



# Conservation News

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

## NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

Volume 11, Issue 22

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*Smithers Pond*

## Wawapek Preserve Expanded to Embrace Educational Purpose

The North Shore Land Alliance, in partnership with Suffolk County, the Town of Huntington, New York State, The Conservation Fund and the local community, acquired the 32-acre DeForest Williams property (now known as Wawapek), in March of 2015. Three months after closing, the Land Alliance opened Wawapek, formerly a private estate, as a public, passive use preserve.

Over the summer, the Land Alliance learned that the Williams Estate was interested in selling a three-acre property immediately to the north of Wawapek. The property is visibly connected to Wawapek and provides an important expansion opportunity along the entire northerly boundary of the preserve. If the three-acre parcel were not acquired and preserved, the quaint 1,200 square foot cottage, existing greenhouses and outbuildings would undoubtedly be torn down and replaced by a much larger modern house and other accessory structures which would negatively impact the rural character of our newly acquired preserve.

Page Dwyer, executor of the Williams Estate, was very kind to provide the Land Alliance with an exclusive opportunity to acquire the property before it went on the open market.

*(Continued on p. 3)*



Dear Land Alliance Members and Friends,

This year, in the height of the election season, I believe it is important to urge you to take your voting seriously. The turnout for voting in local elections this month was only 20%, the lowest level since the mid 1990's. Political dysfunction in many parts of this country is at an all-time high, which makes it especially important that we not be complacent. It is crucial that we understand the positions of candidates before we vote and continue to advocate for the programs we believe are so important to our families and the community at large.

Here is an example of government gone awry. In 1964, Congress established the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to protect and enhance our nation's landscapes and recreational opportunities. It was the culmination of a bipartisan effort to permanently protect the beautiful landscapes that Americans share. The effort built upon more than a half century of visionary work, begun decades earlier by great conservationists like Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, Gifford Pinchot and Franklin Roosevelt. President Kennedy originally proposed the creation of the LWCF as "a sound financial investment to realize the potential of parks, forests and wildlife refuges." President Lyndon B. Johnson signed it into law.

Funding for LWCF is based on the idea that a small portion of the revenues from development of non-renewable offshore energy resources (oil and gas), belonging to all Americans, should be paid back by conserving precious landscapes. From the beginning, the LWCF was authorized at an annual level of at least \$900 million, which was less than ten percent of total revenues from harvesting offshore oil and gas supplies. Unfortunately, the LWCF was funded at that level only once.

Today, the LWCF is America's most important federal land conservation program. It provides funding for recreational areas, trails and waterways and enhancing access to national parks and wildlife refuges. It also safeguards water supplies and clean water, conserves forests and farmlands, and preserves other historical and cultural sites.

On September 30th of this year, in what would have been the 50th Anniversary of the LWCF, Congress let America's most essential conservation program lapse. Thankfully, the LWCF continues to enjoy strong bipartisan support. Our friends in Washington say that reauthorization is likely to pass if only the Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee will allow it to come to the floor for a vote. The Chair has other ideas, which were set forth as draft legislation last week. Proposed changes to the LWCF include streamlining permits for offshore energy projects; restricting funds for land acquisition, the Forest Legacy program and endangered species grants to 3.5% of the overall budget; and making payments in lieu of taxes to compensate counties that contain large tracts of federal land. Clearly, these amendments were not what Presidents Kennedy and Johnson and the 1964 Congress had in mind for LWCF.

This is only one example of many where today's dysfunctional Congress is not doing what is right for America. I miss the days when Democrats and Republicans could come together to make a lasting commitment to something as important as our nation's land and water.

Thank you for being such loyal and committed friends of the Land Alliance. The local conservation work we are doing together is more important than ever!

With best wishes for a happy holiday season,

Carter F. Bales, Chair

We are pleased to report that the Land Alliance signed a contract to purchase the property on October 30th. When acquired, the property will serve a number of important functions. It will increase the size of the preserve to 35 protected acres. The existing house could be transformed into a stewardship center and/or educational facility and potentially could be used for staff housing. The greenhouse could be used for propagating and growing plants to be used at our nearby Shore Road Sanctuary (formerly ExxonMobil) and other Land Alliance preserves, as well as a teaching tool in our Long Island Water Education Program.

The Land Alliance is now in contract to acquire the property and anticipates closing by the end of 2015. We are working with the Town of Huntington to secure up to 50% of the purchase price. Under the latest scenario being discussed, the Town would likely purchase a conservation easement and the Land Alliance would retain ownership of the land. We are so pleased to be able to partner once again with the Town of Huntington on an important conservation priority. If you haven't made a visit to Wawapek yet, please do. The fall color is particularly beautiful right now.



### Recent Improvements at the Wawapek Preserve

Since our last report, several stewardship projects have been underwritten at the Wawapek Preserve. We would like to thank our latest stewardship heroes for their generous support.

#### **Restoration of the Wisteria Arbor and Maintenance of the Blueberry Patch**

The Leventhal Family – Jeffrey, Victoria, Penelope and Brady

#### **Installation of a Native Plant/Pollinator Garden in Memory of Dr. Lee MacCormick Edwards**

The Dr. Lee MacCormick Edwards Charitable Trust, Tina Albright, Trustee

#### **Ongoing Maintenance**

Deedee and Mike Wigler, Susan and Stanley Trotman  
and Beth and Vincent Luca

#### **Installation of a Fruit Tree Orchard**

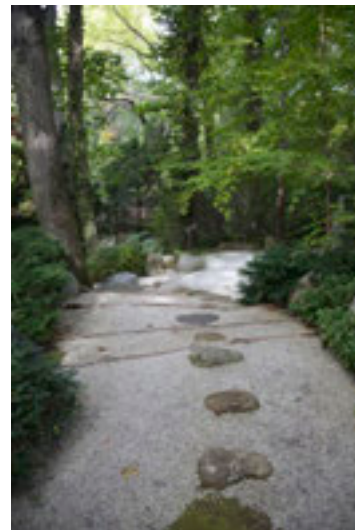
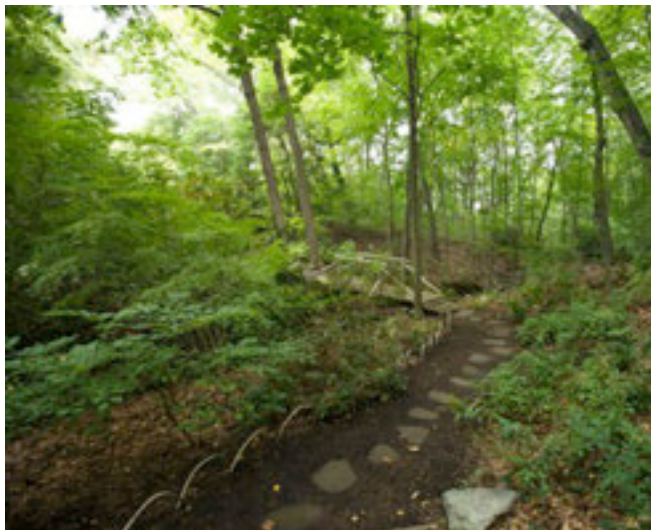
The Schuville Family

#### **Native Tree and Plant Installations**

The Grossman Family, Jennifer Mish, Margo Myles,  
Lisa and Gil Ott and Joy Squires



## Proposed Acquisition of the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden in Mill Neck



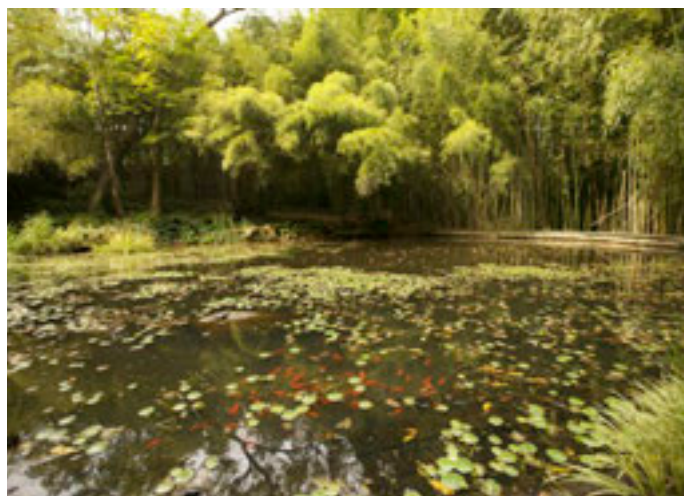
On July 10, 2015, the North Shore Land Alliance acquired the 28-acre Humes property located in the Village of Mill Neck. We have been working to acquire this property for over 10 years and are pleased to be able to announce our success. But we aren't done yet! We still need to raise the \$3 million necessary to repay our conservation lenders that enabled us to acquire the 28 acres. In addition, we are now hoping for the opportunity to acquire and preserve the adjacent Japanese Stroll Garden.

The Humes Stroll Garden is a seven acre property that features steep slopes, mature wooded areas, and a pond and stream that run through the property. The white stone paths and stepping stones lead visitors past a Japanese tea house, tea garden, stone lanterns, mosses and an impressive collection of North American and Asian plants. Whether you're a first time visitor or have been there before, the Stroll Garden offers the public a unique experience that imbues a Japanese landscape and meditative experience. The Garden is open to the general public on Saturdays and Sundays starting from the end of April until the end of October.

The Stroll Garden is currently owned by the Humes Japanese Garden Foundation. It immediately adjoins the former Humes property, as well as preserved land owned by Nassau County, which the Land Alliance helped conserve. If acquired, the Stroll Garden will complete a preserved assemblage that consists of over 150 acres of preserved land including Shu Swamp

Preserve and the Francis Pond conservation areas. These conserved areas and surrounding lands are the headwaters to a series of rivers, lakes and waterways (both freshwater and tidal) that eventually reach the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge and Long Island Sound.

The Land Alliance is committed to acquiring and preserving the Stroll Garden and staff from the Land Alliance plan to meet with members of the Humes family foundation in the coming weeks to discuss its potential acquisition. If you would like to learn more or donate today please contact us at 516-626-0908. We look forward to providing more detailed updates on our progress in the coming weeks!



## Thank you to the generous donors to the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden.

Mr. Scott Abraham	Mr. and Mrs. Eric L'esperance
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Ainslie III	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas K. Lieber/ The Franklin Fund
Anonymous Donor	Mr. and Mrs. John Macaskill
Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Bahr	Mrs. Robert I. MacDonald
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Mr. Hal Davidson and Ms. Sally Peters/171 Giving Fund	Mr. and Mrs. Luis Rinaldini
Mr. and Mrs. Guy de Chazal	Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Robinson
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel de Roulet	Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Saffi
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Dooley	Mr. and Mrs. Larry Schmidlapp
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Greenberg	Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Sweeney
Ms. Joan Marie Heaney	Mrs. David S. Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Clive Holmes	The Jansing-Cook Foundation
Mr. D.R. Holmes Jr. and Ms. Milena Duke	Ms. Olivia Tiernan
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hopkinson	Mr. and Mrs. David Tuveson
Mr. and Mrs. David Hoyt	Mr. and Mrs. Eric Vaughn
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Imperio	Mr. and Mrs. Edward Von Briesen
Mr. and Mrs. Matt Jackson	Miss Lucy Wallace
Drs. Sandeep Jauhar	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Weidinger
Mr. and Mrs. Hoyle C. Jones	Mr. and Mrs. Martin Wenz
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kempner	William C. and Joyce C. O'Neil Charitable Trust/Mr. Hollis Russell, Trustee
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Kirby	Ms. Marion Wood
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Klemm	
Mr. and Mrs. Ragnar Knutsen	
Mrs. John H. Leib	

## The Land Alliance Christmas Wish List

\$150 - Plant Three Large Native Plants at Wawapek

\$500 - Plant a Native Tree at Wawapek

\$2,500 - Plant 1,000 Daffodils at Wawapek  
or Humes Property

\$5,000 - Trail Expansion at Wawapek  
or Humes Property

### Naming Opportunities:

**Restoration of the Round of Yew Hedge at Wawapek**  
(remove vines/small trees; prune, maintain  
and restore center area)  
\$15,000

**Demolition of the Gardener's Cottage  
at the Humes Property**  
\$50,000

**Restoration/demolition of Outbuildings  
at Williams Property** (Remove two existing  
outbuildings, restore one existing garage/outbuilding,  
improve existing cold frame for growing purposes)  
\$75,000

**Renovation of Williams House  
for Use as an Education Center**  
\$100,000

**Restoration of Existing Greenhouse  
and Related Infrastructure and Creation  
of Additional Adjacent Growing areas**  
(includes site planning, clearing, demolition  
where necessary, restoration and construction)  
\$350,000

**Acquisition of the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden**  
Contributions of all sizes are welcome.

**Purchase of Doug Williams Three-acre  
Property Adjacent to Wawapek to  
Create a Nature Education Center**  
\$850,000

**Acquisition of Adjacent Five-acre  
Shore Road Property to extend Wawapek  
to Shore Road in Cold Spring Harbor**  
approximately \$1,500,000

For additional information or to take advantage  
of a naming opportunity, please contact Lisa Ott at  
516-626-0908 or email [lisa@northshorelandalliance.org](mailto:lisa@northshorelandalliance.org).



## Stewardship Update

We at the North Shore Land Alliance believe that conservation and stewardship go hand in hand: Properties should not only be conserved, whether through acquisition or donation, but properly stewarded after they have been conserved. The Land Alliance remains committed to the long-term stewardship of our local lands and to being a model organization that promotes and encourages environmentally sensitive land management. Below are a series of stewardship updates on some of our ongoing conservation projects. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or are interested in supporting our work.

### Humes Property



The Land Alliance is in the midst of forming a task force of Board members, staff and local experts, including representatives from the North Shore Wildlife Sanctuary, to discuss the future land use plans for the property. This will include how best to incorporate it into the larger wildlife/open space corridor that includes Shu Swamp Preserve and the Francis Pond conservation areas. In the meantime, Board and staff have been busy with an overall cleanup while addressing some of the most immediate priorities, including securing all of the unoccupied residential and accessory structures and preparing for winter. Future work, depending on finances, will include repairing the existing cottages and houses, demolishing the former caretaker's house, clearing/restoring existing fields, and introducing native plantings throughout the property. Many thanks to Nick Stimola for doing such a wonderful job of maintaining the grounds.

### Wawapek

Wawapek currently provides the public with walkable woodland trails and a restored garden area featuring a Round of Yew hedge, beautiful specimen trees and a newly planted fruit orchard. Early this spring, the Land Alliance began working with Main Street Nursery in Huntington to create an entrance drive and parking area for visitors. The initial public access improvements included native plantings and attractive signage along with fencing and gates. More recent stewardship work includes additional plantings to the front entrance, a new water system for existing plantings, a new trail, kiosk at the entrance to the walking trail and erosion control efforts along a steeply sloped area within the forested part of the preserve. With the help of a donor, the Land Alliance and Main Street Nursery have also begun restoring the existing wisteria trellis, which is located immediately west of the Yew Round. And, last but not least, we're in the midst of planning for



the establishment of two pollinator gardens, thanks to a grant provided in memory of Lee Edwards. Please come visit Wawapek (Mowbray Lane North, Cold Spring Harbor) if you haven't already!

## Shore Road Sanctuary



Our new plantings at the entrance to the Shore Road Sanctuary kept us busy all summer, but the results made worthwhile the hard work of staff, interns and volunteers. The plantings and a parking area were installed in June. But, though the parking area's final phase, the permeable Porous Pave replacing asphalt adjacent to Shore Road, wasn't completed until October, largely because of high temperatures that persisted well into the fall. The heat and dry weather required a lot of watering, so we were fortunate to have a crew of dedicated volunteers who took on this responsibility as well as weeding the site. We are also grateful to Eagle Dock Beach, which served as our primary source of water. While most of the native plants there should not need to be watered over the long term, we do need to water while they're getting established. Next year, we hope to launch our maritime shrubland enhancement phase, which will include the installation of an on-premise water source.

Deer, not surprisingly, have discovered the plantings at the entrance, so we have carried out some applications of organic deer repellent that seem to

be helping. Fortunately, the large majority of species planted are among those considered seldom seriously affected by deer. We shall see!

In addition to the plants installed in June, the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society (which provided funding for many of the spring plantings) added its own tiny Common Milkweed seedlings germinated from seeds harvested at their restoration site in Stillwell Woods. On these and the Swamp Milkweed and other species planted at the entrance, Monarch butterfly caterpillars and adults, Bumblebees and Silver-spotted Skipper butterflies were among the pollinators observed this summer and fall.

We have installed two interpretive signs at the front of the property, one explaining the value of native gardens, particularly to pollinating animals (and, in turn, to us), and the other describing benefits that brush piles, such as the one that exists at the southwest corner of the property, provide for wildlife.

The grassland and wet meadow areas are looking better and better. Wildflower species that were seeded in June 2014 and observed this year include Tickseed, Blue Vervain, Early Goldenrod and Partridge Pea in the grassland areas. Cardinal Flower, Swamp Milkweed and Blue Flag Iris have added color to the wet meadows, as did several species of goldenrod and aster to the entire site, though they were obscured somewhat by the tall Switchgrass, Indiangrass and Little Bluestem now in their fourth year! Though these species are thriving, we do face some challenges from invasive and unwanted woody species, particularly at the edges of the grassland. They keep us on our toes, but have been far less persistent than invasive plants at other preserves.

There is now a maintained trail that leads visitors on a loop through the grassland and to the beach, so please visit! Keep your eyes open, too, for additional displays identifying plant species at the property.



## GOVERNMENT UPDATES



### FEDERAL

#### **S. 330 The Enhanced Incentive for Conservation Easements**

In February the U.S. House of Representatives passed the America Gives More Act of 2015 (H.R. 644). The bill, which contained a key incentive for land conservation, passed 279-137, reflecting 67% support. We are pleased to report that our Congressional representatives Kathleen Rice and Peter King were supporters.

Unfortunately when the identical bill, The Conservation Easement Incentive Act (S. 330), made its way to the Senate it got stuck and has not moved since. With that said, the conservation community remains hopeful for three reasons:

1) Senator Chuck Schumer has agreed to champion S. 330 and see that it is included in the year-end tax incentives package Congress is expected to take up prior to December 11th.

2) The recent budget deal negotiated by Congressional leaders is an encouraging development for the expired incentive for easement donations, even though it does not directly address it.

The deal raises the debt ceiling through March 2017 and increases the budget caps for the next two years, delaying major cuts in appropriations. This is good news for conservation funding programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Farm Bill programs such as the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, since they would benefit from an increase in budget caps.

The budget deal checks off President Obama's highest priority for this fall, leaving the extension of an enhanced earned income tax credit and child tax credit among his remaining priorities. Success of these tax incentives will, most likely, require negotiating on other expired tax provisions, including the conservation easement incentive.

There are still two major issues to be resolved — appropriations and a new highway bill — and both could be vehicles to advance the enhanced easement incentive or LWCF reauthorization.

3) The election of Paul Ryan (R-WI) as speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, who was a champion of charitable giving incentives earlier this year.

Much like the budget deal, these issues are likely to be negotiated with only a small group of congressional leaders and Congressman Ryan's election will ensure that he will have a seat at the table. Having such a powerful advocate for conservation at the center of the process is great news for supporters of land conservation as we keep working to make the easement incentive permanent.

The more co-sponsors a bill has, the more likely it is to pass, and S330 could use some more sponsors. We still have some work to do to convince Senator Gillibrand to sign on. We will be reaching out to our members to ask for your help when it is time to act.





## GOVERNMENT UPDATES

### Plum Island

For decades, Plum Island, in the Town of Southold and off the north fork of Long Island, has housed an Animal Disease Research Center. That facility accounts for a small fraction of the 843-acre island, the rest of which has been a nearly pristine de-facto wildlife sanctuary. In 2009 the federal government passed a bill to sell the property to offset the cost of a National Bio and Agro-defense Facility in Kansas. Such a sale would endanger an area which is considered to have the most biodiversity in New York State. Plum Island boasts 25 natural communities, six endangered plants and over 200 bird species. Lighthouses, shipwreck and revolutionary war sites add historical value. Since the sell mandate, the Preserve Plum Island Coalition was founded and has engaged the Long Island, Connecticut and Rhode Island public in protecting this exemplary habitat.

There is good news from a local zoning perspective. Once the Island is transferred out of federal ownership it will revert to Town of Southold property. Town officials, recognizing the value of the Island as a natural area, will establish two zoning districts there:

- Plum Island Conservation District (PIC) to preserve the integrity of the regionally significant natural, scenic and historic resources of Plum Island for the benefit of the residents of the Town of Southold; and
- Plum Island Research District (PIR) to encourage the use of land for research and education opportunities, provide employment opportunities and to preserve the island's significant natural, historic, scenic and cultural resources.

The creation of these districts would limit what Plum Island can and cannot be used for and therefore prevent inappropriate development that could damage wildlife habitat and water quality. The proposal lists acceptable uses of the island that include a nature preserve, public park for passive recreation, educational facility, and museums.” ([www.preserveplumisland.org/proposed-zoning.asp](http://www.preserveplumisland.org/proposed-zoning.asp))

On September 28th, a public hearing was held by State Assemblyman Steve Englebright to discuss the preservation of Plum Island as open space. Government and environmental groups testified, including Land Alliance Advisory Board member Louise Harrison of the consulting firm Conservation & Natural Areas Planning. Speakers highlighted the ecological value of Plum Island as well as the legal precedent for its preservation. Based on that testimony, Representative Englebright suggested the strategy, first be to attempt to repeal the sell legislation, allowing the Town of Southold to maintain ownership. The second option would be to consent to the sale as a preserve to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York State or a nonprofit. Lastly, if the federal government attempts to auction off the property to the highest bidder, Representative Englebright recommended litigation.

Combining local government, nonprofit and citizen enthusiasm for land conservation, it is clear that Plum Island can be preserved.

To learn more about Plum Island and what you can do to help protect it visit: [www.preserveplumisland.org](http://www.preserveplumisland.org).



## The Land Alliance Water Education Program Expands to More Local Schools



Education is a core part of the Land Alliance's mission. It is integral to helping community members understand the benefits associated with the preservation of Long Island's land and waters and the important role land conservation plays in ensuring a healthy quality of life.

With nearly 3 million residents in Nassau and Suffolk Counties completely dependent on groundwater for all their fresh water needs, water is one of our community's most precious and most

vulnerable resources. Many Long Islanders are unaware that the source of their drinking water is the aquifer under their feet or that nitrogen is the number one contaminant of our aquifer, harbors, bays, streams and rivers, the Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. The Long Island Water Education Program teaches students about Long Island's water: from the sole source aquifer that provides our drinking water, to the streams, wetlands, bays and Sound that constitute our watershed and make Long Island such a desirable place to live. In the classroom and on our nature preserves, the program uses hands-on interactive lessons to demonstrate the connection between protecting land and water, and engages students in their stewardship.

Initiated in 2014 through a generous grant from the Bruderman Family, the Long Island Water Education Program has reached more than 1,000 students in 2015 from four school districts across the North and South Shores. The program – designed by Land Alliance Educator, Karen Mossey, in conjunction with two highly experienced retired teachers, Anne Codey and Eileen Rossi - is a three-lesson series for fourth, fifth and sixth graders that addresses a sampling of Common Core/NYS Education Department standards. Each lesson can be carried out individually and the program can be adapted for use with other grades or with after-school students. The Long Island Water Education Program has consistently received very favorable feedback from teachers. It is a model for other water education programs on Long Island. As the demand for the program has grown, additional sources of funding are needed to ensure that the growing number of schools who request access to the program can be accommodated.

Thanks to a generous \$40,000 grant received from the New York State Conservation Partnership program, our Water Education Program will continue for two additional years. This fall we expanded to include Great Neck and Valley Stream School Districts in addition to the five with which we launched the program during the 2014/15 school year. We plan to add additional school districts next spring. The fall 2015 field trips have shown off Shore Road Sanctuary in full seasonal glory, as the photo above demonstrates, and engaged students in beach exploration, permeability testing and grassland investigation and stewardship activities. Karen Mossey has been assisted at these events by a crew of talented and dedicated volunteers: Anne Codey, Amanda Furcall, Kathy Hannigan, Harmoni Kelley and Eileen Rossi.



## Owl Prowl at Wawapek



Volunteers for Wildlife delivered a delightful but slightly eerie Owl Prowl at Wawapek Preserve for over 50 kids and adults just in time for Halloween! Before the program got underway, many attendees enjoyed climbing over the fallen black walnut tree that graces the property. Volunteers Jim Jones and Lauren Schulz Eddings kicked off the event with the help of Great-horned and Eastern Screech Owls that the Volunteers rescued but were not able to be release back into the wild. These birds serve as ambassadors for conservation as they educate audiences about wildlife and habitats around Long Island.

After the demonstration, and just as darkness descended on the Preserve, the program moved into the forest, where attempts were made to call in owls who live on the property. Though none responded, owls were heard by some participants just as the last of them was leaving for the night!

We are grateful to Volunteers for Wildlife for providing such an enjoyable event. For more information about their valuable work based at Bailey Arboretum in Locust Valley, visit [www.volunteersforwildlife.org](http://www.volunteersforwildlife.org).



*"Teaching children about the natural world  
should be seen as one of the most important events in their lives."  
- Thomas Berry, The Dream of the Earth -*

# 2016 Walks in the Woods Program



**Sunday, February 7, 11:00 a.m. - Jane Jackson, James Preserve and Clark Sanctuary, Old Brookville -** 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 brisk walk through and around the field, woodlands and wetlands these sites feature. If it snows, bring cross-country skis or snowshoes.

**Sunday, March 13, 10:00 a.m. - Dan Kriesberg, Fox Hollow Preserve, Laurel Hollow -** Dan will lead a group on a family friendly investigation into what Fox Hollow's animal residents are up to in early spring.

**Saturday, April 9, 10:00 a.m. - Leader TBD, Shu Swamp and Humes Property, Mill Neck -** Join us as winter turns into spring and be on the lookout for skunk cabbage and spring ephemeral plants. We will make our way from Shu Swamp to the newly acquired Humes property. Together with the Francis Pond conservation area these parcels form a 150-acre corridor of protected land in the Beaver Brook watershed.

**Saturday, April 16, 10:00 a.m. - Andy Greller and Rich Kelly, Caleb Smith State Park, Smithtown -** Be on the lookout for early spring flowers and evergreen trees and understory plants at this lovely 543-acre State preserve.

**Saturday, May 7, 2:00 p.m. - Peter Martin, Gerry Park and Bar Beach Shore Trail, Roslyn -** Peter's been visiting the duck pond at Gerry Park since he was a wee lad. This walk will have particular appeal to children. We will follow our visit with waterfowl with a hike along the recently established shore trail along the west side of Hempstead Harbor.

**Thursday, June 2, 6:00 p.m. - Eric Swenson and Tom Powell, Cedarmere and, if time allows, William Cullen Bryant Preserve, Roslyn -** Eric and Tom will recreate a hike that William Cullen Bryant himself would have taken. We will walk the path around Bryant's pond and visit his garden area and some interesting trees on the property. Bryant walked three miles to work each day in New York City, and would appreciate people today following in his footsteps!

**Saturday, June 18, 6:00 p.m. - John Turner, Dwarf Pine Plains, Westhampton, co-listed with Seatuck Environmental Association -** If you don't already know, learn what a goatsucker is. And even if you do, you'll love this evening observation of birds that are active after dark. (We'll get there early enough for some birding in daylight, too.)

**Saturday, July 16, 1:00 p.m. - Suzanne Ruggles at her home, Westhampton -** Suzanne, also known as the Barefoot Gardener, has been researching in her



## - *Connecting People to Nature*

own garden the way native plants make their own way back into sites where invasive plants have been removed. During this walk she will share her observations.

**Sunday, August 14, 8:30 a.m. – Ken and Sue Feustel at Caumsett State Park, Lloyd Neck** - Ken and Sue discovered a colony of Baltimore Checkerspot butterflies at Caumsett in 2009, a discovery that, in part, ultimately led to the grassland restoration project now underway. Explore the butterfly species that inhabit the various habitats of the Park and learn about the restoration.

**Saturday, September 10, 5:00 p.m. – Philip Asaph, Shore Road Sanctuary (aka former ExxonMobil property), Cold Spring Harbor** - Late summer is a delightful time to take in the grassland and beach where oil tanks used to occupy the scenery. Poet Philip will guide us in putting inspiration into words.

**Saturday, October 8, 10:00 a.m. – John Turner, Fort Totten, Queens** - What better way to experience the fall migration than under John Turner's astute and entertaining guidance?

**Sunday, October 30, 11:00 a.m. - Richard Weir, Red Cote Preserve, Oyster Bay Cove** - Educator and Land Alliance Advisory Board Member Richard Weir will lead us through this preserve of rolling meadows and now a delightful new woodland trail in glorious autumn.

**Saturday, November 19, 10:00 a.m. – North Shore Land Alliance and Sierra Club, multiple properties in Laurel Hollow and Oyster Bay Cove** - This hike will be a lengthy one through several protected properties, beginning at the Land Alliance's Fox Hollow Preserve in Laurel Hollow and finishing at Tiffany Creek Preserve in Oyster Bay Cove. This will be a wonderful opportunity to cover a lot of ground and experience the true flavor of undulating North Shore field and forest.

## About Our Walks in the Woods Program



The North Shore Land Alliance Walks in the Woods nature education program is a series of free, educational and interactive explorations. They are designed to guide visitors of all ages through Long Island parks and nature preserves, many of which are off the beaten path, for investigation while educating them about the wildlife and plants that call them home. Participants also gain an understanding and appreciation of local land conservation and its benefits to our food and water supplies and wildlife habitats and its connection to the strength and health of our communities.

Our walks are FREE to the public. Registration is required as space is limited on many of the walks.

**To register, visit our website at [www.northshorelandalliance.org/walks-in-the-woods-program](http://www.northshorelandalliance.org/walks-in-the-woods-program).**

## The Long Walk by Dan Kriesberg



I love the Land Alliance preserves and their Oyster Bay Cove preserve neighbors, but sometimes their size can be limiting. Compared to hiking in other places it is as if I am walking in circles too small for the lengthier walks I usually prefer. However, one day this summer I had an idea and time to try something new. I would walk through one preserve, get in the car and drive to the next, walk through that one then move on so forth and so on. In each preserve I would walk the perimeter trails before going into the middle to find a quiet place to simply sit. The plan was to start at the Fox Hollow Preserve in Laurel Hollow, after that head over to Cushman Preserve, follow with Red Cote Preserve and finish in Tiffany Creek. Along the way I also stopped at Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and the new Sagamore Hill nature trail.

The Fox Hollow Preserve is a 26-acre mix of white pines, tulip, oak, beech plus sassafras trees. I took the trail leading up and over the ridge and down into the hollow of Fox Hollow which hid me from the noise of 25A. It was early enough that fog still crept among the trees. Sunlight cut through the water drops rainbowing the forest in early morning light. The trail rose out of the hollow and came to the top of a hill where the power of Sandy had flattened the trees. Even without help from FEMA, storm damage can't compete with the power of photosynthesis. The open

light gave rise to a battle among a variety of plants, including tree seedlings planted six months after the storm, that are competing for sun, soil, air and water with the only question being who will win.

Next stop was the Cushman Preserve. This preserve was named for the Roderick Cushman family who donated it to The Nature Conservancy in 1973. It did not take long to walk the trails so I took a slowed down second lap. One of the unique features of the Cushman Preserve is the lady slipper orchids. In the spring these pink flowers, that really do look like lady slippers, are screaming for the attention of bees. The flowers are long gone but the distinctive leaves remain. Instead of flowers the bright colors come from a fungus growing on a fallen log that is so bright orange it stands out like a flag.

The day was still young as I drove to the Red Cote Preserve. It is a mix of fields and forests covering 30 acres. The fields were full of late summer colors. Queen Anne's lace, goldenrod, New England Aster, milkweed and more were taking advantage of the mowing that keeps succession from succeeding. There is a new trail that left the open fields and headed into the woods. The trees closed in tight and the narrow path gave the forest a deep woods, jungle feel. A fallen cherry tree made for a great place



to sit for a bit of quiet time. There were magnolia trees with huge rubbery leaves and brightly colored Northern Orioles that made for even more of a jungle feel. Birds flitting from tree to tree left their shadows bouncing on the leaves. There were more colors from the fungus that was bursting out all over. I moved on and the trail led me down the hill and around before taking me out of the woods and back onto the field to one of my favorite views on Long Island. Across the field a hill blanketed in trees loomed high. Another hill peeked from behind, hills upon hills. It reminded me of the Catskills or Vermont, even Central New York. I caught my thinking and realized I should not compare this view to other places; it stands on its own. The constant comparisons diminish the here and now. Better for me to remember to love the one you are with.

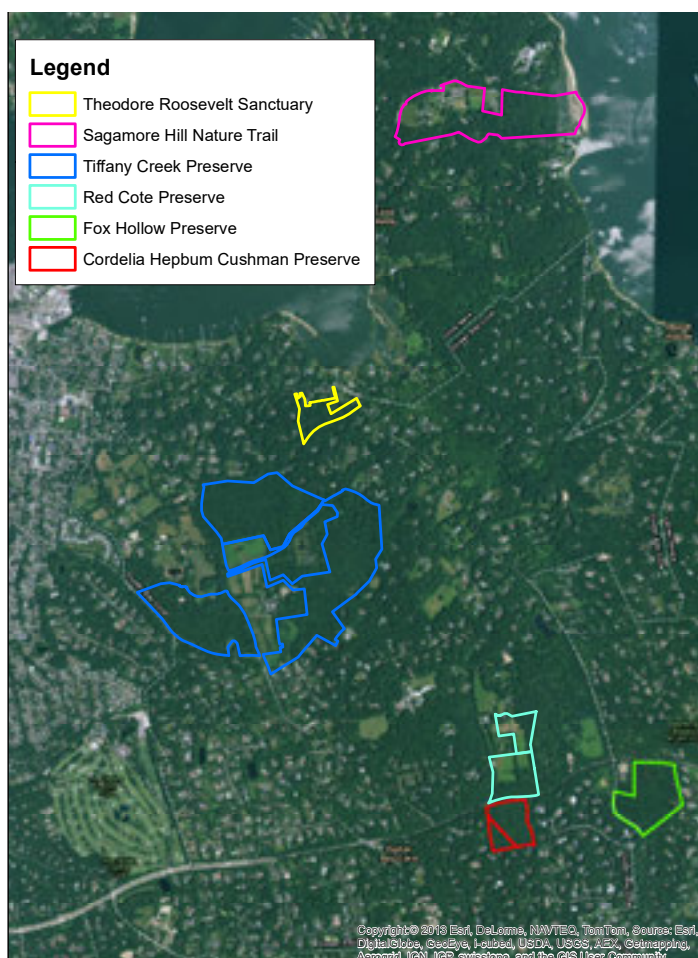
The final stop was Tiffany Creek, the largest preserve on my all-day hike. The loop has room for several miles of walking. I walked quickly past the field covered in Mile-a-Minute Vines. Invasive species depress me; I wish I didn't know so much. Once down the hill and into the woods my mind quieted. This



is the most remote spot on the North Shore. I have never run into anyone else in these woods. I take the trail all the way to Held Pond. A tree lay half in the water becoming home base for three flycatchers that were using it for a launch site. They flew off, grabbed an insect, flew back onto a branch and repeated. I wondered: do they fly off to grab an insect they see or fly off in search of an insect?

I walked from the pond to several glacial erratics that stood sentinel over the woods. They would make great places to sit, but the mosquitoes claimed the thrones for themselves. I tiptoed through some poison ivy and found the trail that took me back to my car and home.

I am not sure of the mileage, but the tired feeling in my legs told me it was such a great day that I intend to start planning more long day hikes I can create by stringing preserves together.



## Annual Members Meeting

The Land Alliance held its Annual Members Meeting on Saturday, October 24th at the Locust Valley Public Library. This was our largest Annual Members Meeting to date, with more than 50 members in attendance. Board Chair Carter Bales welcomed members and talked about the Land Alliance's vision for the future.



Hal Davidson, Co-Chairman of the Committee on Trustees, conducted the election of Trustees, where the following were elected for three-year terms running from 2015 until 2018: New Trustees elected for a first term were John Casaly, Christoph Cushman, Chris Hagedorn, Nicholas Paumgarten and Jean Thatcher. Returning Trustees were Carter Bales, Rosemary Bourne, John Bralower, Matt Bruderman, Augusta Donohue, Nancy Douzinas, George Eberle, Hoyle Jones, Clarence Michalis, Jonathan Moore, Luis Rinaldini, Julie Rinaldini, Larry Schmidlapp, Ray Schuville, Peri Wenz and Tom Zoller. In total, 122 votes were received from both the floor and one vote cast by Lisa Ott, Land Alliance President, on behalf of the members who had voted by proxy, thus completing the successful election process.

Lisa went on to give a brief account of the Land Alliance's progress in 2015, which included the following:

- The acquisition of the 32-acre DeForest Williams property, Cold Spring Harbor, which closed on March 10th. This was an \$8.5 million public private partnership among the County of Suffolk, Town of Huntington, State of New York, Land Alliance and Cold Spring Harbor community. This acquisition creates a public preserve in a densely populated area and is particularly important for water quality protection. Lisa also indicated the Land Alliance's excitement about acquiring an additional three-acre parcel contingent to Wawapek for educational purposes.
- The acquisition of the 28-acre Humes property in Mill Neck. The Humes property is the #1 most environmentally significant unprotected property in our community and connects three previously protected areas to create a 150-acre wetland and wildlife corridor. Lisa also voiced the Land Alliance's interest in purchasing the adjacent Humes Japanese Stroll Garden.
- The transfer of ownership of 62 acres of preserves owned by The Nature Conservancy to the Land Alliance. Those preserves are the 42-acre Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve, Upper Brookville, and the 20-acre Darwin James Preserve, Old Brookville. We also continued our work at the Shore Road Sanctuary by installing an entrance, pervious parking area and rain gardens to absorb stormwater runoff.
- Co-sponsorship of the 2015 Long Island Food Conference, a day-long conference at Hofstra University, with the intent of empowering people to grow food in suburban locations.
- The launch of a water education program in local schools, which is helping more than 1,500 public school children learn about Long Island's sole source aquifer, watersheds, water conservation, native plants and the connection between land and abundant clean water.

- Continued community outreach to broaden the Land Alliance's membership base by hosting a dozen Walks in the Woods, six fundraising events and various conservation-oriented publications.
- In total, the Land Alliance grew its inventory of protected lands by 122 acres and increased membership by 194 new families.

All in all, it was a very good year for the Land Alliance and for local conservation. Lisa Ott thanked our members for their support and introduced featured speaker Dr. Diane Lewis, healthy living activist and author of *The Great Healthy Yard Project*.

## Our Yards, Our Children, Our Responsibility!



Dr. Diane Lewis is a nephrologist and a mother, a community leader and a conservation activist. When she became a mother, she thought feeding her children natural food and spending time with them in nature was enough. She quickly learned that broken bones and hurt feelings could be fixed but their exposure to environmental toxins cannot. As a nephrologist she has a better than usual grasp on the importance of clean water and the impact chemicals that are now found in our drinking water at alarming levels have on the body. Scientific studies from top tier journals show that even small amounts of these chemicals cause increases in diabetes, cancer and abnormal development of the brain and nervous system by disrupting hormonal systems.

Many of us do not connect our yards with our drinking water supply, but the chemicals we use on our lawns and gardens wash with rain and storm water into our streams, ponds, reservoirs and deep groundwater wells in measurable amounts. Together these water sources comprise our drinking water - and as a result, chemicals flow into our homes and bodies.

In fact, 95% of the contiguous United States is directly impacted by how we care for our yards. While 41% of the land is devoted to agriculture, 54 percent is comprised of cities and suburbs. This means homeowners are caring for most of the land in the US. And, every year, Americans use a staggering 80 million pounds of pesticide on 30 million acres of lawn - ten times more chemicals per acre than farmers use. Many of the yard chemicals that enter the water cycle do not degrade: instead they accumulate in the environment. This not only puts our families at risk but also the generations that follow.

Dr. Lewis has put her medical practice aside and is devoting her time to doing something about this problem. She has authored a book, *The Great Healthy Yard Project*, and begun an initiative that educates the public about the risks to our drinking water. She helps people understand what they can do to have beautiful yards and gardens without chemicals and offers up a challenge to homeowners to join her in her quest to protect our drinking water and in turn our community at large.

### Here are some additional facts and sources if you would like to learn more:

- The USGS has found at least one pesticide in most streams and lakes nationwide, and half of groundwater wells. [www.nytimes.com/2014/05/11/opinion/sunday/the-toxic-brew-in-our-yards.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/11/opinion/sunday/the-toxic-brew-in-our-yards.html)
- The EPA has found enough fertilizers in 70 percent of the streams in the northeast that they are considered of poor quality to support life. [www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/06/are\\_green\\_lawns\\_worth\\_the\\_risk.html](http://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/06/are_green_lawns_worth_the_risk.html)
- Fertilizers lead to blue green algae blooms, seen in over 50 lakes in New York State and also in salt water bodies.
- Water is a shared resource. The Magothy aquifer supplies all of Nassau and half of Suffolk County's drinking water.



- We get fish and shellfish from Long Island Sound and swim in it.
- Synthetic pesticides and herbicides are endocrine disrupting chemicals and the Endocrine Society position papers directly link them with an increased incidence of diseases caused by disruption of hormones including breast and prostate cancer, non-Hodgkins lymphoma, abnormal neurologic development and diabetes.
- Glyphosate, the most commonly used herbicide, was recently labeled a probable carcinogen by the World Health Organization.



## Take the Pledge! Every Yard Makes a Difference

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to take care of my yard without synthetic pesticides and fertilizers and weedkillers except on rare occasions to resolve an infestation or to improve habitat for native plants and wildlife. I also pledge not to throw pharmaceuticals or chemicals down my drains or toilets.

## HOW THESE CHEMICALS HARM US:

- Some cause cancer by damaging DNA.
- Some are endocrine disruptors, and tiny amounts of these can prevent hormones from functioning normally.

## SOME EXAMPLES OF DISRUPTION:

- Thyroid hormone-abnormal brain development
- Hormones of metabolism-diabetes
- Estrogen - breast and prostate cancer, infertility

## HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?

The US Geological Survey found at least one pesticide in almost every water and fish sample collected from streams nationwide, and in about onehalf of all wells tested. Most contained two or more pesticides.

Standards do not account for cumulative action of numerous chemicals, activity of breakdown products or those products that are not tested for.

The EPA found so much fertilizer in more than half of the waters nationwide and up to 71% in the East and

Midwest that they rated them of poor quality to support life.

## WE SHARE OUR ENVIRONMENT WITH BIRDS, BEES AND AMPHIBIANS

Deformed frogs in Lake Champlain and a significant decrease in the population of 40 species of songbirds in North America and colony collapse disorder in bees all result, at least partly, from these contaminants. These are indicator species, protecting them is protecting our families.

## OUR ENVIRONMENT IS NOT SEPARATE FROM US

Especially water. Our bodies are 60 percent water. We may not see the contaminants in water, but they still harm us. But if we do not put them into the water, our water will be healthy.

**Pledge online and get more information at [www.tghyp.com](http://www.tghyp.com).**

LET'S JOIN TOGETHER TO KEPP OUR WATER CLEAN AND HEALTHY!

# Organic Lawn Care to Protect Our Drinking Water

**AERATE** – Core aeration allows oxygen to penetrate the lawn. This is important for the grass roots, and also the beneficial bacteria. It also relieves compaction.

**LET GRASS GROW TO 4”** – Mow when grass gets to 4” and bring it down to 3”. This lets roots grow long because the roots mirror the shoots. Long roots make the grass more drought resistant and help it absorb runoff.

**LEAVE CLIPPINGS** – They return nutrients, cool the soil and help retain water. They don’t cause thatch!

**BE COMPETITIVE** – Outcompete weeds with grass seed. In early spring seed bare spots, repair again in early fall. Overseeding your lawn by broadcasting a small amount of grass seed prevents weeds from getting a foothold.

**NUTRITION** – Let plants add the nutrition, not fertilizers. Legumes like clover have bacteria in their roots that take nitrogen from the air and make it available to plants. Add some clover to your lawn.

**FERTILIZE - NOT!** An established lawn gets all of the nutrition it needs from leaving the clippings and adding a little clover. If you are concerned, test your soil and make adjustments.

**STARTING A LAWN** – If you are starting out, test the soil. If the Nitrogen or Potassium is low you can replace it with certified organic supplements in the fall when the roots grow. Organic supplements need to be put down when soil microbes are active, when it is greater than 65 degrees, August 15-September 25. Compost tea is an ideal way to enrich the soil when it does need extra nutrients.

**PLANT SEED IN FALL FOR BEST ROOT GROWTH**

**CHOOSE THE RIGHT GRASS FOR YOUR CLIMATE** – Speak with your local cooperative extension or professional to choose a balanced mix best for our area.

**GO NATIVE!** Consider replacing lawn in shade or wet areas where grass does not grow well with native groundcovers or shrubs. In areas that aren’t used for walking and playing consider growing a meadow or planting native plants.

**WATER** – Established lawn doesn’t need water except during droughts. Then about 1” early in the morning. Expect a lawn to go dormant in the heat of the summer. Germinating seeds need water until they become established. Enough to keep them moist, but not to puddle.

**WEEDS** – Get used to having some weeds. Walking on dandelions is better than walking on toxic chemicals. Where you need to remove them use boiling water, vinegar, clove oil or hand weed. Out compete weeds with grass seed. Corn gluten may work as a pre-emergent.

**INSECTS** – Many are actually beneficial, but some are nuisances. For grubs use milky spore or beneficial nematodes.

**PROTECT THE SOIL** – Avoid blowers. They blow away the nutrients and beneficial bacteria in the top layer of soil.

**THATCH** – Thatch results from stems and roots that decompose. It usually occurs on turf that is heavily fertilized, compacted, acidic and poorly drained. That is not caused by leaving clippings. Core aeration often relieves thatch.

Source: [www.TheGreatHealthyYardProject.com](http://www.TheGreatHealthyYardProject.com)

## New Board Members of the North Shore Land Alliance



### John Casaly

John Casaly was elected to the Land Alliance Board of Trustees this past September. John is a retired lawyer who has worked as a volunteer for many non-profits in New York and on Long Island. At the present time, John serves on the boards of the New York Landmarks Conservancy and the Planting Fields Foundation. He is also a member of the advisory boards of the Noguchi Museum and Fountain Gallery. His past board memberships include the Nassau County Museum of Art and Fountain House, Inc., an organization that runs clubhouses and provides housing for people with mental illnesses.

John and his wife, Louise Parent, reside in New York and Mill Neck. John is very interested in architecture and architectural preservation and has just completed the restoration of their historic house “Barberrys”.



### Nicholas Paumgarten

Nicholas Paumgarten is Founder of Corsair, one of the longest-standing private equity firms focused on investing in the global financial services industry, and serves as a member of the Investment Committees of Corsair II, Corsair III and Corsair IV.

Prior to spinning off Corsair as an independent business in 2006, Mr. Paumgarten was a Managing Director at J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. (and its predecessor companies, “J.P. Morgan”), which he joined in 1992 to raise Corsair I. He also held a number of senior management positions in the Investment Banking Department of J.P. Morgan, including Co-Head of the Financial Institutions group and Co-Head of the Mergers and Acquisitions group for the Americas. Previously, he headed Credit Suisse First Boston’s Financial Institutions group.

Mr. Paumgarten is a director of SPARTA Insurance and Scripps Networks Interactive. Mr. Paumgarten holds a B.A. in History from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.B.A. from Columbia University and is conversant in German. He lives on Centre Island with his wife, Carol.



### Jean Thatcher

Jean Thatcher is the Mayor of Lloyd Harbor, a position she has held since 2014. Prior to her election to Mayor she served as Deputy Mayor for 14 years. Jean’s charitable activities and volunteer positions largely reflect her commitment to the preservation of open space, and include, among others: The Caumsett Foundation, where she served as a founding member and first President, and remains on the Advisory Board; Concerned Citizens for 25-A, where she chaired a successful 10-year opposition by this grass-roots organization of more than 5,000 residents to proposed plans by the NYS Department of Transportation to widen 25-A to six lanes entering Cold Spring Harbor; and Volunteers for Wildlife, where she currently serves as President of this wildlife rehabilitation and education center.

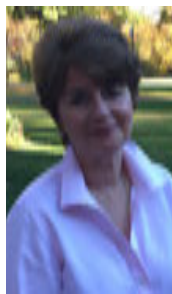
Jean’s professional background is in the reinsurance field, most recently as Senior Vice-President and Chief



Operating Officer of MMIA, a malpractice insurer underwriting the high-risk malpractice pools for the State of New York.

Jean and her late husband, Richard, have grown sons, a daughter and currently two grandchildren, all of whom grew up in the Lloyd Harbor/Cold Spring Harbor area. Jean's daughter-in-law, Elina, works as an active Land Alliance volunteer.

## New Staff Member



### **Ginny Flatz**

Ginny Flatz joined the Land Alliance as the new Development Associate/Office Manager this past July. Ginny graduated from LIU with a BA in History. After raising her two sons, Ginny worked at Tilles Center for the

Performing Arts in the Development Department for 15 years. More recently, she was Director of the 33 Club for Seniors in New York.

Ginny grew up on Long Island and lives with her husband, Chris, in Syosset. Ginny and her family have enjoyed camping in many of the national parks over the years and she is an avid "pots on the patio" gardener.

## **2015 GROUNDWATER A LIFELINE FOR LONG ISLAND'S WATER – AN AQUIFER COMPACT?**

A thoughtful discussion on how to improve the protection and management of Long Island's Sole Source Aquifer, our only drinking water supply. This Symposium will consider what is happening to groundwater across Long Island and explore effective oversight alternatives being used elsewhere in New York State and across the United States.

**Friday, December 4, 2015 at  
9:00 am – 12:30 pm**

**South Huntington Public Library  
145 Pidgeon Hill Road  
Huntington Station, NY 11746**

### **Speakers:**

Pamela M. Bush, J.D., M.R.P., Delaware River Basin Commission,  
Secretary to the Commission and Assistant General Council

Stan Carey, Superintendent, Massapequa Water District

Chris Schubert, USGS

Robert Carpenter, Administrative Director, Long Island Farm Bureau

Format: Panel Discussion and Q&A

**For more information, please visit Water for Long Island at [www.waterforlongisland.org](http://www.waterforlongisland.org).**

## Long Island Food Coalition North Shore Farm Tour

On Saturday, August 8, 2015, the Long Island Food Coalition, a coalition of organizations and individuals seeking to promote food and agriculture initiatives across Long Island, hosted its first Long Island Farm Tour. The sold out tour visited several farms on the North Shore of Long Island, including Orkestai Farm in Upper Brookville, Youngs Farm in Old Brookville and Three Castles Farm in Old Westbury. Attendees were able to get a behind-the-scenes look at how each farm operates, tour the farm fields and meet volunteers, staff and farmers. One guest shared, “[T]he tour today was a lot of fun, interesting as well as a good way to learn about farms in our ‘neighborhood.’” The tour also included a visit with noted food expert and chef, Bhavani Jaroff of iEatGreen Homestead in Old Westbury, who prepared a memorable and fabulous lunch consisting of fresh watermelon gazpacho, vegan pasta, farmfresh salad and a cashew cream cheese cake.

The Long Island Food Coalition plans to continue developing and promoting farm tours and other food and agriculture related events in 2016. Planning has already begun for a tour of South Shore farms that represent a range of sustainable suburban growing models that engage the community, protect natural resources and encourage the growth of local economies. Specific farms have yet to be confirmed but attendees will have an opportunity to meet local farmers, learn about their growing methods and shop for organic and local produce. Earlier this year, the Long Island Food Coalition, which is sponsored by the Land Alliance, hosted the third Long Island Food Conference, a full-day event dedicated to educating Long Islanders about the benefits of healthy eating, growing their own food, living sustainably and protecting our existing farms and farmland.

Farms are important to our natural heritage, community character and health. The Land Alliance is committed to protecting local farms and increasing access to locally grown food.

For more information, please visit the Long Island Food Coalition website at [www.lifoodconference.com](http://www.lifoodconference.com) or contact Stephen Searl at 516-626-0908.





## Go Native – Show Your Long Island Pride



Native plants are those that are indigenous to and are historically found growing on Long Island. There are many great reasons to start incorporating native plants into private and public landscapes.

1. Native plants are easier to grow and need much less maintenance than exotic ornamental plants and turf lawns. These plants are already adapted to the local environment and require a much smaller amount of fertilizer use.
2. Native plants have very long roots that can help filter pollutants found in stormwater runoff and prevent them from going into local waterways and our underground aquifer, which supplies 100% of our drinking water on Long Island.
3. Native plants once established will help to conserve water since they can survive and thrive using natural precipitation. Their long root systems help to soak in a lot of water meaning less irrigation is needed. During the summer months water use on Long Island increases significantly and much of that increase is due to outdoor irrigation. Replacing lawns and exotic plants with native species will help to lower this excessive water use during those months. Currently, water is being pumped out at a rate higher than precipitation can recharge our groundwater so it is very important to conserve as much as possible.
4. Native plants provide food and habitat for local wildlife species, including pollinators, like birds, bees and butterflies. Since so much natural space has been lost and fragmented by human development, planting native species can help to create and connect disjointed habitats. Also native plants can give a boost to declining bee and monarch butterfly populations. Perennials like Butterfly Weed and Swamp Milkweed are great for butterflies, while Goldenrod species help native bees. To provide food for birds, plant native trees like white oak and red cedar.

Native plants provide so many human and environmental benefits and there are a multitude of possibilities in selecting plant species for your landscape. Here is a small sampling of local sources for native plants for your garden:

- Long Island Native Plant Initiative
- NYC Parks Dept's Greenbelt Native Plant Center
- Glover Perennials
- Long Island Natives, particularly for trees and shrubs
- Pinelands (in NJ) and North Creek Nurseries (in PA)

Thanks to volunteer Megan Fastuca for gathering this information.

## Conservation Easement Corner – Landowner Questions About Conservation Easements

***Landowner #1: “I love looking out my window and seeing the birds, osprey, turtles and other wildlife in the pond in front of my house. How can I protect not only my view but the plants and wildlife that live here with me?”***



We hear landowners throughout the North Shore of Long Island constantly ask these kinds of questions. As the Land Alliance continues to grow and conserve land around us, we are keenly aware of a growing “conservation ethic” in our community. Landowners in particular want to know what they can do to contribute to conservation and we’ve recently seen a strong interest in not only contributing to Land Alliance projects but conserving their own land – whether it be two acres, 20 acres or 150 acres, and whether it be to protect open space, scenic views, farmland or wildlife habitat.

***Landowner #2: “I have lived on my property for over 20 years and plan to be here at least 20 more. But what can I do to make sure my land is conserved without giving up my right to own the land and ensuring that it can be passed on to my children?”***

There are many ways to conserve land. One of the most popular and important tools is conservation easements. According to the National Conservation Easement Database, there are over 114,000 conservation easements that conserve over 23 million acres of land nationwide – and of these nearly

half are held by state and local land trusts. Below is a brief description of what exactly a conservation easement is and the different kinds of property and conservation values they protect:

- A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and a land trust or governmental agency that permanently restricts uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values.
- Conservation easements offer many potential public benefits. They can protect water quality (groundwater and surface water), farmland, scenic viewsheds, open space, wildlife habitat and historic structures as well as promote outdoor recreation and education.
- Such easements do not confer a right for the public to access the land - the land is still remains private.

***Landowner #3: “Why are there so many conservation easements, why do they seem to work so well, and how exactly do they benefit landowners?”***

Conservation easements have been so successful for the following reasons:

- They are flexible documents that are tailored to landowners’ needs and their specific property. Depending on the conservation values being protected, conservation easements can be written to allow for a future home or subdivision.
- Landowners retain the right to own, sell and use the land and to pass it on to their heirs. The land trust’s role is usually limited to annual monitoring visits and, when necessary, enforcement of the conservation easement’s restrictions.
- Conservation easements are perpetual and run with the land but they do NOT require public access.





**In addition to being adaptable tools, conservation easements also provide the following benefits:**

- They allow landowners to protect the land they love.
- A donation of a conservation easement can reduce your income taxes if it protects your property's conservation values and meets other requirements of federal law. As of now, the federal income tax deduction is 30% of an individual's adjusted gross income over six years up to the value of the gift. We are hoping that enhanced incentives are retroactively passed by the end of this year which would enable individuals to claim up to 50% of their adjusted gross income over 16 years up to the value of the easement.
- Qualified conservation easement donors are eligible for a New York State tax credit. If a landowner donates a conservation easement that meets federal tax deduction requirements, they will receive an annual state income tax credit for 25% of the property taxes on their easement-restricted land, up to \$5,000 (not including city or village taxes). This tax credit is available to all owners of land with qualified conservation easements and it runs with the land so that successor owners will also benefit.
- Conservation easements may reduce local prop-

erty taxes. Tax assessments are made by local assessors based on the fair market value of property. Conserved land does not demand as many municipal services as does developed land. Logically, a highly restrictive easement that reduces a property's market value should be reflected in a lower assessment.

- Conservation easements can help landowners with estate tax planning. Easements are unique in their capacity to reduce the federal estate tax burden on an important asset without (in many cases) significantly affecting the current use of the land or its utility to the owner's family.

***Landowner #4: "I was really surprised to learn that a conservation easement can not only protect my property but benefit me in other ways. This is a real win-win – I can protect my pond and trees, take a tax deduction, be eligible for a New York State tax credit and reduce my property taxes all at the same time. I benefit and so does the environment!"***

There are many reasons that landowners choose to conserve their property but we also realize that this is an important decision that takes time and careful consideration. If you are interested in learning more or speaking confidentially with someone about your interest and how a conservation easement or other conservation tools might benefit you, please call us at 516-626-0908.

# NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE PLANNED GIVING SOCIETY



*"If we do not protect the environment now,  
we cannot ensure a strong nation for our children...  
If we do not act today, many of these lands will be gone."  
– Theodore Roosevelt*

## What is Your Conservation Legacy?

One of the most powerful ways to sustain the North Shore Land Alliance's mission over time is to build endowments in support of conservation, stewardship, leadership, general operations and education. Planned gifts are an essential part of endowment building and the Land Alliance's future.

Whether it is a gift by Will after first providing for your family's needs, or trust ensuring steady and reliable income for life, there is a gift planning solution for you.

**For more information about how you can support the North Shore Land Alliance for years to come, please contact Nina Muller at 516-626-0908 or [nina@northshorelandalliance.org](mailto:nina@northshorelandalliance.org).**

## Our Volunteers for Open Space Program is Growing

North Shore Land Alliance thanks the many active volunteers who contribute their time and energy to help us accomplish our mission. These individuals spend their time either at the Barn preparing mass mailings, conducting online research and inputting data, or at one of our preserves, removing invasive vegetation, maintaining trails and plantings and leading programs. We would, in this issue, like to introduce you to some individuals who are making outstanding contributions!



### Ken Krumenacker

Ken has been volunteering at our preserves for several years now and has been instrumental in any activity from building new trails to advising on plantings to problem-solving during equipment failures to a range of creative carpentry projects. We rely on him heavily for tasks that just wouldn't get done without him but that greatly enhance access to and management of our preserves. Among the many treasures Ken has provided are our rainwater harvesting system at Iselin (see photo lower right) and creation of a woodland trail at Red Cote Preserve.

Not only is he a dedicated partner and team member on some of these projects, but he also is happy to take on a task independently, delivering it like a gift upon completion.



### Eileen Rossi and Anne Codey

Eileen started volunteering with us several summers ago. A retired special needs educator, she demonstrated her true strengths when we, with volunteer Anne Codey (who had been indispensable in volunteering on our preserves since 2008!), began developing our Long Island Water Education Program for elementary school students. Eileen and Anne spent countless hours last year on research, development and evaluation of the program that has now served more

than 1,500 students in Nassau and western Suffolk Counties. But their jobs weren't finished once the program outline was. They also helped with meeting potential school partners, then when it came time to recruit an educator to develop and deliver lessons, they were fully involved in reviewing resumes and meeting applicants. Fully vested in the Program, Anne and Eileen continue to evaluate it and volunteer on field trips.



*Land Steward Eric Himelfarb*

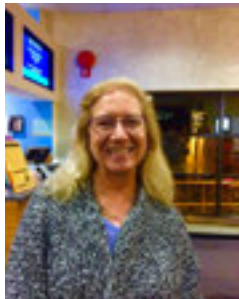


*Volunteers and Staff taking a break from working at Clark Sanctuary*



*Rainwater harvesting system at Iselin*





### **Sue Simon**

Sue is one of our more well-rounded volunteers. While she has been particularly helpful keeping new plantings at the entrance to Shore Road Sanctuary watered this summer, she has a strong presence in our work even when she is nowhere to be found on our preserves or in the office. Sue has been an active participant in the Long Island Food Initiative, connected our Long Island Water Education Program to the Hicksville School District and continuously conducts outreach with potential partners (such as Boy and Girl Scouts) on our behalf. Thanks to Sue, the information we communicate about the importance of land and water conservation has an expanded audience.



### **Elina Thatcher**

Elina jumped right into field work at our preserves as soon as she discovered us. We first met her on a cold December day at Shore Road Sanctuary and before the winter was over she had cleared extensive areas of English Ivy and other invasive plants at several of our preserves, sometimes as part of a group of volunteers and other times on her own. And she hasn't stopped since! She has also donated native plants and assisted with maintaining plantings. Her energy and enthusiasm are irresistible.



## **How to Become a Land Alliance Volunteer**

Volunteers contribute significantly to the Land Alliance's ability to protect and preserve our last remaining natural areas and wildlife habitats. Our Volunteers for Open Space Program offers individuals, businesses and groups opportunities to get involved and make a real difference in our communities.

**To learn more about our Volunteers for Open Space Program, please visit our website at [www.northshorelandalliance.org](http://www.northshorelandalliance.org), or you can contact Andrea Millwood at 516-626-0908 or send an email to [andrea@northshorelandalliance.org](mailto:andrea@northshorelandalliance.org).**

*"Volunteering creates a national character in which the community and the nation take on a spirit of compassion, comradeship and confidence."*

*- Brian O'Connell -*

## Open Space Society Dinner 2015

### *How Conservation Stopped the Bridge*

This year's Open Space Society dinner was held on July 10th at the home of the Davison family on Peacock Point in Lattingtown. One hundred guests came out on a beautiful summer evening in support of the Land Alliance's local conservation efforts. The stunning setting overlooking Long Island Sound and beyond to Rye, New York was perfect for the evening's talk by Harry Davison - "How Conservation Stopped the Bridge."

Harry, who grew up on the Davison family place on Peacock Point and currently lives there with his wife Kristina and their children, agreed to share his family's very personal story about Robert Moses's proposed bridge from Connecticut and the circumstances which prevented it from happening. Harry's grandfather, F. Trubee Davison, a life-long resident of Long Island, whose career included that of a naval aviator, lawyer, politician, museum director, intelligence officer and philanthropist, took an active role in the Oyster Bay-Rye bridge dispute.

Harry gave a passionate and informative talk about the proposed bridge and its potential impacts to our North Shore community. The most notable was a story about Moses, who in 1964 proposed the Oyster Bay to Rye Bridge to address the congestion on the Throgs Neck and Bronx-Whitestone Bridges. Harry discussed how the debate over construction of this bridge brought Trubee Davison into conflict with his old "friend" and political adversary, Robert Moses. Trubee Davison, along with other notable local supporters, formed the Non-Partisan Civic Association which craftily constructed a series of barriers including the designation of local National Wildlife Refuges too precious to be disturbed by the footings of a massive bridge. The group continued to thwart Robert Moses's efforts until plans for the bridge were officially scrapped in 1971. "The disdain for Mr. Moses was so fierce in the Davison household that Trubee's faithful dog growled at the sound of Robert Moses's name," said Harry. We thank Katusha Davison, Harry and Kristina and brother, George Davison and wife Judith Rifkin for graciously hosting a truly exceptional Open Space Society Dinner!

The North Shore Land Alliance Open Space Society Dinner is a group of conservation leaders dedicated to preserving and protecting the North Shore's last remaining open spaces by committing to annual gifts of \$5,000 or more annually over five years to ensure that the Land Alliance has the capacity to focus our energy on saving land.

### Thank you to our generous sponsors.

Lori and Roger Bahnik, The Bahnik Foundation  
Suzy and Carter Bales \* Carol and Stephen Canter  
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*Proposed bridge*

## More than \$300,000 raised for Land Conservation at the 12th Annual Wine Auction and Dinner



We are extremely pleased and grateful that so many Land Alliance supporters were able to join us for *La Fete de Conservation*, the 12th Annual Wine Auction and Dinner on Saturday, September 24, 2015, at the Barn at Groton Place.

The Wine Auction is the Land Alliance's largest and most important fundraiser and friendraiser of the year. Thanks to our most generous supporters who donated their time, energy and resources, we raised more than \$300,000 to advance local conservation efforts. It was truly an evening of celebrating conservation with more than \$65,000 raised through a special appeal - announced by Land Alliance Trustee and Vice Chair Hoyle Jones - in support of the Land Alliance's efforts to secure funding for a down payment towards the purchase of the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden. This past July the Land Alliance acquired the 28-acre Humes property in Mill Neck, which is one of the most environmentally significant properties in the North Shore community. The seven-acre Japanese Stroll Garden is adjacent to the Humes property and Shu Swamp Preserve making this wildlife corridor whole. The Garden was

created for Ambassador and Mrs. John P. Humes in 1960. It is comprised of steep sloping terrain and is the finest example of a Japanese stroll garden in the Northeast United States, making the conservation of this land critical.

Thanks to the creativity and inspiration of our Wine Auction Co-chairs Kim and John Bancroft and Amos and Andrew Nevin with Junior Co-chairs Aileen and Ian Gumprecht and their able Committee, *La Fete de Conservation* was an elegant and festive event. The Provencal theme was woven into all the event details - lavender infused signature cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and dinner elegantly prepared and served by Sterling Affair, Provencal table cloths from Pistachio at Windham House topped with beautiful sunflowers arranged by the Flammia Family at the Little Flower House.

Guests had an opportunity to bid on rare and vintage wines and unique trips to special places, and were able to take a chance on the wall of wine - 100 bottles of wine rated 90 and above by Robert Parker. With its unique setting, festive atmosphere, elegant dinner



and post-event dancing, the Wine Auction has quickly become one of Long Island's most anticipated and treasured events. Back this year, auctioneer extraordinaire, Hugh Hildesley of Sotheby's, kept bidders and guests engaged with his commanding presence and eloquent banter. In addition to fine wines, the live auction featured a range of items such as a dinner for 14 prepared by celebrity Iron Chef Hong Thaimée of Ngam, a trip to Budapest, and a luxury suite at the Barclay Center for a NY Islanders game, among other items. The Super Silent and Silent Auctions were filled with premium wines, fun experiences, gift certificates to restaurants, exquisite clothing, home goods, artwork and more.

The Land Alliance is extraordinarily appreciative of the efforts made by the Bancrofts, Nivens and Gumprechts to step up and serve so ably and generously as our Wine Auction Chairs. Many thanks to Julie and Luis Rinaldini who so graciously invited the Land Alliance to host the event at their beautiful Groton Place. We are also grateful to Joanna Wreidt for sharing her graphic design skills to create such beautiful and effective Live Auction presentation. Last, but certainly not least, we are forever grateful for the support of our board, volunteers and dedicated staff who work so hard to make all our events such pleasant experiences!

## *Thank you to our Sponsors*

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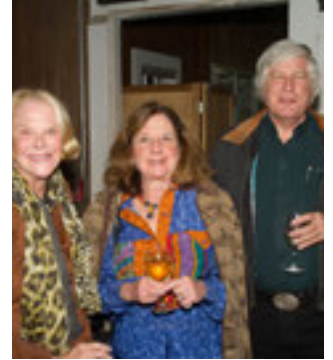
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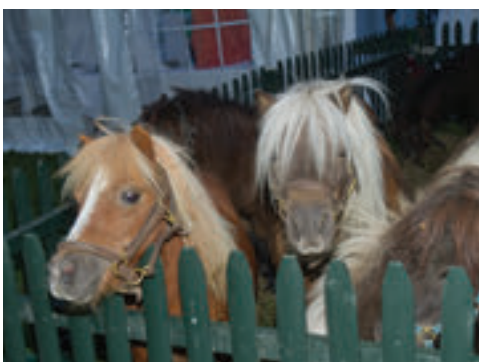
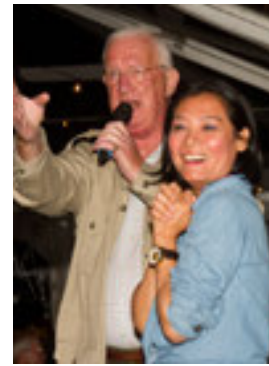
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### Mission Statement

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

### 2016 SAVE THE DATES!

#### **Saturday, February 27th**

Heritage Committee - Paddle Tennis Party  
Piping Rock Club, Locust Valley

#### **Monday, May 23rd**

Golf and Tennis Outing  
Piping Rock Club, Locust Valley

#### **Wednesday, June 8th**

Heritage Committee - An Evening in the Garden  
Jefferson Market Garden, New York

#### **Saturday, September 24th**

Wine Auction & Dinner  
Groton Place, Old Westbury

#### **Saturday, November 5th**

Annual Members Meeting  
Location To Be Announced

### SEASON GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND JOYOUS NEW YEAR!



From your Friends at  
**The North Shore Land Alliance**

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