



# CONSERVATION NEWS

*Protecting Open Space on Long Island's North Shore*

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VOLUME 5, ISSUE 10



*Banfi Fields. Fall 2009*

## A PLAN TO PROTECT THE BANFI FIELDS IS UNDERWAY

One of the North Shore of Long Island's most bucolic landscapes may soon be protected from residential development, thanks to efforts underway by Nassau County, the Village of Old Brookville, the Mariani family and the North Shore Land Alliance.

The 66 acres of agricultural lands at the corner of Hegeman's Lane and Chicken Valley Road in Old Brookville is owned by the Marianis, proprietors of US wine importer Banfi Vintners. A plan, approved earlier this week by the Old Brookville Planning and Zoning Boards, calls for subdividing the property into four separate lots, including 60 acres which would be purchased by Nassau County, the North Shore Land Alliance and a private conservation-minded investor with the intent that the property remain under agricultural use. The remaining six acres, located at the back of the property, will be retained by the Mariani family.

*(continued on page 3)*



Dear NSLA Members,

"Country clubs court development" was the headline in a recent article that appeared in the November 6th issue of the Long Island Business News.

This is a trend that we, at the North Shore Land Alliance, have anticipated for some time but, with the impacts of the recent economic downturn, has come sooner than we thought. Golf courses in our area have been hit hard by the current recession and job loss. North Shore Country Club in Roslyn Harbor was just sold to a developer and Woodcrest Club in Muttontown has been put up for sale. It is rumored that Woodcrest has lost as much as 30% of its membership and that other clubs may have similar issues.

Did you know that in Nassau County alone there are more than 9,300 acres of golf courses with 5,400 acres in private clubs? Did you know that, other than lands that have been previously protected by municipalities, golf courses are Nassau County's largest category of open space? This open space is increasingly at risk of development.

Many states, including New York, by definition do not consider golf courses to be open space, which leaves us little hope that we will be able to rely on government support to protect these large tracts of land.

Without the greens and the holes, what would a golf course be but a great big piece of wonderful open space? These areas provide enormous benefit to our local community from groundwater recharge to beautiful vistas and great hiking trails. If we are going to solve the environmental issues facing Long Island, we need to think creatively about how to protect golf courses as open space.

Other regions of the country like California and Massachusetts, which share the need to protect sole-source aquifers such as we have on Long Island, have begun to re-vision such large open spaces. Some of their solutions include: smaller golf courses with limited residential development, alternative recreation like baseball and soccer fields, gray water "recharge" parks, re-farming with organic or Community Supported Agricultural operations, bird/wildlife sanctuaries, community gardens, green cemeteries and even carbon sinks with added grasslands and reforestation.

While each local golf course is unique in character and the issues in each community may vary, the failure of golf courses and conversion to dense development is a trend that will grow in strength over the coming 10 to 20 years. We need an open space protection approach to stop this trend or move it to a more positive outcome.

Your friend in conservation,

Carter F. Bales





*Mariani Family vines*

The Marianis planted a vineyard on the property after purchasing it in 1983 from the Youngs family. That family had farmed it since 1893 and continues to grow produce on an adjacent lot. For several years Banfi marketed Old Brookville Chardonnay from Nassau County's only commercial vineyard, but irregular weather patterns and limited demand led them to uproot most of the vines and convert a smaller section to tree farming. Grapes from the remaining 20 acres of vineyards are sold to wineries on the east end of Long Island.

While much progress has been made toward the protection of this emblematic parcel, one more very important hurdle needs to be overcome. The Nassau County Legislature must approve this acquisition at their meeting on Monday, December 7th at 10:00 in the chamber of the Legislative Office Building in Mineola.

If you would like to help, please write or call our County officials right away and let them know how important this

corner is to the local community. Your actions could make a big difference in the approval process. Contact information for members of the Legislature may be found on the NSLA website home page at [www.northshorelandalliance.org](http://www.northshorelandalliance.org).

The North Shore Land Alliance is most grateful to our donors whose contributions have made the difference in the successful negotiation of this deal. We are also grateful to the Mariani family who have been great stewards of the land, to County Executive Suozzi and his team, to Mayor Bernie Ryba and to the Planning and Zoning Boards of the Village of Old Brookville.

To quote Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, "It takes a village." With this acquisition, Old Brookville with over 100 acres of farmland will remain Nassau County's leading agricultural village.



*Rottkamp Brothers lettuces growing at Banfi Fields*

## GOVERNMENT UPDATES



### FEDERAL Appropriations Bills Signed into Law with Big Gains for Conservation

#### The President's 2010 Interior and Environment Appropriations

On October 30th, President Obama signed into law a Fiscal Year 2010 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill that provides an overall boost of 17% over 2009 levels! That comes on the heels of an Agriculture Appropriations bill which fully funds the increases to easement programs approved in last year's Farm Bill. Here are highlights:

Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) will receive \$278 million, an increase of \$126 million or 82% over last year.

- State-side LWCF will double to \$40 million. Together, state and federal LWCF have doubled from FY 2008 levels to \$318 million. This year's budget lumps LWCF with Forest Legacy and the Cooperative Endangered Species Fund for a total of \$453 million, even more than the \$432 million promised in the President's request.
- Forest Legacy will receive \$79.5 million, a 60% increase over last year's funding level.
- The North American Wetlands Conservation Act will receive \$47.6 million, an increase of \$5 million from last year.
- State Wildlife Grants will receive \$90 million, an increase of \$15 million from last year, but less than the President's budget request.

#### Farm Bill Conservation Programs

In perhaps the most significant change from the President's Budget, Congress removed caps on

spending for all farm bill conservation programs except the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). As such, the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program will grow to \$150 million as prescribed in the 2008 Farm Bill, an increase of \$29 million from last year.

The Grasslands Reserve Program and Wetlands Reserve Program may continue towards their acreage caps with no limit on spending.

#### Conservation Easement Tax Deduction Update

H.R. 1831, a bill to make permanent the expiring tax incentive for conservation easement donations has grown from 128 co-sponsors in our last update to 256 co-sponsors today. All of our Long Island leaders, except Congressman Gary Ackerman and Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy, have signed on as co-sponsors.

The current incentive, which expires at the end of 2009, was passed as part of the 2008 Farm Bill. If this law is not enacted this year, the federal tax deduction for conservation easements will revert back to 2005 levels of 30% of AGI over 5 years versus the current 50% of AGI over 15 years.

#### IRA Charitable Rollover

The IRA Charitable Rollover, which was originally enacted as part of the 2006 Pension Protection Act, allows seniors to make charitable contributions of up to \$100,000 from their individual retirement accounts (IRAs) and Roth IRAs without having to pay taxes on the withdrawals. Unless lawmakers can be convinced to extend the IRA Charitable Rollover by supporting the Public Good IRA Rollover Act of 2009, this incentive will expire December 31, 2009, that would be detrimental to charitable organizations of all kinds.

## GOVERNMENT UPDATES



### NEW YORK STATE Bigger Better Bottle Bill - Finally!

Advocates have been pushing state lawmakers to update New York's Bottle Bill since 2000 to keep up with changing consumer tastes. The law was finally updated this spring as part of the 2009-2010 state budget.

In addition to expanding the state's 5-cent deposit on beer and soda containers to include water bottles, the new law also requires beverage companies to transfer 80% of the unclaimed deposits they collect to the state, and makes other changes to improve and update the program.

The updates to the Bottle Bill were signed into law on April 7th, 2009 as part of the adopted state budget, and were supposed to go into effect this spring. However, in May, U.S. District Judge Thomas Griesa delayed implementation of the new amendments until April 1, 2010 as a result of a lawsuit filed by the International Bottled Water Association (IBWA), Nestle Waters North America, and other water bottlers. The State asked the court to reconsider this decision.

On August 13th, U.S. District Judge Deborah A. Batts lifted the injunction on all the provisions of the new law that were not specifically challenged in the IBWA lawsuit. This allowed the increased handling fee (from 2 cents per container to 3.5 cents) and the transfer of 80% of the unclaimed deposits to the state to go into effect immediately. On October 23rd, Judge Batts lifted the injunction on the bottled water provisions, effective 11:59 p.m. October 30th.

Since October 31st, all containers of water sold in New York under a gallon in size have had a 5-cent refundable deposit. According to the Container

Recycling Institute (CRI), more than 3.2 billion water bottles are sold each year in New York - nearly a quarter of the state's total beverage sales. Water bottles are one of the most commonly found items littering New York's shorelines and communities. Without a deposit, fewer than 20% of these bottles were being recycled. Instead, most of these containers have ended up in the trash or discarded along beaches, parks and roadways.

Enacted in 1982, the Bottle Bill is New York's most effective recycling and litter prevention program, with an average return rate of 70%.

As a result of expanding to include bottled water, nearly 90% of New York's beverage containers are now covered under the Bottle Bill. The program still does not cover iced teas, sports drinks, juices, sugared waters and other noncarbonated beverages that advocates had been pushing for.

The Container Recycling Institute (CRI) estimates that placing a 5-cent deposit on water bottles has the potential to increase the recycling rate of water bottles from 14% to 77%. According to CRI's analysis, more than 2 billion bottles will potentially be recycled each year rather than wasted as a result of the updated bottle bill, keeping an estimated 81,863 tons of material (mostly PET plastic) out of landfills and incinerators. The energy saved by recycling these additional containers will also avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the annual emissions of 28,075 cars.

Proceeds from the Bottle Bill will be used to fund the State's General Fund.

## GOVERNMENT UPDATES



### NASSAU COUNTY Bond Program Update

#### Grossmann's Farm Celebration

It has been three years since the last harvest at Grossmann's Farm in Malverne. The 5-acre farm is nestled between a major roadway and single family homes.

Prior to 2006 Grossmann's Farm had been providing locally grown food for the community since 1895 when John Grossmann purchased the plot where Hempstead and Ocean Avenues meet. Since then five generations have farmed the land. George Grossmann, one of the last to farm there, took great pride in his crops and would not sell a tomato with a wormhole. After the death of George and his sister Barbara, the family had to make the difficult decision whether to sell. With taxes and other expenses eating away their profits, they decided to sell.

In 2007 they began to take bids for the land from both developers and Nassau County. The County wanted to keep the property as farmland and the local residents

were thrilled that the property might remain as a farm. Initially, the Grossmanns turned down the offer from the County. It was sad for them to think about anyone farming there other than a family member. However, when the real estate market began to falter, the Grossmanns reconsidered the offer and accepted.

The closing was celebrated this past September with most of the community coming out to celebrate the acquisition. There were marching bands, a farmer's market, elected officials and environmental and conservation groups including the North Shore Land Alliance.

County Executive Suozzi emphasized how important it is to continue to preserve farmland. The County requested proposals from various farmers for the continuing operation of the farm. The winning proposal was based on a Community Supported Agriculture model submitted by members of the community in conjunction with representatives from Cornell and the Nassau Land Trust, a subsidiary of the Peconic Land Trust.

Other farms that have been protected through the Nassau County Environmental Bond Act include Meyer's Farm in Woodbury and Frugee's Farm in East Meadow.



*Grossmanns Farm community celebration*

## GOVERNMENT UPDATES

### Transformation of Old Mill Farm

The 41-acre Old Mill Farm in Brookville, protected with 2006 Environmental Bond Act monies, is open and ready for business. Old Mill, which has undergone a major transformation, has been renamed the Nassau Equestrian Center at Old Mill. It is located on Rt. 106 near the Jericho High School.

Old Mill is a full service, multi-disciplinary equestrian center with paddocks and riding areas, as well as a 5-acre grass hunt course. It is surrounded by bridle paths, which connect to the Muttontown Preserve, Christie Field, the campus at SUNY Old Westbury, the Hall Estate and a view of the King Zog Ruins.

The property is open to Nassau County residents. Discounts for horse rentals as well as riding lessons are available through Nassau County's leisure pass and any County profits accrued will be reinvested in public programs at the facility.



*Barn renovation: before and after*



*Sean Rainey, Diane Yatauro, Lisa Ott, County Executive Tom Suozzi, Chester and John LoRusso*

The County issued a request for proposals for the operation of the farm shortly after its acquisition in 2008. The bidding was won by John Lo Russo, an experienced owner/operator of similar horse facilities. He and his staff have lovingly restored each building, paddock and arena breathing new life back into a treasured local facility.

Located within the Oyster Bay Special Groundwater Protection area, this important environmental bond acquisition also provides valuable drinking water recharge as well as protected habitat for wildlife.

For more information about the Nassau Equestrian Center at Old Mill you may check their website at [www.nassauequestriancenter.com](http://www.nassauequestriancenter.com).

## GOVERNMENT UPDATES

### Will Clams and Oysters Live in Hempstead Harbor Again?

Biting wind and rain signaling winter's approach on October 15 did not deter Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi and dozens of other supporters of clean harbors (North Shore Land Alliance among them) from turning out at the Tappen Marina in Glenwood Landing to deliver 1.1 million oyster and clam seeds into Hempstead Harbor in a project led by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Over three million shellfish have now been deposited in Hempstead Harbor since 2007.

These waters have been closed to shell fishing since the 1930's because of high levels of coliform bacteria. But now the collaborative efforts of Nassau County, the DEC, the Towns of Oyster Bay and North Hempstead, the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee, the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor and others to reopen the area to shell fishing are approaching fruition.

Over time, many factors have led to improved water quality: these include a reduction in industrial use of the Harbor, closing of the Roslyn sewage treatment plant, upgrading the Glen Cove Wastewater Treatment facility and cleanup of Superfund sites. Educating the public about how their activities (such as discarding pet waste in designated containers) can affect the Harbor has also played a role.

The Harbor's waters have been improving to a level that, it is hoped, will be safe enough to support a shellfish harvest in the near future. Then Hempstead Harbor will join Oyster Bay in providing a culinary delight while contributing to the livelihood of local shell fishers and Long Island tourism. The clams and oysters themselves will help improve water quality further, as they are filter feeders, using gills to strain tiny particles from the water for food. One clam filters about a gallon of water in an hour. Adult oysters can



Michelle Zucker, courtesy of Nassau County

Oysters and clams provided by Frank M. Flowers and Sons

filter up to twice that amount.

Funding for this 2009 project was provided by the Long Island Sound Study through its Long Island Sound Futures Fund; funds for the 2007 seeding were provided by Nassau County, the Town of North Hempstead, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

#### Five Things You Can Do to Protect Our Waters:

1. Plant native plants on your property, particularly along pond and wetland edges.
2. Clean up after your pets.
3. Wash your car on a permeable surface (like gravel or lawn) so that soap will not run off into a storm drain.
4. Have your septic system inspected by a professional every two to four years.
5. Water your lawn deeply and infrequently.



## GOVERNMENT UPDATES



### TOWN OF OYSTER BAY Full Steam Ahead!

#### Restoration of the Farm at Oyster Bay Moves Forward

The Farm at Oyster Bay (also known as Littauer) has undergone a very active 2009! Restoration of the barns and house is in progress; the Farm's resident donkey, Artie, and goat, Daisy Mae, occupy a new barn and numerous programs are underway.

The Town hired a part-time summer educator, Alyssa Toscano, a Port Washington elementary school teacher, to help lead activities, with assistance from fourth-generation Farm caretaker Amanda Roberts. Participants assisting in the restoration of the property this year have numbered in the hundreds and included the Girl Scouts of Nassau County, North Shore Synagogue, Our Lady of Mercy Roman Catholic Church, Long Island University's C.W. Post Campus, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County, Syosset Garden Club and North Shore Land Alliance.

Here is a sampling of what's been happening:

- Sustainable planting, maintenance, and harvest of cucumbers, tomatoes, collard greens, string beans and other produce that was donated to Our Lady of Mercy's food pantry in Hicksville
- Tai chi classes
- Exploration of the Farm's fields, ponds and woodlands and the plants and wildlife that inhabit them
- Restoration of historic rose plantings
- Bridge lessons
- Constructing and flying kites

Numerous additional programs are planned for 2010, including a show of artwork produced by members of



*Artie, the resident donkey, and friends*

the Independent Art Society of Oyster Bay. Offices in the house are also being fixed up for Town Historian John Hammond and Arborist Steve Matouza, and additional work on the interior of the house is being carried out this winter. As for the barns, a geothermal heating and cooling system will be operational next spring. By summer the exterior work should be completed and work on the interior will begin.

For more information about what is happening at the Farm, call Linda Mondello, Commissioner's Consultant to Historic Preservation, at (516) 624-7030. She would be delighted to fill you in and arrange for a tour.

Our community is very grateful to Supervisor Venditto, the Oyster Bay Town Board and Linda Mondello for making the restoration of this local treasure a priority.

## EPF, EPA, DEC, DEP, CPA AND CPF

Each industry has its share of acronyms and none more than the conservation community but, when it comes to land conservation issues in the communities of New York State, EPF or Environmental Protection Fund is the one you want to remember.

The EPF funds almost everything environmental from open space to solid waste to parks, recreation and historic preservation in New York State.

New York is a very big state and each of its corners has distinct assets and challenges. The one thing that unites New Yorkers – from the St. Lawrence Seaway to Niagara Falls to the Long Island Sound – is our wealth of irreplaceable natural resources and built environments. New York has a responsibility and a vested interest in protecting the health of both.

With this in mind, the New York State Legislature created the EPF in 1993. The EPF invests primarily in capital projects that protect the environment and enhance our communities. It has helped to create jobs, eliminate solid waste, prevent pollution, protect ecosystems and community character for future generations and connect communities and children with the outdoors.

And that's not all. This visionary program recognizes that funding conservation and restoration affects more than our natural environment. The EPF's investments yield big dividends for our economy and quality of life. These results are easily measured by the number of jobs created, acres of

wilderness preserved, tons of waste diverted and millions of dollars saved every year.

### How the EPF Works

The EPF is financed primarily through a dedicated source, Real Estate Transfer Tax revenue, and is allocated by the New York State Legislature and the Governor through annual appropriations. Because of its dedicated revenue stream, the EPF can support projects that restore and enhance New York's natural and built environments in both good fiscal times and bad.

The EPF awards monies for projects as the need arises. This ensures that New York State is not incurring debt to finance projects, but rather relies on current resources. Furthermore, as a trust fund created in state law, these resources must be kept separate from other state monies. Since its inception, the EPF has gradually grown from its original appropriation of \$31 million in fiscal year 1994-1995. In 2007, the State Legislature and Governor overwhelmingly supported a law (Chapter 258 of the Laws of 2007) to provide nearly \$300 million to the Fund in fiscal year 2009-2010, and each year thereafter.

Once the money is directed to the EPF, it is divided into three accounts: open space; solid waste; and parks, recreation and historic preservation. Spending purposes are further divided into categories. The amount of money dedicated to each category is determined by the appropriation process. Each category has legislatively designated uses which are summarized in the table below.

Open Space	Solid Waste	Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Supports open space land conservation and biodiversity; stewardship and research; agricultural and farmland production; non-point source abatement and control; Long Island Central Pine Barrens area planning and Long Island south shore estuary reserve planning; and operation and management of Albany Pine Bush Preserve.	Supports non-hazardous municipal landfill closure; municipal waste reduction or recycling; waste prevention; developing, updating or revising local solid waste management plans; and the development of the pesticide sales and use database in conjunction with Cornell University	Supports municipal parks; historic preservation; urban cultural parks; waterfront revitalization; and coastal rehabilitation.

Projects selected to receive resources are chosen based on a number of criteria, depending on the category. But fundamentally, supported projects help to protect and conserve New York's natural heritage while improving every New Yorker's quality of life.

The EPF is rarely a project's sole funding source. Most often support from the EPF helps recipients leverage other resources to realize a community vision. Most of the funds are administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC), Department of Agriculture and Markets, and the Department of State (DOS). Resources are distributed either for state-led projects (such as parkland acquisition), partnerships between state agencies and municipalities (i.e., non-hazardous landfill closures), or between state agencies and nonprofit organizations (e.g., historic preservation projects).

None of the critical projects funded across New York would be possible without the support of the Governor and the State Legislature. Our leaders understand that today's investments in critical services such as open space preservation, agricultural waste management, recycling and recreation will yield benefits that include cleaner water and air, places to play and historic places for generations to come.

As you may recall, Governor Paterson's 2009-2010 budget called for a reduction in the EPF from \$250 million to \$202 million. Additionally he proposed changing the funding source for the EPF from the Real Estate Transfer Tax to the Bigger Better Bottle Bill which had not been passed by the Senate at that time.

While the EPF has been a steady source of capital for a variety of environmental projects, unfortunately it has

been used far too often to help balance the State's budget. Nearly \$500 million has been diverted from the fund over the years, often with a promise that it will be repaid. As a consequence of those "loans", there is a substantial backlog of projects estimated at more than \$300 million. And, today more cuts are being considered.

Our local elected officials worked hard to protect the EPF for us and we hope they will do it again. Featured here are our Long Island champions and some of the projects that have been funded in their communities along with a chart of local contributions by Town and County.



Ethan Winter, Land Trust Alliance Northeast presents grant award to Andrea Millwood, NSLA.

### LOCAL PROJECTS FUNDED BY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND

**TOTAL NASSAU COUNTY: \$58,826,000**

**HEMPSTEAD: \$8,780,704**

**NORTH HEMPSTEAD: \$11,990,184**

**OYSTER BAY: \$26,957,157**

**CITY OF GLEN COVE: \$1,064,121**

**CITY OF LONG BEACH: \$640,390**

**TOTAL SUFFOLK COUNTY: \$116,639,057**

**HUNTINGTON: \$4,762,780**

Source: Friends of New York's Environment Coalition

## OUR LOCAL EPF CHAMPIONS



Senator Carl Marcellino, as long-time chairman of the Environmental Conservation Committee of the NYS Senate, played a big part in the growth of the EPF. He is pictured at the Farm at Oyster Bay with The Nature Conservancy's Kevin McDonald, NSLA President Lisa Ott, NSLA Trustees Tom Zoller and Larry Schmilapp. NSLA has received 6 grants from the EPF one of which was for expenses related to the acquisition of this property, formerly known as the Littauer's Hillside Farm.



Senator Craig Johnson, with NSLA staff members Barbara Hoover and Lisa Ott, pictured at the Bay Walk Park in Port Washington. Since its beginning in 1998, the EPF has contributed to major water improvement projects in the 7th District including Roslyn Pond, Mill Pond, Bar Beach, Manhasset Bay and Hempstead Harbor. Other large projects include the Town of North Hempstead and Roslyn/Beacon Hill landfills and local waterfront revitalization programs.



Assemblyman Rob Walker pictured at the Mill Pond in Oyster Bay with NSLA Trustee Larry Schmidlapp and NSLA President Lisa Ott, was responsible for helping the Town of Oyster Bay (TOB) with a matching grant for a feasibility study to determine the best public use for the Mill Pond Overlook property. Additional grants have been received for the Oyster Bay Western Waterfront, Mill River Watershed Study, Jacobson Shipyard and the Glenwood Landing Waterfront.



Assemblyman Charles Lavine and NSLA staff Lisa Ott and Carol Schmidlapp are photographed at the Garvies Point Museum where Assemblyman Lavine helped to secure a grant to eradicate mile-a-minute weed from the Garvies Point Museum property. Other institutions that have been funded in the 13th District include Planting Fields Arboretum, Old Westbury Gardens, Nassau County Museum and the North Shore Historical Museum.



*l to r: Eric Pick, Elizabeth Allured, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, Legislator Wayne Wink, Valerie Taylor, Myron Blumenfeld & Elizabeth Moran are pictured at the Stannards Brook Park, another collaboration between local government and the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).*

## THE POWER OF ONE

Myron Blumenfeld, now 81, moved to Port Washington from Brooklyn 41 years ago with a vision. After admiring the shoreline trail which he nicknamed the “French Riviera” he decided, despite some major hurdles and eyesores, to create a scenic vista and walking trails along the waterfront of Port Washington. He wanted to wrap the Port Washington peninsula into a 12-mile shoreline - to - shoreline greenway.

His first order of business was to establish, with the help of his friends, the nonprofit, civic and environmental group appropriately named Residents For A More Beautiful Port Washington. The group has battled an incinerator, capped a town landfill and fought traffic, gas stations, guzzling water use and development. Under Mr. Blumenfeld’s leadership, they have planted trees and created gardens and parks. A park was reclaimed in 1998 by a local Boy Scout troop from a former municipal lot. Christopher Hoey, a Boy Scout who needed an Eagle Scout project, started digging with his troop, converting the lot into a pocket park with teak benches, flowering perennials and native plants that can tolerate salt water.

A lot of their accomplishments could not have been achieved without monies from the Environmental Protection Fund. Thanks to the hard work of Mr. Blumenfeld, Senator Johnson, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and others, millions have been disbursed for the purpose of beautifying Port Washington. Some of their more recent projects include restoration of Stannards Brooks Park, the Mill Pond Town Project and the Bay Walk between Manhasset Park and Manorhaven Park which has just been opened. Mr. Blumenfeld’s vision has been realized.

In 2008, Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington celebrated their 40th anniversary. They looked back proudly on the many achievements and celebrated the people and community that made them possible.

The efforts of “Residents” provide a shining example of how one man’s vision can lead to a community coalition that continues to affect change in a very positive way.

## NASSAU COUNTY'S GOLF COURSES ARE AT RISK



On Long Island, our drinking water comes from underground aquifers. Protected lands are part of a natural system that filters rain and snow to clean and replenish our underground water supply. Without the open lands of golf courses, both the quality and quantity of our drinking water is threatened. Add to that the loss of tree cover which provides the absorption of CO2 emissions and UV radiation, release of oxygen and food and shelter for wildlife, and the general health of our residents is impaired.

Both on Long Island and nationally, the game of golf has declined over the last decade as the baby boomer generation (ages 50 - 70) play less golf and the millennium generation has yet to adopt golf to fill the void. This year's rainy weather and the difficult economy added to the decline, jeopardizing several private clubs in our community.

There are 50 golf courses in Nassau County, and 37 of these are private clubs. What happens to the clubs that are forced to close because of financial difficulties? These clubs' beautiful properties can be scooped up and sold to developers who want to use the land for residential projects. Three clubs ~ Engineers Country Club in Roslyn Harbor, North Shore Country Club in Glen Head and Woodcrest Country Club in Syosset ~ face this dilemma right now.

According to Jim Stracka, founder of Stracka.com, golf is a \$76 billion industry that employs millions of Americans. The 16,000 golf courses in the USA add billions in property values to local economies. As golf courses go out of business due to lack of play, property values of the whole community decline. But property values are not the only things at risk.

We can no longer afford to think of golf courses as secure open space for the benefit of personal enjoyment and recreation. Golf courses are not protected with conservation easements and there is no guarantee that they will be around forever. They tend to be a land-rich, cash-poor kind of business which in difficult financial times are in jeopardy.



## UPDATE ON LARGE PARCEL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS - GOLF COURSES INCLUDED

### Golf Courses

North Shore Country Club in Sea Cliff was recently sold to a developer despite attempts to save it. The Town of Oyster Bay was interested in purchasing part of the 158-acre property with S.E.A. Fund III funds, in order to protect environmentally significant Scudder's Pond from the negative impacts of stormwater runoff. Instead, the Club accepted an offer by a developer who purchased it and plans to preserve the golf course and add revenue making operations.

Another golf club, Woodcrest Club in Muttontown, is considering several different offers from developers about selling its 110-acre site on Muttontown Road. One developer, Holiday Organization, is interested in the property to build luxury homes on three - acre lots, which would be the end of the golf course.

The Town of Huntington put a moratorium in place when several golf courses were purchased by developers. One course, Hollow Hills in Dix Hills, is being subdivided and developed and another, Cold Spring Country Club, is considering building condominiums on a portion of the property.

Several other development proposals on large parcels are in the works.

### The Oaks

The Upper Brookville Planning Board has before it an application to subdivide a 97.16-acre parcel, comprised of the former Arthur Dean estate and the former Walter Damrosch estate, much of it comprised of steep or very steep slopes. Located next to the state-owned Planting Fields Arboretum, the proposed development would require the destruction of over 2,000 trees, destruction of natural vegetation on steep slopes and the removal of over 106,232 cubic feet of earth, in order to develop the infrastructure needed. The impact of such development on the Mill River watershed is a big concern.



### Land's End Sand's Point

The Village of Sand's Point has approved the FEIS for the subdivision of the Land's End parcel into six lots for the construction of luxury houses. The existing home, which is eligible for listing on the National Register, and is rumored to have been the inspiration for Daisy Buchanan's house in "The Great Gatsby", will be demolished. The property is located next to Prospect Point Bird Sanctuary and a pristine salt marsh and dune habitat bordering Long Island Sound. The southeastern part of the property borders on wetlands and East Creek, and there is concern that the wetlands area could be harmed by the development. Construction of some of the houses will require 30-foot deep pilings and thousands of tons of fill material will be needed in order to raise some lots to comply with FEMA flood regulations.

### Hitchcock Cemetery Proposal

The Village of Old Westbury is still assessing the impact on the Special Groundwater Protection Area of the Diocese of Rockville Center's proposal to convert the former 100-acre Hitchcock polo farm into a cemetery. The Village has asked the Diocese to do further nitrate testing before a decision on the proposal can be made.

## WALKS IN THE WOODS CALENDAR 2010

**Saturday, February 6, 11:00 a.m.** Muttontown Preserve, Muttontown

Learn about Long Island geology at Muttontown Preserve with naturalist Al Lindberg.

**Saturday, February 27, 10:00 a.m.** trout streams of Oyster Bay

With Trout Unlimited's Jeff Plackis, we will visit several sites when they're easier to reach: before the trees leaf out! (This program is weather-dependent.)

**Saturday, March 6, 1:00 p.m.** Kate Trubee Davison Preserve, Lattingtown

You'll be astonished by the number and diversity of waterfowl that fill our waters in winter! Join The Nature Conservancy's Derek Rogers at this beautiful site.



*Woodland walk at "The Farm" in Oyster Bay*

**Sunday, April 11, 2:00 p.m.** Welwyn Preserve, Glen Cove

Learn about spring ephemeral plants with naturalist Peter Martin. These short-lived wildflowers will draw you out of winter's grip and into glorious spring.

**Saturday, April 24, 10:00 a.m.** Tiffany Creek Preserve, Oyster Bay Cove

Soil expert and botanist Richard Weir will lead us on an exploration of Held Pond and other parts of the "bottom" of the Preserve. Close out the morning with refreshments at the lovely house of a nearby NSLA friend.



*Woodland Violet*

**Sunday, May 9, 9:00 a.m.** Clark Sanctuary and James Preserve, Old Brookville

Spend Mother's Day morning with warblers and other birds and Huntington - Oyster Bay Audubon Society President Stella Miller. We will supply a light breakfast.

**Saturday, May 15, 10:00 a.m.** Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve, Upper Brookville

Tiptoe through the pink ladies' slippers with botanist Andrew Greller.



## WALKS IN THE WOODS CALENDAR 2010

**Saturday, June 26, 1:00 p.m.** Fox Hollow Preserve, Oyster Bay Cove

Explore a variety of forest communities with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Louise Harrison.

**Thursday, July 29, 6:00 p.m.** Upper Francis Pond, Mill Neck

On a hot, summer night there's nothing nicer than being pondside. Join naturalist Peter Warny to find out who's living in the pond.

**Saturday, September 11, 2:00 p.m.** Clark Sanctuary and James Preserve, Old Brookville

Explore these sibling sites with NSLA's Jane Jackson and learn about how preserving their wetlands is good for Hempstead Harbor!

**Saturday, October 2, 10:00 – 2:00 p.m.** William Cullen Bryant Preserve, Roslyn

Explore the fascinating Pinetum with botanist Andrew Greller, who knows as much as anyone about this strange place. We'll have a lunch break so please take a lunch, and if time allows we'll stroll through the goldenrod and fall asters nearby.

**Saturday, November 13, 10:00 a.m.** various locations

We'll be creating spring surprises with bulb plantings at various locations, which may include Roosevelt Preserve, Iselin Preserve and the Farm at Oyster Bay.

**Saturday, December 18, all day** various locations

Take part in the annual Christmas bird count at various locations! Details to come.

All dates, times and locations should be confirmed with NSLA closer to the event date.



*Cardinal in winter*



*Hal Davidson, NSLA trustee, with Audubon president Stella Miller birdwatching at the Roosevelt Preserve*

## WATER SYMPOSIUM

### Who's Looking Out for Long Island's Drinking Water?

Long Island's Hidden Groundwater Crisis

For well over twenty years, Long Island planners, civic leaders and environmentalists have been sounding the alarm over the failure to have a regional water management plan in place to protect Long Island's water supply. A 1988 report stressed that specific actions were needed immediately: establish an independent water resource group, limit building on open lands until a country-wide water plan was put in place, and establish a Nassau County Water Management Council to manage the region's water resources. The report called for action from local officials to impose stringent land use controls in critical recharge areas, a maximum yield for sustaining the water supply and education in demand through conservation, and a reclamation recharge program.

In the intervening years, none of these actions were taken, development in Special Groundwater Protection Areas has continued unabated, and the threat to the region's water supply has grown.

Groundwater is a critical resource that is in peril due to lax oversight, monitoring and protection. To address these concerns, Water for Long Island\*, sponsored a Water Symposium on November 20 at the de Seversky Center. Several nationally known speakers discussed the

threats to and conditions of the Long Island water situation, and innovative approaches being used to manage this resource elsewhere in the nation.

Highlights of the symposium included:

- Emily Wurth and Sarah Gingold from Food and Water Watch, discussed their new report, *Unmeasured Danger: America's Hidden Groundwater Crisis*, (July 2009).
- The US Geological Survey gave a presentation on the impacts and risks of nitrates, a ubiquitous environmental pollutant in Long Island's groundwater and coastal waters.
- Sarah Newkirk, a scientist with The Nature Conservancy, spoke on the impact of a rising sea level for our coastal waters and groundwater and on the risk posed by saltwater intrusion into our water supply.
- Carol Collier, the director of the Delaware River Basin Commission, discussed different successful water management models used in New York and around the region.

Finally, Assemblyman Steve Englebright and Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel led a "Call to Action" on the need to take immediate affirmative steps to avoid a crisis.

\*Water For Long Island is a group of organizations and individuals whose mission is to advance a set of commonly accepted recommendations for better groundwater and water supply management. North Shore Land Alliance is a member.

## PROTECT OUR PONDS, PRESERVE OUR BAYS

The community room at the Locust Valley Library was buzzing on the evening of November 16 during a water stewardship event that drew some 40 homeowners, public officials, and other curious parties to learn about how activities on their properties can impact, in a positive or negative way, the quality of nearby water bodies such as Upper Francis Pond.

Chad Brisbane of the Matinecock Neighborhood Association welcomed participants and expressed appreciation that a variety of organizations were teaming up to increase awareness about stewarding our precious waters. Nassau County's Director of Environmental Coordination Brad Tito applauded programs that are underway to protect Nassau County's natural treasures.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)'s Kevin Jennings opened the program explaining how the DEC's Freshwater

Wetland Regulations protect our wetlands and what property owners can do to protect them. The DEC, under the Freshwater Wetlands Act, has regulatory authority over wetlands that are at least 12.4 acres and some smaller wetlands. In addition to the wetland itself, a 100-foot "adjacent area" is also protected as a wetland buffer.

Loretta Dionisio represented Nassau County Department of Public Works in her presentation on storm water runoff. Her frightful photos helped inform the audience that runoff in Nassau County is NOT treated; it goes directly into our streams, ponds, and bays. Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge, in 2005, was designated one of the country's 10 most endangered wildlife refuges. Loretta described how residents (including four-legged domestic ones!) contribute to runoff and what they can do to minimize their negative impact on local water bodies.



Pat Aitken and Barry Lamb of Friends of the Bay explained different types of septic systems, how they function, and how to maintain them. Their presentation, not to mention its dramatic photographs of "problems", made crystal clear their bottom line: a well-maintained system will not only help to keep our waters out of harm's way; it will also create considerable savings for its owner.

The Sustainability Institute's Beth Fiteni led an overview on organic lawn care, touching on mowing, watering, feeding soil, and natural pest control. The presentation whet participants' appetites for a more comprehensive program on green landscaping that Dodds & Eder will present with Neighborhood Network. Don't miss it!:

Wednesday, February 3, 7:30 p.m.

Friends of the Bay offices at 111 South Street in Oyster Bay

Event sponsors were Matinecock Neighborhood Association, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Nassau County, Matinecock Mayor James Goodwin, Upper Brookville Mayor Terry Thielen, Friends of the Bay, and the North Shore Land Alliance.



### Wetland Facts

At a recent presentation by The Nature Conservancy, Coastal Wetlands scientist Nicole Maher stated that Long Island has lost more than 40% of its wetlands since 1970. They are literally under water.

A recent report released by the New York State Seagrass Task Force reported the following: While historic seagrass acreage in New York has not been documented, historic photography and records indicate that there may have been 200,000 acres in 1930; today, only 21,803 acres remain. Challenges facing seagrasses include nutrient-heavy runoff and other discharges, decreased water quality and clarity, large phytoplankton blooms, habitat degradation, fishing gear and boating activities, and climate change.

Why are seagrasses important? Seagrass - most notably, eelgrass - provides valuable spawning, nursery, and maturation habitat for several commercially and recreationally important fish and shellfish. Seagrass also improves water quality, is an integral part of marine nutrient cycles, and is an important component of the marine and coastal food webs.

## PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO DEFER ESTATE TAX ON CONSERVATION LANDS



Farmland and land of conservation value are disappearing at an alarming rate across the county. It is one of the most critical environmental issues that our nation faces.

Last week, Congressman Tim Bishop (NY-1) reintroduced federal legislation, the Farmland Preservation and Land Conservation Act, to halt the loss of American farms and land of conservation value due to current federal estate tax policy.

For the past 35 years, land values have escalated significantly, particularly close to New York City and other metropolitan areas throughout the country. Land rich, cash poor landowners have too often been put in a position of selling land of conservation value either because of, or in anticipation of, federal estate taxes based on the “highest and best use.”

“Open space conservation is Long Island’s single greatest environmental challenge,” said Bishop. “In addition to the value of continuing to provide locally-grown food, our farms and related businesses generate billions of dollars for New York’s economy. However, without a change in tax policies, farms will continue to be squeezed out of our communities.”

Bishop’s legislation is important because:

- (1) high values of land on urban fringes and major metropolitan areas have threatened regional, secure sources of food and water as well as access to land that enhances tourism and the quality of life for all;
- (2) a program of this type would transform federal estate tax policy from a cause of land conversions to a land-based incentive program for conservation;
- (3) at a time when transportation and energy costs are volatile and ultimately expected to

climb, the importance of regional food production, watershed areas, and recreational opportunities near major metropolitan areas could not be greater; and  
 (4) agriculture and related businesses generate \$23 billion annually for New York’s economy.

Bishop’s bill would allow estate and gift tax exclusions for real property which at the time of a decedent’s death or donor’s gift is being used as a farm for farming purposes or exclusively for conservation purposes. However, it would impose an additional estate or gift tax with respect to such property if an heir, successor, or assignee disposes of or uses such property for other than farming or conservation purposes, and a federal tax lien on such property until liability for estate or gift tax with respect to such property has been satisfied or has become unenforceable.

In effect, the federal estate tax on farmland and land of conservation value would be deferred as long as the land continues to be used for qualified agriculture or other conservation purposes.

(Reprinted from Congressman Bishop’s website.)



## MORE...MORE...VOLUNTEERS!



*NSLA trustee Judy Murray with volunteers from the Grenville Baker Boys and Girls Club*

With a small staff, timely deadlines and a long list of tasks, getting it all done can be difficult. Our volunteers are enormously important in achieving our objectives. Today, the NSLA is proud to say that with the help of more than 50 volunteers we are accomplishing more than ever.

In 2009, these individuals invested more than 650 volunteer hours through a variety of stewardship and office activities, which enabled the NSLA to institute a preserve monitoring program, host more educational programs for adults and children, and perform valuable research.

Preserve monitors are our eyes and ears in the preserves. These individuals adopt sites they visit repeatedly over the year, conducting simple tasks such as completing reports, updating trail maps, and taking pictures to document the condition of a preserve. Anne Codey, one of our most enthusiastic monitors, has put in many hours at Clark Sanctuary working on trail restoration, boundary sign posting, and control of invasive

vegetation, among her preserve monitor activities. "Spending time on my own at Clark allows me to collect my thoughts, listen to birds singing, and get some exercise while accomplishing work that needs to get done."

The Huntington Oyster Bay Audubon Society (HOBAS) has also been active at our preserves: three of its Board members are now preserve monitors, and their members, Sharon and Mark Brody have conducted a season of breeding bird surveys at Fox Hollow Preserve. "We've signed up to cover Clark Sanctuary next year!", Sharon offered. "We travel all over the world to watch birds. I'm just happy we can put our skills to use right here on Long Island." HOBAS President, Stella Miller, volunteers as one of our Walks in the Woods leaders. Through these walks adults and children alike are able to observe and learn about such topics as ephemeral spring flowers, our diversity of birds, and local landscapes. Thanks to the generosity and expertise of our walk leaders, we have been increasing the number of walks we do each year, and attendance in 2009 was double what it was last year.



*Pictures left to right: Leslie Pieters and friends at the Roosevelt Preserve; Jane Jackson, NSLA director of stewardship with volunteers from the Glen Cove Boys and Girls Club; Andrew Greller, volunteer, lead the walk at the Fox Hollow Preserve*



The Volunteers for Open Space program has not only made a difference in the landscape, but it has changed the lives of our volunteers as well. Volunteers are building skills, gaining appreciation for their natural surroundings, learning about their environment, and broadening their knowledge about land protection. Many of our high school and college students have gained hands-on experience as they complete their community service hours. Gina Guitierrez, a college student at Duke University, improved her research and communications skill as she spent the summer volunteering for the NSLA. Leslie Pieters, Health and Physical Education teacher at Roosevelt Middle School, says that volunteering with the NSLA has introduced her and her students to the beautiful Roosevelt Preserve, calling attention to “the need for vigilant care and appreciation of this sprawling 73-acre preserve with its multitude of beautiful flora and fauna!”

In 2010, we plan to continue building this successful program. With the help of volunteers such as Marcia Skolnick, who hopes “that the upcoming year present many opportunities for successful preservation of open space and conservation of our invaluable nature world”, we will be able to protect more land, educate more residents, and keep Long Island beautiful.

The NSLA staff and trustees truly appreciate all the contributions our volunteers have made throughout the year. To learn more about our volunteer opportunities please visit us at [www.northshorelandalliance.org](http://www.northshorelandalliance.org) or contact our volunteer coordinator, Andrea Millwood, at [andrea@northshorelandalliance.org](mailto:andrea@northshorelandalliance.org).

## ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

On Saturday, October 24th, trustees and staff of the Alliance met with members from their more than 1,600 membership base at The Nature Conservancy's Upland Farm in Cold Spring Harbor to elect officers and trustees for the coming year and to review accomplishments for 2009.

Trustees and Staff gave detailed reports on the following areas:

Land Conservation: Government acquisitions to date resulted in the protection of approximately 65 acres (Town of Huntington, 42 acres; Town of North Hempstead, 7 acres; Town of Oyster Bay, 10 acres, Nassau County, 6 acres).

Thanks to Jacqueline and Mitchell Diamond from Oyster Bay Cove, 4.56 acres, which lie within the Tiffany Creek Preserve Enhancement area, have been protected through a conservation easement. Several additional easements are in progress.

Staff also discussed the status of the following properties: 100-acre Hitchcock property in Old Westbury, 140-acre North Shore Country Club in Sea Cliff, 100-acre Wang Properties/Mill River Road Estate in Upper Brookville, 26-acre LaSelva in Brookville, 100+ acre Woodcrest Club in Muttontown, and the 66-acre Villa Banfi in Brookville.

Advocacy: There were no local conservation ballot measures this year but the NSLA did work in Albany to support several state-wide initiatives. After a long campaign involving hundreds of groups, businesses, and recycling advocates, the Bigger Better Bottle Bill was approved by the Governor and State Legislature. The NSLA also advocated for the EPF (Environmental Protection Fund), which earlier this year Governor Paterson proposed to cut from \$300M to \$205M.

Educational Outreach: To bring awareness to conservation issues and further educate the public about the importance of open space and water protection, the NSLA co-sponsored several educational forums. (1) A conference featuring Richard Louv, author of the national bestseller "Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder," in conjunction with the Long Island Nature Collaborative for KIDS (LINCK), (2) "Protect our Ponds....Preserve our Bays" water presentation at the Locust Valley Library, in conjunction with the NYS DEC, Nassau County, Friends of the Bay and the Matinecock Neighborhood Association and (3) "Who's Looking out for Long Island's Drinking Water: Long Island's Hidden Groundwater Crisis symposium at the de Seversky Conference Center at New York Institute of Technology in conjunction with Water for Long Island.

The NSLA also invited village representatives to a special presentation at Planting Fields Arboretum, Burns Horticultural Center where they learned from engineers Robert Svadlenka and David Berg of Cameron Engineering about GIS, its importance in land use decisions and NSLA's capability to provide some of these services.





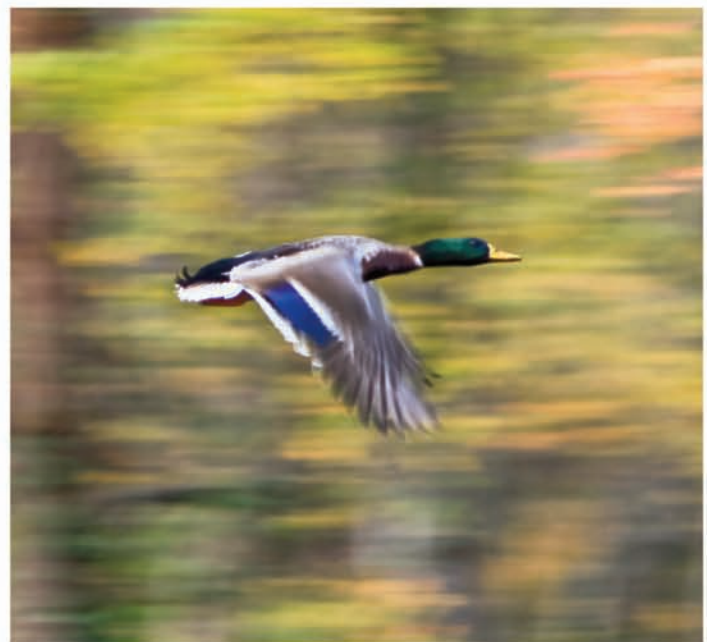
Jane Jackson, Associate Director, talked about the success of our Walks in the Woods program and presentations at community events such as the Oyster Festival as well as speaking engagements at local libraries, clubs and local government organizations.

**Membership/Volunteers:** In 2009, the NSLA attracted more than 160 new members and renewed more than 360 existing members. The majority of renewals, 29%, came through direct mail initiatives and a vast majority of its new members, 77%, came through events.

Andrea Millwood, Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator, discussed the importance of volunteers to the organization. Volunteers assist the organization by providing educational walks, restoring nature trails, removing invasive vegetation, taking pictures and much more. The NSLA is seeking additional volunteers. Please contact Andrea Millwood at [andrea@northshorelandalliance.org](mailto:andrea@northshorelandalliance.org) for more information.

**Fundraising:** The NSLA hosted five successful events, two of which were new in 2009: (1) Whither New York cocktail party and lecture featuring Daniel Doctoroff at The Explorers Club on February 21st, and (2) our first of outing at Piping Rock Country Club on July 28th. The annual Open Space Society Dinner was held at the home of the Mailman Family on April 24th, our second Polo Picnic Party was held at the Meadowbrook Polo Fields in Old Westbury on July 18th, and our Annual Wine Auction and Dinner at the Barn was held on September 26th.

The North Shore Land Alliance Staff and Trustees would like to thank each and every member for their support throughout the years. Your letters to the editor, phone calls, e-mails to local government representatives, support of our events, charitable donations and general good wishes help to make this organization a success. It will take all of us working together to protect our local environment and we are in your debt.



# Wine Auction & Dinner

The North Shore Land Alliance held its sixth annual wine auction on Saturday evening, September 26th, at the barn at "Groton Place" in Old Westbury. Over two hundred guests strolled around the 200-year-old barn for the wine tasting and silent bidding on a broad range of international wines, and then enjoyed dinner and a lively auction in the tent. Afterwards, a late set featuring Mad Pursuit entertained guests through the wee hours, rounding off a fun and successful evening in support of land conservation.

The Trustees and staff of the Land Alliance are very grateful to the event Co-Chairs, Jennifer and Peter Bliven and Tracey and Jonathan Serko. We also thank Julie and Luis Rinaldini and staff at Groton Place for hosting this wonderful evening. The event raised over \$230,000 for the Alliance and its efforts to protect the lands that protect our quality of life. The NSLA thanks all of its friends and loyal supporters who, even in challenging times, contributed so generously to the evening's success.



Wine Auction Co-Chairs, Peter and Jennifer Bliven and Tracy and Jonathan Serko

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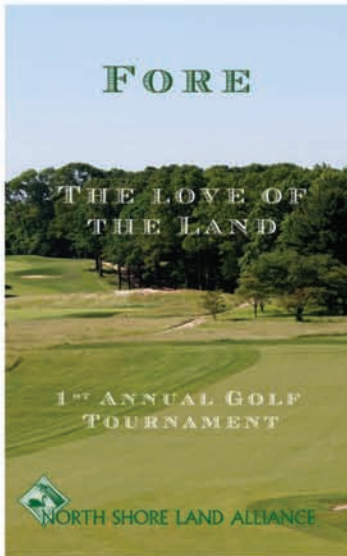
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## FOR THE LOVE OF THE LAND GOLF OUTING



When it rains it pours, and that it did on Monday, June 22nd the original date of the North Shore Land Alliance's First Annual Golf Outing. But, thankfully, the weather didn't dampen the spirits of our intrepid golfers who returned on Tuesday, July 28th, to spectacular, sunny weather. 82 golfers

arrived at the Piping Rock Club in Locust Valley, NY, for a continental breakfast, some preliminary practice on the driving range followed by a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m.

After the tournament, the golfers were treated to a seasonal buffet lunch. A short 3-item auction followed, consisting of a trip to Scotland for four couples, a weekend at the Carnegie Abbey Club in Newport, and a dinner cruise on Long Island Sound.

And, like all good golf outings, there were prizes. Low gross was won by Shepard Poole, Tommy Boyle, Garrett Going and Ken Connolly. Low net was won by Tim Lyons, Rob Chasanoff, Scott Smith and Tim Burke. Closest to the pin was won by Peter Amaruso. The winner for men's longest drive was Edward Thompson. The winner for women's longest drive was Ashley Miles.

NSLA would like to thank co-chairs, Hoyle Jones and Frank Segarra, and the committee for their work to make our first outing a success. The event raised \$67,000 in support of local land conservation efforts which includes protecting golf courses. You can help too by continuing to support your local golf clubs.



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THE WILSON FOUNDATION

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**Mark Fasciano** - Mark started Karma411, a social networking site that raises money for nonprofits. Earlier, Mark founded FatWire Software in 1996 and grew the company to 140 employees in 9 countries around the world. He won

customers such as Ford Motor Company and GM, JP Morgan Chase, Best Buy, and the New York Times. Articles about Mark and his work have been published in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Long Island BUssiness News, USA Today. In 2000, he won Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year award.

Mark graduated from Cornell University with degrees in English and Computer Science, and received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Chicago.

He is involved with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International, Adelphi University, The Center for Design Study. He sits on the board of LISTnet, and is a member of the Long Island chapter of YPO.

Mark lives in Port Washington with his wife Marisa and their three children Gemma, Ava, and Luca.



**Tom Zoller** - Tom founded in 1984 Walnut Grove Builders, Inc. A construction management company specializing in Residential Real Estate Development, and the management and construction of North Shore residential homes.

Areas of expertise are in architecture, planning, zoning, development and budget analysis. Additionally Tom is a real estate broker at Piping Rock Associates, Inc.

Prior to Walnut Grove Builders, Tom worked at Ridgewood Savings Bank as a branch auditor, mortgage qualifier and real estate appraiser, both residential and commercial.

Tom is the Mayor of Cove Neck where he has served since 1994 and is also the Police Commissioner. Prior to being elected Mayor, he was a trustee from 1987-1994.

Tom serves on the board of Friends of the Bay, and the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center

Tom lives in Cove Neck with his wife, Kathy, and their children Becky and Tom.





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**Mission Statement**


The North Shore Land Alliance, Inc.  
 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 the enjoyment and benefit of future generations and the protection  
 and enhancement of quality of life.

**SEASONS GREETINGS  
 BEST WISHES FOR A  
 HAPPY AND JOYOUS  
 NEW YEAR**



**FROM YOUR FRIENDS  
 AT THE  
 NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE**

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