



Conservation News

Protecting Open Space on Long Island's North Shore

NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

Volume 13, Issue 26

Board of Trustees

Carter Bales, Chair
John Bralower, Vice-Chair
Hoyle Jones, Vice-Chair
Luis Rinaldini, Vice-Chair
Jonathan Moore, Treasurer
Hollis Russell, Secretary

Rosemary Bourne
Matt Bruderman
John Casaly
Christoph Cushman
Leland Deane
Augusta Donohue
Tim Dooley
Nancy Douzinas
George Eberle
Eric Fornell
Max Geddes
Lynn Gray
Chris Hagedorn
D.R. Holmes
Nancy Kelley
Tom Lieber
Bridget Macaskill
Patrick Mackay
Tom McGrath
Nicholas Paumgarten
Julie Rinaldini
Larry Schmidlapp
Ray Schuville
Frank Segarra
Ted Smith
Zach Taylor
Jean Thatcher
Eric Vaughn
Paula Weir
Peri Wenz
Tom Zoller

Advisory Board

Ann Cannell
Judith Chapman
Louise Harrison
Tom Hogan
Erik Kulleseid
Neal Lewis
Robert MacKay
Sarah Meyland
Barry Osborn
Patsy Randolph
Peter Schiff
John Turner
Richard Weir

Staff

Lisa Ott, President and CEO
Jane Jackson, Director of Stewardship
Nina Muller, Campaign Director
Andrea Millwood, Associate Director
Mimi DeSena, Finance Manager
Linda Rosenthal, Associate Director
Jennifer Contino, Office Manager
Cindy Shelley, Development Associate
Amanda Furcall, Associate Land Steward
Mary Schmutz, Stroll Garden Manager



Photo credit: Jenny Kelter

Pending Acquisition of Seven-acre Grace Property in Oyster Bay Cove

North Shore Land Alliance is currently working with Debbie and Howard Grace to acquire seven acres of their property in the Village of Oyster Bay Cove through a bargain sale transaction. The acreage is part of the Grace family's larger 25-acre property (referred to as Lismore), eight acres of which has been preserved since 2002 through a conservation easement held by the Land Alliance.

The property is in the immediate vicinity of Tiffany Creek Preserve, a 200-acre preserve owned by Nassau County (with portions managed by the Land Alliance). It is located in the Tiffany Creek watershed area, which has been designated by New York State as an area critically important to protecting the waterways and valuable shellfishing areas of Oyster Bay Cove.

The property is also in the immediate vicinity of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary, the first preserve owned and managed by the National Audubon Society. In addition, it is located within the Oyster Bay Special Groundwater Protection Area, a New York State designated Critical Environmental Area that is the source of our drinking water.

(Continued on p. 3)



Dear Land Alliance Friends:

I always knew protecting land was important, but a new study published on October 16th in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* confirms that protecting land is not only important but essential to a healthy future for our planet.

The study was produced in partnership between The Nature Conservancy and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (in conjunction with two dozen leading natural scientists and economists from 15 research, educational and private institutions around the world). It suggests that natural climate solutions offer up to 37% of the mitigation needed between now and 2030 to keep global temperature rise less than 2°C (the target of the Paris Climate Agreement) – a beneficial impact 30% greater than those from previous estimates.

Natural climate solutions use the power of nature to reduce emissions by extracting CO₂ from the atmosphere through photosynthesis. CO₂ is then stored in trees, grasslands, peat bogs and agricultural soils. Further, the planet's ability to capture and store atmospheric carbon can be greatly improved with strategies like reforestation and conservation agriculture.

The study cited 20 strategies (referred to as pathways) to successful carbon mitigation and included an economic analysis of costs. Globally, forest pathways offer about half of the lowest-cost climate opportunities, while grassland and agriculture pathways account for a quarter, and wetlands nearly a fifth.

The economic analysis showed that half of these natural climate solutions (encompassing 11.3 billion tons CO₂ annually) offer cost-effective mitigation opportunities. That is because they cost less than addressing the future impacts of climate change, expected to run society more than \$100 per ton of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Land-based climate solutions appear in more than 75 percent of individual country commitments to the Paris Agreement, yet renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean transport together receive nearly 30 times the amount of public mitigation investment that land-based solutions receive.

In our community, wetlands provided valuable natural barriers between us and the impacts of Superstorm Sandy. Smart agricultural practices are enabling farmers to withstand extreme weather conditions associated with hotter temperatures. Our precious trees cool our houses in summer and, along with open meadows and fields, recharge and clean our drinking water. As we have heard many times, drinking water is 1/10 as expensive in communities that still have open space to filter out harmful pollutants, without having to rely on expensive chemicals.

I feel very fortunate to be a part of a community that values nature, understands the importance of natural climate solutions, and prioritizes land conservation as a necessity in a changing world. The actions you take in support of land conservation are more important now than ever.

With best wishes to you and your families for a healthy, happy holiday season!

Carter F. Bales, Board Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carter".

Aside from being adjacent to an existing conservation easement, the property is also near eight other conservation easements on private property held by the Land Alliance. In total, they preserve over 70 acres of significant natural areas. The seven-acre property itself consists primarily of meadow habitat, an ecosystem that is rapidly declining throughout Long Island. It helps support a diverse array of birds and other wildlife as well as an abundance of native plants that support pollinators. Bog turtles and birds of prey, including red-tailed Hawks and Great-horned owl, are among the species observed at the Grace Meadow. Closing is expected before year end.

The Land Alliance is extremely grateful to the Grace Family for spearheading a conservation solution for this wonderful property that will enhance the environmental health of the local community for the future.



Photo credit: Jenny Kelter

A 4th of July to Remember



The benefits of land conservation were seen in action in Lloyd Harbor this past summer when community members of all ages (and their extended families) once again gathered together to celebrate the 4th of July. For more than 60 years, the annual 4th of July parade started at the corner of Kay Macy's property on Jennings Road and ended in her front yard. Each year, children on decorated bicycles and scooters and parents all dressed in their red, white and blue met at the corner of the Macy property and followed Uncle Sam through a loop (or two) of Burrwood, the former Walter Jennings estate. The parade would wind back around to the Macy's front yard, where everyone gathered to sing "My Country, 'Tis of Thee", recite the Pledge of Allegiance and listen to an address from a

fellow Lloyd Harbor resident about an historic event. Younger members of the group would struggle to sit still in anticipation of ice cream from the Good Humor truck!

The 4th of July parade was a double celebration this year, first for our country and second for the community. Community members bundled their resources to preserve this two-acre treasure. As you may recall, the Macy property was put on the market last year after Kay Macys' death. Many were worried, including her family, that the tradition of this 4th of July celebration would end when the property was sold. Thanks to the wonderful community members who helped to purchase a scenic easement on the two-acre Macy





Meadow and the wonderful buyers who elected to place permanent restrictions on the property and restore the existing historic house and barns, a conservation deal was made and the ever important 4th of July tradition continued.

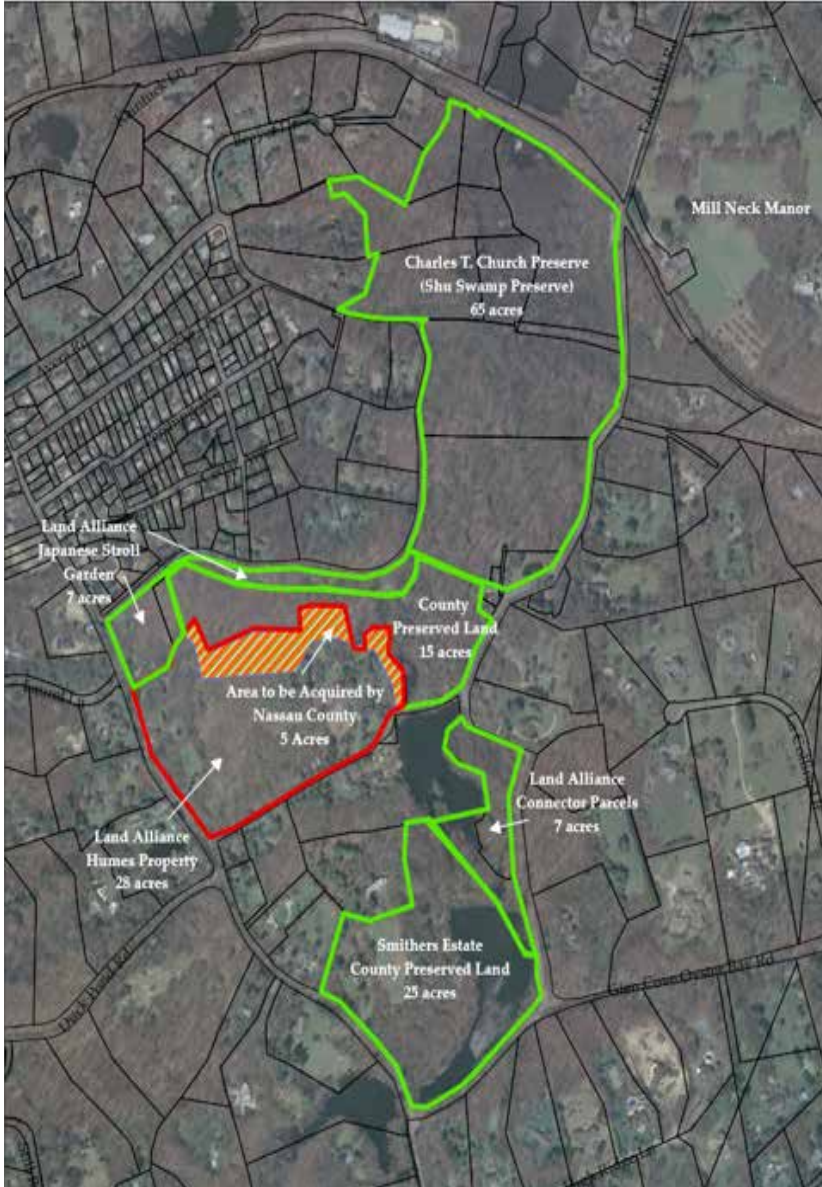
Uncle Sam, – played by John Stickney, one of Kay Macy’s sons-in-law – welcomed the community and was followed by two speeches. The first was by Lloyd Harbor resident Dr. Libby O’Connell, Chief Historian Emeritus at The History Channel, who was appointed by President Obama to serve on the US World War I Centennial Commission. Libby, who also serves as chairwoman of the World War I Centennial Committee for New York City, spoke about the 100th anniversary of the United States entry into World War

I. Long-time Lloyd Harbor resident Debbie Solbert, who was one of the original organizers of the annual 4th of July parade and hosted the parade for its first five years, gave the second speech. Debbie spoke about the early years of the parade and how she passed the torch to Kay as host and organizer when she and her husband were relocated to Europe for business. Uncle Sam thanked all present, especially Jane and John McConnachie, the current owners of the property, for allowing this wonderful community tradition to continue. The McConnachie’s, who’ve already begun an historic restoration of the Macy home, welcomed paradegoers in for a tour.

The Land Alliance was proud to be a participant and a conduit in this wonderful conservation story!



Five-Acre Land Sale to Nassau County



Over the past year, the Land Alliance has been working with Nassau County to sell five acres at the northerly and easterly perimeter of the Humes property to the County for conservation purposes. Nassau County is acquiring the property to fulfill a consent order with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA is allowing the County to acquire land that improves groundwater resources in lieu of paying a fine. They also require that the land purchased be preserved in perpetuity. Closing is anticipated by the end of the year.

This heavily wooded section is immediately adjacent to 15 acres already owned by Nassau County that was purchased in 2008 as part of the County's Environmental Bond Program. The County land, which also adjoins the Shu Swamp Preserve and the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden, will be under the management of the Land Alliance. We look forward to working with the County and the North Shore Wildlife Sanctuary to complete a nearly four-mile trail which will seamlessly cross property boundaries and incorporate a 150-acre wildlife corridor in the middle of one of the County's most biodiverse watersheds.

The subdivision process for this transaction was recently completed. We would like to thank the Village of Mill Neck, Village of Matinecock and the Nassau County Planning Commission for their help and commitment in preserving this property. We would also like to thank the Nassau County Legislature for its support of this project and for the pro bono assistance of attorney Tom Hogan. He helped us navigate the subdivision process. This transaction involved multiple partners at various levels of government, making it both a time-consuming and an incredibly rewarding project.

This sale was also very helpful to the Land Alliance in retiring a portion of the \$2.5 million in debt that remains from the 2015 acquisition of the Humes Estate.

Preservation of the Rumpus House



We are very pleased to announce that a preservation buyer has been found for the elegant Rumpus House, the main residence at the 28-acre Humes Estate in Mill Neck. As you may recall, the Land Alliance purchased the Humes property in 2015 for conservation purposes. At that time, it was necessary to take on \$3 million of debt to finance the sale. With repayment of debt as our priority, upkeep on the eight structures that exist on the property (each in various states of disrepair) has become quite challenging.

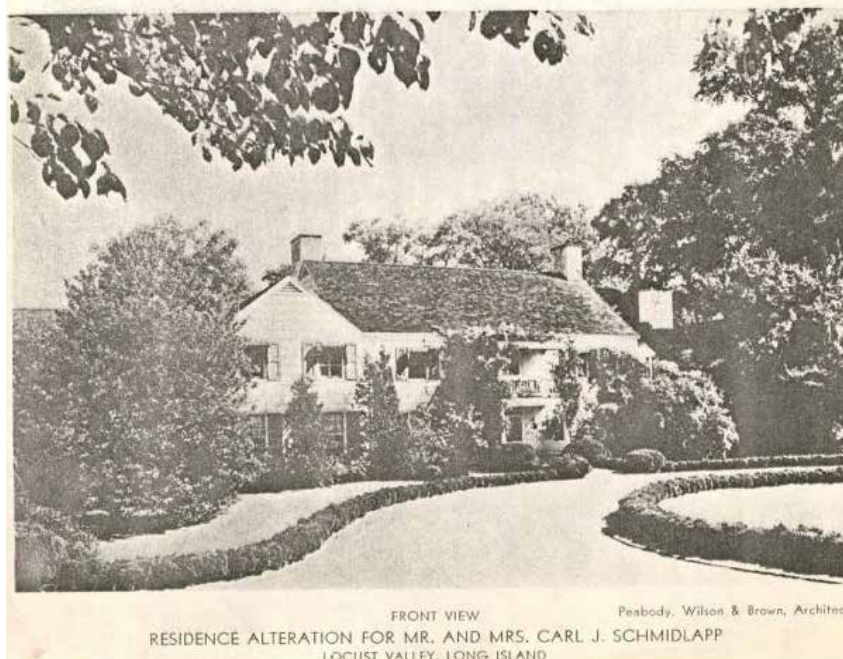
Earlier this summer, we began to look for a very special buyer who would restore the house and its adjoining structures, and place a conservation easement over the meadow in front of the house. Those of you who have been Land Alliance members for some time may remember the similar successful restoration of the Trousdell House in the hamlet of Oyster Bay.

In mid October, we found just that buyer – a well-known family with historic preservation experience, a love for the land and the resources necessary to return this stately house to its original greatness. Contracts have been drawn up and the process to subdivide the acres necessary to make a legal lot has begun.

Furthermore, the partitioning of this section of the property will not impact the Land Alliance's plans for a public trail system and will help us retire our existing loans on the Humes property.

In the Land Alliance's history, we've gone out on a few limbs to purchase properties with great conservation and/or cultural value. And, thankfully, time and time again our community has seen the value of these efforts and stepped in to be supportive. We hope you are as pleased as we are that this historically significant place will soon have fresh new life breathed back into it.

A Property Worthy of a Complete History



Have you ever walked into a place and wondered what stories the walls would tell if they could speak? In July of 2015, the Land Alliance purchased the 28-acre Humes property in Mill Neck for conservation purposes. While the property, consisting of meadows, woodlands and freshwater wetlands, was protected primarily for its conservation value, it also hosts eight intriguing structures ranging from a grand house to a bomb shelter/wine cellar/greenhouse combination, each asking for a story of their own.

For starters, in 1650 Peter Stuyvesant sent representatives to negotiate the Treaty of Hartford which established a fixed border between the Dutch and the English colonies in North America. The agreed upon line ran through Oyster Bay and followed the water line of Shu Brook that flows into the upper and lower Francis Ponds through the southeast corner of the Humes property and into Shu Swamp. Later in 1667, the settlement at Oyster Bay received its charter and the Township of Oyster Bay, which included the Humes property, was established. Documentation about who inhabited Humes at the time the historic border was drawn is not readily available. Could it have been early Dutch settlers? The Matinecock Indians? Or both?

According to records dating back to 1810, the Tavern House located on Oyster Bay Road was once a roadhouse called the “Red Skin Tavern” and owned by Valentine Merritt. Was it a legitimate tavern or something else? The small building next door, later called the Cook’s Cottage, was originally known to have been a store supplying travelers in horse and buggy along what was probably a dirt road.

Research provided by Preservation Long Island (previously the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities or SPLIA) suggests that the first recorded structure on the property, most likely a farmhouse, dates to 1740. Here’s some historical context: In 1740 Samuel Townsend purchased the property now known as Raynham Hall in Oyster Bay Hamlet. Records show that in 1859 the property transferred to Mrs. J. Baker and in 1914 to G. Allen.

Recent history is easier to confirm. In 1927 Carl Jacob Schmidlapp, Vice President and founder of the Chase National Bank, and Francis Cooper Klein Schmidlapp, purchased the property as a country home at a time when a more rural life involving sports, animals and gardening became the style. Shortly after the

Schmidlapps purchased the Mill Neck property, they retained the architectural firm of Peabody, Wilson & Brown to design an expansion of the home which they later named Rumpus House. The existing structure grew to an 8,400-square-foot, 22-room Colonial Revival and featured an 800-square-foot living room, a banquet-sized dining room, seven bedrooms and baths, six fireplaces and maid's quarters.

While the original landscape architect is not known, there is supposition that Ellen Biddle Shipman, one of America's first and foremost female landscape architects (who did several projects with Peabody, Wilson & Brown on Long Island) might have done the work. Images of the front of Rumpus House and the formal English garden at the back are suggestive of her work. Ferruccio Vitale is documented as the designer of the gunite pool and cabana built just above the Rumpus House. Subsequent designs, after 1930, were attributed to Innocenti & Webel Landscape Architects.

The Schmidlapps' daughter Jean Cooper Schmidlapp who inherited the property was born on December 24, 1924. She attended The Green Vale School and Foxcroft, graduated from Vassar College with a BA in 1945 and went on to Cornell University Medical College where she received her MD in 1949. The following year she married John Portner Humes.

In 1950 the Tavern House, at the opposite end of the property, was remodeled and expanded as a residence for Jean and John Humes. Subsequently, a pool and pool house and a very unique bomb shelter/wine cellar/greenhouse were constructed nearby. John was a partner in Andrews & Botzow in New York from 1956 until 1969 and during that time he and Colton P. Wagner founded Humes and Wagner in Locust Valley. One of John's clients is believed to have been Mitsubishi Shoji. This relationship required that he travel to Japan. In 1960 he and Jean visited Kyoto gardens, which inspired them to create a Japanese Stroll Garden on their property.

In 1969, President Nixon appointed John as Ambassador to Austria, where he served until 1975. For the remainder of their lives, Jean and John resided in their apartment in New York City and in Locust Valley. John passed away in 1985. After Jean passed away in 2000, the estate was inherited by their children, most of whom no longer lived in the area. The Humes property was first placed on the market in 2002. In 2008 Nassau County, with proceeds from the Environmental Bond Program, purchased 15 acres of the Humes estate for open space purposes and in 2014 the family began negotiations with the Land Alliance for the sale of the remaining 35 acres.

As you can see, there are many historical questions yet to be answered about the Humes Estate. This property was purchased because the Land Alliance believes it is significant to our community's cultural heritage and environmental health. In the next few months, the Land Alliance will be exploring grant opportunities to assist us in compiling a full history of this very special place. Until then, we would be grateful for any memories, pictures or anecdotes that can help us weave together the parts of this property's long and distinguished life.

"We are made wise not only by the recollection of our past but by the responsibility of our future."

George Bernard Shaw



The Reincarnation of an Historic Trellis



Before

After many, many months of work, the historic wisteria trellis at Wawapek has finally been re-built. The project began with a very challenging removal of the former trellis system which consisted of extremely overgrown wisteria, invasive species, including mile-a-minute vine, and a web of disintegrating locust posts. This phase required heavy equipment and its successful completion far exceeded our initial budget projections!

From there, it took several weeks just to disassemble the structure and pull out the old trellis posts. After studying historic trellis construction and consulting with local contractors and gardeners who have experience assembling such trellises, Land Alliance Director of Conservation Stephen Searl developed a plan to build a new trellis in approximately the same footprint as the old one. Locust posts were identified as the appropriate material to use to rebuild the trellis, so our team set out to find a source. Little did we know; locust posts are nearly impossible to find.

The Land Alliance turned immediately to its core group of volunteers for help in both locating a source for locust trees and harvesting them for this project.



After

Volunteers included Martin Wenz, Ken Krumenacker, Richard Kopsco, Joel Shaw and Elina Thatcher; as well as new friends from St. John's Church in Cold Spring Harbor who lent a tremendously helpful and timely hand.

Our team spent the first several months of this summer felling appropriately-sized locust trees-most of which came from a stand of locusts located in Matheson Meadow in Lloyd Harbor. From there, many hot days were spent lugging and trucking 15-foot logs from Matheson Meadow in Lloyd Harbor to Wawapek.





These locust logs were then installed as the posts and beams of the new trellis. Everyone who worked on the project, staff and volunteers included, became very familiar with drills, bolts and locust posts.

This was certainly the most ambitious volunteer project in the Land Alliance’s history and we’re incredibly grateful to our dedicated group of volunteers. The restoration of the historic arbor at Wawapek would not have happened without our volunteers and the financial backing of a grant from the Leventhal Family.

Please join us next spring as we install the plantings which will bring this project to a close. Choices include native plants such as trumpet vine which will be beautiful, sustainable and great attractions for

pollinators and particularly hummingbirds.

We are also pleased to report that additional progress is being made at Wawapek. The Dr. Lee McCormick Edwards pollinator garden is growing strong and even self-seeded some new plants. There is new deer fencing around the fruit trees created out of bamboo harvested from the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden. Stewardship staff has begun clearing invasive vines from the trees around the field to increase their individual health and overall habitat value. And, last but certainly not least, we expect to retire our \$240,000 in remaining debt on this property in 2018!

Many thanks to Stephen Searl for leading this mighty effort.



The Humes Japanese Stroll Garden is Open



On October 24th, the much-awaited re-opening of the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden took place. It couldn't have been a more beautiful fall day for old friends to stroll up through the layers of the garden, which many had not seen for years, reacquainting themselves with the beautiful plants and the serenity that such a garden inspires. At the end of their journey, members gathered near the tea house to sip apple cider, eat cookies and catch up on the garden's future and past.

After its acquisition in May, it took several months for a weekly crew of volunteers, under the guidance of Stroll Garden Docent, and now Manager, Mary Schmutz, to get the garden back in shape. Every Thursday morning for months, Mary patiently counseled community

members about the delicate processes used to remove dead bamboo, rake leaves off the gravel paths and groom the now verdant moss terrace.

Getting this garden back to its former beauty has been a team effort and we are thankful to our Stroll Garden Friends group, all who helped with stewardship efforts and later called to express their enthusiasm for the project. We welcome you to come, visit and find a quiet place to experience a serene moment which this garden was designed to create.

The garden will be open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm in November. The garden will be closed after the first freeze.



Humes Meadow Restoration



This approximately 12-acre meadow in the middle of the Humes 28-acre property had been left to grow for a decade or two when we acquired the property in 2015. The picture above was taken on New Year's Eve 2014 just prior to the acquisition.

A big mess, but not hopeless... After a season or two of hand clearing areas where logs and trash had been dumped, partial mowing of one section, having a small crew of goats graze another and some cutting of porcelain-berry vines by volunteer Peter Gollobin, we've made some progress. A one-time mow of a couple of acres in 2016 revealed that there are some desirable native plants, such as goldenrod, in the seed bank.

And goat grazing has discouraged some of the invasive multiflora rose, porcelain-berry and English ivy. BUT WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO!

Thanks to Wine Auction contributors who pledged \$21,000 to help us restore this meadow, we can now launch a mowing regime of twice annual mowing of the whole site for two years; the donations will also cover the cost of additional debris removal, maintenance of brush piles, development and maintenance of a path around the edge of the meadow and installation of a trail kiosk and/or bird boxes. Work is scheduled to begin this winter.



Humes Meadow Appeal Contributors

Mr. Carter Bales	Mr. and Mrs. Hoyle Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Barakat	Mr. and Mrs. Radford Klotz
Mr. and Mrs. Teb Barnard	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Leiber
Mr. and Mrs. John Bralower	Ms. Carolyn MacDonald
Mr. and Mrs. Chip Cammerer	Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Meister
Ms. Colleen Carson	Mr. David Nardiello
Mr. and Mrs. Alberto Cassola	Mr. and Mrs. Hugh O'Kane
Mr. and Mrs. John Colgate	Ms. Karen Sharf
Mr. and Mrs. George Eberle	Mr. and Mrs. David Stark
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ely	Ms. Olivia Szczerba
Mr. and Mrs. John Gellert	Mr. and Mrs. Dave Tuveson
Ms. Elana Hoffman	Mr. and Mrs. Martin Wenz

Beaver Brook BioBlitz



Photo Credit: Zihao Wang



Photo Credit: Nick Dubin



Photo Credit: Seth Ausubel



Photo Credit: Daniel Atha

Readers of our spring newsletter learned that a bioblitz is an inventory of species living in a given area at a given time: a snapshot of life on a particular day. It usually includes multiple taxa, or groups of species, such as plants, birds, mammals, insects and “herps” (amphibians and reptiles). It may take place on a single property or cover natural areas throughout a region. It might span half a day or a 48-hour period.

The Land Alliance, working with a stalwart crew of 35 volunteers, hosted its first such event, a Beaver Brook BioBlitz, on Saturday, June 3rd. The morning started off gray (not the best weather for surveying insects!) but before long the sun emerged. Surveys took place from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Upper Brookville and Mill Neck properties throughout the Beaver Brook watershed: Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve, Planting Fields Arboretum, Upper Francis Pond, the Humes Estate and Shu Swamp. Expert naturalists led the investigations and were assisted by citizen scientists recording data. It was a great opportunity for dedicated individuals to learn to identify a diversity of species, try their hands (i.e. struggle!) with iNaturalist, a data

collection app, and explore the beauty of the Beaver Brook watershed’s undeveloped lands and waters that make this corridor highly significant for wildlife.

Experts, who also volunteered their time, included staff and members of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Hofstra University, the Long Island Botanical Society, New York Botanical Garden, SUNY Farmingdale and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Among the 514-species documented that day were six mammals, seven fish, 54 birds, 337 plants and 103 arthropods. (These animals, including insects and spiders and crustaceans, have an exoskeleton, a segmented body and paired jointed appendages.)

While none of the species observed is threatened or endangered, several observations were noteworthy. One-flowered cancer-root (*Orobanche uniflora*), for example, observed at Planting Fields, is unusual, according to naturalist Rich Kelly, who was instrumental in organizing the BioBlitz. Black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), we were told by the New York Botanical Garden’s



Photo Credit: Zihao Wang



Photo Credit: Van Cushny

Daniel Atha, “is a boreal, swamp species that survives in isolated pockets south of the glacial boundary. Like all American ash species, it is threatened by the Emerald Ash Borer.” Also, significant, commented NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Aquatic Biologist Heidi O’Riordan, was “finding several age classes of healthy brook trout. They are our state fish and require nearly pristine waters for survival. There are widespread efforts up and down the coast to protect the existing populations and restore populations where they were historically. The population there has been supplemented by stockings from Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery and Aquarium, but they are surviving and reproducing on their own” in Beaver Brook. In addition, while leading an exploration of Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve botanist Andy Greller, also a BioBlitz planner, found a large patch of pipsissewa (*Chimaphila umbellata*) called it a “shocker”, saying he’d “never seen more anywhere.”

At midday, we gathered at the Hay Barn at Planting Fields, where park visitors visiting our information table learned about the vital Beaver Brook corridor and the diverse wildlife and plant communities it supports and from where Rich Kelly launched a walk in the Arboretum’s Synoptic Garden.

The BioBlitz substantiated what many of its participants already knew: the Beaver Brook watershed contains hundreds of acres of protected woodlands, wetlands, ponds and meadows that provide invaluable habitat for wildlife. Their connectivity and their value to preserving our underground water supply are additional reasons why the North Shore Land Alliance and its partners are so actively protecting land there.

Thank you to our many volunteers

Lead Naturalists and Organizers

Daniel Atha, Seth Ausubel, Phil Benvin*, Peter Daniel*, John Fischer, Andy Greller*, Tom Hornofsky, Carol Johnston, Rich Kelly*, Al Lindberg*, Lois Lindberg*, Eric Morgan, Mary Normandia, Heidi O’Riordan*, Eric Rosowoski, Zihao Wang

Citizen Scientists

Aimee Adamo, Nicholas Chatel, Anne Codey, Van Cushny, Ken Dubin, Nickolas Dubin, Karin Gluth, Shunna Ide, Sue Ide, Nancy Kaplan, Mark Kenny, Dan Kriesberg, Alix Michel, Rayna Roy, Marcia Skolnick, Lisa Sweeney, Nolan Sweeney, Birgit Woelker, Madeleine Zember

*Extra gratitude goes to these naturalists who donated their time to attending planning meetings and leading participants on the big day. The BioBlitz would not have happened without them.

The Emerald Ash Borer Has Been Spotted in Brooklyn



While we knew it was just a matter of time before the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) (*Agrilus planipennis*) reached Long Island, we were saddened by last month’s news that this extremely damaging invasive beetle had been documented in Prospect Park in Brooklyn, thanks to diligent monitoring that the Prospect Park Alliance has been carrying out for several years. At least three of ten trees, along Ocean Avenue at the southeast edge of the Park, suspected of hosting the beetle were confirmed by Cornell University to be affected; the three trees were removed and any others confirmed affected will also be removed over the next few months. This is the first known infestation in New York City which is home to 51,000 ash trees. As explained by the Prospect Park Alliance’s website news page, the beetles’ “larvae kill trees by burrowing into the inner bark and thus interrupting the circulation of water and vital nutrients. EAB-infested trees are characterized by thin crowns, sprouts on the trunks of the trees, and the signature d-shaped exit holes adult beetles leave on trees’ bark. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s useful brochure on the beetle, tree identification and EAB detection can be found at: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/eabearlydetect.pdf.

Photo Source: By Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Forestry Archive (Forestry Images)

Highlights of Our 2017 Walks in the Woods



March 25, Belmont State Park with Andy Greller - We had just barely gotten beyond the parking area and lake during this fascinating and popular (yes!!) lichens exploration when astute participants spotted two Eastern Screech Owls.



June 17, Garden City Bird Sanctuary with Patrick DiCaprio - On a misty June morning at this large sump-turned-nature preserve just south of the railroad tracks in Garden City, we noticed a gecko not quite fully camouflaged!



June 10, Shoreham-Wading River Forest with John Turner - Just as we were entering the serene Shoreham-Wading River Forest we encountered this young male box turtle in his DayGlo finery. Our Land Alliance/Sierra Club group also came across some mighty big rocks.



and Other Cool Things to Do Outside



Kayak the Shore

Our two kayak trips explored the natural beauty of Oyster Bay and Cold Spring Harbor. A grand time was had by all, including the dozen or so cormorants keeping an eye on us as we passed their float.



Father's Day Bike Ride

Riders of all skill levels joined the Land Alliance for our first bike ride. Riders made their way along the winding roads, up steep hills and down on Long Island's north shore.



November 5, William Cullen Bryant Preserve with Jean Henning Sandwiched between rainstorms, our stroll led us through a variety of sculptures and natural communities along a continuum from man-made to wild.

"Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean."

John Muir

2018 Walks in the Woods



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

- **Sunday, January 7, 9:30 a.m., Stella Miller, Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge, Sag Harbor** - We'll talk about winter birds and enjoy the company of hungry chickadees, nuthatches and tufted titmice that will avail themselves to us. Co-listed with the Sierra Club.
- **Saturday, February 10, 2:00 p.m., Amanda Furcall, Wawapek, Cold Spring Harbor** - This family-friendly nature-journaling program will include indoor and outdoor activities led by our Associate Director of Stewardship, who is also a very talented artist and writer!
- **Sunday, March 31, 11:00 a.m., Virginia Dankel, Great Neck South Junior High School. Visit virgin forest on the grounds of the school!**
- **Saturday, April 28, 8:00 a.m., Barbara Garriel, Humes Estate, Mill Neck** - Veteran birder Barbara will lead a spring migration program at this special property. Some of the most active locations for birds may surprise you!
- **Sunday, May 19, 10:00 a.m., John Turner, Makamah Nature Preserve, Fort Salonga** - John will lead us through this fascinating suburban wetland preserve to explore the plants and wildlife that call it home.



- **Friday, June 29, 7:00 p.m., Eric Powers, Blydenburgh State Park** - We'll be starting not long before dusk to learn about bats before we see them on the trail!
- **Thursday, July 26, 6:00 p.m., Mankh, Humes Japanese Stroll Garden** - Mankh, whose poetry and haiku are much loved, will lead a program in the legendary Stroll Garden - also much loved!
- **Saturday, August 18, 10:00 a.m. – Tim Dooley and Aiden Feeney, Youngs Farm and other nearby farms** - As harvest time approaches, these farm managers will lead us on tours of some of Nassau County's treasured farms.
- **Saturday, September 22, 2:00 p.m., Yvonne Berger, Shore Road Sanctuary, Cold Spring Harbor (and possibly Centre Island Beach)** - In this photograph program, Yvonne will introduce us to the tricks of the trade during the Monarch butterfly migration.
- **Sunday, October 7, 4:15 p.m., Peter Martin, Jones Beach West End, Merrick** - Land and shorebirds galore, abundant insect watching and a delightful sunset (or storm clouds or rainbow?) are on the agenda this fall at this world class nature site.
- **Saturday, October 20, 10:00 a.m., Andy Greller, Cranberry Bog County Nature Preserve, Riverhead** - Explore this magnificent 165-acre preserve, complete with abundant fresh water, a diversity of wildlife and carnivorous plants, when it is at its most beguiling.
- **Saturday, November 3, 11:00 a.m., Russell Burke, Fox Hollow Preserve, Laurel Hollow** - How do Long Island's frogs, toads and salamanders get through the winter? Russell will explain overwintering strategies on this exploration of this much-loved preserve.
- **Sunday, December 2, 11:00 a.m., Jane Jackson, Oaces Preserve, Muttontown** - This woodland gem's undulating hills, tucked away in obscurity behind suburban landscapes, has managed to maintain a healthy population of native groundcovers, shrubs and trees that we'll explore.

For more information, please contact Jane Jackson at 516-922-1028 x 203 jjackson@northshorelandalliance.org.

"Take a quiet walk with mother nature it will nurture your mind, body and soul."

Anthony Douglas Williams

Educational Signs at Shore Road Sanctuary



If you have not yet visited Shore Road Sanctuary (the former ExxonMobil site) in Cold Spring Harbor, it's worth the trip. The property was once an eyesore; operated as a fueling site it had four large oil tanks that greeted residents on their morning commute and sailors and boaters as they enter the harbor. When operations ceased and DEC requirements for remediation were met, the Land Alliance took ownership and began managing it as a grassland in 2013.

Since then the grasses have flourished, adding nutrients to the severely depleted soil, and hundreds of children have explored this habitat through our Long Island Water Education Program. Shore Road has also become the favorite preserve of one of our long-time volunteers Anne Codey. When in 2016 her husband, John, passed away she wanted to honor his memory by improving and adding educational value to this property for future generations.

When Anne looks at the site's variety of natural communities she sees layers of life and interactions

that many visitors miss. For years she has been sharing those insights with the students in the Water Education Program, leading them through the swaying grasses, stopping to examine grasshoppers, and marveling over the patch of prickly pear cactus.

Anne wanted to share that with every visitor to the property so she asked that donations made in her husband's name be put toward making three educational signs, one for each habitat type: grassland, wet meadow, and salt marsh. Amanda Furcall, Associate Director of Stewardship (and artist extraordinaire!), has been creating these interpretive signs. The work in progress for the grassland is pictured above.

Nature illustration can be a window into the secret lives of animals and plants and their complex relationships with the environment. It is our hope that these portrayals of life on Shore Road will help visitors appreciate its habitat values and honor John Codey's life.

Long Island Water Education Program Grows 4,150 students - 17 schools - Nine school districts



As 2017 draws to a close, we are pleased to report that our Water Education Program has reached thousands of students across Nassau and western Suffolk Counties since its launch three years ago.

Little did we dream when we launched the three-session program in fall 2014 that it would so quickly become requested by so many partners. For its first three school years, we offered it at no cost to schools because we thought it was incredibly important for school children to understand the source of their drinking water and that the actions they take on the land impact the water below. The program was funded mostly by an anonymous donor, the New York State Conservation Partnership Program and the Long Island Sound Futures Fund.

But its popularity has necessitated some changes this fall. First, we've listed the program through Nassau and Western Suffolk BOCES and have begun to charge a modest fee to those schools who can afford to subsidize the lessons. Fortunately, a generous grant from the Scotts Miracle Grow Foundation is underwriting the cost for us to continue to offer the program for free to new schools or schools that cannot afford to pay.

Second, we've made changes to our field trip to Shore Road Sanctuary in Cold Spring Harbor. Currently, the trip consists of "stations" through which groups of students rotate:

- one on the shoreline, where students explore the beach and salt marsh habitat
- one in the grassland, where students learn the value and rarity of this vital community
- a pollinator game at the property entrance, where students learn about threats to pollinators and what individuals can do to help them

This fall, we've added a "touch tank" station that is led by WaterFront Center educators. Here, students can meet and hold live animals that inhabit our local harbors and Long Island Sound. In October one of our classroom teachers visiting Shore Road with his students commented that he "didn't think it was possible to improve on the field trip but [we] have!"

Many thanks to our volunteers, our generous donors and to the teachers and students who have made this program such a success.

Year Two of the Joyce and William O'Neil Stewards Program A Great Success



Henry Freundlich, Lauren D'Orsa, Jeanine Swift, Zach Johnson

Thanks to a generous five-year endowment by the Joyce C. and William C. O'Neil Charitable Trust, the Land Alliance launched its summer college intern program in May 2016. Every year the program gives four students aspiring to careers in conservation a variety of hands-on tasks, building their skill sets and knowledge base. For our stewardship team, having enthusiastic interns for their summer busy season means that the Land Alliance can tackle many more projects.

Our interns this summer were Henry Freundlich, who is an Environmental Studies major at the University of Vermont, Zachary Johnson, a biology major at Farmingdale University, Jeanine Swift who holds a degree in international relations from Seton Hall University, and Lauren D'Orsa, a masters student in Hofstra University's sustainability program. Each one brought their own passions and experiences to the job.

This summer the Joyce and William O'Neil Stewards familiarized themselves with Land Alliance preserves, expanded their knowledge of local ecosystems, and aided in fundraisers and event planning. For all four interns, their dedication to the job and to being great environmental stewards made it possible to accomplish a lot, from preserve management to fundraising to public education and outreach. The team of stewards also helped monitor conservation easements and write reports. They cared for our preserves by organizing and leading a corporate volunteer day, managing invasive plants, working on the Wawapek arbor, planting natives, and maintaining our growing trail network.

The stewards learned about the development side of land trust work by staffing a thank-you party for Macy Meadow supporters and our annual Golf Outing and Heritage Society event. They helped organize the summer fly-fishing and kayak events which were met with great enthusiasm from Long Islanders looking for more active things to do outside.

Ever ambitious, these four students also found time to work on individual projects. Jeanine designed and promoted a family-friendly educational walk and leaf printing craft to introduce children to nature. Zach's knowledge of plants helped him plan and lead stewardship activities such as surveying and removal of invasive plants at Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve. Henry was our photographer on tap for many events and created a video submission for a Land Trust Alliance contest, complete with beautiful shots of our preserves and voiceovers from the staff about the value of preserving land. Lauren did an extensive soil analysis and reported on her findings.

Having the O'Neil Stewards program for a second year has again increased the Land Alliance's capacity and allowed us to more fully realize our mission of land protection, public education and stewardship. For our Stewards, the summer was not only educational but fun and formative, in a way that working long days with a small cadre of like-minded people can be. Of the program they said:

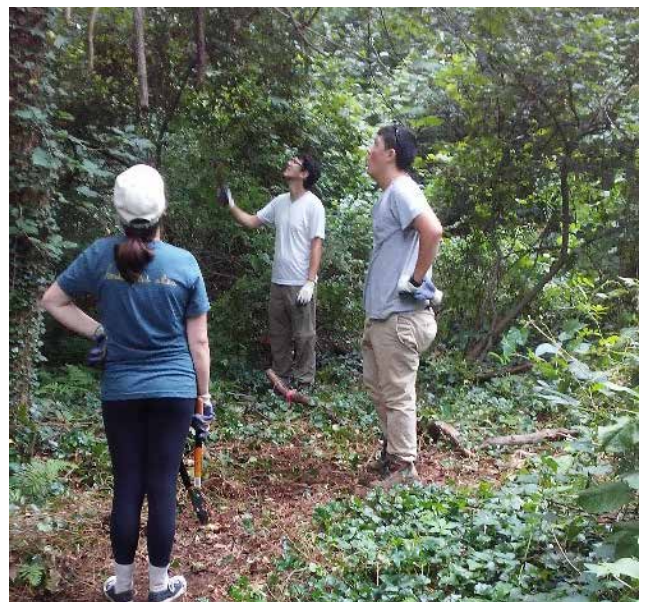
"I learned what it takes to run a land trust, acquire and steward land and run successful events. I took something positive out of every day and left feeling like I made a real impact." - Henry Freundlich

"Throughout the summer I felt supported by all the Land Alliance staff. The balance between indoor and outdoor work was perfect and grant writing was a great experience for me." - Jeanine Swift

"I was able to have independence and take initiative on tasks. I most enjoyed the outdoor work and felt that I was really helping the mission." - Zachary Johnson

"I loved working as a group, relying on each other; I would recommend this internship to anyone who wants to save the world!" - Lauren D'Orsa

We are always looking for young people with a passion for the environment. If you know a college student who is interested in the program, please contact our Associate Director of Stewardship Amanda Furcall at 516-922-1028 or amanda@northshorelandalliance.org.



Eagle Scout Candidate with Troop #323 Restores Trail at Roosevelt Preserve



Wantagh Eagle Scout candidate Ethan Rockitter organized his Boy Scout Troop #323 to get up early on Sunday, September 10th to work with the Land Alliance to restore a long-inaccessible trail at Nassau County's beautiful 73-acre Roosevelt Preserve in Roosevelt. (Ethan's older brother, Justin, completed his Hornaday Award project at our Fox Hollow Preserve several years ago.) The site of many an Earth Day event and cleanup the Land Alliance has organized, the preserve had one of its trails to fallen trees and overgrown vegetation. The crew of a dozen boys and a few fathers spent the

morning removing trash and other debris along what in the past was a trail connecting the Elizabeth St. entrance to other preserve trails, and a storm drain which is a great location for lessons on stormwater runoff and where trash can wind up when you through it down a storm drain! Additional work included building step supports to make the path less steep and installing arrow markers to guide walkers. The trail had been inaccessible for about five years but now, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Ethan and his troop, entering the preserve from Elizabeth St. is easy again.

Create a Lasting Legacy of Land Conservation

Consider remembering the North Shore Land Alliance in your will now so you may help continue to protect important lands for future generations.

Planned gifts through a will or bequest are one of the easiest and most flexible ways to preserve important lands after you are gone and ensure that future generations have access to beautiful natural areas.

For more information please contact
Nina Muller at 516-922-1028 or
nina@northshorelandalliance.org



Volunteer Corner, Fall 2017



We are very grateful to the many volunteers who helped us by leading *Walks in the Woods* and Other Cool Things to Do Outside, maintaining and improving our preserves, assisting with our Water Education Program as well as in the office and at fundraising events. From watering the goats to weeding new planting areas at Clark and Shore Road and from trail maintenance and invasive plant removal at ALL OUR preserves to selling raffle tickets at the Wine and Spirit Auction, our volunteers are the best!

In each issue, we like to feature a specific project and the people involved in making a difference there. This summer a Thursday morning crew, led by manager Mary Schmutz, breathed life back into the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden. From containing invasive bamboo to unearthing trails, mosses and native plants, they made a big difference and we are in their debt.



The Perfect Earth Project



On November 15th, the Land Alliance, in conjunction with the North Country Garden Club, hosted a presentation by Edwina von Gal. After many years as a successful landscape designer, Edwina has launched a non-profit organization called the Perfect Earth Project. The mission of the Perfect Earth Project is to raise consciousness about the dangers of synthetic lawn and garden chemicals to humans, animals, and the environment, and educate homeowners and professionals about natural, PRFCT (toxin-free) techniques that provide beautiful, safe results at no extra cost.

America's lawns and gardens have long been fed a steady diet of fertilizers, pesticides, and weed killers, and the idea of abandoning such methods has never been an easy sell, despite mounting safety concerns about these substances. But Edwina, as one of the country's most lauded landscape experts, has used her experience creating gorgeous settings while honing environmentally friendly techniques to bring new credibility to the topic. Along the way she has attracted legions of influential supporters and clients, among them, Cindy Sherman, Ina Garten. Calvin Klein.

Edwina believes a garden can be both beautiful and safe and she provided attendees with some tips on how to do just that!

Keep your lawn healthy by doing the following:

- Fall is the time for seeding, feeding, and aerating your lawn. Weeds grow in warm weather, grass prefers cool...that means the best time to fix the lawn is... fall, right now.
- If there are bare areas in your lawn, reseed now, the grass can fill in and weeds will have no place to grow in the spring!
- For areas that are always a problem, look for the cause.
- If compacted: break up or aerate the soil.
- Replace or amend poor soil with organic, weed free compost or new soil.
- Too much shade? Try a shade tolerant grass or consider a Long Island native groundcover like Pennsylvania sedge and mow it just once a year.

Create more pollinator friendly habitats.

- Do not apply broadcast sprays for mosquitos and ticks, especially synthetic products. Broadcast sprays kill all insects, not just pests. Even organic sprays can be toxic to bees and butterflies.
- If you plan on having an event or are especially concerned about ticks or mosquitos, apply a plant-based essential oil-based spray using a pressurized pump sprayer with a long arm that can get into small spaces. Only spray in early morning or evening when pollinators are less active.
- Plant native plants to support native insect populations. Many insects are dependent on specific plants for shelter and food (think monarchs and milkweed), and many native crops

(think tomatoes and eggplants) are dependent on native insects for pollination.

- Plant host plants, not just flowers. Before you can have a garden full of butterflies, you need to provide a food source for their caterpillars. Keep in mind that these plants will get munched, but you might not even notice the damage.
- Pollinators get dehydrated, so provide a water source for your bees and butterflies. To prevent your bug bath from becoming a mosquito breeding ground, change the water frequently.

Many thanks to Edwina for such a terrific program. For more information about the Perfect Earth Project, check out their website at www.perfectearthproject.org.



“And forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair.”

- Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet

Annual Members Appreciation Day



On June 4th, Land Alliance members were invited to join us at Wawapek preserve in Cold Spring Harbor for a Family Day Picnic. Guests started the morning with gentle physical exercises and mindful stretching techniques led by yoga instructor Sophie Lee followed Tai Chi with instructor Jeff Pastoressa. Families also had the opportunity to walk and play along the paths of the August Reese Donohue Nature Trail as they searched for clues to our scavenger hunt game. The afternoon included a wildlife demonstration by Volunteers for Wildlife and a magic performance by David Funn Party.

The Land Alliance truly appreciates our members. Your support is critical to our ability to conserve natural areas and educate the public about how important land conservation is to overall community health.

An enthusiastic thank you to Land Alliance volunteers Marcia Skolnick and Eileen Rossi for helping us with this event. And a huge thank you to Whole Foods in Jericho for supplying fresh fruits for our guests.



Land Alliance Elects New Trustee



Theodore B. Smith, III serves as Managing Director of Canrock Ventures, an early-stage venture fund, and the Geier Group LLC. and has a consulting company, Piping Rock Advisors, LLC, for investment/venture consulting.

Ted earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Art History from Colgate University and completed the Stanford Executive Program, as well as the Harvard Business School Programs for Management Development. Ted sits on several boards including Global Telecom & Technology, Inc. (GTT), Sentiment Alpha, Crowdster, a peer-to-peer crowd engagement platform for events, and Personal Wines (Pervino, Inc) among others.

Ted grew up in our community and is married to Hope Smith. They have two children and live in Locust Valley. He is also actively involved with YPO/WPO International and a number of non-profits, including the Whitney Museum's Photography Committee and Autism Speaks. Ted looks forward to using his expertise to help the Land Alliance with its media-related, social engagement efforts.

Land Alliance Hires New Staff



Linda Rosenthal has joined the Land Alliance as Associate Director of Conservation Transactions. Linda comes to the Land Alliance from the Open Space Institute (OSI) where she served for seven years as a Senior Paralegal. While there she worked with counsel on all aspects of their land and conservation capital programs participating in a multitude of transactions involving acquisition and/or disposition of interests in land including fee, conservation easement, leases and licenses. Prior to her work at OSI, Linda worked for more than 20 years at the Trust for Public Land's New York office where she was a part of more than conservation 500 transactions.

Linda grew up on Long Island when it was a less developed place. She remembers well the joys of riding her bicycle from one end of the community to the other and looks forward to having a hand in protecting our precious remaining open spaces. She lives in Westbury with her husband and spends lots of time exploring protected places with her family. The Land Alliance is thrilled to welcome someone with such great experience to our conservation team.



Mary Schmutz has joined the Land Alliance as Manager of the John Humes P. Japanese Stroll Garden. Mary grew up on Long Island where she developed a love for natural places and Japanese culture. In 2000 Stephen Morrel, who was running the Stroll Garden at the time, needed a new gardener. Mary was an avid gardener but had no formal training and according to her Stephen "took a gamble," and hired her and became her mentor. From him she learned irreplaceable lessons and has found her time in the garden humbling and restorative.

For Mary the purpose of the garden is to get people to connect, to relax and breathe easier. She has cared for this unique and mesmerizing place these past 17 years and the Land Alliance is thrilled to have her experience and passion moving forward.

Open Space Society Dinner - A Celebration of Carter



More than one hundred Land Alliance supporters attended the Open Space Society dinner on Friday, June 23rd at Frog Songs – the home of Board Chair Carter Bales and his family. It was a beautiful evening overlooking Oyster Bay Harbor and the lush green Lloyd Harbor hillside. Guests strolled around the grounds admiring the beautiful gardens designed by Carter’s wife, Suzy.

Larry Schmidlapp, Carter’s longtime friend and fellow Land Alliance founding trustee, welcomed guests and spoke about Carter’s relentless drive and passion for the Land Alliance and the protection of our local

community. Larry recalled the early days, before the Land Alliance had organized, when he and Carter formed the Centre Island Land Trust. Residents on the North Shore were beginning to be concerned about how quickly the landscape was changing. Large estates and farms were being sold for development and natural resources they contained were disappearing right before their eyes. Larry thanked Carter for his dedication and commitment to conservation, which have been integral to making the Land Alliance the organization it is today. As a token of appreciation, the Board presented Carter with the first ever Land Alliance sports jacket with logo embroidered on its breast pocket.





Guest enjoyed a lovely dinner before the gently evening rains turned into a downpour. Luis Rinaldini closed the evening by adding how the early land transactions with county bonds, the now nearly 1,200 acres of protected land and more than 3,000 Land Alliance members, are monumental marks that Carter has made on the community.

Many thanks to the wonderful group of friends, family and supporters who came out that evening in honor of Carter – our hero and chief.



Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors

Ginny and David Knott
Lori and Roger Bahnik, the Bahnik Foundation

Cathy Chernoff, Pemmy Frick, Missy and Max Geddes, Reeta and Clive Holmes,
Botsy and Hoyle Jones, Lauren and Ragnar Knutsen, Martha and Gar Miller,
Elizabeth and Douglas Paul, Carol and Nick Paumgarten, Nancy Taylor,
Deborah and Karl Wellner, Peri and Martin Wenz, Beth and John Werwaiss

9th Annual *Fore the Love of the Land* Golf Outing



On Wednesday, July 12th, a picture-perfect summer morning, 80 golfers set out on the beautiful Charles MacDonald designed Piping Rock Club course in support of the conservation work of the North Shore Land Alliance. Event Co-Chairs O'Donnell Lee and Craig Weiss worked hard to make the day a success in every way from engaging their friends and business associates to ensuring that the format, food and prizes would be attractive to all who attended.

The golfers started their day with a continental breakfast and some practice time on the driving range. It was a best ball format with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. Teams began to return around 1:00 p.m. where they were treated to a delightful grilled lunch.

The awards ceremony started at 1:30p.m. where the individual low gross winners were Steve Crawford (72) and Hope Reese (101). The low net was a tie this year with a score of 53. The winning foursomes were comprised of Robert Zak, Brian McCann, John Mitchell, Steve Crawford and Sean Cronin, Matt

O'Grady, John Chiamonte and Alberto Fiorini. Winners of the longest drive competition were Nick Connors and Claudia Glavin. Dan Rifkin and Hope Reese won closest to the pin. Congratulations to all of the winners!

The prize for the hole-in-one at hole #17 was a thrilling \$25,000 cash prize provided by Bullen Insurance and the prize for hole #11 was a 24-month pre-paid lease for a 2017 5series AWD530xi from Rallye BMW. While a few came close, there were no hole-in-one winners this year, but there is always next year!

The Land Alliance prides itself in helping to connect people to the land we love. Along with raising funds to support land conservation, *Fore the Love of the Land* provides an opportunity for people to gather in one of Long Island's most beautiful recreational open spaces. Although only a few people walked away with trophies that day, everyone who participated in the spirit of land conservation was a winner in our book! Thanks to all for their participation and support!



Many thanks to our most generous sponsors:

Martin Elias and The Ike, Molly & Steven Elias Foundation of the Jewish Communal Fund
 Sterling Affair * Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty * The Bullen Insurance Group
 Rallye BMW * Americana Manhasset * Hugh O'Kane Electric Company

Botsy and Hoyle Jones * ABCO Peerless Sprinkler Company
 Albanese Organization * Cronin & Cronin Law Firm * Hallen Construction * Holderness & Bourne
 Lazer, Aptheker, Rosella & Yedid PC * Stewart Title * T. Weiss Realty Corporation

And a special thanks to our Contributors:

Americana Manhasset * Andrew Dubuque * Foxwoods Resort and Casino * Anonymous Donor
 Andrew Nevin * Ben Goodman * Emily & Scott McLellan * Scott Mitchell
 Tesla * Sean Quinlivan * Joe Willen, CEO & President of Advantage Title

Record Attendance at 14th Annual Wine and Spirits Auction and Dinner Dance



Lynn Dixon, Kimberly O'Kane and Jess Green

On Saturday, September 23rd, more than 400 people came out in support of the Land Alliance's local land conservation efforts. This year's benefit, themed "Open Spaces, Starry Night", raised more than \$300,000 thanks to the efforts of our co-chairs and their committee. Event co-chairs - Lynn and Brooke Dixon, Jessica and Jon Green, and Kimberly and John O'Kane - chose that theme to remind us of how protecting open spaces is critical to minimizing light pollution, maintaining community character, safeguarding wildlife in their natural environment and ensuring that future generations will have access to views of the starry night sky.

In keeping with the theme, the cocktail tent, where the silent

auction was held, was lit with sunset colors of oranges, purples and pinks. Guests tasted wines and festive spirits and bid actively on a silent auction filled with rare and vintage wines, one-of-a-kind experiences, special services, gift certificates to restaurants, exquisite clothing, jewelry, artwork and more. They also took chances on the Wall of Wine raffle which featured 50 bottles of wine rated 90 and above by Robert Parker.

Guests then entered the dinner tent complete with a full moon and stars projected on the ceiling. Tom McGrath, Land Alliance Trustee, welcomed and thanked guests as they sat down to a delicious fall-themed dinner



prepared by Sterling Affair. One of the highlights of the evening was the live auction with auctioneer Fred Bancroft. Items included a “to die for” French-styled playhouse decorated by Tom Samet and Nathan Wold, the bourbon bucket list (a baker’s dozen of rare and vintage bourbons including a 12-year Pappy Van Winkle), a private hockey lesson with Mark Messier, a winemaker’s weekend tour of Sonoma County, a golf package at Kiawah Island Club, a shopping spree at Americana Manhasset with a 24-hour Tesla experience, and a trip to the Six Senses Resort in the Douro Valley of Portugal and the JW Marriot in Venice, Italy.

The last item of the evening was a special appeal for the restoration of the meadow at the Humes Property in Mill Neck. The meadow, located at the intersection of Frost Mill and Oyster Bay Roads, has been neglected for decades. Years of dumping has been covered over by pernicious invasive vegetation like porcelain berry and multiflora rose. Again, thanks to the generosity of our audience, \$21,000 was raised to restore the meadow and return it to its natural form. Work is scheduled to begin this winter.

The Wine Auction is the Land Alliance’s largest and most important fundraiser and friend-raiser of the year. It is critical to our ability to continue to conserve some of the most special places in our North Shore community. Many thanks to all who contributed! We are also grateful to Vincent Simeone, Director of Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park, who so graciously allowed us to host the evening on the sprawling lawn behind our new office and our board, volunteers and dedicated staff who work so hard to make all our events successful!



Special thanks to Our Generous Sponsors

Presenting Sponsors



THOMAS AND BARBARA DOOLEY

Gran Reserva Sponsors

Ann and Peter Cannell * Gussy and Mark Donohue
Botsy and Hoyle Jones * Power Posse Productions

Vintner’s Reserve Sponsors

Angela Anton, Anton Newspapers
Lori and Roger Bahnik, the Bahnik Foundation
Carter Bales * Daniel Gale Sotheby’s International Realty
Jack Foley & Stewart Title * Lee and Patrick Mackay
Kim and John O’Kane * Sandra and Howard Tytel

Special Reserve Sponsors

Devon and Thomas Carroll * Cathy Chernoff
Carol and James Large * Elaine and John Postley
Lisa and Peter Schiff * Herbert L. Smith III Family Fund
the Moore Charitable Foundation * Peri and Martin Wenz
William C. and Joyce C. O’Neil Charitable Trust,
Hollis Russell and John Crabill, Trustees

Small Batch Sponsors

Caroline E. Bassett * Naomi Black and John Bralower
Farrell Fritz, Frank McRoberts * Jess and Jonathan Green
Marlaine and Jonathan Moore * Dana and Louis Pagliara
Sarah and Robert Trust * Youngs Farm,
Paula and Richard Weir



American Museum of Natural
History
Americana Manhasset
Anonymous
Anthony Fiamma Wine
Arader Galleries
Artful Circle, Franklin Hill-Perrell
and Debbie Wells
Art League of Long Island
Badger Healthy Body Care
Badgley Mischka, Mark Badgley
and James Mischka
Rebecca Bahr
Carter Bales
Cathryn Bales

Suzie and Fred Bancroft
Barney's Restaurant,
Deb and Mitch Hauser
Lou Barricelli
Ben's Kosher Delicatessen
Restaurant & Caterer
Birch Hill Meats, Tom D'Angelo
Birds & Beans Coffee
Bistro Moderne, Daniel Boulud
Rosemary Bourne
Naomi Black and John Bralower
Brooks Brothers,
Debra and Claudio Del Vecchio
Brown Forman
Heidi Carey

Louise Parent and John Casaly
Catapano Dairy Farm,
Karen and Michael Catapano
Cathy Chernoff
Sage Chevins
Constance Cincotta
Ed Clarke
Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery
Cold Spring Harbor Wine Shoppe
Maggie and Jonathan Connors
Jennifer Contino
Robert Crary
Christine D'Addario
John Dale
Richard Davies

Kristina and Harry Davison
 Lisa DeBenedittis
 Sandy and Nelson DeMille
 Jamie and David Deming
 Lynn and Brooke Dixon
 Gussy and Mark Donohue
 Remsen and Tim Dooley
 Mercedes Dorson
 El Buho Mezcal, John Henry
 Jennifer and Stephen Ely
 Emily Driscoll
 Eponymous, Claudia Overstrom
 and Betsy Pitts
 Evergreen Clean
 Susan and Jack Foley
 Stacy and Eric Fornell

Friends Academy
 Full House Organics, Judy Ronis
 G. Willikers Toy Store,
 the Asgierrson Family
 Amy Garcia
 Linda and Charles Garnett
 Ben Goodman
 Lynn and Austen T. Gray
 Ed Greco Building, Richard Davies
 Aileen and Ian Gumprecht
 Jessie Halstrom
 Hamptons House Design,
 Tom Samet and Nathan Wold
 Michael Held
 Heritage Farm and Garden,
 Steven Dubner

Hermes, Priscilla Gremillion Smith
 Hicks Nursery
 Hong Kong Grand, William Sani
 Milena and D.R. Holmes
 Sealy and Mark Hopkinson
 Hunan Taste
 Images and Details,
 Judi and David Budner
 Elizabeth and Michael Imperio
 Marjorie and Fredd Isaksen
 J. McLaughlin, Kaye Weninger
 Jack Daniels
 Jane Jackson
 John W. Engeman Theater,
 Todd Latchford
 Botsy and Hoyle Jones





Julianne
 Kiawah Island Partners
 Gigi Kish
 Kristie Kish
 Laureen and Ragnar Knutsen
 Christiane and Alex Koundourakis
 Howard Kroplick
 Le Joaillier Fine Jewelry
 Leggiadro, Jo Mazur
 Lilly Pulitzer
 Little Flower House, Peter Flammia
 Locust Valley Book Store,
 Lisa and David Scully
 Loeffler Randall
 Alegra Loewenstein
 Long Island Spirits, Richard Stabile
 LVfit, Doug Pollack
 M & A Landscape Service,
 Colleen and Jim MacDonald
 Main Street Nursery
 Marquis Wines & Spirits,
 Samantha and Michael Chait

Marriott Corporation
 Martha Clara Vineyards
 Masterwines,
 Mel and Charlie Masters
 Paul Mateyunas
 Jane and John McConnachie
 Ellen and John McMillin
 Franklin McRoberts
 Meg Braff Designs, LLC
 Anita Meltzer
 Mark Messier
 Metropolitan Museum of Art
 Michael Kors
 Rosemary and Dave Miller
 Mitchells, Chris Mitchell
 Morrell and Company
 Karen Mossey
 M.S. Walker
 Nina and Robert Muller
 Mystic Aquarium
 NBC, The Late Show
 Kim and John O'Kane

Frank Olt
 Organically Thin,
 Mia and Russo Stern
 Orpheum Theatre
 Laura B. and Gib Ott
 Lisa and Gil Ott
 Otterbox
 Tjasa Owen
 Oyster Bay WaterFront Center,
 Dave Waldo
 Oyster Bay Yoga
 Tracy and Clifford Packingham
 Elizabeth Pash Interiors
 Tommy Patterson, Trees on the Move
 Marianne Perkin
 Petals Floral & Party Design,
 Brian Scheblein
 Shanna Philippe
 Picaboo
 Planting Fields Foundation,
 Jennifer Lavella
 Poll Brothers, Gillis Poll

Post Wine & Spirits, Mike Douglass
 Prime, Kurt Bohlsen
 Pure Green Day Spa
 Ranchlands - Zapata Ranch
 Regatta Ginger Beer
 Julie and Luis Rinaldini
 Roberta Roberts
 Hanna Robinson
 Eileen Rossi
 Sandbar, Caroline and Tim Mullen
 Scarsella's Florist
 Nancy and Ray Schuville
 Lisa and David Scully
 Sesame Letterpress
 Cindy Shelley
 Vincent Simeone
 Sue Simon
 Six Senses Resort Group
 Marcia Skolnick
 Hope and Ted Smith
 South Street Partners,
 Christopher Randolph

Alexander Spring
 Spring Brook Farm,
 Meghan and Chris Hagedorn
 Spuntino Wine Bar
 Stampin' Up
 Cynthia Stebbins
 Dave Taft
 Harrison Tanchuck
 Tesla Motors
 Jean Thatcher
 The Bar Method
 Jewelry Gallery of Oyster Bay
 Paper Source
 The Paramount,
 Debbie and Brian Doyle
 The Pilates Studio
 George Tilghman
 Olga and George Tsunis
 John Turner
 Two by Four New York
 Uncle Bacala's
 Union Square Cafe

Eric Vaughn
 Vincent's Clam Bar
 Vineyard Vines
 Carl Wermee
 Wheatley Plaza
 Whoop Inc.,
 Will Ahmed and Traci Hilliard
 Wild by Nature
 Wild Honey
 Patricia and Colin Williams-Hawkes
 Wine Bowe
 Wine Craft, Ltd.,
 Carla and Ridgely Beale
 Wonderland Tree Care, Inc.,
 Tom Golon
 Young Hagen, Ali and Tim Beranek
 Youngs Farm,
 Paula and Richard Weir
 Zeel Massage
 Kathy and Tom Zoller
 Zoobooks



More Wine Auction Contributors



Sophie and Dill Ayres

Michael Bendell

Christey Robinson and Peter Blom

Mrs. Edward Bonnie

Fred Bossert

Trudy and Tom Calabrese

Albert Cassola

Marianne Cattier

Jacqueline Cella

Connie Cincotta

Kim and Payson Coleman

Janet Connolly

William Copp

Nina and John Cozzoli

Aleksandra and Scott Cragg

Sharon and Stephen Cuchel

The Cunniff Family

Barrie Curtis Spies

Katie Davidman

Kim and Michael Davidman

Danielle and Leland Deane

Ron Delgaudio

Nancy Dematteis

Olga and Tony Duke

Aimee and George Eberle

Linda Faraldo

Archie Foster

Emily Frick

Elaine Goldman

Paula and Pierre Gonthier

Lorna and Ed Goodman

Willow and Cary Goodwin

Ted Gutierrez

Grace and Gregg Haggerty

Alexandra and Fletcher Hall

Margy Hargraves

Bunny Hoest Carpenter

Judy and Tom Hogan

Marilyn and Bill Hollingsworth

Heidi Holterbosch

Barbara and James Hoover

Paula and John Hornbostel

Lorrie and Ian Huschle

Virginia Jacobsen

Sonia and Sandeep Jauhar

Ashley and Gabe Jostrom

Beverly and Michael Kazickas

Karen Keating

Cynthia and Stephen Ketchum

Erik Knutsen

Richard Kopsco

Gloria and David Kruse

Jamie Lawson

Terry and Rob Lindsay

Nancy Marshall

Karen and Lawrence Marsiello

Michael McDermott

Edward Mohlenhoff

Nina Morton

Caroline and Tim Mullen

Virginia Napoli
Libby and Ryan Naumes
Cecilia and Kenney Oh
Cat and Denis O’Kane
Anna Grace Oslansky
David Pearson
Mary and Howard Phipps
Marie-Noelle and John Pierce
Helen and Robert Pilkington
Brie and David Powers
Hope and John Reese
Elizabeth Roosevelt
Anthi and Nicholas Sabbatini
Patricia Sands
Malinda and James Sanna
Jennifer and Eric Scheblein
Ellen Schwerin

Lisa and David Scully
Grace and Raymond Searby
Joan Shepard
Marcella and John Specce
Pearl and Erwin Staller
Asia and Ben Stokes
Maggie and Hugh Tanchuck
Jane and Rod Thaler
Brenda Van Der Mije
Heather and Peter Van Der Mije
Maggie and David Viklund
Harry Vonderlieth
Beatrice and Robert Wall
James Widyn
Deedee and Michael Wigler
Henry Woodhouse



2017 Annual Members Meeting



"In very walk with nature one receives more than he seeks."
John Muir

The Annual Members Meeting was held on Saturday, October 28th, at 11:00 am at the Land Alliance Planting Fields office. Lisa Ott, President and CEO, formally welcomed members and introduced trustees and staff. More than 30 members were in attendance to elect trustees for 2017/2018 and learn about the Land Alliance's 2017 accomplishments.

John Casaly, Trustee, oversaw the election of the following trustees for three-year terms: Leland Deane, Tim Dooley, Lynn Gray, D.R. Holmes, Patrick Mackay, Thomas McGrath and Ted Smith. Attending members voted unanimously to elect the previously named Trustees and Lisa cast one "yea" vote on behalf of the 196 members who voted by proxy in the weeks leading up to the meeting. Staff members, provided the following updates:

Organizational Growth - Lisa Ott

Land conservation efforts over the last 14 years have resulted in 1,200 acres protected to date: 312 acres of fee-owned lands, 215 acres of private conservation easements, 48 acres under stewardship and 600+ acres in public conservation.

The Land Alliance currently has 39 Trustees, 15

Advisory Board members, nine staff, over 3,000 members and 200+ volunteers.

2017 Acquisitions and Sales:

- Seven-acre Humes Japanese Stroll Garden property in Mill Neck closed on May 23rd
- Two-acre scenic easement over the Macy Meadow in Lloyd Harbor

Upcoming transfer of ownership of 70 acres of preserves from The Nature Conservancy:

- Davenport Sanctuary, eight-acres in Laurel Hollow
- Harbor Hill Sanctuary, four acres in Lake Success
- Oaces Preserve, 20 acres in Muttontown
- Matheson Meadow, 38 acres in Lloyd Neck

To repay debt on the Humes property, a five-acre perimeter section will be sold to Nassau County later this year for conservation purposes. In response to a consent order from the EPA, Nassau County was required, in lieu of a fine, to purchase land that would improve water quality. The land will be protected in perpetuity and is located adjacent to a 15-acre section purchased by Nassau County in 2009 with Environmental Bond monies.

Stewardship Report - Jane Jackson

In addition to the more than 500 acres for which the Land Alliance provides stewardship services, we completed two very special projects this year:

- Completion of improvements necessary to open Cushman Woods to the public. These include installation of a small parking area off Still Road, signage, and an expanded trail system.
- Completion of the restoration of the historic trellis at Wawapek. This was the largest volunteer endeavor that has been undertaken by Land Alliance staff and volunteers. Its scope ranged from heavy equipment removing wisteria vines to harvesting locust trees to major construction. This couldn't have been done without the help of many volunteers and funds generously funded by the Leventhal family. New planting to come in Spring of 2018.

Community Outreach Report - Jennifer Contino

Programming began in the winter of 2017 with a marvelous photo exhibit of the incredible wildlife images by Dr. Greg Gulbransen. Gina McCarthy, former Administrator of the EPA in the Obama administration,

followed in March with an inspirational talk at the New York City lecture. On Wednesday, November 15th Edwina von Gal closed out the year with a presentation about *The Perfect Earth Project* where she encouraged attendees to consider transitioning to a chemical free lawn to protect the health of children, pets and the community.

Membership Report - Andrea Millwood

We continued community outreach efforts to broaden the Land Alliance's membership base by hosting a dozen *Walks in the Woods* and six fundraising events. The popular series of *Walks in the Woods* and Other Cool Things to Do Outside has drawn more than 250 participants so far; it includes cycling, two kayak trips, fly fishing and yoga on the beach. (Additional details on events can be found throughout this issue.)

Lisa thanked members for their support on behalf of Land Alliance staff and trustees. 2017 has been a successful year for the Land Alliance and for local conservation! She ended the meeting by introducing guest presenter Louise Harrison of Save the Sound to provide an update on the plight and promise of Plum Island.





Plum Island Update

The virtually undeveloped 840-acre Plum Island, less than a mile off Orient Point, is a magnificent federally owned sanctuary for wildlife at the eastern end of the Long Island Sound. The restricted use of the island as a military establishment, then an animal disease research center, has left the island's diverse ecological communities relatively untouched.

The island includes wild dunes, bluffs, upland forest and 96 acres of freshwater marsh, which together form habitat for endangered plants and threatened birds like piping plovers. Hundreds of species of migrating birds rest and forage on the island and the nearby Great and Little Gull Islands.

A recent study found that 219 bird species, 24% of North America's known bird species, visit Plum Island. In addition, it is the most significant seal haul-out site in southern New England, playing host to several hundred grey and harbor seals each winter. Forty rare and protected plant species round out the treasure trove of ecological abundance that this island possesses.

In 2008, after it was determined that the Federal Animal Disease Center would be moved to Kansas, Congress passed legislation as part of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriations Act authorizing the sale of the island and the General Service Administration (GSA) began preparations to auction the 840-acre Plum Island to the highest bidder.

As a result, the Preserve Plum Island Coalition (PPIC) was formed to oppose the sale and secure the permanent protection of the significant natural and cultural resources of Plum Island. The PPIC advocates for comprehensive solutions that safeguard this national treasure; these include designating Plum Island's undeveloped acreage, approximately 80% of the island, as a National Wildlife Refuge and creating a preserve providing equivalent protection in perpetuity.

In July 2016, the PPIC sued the federal government under the Endangered Species Act and other laws, to encourage a conservation sale. In early 2017, the government moved to dismiss the complaint. A response was filed, and a decision is expected this fall.

In recent years, Connecticut and New York congressional delegations have united to protect Plum Island. In April 2017, Congressman Lee Zeldin re-introduced his 2016 bill to halt the sale of Plum Island, which passed the House but died in the Senate. These actions were supported by Governor Cuomo, the Suffolk County Legislature, a coalition of East End mayors and supervisors, and the 80+ organizations who have joined the PPIC.

If you would like to take part in the effort to protect Plum Island, please visit their website at www.preserveplumisland.org to sign a supporting petition and gather more information about how to get involved.

Artist Barbara Prey, Conservationist and Land Alliance Supporter



One of our country's most acclaimed contemporary artists, Barbara Ernst Prey has offered Land Alliance members a special private viewing of new paintings and prints at her studio and home Saturday, December 2nd from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Her paintings are in numerous prominent collections worldwide including The White House (where she is one of two living American female artists included in the collection), The Brooklyn Museum, The Smithsonian National Museum of American Art, Kennedy Space Center, the private collections of Orlando Bloom and Tom Hanks, and in over one hundred American embassies and consulates worldwide. In 2015, MASS MoCA (Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art) commissioned Barbara Prey to create the world's largest known watercolor painting (8 by 15 feet) for its new Building 6, which opened this summer.

A naturalist and Long Island native, Prey has painted powerful vibrant views of our landscape for over 40 years. In these deeply personal works she explores the delicacy, complexity and interconnectedness that exist within the natural world. As she prefers to paint on site, open spaces have visibly played a central role in her paintings; her new body of work, large watercolors and a new series of onsite oil paintings of Long Island and the North Shore, focuses on celebrating and preserving our environment.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the North Shore Land Alliance.

BARBARA PREY STUDIO

22 Pearl Street • Oyster Bay, New York • 11771

For more information email: studio@barbaraprey.com

website: www.barbaraprey.com





NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 658
1395 Planting Fields Road, the Manor House
Oyster Bay, New York 11771
Phone: 516-922-1028
www.northshorelandalliance.org
info@northshorelandalliance.org

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WESTBURY, NY 11590
PERMIT NO. 59

The North Shore Land Alliance is a 501(C) (3) 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.



HAPPY HOLIDAY'S

from your friends at the
North Shore Land Alliance

SIP&SHOP

Check some items off your holiday shopping list in
support of the North Shore Land Alliance!

Thursday, December 7th
12 pm to 5 pm

Shop and enjoy refreshments and light bites at

J.McLaughlin

15 Forest Avenue, Locust Valley
and the new store at

251 Main Street, Huntington

15% of all sales will benefit the Land Alliance