



Conservation News

Protecting Open Space on Long Island's North Shore

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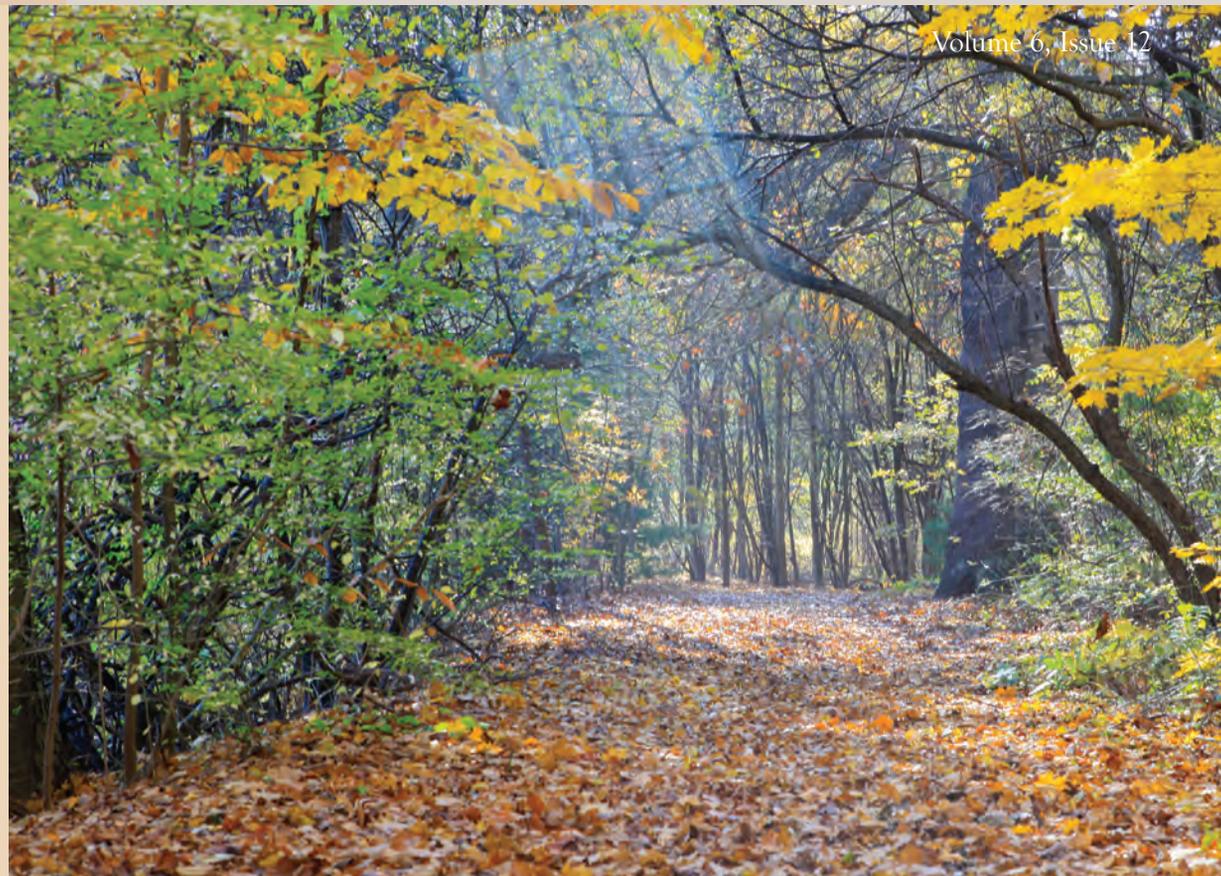
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Volume 6, Issue 12



Protecting Open Space Pays

Long Islanders have spent approximately \$1.5 billion over the last 40 years to preserve open space and parks. In today's market that investment would be worth \$5 billion. A recent study conducted by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) found that these protected open spaces and parks provide a \$2.74 billion contribution to Long Island's economy, annually.

On September 28th, TPL released its report, "The Economic Benefits and Fiscal Impacts of Parks and Open Space in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, New York", which details how conservation of parks and open space generates income and increases property values, even as it reduces the costs associated with new government service if the land were developed.

This is the first time a quantitative analysis has been conducted to value the benefits of open space and parks on Long Island. We are most grateful to the Rauch Foundation and Long Island Community Foundation for commissioning this very important study.

(Continued on pg.3)



Dear Friends of Conservation:

On the government front, 2010 has been a challenging year for land protection so far. Congress has failed to renew the enhanced income tax deduction for conservation easements (allowing deductions of up to 50% of Adjusted Gross Income each year for up to 15 years, as opposed to current law allowing AGI deductions of up to 30% per year over six years). This is hurting private land protection efforts across the country. However, there is hope that the enhanced deduction for easements, as well as full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, might be passed in the lame duck session that has just begun in Washington.

The New York State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) suffered devastating cuts from the Governor's Office, so severe that some Nassau County parks were closed and the state-wide budget for land acquisition was cut by 80%. And, more recently, Pete Grannis, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, was fired for defending his agency's vital role in protecting our land and waters. Yet, with this election we have a new Governor whose campaign policy papers recognize that part of the path to economic recovery is investing in the environment.

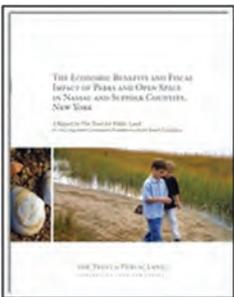
2010 is not over yet and there is still time for good things to happen which became very clear on November 2nd. Americans approved 80% of the 48 local and state ballot measures across the country to preserve open space, generating over \$2 billion in conservation funding. This election scored the highest rate of passage for open space bonds in a decade. And Proposition 23, which aimed to undermine California's innovative climate legislation, was defeated despite an enormous influx of funds from out-of-state corporate interests.

On the home front, the Rauch Foundation and the Long Island Community Foundation recently commissioned the Trust for Public Land to develop an Economic Benefits of Open Space study for Long Island. The study determined that open space generates a whopping \$2.74 billion in economic value to the Long Island economy each year.

Armed with this valuable information and the resounding fact that Americans still care about protecting their environment, we are hopeful that great progress will be made in the coming year. And, despite many challenges, the North Shore Land Alliance continued to make real progress on private easements and land donations in 2010 and to work closely with Nassau County and the North Shore Towns on their conservation activities.

Thank you for your continued support of our Wonderful Cause. Happy Holidays!

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Nancy Rauch Douzinas, NSLA Trustee and President of the Rauch Foundation writes “Long Islanders have always innately known that saving open space and farmland makes sense. Now, we know it makes dollars too.

- Lower government cost. Preserving land not only makes us loads of money, it saves us even more than it makes. Residential development drives costs up, for more schools, police, and so on. Every acre of preserved land saves \$29,000 compared to a typical residential acre. Multiply by 60,000 preserved acres and we're saving \$1.7 billion, year after year.

Lots of them. Here's a few of the ways how:

- Tourism. About 5.1 million people a year come to the Island to visit our parks and open spaces. They spend \$615 million annually and generate \$2.3 million in sales tax.
- Higher property values. Living near parks or open space increases the value of your home. That added value adds up to \$5.18 billion Island-wide, which generates \$58.2 million a year in extra tax revenues.
- Agriculture. Direct agricultural sales in Suffolk County bring in \$288 million (2007). That's just the beginning. Long Island wineries draw 1.2 million visitors, who spend \$90 million each year.

All this still only scratches the surface. Preserved lands keep our drinking water and beaches clean and reduce air pollution. Plus, access to these resources helps make us healthier. All of which either makes or saves real money.

Earning \$2.74 billion a year on an outlay of \$1.5 billion, that's some investment.

This information broadens the language of conservation and will help us tremendously in our pursuit of new conservation efforts in the coming years.

g o v e r n m e n t U P d a t e S

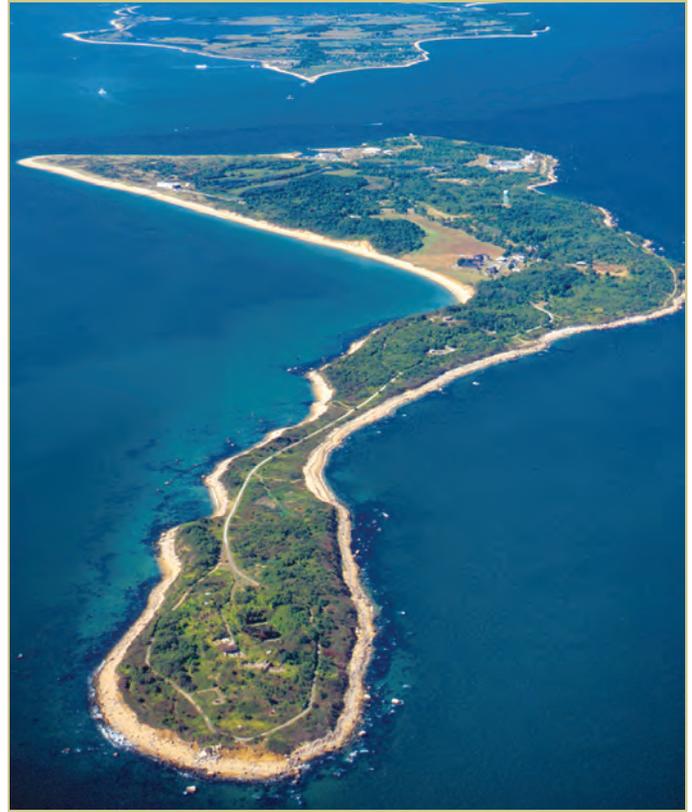


f e d e r a l U P d a t e

Plum island in t r a n s i t i o n

At 840 acres, very nearly the size of Central Park in Manhattan, Plum Island is one of the largest and most pristine unprotected open spaces on Long Island. Best known for the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal Disease Center, which occupies about 10% of the Island, the site contains significant wildlife habitat, as evidenced by Audubon New York's Important Bird Area and The Nature Conservancy's One of the Last Great Places on Earth designations. Its 200+ acres of wetland, 7.5 miles of shoreline, 125 acres of grassland (the world's most rapidly-vanishing habitat) and 300 acres of deciduous forest support fish, wintering seals and nesting piping plovers and federally-endangered roseate terns among the 100 species of birds documented there. It also provides critical habitat for native plants.

Following Congress's 2008 adoption of Public Law 110-329 which allows for the sale of the Island to the private sector, the U.S. General Services Administration is now planning to sell it and is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement to gauge the effects of its transfer to a private buyer. Amidst concerns that the island's ecological values will be negatively impacted by development or other activities that may occur should the sale go through, a collection of more than 40 environmental and civic organizations have assembled as the Plum Island Coalition to conserve the site. The Coalition, of which NSLA is a member, endorses establishing a national wildlife refuge on all or most of the Island, ensuring that its resource values will be maintained and that it remains in public hands.



Discussions and meetings with federal and local government officials are underway to try to make this level of protection a reality. Individuals, too, can get involved by urging their elected officials to support protection of Plum Island. To sign a petition and stay informed, visit the Coalition's website at www.preserveplumisland.org

This is a rare and important opportunity for Long Island to accomplish important landscape-scale conservation. Apart from Fire Island National Seashore, it could be Long Island's first national park east of Nassau County.

t a x B e n e f i t f o r C o n S e r v a t i o n e a S e m e n t S

Bills to extend the enhanced tax incentive for conservation easements, S. 812 and H.R. 1831, have 268 House and 41 Senate co-sponsors, including majorities in both parties and all 50 states. We are very hopeful these bills will be passed in the year-end tax legislation.

g o v e r n m e n t U P d a t e s



n e w y o r k S t a t e
d e a r g o v e r n o r c u o m o

In a recent letter to Governor Elect Andrew Cuomo, the Friends of New York's Environment, a broad partnership of more than 100 environmental, public health, agricultural, recreational and urban stakeholder groups (of which NSLA is a member) articulated our environmental objectives for 2011/2012. We hope to work with the Governor Elect to achieve the following:

- * Restoration of the Environmental Protection Fund to \$222M in order to address the significant needs that exist around the state, including the need to honor previous commitments to protect our air, land and water.
- * Ensuring funding dedicated to the environment is spent on the environment, and not swept into the General Fund under the pretense of balancing the budget.
- * Ensuring that New York's environmental agency budgets are no longer disproportionately reduced and restore funding and staffing levels for the Department of Environmental Conservation; Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; Agriculture and Markets; Department of State Coastal Resources Division; Adirondack Park Agency and Hudson River Valley Greenway, so that these agencies can continue to implement critical environmental laws and regulations and protect public health. After last year's devastating cuts, we thought it important to get a head start.

f i r s t y e a r r e s u l t s f r o m a t r u l y B i g g e r B e t t e r B o t t l e B i l l

In 2009, New York State updated the Returnable Beverage Container Act (popularly known as the Bottle Bill) and added water bottles to the list of beverage containers requiring a minimum 5-cent refundable deposit. Under the new law, beverage companies are now required to transfer 80% of the unredeemed deposits to the state General Fund.

(Previously, beverage companies kept all the unclaimed deposits.) In addition, the new law increased the handling fee for retailers and redeemers to 3.5 cents per container. (The handling fee had been set at 2 cents since 1997.)

October 31st marked the one-year anniversary of the expansion of New York's beverage container deposit law to include bottled water. While it is too early to measure the full benefits of the new law, state and national recycling advocates are hailing the first year as a success.

In its first year of implementation, the state of New York has collected over \$120 million in unclaimed deposits from the expanded bottle bill, according to Taxation and Finance data, on target with the state's budget projections of \$118 million.

The number of registered redemption centers which take back empty containers grew by 113 in 2009 and an additional 131 as of October 2010, creating new jobs throughout the State. Additionally, many of these small businesses have been able to expand and increase their employees' wages and benefits.



g o v e r n m e n t U P d a t e s



n a S S a U c o U n t y Stannards Brook Park r ediscovered

The Nassau County Environmental Bond Program funded both parks and open space. While no open space acquisitions have taken place since our last issue, approved parks projects continue.

This lovely but forgotten 2.3-acre neighborhood park in Port Washington, originally acquired by the County in 1944 for drainage purposes, has gained the attention of local residents who have come together to restore and rediscover its natural beauty. Stannards Brook Park is not only a wooded refuge for residents and park lovers alike, but is part of the New York State Significant Fish and Wildlife Habitat in Manhasset Bay and an important bird sanctuary. Featuring a stream, mature trees, walkways and open space, diverse topography, native vegetation and wildlife, Stannards Brook Park had fallen into disrepair and neglect in recent years.

Myron Blumenfeld, founding member, and Jennifer Wilson-Pines, co-chair of Port Washington Parks Conservancy (PWPC), and other local groups worked to fund a master-plan study, a major undertaking that cost \$30,000, to demonstrate the great potential of this forgotten site. They found friends in both Nassau County and New York State to join them in making significant improvements to Stannards Brook Park. This renovation will be funded in part by a \$440,000 Environmental Bond Act award from the 2004 program and a \$400,000 grant through the New York State Environmental Protection Fund.

Residents, politicians and volunteers gathered at Stannards Brook Park on October 7th for the groundbreaking ceremony, marking the beginning of improvements and modifications. These improvements include filtering sediment and debris to help improve water quality in Manhasset Bay and eliminating invasive plants and restoring native plants. The existing stream



Rendering by landscape architect Geoffrey Roesch

channel will also be realigned and the culverts modified to reduce flooding. There will also be new entrances with pergolas, new lighting, fencing, guard rails, enhanced seating, walkways, bridges and the creation of educational and natural play areas. The renovation is expected to continue for the next eight to twelve months.

We all look forward to strolling along its winding brook, over its bridges and through its woodland gardens to rediscover Stannards Brook Park once again. What a great example of a community's coming together around a place and creating something wonderful for all to enjoy.



Groundbreaking Ceremony – pictured left to right: PWPC member Eric Pick, PWPC co-chair Dr. Elizabeth Allured, Leg. Wayne Wink, County Executive Ed Mangano, PWPC member Valerie Ullman-Taylor, PWPC founding member Myron Blumenfeld, PWPC co-chair Jennifer Wilson-Pines, PWPC member Robert Brooks. Photo credit: Winifred Boyd

g o v e r n m e n t U P d a t e s

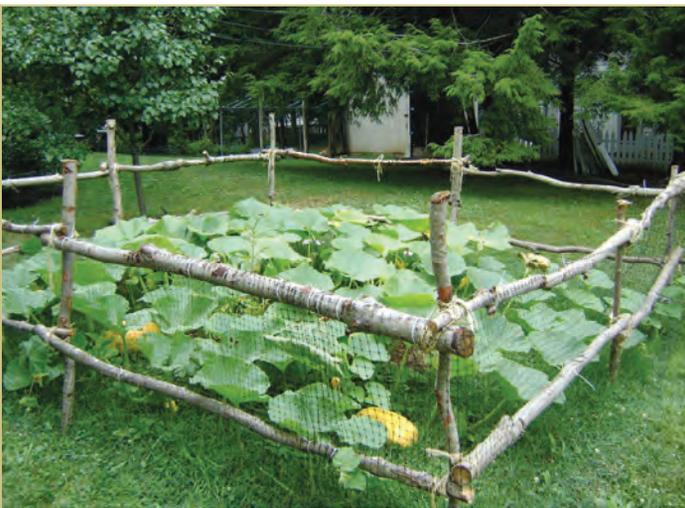


Suffolk County victory garden task force

In June of 2009, Deputy Presiding Officer Vivian Vilorio-Fisher introduced a resolution (553.09) to the Suffolk County Legislature to establish a Victory Garden Task Force. Legislator Ed Romaine introduced a resolution (546.09) later that month directing the Division of Real Property to identify county properties appropriate for gardens. And, also in a resolution (554.09), Legislator Wayne Horsley directed the Department of Social Services to include an informative insert with food stamps to let clients know that food stamps may be used for seeds and seedlings. This was the beginning of the Victory Garden Task Force whose ultimate goals are to help the people of Suffolk County learn to grow and gain access to foods that will help them lead healthier lives.

After a year of work, monthly task force meetings and four public hearings, the final report was presented to the Suffolk County Legislature on October 12, 2010. They explored issues of proximity as well as affordability to families' ability to provide fresh nutritious foods for their tables.

While their work is ongoing they have established a Facebook page, a newly-formed Food Policy Council and an interactive map showing the locations of community gardens and CSA's.



town of Huntington four Property acquisitions

This year the Town of Huntington closed on four properties - three in Huntington Station, a high-density residential area with limited park resources through the Town Environmental Open Space and Park Fund Advisory (EOSPA) Committee Program and one donation in Dix Hills.

Alfred Walker Memorial Park addition - 0.75 acre, West 11th Street (nearly doubling the size of an active neighborhood park)

Gateway Park Additions - two parcels (0.11 acre and 0.10 acre) - Lowndes Avenue - This brings the total to six parcels acquired for the Gateway Park assemblage. The remaining property is being requested for transfer from the NYSDOT (0.37 acre). The Gateway property is being managed under a license agreement with Long Island Community Agriculture Network (LICAN) as a community garden. This new raised bed community garden came to fruition in summer 2010 and has been embraced by the surrounding community. Site preparation was provided by the Town Department of General Services and garden materials were provided through the Town EOSPA Program.

Otsego Park addition - 2.8 acres dedicated to the Town through a transfer of density flow rights. The property is located just west of Commack Road. It contains an existing and very popular trail corridor and directly connects to and adjoins the New York State Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Preserve. It contains the same state-rare pitch pine-scrub oak habitat.



g o v e r n m e n t U P d a t e s



t o w n o f O y s t e r B a y t r m e m o r i a l P a r k d e d i c a t i o n

On Saturday, October 30th at 1:00 p.m. under a sunny blue sky the new Theodore Roosevelt Triangle Park was dedicated. The park property, purchased with Save Environmental Assets (SEA) Fund II monies, has been transformed from the former Busy Bee service station to a gateway park complete with trees, stone curbing and historical ballards.

According to the Oyster Bay Enterprise - Pilot, "This process began in 1918 when Nelson Disbrow, the editor of the Oyster Bay Guardian, asked the town board to establish a memorial for war hero Quentin Roosevelt, son of Teddy Roosevelt. He suggested the triangle be dedicated to the memory of Quentin along with the four other Oyster Bay men who died in World War I." The triangle property was not available at the time. As a result, in 1919 the Theodore Roosevelt Association offered the Town the downtown waterfront property now known as TR Memorial Parks as the site of a memorial.

Alexander Proctor's sculpture of Teddy Roosevelt titled "Rough Rider", recently moved from its Oyster Bay Boys and Girls Club location (just across the street), was rededicated. The statue, which was purchased by Oyster Bay Rotary Club's TR Statue Fund, looks quite grand as the new gateway to Oyster Bay.

Thanks to the many Oyster Bay residents who were instrumental in achieving this monumental task.

"The conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem. Unless we solve that problem it will avail us little to solve all others."

PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Address to the Deep Waterway Convention,
Memphis, Tennessee, October 4, 1907



Photo courtesy of Dagmar Karppi, Oyster Bay Enterprise - Pilot

m i l l P o n d o v e r l o o k m a s t e r P l a n

Great plans are also underway for the renovation of the Mill Pond Overlook Property. Suggestions to date include a community garden, a sensory garden and additional viewing access to the Mill Pond.

The steering committee for the Mill Pond Overlook Master Plan, of which NSLA is a member, presented their preliminary plans at a public hearing on Thursday, November 18th at the Friends of the Bay offices, Oyster Bay.

We will look forward to hearing the final details of this worthy project.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S CONSERVATION LEGACY

One of President Theodore Roosevelt's most lasting and significant contributions to the world was the permanent preservation of some of the most unique natural resources of the United States.

According to the National Geographic, the area of the United States placed under public protection by Theodore Roosevelt, as National Parks, National Forests, game and bird preserves, and other federal reservations, comes to a total of approximately 230,000,000 acres or about 84,000 acres per day!

g e o r g e B i r d g r i n n e l l f a t H e r o f a m e r i c a n C o n S e r v a t i o n

George Bird Grinnell, who was largely responsible for the conservation of much of the American West and his impact on conservation, remains mostly unknown today.

Grinnell grew up next door to Lucy Audubon, the widow of naturalist and painter John James Audubon. Lucy was Grinnell's first teacher and taught him the value of self-denial, which is at the core of conservation: deny today and preserve so that future generations may enjoy. He was educated at Yale and first became fascinated with the West when he accompanied his anthropology professor from Yale on an archeological expedition. Later he accompanied George Armstrong Custer's 1874 expedition into the Black Hills. It was because of these expeditions he began to foresee the impending doom of the natural state of the West.

In the last three decades of the nineteenth century, the American buffalo herd once numbering 30 million was reduced to 12. In Michael Punke's book "Last Stand" he writes: "In 1882 the Northern Pacific Railroad alone shipped 200,000 hides to eastern processing facilities, an amount that filled an estimated 700 boxcars. In 1883, the railroad shipped 40,000 hides. In 1884, the total harvest fit in a single boxcar, and according to a Northern Pacific official, it was the last shipment ever made."

A man far ahead of his time, Grinnell tried to save the buffalo when most Americans weren't aware they were



disappearing or thought the supply was inexhaustible. Using his voice as editor of Fish and Stream Magazine he galvanized people and educated them about the perils of doing nothing and the subsequent results of inactivity. He had to go up against the hunters, the strong railroad lobby and Congress to convince them that buffalo hunting must be stopped and land should be set aside for their protection. He lobbied Congress and advocated for conservation. It was in Washington that he met Theodore Roosevelt who became his ally. Roosevelt admired and supported Grinnell's efforts, and joined Grinnell's battle for setting aside land known today as Yellowstone National Park. In 1872, members of Congress voted to set aside this land because they felt the area was without economic value and setting it aside didn't matter. Grinnell's conservation philosophy served as the basis of the American

Conservation Program when Roosevelt became president in 1901.

Had it not been for his fortitude and extraordinary efforts, buffalo would surely be extinct today. Grinnell was later instrumental in the protection of Glacier National Park. He was also active in the fight for habitat conservation and efficient timberland management. He founded the first Audubon Society in 1886 and began publication of the magazine the following year.

As Michael Punke so aptly wrote, "The great lesson of George Bird Grinnell is that one person can make a difference, indeed all the difference." It is because of Grinnell's efforts the birth of the conservation movement became a potent political force.

t r e e S f o r o U r f U t U r e

Seven Long Island garden clubs of The Garden Club of America sponsored a symposium on October 18th at Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park. The topic was “Selecting and Maintaining Healthy Trees in a Changing Environment” presented by Todd Forrest, V.P. of Horticulture and Living Collections of The New York Botanical Garden.

NSLA Members and friends were invited to attend this important symposium on the topic of trees. For those of you who were unable to attend, we provide the following account.

According to Mr. Forrest, we are experiencing real environmental change and there is hard evidence of alterations in our ecosystem. It was Cameron Wake’s theory that predicted the adjustment in our precipitation index to long periods of drought followed by short periods of heavy rains – just as we experienced here on Long Island this summer. Additionally, the Thoreau Chart of climate change shows a trend that plants are flowering much earlier than in the past. Our soils, too, have been physically and chemically altered with shifting wind patterns and acid rains. Additionally, warmer winters have allowed invasive species to take hold.

Changes in pH on Long Island
between 1922 & 1985

Habitat	1985	1922
Bottomland	4.1	6.5
Slopes	3.9	5.5
Ridgetops	3.8	4.5
Spring	6.6	6-6.65
Pond	6.6	8.5
Lawn	6.5	“neutral”

Due to acid rain, soil pH has decreased significantly throughout the region (Greller et.al., 1990, Bull, Torrey Bot. Club)

As change is the natural underpinning of our environment, reforestation and managing the change is imperative. At The New York Botanical Garden, the 50 acre old growth forest has seen a loss of Hemlocks, where they once dominated, now replaced by a prolific growth of Cork trees. Removing the cork seedlings is an active part of his management program.

Mr. Forrest looks to plantings that will adapt easily and require less maintenance. He likes native plants, but not all have adapted to climate change well. He prefers species that naturalize which tend to be the hardiest as long as they are not invasive.

Mr. Forrest stressed the importance of tree health and some of the steps he and the staff take at the Botanical Garden to maintain the oldest specimens in the country, including using infrared camera and other high-tech equipment to see where weaknesses in the tree trunk or branches are developing. One important step that we can take for our own trees is to loosen the topsoil surrounding the tree trunk and add compost to revitalize tree health.

Trees provide valuable benefits to our community and are an important part of what makes the North Shore of Long Island such a special place. NSLA as stewards of the land will make every effort to ensure that the health of our trees is a priority - and yes, that includes “hugging” where appropriate!



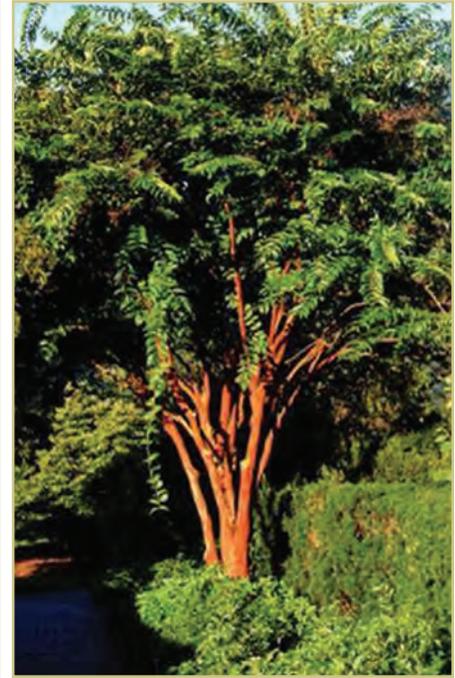
Mr. Forrest's Favorite SMALL Deciduous trees



Lagerstroemia Dynamite™



Lagerstroemia 'n atchez'



Lagerstroemia faurei

Winter tips for trees

Pruning

Late winter, while your deciduous trees are still dormant, is a great time to do some structural pruning. With the leaves gone, it is very easy to see the branch structure and determine which branches should be removed to improve not only the symmetry of the tree but also the overall health of the tree. Remember that pruning affects the entire tree.

Feeding

An organic fertilizer can be applied to trees and shrubs (and your perennial gardens for that matter) in February or March before growth begins. Remember, these natural organics break down gradually and provide a long-lasting food reservoir for your plants throughout the growing season.

Applying them early will ensure they are available when growth begins.

Protecting

Winter Injury - February is a good time to reapply an anti-desiccant. This will protect your evergreen trees and shrubs (including broadleaf evergreens) from winter kill, wind burn, sun scald and even de-icer salt damage.

Insects - February is a good time to spray trees (especially fruit trees) with a dormant oil spray to protect them from many different overwintering insects. Many insects and insect eggs overwinter on the branches of your trees and shrubs. Horticultural oils applied during the dormant season effectively smother these insects and the eggs by forming a coating of oil over them. Horticultural oils may also be effective in smothering fungal spores, thus reducing the incidence of certain fungal diseases like rust or powdery mildew.

- Spray these products on a day when temperatures are above 40°F.
- Wet entire surface of branches, limbs and trunks. Be sure to cover the underside of the branches where overwintering insects tend to congregate.



FARM summIT 2011

TO CONNECT COMMUNITIES, FARMERS AND FOOD

The North Shore Land Alliance, the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District and the United States Department of Agriculture Resource Conservation and Development Group are working together to further an initiative to focus on the small farms of Long Island.

The purpose of the Small Farm Initiative is to bring together diverse groups that have an interest in local food, land use, the farm-to-table chain and social interaction between farmer and community residents, among other topics. We plan to host a summit in spring 2011 to advance local farming initiatives that benefit small farmers, gardeners and our local community. This event has a broader public focus than the highly successful production-oriented Suffolk County Agriculture Forum supported by Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Six main topics will be discussed. These are major needs for those farming on the edge of and in urban communities.

- Farming on Long Island /A Historical Perspective and Current Land Availability
- Farmer Training/Education
- Sustainable Economic Development
- School Gardens/Community Gardens/Urban Gardens
- Policy/Social Justice
- Farm Markets - Field-to-Table



Land trusts like ours have the ability to help by organizing a network of landowners and prospective farmers as well as advocate for policy to benefit the small farm, community garden, school garden or back-yard “Victory” gardener.

There is a real opportunity for us to expand local farming especially in Nassau County, while helping others to appreciate land as a food source and support a new generation of farmers, farmer’s markets and healthy eating opportunities for our region.

The summit will begin with an opening plenary session featuring a nationally-known speaker; suggestions include Michael Pollan, Jamie Oliver, Alice Waters and Will Allen, among others. Six breakout sessions will follow designed to support the previously-noted topics. These sessions will begin with a panel organized to stimulate a free flow of ideas between the group leaders and participants and be followed by a networking lunch and a series of related exhibits. Finally, a closing session will reframe the issues from the participant’s point of view and lead us toward next steps to support an active, sustainable local farming community. A mid-March date and nearby location will be set soon.

This conference is the first step in developing viable pathways to meet the growing demand for local food on Long Island (including Brooklyn and Queens). Education is the building block of understanding and change. In gathering this diverse group of planners and participants, we hope to continue to make positive change through our network of organizations.



Summer Heat may Become the Norm rather than the Exception

Sarah Meyland, Associate Professor
School of Engineering and Computing Sciences
New York Institute of Technology

In case you were away for July and August of 2010, the summer was hot and dry much of the time. For Long Islanders, this meant using more water than usual to keep plants, grass and other outdoor amenities from drying up. The National Climatic Data Center reported that the temperature for January to August 2010 tied the record for the planet's hottest year on record.

Most water districts in Nassau as well as those in Suffolk experienced exceptionally high water demand. In a typical summer, water customers use 100% to 200% more water than they use in winter. This summer, demand grew beyond that.

The Jericho Water District reported pumping as much as 37 million gallons of water a day in July which was a near record for the district. With a population of 58,000 people in the water district, the per person water use for July translates into around 500 gallons per person per day. As a matter of comparison, the US Geological Service states that, while estimates vary, the average amount of water (SCWA) used per person in the United States per day is about 80-100 gallons.

The Suffolk County Water Authority reported pumping 12 billion gallons of water in July and 12 billion gallons in August. Normal pumpage for July is 9.5 billion gallons of water for SCWA which serves 1.2 million people. Many other water systems on Long Island also found it hard to pump enough water to meet customer demand.

What most Long Islanders do not know is that when they water their lawns and plants in the summer, not any of that water returns to the aquifer. Due to the higher temperatures and plant growing season in the summer, water that is not taken up by the plants and grass evaporates. The unused water does not return to the groundwater system. Thus, overwatering the lawn is not a form of water recycling. The technical term for this type of water use is "consumptive use", meaning water does not return to the ground, rather it is permanently removed from the system.

Weather experts have predicted that the temperatures this summer may become the norm rather than exception. The New York Times reported in October 2010 that two-thirds of the U.S. will be significantly drier by the 2030s. Residents of those areas could be experiencing droughts similar to the Dust Bowl era within two decades. What this means for the Long Island area is not clear. However, it is reasonable to expect that the water we take for granted today may become much more precious in the coming years. Prudent planning suggests we should start now to change water policies and water use practices to ensure a healthy future for Long Island's water source. We need to manage our water like the valuable resource it is. Drawing large amounts of water from our aquifer without understanding the full impact of such heavy pumpage is a sure way to damage an essential component of everyday life.

The relationship between land and groundwater is very important. Without undeveloped land and trees to absorb precipitation and recharge the aquifer our drinking water supply is not replenished and harmful storm water runoff pollutes our beaches and bays.



Comprehensive Planning

New York's zoning enabling laws give cities, towns and villages the power to adopt their own zoning laws, and require that these laws be adopted in accordance with a Master or Comprehensive plan. A comprehensive plan contains the goals, objectives and strategies for the future development and conservation of a community. It is a blueprint for how a community wants to grow. In New York, all local land use regulations must be adopted in accordance with the community's comprehensive plan. Subdivision, site plan, special use permits and wetlands regulations, as well as the zoning law itself, are included in this requirement.

muttontown master Plan

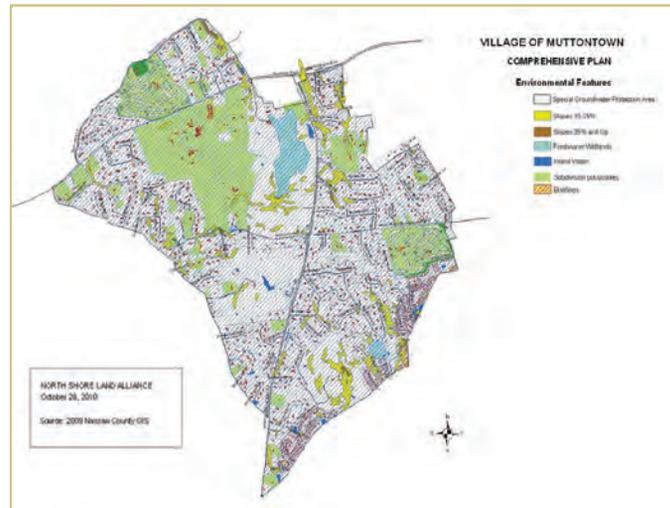
On May 12, 2010, the Village of Muttontown adopted a Moratorium on development in order to review its Master Plan, which has not been updated since 1969, to consider changes to its zoning laws. Faced with increasing development pressure, and responding to the concern of many residents, the Board of Trustees has begun a review of the Master Plan and zoning code to determine whether they meet the current needs of the village and to ensure that future development does not destroy its character, natural resources and scenic beauty.

A Master Plan Committee comprised of a diverse group of residents who serve on various village Boards or committees has been formed and tasked with updating the Village's Master Plan.

There have been other important changes in the last 41 years, most significantly, the state designation of Special Groundwater Protection Areas (SGPA) on Long Island to protect the aquifer which provides all Island residents with their drinking water.

Although Home Rule means that each village controls its own zoning, the protection of the aquifer should transcend municipal borders.

Muttontown is located within the state-designated Oyster Bay Special Groundwater Protection (SGPA) The Long Island Special Groundwater Protection Area Plan



(SGPA Plan) calls for concerted actions by municipalities to guide and manage development to prevent or minimize groundwater degradation in the SGPAs. As the Village updates its Master Plan, protection of the aquifer should be of great importance.

NSLA Seminar on conservation design

There are many ways to allow for development while still protecting the aquifer and the rural feel of the remaining open space. One way is through conservation design.

Conservation subdivision design requires consideration and preservation of natural and cultural resources as part of the design process of a development. Studies have shown that developers save money on expensive site grading and road construction, and that the lots sell more quickly and at premium prices. Local subdivisions that have used similar conservation planning include Cherrywood on Piping Rock Road and Matinecock Farms on Duck Pond Road. Both feature well-designed homes on smaller lots than required under existing zoning in order to preserve more trees and natural features with more open space under common ownership. In early December, NSLA will host planning authority, John Snook, of the Brandywine Conservancy on the topic of conservation design.

Dark Skies Legislation



Lloyd Harbor recently passed a new law aimed at preventing light pollution. Several other municipalities have also recently passed Dark Skies laws, including Islip, Southampton and Southold.

Light pollution occurs when outdoor lighting is misdirected, misplaced, unshielded, excessive or unnecessary. As a result, light spills unnecessarily upward and outward, causing glare, light trespass, and a nighttime urban ‘sky glow’ overhead, indicating wasted energy and obscuring the stars overhead.

Dark Skies laws reduce the negative effects of excessive nighttime lighting by regulating the type and angle, as well as wattage of exterior lighting fixtures, and restrictions on when they can be used.

The ecologic effects of artificial light have been well documented. Light pollution has been shown to affect both flora and fauna. For instance, prolonged exposure to artificial light prevents many trees from adjusting to seasonal variations, according to Winslow Briggs’s chapter on plant responses in the 2006 book *Ecological Consequences of Artificial Night Lighting*. This, in turn, has implications for the wildlife that depend on trees for their natural habitat, and not just in urban centers but in rural areas as well.

Many species of insects, migratory birds, sea turtles, bats, nocturnal rodents, snakes, fish, aquatic invertebrates and even plants are affected by night lighting. Frogs and salamanders

subjected to artificial night light may change normal feeding behavior, become less fertile and become more vulnerable to predators. The only solution for them is to limit their exposure to night light. Insects drawn to artificial night lights can die immediately when they fly into the light, while others may get caught in a web or eaten by birds and bats. Since these nocturnal insects play an important role in the ecological food chain, excessive night lighting is a concern.



In New York State, the most evident victims of night lighting are migratory birds which are attracted to brightly lit tall structures, including lighthouses and radio towers. These birds will circle the light repeatedly until they collide with the structure and die.

The health effects of light pollution have not been as well defined for humans as for wildlife, although a compelling amount of epidemiologic evidence points to a consistent association between exposure to nighttime light and health problems. The 24-hour day/night cycle, known as the circadian clock, affects physiologic processes in almost all organisms. These processes include brain wave patterns, hormone production, cell regulation, and other biologic activities. According to the American Medical Association disruption of the circadian clock is linked to several medical disorders in humans, including depression, insomnia, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

More information can be found at the following websites:
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/60017.html>
 Daniel J. Rozell, “Night Lights - Too Much of a Good Thing?”
<http://www.darksky.org>
<http://www.selene-ny.org/>

Update on Exxon Mobil Cold Spring Harbor Site



Judith Goldsborough, NSLA, center, accepts a donation from Exxon Mobil Foundation representatives

ExxonMobil Environmental Services reports that the active environmental remediation work at the former Mobil Oil terminal in Cold Spring Harbor has been completed, and they are now in the monitoring stage, where they evaluate the effectiveness of prior efforts. They are in the early phases of an environmental restoration on the property.

Site preparation for environmental restoration began this fall. In addition to mulching the ground, a seed mix of native maritime grasses appropriate for this location and climate will be planted. The bulk of the restoration work will begin in spring 2011. That restoration work requires approval of a wetlands permit. The next step is to prepare the wetlands permit application for submission to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Update on Woodcrest Country Club



In our last newsletter, we wrote about the 107-acre Woodcrest Country Club in Muttontown and its sale at public auction for \$19 million to the Vincenza Properties. This voluntary bankruptcy auction was held after a series of unsuccessful reorganization plans by the club board. At the auction, a group comprised of the NSLA, the Village of Muttontown, the Town of Oyster Bay, and neighbors of the Woodcrest Club came together to make an unsuccessful \$15.25 million bid to protect this significant property.

Today, to the delight of neighbors, land conservationists and the golf community, the ownership group - Woodcrest at Muttontown, Ltd. - has announced that the former Woodcrest Club will begin a new era in 2011 as Woodside Acres Club. They are in the process of restoring the original Burden Estate and reviving the beautiful 18-hole golf course. Finalizing the new club's 2011 membership packages, Woodside Acres Club plans to offer top-quality amenities with a top-notch golf course.

The Village of Muttontown, currently updating its master plan, is pleased with the new owner's plans to maintain the club as a golf course. This environmentally significant and picturesque course and club house has played a wonderful part in Gold Coast history. Originally the Lewis Farm when purchased by James Abercrombie Burden in 1915, the bucolic property was converted into a magnificent estate called Woodside. The stone English Georgian manor house, designed by William Delano, was where the Prince of Wales stayed during a visit in 1924 and where Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt visited during FDR's presidency. More importantly, the parkland property sits on top of the sole source aquifer and is located in the deepwater recharge zone of the state-designated Oyster Bay Special Groundwater Protection Area (SGPA).

We wish the new owners great success in their efforts to restore this beautiful property which is such a community asset with its majestic trees, rolling fields and important location within the Oyster Bay SGPA.



2011 walk in tHe woodS ScHedUle

✚ **Saturday, January 29, starting at 10:00 a.m., north Shore Preserves**
Take an invigorating walk with Sierra Club members through Fox Hollow, Cushman and/or Iselin Preserves. Join us for one or all three.

✚ **Saturday, february 26, starting at 9:30 a.m., favorite l ong island Sound waterfowl hotspots**

Join Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society President Stella Miller and Youth Outreach Committee co-chair Brent Bomkamp on this multi-site winter waterfowl program. Specific sites to be announced. We begin at The Nature Conservancy's Uplands Farm, Cold Spring Harbor.

✚ **Sunday, march 13, 10:00 a.m., t iffany c reek Preserve, o yster Bay c ove**
Explore the field and woodlands during this kid-friendly walk with naturalist Dan Kriesberg.

✚ **f riday, a pril 8 (rain/cloud date Saturday, a pril 9!), 8:00 p.m., farm at o yster Bay, o yster Bay c ove**

Navigate the night sky with a telescope and under the tutelage of Donald Lubowich, Hofstra University Adjunct Professor of Physics and Astronomy. We'll be on the lookout for a crescent moon, multiple planets, constellations and maybe a star cluster or two.

✚ **Sunday, may 1, 10:00 a.m., r ed Spring woods, g len c ove**

Soil and plant expert Richard Weir will guide us through this delightful forested gem that was acquired with Nassau County Environmental Bond funds.

✚ **Saturday, may 14, 8:00 a.m., Shu Swamp and Upper f rancis Pond, mill n eck**

Renowned conservationist and Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society's John Turner and Stella Miller will lead us through these treasured preserves on a search for spring migrating birds and ephemeral plants.





✚ **Saturday, June 18 (rain date Sunday, June 19!), 10:00 a.m., Roosevelt Preserve, Roosevelt/Fairport**

Botanist Andy Greller will reveal the world of plants as we explore this hidden jewel where NSLA programs are beginning to entice local residents.

✚ **Thursday, July 28, 6:00 p.m., Clark Sanctuary, Old Brookville**

Come out in the cool of the evening with naturalist Peter Warny to see who's living in the wetlands of this sublime preserve.

✚ **Saturday, September 10, 2:00 p.m., Hope Goodard Iselin Preserve, Upper Brookville**

Learn about the joys and challenges of managing a small successional field in densely-populated Nassau County with NSLA's Jane Jackson. If time allows, we'll also take a stroll along Iselin's serene wooded trails.

✚ **Saturday, September 17, 10:00 a.m., Hempstead Plains, Nassau Community College, Garden City**

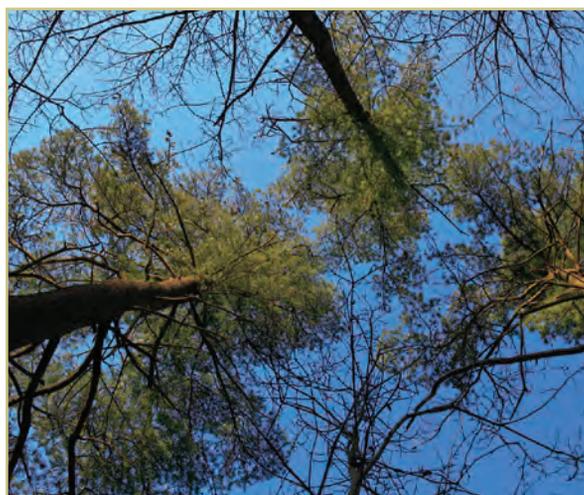
Explore the flora and fauna of the legendary Hempstead Plains. Betsy Gulotta, President of Friends of Hempstead Plains, will lead us through this magnificent site that remains from what was at one time 60,000 acres of grassland across Nassau County.

✚ **Sunday, October 9, 2:00 p.m., Twin Lakes Preserve, Wantagh**

Experience the wonder of early autumn foliage and fall migrating birds with naturalist Peter Martin in this lovely site of freshwater ponds and wetlands.

✚ **Sat/Sun mid November, a.m. or p.m., trout streams of Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor**

With Trout Unlimited's John Fischer, we'll get up close and personal with a number of North Shore streams.



Volunteer S Welcomed

For more information or to offer your time and energy please contact Andrea Millwood by phone at 516-626-0908 or by email at: andrea@northshorelandalliance.org



NSLA StewardSHIP volunteer anne codey earns Prestigious Land Trust Alliance National Conservation Service award/ TOP Honor from Land Trust Alliance

Two thousand land trust personnel from around the country were in attendance at the 2010 Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Rally welcome dinner, when NSLA volunteer and Port Washington resident Anne Codey received her well-deserved National Conservation Service Award from LTA President Rand Wentworth in Hartford on October 3rd.



Anne Codey receives award from Rand Wentworth, Land Trust Alliance president

The award is given each year to individuals who make significant contributions to the advancement of land conservation, recognizing people who demonstrate leadership in the conservation community, serve as mentors to land protection practitioners and inspire others. Anne does all of these things and more. A volunteer land steward with NSLA since 2007, she has also worked on preserves for The Nature Conservancy, engaged in gardening activities and teaching at Planting Fields Arboretum, monitored piping plover nesting for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and led education programs for PW Green at Guggenheim Preserve in her home town. Having worked with children and families throughout her career, Anne is adept at communicating a love of nature to almost any audience, largely because she practices what she preaches. She is a genuine role model, as is evidenced through her children's and grandchildren's love of nature. One of her daughters now works for the Columbia Land Conservancy upstate, and on a recent morning when Anne was working at our Clark Sanctuary in Old Brookville, another daughter was with her to help with trail maintenance, her young son in tow with a rake in hand.

Ask Anne what led her to dedicate so much time and energy to such a valuable endeavor and she will tell you that she misses the days when, as a girl, she could ride horseback for uninterrupted miles across northern Nassau County. "Growing up on suburban Long Island during the 1950's, I watched with dismay as the land where I explored and rode horses, from estates to farmland and wetlands, was plowed under and built into

housing developments, universities, golf courses and shopping malls. Spaces that had been open to all for walking, hiking or horseback riding were no longer available. I decided to dedicate my time to volunteering on conservation projects to make a change in my community." And that she has.

Among her most recent contributions to the future of Long Island open space is a push to bring to low/moderate income Nassau County communities Audubon New York's For the Birds program, which rouses kids to explore the outdoors right in their own neighborhoods. Anne's work to inspire future decision-makers on the values of open space will go a long way toward ensuring there will always be natural areas to explore and enjoy.

t He w o r l d i s H U g g e d
B y t H e f a i t H f U l a r m S
o f v o l U n t e e r S.

TERRI GUILLEMETS

Summer Programs Breathe new life into Roosevelt Preserve

On Saturday, November 13, Roosevelt residents and other volunteers took part in adding vibrant color to their community by participating in a bulb planting project at Mt. Sinai Baptist Church near Roosevelt Preserve. Participants also engaged in sprucing up the Preserve and a celebration of its namesake, conservationist and President, Teddy Roosevelt.

The event was the culmination of a series of dozens of diverse activities that have drawn hundreds of enthusiasts since July, when two local residents were hired to maintain the Preserve and provide educational programs there. Leslie Pieters has been teaching health and physical education at Roosevelt Middle and Senior High Schools for a number of years and advises their after-school Green and Science Clubs. Her boundless energy, too, makes her an ideal leader of these events. Her righthand man, the aptly named Roosevelt Ford, a long-time resident of the Roosevelt community who has worked on maintaining nearby County parks, has been improving trails, sprucing up the Preserve entrances and nurturing garden containers.

Plentiful free activities suitable for all ages range from nature walks, to yoga, to volunteering to pull weeds that choke native plants. Diverse pursuits include building whimsical houses using forest objects and “agrobics”, or nature-inspired exercises that get your hands dirty but your mind clean! “Our goal is to not only protect and preserve open space, but to educate individuals and provide opportunities for people to get into nature,” Leslie explains. “Some of the kids who came out here this summer had never been in the woods before!” If you missed out this year, have no fear: our events will be back in 2012.

And don’t hesitate to explore this beautiful site on your own! Sandwiched between the Meadowbrook Parkway and several residential blocks of the Villages of Roosevelt and Freeport, this serene 73-acre forest preserve was acquired by Nassau County from New York State in the late 1960’s. An integral part of the 800-acre Meadowbrook Parkway Corridor, the Preserve provides a home to a diversity of wildlife and native plants, hosts a section of the eight-mile-long East Meadow Brook, and contains winding paths ideal for bird watching, jogging or a leisurely stroll.

Thanks to grants recently acquired by NSLA, Nassau County and the Nassau County Task Force on Unprotected Woodlands, Roosevelt Preserve is becoming more visible in this community in which it resides. One of the grants, received from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program and funded by the State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), is paying for programming at the site. Another, also through the EPF, will fund a major cleanup of a portion of Meadow Brook and the site’s western boundary.



Leslie, Roosevelt and volunteers from the All My Children Childcare working at the Roosevelt Preserve this past summer.

Annual Members Meeting

NSLA Chair Carter Bales welcomed more than 30 NSLA members, trustees and staff to the 2010 Annual Members Meeting on Saturday, November 6th, at the Cold Spring Harbor Library to elect officers and trustees for the coming year and to review accomplishments for 2010.

Officers elected for one-year terms were: Chairman, Carter Bales; Vice Chairmen, Hal Davidson and Luis Rinaldini; Treasurer, Rosemary Bourne and Secretary, Hollis Russell.

Trustees elected for three-year terms were Carter Bales, Rosemary Bourne, John Bralower, Clarence Michalis, Jonathan Moore, Patsy Randolph, Juie Rinaldini and Larry Schmidlapp.

We were very fortunate to have Professor Sarah Meyland, NYIT as a guest speaker. Her talk, "Who is Looking out for Long Island's Water?," addressed this summer's water shortage, its impact on our aquifer and what we, as a community, are doing to protect our drinking water source.

Staff gave detailed reports on the following areas:

Land Conservation:

Lisa Ott, NSLA President, began the presentation with the highlights of 2010.

- #1 The acquisition of the 60-acre Banfi Fields by Nassau County, a private conservation investor and NSLA.
- #2 The unsuccessful bid by NSLA and partners to purchase the 107-acre Woodcrest Country Club in Muttontown. While, thankfully, this property continues to be operated as a golf course, we realize that the future of Long Island's open space protection rests somewhat on the protection of our golf courses.
- #3 The Economic Benefits of Open Space Study funded by the Rauch Foundation and LI Community Foundation and conducted by the Trust for Public Land which determined that Long Island gets \$2.74 billion annually from open space and saves more on government services.

The North Shore Alliance protects land in the following ways:

Private Conservation- NSLA now holds 51 acres in public conservation easements and 74 acres in private conservation easements with 37 additional acres in progress.



Members' Meeting



Municipal Funding Measures - While there were no municipal funding measures on the ballot locally in 2010, monies from previous bonds continued to be spent. Nassau County closed on the six-acre Grossman's Farm, Malverne, and the 25-acre portion of the Banfi Fields. Approximately \$5 million in open space funding remains from the 2006 Nassau County Environmental Bond.

The Town of Oyster Bay purchased a 3.5-acre parcel on Robbins Land in Jericho. Approximately \$2 million remains in their Save Environmental Assets (SEA) Fund III bond.

The Town of Huntington has purchased four parcels to date and are described previously on Page 7.

Local municipal funding measures have included allocations for parks and several have made great progress this year including Stannards Brook Park, Port Washington; TR Memorial Park, Oyster Bay and the Gateway Park Community Garden in Huntington.



NSLA remains hopeful that additional public funding for open space will be available as the economy recovers. Ballot measures across the country passed with an 81% success rate in this election, the highest rate since 2000.

Advocating for Stronger Conservation Laws

Nationally, NSLA advocated for the renewal of the enhanced tax credit for conservation easements and full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In Albany, we rallied our members against Governor Paterson's dramatic cuts to the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. In Nassau County and the North Shore Towns we encouraged spending remaining bond monies on worthy projects and in the Villages we encouraged the adoption of stronger environmental resource laws where appropriate.

Carol Schmidlapp, NSLA Associate Director, explained NSLA's new GIS mapping capability and its potential to help villages with additional analysis as they make important land use decisions. NSLA now has the capability to map features including special groundwater protection areas, scenic vistas, farms, trees, golf courses, wildlife, wetlands and watersheds. The state of current land use and residential, commercial, community services, agricultural and vacant land can also be mapped. Once an inventory is completed, the findings can be used to prioritize and identify areas of concern. The NSLA has inventoried the environmental resources of twelve villages on the North Shore and plans to communicate the findings with the villages in the coming months.



Stewardship / community outreach

Jane Jackson, NSLA Associate Director, reviewed stewardship activities for 2010 including activity on the 125 acres of Nature Conservancy preserves which will be gifted to NSLA shortly. We also annually monitor 103 acres of conservation easements.

Jane provided an update on our community outreach and education activity as well. In 2009, NSLA received a \$25,000 grant through the New York State Conservation Partnership Program (funding source is EPF and overseen by the Land Trust Alliance) to bring on a seasonal part-time environmental educator and land steward for two seasons. We're just completing the first season, during which the Preserve had about 200 visitors for passive recreation activities. We also secured a \$137,000 grant (EPF funds via the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation) with the County to do a major cleanup next year of the Brook and the residential boundary of the Preserve.

Our Walks in the Woods have drawn close to 300 participants this year to preserves and other sites that are a little bit off the beaten path, maybe because of limited access, or perhaps because they were recently protected and people do not yet realize they are public. We have communicated the mission of the North Shore Land Alliance and the values of open space preservation to hundreds of people through presentations to local organizations (like schools and the rotary club) and tabling at events such as the Oyster Festival and rock concerts. We also send out action alerts to our e-mail list and communicate via our website and newsletter in support of issues that benefit conservation.

volunteers / membership

Andrea Millwood, Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator, discussed the role and value of volunteers to the NSLA. Individuals, businesses and community organizations provide a variety of skills and resources to the organization. Without them many of our tasks would not be accomplished. Our volunteers help lead nature tours for our Walks in the Woods program, monitor the properties we manage, provide environmental education and community outreach, take photographs during our events, conduct online research projects and so much more. This year, through a variety of resources, activities and events, 133 volunteers devoted 600 hours of service which had a significant impact on our bottom line.

The NSLA needs your help during the upcoming year. If you are interested in volunteering know a friend who has an interest in preserving open space or a student who needs to fulfill community service hours, please contact Andrea Millwood at volunteers@northshorelandalliance.org. You can learn more about our Volunteers for Open Space program at www.northshorelandalliance.org.





Through our fundraising events, community outreach projects and other means, we added 150 new members to our organization and renewed 488 existing members. The third annual Polo Picnic Party brought together approximately 300 visitors and a dozen environmental organizations to the Meadowbrook Polo Club in Old Westbury on Saturday, August 14th.

fundraising

Barbara Hoover, NSLA Associate Director, reviewed our fundraising for the year. NSLA hosted four successful events, beginning with our New York City cocktail party and lecture featuring Tracey Wolstencroft of Goldman Sachs at the Explorers Club on April 6th. On May 8th, our fifth annual Open Space Dinner took place at a private residence in Old Brookville, featuring Annie Farrell of Millstone Farm who spoke about “Food, Land, Sustainability”. Our second annual golf outing and luncheon, “Fore the Love of the Land”, was held at the Piping Rock Club on June 14th. Our 2010 fundraising events culminated in our annual Wine Auction and Dinner, celebrating its seventh year, which was held on September 25th at the Barn at Groton Place in Old Westbury.

organization

NSLA will begin 2011 with a strong 31 Trustees, three full-time and four part-time staff and 1,800 members. The North Shore Land Alliance thanks our members for their time, contributions and in-kind donations.

The meeting closed with a series of slides featuring those places yet to be protected.

There is much more work to be done which can only be achieved with the help of our members.



**It is every man's obligation to put back
into the world at least the equivalent of
what he takes out of it.**

ALBERT EINSTEIN



Third Annual Polo...Picnic...Party

On Saturday, August 14th approximately 300 members gathered at the Meadowbrook Polo Fields in Old Westbury for our third annual Polo..Picnic..Party. It was a perfect day for family fun. Children had plenty to keep them busy: from bouncing in a giant house to pony rides, a petting zoo, blowing bubbles and completing fun arts and crafts projects. For the older visitors, live music by the Bragg Hollow Band was playing as they shopped at the farmer's market for fresh fruits and vegetables.

This year, many local non-profits also participated in this event. Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Clark Botanic Garden, Friends of Hempstead Plains, Friends of the Bay, Mixed Breeds in Need, Nassau County Museum of Art, Nassau County Soil and Water

Conservation District, North Shore Audubon Society, The Sustainability Institute at Molloy College, Town of North Hempstead, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Hands-on educational displays covered healthy topics from composting, to building rain gardens, protecting watersheds and attracting backyard birds. Mixed Breeds in Need even had kittens for adoption.

We are very thankful for our sponsors and volunteers who put in their time and effort in supporting us in our land conservation efforts and to the following businesses that contributed to this successful day. Meyer's Farm, Young's Farm, Periwinkles Catering, the Bakery Café, Chef-King Inc. and A to Z rentals. Also, thank you to the Meadowbrook Polo Club for assisting us in organizing this special event.



a Special Thank you to Our Sponsors for this event:

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Committee Chairs: Anne Byers, Hope Smith, Russell Byers, Ted Smith

More than 300 land conservation supporters gathered at “The Barn at Groton Place” for the North Shore Land Alliance’s seventh annual wine auction and dinner. Wine Auction Chairs, Anne and Russell Byers and Hope and Ted Smith, welcomed guests and thanked them for their generosity and the record number of cellar donations of wine.

The evening began in the 200-year-old barn with wine tastings and bidding on a wide variety of wine in the silent auction. New this year was an option to purchase special vintage wine to enjoy at your table that evening. Dinner followed in a clear tent just outside the barn and, with summer-like temperatures on this starlit night, the sides of the tent were rolled up to showcase the wonderful old trees on this beautiful property. NSLA Trustees Hoyle Jones and Hal Davidson spoke about NSLA’s success in protecting nearly 800 acres of natural lands and making strong progress in promoting conservation-mindedness throughout

the North Shore community. There was a moment of silence as we remembered Danny Davison, Trustee Emeritus, who was one of our founding board members in 2003.

Dinner was followed by a brisk live auction which featured items like a week at the famous HF Bar Ranch in Wyoming and guided fly-fishing on the Blackfoot River in Montana. A late set” followed in the loft of the barn for party-goers, young and old, who wanted to linger and dance to the music of Mad Pursuit. The event raised over \$340,000 for NSLA and its efforts to protect the lands that protect our quality of life. A special commemorative journal documenting the history and achievements of NSLA, now nearing the end of its seventh year, was mailed to supporters after the event. 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 & Dinner



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151 post Road
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www.northshorelandalliance.org
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Save the date

4th annual golf Outing
Monday, June 13th at PiPing rock Club

Polo Picnic Party
Saturday, July 16th at Meadowbrook Polo

Wine auction & dinner
Saturday, September 24th at the barn

For more information please contact nSl a at
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