



Protecting Open Space on Long Island's North Shore

NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

Conservation News

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Mission Statement

The North Shore Land Alliance, Inc. ("NSLA") is a land trust formed to protect and preserve, in perpetuity, the green spaces, wetlands and historical sites of Long Island's North Shore for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations and the protection and enhancement of homeowner quality of life.

Advisory Committee to Recommend Land Acquisitions for Nassau County Environmental Bond...

In November 2004, shortly after the Nassau County Environmental Bonds was passed, County Executive Tom Suozzi appointed a non-partisan advisory committee to screen applications and make recommendations about how bond monies are to be expended. The committee is comprised of nine voting members representing different geographic areas as well as advisors from the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee (OSPAC), the Nassau County Planning Commission, and experts from the real estate, legal, public works and parks departments.

At the first meeting, County Executive Suozzi announced that he intended to bond the full \$50 million this year and that his priority was Nassau County's last



Members of the Nassau County Bond Advisory Committee take a break from their weekly meeting. Pictured left to right are Tom Maher, Cynthia Cooper, Brian Muellers, Chairman, Adrienne Esposito, Lisa Ott, NSLA Executive Director, Dan Donatelli and Neal Lewis.

working farms. He also thanked the North Shore Land Alliance (NSLA) for bringing the idea of an open space bond to his attention.

NSLA is well represented on the Advisory Committee with Ralph Fumante, Trustee, Katie Schwab and Neil Lewis, Advisory Board Members and Lisa Ott, Executive Director. The committee, chaired by former Nassau County Legislator, Brian

Muellers, held a series of meetings across the county to educate residents about the procedure for nominating projects for the bond. There are four categories

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A Letter From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It was a long, cold winter and a great time to lay groundwork for our conservation efforts for this year. From the time I was a young girl, I have always been a list maker but never in my life have I felt as good about making lists as the ones we are helping to write now.

My "To Do" List:

1. Identify and contact major property owners based on the "Green-Print." Thanks to a new system developed for us by the Trust for Public Lands, with data from the Nassau County Planning Commission, we are able to identify all Nassau County properties greater than 5 acres and begin to connect them systematically into wonderful swaths of open, green space.

2. Thank Nassau County Executive Suozzi and Legislature and Oyster Bay Town Supervisor Venditto and Board for providing \$45 million to spend locally on open space nominations this year.

3. Attend New York State Department of Parks and Environmental Conservation (DEC) committee meetings and work to get more Nassau County properties on the New York State Open Space List currently in revision.

4. Thank NSLA members and friends for all the letters and e-mails they wrote to their elected officials asking that tax deductions for land conservation remain in place. Give Senator Schumer, who strongly and

eloquently defended the importance of conservation easements, a big hug if I ever meet him.

Never before have we been in such a good position to make real conservation happen. With the availability of our County and Town funds, we can now leverage local dollars with the state, with federal tax deductions with private, public partnerships creating an even bigger pool to preserve our last remaining open spaces.

Thank you for being our members and friends and helping us throughout the year. We are optimistic that this is going to be a very good year for conservation on the North Shore.

Sincerely,

Lisa W. Ott

In "Watch Dog" Role for a Land Trust, NSLA Challenges Village of North Hills...

NSLA was alerted in the beginning of 2005 about a development threat to a special 18.4 acre property in the Village of North Hills. Known locally as *Grace Forest*, these rare woodlands are one of the last sites on Long Island that contain tulip, red oak and beech trees. In addition, rare wetlands, critical in protecting Long Island's drinking water, exist on and near the site.

The Village of North Hills wants to lift a restrictive covenant that currently protects *Grace Forest* in order to build 60 new condominiums. NSLA spent months investigating land use laws, attending several North Hills Village meetings, and educating the village trustees and residents on several issues.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has determined that wetlands in *Grace Forest* are of "unusual local importance" and should



NSLA's Liz Remsen & Biologist Dr. Andrew Greller visit Grace Forest in North Hills

be protected. *Grace Forest* is a designated Special Groundwater Protection Area (SGPA) and such open space is needed to provide groundwater recharge, critical in protecting the deep flow aquifers which supply Long Island's drinking water.

Grace Forest is an ecologically significant woodland, home to many rare and old growth trees and provides a habitat for many species of plants and birds.

Finally, *Grace Forest* is protected by a

conservation easement intended to preserve the property "in perpetuity."

The trustees in the village of North Hills are still reviewing the developer's subdivision application, though they now have to consider open space and water issues as well as listen to the concerns of their residents. NSLA will continue to inform the residents of North Hills on the pending proposal and encourage them to attend the public hearings, speak out and demand protection for this rare property before it is too late.





Family Picnic Co-Chairs Caitlin Weissman & Emily Johnson accept flowers and thanks with Mollie Eckelberry



Youngster bounces on hippity hop during NSLA Family Picnic



The Bertsch Family enjoys craft tables at NSLA Family Picnic



Children enjoy game tables at Family Picnic



Lister Family arrives for NSLA Family Picnic



Isobel, Josie & Adrienne Coleman at NSLA Family Picnic



Students from East Woods, Green Vale & Cold Spring Harbor volunteer their time and energy during NSLA Family Picnic



Student volunteer Lili Noesen and her sister Maisie at craft tables during NSLA Family Picnic



The von Stade Family at NSLA Family Picnic with Richard Rodriguez



Missy Geddes with grandchild at cotton candy cart during NSLA Family Picnic

NSLA Holds 2nd Annual Family Picnic...

NSLA held its second annual Family Picnic on June 5th at The Nature Conservancy's Upland Farms in Cold Spring Harbor. Many families from all over the North Shore enjoyed a beautiful afternoon of music, games, crafts, delicious food by Bernard's of Glen Head and more. Upland Farms was the perfect setting to talk with families about land protection and how NSLA is working in

Many Thanks to Our Generous Family Picnic Sponsors

Andersen Family	Lombardi Family
Rosemary Bourne	McNicol Family
de Rothschild Family	Ott Family
Donohue Family	Remsen Family
Mollie Eckelberry	Romagnuolo Family
Feinstein Family	Ryan Family
Hahn Family	Schlesinger Family
Heaney Family	Stern Family
Heyke Family	Wachtler Family
Johnson Family	Walsh Family
Debra Kirsch	Weissman Family

partnership with The Nature Conservancy to educate landowners and

public officials on "steps to take" to preserve open space.

NSLA Sponsors Land Use Planning Workshop...

For land use on Long Island, the balance of open space preservation and economic growth is critical. With that in mind, NSLA invited top land use planner, Randall Arendt, to conduct a seminar focusing on conservation subdivision design. On May 26th, 135 land use decision makers gathered at the Hoffman Center in Muttontown for a 5 hour workshop to learn conservation design and the supporting regulatory framework needed by villages and towns. Attendees included Village Mayors, Trustees, Town and County Planning Board Members, Builders, Architects, Landscape Architects, Engineers, and Realtors.

Mr. Arendt's message was clear: in order to achieve a community's goal for "**growing greener**," model ordinances must be adopted. In addition to requiring a process in which the conservation areas of a site are determined first, zoning ordinances must contain, at a minimum, a requirement that protected lands in conservation subdivisions are comprised of at least 50% of the buildable ground

NSLA Trustee Patsy Randolph, NSLA Associate Director Peach Schnier and Nassau County Planning Commission Director Patty Bourne during seminar



Co-Sponsors of land use planning workshop, from left: Paul Rabinovitch, Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy LI; Loyd Zuckerberg, President of Nassau Land Trust; Lisa Ott, Executive Director of North Shore Land Alliance; Randall Arendt, guest presenter; Ursula Niarakis of the Hoffman Center; Kyle Rabin, Executive Director of Friends of the Bay, and William Niarakis of the Hoffman Center

whenever the underlying density is one unit per acre or lower.

Mr. Arendt's workshop offered valuable "**greener**" land use planning tools and an enlightened vision for decision makers to move forward with conservation objectives for their own communities. NSLA is deeply grateful to Mr. Arendt for sharing his wisdom, to all the workshop attendees for their time and attention, and to fellow co-sponsors for the program, The Nature Conservancy, Friends of the Bay, Hoffman Center and Nassau Land Trust.



Planners from Town of Huntington at seminar



Lloyd Zuckerberg works on design exercise with fellow workshop attendees



NSLA Board Chair, Carter Bales, on New York Times Land Use Panel



From left, Lawrence Downes of NYT, Vivian Toy of NYT and Carter Bales of NSLA

The New York Times (NYT) presented a panel discussion on preservation versus sprawl on Long Island. The well attended discussion, held on May 10th at the Locust Valley Library, was moderated by NYT editorial board member Lawrence Downes. Three panelists, NSLA Board Chair, Carter Bales; Long Island Regional Planning Board Deputy, Seth Forman,

and NYT Long Island reporter, Vivian Toy debated the issue of land development vs. open space preservation.

Quickly engaged in the lively discussion, the audience mostly agreed that a balance had to be achieved between space and sprawl. Mr. Bales' comments on the decreased sense of community and quality of life due to over-

development resonated with the crowd, especially with regard to decreased home values due to urban sprawl and the strain on natural resources. All who attended are concerned with Long Island's water supply and want increased communication between towns, villages and residents for a more unified approach to solving land and water use issues.

Bailey's Arboretum

NSLA participated in a Spring Garden Show at Bailey's Arboretum June 4th. In 1911, Frank Bailey bought the approximately 45 acres in Lattingtown and envisioned the property

to be open to the public as a "living growing museum, a museum of trees and shrubs and flowers." Owned by Nassau County and maintained by the Friends of Bailey's Arboretum, this beautiful

land is available to the public for events and trail walks.

Please call the Village of Lattingtown for more information at 516-676-6920

Three Land Conservation Measures Under Consideration at State Level...



In addition to local bonding, some good things are happening for land conservation in Albany this year. Those include:

Community Preservation Fund (CPF)

Senator Marcellino and Congressman DiNapoli have proposed enabling legislation which would allow towns throughout New York State to impose a real estate transfer tax of up to 2%, applied only to those homes above the mean, with proceeds designated for the purchase of open space. This program, very similar to those used in eastern Suffolk County, would create a sustainable income stream for open space protection. To qualify, Towns must have a majority vote of their residents and a current master plan with open space objectives.

The CPF passed in the Assembly but did not make it out of committee in the Senate. There is great hope among environmentalists that this Bill will be passed next year.

Clean Water Protection and Flood Prevention Act -

Senator Marcellino and Congressman DiNapoli have proposed legislation to amend environmental conservation law that would provide the DEC with regulatory authority over the state's freshwater wetlands of an acre or more, regardless of whether that wetland had previously been mapped by the DEC. Currently, wetlands less than 12.4 acres are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. EPA and Army Corp of Engineers who due to the vast inventory of such wetlands have been very ineffective. One hundred fifty nine acres of wetlands vanish in the US every day.

This bill was also passed in the Assembly but did not make it out of committee in the Senate. Major opposition was mounted by Senator Bruno.

"The Bigger Better Bottle Bill"-

Congressman DiNapoli and Senator LaValle have proposed legislation that would amend both the conservation and finance law to expand the definition of "beverage" in the state returnable container act to include noncarbonated beverages (e.g., bottled water, sports drinks and fruit juices) and to direct the unclaimed deposit monies derived from the program to the environmental protection fund (which funds state-wide land conservation efforts). Such a bill would also reduce litter, increase jobs and provide a sustainable funding source estimated to be as much as \$200 Million.

This bill was also passed in the Assembly but did not make it out of committee in the Senate. Senator Bruno was quoted as saying that this Bill was "a give away to the greenies."

Land preservationists in New York State have much work to do over the summer months to convince their Senators of the importance of these bills.

Protection of Long Island's Water... NSLA to Testify at New York State DEC Hearing

Land use greatly impacts water quality and quantity. Excessive development creates more pavement which increases water runoff and decreases recharge to Long Island's underground aquifer. In its mission to protect land from overdevelopment, especially the designated *Special Groundwater Protection Areas*, the **North Shore Land Alliance** ("NSLA") has joined a growing coalition, called *Water for Long Island* ("The Water Coalition"), to study Long Island's groundwater supply and advocate a multi-faceted plan for its long term stewardship.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ("DEC") is responsible for protecting and managing the water supply system of Long Island. However, with more than 60 major water

systems utilizing the sole source aquifer system to meet the needs of nearly 2.7 million people on Long Island, the DEC does not have the research or a regional plan to guide the long term use of Long Island's aquifer.

A case is pending at DEC which could set a dangerous precedent for water usage. The Suffolk County Water Authority ("SCWA") has applied to drill a water supply well into the Lloyd aquifer, the third layer of Long Island's underground aquifer, due to nitrate contamination of the upper glacial and Magothy aquifer in the area. The new well would supply water to the Middleville road wellfield which lies within the Northport intermediate zone of SCWA's supply system. SCWA proposes to pump water from the new well and blend it with contaminated water to bring the nitrate level down to

a point where the blended water would meet the nitrate standard. This blended water would then be sold to SCWA customers in the area.

The Lloyd aquifer is protected by a moratorium on drilling under Section 15-1528 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law ("ECL") which provides for a moratorium on granting of new permits to drill water supply wells in the Lloyd Aquifer in areas that are not "coastal communities." SCWA is seeking an exemption from the current law by advancing two arguments.

SCWA's primary argument seeks an exemption based on the "extreme hardship" provision of ECL §15-1528 (4), arguing that not enough room exists to build a nitrate treatment plant in the area, and that treating the contaminated water

or piping water in from another source would be prohibitively expensive.

SCWA's second argument is that it is "a coastal community," as defined by the statute, which defines coastal communities as those where the Magothy aquifer is absent or contaminated with chloride. Because nitrate contamination forced the closing of two of seven wells in the area for which the new well is sought they believe they qualify as a coastal community.

Sarah J. Meyland, a new member of NSLA's Advisory Board, was an author of the moratorium law and is leading the opposition to SCWA's application. In comments at the public hearing on May 10th, Ms. Meyland stated that the water authority had not met the law's requirement that an exemption to the law be granted only in

cases of extreme hardship. She further argued that treatment options were available but that SCWA did not want to expend funds to purchase the technology. SCWA should address the water quality problem in the area by attacking engineering flaws in the distribution system and using new technology to treat the water and remove pollutants. Additionally, SCWA should advocate water conservation and better local planning to reduce the source of the nitrate pollution which is largely due to lawn fertilizer usage and lack of sewers.

Long Island's underground aquifer has held pristine water from the glaciers for thousands of years. It has taken only 50 years to contaminate the first two levels and there is no plan to safeguard the future. NSLA strongly opposes SCWA's request to drill deeper because they have not fully

explored treatment options and the DEC has not considered the long term impact of choosing the path of least resistance. It is time to demand sound management for Long Island's water supply.

Members of the Water Coalition, including NSLA, the Sierra Club, the East Norwich Civic Association, Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington and the Lloyd Harbor Conservation Group and other interested individuals and groups, had until July 1, 2005 to apply for "party status" in order to appear and oppose SCWA's application. SCWA has indicated that they will fight our efforts to gain party status and will file a brief in opposition to our application. NSLA has approved a joint effort of the Water Coalition to seek party status in the SCWA hearing before the DEC.

Centre Island Land Trust Merges with NSLA...

The Centre Island Land Trust (CILT), founded in 1999 to protect and preserve green spaces, was one of the original founders of NSLA. The CILT trustees saw a greater need for land conserva-

tion beyond their own community and joined forces with others to start NSLA. Based on NSLA's first year of success, CILT decided it could better serve its community by becoming the first local chapter

of NSLA and work under a larger conservation umbrella. NSLA's goal is to create Local Conservation Chapters, village by village, in order to meet the concerns and needs of individual communities.

The Area We Serve





From left: Ted Lamont, Joan Shepard and Judy Murray (NSLA Trustee) at June 26 NSLA Friend Raiser

Cold Spring Harbor Friend Raiser

Judy and Mike Murray generously hosted a cocktail party on June 26 to introduce the North Shore Land Alliance (NSLA) to friends and neighbors in the Cold Spring Harbor and Lloyd Harbor area. Mike Murray introduced NSLA Chair, Carter Bales, who thanked the residents for their conservation spirit and spoke of NSLA's mission to preserve land in perpetuity. Executive Director, Lisa Ott, also thanked everyone for their interest in NSLA and spoke of the importance of neighbors helping neighbors in protecting open space. NSLA's goal is to build trust in North Shore communities by learning more about local needs for preservation.



From left: Keith and Frances Moffat with Mike Murray at NSLA Friend Raiser



Cheryl and Lee Hairr (New NSLA Trustee) at NSLA Friend Raiser



From left: Henrietta Darrell, Margy Hargraves, Mark Hopkinson with Ted and Rebecca Bahr on the Murray's terrace overlooking Cold Spring Harbor



Rynn and Nancy Berry at the Murrays



From left: Ted Lamont, Mary Lindsay and Kay Macy on Murray terrace during NSLA Friend Raiser



From left: Jan Pratt and Dorothy Cappadona



From left: Jack and Andree Welsh with Robin and Paul Vermeylen at NSLA Friend Raiser at Murrays

Our New Board Members

The North Shore Land Alliance is pleased to welcome five new members to its Board of Trustees.

Leland Hairr

A North Carolinian, Lee came to New York to complete his PhD studies at New York University. He joined the staff of a national environmental, economics and occupational health consulting firm acquired by the Equitable Life Assurance Society and served as Senior Vice President of the Environmental Division. In 1979 he co-founded an environmental consulting firm, headquartered in Garden City, and continues to serve as President.

He has been active in the community, having served on the board for 10 years and President for 2 years of the Family Service League of Suffolk County. For the past 15 years, he has served in the volunteer government of the Village of Lloyd Harbor as Chair of the Environmental Review Board, then Chair of the Planning Board, and for the past 6 years as Mayor. In 1993 he received Newsday's Volunteer of the Year Award. Currently, he also serves on the Board of the Friends of the Bay. Lee and his wife Cheryl have grown children and four grandchildren.

Virginia S. Mailman

After graduating from Stanford University, Virginia came to New York and worked for 10 years on the editorial staff of LIFE Magazine.

She left LIFE to become NY Bureau Chief of a start-up magazine, Show Business Illustrated, and subsequently started her own public relations firm with two partners.

Virginia has served on the Board of the National Council on Alcoholism and won their Humanitarian Award. She has also served as a trustee for the Hazelden Foundation and helped start their New York City Rehabilitation Center. She is currently a trustee of PEN American Center, the oldest writers organization in America.

Virginia has three sons, five grandsons and has lived in Glen Cove for 40 years.

Paula Youngs Weir

Paula Youngs Weir co-owns and manages her family's farm on Hegeman's Lane in Old Brookville. Youngs Farm is in its 113th year of business. After college and a job as a Consumer Specialist for Talon in the early 70's, Paula returned to the farm to start up the Bakery/Gift Shop extension of the business over twenty five years ago. Her interests in the community and historic preservation have lead her to be past President of the Boards of SPLIA and the Friends of Raynham Hall.

Her three children attended East Woods School and during that time Paula served on the East Woods Board as Vice-President, but she best liked running the "Flea Market" at the East Woods Fair for over 17 years. Currently Paula is a Trustee at Sewanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club and serves as Membership Chairman. With family ties dating back to 1640, when John H. Youngs settled Southhold, Paula feels the pain of seeing the Long Island we all love being wasted away by massive development.

David H. Taylor, Jr.

David H. Taylor, Jr. (Zach) has been a life long conservationist. He received an M.B.A. from Columbia University and an A.B. from Harvard College. Zach served for three years as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. Today, Zach is a partner at Milbank Winthrop and Co. and is a director of the Global Small Cap Fund and the Emerging Markets South Asian Fund. He is a trustee of the Nature Conservancy

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What is a PDR?

NSLA explores “Purchase of Development Rights” to preserve farmland and open space...

Growing in popularity and demand, there is a legal transaction that will compensate willing landowners for *not* developing their land, called a purchase of development rights (PDR). To understand how a PDR works, a landowner must first think of the bundle of rights associated with their land, like mineral rights. When mineral rights are separated from that bundle, the owner is prohibited from drilling for oil or from mining the land. Similarly, when development rights are separated from the land, the current and future landowner is prohibited from developing that land. The purchase of development rights involves the *sale of that right* while leaving all the remaining rights in place.

PDR is a voluntary transaction, where a land trust or government agency makes an offer to a landowner to buy their development rights. A land trust often brokers a deal between the landowner and the buyer, generally a government agency. The landowner is free to

negotiate or turn down an offer. Once an agreement is made, a permanent deed restriction, also known as a conservation easement, is placed on the property which restricts the type of activities that may take place on the land.

PDR programs offer substantial benefits to both communities and landowners. Many landowners, particularly farmers, are *cash poor* and *land rich*. By selling their development rights, owners can convert some of the wealth tied up in their land while maintaining ownership and productive capacity.

NSLA is working with Nassau County and the Town of Oyster Bay to utilize funds from the environmental bonds passed last year for various PDR transactions. For our communities

here on Long Island's North Shore, PDR programs provide the benefits of open space without the expense of maintaining and policing publicly owned land.

Land trusts, like NSLA, who know their communities and have established trust with residents, are often called into service to monitor the deed restrictions so that violations do not occur. As a broker and steward for PDR programs, NSLA can increase the pace and process of land preservation on Long Island.

For more information on PDR's or other conservation planning tools, please call the NSLA office at 516-626-0908 or refer to our website www.northshorelandalliance.org



Photo courtesy The Nature Conservancy

Update: Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT)

Thanks to the many letters and e-mails sent by our North Shore Land Alliance (NSLA) members and friends, land trusts across the country and national conservation organizations like The Nature Conservancy and Land Trust Alliance great progress has been made regarding the proposed changes to tax law affecting land conservation.

Those include:

- 1) At Congressional hearings in April, ten Senators and Representatives expressed their opposition to the JCT approach, including our own Senator Charles Schumer.
- 2) Five Governors have written Congress to oppose the JCT recommendations and state



Senator Charles Schumer

their support for conservation easements, including our own George Pataki. 3) State and Local officials, like Congressman Tom DiNapoli and County Executive Tom Suozzi, have written letters and engaged their lobbyists on our behalf.

Again, thanks to your involvement, we are cautiously optimistic that the dialogue in Washington has shifted from the JCT proposals to dramatically

reduce almost all of the tax advantages for easements and gifts to alternative ways to prevent abuses. Now we face the task of helping policymakers define those alternatives and trying to ensure that whatever is put into place does not impair conservation.

Locally, we need to thank those politicians who have helped us and ask that they continue to support important land conservation efforts. We also need to work hard to ensure that our most important conservation properties are listed on town, county and state lists, so there is no question about their conservation value. And, we need to accelerate our local conservation efforts to guarantee protection of our last remaining open spaces.

Our New Board Members (continued from page 11)

David H. Taylor, Jr. (continued)

(New York and Long Island Chapters), a trustee of the Long Island Land Alliance, a board member of Chanticleer, Co-Chair of his Harvard College class and a former trustee of Groton School. Zach lives in New York City and Upper Brookville with his wife, Missie Rennie Taylor, and two daughters Rennie and Bree.

Karl G. Wellner

In the investment management industry since 1983, Karl Wellner is now the President and CEO of Papamarkou Asset Management. Born in 1954, he holds a Masters degree in Economics from the Stockholm School of Economics and speaks several languages. Karl is a Member of the Vestry of St. John's of Lattingtown Episcopal Church and is a Board Member of the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. He and his wife Deborah live in Millneck and have three children.

New Staff for the NSLA!



Judith L. Goldsborough

Judith L. Goldsborough, a.k.a. Peach Schnier, is from the Eastern Shore of Maryland. She is a graduate of the St. Timothy's School, in Stevenson, Maryland and received an A.B., cum laude, from Middlebury College where she met her husband, Rick Schnier, who is from Cold Spring Harbor.

She obtained a J.D., cum laude, from Washington and Lee University. She was Law Clerk to the Honorable Thomas Hunter Lowe of the Maryland Court of Special Appeals from 1982-1984, and was an associate with the New York law firm, Dewey, Ballantine, Bushby, Palmer and Wood from 1984-1986. Prior to joining NSLA, Ms. Goldsborough was a litigator with The Law Offices of Neal Brickman in New York working primarily in general commercial practice for thirteen years.

Rick and Peach live in Cold Spring Harbor with their three sons, Nicholas, Cameron and Timothy.

As Associate Director, Peach will be responsible for Legal Review of Zoning Laws/ Recommendations for Conservation Reform, Village Trouble Shooting, and conservation transactions.



Julie Abbate

Julie Abbate is from Billings, Montana, where she met her husband, Charles, who is from Oyster Bay. Prior to joining NSLA, she worked in development at Old Westbury Gardens, the Mill Neck Foundation, and Variety Child Learning Center.

Julie and Charlie live in Oyster Bay with their daughter, Emily. Their son, Vincent, is currently serving with the U.S. Army and is stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington.



Daria Lamb

Daria Lamb has joined NSLA as Consultant for the Premier Wine Auction to be held in September. She previously owned the Book Mark Cafe and Page Two Bakery & Catering Co. in Oyster Bay, both of which she sold in the last two years. Her professional experience is a strong support to our office staff and event co-chairs, Patsy Randolph and Julie Rinaldini. Her responsibilities include coordinating donations, guest lists and suppliers. When asked about working for NSLA, she said, "This is the perfect project for me: it's varied, challenging and I am glad I am working to help raise money for an organization whose mission I believe in."

North Shore Land Alliance (NSLA) on Advisory Committee to Recommend Land Acquisitions for Nassau County...

(continued from front cover)

for which bond monies will be spent: open space, parks improvement, stormwater runoff, and brownfields remediation.

Two hundred and sixty two applications were received by the April 15th deadline. They were submitted by mayors, municipalities, non profit organizations like the North Shore Land Alliance, soccer clubs and private citizens.

Some confusion has occurred over just what a nomination for the bond means. Simply put, it means that someone believes a property is worthy of conservation and its name is added to a list. If the committee reviewing the applications feels that property is significant enough to make it to the top of the

list, the owner would be contacted to ask if he or she is interested in selling their land or an easement on their land for conservation purposes. If the property owner is not, the County walks away and the process ends. If the property owner is interested, two independent appraisals would be conducted to determine fair market value and a negotiation would begin between the owner and the county.

The Advisory Committee meets weekly to review these applications. Decisions are based on selection criteria which gives weight to such positives as lands adjacent to previously protected properties or lands that fall within the special groundwater protection area, lands

which have supplemental funding sources, provide a public service for an underserved community, and/or partners willing to provide stewardship.

After ranking the properties, the committee will make site visits before making their final recommendation to the County Executive in the late summer. From there the list will be reviewed by the Nassau County Planning Commission and OSPAC and presented to the Legislature before actual acquisition begins.

One of the most significant outcomes of this process has been to begin to build a greater Nassau County Open Space inventory and prove, once and for all, that some of the last great places are right here in our own back yards.

Visit our Website
www.NorthShoreLandAlliance.org

- ◆ Read the latest NSLA news.
- ◆ Learn more about Land Conservation and Easements

Contact us at info@northshorelandalliance.org with questions or comments.

Over 4,000 acres of Nassau County Open Space added to the New York State List



Members of the Nassau County delegation to the New York State Open Space Advisory Committee for Long Island at the Long Island State Parks Headquarters. Left to right: Charles Bellivacqua, Tom Maher, Peter Scully, DEC Commissioner for Long Island, Betsy Gulotta, Katie Schwab, Heather Amster, DEC Open Space Coordinator, and Lisa Ott

The New York State Open Space List is updated every two years. Nominations for inclusion must be made and voted on by a committee of 21 people appointed by County Executives from Nassau and Suffolk Counties and special appointees from the Committee Chairs, Peter Scully, DEC Chairman for Long Island, and John Norbeck, Deputy Director of Long Island State Parks.

Nassau County Executive, Tom Suozzi, appointed

the following members to the New York State Open Space Advisory Committee for Long Island: Katie Schwab and Tom Maher, Nassau County Planning Commission, Jeff Fullmer, South Shore Estuary Reserve, Patsy Randolph, Rauch Foundation and North Shore Land Alliance (NSLA), and Lisa Ott, NSLA Executive Director.

Each property nomination must fall within a special resource category and score at least 50 points on specific selection

criteria. The Nassau Committee chose to organize nominations around substantial previously protected open space areas like the Muttontown Preserve, Shu Swamp Preserve and Tiffany Creek Preserves. After weeks of presentations, the list was voted on June 17th and the following Nassau County properties were approved. These nominations represent an increase in acreage from 600 on the last NY State Open Space list to over 4,000.

North Shore projects and their special resource categories are:

Special Groundwater Protection Areas:

	Approximate Acreage
■ Old Westbury Gardens Enhancement Area	510 acres
■ Historic Route 25A Heritage Area	317 acres
■ Planting Fields State Historic Park Protection Area	1,082 acres
■ Tiffany Creek Preserve Protection and Enhancement Area	450 acres
■ Grace Forest	18 acres
■ Greentree Foundation	500 acres
	2,877 acres

Long Island Sound Coastal Area

■ Sagamore Hill Protection Area	424 acres
■ Shu Swamp Enhancement Area	213 acres
■ Kate Trubee Davison Enhancement Area	300 acres
■ Oyster Bay Mill Pond	6 acres
■ Port Washington/Manhasset Bay	7 acres
■ Keyspan/Glenwood Landing	5 acres
	955 acres

Long Island Trail System/Greenways

■ Muttontown Preserve Enhancement Area	808 acres
■ SUNY Old Westbury Conservation Area	500 acres
■ Woodbury Hills Parcel	17 acres
	1,325 acres

This process has helped Nassau County and the NSLA begin to build an open space inventory connecting large expanses of undeveloped land which will be extremely important in planning North Shore's future. These same expanses of land, if protected, will guarantee a healthy, rural quality of life for our children and ensure

that our drinking water will be clean and plentiful for years to come.

Private owners whose lands fall within these conservation resource areas will benefit too. If they choose to place a conservation easement or make a gift of land and would like to take advantage of the tax deductions that apply

they have, in effect, pre-qualified by appearing on a state list. And, when the day comes that they would like to sell their property and make that property a part of Long Island's natural legacy, the state, county, town or a combination of the three might be a potential buyer.



NSLA Is the Only Land Trust In New York State to be Awarded Two LTA Grants



Senator Carl Marcellino (center) with Denise Sheehan, acting DEC Commissioner, and Ezra Milchman, Director of Land Trust Alliance Northeast Program, accepting NSLA grant checks.

(Albany, NY) The Department of Environmental Conservation's Acting Commissioner Denise Sheehan joined state senator Carl Marcellino, members of the state assembly, and the Land Trust Alliance in announcing \$450,000 in grants and technical assistance to 29 land trust organizations across New York State.

Projects awarded state grants this year include:

- ◆ Strategic stewardship and land conservation plans for local land trusts in Long Island, Genesee River Valley, and the Catskills.
- ◆ Conservation transactions to protect and steward 814 acres of threatened open lands in Columbia, Orange, and Nassau counties.

- ◆ Regional scale land protection projects, a new category designed to catalyze landscape conservation projects.

The **North Shore Land Alliance** was awarded a Transactional Grant for its work on the Littauer property in Oyster Bay Cove, and a Conservation Catalyst Grant for its leadership role in the passage and implementation of the Nassau County Environmental Bonds. Together the grants total \$27,900.

State Senator Carl Marcellino (R-Syosset), Chair of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, who accepted the award for NSLA said, "Open space preservation in communities across New York State is both environmentally and financially prudent. A continued partnership between the Land Trust Alliance and the State will continue to yield success stories that further a growing tradition of land conservation. Working together, we will protect diverse and ecologically sound open spaces for future generations to enjoy."

Assemblyman Tom DiNapoli (D-Great Neck), Chair of the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee said, "We are in a race against the clock when it comes to conserving New York State's open space and agricultural lands."

The Conservation Partnership Program, funded by the Environmental Protection Fund, cost effectively protects open space by leveraging more private funding for conservation purposes. First funded at \$250,000 in the 2002-03 budget and currently funded at \$500,000 annually, the Conservation Partnership Program has leveraged a total of \$800,000 in state grant funds with \$3.8 million in private matching funds.

Since 1995, Governor Pataki and the New York State Legislature have committed \$13 billion to preserve and protect New York's environment. In his 2002 State of the State address, Governor Pataki outlined a goal of preserving an additional one million acres.

Upcoming Events



Plan to join us at our 2nd Fine Wine Weekend

Friday & Saturday, September 16th & 17th
in the beautiful barn at Groton Place, Post Road, Old Westbury



Friday Night

features a

Live Auction, Silent Auction & Festive Dinner

Begin with an "Asado style" cocktail hour and international wine tasting. Then enter the barn for a lovely dinner carefully paired with fine wines, and a special live auction featuring unique wines, trips & more.

Saturday Lunch, Silent Auction & Lecture

Continues the fun with a tasting of Long Island wines, and a lecture and delicious lunch.



Both Live and Silent Auctions will offer unique and special wines, as well as opportunities to bid on cases of wines suited for stocking up your cellar for the winter months to come.

Come meet others who enjoy fine wines and want to protect our open spaces.

Contact our office at (516) 626-0908
For an invitation and more details.



**North Shore
Land Alliance
ANNUAL
MEETING**

**Saturday,
October 22nd
10:00 am**

@ The Nature Conservancy
250 Lawrence Hill Road
Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724



2005
Family Picnic
(see page 4)

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Many thanks to our generous members who support us in our conservation efforts.

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I would like to become a member of the North Shore Land Alliance and promote conservation of open space on the North Shore

Levels of membership:

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabid Ruralist - \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vista Guardian - \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Passionate Land Protector - \$5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committed Conservationist - \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member - \$10,000 |

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Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

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