



Conservation News

Protecting Open Space on Long Island's North Shore

NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

Volume 14, Issue 28

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Photo credit: Phyllis Weekes

The Importance of Protecting Wetlands

More than half of America's coastal wetlands, approximately 120 million acres, have disappeared since 1900. Why has this happened? Human population pressures, pollution, development and climate change are the primary reasons. Loss of wetlands has resulted in depleted fisheries, destruction of shellfish beds and other habitats, as well as degradation and compromise of coastal environments and economies.

On Long Island, a 2004 U.S. Fish and Wildlife study estimated that Nassau and Suffolk Counties have lost roughly half of their wetlands since 1900 (from 82,000 acres at the turn of the century to 43,000 acres in 2004). Nassau County has lost over half of its wetlands (including 62% of its tidal wetlands) while Suffolk County has lost 39% of its tidal and 51% of its freshwater wetlands. With more land being developed alongside impacts of increasingly severe storms, one can only surmise that current wetland losses are even greater now than in 2004.

The protection of wetlands is very important to all of us who live on Long Island. Therefore, we are very pleased to report that the Braunstein family of Lattingtown is in the process of placing a conservation easement on nearly six acres of land bordering Mill Neck Creek. This donation will contribute to preserving myriad conservation values of Mill Neck Creek, Long Island Sound and the Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor Complex.

(Continued on p. 3)



Photo credit: Phyllis Weekes

Dear Friends,

We who live in western Long Island are very fortunate to enjoy breathtaking view of beaches and bays, ponds, creeks and extraordinary wetlands teeming with wildlife and bursting with fall color. In warmer months we swim, fish, boat and kayak in and on these same beautiful waters. We even have our own source of drinking water that comes from underground aquifers right below our feet. Water is very important to us, perhaps more than many places in the world. But, with this wealth of water resources comes the responsibility of taking care of them.

In urban and suburban communities like ours, where more than 60% of the U.S. population live, wetlands are particularly valuable. Wetlands are the link between land and water. They are transition zones where the flow of water, the cycling of nutrients and the energy of the sun meet to produce a unique ecosystem. They counteract the greatly increased rate and volume of surface water runoff from pavement and buildings by controlling flooding. And, on Long Island (where more than 50% of our land surface is developed), this function carries real value. According to a report authored by Robert Costanza of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences titled *The Value of Coastal Wetlands for Hurricane Protection*, the dollar value of wetlands worldwide is estimated to be \$14.9 trillion! Included in these calculations are protections wetlands provide in shielding us from the impacts of increasingly severe storms and dollars associated with aquaculture and tourism.

Protecting and rebuilding our wetlands is critically important now. A warming world means a rising sea, an eroding coast (caused by increasingly severe storms), nitrogen polluting our ground and surface waters and species extending their range to survive. Coastal and estuarine habitat restoration is essential to adapting to climate change and mitigating its impacts. In this issue, we hope to provide you with a better understanding of what wetlands are, why they are important and what you can do to help protect them.

In these times of political unrest, we cannot look to government to protect our community. The action must be taken at the local level. Our future is in our hands and will be determined by what we do today. The Land Alliance is proud to be a part of this outstanding community where time and time again, we've worked together to protect this beautiful place we are lucky enough to call home.

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season filled with good friends, loving family and lots of time spent outdoors in nature.

Most Sincerely,

Lisa W. Ott, President & CEO

(continued from pg. 1)

Mill Neck Creek is entirely within the 3,209-acre Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge, the largest (by far!) of the refuges that make up the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The Refuge includes subtidal (bay bottom to mean high tide line) habitats, saltmarsh and a freshwater pond and receives the most public use of all the refuges. It is especially important for wintering waterfowl, such as black ducks, greater scaup, bufflehead, canvasback and long-tailed ducks. A variety of other water birds, including shorebirds, terns and cormorants also use Oyster Bay. Other marine organisms common to the Refuge include northern diamondback terrapins, harbor seals, sea turtles, finfish and shellfish.

Mill Neck Creek is part of the Oyster Bay and Cold Spring Harbor Regionally Important Natural Area (RINA), identified by New York State in the Long Island Sound Coastal Management Program.

Many thanks to the Braunstein family for their contribution to the health of our community and to the Souther family who lived there before them. Eugene Souther, a great friend of the Land Alliance, made a good choice in selling to the Braunsteins. He had always hoped this land he and his late wife Gretchen loved would one day be protected in perpetuity.

If you live along this extraordinary place and are interested in protecting your waterfront area, we would love to hear from you.

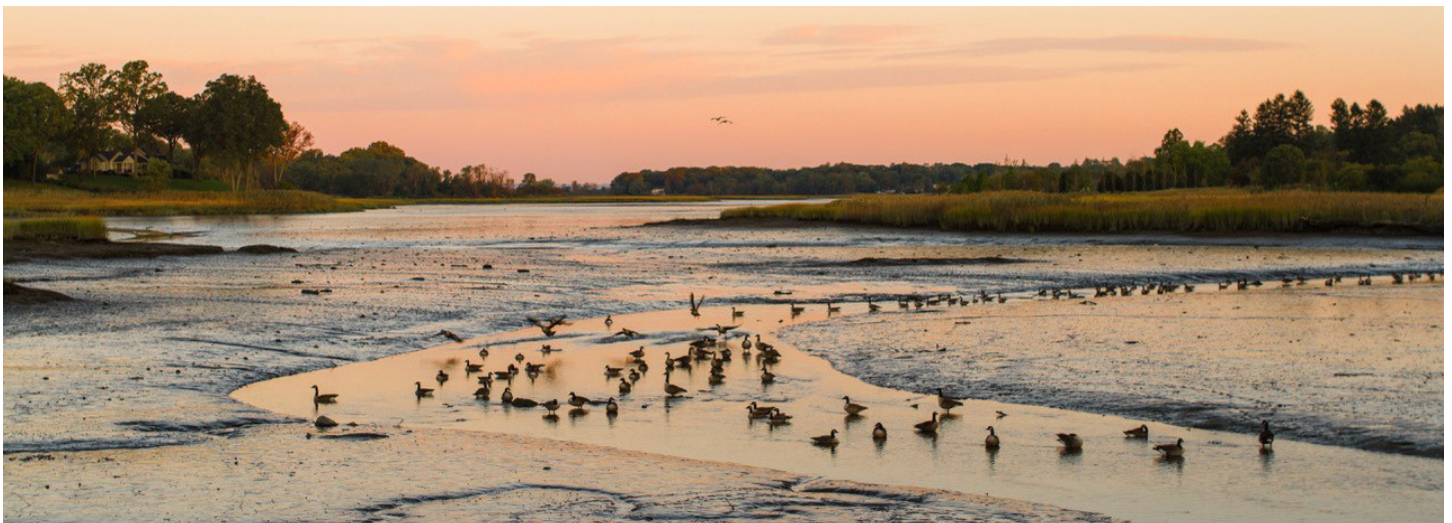


Photo credit: Phyllis Weekes

What are Wetlands?

Wetlands are defined by the EPA as areas where water covers the soil or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during the year, including during the growing season. The degree of saturation largely determines how the soil develops and the types of plant and animal communities living in and on the soil. Wetlands may support both aquatic and terrestrial species. The prolonged presence of water creates conditions that favor the growth of specially adapted plants and promotes the development of characteristic wetland soils.

Wetlands are found from the tundra to the tropics and on every continent except Antarctica. They vary widely because of regional and local differences in soils, topography, climate, hydrology, water chemistry, vegetation and other factors, including human disturbance. Two general categories of wetlands are recognized: coastal or tidal wetlands and inland or non-tidal wetlands.

Non-tidal marshes are the most prevalent and widely distributed wetlands in North America. They are



Shore Road Sanctuary

mostly freshwater marshes, although some are brackish (somewhat salty) or alkaline. They frequently occur along streams in poorly drained depressions and in the shallow water along the boundaries of lakes, ponds and rivers. Water levels in these wetlands generally vary from a few inches to two or three feet, and some non-tidal marshes, like prairie potholes, may periodically dry out completely.

Due to their high levels of nutrients, freshwater marshes are among the most productive ecosystems on earth. They can sustain a vast array of plant communities that in turn support a wide variety of wildlife within this vital wetland ecosystem. As a result, even small marshes may sustain an extensive diversity of life. Unfortunately, like many other wetland ecosystems, freshwater marshes have suffered major acreage losses due to human development.

Tidal marshes can be found along protected coastlines in middle and high latitudes worldwide. They are most prevalent in the U.S. on the eastern coast from Maine to Florida, and continuing to Louisiana and Texas along the Gulf of Mexico. Some are freshwater marshes, others are brackish and still others are saline (salty), but they are all influenced by the motion of

ocean tides. Tidal marshes are normally categorized into two distinct zones, the lower or intertidal marsh and the upper or high marsh.

In saline tidal marshes, the lower marsh is normally covered and exposed daily by the ebbing tide. It is predominantly covered by the tall form of smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*). The saline upper marsh is covered by water only sporadically and is characterized by short, smooth saltmeadow cordgrass (*Spartina patens*), spike grass (*Distichlis spicata*) and saltmeadow rush (*Juncus gerardii*). Saline marshes support a highly specialized suite of species adapted for salt conditions.

Tidal marshes serve many important functions. They buffer stormy seas, slow shoreline erosion and can absorb excess nutrients before they reach oceans and estuaries. Tidal marshes also provide vital food and habitat for clams, crabs and juvenile fish, as well as offering shelter and nesting sites for several species of migratory waterfowl. We recommend a visit to the Land Alliance's Shore Road Sanctuary (formerly ExxonMobil) in Cold Spring Harbor to see these marshes in action.

What We Can Do to Protect Wetlands

Armed with the realization that climate change will most certainly threaten the health of our wetlands, we can do things in our everyday lives to help preserve coastal wetland areas and maintain their ecological integrity. Simple efforts, multiplied many times over, can contribute to wetlands' survival. Suggestions made by the U.S. EPA include:

- Enjoy the scenic and recreational opportunities coastal wetlands offer. People are more likely to protect places that they know and love.
- Be neat. Keep surface areas that wash into storm drains clean from trash, pet waste, toxic chemicals, fertilizers and motor oil.
- If private and public waterfront areas need to be stabilized, follow “living shoreline” techniques by planting native wetland species adapted to different tide levels to stabilize soil.
- Avoid wetlands when expanding your house or business. Many communities have zoning regulations that forbid construction in wetlands.
- Replace antiquated septic systems with newer technologies that don't leach into our water supply.
- Use phosphate-free laundry and dishwasher detergents. Phosphates encourage algae growth, which can suffocate aquatic life.
- Turn to the increasing number of non-toxic products, including unbleached paper, for household cleaning as well as lawn and garden care. Readily available horticultural vinegar for safe weed-killing is a good example.
- Never spray lawn and garden chemicals outside on a windy day, or on a day that it might rain and wash the chemicals into waterways.
- Discourage local businesses and governments from deploying heavy equipment in protected areas. Everyone in your community will benefit from the scenic and recreational opportunities they offer.



Photo credit: Susan Simon

Federal Legislation Integral to Wetland Protection



There are two pieces of Federal legislation that are critical to the successful protection of wetlands and the future of both remain uncertain. They are:

1) The Clean Water Rule (also referred to as Waters of the World (WOTUS)), finalized on February 6, 2018, would more clearly define which waterways and wetlands automatically receive federal protections under the Clean Water Act. Many states and industry groups have sued the government, claiming the rule would infringe on state and private property rights. Environmental interests also challenged the regulation, saying it was not protective enough. After years of litigation, and an effort by the current administration to rescind the Rule completely, the Clean Water Rule is now in effect in 22 states (including New York), the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories but for how long we don't know. While litigation continues in other states, enforcement agencies like the EPA are complying with the district court's order and implementation issues that arise are being handled on a case-by-case basis. The fate of the Clean Water Rule in the remainder of the U.S. is in the courts and may be there for years to come.

2) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – Created by Congress in 1964, the LWCF was a bipartisan commitment to safeguard natural areas, water resources and our cultural heritage and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans. National parks like Rocky Mountain, the Grand Canyon, and the Great Smoky

Mountains, as well as national wildlife refuges, national forests, rivers and lakes, community parks, trails, and ball fields in every one of our 50 states were set aside for Americans to enjoy thanks to federal funds from the LWCF.

The LWCF revenue comes almost entirely from a portion of receipts of companies drilling offshore for oil and natural gas. Although the LWCF is authorized at a spending level of \$900 million per year, only twice—in fiscal years 1998 and 2001—have appropriations met that amount. Over the 54-year existence of the LWCF, of the \$40 billion in total revenues accrued in the Fund, only \$18.4 billion have been appropriated by Congress for LWCF purposes.

LWCF was allowed to expire this year for the second time in history. In October, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee reached an historic bipartisan agreement to fully fund and permanently reauthorize LWCF. Also in October, the House Committee on Natural Resources approved a bill that reauthorizes but does not fund LWCF. It is expected that both bills will come to the floor when the House and Senate return to Washington after the election. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) is also funded through LWCF.

We are hopeful that Congress will reauthorize this landmark legislation once and for all.

An Extraordinary Gift for Future Conservation Projects

We are so pleased to announce that this past spring, Sandy and Eric Krasnoff made a very generous gift of \$750,000 to the Land Alliance's Conservation Action Fund (CAF). The CAF is a revolving fund, which allows the Land Alliance to acquire land or conservation easements on priority land parcels while they are still available. The CAF permits a land trust to react quickly when important local conservation opportunities arise.

When asked why they chose to make this exceptional gift to our community, the Krasnoffs said, "Natural areas are critical to protecting our waters and to mitigating against the effects of climate change. We have watched the Land Alliance grow over the past 15 years and we thought this gift would be a way to recognize all their good work and provide them with the means to do more." They added, "We know that by investing in the Land Alliance's mission now, we will help the future health of our community."

Like the Krasnoff's, our more than 3,000 loyal Land Alliance members and friends know that keeping our community healthy, for all who live and work here, is a shared commitment. Clean water and air, beneficial habitats, local sources of food and economic vitality are essential to our quality of life. They are critical to leaving our North Shore community in good shape for the next generation. We are extremely grateful to the Krasnoffs for this extraordinary gift toward future conservation efforts.

Thanks to the support and commitment of our community, the Land Alliance has protected nearly 1,200 acres of land in our first 15 years, but there is much more work to be done. Two-thirds (500,000 acres) of Long Island's surface area is already impervious and only 20,000 acres of natural land remains in the Land Alliance's 150,000-acre service area. With the threat of failing golf courses, (which comprise roughly 11,000 acres of undeveloped land on the north shore), we need to continue to work together to save the lands that protect our water before they are lost forever. If all goes well, we hope to protect another 1,200 acres by our 20th Anniversary in 2023!

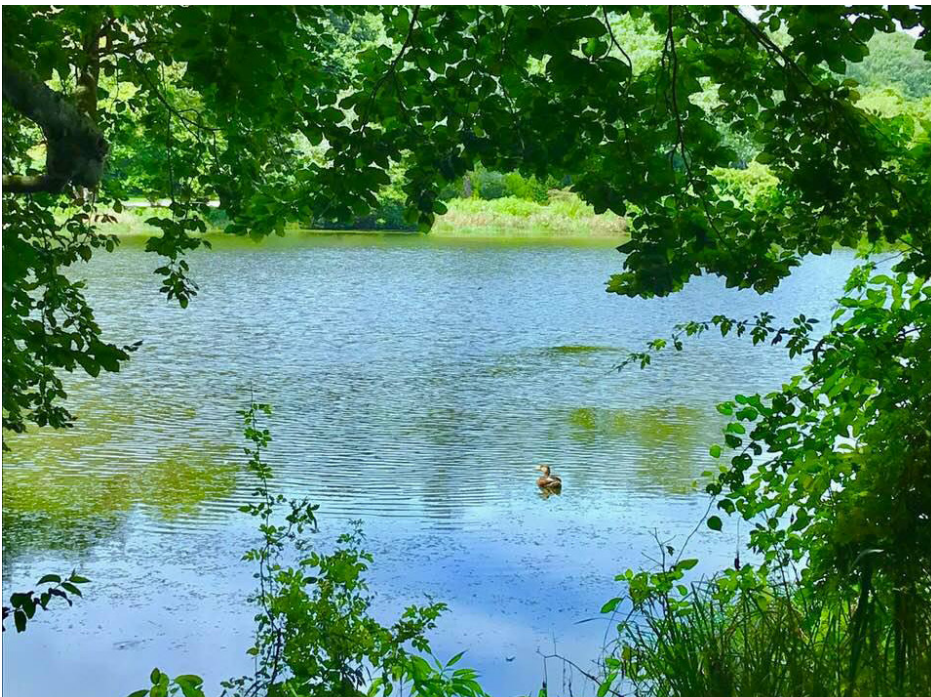


Photo credit: Susan Simon



Sandy and Eric Krasnoff

Improvements at the Humes Property in Mill Neck



Before



After

When the Land Alliance purchased the 28-acre Humes property in Mill Neck in 2015, our primary goal was to protect the land for conservation purposes. The property, which consists of a meadow, woodlands and freshwater wetlands, completes a wildlife corridor of 150 acres in the Beaver Brook watershed. Permanently protecting this important natural area was a significant financial undertaking for the Land Alliance. Now that we are nearing fulfillment of our debt, we are eager to focus on what needs to be done to bring the Humes property back to a place where the community can take pride in what we have accomplished together.

The centerpiece of the Humes property is the six-acre meadow recently named for former Land Alliance Board Chair Carter Bales and his late wife Suzy. This historic meadow has suffered from decades of neglect, serving as a dumping ground for logs and rubbish. As a result, invasive vines and shrubs have proliferated unchecked. Our long-term objective is to restore this central area as a traditional meadow comprised of warm-season grasses and native wildflowers, with a public trail around the perimeter.

Following our acquisition of the property in 2015, we began hand-clearing areas where logs and trash had been dumped. For two summers, we had a small crew of goats grazing a portion of the meadow. While the goats were charming and did discourage invasive multiflora rose and English ivy, they just didn't work fast enough. At the end of last year, thanks to private donations and funding from the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District, we mowed 3.5 acres and proceeded to clear debris. We then mowed two additional times during the growing season to combat our most aggressive invasive species, mile-a-minute and porcelain-berry, and the transformation was dramatic! Working with Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, nationally recognized for their meadow expertise, we've developed a three-year plan for the meadow restoration. It begins with clearing and mowing the remaining acreage this coming winter and planting native grasses in fall 2019.

In addition to the natural areas that make the Humes property such an asset to our community, the surviving structures (most of which are in desperate need of repair) have historic significance as an intact, early and mid-twentieth century country estate.

The Tavern House, which is adjacent to the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden on Oyster Bay Road, is our first restoration priority. Not only do parts of the house date to the early 1700s, we hope to make the Tavern House the Land Alliance's future home.

Because the Tavern House is an historic building worthy of preservation, the Land Alliance brought in John G. Waite Associates, a leading consulting firm in the field of historic preservation, to assess the building. Jack and his colleagues quickly evaluated the historic features and current conditions and then prepared an emergency stabilization report. The report outlined three levels of work necessary to stabilize the structure before we can begin to restore the house. The detailed information in their report gave us what we need to competitively bid the necessary repairs.

As we began to seek preservation funding for the Tavern House, a late summer storm caused a large tree limb to puncture the roof and severely compromise the front wall. An emergency appeal took place at our Wine Auction to repair the damage. Many thanks to the attendees, who donated \$17,000+ to hire Lyons Associates to make the repairs necessary to stabilize the structure, prevent future water damage and buy us the time needed to plan for an adaptive reuse for this historic structure.

Next spring, we will again seek special preservation grants to complete phases two and three of the emergency stabilization plan and historic structure analysis. These reports will help guide us in restoration planning as well as build the narrative for a place that has been such a part of local history.

The acquisition of the Humes property and our ongoing restoration efforts would not have been possible without the generous support of our community. We are grateful that you value both the environmental and historical significance of this property. We promise to keep you apprised as we learn more about this wonderful place.

We would be remiss if we did not note the amazing restoration that is taking place at the Rumpus House. Many thanks to the Hogan/Marker family who are investing in a painstakingly beautiful restoration of the "big house". From the cellar to the roof, it is a joy to watch.

Thank you to the many individuals who contributed to the Tavern House Appeal.

Veronica and James Beard	Meris and David First	Sheila and Tomas Lieber
Rosemary Bourne	Jeffrey Fisher	Lisa and Gil Ott
Naomi Black and John Bralower	Susan and Jack Foley	Carol and Larry Schmidlapp
Devon and Tom Carroll	Pemmy Frick	Nancy and Ray Schuville
Beth Blake Day and Corbin Day	Courtney and Andrew Geisel	Bliss and Baldwin Smith
Gina and Tim DiPietro	Randolph Harrison	Priscilla Smith-Gremillion
Remsen and Tim Dooley	Julie and William Harsh	Kingsley and Caleigh Toye
Jana and John Dowds	Paula and John Hornbostel	Julia and Eric Vaughn
Lauren and Ted Duff	Alexandra Howard	Charles Wagner
Olga and Tony Duke	Botsy and Hoyle Jones	Lauren Waldo, The Inverness Fund
Jennifer and Stephen Ely	Rich Kopsco	Heather and Fife Whitman

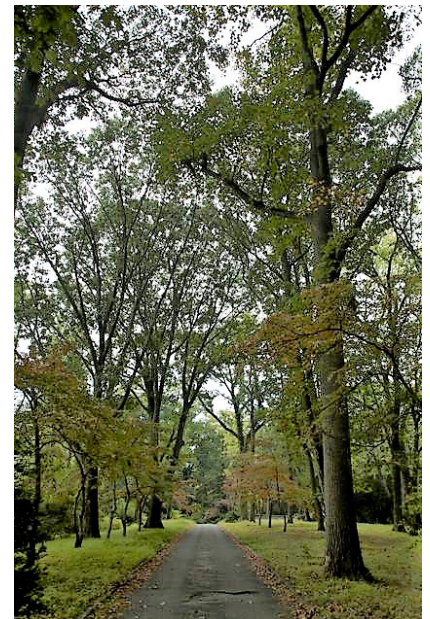
Discovering the Story of the Humes Property

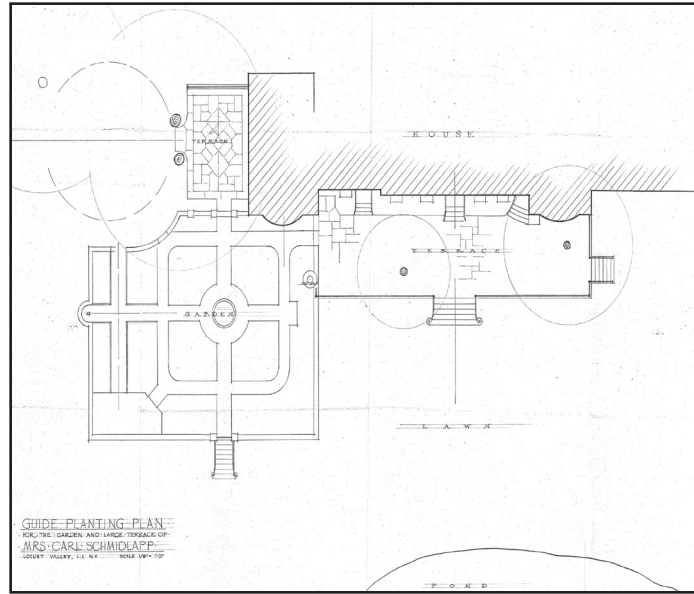


When the North Shore Land Alliance acquired the 28-acre Schmidlapp-Humes estate in 2015 and the adjacent 7-acre John P. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden in 2017, the land was protected for its significant ecological value. While historical sites are a small part of the Land Alliance's mission, acquiring undeveloped land has been our primary objective. As the Land Alliance began to develop a management plan for the property,

we recognized that the history of the structures was as important a part of the property's story as the history of the land.

Those historic and elegant buildings and gardens, while neglected, spoke to us. Time and time again we wondered what this property had been like when it was cared for and loved. While we'd heard stories and





found documentation about some of its owners, there were information gaps and conflicting attributions. It became crystal clear that further research was needed.

This spring, the Land Alliance applied for and was awarded a \$66,500 grant from the Gerry Charitable Trust and a \$9,750 grant from the Preservation League of New York State for just this purpose. Through these generous grants, the Land Alliance was able to hire highly regarded historic consultants to conduct detailed research and document the evolution of land use, ownership, structures and gardens at the Humes property.

As with much research, studies conducted to date have answered some of our questions and led us to ask others. Findings so far include:

- According to an 1859 map, a portion of the property was once a farm owned by Mrs. J. Baker. She was actually Jemima Baker, wife of the ship captain Simeon Baker. The Simeon Baker papers at the New York Public Library include Jemima’s farm logs, payments to workers and even directions for farming cranberries on the land.
- A footnote on a 1906 map referred to “Rumpus, John and his island was in the Shu Swamp.” Could this be how Rumpus house got its name?

- In 1924 Carl and Frances Schmidlapp acquired the estate through four land transactions over three years, the first of which was from Peter Cooper Bryce (a great grandson of Peter Cooper and son of Lloyd Bryce) who owned what is now the Nassau County Museum of Art.
- Peabody, Wilson and Brown remodeled the white colonial the first time for Peter Cooper Bryce and his wife, Angelica Schuyler Brown and the Schmidlapps brought the firm back to do a second remodel.
- Ellen Biddle Shipman and Ferruccio Vitale both designed the formal garden behind Rumpus House. And, plans from the Innocenti and Webel archives illustrate a third design by the firm.

Our goal is to have the first round of research completed and documented by the end of this year. The findings will help the Land Alliance make informed decisions about the future of the property as well as tell a better story about the events and individuals who shaped this valuable natural and cultural resource. Stay tuned for more to come.

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.”
 Marcus Garvey

Newsday Follow Up



As many of you may recall, Newsday and its partner News Channel 12 did a six-part series on the Nassau County Environmental Bond Program this past summer. As you may also recall, the Land Alliance was featured prominently in the series, for reasons ranging from our role in running the public campaigns for their passage to our serving on the committee that selected the projects to, our currently, stewarding some of the properties acquired through these programs. Please note that protecting land is the Land Alliance's primary objective. We remain proud and pleased to have been invited to work with local government to protect some of our County's last great open spaces.

While a few pertinent points were raised in the Newsday series, we did not agree with most of their assertions or conclusions and debated about how to respond. In the end, we decided to take the high road (as you can see from our response printed on the following page) and we are glad we did. The bottom line is, these were wonderful programs that did a tremendous amount of good for our community at large. There was no reason

to go toe-to-toe with the press and prolong this critical review. You, our members, understood the significance of what we as a community had accomplished and rallied around us. We are very grateful for your many messages of support. And, in the end, we had an uptick in private citizens wanting to donate their land for conservation purposes!

After the articles, the Nassau County Legislature passed legislation that directed the County to work to make appropriate public lands more readily available to the citizens of Nassau County. We support that goal. We are pleased to report that the County is making good progress on this effort, including launching a website for parks and preserves acquired through the program. The website will include directions, trail maps and pertinent information about each property. And, once again, we are pleased to have been invited to help them in this process. In the end, we accomplish so much more working together than working apart. Stay tuned for more good news on accessing our public lands.



July 24, 2018

Dear Land Alliance Members and Friends:

As you likely know, Newsday put a spotlight on the extraordinary accomplishments of the North Shore Land Alliance in this, our 15th year.

While they did not get all the facts right nor did they adequately reflect the environmental benefits of the Nassau County Environmental Bond program (most importantly protecting water resources), we owe them a debt for bringing attention to the many achievements of our collective open space protection programs and encouraging Nassau County to finish the work necessary for broad public access to natural lands.

The North Shore Land Alliance takes real pride in being part of both the 2004 and 2006 Nassau County Environmental Bond programs. We would like to acknowledge the many individuals and groups who made the program such a success:

- Congressman Tom Suozzi (then County Executive) and the Nassau County Legislature for putting these important measures on the ballot allowing residents to decide for themselves whether to step-up support of our local environment.
- Our terrific community from north to south shore, who passed both environmental bond measures with overwhelming 77% majorities. In doing so, open space critical to drinking water protection was protected, parks were created and harmful stormwater runoff remediated before it polluted precious bays and beaches. Subsequently, these actions put us in a better place to mitigate harmful impacts of climate change that will reach coastal areas such as ours sooner than the rest of the country.
- The Bond Advisory Committee and the professional County support staff who worked diligently for several years to bring this program to fruition.
- The Pulling, Sands, Cutting, Held, Schwab and Allan families along with many others (who were not named in the Newsday articles) who took a chance on an entirely new program and chose to sell their land in some of the most environmentally significant parts of our county for conservation purposes.
- But most of all, we thank you who care so much about making the world we live in a better place. We are very fortunate to be in a community that values nature in such a meaningful way.

As you, who have been with us from the beginning know, the Land Alliance works hard to get people out into nature, to help all of us understand the important environmental aspects of protecting land to protect our drinking water and the air we breathe and have places to grow healthy local food.

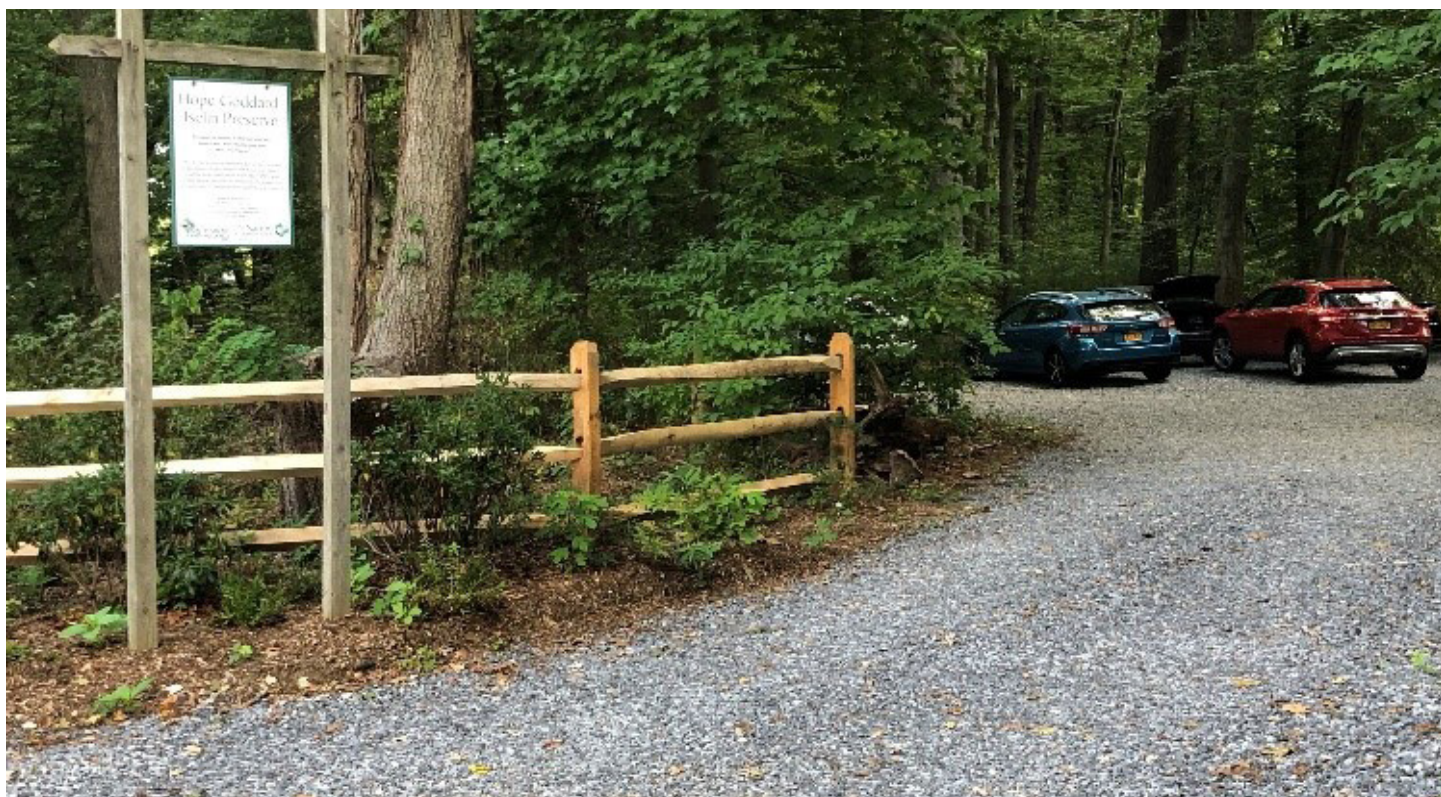
Perhaps these articles will serve as a CALL TO ACTION to encourage all of us to get out and enjoy these places we have worked together to protect. Join us at the Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve in Old Brookville where we've just installed a beautiful new entrance. Directions and maps are available on our website www.northshorelandalliance.org. And, don't forget about our Walks in the Woods and Other Cool Things to Do Outside.

Yours in nature,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa W. Ott".

Lisa W. Ott, President & CEO

Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve Update

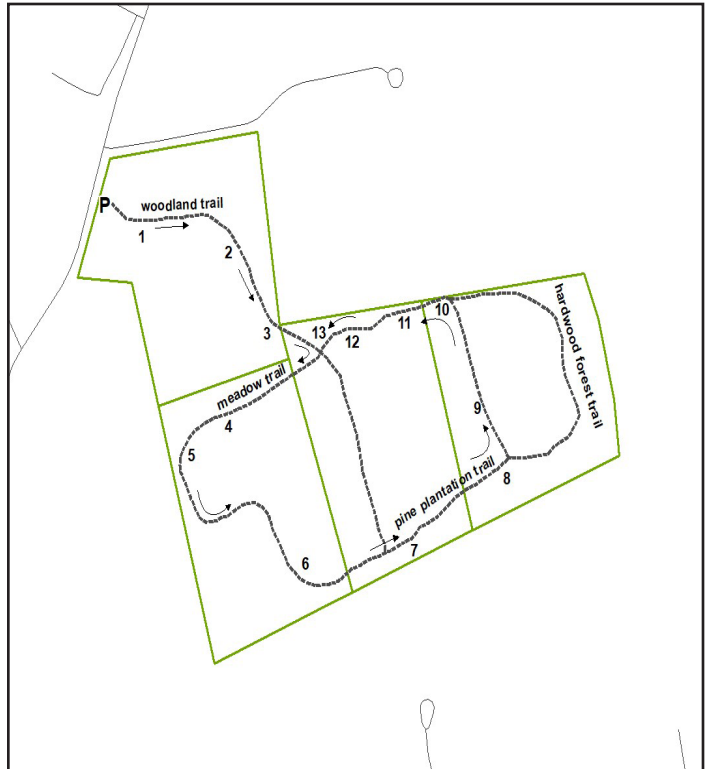


This summer the Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve got a facelift! Thanks to generous grants from the Hope Goddard Iselin Foundation and the New York State Conservation Partnership Program, the North Shore Land Alliance was able to install a new parking area, new native plantings and informational signage and update a decades-old interpretive trail at the preserve.

What was once a poorly angled dirt driveway (that was unusable when winter and spring snow and rain turned it into a muddy mess!) and a small parking area barely large enough for three cars is now covered with attractive and durable bluestone gravel. It can accommodate six or seven cars comfortably. At the preserve entrance, an unsightly and deteriorating chain link fence was replaced with a rustic split rail one and the location was enhanced by the addition of 100 native shrubs, small trees and ferns, like wood fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) and mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), capturing the essence of the Long Island ecological community. This enhanced parking

area will provide more visible and safer access to the preserve. The plantings provide increased biodiversity and habitat while providing a gateway to Iselin's 42 acres of diverse natural communities.

The parking lot was just one piece of the puzzle for the preserve. This summer, our O'Neil Stewards designed an interpretive trail that directs visitors on a self-guided educational tour. A series of 13 trail posts weaves through Iselin's successional forest, meadow and pine plantation, providing information about invasive vines, bird life, ground cover, geology and plant succession. Each trail post is numbered and corresponds to information found within the trail brochure designed by our Stewards, that can be found at the kiosk. Look out later this fall for additional educational signage they also designed. We will be installing three colorful signs describing in more detail the preserve's natural communities. Samples of which can be found here.

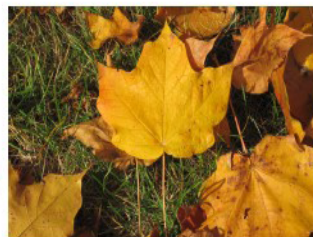


Successional Field and Hardwood Forest

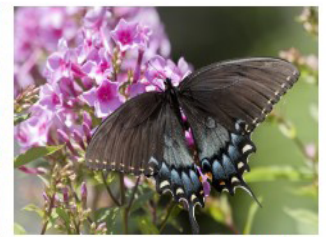
The first trail you are about to walk through once led to two farm fields owned by the Youngs family. Farming was discontinued here in the late 1960's for lack of access to irrigation. After mowing stopped, this northern field was allowed to revert to woodland through plant succession.

Unfortunately, invasive species compete with the native species in this area for soil, sunlight and nutrients. Some invasive species are Asiatic bittersweet, Japanese honeysuckle and privet. One of the many management strategies used is early detection and rapid response: removing the invasives before they spread more widely. Management also focuses on the ongoing threats, such as large bittersweet vines that can coil around a sugar maple or other species, adding weight that can make the tree vulnerable to falling. In front of you is an example of an area where these management strategies have been used. After removing invasive vines and shrubs, volunteers and staff are planting many native plants to restore the area.

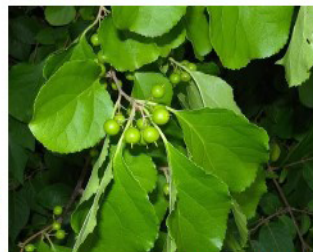
Keep an eye out for native species! On the border between the woodland and the pine plantation is a row of sugar maples, New York's state tree. This species is essential to the maple syrup industry; however, climate change has put stresses on its growth and production. Another native plant is Virginia creeper, a vine that has five palmate leaflets and turns a striking red in early fall. Spicebush has been planted here and has smooth, round and oval leaves that have a spicy, citrusy smell when crushed. You might also see spicebush swallowtail butterflies lay their eggs on the leaves.



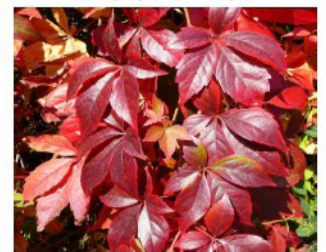
sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)



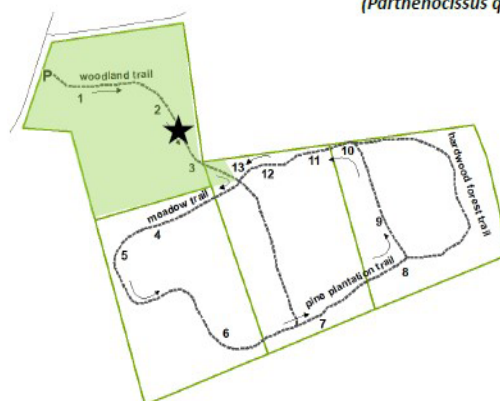
spicebush swallowtail butterfly
(*Papilio troilus*)



Asiatic bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)



Virginia creeper
(*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)



Red Cote Preserve Update



This summer, Red Cote Preserve's parking lot got some much-needed updates. New plantings such as sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), high bush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) and eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) were installed between the parking lot and Yellow Cote Road. These native plants can provide food and shelter for various bird and butterfly species and add diversity along the parking area/forest interface. And the Village of Oyster Bay Cove provided funding to install a new apron, this fall to provide easier access for vehicles entering and leaving.

The parking lot wasn't the only area of Red Cote Preserve that received an update. This summer a new

interpretive sign was installed at the trailhead. The sign includes a brief history of the preserve and a trail map, which guides visitors from the meadows where monarch butterflies lay eggs on milkweed into the woodland up the hill, where you may see an Eastern box turtle. The sign also has information on preserve management activities like the best times to mow this gorgeous meadow.

The Land Alliance would like to thank Dodds and Eder, the O'Neil Stewards, volunteers and the Village of Oyster Bay Cove for helping to bring new life to this wonderful corner of our world.



Apron



Interpretive sign



Preserve resident

The First Season of the Roosevelt Community Garden



Earlier this Spring, North Shore Land Alliance, Nassau County and the Roosevelt Community celebrated the launch of the first community garden in Roosevelt, N.Y. Together, we transformed an old vacant lot into a vibrant garden bursting with organically grown herbs, fruits and vegetables.

Thanks to the County and funds from two grants, from the Long Island Community Foundation and the New York State Conservation Partnership Program, we were able to provide gardeners with access to organic seeds, raised beds, tools, an irrigation system and instruction about how to grow their own fresh food.

Throughout the season, gardeners and community members harvested a variety of tomatoes, hot and bell peppers, kale, collard greens, lettuce, eggplants and green beans. A few gardeners also planted callaloo, a spinach-like vegetable widely used in Caribbean cooking. Even though schools were closed, educator Catherine Beasley still found time during her summer break to engage schoolchildren and senior citizens at the garden.

Keno Williams, a community member and avid gardener, was also hired to help maintain the garden.

Each Thursday, Keno and a few volunteers, harvested some of the vegetables and herbs from the community and Roosevelt PTSA plots for a weekly community food share. These events allowed non-members the opportunity to learn about the garden and take home freshly grown food to their families.

Later this year during the off-season, the County will install an arbor entryway and fencing along the front of the garden. Gardener's, local educators and community members are already making plans for the 2019 growing season, which includes planting different types of vegetables, engaging more students and hosting more educational workshops.

The Land Alliance is pleased to continue their management of the garden for the 2018/2019 season. After that, it is our hope that a community will have coalesced around the garden and assume ongoing management responsibilities.

If you're interested in learning more about the Roosevelt Community Garden or would like to purchase a plot for the 2019 growing season, please contact Andrea Millwood at 516-922-1028.

Humes Japanese Stroll Garden Highlights



The first order of business at the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden this year was to find a way to install a deer fence to protect the vegetation that had not yet succumbed to deer browse. Funding from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program and private donations allowed us to proceed with a six-foot high barrier that has effectively excluded the animals from plantings. Even vegetation that was not expected to survive has bounced back.

Our first full season of open hours was a wet one, with rain nearly every one of our first eight or ten weekends. Despite the inclement weather, visitors still came out, to the tune of 600 over the course of the season from May through October. Many of them recognized that a gentle rain is one of the most enchanting types of weather in which to explore the garden. A short series of private tours was provided to an additional 100 visitors.



Deer fencing



Shakuhachi (Japanese Flute) player

- We are ever so grateful to Daniel Nyohaku Soergel, who donated a Saturday each month throughout the season to delight and educate visitors with beautiful and haunting sounds from the shakuhachi, a Japanese flute.
- The evening of Sunday, June 24th was one of our loveliest ones for Garden members and their families who were invited to a special tea ceremony demonstration led by Marybeth Welch and Greg Succup of Urasenke.
- Poet extraordinaire Mankh led an evening haiku program in the tea garden as part of our Walks in the Woods series during the dry, hot part of the summer. These are the days when there are few places as refreshing as under the Stroll Garden's leafy canopy.
- Long Island Bonsai Society members led by Hal Johnson organized a striking day-long display at our kadan on August 26. We hope that in future years we will have upgraded our kadan but will need to raise funds to do so.
- Michael Veracka, SUNY Farmingdale Associate Professor in Urban Horticulture and Design, led a very informative and entertaining walk about bamboo in northeastern landscapes – the good, the bad and the ugly!

And, we even had a surprise visitor, recording artist Wiz Khalifa, who chose the beauty of the garden for the backdrop of his new album cover.

Weekly volunteer stewardship sessions led by our gifted garden manager, Mary Schmutz, continue year-round, weather permitting.



Hats off to our Stewardship Volunteers and Garden Attendants

Jim Brown, Rich Kopsco, Ken Krumenacker, Maha Saedaway
Joel Shaw, Mary Shimono, Robert Monohan

Nicholas Chatel, Barbara Davaros, Chelsea Farinacci, James Messina
Mary and Yoshi Shimono, Jeanine Swift, Calvin and Greg Viscovich



Wiz Khalifa and Lisa

2019 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 them about the wildlife and plants that call them home. Participants also gain an understanding and appreciation of local land conservation and its benefits to our food and water supplies and wildlife habitats and its connection to the strength and health of our communities.

2019 Calendar Preview

1. Sunday, January 19, 11:00 a.m., Jane Jackson Cushman Woods, Matinecock

The dead (not really!) of winter is a great time to cover some ground so we will visit our preserve with the lengthiest trail system. Be prepared for some hills and, if it snows, consider snowshoes or skis (if you're a more talented skier than the walk leader).

2. Saturday, March 2, 10:00 a.m., Eric Lamont with Long Island Botanical Society North Fork Preserve, Northville

Nestled among the gentle hills of the Harbor Hill Moraine on Long Island's North Fork is an old growth forest that has not changed much in hundreds of years. Participants will be introduced to the natural history

of the preserve's old growth forest, freshwater wetlands and other ecological communities. **Register for this Walk: elamont@optonline.net**

3. Sunday, March 24, 11:00 a.m., Yvonne Berger Humes Japanese Stroll Garden, Mill Neck

During this photography walk prior to the Garden's spring opening, Yvonne will show you what the best angle is for taking photos of early spring blooms.

4. Saturday, April 6, 2:00 p.m., Richard Weir and Jean Henning William Cullen Bryant Preserve, Roslyn

Enjoy a tour of this 143-acre home of the Nassau County Museum of Art when you may find mesmerizing bluebells or other early spring beauties in bloom.

**5. Sunday, April 28, 2:00 p.m., Meghan Leverock
Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve, Upper Brookville**

Iselin's pine plantation and meadow host some fascinating early spring plants. Meghan will introduce you to a few of them as well as the property's newly updated interpretive path.

**6. Saturday, May 4, 2:00 p.m., Peter Martin and Diane Worden
Mill Pond, Wantagh**

This program will feature a variety of the wonders of spring, among them migrating birds, spawning alewives and a few spring ephemeral plants.

**7. Saturday, June 8, 10:00 a.m., John Turner
Flax Pond State Tidal Wetlands, Stony Brook**

Explore this magnificent Long Island Sound Study stewardship anchor site that is home to colonial waterbirds, fish, mollusks and horseshoe crabs, and on which the DEC just completed reconstructing a boardwalk.

**8. Friday, July 12, 6:00 p.m., Sue Simon and Marcia Skolnick
Planting Fields Arboretum, Upper Brookville**

Experience nature with all your senses with mindfulness experts. This program will have particular appeal to families.

**9. Sunday, August 25, 11:00, Lois Lindberg
Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, Cove Neck**

To honor the centennial of Theodore Roosevelt's death, Sagamore Hill is featuring a year-long celebration of his extraordinary life. Explore the site's diverse natural history on the National Park Service's birthday!

**10. Saturday, September 14, 7:30 p.m., Stella Miller
Wawapek, Cold Spring Harbor**

Stella does the best Eastern Screech Owl call around and will lead us on an informative prowl for this species and Great-horned Owls. This program will have particular appeal to families.

**11. Saturday, October 13, 10:00 a.m., Derek Rogers and Marty Wenz
Matheson Meadows, Lloyd Neck**

This 38-acre meadow preserve is a hot spot for many bird species during the fall migration.

**12. Sunday, November 3, 2:00 p.m., Dan Kriesberg
Bailey Arboretum, Lattingtown**

We are becoming more and more well-versed in the reasons getting outdoors is good for our kids. Now Dan will show us how to make it happen!

**13. December 1, 1:00 p.m., Peter Martin
Caumsett State Park, Lloyd Neck**

Stretch your legs on the walk to Long Island Sound to observe winter waterfowl. And we might just hear courting Great-horned Owls while we're at it!

For more information about these Walks in the Woods, please contact Jane Jackson at 516-922-1028. jjackson@northshorelandalliance.org.

Dates and times are subject to chance. Please check our website for updates!! www.northshorelandalliance.org/events



Volunteers for Open Space

North Shore Land Alliance thanks the many active volunteers who contribute their time and energy to help us accomplish our mission. These individuals spend time at our preserves, assist with fundraising events and office needs and lead educational programs that encourage others to engage in land protection efforts in their communities.

There are three long-term stewardship volunteers we would like to highlight here as we thank them for their unbending dedication to our mission and our preserves.

Ken Krumenacker



Ken has been volunteering with us at our preserves since 2013 or so (and this year added setup for the Wine Auction to his resume!). He has been becoming more and more indispensable. His carpentry projects include installing rainwater harvesting systems with gutter attachments to kiosks directing water into rain barrels, being part of the trio of masterminds (with Stephen Searl and Marty Wenz) directing our trellis restoration at Wawapek last year and inserting steps into steep stretches of trails. He's also our go-to chainsaw guy. We've been relying on him heavily, particularly in a wet year when it seems that every time we inspect a preserve there's a tree down across a trail. And when a tree fell on our deer fence at the Stroll Garden, he supervised our O'Neil Steward Barbara Davaros in shoring up the fence. He followed that with carrying in locust posts and installing them, flying buttress-like, against fence posts. Not only is he a dedicated partner and team member on some of these projects, but he also is happy to complete a project independently, delivering it like a gift upon completion.

Rich Kopsco



Rich has served as our trail maintenance guru for about a decade. Often working alongside Joel Shaw, Rich has rarely met a fallen branch he couldn't tackle with his folding saw. Also serving as the Brookside Preserve Committee Chair for South Shore Audubon, he often follows a full day of work on our North Shore preserves with a day at Brookside or Tackapausha on the south shore, and has also brought South Shore Audubon Conservation Committee Co-Chair Jim Brown into our circle of volunteers. Finally, Rich is also a substantial supporter of our events, having attended the Wine Auction and purchased auction items and art from our art shows.

Joel Shaw



Having served as a Nature Conservancy volunteer for a number of years, Joel was already very familiar with many of our preserves when he and Rich Kopsco started volunteering with us. His familiarity with and weekly visits to our preserves are an enormous comfort to our stewardship staff. And thanks to his long-time understanding of the ins and outs of tools operations, he has made valuable contributions to training interns.

We love you all!!! Thank you, Ken, Rich and Joel!

Year Three of the Joyce and William O'Neil Stewards Program



Sofi, Emily and Abby

Thanks to a generous five-year grant from the Joyce C. and William C. O'Neil Charitable Trust, the Land Alliance continued its college intern program begun in May 2016. Every year, the program gives students aspiring to careers in conservation, a variety of hands-on tasks to build appropriate skills and increase stewardship knowledge. Such enthusiastic and passionate interns allow the Land Alliance to tackle more projects in our preserves during our busiest season.

This summer's interns were Emily Manning, an environmental studies major with a minor in public health at Elon University, Sofi Solomon, an environmental studies major at Michigan University, and Abigail Bezrutczyk, an environmental science and plant science major at Cornell University. Each intern brought a unique set of passions, knowledge and experiences to the job.

Over the summer, the Joyce and William O'Neil Stewards familiarized themselves with Land Alliance preserves, expanded their knowledge of local ecosystems and aided in educational programming and trail maintenance. They worked on removing invasive vines from the Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve, conducted plant surveys on the Humes meadow and updated trail

maps using GIS. Their key projects included conducting tree surveys to identify ash trees that are vulnerable to the invasive Emerald Ash Borer. By tagging and mapping these trees using GIS, the Stewards set the baseline for monitoring ash tree health in the years to come.

Their crowning achievement was the transformation of an outdated interpretive trail at the Iselin Preserve. The trail now includes 13 posts that correspond to information about the local flora and fauna that can be found in the preserve along with notes on the preserve's history. They also designed an informational brochure which has been added to the kiosk box for all ages to enjoy.

The Land Alliance is also pleased to host its first fall O'Neil Steward intern: Barbara Davaros. Barbara is a recent graduate of SUNY Oneonta, where she studied biology with a concentration in ecology and conservation. Barbara has been assisting our stewardship team with preserve maintenance, monitoring conservation easements, conducting plant surveys, helping with our Long Island Water Education Program and researching protocols for harvesting and processing seed from our preserves for future planting.



Barbara

We are always looking for young people who are passionate about conservation and the environment. If you know someone who is interested in the program, please contact our Associate Director of Stewardship, Meghan Leverock, at 516-922-1028 or Meghan@northshorelandalliance.org.

C-Change Lecture



Sealy Hopkinson, NCGC President and Lisa Ott



Kathleen Biggins

On Wednesday, October 17th the Land Alliance, in partnership with the North Country Garden Club, hosted an informative, non-partisan and balanced lecture about climate change. We were very fortunate to have Kathleen Biggins one of the founders and President of C-Change Conversations speak to more than 100 community members about the science of climate change.

Kathleen Biggins, Katy Kinsolving, Carrie Dyckman and Pam Mount founded the nonprofit C-Change Conversations initially to help engage friends, family and colleagues on the topic of climate change through an informal lecture series. They found that many participants were searching for a more comprehensive overview that addressed the risks and opportunities associated with climate change. As a result, the organization has grown and through educational presentations and conversations with climate experts, they have informed more than 3,300 people nationwide about climate change and how it will affect their lives and futures.

Kathleen discussed how the earth's climate has always fluctuated for natural reasons, but today we are seeing a period of instability that would not be occurring naturally. While most Americans, across party lines, recognize climate change is happening, many do not understand how it will impact them directly and why there is an urgency to address it. The evening talk and multimedia presentation focused on the science of climate change and Kathleen answered the following five key questions:

1. How do we know it is real? – scientists measure it every day.
2. How do we know it is us? – climate models show climate change is not caused by natural events.
3. What do scientists think? – 97% or more of Climate Scientists say human-caused climate change is happening.
4. Is it dangerous? – climate change affects natural systems and cycles we depend on for economy and jobs, health and personal security, geopolitical stability.
5. Is there hope that we can meet the challenge? Yes, but we all need to do our part!

Kathleen addressed each question with supporting facts and graphic illustrations. She showed a time lapsed film of the critical arctic ice melting from 1990 to today and side-by-side image of Alaska's Muir Glacier, which in 1941 was intact, and today is a fragment of its original size. The images were both difficult to watch and made it very difficult to deny there is, indeed, a change caused by humans.

While the answers to questions one through four were eye opening and startling, Kathleen did answer yes to question five - there is hope that we can meet the challenge. However, we cannot wait on government or corporations to solve the problem. We all need to do our part now. What can we do to start the conversation in our community?

- Become an educated consumer and follow media outlets such as Climate Central, Scientific American, Financial Times and Bloomberg.
- Vote and contact your representatives. The voices of many can make change.
- Support non-profit organizations whose work helps to addresses climate change like the North Shore Land Alliance.
- Reduce your own carbon emissions.
- Be an active shareholder and informed employee.

The Land Alliance will be partnering again in 2019 with other community organizations to help bring the C-Change Conversations back for another presentation. In the interim, please visit www.c-changeconversations.org to learn more about how you can help to stop the impact of climate change on our community and beyond.





On November 3rd, LIU Post, Cornell Cooperative Extension, iEat Green, Long Island Cares, Sierra Club, North Shore Land Alliance and others, under the umbrella of the Long Island Food Coalition, hosted a full-day conference titled Food as a Solution. This event brought together a variety of community members and organizations around key topics in food, policy, agriculture and health in a changing climate. Three hundred attendees including students, teachers, farmers, foodies, scientists, policymakers, business owners and volunteers awoke early to hear keynote speaker Frances Moore Lappe, wildly celebrated author and co-founder of the Small Planet Institute, kick off the conference.

Frances, who has dedicated her professional life and writing to enabling people to make a difference in their own lives, spoke about the power of democracy as well as the impact that industrialized agriculture has on humans, natural resources and the environment.

Divided into four panels, special guests and speakers addressed the current challenges and solutions for planetary sustainability and local foodshed models; including state and federal food policies that increase healthy food access; building soil health; preserving water quality and reducing one's own carbon footprint.

Top Chef Tom Colicchio asked everyone to vote for appropriate policies and the leaders necessary to catalyze the change we need to shape the future of

our food system. Feedback founder Tristram Stuart illustrated the story of food waste, enlightening all our audience participants that a third of global waste is food scraps.

Dr. Robert Graham, founder of FRESH Med, an integrative health and wellness center, and Sally Fallon Morrell, President of the Westin A. Price Foundation, discussed the benefits of vegetables versus nutrient-dense foods like meat, butter and eggs. Ellen Kamhi, the Natural Nurse, invited us into our backyards to forage for a variety of edible, nutritious plants. While different diets work better for different people, they all agreed that fresh, locally sourced foods are the best solution.

The day wrapped up with Michael Doall (marine biologist), Fred Lee (farmer and owner of Sang Lee Farms), Frances Whittelsey (journalist and Gateway Community Garden organizer) and Stefan Oberman (manager at high tech vertical farming AeroFarms) who explored a variety of ways to grow food from small community gardens to large organic farms and from industrial warehouses with grow lights to ocean farming.

It was a wonderful day and we hope everyone who attended went home with a better understanding of the state of food on Long Island and a desire to try at least one new thing to improve personal health and that of our community.



What is the Long Island Food Coalition?

The Long Island Food Coalition is a consortium of individuals and organizations who share a common vision to educate and empower people to advance efforts in preserving local agriculture and expand sources of locally grown food for our communities. Since our first Small Farm Conferences in 2011 and 2012, and our LI Food Conference in 2015 and in spring 2018, we have seen the desire to learn and grow a local, sustainable food movement continue to thrive. Through a series of educational events, we aim to increase interest in supporting local farms and farmers, preserving land and water use, and understanding how food policy affects us. Moreover, the Long Island Food Coalition hopes to foster healthy communities, local leadership and build our capacity to offer a diverse set of programs that engage every segment of our community, from younger to older generations and everyone in between.

All interested individuals and organizations are welcome to join us in the planning. For more information, please contact the Land Alliance at 516-922-1028.

New Trustees

Meghan Hagedorn, *Trustee*



Meghan is a lifelong resident of the North Shore of Long Island, and has been working to protect the area and its landscapes for much of that time. Born and raised in Locust Valley, Meghan grew up exploring the wilds of Shu Swamp and the waters of Oyster Bay. She attended Hamilton College in Clinton, New York before completing her graduate studies at Union Seminary at Columbia University, where she studied psychology and comparative religion.

Since completing her education, Meghan has returned to Long Island and to her passion for protecting this beautiful and unique area. From 2009 to 2011, Meghan worked as the Director of Development for The Friends of the Sands Point Preserve. There, she organized a team focused on the sustainable protection of one of the North Shore's most unique historic estates. From there, Meghan began working for the North Shore Land Alliance as a Development Associate. At the Land Alliance, Meghan was able to apply the skills she had acquired across a much broader canvass, quickly becoming a key member of the Land Alliance team. She worked in that role until 2015, when she welcomed her first child and made the transition to full time motherhood.

Since she has left the Land Alliance as an employee, Meghan has stayed deeply involved in its mission. She has co-chaired the Heritage Committee for the past three years and has helped organize fund raising events on Long Island and in New York City aimed at forming a next generation of environmental stewards. In addition to her role on the Land Alliance's Heritage Committee, Meghan also serves as a trustee on the board of the Port Washington Public Library Foundation, and is a member of the Sands Point Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission. Meghan lives in Sands Point with her husband Chris, and their two children Finn and Emmett.

Valerie Ohrstrom, *Trustee*



Valerie Ohrstrom, prior to moving to Long Island, was a program coordinator for the Rockefeller Foundation in New York, where she specialized in making grants supporting higher-education institutions in sub-Saharan Africa. She is a member of the fund-raising board of Playing2Win, a New York group that works to increase the use of computers by students in Harlem.

She graduated from Barnard and received a master's degree in environmental studies from Brown. Valerie lives in Cove Neck with her husband, Wright, and their two children.

New Staff

Meghan Leverock, *Associate Director of Stewardship*



Meghan Leverock joined the Land Alliance staff in July as the Associate Director of Stewardship. Meghan received her MS in Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management from the New School in May 2018 and holds a BS in Wildlife and Conservation Biology from the University of New Hampshire. Prior to joining the Land Alliance, Meghan served a 10-month AmeriCorps term with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation as an environmental stewardship coordinator and has previously worked for the Wildlife Conservation Society. Meghan is excited

to bring her environmental knowledge and technical skills to the North Shore of Long Island.

Roxi Shariff, *Operation Manager*



Roxi Shariff joins the Land Alliance with demonstrated experience in small business, nonprofit institutions, art education, food, health, and community activism. She earned a Bachelor of Art in Contemporary Art (2012) and a BA in Communication and Media Studies (2013) from Chapman University in Orange, CA. She has lived in various cities across the United States, including Austin, TX, Seattle, WA, and Sale Lake City, UT. Most recently, she arrived on Long Island from the Sierra Nevada region where her love and commitment to land stewardship began. Roxi is dedicated to fostering diversity in life and in work and establishing and maintaining relationships with individuals and organizations across networks and industries.

Roxi is passionate about reducing her own carbon footprint and advocates for direct action to preserve natural ecosystems and to sustain climate resilient, local economies. She believes strongly in collaboration and clear communication, and promotes both as fundamental in our approach to building healthy food systems and responsible land management practices.

In Loving Memory of Barbara Hoover and Barry Osborn



Barbara J. Hoover, who worked for the Land Alliance from 2007 to 2011, sadly died on October 14th after a valiant battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband, Jim, and three fine sons, Bradley, Court and Logan, and daughter-in-law, Rashel. Barbara was lovely inside and out. She was capable, generous, bright, talented and exceptional in every way. She worked hard, gave selflessly, tackled and mastered any challenge put in front of her and did so with style and grace. Barbara accomplished a great deal in her short life and her many important contributions to our community will long be remembered.

Barbara's passions beyond her family included conservation, gardening, the Glen Cove Hospital, her English Springer Spaniels and a love for travel. In addition to her work at the Land Alliance, Barbara was president of the North Country Garden Club and a founding member and Chairman of the Advisory Council for Glen Cove Hospital. Contributions in Barbara's memory may be made to the Glen Cove Hospital, 101 Andrews Lane, Glen Cove, NY 11542.



Barry M. Osborn of Locust Valley, longtime Land Alliance Trustee, Advisory Board member and great friend died on October 22nd at her home. She was surrounded by her large and loving family. Barry was the wife of William H. Osborn Jr. (who predeceased her) and the mother of Mimi C. Shannon, Peter Rand Ryus, Barry S. Grace and China S. Meier. She was also the proud grandmother of 17 and special great grandmother of 16.

Barry began her career as a realtor and was able to give the Land Alliance excellent guidance as we sought to protect some of our most emblematic open spaces. Barry believed strongly in important issues and threw her full weight giving back to her local community. Barry was a long-time leader of the Matinecock Neighborhood Association, a former volunteer and Board Member of Fountain House (NYC) and an active member of St. John's Church in Cold Spring Harbor. She participated actively in the church's Outreach and Aging in Place ministries. Donations may be made in Barry's memory to St. John's Episcopal Church: 1670 Rt. 25A, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724.

Both Barbara and Barry will be greatly missed. Our condolences go out to their families.

Open Space Society Dinner



Julie Rinaldini and Lisa Ott



Hoyle Jones and Luis Rinaldini

On a perfect July evening, one of the prettiest nights of the summer, a long elegant table stretched down the allee at Groton Place, Old Westbury, the historic home of Julie and Luis Rinaldini. Land Alliance supporters enjoyed the beauty of this vast and spectacular property and relished in the thought that through land conservation it will be protected in perpetuity.

Luis Rinaldini stood above the “ha-ha” (a garden wall used in landscape design to prevent access to a garden, for example by grazing livestock, without obstructing views.) and shared the story of Groton Place, past and

present. Miniature horses grazed in the distance as guests took in the stories of dedication and hard work by the Winthrop family, who preceded the Rinaldinis as owners, as well as the role the Land Alliance plays in continuing to preserve and protect these important local lands.

Guests enjoyed a sumptuous candle lit meal surrounded by torches that flickered against a star-lit night. We are grateful to our generous hosts, sponsors and supporters who made this magical evening possible.

With thanks to our generous sponsors whose contributions fund the Land Alliance’s conservation work.

Lori and Roger Bahnik, Bahnik Foundation

Cathy Chernoff * Susan and Jack Foley, Stewart Title * Botsy and Hoyle Jones

Martha and Gar Miller * Helen and Robert Pilkington * Julie and Luis Rinaldini

Cynthia Stebbins * Beth and John Werwaiss

2018 Members Meeting



On Saturday, October 27th, the Land Alliance hosted its annual members meeting. Over 30 members joined us as we looked back at 2018, elected new trustees and enjoyed a stewardship presentation from Jane Jackson, Director of Stewardship.

Lisa Ott introduced new Board Chair Hoyle Jones and thanked Carter Bales for his leadership over the Land Alliance's first 15 years. Hoyle welcomed everyone and kicked off the meeting by asking Committee on Trustees Co-Chair Larry Schmidlapp to oversee the election of the following trustees for a first-year term - Shauna Leopardi, Valerie Ohrstrom, Meghan Hagedorn and Ben Stokes. Also, Christoph Cushman, Jean Thatcher and Nick Paumgarten were elected to additional three-year terms.

After congratulations to the trustees, Lisa walked members through a review of happenings in 2018. The Land Alliance welcomed a new Board Chair and a new suite of executive committee members. The Land Alliance also celebrated its 15th year with a series of anniversary celebrations. They ranged from a

Board dinner to a family birthday party at the Humes property to our first easement donor thank-you party at the home of Paula and Richard Weir.

Members were also given an update on the Land Alliance's conservation activity. It resulted in the acquisition of 81 acres of land in 2018, bringing overall totals up to the following:

- 307 acres of fee owned land
- 172 acres of easements
- 117 additional acres under stewardship

New acquisitions included gifts from The Nature Conservancy of Matheson Meadows (38 acres) in Lloyd Neck, Oaces (26 acres) in Muttontown, Davenport (eight acres) in Oyster Bay Cove and Harbor Hill (four acres) in Lake Success.

2018 was also a great year for grants, with over \$192,000 in grants awarded. These grants are allowing us to update Iselin Preserve with a new parking area, plantings and signage; build and launch the Roosevelt

Community Garden (as well as hire a garden manager) and hire a series of consultants to evaluate the Humes Estate for historic preservation.

The Land Alliance also hosted several community outreach activities and educational programs this year. From the Inspired by Nature Members Art Show to music in the preserves provided by the Oyster Bay Music Festival, the Land Alliance continued to strengthen relationships between people and nature. Public lectures ranged from the importance of investing in green infrastructure to a primer on climate change for adults and from building a fairy house to harvesting native seeds for children.

Jane Jackson, Director of Stewardship, gave an update to members on this year's stewardship projects. The Land Alliance is currently managing/stewarding over 500 acres of land. Jane highlighted five projects which showed significant improvements in 2018. Those projects were:

1) The Humes Japanese Stroll Garden received a new \$17,000 deer fence to protect plantings from deer browse. Thanks to the protection provided by this fence, many of the affected plants are now flourishing.

2) Restoration of the Humes Meadow has begun. This three-year project includes mowing, invasive plant removal, native grass seeding, wildflower planting and the development of a new trail around the meadow.

3) The Roosevelt Community Garden, created through a partnership with Nassau County, was built, planted and embraced by the community (with 37 beds occupied by community members). In fact, the harvest was so large that gardeners were able to share vegetables with their neighbors.

4 & 5) Iselin and Red Cote Preserves received two new parking areas and a third, Clark, will be receiving a new parking lot in winter/spring.

Jane concluded the members meeting by thanking all our hard-working volunteers. They provided thousands of hours of service spanning a wide range of activities including trail maintenance, removing invasives, leading our Walks in the Woods and Long Island Water Education Program field trips as well as helping us maintain our land.



What is Your Conservation Legacy?

Join me in creating a lasting legacy of land conservation by remembering the Land Alliance in your will now, so you may protect important lands for future generations.

Hoyle Jones, Board Chair

To learn more, please contact Nina Muller at 516-922-1028 or nina@northshorelandalliance.org.

You can also ask your attorney or financial advisor to contact the North Shore Land Alliance on your behalf. If you have already provided for the Land Alliance in your estate plans, please let us know so we may properly acknowledge your gift.

2018 Wine Auction

On September 22nd, the North Shore Land Alliance celebrated 15 years of local land conservation by paying tribute to Teddy Roosevelt, America's Conservation President. President Roosevelt was famous for placing more than 230 million acres of the American west under federal protection for the enjoyment of the people. While the Land Alliance acres protected are much smaller, our mission mirrors that of TR - To preserve and protect, in perpetuity, the greenspaces, farmlands, wetlands and historical sites of Long Island's North Shore for the enhancement of quality of life and benefit of future generations.



President Theodore Roosevelt

Celebrations like these do not happen without the efforts of many, and we would especially like to thank our extraordinary Event Chairs- Botsy Jones, Nazee Klotz, Valerie Ohrstrom, and Andrew Roosevelt- and Junior Committee Chairs- Maggie Towers and Emily Turilli- who invested time, energy and resources to make the evening such a success.

To set the tone for the party, guests were greeted by a western band, miniature horses and a photo op in front of the Land Alliance's beloved antique red tractor.

Vintage games and seating areas created from hay bales circled the cocktail tent which was filled with

wine tastings, a silent auction array of rare and vintage wines, unique experiences, gift certificates to restaurants, shops and beautiful artwork. A wall of wine raffle featured 50 bottles of red and white wines rated 90 points and above by Robert Parker.

Next, guests flowed into the festive dinner tent featuring red and white checkered tablecloths, beautiful flowers and bistro lights. The stage was set with marquee letters reading "NSLA" and rare images of TR (courtesy of Sagamore Hill) and the Rough Riders enjoying a cowboy potluck. Hoyle Jones, Land Alliance Board Chair, welcomed guests as they sat down for an elegant BBQ themed dinner prepared by Sterling Affair.



Verena and Rod Cushman



Roddy and Nazee Klotz

Lisa Ott, Land Alliance President, presented the following awards:

- **The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Award** was presented to Verena and Rod Cushman and the Cushman Family for preservation of the 28-acre Cushman Woods in the Village of Matinecock.
- **The Chairman's Award** was presented to Carter Bales for his role as founding Chair of the Land Alliance and for fifteen years of unwavering commitment and outstanding leadership.

The highlight of the evening was a long, heartfelt standing ovation given to Carter as he was presented with this well-deserved award.

Auctioneer Elyse Luray, from Heritage Auctions took the stage for an exciting live auction. Items included a Laser Performance Sunfish Sailboat with private lessons from the Waterfront Center, tickets to *Pretty Woman* on Broadway with Roberto Coin diamond earrings, a wonderful private Vermont vacation house, a sushi, sake and serenity cocktail party held at the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden, a luxury shopping experience at Americana, Manhasset with a Tesla for a day and gift certificates to the outstanding Poll Brothers' restaurants, Jets luxury box for 20 people, a weeks' vacation at the Six Senses Resort in Douro Valley, Portugal, and the

Hotel Santo Mauro in Madrid, Spain, two cases of rare Pavilion Rouge Chateau Margaux, a luxury Caribbean getaway in Round Hill Jamaica via private Gulfstream Jet, custom raised bed vegetable gardens, private chef-prepared truffle dinner for eight and box seats for the Christmas Eve performance of *The Magic Flute* at the Metropolitan Opera.

Following the live auction was a special appeal for emergency stabilization efforts for the Tavern House at the Humes property which had been severely damaged in recent storms. Protecting this building is very important as it will be the future home of the Land Alliance. How wonderful it will be to have the organization located on its own land! The Tavern House will also serve as a visitor center for the Japanese Stroll Garden which reopened to the public this year.

As the evening came to a close, Ms. Babs and the Kickin Boogie Band took the stage to perform a set of fun western songs.

Land Alliance Board and Staff are most grateful to the Wine Auction Committee and all of the individuals and businesses who donated items, purchased sponsorships and advertised in our journal. We are also grateful to Vincent Simeone and Planting Fields Arboretum for allowing us to host this event in such a beautiful location.

Thank you to our Sponsors



Botsy and Hoyle Jones

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The North Shore Land Alliance is a 501(c) (3) non-profit land trust formed to protect and preserve, in perpetuity, the green spaces, farmlands, wetlands, groundwater and historical sites of Long Island's north shore for the enhancement of quality of life and benefit of future generations.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



From the
North Shore Land Alliance
Trustees and Staff.



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, September 28, 2019

for when we will return to
Groton Place for the 16th Annual
Wine Auction and Dinner.