. This preserve provides opportunity for school children in the area to learn about nature and the environment close to home. The Land Alliance hosted a May Day event which focused on clean up and beautification of the preserve.

Finally, Jane gave an overview of the Walk in the Woods program, which included 12 walks this year with over 200 participants.

Membership and Volunteers:

Andrea Millwood, Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager, gave an overview of the volunteers who donated their time to the North Shore Land Alliance. According to Andrea, 173 volunteers contributed 1,077 hours of community service which deferred approximately \$20,000 in costs to the organization. Volunteers for the North Shore Land Alliance provide a vast array of services for the organization, including but not limited to pulling invasive plants, leading walks, clerical assistance, and photographing events.

Andrea also discussed membership, noting that the Land Alliance had 200 new members this year, bringing the total number up to 2,146 total members!

Fundraising:

Finally, Carol Schmidlapp, Associate Director of Event Management, discussed the North Shore Land Alliance's fundraising events for the year. The first event was the New York Lecture event. The Land Alliance was honored to have Bill McKibben speak. Mr. McKibben is an American environmentalist, author, and journalist who has written extensively on the impact of global warming. In early June, the Land Alliance had its Open Space Society dinner. The dinner was held at the home of Land Alliance supporters on a beautiful property overlooking the DeForest Williams property. 85 supporters attended this event which focused on water and hosted Carl Safina, a prominent ecologist and marine conservationist.

The Annual Golf Outing "Fore the Love of the Land" brought in a number of new business sponsors this year and was held on June 18, 2012 at Piping Rock Golf Club in Locust Valley.

The Land Alliance's Wine Auction and Dinner was held once again at Youngs Farm in Old Brookville. Providing a beautiful venue for this annual event, guests were able to gaze at a sunset over the Banfi fields, one of the Land Alliance's biggest achievements to date. The event was a huge success and the instant wine cellar raffle with 100 bottles of wine rated 90+ by Robert Parker continues to be a source of fun and excitement for all guests.

Following a slideshow of the North Shore's treasured places, Carter and Lisa opened up the floor to members who had questions regarding all aspects of the organization. After the question and answer period, members, staff and trustees alike were invited to take a tour around The Farm with Jane Jackson.





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The North Shore Land Alliance continues to strive to learn more about how we can make a difference and to implement eco-friendly practices. The paper we use in our newsletter is recycled. Once you have finished reading our newsletter, please recycle by passing it along to a friend.

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 enjoyment and benefit of future generations and the protection and enhancement of quality of life.

For more information about land conservation, please call the Land Alliance at 516-626-0908 or contact us via email at info@northshorelandalliance.org

SEASONS GREETINGS
BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND JOYOUS
NEW YEAR



FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT
THE NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

*Many thanks to our volunteer photographers
Barbara Hoover, Gina Norgard and Richard Sack*