



SAVING LAND

NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

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"Where flowers bloom so does hope." Lady Bird Johnson





Dear Friends,

Reflecting on our wonderful 20th anniversary year for the last time, I look forward to the future with high hopes! Looking back lets me see how far we've come, what a difference we've made in our community and how important our work continues to be. One striking example can be found in these "before and after" pictures of the Humes Meadow. When we purchased the property in 2015, the central field in the picture below was covered with Porcelain Berry, Multiflora rose and every other invasive species known to Nassau County.

Removing all the vines revealed years of dumping that left behind debris ranging from tree trunks to a bathroom sink!

The picture to the left features our beautiful meadow today. With a little time and considerable effort, we successfully breathed life back into this wasteland. The native grasses and wildflowers we planted improved the soil and provided habitat for plants and animals, the pollinators attracted the insects, the insects attracted the birds, the long roots from the tall grasses absorbed more carbon and the abundance of plants reduced stormwater runoff and improved aquifer recharge. While this meadow is only four acres in size, it provides a glimpse into what we, as a community, can do to protect and restore nature if we all work together.

The healthier the planet, the more it can benefit humans and allow us to flourish. There is a growing realization that we need wild nature for our own well-being and that every ecosystem on Earth is connected. In the past, most people thought that climate change would affect somebody else, that biodiversity decline was just a problem in the Amazon and that an outbreak of Ebola was just an issue in Central Africa. Then came Covid-19 and we quickly realized how interconnected we all are.

National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Enric Sala has written a new book titled *The Nature of Nature: Why We Need the Wild*. The book emphasizes the economic value of nature and how we, as a society, cannot afford not to protect it. He states that "nature provides an estimated \$125 trillion to the global economy in free services such as clean air and water and soil nutrients. It is estimated that it would take \$140 billion a year to protect 30% of the planet. That is a fraction of the cost of combatting a pandemic like Covid-19 – which was caused by trading in wild animals. It is less than the world spends on video games every year. Think about that."

If we want to live in a world where we can breathe clean air and grow food sustainably, where we are supported by clean oceans and healthy forests, I think we have no option but to be hopeful. Nature can and will bounce back if we protect it. I know that this community of caring and generous people will do just that.

Onward to a very happy holiday season and a bright new year filled with a growing bounty of nature.

Yours in conservation,

Lisa W. Ott, President and CEO



Humes Meadow Before

A Very Big Deal!



The 216-acre Seminary of the Immaculate Conception has been a part of Lloyd Harbor history for centuries. We are very pleased to announce that this incredible natural area filled with mature forest, wetlands and meadows will become a permanent part of our community's future.

Today, thanks to the hard work, determination and generosity of many, a conservation future will be ensured for this local treasure. A partnership among the Seminary, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Village of Lloyd Harbor will permanently protect 200 acres of this extraordinary place for conservation. The transaction closing is expected in early 2024.

New York State Parks will purchase 180 acres to be used as a passive preserve, perfect for walkers and birders and all who enjoy the extraordinary benefits of nature. The Village of Lloyd Harbor will purchase 20 acres which contains the Olmsted amphitheater and barn. The Seminary will retain 16 acres for its use as a retreat and conference center.

Like most transactions of this size, a deal has been in the making for years. In late 2018, the Land Alliance was pleased to be invited by the Seminary Board to explore a transaction for conservation purposes. At that time, the objective was to protect the property and raise funds to make improvements to the Seminary building. The Land Alliance began by assisting Seminary leaders

with mapping the land area, initiating an appraisal to better understand the value of the property and identifying potential conservation funders. Impressively the Town, County, State and Village and several Land Alliance supporters stepped up to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime deal! Then the pandemic hit, the world slowed down and the potential for a transaction became complicated.

This historic investment by New York State is the largest open space acquisition ever made on Long Island. The Seminary is listed as a priority project in the New York State Open Space Plan and the Suffolk County Open Space Plan. It also was ranked #1 in priority by the Town of Huntington's Environment, Open Space and Park Fund Advisory Committee. Its substantial forest and 40+ acres of open fields are like none other left in our North Shore community.

In its former life, the estate was developed by Roland Ray Conklin, a descendant of John Conklin (who settled Huntington c. 1640). In 1913, Conklin and his wife, Mary MacFadden, built their grand William Eyre-designed home at what was then called Rosemary Farm. Mrs. Conklin had been involved in the theater in NYC

and wanted to create the perfect place for entertaining their friends, who were leading actors, conductors and singers of the day. The result featured an enchanting Olmsted designed open-air theater.

Mary died in 1924 and Bishop Thomas E. Molloy, with the support of parishioners, purchased the then 200-acre Rosemary Farm. To accommodate the growing number of men seeking priesthood, the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception was built and formally opened on September 28, 1930.

For several decades the Seminary offered master's degrees and admitted lay students not preparing for ordination. In September 2012, the Diocese of Rockville Centre, the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Brooklyn joined forces to consolidate their educational efforts into a single program at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers. Since the relocation of the priestly formation program to Yonkers, the Seminary has taken on the role of a retreat house providing opportunities for spiritual enrichment for thousands of New Yorkers, a service they intend to continue for years to come.

We couldn't be more excited about this deal and are so



Rehearsal for the 1917 National Red Cross Pageant





grateful to all who, along the way, played a part in such an optimal outcome. Special thanks to the Seminary for choosing conservation and to New York State, Suffolk County, the Town of Huntington and the Village of Lloyd Harbor for being willing to do everything they could to protect this iconic property. In the end, thanks to the success of Governor Hochul's 2022 NYS Environmental Bond Act, the State had the funds to acquire the bulk of

the property, leaving monies for the County and Town to invest in other open space projects.

We couldn't have asked for a better conservation solution. And, once again, we are proud to be a part of such a generous community who prioritize nature and the future health of our world.



Williams Ridge Preserve in Lattingtown is Now Open To Visitors



Since our last article in the spring of 2023 (when we announced the gift of 4.5 acres of land in Lattingtown from the Williams Family), we have been busy implementing initial phases of our habitat restoration plan.

Thanks to the untiring efforts of restoration ecologist Peter Meleady, his crew and dedicated volunteers, interns and staff, scores of native shrubs, sedges and wildflowers now line the pond edge. A grassy ecosystem has emerged along the base of the steps that lead to the “upstairs” part of the property. Site

preparation is nearly completed for the next phase, meadow installation at the top of the stairs.

Throughout the summer and fall, our volunteers and O’Neil stewards made great progress restoring this site. They removed vines, weeded planting areas and uncovered a stone staircase. They also battled invasives (including the Spotted Lanternfly) at the pond and woodland edges and installed a walkway that lines the pond edge to safely lead preserve visitors from their cars to the grassland area.

Did someone say preserve visitors? Your eyes are not misleading you. That’s right: the Williams Ridge Preserve is now open to the public. Please contact the Land Alliance office so we can explain how to find it!

This effort has been supported by funding from the NYS Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP) and NYS Environmental Protection Fund. The NYSCPP is administered by the Land Trust Alliance, in coordination with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Wawapek Greenhouse Restoration and Native Seed Propagation



Last year, thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the Gerry Charitable Trust, the restoration of the historic greenhouse at Wawapek began. This Hitchings and Co. structure was once a small part of a very large complex of greenhouses. It was cleaned up, broken glass was removed and replaced, window frames were repaired and repainted and new planting beds were installed. While the full restoration isn't yet complete, we couldn't wait to start putting it to use!

This fall, with the help of our volunteers, we've been collecting native wildflower and grass seeds from our preserves to propagate in the greenhouse. When collecting native seeds, it is important to remember not to take all the seeds in an area. Native wildlife relies on seeds and berries for their food at this time of year (when there aren't many insects available to eat).

Propagating seeds that will eventually be planted in places that have a winter season requires cold stratification. Stratification is a survival mechanism that ensures that seeds don't germinate too soon. You may have heard of people putting native seeds in their refrigerator

to mimic a cold period. This is the same process. The difference is, we will be leaving the potted seeds outside in the greenhouse instead of in the refrigerator. This will allow them to stratify naturally over the winter in a contained environment where birds cannot feast upon the seeds.

The plants that we grow will be used in Land Alliance pollinator gardens and meadows (which include more than 50 acres at this time). Once the restoration of the full greenhouse has been completed, the possibilities are endless. We could expand to grow vegetables or annual flowers for use on our properties. We could host a plant sale and/or expand our growing efforts to other locations like Humes.

For now, this is a good start but... as those of you who know us can understand... we dream big!

"All the flowers of all the tomorrow's are in the seeds of today and yesterday"
- Croft M. Pentz

A Glimpse Into What We Are Propagating in Our Greenhouse

Highlighted below are some of the plants we commonly install in our gardens and meadows to create pollinator-friendly and wildlife-supportive environments.

False Blue Indigo (*Baptisia species*)



False Blue Indigo is a perennial plant known for its attractive blue-green foliage and striking blue, purple, or white pea-like flowers. It's a native wildflower that provides nectar for pollinators and is part of the legume family.

White Wood Aster (*Eurybia divaricata*)



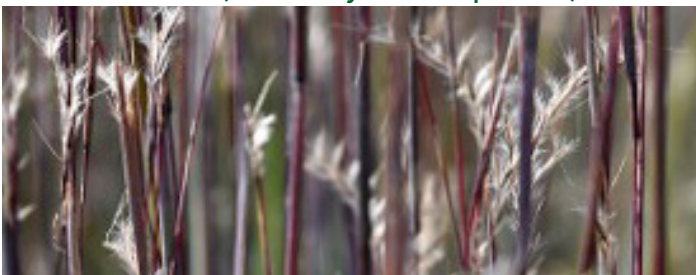
White Wood Aster is a native perennial herb with small, daisy-like white flowers. It's often found in woodland settings and provides nectar for various pollinators.

Joe-Pye Weed (*Eutrochium species*)



Joe-Pye Weed is a tall, native wildflower with large, domed clusters of pink to purple flowers. It's a favorite among pollinators, particularly butterflies and bees.

Little Blue Stem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)



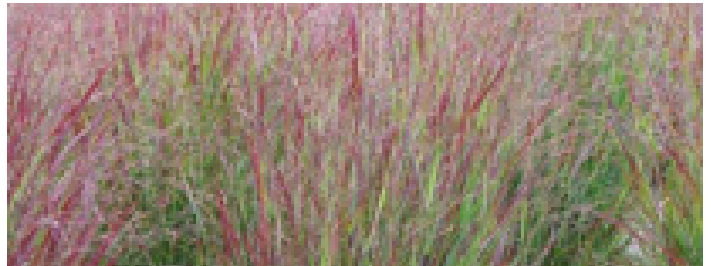
Little Blue Stem is a native grass species appreciated for its fine, bluish-green foliage and attractive seed heads. It's a crucial component of prairie ecosystems and provides habitat for wildlife.

Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)



Common Milkweed is a native perennial plant that plays a vital role in supporting monarch butterflies as a host plant for their caterpillars. It has clusters of pinkish-purple flowers and produces a milky sap.

Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*)



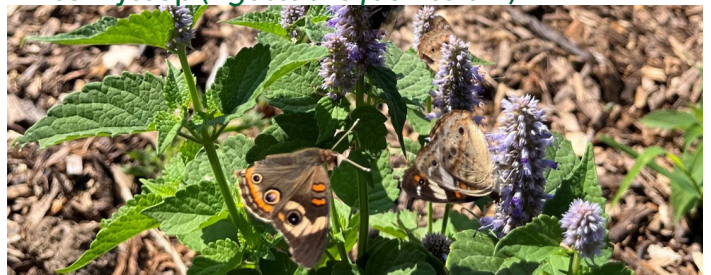
Switch Grass is a native warm-season grass with attractive, upright foliage that turns a beautiful golden color in the fall. It's valued for its ornamental qualities and as a habitat for wildlife.

Foxglove Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)



Foxglove Beardtongue is a native wildflower with tubular, white to pale pink flowers and attractive foliage. It's known for attracting hummingbirds and other pollinators.

Anise-Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)



Anise-Hyssop is a fragrant, native perennial herb known for its lavender to blue spikes of flowers. It's a favorite of pollinators, especially bees and butterflies, and has a sweet, licorice-like scent.

Sayonara for the Season



Karen De Mauro

As we close the John P. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden for the season, we are happy to report that it has continued to welcome visitors new and old. Over 3,500 visitors left their troubles behind as they walked through the entrance gate in 2023.

While numerous intense rainstorms made maintenance challenging, good things continued to happen. Locust logs were replaced in many of the Garden's paths, followed by the addition of cedar mulch. This was no small task as all materials were transported into the Garden and placed by hand. We are grateful for the support of Stroll Garden Manager Mary Schmutz, our volunteers, members and other donors.

One of those donors is the Kenneth Cron family, whose generosity made possible much needed improvements to the Tea House. The exterior was washed, the wooden trim stained inside and out, and the panels were painted a lovely shade of green in sections of the exterior. The foundation was also stabilized, ensuring many more years of productive



Professor Yoshie Takahashi

use for this charming central element of the garden.

The garden remained vibrant through the season, with several specially scheduled programs taking place.

Programs included:

- Monthly performances by Daniel Nyohaku Soergel, who delighted and educated visitors with beautiful and haunting sounds from the shakuhachi, a Japanese flute.
- The Principles of Ikebana, a workshop led by Professor Yoshie Takahashi, demonstrating this beautiful art form as well as teaching participants about Japanese culture and aesthetics.
- A traditional Japanese tea ceremony Omotosenke Domonkai demonstration, featuring Eastern Region's Eiko Tzuzuki at the Tea House for John P. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden members.

- A two-day-long display of Bonsai organized by Long Island Bonsai Society member Hal Johnson, with fellow Bonsai Society members John Clay and Roxanne Berlin.
- A guided walk through the Garden accompanied by Japanese stories, inspiring anecdotes, a group Haiku gathering and reflective moments featuring esteemed storyteller Karen De Mauro.

If you would like to stay involved and get some outdoor exercise through the winter, weekly volunteer stewardship sessions continue year-round, weather permitting.



Daniel Nyohaku Soergel



Improvements at the Tea House



Locust logs replaced in many of the Garden's paths

Land Alliance Appointed to NYS Open Space Advisory Committee

New York State (NYS) has commenced its periodic Open Space Conservation Plan review. This comes at a crucial time, with the climate crisis becoming increasingly urgent and NYS vowing to protect 30 percent of its land and water by 2030. To date, NYS has preserved 19 percent of its land as open space.

On September 13th, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) announced the start of their open space plan review. Under the law, NYS must review its plan every three years, relying on recommendations from nine Regional Advisory Committees (RACs). We are pleased that the Land Alliance has been appointed to the Region 1 RAC.

The RACs will recommend land acquisition priorities within their respective regions. The entire process is expected to take two years, with a public comment period expected in summer 2024 and a final plan in 2025.

Since 1992, the Open Space Conservation Plan has served as the blueprint to guide land purchases and conservation efforts in NYS. In 2022, NYS spent more than \$20 million purchasing 5,057 acres in 44 separate transactions. The purchases ranged from 17.49 acres in the Adirondacks Forest Preserve for \$500,000 to 925.68 acres in Hudson Highlands (Putnam County) for almost \$7.8 million. In 2024, as noted earlier in this newsletter, NYS is expected to invest \$15 million in Long Island to purchase 180 acres of the Seminary Property in Lloyd Harbor. If you would like to see additional details about NYS acquisitions, you can visit the DEC's website at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5069.html

During the review process, staff from the DEC and OPRHP will collaborate with other state agencies, in-

cluding the Department of Agriculture and Markets, Department of State and Department of Transportation to make sure the conservation plan protects water and air quality, ensures environmental justice and addresses climate change. The plan will also address crucial issues such as farmland protection, coastal land conservation and the connection of transportation to land use.

Much of the funding for future land purchases will come from the \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act passed by NYS voters in November 2022. Specifically, the Bond Act authorizes \$650 million for open space land conservation and recreation.

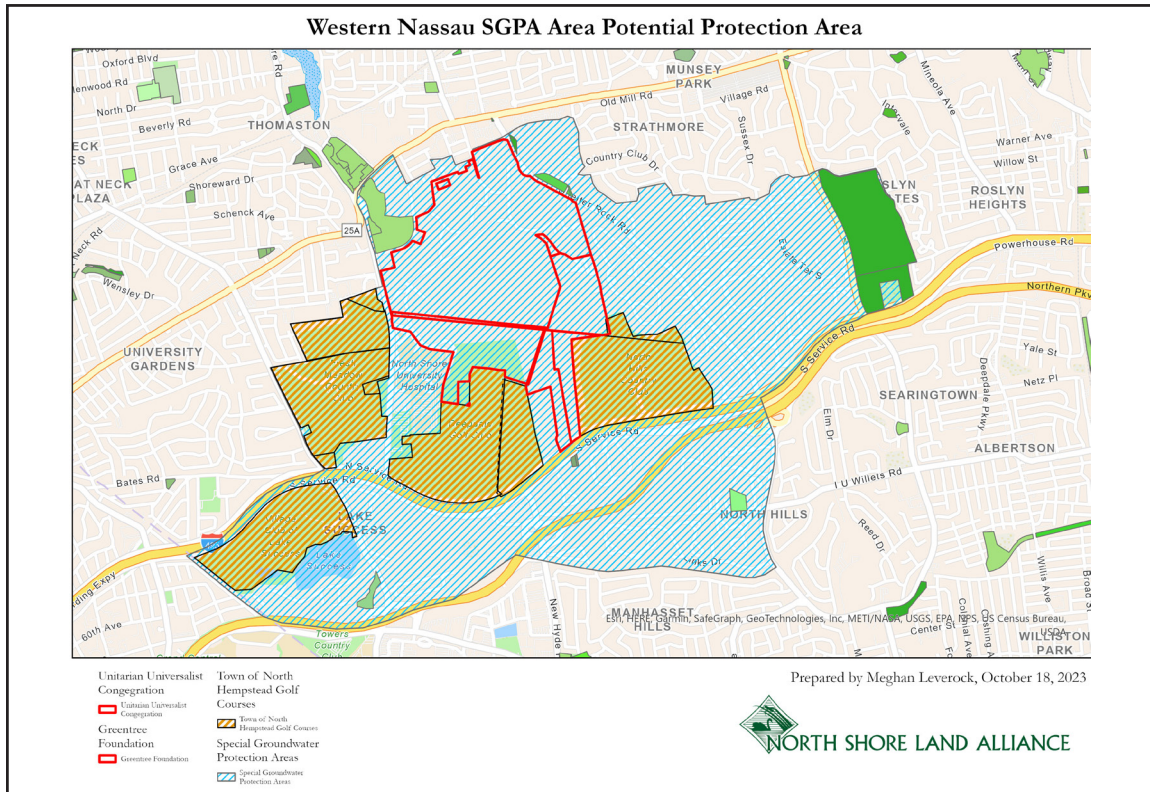
The review of the state's Open Space Conservation Plan comes at a crucial time. The world just experienced its hottest summer in recorded history, dating to 1880. Recent droughts, floods and forest fires caused by global warming have caused death and destruction around the world.

"The last few years have dramatically underscored the need for open spaces and parkland to help moderate the negative impacts of climate change and provide people with places to get outside and escape the daily stress of life," State Parks Commissioner and Land Alliance Advisory Board Member Erik Kulleseid said.

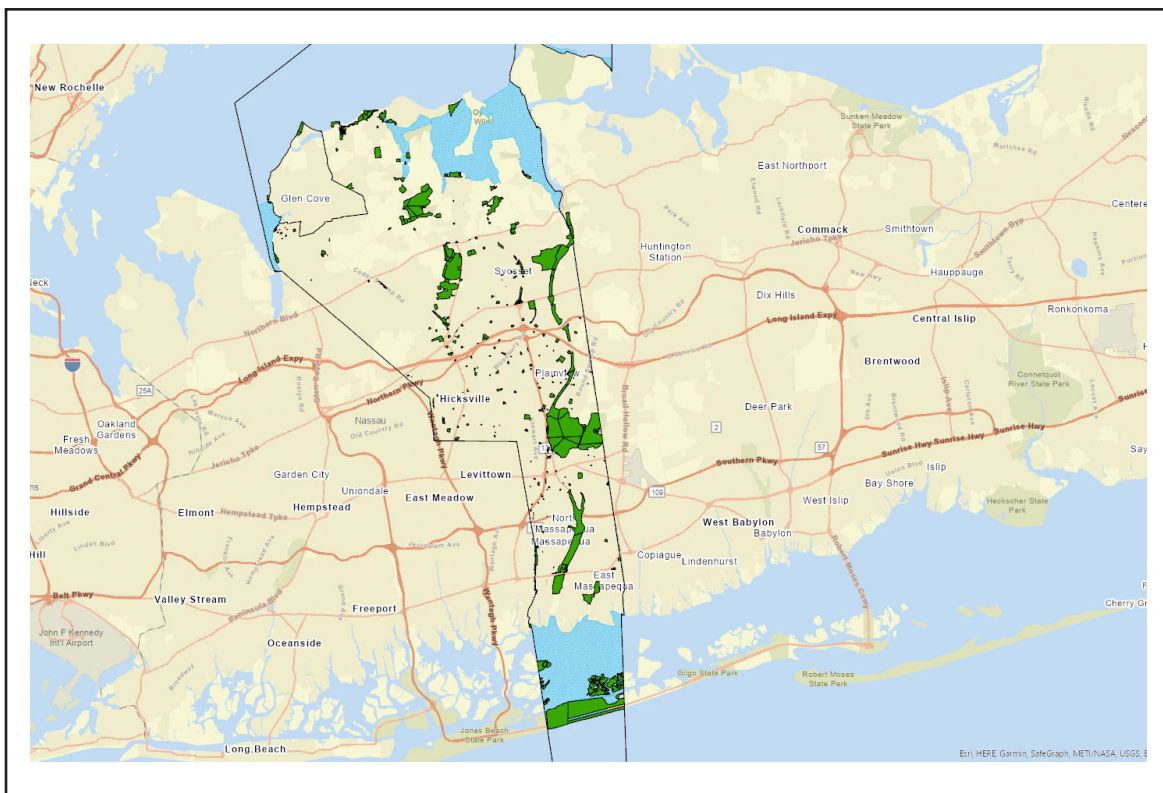
The Region 1 Strategy (as exemplified in the following maps) will be to identify conservation opportunities that will grow the amount of permanently protected open space in our community through acquisition and/or private conservation.

The analysis will involve the following:

1) Identifying unique large projects (like golf courses that are no longer viable as golf courses) that could someday be forests, farms or grasslands.



2) Identifying strategic conservation opportunities near previously protected open spaces that will increase the area of conserved lands for the environmental benefit of the community (e.g., lands located in the SGPA, coastal lands, recreational areas and lands that provide habitat for plants and animals).



The Importance of Grasslands



Hempstead Plains

Historically, grasslands covered tens of thousands of acres, from Queens to Suffolk County. They filled Long Island with a variety of colorful wildflowers, birds and insects. The Hempstead Plains now consist of remnants totaling about 65 acres, most notably a 19-acre parcel at the Friends of Hempstead Plains education center at Nassau Community College.

Grasslands are disappearing from Long Island, and the rest of the world, faster than any other habitat. Their loss is causing declines in many species of birds (among them bobolinks, Eastern meadowlarks, bluebirds and kestrels), butterflies and dragonflies, and a large diversity of native wildflowers and other plants found in no other natural community.



Matheson Meadows, Lloyd Neck



Humes Meadow at the Humes Preserve

Grasslands Symposium Highlights

Long Island's Grassland Restoration Efforts



Iselin Preserve, Upper Brookville

On Thursday, October 26th, the Land Alliance and partnering organizations held a grasslands symposium. It highlighted the significant work occurring on Long Island to protect and establish grasslands, as well as ways we can grow more biodiverse landscapes. The event was held at the Barn at Old Westbury Gardens. It opened with an inspiring keynote address by Dwayne Estes, Executive Director and Co-founder of the Southeast Grasslands Initiative, Professor of Biology and Director of the Austin Peay State University Herbarium. He discussed the fascinating but untold story of how Long Island's grasslands, like the Hempstead Plains, connect to other grassy ecosystems of the eastern U.S. This is what E.O. Wilson termed the "Southern Grassland Biome". Audience members learned about

the variety and interconnection of grassland ecosystems of Long Island and across the U.S. as well as about systems that have survived centuries of degradation and the species that depend on them. They also learned how the Southeastern Grasslands Institute is restoring grasslands and seeks to build partnerships on Long Island to help bring more attention and resources to the Hempstead Plains and other grassland initiatives on Long Island.

A second keynote program was delivered by Rob Longiaru, Habitat Director, Friends of Hempstead Plains, who spoke about the history of the Hempstead Plains. Its existing acreage is home to 250 species of plants, including six state rare and/or endangered species. It is a storehouse of

genetic resources, a cherished part of Nassau County's heritage and a globally significant natural asset.

There were two panel discussions, the first of which, Local Stories: Large Initiatives and Public/Private Partnerships, was moderated by Polly Wiegand of the Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission. Polly is considered one of Long Island's most knowledgeable grassland experts and is the founder of the Long Island Native Plant Initiative. Her panelists described their projects, objectives, steps in implementing them, ongoing management and lessons learned. While all had some shared experiences and challenges, the variety of information and stories kept audience members entranced. Sue Feustel of the Caumsett Foundation, for example, alluded to damage caused during intense rain one year and cautioned that projects should be prepared for more extreme weather events occurring with climate change. Nelson Pope Voorhis Landscape Ecologist Rusty Schmidt introduced the audience to the new meadow at the Sisters of St. Joseph property in Brentwood and how fire might be used to manage it. Rob Longiaru spoke about the successful use of fire this past spring at Hempstead Plains. Stephane Perreault described management successes and challenges of Greentree

Foundation's 70 acres of a variety of grassland systems. The second panel, Smaller Scale Projects and Building Habitat at Home, was led by John Turner. John is one of Long Island's best loved naturalists and author of the legendary *Exploring the Other Island: A Seasonal Nature Guide to Long Island*, now in its second edition. The panelists shared information on habitat values of grasslands and meadows, how audience members can create habitat at home and where they work. They also described steps taken to acquire and transform a highly disturbed four-acre site into a thriving grassy ecosystem, the plants and wildlife found there and the management challenges that continue today.

Anthony Marinello of Dropseed Native Landscapes educated participants about sourcing native plants wisely. Frank Piccininni of Spadefoot Design and Construction provided the nuts and bolts of converting lawn to habitat welcoming to wildlife. Rick Cech of the New York City Butterfly Club pointed out that caterpillars of 56 species of eastern butterflies feed on grasses. He noted, sadly, that surveys at Westchester's Ward Pound Ridge have shown that there are

fewer butterflies since 1980, with eight species lost. The Land Alliance's Jane Jackson provided a brief history of the Humes meadow and the steps taken to convert this 4-acre area covered with invasive species into a meadow filled with wildlife that now call it home.

The afternoon provided opportunities for attendees to visit some of the project sites described during the morning panels. Sites open to the public included Caumsett State Park, Greentree Foundation, Hempstead Plains, Humes Preserve, Shore Road Sanctuary and William Cullen Bryant Preserve. Each of the locations was represented by a project manager to answer questions or provide a tour.

The day left participants with a better understanding of the value and beauty of land, and, alas, threats to grasslands here on Long Island and around the world. Attendees learned not only how critical these grassy ecosystems are as wildlife habitat and in preserving quality of life but also the roles individuals can play in building these landscapes.

In addition to providing wildlife habitat and aesthetic values, grass-

lands play a major role in ameliorating climate change impacts. While only a few pockets of grassland remain both here in the U.S. and around the world, grasslands support enormous biodiversity. Grasses' deep, hairy roots remove carbon from the atmosphere, storing it in a mass of organic matter underground. When grasslands burn, carbon is locked below ground so it does not get released back into the atmosphere. Grasslands grow back quickly after burning.

As our symposium attendees learned, individuals can take important steps to do their part, like planting warm season native grasses, milkweed and other wildflowers. Maintaining grasslands is a wonderful example of how thoughtful stewardship of open space can conserve a critical landscape. It benefits native plants and wildlife while protecting our water supply and providing access to beautiful natural areas for our children and grandchildren.

Many thanks to our wonderful partners in this endeavor.

Thank You to Our Partnering Organizations

Caumsett Foundation * Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission
Cornell Cooperative Extension – Suffolk County * Dropseed Native Landscapes * Friends of Hempstead Plains
Greentree Foundation * Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District * Nelson Pope Voorhis
New York City Butterfly Club * New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation * North Country Garden Club
North Shore Land Alliance * Old Westbury Garden * Seatuck Environmental Association * Sisters of St. Joseph
Spadefoot Design and Construction * William Cullen Bryant Preserve (Nassau County Museum of Art)

Going Native at the Land Alliance Headquarters



In our work at the Land Alliance, we regularly put an emphasis on the importance of using native plants when creating habitat, whether it's a new grassland, a meadow in a preserve or a private garden. Pollinators are often the principal focus for these types of projects, but the benefits of using native plants go far beyond, including, potentially, a more climate-resilient future for people and wildlife.

So, it's not only fitting but appropriate that the recently installed landscape at our new Tavern House HQ incorporates locally sourced native plants and shrubs, low mow grasses, rain gardens and all things bird and insect friendly! By using native plants to green and transform our own landscapes, we can absorb carbon, provide habitat that supports pollinators and many other animals and create connections between larger

patches of habitat that will allow pollinators to move through our communities. In addition to supporting a greater diversity and abundance of bees, and vastly more species of butterfly and moth caterpillars, native plants, once established, are typically better adapted to local conditions, making them easier to grow and more likely to survive.

Creating habitat is an important part of the solution to creating a healthier local environment and is something that all of us with any amount of space can do. Many thanks to Jim Wellington and David Cohn of Innocenti & Webel for our landscape design, Frank Piccininni at Spadefoot Design and Construction for the installation and John O'Connell for the masonry.

Please come visit in the spring when the plants have had a little time to grow!



Some of our favorite plants include:

Winterberry * Inkberry * Spice Bush
Highbush Blueberry * Purple Haze Agastache
Butterfly and Common Milkweed
Hayscented and New York Fern
Purple and White Coneflower * Spotted Geranium
Broadleafed Mountain * Mint American Witchhaze

Growing Healthy Communities Through Food and Gardening



Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County (CCE-Nassau) and the Land Alliance have teamed up to provide health and wellness programs in partnership with the Land Alliance Roosevelt Community Garden. "We are really excited about this partnership. There is a mountain of research supporting the positive impact that community gardens can have on health and well-being," says Gregory Sandor, Executive Director of CCE-Nassau.

In fact, several studies have shown that engaging with community gardens increases the availability and overall consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables among participants. CCE-Nassau's Master Gardener, Audrey Thomas, of Roosevelt elaborates, "If you want to eat healthy, you should know the benefits of having fresh vegetables and know how to grow them." When paired with nutrition education and programming, the impact

increases dramatically. Beth Labelson, Registered Dietitian and Nutrition Educator with CCE-Nassau explains, "We see real behavior change among participants in our health and wellness programs. Not only does fruit and vegetable consumption increase among participants, but we also see improved healthy food choices, a willingness to try new foods and an improved awareness about the connections between good health and food."





To this end, CCE-Nassau and the Land Alliance launched a teen wellness program in Roosevelt Community Garden called Fuel for Success. CCE-Nassau's summer interns, pre-med students from Hofstra University, designed and developed a curriculum geared towards nutrition and fitness as a foundation for health. The students not only engaged participants in fun activities but also incorporated the garden in a recipe demonstration and tasting. "We cannot overstate the impact that community garden-based programs can have on obesity prevention among kids," continues Labelson. "As we move into the winter months, we hope the partnership will shift to indoor spaces so we don't lose the momentum we have created."

In fact, the partnership will move indoors to Roosevelt Public Library in October with the launch of Dining With Diabetes. This program

pairs education about diabetes self-management with hands-on cooking demonstrations and recipe tasting. The incorporation of culinary skills and recipe tasting into the series has shown an impact beyond that of traditional diabetes education programs. Furthermore, information about participating in community and/or home gardening is woven into the fabric of the curriculum.

Conserving our land and connecting people to it is fundamental in supporting the health and well-being of our communities. The interconnection among creating sustainable food systems, promoting land conservation, being stewards of the environment and using nature as an intervention strategy is increasingly being recognized as vital to improving social, emotional, and physical health and well-being.



Research in the Preserves



Tick samples



Long Island faces several new environmental challenges. From the onslaught of the spotted lantern fly to the spread of beech leaf disease to the tiny ticks that now plague us year-round, the challenges are coming fast. Climate change is exacerbating the situation. As always, the Land Alliance strives to be a part of the solution. Over the summer, our staff worked with several different partner organizations to conduct research on all the above.

Ticks

In June, the Land Alliance partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension as part of a statewide tick abundance survey. For one week our O'Neil Stewards took tick sam-

ples at several of our preserves. First, they dragged a white sheet along the ground to collect the ticks. Then they used a lint roller to lift the ticks from the sheet, placing each in a vial that was mailed back to Cornell. In total, we collected 44 ticks across five sites. Cornell Cooperative Extension will test the ticks for diseases and share the results with us by the end of the year. This survey helps inform NYS about the abundance of ticks and the diseases they may carry.

Invasive Spotted Lanternfly

We also partnered with the Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (LIISMA) to survey Spotted Lanternflies at the Humes Preserve. The Spotted

Lanternfly was first detected at Humes last summer and since then has become widespread across Nassau County. After placing a trap between two "trees of heaven" (the host tree for the Spotted Lanternfly) at the woodland garden, we monitored weekly the number of lanternflies in the trap, along with their stage of maturity at the time. The data collected will help inform the Land Alliance and LIISMA about the life cycle of the lanternflies, along with their spread.

Beech Leaf Disease

With the widespread emergence of Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) over the last several years, the Land Alliance has worked with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Emerald

Tree Care to provide test sites for experimental treatment. The treatment being tested is Bio-SAR, a natural product that works to promote plant growth and suppress pathogens.

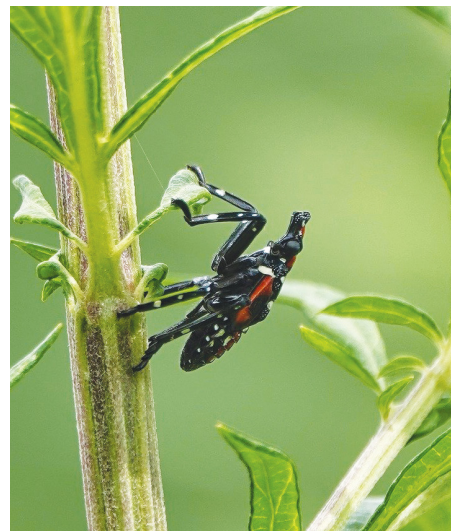
Our team, with the help of the NYS DEC, conducted a forest survey to select the trees that would be treated. We measured tree size, proximity to other beech trees, level of BLD infection, canopy cover and adjacent groundcover. We selected 25 trees at the Fox Hollow Preserve to be treated. Don Gabel of Emerald Tree Care applied the Bio-SAR to the trees through either a bark spray or a root injection. While the trees will not show results until next spring, we will continue to monitor their progress in hopes that this experimental treatment will help combat the symptoms of BLD.

BLD has struck all beech species, including the widespread American beech, endemic to eastern Canada and the eastern and central U.S. Year by year, infected trees produce fewer, smaller, darker leaves, which photosynthesize less. Eventually branches start to wither. Most saplings die within five years of infection and mature trees within ten years.

When you think about iconic Long Island landscapes, beech trees play a starring role. It is very important that a remedy be found soon.



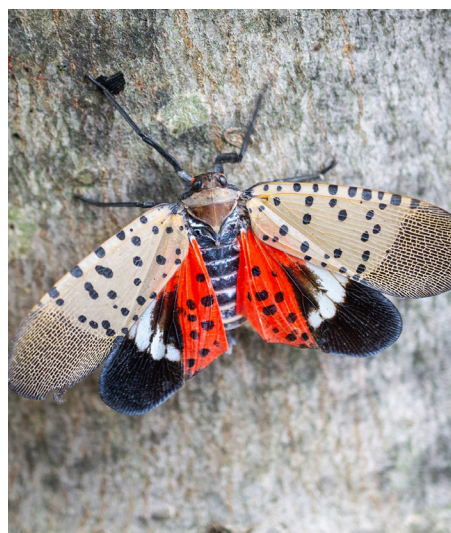
Spotted Lanternfly Egg Mass



Spotted Lanternfly Nymph



Adult Spotted Lanternfly



Adult Spotted Lanternfly with wings open



Healthy Beech Leaf



Beech Leaf Disease

2024 Walks in the Woods & Other Cool Things to Do Outside



Sunday, February 18th, 3:00 PM Shore Road Sanctuary, Cold Spring Harbor Led by Gwen Ugan

Don your citizen scientist hat and join our team the weekend of the Great Backyard Bird Count to survey winter waterfowl in Cold Spring Harbor.

Saturday, March 9th, 2:00 PM Jones Beach, Wantagh Led by Peter Martin

Join us to explore Jones Beach and its variety of habitats like ocean, bay and dunes and the birds and possibly seals that occupy them in winter. We will also get a winter view of the Jones Beach Energy and Nature Center's surrounding landscape of native plants that filters stormwater and encourages the resiliency of local pollinator populations.

Saturday, April 20th, 11:00 AM Shu Swamp, Mill Neck Led by Virginia Dankel

Enjoy Shu Swamp's natural beauty through an exploration of its spring ephemerals, a history of the property and a reading or two.

Wednesday, May 22nd, 5:30 PM Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center, Oyster Bay Cove Led by Joyann Cirigliano

The was established in 1923 as the country's first songbird sanctuary. Joyann will introduce us to the birds that inhabit this wonderful community and the plants that help make it so.

Thursday, June 27th, 5:00 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.

Thursday, July 25th, 6:00 PM
Roosevelt Preserve, Roosevelt
Led by Jane Jackson and Leslie Klatsky

Explore this delightful strip of woodland tucked behind the Meadowbrook Parkway when the aroma of sweet pepperbush fills the air.

Wednesday, August 21st, 6:00 PM
Wawapek, Cold Spring Harbor
Led by Meghan Leverock

Meghan, who manages the preserve and has overseen its recent habitat restoration, will guide visitors through the transformation of the preserve entrance and garden areas followed by an exploration of the woodlands with the tour ending at the Ralf Lange Garden and greenhouse.



Saturday, September 14th, 8:30 AM
Seminary, Lloyd Harbor
Led by Julie Barton

Julie is both an expert birder and an exceptional bird photographer. What better topic on which to focus to explore the newly protected Seminary property at Lloyd Harbor?

Saturday, October 12th, 11:00 AM
Big Reed, Montauk
Led by Vicki Bustamante
Co-listed with Long Island Botanical Society

Big Reed is the jewel of the 1,100-acre Montauk County Park and host to many rare and unusual plants. The hike will pass through some vulnerable ecological communities including a red maple-blackgum swamp, coastal oak-hickory forest and a coastal oak-beech forest. We will overlook Big Reed pond, a pristine 57-acre coastal plain pond without a house, building or road in sight. The area was the last ancestral home of the Montaukett tribe. We will be on the lookout for interesting plants and birds along the way.



Sunday, November 3rd, 11:00 AM
Garvies Point, Glen Cove
Led by Dan Kriesberg

There is so much we can learn from wild nature. Learn about how interrelationships that make an ecosystem stable and productive can teach us how to have a more diverse, equitable and inclusive human community. By observing first hand how biodiversity and symbiosis function in an ecosystem we can mimic wild nature and apply these services to our own lives.

Saturday, December 7th, 11:00 AM
Adelphi University, Garden City
Led by Robert Conaghan

Explore Adelphi's arboretum as Robert discusses how landscaping assessment and maintenance, including consideration of storm and weather impacts, contribute to decisions about what to plant to create a healthy and inviting home for students, faculty and wildlife.

Our Walks in the Woods are free, but advance registration is required!

Events are subject to change so please check our website for updates. For more information, visit www.northshorelandalliance.org



Kayak Tours

Wednesday, July 17th, 5:30 PM
Paddle Cold Spring Harbor
Led by Peter Martin and Don Niddrie

There's no better way to spend a summer evening than on the water with your friends at the Land Alliance. Come and join us for a beautiful evening on the water with our knowledgeable and friendly kayak leaders.

Saturday, September 21st, 2:00 PM
Paddle Centre Island Beach, Bayville

Explore the high-quality marine habitat of the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge while paddling through Oyster Bay Harbor, home to over 25 species of waterfowl. Horseshoe Crabs, Diamondback Terrapins and migrating Monarch Butterflies may also be spotted along the way.

Volunteer Spotlight: Meet Stacey Piciullo



Debra Kolitz, Stacey Piciullo, Barbara and Jim Winter

Stacey Piciullo is an amazing and dedicated volunteer who donates her time every week to help with all sorts of projects in our preserves. She has been a volunteer with the Land Alliance since September 2022. She chose to start volunteering after spending time in the preserves walking her dogs and attending Walk in the Woods programs. Land Alliance trail markers found in the preserves gave her the idea to visit the website, where she found the volunteer form and decided to send one in. We are so glad that she did!

Stacey can do it all! She has fearlessly donned waders and hopped into the pond at the Stroll Garden to help remove duckweed. She has cleared trails of fallen trees

and invasive vines. Her sharp eye discovered the blue stone steps that lead up to the meadow at Williams Ridge Preserve. The steps were so covered in dirt and vines nobody noticed them until Stacey got there! She has also been immensely helpful in the efforts to start propagating native seeds in the Wawapek greenhouse.

Stacey has a degree in Biology and has always wanted to work in the field of biology and conservation. Volunteering has allowed her to fulfill that desire. Stacy says, "The best part of volunteering is being able to learn while working or trading your time for education. Plus, it is a good way to get some exercise and enjoy time spent working with like-minded people."

Join our Volunteers for Open Space Program and Help Make a Difference for Nature!

Are you passionate about preserving natural landscapes, protecting wildlife and ensuring a sustainable future for our local environment? The Land Alliance welcomes you to become a part of our dedicated team of volunteers!

For more information, contact our new Volunteer Coordinator Darcy McDowell at 516-922-1028 or darcy@northshorelandalliance.org.



Volunteers Beautify the Roosevelt Preserve



In August, the Land Alliance worked with One World Girl and Home Depot to host a huge trash clean-up and planting day at the Roosevelt Preserve in Roosevelt.

Altogether, there were about 20 people who removed eight large bags of trash, three shopping carts and a small kiddie pool. They also planted four native ninebark shrubs

at the Garden's entrance. Thanks to the wonderful volunteers from One World Girl and Home Depot, the Roosevelt Preserve has been transformed and beautified.

One World Girl is a nonprofit organization that encourages girls to use their skills and abilities to impact their communities in a positive way. High school juniors and seniors from a local chapter reached out to the Land Alliance to ask if they could host a cleanup at the Roosevelt preserve. They also took the initiative to contact Home Depot to ask them to partner with them for this event. Home Depot agreed and sent employees armed with supplies like rakes, shovels, watering cans, gloves and more to join the effort.



O'Neil Stewards 2024 Accomplishments



Thanks to a generous five-year grant from the William C. and Joyce C. O'Neil Charitable Trust, the Land Alliance launched its college intern program in May 2016.

Every year since, the program has given students pursuing careers in conservation a variety of hands-on experiences, building their skill sets and knowledge base. For our stewardship team, having enthusiastic and passionate interns for our busy field season means that the Land Alliance can accomplish more in our preserves.

Our three interns this summer were Carter Rogan, a graduate student at SUNY ESF, Patrick Muccini, a rising senior at Binghamton Univer-

sity and Victoria Bell, a rising junior at the University of Vermont. They worked alongside our stewardship staff to learn the ins and outs of a land trust.

Their accomplishments included assisting with the habitat restoration at Williams Ridge Preserve. They removed invasive plants and replaced with them with native plants and installed a bridge. They also helped with plant surveys at a variety of different preserves, assisted with monitoring ticks and spotted lanternflies and documented beech leaf disease. They also worked alongside our dedicated volunteers maintaining trails and assist at the John P. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden.

The O'Neil Stewards were instrumental in completing projects and managing our preserves. We cannot thank them enough for all their hard work! And we remain grateful to the William C. and Joyce C. O'Neil Charitable Trust for this fabulous opportunity to continue to train the next generation of conservation stewards.

Become an O'Neil Steward in 2024!

Visit our website for more details. www.northshorelandalliance.org/oneil-stewards-program/

Support Wildlife in Your Garden This Winter



As we approach winter, you might think it's time to put your pollinator gardens to bed for the season. Think again! There is a lot your garden can do to support wildlife during the colder months. You may also be tempted to clean up your gardens. Resist! A messy garden is much better for providing food and habitat for insects and birds than a tidy one.

Here are a few tips for a nature friendly transition to winter.

Keep the leaves.

Fallen leaves act as mulch, as well as habitat. They preserve soil moisture; help suppress weeds and, as they decompose, return nutrients

into the soil for your plants to use for food. Additionally, they provide habitat for insects (like fireflies) over the winter. Caterpillars can be found under the leaf litter, as well as the chrysalises and cocoons of insects that are overwintering and will emerge in the spring. The insects in the leaves also provide food for foraging birds.

Leave seeds and berries.

When disposing of stems and other dead parts of plants, be sure to leave seed heads and berries for the birds. There are many species of seed-eating birds that spend their winters on Long Island or stop here during their migration. Birds like blue jays, nuthatches,

grosbeaks and sparrows depend on seeds and shriveled up fruits in your garden for their food. Insects like beetles, flies and wasps lay eggs in the stems of plants, creating galls which also serve as good protein sources for birds.

Prune selectively.

When pruning back shrubs with hollow or pithy stems, consider leaving about a foot of hollow stem uncut for the bees. Examples of pithy plants, or those that have spongy, soft tissue in the central stalk, include Joe-Pye-weed, Wild bergamot and Elderberry. Solitary bees will burrow into these stems to hibernate and lay their eggs. Then in the spring when the bees have a chance to emerge you can cut the dead stalks and clear them from your garden to make way for the new growth.



Make a brush pile.

Rather than removing fallen branches or logs from your property, use them to make a brush pile. Several overwintering bird species like Black-capped Chickadees find shelter in brush piles. Insects like termites and ants can burrow into wood, making brush piles an excellent foraging ground for overwintering birds.

Plant in the fall.

Add new plants to your garden that bloom at different times of the year. Early blooming plants provide food for the bees and butterflies that emerge early in the spring and need something to eat. Late blooming plants will do the same for wildlife that follows in the fall and winter. Having a variety of native plants in your garden that bloom at different times of the year will benefit wildlife. It will also create a beautiful, dynamic garden that gives you something to look forward to each change of the seasons.



If You Plant Milkweed, They Will Come

Through the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge™, cities, municipalities, and other communities across North America have committed to creating healthy, sustainable habitats for the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators. They are also educating residents about how they can make a difference at home and in their community.

Last summer, the Town of Hempstead collaborated with us at the Roosevelt Community Garden to sow milkweed cultivated

in the Town's greenhouse. This collaboration resulted in the introduction of a diverse range of milkweed species into the Garden with the intention of attracting Monarch butterflies.

And it worked! This past summer, we observed a diverse array of insects critical to biodiversity in the Garden— and not just butterflies!

If you are interested in adding milkweed to your garden, let us know. We will be happy to share.

Land Alliance Awarded \$131,500 in Grants



\$10,000 - Nassau County Main Street Recovery Program: Nassau County set aside \$10 million to assist local small business owners and non-profit organizations in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds distributed through this program are to be used to support organization-wide operations.

\$13,500 - NYS Urban Farms and Community Garden Program: As part of NYS's initiative to support the development and expansion of community gardens, school gardens, and urban farms across the state, the Land Alliance's Roosevelt Community Garden received a grant of \$13,500. With these funds, the Garden will purchase solar lighting to extend hours of operation (so that gardeners can tend to their plots before and after their work day), provide restroom facilities and fund garden maintenance.

We are proud to share that we received several government and corporate foundation grants in the year's second half. These grants are integral to our ability to fulfill our conservation mission and to invest in important projects.

\$3,000 - Whole Kids Foundation: Through Whole Foods' Garden Grant program, the Roosevelt Garden received a grant to purchase gardening equipment and develop programming geared towards school-aged children. The focus of the programming is to connect kids with food, spark their curiosity and support gardening curriculum.

\$30,000 - The Oliver R. Grace Charitable Foundation: To repair the roads and reconstruct the Preserve's Welcome Hut at the Humes Preserve.

\$75,000 - The Humes Japanese Garden Foundation: The Humes Japanese Garden Foundation donated \$75,000 in honor of long-time friend of the Humes Estate Bob Ventresca. The funds are to be used for stewardship of the Humes Preserve where Bob lived for more than 30 years. He was a good steward of this land and will be greatly missed.

Special Thanks to Our Community Partners

Many thanks to Rising Tide Natural Market in Glen Cove and Stop & Shop in Oyster Bay for their generous support of our conservation efforts through the sale of reusable grocery bags at their stores.



Land Alliance 2024 Lecture Series



Coming Spring 2024!

Conservation Easement Seminar Featuring Attorney Ellen Fred

Landowner and professional outreach are core components of successful conservation. The Land Alliance sees expert presentations as an opportunity to further the knowledge of our community about solutions surrounding conservation-oriented land transactions.

Coming in the spring of 2024,

the Land Alliance is pleased to announce a seminar featuring Ellen Fred, a nationally recognized expert in the field of conservation. She is a Principal with Conservation Partners LLP. Ellen's experience in the fields of tax, real estate, nonprofit governance and alternative dispute resolution allows her to counsel her clients in all aspects of their work. She and her team have completed a variety of land sales and acquisitions, easements and post-transaction stewardship. Their work has resulted in hundreds of thousands of acres being conserved. In addition to her legal work, she has been a frequent presenter on myriad conservation law topics since 2004, including for the Land Trust Alliance and the California Council of Land Trusts.

The seminar will be divided into two parts. The early session will be targeted toward professionals in the field of conservation, such as lawyers, appraisers and accountants. A few of the highlighted topics will include the fundamentals

and drafting of conservation easements, evaluating advanced tax issues, including the deductibility of charitable contributions and structuring, negotiating, and closing purchase, sale, bargain-sale and donation transactions. The Land Alliance is in the process of securing continuing education credits for lawyers, appraisers, accountants and interested real estate professionals.

The afternoon portion will provide an overview for landowners and others who would like to know the basics of the conservation process, the potential for state and federal tax incentives and the reasons why protecting land is critical to conserving the natural beauty and critical habitat of our community.

Ellen's wealth of legal and transactional knowledge as well as her love for the land will be a valuable educational resource for all who attend. The Land Alliance looks forward to welcoming you to the event in April.



Visit our website in 2024 for a full list of lectures and educational programs or sign up to receive alerts.

www.northshorelandalliance.org

20th Anniversary Family Picnic and Environmental Fair



On Sunday, July 23rd, 200+ people joined the Land Alliance for a fun family picnic and environmental fair at The Nature Conservancy's Uplands Farm in Cold Spring Harbor. Sixteen local environmental non-profits, including Friends of the Bay, The Waterfront Center, Long Island Native Plant Initiative, North Shore Wildlife Sanctuary, Three Harbors Garden Club and the Sisters of St. Joseph's, joined us as we collectively showcased the innovative work all are doing to protect our local land, air and waterways.

Guests enjoyed a BBQ dinner, live music from bluegrass band Mama Juke, and the opportunity to learn more about local conservation efforts. Additionally, kids decorated wooden birdhouses using foraged materials, including wildflowers and grasses, played lawn games like musical chairs and nature scavenger hunts in the meadow with The Nature Conservancy team. The event culminated with a huge 20th-anniversary birthday cake and a release of native butterflies. We couldn't think of a more fun way to celebrate our 20th anniversary! Thank you to all those who partnered with us and attended this memorable afternoon.

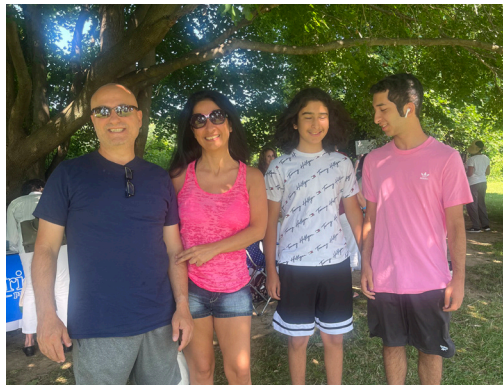




Photo Credit Leah DeSena

Open Space Society Dinner in Support of Land Conservation



On Friday, June 3rd, Claudia and Gunnar Overstrom graciously hosted the Land Alliance's Open Space Society Dinner at their beautiful home in Locust Valley. Under a canopy of trees overlooking Cushman Woods Preserve, one hundred guests gathered for an evening that included cocktails and a three-course dinner served al fresco.

Guests enjoyed great conversation, fabulous food and incredible views of one of the Land Alliance's most treasured preserves. After Claudia and Gunnar provided opening remarks, guests heard from Board President Hoyle Jones and President Lisa Ott about the importance of protecting and preserving the North Shore's natural landscape. Lisa also shared the history of the Overstrom's home and the abutting preserve – which were once part of a larger estate owned by Paul Cravath, a prominent Manhattan lawyer and partner of Cravath, Swaine & Moore. Lisa shared the environmental importance of the hilly 28-acre forest - which is brimming with towering trees, an intricate trail system and many bird species, foxes and other mammals. Following dinner, guests were invited into the Overstrom's beautiful home for an after-dinner drink and continued conversation.

Since 2007, the Land Alliance has been graciously welcomed into some of Long Island's most beautiful and historic private homes for this annual fundraiser. This year was no exception. We thank the Overstroms for their generosity in hosting us at their home and all who spent the evening with us in support of local land conservation efforts. It was an incredible evening.

Land Alliance's 20th Anniversary Wine Auction & Dinner at Peacock Point



Photo Credit: Seamus Moran

As the bright Harvest Moon waned, 450 conservation-minded friends gathered at the historic Peacock Point in Lattingtown, NY, to celebrate the Land Alliance's 20th anniversary. Overlooking the Long Island Sound, friends of conservation gathered on Saturday, September 30th, to eat, drink and celebrate!

After days of driving rain, the clouds parted and made way for the most incredible sunset. Dressed in their best flora and fauna-inspired outfits (in keeping with the party's theme), guests were graciously welcomed at the door by hosts Kristina and Harry Davison and daughter Olympia. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres

were served in an open sided tent featuring beautiful and expansive views of the Long Island Sound.

Guests were escorted into the dinner tent, which was organized around a pool much like the old

Four Seasons restaurant. Twinkling lights overhead created the most perfect patterns on the swimming pool and beautiful fall flowers, peacock, and candlelight adorned the tables surrounding the pool.



Board Chair Hoyle Jones welcomed guests. Lisa Ott, President, and CEO, presented the Davison Family, represented by Harry Davison, with the 2023 Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Award. In his remarks, Harry said, "Conservation was very important to my Father. He would be so pleased to see so many people at Peacock Point in support of protecting our precious environment." Guests then enjoyed a video celebrating the Land Alliance's 20 year history of successful local conservation efforts.

Dinner was followed by a live auction, led by professional auctioneer and Kentuckian Tanner Roberts. Items included a trip to Crans Montana, Switzerland and Paris, a week in Jamaica at the famed Roundhill Resort and Villas, a ½ acre meadow planted on the winner's property, fine wines and unique experiences – all donated by Land Alliance friends and the local business community. The party continued into the late evening, when guests enjoyed a "late set" with music from James Zito's Jazz Trio, bourbon tasting and hand-rolled cigars.



Thanks to all the people who made this highly successful event possible

Event Chairs

Kelly Gaudreau, Jennifer Grgas, Paul J. Mateyunas, Liz Swenson and Alanna Weiss, who worked tirelessly to make every detail of the event perfect.

20th Anniversary Reunion Chairs

Patsy Randolph Mayer and Julie Rinaldini

Décor Chair

Asia Baker Stokes

20th Anniversary Video Chair

Liz McLanahan

Wine and Spirits Chairs

Michael Douglass, Jocelyn Moodie and Charisse Winthrop

Auction Coordinator

Fern Senior

And a big thank you to our sponsors, underwriters, donors, ticket purchasers and advertisers for all your support of our efforts to preserve open space and natural resources. Because of you, our 20th Anniversary celebration was the most successful event in our organization's history. We hope to see you all again next year!

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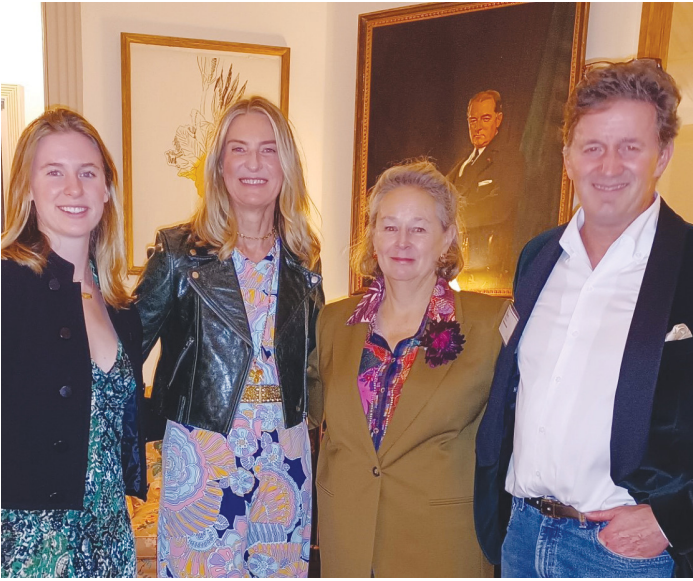
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Tent - Robin and Paul Vermynen * Flowers - Cathy Chernoff
Jazz Ensemble - Nicholas Paumgarten * Invitation - Kelly and Chip Gaudreau * Tara and Frank Segarra
Wine and Spirits

Samantha and John Amante * Carla and Ridgely Beale * Mary Elizabeth and Gabe Catala
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Cynthia Stebbins * Jean Thatcher * Kim and Rahul Vinnakota * Paula and Richard Weir

2023 Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Award Honoring the Davison Family of Peacock Point



Davison family and Lisa Ott

Situated on the traditional land of the Matinecock, Peacock Point rests on a promontory with sweeping views of the Long Island Sound. It was first mapped in the 1860s as farmland for the Peacock family. In 1910, Peacock Point was acquired by Henry Pomeroy Davison Sr. using his first bonus check from J.P. Morgan & Company, where he had recently started as a senior partner.

Peacock Point has served as the home of five generations of the Davison family. For more than 100 years, generation after generation has lovingly stewarded this unique combination of historic preservation and land conservation. Today majestic species like bald eagles and Ospreys can be seen nesting in the trees and fishing off the beach because of this family's valiant efforts.

Their family's contributions to our world, both near and far, have been significant. During World War I, the Davison family was deeply committed to patriotic causes. Henry Sr. chaired the War Council of the American Red Cross, earning a Distinguished Service Medal for his contributions. His son Trubee spearheaded the creation of the Naval Air Reserve, founding the first squadron with several classmates at Yale. The group

lived and trained at Peacock Point during the summer of 1916 and became the first to fly for the United States in World War I.

Trubee went on to dedicate his life to public service. He served as Assistant Secretary of War and a NYS legislator. He was the President of the American Museum of Natural History during the Roosevelt administration. In the 1960's when the proposed bridge from Rye to Oyster Bay became a serious threat, he used his influence to persuade his neighbors to donate small parcels of land along the waterfront from Manhasset Bay to Huntington Harbor to the Federal Government. The result was the creation of 32 vest pocket parks that hang like a string of pearls along the north shore. They now comprise the 3,209-acre Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge and Lattinotown's Kate Trubee Davison Preserve.

Trubee's son Daniel P. Davison (Danny) was also a great conservationist. In addition to a distinguished business career (including being CEO at US Trust and Christie's), he served as Vice Chairman of The Nature Conservancy's Global Board. There he helped to raise hundreds of millions of dollars for the Conservancy's Last Great Places campaign. A nature walk at TNC's Uplands Farm is named in his honor. Danny was also a guiding light in the formation of many non-profit organizations, including the Land Alliance. He will long be remembered as one of the greats!

His sons, George, Danny and Harry, and their families continue the Davison family tradition of conservation. Their goal as parents is to make sure our children have a "forest" experience to help them better understand how interconnected the world we live in is. They are engaged in leadership roles in education, management of non-profits and charitable services. Through their philanthropy, they have ensured that organizations like the Land Alliance, Christodora and others will be sustainable for many years to come.

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Mrs. Henry Clay Frick
Carolina and Diego Fuschetto
G. Willikers
Garland Collection
Linda Garnett
Kelly and Chip Gaudreau
Missy and Max Geddes
Courtney and Andrew Geisel
Caroline V. Gerry
Elena Gibbs
Tom Gimbel
Glenn Floors
Michelle and Timothy Gokey
Paula and Pierre Gonthier
Lorna and Edwin Goodman
The Oliver R. Grace Charitable
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Debbie and Howard Grace
Jan and Jeremy Graham
Jessica and Jonathan Green
Jennifer and Joseph Grgas

Susan and Joseph Grgas
Aileen and Ian Gumprecht
Maria and Sherlock Hackley
Alexandra and Fletcher Hall
Lily Haydock
Dr. Judith Hecker
Heidi Carey
Aleta Heisig
Hicks Nurseries
HIMED
Tom and Judy Hogan
Milena and DR Holmes
Steven Holzman
Sealey and Mark Hopkinson
Paula and John Hornbostel
Vicky Howard
Randi and David Hoyt
Humes and Wagner
Hunan Taste
Hunting Season
Huntington Historical Society
Deborah and Robert Hussey
Interstyle Fashion & Home
Marjorie and Fredd Isaksen

Ron and Nancy Israeli
Jane Jackson
Mary Javian
Jewelry Gallery of Oyster Bay
Joanna Buchanan
Johnny Was
Botsy and Hoyle Jones
Carissa Jordan
Karmic Grind
Gabrielle and John Keller
Victoria Reese and Greg Kennedy
Klein Cleaners
Nazee and Roddy Klotz
Bruce Knecht and Harry van Dyke
Knockout Beauty Locust Valley
Laureen and Ragnar Knutsen
Kate Koch
Richard Kopsco
Christiane and Alex Koundourakis
Howard Kroplick
LaMay's Tree Service
Carol and Jim Large
Laura Casale Architech
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 The Riefler/Boyatt Family
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 Roberto Coin



Hanna and Taylor Robinson
Rock Pilates
Rolfling NY
Andrew Roosevelt
Joseph Rosenthal
Rob Cancro & RVC Landscaping
Rynwood Holdings
Sabrina Boutique
Safavieh
Salon Pop
Tom Samet and Nathan Wold
Sanctuary Home + Patio
Sandbar Cold Spring Harbor
Joseph Saphia
Say La Vie
Scarsella's Flowers
Christina and Matthew Schick
Lisa and Peter Schiff
Nancy and Ray Schuville
Tara and Frank Segarra
Edith Seligson
Michelle Sellers
Mary and Russell Selover
Senator Alfonse D'Amato
Fern Senior and
Kristen Thomas-Senior
Robin and Enrique Senior

Joan Shepard
Lisa and David Simek
Vincent Simeone
Carolina and Diego Simonian
Six Senses Resorts and Spa,
John Bralower
Lauren Skelly Bailey
Dianne and John Smith
Hope and Ted Smith
Herbert L. Smith III Family Fund
Ranna and Herbert L. Smith IV
Douglas Snyder
Christine and Brandon Sobel
Catherine and Fernando Soler
Southdown Coffee
Spadefoot Design and
Construction, Frank Piccinnini
Elaine Spanos
Susan and Jeffrey Spindler
Cynthia Stebbins
Stellina Restaurante
Sterling Affair Caterers
Asia and Ben Stokes
Stubbs & Wootton
Sara and James Sullivan
Bobby and Kandy Sullivan
Sunday Best

Sweetie Pies on Main,
Judy Hogan
Gemma Toner and Howard Szarfarc
Margaret and Hugh Tanchuck
Aldo Tarantini
Dorthe and Truett Tate
Missie and Zach Taylor
Tina and Clifton Teagle
Terra Cold Spring Harbor
Kim and Brandon Testa
Tezumi Tea
Jean Thatcher
The Bar Method
The Basil Leaf Café
The Creek
The Paramount Theater
The Sweaty Health
Tilles Center
Tory Burch
Maggie and Charlie Towers
Emily and Joseph Turill
Megan and Alex Urdea
Valley Attic
Janice and Halsted S. Vander Poel
Julia and Eric Vaughn
Robin and Paul Vermeylen
Kim and Rahul Vinnakota

Diane and Stephen Volk
Alex and Michael Voris
Sasha and Kevin Wade
Walker Bowe
Hugh Wallace
Tory and Nelson Walsh
Mary and Thomas Walsh
Liza and Kris Weiner
Paula and Richard Weir
Alanna and Craig Weiss
Pam and Ted Weiss
Deborah and Karl Wellner
Beth and John Werwaiss
Barbara Wesotski
Meghan and James Widyn
Kristin and Andrew Wiechmann
Wild Honey
Andrea and Gregory Williams
Brent and Michael Winston
Charisse and Darren Winthrop
Honorable Ute Wolff Lally
Wonderland Tree Care
Wrapped Curated Gifts
Maryam and Arash Yaraghi
Youngs Farm

2023 Member's Meeting and Year-in Review

On Saturday, October 28th, the Land Alliance hosted its Annual Member's Meeting at the organization's new Tavern House headquarters located within the Humes Preserve. Members joined the Board and Staff for the election of Trustees, conducted by Co-Chair of the Committee on Trustees Larry Schmidlapp, followed by a presentation about the Land Alliance's first 20 years. Through stories and photographs, Land Alliance President Lisa Ott explored the evolution of the Land Alliance, with highlights of the wonderful places conserved, people involved and substantive events along the way.

Through hard work, tenacity and patience, this small group grew the organization into a nationally accredited Land Trust that has conserved over 1,500 environmentally significant acres of land – in perpetuity. The Land Alliance's portfolio now includes 16 preserves and it has a membership of over 4,200. Members unanimously voted to re-elect 14 Trustees for an additional three-year term and elected a new Trustee, Victoria Walsh. The following Trustees were re-elected for an additional three-year term: Tim Dooley, Max Geddes, Lynn Gray, DR Holmes, Bridget Macaskill, Patrick Mackay, Patsy Mayer, Frank O'Keefe, Claudia Overstrom, Hollis Russell, Frank Segarra, Zach Taylor, Paul Vermynen, Paula Weir.

The meeting was adjourned and members were invited to visit the new native plant garden.



Land Alliance Welcomes New Educator to the Long Island Water Education Program



Karen Mossey

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Long Island Water Education Program's first educator, Karen Mossey – an outstanding teacher and role model. We knew as soon as we met her that she was the one for the program – and we will be eternally grateful she took on this role! Karen launched the program in 2014, converting an outline of program objectives into lesson plans, contacting our first classroom teachers in and around Oyster Bay and expanding outreach to school districts across Long Island. In the time that she was with us, she delivered the program to over 12,000 students in 35 schools representing 17 school districts.

Karen went above and beyond to be an effective educator. Throughout the pandemic years, when she could not visit the classroom, she made sure the program continued. She produced instructional videos for teachers, assembled individual packets of materials for each child and delivered them directly to the schools. This was a mammoth task that she managed with aplomb.

Karen announced this summer that she is returning to the classroom full-time, leaving behind mighty big shoes to fill. She has been a masterful teacher much loved by the students, schools and Land Alliance staff and will be greatly missed!



Beth Finger

We recently hired a new educator, Beth Finger, who is taking the reins this fall. Beth's background includes naturalist and farm educator positions with Nassau BOCES and Cornell Cooperative Extension. She served as Project Manager for the Huntington Mobilization for Sustainability and a leader of Jewish Without Walls. She is passionate about teaching, community organizing around environmental issues and water quality and conservation. We are delighted to have her aboard.

*"I've never seen an unhappy person, ever, walking through an open field or the woods."
—Julie Rinaldini*

Land Alliance Hires New Staff

Darcy McDowell, Stewardship Associate, Volunteer Coordinator



Darcy comes to the Land Alliance from Caumsett State Park, where she worked under the tutelage of the Environmental Chairperson of the Caumsett Foundation. While there she monitored and managed environmental restoration projects at the park. Conservation is something that Darcy had always been interested in and her interest deepened as she was immersed in such a beautiful place. Learn-

ing from inspiring mentors instilled a fervent desire to forge ahead in the realm of environmental preservation. Darcy says she found it inconceivable to imagine a different career because as she puts it, "Once you see all the ecosystems that need help and all the work that can be done it's hard to think of doing any other vocation."

She is originally from Goshen, NY, in Orange County. She received her Bachelor of Science in Biology complemented by a minor in Chemistry from Salem State University in Salem, MA.

Max Tetrault, Water Quality Improvement Coordinator



Max has joined the staff at the Land Alliance. He works in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy and Nassau County to assist homeowners and small businesses with grants for upgrading their septic systems to newer

technologies that reduce the amount of nitrogen entering our watersheds. Max has been involved in the sustainability space in New York City for the last decade. He most recently was with the New York Restoration Project, where he worked on a shoreline

restoration project in upper Manhattan with the goal of bringing green space to disadvantaged communities.

Max is a graduate of Columbia University Earth Institute's Sustainability Management program, with a focus on water sustainability, environmental justice and access to federal funding for communities vulnerable to climate change. His work experience includes project management for energy efficiency projects, constructing a management plan for grassland bird habitats for Audubon in Eastern Long Island and volunteer coordination with the Prospect Park Alliance.

LAND ALLIANCE MERCHANDISE

Contact us today to purchase your limited edition canvas tote bag and hats.



Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution From Your IRA to the North Shore Land Alliance



Did you know that starting at age 73, the IRS requires those with an IRA to begin to take annual income withdrawals from their account? These withdrawals are commonly referred to as Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). Because traditional IRA plans use pre-tax dollars, the IRS imposes RMDs to prevent individuals from avoiding paying the deferred tax liability owed on those contributions. As these distributions are viewed as income by the IRS, they are subject to federal income tax, at as much as 37%!

Thankfully, charitably minded individuals and couples as young as 70½ have a tax-smart option called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), also known as a charitable IRA rollover. By opting for a QCD, donors can instruct their IRA administrator to send up to \$100,000 per year to one or more qualified charities. Moreover, couples who file their tax returns jointly can each qualify for annual QCDs of up to \$100,000, making it possible to donate up to \$200,000 per year.

It's worth noting that the recently passed SECURE Act 2.0 legislation has introduced some changes to the qualified charitable distribution (QCD) strategy.

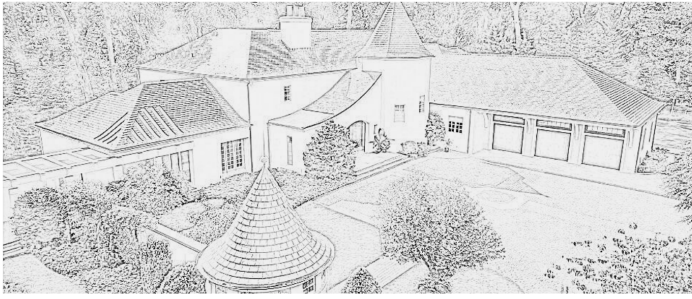
Starting in 2023, donors can direct a one-time QCD of \$50,000 to a charitable remainder trust or gift annuity. This is excellent news for those who are looking to support their favorite charities in a tax-efficient manner. Additionally, starting in 2024, annual QCD limits will be indexed for inflation. With QCDs, donors can ensure that more of their assets go towards supporting the causes they care about the most!

If you are interested in making a QCD to the Land Alliance before the end of the year, follow these simple steps:

1. Ensure that your charity of choice is a qualified 501(c) 3 (as the Land Alliance is).
2. Reach out to your IRA custodian to initiate the transfer.
3. Contact the the Land Alliance to let them know of your intent.
4. Notify your tax accountant of the transaction.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Deb Wiener, Director of Development, deb@northshorelandalliance.org or 516-922-1028.

HOLIDAY ART SHOW



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
5 TO 7:30 PM

Join us at Tamalou for a cocktail, hors d'oeuvres, and a preview party of a curated collection of paintings, sculptures, and pottery from some of Long Island's most talented local artists, including Lauren Skelly Bailey, Christine D'Addario, Carol Kingston, Jerelyn Hanrahan, Frank Olt, Howard Phipps and Christian White.

A percentage of the art sale proceeds will benefit North Shore Land Alliance.

TAMALOU
121 PIPING ROCK RD
LOCUST VALLEY
(ENTRANCE IS JUST SOUTH OF CHERRYWOOD)

This event is free but advance registration is requested: northshorelandalliance.org/events
For more information, contact Deb Wiener 516.922.1028

Thank you for
being a part of this
important journey!

Your support is the cornerstone
of our success, and together,
we're making a real difference.

Watch our 20th
Anniversary Video.



AMERICANA MANHASSET CHAMPIONS²⁸ FOR CHARITY[®]

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 — SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

Register online for your CHAMPION NUMBER and select North Shore Land Alliance as your charity.
Your champion number is required to allocate the donation and MUST be presented at the time of
each purchase in order for it to be eligible.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING BENEFIT

Shop **Americana Manhasset** and select Wheatley Plaza stores
and 25% of your full-price pre-tax purchases
will be donated to our charity.



NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

PO Box 658, Oyster Bay, NY

347 Oyster Bay Road, Mill Neck, NY 11560

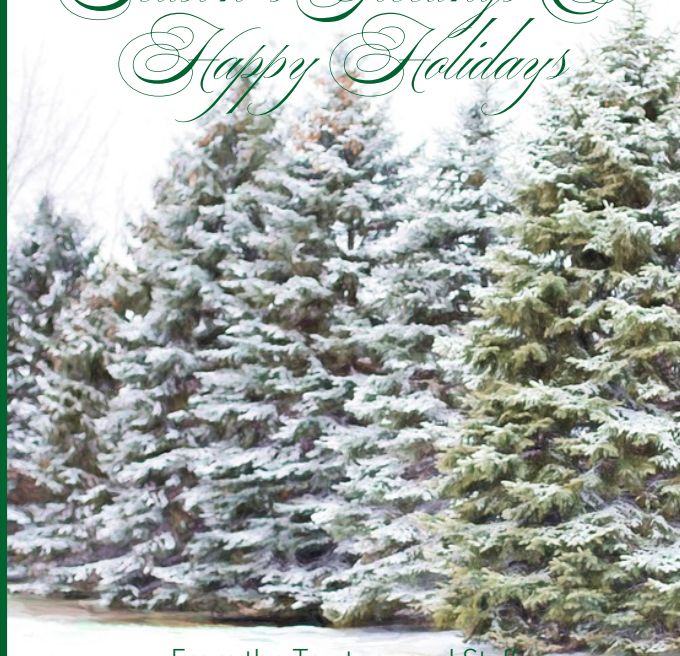
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www.northshorelandalliance.org

info@northshorelandalliance.org

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*Season's Greetings &
Happy Holidays*



From the Trustees and Staff
at the North Shore Land Alliance

2024 SAVE THE DATES!

Friday, February 2nd

Pickle Ball and Paddle Tennis
Nassau Country Club, Glen Cove

Wednesday, May 15th

Golf and Tennis Outing
Piping Rock, Locust Valley

Saturday, September 28th

Wine Auction & Dinner
Location To Be Announced

For more event details, visit our website at
www.northshorelandalliance.org/events



Our Mission: To conserve and steward Long Island's natural and historic lands, waters and environmental resources. Through education, outreach and volunteerism, we connect people to nature and inspire a community conservation ethic.

Once you have finished reading our newsletter, please recycle again by passing it along to a friend.