



# Conservation News

Protecting Open Space on Long Island's North Shore

## NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

Volume 18, Issue 36

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*Photo Credit: Phyllis Weekes*

## Why Do Governments Invest In Land Conservation?

As our nation continues to be challenged by a lingering pandemic, a volatile stock market, international unrest and the greatest environmental and climate crisis of our time, there is growing appreciation that smart land protection can be very valuable. For years we've written about the tangible benefits of land protection. They include securing clean air and water, providing habitat for wildlife and places for agriculture and recreation. More recently, we've delved into how protecting land can mitigate and abate the devastating effects of climate change. Land conservation helps us by making possible carbon absorption and creating a buffer from the havoc caused by severe storms like Superstorm Sandy and Hurricane Ida.

With science confirming the wide range of benefits associated with land conservation, federal, state and local governments across the country are investing in land protection at record levels. Recent examples include the federal \$370B Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the \$4.2B NYS Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Act (both of which will be featured later in this issue).

Long Islanders are blessed with approximately 1,180 miles of shoreline and 60,000 acres

*(Continued on pg. 4)*





*Land Alliance Staff*

Dear Friends in Conservation,

I wish the first page of this issue of *Conservation News* was announcing a big, emblematic conservation victory. Unfortunately, the timing was not right for that. We are indeed working on a very big deal, and we have been for more than three years. The deal involves several partners, which is never simple to orchestrate. Then the pandemic came, as well as some other complications (common in deals like this). I am happy to say things seem to be going well now, but we are at that sensitive stage where terms are being finalized. We have faith a good outcome will be achieved because good people are involved. At the same time, we don't want to jinx anything by letting the cat out of the bag too soon. So, cross your fingers and send us good thoughts for a great conservation victory, which we hope will be announced in early 2023.

A conservation transaction is often a slow process, and it always involves faith. It can take decades for some deals to come together. This issue of *Conservation News* will feature the work we do every day to plant conservation seeds in hopes they will grow. We discuss the why's and how's of land protection. We highlight exciting new government initiatives that could bring the resources needed to conserve more land, help solve the climate crisis and protect local water supplies. We take pride in the achievements of our dedicated staff (featured in the photo above). They inspire me and our members every day with the care they take in stewarding our lands and protecting our waters, while constantly educating our community about the importance of conserving land.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, every day an estimated 6,000 acres of open space are lost to development of some kind. This loss is significant, as open spaces provide us so many benefits. From clean air and water to wildlife habitat and biodiversity and from flood control to recreational opportunities, saving land matters today and for the future.

As we embark upon this holiday season, I am grateful for many things – my sweet family (including the dogs), this beautiful community, the Land Alliance's committed board and talented staff (new HQ) and YOU, our friends in conservation, who make our work possible. You inspire us to do more!

With best wishes to you and yours for a joyous holiday season. May 2023 be a year of peace and goodwill around the land.

Most sincerely,

Lisa W. Ott, President & CEO





*Red Cote Preserve*

*Continued from pg. 1*

of trails, gardens, farmlands, woodlands, waterways, day camps and ballfields that provide us with beauty, recreation, relaxation and wonder. Study after study confirms that our natural resources (and those of communities like ours across the country) are not only a luxury but also a significant economic driver. They are critical to a healthy and sustainable future.

According to a study produced by the Long Island Community Foundation and the Rauch Foundation, Long Island's parks and open spaces supply quantifiable economic benefits worth over \$2.74B per year!

### **Here are some examples of direct and deferred benefits:**

- Land conservation helps protect clean drinking water supplies. The cost of water pumped from the Long Island Pine Barrens, where the land above the aquifer is protected, is as little as 1/10th that in unprotected areas. Why? Drinking water from unprotected wells needs more expensive water treatment.
- Parks and protected open spaces reduce stormwater management costs by capturing precipitation and/or slowing runoff, lowering stormwater management costs by \$23.9M annually. With 60+% of Nassau County's land surface already impervious (paving and buildings), excess water from storms causes flooding and pollutes our beaches and bays.
- Trees and shrubs in parks and preserves remove air pollutants that endanger human health and damage structures, reducing Long Island's pollution control costs by \$18.9M per year.
- Long Island's farms recently have ranked number one in market value for the entire state, with direct agricultural sales of \$288 million. In addition, Long Island's wineries attract 1.2M visitors per year, who are estimated to spend \$90+M during their visits.
- People who use parks are generally healthier. Increased physical activity results in increased medical savings. Even before the pandemic, approximately 611,000 Long Islanders engaged in physical activity at a level sufficient to generate measurable





*Humes Preserve*

health benefits, yielding annual savings in medical costs of \$164M.

- The value of residential properties located next to protected open space is enhanced by 5 - 15%, depending on the quality of the open space. It is estimated that \$5.18M in real estate value exists because of proximity to parks and protected lands!

With growing evidence for the wide range of benefits that result from strategic conservation, it should come

as no surprise that responsible public officials are taking notice. Land conservation is not only smart and beneficial but also a prudent investment in the future of our planet.

Healthy forests, restored wetlands and undisturbed grasslands can pull billions of tons of carbon out of the atmosphere annually. That makes land the biggest and most reliable carbon sequestration tool the world currently has and clearly worth protecting.



*Photo credit: Phyllis Weekes*



## Refresh, Renew and Reuse – Tavern House Update



The Land Alliance's new headquarters in the Tavern House at the Humes Preserve in Mill Neck is rapidly taking shape. As of this writing, the framing has been completed, the geothermal ducting has been installed and the roofers, electricians and tech team are to start soon. The blue stone terrace, installed during a 1960's renovation, was removed to keep the stones intact, then put back in its former spot. The original chimney (with bread oven revealed) has been repaired meticulously and will remain visible for all to appreciate.

As you might remember from past issues of *Conservation News*, the original Tavern House building dates to the 1700's. It is a miracle when structures like this survive. But in many cases, including this one, time has taken its toll. Many beams were rotten and the original foundation stones were without mortar, causing them to crumble and roll.

The intent of the Tavern House renovation is to respect our community's past while building a strong, bright future for the Land Alliance. Our organization is on the cusp of its 20th year. To ensure stability and protect the building's integrity, some beams had to be replaced and new footings had to be poured to hold the weight

of the floors above. As planned, the exterior facades of the building will mirror its original period and the interior will be filled with light and air. There also will be views of the beautiful lands that surround our new offices. We've even made space for an interior tree that spans from the first to second floors.

Every attempt is being made to refresh, renew and reuse this wonderful building. From using the old beams as frames for new glass panels, to stacking old foundation stones to surround new fortified foundation walls, to exposing the old chimney and encompassing it with glass, the past will be respected while we look toward a bright future.







Generous support from our donors has enabled us to incorporate period appropriate materials, like wooden shingles for the roof, with green initiatives, such as geothermal heating and air conditioning and a clean water septic system. Importantly, geothermal heating and cooling systems don't produce carbon monoxide or greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate change. Further, clean water septic systems reduce nitrogen pollution of our drinking and surface waters and are much needed locally to avoid further contamination. We also intend to incorporate native plants and rain gardens on site to reduce stormwater runoff.

We are going full speed ahead to move in by the end of December. Give us a month or so to get settled, then come on by. We would love to show you around!

With special thanks to our architect Eduardo Lacroze and to Raf, Brad and Kyle at RAF Development Corp., Zach Fink at ZBF Geothermal, the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District and Wastewater Works, Inc.

### **The construction of the Land Alliance's new headquarters would not be possible without the generosity of:**



The William C. and Joyce C. O'Neil Charitable Trust,  
Hollis Russell and John C. Crabill, Trustees

The Gerry Charitable Trust

The Oliver R. Grace Charitable Foundation

Thank you, thank you! We are so excited about our new home.

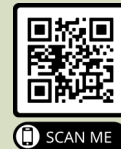


# MEET YOUR MATCH



Thanks to the generosity of The Oliver R. Grace Charitable Foundation, donations towards the Tavern House restoration will be matched dollar-for-dollar, if made by December 31st. Your donation will go even further to help the Land Alliance establish its permanent home within our community. Together we will ensure Long Island's future is green!

To make a gift, visit [www.northshorelandalliance.org/tavern-house-appeal](http://www.northshorelandalliance.org/tavern-house-appeal)



## Thank you to all who donated to our 2022 Tavern House Appeal

Every dollar will be generously matched by The Oliver R. Grace Charitable Foundation



Thomas Bralower  
Naomi and John Bralower  
Cathy Chernoff  
Robert Crary  
Jessica Davidman

Kathe Dodd  
Gussy and Mark Donohue  
Rebecca and Charles Finelli  
Lorna and Edwin Goodman  
Maria and Sherlock Hackley  
Catherine and Taylor Hare  
Caroline Hoak  
Adrienne and Hugh Jones  
Botsy and Hoyle Jones  
Gabrielle and John Keller  
Kendall and Kristopher Koka  
Amory and Sean McAndrew  
Diahn and Tom McGrath  
Nina and Robert Muller  
Julia Murray

Andrew Nevin  
Lisa and Gil Ott  
Peter Pell  
Hanna and Taylor Robinson  
Joseph Rosenthal  
Joseph Saphia  
Susan and Jeffrey Spindler  
Liz and Ed Swenson  
Julia and Eric Vaughn  
Robin and Paul Vermynen  
Nelson and Victoria Walsh  
Debra and Harris Wiener  
Donna Winston  
Jamie and James Wylie



## Conservation Easements 101



If you ask conservation easement expert and tax attorney Stephen J. Small why people choose to place conservation easements on their land, he will give you the same answer every time. They love their land, they love their land and they love their land! While some may be impressed by the possible tax deductions, most just want to see their land protected and leave a legacy of sorts for future generations.

Private conservation is critical to achieving both NYS and the nation's goal of protecting 30% of our lands and waters by 2030. To do our part in achieving this important goal, the Land Alliance put together our own 30 x 30 Community Conservation campaign. We have identified more than 8,000 acres of conservation worthy land in our community that may be eligible for private conservation.

Thus far, the Land Alliance has notified over 250 residents in 12 villages about the conservation value of their land. We think it would be useful to give

our members a brief explanation of conservation easements. They are one of the best ways to protect our land and water and options you or a family member might want to consider.

Landowners who wish to protect their land for its scenic, historic and/or natural qualities can use a conservation easement to restrict the type, amount and location of future development. The easement agreement is private and voluntary. It is a more permanent way to protect land than relying on existing government regulations such as zoning and critical environmental area designations. A conservation easement can be an essential tool for passing land to the next generation. By removing the land's development potential, the easement lowers its market value, which in turn lowers the estate tax. This can make a difference in an heir's ability to keep the land intact. A qualified conservation easement may also be eligible for a significant federal tax deduction.



## What is a Conservation Easement?

A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement to preserve land in perpetuity. The easement agreement spells out a landowner's commitment to protect the existing conservation values of some or all of their property by restricting specific development and future use. With an easement in place, the landowner still owns and controls the property, with only the specific uses/rights that protect the encumbered area as restrictions. A landowner may sell the land, but the conservation restrictions will remain in place forever. A conservation easement may be held only by a qualified land trust or governmental entity. It does not give the public any rights to the land unless the landowner decides to include such rights in the easement.

## How to Place a Conservation Easement

There are several steps in creating a conservation easement. In our community, they begin with a landowner's discussing their intent to preserve their land with the Land Alliance. As a preliminary step, our team will visit the property to evaluate the potential easement's conservation value and discuss the landowner's goals. If it makes sense, the next step is for the Land Alliance's Board of Trustees to approve the project. Assuming Board approval, an outline of the remaining process is as follows:

### 1. Landowners should discuss the transaction with their advisors.

- The Land Alliance facilitates the transaction, but the landowner retains their own advisors, such as an attorney, accountant, appraiser and surveyor.
- The Land Alliance is not allowed to give tax or legal advice, although we can provide a donor with potential scenarios for both Federal and State tax benefits.

### 2. Once the landowner and the Land Alliance have reached an agreement, the landowner and/or their counsel should do the following:

- Find an accurate survey of the property or hire a

surveyor to make one. An accurate survey will be important for the appraiser to determine the metes and bounds of the land to be conserved.

- Retain a qualified appraiser to determine the current market value of the land and the value after the easement is placed. Under IRS regulations an appraisal must occur no earlier than 60 days prior to the date of the contribution of the easement and no later than the due date of the income tax return on which a deduction for the gift is first claimed or reported.
- Initiate a title search to ensure there are no encumbrances on the donor's land. The landowner's attorney or the Land Alliance can initiate a title search. Any mortgage on the property must be subordinated to the conservation easement so that the provisions of the conservation easement cannot be eliminated if the mortgage is foreclosed.

### 3. Preparation of the first draft of the conservation easement agreement.

The Land Alliance or the donor's counsel may prepare the draft conservation easement. The Land Alliance will prepare baseline documentation. Baseline documentation includes boundaries, important natural resources, structures, clear descriptions of reserved rights and prohibited uses. The baseline establishes the ecological value and condition of the property at the time of the gift and becomes an exhibit to the conservation easement. It is required by tax law. The landowner will sign this document at closing.

### 4. Once the terms of the easement are agreed to, the landowner must provide the Land Alliance with copies of an appraisal and survey.

The Land Alliance will provide the landowner with a copy of the baseline for their review. Once all documents have been agreed upon a formal closing will be scheduled.



**5. After the signing and recording of the conservation easement the Land Alliance begins its stewardship program.**

- A trained member of the Land Alliance staff will visit the property at least once each year and document that the terms of the easement are being upheld.
- The Land Alliance is required by law to have the resources necessary to uphold the terms of the conservation easement restrictions. We generally ask the donor to make a one-time, voluntary contribution to the long-term stewardship of the property. On average, the amount is \$10,000, but amounts may vary depending on the size and complexity of the easement.

**6. After closing, the easement agreement will be recorded with the appropriate governmental agencies. If the landowner intends to seek tax benefits, they must file necessary tax forms.**

- The person making the contribution must file an IRS Form 8283, Non-Cash Charitable Contributions, along with their tax return for the year in which the gift was made and together with a copy of the appraisal dated no earlier than 60 days prior to the date of the contribution.
- Both the Land Alliance and the appraiser must sign the IRS Form 8283.
- In order to ensure the accurate representation of the value of gifts, the Land Alliance will not sign the IRS Form 8283 if it has reservations about the stated value of the donation.

We hope this brief explanation of conservation easements and the process of creating such is helpful in your consideration of ways to protect our natural areas while keeping land in private hands. For further questions please contact the Land Alliance and we would be pleased to provide more detail.

## **Federal Income Tax Benefit Scenario**

### **Federal Income Tax Benefits**

Assume a landowner has a 10-acre property in a village that is zoned for 2-acre subdivision. The owner chooses to place a conservation easement on the vacant 8-acre parcel. The parcel has conservation value because it is in the middle of the special groundwater protection area (as designated by the State of New York) and is immediately adjacent to already preserved parkland.

### **Two appraised values must be determined:**

1. The current value of the entire property (existing fair market value) = \$5,000,000
2. The value of the property after the easement is in place = \$1,000,000

The value of the conservation easement = \$4,000,000 (the difference between 1. and 2.)

Under current law, there is a federal tax deduction for donating a conservation easement. Under the enhanced conservation easement incentive, the

donor is allowed to deduct the entire conservation easement value, up to 50% of the landowner's adjusted gross income, from federal income tax in a given year, and can carry forward any remaining deduction for a total of 16 years.

### **A simplified example follows:**

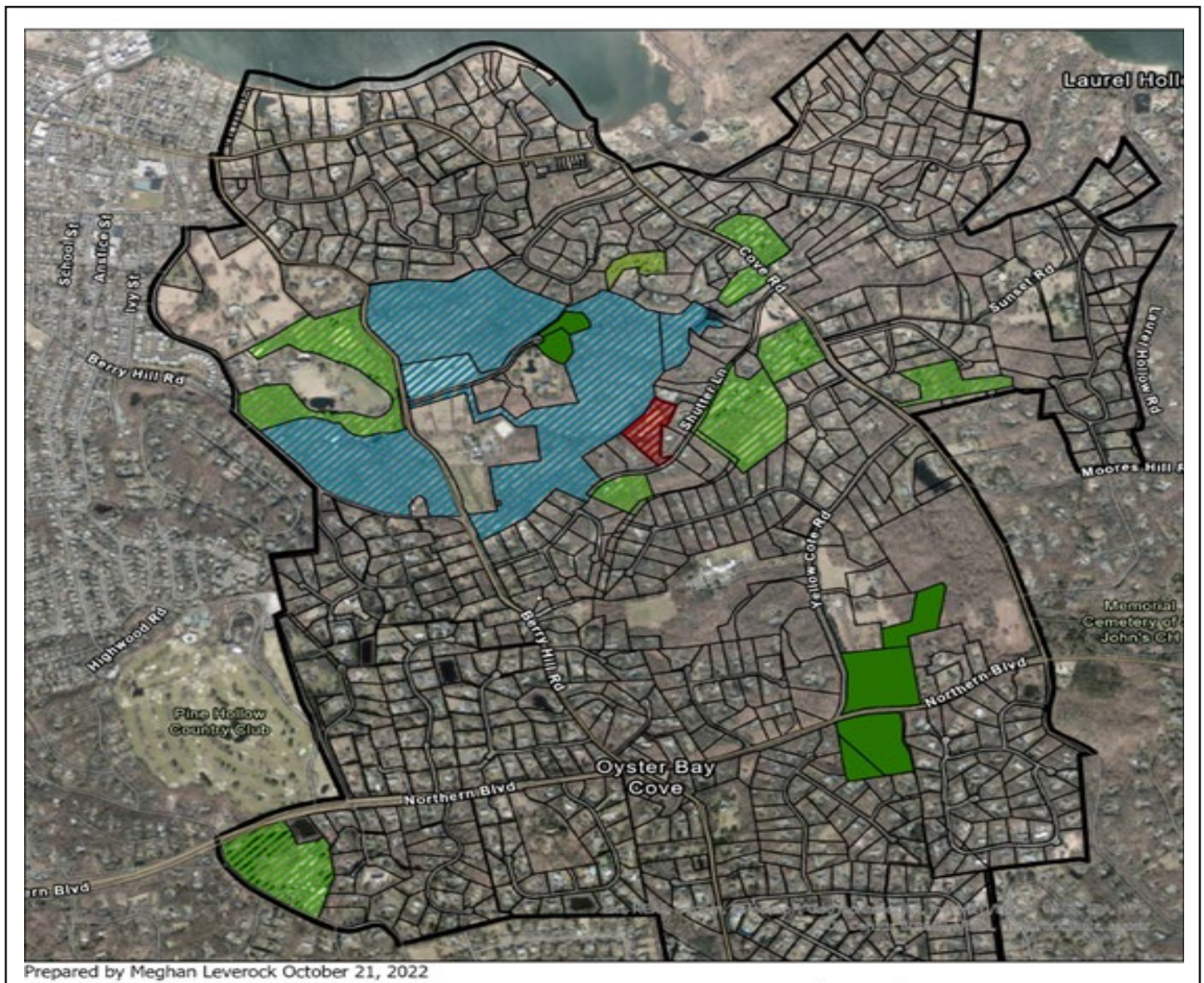
Conservation Easement Value = \$4,000,000  
Landowner/Donor's AGI = \$500,000  
50% of AGI = \$250,000

Under the existing conservation easement incentive, a donor is able to deduct \$250,000 of the \$4,000,000 conservation easement value the year of donation and will be able to carry forward the remaining deduction of \$3,750,000 over an additional fifteen years. Assuming the donor's AGI stays the same over the next 15 years, the donor would continue to be able to take \$250,000 in deductions each subsequent year which, in this example, generates the full value of the easement donation.



## Oyster Bay Cove Conservation Impact

The Village of Oyster Bay Cove, where the Oyster Bay Cove Land Trust's (a precursor to the Land Alliance) first easements were donated, serves as a wonderful example of how small land parcels can create an important whole. Oyster Bay Cove is comprised of approximately 2,723 acres of land, of which 386 acres (or 13%) has been permanently protected. While 13% is a small percentage of the Village, the concentrated location of those protected lands creates a valuable open space corridor for wildlife, watershed health, groundwater recharge and community enjoyment. The little red spot in the middle shows another easement in the works. Many thanks to these easement donors who have contributed so much to a healthier future for our community.



NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

### Legend

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 100 Shutter Lane                             | Grace & Krasnoff - Easement held by NSLA | Farm Oyster Bay - Easement held by NSLA            |
| Tiffany Creek Preserve - Nassau County Owned | Diamond - Easement held by NSLA          | Schiff - North Shore Land Alliance Owned           |
| Morgan - Easement held by NSLA               | D'Ioren - Easement held by NSLA          | Red Cote Preserve - Managed by NSLA                |
| Dulbois - Easement held by NSLA              | Stallings - Easement held by NSLA        | Cushman Preserve - North Shore Land Alliance Owned |
| Northwood - Easement held by NSLA            |  |  |



## GOVERNMENT UPDATES



### FEDERAL - Inflation Reduction Act and Conservation

The Inflation Reduction Act, passed by Congress on August 12th and signed into law by President Biden on August 16th, includes a crucial recognition of the role nature can play in tackling climate change. Coupled with sustained emissions reductions from other sectors of the economy, the law offers incentives for conservation and effective management and restoration of various habitats throughout the country. Specifically, the law includes funding that could be used for protection and restoration of coastal wetlands and forests, among other actions, that harness the ability of nature to sequester carbon and store it in soils for long periods of time.

More broadly, the law ushers in substantive opportunities for growing the U.S. clean energy economy over the next 10 years and for conservation. In fact, the nearly \$370B package represents the largest investment in emissions reduction efforts in U.S. history. According to independent analyses, the law will reduce America's carbon emissions by about 40% by 2030 compared with 2005 levels, bringing the United States considerably closer to its stated goal of reducing emissions 50% - 52% by 2030. Notably, the law is projected to reduce emissions by nearly 1B metric tons of greenhouse gases by 2030, compared with current policy.

The nature-based aspects of the law are in addition to significant investments in technical solutions for emissions reduction, such as expanding renewable energy and promoting the use of electric vehicles. Leveraging the power of nature to fight climate change has been shown to support species and communities by improving their ability to adapt to effects such as increased temperatures, severe weather and sea level rise.

The measure also includes nearly \$5B in federal funding

to protect existing carbon-rich forests, promote climate-smart and fire-resilient forest management and restore and reforest large swaths of degraded forests throughout the country. This effort includes \$2B for state and private forestry projects.

Along our country's coasts, the effects of climate change, including sea level rise, erosion and more frequent and stronger storms, are threatening vital habitat that offers one of the best natural defenses against those perils. The law includes \$2.6B to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the conservation, restoration, and protection of coastal and marine habitats to help coastal communities withstand extreme weather and other climate-driven shifts, such as increased flooding.

The statute will facilitate solutions that are durable, equitable and sustainable for people and nature, as well as re-establish the U.S. as a global leader in climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. That stature should compel other governments around the world to step up their own efforts.

[Information based on an article written by Courtney Durham of the The Pew Charitable Trusts' International Conservation Effort.]



Photo Credit: Phyllis Weekes



## Will Climate Change Result in A Paler Shade of Fall?



*Photo Credit: Jan Guga*

*Red Cote Preserve*

Every fall, thousands of tourists travel upstate to see the vibrant colors of the region's changing leaves – a beloved tradition that adds millions of dollars to NYS's tourism economy. In fact, tourism in NYS generated \$19.3B in tax revenues in 2019, including \$9.1B accruing to state and local governments. Climate change is having many impacts, among them a delayed peak in leaf season and a muting of its magnificent colors.

In the fall, shorter days signal trees to stop producing chlorophyll (the green colored compound that traps the sun's energy for photosynthesis) in preparation for the winter. As chlorophyll fades, yellow and orange pigments in a tree's leaves are exposed and, in some trees, red pigments are produced, displaying their autumn show.

Sugar maples, for example, can't reach their red stage without ample rain in the summer followed by cold nights and crisp, sunny days in the fall. As heat waves and drought (like we had this summer) become more frequent in the Northeast, leaves become paler in color. Also, many trees drop their leaves before the red chemical process can take place.

Nature Conservancy conservation ecologist Andy Fin-

ton says, "Brilliant fall foliage is one of the most visible expressions of forest health." And while changing weather patterns cause subdued colors, other forest stressors (like land fragmentation and development, as well as invasive insects like the emerald ash borer and spongy moth) are also to blame.

If we want to save our forests, we need to tackle the climate crisis head on. While experts say that conserving land, managing forests better and farming more sustainably can help us reduce more than 25% of our carbon emissions, renewable energy is a critical part of the solution. New York State is leading the way with one of the most robust investments in renewables in the U.S. The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act passed in 2019 requires NYS's energy supply to be 70% carbon free by 2030. On Thursday, October 19th Governor Kathy Hochul held a press conference at SUNY Brentwood to announce a \$10M investment in an offshore wind education facility. It will train the workforce to keep our state on track to meet this impressive goal.

If you've been on the fence about renewable energy, perhaps the fate of our fall colors might encourage you to take another look.



## Williams Preserve Progress



*Williams Preserve*

Our first order of business at the charming Williams Preserve in Lattingtown, donated by Mary and Tim Williams, was to mow the areas along the driveway to facilitate access for maintenance. We then conducted an initial clearing of what will become a tiny parking area, to be installed once we have secured local approval. Since our last newsletter we began the long process of tackling extensive growth of undesirable vegetation throughout the property. A large volume of vines and invasive shrubs has been cleared mechanically, rescuing a number of native trees and shrubs (including a statuesque oak leaf hydrangea) in the process. In addition, a wall that was part of a formal garden designed by Ferruccio Vitale was uncovered. Much of the remaining clearing needs to be done by hand to protect the native vegetation that remains and access hard to reach areas along sensitive slopes and pond and stream edges.

Coincidentally, Ferruccio Vitale also designed the formal garden at the Rumpus House at the Humes property. Umberto Innocenti began his work as a

landscape architect at the firm of Ferruccio Vitale and Alfred Geiffert, Jr. He left it in 1931 to start the firm of Innocenti & Webel which, over the following decades, became the preferred landscape architects for the Humes Estate.

Since the initial clearing was completed, our dedicated volunteers have removed vines by hand from the countless mature, majestic trees that are found throughout the property. They are beginning to remove invasive shrubs and vines from along the creek that goes from the property boundary and under the driveway into the pond. The spring ephemeral trout lily was observed on the bank of the creek in the spring; we hope to find more of this and perhaps other spring ephemerals as the property's restoration continues. The creek is also lined with native jewel weed, which supports hummingbirds, so we are excited to learn more about the wildlife here.

A highlight of the work our workers and volunteers has done was the uncovering of a stone staircase installed





*While volunteer Stacey Piciullo was clearing debris from the lower meadow, she found and unearthed a set of bluestone stairs in the woods! We are so grateful to Stacey for her discovery and hard work restoring these stairs that many visitors will come to enjoy.*

decades ago to connect the future meadow at the top of the property to the pond below. While it will require a little “engineering” to fully make the connection and become safely navigable, it is a discovery we are very happy about!

We are working to develop a phased habitat restoration plan that will map out several natural communities

- meadow, grassland, freshwater pond, stream and woodland – with implementation to begin next spring.

We welcome volunteers and look forward to the time when St. John’s Church parishioners and summer camp attendees can take a quiet stroll or eat a sandwich by the pond. With many thanks to the Williams family for their generous gift.





## Cushman Woods Meadow



We have focused much of our attention at Cushman Woods this year on renovating the long, eroded asphalt road at the western property boundary. We also have made progress in the meadow, with weed management and debris removal carried out by contractors and volunteers as well as elevating low-hanging utility lines along the path that bisects the meadow. We are now moving ahead with our next phase and have scheduled final site preparation for seeding. This includes removal of any remaining debris, a small amount of grading to flatten clumps and scratching the soil to hold the seed. Seeding will be implemented in November/December with a no-till drill seeder in most areas and by hand in areas not accessible by machinery.

Our seed mix consists largely of grasses and a diversity of wildflowers selected for their benefits to wildlife and ranges of color throughout the growing season.

Many thanks to Rod and Verena Cushman and the RV Cushman Fund for their ongoing support of the meadow project and all things Cushman Woods, to Oliver Grace and the Oliver R. Grace Charitable Foundation for funding the extensive tree work in and around the meadow and to the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District for their meadow implementation grant (and their patience with adjustments to our timeline).





## Wawapek Update



This summer, with the help of a \$50,000 grant from the Gerry Charitable Trust, we began work revitalizing a Lord and Burnham greenhouse. Thought to have been built in the early 1900s, the coal operated greenhouse was once part of a large agricultural network at the de Forest Family's Wawapek Farm.

Over time the greenhouse had fallen prey to weather and age - glass had fallen from the ceiling, the wooden planting beds rotted away, paint had faded with time and weeds and trees began to grow through the floor. With the help of a local contractor, we carefully removed the broken glass, pulled the weeds, disposed of the rotten wood and scraped off the old paint. We then cleaned the good pieces of glass, repainted the greenhouse roof in white (as it had originally been) and repaired the broken wood window frames. Finally, we installed new cedar planting beds and gave the greenhouse several power washes to complete phase 1 of restoration. The difference is amazing, as evidenced in these photos.

Once additional funding has been secured, we hope to start phase 2 of the restoration. Phase 2 will include installing new glass, fixing the broken drywells and replenishing the gravel pathways. We hope to one day use this greenhouse to propagate our own plants for use in



our preserves and provide an educational space for local students to learn about growing plants.

That's not all we accomplished at Wawapek this summer. After completing the Ralf Lange Garden installation this past spring, Pat Peterson (who along with her friends, has endowed the restoration of the garden space in honor of her late partner, Ralf Lange) presented us with additional funds to install a new pergola within the brick-walled garden. This new addition will allow visitors to sit and enjoy the beauty of the pollinator gardens and the tranquility of this space.

Many thanks to our generous donors who are making all of this possible.





## John P. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden Program



As we close our 2022 season, we are happy to report that the Stroll Garden has continued to welcome visitors new and old. This year over 3,500 visitors left their troubles behind as they walked through the new entrance gate at Dogwood Lane.

### Several specially scheduled programs were held during 2022:

- Mary's Gardener's Horticultural Tour delighted visitors who explored the Garden before open hours.
- We are ever so grateful to Daniel Nyohaku Soergel, who donated a Saturday each month throughout the season to delight and educate visitors with beautiful and haunting sounds from the shakuhachi, a Japanese bamboo flute.
- Omotosenke Domonkai, Eastern Region's Keiko Kitazawa-Koch and Eiko Tzuzuki provided a lovely tea ceremony demonstration at the Tea House for John P. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden members.
- Long Island Bonsai Society member Hal Johnson organized a striking two-day-long display at our kadan with fellow Bonsai Society members John

Clay and Roxanne Berlin (until a thunderstorm brought the display to a close in a hurry late Sunday afternoon).

- Mary's Strolling Walk introduced participants to the Garden's fascinating history and design.
- Yoshie Takahashi's Ikebana demonstration, in partnership with North Country Garden Club, showed us this exquisite art form, with beautiful fall plant material from the Garden and beyond.

Weekly volunteer stewardship sessions led by Mary continue year-round, weather permitting. To Do items on this year's list included improvements to the paths and the Tea House foundation.





## Hats off to Mary and to our stewardship volunteers and garden attendants:



### Stewardship volunteers:

Ian Afzelius  
Brett Beaman  
John Duvall  
Jan Guga  
Melanie Howard  
Katie Kim  
Debra Kolitz  
Rich Kopsco

### Ken Krumenacker

Peter Markotsis  
Peter O'Connor  
Ethan Seidner  
Joel Shaw  
Paul Silchenstedt  
Elina Sornique  
Stephen Vlavianos

### Garden attendants:

Aidan Attina  
Arozo Azimi  
Colin D'Angelis  
James Messina  
Yusra Mir  
Hafsah Raza

With special thanks to Andrew Humes and the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden Foundation for their generous donation to improve the entrance to the Garden.





# Roosevelt Community Garden Program Update



Our Roosevelt Community Garden in the Town of Hempstead is gaining momentum and receiving much deserved attention since its inception in 2018. The Garden has become an avenue for adults and children to work together to grow fresh wholesome food while learning about agriculture, biodiversity and appreciation of the outdoors. The lessons of the Garden also deepen the connection between protecting our land, air and water and our health.

With the help of our partners, each year we provide a series of educational programs and activities for seasonal gardeners and all residents in the County. Here's a summary of our 2022 activities:

## Educational Programs

Our monthly gardening workshops, facilitated by Master Gardeners from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County, provided information to those

interested in gardening, horticulture and related topics. We hosted seven workshops, which included a square foot gardening demonstration, succession planting talk and Garden to Table: How to Prepare to Grow presentation. Our aim was to support gardeners by teaching them how to start and maintain a vegetable garden in small spaces, care for their crops and soil and get more produce throughout the season.

## Family and Community Engagement

This year, 41 families secured a raised garden plot for the 2022 gardening season, of which 10 were new. We kick-started the season with our annual Earth Day program. It was attended by more than 80 participants who took action to help their environment. During the summer we hosted Paint Night in the Garden to get more people outdoors and reduce stress, followed by our fall Dinner in the Open Air to celebrate another successful growing season.







## Young Explorers Program

This season, more than 50 young botanists and future conservation stewards from Roosevelt and surrounding communities visited the Garden to do more than grow flowers, vegetables and herbs. The Land Alliance Young Explorers program provides a pathway for children, ages 4-17, and their families to engage with nature, learn about wildlife and the ecosystems they need to survive as well as how to improve their own health.

We also had the pleasure of hosting students from the Roosevelt Prevention Coalition. They visited the Garden each month to connect with nature and find ways to cope with stress. Community service opportunities were also available for high school students. We hope to see many of these students and their families again next year so we can continue to cultivate a love of nature.

## Volunteers

Engagement and commitment from volunteers is vital to the sustainability of the Garden. We are so grateful to all our volunteers for their immeasurably valuable work including leading educational programs, planting

and harvesting crops, weeding, spreading woodchips and organizing social events.

Our achievements have been made possible thanks to the many partners who have helped us over the last five years:

- Cornell Cooperative Extension - Nassau County Master Gardeners
- Roosevelt Public Library
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock Social Justice Committee
- One World Girl, Inc
- Hofstra University Department of Geology, Environment and Sustainability
- Bank of America Associates in Nassau County
- Girl Scout Troop #4703
- Volunteers for Wildlife
- Roosevelt Prevention Coalition sponsored by Family and Children's Services

We welcome new partners from schools, civic organizations and local businesses. For more information, please contact Andrea Millwood at [andrea@north-shorelandalliance.org](mailto:andrea@north-shorelandalliance.org) or 516-922-1028.





## Long Island Water Quality Update



The summer of 2022 felt like a long string of bad news. Scientists from SUNY Stony Brook published their 2022 assessment of water quality in Long Island's estuaries in 2022. The news is not good. During the months of June through September, every major bay and estuary across Long Island experienced fish kills, algal blooms and oxygen-starved dead zones.

Last year, Nassau County and the U.S. Geological Survey completed a Subwatershed study that analyzed surface and groundwater pollution with updated watersheds maps. The study found that excess nitrogen from outdated septic tanks and cesspools is the main cause of harmful algal blooms and fish kills in our bays and harbors. Nitrogen in household sewage seeps into groundwater and ultimately into bays, harbors and estuaries (or, in some cases, is directly discharged into surface waters).

We are extremely concerned by septic system pollution, as we all sit on top of underground aquifers where fresh water replenishes into a deep recharge aquifer. Any untreated water that flows into the aquifer will eventually make its way into our drinking water.

Based on the study, select subwatersheds on the north shore of Nassau County will need to reduce nitrogen by 60% to hit water quality goals. These much-needed nitrogen reductions can be achieved by upgrading 20,000 existing septic systems with clean water technology.

Clean water septic systems convert nitrogen in wastewater into a harmless gas by harnessing natural processes. These systems are so effective they can remove up to 95% of nitrogen from wastewater when compared to conventional septic tanks. Removing



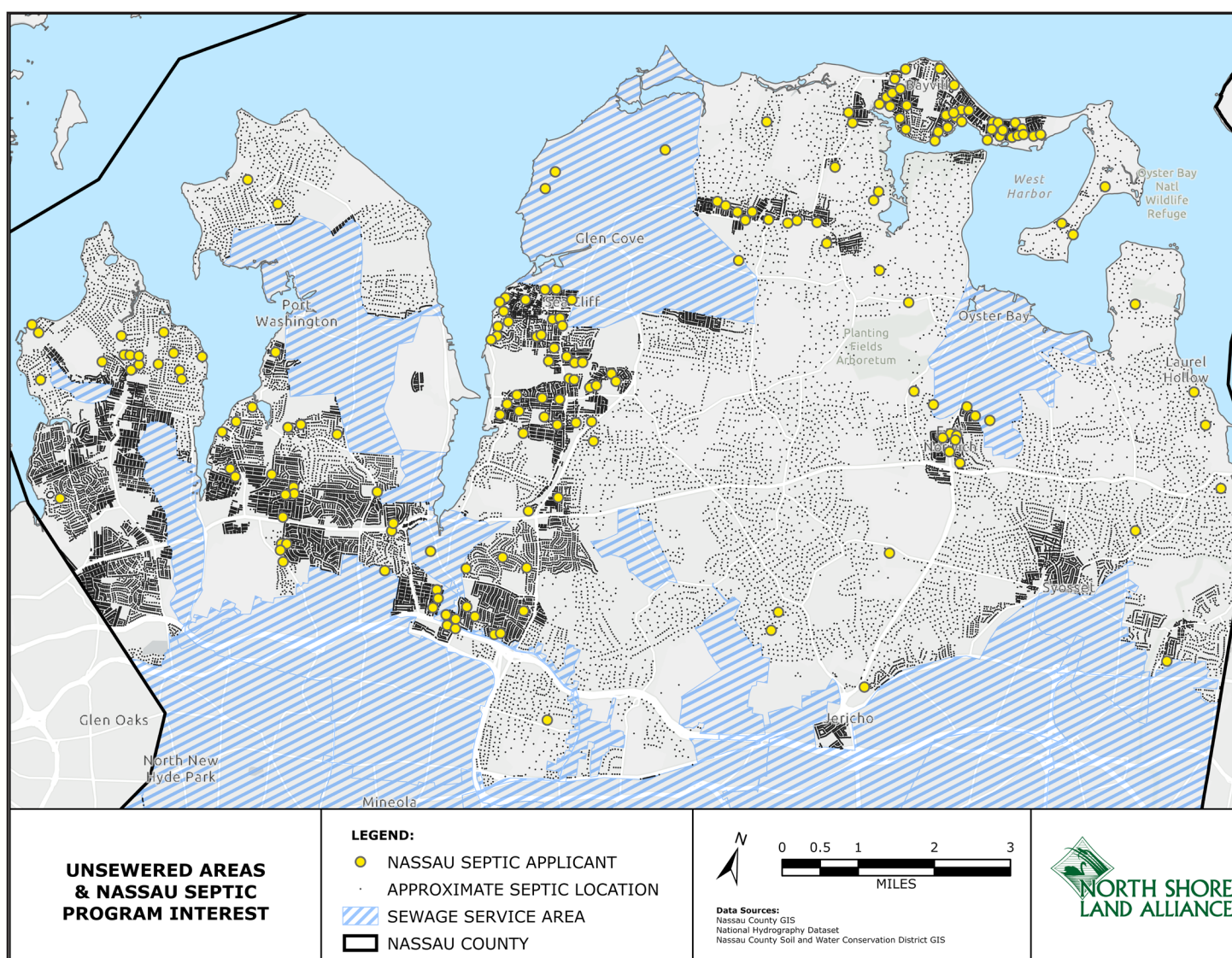
excess nitrogen from the environment will help restore our commercial fishing, boating and recreation industries and improve drinking water for generations to come.

If you would like to see clean water technology at work, stop by the Land Alliance's new HQ where a Wastewater Works, Inc. system will be installed before year end.

Upgrading your current septic system may be easier than you thought. In Nassau County, grants are available to cover up to 95% of the costs needed to upgrade septic tanks and cesspools with clean water

septic systems. Through the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District S.E.P.T.I.C. program, you may be eligible for as much as \$20,000 to upgrade. For more information on eligibility requirements and how to apply, visit [nassaucountyny.gov/SepticReplace](http://nassaucountyny.gov/SepticReplace).

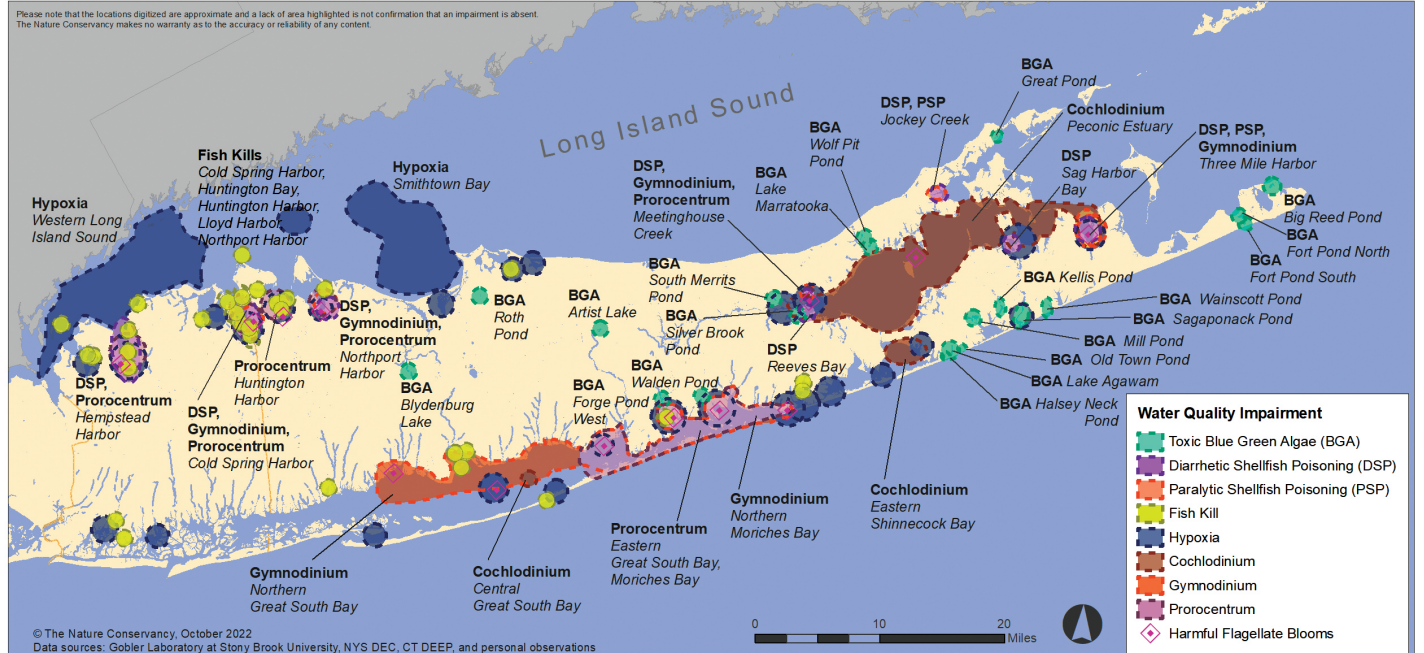
Community members who have already installed new clean water septic systems have good things to say. Liz Stanton of Bayville reports "Our system is better than we could have hoped, and we have peace of mind knowing we are doing our part in keeping Bayville's water clean".



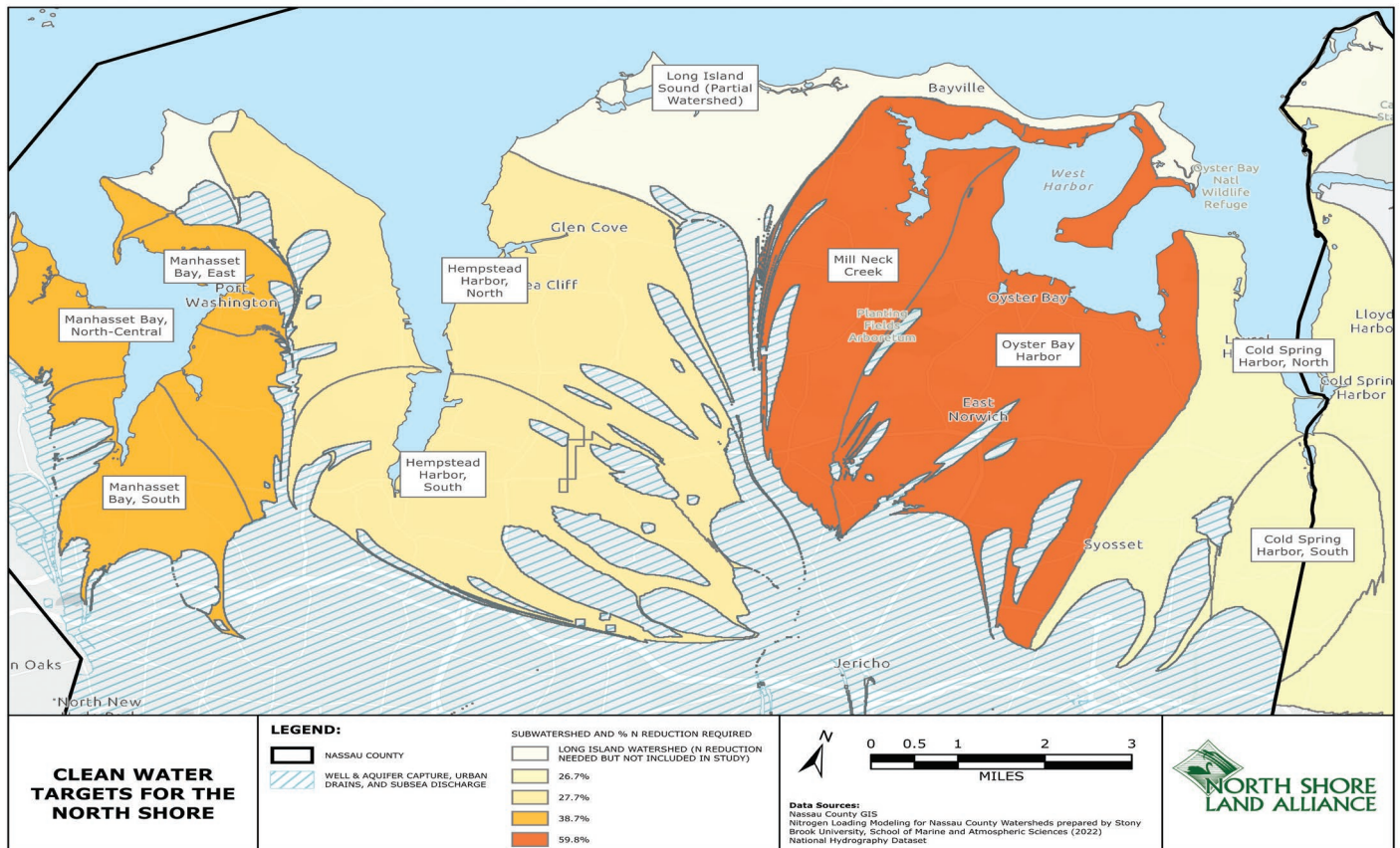
*Extent of sewerage (blue stripe) and unsewered areas on the north shore of Nassau County. Black points represent approximate location of residential septic systems and yellow points show participants of Nassau SEPTIC program. Nassau SEPTIC currently has 200 active applicants and installed more than 35 IA OWTS systems since its launch in 2021.*



# Long Island Water Quality Impairments Summer 2022



New 2022 map shows record number of fish kills, dead zones and toxic tides that intensified with the heat of summer



Percentage of nitrogen reduction needed to achieve clean water targets in subwatersheds on the north shore. Greatest nitrogen reduction required in Oyster Bay Harbor (59.8%) and least nitrogen reduction required in Cold Spring Harbor (26.7%). Note blue hatching represents areas where surface water flows into aquifers or is redirected by storm drains. Nitrogen reduction is also required in these areas but not included in study.



## Long Island Water Education Program Update



As 2022 draws to a close, we are happy to report that our water education program has reached thousands of students across Nassau and western Suffolk Counties since its launch eight years ago. The program now has reached:

- 10,950 students
- 30 schools
- 16 school districts

Little did we dream when we launched the program in fall 2014 that it would so quickly become requested by so many partners. The effects the pandemic had on the program were stark. But our educator, Karen Mossey, rolled with the punches. She connected with students virtually, in part by packaging an individual kit of supplies for each student who received the program in 2021.

Karen is finally fully back in the schools and is conducting field trips with some of our school partners. We are excited to be adding Pulaski in the Northport school district and five schools in the Baldwin school district during the current school year.



**Many thanks to our funders who have made this essential program possible over the years:**

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation  
The Marilyn Foundation  
The Land Trust Alliance New York State  
Conservation Partnership Program  
The Long Island Sound Futures Fund  
The Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation  
The Frances B. and J. Donald Terwilliger  
Foundation Inc.  
The Frederic R. Coudert Foundation  
Matt Bruderman  
Margaret Carr  
John Casaly  
Our wonderful school partners.  
And to our stellar educator Karen Mossey



## 2023 Walks in the Wood Preview



**Saturday, January 21st, 1:00 am - Sisters of St. Joseph Brentwood - Led by Abby Bezruczyk, Bill Jacobs and Melody Penny:** Join the Long Island Invasive Species Management area to learn about winter tree and shrub identification as we explore the diversity of both native and invasive plants along the property's cosmic trail.

**Sunday, February 19th, 2:30 pm - Shore Road Sanctuary, Cold Spring Harbor - Led by Gwen Ugan:** Don your citizen scientist hat and join Gwen the weekend of the Great Backyard Bird Count to survey winter waterfowl in Cold Spring Harbor.

**Saturday, March 25th, 11:00 am - Matheson Meadows, Lloyd Neck – Led by Richard Weir and Lisa de Guzman:** Visit Matheson Meadows with a dynamic duo when you will find egg cases – first discovered here by Lisa - for an insect unusual in these parts. Richard, a marvelous teacher and expert horticulturist, will enlighten you about the Meadows' diverse plant community.

**Saturday, April 29th, 9:30 am - Williams Preserve, Lattingtown - Led by Peter Meleady and Jane Jackson:** Peter and Jane will lead a tour of our newest preserve – a charming 4.5-acre property consisting of mature native trees, emerging meadow and freshwater pond – and discussion of habitat restoration underway.

**Saturday, May 12th, 9:00 am - Sound View Dunes Park, Southold - Led by John Turner:** Explore Sound View Dunes Park's 57 acres of beach, dune, wetland and forest habitats with one of Long Island's most loved and respected naturalists. The focus will be on birds during their spring migration.

**Friday, June 16th, 6:00 pm - Hofstra Arboretum, Hempstead – Mike Runkel:** Explore Hofstra University's plant communities as Mike discusses how a warming climate plays into decisions about shifts in heat hardiness zones and what species to plant here on Long Island.





**Thursday, June 29th, 6:00 pm Youngs Farm, Old Brookville - Led by Tim Dooley:** As harvest time approaches, Tim will lead us on a tour of one of Nassau County's most treasured family farms.

**Saturday, July 15th, 10:00 am - Quogue Wildlife Refuge, Quogue - Led by Matt Kaelin:** Quogue Wildlife Refuge is home to all three types of carnivorous plants found on Long Island. Matt will introduce us to these and other curious species with a presentation on carnivorous plants and their habitats and a tour of the bog at the Refuge.

**Saturday, August 5th, 10:00 am - Hallock State Park, Riverhead - Led by MaryLaura Lamont in partnership with Long Island Botanical Society:** MaryLaura will introduce us to the 18 species, some now rare, of native Long Island wildflowers planted in Hallock's garden. They all attract a huge variety of pollinating bees, butterflies and other insects. We will then stroll to the Sound for a look at beach and cliff plants. \$8.00 parking fee

**Tuesday, August 29th (rain date: Aug. 30th), 7:00 pm - Humes Preserve - Led by Peter Martin:** When the full moon is nigh, Peter will lead an exploration across Humes's meadow when we may find migrating birds, crepuscular and nocturnal mammals and who knows what else?

**Saturday, September 23rd, 6:00 pm - Wawapek, Cold Spring Harbor - Led by Meghan Leverock:** Meghan who manages the property, will tour its habitat restoration and formal garden and then lead us through the preserve's woodland. The tour will end at our newly installed Ralf Lange Garden and restored greenhouse.

**Saturday, October 7th, 9:00 am - Laurel Hill Farms, Cove Neck - Led by Enrico Nardone, In partnership with Seatuck Environmental Association:** Join Seatuck's Enrico (and friends!) for a walk at Laurel Hill Farms, which includes some of the best North Shore deciduous forest in Nassau County. The changing foliage of early autumn and the fall bird migration should provide plenty of interest, and the topography will ensure some exercise!

**Saturday, November 18th (rain date: Nov. 19th), 11:00 am - Muttontown Preserve, East Norwich - Led by Glen Malings:** Afraid you're relying too much on GPS? Want to practice your map reading skills? Orienteering is like a treasure hunt in the woods using a map to find controls (box shaped flags) hanging from trees. We'll give instruction and then you can go out alone or with friends. The course should take about an hour, if you don't get lost.

## Paddle The Shore



**Wednesday, July 12th, 5:30 pm**  
Shore Road Sanctuary, Cold Spring Harbor  
Led by Peter Martin and Don Niddrie

**Saturday, September 9th, 2:00 pm**  
Oyster Bay at Centre Island Beach, Bayville  
Led by Peter Martin



## Seed Collecting at Humes Preserve with North Country Garden Club

by special guest authors Sealy Hopkinson and Melissa Worth,  
Chairs of the NCGC Horticulture and Conservation Committees



Members of the Conservation and Horticulture Committees of the North Country Garden Club met with the Land Alliance's Jane Jackson and Charlotte Brennan on October 11th to collect seeds. This was part of the ongoing, multi-year project for NCGC's Partners for Plants (P4P) project funded by The Garden Club of America (GCA). NCGC was awarded this grant in late spring of 2020 to support the revitalization of the Humes meadow in Mill Neck.

The Land Alliance, in partnership with the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District and the local community, is in the process of restoring the meadow, (which was at one time farm fields). It is a central piece of the Humes Preserve, a critical part of the Beaver Brook corridor of 150 contiguous acres of protected open space. The particular focus of the P4P project was to remove invasives, closely monitor the effectiveness of the removal and restore native plants throughout the meadow's four acres. The GCA's P4P grant funded the hiring of a trained horticulturist, Penn Marchael, of Pennington Grey, who served as project

manager of the restoration process. The project is now in its third year. Penn, together with accomplished Land Alliance staff and the help and support of NCGC, has succeeded in controlling invasives and transforming the property into a meadow filled with native grasses and wildflowers. It supports a broad variety of insects, together with migrating and local birds that rely on natives for their survival. As you can see from the photos, the wonderful collaboration between NCGC and the Land Alliance continues. Under Jane and Charlotte's guidance on this beautiful October afternoon, NCGC members collected seeds from little bluestem, big bluestem, Indian Grass and purpletop grasses, along with several goldenrod species. The seeds will be dried and kept in cold storage by participating NCGC members in preparation for future propagation and reseedling. That will be in the spring of 2023, at the Nassau County Museum of Art William Cullen Bryant Preserve in Roslyn, which is developing its own meadow! It is a wonderful, ongoing project for North Country Garden Club.



## Beech Leaf Disease: Search for a Treatment



Last year Land Alliance stewardship staff began documenting a worrying condition at our preserves. We witnessed a distinctive striping pattern along the leaves of American beech trees. When standing under a tree and looking up at the leaves, we observed dark bands across them between leaf veins, sometimes alternating with the green leaf color. We had heard about Beech Leaf Disease (BLD); now we were finding it in our preserves - first in the Humes Stroll Garden, then in the Humes Preserve, Cushman Woods, Fox Hollow, Wawapek. And everywhere. Eventually those leaves curled up and dried out.

BLD first documented in New York in 2018 and in Suffolk County in 2020, is caused by an exotic nematode (*Litylenchus crenatae ssp. maccannii*), a worm that feeds on beech leaves. The condition can cause tree mortality over time.

Many of us are aware of the devastating impacts of American chestnut blight and Dutch elm disease on

native tree populations, but few of us may have lived through the early stages of ravaging such majestic trees. To be experiencing a new disease whose impacts may wipe out entire populations of our cherished beeches – a dominant canopy species in so many of our Long Island woodlands – is sobering. The disease is a serious threat to imperiled community types found on the north shore of Long Island. There is no known treatment for it, but thankfully, research is underway to find one.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) – Suffolk County and the Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center (LIHREC) recently submitted a new project proposal for a Forest Service Pesticide Impact Assessment Program (FSPIAP) grant. It would provide funding to conduct trials and evaluation of the effectiveness of several pesticides and a fertilizer over a three-year period. As one of three land trust cooperators (in addition to Peconic Land Trust and



Henry L. Ferguson Land Trust) the Land Alliance would provide access to American beech populations at one or more of our nature preserves.

Some promising results of trials of a phosphonate fertilizer have been documented. The trials were conducted on saplings by researchers in Ohio, where BLD symptoms were documented in 2018, and by Bartlett Research Labs of the fungicide Broadform to reduce nematode levels. There also have been successful trials. While Long Island is one of the worst hit areas of the State, given the disease's recent appearance there has been little time to find a treatment here. CCE – Suffolk County and LIHREC set up monitoring stations in eastern Long Island in 2019 and in 2020 began trials of experimental pesticide treatments. Peconic Land Trust, with a grant through the New York State Conservation Partnership Program, began working with CCE to conduct trials of a fungicide and two insecticides earlier this year. The FSPIAP funding would be used to continue these research trials and launch additional trials of Broadform and the fertilizer used in Ohio at Henry L. Ferguson Land Trust and Land Alliance preserves.

Data collection will be carried out according to the USDA Forest Service BLD long-term monitoring protocol. Visual observational data will be done in May and early September. Leaf samples from each of the treated trees will be collected in early fall for nematode extraction to gauge effectiveness of the pesticide treatments under the guidance of Margery Daughtrey of the LIHREC.

Time is of the essence to find effective treatment of BLD. The Land Alliance is cautiously hopeful that this important research will contribute to preserving beech trees, whether in New York or beyond our region.

Many thanks to the DEC's Jessica Cancilliere and CCE-Suffolk County's Mina Vescera for submitting and sharing their grant application and to Margery Daughtrey for project coordination.





## Volunteers for Open Space Program



### Volunteer Spotlight



#### **Peter O'Connor**

Peter O'Connor has been volunteering with the Land Alliance since September 2020. He is one of our most dedicated volunteers and lends a helping hand every week. He can regularly be seen in the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden cutting bamboo, digging up rhizomes and preparing the Garden for visitors.

He started volunteering for the

Land Alliance as a way to give back to his community after spotting our name and information at the entrance to the Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve. His favorite Land Alliance holding is the Japanese Stroll Garden because it's unique and there's always something new to learn. Stroll Garden Manager, Mary Schmutz, says that Peter is an invaluable resource and a dedicated steward of the Garden. Peter's curiosity and inquisitive nature have inspired volunteers, staff and interns.

Recently, three black walnut trees were damaged in the woodland garden at the Humes Preserve. Peter swooped in and saw an opportunity to make a

difference and embark on a new project. With help from Garden Manager Mary and fellow volunteer Melanie Howard, Peter researched methods to save the trees. He organized a work party and, with the help of three nature enthusiasts, attached locust twigs to the girdled areas of the walnut trees. They wrapped the wounds in duct tape and tarp to protect them from the elements.

The Land Alliance is grateful to Peter (aka Dr. FrankenTree) for his ingenuity and enthusiasm in his volunteer efforts with the Land Alliance. In the coming seasons, we will keep a close watch on the walnut trees as we wish them a safe recovery!





## Volunteers at Shore Road

Volunteers at the Shore Road Sanctuary in Cold Spring Harbor have been restoring habitat, removing invasive species and cleaning up our beach. Read below to hear about two of our amazing partners working to make sure Shore Road stays beautiful well into the future.

In partnership with the Cold Spring Harbor Library Teen & Tween Services, 25 eager students joined us at Shore Road on a crisp fall morning to learn about coastal habitats and remove trash from the beach. The students were excited to hear about the host of wildlife and native plants that call Shore Road home including a pair of bald eagles recently spotted from the preserve as well as voles and prickly pear cactus.

Heading down to the beach, the

students suited up with gloves and trash bags and scoured the shoreline for garbage big and small. Noteworthy finds included a pair of shoes, a fishing net and many horseshoe crab shells! Overall, our group collected over 50 pounds of trash! Thank you to Cold Spring Harbor Library for this continuing partnership.

And on September 17th, volunteers joined us for the International Coastal Cleanup, removing 200 pounds of trash including a wayward rowboat!

Mall managers from Walt Whitman and Smith Haven Malls visited Shore Road on a cold October morning to help restore our habitat and make the preserve friendly for wildlife. Despite the weather, these volunteers accomplished a great deal of work that will make a real difference. Demonstrating excellent teamwork, the mall man-

agers weeded our pollinator gardens, removed invasive reeds from the beach and carefully untangled vines from our fence. Thank you to the Simon Group for coordinating this visit and to volunteers Peter Markotsis, Stacey Piciullo and Elin Sornique for assistance in leading the managers.

## Become a Volunteer



If you would like to help us do more to protect open space, please sign up to volunteer.

Register online at  
[www.northshorelandalliance.org/volunteer](http://www.northshorelandalliance.org/volunteer)



## Planned Giving - Gifts That Keep On Giving



This time of year puts many of us in a reflective mood. But it is also a time to look forward. We think about where we want to be personally, professionally and philanthropically at this time next year. Planning is a big part of what we do. In fact, at this moment, our Trustees and Staff are hard at work finalizing the Land Alliance's new multi-year strategic plan. This plan will guide our efforts as we move forward. The plan will include our organization's big-picture goals for how much land we will strive to protect and steward, how many students we will educate about resource conservation and how to grow our organization's reach within our community.

Our mission calls for us to protect precious open space – forever. We are committed to this and believe you are as well. As you start to think about what your impact will be in 2023 and beyond, we would like to share an opportunity to amplify your giving.

There are ways to combine your current giving with a future gift to the Land Alliance. This thoughtful approach to giving (referred to as blended gifts) allows you to continue to see the impact of your support today while also being part of helping us address tomorrow. Blended gifts are unique, with many options and com-

binations to help you meet your personal and charitable goals. Any asset you might use to make a gift can likely be included in blended gift planning. You have the flexibility to choose the combination of gifts that complement your current philanthropy your future needs and those of your loved ones. Working together, we can help identify a blended gift strategy that fits your planning needs in a meaningful way.

Planned gifts are one of the most powerful and simple ways to sustain the Land Alliance's mission. A planned gift through a will or bequest is one of the easiest and most flexible ways to preserve important lands after you are gone. It ensures that future generations can enjoy the beauty of the natural areas that surround them today.

Planning for the future is always a good idea, no matter where you are in life.

We are here to help if you have any questions about how you can make a more significant difference for the land we all cherish. If you are interested in learning more, contact Deb Wiener at (516) 922-0298 or [deb@northshorelandalliance.org](mailto:deb@northshorelandalliance.org)



## How Can We Help the Bees?

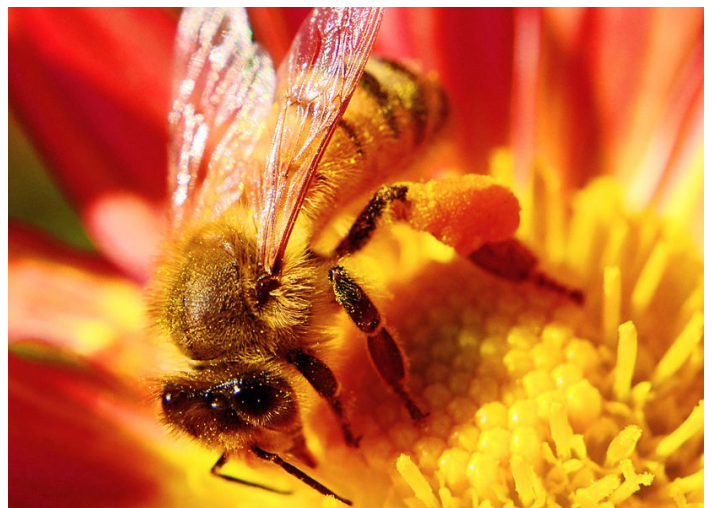


Did you know that there are more than 20,000 bee species in the world? Of those, 450 species are native to New York State, and they come in all shapes, sizes and colors. There is still so much that we don't know about bees. Many are smaller than a grain of rice and almost 10% of bees in America are yet to be described. Despite the diversity, every bee has the same job – pollination!

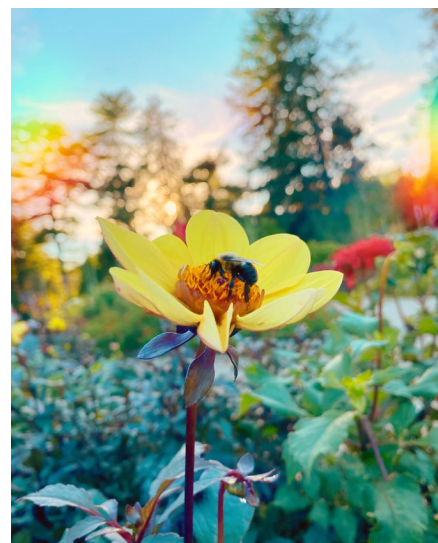
Native bees play a huge role in our ecosystem, pollinating almost 80% of flowering plants around the world. Based on a study by the Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, many important, high-value crops are dependent on bees for successful production. Some of these crops include apples (\$250M/year), squash and pumpkin (\$74M/year), tomatoes (\$47M/year), strawberries (\$7M/year), cherries (\$3M/year) and pears (\$2.5M/year).

Unfortunately, many of our native bees are in decline. In a recent Land Alliance guest lecture by bee expert Dr. Kathryn Lecroy, we learned that more than 50% of

North American native bee species are in decline and nearly one in four are at an increasing risk of extinction. Why are these bees in decline? According to Dr. Lecroy, most bees are threatened by agricultural intensification, habitat destruction, overuse of pesticides, climate change, urbanization and predation by non-native bees. Dr. Lecroy has also found that non-native bees outcompete native bees in developed areas, while native bees thrive in open spaces.







*Dr. Kathryn Lecroy from Cornell University presenting about native bee diversity and decline in the United States.*

There are so many things we can do to help native bees thrive in our own back yards. Most importantly, we can support bee communities by providing habitat.

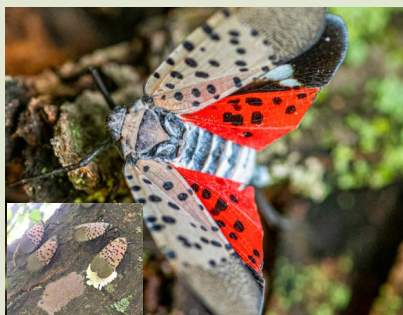
**Some of the best practices suggested by the Empire State Native Pollinator Survey include:**

1. Reduce pesticide and herbicide use.
2. Control invasive plants and maintain native species. Aim to plant species that bloom year-round to provide a long-term food source.
3. Mow your yard less and cut at the tallest setting. Preserve bee habitat by letting native flowering grasses bloom longer.

4. Minimize outdoor lighting as it can disrupt foraging behaviors of bees.
5. Leave coarse woody materials on your property for nesting habitat.

Bees are in serious trouble. Native bees are indispensable to the health of the natural world and are perilously under protected. Let's start helping bees by making small changes in our yard because, without these tiny, tireless creatures our world would be a dreary and impoverished place.

## Spotted Lanternfly Observed in Our Preserves!

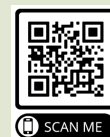


The spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive pest that has the potential to greatly impact our

hardwood forests and agricultural crops. SLF feeds on the plant sap of many different plants including grapevines, maples, apple trees and other important plants in NY.

As SLF observations become increasingly common on Long Island, we have begun seeing them in some of our preserves.

If you see a SLF or their egg sacs on trees, please report it to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets at the QR code below. And then promptly squish the adults! They've got to go before too much damage has been done.





## New Trustees

### Radford (Roddy) Klotz



Roddy grew up in the Washington, D.C. area and attended St. Albans School. He received a BA in Economics from the University of Virginia in 1977 and joined Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. that same year. Roddy spent his entire career at BBH, becoming a Partner of the firm in 1995. He worked in the corporate lending and advisory area, eventually taking responsibility for that business in the New York office. He served as the firm's senior credit officer and chairman of all credit committees. Roddy also oversaw all real estate related activities at BBH, which included building and managing offices in seventeen locations around the world and overseeing real estate investment products for the firm's wealth management clients.

Roddy is married to Nazee Batmanghelidj and they have two sons, Herbie and Marcus. The family purchased and renovated a home in Mill Neck in 2016 and has lived here full time since March 2019. Roddy grew up in the McLean, Virginia area and has watched Fairfax and Facquier Counties turn from farms and green spaces into dense commercial developments. He is committed to fighting any similar destruction of natural beauty on the North Shore.

### Hanna Robinson



Natural foods chef, nutrition consultant and yogi, Hanna Robinson, was born and raised in Connecticut's Farmington Valley. Her appreciation, fascination and love for food originated in the vegetable garden of her childhood. The meals her parents prepared were focused on wild game and what was available in the garden, principles Hanna continues to this day.

In 2010, Hanna completed the Chef's Training Program at the Natural Gourmet Institute for Health and Culinary Arts. She then worked at the highly acclaimed Gramercy Tavern restaurant and as a private chef for families and celebrities until moving out to Long Island. In 2019 Hanna completed a 200-hour yoga teacher training. Today, she teaches yoga and is the nutrition consultant for the Green Vale School.

She is a member of the North Country Garden Club and serves on the Garden Committee and Crawley Council of Old Westbury Gardens. Hanna lives with her husband and two children in Old Brookville, NY.

### Alex Urdea



Alex is a co-founder and Managing Partner of Deep Ocean Partners, an opportunistic credit fund investing across both liquid and private credit in stressed, distressed, special situations and liquidation opportunities. Previously, he served as cofounder and Chief Investment Officer of Upper90 Capital Management and as a Managing Director at Solus Alternative Asset Management where he served as Director of Risk and Quantitative Strategy from the firm's inception in July 2007.

In parallel to his professional career, Alex served as Chairman of the Board for the CFA Society of New York (CFANY) until 2017, a 10,000-member organization founded by financial luminary Benjamin Graham in 1937.



He played a significant role in establishing the CFANY as the foremost recognized institution supporting financial analysts. Alex received a BSE in Financial Engineering from Princeton University in 2002, along with a Certificate in Finance and Engineering Management Systems.

Alex lives in Oyster Bay with his wife Meghan and two sons. Megan and Alex have a real love for the open spaces we have and a desire to preserve as much as we possibly can!

## New Staff

### Claudia Michalak



Claudia joined the North Shore Land Alliance in August 2022 as the Office Manager where she will be responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the office and its various departments. She began her career with a background in mergers and acquisitions as a research analyst and managed a family-owned digital imaging business for over 15 years.

Claudia nurtured her desire to make a meaningful contribution by becoming the Engage Life (Activities) Director at a senior living residence where she engaged the residents with activities, trips, book clubs, etc. She is a certified Laughter Yoga instructor who enjoys volunteering her time teaching literacy and English as a Second Language (ESL).

## Join us for Doug Tallamy and Nature's Best Hope



The Land Alliance is dedicated to conserving and stewarding our community's open lands, water and natural resources. We do that by strengthening people's connection to nature through education, outreach and volunteerism.

We believe that there is power in education. With the right tools, each one of us can change the trajectory of our world. Throughout the year, the Land Alliance hosts educational seminars and programs that help us understand the natural world around us and our role as stewards of these resources. As 2023 is the Land Alliance's 20th anniversary, we are planning an impressive lineup of presenters to mark this auspicious occasion.

One such speaker is Doug Tallamy, Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware – a rock star in his field – who will join us on Tuesday, March 7th. Professor Tallamy will discuss his book *"Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard."* This New York Times best-seller urges homeowners to take conservation into their own hands by turning their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats. Tallamy argues that empowering each of us to do our part to support nature in our back yards may just be nature's best hope for survival. Tallamy will discuss simple steps that each of us can and must take to reverse declining biodiversity.

We thank the North Country Garden Club for partnering with us to bring Doug Tallamy to Long Island. Registration for this event and many others we plan to mark the Land Alliance's 20th year will open soon. So please stay tuned.



## Beyond Gatsby - 2022 Wine Auction and Dinner



Thank you to all who supported our 19th Annual Wine Auction and Dinner on Saturday, October 1st at the beautiful Rynwood Estate in Old Brookville.

Despite the challenging weather, this year's event attracted so many new faces alongside so many of our longtime friends. Over 400 guests came ready to celebrate - many of whom dressed as "Gatsby" and "Daisy" in honor of our theme, "Beyond Gatsby: A Nod to the Past that Framed Our Landscapes of Today."

Guests arrived through the main gates of Rynwood and were immediately welcomed by the warmth and beauty of the estate. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served throughout the house, and guests were invited to explore the main floor of the 60-room Elizabethan manor. Its vaulted ceilings, English oak paneling, long corridors, stained glass medallions, tiled fireplaces and tapestries recalled an opulent age of Long Island's Gold Coast.

We then headed out to the beautiful sailcloth tent where the perfectly in-season dahlia centerpieces, large peacock feathers, twinkling lights and incredible period fashions brought the evening's theme and energy to

life. Guests were greeted by an incredible array of wine and silent auction offerings, which were excitedly bid on both before and during our delicious dinner catered by Sterling Affair. Items included beautiful jewelry, weekend vacation homes, interior décor, sporting and concert experiences, fashion, beauty and more. Dinner was followed by our Live Auction, led by professional auctioneer Tanner Roberts. Items included a trip to Santorini, Greece and Istanbul, Turkey, fine wines and a private Hinckley tour of "East and West Egg." The party continued into the late evening, thanks to fun hits played by our DJ.

Thank you to our event Chairs: Allison Aston, Kate Doerge, Jenna Bush Hager, Kelly Kasouf, Amory McAndrew and Claudia Overstrom. And to our incredible auction Chairs: Kelly Gaudreau, Jennifer Grgas, Paul Mateyunas and Amy Pollaci. Lastly, we are so grateful to our sponsors, underwriters, donors, ticket purchasers and advertisers for all your support in our efforts to preserve open space and natural resources. We hope to see you all again next year!

Please contact Liz Swenson at [liz@northshorelandalliance.org](mailto:liz@northshorelandalliance.org) with any inquiries.



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## ~Underwriters ~

Invitation: Bruce Addison \* Lauren and Ragnar Knutsen \* Ashley and Frank O'Keefe  
Flowers: Cathy Chernoff  
Dinner Wines: Cristina Mariani-May and Marshall May \* Banfi Vintners



**Thank you to the team at Rynwood Holdings and Banfi Vintners  
for allowing us to host our 19th Annual Wine Auction & Dinner at Rynwood Estate**



Rynwood was built in 1927 for Sir Samuel Agar Salvage, the “Father of the Rayon Industry.” The estate buildings were designed by Roger H. Bullard, one of the Roaring Twenties’ finest country home architects, while the grounds were laid out by Ellen Biddle Shipman, known as “The Dean of Women

Landscape Architects.”

Subsequent to Sir Samuel, Rynwood was owned by Margaret Emerson Vanderbilt, Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt’s widow and a noted amateur croquet champion. In 1980, the estate was purchased and meticulously restored by the Mariani

family to serve as global headquarters for their Banfi Vintners.

Rynwood once sat on over 100 acres of land. Today it abuts Youngs Farm and the adjoining 60 acres of agricultural fields that were protected by Nassau County and the Land Alliance in 2010.





## Thank you to all who helped to make this event possible.



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# NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

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The North Shore Land Alliance is a nationally accredited, 501(C) (3) non-profit 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.



WITH OUR APPRECIATION  
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## SEASON'S GREETINGS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM THE TRUSTEES AND STAFF AT  
THE NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE



### 2023 SAVE THE DATES!

Annual Golf and Tennis Outing  
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