



CONSERVATION NEWS

Protecting Open Space on Long Island's North Shore

NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

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Mill Pond Overlook, protected by S.E.A. Fund II, Town of Oyster Bay, 2006

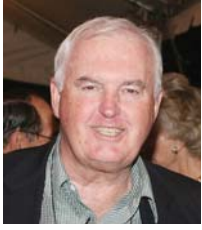
LANDSLIDE VICTORY FOR GREEN SPACE IN NASSAU COUNTY

On November 7th, Nassau County voters went to the polls and shouted “yes” to conservation at a 77% rate of approval. No candidate came close to this enthusiastic response. Of the 150,518 people who voted on the ballot measure, only 34,342 said no. Support for the \$100 Million Open Space, Clean Water Environmental Program was equal on both the North and South Shores of Nassau County.

Once again, Nassau County residents have made an important decision to purchase natural areas, expand and improve parks, invest in infrastructure to lessen storm water run-off onto beaches and bays, and redevelop neglected areas at an average cost of \$16 per household.

The Alliance is very grateful to County Executive Suozzi, Majority Leader Jacobs and Minority Leader Schmitt who brokered an eleventh hour deal to place this important measure on the November 7th ballot and Legislators Altmann and Denenberg for sponsoring the legislation. With natural areas on Long Island disappearing at an alarming rate, it was important that this measure appear on the ballot **this year!**

(continued on page 4)



November 15, 2006

LETTER TO OUR MEMBERS

Congratulations to all lovers of open space and clean water on the North Shore. The passage on November 7th of the \$100 million Nassau County Environmental Bond by a stunning 77% margin marks a major advance in our collective efforts to preserve what is left of nature in our communities and to protect our fresh water supply. North Shore residents clearly support the mission of the North Shore Land Alliance to protect as much of the remaining open space in our communities as we possibly can. We are deeply grateful.

With open space disappearing like the morning mist, much remains to be done and done quickly before the North Shore is fully built out with new housing developments. Besides advising on the new Environmental Bond, the Alliance is very active in private conservation. We have a growing number of privately-donated conservation easements to administer. We have preserves and easements for which we provide continuing stewardship. And we have a public education responsibility on the need for open space protection and how to go about preserving land.

Much of the power to control land use and regulate development is vested in village governments across the North Shore. Consequently, one of our initiatives is to provide assistance to local governments on strategies to protect open space and natural resources. To be frank, many villages in Eastern Long Island, Westchester and Connecticut have done a better job over the years of protecting open space than many of our North Shore village governments. NSLA's "Model Ordinances" program is working to introduce village officials across the North Shore to tools and techniques which integrate open space protection with sensible and community-appropriate development. You can help by encouraging your village officials to adopt stronger laws to protect rapidly disappearing natural treasures which, when lost, can never be regained.

The North Shore Land Alliance is a membership organization with more than 1,250 dues paying families. Much of our clout with local political leaders comes from the strength of this membership. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join NSLA as members. If political leaders listen to us today, imagine what clout NSLA would have with 2,500 dues paying families across the North Shore.

Best wishes for a pleasant holiday season and a gracious 2007 in conservation.

Carter F. Bales

Chair

Land Alliance Chair Carter Bales has been placed on Governor Elect Spitzer's transition team for energy and the environment!

Landscape Photo Credit: Archie Rinaldini

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE BOND

Most of you know that the North Shore Land Alliance has been very supportive of both the 2004 and 2006 Nassau County Open Space, Clean Water Environmental Bond Programs. What you may not know, is that we actually raised the funds and ran the media campaigns for both.

In July, 2006, the North Shore Land Alliance conducted a public opinion poll to determine local sentiment about the popularity of a new "Open Space" Bond.

A 600 person poll, considered statistically significant for an area the size of Nassau County, was conducted. The interviews were distributed as follows: Hempstead, 54%, Oyster Bay, 25%, North Hempstead, 17%, Long Beach, 3% and Glen Cove, 1%.

Thirty seven percent (37%) of the voters interviewed were Democrats and 42% were Republicans; 48% were male and 52% were female.

When asked about general political climate or their feelings about the direction in which the County was going, 42% felt that things in the County were going in the right direction.

When asked about important issues facing Nassau County, respondents felt strongly that holding down taxes (61%) was the most important issue of the day followed by improving schools and education (9%) followed by economic growth (7%).

When asked the question most critical to the success of a new bond, "Would they vote for a new 'Open Space Bond' in 2006?, 56% of the people questioned were in favor, 30% were against, and, the remainder undecided. This number, though marginally positive, left us too vulnerable to a loss at a time when build out for Nassau County is estimated at 3 to 5 years.

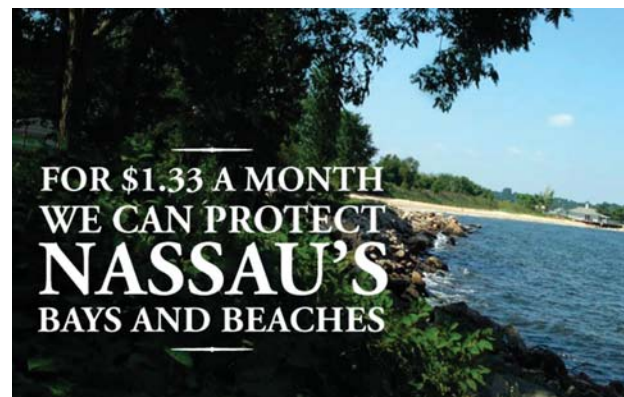
When individuals were educated about the cost per household of the measure, the positive responses jumped into the high 80th percentile.



We encourage you to **Vote Yes** on November 7th for the Nassau County Open Space, Clean Water Environmental Bond.

It conserves the land that protects our drinking water. It expands and improves parks and redevelops neglected areas.

The average cost per household is \$16 per year...or \$1.33 per month.



Educational Direct Mail material sent prior to election.

(cont. on page 4)

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE BOND (cont. from page 3)

The Land Alliance knew that we could not wait another year to get this measure on the ballot nor could we leave it's success to chance. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters we were able to fund an educational and media campaign that consisted of the following "paid" and "earned" media programs.

PAID MEDIA

- Direct mail targeted toward 250,000 Nassau County households who were the most likely to vote in this election.
- One strong week of television that appeared on both North and South Cable networks including News 12, Fox, CNN, ESPN, TBS, MSNBC, CNBC, etc.
- 4' x 8' Banners and Yard Signs across the North Shore.
- 28,000 electronic calls to remind people to vote on the Monday before the election.

EARNED MEDIA

The Alliance worked with a group of over 40 dedicated not-for-profit and civic organizations across Nassau County to "get out the vote". Efforts included ads in organizational websites and newsletters, themed press conferences, letters to the editor, mass e-mails, editorial board endorsements and old fashioned door-to-door and train station distribution of materials. The Alliance, with the help of Dick Amper and the Long Island Pine Barrens Society, Alpa Pandya and The Nature Conservancy, Neal Lewis and the Neighborhood Network and Adrienne Esposito and the Citizens Campaign for the Environment, chaired the Steering Committee to direct these efforts.



We are deeply indebted to all of the individuals who supported the media campaign and gave of their time, energy and money to ensure a positive result.

We are also grateful to those "good fairies" in our community who actually moved signs from one place to another to increase their visibility and effectiveness.

A 77% "yes" vote took a village to achieve and the Alliance is so happy to share our very special village with you!

Supporting organizations:

Audubon New York
 Citizens Campaign for the Environment
 Coalition to Save Red Spring Woods
 Concerned Citizens of Plainview/Old Bethpage Community, Inc.
 County Executive Tom Suozzi
 East Norwich Civic Association
 Friends of the Bay
 Friends of the Massapequa Preserve
 Glenwood/Glen Head Civic Association
 Lakeview 21st Associates
 Long Island Drinking Water Coalition, Inc.
 Long Island Environmental Voters Forum
 Long Island Pine Barrens Society
 Long Island Progressive Coalition
 Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce
 Nassau County League of Women Voters
 Nassau County Legislature
 Nassau Land Trust
 New York League of Conservation Voters
 North Country Garden Club of Long Island
 North Shore Land Alliance
 Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington
 South Shore Audubon
 The Nature Conservancy on Long Island
 The Neighborhood Network
 Theodore Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary
 Town Supervisor John Kaiman, Town of North Hempstead
 Town Supervisor Kate Murray, Town of Hempstead
 Town Supervisor, Retired, Mae Newburger, Town of North Hempstead
 Town Supervisor John Venditto, Town of Oyster Bay
 Trust for Public Land
 Water for Long Island

LANDSLIDE VICTORY ... *(cont. from page 1)*

Experts say that the future of the lands in question will be settled, one way or another, within the next 2 to 3 years. It is expected that the 2006 Environmental Program will be managed much like its 2004 predecessor. County Executive Suozzi will appoint a non-partisan Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives from local environmental and conservation groups, heads of related County departments and appointees from both the Majority and Minority, to review the nominations. The nomination process will be opened to the public. Deadlines for nominations will be set. After all nominations have been received, proposed projects will be reviewed and ranked based on predetermined selection criteria. The County Executive will make project recommendations to the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee

(OSPAC) and to sub-committees of the Legislature before they are presented to the full Legislature. All expenditures must be approved by a super majority of the Legislature



County Executive Tom Suozzi signs the \$100 million legislation. Second row l to r. Legislator David Denenberg, Majority Leader Judy Jacobs, and Legislator Lisanne Altmann



Minority Leader Peter Schmitt with Lisa Ott and Carol Schmidlapp of the Alliance.

It is very important that all interested citizens in Nassau County take inventory of the special places in their communities and then see that their properties are nominated for the Nassau County Environmental Bond Program. We may not have another chance.

For more information about the nomination process or for assistance in submitting a project, please call the Alliance at 516-626-0908.

Lisa Ott has been re-appointed to the Advisory Committee for the 2006 Bond

Newsday.com

Ballot issue would aid environment

One of the nation's most populated and developed suburbs, Nassau County was quite mature before realizing how little time was left to protect the attributes that made it so attractive. Once again, it is not too late to make a decision to preserve our natural resources for future generations.

That's why voters on Tuesday should vote yes on Proposal One: Nassau Open Space, Clean Water Environmental Program. It is the only proposal on the ballot.

Two years ago, voters took the first step toward a comprehensive environmental program by overwhelmingly approving a \$50 million bond issue. That money has now been spent; \$38 million was

used for open-space purchases and the rest allocated to water-quality projects and improvements for 15 parks and two brownfields sites. Yet there's still a list of proposals to stop groundwater pollution and preserve scenic places and natural land - with new ones to add.

This new \$100-million bond issue would cost property owners about \$16 annually for 20 years. The money must be spent for designated environmental purposes, and only if approved by 10 of the 19 legislators. There is oversight and accountability built into the process.

Nassau's 2004 bond act was a successful demonstration of what can be done and what still needs to be done. The 2006 bond act is a crucial next step to ensure clean water and open space amidst our suburban sprawl.

2004 ENVIRONMENTAL BOND EXPENDITURES

The Alliance received several calls right before election day asking where, specifically, the proceeds from the 2004 Environmental Bond Program had been spent. As most of the authorizations took place in late August, this fact was not widely publicized. Below please find a town by town break out of the expenditures.

<u>Category</u>	<u># Recommended</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Open Space	7 parcels, 117 acres	\$38 Million
Parks Improvement	24 projects	\$5.6 Million
Storm Water Runoff	17 projects	\$4.4 Million
Brownfields	2 projects	\$1.9 Million

TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD

Open Space Properties

Boegner Estate
Danaher Motion Property (partial)

Park Improvement Projects


Strathmore Park
Stannards Brook
Park Bay Walk Park
Hempstead Harbor
Shoreline Hempstead House
Long Island Motor Parkway (partial)
Catch Basin Inserts (partial)

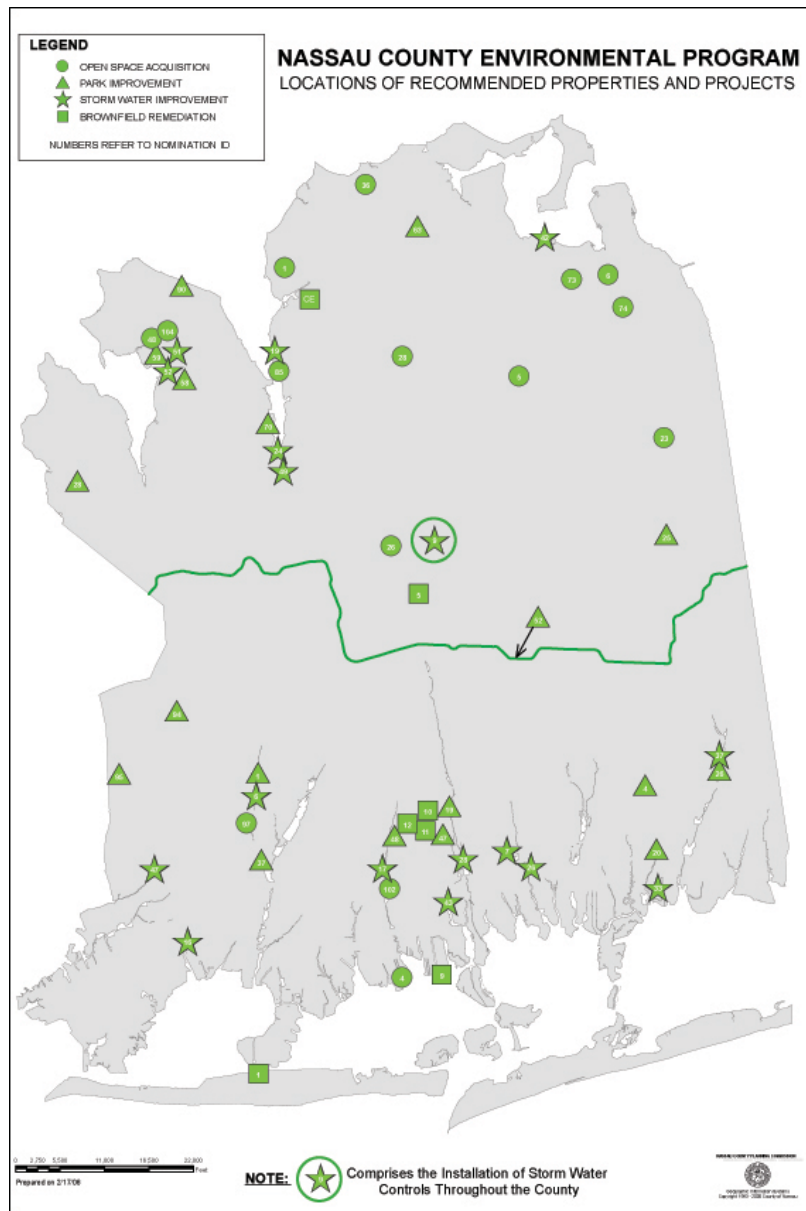
Storm Water Improvement Projects

Skillman Street & Lumber Road
Roslyn Pond
Park Mill Pond Park
North Sheets Creek

Brownfield Remediation Projects

200 Post Avenue

 The Alliance will enter into an agreement with Nassau County to assume stewardship responsibility for the 16-acre Pulling Estate and the 8-acre Red Spring Woods conservation areas.



2004 ENVIRONMENTAL BOND EXPENDITURES



The Pulling Family



Conservationists, Public Officials, Environmentalists

TOWN OF OYSTER BAY

Open Space Properties

Red Spring Woods (City of Glen Cove)
 Meyers Farm
 Northwood Estate
 Pulling Estate

Park Improvement Project

Storm Water Basin #464/Soccer Field
 Plainview-Old Bethpage Park
 Massapequa Preserve
 Thomas Park
 Battle Row Campground
 Long Island Motor Parkway (partial)

Storm Water Improvement Projects

Little Worth Lane & Scudder's Pond
 Florence Avenue Area
 Massapequa Preserve
 Roosevelt Marina
 Catch Basin Inserts (partial)

TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

Open Space Properties

Parkway Drive Properties

Park Improvement Projects

Halls Pond Park
 Washington Avenue Park
 Roosevelt Preserve
 Tackapausha Preserve
 Tanglewood Preserve
 St. Francis Street Park

Park Improvements

Pennsylvania Avenue Park
 Centennial Gardens,
 Storm Basin #120
 Dutch Broadway
 Athletic Complex
 Long Island Motor Parkway
 (partial)

Storm Water Improvement Projects

North of Halls Pond
 Smith Street Right-of-Way
 Willow Pond
 Brookside Preserve
 Merokee Pond
 Meadowbrook Creek
 Mill Basin Mill Pond and
 Village Green Park
 Catch Basin Inserts (partial)

Brownfield Remediation Projects

Former Incinerator (City of Long Beach)



Meyer's Farm

- Voters in Suffolk County's five East End towns - East Hampton, Riverhead, Shelter Island, Southampton and Southold approved, enthusiastically, a ballot measure to extend from 2020 until 2030 a 2 percent real estate transfer tax that finances community preservation funds in each town.
- This transfer tax, referred to as the Community Preservation Fund, has already provided the towns with \$400 million since voters approved it in 1998 and has successfully preserved 7,500 acres.

WATER: HOW LONG ISLAND'S GROUNDWATER SYSTEM WORKS

This is the first in a series of articles about the state of Long Island's Drinking Water System written by Sarah J. Meyland, MS, JD, Associate Professor of Environmental Technology, New York Institute of Technology

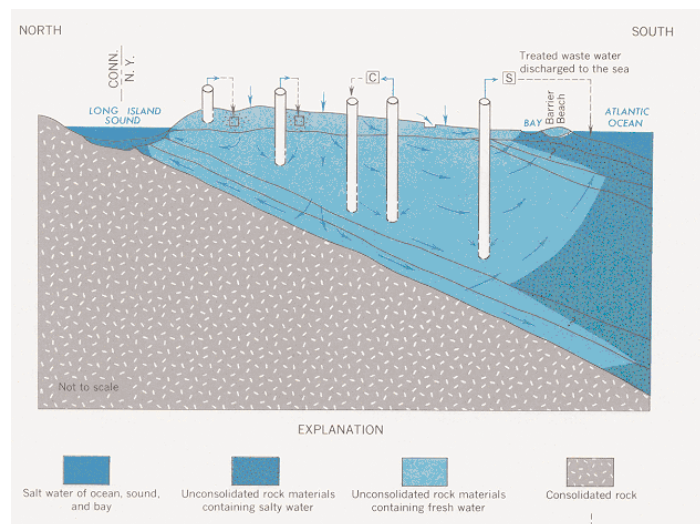
As you know, all the drinking water on Long Island (except the "bottled" kind) is supplied by wells pumping water from the ground, thus the name, groundwater. The water you use is usually pumped from somewhere nearby (within several miles). Groundwater can be found anywhere on Long Island by digging a well. The water that a well withdraws is pulled from the minute spaces between individual grains of sand in the sandy formations called aquifers. The aquifers are stacked atop each other like layers on a cake.

Nassau County residents use about **67 billion gallons of water** each year. Suffolk County residents use up to 80 billion gallons a year. The per-person use of water on Long Island is about 20% above the national per capita average. While water use in Nassau County is relatively stable, fluctuating according to summer weather conditions, water use continues to grow in Suffolk County as does the population. Nassau County has a countywide water conservation program where Suffolk does not.

The total volume of fresh water held in the aquifers, about 70 trillion gallons, began as precipitation falling on Long Island. Some of the oldest and deepest groundwater fell as rain more than 5,000 years ago. The groundwater supply is replenished mainly during the later fall to early spring (October through March). Although summer-time water use on Long Island increases by 100-200% over winter use, practically no groundwater recharge, or replenishment, occurs during the summer. This is due to growing plants and the high summer-time temperature of the air and the soil. Both the amount of water and the quality of the water that filters through the ground to become

groundwater is influenced by how the land itself is used. If the land is undeveloped and natural, few pollutants are picked up as the rainfall slowly percolates through the sandy soils. In this way, good water is added to the groundwater to replace the water that we collectively take out every day. **When the land is heavily developed, water quality and quantity is diminished.** This is the basic reason why preserving open space helps to protect the drinking water supply. Clean land recharges clean water.

Part II of this series will feature New Developments Concerning Drinking Water Contaminants



LAND USE ORDINANCE SEMINAR



The natural beauty and critical environmental resources of our area will continue to disappear due to poor planning and the arbitrary nature of home rule, until we as a community demand better laws from our local officials.

On November 9, 2006, NSLA sponsored a seminar on innovative land use laws, "Building Stronger Local Laws to Protect Your Community", featuring Sean Nolon, Director of the Land Use Law Center at Pace University School of Law. Mr. Nolon is a recognized expert in innovative solutions to land use dilemmas, and trains local officials, environmentalists, and developers in land use laws.

The Land Use Law Center is dedicated to fostering the development of sustainable communities through the promotion of novel land use strategies.

The main topic of the seminar was on integrating open space and natural resource protection into land use laws. Mr. Nolon first outlined the basis of local government authority to protect natural resources. He then gave examples of different laws and techniques adopted locally to protect critical resources such as Aquifer Protection Zones, Steep

Slope ordinances, Conservation Overlay Districts, and other laws designed to protect open space and natural resources. He closed by discussing the keys to building community consensus for adopting land use innovations.

The seminar was attended by over 50 local government officials, planners, board members, attorneys and civic leaders.

NSLA will be posting many of the laws discussed and links to other planning resources on our website www.northshorelandalliance.org. The link to Pace's Land Use Law Center is www.law.pace.edu/landuse/. The link to the podcast of Mr. Nolon's presentation is <http://web.mac.com/gainingground/iweb/Site/Podcast/Podcast.html>.

The Alliance would like to thank Eastwoods School for generously donating their library for the seminar.



Without good land use laws



With good land use laws

VILLAGE OF LLOYD HARBOR MORATORIUM ON SUBDIVISION

The Village of Lloyd Harbor recently enacted a Moratorium on Subdivision law which suspends the right of property owners to obtain subdivision approvals pending the update and revision of the Village's Master Plan. Village residents almost unanimously spoke out in favor of the need to update the Master Plan and concurrent moratorium, citing concerns such as the adverse impact of development on the environment, drinking water, traffic and roads, and school congestion.



NEW STATE AND FEDERAL TAX INCENTIVES FOR CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

NEW FEDERAL TAX INCENTIVES FOR CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Landowners who donate voluntary conservation easements which permanently protect valuable open space do so for many reasons. But for most people, donating a conservation easement is a major financial decision, and the federal income tax deduction that comes with a donation helps make easements possible for landowners who otherwise would not be able to do so.

Congress recently passed a new law that significantly enhances the federal tax benefits of conservation easements. The legislation improves the tax incentive for conservation easements by allowing landowners who donate a conservation easement between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007 to:
Deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income (up from 30%) in any one year, and continue to take deductions for as long as 15 years (up from 5 years) after the initial deduction.

The new federal law is scheduled to expire at the end of 2007, though it may be extended. Potential donors who want to obtain maximum deductions should plan to complete their easement donations before the end of 2007.

NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION EASEMENT TAX CREDIT

In 2006, New York State enacted a new law which provides a tax credit for conservation easements (CETC). Taxpayers whose land is restricted by a conservation easement are eligible for an annual New York State income tax credit of up to 25% of the school district, county, and town real estate taxes paid on the restricted land, up to an annual maximum of \$5,000 per taxpayer. The rebate applies to the property taxes paid on any unimproved part of land that is protected by an easement.

The rebate is a credit on state income taxes, which ensures that the burden of the reduced property taxes does not fall on the local municipality and school

district. The tax credit applies to all conservation easements, regardless of when they were created. Landowners will be able to claim this credit for the taxes they paid in calendar year 2006 when they file their 2006 New York State income tax forms and annually thereafter.

A CONSERVATION EASEMENT is a legal agreement between a landowner and a nonprofit land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect important conservation values. It allows you to continue to own your land and to sell it or pass it on to heirs.

When you enter into a voluntary conservation agreement with a land trust, you give up some of the rights associated with the land. For example you might give up the right to subdivide your land or build additional houses. Future owners will be bound by the agreement terms. An agreement may apply to just a portion of the property and need not require public access.

A voluntary conservation agreement can help a landowner pass land on intact to the next generation. By limiting the land's development potential the agreement may lower its market value, which in turn lowers estate tax.



If a conservation agreement benefits the public by permanently protecting important conservation resources and meets other federal tax code requirements the donor may qualify for significant tax deductions.

AN EXAMPLE OF THE TAX BENEFITS OF PLACING A CONSERVATION EASEMENT UNDER THE NEW LAW


Mr. Field owns 50 acres of land with environmental conservation value that he wants to protect forever. Mr. Field's annual taxable income is \$100,000. He wants to donate his property's development rights to a land trust through a conservation easement. The donation is valued at \$700,000.

UNDER THE OLD LAW

Mr. Field is allowed to **deduct 30%** of his adjusted gross income and has 6 years to claim the value of the deduction - \$700,000.



 Income	\$100,000
 Deduction	\$ 30,000
	(30% of his \$100,000 taxable income)

Tax deduction claimed \$180,000
(30,000 over 6 years)


 Deduction **lost \$520,000.**
(The \$700,000 value of the easement minus the \$180,000 that was taken over six years).

UNDER THE NEW LAW

Mr. Field is allowed to **deduct 50%** of his adjusted gross income and has 16 years to claim the value of his deduction - \$700,000.

 Income	\$1000,00
 Deduction	\$ 50,000
	(50% of his \$100,000 taxable income)

Tax deduction claimed \$700,000
(50,000 over the first 14 years)

 Tax Deduction **lost \$0.**
Tax Deduction benefit as a result of the new law **\$520,000.**

Please note that a landowner should always get professional financial planning and legal advice before donating a conservation easement.

On August 17, 2006, President Bush signed into law the Pension Protection Act (**Pub. Law 109-280**) that includes a package of charitable giving incentives and safeguard measures. One of the most important of these incentives is an **IRA rollover** provision that allows individuals age 70 and older to make charitable donations up to \$100,000 from an IRA without having to count the donation as taxable income. This provision would be in effect for two years, allowing the charitable community to demonstrate its value as an incentive for increased giving that could be expanded in the future.

The Alliance is in the process of developing a deferred giving program that would allow members to include conservation in their wills.



ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

The Annual Members' Meeting was held on Saturday, November 4, 2006, at 11:00 am at The Nature Conservancy's Upland's Farm. Board of Trustees Chair, Carter Bales, welcomed members and introduced Committee on Trustees Chairman, Danny Davison, who nominated the following slate of Officers and Trustees for 2007.

Chair, Board of Trustees - Carter Bales; Vice Chair - Luis Rinaldini; Secretary/ Treasurer - Rosemary Bourne; and Executive Director - Lisa Ott.

Trustees returning for 3 year terms included: Carter Bales, Bob Bernhard, John Bralower, Rosemary Bourne, Danny Davison, Ralph Fumante, Clarence Michalis, Jonathan Moore, Paul Rabinovitch. Patsy Randolph. Julie Rinaldini, Luis Rinaldini, and Larry Schmidlapp. The membership voted, unanimously, to re-elect both the officers and trustees for 2007. Lisa Ott gave an overview of 2006 which included the following information:



l. to r. Colton Wagner, Katie Schwab, Larry Schmidlapp, Carter Bales, Luis Rinaldini

2006 LAND FACTS

Nassau County is home to 1.3 million people living on approximately 192,000 acres. Approximately 22,000 acres have been set aside as park/municipal lands (less than what is required by the U.S. Department of Parks for a healthy community). There are approximately 9,400 acres left undeveloped (less than 10%), Of that approximately 5,400 are golf courses, which leaves approximately 4,000 acres of open space. By 2020, population is expected to grow by 250,000 more people.

If housing development continues at its current pace, there will be no open space left in Nassau County within 3 to 5 years. The 'Race for Open Space' is serious and protecting natural lands will become more and more difficult as time goes by.

Long Island's drinking water comes from a sole source aquifer. Everything that happens at the surface affects the drinking water below. Excessive development diminishes recharge areas and increases demand resulting in saltwater intrusion in coastal communities

ALLIANCE OVERALL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- **Educate private land owners about ways to conserve their land and the tax advantages associated with conservation.** Specifics include increased Federal Tax Advantages for 2006 and 2007 ONLY and the New York State Conservation Tax Credit of up to \$5,000 per year on conserved land.
- **Work with municipalities to raise funds for open space conservation.**
 - 2004 and 2006 Nassau County Environmental Bond Programs.
 - 2004 Town Of Oyster Bay S.E.A. Fund Bond.
- **Establish the status of already conserved properties and ensure that they remain preserved.**
- **Work with villages to promote the adoption of stronger conservation laws.**

NEW YORK STATE OPEN SPACE PLAN

Nassau County properties on the New York State Open Space List were expanded from several hundred acres in 2004 to over 3,000 acres in 2006.

ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

This important increase was accomplished by creating contiguous conservation 'areas' clustered around previously protected natural areas. A total of 19 areas were identified, among those were the Kate Trusbee Davison Preserve, Shu Swamp Preserve, Old Westbury Gardens Special Groundwater Protection area, and the Route 25A Heritage Area.

STEWARDSHIP/EASEMENTS

By year end 2006, the Alliance will assume management of 65 acres of the Nature Conservancy's preserves and 24 acres of Nassau County Bond acquisitions for a total of 89 acres. It is the Alliance's intent to open these areas to the general public providing educational programs administered through Alliance volunteers.

The Alliance holds easements on 42 acres and is currently in the process of acquiring easements on an additional 48 acres.



Shu Swamp Preserve

MEMBERSHIP AND EVENTS

In 2006 the Alliance hosted four fundraising events and one educational seminar. They were the Sand's Point 'Friendraiser', the North Shore Open Space Society Dinner, the Family Picnic, the Wine Auction and Dinner and the Land Use Seminar.

One hundred eighty new members joined the Alliance in 2006.



VOTERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY APPROVE RECORD FUNDING FOR LAND CONSERVATION

On Election Day, November 7th, Nassau County voters were joined by voters in 23 other states to approve 99 ballot measures which will increase state and local government funding for land conservation by \$5.73 billion.

Voters considered a total of 128 conservation funding measures. The 99 that passed represent a success rate of 77% nationwide, which is consistent with the pattern of the last ten years, when voters have typically approved 3 out of 4 propositions. What is unusual about this year's election results is the wide variety of communities that approved new spending for parks and land protection.

Local communities across the country are realizing that they can no longer look to federal and state government to ensure community health and that they must be proactive about protecting local natural resources. Historically, government programs for land conservation have been popular in resort areas and well-to-do suburbs. But the 2006 results show that measures to increase spending on open space protection have captured mainstream America. Places that approved bonds or taxes for land conservation for the first time include:

- Cobb County, Georgia, a fiscally conservative community known as the political base of Newt Gingrich, where voters approved a \$40 million bond for land conservation with 72% support
- Salt Lake County, Utah, where voters endorsed a \$48 million bond with 71% "Yes".
- Ravalli County, Montana, which approved a \$10 million bond 58% to 42%.
- Quincy, Massachusetts, a blue-collar community that approved a property tax hike with 57% voting to approve.
- Hawaii and Honolulu Counties, which both approved property tax measures by wide margins, so that now every county in Hawaii has a dedicated fund for land conservation.
- This year's biggest spending measure for land conservation was a statewide bond in California. This \$5.39 billion bond for water quality projects included \$2.25 billion for acquisition and protection of open lands. The smallest measure was a property tax hike in Cedar Grove Township, New Jersey, which set aside \$127,000 for land conservation.



The North Shore Land Alliance is proud of the voters of Nassau County for passing this valuable measure at a time when there are still great areas left to preserve!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

**THE NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE
NEEDS SEVERAL GOOD MEN AND
WOMEN TO:**

**PROVIDE STEWARDSHIP SERVICES IN
OUR PRESERVES**

PREPARE MAILINGS

PICK UP "YARD SALE" ITEMS

WORK AT EVENTS

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO
VOLUNTEER PLEASE CALL US AT
516-626-0908**

OR E-MAIL AT

INFO@NORTHSHORELANDALLIANCE.ORG

THE POWER OF ONE VOTE

WE WERE VERY LUCKY IN NASSAU COUNTY TO HAVE SUCH AN ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE TO OUR \$100 MILLION BOND. THE STORY WAS NOT THE SAME ACROSS THE COUNTRY, OR EVEN THE STATE. HERE IS WHAT HAPPENED IN GARDINERS, NEW YORK

"IT WAS THANKSGIVING EVE AND, ACCORDING TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS, THE TWO MILITARY VOTES OUTSTANDING IN GARDINER DID NOT ARRIVE BY TODAY'S DEADLINE, THE VOTES HAVE BEEN COUNTED THREE TIMES, AND THE DEADLINE FOR CONTESTING THE VOTES HAS PASSED WITHOUT CONTEST - THE ONE VOTE MARGIN STANDS IN GARDINER, AND THE BOND HAS PASSED!"

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR MAKING THE EFFORT TO VOTE FOR THE NASSAU COUNTY BOND.

GARDINER'S RESULTS MAKE NEW YORK STATE THE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN THE COUNTRY WITH ALL 10 BALLOT MEASURES PASSED!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ENSURE THAT IMPORTANT LAND CONSERVATION EFFORTS CONTINUE ON THE NORTH SHORE?

We would! Our job is certainly not done. The Alliance was founded in 2003 by a group of friends and neighbors who were concerned about the dramatic change in our local landscape...the loss of green spaces, natural resources and emblematic areas that make the North Shore like no place else in the world. A "land trust" dedicated to the protection of our most important natural lands was formed in hope that there was still time to make a difference in this fragile environment...and, thankfully, the opportunity existed and current conservation efforts were begun.

There is much more work to be done and it will take years and considerable resources to conserve the lands that remain and ensure that they are protected, in perpetuity, for the happiness and health of generations to follow.

Theodore Roosevelt, in one year, conserved more natural lands than the composite of all the presidents who followed him. His legacy lives on in our community and for that reason, we would like to continue his conservation work.

The Alliance Legacy Club is an especially meaningful way to help protect land for generations to come. The most widely chosen method of leaving a legacy gift is to remember the Alliance in your will or living trust. You can specify a dollar amount, specific assets, or a percentage of your estate.

For more information, please call our office at 516-626-0908.

IMPORTANT OYSTER BAY COVE EASEMENT DONATED

Julie and Eric Friedlander have donated an easement on the 14.33 acre "Badgewood" Estate in Oyster Bay Cove. This historic property lies in the Harbor Hill moraine of the Tiffany Creek watershed which is one of the largest suppliers of fresh water to the Oyster Bay Harbor. It is home to a wet meadow which attracts and supports many avian species, a hard wood forest and dozens of species of native plants, trees, birds and mammals. Of particular interest is the sub canopy of umbrella magnolia which dominate the forest, a subject of interest to the New York Botanical Society.

We are very grateful to the Friedlander Family for making this important contribution to our community!



LAND CONSERVATION COMMUNITY HONORS SENATOR CARL MARCELLINO AND ASSEMBLYMAN TOM DiNAPOLI



*Holding picture on left: Senator Carl Marcellino
On right: Assemblyman Tom DiNapoli*

The North Shore Land Alliance together with the Land Trust Alliance, Peconic Land Trust, Nassau Land Trust, and The Nature Conservancy, presented Senator Carl L. Marcellino (R-Syosset) and Assemblyman Thomas P. DiNapoli (D-Thomaston) with the 2006 Conservation Leadership Award.

The awards ceremony took place on Thursday, August 3rd, at Old Westbury Gardens.

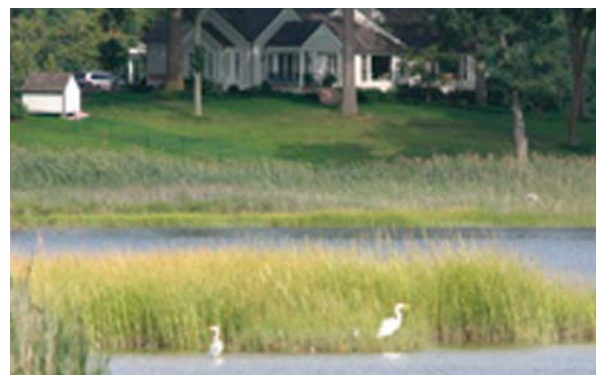
Senator Marcellino and Assemblyman DiNapoli were honored for their leadership in creating a statewide grants program for land trusts, successfully promoting a state tax credit for conservation, and increasing the Environmental Protection Fund to a record-setting \$225 million.

HOW TO NOMINATE A PROPERTY FOR THE \$100 MILLION BOND PROGRAM

Are the Most Special Places in Your Community Protected? Any Nassau County resident, environmental or civic group or local government can nominate a property for open space protection, parks improvement, storm water remediation or brown fields redevelopment.

Applications will be available at www.nassaucountyny.gov beginning in January. Public meetings will be held in the Towns of Hempstead, Oyster Bay and North Hempstead early in 2007 to explain the details of the program. Pertinent information may be also found on the Alliance website (www.northshorelandalliance.com).

It is important that you, who know your communities better than anyone, make the effort to nominate the emblematic properties that make the North Shore our home.



FEDERAL AND STATE ELECTION INITIATIVES

Environmental Candidates Sweep the Nation

The League of Conservation Voters ranks politicians across the nation based on their positions on environmental issues. They have identified a group of politicians who rarely support environmental issues and tagged them the “Dirty Dozen”. Of the 13 members of Congress that were targeted for the poorest voting records on environmental issues, 9 were defeated.

On the flip side, 8 out of 9 of the League’s “Environmental Champions” won their races. Dozens of candidates from both parties who ran on forward-looking energy and conservation policies won their races. At least 20 pro-environment challengers unseated anti-environment incumbents in the House.



*“Treat the earth well:
it was not given to you by
your parents, it was loaned
to you by your children.
We do not inherit the
Earth from our Ancestors,
we borrow it from our
children.”*

Ancient Indian Proverb

A New Governor Creates a new Strategy For Conservation

As a coalition member of Friends of New York’s Environment (led by Willie Janeway of The Nature Conservancy) the Alliance will work in 2007 to advance the following state-wide land conservation initiatives:

- ✦ \$500 Million EPF by 2010 supported by an expanded Bottle Bill and dedicated real estate transfer revenue to support an array of projects.
- ✦ The strengthening of state agencies through the hiring (replacement) of a minimum of 200 environmental staff positions at various agencies.
- ✦ The provision of state authorization and incentives for local open space conservation incentives.
- ✦ Consideration of a new environmental bond act, or other mechanism, to provide capital for environmental capital projects that benefit future generations of New Yorkers.



FINAL CHAPTER IN GRACE FOREST NORTH HILLS CONTROVERSY

The efforts of many concerned citizens and environmental groups to stop the Village of North Hills from allowing high density developments in the North Hills Special Groundwater Protection Area (SGPA) have not been successful. Despite the strong and well-founded objections, the village chose to ignore all opposition and allowed two new high density developments to go forward in this SGPA that provides critical deep-flow groundwater recharge to all of western Nassau County. The village allowed these developments in exchange for large cash payments from the developers pursuant to the village incentive zoning laws. It has been widely reported that this cash was believed to be earmarked for the hostile acquisition of Deepdale Golf Club. In response to this plan, members of Deepdale filed federal and state lawsuits to prevent the village from exercising eminent domain for this purpose.

The North Shore Land Alliance was not involved with this issue, but rather was concerned with the utter failure of the officials to protect this critical recharge area from the profound degradation caused by badly sited development.

In an effort to stop the village from allowing the destruction of

Grace Forest – despite the fact that the forest had been permanently set aside as open space pursuant to approval for the Chatham I development. NSLA and many other concerned groups



and residents brought legal action against the village in August 2005. This temporarily prevented destruction of the forest. When this restraint was lifted last December the forest was bulldozed, but, we continued with the lawsuit in an effort to force the village to reforest the area or make some restitution for its actions.

We recently agreed to discontinue this action on the advice of counsel. The forest is forever lost, and the village has allowed the new project, Chatham II to be built.

In the meantime, the members of Deepdale Golf Club have been successful in thwarting the village's plans to seize the club through eminent domain. In August, Governor Pataki signed a law prohibiting municipalities from using public funds to acquire "land within special groundwater protection areas being used as a recreational or open space at the time of the acquisition."

Unfortunately, on November 15, the North Hills village board gave approval to the development of a 244-unit four story development of luxury condominiums. Although there is very little open space left in North Hills, we hope that the village will adopt a new course and follow the recommendations of the state, regional and county planners to protect the North Hills SGPA from further development.

MOHLENHOFF'S FINAL AGREEMENT TO ACQUIRE THE 11-ACRE PARCEL

Surrounded by officials from the County, the Town of Huntington and a variety of land preservationists and supporters of youth athletics, Suffolk County Legislative Majority Leader Jon Cooper (D-Huntington) Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy recently announced the final agreement to acquire the 11-acre Mohlenhoff property in Huntington for use as active parkland. The measure was unanimously approved at the Legislature's June 27th general meeting and the County closed on the property on July 19. The resolution sponsored by County Executive Steve Levy and co-sponsored by Cooper completed the acquisition process. Suffolk County and the Town of Huntington will own the property jointly with both parties agreeing to split

the purchase cost. The acquisition of the site comes after a long and complicated struggle between the County, Town and potential developers. The purchase preserves the parcel under the Suffolk County Open Space, Farmland Preservation and Hamlet Parks Fund.

Adjacent to the 300-acre Froehlich/Wicks Farm Nature Preserve, the parcel is home to numerous species of birds, including the red-tailed hawk. The property is located in the West Hills/Melville Special Groundwater Protection area, one of only two critical groundwater recharge areas in western Suffolk county.

"This is a significant purchase for the people of Huntington

and Cold Spring Harbor," said County Executive Levy. "This land was enjoyed by generations, first as a farm and later as one of the premier local garden centers, and will be enjoyed by future generations as much-needed recreational fields for the community."

"The purchase of this property not only preserves precious open space," said Legislator Cooper. "It also provides our children with a great opportunity to develop healthy, active lifestyles to carry them through their whole lives."

The Cold Spring Harbor/Huntington Soccer Club hopes to begin preparing the fields in the spring with the turf ready for play next fall.

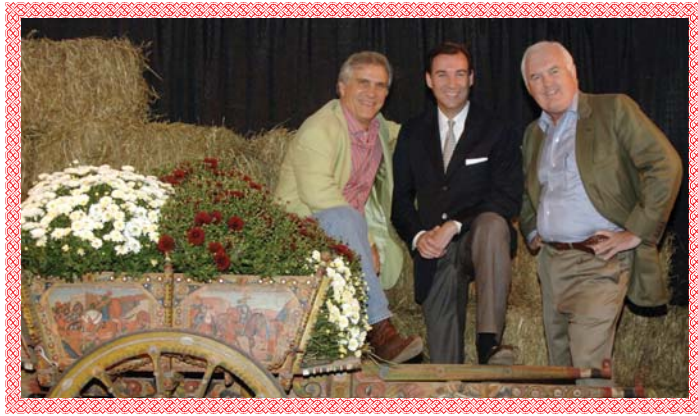


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THE NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE held its third annual wine auction on Saturday evening, September 30th at the barn at "Groton Place" in Old Westbury. Three hundred guests strolled around the 200-year-old barn for the wine tasting and silent auction, and then moved into the adjoining tent for the "Red and White Dinner" followed by the live auction. Afterwards, a jazz cabaret entertained guests through the wee hours, rounding off an incredibly successful evening in support of land conservation.

The Trustees and Staff of the Land Alliance are very grateful to event Chairmen Patricia Bell-Thomson and Patsy Randolph, their Vice Chairmen and Committee, and to Julie and Luis Rinaldini and staff at Groton Place for hosting this wonderful event. The evening raised over \$500,000 for the Alliance and its efforts to protect the lands that protect our quality of life.

The proceeds will be used to cover operating expenses, fund the campaign for the 'bond', and establish an endowment for both stewardship and legal defense.

Many thanks to all of you who contributed so generously to the evening's success.

THE LAND ALLIANCE ELECTS NEW TRUSTEES

Please join us in welcoming three new Trustees to our Board for 2006-2009



NANCY NAGLE KELLEY is the Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy on Long Island which has offices

in Cold Spring Harbor, East Hampton, and at Mashomack Preserve on Shelter Island. Nancy leads a staff of 45, including scientists, land stewards, educators, and government relations specialists. She oversees a suite of dynamic programs ranging from the restoration of the Great South Bay, to the protection of Long Island's Pine Barrens (the source of much of the region's drinking water) and the creation of a connected string of nature preserves on the East End.

Prior to her career at The Nature Conservancy, Nancy was President of the Group for the South Fork, a community-based conservation advocacy organization based in Bridgehampton.

A native of Long Island, Nancy grew up in Garden City and in East Hampton. She is a graduate of Cornell University, and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government where she received a Masters degree in city and regional planning.


Nancy lives with her husband and their two teenage sons in East Hampton.



KATIE SCHWAB is the Director of Government Relations for Cemusa, an international corporation specializing

in outdoor advertising and street furniture. She manages municipal and public relations for Cemusa's North American operations. Katie previously served as Deputy Commissioner for Comprehensive Planning for Nassau County where she was instrumental in updating the County's Open Space Plan and facilitating the implementation of the 2004 Environmental Bond.

A native of Virginia Beach, Katie is a graduate of St. Mary's College and the University of Virginia Law School. She has lived on the North Shore since 1998 where she has been active the Oyster Bay Main Street Association, the Village of Upper Brookville and Saint John's of Lattingtown Church.

 **GAIL T.P. WICKES** retired from PaineWebber as a Senior Vice President in charge of strategic planning. Before entering the brokerage business Gail was an academic with an A.B. and Ph.D from Harvard where she was an Assistant Professor. She later served as President of Bennington College. In between Bennington and Paine Webber, Gail worked as the Executive Director of the Vermont Association of Retarded Citizens and played an active role in state government as a lobbyist.

Gail has published books and articles on a range of topics, consulted with organizations as diverse as Citibank and the Vietnam Veterans Foundation, and served on a variety of boards including Air University (USAF), Amherst College, Education Development Center and, most recently, Bailey Arboretum. As President of the Friends of Bailey Arboretum Gail led a recent initiative to take over management responsibilities from Nassau County which, thanks to an excellent board and widespread community support, has affected a major turnaround in the Arboretum's finances and programs.

Gail lives with her husband, Paul, in Lattingtown and Manhattan. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR LEAD SPONSOR CITIBANK FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO CONSERVATION and to all those who helped make the auction such a great success!



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Season's Greetings



*The North Shore Land Alliance
Wishes You a Joyous Holiday Season
and
a Happy New Year!*

Save the Date



Wine Auction
Dinner and Caberet

Saturday, September 29, 2007

MISSION STATEMENT
The North Shore Land Alliance, Inc. (NSLA) is a land trust formed to protect and preserve, in perpetuity, the green spaces, wetlands 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.