



# Conservation News

Protecting Open Space on Long Island's North Shore

## NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

Volume 12, Issue 23

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*The beginning of Cushman Woods*

## An Extraordinary Gift to Our Community

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, a beautiful, 28-acre, heavily wooded parcel in the Village of Matinecock was purchased by the Land Alliance for conservation purposes. This acquisition would not have been possible without the incredibly generous support of Verena and Roderick H. Cushman, who donated the funds necessary to purchase this highly significant portion of the Beaver Brook watershed for use by the community.

The property, which will be named Cushman Woods, provides a critical habitat for birds, fox and a variety of wildlife species. It is tucked between Duck Pond Road, Piping Rock Road and Chicken Valley Road and is literally filled with old-growth trees, an abundance of native plants and a trail system that was once a popular fox hunting route for the Meadowbrook Hunt.

When asked why they chose to give this incredible gift to the community, the Cushmans said “we want to ensure that future generations have the opportunity to enjoy, care for and learn from this unique woodland habitat.”

*(Continued on p. 3)*



Dear Friends in Conservation:

As I write this letter, the rain is falling gently outside after a major overnight downpour. This storm was preceded by several days of near 90-degree temperatures and this is only the end of May. Our climate is changing and there are many repercussions that we, who live on an island, will see sooner than the rest of America.

One of the most serious impacts will be on our drinking water. Indeed, we are on the cusp of a water crisis from both quality and quantity perspectives. And we are not alone. The United States and many nations around the world are looking at a water supply crisis too. A study in the June 2015 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* reports that the U.S. passed domestic peak water supply back in the 1970s. Our nation uses more than 400 billion gallons of fresh water each day. Unsustainable groundwater use is occurring in California's Central Valley, the Great Plains and other areas of the U.S. And, here on Long Island, we can't even measure the capacity of our sole-source freshwater aquifer because there is not sufficient data! Nassau County canceled its contract with the U.S. Geological Service that monitored our aquifer several years ago and only recently reinstated it.

From a quality perspective, stormwater runoff and nitrogen pollution are huge issues on Long Island. Water hits the ground surface, especially paved surfaces, very quickly in severe storms. That leaves no time for water to be absorbed into our sole source aquifer. Instead, it travels from the highest to the lowest point in the watershed (our ponds, beaches and bays), picking up all kinds of harmful pollutants along the way. This Memorial Day, 19 local beaches (including Lattingtown and Oyster Bay) were closed due to harmful stormwater runoff and some of the runoff included human waste!

From a quantity perspective, I suspect Long Island is about on par with the rest of the country. Our fresh water is being used far faster than it is being regenerated. Water tables in major cities across America are falling rapidly (30% to 60% lower than previous levels in some urban areas). Drought is becoming a permanent fixture in many locales, particularly the Southwest and areas in the Midwest and the West where much of the nation's food is grown. Extreme drought has taken hold in parts of nine states, stretching from the Southeast to the lower Midwest. 2015 reports indicate that climate change is contributing to the length and nature of the U.S. drought and that our planet's warming, caused by human emissions, has most likely intensified the drought by 15 to 20 percent.

As summer approaches, I ask you to pay special attention to our fresh water. It is the one resource on which all of life depends. Please think about ways to use less water as well as ways to prevent continued pollution. Remember that everything you do on the earth's surface impacts the quality and quantity of the water below. And, please know that conserving land is a big part of the solution. Without open space, there would be no place to recharge our groundwater and no wetlands to absorb harmful stormwater runoff before it reaches our shores.

Have a great summer and thank you for your continued support of the Land Alliance. We would not be here without your support and we have much more to do!

Yours in conservation,

Carter F. Bales, Board Chair

### DID YOU KNOW?

Approximately 400 billion gallons of water are used in the U.S. each day.

Americans drink more than one billion glasses of tap water each day.

Less than 2/10ths of one percent of the water the Locust Valley Water District pumps is used for drinking water

*(continued from p. 1)*

In the 1920's, the property was a part of the estate of Paul Cravath, a prominent Manhattan lawyer and a presiding partner of the law firm today known as Cravath, Swaine & Moore. The accompanying house, which has been purchased by a private individual, has historically been referred to as Still House. It was Cravath's fourth home in the area, and he chose to have it made of brick because fires destroyed his first two, according to the blog Old Long Island.

The Land Alliance will soon begin the process of subdividing the house parcel from the land. Once it is completed we intend to restore the trails and maintain the property as a passive use preserve for walking, birding and nature exploration. Over time, we will evaluate the habitat and begin to remove invasive plants. We wholeheartedly welcome participation from the neighbors in these endeavors.

Carter Bales, Land Alliance Chair, said "The Cushman family represent the highest form of community leadership in their commitment to protecting the character of the North Shore. Such foresight and generosity are rare in our society today. We thank each member of the Cushman family for their commitment and leadership on the crucial issue of protecting our precious community from excessive development."

Many, many thanks to Verena and Rod Cushman for their extraordinary generosity and unparalleled devotion to our community and its most important open spaces. And many thanks to Claudia and Gunnar Overstrom who brought this deal to the Land Alliance's attention and hung in there through thick and thin until it was all done.

The serenity of Cushman Woods will be enjoyed for generations. The ecosystem services it provides, like recharging our groundwater, absorbing harmful carbon emissions and cleaning our air, will ensure a healthier community for all that follow us.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Ott at the Land Alliance at 516-626-0908.



*Rod & Verena Cushman*



*One of the local residents*

## Anonymous Donors



Through the years the Land Alliance has been blessed with some really great anonymous donors. They have allowed us and our government partners to purchase the Banfi/Youngs Farm Fields, Wawapek Preserve (the former DeForest Williams property) and the Humes property in Mill Neck. We love our anonymous donors and are deeply in their debt.

With that said, we received an anonymous donation this year from someone who has been watching the Land Alliance since its beginning in 2003. In 13 years, we have protected more than 1,000 acres of land in our community and attracted more than 3,000 members. We now own 229 acres and steward an additional 263 acres.

This particular donor, who has been engaged since our beginning, appreciates the fact that there is no other organization in our community providing these conservation services. This donor has also been highly aware of the fact that with these accomplishments we need to be sustainable to continue to preserve precious land and steward the lands that we have been instrumental in protecting.

Recently, this forward-thinking donor established a \$2 million fund on behalf of the Land Alliance. Five percent of the proceeds will be distributed to the Land Alliance each year to help ensure that operational funds for staff compensation and educational programs are sufficient to ensure the existence of the North Shore Land Alliance.

We are incredibly grateful to all of our anonymous donors and especially appreciative of the high compliment this particular donor has paid to our organization. It is so nice to feel that our community appreciates what we have done and believes that our continued existence is relevant and important to the future of our North Shore community.

Thank you anonymous donor! Your confidence in our ability has exhilarated our spirit and inspired us to continue to do good work. You have the deepest appreciation from the Board and Staff of the North Shore Land Alliance.

## Acquisition of the Smithers Connector Parcels to Connect Shu Swamp Preserve to Upper Francis Pond Preserve

The North Shore Land Alliance has long been interested in acquiring and preserving approximately seven acres of land that connects Nassau County's Upper Francis Pond Preserve (formerly known as Smithers Pond) to the south, with Shu Swamp Preserve to the north. In the past several months, the Land Alliance has been working with the owner and their representatives to acquire the property. The Land Alliance is currently in contract and anticipates closing on this important acquisition by early summer of 2016.

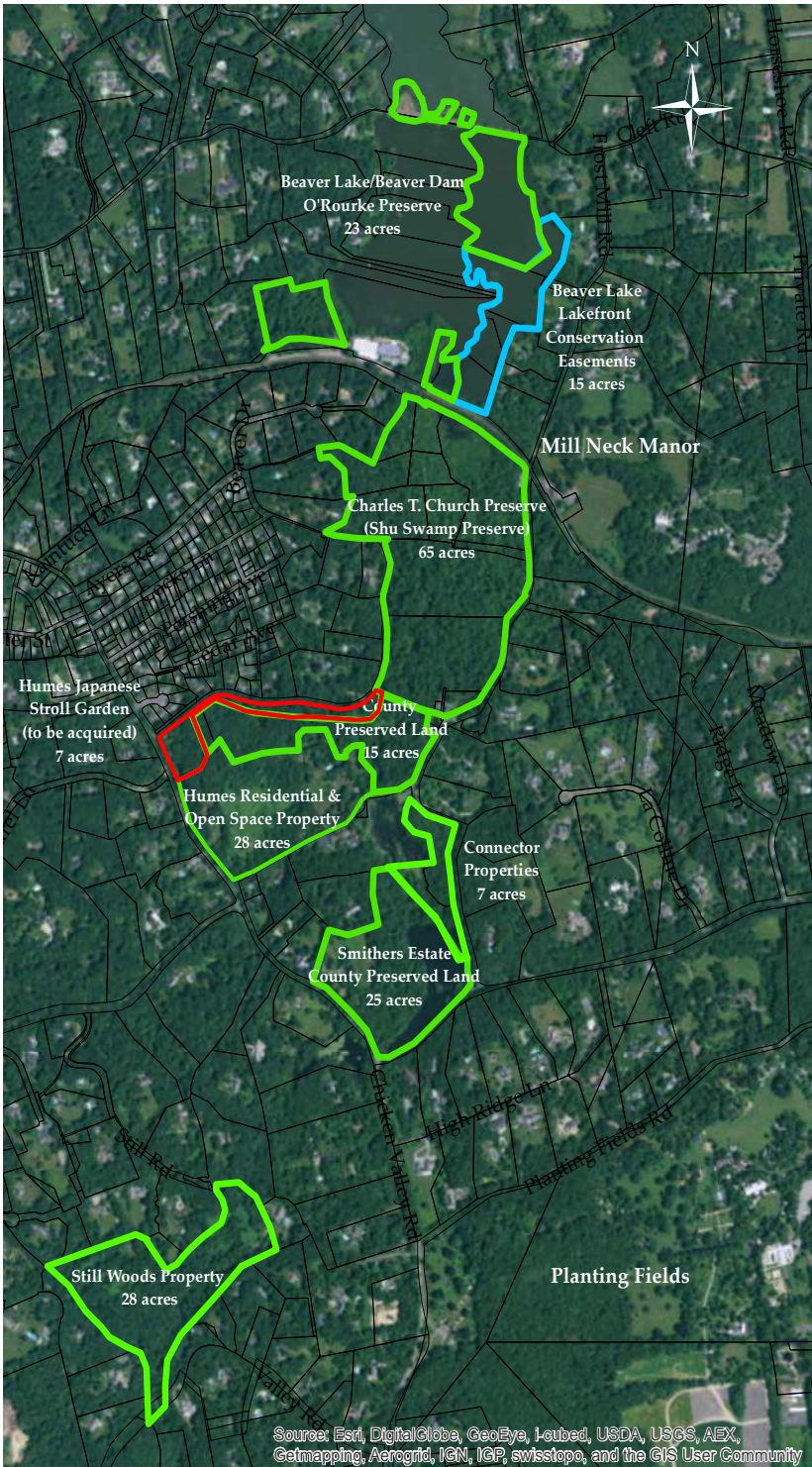
The property is incredibly important from an ecological and environmental perspective: It consists of freshwater wetlands, underwater lands, a waterway that connects Upper and Lower Francis Ponds, pond

frontage, mature woodlands, undeveloped uplands and existing trails that traverse the property. Aside from their ecological value and the fact that these parcels connect two existing preserves, the property is also an important viewshed along Beaver Brook Road (there is nearly 1,700 feet of road frontage) and it is another seminal piece to the preservation puzzle that now includes the Humes property and will, we hope, include the Japanese Stroll Garden.

Once it is acquired, the Land Alliance will work with the Village of Mill Neck and other regulatory authorities to repair, improve and expand the existing trail so that the property can be publicly accessible and connect to the adjacent Shu Swamp Preserved.



## Shu Swamp and Francis Pond Conservation Areas



Shu Swamp and Francis Pond Conservation Areas  
 Location: Villages of Mill Neck and Matinecock  
 Preserved land: 192 acres  
 Conservation Easements: 15 acres

## Fish Ladder at Beaver Brook Dam

In 2014, The Nature Conservancy secured a Long Island Sound Futures Fund grant to install a fish ladder (actually a stainless steel ramp with ridges that produce turbulence which helps propel fish upstream) at the Beaver Brook Dam between Mill Neck Creek and Beaver Lake in Mill Neck. The project will restore passage for native fish species including alewife, brook trout and American eel, allowing them to spawn in Beaver Brook.

As of this spring, all the permits have been secured and The Nature Conservancy has circulated a request for proposals for contractors to install the ramp. Construction could begin as early as mid summer.

This improvement will be integral to improving the fish habitat upstream at Upper Francis Pond, Humes, Shu Swamp and the small creeks that connect the waters of the Beaver Brook watershed. This is an area of great interest to us all.



## Japanese Stroll Garden Update

The Land Alliance is continuing to work to acquire the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden in the Village of Mill Neck. This seven-acre property is immediately adjacent to the 28-acre former Humes property the Land Alliance acquired last summer. The Stroll Garden boasts an impressive collection of North American and Asian plants that constitute a beautiful Japanese landscape and impart a meditative experience.

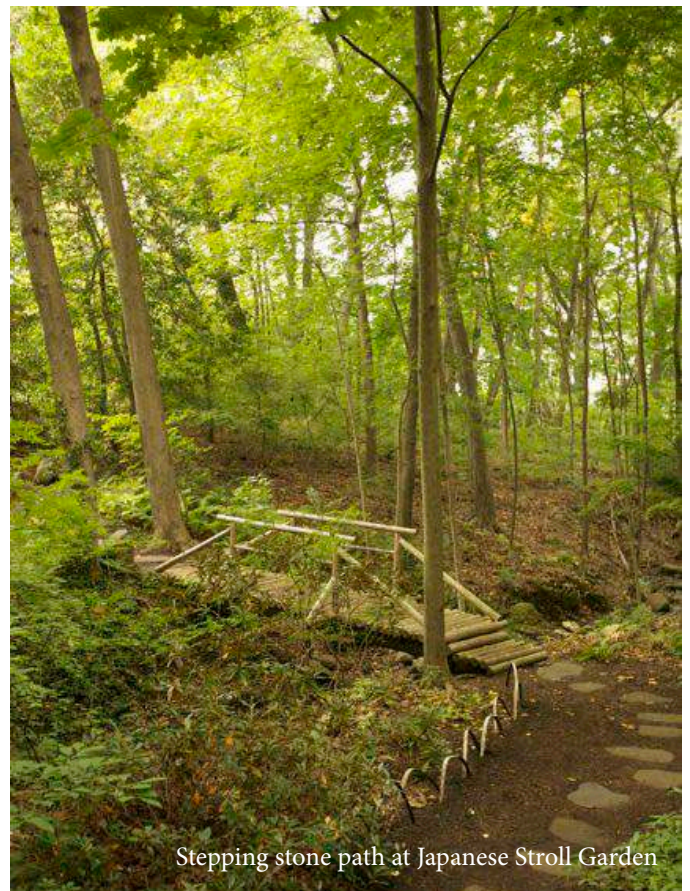
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Humes were inspired more than 55 years ago to build a garden that blended Japanese garden elements with Long Island's native woodlands. The defining feature of the garden is its stepping stone path that embodies by the intimacy of a mountain trail. The journey takes visitors through various twists and turns, including a "mountain peak," before ending at the tea house by a pond. The garden experience is heightened by the use of space and conservation of existing woodland: The old-growth trees determine the direction of the path, terracing minimizes erosion and the garden's native woodland remains mostly intact. The garden is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays from late spring through fall.

The Stroll Garden is currently owned by the Humes Japanese Garden Foundation. The Land Alliance remains committed to working with the Foundation to acquire and preserve this important property. Once acquired, the Stroll Garden will complete a preserved assemblage of over 150 acres, one of the largest on the North Shore of Long Island. It will include Shu Swamp Preserve, the Humes Estate and the Francis Pond conservation areas. Thank you to all those who have contributed to the acquisition of the Japanese Stroll Garden already.

If you want to learn more or help support, please contact the Land Alliance at 516-626-0908.

## Humes Property Stewardship Update

It has been a year since the Land Alliance purchased the 28-acre Humes property in the Village of Mill Neck. After a year of evaluation, several priorities for this property have been established, including bringing the existing residential structures into compliance with village code and making portions of the property accessible to the public. To these ends we are working with a task force of Board members, representatives from the North Shore Wildlife Sanctuary, Mill Neck Village officials, local naturalists and landscape professionals. This group of engaged volunteers will help with the planning process and, in particular, with the incorporation of the Humes property into Shu Swamp Preserve and other contiguous preserved lands. We are also focusing our stewardship efforts on the overgrown meadow/open space portions of the property with the goal of reducing invasive species and increasing ecological diversity.



Stepping stone path at Japanese Stroll Garden

## Eight-Acre Private Conservation Easement in Mill Neck Donated to the Land Alliance

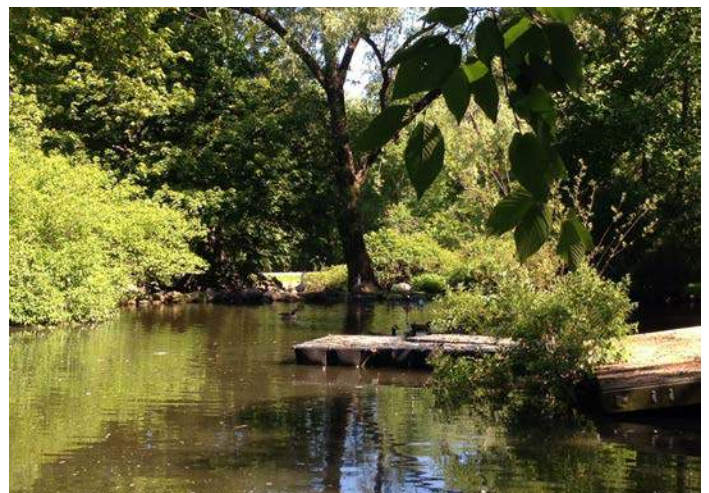
On December 29, 2015, Mr. Robert Sabin generously donated a private conservation easement to the Land Alliance on eight of his 14 acres. This is an important contribution to the protection of Long Island's underground aquifer (which is the source of our drinking water) and the adjacent Mill Neck Creek watershed. The easement area is not open to the public but does preserve, in perpetuity, an eight-acre portion of Mr. Sabin's beautiful waterfront property.

The Sabin project is a great example of how easements work to protect land and natural resources in our local community. The easement area consists of three ponds that are host to numerous waterfowl as well as a mix of vegetation, including a number of mature, native trees. The property also provides habitat to various animal species including fox, hawks, woodpeckers, opossum and bats and it lies within the Mill Neck Creek subwatershed of Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor.

By conserving the land, this easement has extinguished future potential development rights. It also reduces potential contamination of Mill Neck Creek, a New York State designated Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat, from stormwater runoff and inadequate wastewater treatment. Moreover, since the property is located in the New York State designated Oyster Bay Special Groundwater Protection Area, conservation of the Sabin property helps to protect our groundwater.

Mr. Sabin sees his donation as "a strategic property to tie in with the Mill Neck Creek extensive tidal wetlands nearby which supports a large diversity of native plants and wildlife." He goes on to say, "My property is a well-established staging, grazing and muster area for wildlife, with its three spring-fed and deep well-fed ponds, open fields, mix of native and non-native vegetation species and a number of mature, native trees."

Conservation of this property will help protect one of the most important interconnected systems of lakes, creeks and wetlands that flow into the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge and Long Island Sound. We are so fortunate to be able to work with donors such as Mr. Sabin, who care so much about preserving the open space and natural here on the North Shore of Long Island.



## Fifty-Three Acre Conservation Easement Opportunity in the Village of Upper Brookville



Photo credit: Sue Simon

The Land Alliance is continuing to work on a 53-acre easement opportunity on Mill River Road in the Village of Upper Brookville, which began several years ago. The easement is part of a larger conservation subdivision plan. The entire property is 98 acres, of which 44 acres will be used to create 13 residential lots and the remaining 53 will be restricted from development in perpetuity through the use of a conservation easement. The Upper Brookville Planning Board held a public hearing in April regarding the matter and unanimously approved the proposed plan and subdivision.

The portion of property to be conserved consists of steep slopes, old growth trees and undeveloped woodlands, grasslands and other natural elements. The property is also listed in the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan as a priority parcel. It lies within the Oyster Bay and Cold Spring Harbor watershed area which has been designated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of State and New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation as a critically important area to preserve and protect. We hope to have final authorizations in place soon so that the Land Alliance can complete this important conservation project.

Many thanks to Renaissance Properties for this opportunity to conserve such a significant natural area.

“Private landowners represent both the unsung heroes and the most under represented constituency in the pantheon of American conservation heroes. At some point in the next decade they shall be recognized for what they are: our nation’s best stewards of our rural landscapes and the true sinews of our nation’s conservation corpus.”

*- Amos Eno, Executive Director, Resources First Foundation and  
originator of the Private Landowner Network concept*

## Three Additional Acres Acquired to Expand Wawapek and Create an Outdoor Educational Center



On December 30, 2015, the Land Alliance acquired a three-acre property immediately adjacent to Wawapek in the hamlet of Cold Spring Harbor. The acquisition was an important expansion of Wawapek, both ecologically and aesthetically. The Land Alliance plans on improving this space through stewardship and educational programming. Future plans include renovating the property's existing greenhouse for propagating and growing native plants, creating outdoor educational and recreational space, installing raised bed vegetable gardens and flower gardens and updating this charming residence for potential use as a small stewardship office for the Land Alliance, staff living quarters and educational space.

The 28-acre (now 31 acres) Wawapek was acquired by the Land Alliance in partnership with Suffolk

County, the Town of Huntington, New York State, The Conservation Fund and the local community in March of 2015. Wawapek is open to the public as a passive use preserve. The Town of Huntington will be supporting the Land Alliance's acquisition of the expansion property by buying a conservation easement and ensuring perpetual preservation. The New York State Conservation Partnership Program and New York's Environmental Protection Fund, in coordination with the Land Trust Alliance and State Department of Environmental Conservation, have also supported the acquisition. The Land Alliance will retain ownership of the parcel and the Town of Huntington will hold the conservation easement.

If you would like to contribute to our ongoing efforts to expand Wawapek, please contact the Land Alliance at 516-626-0908.

## Restoration Continues at Wawapek in Cold Spring Harbor



As you may recall from previous newsletters, the Land Alliance, in partnership with Suffolk County, the Town of Huntington, New York State, the local community and a loan from The Conservation Fund, acquired a 32-acre portion of the DeForest Williams Estate. The Land Alliance then opened this once private land to the public for passive use and renamed it Wawapek.

In December 2015, the Land Alliance purchased from the Williams Estate an adjacent three-acre property north of the preserve. It includes a quaint cottage, a gorgeous but well-worn greenhouse and a smattering of sheds. The purchase of this property has preserved these unique structures and prevented the construction of a much larger house. The inviting setting, rich with history, is perfect for use as an educational center.

Our vision for this property has developed in large part thanks to the generous guidance of Main Street Nursery, which has offered its skill in the planning and design process. With their expertise, we have developed a plan for the property which will enhance this beautiful public space, create educational areas and highlight the historic structures for visitors exploring the preserve.

A first step in this plan was to clear an overgrown hedgerow. It stood between the cottage and the new orchard donated by the Schuville family. Clearing the area has opened up the property, making it an even more welcoming space. Part of the land will soon be converted into a pollinator garden in memory of Dr. Lee MacCormick Edwards. (See p. 12)

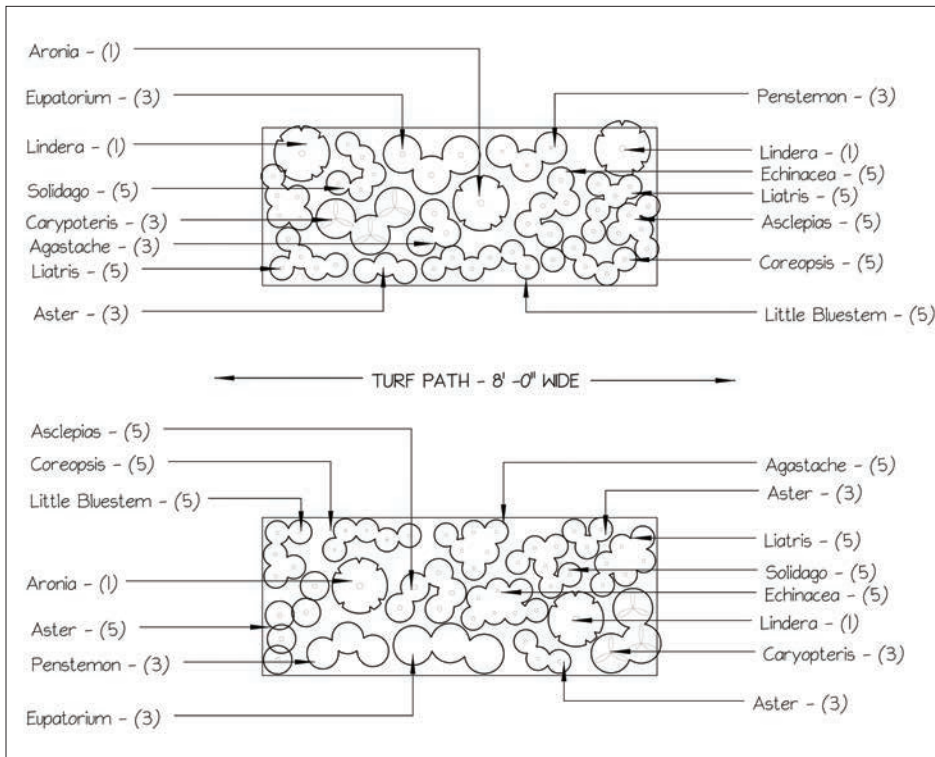
Stewarding this property has been a constant process of discovery. In clearing out one shed, myriad pieces of old farming equipment were uncovered. And, just outside the greenhouse, we found piles of terracotta pots, cast iron stakes and hand plows, which will be used to adorn the property, reminding visitors of its history.

Restoration of the wisteria arbor and yew round are underway. Last fall, thanks to the generosity of the Leventhal Family, the untamed wisteria was cut back in preparation for the building of a new arbor. In May of this year, the inside of the yew round was pruned, restoring the hidden alcove inside to its past beauty thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Colin Williams-Hawkes.

This summer, Land Alliance interns from the Joyce and Willian O'Neil Steward Program (see p. 20) will be building a new trail through the southwestern side of the forest. The trail will make use of an old carriage trail leading down a slope and back up to the main trail, giving visitors a better look at the oak forest.

If you haven't made a visit to Wawapek yet, please do and watch as the property comes back to life. If you would like to get involved and help in the process, please give us a call at 516-626-0908.

## Native Plant Pollinator Garden Planted In Memory of Dr. Lee MacCormick Edwards



The Dr. Lee MacCormick Edwards Charitable Trust and Trustee Tina Albright generously endowed the development of a pollinator garden at Wawapek in Cold Spring Harbor. Dr. Edwards died of ovarian cancer in 2014. She was an accomplished art historian, artist, gardener, naturalist and birder. Lisa Ott, Land Alliance President, who was a Lee admirer said “a garden such as this planted in Lee’s honor would have pleased her very much!”

The Land Alliance worked with Main Street Nursery to design the garden, which will add color to the landscape and provide food for pollinators. A dedication will be held later this summer.

Pollinating species, including bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, birds and some bats, are needed by 85% of flowering plants on earth. These plants include many of our agricultural crops. Native pollinators, like the 4,000 bee species found in North America, are specially adapted to pollinate the flowers in their native range. Yet many of these essential species are in decline. Encouraging plant-pollinator symbiotic relationships is critical to conserving the environment and safeguarding agricultural systems.

This garden will demonstrate that native plants can be used effectively in classic designs, providing both beauty and ecological function. Be sure to visit Wawapek frequently this summer to watch as each of the thirteen pollinator species grow and bloom, from the clustered mauve flowers of Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*), to the spreading chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*) with its showy fruit, enjoy the striking purple-pink spikes of blazing star (*Liatris spicata*) and sunny yellow of coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*). We hope you will find these flowers attract you as much as they do the pollinators and be a worthy tribute to Dr. Edwards’ life and work.

## Changes at 95 Shore Road in Cold Spring Harbor

There has been lots of activity at 95 Shore Road in Cold Spring Harbor since our last issue of *Conservation News*. In December, the Land Alliance hosted the fifth annual Long Island Native Grassland Managers' Meeting coordinated by the Friends of Hempstead Plains. Despite the rain that fell that morning, participants were delighted by their tour of the property. The 15 attendees were among hundreds of visitors that have included people out for a leisurely walk; Long Island Water Education Program students and educators on their field trip (see p. 21) and our dedicated volunteers working on maintaining new planting areas, managing invasives, conducting carpentry projects and monitoring breeding bird activity (to name a few of their many contributions!)

December 2015 was also an ideal time to pilot a project to suppress, by covering with black plastic, some of the abundant non-native clover bordering one of the wet meadow areas. Removal of the plastic well into this spring showed promising results. Bare soil was found where typically the ground would have been covered by the bright green clover leaves that emerge before the grasses do and native plants such as seaside golden rod survived and are thriving.

During the winter, and thanks to a generous donation from the Mellon Foundation, a water source to irrigate new plantings was installed at the property. It was put to good use during a dry spring and enabled us to add dozens of blue flag iris plants to our wet meadow areas. Another new planting is the beautiful Red Maple tree donated by Davey Tree for Arbor Day. (See p. 25)

Our Long Island Water Education program students have been helping us monitor the killdeer chicks that hatched at the property this spring. White-throated sparrows, barn swallows, mockingbirds, Baltimore orioles, yellow warblers, osprey, Kingbirds and red-tailed hawks are a small selection of the bird species that have been observed frequenting the site. To make the grassland more inviting for additional species, some bluebird boxes, which are also used by Tree Swallows for nesting, were added in May, thanks to Marty Wenz and the Krusos Foundation. (See box.)

There's plenty of work to do, so if you're interesting in volunteering please contact Jane Jackson at 516- 626-0908. Late spring and early summer are a wonderful time to explore the preserve so please visit! The gate is open.



### Krusos Foundation Installs Bird Boxes at Shore Road

In May, we were delighted to receive a generous donation of materials and labor from Marty Wenz and The Krusos Foundation. Marty installed two bird boxes suitable for tree swallows at our Shore Road preserve in Cold Spring Harbor. These attractive additions will enhance the site's habitat values by providing places for nesting. As you can see from the photo, there is already interest in this local real estate! (A nest in that box has since been confirmed.) We extend heartfelt thanks to the Marty and The Krusos Foundation.

## GOVERNMENT UPDATES



### FEDERAL

#### Enhanced Incentive Made Permanent

The Land Alliance is pleased to announce that at the end of December 2015, Congress passed, with strong bipartisan support, legislation that makes the enhanced federal tax incentive that supports land conservation PERMANENT. *Under the enhanced incentive, an individual landowner can deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in any year over a total of 16 years, including the year of the gift.* Qualified farmers can deduct up to 100% of their AGI over 16 years.

The incentive is directly responsible for conserving more than two million acres of land throughout the United States and is retroactive to January 1, 2015. Lands placed into conservation easements continue to be privately owned and help conserve groundwater, surface water, wildlife habitat, farming and recreational opportunities. Conservation easements do not require public access and rely on tax incentives, providing a cost effective approach to conserving our community's most valuable natural resources.

The enhanced federal tax incentives were originally put into place in 2006 and we thank all of those in the community who have worked tirelessly to get this legislation passed. In particular, we'd like to thank Representatives Kathleen Rice, Peter King and Grace Meng in the United States House of Representatives and Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Charles Schumer in the United States Senate. Our country loses three acres of land to development every minute and 1.5 million acres every year. Once the land is gone, it is gone forever.



### NEW YORK STATE

#### Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) Reaches \$300 Million

The Land Alliance would like to commend Governor Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, notably Assembly Environmental Conservation Chair Englebright and Senate Environmental Conservation Chair O'Mara, for championing an historic \$300 million funding level for the EPF. When Governor Cuomo was elected he inherited a \$134 million EPF which he grew to \$177 million last year.

Notable specifics are described here. The Open Space/Land Conservation category increased by nearly \$13.5 million to \$40 million. Farmland Preservation grew by \$5 million. A \$5 million line item was added to aid Long Island in addressing serious water issues. The Land Stewardship appropriation was increased by \$28 million. And, for the first time, funding for Brownfield Opportunities Areas (BOAs) was added to help distressed urban neighborhoods in their revitalization efforts and \$24 million in Climate Adaptation and Mitigation.



## Stephen J. Small Returns to Long Island



Steve Small & Peter Klein

The Enhanced Incentive for Conservation Easement Donations was made permanent by Congress at the end of 2015. This was a monumental victory for the conservation community. There will be no more doubt about the value of easement donations or whether the incentive would be renewed by Congress for a short term, retroactively or at all! With this news so timely and its potential impacts so great, the Land Alliance invited Stephen J. Small, Esq., the nation's leading authority on private land protection options and strategies, to Long Island for two days of seminars. He was great!

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Small spoke to nearly 60 landowners and their advisors about preserving land, reducing taxes and protecting quality of life in our community.

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Small taught a three-hour seminar for approximately 80 lawyers, realtors, wealth advisors, appraisers, accountants and conservation professionals. His presentation included an extensive and technical review of land protection tools, financial strategies for landowners and a thorough explanation of how the tax benefits of land conservation can help landowners.

Mr. Small, who has helped the Land Alliance twice before, is a tax attorney at his own firm in Boston, MA and an author of three books. More than 150,000 copies of his book, *Preserving Family Lands*, are in circulation. His most recent book, titled *The Business of Open Space: What's Next?* provides a forward-thinking perspective on the future of land conservation.

Before going into private practice, Mr. Small was an attorney-advisor in the Office of Chief Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, D.C., where he wrote the federal income tax regulations on conservation easements. He has been counsel to landowners and easement holders in 45 states on 400+ transactions. He has been involved in the protection of more than 1.5 million acres of land including serving as counsel on the largest conservation easement transaction to date.

Steve has worked tirelessly to educate conservation practitioners throughout his professional career, delivering in excess of 400 speeches to date. In 2015 Steve Small received the Kingsbury Browne Conservation Leadership Award, the highest award bestowed in the conservation community, for setting a national standard for donations he continues to facilitate to this day.

Conservation has been Steve Small's professional life's work and the land conservation community, including the Land Alliance, is in his debt. He has made a vast difference in America's landscape.

The Land Alliance is most grateful to The Claire Friedlander Family Foundation for underwriting Mr. Small's appearance and Ursula and Bill Niarachis of the Hoffman Center for hosting our events.

## How Much Land Is Left?



Over the past several years, Land Alliance staff have been dedicated to identifying and prioritizing conservation opportunities in Nassau County and western Suffolk County. These priorities are based on important environmental resources contained within these parcels such as location within the region's Special Groundwater Protection Area (SPGA), freshwater or tidal wetlands, endangered or threatened species, tree coverage, steep slopes and adjacency to already protected land. In 2014, with the help of a consultant, we used Geographic Information Systems (GIS), a mapping and information system, to evaluate and rank environmental features for all parcels four acres or greater on the North Shore of Nassau County.

Based on the results of this study, we found that over 650 environmentally significant properties may be eligible for conservation. Of those, 5,236 acres are classified as residential or vacant, 5,156 acres are golf clubs and other private businesses, 2,360 acres are government owned and nearly 5,000 acres are owned by churches and schools. The total acreage of properties potentially eligible for conservation is well over 17,500.

We are continually evaluating properties that may not be captured in this analysis (such as parcels smaller than four acres may have important conservation value) or that may be of particular importance or under threat of development. For example, the vacant lands in and around Shu Swamp Preserve and the Francis Pond conservation areas have been very high conservation priorities due not only to their

environmental resources, but to the threat of development and their potential to be accessible to the public. Evaluating and assessing how much land is left and the threat that the land is under is still a work in progress, but we are pleased to report that some of the most environmentally important properties – including Still Woods, the former Humes property and Smithers Connector Parcels – have recently been acquired for conservation purposes.

In western Suffolk, we work closely with the Town of Huntington to identify and preserve priority properties. The Town has an active committee, called the Environmental Open Space and Park Fund Advisory Committee (EOSPA Committee), that was created in 1998 to develop criteria for the acquisition of open space, farmland and active/passive parkland. Since 1998 the Town has passed three Open Space Bond Acts including a \$15 million bond in 1998, a \$30 million bond in 2003 and a \$15 million bond in 2008 that also expanded the scope of potential projects to include neighborhood enhancements and green energy efficient improvements. To date, the Town has spent almost \$25 million to acquire and improve nearly 300 acres, more than 30 different properties and some 70 park, neighborhood and green energy improvement projects. The Land Alliance has spent the past seven years working with the Town and EOSPA Committee, most recently on Wawapek preserve in Cold Spring Harbor, and we look forward to continuing this productive relationship in the years to come.

## Two New Grants

On April 19, 2016, the North Shore Land Alliance received two separate grants totaling \$45,000 from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP) and New York's Environmental Protection Fund. Those grants were a \$25,000 grant for transaction costs associated with the expansion of Wawapek, a newly created preserve in Cold Spring Harbor (Town of Huntington, Suffolk County) and a \$20,000 grant to cover the internship coordinator for the Joyce and William O'Neil Steward Program.

The \$25,000 NYSCPP grant will support the Land Alliance's 2015 acquisition of a three-acre property immediately adjacent to the newly created Wawapek. The Land Alliance is now working on a stewardship plan for the property that incorporates the newly acquired parcel into the existing preserve and effectively uses the expansion area to enhance/promote public access as well as educational programming. The Land Alliance is also working with the Town of Huntington, which is in the process of acquiring a conservation easement on the property that it is perpetually preserved. (see p. 10)

The \$20,000 NYSCPP grant is a one-year grant which will cover the cost for the internship coordinator

for the Land Alliance's new Joyce and William O'Neil Steward Program. Over the past few years the Land Alliance has engaged a committed corps of volunteers who contribute as many as 1,000 hours toward the stewardship of our preserves each year. While we have in the past worked on a limited basis with students or recent graduates carrying out stewardship activities on our preserves, stipends and staff supervision have been very limited. This NYSCPP grant provides the Land Alliance with the ability to hire our former consultant Amanda Furcall as an internship coordinator. This in turn will greatly improve our program by mentoring college students and recent graduates, inspiring lifelong stewardship of the environment at home and in the larger world and engaging young people in hands-on service to the land. Through the presence of our coordinator and this program, we will be benefiting interns' experiences as well as our preserves.

The NYSCPP is administered by the Land Trust Alliance, in coordination with the state Department of Environmental Conservation. In all, the Land Alliance has received 15 grants from NYSCPP over the past 13 years totaling \$343,600.



## Fall Lecture featuring Scott Weidensaul: *Climate Change and Its Impact on Bird Migration*



In addition to writing about wildlife, Weidensaul is an active field researcher whose work focuses on bird migration. He has lived almost all of his life among the long ridges and endless valleys of eastern Pennsylvania, in the heart of the central Appalachians, a landscape that has defined much of his work and where he studies the migration of hawks, owls and hummingbirds. Weidensaul co-directs Project OwlNet, a cooperative network for more than 125 owl-banding sites across North America, and Project SNOWstorm, which tracks the movements of snowy owls.

The October 7th cocktail lecture is co-sponsored by The Hoffman Center, The North Shore Land Alliance, The Nature Conservancy on Long Island, Volunteers for Wildlife, North Country Garden Club and the Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Sanctuary. For additional information or to register for the lecture, please visit the Land Alliance website, [www.northshorelandalliance.org](http://www.northshorelandalliance.org) or call the Land Alliance office at 516-626-0908.

The Land Alliance invites members and friends to a special presentation by Scott Weidensaul - world-renowned lecturer, bird author and photographer - on Friday, October 7, 2016 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at The Hoffman Center Nature Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary in East Norwich. Weidensaul (pronounced “Why-densaul”) will discuss *Climate Change and Its Impact on Bird Migration*.

Scott Weidensaul is a skilled presenter and one of the most sought-after speakers in the country on conservation and nature. He is the author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Bird Migration* and *Return to Wild America: A Yearlong Search for the Continent's Natural Soul*. His latest book, published in 2015, is the *Petersen Reference Guide to Owls of North America and the Caribbean*. Weidensaul is a contributing editor for Audubon magazine and coordinates ornithological programs for Audubon's historic Hog Island Camp on the coast of Maine.



Photo Credit: Sue Simon

## The Plight of the Monarch Continues...



There is “substantial probability” that the eastern population of monarch butterflies could be wiped out in the near future, according to a study published in the journal *Scientific Reports*. This determination could affect the insect’s status under the Endangered Species Act (where it is not currently listed as an endangered species). Sadly, this charismatic species is struggling due in large part to the loss of habitat to large farms in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Since monitoring of the Monarch butterfly began in the 1990’s, their population has fallen a shocking 70 percent.

Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) have become the iconic pollinator species. Their annual flight from Long Island to Central Mexico and back is inspiring, taking at least five generations to complete. Some conservationists hope the new study will force the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to add the monarch to the threatened or endangered species list, a move that could require the agency to limit herbicide use on millions of acres of farmland.

In the Spring 2016 Xerces Society newsletter, the Executive Director of the Society, Scott Hoffman Black, compared his sightings of butterflies as a Nebraskan youth to what he sees there today: “Where I might once have seen thousands of monarchs in the fields, yard, and roadsides, I now saw perhaps a dozen.”

Nationwide, concerned citizens have planted milkweed (*Asclepias spp.*) in their gardens to provide food for the very hungry caterpillars which feed solely on plants in the milkweed genus. As adults, monarchs will drink nectar from a wide variety of flowers but lay their eggs only on milkweed. Similarly, other butterfly species are experiencing population declines due to habitat loss and those butterflies too need specific host plants. For example, the Eastern tailed blue relies on round-headed bush clover, American ladies dine on pearly everlasting and pearl crescent butterflies need New England asters.

We hope you will, again, be part of the solution by continuing to plant milkweed and other pollinator plants in your gardens. Start planting at your home now and think about acting beyond your garden; encourage your community to try planting along highways, at school fields, in empty parking lots, industrial areas, parks and even ditches. You can get ideas for your gardens from the pollinator garden and natural milkweed stands being maintained by the Land Alliance at 95 Shore Road in Cold Spring Harbor.

## North Shore Land Alliance Launches Internship Program

Thanks to a generous five-year endowment from the Joyce C. and William C. O'Neil Charitable Trust, the North Shore Land Alliance has launched a formal internship program. The program, modeled after the Student Conservation Association, is called the Joyce and William O'Neil Steward Program. Through this new program these interns, who were selected on a competitive basis, will gain a variety of skills from writing management plans for preserves, mapping trails, organizing volunteer and fundraising events, managing invasive plants, installing a woodland trail at Wawapek and educating the public about conservation. It is our hope that this experience with a variety of projects, will help the O'Neil Stewards build their job skills and inspire them to consider a career in conservation.

From a pool of highly qualified applicants, four college students were selected by four conservation professionals. Amanda Furcall, our talented internship coordinator, will manage the interns who will be working for 12 weeks over the summer and receiving a competitive stipend. For the Land Alliance, an organization whose land holdings are growing quickly, the Joyce and William O'Neil Stewards will provide much needed hands-on caring for our preserves.

We are very grateful to the Joyce C. and William C. O'Neil Charitable Trust for this fabulous opportunity to train the next generation of conservation stewards.



**Joseph Murphy** is a junior in Sustainability Studies at Hofstra University, where he co-founded and serves as treasurer to the Sustainability Club. He has been a leader in the Discovery Program when introducing new Hofstra students to State parks and the

concepts of sustainability. He enthusiastically designed and maintains two on-campus vegetable gardens.



**Jeb Polstien** is a junior in the Environmental Studies department at Bowdoin College. Last summer he was a stewardship intern for the Land Conservancy of New Jersey where he learned many of the skills needed to excel at the Land Alliance. He has led

outdoor education camps and spent a term in India studying urban agriculture.



**Conor O'Sullivan** graduated from Hunter College with a BA in Psychology and a minor in Environmental Studies. Conor's interest in conservation has taken precedence and he has worked for the Greenbelt Native Plant

Center where he learned to collect and process native seeds. Volunteering at the Hempstead Plains Environmental Education Center he removed invasive plants. With the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation he was an environmental educator and led teens on camping trips in the Adirondacks.



**Lauren Weller** has just graduated from SUNY Cortland with a BA in Conservation Biology. She has organized large-scale volunteer projects for the Mahwah Environmental Organization as well as provided educational programs for the community.

*"Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife, are in fact plans to protect man."*

Stewart L. Udall

## North Shore Land Alliance Water Education Program is Growing

As of the close of the 2015/16 school year, the North Shore Land Alliance Long Island Water Education Program has, in its two short years, reached: **2,400 students at 17 local schools within nine school districts.**

Little did we dream when we launched the three-session program in fall of 2014 that it would so quickly become requested by so many teachers in so many schools. But word has spread, in large part because of the talents of our educator, Karen Mossey, and a crew of dedicated volunteers: currently Anne Codey, Kathy Hannigan, Eileen Rossi, Martha Tauss and Elina Thatcher. Their assistance and leadership on field trips to our 95 Shore Road this spring has been invaluable. Students visiting Shore Road this spring observed killdeer chicks recently hatched in the grassland, were introduced to horseshoe crabs and invasive (alas!) Asian shore crabs at the beach and played a game through which they learned about threats to pollinating insects and other wildlife. Our field trip received this praise from one of our classroom teachers: “When I retire, I want to volunteer with you here at the Shore Road!”



*“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*

## Volunteer for Open Space Program



As part of the Land Alliance's Volunteer for Open Space Program, we partnered this spring with REI and MSC Industrial Supply Company on a series of stewardship activities.

The dedication and brawn on behalf of these corporate volunteers made it possible for us to:

- Remove invasive lesser celandine from an infested area of our Clark Sanctuary and replace it with native plants.
- Clean up two entrances of Roosevelt Preserve by hauling out a dozen large trash bags full of debris (and then some!)
- Clear woody debris from a 1500-square-foot area of Wawapek to make way for a pollinator garden.
- Complete demolition of a shed and salvage firewood for winter at Wawapek.

This is just a sampling of the types of work our partnerships with corporate volunteers have made possible over several years. Groups of dedicated adults working with us on specific activities can accomplish

substantial tasks in a morning or a day. At the same time, they have the opportunity to connect with one another outside the office and benefit from good, old-fashioned physical labor. Spending time outside can work wonders for relieving stress that can build up when sitting at a desk most of the day. Though the activity can be strenuous, volunteers generally enjoy the change of scenery and getting their hands dirty. A day at one of our beautiful preserves is never all work and no play; we always manage to find time to explore and understand why conserving these special places is important for Long Islanders.

Just ask Sim Kaur, of MSC, which has been sending volunteers to our preserves each of the last four years. Their day at Wawapek last month began with a nature walk right after they arrived so that they could appreciate the Preserve's value to the community before the day got away from them! "Working with the North Shore Land Alliance these past few years has been a privilege and our volunteer days are an associate favorite event at MSC," she commented. "This year's effort to restore Wawapek to its previous splendor was an enriching experience! We are grateful for North Shore Land Alliance's environmental

commitment and expertise that have lasting effects into the future.” Dave Tanner, of REI, agrees. “We learned that a few dedicated people can have a big impact when they are focused on the right project.”

If you are interested in learning more about corporate volunteer opportunities, please contact Jane Jackson or Nina Muller at 516-626-0908.



REI Staff at Roosevelt Preserve

## Land Alliance Welcomes Will Shea, Friends Academy Senior.



2016 is our third year hosting a Friends Academy senior to spend the last three weeks of the school year volunteering with us. This year our student was Will Shea, pictured here. Will was exceptionally reliable

AND enthusiastic AND flexible. He participated in a variety of activities that included planting and monitoring native plants, trail maintenance, spreading woodchips, weeding, working with corporate volunteers to move woody debris from our pollinator garden site at Wawapek Preserve and assisting with fundraising events and office tasks. He excelled in all of these, though weeding, he says, was one of his favorites. A dream volunteer! Thank you, Will. You set the bar high for future Friends Academy volunteers!

## Volunteer Spotlight John Turner



For several years, John, a renowned conservationist and one of Long Island’s premier naturalists, has been sharing his time and expertise with the North Shore Land Alliance. He leads two of our guided Walks

in the Woods each year and serves as an active member of the Land Alliance’s Advisory Board and Stewardship Committee. His contributions to educating our community have been invaluable to the Land Alliance effort to carry out our conservation mission.

As a child growing up in Smithtown, John spent time exploring the marshes, fields and woodlands along the Nissequogue River. Through his explorations, he developed a strong commitment to land conservation and environmental issues and a love for nature.

At the age of eighteen he was a co-founder of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society. He later served as Director of the Division of Environmental Protection for the Town of Brookhaven. Throughout his career he has been instrumental in preserving open space in Suffolk County. He is a recipient of Newsday’s “Everyday Hero” award for his long-standing commitment to environmental protection. Always the educator, he has taught at Stony Brook University and written many articles on environmental issues which have appeared in publications such as Defenders, The Conservationist and Networking Magazine. Among his most sought after publications is the classic Exploring the Other Island: a seasonal guide to nature on Long Island. And in 2011 he founded Alula Birding and Natural History Tours whose mission is “to inspire people to deepen their appreciation of, connection with and commitment to the natural world by sharing its many wonders, and by working to safeguard these aspects of nature in the places we visit.”

John has also been a tireless leader of the Coalition to Preserve Plum Island, a 840-acre wildlife-rich island less than a mile off Orient Point. He also spearheads Seatuck Environmental Association’s “Campaign for Long Island Wildlife”, launched in August 2015, with a goal to create a healthier and cleaner environment for the people and wildlife of Long Island.

## North Shore Land Alliance Celebrates Earth Day



Earth Day began on April 22, 1970 and has been an important day ever since. In honor of this global movement, the Land Alliance is pleased to organize annual events to demonstrate our support for protecting natural resources, engaging the community and maintaining our natural areas and supporting environmental education.

On April 13th, employees from REI in Carle Place joined us to conduct a spring cleaning at the 73-acre Nassau County Roosevelt Preserve in Roosevelt, NY. Our goal was to clear debris from the main entrance and remove a tree which had fallen across the trail to prepare for our official Earth Day event. It was a pleasure to collaborate with REI which is committed to inspiring and educating others to experience the benefits of active outdoor lifestyles, protecting and enhancing shared natural spaces and mentoring the next generation of outdoor stewards. (See p. 22)

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, we hosted our annual Earth Day celebration with partners from the Roosevelt Union-Free School District. We met with 15 elementary school students led by Mrs. Catherine Beasley, the science teacher for all the elementary schools, and 20 high school students led by Leslie Pieters, the high school athletic educator. The event featured a

guided nature walk led by our Stewardship Director, Jane Jackson. Throughout the walk, students were instructed to collect materials from nature to prepare a special Mother's Day card. The elementary school students also conducted a water quality test to determine the stream's pH level and to better understand what types of organisms can thrive in this environment. At the end of the event, students created their homemade Mother's Day cards in addition to planting wildflower seeds harvested by Amanda Furcall, our internship coordinator, in pots filled with soil.

The Land Alliance is delighted to continue our partnership with the Roosevelt community to help connect more children to nature and provide environmental education. If we continue to offer positive experiences with nature, kids can become strong environmentalists who are more likely to express concern about air pollution and the overall condition of the environment.

Thank you again to REI and the Roosevelt Union-Free School District for partnering with us for our 2016 Earth Day events. And we are grateful to our volunteers, Eileen Rossi, Eileen McGuire and Rich Kopsco who helped to make this event possible.

## Final Walks in the Woods for 2016

**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 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, 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 15, 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** - Richard 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 the 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.

Registration is required as space is limited on many of the walks. To register, please visit us online at [www.northshorelandalliance.org](http://www.northshorelandalliance.org). For more information about our Walks in the Woods program, please contact Jane Jackson at 516-626-0908 or at [jjackson@northshorelandalliance.org](mailto:jjackson@northshorelandalliance.org).



### Davey Tree Arbor Day Planting

Davey Tree donated a red maple (*Acer rubrum*) tree to enhance the entrance to our nature preserve at 95 Shore Road in Cold Spring Harbor. The planting took place on April 29 in honor of Arbor Day. The tree will help to beautify the preserve entrance, particularly with its glorious red leaves in early fall. Red maple seeds are eaten by squirrels and birds and the species is pollinated by bees and butterflies, including tiger swallowtails and mourning cloaks, in early spring. In discussing Davey Tree's decision to plant a tree at the property, Kevin Sheehan, Certified Arborist, commented, "I'm still learning about and astounded by the variety and magnitude of the preserves the Land Alliance owns and manages. We are delighted to support the important work they are doing to protect Long Island's natural areas." And the Land Alliance is very grateful to Davey Tree for their generosity and expertise.

## Frank Castagna Honored at Our Annual Golf and Tennis Outing



The 8th annual *Fore the Love of the Land Golf and Tennis Outing* was held at Piping Rock Club in Locust Valley on May 18th. Land Alliance Trustee Frank Castagna, principal of Castagna Realty Company and Americana Manhasset, was honored for his leadership in protecting and enhancing the quality of life on Long Island. The Golf Outing chaired by John Bransfield and Tennis Outing co-chaired by Mary and Russel Selover and Peri Wenz was almost sold out before the invitations were mailed. This is a true testament to Frank Castagna's standing in the community and his efforts to help further the Land Alliance's mission.

A shot gun starts sent out twenty-five foursomes on a cool spring morning to tee off on one of the most highly regarded courses on the North Shore. The course, designed by Charles B. MacDonald, was in prime condition. Golfers began the day with a continental breakfast and concluded with lunch and awards as well as live and silent auction featuring a stay at Old Memorial Golf Club, tickets to a Billy Joel concert, threesomes and foursomes at Creek, Piping and Bethpage Black among others.

Prizes were awarded to the lowest net winners Neil Falcone, Russ Kivler, Guido Subotovsky and Clint Olsen, with a score of 56. The first place gross winners with a score of 66 were John Gutleber, Michael Smith, Rick O'Rourke and John Foote. The winner of the longest drive in the men's division was Adam Goldstein and in the women's division was Mona Engel. Rita Pecora and Graham Stephens won closest to the pin for their respective divisions. There were two hole-in-one prizes this year. On hole #11 was a 24-month prepaid lease on a 2016 Range Rover Sport from Land Rover of Glen Cove. On the 17th hole a \$25,000 cash prize was sponsored by Bullen Insurance. Sadly there was no winner on hole #11 or #17.

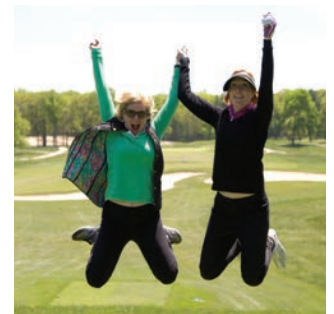
In speaking about Frank Castagna at the awards presentation, Lisa Ott, Land Alliance President, said, "We are very pleased to have the opportunity to honor Frank Castagna. He is an outstanding man who has done so much to make our community a better place. Frank continues to work tirelessly to bring beauty to so many through art, history, music and nature. His long-standing support of the Land Alliance has been integral to our organization's

growth and ability to fulfill our conservation mission.” She added, “This is an important fundraising event for the Land Alliance. More than 20,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land remain in the Land Alliance’s catchment area, of which 11,000 acres are highly prized golf courses. Hosting a golf fundraiser like this is a very fitting way to raise awareness about the important relationships among land and water and community health.”

On Monday, May 23, tennis enthusiasts enjoyed a spectacular day of fun and friendly doubles on Piping Rock’s beautifully manicured grass courts, which are some of the few that remain on Long Island. The event included a one-hour warm up with the pros, with three players on a court to one pro, followed by competitive round robin play and courtside lunch. Tennis players and lunch guests were able to bid on a wonderful array of silent auction items that featured antique and vintage tennis racquets, a beautiful Hermes scarf, a stay at Saddle Brook Tennis and Golf Resort and a range of restaurant and other experience gift certificates.

Prizes were awarded to the first and second place tennis players. This year’s first place mixed doubles team winners were Peri Wenz and Matt Danziger and second place went to Cynthia Hornblower and Ted Bahr.

Throughout the year, the Land Alliance provides opportunities to connect people to the land we love. Along with raising important funds in support of the Land Alliance’s mission, Fore the Love of the Land provides an opportunity for people to commune in one of Long Island’s most beautiful recreational open spaces. This year’s outing was a huge success and raised more than \$100,000 in support of land conservation projects and educational programs. Thank you to all who came out to play in support of the Land.







**NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE  
FOR THE LOVE OF THE LAND GOLF AND TENNIS OUTING**

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## NY Lecture Series featuring Parker Liautaud: *Journey to the South Pole and a Changing Climate*



On Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> nearly 100 Land Alliance supporters attended the seventh annual New York Lecture at the Explorers Club in New York City. This year's featured speaker was Parker Liautaud, a young arctic explorer and environmentalist who spoke about his expedition to the South Pole and the climate change research he completed as part of this journey.

Parker is an extraordinary young man who has undertaken three climate research expeditions to the North Pole. In 2013, he led the Willis Resilience Expedition—a record-breaking Antarctic journey—during which at age 19 he became the youngest person to walk to the South Pole. This spring he graduated from Yale University where he studied Geology and Geophysics and was a Fellow and Member of the Directorate at the Yale Climate and Energy Institute.

In addition to the Land Alliance lecture, Parker has

spoken on climate issues at numerous events around the world. He addressed the 2013 Social Good Summit in a one-on-one interview with former Vice President Al Gore, delivered remarks at the climate change plenary session of the Clinton Global Initiative 2014 Annual Meeting and later that year moderated a panel discussion between Kofi Annan and President Mary Robinson on climate leadership at a summit in Dublin, Ireland. He has also spoken at the World Economic Forum, The World Bank, the White House and a number of other notable institutions.

In 2013, Parker was named to *TIME Magazine's* "30 Under 30" list of people changing the world. In March 2014, the White House honored Parker in a joint event with the Department of the Interior and the Council on Environmental Quality. We thank Parker for coming to New York to speak to the sell-out crowd of Land Alliance members and friends about his important journey.

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## 2016 Heritage Committee Events



The Heritage Committee, co-chaired by Meghan Hagedorn and Land Alliance Trustee, DR Holmes, along with the help of energetic event committee members, organized two fun and successful gatherings this year.

On February, 26, more than 20 Heritage Committee Members came out to watch and play in the second annual paddle tennis party at Piping Rock Club in Locust Valley. The event was co-chaired by Meghan and her husband, Land Alliance Trustee Chris Hagedorn, and Milena Duke and DR Holmes. The picture perfect winter day included fun and friendly morning and afternoon round robin style tournaments as well as chili and drinks in the paddle hut for players and spectators.

Prizes were awarded for first place and runner up for both paddle sessions. The morning winners were

Mark Donohue and Nick Leopardi and the runner up winners were Meg and Ryan Morris. The afternoon winners were Matt Restaino and Gregory (Woody) Hillyard and the runner up winners were Milena Duke and DR Holmes. Guests had a fun day on and off the courts all in support of the Land Alliance. Special thanks to the Paddle event sponsors – Meghan and Chris Hagedorn - The Hawthorne Gardening Company, Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty and Sweetie Pies on Main.

The fourth Annual Heritage Committee spring event – An Evening in the Garden – was held on June 8 at the Jefferson Market Garden in Greenwich Village. The event was a terrific success with more than 70 young professionals gathered in one of New York City's most beautiful urban gardens.

Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and drinks and bid on



silent auction items in a green setting that represents how a community can come together to create and protect open space. Prior to becoming a New York City Park, the Garden was once a market with fishmongers, poultry vendors and retail stalls and later became the site of the City's only house of detention for women. After years of community pressure, in 1974, the then obsolete and troublesome facility was demolished and the site was transferred to the Parks Department under the care of a group of neighborhood associations and homeowners.

Chris Hagedorn and DR Holmes, who spoke at the event, highlighted the importance of the Land Alliance and the need for Heritage Committee members to be involved in protecting an area where many of them grew up and others intend to make their future homes. DR also thanked his co-chairs and committee members and gave special thanks to The Hawthorn Gardening Company this year's Heritage Committee sponsor.

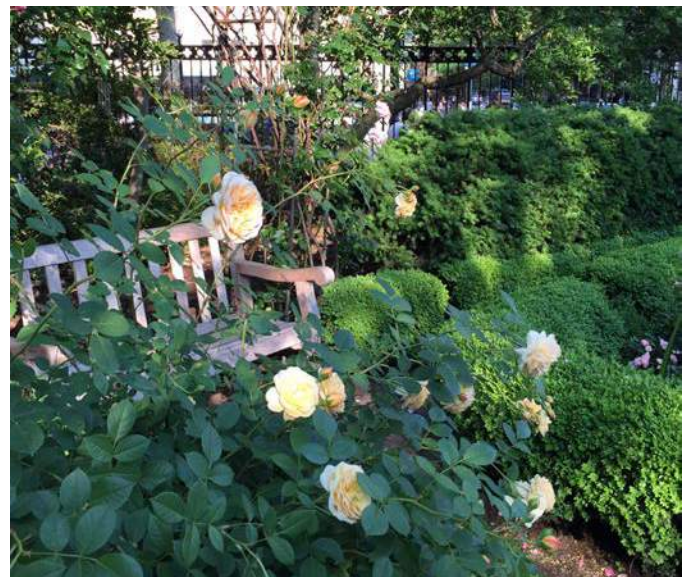
To learn more about the Heritage Committee and to stay up to date on special events and programs, visit the Land Alliance website at [www.northshorelandalliance.org](http://www.northshorelandalliance.org), like and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



*DR Holmes & Meghan Hagedorn - Event Chairs*



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# NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

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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 enhancement of quality of life and benefit of future generations.

## SAVE THE DATES!



### **Saturday, September 24, 2016**

Wine Auction & Dinner  
Groton Place, Old Westbury

### **Saturday, November 5, 2016**

Annual Members Meeting  
Humes Property, Mill Neck

For more information, please contact  
North Shore Land Alliance at 516-626-0908 or  
info@northshorelandalliance.org.

## SAVE WATER!

### Mandatory Sprinkling Regulations

The use of water for irrigation of lawns, shrubs, trees, plants and vegetation of any type is regulated by Nassau County. Ordinances state that absolutely no watering is allowed from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Watering is permitted all other hours under the following conditions:

- Even numbered properties and premises without numbers may be watered on even dates.
- Residents with odd house numbers may water on odd dates.

These regulations apply to automatic and manually controlled sprinkler systems as well as hose sprinkling.

**Please stop wasting water. Use only what you need.**



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