



Conservation News

Protecting Open Space on Long Island's North Shore

NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

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Photo: Kathleen Hinkaty

PRESERVATION IS NEAR FOR THE DEFOREST WILLIAMS PROPERTY

The Land Alliance is pleased to report that we are moving full steam ahead with the 32-acre DeForest Williams acquisition with closing possible as early as year-end 2013. The contracts have been signed and the Suffolk County Legislature gave its final approval on November 19th. Stewardship, of what will be named the Wawapek Preserve, will be provided by the Land Alliance with help from both the Town of Huntington and Suffolk County.

Meanwhile, the next step for the Land Alliance is to continue our capital campaign to fund the Land Alliance's portion of the acquisition costs. \$7 Million of the \$8.5 Million purchase price has been raised to date. While we will have a bridge loan to purchase the property, the Land Alliance will need to continue to raise \$1.5 million to pay back the loan. Earlier this month the Land Alliance was presented with a \$500,000 dollar for dollar matching grant opportunity to help us close the funding gap.



Dear Land Alliance Friends,

As the tenth anniversary of the Land Alliance draws to a close, I am more convinced than ever that great communities and great landscapes go together.

This has been a very successful year for the Land Alliance, especially with the completion of the public-private partnership to acquire the 32-acre DeForest Williams property close at hand. *Newsday's* editorial board recently touted this partnership between government and community as the new model for conservation. The DeForest Williams partnership has set a local precedent as well: It is the first time in Suffolk County that a non-profit will co-own a preserve with local government. While we still have \$1.5M to raise to complete this \$8.5 million transaction, we have already had 213 community members make financial donations and more than 1,000 people sign the petition to support the acquisition. The DeForest Williams acquisition will result in the creation of the Wawapek Preserve.

2013 has been a record-breaking year for private conservation as well. 54 additional acres of forested land in Nassau County will be protected in perpetuity by caring individuals who have chosen to place conservation easements on their land.

While the 86 acres of conservation we have just discussed may seem small to someone in Colorado, they have an approximate local value of more than \$17 million and an environmental value that is incalculable. Forests in this country—not tropical forests, not international, but just U.S. forests—absorb 12 percent of all the carbon that the U.S. emits every year. So, every time the Land Alliance preserves a forested area, we are protecting the planet's ability to act like a sponge and absorb much of the carbon our cars are putting into the atmosphere. In fact, we have protected more than 100 forested acres along Rt. 25A between East Norwich and Laurel Hollow!

It was a pleasure meeting many of you at our Founders Day Celebrations, beginning with the Wine Auction that honored our founding members, to the Family Day at Uplands Farm, and ending with the Sunset Celebration at the former ExxonMobil property in Cold Spring Harbor.

Together, over the past decade, our community of members, volunteers, elected officials, board and staff have worked together to create a 1,000 acre living legacy on the North Shore. We hope you take as much satisfaction in this accomplishment as we do.

We will end this decade of progress with sincere gratitude to you! And, we will begin the next decade with renewed commitment inspired by both the generosity of our community and the knowledge that what we are doing is important to the future.

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

With best wishes for a joyous holiday season filled with family and friends and a walk in one of our beautiful woods!

Yours in conservation,

Carter F. Bales, Board Chair

DeForest Williams

Please help us finish this deal and contribute to the fund to create the Wawapek Preserve. Tuck Calabrese Associates of Cold Spring Harbor has been retained to help us bridge this final funding gap. If you would like to support this acquisition, please contact the Land Alliance office at (516) 626-0908.



To commemorate the signing, Suffolk County Legislator William Spencer held a press conference on September 23, 2013 at the soon-to-be-preserved property. We were excited to see the support from the County Executive Steve Bellone, the Huntington Supervisor Frank Petrone, Huntington Town Board members Mark Cuthbertson, Susan Berland and Mark Mayoka, the Cold Spring Harbor Civic Association and local citizens showing support for the acquisition.

Newsday

EDITORIAL: A NEW MODEL FOR LONG ISLAND LAND PRESERVATION

October 9, 2013

Any successful preservation of environmentally sensitive land is worthy of celebration. That certainly was the case with the deal announced in September to protect 27 pristine acres overlooking Cold Spring Harbor. Just as noteworthy was the nature of the deal itself: The contract to purchase the land was signed by Suffolk County, the Town of Huntington and the private North Shore Land Alliance. Typically, private groups act as conduits on preservation deals, buying a parcel and then selling it to the county. This is the first time in Suffolk that a private organization has ended up on the title. And the alliance will take the lead in maintaining the property. With governments finding it increasingly difficult to fund open space acquisitions, getting private groups to literally take ownership is an encouraging development.

The purchase was an environmental no-brainer. The old DeForest Williams estate sits on the coastline above Cold Spring Harbor. Blocking development there means

no septic leakage, no nitrogen and pesticide pollution runoff into the harbor, and no man-made erosion. The land has fox, deer, owls, migrant birds, wildflowers and hiking paths through a healthy forest. The purchase price is \$6 million ~ half from Suffolk, one-quarter each from Huntington and the Alliance. The deal also calls for the Alliance to purchase an additional four adjacent acres, which it plans to use for a parking lot and trailhead to make the property an active preserve. The deal was in the works for more than 10 years and still needs county legislative approval, which seems certain.

Other private public partnerships on Long Island have focused on such projects as restoring historic buildings, and the state parks department often has required concessionaires to rehabilitate old facilities or build new ones. The DeForest Williams deal offers a new model, and one worth emulating.

DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR MATCHING OPPORTUNITY



In an effort to help us close the funding gap on the DeForest Williams acquisition an anonymous donor has offered to match every new dollar contributed up to \$500,000.

If successful, this effort could bring us \$1,000,000 closer to closing this deal.

**PLEASE HELP US FINISH WHAT WE HAVE STARTED AND
CREATE A LASTING LEGACY FOR THE
COLD SPRING HARBOR COMMUNITY.**

For more information, please call Lisa Ott
at 516-626-0908 or lisa@northshorelandalliance.org.

A NEW PAGE IN HISTORY BEGINS THIS YEAR



Hillside, built in 1844 as a summer home for Cornelius and Adelia McCoon, is looking as good as new these days thanks to the efforts of Claudia and Michael Taglich. The Taglich's, who also own a 1903 house in Sag Harbor, have commenced a roof-to-foundation restoration of this 1844 Greek revival structure on East Main Street in Oyster Bay.

In the 1850s, Hillside was a tavern and inn. Theodore Roosevelt's uncle James rented the home in 1870s. For much of the later 20th

century, it was home and office for family doctor James Trousdel.

In 2011, the North Shore Land Alliance purchased the property to prevent demolition and construction of five houses on the two-acre site. In 2013 Michael and Claudia Taglich agreed to buy the house and commence restoration. Time and costs for the restoration have exceeded expectations (of course!) and their original hope of being in by Christmas is uncertain. They plan to live in the 6-bedroom, 5,000-square-foot house with their four daughters who are now attending schools in the area.

The Taglichs hired Lee Construction of Cold Spring Harbor for the makeover. Contractor Tim Lee, who had first worked for the Land Alliance to jack up the house, get it level and place new beams and steel girders in the basement said, "Everything that is being done in the restoration process has remained pretty much original to the house."

Workers have removed non-original walls that both carved a laundry out of the kitchen and created a doctor's office suite for Trousdel. "So we're actually restoring it to its original configuration," Lee said.

Push-button light switches, a clawfoot tub and a Chippendale ornamented flower room will be reinstalled. "We are so grateful that the Taglichs had the vision to see the potential for this house and the means to restore it in such a beautiful manner," said Lisa Ott, Land Alliance President.

Oyster Bay Historical Society Executive director Philip Blocklyn said, "It's as good an outcome as you could have hoped for."

Please join us in welcoming the Taglichs to Oyster Bay!



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT 95 SHORE ROAD



It's been a busy season at the former ExxonMobil property in Cold Spring Harbor. One of the most visible aspects of the property's transformation was replacement of an eight-foot-high chain link fence with post and rail that is much more in keeping with the Cold Spring Harbor community. Over a two-week period this summer, Academy Fence Company carried out the dramatic change, which was capped off with a delightful new gate whose design was generously donated by architect Eduardo Lacroze. Perched at the tops of the tall posts framing the gate are two striking avian sculptures, one an osprey and a great blue heron, both familiar residents of the Harbor. These, too, were donated, by Forest Ironworks of Locust Valley. We are very grateful for these wonderful improvements to the property.

As mentioned during our community celebration in April, the Land Alliance is in fundraising mode for the property's long-term habitat restoration and management. We have applied for a state grant for installation of the grassland. If you've been able to view the property since June, though, you've observed the benefits of the native grass seeding that ExxonMobil did in spring 2011 and our members added to at our community celebration one year later. Two of the seeded species, Switchgrass and Indiangrass, cover much of the upland portion of the property; a number of Little bluestem plants have also come in. While we plan to more heavily seed areas that have less coverage or where non-native clover is also in abundance, we were delighted by the degree to which these grass species have taken hold. This fall, volunteers from East Woods School and SUNY Old Westbury Environmental Club harvested seed from the three species for future planting.

Andy Greller, Vice President of the Long Island Botanical Society, led a botanic inventory in June and was delighted to find a wealth of native plants establishing themselves in the future wet meadow portion of the southern part of the upland. Among these species are Chairmaker's rush, Narrowleaf cattail and Slender rush.

Numerous other visitors, too, have donated their expertise and/or brawn with regard to stewardship activities at the property since our last newsletter. We would like to thank:

David Berg | Anne Codey | East Woods School
Sue Feustel | Andrew Gladysz | Andy Greller
Betsy Gulotta | Louise Harrison | Walter Hegarty
Rich Kopsco | Joel Shaw | SUNY Old Westbury
Environmental Club | John Turner | Hammy Wallace
Polly Weigand | Brian Zimmerman





A Decade of Conservation at a Glance

In celebration of our ten years of land conservation efforts we compiled a small book earlier this year that included full listings of lands preserved, public programs held, grants received as well as a timeline of the last ten years. The following provides highlights from the book, a copy of which we are happy to give you if you drop by the office or send you if you call us and request that it be mailed. Our conservation successes occurred because of our community's commitment to protecting land and we are greatly in your debt.

FOREWORD

There are approximately 150,000 acres in the North Shore Land Alliance's designated service area. Of that, we consider approximately 20,000 acres conservation-worthy. It has been the Land Alliance's goal to protect 10% or 2,000 acres of the most environmentally significant lands through acquisition, conservation easements or the adoption of stronger zoning ordinances. Since 2003, the Land Alliance has been instrumental in the protection of nearly 1,000 acres of land.

The book was compiled to document the first ten years of activities and accomplishments of the North Shore Land Alliance, a young organization founded by

members of our community to benefit the future of our community.

Thanks to a dedicated board, a hardworking staff and engaged supporters willing to embrace the concept of saving land, a great deal has been accomplished. There is also much left to be done.

Many thanks to all of you who have contributed so greatly to our early success.

The future depends on what we do in the present. - Mahatma Gandhi

Background

In the late 1990's, residents in many Long Island communities began to be concerned about how quickly our landscape was changing, how our critical natural resources like beaches and forests, fields and meadows were disappearing before our eyes. The large estates and the productive farms were being subdivided and sold for dense development. The pristine beaches and bays were becoming more polluted every year. Moreover, both the quality and quantity of the groundwater was declining.

It was easy to see the aesthetic change and understand its effects – loss of community character, loss of natural beauty, as well as diminishing property values and higher taxes. The more difficult aspect to understand was how the loss of these lands diminishes our ability to be sustainable. Without open land, there is no place to replenish our drinking water and there are no trees to clean our air and cool our houses. Without wetlands our beaches and bays are not protected from harmful pollution. Further, the decreasing number of farms impairs our ability to feed ourselves healthy food, and much, much more.

These losses are a public issue that impacts each one of us.

Mission

To protect and preserve, in perpetuity, the green spaces, farmlands, wetlands, groundwater and historical sites of Long Island's north shore for the enhancement of quality of life and enjoyment and benefit of future generations.

The People

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

In the late 1990's several volunteer initiatives were already underway.

In 1998, Carter Bales and Larry Schmidlapp formed the Centre Island Land Trust.

Also in 1998, the Oyster Bay Cove Land Trust was formed with Rosemary Bourne, President, John Bralower, Vice President, and Lisa Ott, Secretary.

In 1997 Julie and Luis Rinaldini purchased Groton Place, a hundred acre estate in Old Westbury. Understanding the value of conservation, they were interested in placing a conservation easement on their property. When they realized there was no local organization with the ability to hold an easement, they looked for others to help.

At that time, the mission of The Nature Conservancy was adopting a more landscape-scale, global focus. The Conservancy was no longer able to acquire small, local parcels. Paul Rabinovitch, then Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy, saw a need for a local organization to take on this role. Nancy Douzinas and Patsy Randolph of the Rauch Foundation saw this need too.

In 2002, they all gathered together around a table and formed the North Shore Land Alliance.

The Nature Conservancy applied to the Rauch Foundation for a \$20,000 grant to fund initial set-up of the 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization and hired Lisa Ott as a part-time executive director.

The Places

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

We hold easements on 139 acres of private and public lands under easement. A conservation easement is a written promise to conserve your land in perpetuity. Property owners who place conservation easements on their land continue to own it, use it as they always have—can even sell it when the time comes—but cannot build upon it or destroy its environmental value. A conservation easement held by a land trust ensures that future owners continue these same protective measures.

PUBLIC PROPERTIES PROTECTED TO DATE

Since 2003 approximately \$185 million in public funds has been spent on land acquisition.

NASSAU COUNTY

Baldwin Harbor Waterfront, 1/2 acre, \$1.5 Million
Banfi Fields, 25 acres, \$7 Million
Boegner Estate, 35 acres, \$6.5 Million
Boegner Farm, 12 acres, \$1.7 Million
Brooklyn Water Works, 4.5 acres, \$6.2 Million
Fruggie's Farm, 2.5 acres, \$2.2 Million
Gold Property, 1 acre, \$650,000
Grossman's Farm, 4.4 acres, \$6.6 Million
Hall/Wentworth Estate, 18 acres, \$8.8 Million
Held Property, 8 acres, \$2.9 Million
Humes Estate, 15 acres, \$5.2 Million
Meyer's Farm, 8.5 acres, \$4.3 Million
Northwood, 33.5 acres, \$11 Million
Old Mill Horse Farm, 42 acres, \$12.1 Million
Parkway Drive, 3.2 acres, \$4.9 Million
Red Cote Preserve, 36 acres, \$11.6 Million
Red Spring Woods, 11 acres, \$4.6 Million
Smithers Estate, 26 acres, \$7.8 Million
Trout Lake, 2.3 acres, \$1.3 Million
Underhill, 16 acres, \$5 Million

SUFFOLK COUNTY

DeForest Williams, 28 acres, \$3 Million

TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD

Shoreline to Shoreline Trail, 14 acres, on going
Island Tennis, 7 acres, \$2.5 Million
Roslyn Country Club 10.5 acres, \$2.2 Million

TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

DeForest Williams, 28 acres, \$1.5 Million

TOWN OF OYSTER BAY

Alhambra Road, 1.5 acres, \$1.3 Million
Andrews Road, 3.9 acres, \$1.7 Million
Borella Field, 10 acres, \$4.3 Million
Busy Bee Triangle, 1/2 acre, \$473,000
Farm at Oyster Bay, 25 acres, \$5.8 Million
Field of Dreams, 10 acres, \$4.7 Million
United Vanguard, 1.5 acres, \$1.9 Million
Liberty Industrial, 14 acres, \$3.7 Million
Mill Pond Overlook, 4.3 acres, \$4.5 Million
Mill Pond House, 2 acres, \$1.9 Million
Sylvia Packard School, 5 acres, \$5.5 Million
Robbins Lane, 3.5 acres, \$10.7 Million
Underhill, 8 acres, \$2.5 Million

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Banfi Fields, 60 acres
Nassau County, \$7 Million
Land Alliance/Private Donations, \$2 Million
Conservation Investor, \$11 Million

DeForest Williams
Suffolk County, \$3 Million
Town of Huntington, \$1.5 Million
Land Alliance/Private Donations, \$3.5 Million
New York State, \$500,000

Volunteers

Since our early years, volunteers have been making significant contributions to the Land Alliance's ability to protect and preserve our remaining natural areas. Individuals, businesses, and school and other groups make a real difference in their communities.

Working side by side with staff, our volunteers contribute both in the field and in the office. They are the eyes and ears on our beautiful preserves, reporting observations such as emerging flora, wildlife sightings, and visitor activities. They offer a helping hand for trail restoration, invasive species management, and plantings. And they roll up their sleeves when it's time to label and stuff 3000 envelopes! Finally, volunteers provide a voice for the environment by assisting with educational programs and contacting the press and public officials about land and water protection issues.

In 2012 alone volunteer activities contributed more than \$20,000 in savings to the Land Alliance's operational budget.

Walks in the Woods



North Shore Land Alliance has for several years been holding a series of popular educational nature walks entitled Walks in the Woods. They've been led by a number of talented experts who have donated their time and expertise to engage Land Alliance members and friends in gaining new knowledge while enjoying our open spaces.

Long Islanders have the benefit of having access to an abundance of open space that entices us outdoors.

We want to make sure that every child from every community has an opportunity climb a tree, observe bugs under a rock, or explore a local nature preserve.

Since the North Shore Land Alliance was founded ten years ago, one of our primary goals has been to strengthen the bond between people and land. Thanks to our volunteer partners, we have been able to provide free guided nature tours designed to connect people with nature.



Since we began the program, more than 1,000 individuals have joined us to:

- identify spring ephemeral flowers and unusual plants
- explore meadow and wetland ecology
- call in owls to a field in the dark
- search for snapping turtles submerged in mud
- listen to a story written and told by a local author
- investigate geology north of Long Island's moraine
- and much more!

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our attendees who have made this program a success, and to our walk leaders, many of whom serve as a guide each year, who volunteer their time and expertise so that other Long Islanders can learn to love the natural world that inspires our efforts:

Brent Bomkamp
 Barbara Conolly
 Virginia Dankel
 Mollie Eckelberry
 Scott Emmons
 Suzanne Feustel
 John Fischer
 Andrew Greller
 Betsy Gulotta
 Louise Harrison
 Jean Henning
 Joel Horman
 Peggy Horman
 Carol Johnston
 Ellen Kamhi
 Rich Kelly

Rich Kopsco
 Dan Kriesberg
 Al Lindberg
 Lois Lindberg
 Donald Lubowich
 Peter Martin
 Stella Miller
 Ellen Kamhi
 Don Niddrie
 Mary Normandia
 Leslie Pieters
 Jeff Plackis
 Derek Rogers
 Steve Schellenger
 Julie Seghrouchni
 John Taylor

Joanne Tow
 John Turner
 Peter Warny
 Nancy Warny
 Richard Weir
 Marty Wenz



MEET THE LAND ALLIANCE STAFF



Front Row: L to R: Susie Burns, Lisa Ott, Jane Jackson, Baby Jada Millwood, Andrea Millwood and Mimi DeSena.
Back Row: Beth Baldwin, Carol Schmidlapp, Frank Piccininni

In these days and times when so much communication is by e-mail or phone, it is nice to put a name with a face. We are pleased to introduce our most capable staff.

Beth Baldwin, Associate Director of Conservation

Beth joined the Land Alliance in 2011 as Associate Director and Counsel. As a former Assistant Town Attorney in the Town of East Hampton, Beth gained extensive knowledge in conservation and land use. Recently engaged, Beth and her fiancé Morgan split their time between St. James and Montauk where she and Morgan, a firefighter with FDNY, own and operate a number of rental cottages on Fort Pond Bay. When not working on the cottages, Beth and Morgan enjoy stand-up paddle boarding, fishing off their kayak or trying get their 6-year-old Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Henley, out of the water.

Mimi DeSena, Finance Manager

Mimi joined the Land Alliance in August 2008 as a part-time bookkeeper. Originally from Queens, she met her husband, Dominic, while working in NYC and eventually migrated to Long Island after they were married. She currently resides in Mineola with her husband, and their two girls, Sarah, 9, and Leah, 6, and her Newfoundland mix, Martini. A true believer in being active and having

fun, Mimi enjoys bike riding and running the Color Mob run with her family.

Jane Jackson, Associate Director of Stewardship

Jane began working with the Land Alliance as its stewardship director in October 2007. Born and raised in New England, she moved to New York City as a young adult and eventually made her way to Oyster Bay, where she met her husband, Richard Sack. They share an apartment with two cats, Arthur and Paulette. Jane's work and personal lives intersect at her love of nature and the outdoors. Travel, food and music, too, are cherished passions.

Andrea Millwood, Office Manager, Volunteer Coordinator and Development Associate

Andrea Millwood joined the Land Alliance as the Office Manager in 2007. Her responsibilities have grown to include development and volunteer coordination as well as the design of action alerts, invitations and other collateral materials.

MEET THE LAND ALLIANCE STAFF

Andrea is a member of the Parent Teacher Association at her children's school and an active member of her community at large. She lives with her husband, Andrew, and three daughters, O'Lyvia, 10, C'Anna, 7, and Princess Jada, 3 months old. She enjoys being with her family, going to the movies, and all aspects of music.

Lisa Ott, President

Lisa has worked for the Land Alliance for 10 years and was the founding executive director. She was appointed President in 2006. Lisa lives in Oyster Bay with her husband, Gil, and two grown-up children, Laura and Gib. Lisa is a native of Kentucky. She is an active gardener, speedy hiker, aspiring painter and finds great joy in a spirited Sunday game of tennis.

Frank Piccinni, Legal Intern

Frank began working with the Land Alliance in 2012, and is a Professor William R. Ginsberg Memorial Fellow in Environmental Law at Hofstra University. In his prior graduate studies, Frank conducted field biological

research in Massachusetts, West Virginia, and South Florida. Frank aspires to integrate his expertise of empirical research and data analysis with his passion for effective and informed statutory and regulatory regimes.

Frank was originally from Massapequa, NY, and recently moved to Roslyn with his girlfriend, Kristin Perret, and their ferret, Wyatt. In their spare time, Frank and Kristin enjoy playing volleyball, hiking and being environmentally proactive within their community.

Carol Schmidlapp, Associate Director of Communications and Event Planning

Carol began working with the Land the Land Alliance in 2007 as Associate Director. She has used her design skills in a variety of roles, including working with the website, events, graphics and our GIS mapping system to identify conservation-worthy lands. Carol lives in Oyster Bay with her husband, Larry, and three children. Carol enjoys life on the water and her many friends.

WATER: VITAL AND VULNERABLE

The North Shore Land Alliance and the Conservation Committee of the North Country Garden Club hosted a highly informative panel discussion about the politics, sustainability and opportunities surrounding water. Entitled Water: Vital and Vulnerable, The State of Our Drinking Water, the panel discussion was held on October 30, 2013 at the Piping Rock Club in Locust Valley, New York.

Lisa Ott, President of the Land Alliance, opened the event by welcoming the 90 guests and introducing Land Alliance Chair, Carter Bales. Carter gave a summary of water issues and worries facing not only Long Island and the United States, but all nations. Some of the issues cited by Carter included (1) water scarcity issues, such as competing end users; (2) water contamination from sewers and chemicals; (3) indirect economic effects from mispricing water; and (4) water loss from outdated systems and infrastructure. After the brief overview, Carter introduced the panel members who would discuss the various local, national and world water issues and guided them expertly through the discussion.

Joseph Quinlan, US Trust Managing Director and Professor of Finance and Global Economics at New York University spoke first. He discussed water issues around the world, including areas such as India and the Middle East. The next speaker was Chris Gadomski. Chris is Lead Analyst at Bloomberg New Energy Finance and is also a professor at New York University. As a resident of Borrego Springs, California, Chris focused his presentation

on issues facing his community in California. Built in a desert, Borrego Springs is facing serious threats to its groundwater because of overdrafting. Overdrafting is when groundwater use exceeds replacement by rain and runoff. He noted that in California, water is considered a commodity where people pay as much as they do for electricity. According to Chris, it's important that people view water as a valuable resource and not something that is unlimited. In order to give the audience an idea of how much water is used to create everyday objects, Chris provided examples such as 62,000 gallons of water to produce one ton of steel and approximately 32,000 to make one car.

Dave Kapell was the next speaker. As a consultant for the Rauch Foundation and as the former mayor of Greenport, Kapell discussed the critical need for local governments to prevent the degradation of our local water supply. He also noted the Rauch Foundation's \$1.5M investment in Long Island water education. Finally, Sarah Meyland, Director of the Center for Water Resource Management at New York Institute of Technology and an Advisory Board member for the Land Alliance, focused her discussion on the problems facing Nassau County, Suffolk County and Long Island as a whole. While both Counties face similar problems, the primary issues are different. Nassau County's primary issues are heavy concentration of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) in the groundwater and salt water intrusion issues. Suffolk County's primary issue is nitrogen in the water, mainly as a result of septic systems. Long Island as a whole faces the biggest challenge as there is no local agency charged with overseeing and protecting Long Island's water supply. Sarah suggests that a new agency should be created that is responsible, with oversight and enforcement power, for protecting Long Island's drinking water and surface waters.

Some experts consider water to be Long Island's biggest environmental problem. Many thanks to our panelists for providing new insights into this very important matter.

Saltwater Intrusion is occurring now

Nassau County

Suffolk County East End

Major Nitrate Problems in Suffolk

- NO₃ discharges to LI Sound:
 - Suffolk : streams & groundwater : **756 tons/yr**
 - Nassau: streams & groundwater: **218 tons/yr**

Nassau: Protecting Water With Sewers

- **90% of Nassau is sewered** with ocean or LI Sound discharge
- **Unsewered areas have large lots;** 1 – 5 acres.

Water is the driving force of all nature

Leonardo daVinci

GOVERNMENT UPDATES



FEDERAL

Farm Bill and the Enhanced Easement Incentive

Lost in the partisan politics, government shutdown and threat of national default, is the status of legislation critical to the conservation of our wild places. Of particular importance to the successful mission of the North Shore Land Alliance are the Farm Bill and the “Enhanced Easement Incentive” of the Internal Revenue Code, both of which are set to expire at the end of the year.

Although the Congressional battle over the Farm Bill is centered upon our nation’s food stamp program, the conservation programs of the Farm Bill may be collateral damage of the politics. Fiscal conservatism has the potential to undercut the appropriations designated for the important Farm Bill Conservation programs.

Additionally, the Enhanced Easement Incentive, renewed as almost an afterthought to last year’s “fiscal cliff,” must be extended before the end of the year.

It is our hope that both the renewal of the Enhanced Easement Incentive and the Farm Bill will be folded into a tax reform package that will be presented to Congress before year end.

Conservation is truly a bipartisan endeavor. The Land Alliance encourages you to contact your local representative to ask them to support these critically important pieces of legislation. More information to follow in our Action Alerts as the situation progresses.

Plum Island

Much has happened over the past several months to preserve Plum Island and its nationally significant natural and cultural resources. The most positive news is the fact that Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Congressman Timothy Bishop (D-NY) have introduced legislation to stop the sale of Plum Island (its sale was set in motion by a previous act of Congress in 2008). Known as the “Save, Don’t Sell Plum Island” bill, it is being co-sponsored by both New York Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, and Representatives Michael Grimm, Peter King and Steve Israel.

It is the Protect Plum Island Coalition’s (PPIC) hope that Congress will consider the legislation in the months ahead. We will keep you updated on the progress of this important legislation.

This bill is ever the more important since the General Services Administration (GSA) has completed its disposition process of the Island and has filed what is known as its “Record of Decision” (ROD) , calling for the disposal of the Island. The PPIC, of which the Land Alliance is a member, strongly believes the ROD is faulty and incomplete and is currently reviewing the findings made as part of the ROD.

Lastly, the Town of Southold has been busy in rezoning the Island in the event it is disposed. The Town rezoned the property into two zoning districts - Plum Island Conservation District and a Plum Island Research District. Neither of the districts allow for traditional residential, commercial or industrial development as permitted uses. Uses in both districts is very limited; PPIC strongly supported the Town’s adoption of the local zoning law which should limit interest in a possible sale to a private party.

GOVERNMENT UPDATES



STATE

\$5B Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Bond Act

The Friends of New York's Environment Coalition (Friends), of which the Land Alliance is also a member, is advocating for a \$5 billion state-wide bond in 2014. From land conservation and farmland protection, to our parks infrastructure, zoos and botanical gardens, to our community services such as recycling, waste management and invasive species prevention, to waterfront revitalization and community resilience projects that prevent flooding and storm impacts, there is a tremendous need for environmental conservation funding across New York State.

The last environmental bond act was passed with strong public support in 1996, and our understanding is that most, if not all, of those funds have been spent.

Friends is also advocating for an increased appropriation of \$200 million for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) in Executive Budget proposal for SFY2014-15 and sustainable funding for the state agencies that enforce our environmental regulations.

Happy 20th Birthday to the EPF

A 2012 analysis by The Trust for Public Land found that for every \$1 of EPF funds invested in land and water protection, \$7 in economic benefits through natural goods and services is returned to the state of New York. Many EPF programs provide communities the ability to use natural solutions to help reduce risk and plan growth in a way that improves sustainability and resilience in the face of more frequent extreme weather events. Strategies which involve land conservation, wetlands protection, urban

forestry, sustainable waterfront planning, municipal parklands, and estuary restoration can reduce storm impacts in communities by mitigating flooding and buffering areas from storm surges. The EPF is enabling many communities to engage with not-for-profits, educational institutions and private companies to implement these types of projects, which will complement other programs focused on effectively deploying federal storm recovery funding to impacted communities around the state.

The Proposed Strategy for Enhancing the EPF follows. The main dedicated source of revenue for the EPF is the state's existing Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT). The state's 2013-14 financial plan projects that RETT revenue will recover in the coming years. During the recent economic crisis, RETT revenue dropped from more than \$1 billion annually to less than \$400 million. However, as the economy recovers, projections indicate that so too will the RETT, which is now generating more than \$700 million annually. Over the span of the financial plan outlook, annual RETT revenue is projected to grow to more than \$900 million a year, with incremental increases projected each fiscal year. As the RETT recovers, so too should the EPF, through the continuation and growth of appropriations of RETT revenue to the EPF.

Sustainable Funding for Environmental Agencies

In addition to the need to enhance the EPF in the coming budget, Friends is requesting that the Governor's Budget ensures that state agencies responsible for administering the EPF and implementing important programs that protect our shared environment and public health have resources adequate to meet existing needs. Staffing levels at the Department of Environmental Conservation, Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Department of Agriculture and Markets and Department of State remain deeply reduced. Staff restorations at each agency could increase efficiency and effective administration of important programs.



2014 WALKS IN THE WOODS SERIES PREVIEW

Saturday, January 18, 11:00 a.m., Poetry in Nature Workshop with Philip Asaph

Nassau County Museum of Art at William Cullen Bryant Preserve, Roslyn

Philip judged the Land Alliance's 2013 The Beauty of the Nature of Long Island poetry contest. His poetry workshops at NYU, Dowling College, The Walt Whitman Birthplace and other venues have encouraged both advanced and beginning writers. This time, the William Cullen Bryant Preserve's 145 acres will provide inspiration for participants.

Sunday, March 2, 11:00 a.m., Trekking with Jane Jackson and the Sierra Club

Louis C. Clark Sanctuary and James Preserve, Old Brookville

If you've attended our walks in the past, you know they don't always move very quickly! This time, meet two of our preserves with the Land Alliance's Stewardship Director Jane Jackson and the Sierra Club, who will collaborate to lead you on a power walk through and around the field, woodlands and wetlands these sites feature. If it snows, bring cross-country skis or snowshoes.

Saturday, April 27, 1:00 a.m., Experience Spring's Bird Migration with Peter Martin

DeForest Williams and 95 Shore Road (former ExxonMobil property), Cold Spring Harbor

Veteran birder Peter Martin will lead a spring migration program at these two special parcels overlooking the eastern shore of Cold Spring Harbor. You will also learn about the creative protection of DeForest Williams and habitat restoration plans for the 95 Shore Road site.

Saturday in May (final date and time to be confirmed), Photography Walk with Yvonne Berger

Red Cote Preserve (aka Pulling Fields), Oyster Bay Cove

Veteran photographer and Land Alliance friend and volunteer, Yvonne Berger (of Berger Bros. fame) will lead us through this beautiful property of fields and forest in a search for bugs, flowers and other photo subjects as we learn to look up close through the eyes of a camera lens. Bring your own camera.

Thursday, June 12, 8:00 p.m., Owl Prowl with Stella Miller and Jane Jackson

Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve, Old Brookville

If you've ever heard Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society President Stella Miller call in Eastern Screech Owls, you'll know this program is not to be missed! We'll go for a brief almost-full-moon night hike, too.



**Saturday, June 21, 10:00 a.m., Flax Pond Exploration with Glenn Richard
Flax Pond State Tidal Wetlands, Stony Brook**

Glenn, Educational Coordinator for the Mineral Physics Institute at Stony Brook University, will introduce us to the beauty of Flax Pond's tidal wetlands, a Long Island Sound Study stewardship anchor site that is home to colonial waterbirds, fish, mollusks and horseshoe crabs. We will explore the relationship of its plants to the physical environment; that is, how the plants affect the environment, how the environment affects the plants, and how the system relates to Long Island Sound and the nearby land areas.

Thursday, July 31, 6:00 p.m., Pond Populations with Peter Warny

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.

Late August/Early September (final date and time to be confirmed), Kayaking Cold Spring Harbor with Don Niddrie

Eagle Dock Beach Club and 95 Shore Road, Cold Spring Harbor

The Eagle Dock Foundation's Don Niddrie will lead us on a kayak trip across Cold Spring Harbor. Learn about the area's wildlife and how protecting open space here preserves the Harbor's quality.

Saturday, October 4, 11:00 a.m., Carnivorous Plants in the Bog with Andy Greller

Cranberry Bog Preserve, Riverhead

Join Botanist Andy Greller to explore this magnificent community, complete with carnivorous plants, when it is at its most beguiling.

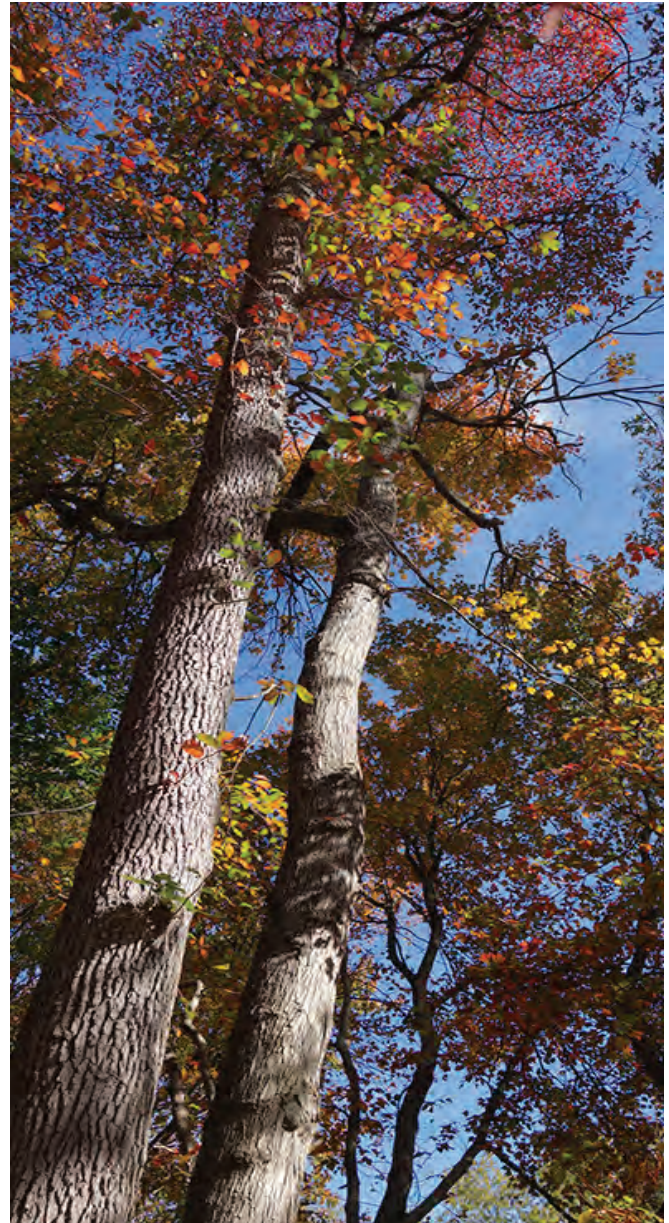
Sunday, October 12, 10:00 a.m., Natural History Aboounds with John Turner

Cordwood Landing County Nature Preserve, Miller Place

This 70-acre hardwood forest in Miller Place is a hidden gem steeped in history. Naturalist and Land Alliance Advisory Board Member John Turner will lead us on a tour of its unusual plants and cliffs above Long Island Sound during the fall migration. And we'll learn how the property got its name.

**Late November/Early December, Deciduous Tree Identification with Richard Weir
(final date, time and location to be determined)**

Long Island's trees bear leaves for just over half the year. If you're interested in knowing how to identify tree species the rest of the time, join plant expert and Land Alliance Advisory Board Member Richard Weir for this enlightening program.



2013: A GREAT YEAR FOR INTERNS AT THE LAND ALLIANCE

The Land Alliance was graced with several energetic and creative interns in summer 2013 who accomplished significant tasks and activities both at our preserves and in the office.

Monique Kelly arrived from Colby College in late spring and immediately took to the task of caring for and monitoring the tree seedlings that had been planted in Fox Hollow Preserve in response to tree damage wrought by Superstorm Sandy last fall. In no time flat she developed a survey form used to measure the seedlings' success, and inspected the plantings throughout the summer, sometimes on her own and sometimes with volunteers she trained. She spent much of the summer weeding the site and learning new species – which she was always able to identify after a first introduction. We are grateful, too, to Eric Mi, a neighboring Cold Spring Harbor High School student, who assisted her with weeding and the surveys, and Ken Krumenacker and Jerry Ahern, who continued the surveys and weeding after Monique returned to school. Monique was also happy to help out with other projects at Fox Hollow and other preserves. Somehow she managed to find time, alongside her preserve work and her job teaching sailing!, to



help out at the office, where, using Geographic Information Systems technology, she assisted with a complicated mailing about conservation easements sent to landowners in our catchment area. Monique also contributed to our golf outing and Open Space Society fundraisers by helping coordinate invitation lists and seating arrangements.

Gabrielle Sant'Angelo, now a senior at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, arrived in May with a work background in farming and gardening. She was eager to jump right in at Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve, where she worked under the guidance of volunteer Rob Katz to continue the efforts started by her predecessor Gabrielle Rovegno and Eagle Scout candidate Andrew Farrell under a Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (LIISMA) grant (see fall 2012 newsletter, Volume 8, Issue 16) in 2012. Much of Gabby and Rob's work consisted of enhancing the grant project's demonstration areas where invasive plants had been removed and replaced with native grasses and wildflowers. This year the invasives work continued and additional plantings installed and maintained with the help of volunteers Gabby recruited and trained. (The team also was on the lookout for the mile-a-minute (MAM) weevil, making its way from its Caumsett State Park release site and eating much of the MAM in its path.) Thanks to Gabby and Rob, and The Nature Conservancy's mowing of the path around the field, Iselin's maintenance took very little time out of Land Alliance staff schedules this summer.

John Probert, an Environmental Science student at George Mason University, contributed much used data to the statewide (and beyond) iMapInvasives web program, which tracks the spread of invasive species by mapping locations of populations through digital data provided by volunteers. John collected a large amount of location data by using a GPS navigator to mark locations and contributed his findings for eight invasive species at our preserves. His quick learning of these species was very impressive!

Many thanks to all of our interns! If you are interested in an internship with us in 2014, please contact our office at 516-626-0908.

FAMILY VISIT TO THE FARM AT OYSTER BAY

In September, children and families had the unique opportunity of spending a lovely afternoon visiting the Farm at Oyster Bay as part of the Land Alliance's Walks in the Woods series of nature programs.

The afternoon began with cookies and lemonade as families spread picnic blankets under the trees on the great lawn next to the old farmhouse. Local children's author Mollie Eckelberry sat before the group to read her delightful book *The Foxes of Kirby Hill* which tells the story of a family of foxes who inhabit and explore the acres of undeveloped land. The foxes later encounter the destruction of their habitat as the land they depend on is cleared to build a housing development.



The reading was followed by a nature walk among the Farm's ponds and woodlands as well as a tour of the fruit and vegetable garden. The Girl Scouts of Nassau County, who spent the summer helping to plant and tend the garden, proudly helped guide the tour for the other children and families in attendance.

The children then visited the animals at the farm running to the split rail fence to call the horses, cows and donkey that grazed and slept peacefully beside a weeping willow tree. As the families left the Farm they were able to see the progress on rebuilding the giant barn that was struck by a large tree in the wake of Sandy.

The Land Alliance helped to protect this 26-acre parcel of land by negotiating the bargain sale with the Town of Oyster Bay and by placing a conservation easement on the property in 2007. The Farm's mission in part is to "further the understanding and enjoyment of horticulture and nature in a farm-like setting" and to inspire long-lasting connections to another time in the history of Oyster Bay."

Many thanks to Mollie Eckelberry and the Town of Oyster Bay for hosting this very special Walk in the Woods.



THE ELUSIVE CREATURES OF FOX HOLLOW PRESERVE

As you walk through the Fox Hollow Preserve it is hard to miss the majestic American Beech trees or the White Pine plantation. Keen observers may have even heard the shriek of a Red-Tailed Hawk, or stumbled upon a Red Fox. But have you noticed some of the more cryptic inhabitants of the preserve?

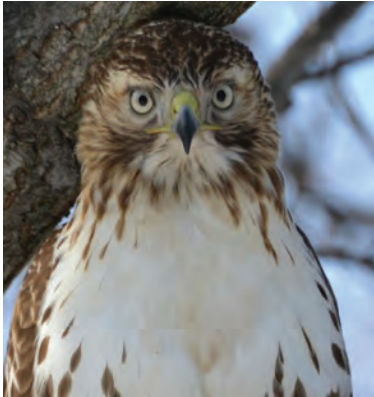
Fox Hollow is home to numerous species of reptiles and amphibians, including salamanders, frogs and snakes. These creatures are widely regarded as “ecoindicators” because of their sensitivity to habitat destruction, degradation and fragmentation. Next time you take a trip to the preserve we invite you to look or listen for these amazing creatures.

In the early spring you can listen for the “quack” of a Wood Frog, or the peeping chorus of Spring Peepers. Throughout the spring and summer you may be able to hear the trill of a Northern Gray Treefrog from the forest canopy. Coarse woody debris and stones serve as refugia for a myriad of amphibians such as the lungless Red Back Salamander. Finding these critters can be a wonderful way to connect with nature and enjoy the hard work undertaken by the community to protect our native Long Island.

Please remember to replace any overturned cover objects so the critical microhabitat on which reptiles and amphibians rely is not destroyed!



PREPARE YOUR BACK YARD FOR WINTER BIRDS



As temperatures FINALLY fall on Long Island and many species of birds pause for sustenance at our preserves and back yards on their way to more southern climes, our thoughts turn to what we might do to welcome

the birds that will be here through the winter. We provide here a menu of items from which you can select actions you can take to make your back yard more inviting:

- Plant one or more native shrubs or trees that will not only provide a food source for birds and other wildlife but may also provide cover from wind and storms. Dogwoods and American Holly are among species that bear fruit late in the year. Oak and cherry trees yield large quantities of fruit, while conifers can help block the wind.

- Build a leaf and stick pile. Instead of sending raked leaves off your property, use some to build a pile with sticks where insects will overwinter. Juncos and other birds may find insect eggs and insect larvae in these goldmines. You can also rake leaves under your shrubs as mulch that will attract insects, particularly as it decomposes.

- As with any time of year, standing dead trees, or snags, provide habitat for birds and other wildlife that may forage or nest there, or find shelter in tree cavities. Even short pieces of dead wood standing among native wild plants or painted with suet or nut butters can lure birds.

- Leave the dead flowers in your garden standing (we try to do this to some degree with fields at our preserves, too) so that chickadees, nuthatches, cardinals,

and other birds will search them for insect and spider eggs and seeds.

- Maintain a variety of bird feeders and food, making sure to keep them stocked during storms. Discard old seed and rake up what falls to the ground and gets wet before it gets moldy.

- Install a plastic bird bath (ceramic can crack in the cold), keep it full and put in a heater to keep the water from freezing.

- As with any time of year, keep your cats indoors. Cats are one of the leading causes of bird mortality. Keeping them inside will also protect them from cars

and animals that would predate them. (Visit www.huntingtonaudubon.org for more information)



Borrowed from/for more recommendations visit Rodale News (<http://www.rodalenews.com>) and Audubon Magazine ([http://www.audubon-](http://www.audubon-magazine.org)

[magazine.org](http://www.audubon-magazine.org)).

And please participate in the **GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT!** The data you provide will help birds around the world. For more information visit www.birdsource.org/gbbc.

We must protect the forests for our children, grandchildren and children yet to be born. We must protect the forests for those who can't speak for themselves such as the birds, animals, fish and trees.

Quatsinas

10TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTOGRAPHY AND POETRY CONTEST

In celebration of the Land Alliance's 10th Anniversary, there was a call for poetry and photography submissions the theme of which was "The Beauty of the Nature of Long Island." There were close to 100 combined entries which showcased the talent of Long Island artists and their love and dedication for the place they call home. Three winning entries were chosen in each category by distinguished judges with years of experience in their respective fields. Richard Sack, a seasoned photographer and former gallery owner, chose the winning photographs. Poet Philip Asaph, a writing workshop leader and first time novelist, selected the poetry winners.

The first place photo was a stunning black and white image taken in winter entitled Avalon Park by Lev Lubarsky of Setauket. Jovanna Hopkins of Dix Hills took second place with her photo entitled Oceanside Nature Preserve. The third place photo was taken by Bob Schmitz in the Shu Swamp Preserve in Mill Neck and is entitled Beaver Brook in Shu Swamp. Another photo entry from the contest, taken by Kathleen Hinkaty at Baileys Arboretum, graces the cover of this issue of the Land Alliance's Conservation News.

In the poetry category Ellen Pickus of Baldwin won first place honors for her poem Barrier Island. Joan Vullo Obergh of Seaford won second place for From Kramer's Boat Yard. The poet Marilyn Goldsmith of Syosset won third place with her poem Blues Chaser. The Land Alliance hosted a Sunset Soiree featuring a poetry reading and outdoor photography exhibit in October at the former ExxonMobil site in Cold Spring Harbor as a thank you to its members.

Barrier Island

Who would want to live on a sand dune
meant to protect the mainland,
meant to bear the brunt of punishment
from nor'easters and blizzards
and even ordinary tides on all sides?

Here, even the grass eats the eggs
of the diamondback terrapins.
Hognose snakes snatch Fowler's toads.
Knotweed is endangered and beautiful
bittersweet with orange berries
entices other plants to their death.

But some spartina learn to filter out
the water they need and leave
lovely salt crystals on their leaves,
mullein protects its leaves with fur,
and the fiddler crab has taught itself
to play on one claw.

Jones Inlet in October
The wind from the northwest is a fair weather wind.
It may bring a marsh hawk into view,
darning needles knitting above cord grass,
butterflies on the way to Mexico.
But it's a foul wind that blows no good,
so if looking up disappoints,

look down at the ground
where the fresh water from the spongy estuary
meets the salt of the bay.
Take up a whelk, channeled or knobbed,
razor clams, moon snail, shark's eye,
horseshoe crabs with stingless tails,
medusas to cup in your hand without
fearing poison tentacles turning you to stone.
A white fiddler crab may dart into the sand near your toe.
A terrapin may lift its head above its shell.

And if every animal proves contrary today,
there is still the golden grass and the water and the sky,
whether it's blue or gray.

By Ellen Pickus



Lev Lubovsky



Bob Schmitz



Jovanna Hopkins

From Kramer's Boat Yard

This was once a summer town
 where streets could wind unpaved unbound
 by keep off signs on plush sod strips,
 where paths were laid by barefoot trips
 to splintered piers as rusting traps
 awaited blue claws' August laps,
 where boats moored fast at marshes' edge
 would lie in wait concealed in sedge
 for ducks to sail their V shaped wedge;
 where baymen toiled scratch rakes applied
 knee deep to race the clammers' tide
 while baited lines from each silt-soft shore,
 reels spinning fast, were cast once more;
 where shacks leaned south to taste the bay
 shingles bleaching brown to gray
 and boat yards hugged each sheltered lee
 when gales pruned clean each proud elm tree.
 This was once a summer town.
 Few streets remain unpaved, unbound.

By Joan Vullo Obergh

Blues Chaser

Fall should be a melancholy time
 heralding as it does the year's demise.
 The sun sits lower in the sky casting
 longer darker shadows, its weakening rays
 conjuring just a memory of past warmth.
 We take the outdoor furniture in, each at
 an end of a chaise lounge like stretcher bearers
 bringing the remains of summer days
 to the mortuary of the cold garage.
 But Fall comes dressed as for a party
 and like a loving mother wraps
 the bitter pill of winter in the candy-
 coated colors of the dazzling trees.
 Bright orange pumpkins grin their gap-toothed grins
 and on the still-green lawn a scattering
 of leaves, like golden coins strewn across
 the grass by some extravagant hand, dispels
 all melancholy thoughts of gray November.

By Marilyn Goldsmith

FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION AND ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

Celebrating 10 Years of Open Space Conservation



peak fall foliage, the participants had warmed up considerably!

Autumn Festival and Annual Members Meeting

Under a bright and sunny autumn sky, members of the Land Alliance gathered at The Nature Conservancy's Uplands Farm in Cold Spring Harbor to continue the Founders Day Celebration with an Autumn Festival and members

Nature Walk at Fox Hollow

The day opened hours after our community's first frost of the season at Fox Hollow Preserve, the first of several nature preserves that The Nature Conservancy has transferred to the Land Alliance. A dozen hearty members and friends embarked on a naturalist walk led by Land Alliance Stewardship Director Jane Jackson. The group learned about the plants and wildlife that call Fox Hollow home and some of the stewardship projects volunteers have been implementing there over the years that the Land Alliance has managed it: trail restoration carried out by Boy Scouts, English ivy removal and planting over 100 tree seedlings to fill in a gaping hole in the tree canopy and combat encroachment by invasive plants after Superstorm Sandy ravaged the southeast corner of the Preserve. By the end of the walk, graced by nearly

meeting. Supporters were greeted with cider and freshly baked treats from Sweet Millie Cookies as they purchased fruits and vegetables and other delights from a farmers market operated by Mary Callanan, a local farmer and New York Agri-Women member.

Volunteers for Wildlife presented an interactive and engaging demonstration to more than 30 attendees about the various birds - the Red-tailed Hawk, Great-horned Owl, Eastern Screech Owl and Kestrel - and Eastern Box Turtle, which were rescued and rehabilitated at their wildlife hospital and education center at Bailey Arboretum in Locust Valley. Volunteers for Wildlife is a not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization dedicated to rehabilitating sick, injured and orphaned wildlife and their habitat.



Members also enjoyed taking a leisurely stroll along the paths of the 97-acre Uplands Farm Sanctuary which is home to a variety of trees such as the red maple, black cherry, black birch and flowering dogwood. The preserve's meadows and hedgerows are also habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals, including butterfly weed and goldenrods, 40 butterfly species and grassland birds such as Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks, which have become rare as their habitat has disappeared.

In addition to the fun family activities, Lisa Ott, President of the Land Alliance, welcomed everyone once they assembled for their annual members meeting, which was led by Chair Carter Bales and Vice-chairs, Hal Davidson and John Bralower. Members voted to reelect trustees Tom Lieber and Tom McGrath who joined the Board in 2004 and 2010, respectively. The group participated in a question and answer session to discuss some of the organization's greatest accomplishments and to learn about the future of the organization.



Sunset Soiree at Former ExxonMobil Property

Founders Day continued with a Sunset Soiree and poetry reading on the shores of the former ExxonMobil site in Cold Spring Harbor. The winners of The Beauty of the Nature of Long Island photography and poetry contests gathered along with Land Alliance members for a wine and cheese reception to the tune of Michael Soloway's classical guitar. Carter Bales welcomed the group and announced the property has yet to be formally named.

The three winning photographs were displayed on the new split rail fence that surrounds the property. The stunning images, one of them in black and white, captured different moody, bucolic settings on Long Island. The photographers were on hand to chat about their work and their love of nature photography. A poetry reading followed with the three winning poets, each from a different town on Long Island, sharing their changing relationship to the water and to the land. The poems had a lovely melancholic, autumnal feeling.

Toward the end of this magical evening, Jane Jackson led a small group on an exploration of the most western part of the property, the sand spit. There, along with a few dozen sea gulls, the group watched the sun set and had a final toast in celebration of the Land Alliance's 10th anniversary.



ACCREDITATION UPDATE

The North Shore Land Alliance is in the home stretch of the Land Trust Alliance accreditation process. We have one more submission of documents due in December and then we wait to hear back from the Accreditation Commission in March. While approximately 400 hours of work was done in preparation for the application for accreditation, the process officially began for the Land Alliance in January 2012 when we underwent an organizational assessment. After numerous steps, the Land Alliance is a stronger organization on the way to national recognition. Accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission creates public recognition of land trusts that are involved in the long-term protection of the land in the public interest. Accreditation creates public confidence in a land trust and in land conservation by achieving external verification that it meets national quality standards. We truly believe that this process has made us a stronger organization and we are looking forward to March.

PLANS, PLANS AND MORE PLANS

To become accredited, a land trust must demonstrate that they have a clearly articulated vision for their organization formalized in a strategic plan. Important parts of the strategic plan are a conservation plan and a succession plan.

Strategic Plan

The Land Alliance, with the financial support of the Land Trust Alliance and the Long Island Community Foundation and expertise from outside consultants, is in the process of updating our Strategic Plan and developing both a conservation and succession plan. We are most grateful to staff members Carol Schmidlapp and Beth Baldwin, Consultant Barnaby Friedman, Legal Intern Frank Piccinnini and Brian Leander of the Center for Non-Profit Leadership at Adelphi University for their help with these efforts.

Comprehensive Conservation Plan

To identify parcels of land with particularly high conservation value, we employed a spatial analysis using a Geographical Information System ("GIS"). The Land Alliance staff developed rigorous criteria to prioritize land for acquisition or the establishment of perpetual

conservation easements. Each parcel received points if, for example, it contains a freshwater wetland, tract of forest, steep slope, endangered species habitat, or a FEMA flood zone. The points assigned to each parcel were then tallied to rank each parcels conservation value.

The Land Alliance anticipates using the information garnered from this analysis to guide our efforts and facilitate community involvement.

Succession Plan

The conservation work that the Land Alliance performs is important to a healthy Long Island for generations to come. We want to make sure that our organization is here for the long-term and that we have professional staff lined up to continue the work that our organization has begun in its first decade. A succession planning program compiles the skills, abilities and goals of each employee, compares them to the needs of current and future roles, and tracks employee progress toward being ready to fill those roles.

A succession plan ensures that employees have development opportunities to hone their leadership skills and guarantees that the organization has a leadership plan in place for success in the future on both the board and staff levels.

To accomplish great things, we must not only act but also dream. Not only plan but also believe.

Anatole France

MEADOW MAGIC AT THE OPEN SPACE SOCIETY DINNER

On July 13th, almost 100 Land Alliance members and friends gathered at the Red Cote Preserve in Oyster Bay Cove. This 30-acre meadow was sold to Nassau County in 2005 for conservation purposes.

Guests parked in Joan Shepard's field and enjoyed the spectacular walk down the family's long allee. Event chairs, Peri and Martin Wenz, welcomed guests into the simple, candlelit tent positioned in the middle of a blooming meadow. Peri worked with Randy Stratham of Scarcella's Nursery to create the most perfect centerpieces from driftwood and meadow flowers grown in Scarcella's meadow just down the road.

Cocktails were served in the perennial meadow complete with butterfly weed and butterflies. After the sunset, a wonderful community-style dinner was served at long banquet tables.

Landscape architect and meadow expert Larry Weaner of Larry Weaner Design, Inc. delighted the group with slides from some of his favorite projects. When he began designing meadows in 1982 there wasn't much interest in them. Since then he has created more than 100 perennial meadows around the country including 24 along the New York State Thruway, a commission he received in 1999.

"A perennial meadow in bloom, its colors constantly changing with the play of light and shadow, may be nature at its most alluring. Yet, as random and natural as a meadow looks, there is nothing haphazard about creating one. Planting a meadow, it turns out, is as rule-bound and time-consuming as planting any perennial border," said Mr. Weaner, who is considered one of the pioneers of meadow design in the United States.

Since most grassland plants thrive in poor soil, one of the most important rules of meadow gardening is that no fertilizer, topsoil or compost should ever be added. Mr. Weaner uses only plants and grasses that are adapted to a specific location and acclimated to its particular soil. For meadows smaller than three acres, he uses a ratio of 60 percent plants to 40 percent seeds, so he is able to control the way the colors are distributed.

Planting can take place any time between March and early July, and is done with a tractor pulling a no-till drill feeder. During the first year, the ground is mowed three times during the summer to keep the weeds at bay and to stabilize growth. After that, it is mowed only once a year, at the end of winter.

Many thanks to the Pulling Family, Peri and Marty Wenz and Nassau County for allowing us to enjoy such a special evening.



LAND ALLIANCE ELECTS NEW TRUSTEE



Peter Quick

Peter is the former President of the American Stock Exchange where he also served on the Board of Governors. Prior to joining AMEX, Peter was President and Chief Executive Officer of Quick & Reilly, Inc., a leading national discount brokerage firm. Peter has been extremely active in the business and financial community having served on the Board of Directors of Securities Industry Automation Corporation (SIAC), Depository Trust Clearing Corporation (DTCC), the Chicago Stock Exchange, and National Securities Clearing Corporation among others. Deeply involved in both community and educational organizations, Peter serves on the Board of Directors of St. Francis Hospital and Mercy Medical Center. He is a member of the board of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation at the University of Virginia and a member of the Diocese of Rockville Centre Finance Council. Peter received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Virginia and attended Stanford University's graduate school of Petroleum Engineering. He was a Lieutenant in the United States Navy, and served four years on active duty. Recognized for his personal achievements, Peter received the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor award in May 2001. Peter, his wife Crisler and family live in Mill Neck where he also serves as Mayor of the village.

TIS THE SEASON OF GIVING

If you would like to help the Land Alliance further our local conservation mission, there are several ways to give.

Become a Member –

Join a community of committed conservationists who care deeply about protecting the places that make western Long Island special.

Give a Gift Membership to a Friend –

Annual membership levels start at \$40/year.

Sign Up for Monthly Giving –

You can sign up to make your contribution monthly if incremental giving works better for you.

Become a Conservation Champion -

Give \$10,000 or more annually and receive special invitations to special Champions events and timely updates on our current projects.

Include us in your Gift and Estate Planning -

Please let us know if you have remembered the Land Alliance in your will or estate plans so we can welcome you to our Society of Legacy Donors. Please contact Beth Baldwin at 516-626-0908 or bbaldwin@northshorelandalliance.org to discuss.

For more information, you can contact us by at (516) 626-0908 or by e-mail at andrea@northshorelandalliance.org.

BOTANICAL ART SHOW AT PLANTING FIELDS

Newhouse Galleries sponsored a world class botanical art show and sale in the Manor House of the Planting Fields Arboretum on November 2nd and 3rd. The exhibition, entitled *Illuminations: Botanicals and Birds*, featured original work by some of the most distinguished and collectable artists working in the genre today. Part of the proceeds from the show benefitted the Land Alliance's ongoing conservation efforts.

At the opening party on November 2nd, Stuart and Meg Kirkpatrick of Newhouse Galleries, who curated the show, were on hand to greet guests who included Land Alliance members and friends, art lovers and the general public. Over one hundred people filled the lovely Manor House to admire paintings and sculptures on display in several rooms overlooking the gardens at Planting Fields. Many of the artists were also present at the opening to share a deeper understanding of their art and to describe the various processes and techniques used to create their work.



The roster of distinguished artists who participated in the exhibition include: Francesca Anderson, Jean Emmons, Ingrid Finnan, Monika deVries Gohlke, Asuka Hishiki, Karen Kluglein, Katie Lee, Bryan Poole, Fiona Strickland, Jessica Tcherepnine and Carol Woodin. The techniques represented ranged from watercolor painting and copper etching to scratchboard and sculpture.

Francesca Anderson who is primarily a botanical artist and illustrator specializing in natural history drawings in pen and ink. At this exhibition, however, she exhibited two life-size great egret pieces which she spent 8 years creating using a scratchboard technique which is done by scrtaching black ink from a white gesso covered masonite board. Her masterful drawings can also be seen in The Orchid Room at the '21 Club' in New York. She is also a Founder and President of Brooklyn Botanic Garden Florilegium Society and the former Director of the American Society of Botanical Artists.

German born artist Monika de Vries Gohlke who has worked for many years as a designer of dishes and fabrics fell in love with botanical painting. In her Brooklyn studio she currently creates botanical aquatint etchings, often embellishing them with hand coloring. Her work is held in several important public collections, most notably the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The artist Jessica Tcherepnine, a founding member of the American Society of Botanical Artists, displayed several of her stunning watercolors at the show. She loves painting plants and flowers throughout their life cycle thereby embracing both the images of growth and decay. Ms. Tcherepnine's work is well known and held in the collections of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, the Natural History Museum in London, the RHS Lindley Library, Isaac Sutton, and Shirley Sherwood.



Many thanks to Newhouse Galleries for providing Land Alliance members and friends with such a wonderful opportunity.

10th Anniversary Wine Auction and Dinner

Celebrating our Founders

There is something magical about driving up to a moonlit historic 19th century barn. Thanks to hosts Julie and Luis Rinaldini more than 400 guests at this year's wine auction were able to experience that magic.

On Saturday, September 28th, the North Shore Land Alliance held its tenth anniversary Wine Auction and Dinner, celebrating ten years of conservation, and honoring its twelve founders: Carter Bales and Larry Schmidlapp of the Centre Island Land Trust, Rosemary Bourne, John Bralower and Lisa Ott of the Oyster Bay Cove Land Trust, Julie and Luis Rinaldini of Groton Place, Paul Rabinovitch, Zach Taylor and Nancy Kelley of The Nature Conservancy and Nancy Douzinas and Patsy Randolph of the Rauch Foundation.

Co-Chairs this year were Jenny and Jeff Kelter and Lee and Patrick Mackay. They brought new people, great wine, great trips and great energy to the event. Committee heads included Elizabeth Collett, decorations, Kim Bancroft, journal, and Kerry Gaines, silent auction. A special thank you goes to Joanna Wreidt who worked tirelessly organizing and preparing posters and the power point presentation for the live auction.

The evening began with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and an opportunity to bid on a variety of silent auction items. Some of the silent auction items included a red ostrich satchel bag and a men's cashmere sweater donated by Brooks Brothers, a 1938 bottle of cognac in a Baccarat crystal decanter donated by Jonathan Moore, organic Thanksgiving turkey with all the trimmings donated by Amy and Hartley Rogers, a case of 1999 Pichon Longeville donated by Daphne and Ernest Scalmandre and a case of St. Helena Sympa Cabernet donated by Rita and Frank Castagna.

Raffle tickets were sold for our 'Instant Wine Cellar'. Organized three years ago by trustee George Eberle, the lucky winner of the raffle received 100 bottles of wine rated 90 and above by Robert Parker and worth close to \$5,000. The Wine

was donated by many of our wine aficionados and supporters. A big thank you goes to all who donated and especially Charlie Wagner for organizing and setting up the 'cellar'.

A short movie featuring the founders was shown before dinner. Each founder commented on how far the Land Alliance has come in ten years and the incredible accomplishments made by a relatively young organization. They also stressed the importance of having supporters and like-minded individuals, businesses and public officials engaged in community conservation efforts.

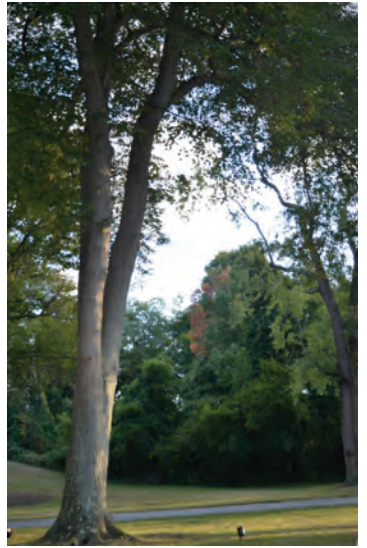
We were fortunate to have Hugh Hildesley from Sotheby's as our auctioneer again this year. Hugh has a special talent for making an auction exciting and fun. There were twelve items in the live auction ranging from trips to New Zealand, Canada, Thailand and Wyoming donated by the Julian Robertson Family, the Jeff Kelters, the John Bralowers and the Hoyle Jones respectively.

An appeal was made for the DeForest Williams property raising nearly \$125,000 that will go towards the purchase of the property. The event coupled with the appeal raised a record-breaking \$500,000+.

Thank you again to everyone who supports our efforts to preserve and protect land in our community.



Co-chairs Jenny & Jeff Kelter, Patrick and Lee Mackay





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

Wish List

The holiday season is upon us.
If you are feeling generous and would like to contribute to the restoration of the former ExxonMobil property suggestions follow:

Native trees (such as Sweetgum and Flowering Dogwoods near the parking area - \$150 each for 10-12' trees, up to four trees

Native ornamental shrubs such as Bayberry, American Holly, Witchhazel and Spiraea for the front of the property - \$50 each up to 20 shrubs

Wildflower plugs for butterfly garden (Black-eyed Susan, Joe Pye-Weed, Common Milkweed) at the front of the property - \$4 each up to \$200

Prickly Pear Cactus and Butterfly Weed plugs - \$4 each up to \$500

Native sunflower plugs for corner of property - \$4 each up to \$160

Fill and top soil to fill holes at the front of the property - \$200

Removal of existing soil filled with invasive plants and cement along old fence line and replacement with top soil - \$750

20 yards of top soil for bare patches where more intensive native grass seeding will occur - \$500

To donate, please contact the Land Alliance at 516-626-0908.

Contributions are fully tax-deductible.

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NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE FILLED WITH
WARMTH AND GREAT JOY!

RENEW , RECYCLE, RE-USE
HIGH END TAG SALE
SPRING 2014

Please call us if you have gently used treasures from furniture to art to the garden 516-626-0908



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